UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG05

NISHANT PRAKASH LAW CLASSES

Gurukul for CLAT & AILET

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 34 (Thirty-Four) 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: South Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, or 'India' in its pre-nation-state meaning, boasts a remarkable diversity in ethnicities, cultures and languages. For more than two centuries, scholars and amateurs from around the world have attempted to explore it and make sense of it – though, unsurprisingly, these attempts have had a raucous ride. The more recent genetic studies (including with ancient DNA) on early population movements into and across South Asia – which have captured the attention of scholars and the public for more than a decade now are only the latest to witness the impassioned contests that are a familiar rite of passage for any new idea in the South Asian history discourse. Constant scholarly activity as well as relentless public commentary have meant that, apart from the genuinely fascinating history of the peopling of India itself, the history of how that history has been imagined, framed and written at different times by different people over the past 200 years is almost equally enthralling.

In Who We Are and How We Got Here (2018), the American geneticist David Reich wrote that: 'We geneticists may be the barbarians coming late to the study of the human past, but it is always a bad idea to ignore barbarians.' Indeed, when genetic studies knocked open the doors of ancient Indian history, the vast scholarly room inside was already bustling with numerous methodologies, hypotheses, interpretations, assertions and controversies. Therefore, to better understand the novel ideas that the pipette-wielding 'barbarians' brought to the history of India's peopling – as well as how novel they are in the first place – we first need to acquaint ourselves with the scholars and concepts there before them.

Jotirao Phule, a social reformer from the city of Pune in western India, published a book in 1873 in the Marathi language titled Gulamgiri ('Slavery'). In it he wrote, among other things, about the history of the caste system and of the lives of the Shudras and the Ati-Shudras, ie, the so-called low-caste and the Dalit (formerly 'untouchable') people respectively. Phule himself was from a low-caste community. In a sociopolitical context characterised by the oppressive dominance of Brahmans (also spelled 'Brahmins') and of the caste system enforced by them, Phule believed that Shudras and Ati-Shudras – forming the majority of people in India – would experience no improvements in their living conditions unless they were emancipated from the 'trammels of bondage which the Brahmins have woven round them like the coils of a serpent.'

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://aeon.co/essays/ancient-india-was-shaped-by-waves-of-migration-and-mixing

1. Which of the following best describes the author's view of genetic studies on early South Asian populations?
(a) They are the first serious method used to study South Asian history.
(b) They are recent additions to an already contested historical discourse.
(c) They have ended the older debates about the peopling of South Asia.
(d) They are unreliable because they ignore ethnic and cultural diversity.

2. What does the author mean by saying that the history of how India's peopling has been "imagined, framed and written" is also enthralling?
(a) The factual past is less important than public opinion about the past.
(b) The history of India has mostly been invented by later historians.
(c) The interpretation of India's past has itself changed over time.
(d) The peopling of India can only be understood through genetics.

3. The phrase "pipette-wielding 'barbarians'" is used to refer to:
(a) amateur historians who wrote about India without proper evidence.
(b) geneticists who entered an old field with a new scientific method.

(c) colonial scholars who distorted the history of South Asian society.
(d) social reformers who rejected older Brahmanical explanations.

4. Which of the following can be inferred about the field of ancient Indian history before genetic studies became prominent?
(a) It had reached a broad agreement about early population movements.
(b) It had avoided public debate because it was mostly technical in nature.
(c) It had remained undeveloped due to the absence of scientific evidence.
(d) It already contained several methods, arguments and controversies.

5. Which of the following best captures Phule's view as presented in the passage?
(a) Lower castes required emancipation from Brahmanical social control.
(b) Genetic studies were necessary to explain the origin of caste divisions.
(c) The caste system improved the lives of Shudras and Ati-Shudras.
(d) Brahmans were oppressed by the majority of low-caste communities.

6. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to "raucous" as used in the passage?
(a) silent (b) orderly
(c) noisy (d) final

Passage: Humankind is losing faith in the liberal story that dominated global politics in recent decades, exactly when the merger of biotech and infotech confronts us with the biggest challenges humankind has ever encountered.

The end of history has been postponed.

Humans think in stories rather than in facts, numbers or equations, and the simpler the story, the better. Every person, group and nation has its own tales and myths. But during the twentieth century the global elites in New York, London, Berlin and Moscow formulated three grand stories that claimed to explain the whole past and to predict the future of the entire world: the fascist story, the communist story, and the liberal story. The Second World War knocked out the fascist story, and from the late 1940s to the late 1980s the world became a battleground between just two stories: communism and liberalism. Then the communist story collapsed, and the liberal story remained the dominant guide to the human past and the indispensable manual for the future of the world – or so it seemed to the global elite.

The liberal story celebrates the value and power of liberty. It says that for thousands of years humankind lived under oppressive regimes which allowed people few political rights, economic opportunities or personal liberties, and which heavily restricted the movements of individuals, ideas and goods. But people fought for their freedom, and step by step, liberty gained ground. Democratic regimes took the place of brutal dictatorships. Free enterprise overcame economic restrictions. People learned to think for themselves and follow their hearts, instead of blindly obeying bigoted priests and hidebound traditions. Open roads, stout bridges and bustling airports replaced walls, moats and barbed-wire fences.

The liberal story acknowledges that not all is well in the world, and that there are still many hurdles to overcome. Much of our planet is dominated by tyrants, and even in the most liberal countries many citizens suffer from poverty, violence and oppression. But at least we know what we need to do in order to overcome these problems: give people more liberty. We need to protect human rights, to grant everybody the vote, to establish free markets, and to let individuals, ideas and goods move throughout the world as easily as possible. According to this liberal panacea – accepted, in slight variations, by George W. Bush and Barack Obama alike – if we just continue to liberalise and globalise our political and economic systems, we will produce peace and prosperity for all.

Extracted from: 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Noah Harari

7. Which of the following best captures the main concern of the passage?
(a) Liberalism became dominant only because fascism and communism were defeated.
(b) Liberalism explains the past better than it prepares humanity for the future.
(c) Liberalism's authority is weakening when new technological challenges are rising.
(d) Liberalism remains the only political story capable of producing global prosperity.

8. What does the sentence "The end of history has been postponed" most nearly imply?
(a) Liberalism's final victory over rival stories has become doubtful.
(b) History has stopped progressing because political stories have failed.
(c) Fascism and communism are certain to return as dominant ideologies.
(d) Human beings can no longer understand history through broad stories.

9. According to the passage, why do grand political stories become powerful?
(a) They rely on technical facts more than emotional public beliefs.
(b) They are created by elites who control political institutions directly.
(c) They avoid predicting the future and only explain past events.
(d) They offer simple narratives about both history and the future.

10. All of the following are part of the liberal story, except:
(a) democratic regimes should replace brutal dictatorships.
(b) free enterprise should overcome economic restrictions.
(c) human rights and voting rights should be protected.
(d) technological merger will solve humanity's challenges.

11. Which of the following best describes the author's tone towards the liberal story?
(a) Sceptical
(b) Hostile
(c) Triumphant
(d) Neutral

12. Which of the following is the best example of a metaphor used in the passage?
(a) "The end of history has been postponed."
(b) "Humankind is losing faith in the liberal story."
(c) "The liberal story celebrates the value and power of liberty."
(d) "The Second World War knocked out the fascist story."

Passage: Sitting dazed on a hill above his village, a young man muses on his place in the world. Connor is proud to have fenced pastures while his mates have been away at university. But it's overwhelming to think of all their lives being equally real and urgent. Are they part of the same story or separate ones? A phrase comes to him from a book he hated at school: something about "the roar on the other side of silence". In this fine, subtle and strange novel from one of the most probing writers of contemporary rural life, Melissa Harrison earns that nod to George Eliot, whose words she gives to an anxious and ecstatic labourer clutching a can of Fanta.

The Given World follows the inhabitants of one village in a river valley, a place "as old as anywhere", for six months between the equinoxes of a year. The time is now, or an imminent future when the seasons seem to have "ceased their metronome". At first, the central figure appears to be Clare, who knows each flagstone of the ancient priory that has been the centre of her life. The six months are her dying time, from diagnosis to last thoughts. But, in a way that pays tribute to the solitary Clare's understanding of interconnectedness, the novel goes out from the priory to trace a web of lives. In the breezeblock bungalow next door, a desperate farmer tunes in at dawn to American evangelists on the radio. Like Saj the postman, we call at addresses where literary fiction rarely bothers to ring the bell.

Readers familiar with Harrison's work will recognise this commitment to a kind of diverse group portraiture. All Among the Barley (2018) located us with absorbing immediacy in 1930s East Anglia, watching every member of an agricultural community through the heightened perceptions of an adolescent girl. Intensely private experiences were held in shifting relation to public politics and currents of international history.

The Given World presents another microcosm. The small particularities of its daily work are charged with a sense of cosmic change. This is concertedly a novel of, and for, an era of ecological crisis. Illegible omens light the sky; sleepers toss through "vast unsettled dreams". Summer brings "strangled stasis". We bear witness to an enigmatic leave-taking as a lone woman, like a late-walking ghost of Eliot on the Floss, looks down from a footbridge into the stream. The River Welm "sets about its final work". With its omens and warnings, the novel comes close to a portentous tone that's true to the times but can be flattening. I was glad of idiosyncratically wry moments. A last badger leaves the valley, "grey rump bouncing like a departing burglar captured on CCTV".

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/may/05/the-given-world-by-melissa-harrison-review-a-stunning-tale-of-rural-life-for-an-era-of-ecological-crisis

13. What is The Given World primarily described as doing?
(a) It narrates Clare's life from childhood to final old age.
(b) It follows several village lives across six months of change.
(c) It compares one village with several urban communities.
(d) It retells George Eliot's fiction in a contemporary setting.

14. Why was the reviewer "glad" of the novel's wry moments?
(a) They made the village setting comic rather than emotionally serious.
(b) They replaced the novel's literary references with ordinary humour.
(c) They softened a tone that could otherwise become too portentous.
(d) They removed the novel's concern with death and ecological crisis.

15. What does the line "where literary fiction rarely bothers to ring the bell" imply?
(a) The novel avoids ordinary homes in favour of ancient buildings.
(b) Literary fiction usually represents postmen and farmers closely.
(c) Literary fiction is mainly interested in religious institutions.
(d) The novel attends to lives often ignored by literary fiction.

16. Which category best describes this passage?
(a) A travel memoir
(b) A literary review
(c) A rural folktale
(d) A political essay

17. Which of the following images is most clearly linked to ecological unease?
(a) Connor clutching a can of Fanta.
(b) Clare knows each priory flagstone.
(c) Sleepers tossing through vast unsettled dreams.
(d) Saj calling at village addresses.

18. All the following words or phrases are related to foreboding, except:

(a) omens
(b) warnings
(c) portentous
(d) wry

Passage: Whether you call it an Irish goodbye, French leave or filer à l'anglaise (leave in the English style), as the French prefer, the act of quietly slipping out of a party without fanfare is a familiar social impulse. The Brazilians called it sair à francesa (French style) and the Germans a Polnischer Abgang (Polish departure). Whatever name it goes by, the concept is the same: one moment you're there, the next you've vanished into the night without a drawn-out round of explanations, hugs and promises to catch up soon.

The pattern is telling: every culture has a term for it, and every culture blames someone else. That collective deflection suggests we already know, on some level, that slipping out unannounced is a social transgression.

But for those of us with anxiety, that silent exit isn't rudeness. While etiquette traditionalists will probably insist that leaving without saying goodbye is a social no-no, some psychologists argue that it's a coping strategy. Here's why sneaking out without saying goodbye might be the healthiest decision you make all evening. When you break it down – and let's be honest, those of us who are anxious, introverted, neurodivergent or dealing with chronic illness have all broken this down into agonising detailed steps – saying goodbye is a loaded cultural ritual. It's a performance that demands a high degree of social skill, accuracy and nuance.

Goodbyes are high-demand situations and, sadly, by the end of a social occasion, many of us are already depleted and don't have the energy to handle all the steps involved. For many of us, socialising can mean feeling overwhelmed, constantly monitoring how we come across, trying to fit into other people's expectations, comparing ourselves to others and worrying about rejection. It can be exhausting to feel like you're constantly trying to act like your best version of normal.

When socialising means constantly adapting yourself to other people's expectations, the healthy choice becomes using your last bit of energy to recharge and take care of yourself. Don't leave the party completely drained with nothing left to recover with. Sometimes a silent exit is about self-respect, minding your energy reserves, even if you really enjoyed the evening. At other times, though, it's an act of self-erasure. You leave without saying goodbye because you think no one will care, that you don't matter enough to make a fuss when leaving.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://theconversation.com/from-french-leave-to-irish-goodbyes-why-you-may-be-right-to-exit-a-party-without-saying-goodbye-281994

19. Why does the author list phrases such as "Irish goodbye," "French leave," and "Polish departure"?
(a) To prove that some cultures are more polite than others.
(b) To show that the practice is widely recognised and socially displaced.
(c) To argue that every culture approves of leaving without goodbye.
(d) To suggest that language has no role in shaping social behaviour.

20. What does the phrase "collective deflection" most nearly suggest in the passage?
(a) People quietly accept that leaving without goodbye is always harmless.
(b) Societies openly celebrate the freedom of leaving without explanation.
(c) People avoid social rituals by turning departure into private action.
(d) Societies recognise the fault but shift its ownership onto outsiders.

21. Which of the following best captures the author's main argument?
(a) Silent exits can be rude socially, but they may also protect emotional energy.
(b) Silent exits are always healthier than formal goodbyes in social gatherings.

(c) Silent exits prove that etiquette has become irrelevant in modern society.
(d) Silent exits are mainly caused by laziness and poor social awareness.

22. Which of the following best explains the contrast between “self-respect” and “self-erasure” in the last paragraph?
(a) The same act may be polite in one culture and impolite in another.
(b) The same act may be planned carefully or performed without thought.
(c) The same act may protect the self or express a sense of insignificance.
(d) The same act may be accepted by psychologists and rejected by guests.

23. All of the following are presented as reasons why goodbyes may be difficult, except:
(a) They require social skill, accuracy and nuance.
(b) They come after one is already socially depleted.
(c) They involve monitoring how one appears to others.
(d) They are legally required in formal social settings.

24. Which word best describes the author’s tone towards people who leave silently?
(a) Accusatory
(b) Empathetic
(c) Detached
(d) Mocking

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: US President Donald Trump left Beijing after a two-day summit saying he had struck "fantastic trade deals, great for both countries", but few details have emerged on what the two superpowers agreed.

Trump arrived for a high-stakes summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Wednesday, accompanied by several CEOs: a high-profile business delegation spanning agriculture, aviation, electric vehicles and artificial intelligence (AI) chips.

Trade was near the top of the agenda despite recent tensions over the Iran war, and businesses hoped for key deals as well as an extension of the tariff truce that is due to expire in November. The visit was defined by warm rhetoric and symbolism. Trump was wooed with a packed itinerary that included an honour guard, a state banquet, and an invitation to the exclusive compound where China's Communist Party leaders live and work. The US president seemed impressed and invited Xi to the White House in September. He said talks had been "very successful", while Xi called it a "historic and landmark" visit. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi confirmed on Friday that Xi would visit the White House in the autumn.
But neither side has announced trade breakthroughs or significant business deals.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clypj01189lo

25. Section 301, which is often used by the United States in trade investigations against foreign trade practices, is part of which U.S. law?
(a) Tariff Act of 1930
(b) Export Control Reform Act, 2018
(c) Trade Act of 1974
(d) Sherman Antitrust Act, 1890

26. The U.S. Entity List, frequently discussed in the context of semiconductor and technology export controls against Chinese entities, is administered by which body?
(a) Federal Reserve System
(b) Office of Foreign Assets Control
(c) Bureau of Industry and Security
(d) National Security Council

27. The national security exception under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is contained in which Article?
(a) Article XXI
(b) Article XX
(c) Article XV
(d) Article XI

28. India became the 14th member of the Minerals Security Partnership in which of the following years?
(a) January 2022
(b) June 2023
(c) September 2024
(d) February 2026

29. The U.S.-China rivalry in advanced technology has made export-control regimes important for India's strategic technology access. India became the 42nd participating State of a multilateral export-control regime dealing with conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies in December 2017. Which regime was this?
(a) Australia Group
(b) Missile Technology Control Regime
(c) Wassenaar Arrangement
(d) Nuclear Suppliers Group

30. Rare earths became a sensitive issue in U.S.-China strategic competition because of their use in defence, clean energy, electronics, and advanced manufacturing. Bayan Obo, one of the world's largest rare-earth deposits, is located in which Chinese autonomous region?
(a) Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
(b) Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region
(c) Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region
(d) Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Passage: General N.S. Raja Subramani on Sunday (May 31, 2026) assumed charge as India's third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, taking over the country's highest military appointment with a strong emphasis on jointness, self-reliance, and innovation in the armed forces.

Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block. Addressing reporters after taking charge, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the Armed Forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services.

"I'm honoured to assume charge as the Chief of Defence Staff. We are grateful to the nation for the trust reposed in the Armed Forces. The Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions and all stakeholders stand united as part of the Whole of Nation approach to strengthen India's security," he said. Outlining his priorities, General Subramani said the Armed Forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "JAI" — Jointness, Atma Nirbharta, and Innovation. He stated that organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/general-subramani-takes-charge-as-new-chief-of-defence-staff/article71043826.ece

31. Lt Gen N.S. Raja Subramani's appointment as the 3rd CDS again brought attention to the post's origin in India's post-Kargil defence reforms. The Kargil Review Committee, whose report later shaped the recommendation for creating the CDS post, was headed by whom?
(a) Naresh Chandra
(b) K. Subrahmanyam
(c) Brajesh Mishra
(d) Arun Singh

32. The CDS also functions as the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs. The subjects of the Department of Military Affairs were allocated under the Second Schedule to which set of rules?
(a) Defence Services Regulations, 1987
(b) Army Rules, 1954
(c) Transaction of Business Rules, 1961
(d) Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961

33. The appointment of a new CDS is closely connected with the debate on theatre commands and tri-service integration. India's Andaman and Nicobar Command, often cited as India's only tri-service command, is headquartered at which place?
(a) Diglipur
(b) Campbell Bay
(c) Mayabunder
(d) Sri Vijaya Puram

34. With reference to the institutional role of the Chief of Defence Staff, consider the following statements:
I. The CDS functions as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
II. The CDS exercises military command over the three Service Chiefs.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

35. Which of the following is CORRECT about the Chief of Defence Staff in India?

(a) The CDS is the constitutional head of the Indian Armed Forces under Article 53.
(b) The CDS is the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-service matters.
(c) The CDS replaces the three Service Chiefs in operational command of their services.
(d) The CDS is appointed as the Cabinet Secretary for all national security matters.

36. The CDS is a member of the Defence Planning Committee, which is chaired by which office-holder?
(a) Defence Secretary
(b) National Security Advisor
(c) Cabinet Secretary
(d) Prime Minister

Passage: As Yáng Shuāng-zǐ accepted the 2026 International Booker prize at the Tate Modern on Tuesday night for Taiwan Travelogue, alongside her translator Lin King, she used her speech to speak frankly about the political questions at the centre of her novel, set in 1930s Japan-occupied Taiwan. “Some people believe that art and literature must be kept far from politics,” Yáng told the audience. “But I believe that literature cannot be separated from the soil in which it has grown.”

When we speak the following morning, the 41-year-old writer returns quickly to the same theme. “Taiwanese people are suffering from an identity crisis,” she tells me. “Some of us believe ourselves to be Chinese and then others believe that we are Taiwanese, and I wanted to express that somehow through my book. As Taiwanese people, we need to ask ourselves now – do we want to go back to being colonised? Do we want to have to live like that again? Be second-class citizens in our own land? I refuse.”

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/may/21/yang-shuang-zi-interview-lin-king-taiwan-travelogue-international-booker

37. Taiwan Travelogue, winner of the International Booker Prize 2026, is set against the background of Japan-controlled Taiwan in the 1930s. Taiwan came under Japanese colonial rule after which treaty?
(a) Treaty of Portsmouth
(b) Treaty of Nanking
(c) Treaty of Shimonoseki
(d) Treaty of Kanagawa

38. The International Booker Prize 2026 was awarded ten years after the prize began its present single-book translated-fiction format. The first winner under this format was The Vegetarian, written by a South Korean author who later won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2024. Who was this author?
(a) Olga Tokarczuk
(b) Han Kang
(c) Jenny Erpenbeck
(d) Jokha Alharthi

39. The 2026 International Booker shortlist included The Director by Daniel Kehlmann, translated by Ross Benjamin. The novel is inspired by the life of which of the following filmmakers?
(a) Fritz Lang
(b) F.W. Murnau
(c) Rainer Werner Fassbinder
(d) G.W. Pabst

40. With reference to the International Booker Prize 2026, consider the following statements:
I. The £50,000 prize money is divided equally between the winning author and the winning translator.
II. Each shortlisted title receives £10,000, divided equally between the author and the translator.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

41. Which of the following author-translator-title combinations was part of the International Booker Prize 2026 shortlist?
(a) The Nights Are Quiet in Tehran – Shida Bazyar – Ruth Martin

(b) The Duke – Matteo Melchiorre – Antonella Lettieri
(c) Women Without Men – Shahrnush Parsipur – Faridoun Farrokh
(d) The Wax Child – Olga Ravn – Martin Aitken

42. Taiwan Travelogue was published by the same independent publisher that had won the International Booker Prize in 2025 for Banu Mushtaq's Heart Lamp. Which publisher is this?
(a) Tilted Axis Press
(b) And Other Stories
(c) Granta Books
(d) Fitzcarraldo Editions

Passage: The Prime Minister said that Veer Savarkar's intellect and emphasis on social reform are also noteworthy.

Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tribute to Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his birth anniversary. In a social media post, Mr Shah said, the fearless warrior of the freedom struggle, Veer Savarkar, dedicated his entire life to the service of the motherland. He said, from the life and writings of Veer Savarkar, we can learn what unwavering devotion to the nation and ideology truly means.

Mr Shah said, the statement of Veer Savarkar, O Motherland! Life without you is akin to death, reflects the boundless love he held for the nation. He said Veer Savarkar staunchly opposed social evils like untouchability and united the people of the country, and his life will continue to guide people for ages to come.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://newsonair.gov.in/pm-modi-and-hm-amit-shah-pay-tributes-to-veer-savarkar-on-birth-anniversary/

43. Veer Savarkar's birth anniversary is observed on May 28 every year. He was born in Bhagur, which is located in which present-day district of Maharashtra?
(a) Pune
(b) Nashik
(c) Satara
(d) Kolhapur

44. Veer Savarkar founded Mitra Mela in 1899, which later developed into a revolutionary organisation in 1904. What was the later name of this organisation?
(a) Anushilan Samiti
(b) Ghadar Party
(c) Abhinav Bharat Society
(d) Indian Independence League

45. Veer Savarkar was sentenced to transportation for life and imprisoned in the Cellular Jail. The Cellular Jail is located in which Union Territory?
(a) Lakshadweep
(b) Puducherry
(c) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
(d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

46. With reference to Veer Savarkar's revolutionary activities abroad, consider the following statements:
I. He was arrested in Paris after the assassination of Lord Curzon in 1905.
II. He was associated with India House in London, which became an important centre for Indian revolutionary nationalism.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

47. Which of the following is CORRECT about Veer Savarkar's attempted escape during his transfer to India?
(a) He attempted to escape from the ship S.S. Morea at Marseilles in France.
(b) He attempted to escape from Cellular Jail by crossing the Bay of Bengal.

(c) He attempted to escape from Pune during the trial of the Chapekar brothers.
(d) He attempted to escape from Mandalay Jail during his transportation sentence.

Passage: The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting this week, the third such engagement since U.S. President Donald Trump began his tenure, was meant to reassure all partners — India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. — that the grouping remains valid and viable, despite all the rapid geopolitical developments. To that end, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, who were hosted by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Delhi, agreed to firm up a number of initiatives. On Indo-Pacific maritime security, they agreed on three initiatives including one for Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC), a Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), and a Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission. They also finalised a Quad Critical Mineral cooperation initiative, an energy security partnership, and the first ever Quad infrastructural project to build a port in Fiji. The joint statement reiterated their commitment to the Quad's geopolitical positions: a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP); respecting territorial integrity; countering cross-border terrorism; and upholding international law with a focus on UNCLOS. The statement expressed concern over the Pahalgam attack, developments in the East and South China Seas, and the Strait of Hormuz blockade. Yet, there were also clear constraints on the language, which appeared to arise out of the U.S.'s new engagement with China and Russia.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/different-directions-on-the-quad-foreign-ministers-meeting/article71038057.ece

48. The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026 announced the first-ever Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration initiative. The existing Quad initiative called IPMDA was first announced at which Quad Leaders' Summit?
(a) Washington Summit, 2021
(b) Tokyo Summit, 2022
(c) Hiroshima Summit, 2023
(d) Wilmington Summit, 2024

49. The Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026 announced that Quad countries would work with Fiji on port infrastructure. The secretariat of which major regional organisation is located in Suva, Fiji?
(a) Indian Ocean Rim Association
(b) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
(c) ASEAN Regional Forum
(d) Pacific Islands Forum

50. With reference to the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026, consider the following statements:
I. The Quad partners launched the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration initiative with an initial focus on the Indian Ocean Region.
II. The Quad partners announced that India would host the next edition of the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I only
(b) II only
(c) Both I and II
(d) Neither I nor II

51. Which of the following is CORRECT about the AI-ENGAGE initiative mentioned during the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026?
(a) It is a Quad initiative for coordinating naval exercises in the Pacific Ocean.
(b) It is a Quad initiative for creating a shared digital currency for Indo-Pacific trade.
(c) It is a Quad initiative for building ports and logistics corridors in Fiji.
(d) It is a Quad initiative for using technology innovations to support agriculture and food security.

52. The 2026 Quad meeting discussed energy security and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with which body of water?
(a) Red Sea
(b) Gulf of Oman

(c) Mediterranean Sea

(d) Gulf of Aden

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: The doctrine of caveat emptor has been incorporated under Indian law through the Sale of Goods Act, 1930. Section 16 of the Act states that when a product is sold under a contract of sale, the law would not presume that the seller sold it under an implied warranty of fitness and quality. It is the consumer who has to examine the quality of the product and satisfy himself that the product is fit to meet his expectations and serve the purpose for which it is purchased. So long as the seller does not commit any fraud and does not provide any express warranty for the product's condition or fitness, the buyer will have no remedy against the seller for any defect in the product. The Sale of Goods Act also incorporates certain exceptions to the doctrine of caveat emptor. These exceptions apply where the consumers purchase the products by relying on the expertise and judgment of the seller. The seller has an additional responsibility where he knows the purpose for which the buyer is purchasing the product. Section 16(1) of the Act applies in situations where the seller is aware either expressly or by necessary implication of the purpose for which a buyer needs to purchase a specific product, and where the goods are of such description which the seller supply in his ordinary course of business. If the buyer purchases a product by relying upon the judgment and skill of the seller, then the goods should be in accordance with the purpose.

In some cases, a buyer purchases goods not by relying on the skill and judgment of the seller but by relying on the product's trade name. In such cases, it would be unfair that the seller is burdened with the responsibility of quality. The proviso to Section 16 deals with such cases. Section 16(2) of the Act incorporates the second exception to the doctrine of caveat emptor and states that when the goods are sold by description, the dealer is under an obligation to provide the goods of merchantable quality. The expression 'merchantable quality' provides that the goods should be fit for resale at their full value. They should be capable of fulfilling the purpose for which they are purchased. The goods should also be free from any latent defect. The proviso to S. 16(2) provides that "if upon examination of the goods to be purchased, the defects ought to have been revealed, then no implied condition as regards to the defect will exist." Section 16(3) of the Sale of Goods Act gives statutory force to the conditions implied by the usage of a particular trade. It states: "An implied condition or warranty as to the quality or fitness for any particular purpose may be annexed by the usage of trade." If any particular case falls within the three exceptions enumerated under Section 16, then there is an implied warranty.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from "Doctrine of Caveat Emptor", https://blog.ipleaders.in/doctrine-of-caveat-emptor/#:~:text=The%20doctrine%20of%20caveat%20emptor%20states%20that%20the%20consumer%20takes,for%20the%20inferior%20quality%20product.]

53. Aditi owns a small café and orders 2,000 "sealed, food-grade, heat-resistant paper cups suitable for serving hot coffee" from Sunrise Packaging. Before placing the order, Aditi examines one loose sample cup kept on the seller's counter. The sample appears clean, firm, and suitable for hot beverages. The actual cartons supplied to her are shrink-wrapped and are sent directly to her café branches. After the cups are used, several cups begin leaking when filled with hot coffee, and some cartons contain cups with a strong chemical smell. Sunrise Packaging argues that Aditi had examined the goods before purchase and therefore cannot complain of any implied condition. Is Aditi entitled to rely on the implied condition of merchantable quality?
(a) Yes, because the cups were sold by description, and the dealer was under an obligation to provide goods of merchantable quality.
(b) Yes, because goods used for hot beverages must remain fit whenever defects are discovered after ordinary use by the buyer.
(c) No, because Aditi examined a sample cup before purchase, and examination excludes the implied condition as regards quality.
(d) No, because Aditi ordered cups by description but did not separately obtain an express warranty regarding their fitness.

54. Manav, a contractor, visits Classic Timber Traders to purchase 150 "seasoned teakwood panels suitable for premium office furniture." The panels are stacked in the seller's warehouse, and Manav is allowed to inspect the same panels before purchase. During inspection, several panels show visible warping, open cracks, and moisture stains on the outer surface. Manav still purchases the entire lot, believing that polishing and cutting will make the panels usable. After delivery, the same visible warping and cracks make the panels unsuitable for premium furniture. Manav claims that Classic Timber Traders must be liable because the panels were sold by description and were not of merchantable quality. Is Manav's claim sustainable as regards those defects?
(a) Yes, because the panels were sold by description, and the dealer was required to supply goods of merchantable quality.
(b) Yes, because teakwood panels meant for premium furniture must remain capable of fulfilling the purpose for which they are purchased.
(c) No, because the defects complained of ought to have been revealed upon examination of the goods before purchase.
(d) No, because Manav relied on his own commercial judgment and not on the seller's express assurance regarding furniture quality.

55. Neha starts a small bakery and visits Aarav Appliances to purchase an oven. She tells the salesperson that she needs an oven specifically for baking large batches of bread every morning for commercial sale. Neha also says that she has no technical knowledge of ovens and asks the salesperson to select a suitable model. The salesperson recommends a compact home-use oven, stating that it would be sufficient for her bakery. Neha purchases it on that recommendation. Within a week, the oven repeatedly overheats and fails to bake large bread batches properly. Aarav Appliances argues that Neha should have examined the oven before purchase and that the doctrine of caveat emptor applies. Is Neha entitled to rely on an exception to the doctrine of caveat emptor?
(a) Yes, because Neha purchased the oven by relying on the expertise and judgment of the seller for her stated bakery purpose.
(b) Yes, because Neha bought the oven for commercial use, and commercial products fall outside the doctrine of caveat emptor.
(c) No, because Neha could have examined the oven before purchase and satisfied herself about its suitability for baking.
(d) No, because Aarav Appliances did not give an express warranty that the oven would work for commercial bread production.

56. Ramesh owns a fish farm and visits a chemical supply store to purchase water-treatment tablets. He tells the store manager that he needs tablets for a pond containing live fish, but states that he has already read the reviews and is convinced to buy "AquaPure-X". The store manager says that he stocks AquaPure-X and sells it to Ramesh without advising him on whether it is suitable for live fish ponds. Later, the tablets disturb the pond water and harm several fish. Ramesh claims that the seller is liable because he knew the purpose for which the tablets were being purchased. Is Ramesh's claim sustainable under the stated principles?
(a) Yes, because the seller knew that Ramesh was purchasing the tablets for use in a pond containing live fish.
(b) Yes, because water-treatment tablets carry an implied responsibility whenever the seller knows their intended use.
(c) No, because Ramesh disclosed the purpose but purchased the tablets on his own judgment rather than the seller's expertise.
(d) No, because the seller did not expressly warn Ramesh that the tablets may be unsuitable for live fish ponds.

57. Nitin purchases a second-hand commercial printer from Orbit Office Machines, a dealer in office equipment, for his small coaching centre. Before purchase, the seller tells him that the printer is "a reliable model commonly used in offices" and allows him to print five test pages. The printed pages look proper. The invoice mentions the model number, price, and delivery date, but also states: "No seller warranty is given regarding the condition or

fitness of the machine." After ten days, the printer repeatedly jams and stops printing because of an internal roller defect. Nitin does not allege that Orbit knew about the defect or concealed it. Is Nitin entitled to a remedy against Orbit Office Machines?
(a) No, because no express warranty was given and no fraud was alleged.
(b) No, because the five test pages showed the printer working properly.
(c) Yes, because a latent internal defect made the printer non-merchantable.
(d) Yes, because calling it reliable created an express warranty of fitness.

58. He visits AquaTech Supplies, a dealer that regularly sells aquarium pumps, oxygen units, and fish-tank equipment. Varun asks for an oxygen unit "for a 500-litre mobile fish transport tank fitted inside a delivery van." He does not expressly say that the unit must keep live fish oxygenated during long-distance transport. The salesperson recommends a small indoor aquarium oxygen unit, which is normally used for stationary home tanks. During a six-hour journey, the unit fails to maintain oxygen levels in the mobile tank, and several fish die. AquaTech argues that Varun never expressly stated the exact purpose of keeping fish alive during transport. Can Varun rely on Section 16(1) against AquaTech?
(a) Yes, because the transport purpose was clear by necessary implication.
(b) Yes, because aquarium dealers must suit every commercial use.
(c) No, because Varun did not expressly state the exact purpose.
(d) No, because the unit worked for ordinary stationary fish tanks.

Passage: The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 gives both the husband and the wife the right to seek dissolution of a Hindu marriage by filing a petition before a competent court. A divorce petition is ordinarily not maintainable within one year from the date of marriage. However, the court may allow an earlier petition where the petitioner proves exceptional hardship or exceptional depravity on the part of the respondent.

A divorce petition must be filed before the District Court having territorial jurisdiction. Jurisdiction may arise where the marriage was solemnised, where the respondent resides at the time of filing, or where the parties last resided together. If the wife is the petitioner, she may also file where she resides. The petitioner may also file where he or she resides if the respondent is outside the territories to which the Act extends, or has not been heard of as alive for seven years by persons who would naturally have heard of the respondent.

Before granting relief, the court must satisfy itself that the statutory grounds are made out and, where required, must endeavour to bring about reconciliation. This duty does not apply where divorce is sought on grounds such as conversion, serious mental disorder, communicable venereal disease, renunciation of the world, or presumption of death.

Section 13 permits either spouse to seek divorce on specified grounds. These include adultery, cruelty, desertion for a continuous period of not less than two years, conversion, serious mental disorder, venereal disease in a communicable form, renunciation of the world, and presumption of death after seven years. Desertion means abandonment without reasonable cause, without consent, or against the wish of the petitioner, and includes wilful neglect.

Either spouse may also seek divorce where, after a decree for judicial separation, there has been no resumption of cohabitation for one year or more. Divorce is also available where, after a decree for restitution of conjugal rights, there has been no restitution for one year or more.

The Act gives certain additional grounds only to the wife. She may seek divorce if another wife of the husband was alive in a pre-Act marriage, if the husband has been guilty of rape, sodomy, or bestiality, if cohabitation has not resumed for one year after a maintenance order, or if her marriage was solemnised before fifteen years of age and she repudiates it before eighteen.

Under Section 13B, both spouses may jointly seek divorce by mutual consent if they have lived separately for one year or more, cannot live together, and mutually agree to dissolve the marriage. Irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not yet a statutory ground under the Act, though the Supreme Court may use Article 142 to dissolve a marriage to do complete justice.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2023/09/12/sc-explains-grant-of-divorce-on-grounds-of-cruelty-under-hindu-marriage-act-legal-news/

59. Aditi and Rohit were married in Jaipur in 2019. After marriage, they lived together in Pune for three years. In 2024, Aditi left Pune and started living with her parents in Bhopal. Rohit shifted to Hyderabad for work and was residing there when Aditi decided to file a divorce petition. Aditi files the petition before the District Court at Bhopal. Rohit objects to the filing and argues that Bhopal has no connection with the marriage because the marriage was solemnised in Jaipur, the parties last resided together in Pune, and he currently resides in Hyderabad. Can Aditi file the divorce petition before the District Court at Bhopal?
(a) Yes, because if the wife is the petitioner, she may also file before the District Court where she resides.
(b) Yes, because a divorce petition may be filed at the place where either spouse is residing at the time of filing.
(c) No, because jurisdiction must arise from the place of marriage, the respondent's residence, or the parties' last joint residence.
(d) No, because the wife's residence is relevant only where the respondent is outside the territories to which the Act extends.

60. Assume that Aditi's petition before the District Court at Bhopal is maintainable because she is the wife and is residing in Bhopal. Now assume that before Aditi files her petition, Rohit also decides to file a divorce petition. Rohit is residing in Hyderabad at the time of filing. The marriage was solemnised in Jaipur, and the parties last resided together in Pune. Aditi is residing in Bhopal. Rohit wants to choose a court only on the basis of these facts. Which of the following statements are false?
i. Rohit may file the petition before the District Court at Jaipur because the marriage was solemnised there.
ii. Rohit may file the petition before the District Court at Bhopal because Aditi resides there at the time of filing.
iii. Rohit may file the petition before the District Court at Pune because the parties last resided together there.
iv. Rohit may file the petition before the District Court at Hyderabad merely because he is the husband and resides there at the time of filing.
(a) Statements i and iii
(b) Statements ii and iv
(c) Statements i and iv
(d) Statements ii and iii

61. Anirudh and Kavya were married in Surat and last resided together in Mumbai. After disputes arose, Kavya moved to Canada for employment and was residing there when Anirudh decided to file a divorce petition. Anirudh was residing in Indore at the time of filing. He filed the petition before the District Court at Indore. Kavya objected, arguing that the petition could be filed only in Surat, where the marriage was solemnised, or Mumbai, where the parties last resided together. Anirudh argued that since Kavya was outside the territories to which the Act extends, he could file where he resided. Is Anirudh's filing before the District Court at Indore maintainable?
(a) No, because the petitioner may file where he resides only when the respondent is both abroad and unheard of for seven years.
(b) Yes, because once the respondent resides abroad, the petitioner may choose any District Court convenient to him.
(c) No, because the petitioner's own residence is relevant only when the wife is the petitioner in a divorce proceeding.
(d) Yes, because the petitioner may file where he resides if the respondent is outside the territories to which the Act extends.

62. Meera files a divorce petition against Raghav on the ground of desertion. She states that Raghav left the matrimonial home three years ago, refused to return despite repeated requests, stopped contributing to household expenses, and did not provide any reasonable cause for leaving. Raghav admits that he has been living separately but says that the court must first attempt reconciliation before granting divorce. Meera argues that reconciliation is unnecessary because desertion includes wilful neglect and the facts clearly show abandonment without reasonable cause and against her wish. Can the court grant divorce on desertion without making any effort at reconciliation?
(a) Yes, because desertion includes wilful neglect, and once abandonment without reasonable cause is shown, reconciliation becomes unnecessary.
(b) Yes, because where statutory grounds are made out, the court's duty is limited to confirming that the parties lived separately.
(c) No, because before granting relief the court must endeavour to bring about reconciliation where required, and desertion is not listed among the excluded grounds.
(d) No, because desertion can be considered only after reconciliation fails and the respondent expressly admits abandonment.

63. Nisha was married to Arvind when she was fourteen years and ten months old. She left the matrimonial home after turning seventeen and sent a written notice repudiating the marriage before she turned eighteen. Separately, a maintenance order was passed in her favour, but she and Arvind did not resume cohabitation for more than one year after that order. Nisha also alleges that Arvind had committed acts amounting to sodomy, and that another wife of Arvind was alive from a marriage solemnised before the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 came into force. Based on these facts and the principles stated above, how many of the following statements are correct?

i. Nisha may seek divorce if her marriage was solemnised before fifteen years of age and she repudiated it before eighteen.
ii. Nisha may seek divorce if cohabitation has not resumed for one year after the maintenance order.
iii. Arvind may rely on Nisha's repudiation before eighteen as an additional ground available to either spouse.
iv. Nisha may seek divorce if Arvind has been guilty of sodomy.
v. Nisha may seek divorce merely because the marriage appears to have broken down beyond repair.
(a) Two statements are correct.
(b) Five statements are correct.
(c) Four statements are correct.
(d) Three statements are correct.

64. Kavita and Mohan have lived separately for eleven months after repeated matrimonial disputes. They both believe that the marriage has completely broken down and jointly file a petition before the Family Court seeking divorce by mutual consent. In their petition, they state that they cannot live together and mutually agree to dissolve the marriage. They also request the court to treat the marriage as irretrievably broken because there is no possibility of reconciliation. Can the Family Court grant divorce under Section 13B on these facts?
(a) Yes, because both spouses jointly agree to dissolve the marriage and state that they cannot live together.
(b) Yes, because irretrievable breakdown shows that mutual consent should not be defeated by a shortfall in separation.
(c) No, because Section 13B requires living separately for one year or more, apart from inability to live together and mutual agreement.
(d) No, because mutual consent divorce can be granted only by the Supreme Court through Article 142 in cases of breakdown.

Passage: Article 16(1) of the Constitution guarantees equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to public employment and appointment to offices under the State. Article 16(2) prohibits a citizen from being made ineligible for, or discriminated against in, public employment only on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence, or any of them. Therefore, a candidate cannot be rejected, placed lower in merit, or denied consideration merely because he was born in another State, resides outside the recruiting State, or belongs to a different linguistic region.

Article 16(2) prohibits discrimination based on "place of birth" and "residence," but Article 16(3) creates a narrow exception only for residence. Under Article 16(3), Parliament may make a law prescribing a residence requirement for a class of public employment in a State or Union Territory. A State Legislature cannot independently create such a residence requirement. Article 35 reinforces this rule by providing that Parliament, and not the State Legislature, has power to make laws on matters covered by Article 16(3).

Article 309 permits the appropriate Legislature, or the Governor until legislation is made, to regulate recruitment and conditions of service. However, rules made under Article 309 are subject to the Constitution. Therefore, a State recruitment rule may prescribe educational qualifications, age limits, experience, physical standards, or relevant language knowledge, but it cannot use Article 309 to impose a residence or place-of-birth condition that violates Article 16(2) or bypasses Article 16(3).

The Public Employment (Requirement as to Residence) Act, 1957 was enacted by Parliament in pursuance of Article 16(3). The Act repealed existing State and Union Territory laws prescribing residence requirements for public employment. It also authorised the Central Government, for a limited period and in specified areas, to frame rules prescribing residence requirements for certain subordinate services or posts. This shows that residence-based eligibility in public employment must come from a valid Parliamentary source and cannot rest on local policy alone.

Reservation in public employment is separately governed by Article 16(4), which permits reservation for backward classes of citizens that are inadequately represented in State services. Article 16(4A) permits reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes where they are inadequately represented. Article 16(6) permits reservation for economically weaker sections up to the constitutional limit mentioned in that clause. These provisions support affirmative action for disadvantaged classes; they do not authorise a State to convert local residence, district origin, or regional identity into a general reservation category.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://theleaflet.in/miscellaneous/what-is-the-constitutionality-of-domicile-reservations-announced-by-mp-government

65. The State Education Department of Maharashtra conducts recruitment for government school counsellors. The rules allow all Indian citizens to apply, but provide that candidates whose mother tongue is Marathi will be placed above equally qualified candidates whose mother tongue is not Marathi. Meenal, who was born in Karnataka, resides in Goa, and has excellent spoken and written Marathi, is placed below a less meritorious candidate only because her mother tongue is Kannada. The Department argues that Meenal was not made ineligible and was only given lower preference for administrative convenience. Is Meenal's challenge sustainable?
(a) Yes, because Article 16(2) prohibits every language-related qualification in public employment under the State.
(b) Yes, because a candidate cannot be placed lower in public employment merely because she belongs to a different linguistic region.
(c) No, because Meenal was permitted to apply and was not made completely ineligible for the post.
(d) No, because linguistic preference is valid where the post involves communication with local students.

66. Parliament enacts the Hill District Public Employment Act, 2026 for a Union Territory. The Act states that for certain subordinate forest posts, a candidate must either have been born in the Union Territory or must have resided there continuously for ten years. Arjun was born in Rajasthan, has resided in the Union Territory for eleven

years, and satisfies all other qualifications. His application is rejected because the recruiting authority gives preference only to candidates born in the Union Territory, stating that Article 16(3) permits Parliament to create local eligibility rules. Is Arjun's rejection valid?
(a) No, because Article 16(3) permits Parliament to prescribe a residence requirement, but it does not create an exception for place of birth.
(b) No, because Article 16(2) prohibits Parliament from prescribing any residence requirement for public employment in a Union Territory.
(c) Yes, because Parliament made the law, and Article 16(3) permits local eligibility rules for public employment in a Union Territory.
(d) Yes, because birth in the Union Territory is a stronger form of local connection than continuous residence for ten years.

67. The Governor of State X frames recruitment rules under Article 309 for the post of District Health Inspector because no State law has yet been enacted on the subject. The rules require candidates to possess a degree in public health, two years of field experience, physical fitness for district-level inspection work, and working knowledge of the local language. Ritesh, who studied outside State X but knows the local language, satisfies all these conditions. However, his application is rejected because he has not completed ten years of residence in State X. The State argues that Article 309 permits the Governor to regulate recruitment and conditions of service. Is Ritesh's rejection valid?
(a) Yes, because residence in the recruiting State is a service condition once it is included in rules framed under Article 309.
(b) No, because Article 309 permits only educational qualifications and never permits experience, physical standards, or language knowledge.
(c) Yes, because the Governor may regulate recruitment until the Legislature enacts a law, including conditions linked to local suitability.
(d) No, because Article 309 rules are subject to the Constitution and cannot impose a residence condition that bypasses Article 16(3).

68. A State Legislature enacts a Public Library Recruitment Act under Article 309 to regulate appointments to government libraries. The Act provides that applicants for the post of Children's Librarian must have a degree in library science, be below forty years of age, and possess working knowledge of the regional language because the librarian must conduct reading sessions for children in that language. It also provides that applicants born outside the State will receive five marks less in the final selection list, even if they satisfy the language requirement. Asha, who was born in another State but speaks the regional language fluently, loses selection because of the five-mark deduction. Is the deduction valid?
(a) Yes, because Article 309 permits the State Legislature to regulate recruitment and conditions of service for public posts.
(b) Yes, because knowledge of the regional language is relevant to the duties of a Children's Librarian in public libraries.
(c) No, because Article 309 may support relevant language knowledge, but not a place-of-birth penalty violating Article 16(2).
(d) No, because State recruitment rules cannot prescribe age limits, educational qualifications, or language knowledge without Parliament's approval.

69. Assertion (A): A recruitment rule framed by the Governor under Article 309 requiring five years' residence in the State for appointment to State health services may be unconstitutional if it bypasses Article 16(3).
Reason (R): Rules made under Article 309 are subject to the Constitution, even though Article 309 permits the Governor to regulate recruitment until legislation is made.
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.

70. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the principles stated above?
(a) Article 309 permits regulation of recruitment and service conditions, but that power cannot be exercised in a manner inconsistent with constitutional limitations.
(b) A recruitment rule may validly prescribe educational qualifications, age limits, experience, physical standards, or relevant language knowledge.
(c) A State may impose a residence requirement under Article 309 if it describes the requirement as a recruitment qualification rather than as a bar to eligibility.
(d) A State cannot use Article 309 to impose a place-of-birth condition that would otherwise violate Article 16(2).

Passage: The Supreme Court recently dismissed a challenge against orders directing a man to undergo a DNA test in a civil suit filed by a person claiming to be his biological son. The suit sought a declaration of paternity and a share in the alleged father's property. The alleged father had denied paternity since 1999. The Court held that the issue could not be decided without scientific evidence because there was no other material on record capable of answering the question.

The Court reiterated that a DNA test may be ordered only when paternity is directly in issue, when there is no other evidence on record that can substitute for the test, and when such a direction is in the best interest of the parties or justice. The Court balanced the alleged father's right to privacy against the claimant's interest in obtaining clarity about his parentage and pursuing possible inheritance rights. It held that if no positive answer were ever found, the claimant could permanently lose rights that may arise from being the biological son.

The governing statutory principle is found in Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, which creates a presumption of legitimacy for a child born during a valid marriage or within 280 days of its dissolution, provided the mother remains unmarried. This presumption can be displaced only by proving that the spouses had no access to each other when the child could have been conceived. Mere suspicion, denial, or allegation is not enough to rebut legitimacy.

The Supreme Court's approach has developed through precedent. In Goutam Kundu v. State of West Bengal, the Court held that DNA or blood tests cannot be ordered as a matter of routine and cannot be used for a roving inquiry. It also cautioned courts against orders that may brand a child as illegitimate or cast aspersions on the mother's character. In Dipanwita Roy v. Ronobroto Roy, the Court permitted DNA testing when necessary to resolve the dispute, but warned that such directions should be avoided where possible because the legitimacy of a child should not be unnecessarily placed in peril.

In Aparna Ajinkya Firodia v. Ajinkya Arun Firodia, the Court held that parties must first lead evidence, and DNA testing should be ordered only when the court finds it impossible to draw an inference from existing material. The Court also recognised that a child has a right not to have legitimacy questioned frivolously, which forms part of the right to privacy.

In Ivan Rathinam v. Milan Joseph, the Court adopted a balance of interests test. Courts must weigh privacy, dignity, possible social stigma, the child's interest in knowing biological parentage, and the real need for scientific testing. The consistent principle is that courts must show hesitation before ordering DNA tests, but may permit them where justice cannot be served by any other evidence.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/supreme-court-dna-test-ruling-paternity-disputes-10718942/

71. Raghav files a divorce petition against Meera and alleges that their son, born during their valid marriage, is not his biological child. He seeks a DNA test of the child. Raghav says that Meera frequently spoke to a male colleague and that he had “serious doubts” about the child’s paternity. However, the record shows that Raghav and Meera were living in the same house during the period when the child could have been conceived. Raghav produces no material showing that he had no access to Meera at the relevant time. Meera opposes the DNA test, arguing that the request is based on suspicion and would unnecessarily place the child’s legitimacy in peril. Should the court order the DNA test?
(a) No, because suspicion about paternity cannot displace legitimacy where no access is not proved.
(b) No, because a child born during marriage can never be subjected to a DNA test.
(c) Yes, because once paternity is denied, scientific evidence becomes the proper method of proof.
(d) Yes, because the husband’s doubt is sufficient when the test can conclusively answer paternity.

72. Kunal files a civil suit claiming that Mahesh is his biological father and seeks a declaration of paternity along with a share in Mahesh’s property. Kunal says that Mahesh has denied paternity for many years and that no document, witness, or other material on record can answer the question. Mahesh opposes the DNA test, arguing that it would violate his privacy and may expose him and his family to social stigma. Kunal argues that without a positive answer, he may permanently lose rights that could arise from being Mahesh’s biological son. Should the court permit the DNA test?
(a) Yes, because inheritance claims must prevail over privacy whenever biological parentage is disputed.
(b) Yes, because justice may require testing where paternity is directly in issue and no other evidence can answer it.
(c) No, because privacy and possible stigma prevent DNA testing even when paternity cannot otherwise be resolved.
(d) No, because parties must lead some independent evidence before scientific testing can ever be considered.

73. Saurabh files a civil suit claiming that Ramesh is his biological father and seeks a declaration of paternity. Along with the plaint, and before examining any witness, producing any family record, or relying on any document, Saurabh applies for a DNA test. He states that scientific evidence would be the most accurate method of deciding paternity. Ramesh opposes the application and points out that Saurabh has already referred to school records, old letters, photographs, and two family witnesses in his pleadings. The trial court orders DNA testing at the beginning of the suit, stating that scientific certainty would save time. Is the order justified at this stage?
(a) Yes, because paternity is directly in issue and scientific evidence is more reliable than oral or documentary evidence.
(b) No, because DNA testing cannot be ordered in a civil suit where paternity is connected with property rights.
(c) No, because parties must first lead evidence, and DNA testing arises only when existing material cannot support an inference.
(d) Yes, because early DNA testing avoids delay even if other material may still be examined by the court.

74. In a partition suit, Vikram challenges the share claimed by his nephew Aarush, who was born during the valid marriage of Vikram’s brother and sister-in-law. Vikram alleges that Aarush may not be his brother’s biological child because the sister-in-law was “too close” to another family friend. Vikram does not claim to be the father, nor does he produce material showing that the spouses had no access to each other when Aarush could have been conceived. The family records, birth certificate, and school documents all describe Aarush as the child of the married couple. Vikram seeks a DNA test, arguing that it may reduce uncertainty in the partition suit. Should the court allow the request?
(a) No, because the request risks branding the child as illegitimate and is based on a roving inquiry rather than a necessary test.
(b) No, because DNA testing is unavailable whenever family records already describe a child as legitimate.

(c) Yes, because partition rights depend on biological status and DNA testing would reduce uncertainty in succession.
(d) Yes, because a third party to the marriage may seek DNA testing when property distribution is affected.

Passage: The right to life is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The scope of Article 21 has been expanded over the years, and it unequivocally interprets the 'Right to Life' to be a 'Life with Dignity'. The fundamental right to perform any occupation, trade or profession under the Constitution of India, is dependent on the availability of a 'safe' working environment. Further, the right to gender equality encompasses protections against sexual harassment at the workplace which can also violate one's right to life and liberty and correspondingly, the right to work with dignity. Moreover, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), to which India is a state party, recognizes the right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings and requires all state parties to take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure equality of men and women.

Today, a large portion of the workforce is constituted of women. There has been a need to facilitate a safe and enabling working environment for women, and for this purpose, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (hereinafter the 2013 Act) was passed. The passing of this act was not a simple act of the Legislature and Parliament. The journey has been one of hardship and perseverance. The present status of the protection against sexual harassment which the law provides is primarily by way of constitutional guarantees, criminal law provisions and the 2013 Act. Legal protections may also be found in international human rights law; however, as India is not a state party to the Optional Protocols that establishes the individual complaints mechanisms, these mechanisms are unavailable as a means of redress.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://ebooks.inflibnet.ac.in/hrdp05/chapter/national-legislative-framework-sexual-harassment-of-women/

75. In which specific calendar year did the United Nations General Assembly formally adopt the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), often described as an international bill of rights for women?
(a) Adopted in 1966.
(b) Adopted in 1993.
(c) Adopted in 1985.
(d) Adopted in 1979.

76. Which of the following Directive Principles of State Policy explicitly directs the State to make effective provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, directly complementing the objectives of the POSH Act?
(a) Article 41
(b) Article 42
(c) Article 43
(d) Article 44

77. Which of the following recent landmark judgments of the Supreme Court issued sweeping directions to the Union and State Governments to strictly enforce the constitution of Internal Complaints Committees to prevent the 2013 Act from becoming a 'dead letter'?
(a) Aureliano Fernandes v. State of Goa.
(b) Apparel Export Prom v. A.K. Chopra.
(c) Medha Kotwal Lele v. Union of India.
(d) Binu Tamta v. The High Court of Delhi.

78. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 requires an employer to constitute an Internal Committee if the workplace has at least how many employees?
(a) 5 employees
(b) 10 employees
(c) 20 employees
(d) 50 employees

79. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was enacted after the recommendations of a committee constituted following the 2012 Delhi gang rape case. Who headed this committee?
(a) Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah
(b) Justice R.M. Lodha
(c) Justice A.S. Anand
(d) Justice J.S. Verma

Passage: India's earlier nuclear liability regime was governed by the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which created a no-fault liability framework. Victims of a nuclear incident were not required to prove negligence; they only had to establish that nuclear damage had occurred. The operator of the nuclear installation was made liable, and for large reactors the liability cap was Rs. 1,500 crores, subject to the rupee equivalent of 300 million Special Drawing Rights or any higher amount notified by the Central Government.

The 2010 Act also contained Section 17(b), which gave the operator a statutory right of recourse against suppliers. If a nuclear incident occurred because of defective equipment, defective material, patent or latent defects, or substandard services, the operator could recover compensation from the supplier. This provision kept manufacturers legally accountable for the safety of what they supplied.

SHANTI repeals the 2010 Act and restructures liability. Under Section 11, the operator remains liable for nuclear damage. However, Section 13 read with the Second Schedule divides operator liability according to reactor size. Reactors up to 150 MW carry a maximum liability of Rs. 100 crores, reactors between 150 MW and 750 MW carry Rs. 300 crores, and reactors above 3,600 MW carry a maximum liability of Rs. 3,000 crores. Under Section 14, once the operator's liability is exhausted, the Central Government covers the remaining amount up to the SDR ceiling. Beyond that statutory ceiling, no claim lies against anyone.

The most important change concerns supplier liability. Section 16 permits recourse against suppliers only where the contract provides for it, or where the nuclear incident is caused by an act done with intent to cause nuclear damage. Design defects, manufacturing failures, defective components, and substandard services no longer create independent statutory supplier liability. Supplier accountability now depends mainly on the procurement contract.

The constitutional challenge to SHANTI rests on Articles 14, 19 and 21. Under Article 21, the petition relies on the doctrine of absolute liability laid down in the Shriram Oleum Gas case, which holds that an enterprise engaged in a hazardous or inherently dangerous activity is absolutely liable to make good all damage, independent of fault or due care. The petition also invokes the Polluter Pays Principle, under which the cost of harm must rest on the person who caused it, not on the taxpayer.

Under Article 14, the challenge argues that reactor-size-based compensation caps are arbitrary if they bear no rational relationship to the scale of nuclear harm. Under Article 19(1)(a), Section 39 is challenged because it allows the Central Government to restrict nuclear information and override the RTI Act. SHANTI also limits claims through Section 67, which extinguishes property claims after ten years and personal injury claims after twenty years, even though radiation-related harm may appear much later.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/shanti-act-nuclear-liability-supreme-court-challenge-10704088/

80. Before SHANTI came into force, a nuclear incident occurred at a large reactor operated by Bharat Atomic Power Corporation. Several residents suffered nuclear damage and filed claims. The operator argued that the residents had not shown that the plant staff were negligent and that, in any case, its liability could not exceed the statutory cap applicable to large reactors. The residents argued that once nuclear damage was established, they were not required to prove negligence. Which conclusion is most legally accurate under the pre-SHANTI regime?
(a) The residents could claim compensation without proving negligence, but the operator's liability would remain subject to the statutory cap applicable to large reactors.

(b) The residents could claim compensation only after proving negligence, but the operator's liability would then extend beyond the statutory cap.
(c) The residents could claim compensation without proving negligence, and the statutory cap would not apply once nuclear damage was established.
(d) The residents could claim compensation only if the operator failed to prove that the incident occurred despite due care and safety measures.

81. Before SHANTI came into force, a nuclear incident occurred at a large reactor after a cooling component supplied by Surya Heavy Engineering failed. The operator compensated the victims under the 2010 Act. A later technical inquiry showed that the component had a latent defect that could not have been discovered during routine inspection by the operator. The operator then sought to recover the compensation amount from Surya Heavy Engineering. Surya argued that victims had already been compensated by the operator and that the supplier had no direct liability to the victims. Can the operator rely on Section 17(b) of the 2010 Act?
(a) No, because a latent defect does not support recourse unless the supplier had expressly admitted negligence before the incident.
(b) Yes, because victims were not required to prove negligence, so the supplier must directly compensate them after the incident.
(c) No, because the operator alone was liable for nuclear damage, and supplier accountability could not arise once victims were paid.
(d) Yes, because Section 17(b) gave the operator a statutory right of recourse against suppliers under the pre-SHANTI regime.

82. After SHANTI comes into force, a nuclear incident occurs at a 500 MW reactor. The assessed nuclear damage is much higher than the operator's reactor-size liability. The operator pays the amount fixed for its category. The Central Government then pays compensation up to the SDR ceiling. Some victims still remain uncompensated and file a further claim against the operator, arguing that Section 11 says the operator remains liable for nuclear damage. Is the further claim maintainable?
(a) No, because Section 11 liability is controlled by the reactor-size framework and the SDR ceiling.
(b) No, because once the Central Government pays, the operator's liability is transferred to the State.
(c) Yes, because Section 11 keeps the operator liable until all nuclear damage is fully compensated.
(d) Yes, because unpaid victims may proceed beyond the ceiling if reactor-size liability is exhausted.

83. After SHANTI comes into force, a nuclear incident occurs because of a defective emergency cooling component supplied by Triveni Engineering. A technical inquiry finds that the component had a manufacturing defect and that Triveni's quality checks were substandard. The procurement contract between the operator and Triveni contains no clause allowing recourse against the supplier. The inquiry also finds no intent on Triveni's part to cause nuclear damage. After compensating victims up to its statutory liability, the operator seeks recovery from Triveni. Is the operator's claim sustainable under SHANTI?
(a) Yes, because substandard quality checks amount to supplier fault.
(b) No, because supplier recourse arises only after the SDR ceiling is crossed.
(c) Yes, because the defective component caused the nuclear incident.
(d) No, because defect-based recourse is no longer independent under SHANTI.

84. Before SHANTI came into force, a nuclear incident occurred at a large reactor after a safety valve supplied by a private manufacturer failed. The victims filed claims after establishing that nuclear damage had occurred, but they did not produce evidence showing negligence by the operator's staff. The operator accepted that it was the statutory liable party, but stated that its liability could not exceed the cap applicable to large reactors. After paying compensation, the operator considered proceedings against the supplier under Section 17(b). Based on the pre-SHANTI framework, how many of the following statements are true?

i. The victims' claim against the operator could not fail merely because they did not prove negligence by the operator's staff.
ii. The operator's statutory liability toward victims and its statutory right of recourse against suppliers operated at two different stages.
iii. The supplier became directly liable to compensate the victims merely because the incident involved a supplied safety valve.
iv. The operator could rely on Section 17(b) as a statutory route to seek recovery from the supplier after compensating victims.
v. The liability cap applicable to large reactors was irrelevant once the victims proved that nuclear damage had occurred.

(a) Two statements are true.
(b) Three statements are true.
(c) Four statements are true.
(d) Five statements are true.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Passage: The Great Nicobar Island project is back in the political spotlight, following criticism from Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a detailed rebuttal from the government. But the debate has settled into a familiar frame: development versus environment, strategy versus sustainability. The government insists the project is designed to balance growth with ecological safeguards and protection of indigenous communities, while critics remain unconvinced. Yet, for all its urgency, this debate risks missing the point. By reducing the issue to a binary choice, it avoids a more fundamental question that will ultimately determine whether the project succeeds or fails: what does "balance" actually mean in practice and how is it built into the project itself?

The strategic logic of developing the Great Nicobar Island is difficult to contest. Its proximity to the Strait of Malacca places it at the heart of global trade flows and emerging Indo-Pacific competition. For India, investing in infrastructure here is about both making use of economic opportunity and reducing reliance on foreign transhipment hubs, strengthening its presence in the eastern Indian Ocean, and positioning itself within a rapidly evolving maritime order.

Former Navy chief Arun Prakash argued in 2024 that Great Nicobar's proximity to the Malacca Strait gives India a significant strategic advantage in the eastern Indian Ocean, making a stronger Indian presence in the area necessary. At the same time, he suggested that this could be achieved largely by expanding existing defence facilities such as INS Baaz and upgrading the natural harbour at Campbell Bay, while also using some of the smaller nearby islands if required. His broader point was that strengthening India's security presence need not automatically require the scale of commercial infrastructure that risks major ecological disruption.

The government's recent clarification already carries this logic. It emphasises limited forest diversion, phased development, and the absence of displacement for indigenous communities such as the Shompen. It also frames the project as an example of growth that seeks to reconcile strategic ambition with environmental and social responsibility. These are important assurances. However, they also reveal the limits of how "balance" is currently being understood.

In a fragile island ecosystem, impact cannot be measured solely in percentages. Even if the diversion of forest land appears limited in aggregate terms, the consequences depend on where that intervention occurs and how it alters interconnected ecological systems. Certain landscapes, such as dense forests, coastal breeding grounds, or biodiversity hotspots, are not easily substitutable. Damage to such ecosystems does not remain limited to the exact area under construction.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://frontline.thehindu.com/environment/great-nicobar-project-debate-wrong-question/article70981712.ece

85. Which of the following best captures the author's central argument in the passage?
(a) The dispute must test how balance is operationalised within the project.
(b) The dispute must accept that strategic gain outweighs environmental injury.
(c) The dispute must centre mainly on indigenous displacement and compensation.
(d) The dispute must decide whether critics or the government are sincere.

86. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's concern about measuring environmental impact only through percentages?
(a) The diverted forest area forms a small percentage of the island.
(b) The diverted forest area cuts through key breeding and forest corridors.
(c) The project will be executed in several formally separated construction phases.

(d) The project includes assurances that the Shompen will not be relocated.

87. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's criticism of the government's present understanding of "balance"?
(a) The project reduces dependence on foreign transhipment hubs in the region.
(b) The government promises limited diversion, phasing, and no displacement.
(c) The plan sets binding no-go zones and cumulative ecological thresholds.
(d) The island gives India strong leverage near the Malacca Strait.

88. Which of the following is an assumption underlying the author's argument?
(a) Strategic projects can never be reconciled with fragile island ecosystems.
(b) Indigenous protection matters more than all maritime security concerns.
(c) Forest diversion percentages are usually manipulated by political actors.
(d) Ecological harm may spread through systems beyond the construction site.

89. Which of the following conclusions would be most consistent with Arun Prakash's view as presented in the passage?
(a) India can strengthen security without necessarily building vast commercial assets.
(b) India should avoid the island because Malacca is strategically overvalued.
(c) India must first build transhipment hubs before expanding defence facilities.
(d) India should use only nearby islands and abandon Campbell Bay entirely.

90. Which of the following policy approaches best reflects the author's idea of "balance" in practice?
(a) Approve the project because phased development itself proves sufficient restraint.
(b) Tie each phase to site-specific studies, no-go zones, and community safeguards.
(c) Suspend the project until every possible ecological uncertainty is removed.
(d) Treat defence expansion and commercial infrastructure as the same necessity.

Passage: India's recent economic performance has been strong enough to inspire confidence. Over the past decade, and particularly in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, India has combined relatively high growth with macroeconomic stability in a way that few large economies have managed. Real GDP growth has remained robust, reaching 6.5% in FY2024-25, making India one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. This performance has been underpinned by strong domestic demand, subdued inflation, gradual fiscal consolidation, and a broadly stable financial sector.

While India's productivity growth has been meaningful over recent decades, sustaining high growth will require acceleration, particularly as India aspires to become Viksit Bharat by 2047. That transition will require not just maintaining macroeconomic stability but also activating all engines of growth, labour, capital, and improved productivity, through deeper structural reforms. There is now growing recognition, reflected in the Economic Survey 2025-26, that manufacturing must anchor this next phase. The challenge, however, is not just expanding manufacturing, but also making it more productive. India's structural transformation has been skewed. While services have driven growth, manufacturing has not expanded sufficiently to absorb labour or generate broad-based productivity gains. In most successful development experiences, manufacturing acts as the bridge between low-productivity agriculture and high-productivity modern sectors.

The Economic Survey reinforces this point, emphasising that manufacturing is central to sustaining growth and generating employment at scale. Without it, India risks a growth pattern that is neither sufficiently robust nor structurally stable. While productivity growth in services has been strong, manufacturing productivity has lagged behind both its potential and that of its international peers. A key issue is firm structure. India's manufacturing sector is characterised by a large number of small, low-productivity firms and relatively few mid-sized firms capable of scaling up. This is in stark contrast to economies that successfully industrialised, particularly in East Asia, which saw the emergence of a strong cohort of medium and large firms that drove exports and productivity growth.

Therefore, the current structure creates a challenge for efficient factor allocation, leading to a significant share of labour remaining in agriculture, where productivity is far lower than in manufacturing and services. Most importantly, despite significant investment — particularly in infrastructure — efficiency gaps remain. These structural constraints converge into a deeper problem, reflected in a weak business dynamism. In economic theory, productivity growth is often driven by creative destruction, in which new, more efficient firms replace older, less productive ones. In practice, this process remains slow in India. As a result, the persistence of small, low-productivity "zombie" firms impedes the efficient reallocation of resources. Zombie firms that are no longer economically viable but continue to operate nonetheless tie up capital and labour that could otherwise be deployed in more productive uses.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/productivity-not-just-growth-for-viksit-bharat/article70984402.ece

91. The passage first recognises India's recent economic performance and then introduces a deeper concern. Which of the following best captures this movement?
(a) Recent growth is encouraging, but durable development requires productivity-driven structural reform.
(b) Recent growth is encouraging, but industrial policy must now replace macroeconomic stability.
(c) Recent growth is encouraging, but manufacturing expansion itself will secure the transition.
(d) Recent growth is encouraging, but domestic demand must give way to export-led growth.

92. Which of the following findings would be most inconsistent with the author's diagnosis of India's manufacturing problem?
(a) Service firms record strong productivity while manufacturing labour absorption remains limited.
(b) Mid-sized manufacturers are scaling rapidly and drawing workers out of agriculture.
(c) Infrastructure investment lowers logistics costs while small firms remain widely dominant.
(d) Manufacturing output rises through select firms without broad employment gains.

93. Suppose a policy-maker argues that India need not worry about manufacturing because services have already delivered strong productivity growth. Which response would most closely follow the author's reasoning?
(a) Services gains matter, but they do not prove manufacturing productivity has improved.
(b) Services gains matter, but they should be judged mainly through export potential.
(c) Services gains matter, but they have not supplied labour-absorbing transformation.
(d) Services gains matter, but they mainly show agriculture is becoming productive.

94. Which of the following best explains why India may show robust GDP growth while still facing weak structural transformation?
(a) Growth may be demand-led while fiscal consolidation delays productive reallocation.
(b) Growth may be services-led while infrastructure investment creates firm dynamism.
(c) Growth may be stable while zombie firms preserve industrial employment capacity.
(d) Growth may be macro-supported while resources remain poorly reallocated.

95. Which of the following policy measures would the author most likely regard as beneficial but insufficient by itself?
(a) Expanding infrastructure while leaving firm scaling and exit barriers unresolved.
(b) Supporting medium manufacturers while linking expansion to productivity and exports.

(c) Improving resource allocation by allowing weaker firms to exit markets.
(d) Moving workers toward manufacturing firms capable of productivity improvements.

96. Which of the following examples most closely illustrates the creative destruction problem discussed in the passage?
(a) Small factories improve output gradually while medium firms remain relatively scarce.
(b) Unviable firms retain resources while efficient entrants struggle to scale.
(c) Productive firms coexist with older firms as domestic demand remains stable.
(d) New exporters expand output while agriculture retains a large workforce.

Passage: The human heart beats more than 1 lakh times a day, pushing blood through the body under constant physical strain. Every second, it encounters circulating cells, including cancer cells that travel through the bloodstream. Yet tumours of the heart are strikingly rare.

For decades, scientists have tried to explain this puzzle using genetics, immune surveillance, and the unique biology of heart cells. But these explanations have not resolved the paradox. Now, new research published in Science has pointed in a different direction — suggesting that the force of each heartbeat may itself limit the growth of cancer cells in the organ.

The idea did not begin with cancer but with an unexpected observation in patients with severe heart failure. Patients on heart-assist devices showed signs that their heart cells could start dividing again. In adults, these cells are largely locked in place and rarely regenerate. Devices that support failing hearts reduce the mechanical load they normally endure. This observation led to a broader question. If reducing this load allows heart cells to grow again, could the constant forces of a beating heart do the opposite by keeping cell growth in check, including that of cancer cells that reach the heart?

The researchers tested this idea in mice. They introduced cancer-causing mutations across multiple organs, expecting tumours throughout the body. Tumours formed in several tissues but not in the heart. The team then altered the physical environment of the heart itself. In mice, they surgically implanted a second heart into another part of the body and connected it to blood vessels so it remained alive and beating, but no longer pumped blood through its left ventricle under normal mechanical load. This allowed it to receive blood without experiencing the forces generated by each heartbeat. In these "unloaded" hearts, cancer cells that had struggled to grow began to expand rapidly, in some cases occupying large portions of the tissue. Even then, the researchers remained cautious. "We could see that mechanical forces were playing a role, but we needed clearer evidence".

To isolate the effect, they used lab-grown heart tissues made from living cells arranged into small, beating strips. These could be constrained to either contract or remain relaxed. Again, reducing mechanical activity allowed cancer cells to proliferate more easily, reinforcing the pattern.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/constant-mechanical-force-may-be-why-heart-cancer-is-so-rare/article70968429.ece

97. Which of the following best captures the paradox that the research seeks to address?
(a) Heart cells rarely regenerate, although assist devices can reduce their workload.
(b) Heart tumours are rare, although cancer cells repeatedly pass through the heart.
(c) Heartbeat forces are constant, although heart cells remain biologically specialised.
(d) Heart failure patients recover partly, although adult heart cells divide rarely.

98. The observation in heart-failure patients is important mainly because it suggested that:
(a) heart-assist devices may directly prevent cancer formation in adult heart tissue.

(b) cancer mutations may affect the heart differently from other body organs.
(c) mechanical unloading may permit cell growth that normal cardiac strain restrains.
(d) heart cells divide only when cancer-causing mutations are experimentally introduced.

99. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the researchers' proposed explanation?
(a) Cancer cells grow in heart tissue when cardiac load is reduced despite continued blood supply.
(b) Cancer cells fail to grow in the heart because immune cells are unusually concentrated there.
(c) Cancer cells enter the heart less frequently than they enter most other organs.
(d) Cancer cells grow slowly in organs where blood flow is lower than in the heart.

100. Which of the following findings would most seriously weaken the mechanical-force hypothesis?
(a) Several non-heart tissues developed tumours after cancer-causing mutations were introduced.
(b) Adult heart cells rarely divide unless the heart is supported by assistive devices.
(c) Lab-grown relaxed heart tissues allowed cancer cells to proliferate more easily.
(d) Loaded and unloaded heart tissues showed similar cancer growth under matched conditions.

101. Which of the following best describes the role of the second-heart experiment in the passage?
(a) It showed that heart tumours cannot form unless cancer cells enter through arteries.
(b) It proved that blood circulation alone explains the rarity of cardiac tumours.
(c) It separated blood exposure from normal pumping forces to test mechanical load.
(d) It confirmed that implanted hearts regenerate faster than naturally placed hearts.

102. Which of the following situations is most analogous to the mechanism proposed in the passage?
(a) A crowded road prevents accidents because fewer vehicles enter it during peak hours.
(b) A shaken container prevents crystals forming though the same material remains inside.
(c) A guarded building prevents theft because visitors are screened before entering rooms.
(d) A dry field prevents weeds because the soil lacks nutrients needed for growth.

Passage: Faculty members in a business analytics institute can belong to one of four areas: Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (A&AI), Design and Innovation (D&I), Supply Chain and Decision Sciences (SCDS), and People and Culture (P&C). The numbers of faculty members in A&AI, D&I, SCDS, and P&C are 10, 8, 6, and 4 respectively.

Dr. Nihar, Dr. Ojas, Dr. Prerna, and Dr. Tanish are four faculty members who contested for the position of Director of the institute. Only one of the candidates was from SCDS.

Every faculty member, including the four candidates, voted in the election. In each area, all faculty members who were not candidates voted for the same candidate. The rules for the election are given below.

1. There cannot be more than two candidates from the same area.
2. A candidate cannot vote for himself or herself.
3. Faculty members cannot vote for a candidate from their own area.

After the election, it was observed that Dr. Nihar received 8 votes, Dr. Ojas received 12 votes, Dr. Prerna received 1 vote, and Dr. Tanish received 7 votes. Dr. Nihar voted for Dr. Ojas, Dr. Ojas voted for Dr. Tanish, Dr. Prerna voted for Dr. Ojas, and Dr. Tanish voted for Dr. Prerna.

103. Which two candidates can belong to the same area?
(a) Dr. Nihar and Dr. Tanish
(b) Dr. Nihar and Dr. Prerna
(c) Dr. Ojas and Dr. Prerna
(d) Dr. Prerna and Dr. Tanish

104. Which of the following can be the number of votes that Dr. Ojas received from non-candidate faculty members of a single area?

(a) 8 (b) 9 (c) 10 (d) 6

105. If Dr. Tanish belongs to SCDS, which of the following statements is/are true?

Statement A: Dr. Ojas belongs to P&C.

Statement B: Dr. Nihar belongs to D&I.

(a) Both statements A and B
(b) Only statement A
(c) Only statement B
(d) Neither statement A nor statement B

106. What best can be concluded about the candidate from SCDS?

(a) It was either Dr. Nihar or Dr. Prerna.
(b) It was definitely Dr. Ojas.
(c) It was definitely Dr. Tanish.
(d) It was either Dr. Ojas or Dr. Tanish.

107. Which of the following statements is/are true?

Statement A: Non-candidate faculty members from D&I voted for Dr. Tanish.

Statement B: Non-candidate faculty members from A&AI voted for Dr. Ojas.

(a) Only statement A
(b) Only statement B
(c) Both statements A and B
(d) Neither statement A nor statement B

108. If Dr. Ojas belongs to SCDS, then which candidate did the non-candidate faculty members from P&C vote for?

(a) Dr. Ojas (b) Dr. Nihar (c) Dr. Prerna (d) Dr. Tanish

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]:

The Narmada Solar Irrigation Cooperative operated solar panels in four villages named Anandpur, Bilkhera, Chandanpur and Devnagar during April, May and June. In April, the respective generation was 19,200 kWh, 16,000 kWh, 22,400 kWh and 18,000 kWh. In May, Anandpur generated 12.5% more than April, Bilkhera generated 15% more than April, Chandanpur generated 10% less than April, and Devnagar generated 20% more than April. In June, Anandpur generated 20% more than its May generation, Bilkhera generated 10% less than its May generation, Chandanpur generated 25% more than its May generation, and Devnagar generated 15% more than its May generation. In Anandpur, Bilkhera and Chandanpur, 62.5% of every month's generated electricity was used for irrigation pumps. In Devnagar, 60% of every month's generated electricity was used for irrigation pumps. From the electricity left after pump use, 20% was lost during battery conversion. Of the electricity left after this conversion loss, 75% was sold to the grid and the remaining 25% was kept as reserve energy. The grid tariff was ₹5.20 per kWh in May and ₹5.60 per kWh in June.

109. Which of the following is the total grid sale revenue earned by the cooperative in June?
(a) ₹1,12,846.40 (b) ₹1,18,661.76 (c) ₹1,21,480.20 (d) ₹1,09,734.56

110. What was the percentage increase in total grid sale revenue from May to June?
(a) 18.6% (b) 20.4% (c) 23.2% (d) 21.9%

111. In June, the reserve energy of Chandanpur and Devnagar together exceeded the reserve energy of Anandpur and Bilkhera together. If the excess reserve energy could run irrigation pumps at 7.2 kWh per acre, how many acres could be irrigated?
(a) 96 acres (b) 84 acres (c) 108 acres (d) 112 acres

112. Which village contributed the largest share to the cooperative's total grid revenue in June?
(a) Anandpur (b) Bilkhera (c) Devnagar (d) Chandanpur

113. If the April pump use of Anandpur and Chandanpur was reduced by 12% through efficient pumps, and the saved energy was valued at the June tariff, what would be the value of the saved energy?
(a) ₹15,680 (b) ₹16,920 (c) ₹18,144 (d) ₹17,472

114. In June, Anandpur and Devnagar each transferred 10% of their reserve energy to Bilkhera. What was Bilkhera's final reserve energy as a percentage of the combined final reserve energy of Anandpur, Bilkhera and Devnagar?
(a) 29.8% (b) 31.6% (c) 33.2% (d) 35.4%

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]:

Sahyadri District Hospital recorded patient registrations in four departments on one working day. Medicine had 160 registered patients, Surgery had 120 registered patients, Paediatrics had 100 registered patients, and Orthopaedics had 150 registered patients. The OPD consultation fee was ₹120, but only paying patients were charged this fee. The paying patient share was 65% in Medicine, 75% in Surgery, 50% in Paediatrics and 70% in Orthopaedics. A part of the registered patients was referred for laboratory tests. The laboratory referral rate was 45% in Medicine, 35% in Surgery, 50% in Paediatrics and 20% in Orthopaedics. Among laboratory referred patients, the paying share was two thirds in Medicine and Surgery, and three fifths in Paediatrics and Orthopaedics.

The laboratory package fee was ₹360. X ray was done only in Surgery and Orthopaedics. In Surgery, 30% of registered patients were sent for X ray, and 75% of them were paying patients. In Orthopaedics, 40% of registered patients were sent for X ray, and 70% of them were paying patients. The X ray fee was ₹520. Ultrasound was done only in Medicine and Paediatrics. In Medicine, 25% of registered patients were sent for ultrasound and 65% of them were paying patients. In Paediatrics, 20% of registered patients were sent for ultrasound and 50% of them were paying patients. The ultrasound fee was ₹700.

115. What was the hospital's total cash collection from OPD fees, laboratory packages, X ray and ultrasound combined?
(a) ₹1,41,880 (b) ₹1,52,640 (c) ₹1,47,600 (d) ₹1,39,720

116. By what percentage did diagnostic collection exceed OPD collection?
(a) 152.4% (b) 139.8% (c) 148.6% (d) 161.2%

117. The laboratory used one reagent kit for every 8 laboratory patients. Kits were purchased only in packs of 6 kits, and each pack cost ₹2,160. What was the reagent cost per paying laboratory patient, rounded to one decimal place?
(a) ₹82.4 (b) ₹85.7 (c) ₹89.3 (d) ₹87.1

118. If unpaid Orthopaedics X ray patients were later reimbursed at 80% of the X ray fee, what would be the final Orthopaedics X ray collection after reimbursement?
(a) ₹27,820 (b) ₹29,328 (c) ₹30,160 (d) ₹28,704

119. What was the average cash collection per registered Medicine patient, considering only OPD fee, laboratory package and ultrasound?
(a) ₹286.40 (b) ₹294.25 (c) ₹299.75 (d) ₹305.60

120. Considering paid service events as paid OPD visits, paid laboratory tests and paid imaging tests combined, which department had the highest paid service event rate out of total service events?
(a) Surgery (b) Medicine (c) Orthopaedics (d) Paediatrics

Rough Work