

UG 2026

AMDIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2026UG05



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 A nice broad distinction between Western and Chinese approaches to philosophy, courtesy of scholars David Hall and Roger Ames, is that while the general character of Western thought is ‘truth-seeking’, Chinese philosophy is ‘way-seeking’. Rather than obsessively trying to articulate the precise conceptual definitions of how things are, Chinese philosophies — particularly Daoism — recognize the limitations of language, and tend to place more emphasis on the value of experience. The ultimate purpose of philosophy is not to logically define life but to help us experience it with greater balance and harmony. Nowhere is this better illustrated than with a crucial Chinese concept: Dao, which roughly translates as ‘the way’.

Dao is central to both Confucianism and Daoism, two of ancient China’s major philosophies, but it manifests slightly differently in each. For Confucians, dao is specifically a moral way, the optimal path or order running through human lives and relationships. Living according to dao means expressing attitudes and behaviors prescribed by Confucian ritual, self-cultivation, and virtues like benevolence, wisdom, righteousness, and propriety. For Daoists, meanwhile, dao is not a human way but represents the deeper, ineffable totality of cosmic processes. Dao is the natural unfolding of the universe, from the supernova of a star to water pooling in the hollow of a rock. A key Daoist complaint is that many human enterprises go against the ‘grain’ of dao. We obstruct the way, we swim against the current, creating unnecessary difficulty for ourselves and others. On a societal level, we construct institutions that disrupt natural rhythms. On a personal level, we try to control what cannot be controlled: like how someone feels about us, or our own productivity in the face of exhaustion. Ease and tranquility await us when we notice the friction, and wonder whether we need to push so hard. Becoming re-attuned to dao means flowing like water. ‘Going with the flow’ isn’t mere passivity, however. The recommended approach is wu wei, roughly meaning ‘effortless action’. Wu wei is less about asserting control to achieve a temporary mindset, and more about cultivating a way of life through consistently yielding to dao: not interfering with egoistic concern, but letting the universe naturally unfold through our actions.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://philosophybreak.com/articles/dao-in-chinese-philosophy-harmonizing-with-the-way/>

1. As per the author, the central purpose of philosophy is:
 - (a) To define universal truths through conceptual reasoning
 - (b) To experience life with a sense of balance and harmony
 - (c) To refine logic as a means of understanding existence
 - (d) To establish a clear language for moral understanding

2. What does the author suggest about Western philosophy’s ‘truth-seeking’ character?
 - (a) It confines understanding within abstract and analytical boundaries
 - (b) It unites moral and cosmic principles in a coherent worldview
 - (c) It embraces the same experiential goals as Daoist traditions
 - (d) It rejects intellectual precision for emotional contemplation

3. In the passage, the term “wu wei” primarily refers to:
 - (a) Suppressing emotion to achieve external perfection
 - (b) Using deliberate effort to impose moral control
 - (c) Avoiding all forms of decision and responsibility
 - (d) Acting naturally in accordance with the universal flow

4. The author would most likely agree that:
 - (a) Language alone cannot capture the fullness of lived reality
 - (b) Analytical reasoning is essential for achieving self-cultivation
 - (c) Institutional order sustains the natural rhythm of existence

(d) Human control over nature creates enduring social harmony

5. The term “ineffable,” as used for the Dao, most nearly means:

- (a) Tangible (b) Evident (c) Inexpressible (d) Definable

6. Which of the following best states the conclusion of the passage?

- (a) Wisdom lies in yielding to natural rhythm instead of resisting it
 (b) Understanding life requires firm control over outcomes and people
 (c) Truth is secured by precise definitions formed through analysis
 (d) Harmony emerges when institutions impose order upon spontaneity

Passage:- 2 Comedians and satirists have long borne the brunt of both the state and the easily offended. Despite this, India’s stand-up comedy scene is thriving with a growing number of performers and audiences. One such name is Punit Pania, who left behind a corporate job ten years ago to pursue comedy full-time. Today, he is a successful stand-up comic known for his intelligent observations and sharp wit.

Pania’s material ranges from poor roads and civic architecture to know-it-all bhakt uncles and the quirks of NRIs. But his comedy doesn’t stop at light social commentary—he often touches on serious issues as well. “In my first open mic, I had two minutes and talked about domestic violence because I felt it had to be talked about,” he shared in a podcast. He recalled how during that performance, a man in the audience abruptly left, “dragging a woman behind.” That moment stayed with him.

While Pania insists he is not a political activist, he acknowledges that his comedy cannot help but be political. “Why there are potholes on the road and why there is no beef on your plate, both things are politically driven. And those are just the most blatant examples. If you really drill down, almost every aspect of your life has a political background to it.”

He doesn’t name political leaders directly in his sets, but their presence is hard to ignore. “When you completely inundate the country with your image and your persona and then people can’t even mention your name. Even slightly critically. How is that fair? So, when you take all the credit you will get all the blame also.”

Despite tighter restrictions and increasing scrutiny, Pania believes that humor still finds its way through. Laws may make religion and politics sensitive territory, but, as he puts it, there are “innovative ways to say what you want to say.” For comedians like him, it’s about striking a balance—being honest without being reckless, and most of all, keeping the conversation going.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://thewire.in/culture/religion-is-a-no-go-area-in-stand-up-comedy-and-now-even-the-law-says-so>

7. The author most likely suggests that the role of comedians is to:

- (a) avoid provoking audiences by steering clear of controversial expressions
 (b) express uncomfortable realities through creative and socially relevant humor
 (c) present amusement detached from the social or political fabric of their times
 (d) rely primarily on public sentiment to construct harmless comic narratives

8. What can be inferred about the author’s perception of restrictions on humor?

- (a) They suppress artistic freedom yet compel performers to express ideas more inventively.
 (b) They entirely prevent comedians from addressing socially or politically sensitive matters.
 (c) They guarantee impartiality among performers by discouraging emotional engagement.
 (d) They restrict creative boundaries while also reducing opportunities for public dialogue.

9. The word “blatant” in the line “those are just the most blatant examples” is closest in meaning to:

- (a) speculative (b) intricate (c) subdued (d) conspicuous

10. Which statement best captures the author’s stance on the intersection of humor and social commentary?

- (a) Humor achieves relevance only when it avoids politically or socially sensitive discussions.
 (b) Humor provokes reflection by blending honesty with discretion and creative responsibility.

- (c) Humor becomes powerful when it adapts to authority rather than questioning existing norms.
 (d) Humor loses significance whenever it challenges audiences through satire or criticism.
11. The phrase “bore the brunt” in the context “Comedians and satirists have long borne the brunt of both the state and the easily offended” means:
- (a) faced the harsh consequences of criticism from authorities and audiences
 (b) benefited from strong audience reactions to controversial performances
 (c) avoided major repercussions by maintaining a cautious artistic position
 (d) exploited public outrage to strengthen their professional recognition
12. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE according to the passage?
- (a) Humor can survive censorship through clever forms of expression and subtle critique.
 (b) Comedy serves as an accessible medium to discuss uncomfortable yet necessary realities.
 (c) Legal and cultural sensitivities have permanently silenced politically aware comedians.
 (d) Every form of humor indirectly reflects the political environment that shapes society.

Passage:- 3 The great royal fortress and prison in Paris, the Bastille, was stormed on 14 July 1789. As the revolution gathered momentum, the French National Assembly adopted the ‘Declaration of the Rights of Man’ in August, and in November forbade any of its members to accept office under Louis XVI. Did Edmund Burke, who spoke with such sympathy for the oppressed Indians under the rule of the East India Company (as was discussed in the Introduction) and who spoke up for the subjugated Americans in their own revolution in 1776, immediately welcome the French Revolution? Was he sympathetic to the Revolutionary Society which, in their famous meeting in London in November 1789, congratulated the French National Assembly for its radical commitment? The answer is no. Burke was thoroughly opposed to the French Revolution and unequivocally denounced it in Parliament in London in a speech in February 1790. Burke was a Whig, but his position on the French Revolution was clearly conservative. Indeed, his assessment of that revolution led to his formulation of one of the foundation statements of modern conservative philosophy, in his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. There is, however, no conflict in this with Burke’s radical position on India, which was, at a basic level, conservative as well, since Burke was lamenting, among other things, the destruction of the old Indian social order and functioning society. Consistently with his conservative inclination, Burke was against the upheaval caused by the new British rule in India, and also against the upheaval occurring in France. In today’s classificatory thinking, the former (Burke on British rule in India) may appear to be on the ‘left’, while the latter (Burke on the French Revolution) would be placed on the ‘right’, but they fit together perfectly well in terms of Burke’s own principles and cohere nicely. But what about the American War of Independence? There Burke was surely not conservative, supporting the upheaval in America, and in favour of big change. How does that fit? It is, I think, a mistake to try to interpret the different decisions that a person takes on a variety of disparate subjects in terms of just one classificatory idea— in this case conservatism.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: *The Idea Of Justice* by Amartya Sen

13. If Burke’s opposition to the French Revolution is examined through his broader philosophy, it primarily reflects his belief that—
- (a) abrupt revolutions destroy inherited institutions that preserve moral and social harmony
 (b) sudden political upheavals strengthen the moral discipline essential for social cohesion
 (c) gradual social reforms undermine the historical wisdom contained in traditional customs
 (d) frequent revolutionary changes provide the continuity needed for orderly governance
14. In light of the passage, Burke’s disapproval of both British rule in India and the French Revolution indicates that—
- (a) he opposed disruptive transformations that endangered the continuity of established order
 (b) he considered every radical reform an expression of legitimate political enlightenment
 (c) he believed that progressive upheavals restore equilibrium within declining empires
 (d) he supported revolutionary energies whenever they promised renewal of civic virtue

15. In the context of the passage, the phrase “cohere nicely” most nearly means—
 (a) logically consistent with each other (b) harmoniously connected by principle
 (c) unified by an inner rationale (d) compatible without conflict
16. The author implies that describing Burke solely as “conservative” is misleading because—
 (a) his judgments reflected contextual reasoning rather than adherence to fixed ideology
 (b) his politics fluctuated constantly between contradictory and opportunistic positions
 (c) his conservative stance concealed a latent sympathy for revolutionary transformation
 (d) his writings on empire diverged from his philosophical convictions about social justice
17. The author’s tone throughout the passage is best described as—
 (a) Analytical (b) Expository (c) Evaluative (d) Interpretive
18. Which one of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?
 (a) Burke’s conservatism made him resist changes that threatened the stability of social tradition
 (b) Burke’s sympathy for colonies and revolutions stemmed from identical ideological motives
 (c) Burke’s critique of the French movement conflicted with his defense of Indian communities
 (d) Burke’s approach to America reflected a consistent endorsement of revolutionary upheaval

Passage:- 4 Noah never reckoned with trinomials. Modern Creationists, grasping for footholds in the post-Darwinian world, maintain that Noah took 1,398 kinds of animal aboard his Ark, as the floodwaters gathered on the Mesopotamian plain. ‘Kind’, they argue, is a Biblical classification that corresponds to the modern ‘family’, and not, as you might imagine, to the modern concept of ‘species’. If Noah had accessed a modern taxonomic catalogue, he might have found himself with a cargo of up to 30,000 varieties of mammal, bird and reptile; if he had factored in the insects and arachnids, his Ark would soon have been foundering under the weight of about 1.1 million different species. The trinomial – the subspecies, described by a Latin name that adds a third classifying component, as in, say, *Passer domesticus biblicus*, the Palestine house sparrow – further inflates Noah’s hypothetical menagerie. By how much, it’s hard to say; trinomials are tricky, as we shall see. We can say that instead of just one wolf he could have had as many as 38 (or, rather, 76, as of course the animals went in two by two). Instead of one song sparrow pair he would have had somewhere between 20 and 50. Of anoles – small iguanian lizards – he would have had a dramatic abundance, the Ark crawling with perhaps 427 species and a further 144 subspecies Noah would no doubt, by this time, have been making frantic calculations about load distribution, ballast, stress and tipping balances, not to mention the logistics of food supply and waste disposal. What, he might have wondered, brushing an anole from his sleeve, is the point of all these subspecies?

He would not have been alone.

Both scientifically and in broader society, we are tied to the species as the bedrock unit of the animal kingdom. Species are, for want of a better term, easy. Look, for instance, at how we speak about extinction. We talk about the dodo and the great auk, the blue whale and the giant panda. But there are various subspecies that deserve to be better known and protected. Trinomialism – resisted for a long time by some in the establishment – offers not only scientific clarity and variety, but an enriched view of the living world and our relationship with it.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://aeon.co/essays/the-case-for-subspecies-the-neglected-unit-of-conservation>

19. Trinomialism, as described by the author, means:
 (a) A simplified doctrine that diminishes scientific interpretation of nature.
 (b) A theological adaptation that reconciles religion with biological study.
 (c) A theoretical expansion that deepens awareness of biological variety.
 (d) A conventional approach that limits curiosity toward natural existence.
20. The author’s stance towards species classification is best described as:
 (a) Dismissive of its utility and critical of its historical persistence.
 (b) Appreciative of its efficiency but concerned about its structure.

- (c) Neutral toward its application in academic and social contexts.
- (d) Admiring its clarity and opposed to further taxonomic refinement.

21. The phrase “Noah never reckoned with trinomials” implies that:

- (a) Noah underestimated life’s diversity.
- (b) Noah anticipated scientific taxonomy.
- (c) Noah avoided complex classification.
- (d) Noah rejected species multiplicity.

22. Which statement best supports the author’s claim that subspecies enrich understanding?

- (a) Religious taxonomies were more accurate than scientific ones today.
- (b) Species and subspecies carry equal weight in biological hierarchy.
- (c) Extinction studies depend primarily on spiritual interpretation.
- (d) Simplified classification conceals the complexity of living organisms.

23. The expression “brushing an anole from his sleeve” functions as:

- (a) Metaphor (b) Irony (c) Symbolism (d) Satire

24. Which of the following best summarizes the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Religious beliefs on creation reflect the depth of ancient biological thought.
- (b) Subspecies classification provides clarity and enriches our view of biodiversity.
- (c) Scientific taxonomy undermines the symbolic unity of creation stories.
- (d) Ancient classification systems were superior in recognizing species links.

Section - B : Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage:- 1 Of the 6.24 million criminal cases that the 2023 report recorded, 3.76 million were those under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), up 5.7% after falling in the 2021 and 2022. A crime in India was committed every five seconds in 2023 and the total number of crimes swelled 7.2% from the previous year to 6.24 million, government data, underlining that dangerous crimes such as murder or rape declined even as forgery, cheating, fraud, rash driving and cyber crimes ballooned. Of the 6.24 million criminal cases that the 2023 report recorded, 3.76 million were those under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), up 5.7% after falling in the 2021 and 2022. Another 2.48 million cases were registered under Special and Local Laws (SLL), which increased 9.5% from 2022.

Major increase is seen in the cases registered under Obstruction on Public way (Sec.283 IPC) from 93,548 cases in 2022 to 151,469 cases in 2023 and under 'thefts' from 652,731 cases in 2022 to 689,580 cases in 2023. Similarly under the SLL category, major increase is in cases registered under Motor Vehicle Act from 94,450 cases in 2022 to 191,828 cases in 2023. Murder declined 2.8%, abductions rose 5.6% and crimes against children spiked by 9.2%. Crimes against women remained largely flat, rising a modest 0.7%. The case was similar for crimes against scheduled castes, which rose by 0.4%. But crimes against scheduled tribes saw a spurt of 28.8%. Cyber crimes soared by 31.2% and offences against the State dropped by 13.2%.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/2023-ncrb-data-murder-rape-fall-cybercrimes-rise-101759173003818.html>]

25. Which of the following statements about the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) according to recent legislative developments, is correct?

- (a) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was introduced in 2022 and came into effect in January 2023.
- (b) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was passed by Parliament in 2024 and will come into force in July 2025.
- (c) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was passed by Parliament in 2023 and came into effect in July 2024.
- (d) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was enacted in 2023 but is yet to be notified for implementation.

26. Which state recorded the highest number of cybercrime cases in 2023?

- (a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Telangana

27. How many countries signed the landmark United Nations Convention against Cybercrime during the signing ceremony held in Hanoi?

- (a) 60 countries (b) 72 countries (c) 84 countries (d) 100 countries

28. Consider the following statements about the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

- I. The NCRB was established in 1987 to act as a central repository of information on crime and criminals.
- II. It was set up based on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee, the National Police Commission (1977–1981), and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- III. The NCRB was entrusted with implementing the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project in 2009.

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

29. Which Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform has been developed under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C) to train police and judicial officers on cybercrime investigation and forensics?

- (a) eRaksha (b) CyTrain (c) DigiPolice (d) SurakshaNet

30. Which metropolitan city accounted for the highest share of cybercrime cases, contributing about 51.92% of all such cases across 19 metros in 2023?

- (a) Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru

Passage:- 2 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates India's first overseas defence manufacturing facility. This is a major milestone under Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, highlighting India's growing global footprint in defence manufacturing. The country is transitioning from Make in India to Make for the World. According to TASL chief executive officer and managing director Sukaran Singh this project marks Tata's entry into the foreign defence market, which is projected to grow exponentially in the coming years, with the setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary. India with its Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) initiative in defence manufacturing launched in 2019. Significantly, Mr. Singh's first overseas visit as Defence Minister after assuming office was to Mozambique, underlining importance in India's strategic calculus. In 2023, he also travelled to Nigeria to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. India is expanding its defence outreach, particularly focusing on enhancing defence exports.

India straddles a unique position in global politics by not being part of either the U.S.-China or Russia-West binaries. India's ability to effectively compete depends on the expansion of its defence manufacturing capability. Marketing its products, showcasing operational successes, and cost-effectiveness are crucial for India. Sanctions against Russia may create opportunities for India in the foreign market due to its neutral stance.

Industry analysts view the move as an important milestone for India's efforts to expand its defence exports and build partnerships beyond its traditional markets. The unit is expected to cater not only to local requirements but also to regional and international demand for advanced armoured solutions.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-singhs-morocco-visit-marks-new-chapter-in-indiaafrica-defence-relations/article70093296.ece>]

31. Consider the following statements regarding Tata Advanced Systems' new defence manufacturing facility:

I. Tata Advanced Systems has set up India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit in Morocco.

II. The facility at Berrechid will produce the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8.

III. This marks the first Indian defence plant to be established in Europe.

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

32. How many land borders does Morocco share according to its geographical boundaries?

- (a) One (b) Two (c) Four (d) Three

33. Which of the following refers to India's largest-ever joint naval exercise with nine African nations aimed at enhancing maritime interoperability?

- (a) Indo-Africa Naval Synergy Operation (IAN-SO)
 (b) Indian Ocean Maritime Coordination Exercise (IOMCE)
 (c) Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME)
 (d) Strategic Indian-African Naval Initiative (SIANI)

34. Which of the following countries signed a 10-year defence cooperation framework agreement with India in Kuala Lumpur?

- (a) United Kingdom (b) Japan (c) Australia (d) United States

35. Which of the following is India's global ranking in the 2025 Global Firepower Index according to its PowerIndex score of 0.1184?

- (a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth

Passage:- 3 The beginning of October 2025, like every year, meant Nobel Prize season. The announcement of six prizes to new faces from around the globe, consisting of the world's most elite roster of scientists, writers, economists, and human rights leaders.

The Nobel Prize consists of a Nobel Medal and Diploma, and a document confirming the prize amount. The monetary award for Nobel Prizes changes depending on the fund's income. The Nobel Committees of the prize-

awarding institutions are responsible for the selection of the candidates. Notably, the names of nominees and other details of the selection process are kept confidential for 50 years, ensuring the integrity and privacy of the process. Last year's physics prize went to John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton for breakthroughs in machine learning that helped drive the artificial intelligence revolution. Very small particles, on the scale of an atom or smaller, behave in ways that are very different compared to objects we encounter in our everyday lives. The behaviour of small particles, extremely counter-intuitive at times, is described by the laws of quantum mechanics.

These individual particles seemingly exist at multiple places at the same time (superposition) or appear to pass magically through physical barriers like a wall (tunnelling). These properties are normally not exhibited by large objects, even though they comprise the same small particles. This year's Nobel Prize in physics has gone to scientists who showed that it was possible even for large systems, made up of billions of these small particles, to exhibit quantum behaviour under carefully controlled conditions.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/upsc-issue-at-a-glance-nobel-prize-2025-overview-upsc-exam-10320611/>]

36. Which organization, founded by Henry Dunant, has received the Nobel Peace Prize three times for its humanitarian contributions?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Red Cross | (b) Doctors Without Borders |
| (c) International Rescue Mission | (d) Global Relief Foundation |

37. Which institution is responsible for awarding the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| (a) The International Academy of Physics | (b) The Swedish Academy of Literature |
| (c) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences | (d) The Norwegian Nobel Committee |

38. Which of the following statements about the 2025 Nobel Prize is correct?

- (a) In 2025, every Nobel Prize carried a reward of 10 million Swedish kroner, with the Peace Prize presented in Finland.
- (b) Each Nobel Prize in 2025 was valued at 8 million Swedish kroner, with all prizes presented in Stockholm.
- (c) In 2025, every Nobel Prize carried a reward of 11 million Swedish kroner, with the Peace Prize presented in Norway.
- (d) Each Nobel Prize in 2025 included 12 million Swedish kroner, and all awards were presented in Geneva.

39. Who among the following have been awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for pioneering the development of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)?

- (a) John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis
- (b) Emmanuelle Charpentier, Jennifer Doudna, and Carolyn Bertozzi
- (c) Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel, and Andrea Ghez
- (d) Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi

40. Consider the following statements about Alfred Nobel and the establishment of the Nobel Prizes:

- I. Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer, and inventor known for discovering dynamite.
- II. In his 1895 will, Nobel directed most of his fortune to create prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Peace.
- III. The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was included in Nobel's 1895 will.

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 As many as 375 items, including groceries, agri-equipments, clothing, medicines and automobiles, got cheaper as the GST reform kicked in. The GST reforms will lead to a saving of 13% in the household bills for groceries and daily essentials, while a small car buyer could save around ₹70,000. According to government

estimates, stationery, clothing, footwear and medicines purchases would bring in savings in the range of 7-12%, while the savings would go up to 18% in the case of individual health and life insurance policies, which have been exempt from GST.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in an address to the nation, welcomed the next generation reforms, while congratulating the citizens on what he called the GST Savings Festival. Mr. Modi spoke on how the restructured GST rate will make everyday items cheaper, thereby positively affecting the lives of the poor, middle and new middle class. He also re-iterated the need for purchasing goods manufactured in India, saying that India's prosperity will gain its strength from Swadeshi mantra. The Congress accused PM Modi of taking sole ownership of the amendments made to the GST regime and stated that the current reforms were inadequate, with no resolution to the states' demand for an extension of compensation for another five years. The GST Council, comprising the Centre and states, had decided to reduce tax rates on goods and services. Around 140 crore people in the country are celebrating 'Bachat Utsav', as reduced GST will ease the burden on them. The prices of life-saving drugs have also declined drastically.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-gst-rates-goods-and-services-cheaper-live-updates-september-22-2025/article70079103.ece>]

41. Consider the following statements regarding recent GST reforms in India:

- I. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been simplified to a two-slab structure of 5% and 18%.
- II. Household essentials like soaps, toothpaste, and Indian breads have been moved to a higher 28% slab.
- III. GST reforms have aimed to boost affordability by cutting taxes on essentials to 5% or Nil.

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. Which of the following tax slabs under the current GST structure applies to tobacco, pan masala, aerated drinks, and other luxury goods?

- (a) 18%
- (b) 24%
- (c) 28%
- (d) 40%

43. In which year was the Goods and Services Tax (GST) introduced in India as a transformative reform to simplify the indirect taxation system?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2015
- (c) 2017
- (d) 2019

44. Which Constitutional Amendment Act paved the way for the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India?

- (a) 97th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (b) 99th Constitutional Amendment Act
- (c) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act
- (d) 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act

45. Which of the following statements about agriculture-related tax reforms is correct?

- (a) Fertilizer inputs now attract a 12 percent GST rate, raising producer costs.
- (b) Bio-pesticides and natural menthol now attract a 5 percent GST rate.
- (c) Tractors, harvesters, and sprinklers now attract a 12 percent GST rate.
- (d) Tires, parts, and drip systems now attract an 18 percent GST rate.

46. Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the constitution of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council) by the President within 60 days of its commencement?

- (a) Article 279A
- (b) Article 270A
- (c) Article 280A
- (d) Article 285A

Passage:- 5 Be it for spices, beads, jewellery, cotton, or the richness of our culture, the thriving sea-lanes served as bridges of commercial and intellectual exchange. For centuries, this nurtured global trade, providing a pathway to the growth and prosperity of many nations. That a historic consensus has been reached on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor during the G-20 Summit reflects the linkages of the past with our present and future.

The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024), a landmark event organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) was held in December 2024. This prestigious gathering celebrated India's illustrious maritime legacy and its profound contributions to global trade, culture, and innovation. Bringing together ministers, experts, and dignitaries from around the world, the conclave served as a vibrant platform for dialogue and collaboration, reaffirming India's enduring maritime heritage and its pivotal role in shaping the global maritime narrative. India's maritime heritage is deeply rooted in its ancient traditions and rich history, with references to maritime activities found as early as the Rig Veda. Indian mythology abounds with tales of the ocean, rivers, and the bounty they bestow upon humanity, symbolizing the profound connection between mankind and the seas. Evidence from Indian literature, art, sculpture, painting, and archaeology underscores the existence of a vibrant maritime tradition that shaped the nation's identity. The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024) convened key ministers, eminent speakers, maritime experts, and thought leaders from across the globe to illuminate India's illustrious seafaring legacy. The discussions underscored India's pivotal role in fostering cultural and economic exchanges throughout history, while also exploring its forward-looking vision for sustainable maritime innovation. The conclave not only celebrated India's historical maritime achievements but also highlighted its aspirations as an emerging maritime powerhouse on the global stage.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2084282>]

47. What was the theme of the 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024)?

- (a) Exploring India's Maritime Power in the Indo-Pacific Framework
- (b) Advancing Global Cooperation through Maritime Heritage Studies
- (c) Towards Understanding India's Position in Global Maritime History
- (d) Preserving the Legacy of Ancient Indian Ocean Trade Networks

48. Which of the following initiatives, launched in 2015, serves as the core pillar of the Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Blue Economy Mission | (b) Sagarmala Programme |
| (c) Samudrayaan Initiative | (d) Coastal Infrastructure Scheme |

49. Consider the following statements about the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) being developed at Lothal:

- I. The NMHC is being developed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- II. Lothal, one of the prominent cities of the ancient Harappan civilization, dates back to around 2600 BCE.
- III. Excavations at Lothal revealed the world's oldest known manmade dockyard, over 5000 years old.

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 |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|

50. Which of the following ports made history by launching India's first megawatt-scale indigenous green hydrogen facility?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Kandla Port | (b) Paradip Port | (c) Chennai Port | (d) Cochin Port |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|

51. What is India's latest ranking among 139 countries, according to the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2023?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 44 th | (b) 54 th | (c) 28 th | (d) 38 th |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

52. Which of the following statements about Modern India's maritime strength is correct?

- (a) India's maritime domain extends to 3,000 km of coastline with five functional major ports.
- (b) India's maritime prowess spans a 7,500 km coastline with 13 major ports across all domains.
- (c) India's coastal extent measures 9,000 km with six key major ports under full operation.
- (d) India's maritime geography lies on the eastern coast with minimal port development facilities.

Section - C : Legal Reasoning

Passage:- 1 Under Sections 11 and 12 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (ICA), a person is competent to contract if they have attained majority, are of sound mind at the time of contracting, and are not disqualified by law. Majority is governed by Section 3 of the Indian Majority Act, 1875: a person below 18 years is a minor, and where a guardian is appointed for person or property, minority continues until 21 years.

A minor's agreement is void ab initio. In *Mohori Bibi v. Dharmodas Ghosh*, the Privy Council held that a minor is not competent to contract or give consideration; hence Section 64 (voidable contracts) and Section 65 (agreements discovered void or contracts that become void) do not apply. The court declined to apply estoppel where the other party knew of the minority. However, courts may grant restitutionary relief under Section 33 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877, requiring restoration of benefits when an instrument is cancelled or enforcement is successfully resisted; this is discretionary and limited to the extent the minor or their estate has benefited.

There is no estoppel against a minor; the minor may plead minority even if they misrepresented age. As to tort, a claimant cannot convert a contractual claim into tort to impose liability on a minor. If the tort is directly connected with and forms part of the contractual transaction, the minor is not liable; if the tort is independent of the contract, liability may arise.

Certain contracts are treated as beneficial to minors. In India, an apprenticeship agreement is binding (Indian Apprentices Act, 1960), but a general contract of service is not binding on a minor. A marriage agreement is considered beneficial: the minor may enforce it against the other party, though it cannot be enforced against the minor. A minor cannot be a partner (Indian Partnership Act, 1932 requires capacity to contract). Ratification after majority does not validate a void minor's agreement; only a fresh promise supported by fresh consideration can bind the former minor, and a mere confirmatory bond without consideration is ineffective.

For necessities, Section 68 ICA provides reimbursement from the minor's estate (not personal liability) to any person who supplies necessities suited to the minor's station in life, provided the minor does not already have an adequate supply. "Necessaries" is a relative concept recognized to include essentials such as food, clothing, shelter, education, and training, depending on circumstances.

Regarding soundness of mind, Section 12 ICA deems a person of sound mind if, at the time of contracting, they can understand the agreement and form a rational judgment of its effect on their interests. A person usually unsound may contract during lucid intervals, while one usually sound cannot contract during periods of unsoundness (e.g., delirium or drunkenness).

Persons disqualified by law include an alien enemy (war-time contracts void; pre-war contracts may dissolve or stand suspended), convicts during sentence, insolvents lacking power over their estate, and foreign sovereigns/diplomats, who enjoy immunity unless they submit to jurisdiction with requisite government sanction. [Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/competent-to-contract/>]

53. Roshni, who is 17 years old, agreed to sell a painting to an art dealer for ₹50,000. The dealer paid in advance, but Roshni later withdrew from the agreement, citing her minority and insisting the contract was void ab initio. The dealer demands his money back, claiming Roshni's estate was enriched, while her guardian argues there is no benefit left to the estate since the money was spent on personal entertainment. The judge must decide whether restitution should be granted based on the actual benefit, the discretionary nature of the remedy, and the purpose of protecting minors under contract law.

When can courts grant restitution against a minor in this case?

- (a) The court must always order full refund to restore both parties to their original position.
- (b) Restitution is automatic in every case when enforcement is successfully resisted by pleading minority.
- (c) The minor is personally liable to refund the amount received, regardless of how it was used.
- (d) Courts may order restitution, but only if the minor or their estate has actually benefited from the contract.

54. Sahil, aged 16, enters a motorcycle dealership, falsely claiming to be 19 so he can sign a contract and take delivery of a bike. Upon discovering his real age, the dealer seeks to enforce the agreement, insisting Sahil's lie should estop him from pleading minority and that he should be forced to pay. Sahil counters by arguing Indian contract law always protects minors, regardless of misrepresentation or the dealership's reliance on his word. The

dispute focuses on whether the principle of estoppel applies, and whether a minor can always assert their minority to avoid liability for a contract made with fraudulent misrepresentation.

Is Sahil estopped from relying on his minority to escape liability?

- (a) Yes, but only if the seller did not attempt to verify his age before the agreement.
- (b) No, estoppel applies because the seller relied on Sahil's false statement regarding age.
- (c) Yes, Sahil can plead minority even if he misrepresented his age.
- (d) No, Sahil cannot plead minority because he lied about being of age.

55. Leela, aged 17, borrows ₹10,000 from a local moneylender under an oral agreement to repay with interest. When the lender presses for repayment months later, Leela asserts her minority and refuses. The lender sues and invokes Section 65, contending that recovery of benefits is permitted for agreements later discovered void or that become void. Leela maintains as a minor, neither Section 64 nor 65 applies to her contract or liability. The court must decide whether Section 65 creates any financial obligation for a minor, or if legal protection remains absolute regardless of benefit received.

Is Leela liable to reimburse the loan amount under Section 65?

- (a) Leela is not bound to return the money as Sections 64 and 65 do not apply to a minor's contract.
- (b) Leela must refund the principal, though not the interest, since she received a benefit.
- (c) The lender may enforce only reasonable interest for whatever part of the contract was performed.
- (d) Leela must repay the full sum and interest because she was benefited and the transaction was fulfilled.

56. Dinesh, aged 40, suffers from periodic episodes of mental confusion and hallucination. However, during a sustained lucid interval where he fully understands the transaction and its effects, he contracts to buy agricultural land. After the contract's execution, the seller claims the sale is invalid, relying on Dinesh's general unsoundness of mind rather than his mental state at contracting. The court must decide whether to uphold the contract based on Dinesh's capacity at the time of contracting, weighed against his overall mental condition and history.

Is the sale agreement valid and enforceable?

- (a) No, because a person with a history of unsoundness cannot make valid contracts.
- (b) Yes, because a person usually unsound may contract during lucid intervals.
- (c) Yes, but only if the contract is approved by a guardian appointed for Dinesh.
- (d) No, since contracts made by usually unsound persons are always void.

57. Sneha, a 17-year-old minor, executes a written marriage agreement with Rohan, aged 25, promising to marry him once she turns adult. Upon reaching 19, Sneha demands enforcement of the agreement after Rohan refuses to marry her, asserting the contract's invalidity because she was a minor at signing. The court must determine whether Sneha, as a minor at contract formation and adult at enforcement, can compel Rohan to marry under the beneficial nature of marriage agreements and legal protections for minors.

Can Sneha enforce the marriage agreement against Rohan?

- (a) Yes, because a marriage agreement is considered beneficial and enforceable by the minor.
- (b) No, because contracts signed by minors are wholly void and unenforceable.
- (c) Yes, but only if both parties ratify the contract after the minor reaches majority.
- (d) No, because only contracts for essential goods are binding on minors.

58. Aman, a minor aged 17, entered into a contract for tutoring services for ₹30,000, which remained unpaid. After turning 18, Aman signed a confirmatory note acknowledging the prior agreement but did not provide any fresh consideration. The tutor sues to enforce payment, arguing that Aman's note ratified the prior contract. Aman maintains the original contract was void due to minority and contends legal binding can arise only from a fresh promise backed by consideration after reaching majority. The court has to resolve the enforceability of Aman's note.

Is Aman's confirmatory note enforceable as ratification of the minor's contract?

- (a) Yes, because signing a confirmatory note validates the prior agreement.
- (b) No, unless Aman received an essential service under the original contract.

- (c) Yes, if payment was made on the original contract after Aman became an adult.
 (d) No, only a fresh promise supported by fresh consideration can bind the former minor.

Passage:- 2 Article 13 safeguards fundamental rights by invalidating laws inconsistent with Part III and by empowering judicial review. It operates on both time axes: under Article 13(1), pre-constitutional laws remain valid only to the extent they are consistent with fundamental rights; under Article 13(2), the State is prohibited from making laws that take away or abridge such rights, and any such law is void to the extent of the contravention. Article 13(3) defines “law” broadly to include ordinances, orders, by-laws, rules, regulations, notifications, customs and usages with the force of law, and “laws in force” to include unrepealed pre-Constitution enactments. Article 13(4) states that nothing in Article 13 applies to amendments made under Article 368.

The retrospectivity question was settled in *Keshavan Madhava Menon v. State of Bombay* (1951): inconsistent pre-Constitution laws are not void ab initio but become prospectively inoperative after 26 January 1950; past acts under them are unaffected, though pending proceedings cannot continue once inconsistency is declared. Under the doctrine of severability, a court strikes down only the unconstitutional portion of a statute while allowing the remainder to survive and operate, as illustrated by the partial invalidation of provisions in *A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras*.

Under the doctrine of eclipse, a pre-constitutional law that conflicts with fundamental rights is not dead but lies dormant or “eclipsed” and can revive if the constitutional impediment is removed; this approach was affirmed in *Bhikaji Narain Dhakras v. State of Madhya Pradesh*, clarified in *Mahendra Lal Jaini v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, and contrasted with *Deep Chand v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, which treats inconsistent post-constitutional laws as void from inception and incapable of revival. Under the doctrine of waiver as applied in India, fundamental rights are inviolable and cannot be waived by any individual, so no one may contract out of the protections contained in Part III, a principle authoritatively stated in *Basheshar Nath v. Commissioner of Income Tax*.

Under the doctrine of prospective overruling, to avert legal and administrative disruption, courts may confine the temporal effect of a new constitutional ruling to the future or to a defined window, a technique invoked in *I.C. Golaknath v. State of Punjab*. On constitutional amendments, early rulings (Shankari Prasad) excluded them from Article 13, Golaknath brought them within Article 13, and Kesavananda Bharati balanced the two by upholding Parliament’s power to amend while prohibiting damage to the basic structure (e.g., supremacy of the Constitution, judicial review, democracy). Thus, amendments are scrutinized for conformity with the basic structure, preserving the core of fundamental rights.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/article-13-of-constitution-of-india/>]

59. A State legislature in 2023 enacted the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act empowering factory owners to terminate employees without notice during financial emergencies, overriding Article 21 protections. Workers challenged the law, and the High Court declared it unconstitutional. The State government then argued that since the law served a compelling economic purpose and was passed by an elected legislature, it should be allowed to operate until a final Supreme Court ruling, and that past terminations under it must be recognized as lawful administrative actions to avoid chaos. Workers contend that the law cannot operate even for a day once inconsistency is found. What is the correct legal position regarding the operational status and past actions under this post-constitutional law?

- (a) The law may continue operating until Supreme Court review because legislative intent and economic necessity justify temporary enforcement pending final adjudication.
 (b) The law is inoperative from the date of judgment, but past terminations remain valid as administrative actions taken under color of legislative authority.
 (c) The law is void from its inception and incapable of revival, rendering it entirely without legal effect from the moment it was enacted into statute.
 (d) The law is merely dormant and can revive if fundamental rights are later amended, so past terminations hold contingent validity until constitutional changes occur.

60. In 1948, the princely State of Madhavpur enacted the Religious Endowments Control Act giving the Maharaja exclusive authority over temple administration, violating what would later become an Article. After the

Constitution came into force in 1950, devotees challenged several ongoing temple takeovers initiated in 1949 but completed in 1951. The State argued the 1948 law remained fully valid since it predated fundamental rights, while devotees insisted it became void on 26 January 1950. A community trust now seeks to reclaim temple properties and undo all post-1950 transfers. In 2024, Article 25 was amended to permit greater state control over religious institutions. The State government immediately declared the 1948 Act fully operational again and resumed temple administration. What is the correct legal position regarding the 1948 Act's status across these different time periods?

- (a) The 1948 Act was void from inception because it conflicted with natural justice principles that predated positive constitutional law and fundamental rights doctrine.
- (b) The Act became inoperative on 26 January 1950, cannot validate post-1950 acts, but revived in 2024 when the constitutional impediment was removed by amendment.
- (c) The Act remained continuously valid throughout all periods since pre-constitutional laws enjoy grandfather protection and are immune from fundamental rights challenges under any circumstances.
- (d) The Act was permanently extinguished in 1950 and cannot revive despite the 2024 amendment because pre-constitutional laws lose all legal force upon inconsistency findings.

61. Parliament enacted the National Security (Emergency Powers) Act, 2023, containing twenty-five sections. Section 19 authorized warrantless searches of any premises, violating Article 21, while the remaining twenty-four sections dealt with legitimate security coordination, intelligence sharing, border protocols, and inter-agency cooperation mechanisms that were entirely constitutional. Civil liberties groups challenged Section 19, and the Supreme Court found it unconstitutional. The government argued that striking down Section 19 would cripple the entire security architecture since all sections were interdependent and formed one integrated statutory scheme. It urged the Court to either uphold the entire Act or strike it down completely, claiming partial invalidation would create legislative chaos and render the remaining sections unworkable without the search powers. What should the Court's approach be toward the Act's constitutional and unconstitutional portions?

- (a) Uphold the entire Act because the legislative intent was a unified security framework, and courts cannot rewrite statutes by selective invalidation of components.
- (b) Strike down the entire Act because one unconstitutional provision taints the whole statute, rendering the legislative scheme inseverable and void in its complete statutory form.
- (c) Invalidate only Section 19 while allowing the remaining constitutional provisions to continue operating independently as valid law within their scope and purpose.
- (d) Place Section 19 in temporary abeyance pending parliamentary amendment while preserving the full Act's operation to avoid security gaps and administrative disruption.

62. Rajesh, facing investigation for financial fraud, approached the Enforcement Directorate and offered a written settlement: he would surrender ₹5 crore in attached assets in exchange for immunity from custodial interrogation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which he claimed violated his Article 20(3) right against self-incrimination. The Directorate's legal team was divided, some argued that citizens can waive constitutional protections through informed consent to facilitate settlements, while others maintained that such bargains undermine the constitutional scheme. Rajesh pointed to commercial arbitration where parties routinely waive Article 14 challenges to arbitral awards and argued that fundamental rights are personal property that individuals may trade away for tangible benefits. The Directorate seeks clarity on whether it may lawfully accept such a negotiated waiver as the foundation for a binding settlement agreement. Can Rajesh validly waive his Article 20(3) protection through this settlement agreement?

- (a) Yes, because informed consent to waive fundamental rights in arms-length negotiations between competent parties creates binding obligations that courts must enforce as contracts.
- (b) Yes, because fundamental rights exist to protect individuals who may choose to prioritize other benefits, and voluntary waivers in settlement contexts are commercially reasonable.
- (c) No, because only procedural rights may be waived while substantive fundamental rights remain non-waivable, and Article 20(3) is classified as substantive protection.

(d) No, because fundamental rights are inviolable and no individual may contract away protections contained in Part III through any form of private agreement.

63. The Village Development Council of Nandigram, acting under customary authority recognized for over 200 years, issued a resolution prohibiting women from inheriting agricultural land within the village, claiming it preserved traditional family structures. When challenged, the Council argued it was merely a social organization making private decisions, not a "law" subject to Article 13 scrutiny. The State government, however, had issued a notification in 1998 under the Village Governance Act recognizing the Council's resolutions as binding within its jurisdiction and enforceable through district magistrate orders. Affected women argued that the inheritance prohibition violated Article 14 and Article 15, while the Council insisted that ancient customs governing private property succession fall outside constitutional regulation unless formally enacted by the legislature as statutory law. The district magistrate seeks guidance on whether the Council's resolution qualifies as "law" subject to fundamental rights challenges. Does the Village Development Council's customary resolution constitute "law" subject to Article 13 scrutiny?

- (a) Yes, because law includes customs and usages with the force of law, and the State notification gave the Council's resolutions binding and enforceable character.
- (b) Yes, because any rule affecting constitutional rights automatically becomes law regardless of its source, form, or State recognition, triggering fundamental rights scrutiny in all contexts.
- (c) No, because customary practices governing private property and family relations are social norms outside the constitutional definition of law requiring formal legislative enactment.
- (d) No, because only parliamentary statutes, state enactments, and delegated legislation from recognized authorities qualify as law, excluding village-level customary decisions and resolutions.

Passage:- 3 Negligence is a civil wrong consisting of a breach of a legal duty to take care that results in damage undesired by the defendant to the plaintiff. Classic formulations describe it as a complex of duty, breach, and damage, and as the omission to do something a reasonable person would do, or doing something a prudent person would not do (*Blyth v. Birmingham Waterworks*).

Liability in negligence requires four linked elements. First, a duty of care must exist, assessed by foreseeability of harm, a relationship of proximity, and whether it is fair, just, and reasonable to impose liability. The neighbour principle anchors this inquiry and underlies duties ranging from manufacturer–consumer to occupier–visitor. Second, there must be a breach, conduct falling below the standard of the reasonably prudent person. In judging breach, courts weigh the foreseeable likelihood and severity of harm against the burden of precautions and the importance of the activity; the same act may be careful in one setting and negligent in another. Third, causation in fact ("but for" the breach the harm would not have occurred) and legal/proximate cause must be shown. Fourth, the plaintiff must prove damage not too remote.

Remoteness limits recovery to losses of a reasonably foreseeable type; if the kind of damage was foreseeable, liability follows even if its precise manner or extent was not (*Overseas Tankship v. Morts Dock, The Wagon Mound*). The principal remedy is compensatory damages to place the claimant, so far as money can, in the position had the duty been observed; recoverable heads include bodily injury, property damage, recognized psychiatric harm, and (subject to duty/remoteness limits) economic loss.

The doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* ("the thing speaks for itself") permits an inference of negligence where the accident is of a kind that ordinarily does not occur without negligence, the instrumentality was under the defendant's control, and the plaintiff did not contribute; it shifts the evidential burden to the defendant to rebut the inference. Collapsing structures and retained surgical instruments commonly illustrate the rule (e.g., the *Chandni Chowk clock tower collapse*; scissors left in a patient post-operation).

Defences may defeat or reduce liability. Contributory negligence, the plaintiff's own want of care, now leads to apportionment of damages (its roots lie in cases like *Butterfield v. Forrester*). An Act of God (*vis major*) bars liability where extraordinary natural forces cause the harm and human foresight and care could not reasonably guard against it (*Nichols v. Marsland*). An inevitable accident defence succeeds where, despite the exercise of ordinary care, caution, and skill, the incident was physically unavoidable (illustrated by *Brown v. Kendall*; *Holmes v. Mather*; *Stanley v. Powell*).

In sum, negligence balances risk and reason: duties arise where harm is foreseeable and proximate, breaches are measured against prudence and practicality, liability is confined by causation and remoteness, and equitable defences temper fault.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://lawbhoomi.com/negligence-under-law-of-torts/>]

64. Assertion (A): When a surgical instrument is left inside a patient after an operation, the law presumes negligence because such an occurrence ordinarily does not happen without carelessness.

Reason (R): The principle of *res ipsa loquitur* operates only where the event itself and the instrumentality causing harm were under the defendant's control and no contributory act by the plaintiff is shown.

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

65. Dr. Kapoor, a neurosurgeon at City Hospital, was performing a complex 14-hour brain tumor removal on a critically ill patient when, in the eighteenth hour of his shift, he momentarily misplaced a retractor, causing minor vessel damage that extended recovery by three weeks. Hospital protocols permitted 16-hour shifts for senior surgeons, and Dr. Kapoor had successfully completed over 200 similar procedures without incident. The patient's family filed a negligence suit, arguing that any surgeon working beyond 12 hours would inevitably make errors. Dr. Kapoor's defense counsel argued that given the patient's critical condition, the complexity of the tumor's location, and the absence of alternative surgeons with his specialized training that night, his conduct met professional standards. The hospital's expert testified that 95% of neurosurgeons would have proceeded identically under those circumstances. What is the correct legal position regarding Dr. Kapoor's alleged negligence?

- (a) Dr. Kapoor is liable because any error causing patient harm constitutes negligence regardless of experience, shift duration, or procedural complexity involved.
- (b) Dr. Kapoor is not liable because he acted as a reasonable neurosurgeon would, and the error was not something a prudent specialist would avoid.
- (c) Dr. Kapoor is liable because working eighteen continuous hours represents doing something a prudent person would not do, making any resulting error automatically negligent.
- (d) Dr. Kapoor is not liable because hospital protocol permitted 16-hour shifts, and compliance with institutional guidelines conclusively establishes reasonable care was exercised.

66. Meera, a 19-year-old university student, was injured when the balcony of her rented apartment collapsed during a small birthday gathering. She had leased the flat from Horizon Properties three months earlier. The landlord, Mr. Bansal, had never inspected the balcony and was unaware that the previous tenant had repeatedly complained about cracks in the concrete support beams two years ago. Meera now sues Mr. Bansal for negligence. Mr. Bansal's attorney argues that he had no relationship with Meera beyond a standard commercial lease, that balcony collapses are rare and unforeseeable events, and that imposing liability on every landlord for structural defects would cripple the rental housing market. Meera's counsel counters that landlords control the premises, tenants are vulnerable occupants, and structural safety is a core landlord responsibility. Does Mr. Bansal owe Meera a legal duty of care regarding the balcony's structural integrity?

- (a) Mr. Bansal owes no duty because he lacked actual knowledge of the cracks, and duty arises only when defendants have specific awareness of dangers.
- (b) Mr. Bansal owes a duty because any injury on leased premises automatically establishes liability, and landlords are strictly liable for all structural defects occurring.
- (c) Mr. Bansal owes no duty because the commercial lease transferred all safety responsibilities to the tenant, eliminating any obligation he might otherwise have owed.
- (d) Mr. Bansal owes a duty because harm from structural collapse was foreseeable, landlord-tenant proximity exists, and imposing liability is fair, just, and reasonable.

67. Apex Manufacturing negligently stored flammable chemicals near its warehouse loading dock, violating multiple safety codes. During a severe thunderstorm, lightning struck a nearby transformer, causing a power surge

that ignited the chemicals, which exploded and destroyed the adjacent office building owned by Sharma Enterprises. Fire investigators confirmed that the explosion would not have occurred if Apex had stored the chemicals in the designated fireproof bunker 200 meters away, but also noted that the lightning strike was a statistically rare event in that region. Apex argues it should not be liable because the specific chain of events, lightning, power surge, ignition, was bizarre and unforeseeable. Sharma Enterprises counters that fires and explosions from improperly stored flammable chemicals are exactly the kind of harm the safety codes were designed to prevent. What is the proper application of remoteness principles to Sharma Enterprises' claim for the destroyed office building?

- (a) Recovery is barred because the lightning strike was an unforeseeable intervening cause that breaks the chain of causation, rendering Apex's breach too remote.
- (b) Recovery is barred because remoteness requires that both the type of harm and the exact sequence of events leading to it be specifically foreseeable.
- (c) Recovery is permitted because if the kind of damage was foreseeable, liability follows even though the precise manner of ignition through lightning was unanticipated.
- (d) Recovery is permitted because any damage flowing from a safety code violation is automatically recoverable regardless of the foreseeability of the particular mechanism involved.

68. Coastal Resort Ltd. operates a beachfront hotel in an area that experiences occasional cyclones. In June 2024, an unprecedented Category 5 cyclone, the strongest in 150 years of recorded meteorological history, struck the coast with winds exceeding 280 km/h, far beyond any prior event. Despite the resort having installed storm shutters rated for Category 3 cyclones (the previous maximum observed), having early warning systems, and having evacuated all guests 48 hours before landfall, the extreme winds tore off sections of the roof that flew into neighboring properties, causing ₹50 lakh in damages. The neighbors sue for negligence, arguing that the resort should have built structures capable of withstanding any conceivable storm. The resort contends that no amount of reasonable precaution could have prevented the damage from such an extraordinary natural event. How should the court rule on the resort's liability for the damage caused by the flying roof sections?

- (a) The resort is liable because property owners bear absolute responsibility for damage their structures cause to neighbors regardless of the natural forces involved.
- (b) The resort escapes liability because extraordinary natural forces caused the harm and human foresight and care could not reasonably have guarded against it.
- (c) The resort is liable because it assumed the risk of operating in a cyclone-prone area and must bear all consequences of storm damage.
- (d) The resort escapes liability because it had installed storm protections and evacuated guests, demonstrating that it exercised all possible precautions available to owners.

69. Ramesh was driving his delivery van at 40 km/h on a busy market road (speed limit 50 km/h) when a child suddenly darted between parked vehicles chasing a ball, giving him only 1.5 seconds to react. Ramesh immediately applied brakes and swerved right, but could not avoid striking the child, who suffered a fractured arm. Accident reconstruction experts testified that even a driver with perfect reflexes traveling at 30 km/h could not have stopped in time given the child's sudden emergence and the 1.5-second reaction window. Ramesh had maintained his vehicle properly, his brakes were in excellent condition, he was not distracted, and he had 15 years of accident-free driving. The child's parents sue for negligence. Ramesh's counsel argues this was an unavoidable accident despite his exercise of ordinary care and skill. Can Ramesh successfully invoke the inevitable accident defense to escape liability for the child's injuries?

- (a) The defense succeeds because despite exercising ordinary care, caution, and skill, the incident was physically unavoidable given the sudden emergence and reaction time physics.
- (b) The defense fails because drivers must always anticipate children in market areas, and any collision with a child establishes negligence regardless of reaction constraints.
- (c) The defense fails because the child's injury proves Ramesh could have done more to prevent the accident, such as driving slower than the limit.

(d) The defense succeeds because Ramesh was driving below the speed limit and had maintained his vehicle, which conclusively establishes he fulfilled his duty.

Passage:- 4 Joint liability in Indian criminal law governs collective responsibility when several persons combine to accomplish a criminal act and is structured through Sections 34, 149, 120A and 120B. The common intention doctrine under Section 34 requires an intention shared by two or more persons, distinct from mere similar intention, and operates as a rule of evidence rendering each liable as if he alone had done the act. Its evidentiary contours permit inference from proved facts, but the intention must pre-exist the crime, whether by prearrangement or a meeting of minds formed on the spur of the moment, and it cannot be presumed unless a necessary inference from the circumstances. The furtherance requirement specifies that the criminal act must be done in prosecution of the shared intention; where common intention is established, liability attaches even without proof of an individual overt act, whereas participation without common intention does not attract Section 34.

The participation principle limits Section 34 by insisting on physical presence and contribution at the scene, which can include roles such as standing guard or facilitating escape, thereby tying vicarious liability to actual involvement. The Mahboob Shah principles refine these ideas by emphasizing that the essence of liability is a common intention animating the accused, that the impugned act must be in furtherance of that intention, that prearranged plan is ordinarily required, and that courts must carefully distinguish common from merely similar intention. The free-fight limitation recognizes evidentiary difficulty in ascribing a specific homicidal intention where moving assailants and victims render attribution of fatal injuries uncertain.

The common object doctrine under Section 149 attaches constructive guilt to every member of an unlawful assembly of five or more where an offence is committed in prosecution of the assembly's object or is one the members knew was likely to be committed; knowledge here denotes a high degree of probability inferable from the assembly's nature, arms, or behavior. The unlawful assembly concept in Section 141 defines qualifying purposes, ranging from overawing authorities to committing offences or compelling actions by criminal force, and allows a lawful assembly to become unlawful as its object changes. The Section 34–Section 149 distinction marks Section 34 as a non-substantive evidentiary rule requiring participation and common intention among two or more, while Section 149 creates substantive liability based on membership, a common object, and a minimum of five, without necessitating prior concert.

The conspiracy doctrine in Section 120A criminalizes agreement between two or more persons to do an illegal act or a legal act by illegal means, requiring an overt act only when the agreement is not to commit an offence, and it is immaterial whether the illegal act is the ultimate or incidental objective. Punishment under Section 120B differentiates conspiracies to grave offences, which attract the same punishment as abetment, from other conspiracies punishable up to six months or fine. These doctrines collectively calibrate joint liability by intention, participation, numbers, object, agreement, and knowledge, and they confine culpability to acts done in furtherance of shared designs proved by necessary inference.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Abk/Indian-Penal-Code/chapter6.htm>]

70. Arjun and Vikram were drinking at a roadside dhaba when they witnessed Suresh, a local moneylender, publicly humiliating a debtor. Both men expressed anger at Suresh's behavior but made no specific plan. Two hours later, while walking home separately, Arjun encountered Suresh alone on a dark street and, in a sudden fit of rage, attacked him with an iron rod he was carrying. Vikram, who happened to be walking 50 meters behind, heard the commotion, rushed to the scene, and upon seeing Arjun beating Suresh, immediately joined in and kicked Suresh repeatedly. Suresh died from the combined injuries. The prosecution charges. Arjun's counsel argues that since there was no prearranged plan and Vikram joined spontaneously, Section 34 cannot apply. The prosecution contends that their earlier shared anger and Vikram's immediate participation demonstrate common intention. What is the correct legal position regarding the application of the law to both accused?

(a) Section 34 applies because their earlier expressions of anger constitute sufficient prearrangement to establish the required common intention between them.

(b) Section 34 applies because the intention must pre-exist through prearrangement or a meeting of minds formed spontaneously when Vikram joined the assault.

(c) Section 34 does not apply because common intention cannot be inferred from similar anger expressed hours earlier without a specific criminal plan.

(d) Section 34 does not apply because Vikram's spontaneous participation makes it impossible to establish any shared criminal intention between the two accused.

71. Five members of a criminal syndicate, Ranjit, Mohan, Kuldeep, Ashok, and Dinesh, planned to rob a jewelry store. Ranjit and Mohan would enter the store armed with pistols and demand jewelry, Kuldeep would drive the getaway car parked outside, Ashok would monitor police radio frequencies from a rented room two kilometers away, and Dinesh would remain at the syndicate's hideout to receive and store the stolen goods. During the robbery, when the jeweler resisted, Mohan shot and killed him. Police arrested all five and charged them. Ashok's lawyer argues he was never physically present at the crime scene and merely provided technical support. Dinesh's counsel similarly contends he was at the hideout awaiting goods and had no active role in the actual robbery. The prosecution maintains that all five shared the common intention to commit robbery and should be liable for the murder. Can Ashok and Dinesh be convicted, despite not being present at the jewelry store?

(a) Both are liable under Section 34 because their essential roles in the robbery plan constitute sufficient participation to attract vicarious liability for murder.

(b) Both are not liable under Section 34 because they performed merely preparatory acts without directly participating in the execution of the actual robbery.

(c) Both are liable under Section 34 because common intention established among conspirators makes physical presence at the scene unnecessary for criminal liability.

(d) Both are not liable under Section 34 because liability attaches even without an individual overt act only when common intention and participation are established.

72. Ramesh and Sunil, both land developers, met several times over three months to discuss acquiring a valuable plot owned by an elderly widow, Mrs. Kapoor, who refused all purchase offers. During their meetings, they explored various strategies including making higher bids, involving family mediators, and even joked darkly about "scaring her into selling." However, they never formulated any concrete plan or reached a definite understanding about pursuing any illegal course of action. One evening, Ramesh, acting entirely on his own initiative and without informing Sunil, hired two thugs to threaten Mrs. Kapoor. The thugs broke into her home and assaulted her, causing grievous injuries. Police later found records of Ramesh and Sunil's meetings and charged both with conspiracy to commit assault. Sunil's defense argues that mere discussions and unexplored ideas do not constitute conspiracy without an actual agreement to do something illegal. Can Sunil be convicted of conspiracy based on the meetings and discussions with Ramesh?

(a) Sunil is not liable because conspiracy requires an agreement to do an illegal act, and exploratory discussions without such agreement are insufficient.

(b) Sunil is liable because the repeated meetings over three months demonstrate sufficient understanding to constitute the agreement that Section 120A criminalizes.

(c) Sunil is liable because dark jokes about scaring Mrs. Kapoor prove contemplation of illegal objectives, completing the agreement regardless of subsequent actions.

(d) Sunil is not liable because Section 120A requires an overt act when the agreement is not to commit an offence, which is absent here.

73. A group of six activists, Priya, Naresh, Kavita, Sameer, Javed, and Meena, organized a peaceful protest march to the Collector's office to demand action against a corrupt official. They obtained proper permissions and planned to submit a memorandum peacefully. During the march, they chanted slogans and carried banners with the agreed objective of peaceful demonstration. When they reached the Collector's office, Priya, overwhelmed by emotion and acting on personal impulse without any discussion with others, suddenly broke away from the group, smashed the office windows with a stone, and set fire to the reception area. The other five were shocked and immediately tried to restrain her and call the fire brigade. All six were arrested and charged with rioting and arson. The prosecution argues that since the arson occurred during the assembly's activities, all members share constructive guilt. The defense contends that the arson was Priya's independent action, entirely outside the protest's peaceful objective

and not in prosecution of any shared intention. Can Naresh, Kavita, Sameer, Javed, and Meena be held liable for the arson committed by Priya?

- (a) All five are liable because membership in an assembly when an offence occurs creates constructive guilt under Section 149 regardless of individual knowledge.
- (b) All five are liable because the common object of protesting against corruption makes the assembly responsible for any member's actions during that event.
- (c) All five are not liable because the criminal act must be done in prosecution of the shared intention, and Priya's impulsive arson was not.
- (d) All five are not liable because they lacked knowledge that arson was likely, which Section 149 requires through high probability inferred from circumstances.

74. Assertion (A): During a protest, six individuals armed with iron rods break through police barricades and begin vandalizing public vehicles. One member, Ravi, neither strikes anyone nor gives orders but remains present throughout, shouting slogans supporting the group's violent cause. He claims ignorance of their intention to damage property and denies liability under Section 149 IPC.

Reason (R): Under criminal law, knowledge for purposes of constructive liability signifies a high degree of probability that an offence would be committed, which can be inferred from the nature, arms, or conduct of the assembly.

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

Passage:- 5 India's fair dealing doctrine mediates the use of short copyrighted clips in online news and commentary in the digital age. The fair dealing doctrine under Section 52 of the Copyright Act, 1957 operates as a statutory exception that removes liability when the use is for specified purposes, and Section 52(1)(a)(ii) expressly covers criticism or review while Section 52(1)(a)(iii) covers the reporting of current events and current affairs, including public lectures. The purpose-specific limitation principle requires that any claimed fair dealing fit one of the enumerated purposes, and unlike the United States' fair use, the Indian approach does not extend beyond those purposes. The purpose-and-character factor guides fairness by asking whether the use is for a permitted end, whether it is commercial or non-profit, and whether it is transformative, with transformation understood as adding new meaning or insight rather than merely reproducing content. The nature-of-the-work principle recognizes that fair dealing is more liberally applied to factual works such as news reports than to highly creative works because dissemination of facts serves the public interest. The amount-and-substantiality principle assesses both quantitative length and qualitative importance, with the "heart of the work" test indicating that even a short extract can be substantial if it captures the essence, while a longer extract may be justified if necessary for transformative critique and not a substitute. The market-effect principle looks to whether the new use supplants demand for the original; non-substituting critique is less likely to harm the market. The de minimis non curat lex principle excuses trivial, fleeting, and non-exploitative uses, but brevity alone is not dispositive if the essence is taken.

Judicial applications illustrate these principles. In *TV Today Network Ltd. v. Newslaundry Media Pvt. Ltd.*, the Delhi High Court accepted the use of very short clips for critique that did not substitute the broadcast, and observed the difficulty of calling such extracts substantial when aimed at commentary. In *India TV Independent News Service Pvt Ltd v. Yashraj Films Pvt Ltd*, the court applied de minimis to brief, non-exploitative musical excerpts and affirmed fair dealing for brief, transformative excerpts by news channels when not a substitute. In *Super Cassettes Industries Ltd v. Chintamani Rao* (2011), broadcasting entire songs or substantial portions under a news label exceeded fair dealing, emphasizing that such use must be incidental. In *Shemaroo Entertainment Ltd v. News Nation Network Pvt Ltd* (2022), fair dealing and de minimis were rejected after a license ended because mere assertion was insufficient and prior conduct undermined a genuine news purpose.

Online platforms' automated enforcement tools may misread context and can be used to pressure users, while legal recourse includes notices, takedowns, civil and criminal remedies, counter-notifications, and Section 60 actions

against groundless threats. Overall, Indian fair dealing remains a purpose-bound exception shaped by qualitative substantiality, market effect, de minimis thresholds, and case-specific judicial scrutiny.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://corporate.cyrilamarchandblogs.com/2025/06/fair-dealing-in-the-digital-age-navigating-copyright-for-news-and-online-content-in-india/>]

75. An online political satire show uses short snippets of televised parliamentary debates and a public rally to ridicule inconsistent statements by a minister. The broadcaster claims the programme is “humour, not news,” while the minister argues it misuses legislative footage outside journalistic reporting. The producer asserts protection for “criticism and review” since the clips are contextual commentary on governance. The question arises whether parody-based political speech can claim the same statutory defence as formal reporting or review. The programme was streamed on a subscription platform but also shared widely on social media, sparking a debate over the boundary between commentary and reportage in digital broadcasting.

Which defence is most sustainable under law?

- (a) The broadcast qualifies as reporting of current events because humour is a recognised mode of factual transmission.
- (b) The broadcast falls outside both clauses because satire cannot be treated as either criticism or reporting of events.
- (c) The broadcast is infringing because legislative proceedings can only be reproduced by accredited news agencies.
- (d) The broadcast qualifies as criticism or review since it analyses political speech to highlight contradictions in governance.

76. A lifestyle YouTuber compiles film montages praising cinematic fashion trends, adding voice-overs describing the designer’s work. The studio sues, alleging that “trend celebration” is not within statutory purposes. The YouTuber argues that it is “educational” and socially beneficial, comparable to U.S. fair-use culture analysis. The dispute raises whether public interest or creative value can enlarge the scope of permitted purposes beyond those listed in the statute. The video features substantial clips, monetized through brand sponsorships, and claims to promote appreciation of costume design rather than infringing reproduction.

Which position aligns with Indian doctrine?

- (a) The use is exempt because educational commentary necessarily falls under the public-interest rationale of fair dealing.
- (b) The use is exempt as long as commercial sponsorship remains below a modest revenue threshold.
- (c) The use is infringing only if the video exceeds a fixed quantitative limit of reproduced material.
- (d) The use is infringing since Indian law confines fair dealing to enumerated purposes without importing broader fair-use categories.

77. A news bulletin on election rallies plays full campaign songs of a film star-turned-politician, arguing the music explains his appeal. The channel insists the songs merely illustrate the “news event” and thus qualify as fair dealing. The film label contends the entire playback is exploitative and unrelated to reporting. The bulletin features extended visuals and uninterrupted songs broadcast across multiple segments, with no journalistic commentary between tracks. The central question is whether such use remains incidental or crosses the threshold into substitutionary exploitation.

Should the channel succeed in its defence?

- (a) Yes, because the programme’s non-commercial election coverage overrides musical rights claims.
- (b) No, since all entertainment material requires prior licensing regardless of context or duration.
- (c) No, because broadcasting entire songs under a news label exceeds fair dealing and the use must remain truly incidental.
- (d) Yes, since political rallies constitute current events and any accompanying music is automatically exempt.

78. A sports news clip briefly captures a stadium DJ playing four seconds of a copyrighted anthem before cutting to player interviews. The composer sues, arguing the anthem’s signature riff, its essence, was copied. The

broadcaster argues the usage was fleeting and trivial. The broadcast was live, unscripted, and retained as part of authentic sound ambience without repetition or overlay. The issue is whether brevity alone constitutes sufficient defence or whether qualitative importance of the sampled portion defeats de minimis protection.

How should the dispute be resolved?

- (a) The clip is exempt since any excerpt shorter than ten seconds qualifies as non-actionable trivial use.
- (b) Liability arises if the brief clip reproduces the essence of the work; brevity alone does not guarantee de minimis protection.
- (c) The clip is exempt automatically because sports telecasts involve incidental ambient sound beyond editorial control.
- (d) Liability arises in all cases where commercial broadcasting occurs, regardless of length or purpose.

79. A digital watchdog compares two news anchors' coverage styles by airing three-second clips of each alongside commentary mocking their tone. The network sues, alleging the compilation substitutes its own broadcast. The reviewer argues the extracts are minimal and transformative for critique. The clips are short, interspersed with commentary, and designed to illustrate bias in journalistic delivery. The issue is whether transformation through critique can outweigh reproduction of original footage, especially when the new work aims at accountability rather than entertainment.

What outcome best fits the governing rule?

- (a) The use is fair because very short clips for critique that do not substitute the broadcast fall within permissible commentary.
- (b) The use is infringing since mocking tone or delivery exceeds the scope of serious journalistic review.
- (c) The use is infringing because even transformative commentary cannot reproduce any part of another broadcast.
- (d) The use is fair only if the reviewer obtained prior written consent from the original network before critique.

Passage:- 6 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>]

80. A thermal-power company discharges fly ash into a nearby stream that contaminates groundwater and damages adjoining agricultural fields. Local villagers file a claim alleging chronic respiratory illnesses, soil infertility, and unsafe drinking water. The company contends that it has already paid the prescribed environmental cess and annual compliance fees, thereby fulfilling all statutory obligations under existing pollution-control norms. It further argues that any residual harm should be borne by the government as part of public environmental expenditure. The affected community seeks both compensation for personal injury and restoration of the degraded environment through soil remediation.

Should the company bear restoration and victim-compensation costs?

- (a) No, because payment of regulatory fees satisfies all legal and fiscal obligations under environmental statutes.
- (b) Yes, only if the pollution was intentional and caused measurable loss verified by government inspection.
- (c) No, since civil damages can arise only after a criminal conviction for environmental offences.
- (d) Yes, because those who produce pollution must bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to health or the environment.

81. A coastal state government executes a thirty-year lease of a heritage beachfront to a private luxury resort, granting it exclusive access and authority to restrict entry for security reasons. The justification advanced is that tourism revenue will fund mangrove restoration and create jobs, while maintaining the rest of the coastline for public recreation. Local fisherfolk file a public interest petition alleging that the lease extinguishes their customary rights to fish and traverse the shore. The government argues that the lease is permissible since the property was not sold outright and the consideration will finance environmental protection initiatives.

Is the lease constitutionally valid?

- (a) No, because public trust property must remain available for public use and cannot be sold even for fair cash equivalent.
- (b) Yes, since revenue earmarked for ecological projects offsets the alienation of the property itself.
- (c) No, unless the State compensates affected communities through alternative livelihood schemes.
- (d) Yes, because tourism itself serves public purposes and satisfies the doctrine's aims.

82. A fertilizer plant located near a densely populated township suffers a catastrophic ammonia gas leak, spreading toxic fumes across several kilometres and causing death of cattle, vegetation loss, and serious respiratory ailments among residents. The operator claims the accident occurred due to a lightning strike and insists that insurance payouts should constitute full settlement. The State Pollution Control Board seeks recovery of the total cleanup costs and medical compensation under environmental jurisprudence. The company maintains that since negligence was absent, its obligation should end with policy limits.

What should the tribunal hold?

- (a) Liability arises only if fault or negligence is proven beyond reasonable doubt by affected parties.
- (b) The enterprise is absolutely liable to compensate victims and pay the cost of restoring environmental degradation.
- (c) The operator's liability ends at insurance coverage, as accidental leaks fall outside strict liability.
- (d) Compensation can be limited to human injury, not to environmental restoration costs.

83. A state government approves offshore wind-farm construction along its coastline, promising energy self-sufficiency. Marine biologists warn that turbine foundations may disrupt coral reefs, but their studies are ongoing and no definitive evidence exists yet. The project proponent claims that postponing development would cause huge

financial loss and delay India's renewable targets. Environmental NGOs urge immediate suspension until risk assessment confirms negligible impact. The authorities must decide whether to proceed or pause amid inconclusive science.

How should they proceed?

- (a) Deny or halt the project until adequate study rules out serious and irreversible environmental damage.
- (b) Approve provisional operations because delay would hinder development and data is incomplete.
- (c) Allow limited mining under company supervision pending conclusive scientific results.
- (d) Defer any decision until international consensus affirms measurable ecological thresholds.

84. In an industrial corridor, a petrochemical company's underground pipeline leaks continuously into surrounding farmland, contaminating irrigation wells. The authorities propose to build a government-funded treatment facility downstream to filter water for public use. Environmental activists argue that fixing the leak at the origin and recovering costs from the polluter aligns with legal obligations. The company counters that downstream rectification is more economical and delays direct repair responsibility. The dispute centres on whether prevention at origin overrides remedial convenience.

Which policy direction best fits the governing principle?

- (a) Fund mitigation through public subsidies because pollution control serves a social purpose.
- (b) Delay corrective work until cumulative data quantifies the extent of downstream contamination.
- (c) Repair pollution at its origin and require the polluter to bear the cost of rectification.
- (d) Install collective downstream treatment since it spreads cost and benefits all affected users.

Section - D : Logical Reasoning

Passage:- 1 The Indian Navy now faces pressures that are not isolated or episodic, but “complex, continuous and compounded”, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi said Monday while inaugurating the 11th edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD-2025) in New Delhi. Declaring that the “seas are the truest measure of shared dignity”, Admiral Tripathi asserted that maritime security in the Indo-Pacific can no longer be viewed through the “narrow prism of strategic containment”. Instead, he said, it must be seen as what Professor Rieckmann termed a “Dynaxic Challenge”—one that is both dynamic and complex.

The Navy Chief then went on to identify three major currents shaping this maritime “dynaxity”. The first concern is commercial disruption where global seaborne trade is under strain from “conflicts, coercion and catastrophe”. Citing data, he said global maritime trade growth is expected to stall at 0.5% in 2025, down from 2.2% last year, reflecting “not just slowed commerce, but strategic fragility”. The ongoing Red Sea crisis demonstrated how disruption at a single chokepoint could ripple across global freight rates, insurance premiums, and food prices.

Second, the Navy Chief spoke about transnational turbulence. The seas are witnessing a surge in activities that blur “the lines between competition, crime and conflict”. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, piracy, arms and narcotics trafficking, and human smuggling have emerged as major maritime stressors. The maritime domain mirrors the wider disorder of our times,” Admiral Tripathi cautioned, adding that such challenges demand “collective solutions beyond jurisdiction or cartographic silos. Third, he went on to focus on technological acceleration as he spoke of how while disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, autonomous systems, and commercial satellites are reshaping maritime awareness and operations, these advances also bring vulnerabilities—from cyber intrusions to signal spoofing and persistent surveillance. In the Indian Ocean Region alone, there are near-daily episodes of GPS jamming. Therefore, maritime security and maritime growth are not parallel tracks but twin propellers driving the collective voyage toward peace and prosperity.

Highlighting the Navy’s vision, he spoke on how India’s strategy had evolved from SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) to MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). Under MAHASAGAR, India’s defence-industrial transformation seeks to extend such cooperation beyond our shores, enabling friends and partners to strengthen their maritime presence with indigenous design, affordable technologies, and sustainable support systems. True capacity, after all, is not what a nation accumulates, but what a region aggregates. Outlining the Navy’s approach, he called for “holistic maritime security” that integrates deterrence, law enforcement, environmental stewardship, and humanitarian response—but remains context-specific, not one-size-fits-all. Enhancing capability, therefore, demands a shift from platform-centric to purpose-centric thinking. It calls for doctrines that anticipate hybrid threats, training that fosters initiative and adaptability, and interoperability that allows navies to operate as one in moments that matter.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://theprint.in/defence/indian-navy-faces-complex-continuous-and-compounded-maritime-pressures-says-navy-chief/2772078/>

85. What is the principal argument advanced by the Navy Chief in the passage?

- (a) Prevailing maritime challenges necessitate prioritizing domestic capability enhancement over doctrinal evolution.
- (b) Traditional frameworks are inadequate to counter the hybrid nature of present-day maritime vulnerabilities.
- (c) Commercial and technological domains must remain secondary to military readiness in oceanic regions.
- (d) Recurrent maritime disruptions demand bilateral deterrent strategies tailored to specific regional threats.

86. The author’s statement on maritime disorder “mirroring the wider disorder of our times” most likely implies that:

- (a) Structural chaos in maritime governance is a reflection of growing distrust in economic globalisation mechanisms.
- (b) The unpredictable nature of maritime disruptions stems from systemic instability in transnational political arrangements.
- (c) Maritime affairs are increasingly being shaped by the same ambiguities and fragmentation seen in broader global dynamics.

- (d) Disorder at sea can no longer be managed using legacy norms rooted in Cold War-era territorial thinking.
87. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's claim that commercial disruption reflects deeper strategic vulnerabilities?
- (a) Short-term fluctuations in maritime trade volumes tend to self-correct without requiring military intervention.
 - (b) Logistic delays in shipping routes are now largely caused by inland supply chain issues rather than chokepoint disruptions.
 - (c) Long-term projections by global shipping firms indicate robust growth irrespective of minor regional conflicts.
 - (d) Maritime insurance markets remain stable even in zones experiencing persistent security threats and piracy.
88. Based on the passage, the author would most likely disagree with which of the following views?
- (a) Maritime law enforcement must evolve to address crimes that cross jurisdictions and defy conventional categorization.
 - (b) Naval preparedness must be dictated primarily by platforms that can dominate adversaries in conventional warfare.
 - (c) Response frameworks must include humanitarian support and environmental vigilance alongside traditional deterrence.
 - (d) The increasing complexity of maritime threats demands regional actors to adapt collaboratively, not competitively.
89. Which of the following courses of action would most accurately reflect the Indian Navy's vision under the MAHASAGAR strategy?
- (a) Strengthening naval diplomacy by offering logistical assistance and maintenance facilities to strategic partners.
 - (b) Increasing investments in long-range missile systems to reinforce deterrence capabilities in contested waters.
 - (c) Limiting exports of indigenous naval platforms to protect critical defence technology from duplication.
 - (d) Advocating for regional waters to be governed through rigid, universal maritime doctrines enforced multilaterally.
90. Which of the following conclusions can be most reasonably drawn from the passage?
- (a) Interoperability among navies will likely determine the success of regional responses to hybrid maritime threats.
 - (b) Sovereign maritime policies will remain the central axis of regional naval cooperation in the coming decades.
 - (c) Economic consequences of maritime disruption are negligible compared to the political risks involved.
 - (d) Technological parity is the precondition for establishing equal partnerships in maritime security collaborations.

Passage:- 2 India, the cradle of four major religions — Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism — has long stood for peace and compassion. From the teachings of non-violence to the moral triumph of Mahatma Gandhi's freedom movement, India's identity has been shaped by restraint, tolerance, and dialogue over bloodshed. Yet, within this same land, the Naxalite movement continues to pursue its goals through the barrel of a gun. This contradiction should give us pause. In a world already riven by global conflicts, cyber warfare, and growing geopolitical tension, India cannot afford an internal insurgency that drains its moral and material strength. When internal violence festers, the costs of maintaining peace multiply — not just in financial terms, but in human confidence and national cohesion.

Naxalism, often wrapped in the rhetoric of justice for the marginalised, has been parasitic at its core, feeding off democratic freedoms while undermining them. The government bears the responsibility to provide a secure environment in which citizens can enjoy liberty, but this is continually tested by those who reject dialogue and embrace violence. Every ambush, every attack on a village or railway track, chips away at public trust and pushes communities back into fear and suspicion. To confront this challenge effectively, India must first be clear about what sustains it. For too long, the dominant narrative has been that Naxalism is a byproduct of poverty and underdevelopment. But this explanation, while convenient, doesn't withstand scrutiny. If deprivation alone were the cause, why would Naxalites routinely destroy schools, railway tracks, and telecom towers — the very

infrastructure meant to lift people out of poverty? Between 2010 and 2024, incidents targeting economic infrastructure fell dramatically from 365 to just 25, reflecting both the effectiveness of state operations and the growing realisation among locals that violence sabotages their own progress. Each act of destruction resets development, worsens unemployment, and locks regions into cycles of stagnation.

Empirical evidence also contradicts the poverty narrative. Studies by the National Bureau of Economic Research and the University of North Carolina reveal that economic indicators like poverty or unemployment are weak predictors of terrorism or political violence. Instead, ideology, state capacity, and identity-based grievances are far more influential. In the Indian context, research published in the Economic and Political Weekly finds that even forest cover, a proxy for state inaccessibility, correlates more strongly with Maoist activity than economic backwardness. The geographic pattern of Naxalism further exposes the poverty myth. The insurgency had primarily taken root in the so-called “Red Corridor” across central and eastern India — Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, parts of Odisha, and Bihar — while other states with comparable or even worse poverty levels have remained largely immune.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/decline-of-naxalism-shows-that-progress-anchored-in-justice-and-inclusion-is-best-antidote-to-extremism-10342218/?ref=top_opinion

91. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the author’s juxtaposition of India’s moral tradition with internal violence?

- (a) The contradiction between India’s spiritual legacy and insurgent movements undermines its moral consistency.
- (b) A nation’s founding principles have minimal influence on contemporary political realities in volatile regions.
- (c) The persistence of violence signals that cultural traditions alone cannot ensure national unity or peace.
- (d) India’s religious diversity has played an indirect role in fuelling ideological extremism in isolated regions.

92. Which of the following would best test the author’s claim that poverty is an inadequate explanation for the persistence of Naxalism?

- (a) Comparing ideological outreach programs in insurgent-affected and stable but equally poor districts across India.
- (b) Tracking variations in unemployment levels in both insurgent-affected and unaffected regions over a decade.
- (c) Studying the degree of local trust in governance structures in forest-dense districts with varying income levels.
- (d) Investigating whether tribal populations in high-poverty zones reject extremism when livelihood schemes are implemented.

93. Which of the following would most effectively support the author’s claim that the Naxalite movement actively undermines developmental progress?

- (a) Repeated attacks on educational institutions result in long-term displacement of teaching professionals.
- (b) Disruptions to healthcare access due to regional violence correlate with increased rural migration patterns.
- (c) Loss of agricultural productivity in conflict zones stems from land disputes and forced evacuations.
- (d) Communities exposed to Naxalite violence report prolonged delays in implementation of infrastructure projects.

94. Based on the passage, which of the following statements would most likely be necessarily false?

- (a) The intensity of insurgency directly reflects the level of material deprivation in a given region.
- (b) Reduced attacks on public infrastructure may indicate diminishing community support for extremism.
- (c) Regions with weak state accessibility are more vulnerable to ideologically driven insurgent activity.
- (d) Long-standing movements may evolve in tactics without altering their fundamental ideological goals.

95. Which of the following is an assumption that underlies the author’s dismissal of the poverty-centric explanation for Naxalism?

- (a) The core appeal of Naxalism lies more in a sense of historical injustice than in present economic distress.
- (b) Effective governance is more likely to deter insurgency than targeted financial assistance alone.

- (c) Discontent arising from inequality does not necessarily result in organized violent resistance.
- (d) Local populations will cooperate with the state only when their economic demands are first met.

96. Which of the following is least likely to be a policy implication the author would support for addressing the Naxalite challenge?

- (a) Strengthening grassroots democratic institutions to give voice to marginalised communities.
- (b) Increasing investments in infrastructure while simultaneously curbing ideological indoctrination.
- (c) Expanding armed counterinsurgency measures as the principal strategy against extremist groups.
- (d) Enhancing administrative reach in forest-dense areas through civil service recruitment and training.

Passage:- 3 At a five-star hotel in Kolkata last month, a friend requested tea and when asked which variety he replied "Oolong". Since the place had a large list of teas, his next query was not surprising. "Which oolong teas do you have?" The wait staff named just one but could not give any details of where it was from or what its characteristics were. Yet today, most high-end hospitality professionals in India would be able to reel off the difference between a Malbec wine and a Merlot. For the uninitiated, the best oolong is produced only in three places-Fujian and Guangdong in China, in Taiwan and in Darjeeling in India. But oolong is not a tea variety, it indicates the oxidization level of plucked leaves during processing. The Nilgiris also have camellia sinensis tea bushes but the bi-annual monsoon there results in very robust leaves that are less delicate than those produced by the same variety on the colder slopes of the eastern Himalayas in Darjeeling.

Most Indians have little idea of the variety and complexity of tea, the hot beverage that so captivated the British that they not only discovered an Indian variant, *Camellia Sinensis* var *Assamica*, and began production soon after, but also brought in purloined seeds and cuttings of the Chinese plant. However, the only place in India in which those stolen tea saplings could reproduce the ethereal aroma and delicate flavour of the best-growing areas of their homeland was in Darjeeling. The average Briton, like much of the tea-drinking world of course, was not as enamoured of the subtle, perfumed, golden liquor of lightly steeped Darjeeling. They preferred a more aggressive brew, for which tea leaves had to be put through a more rigorous process which produced 'CTC'-the tightly curled little globules that yield a deep reddish-brown liquid-to which milk and sugar are added. The most annoying thing for a lifelong Darjeeling tea drinker is the assumption by most people, even in India, that 'cha' and 'chai' are the same, and that the beverage must be a viscous, sweet, milky, light brown concoction slightly more reddish than filter coffee, often redolent of ginger and cardamom rather than the aroma of dried *camellia sinensis* leaves. Worse still, a dark brown 'skin' forms on top of that lactescent liquid as it cools. That is not 'my' Darjeeling cha at all. A recent visit to the Himalayan slopes of Darjeeling district (the town by that name is highly avoidable now due to the crush of tourists and ugly buildings to cater to them) revealed why 'black' or dried long leaf tea from there is so different from its pugnacious, compact CTC cousins produced elsewhere. Like in Yunnan, the slopes of Darjeeling's Singalila range are steep, the air is cool and sharp, and even the sunlight at that altitude is different. Tea from here demands devotion.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/cheers-for-that-fine-cuppa/articleshow/125003540.cms>

97. Which of the following conclusions can be most reasonably drawn from the passage?

- (a) The familiarity of certain flavors discourages curiosity about more complex varieties of tea.
- (b) Cultural identity plays a larger role than environmental origin in shaping tea preferences.
- (c) Preference for strong and sweet tea stems from the influence of colonial consumption habits.
- (d) Most tea drinkers consider cost and convenience before evaluating taste and aroma profiles.

98. Which of the following best illustrates the paradox highlighted by the author regarding tea culture in India?

- (a) A nation that produces exquisite tea fails to instill an appreciation of it among its own population.
- (b) A country that reveres its traditions allows global coffee chains to dominate urban beverage culture.
- (c) A hospitality sector that boasts luxury menus neglects the basic training in local tea distinctions.
- (d) A population that consumes tea daily is rarely exposed to its history, science, or sensory details.

99. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the claim that Darjeeling alone can reproduce Chinese tea quality?
- (a) Farms in Sikkim at similar elevations have produced teas indistinguishable from those grown in Darjeeling.
 - (b) The majority of tea exports labeled “Darjeeling” include blends with leaves from nearby regions.
 - (c) Several Himalayan plantations have duplicated Darjeeling’s cultivation practices with good results.
 - (d) Chinese tea experts argue that tea taste is more sensitive to drying than to growing conditions.
100. Which of the following reveals the logical flaw in the author’s judgment of hospitality professionals?
- (a) The author extrapolates a single incident into a broad claim about industry-wide ignorance of tea.
 - (b) The author presumes that tea knowledge is essential for evaluating overall hospitality service.
 - (c) The author compares wine familiarity to tea awareness without establishing a causal relationship.
 - (d) The author criticizes culinary professionals without presenting any evidence of formal training gaps.
101. Which of the following would be the most suitable policy response to address the author’s concerns?
- (a) Hospitality courses should include training in regional Indian teas as part of beverage education.
 - (b) Government subsidies should promote artisanal tea cultivation over mass-market CTC production.
 - (c) National campaigns should encourage families to adopt specialty teas for daily consumption.
 - (d) Tea exports should be regulated to ensure domestic supply of high-quality loose-leaf varieties.
102. Which of the following most closely parallels the author’s reasoning about the effect of altitude, light, and environment on tea quality?
- (a) A particular grape variety produces a sharper wine only when grown at higher altitudes with lower humidity and thinner air.
 - (b) Traditional painting techniques passed down through generations have resulted in more vibrant color schemes in desert cultures.
 - (c) The same brand of perfume smells stronger in winter than in summer because colder air slows evaporation.
 - (d) Authors who isolate themselves during writing produce fiction that is richer in detail than when they work in teams.

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

Nisha started walking in the north direction from point A. After walking 18 m she reached point B. From B, she took a right turn and walked 24 m to reach point C. From C, she turned right and walked 12 m to reach point D. Then she turned left and walked 10 m to reach point E. From E, she turned left and walked 30 m to reach point F. From F, she turned left and walked 14 m to reach point G. Finally, from G, she turned right and walked 20 m to reach point H.

103. What is the direction of H with respect to A?
- (a) Northeast (b) Northwest (c) Southeast (d) Southwest
104. What is the total distance travelled by Nisha in the north direction?
- (a) 62 m (b) 68 m (c) 72 m (d) 54 m
105. What is the direction of point E with respect to point B?
- (a) Northeast (b) Northwest (c) Southwest (d) Southeast
106. What is the shortest distance between points A and G?
- (a) $4\sqrt{106}$ m (b) $\sqrt{1640}$ m (c) $2\sqrt{365}$ m (d) 40 m
107. If P is the midpoint of segment DF, what is the direction of P with respect to C?
- (a) Northeast (b) South (c) West (d) Southeast
108. What is the total distance travelled by Nisha during the entire journey?

(a) 132 m

(b) 124 m

(c) 128 m

(d) 136 m

Section - E : Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]: Answer the questions on the basis of the information given below.

The students from five different schools - A, B, C, D, and E - visit a zoological park on a particular Sunday. The total number of students visiting the park is 3000 out of which 24% and 20% are from schools A and D respectively whereas the total number of students from schools B and E were 60 less and 60 more than that from school D respectively.

The ratio of boys to girls from school B is 3 : 2 whereas that from C is 7 : 5 respectively. The number of boys from schools E and A is 360 and 450 respectively. The number of girls from schools D and E are equal.

109. What is the total number of girls visiting the zoological park on that Sunday?

- a 1714 b 1732 c 1682 d 1286

110. What is the ratio of the total number of girls from schools A and E to the total number of boys from schools C and D respectively?

- a 1 : 2 b 23 : 24 c 57 : 58 d 27 : 28

111. What is the difference between the number of boys and girls from the school with the second lowest number of students?

- a 120 b 108 c 116 d 96

112. If the price of a ticket was Rs.75 per student, then what was the amount paid for all the students from schools D and E together?

- a Rs.94,500 b Rs.96,500 c Rs.95,400 d Rs.98,200

113. If a school bus has 45 seats, then for which of these schools were there vacant seats in their buses?

- a A and B b B and C c C, D, and E d A, C, and D

114. If it is mandatory for one teacher to accompany 24 students, then how many teachers went along with the students of schools A and C?

- a 32 b 40 c 35 d 50

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]: At the Kashi Mahotsav night market, four friends launch the “Moonlit Kulhad Café.” Meera puts in ₹1,80,000 on 1 January and manages the stall daily; she takes a managing salary of ₹5,000 per month only for the months she actively manages (January to September). On 1 April, she adds ₹60,000 more. Kabir joins on 1 March with ₹1,20,000 but on 1 September withdraws ₹30,000, leaving his capital at ₹90,000 for the rest of the year. Zoya invests ₹90,000 from 1 January; on 1 July, she boosts her investment by 50%, so her capital becomes ₹1,35,000 till year-end. Arjun, a culinary student, joins on 1 June with ₹2,00,000 for the remaining months and does not take any salary.

By 31 December, after covering all operating costs (rent, supplies, and festival fees), the café reports a net profit of ₹4,20,000, calculated before paying Meera’s managing salary and before any donation. The team also promised that 5% of the profit remaining after paying Meera’s salary will be donated to a local river-cleaning NGO. The balance profit will be shared, considering every change in investment exactly from the stated dates.

During Diwali week, they briefly used a borrowed tandoor for three days; the lender asked for a flat ₹6,000 usage fee, to be paid from the partners’ final shares in the same ratio as the profit distribution. The friends now want to compute each person’s time-weighted capital, the order of deductions (salary, charity, fee), and everyone’s final take-home amount.

115. Compute the time-weighted capital ratio Meera:Kabir:Zoya:Arjun for the year.

- (a) 270:120:135:140 (b) 180:108:135:140 (c) 270:108:135:140 (d) 270:108:140:135

116. The café reports a net profit of ₹4,20,000 before Meera’s salary and before donation. If Meera’s managing salary is ₹5,000 per month for January to September, and 5% of the profit remaining after salary is donated, what is the profit available for distribution among partners?

- (a) ₹3,56,250 (b) ₹3,58,500 (c) ₹3,50,250 (d) ₹3,62,250

117. Using the ratio from previous two question, what is Arjun's share from the distributable profit before the tandoor fee is applied?

- (a) ₹73,652 (b) ₹58,920 (c) ₹75,092 (d) ₹76,378

118. The tandoor usage fee of ₹6,000 is to be deducted from partners' final shares in the same ratio as the profit distribution. How much of this fee is charged to Kabir?

- (a) ₹960 (b) ₹992 (c) ₹1,050 (d) ₹1,120

119. What is Zoya's final take-home after all appropriations, that is, after donation and after her share of the ₹6,000 tandoor fee?

- (a) ₹73,650 (b) ₹72,650 (c) ₹72,410 (d) ₹72,200

120. Suppose Meera also managed October (10 months of managing salary at ₹5,000 per month), with all investments unchanged and donation still 5% of the post-salary profit. What would be Meera's final take-home after donation and her share of the ₹6,000 fee?

- (a) ₹1,92,856 (b) ₹1,89,826 (c) ₹1,94,000 (d) ₹1,90,375

Rough Work
