ADMIT CARD NUMBER

UG 2027

QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG08

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 36 (Thirty Six) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You shall enter your Admit Card No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the OB, 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: I have two summer earworms right now. The first is O Sole Mio, the jingle of our local ice-cream van, the second is a particular phrase that our resident blackbird keeps singing. Four notes, moving down the scale but ending slightly on the minor: that's his party piece, delivered after a jazzy performance that includes dozens of other motifs. He likes to bellow it from the tallest tip of the conifer tree that sways over the road, and I can't stop whistling it. He will have developed this refrain over years, and like all musicians, he will have started off shakily. If I didn't notice it last season, it was probably because he was still a shy apprentice, his song unfinished as he practised quietly to work out his preferred combination of notes.

Perhaps it is only this year that he's come into his own, refining and locking in his signature phrases, confident enough in his territory to sing them loud and proud. I imagine the wordless "yes" that he must have felt in his body as he perfected his routine, and wonder if it is the same feeling I get when writing or painting and something feels right. This performance will also be entirely unique to him. Although males copy from each other and draw on sounds from their environment (including mimicking other birds), each individual builds his own setlist from scratch, with an average of 44 distinct motifs per bird. A trip to the east of town last week gave me blackbirds with songs like ringing telephones and car alarms, and for the first time I was struck by how those blackbirds weren't my blackbird. The joy I felt coming home to my one's familiar refrain marked a deeper, more personal relationship than I've felt with a bird before.

What makes his song all the more precious is that I know it will end soon. Summer's great silence is coming, when breeding ends and our birds move into their reclusive moult. It may be six months or more until I hear my blackbird sing again. In a culture where we have grown used to getting what we want, whenever we want it, there is something sacred in that.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/29/country-diary-theres-no-blackbird-song-like-the-one-on-my-street

1. Which of the following best captures the author's main concern in the passage?
(a) To compare bird songs with human musical training and routine
(b) To show how repeated listening turns nature into intimacy
(c) To explain why blackbirds develop varied musical motifs
(d) To contrast urban noise with natural seasonal silence

2. The author's description of the blackbird as a "shy apprentice" mainly suggests that:
(a) the bird's song is copied from older birds without change
(b) the bird's silence proves he lacked confidence earlier
(c) the bird's tune may have matured through practice
(d) the bird's refrain was already fixed last season

3. Which of the following best explains the significance of the author's east-of-town experience?
(a) It made other blackbirds seem less musical than his
(b) It proved blackbird songs depend mainly on location
(c) It showed that city sounds disturb natural bird calls
(d) It clarified the individuality of the familiar bird

4. What does the phrase "Summer's great silence is coming" imply in the passage?
(a) The season will end with complete natural stillness
(b) The bird's song is precious because it is temporary

(c) The author expects winter to erase the bird's memory
(d) The silence will weaken the author's bond with nature

5. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
(a) The blackbird's refrain is personally recognisable to the author
(b) The blackbird sings mainly to please the human listener
(c) The bird's song may include sounds from its environment
(d) The author links artistic success with bodily certainty

6. The final sentence suggests that the author values the bird's song because it:
(a) escapes the noise of ordinary urban life
(b) offers control over a changing season
(c) proves nature resists human interpretation
(d) remains unavailable on human demand

Passage: It is tempting to think that the lives we fail to narrate are lives in which little has happened. Human beings have trained themselves to respect interruption. A war, a dismissal, a prize, a quarrel in Parliament, a body on the street, an examination result, a storm that destroys a bridge: these become events because they disturb the surface of time and leave behind the debris by which history recognises itself. What does not disturb us is allowed to vanish. The plant, therefore, is almost never admitted into our moral imagination except as an ornament, resource or metaphor.

This exclusion is not innocent. It arises from the habits by which we decide what counts as action. We trust movement because it offers evidence to the impatient eye. We trust noise because it assures us that work is being performed. We trust crisis because crisis gives us a plot. A tree, by contrast, embarrasses these categories. It works without announcement, alters without spectacle, competes without visible rage, and survives without converting its survival into achievement. If one insists that life must resemble a procession of incidents, the tree will appear vacant. If, however, one suspects that eventfulness is only one of the poorer vocabularies of existence, the tree begins to look like a correction.

This may explain why our kindness towards trees is often mixed with condescension. We praise them for shade, fruit, flowers and oxygen, as though they were charitable institutions standing outside our quarrels, dispensing benefits with saintly resignation. Yet this praise secretly preserves human importance. To call a tree generous because it gives us air is to imagine ourselves as the intended recipients of its being. The tree does not bestow itself upon us. It simply lives according to forms of need from which our moral vocabulary has extracted a flattering lesson.

There is a different embarrassment hidden here. We are unsettled by forms of life that do not ask to be understood. Human loneliness often demands witnesses; human labour asks for applause, payment or at least complaint. The tree does not make such claims, and so we mistake its reserve for silence, its patience for passivity, its rootedness for incapacity. But perhaps rootedness is not the opposite of freedom. Perhaps it is freedom from the exhausting obligation to be elsewhere, to become visible, to hurry into significance before the hour has passed.

To think with trees, then, is not to flee human history, but to enlarge the terms on which history is written. It is to admit that not all force is dramatic, not all change is noisy, and not all lives worth noticing arrive as events. Sometimes endurance is the argument we are least trained to read.

Extracted from: How I Became a Tree by Sumana Roy

7. Which of the following best states the central argument of the passage?

(a) Human history should treat trees as moral teachers of patience
(b) Human culture ignores plants because they lack visible motion
(c) Human attention must widen beyond dramatic signs of action
(d) Human morality should replace crisis with ecological humility

8. The phrase "A tree, by contrast, embarrasses these categories" means that the tree:
(a) acts and changes without fitting our usual signs of action
(b) survives so quietly that it cannot be studied as living
(c) refuses the human need to turn labour into reward
(d) appears empty because it has no moral relation to us

9. If "eventfulness is only one of the poorer vocabularies of existence," the tree begins to look like:
(a) a silent witness to human historical failure
(b) a passive survivor outside human conflict
(c) a symbol of charity without self-interest
(d) a correction to our narrow idea of life

10. Why does the author find human praise of trees for shade, fruit, flowers and oxygen problematic?
(a) It denies that trees have any practical value for human life
(b) It turns tree-life into a flattering lesson about human benefit
(c) It falsely suggests that trees act with saintly moral intention
(d) It treats ecological dependence as a form of human weakness

11. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
(a) Humans often treat crisis as the clearest form of plot
(b) Trees may change without producing dramatic evidence
(c) Endurance is easier for humans to read than spectacle
(d) Rootedness need not mean incapacity or lack of freedom

12. Which word from the passage most strongly suggests that the author sees human interpretation of trees as self-pleasing?
(a) flattering
(b) charitable
(c) saintly
(d) intended

Passage: As I stood in line, I started to sweat, my heart was palpitating, and my hands were shaking. At the counter, I had trouble signing my name on the withdrawal slip. I glanced up and saw myself in a mirror, one of those convex mirrors placed on dangerous corners. It was like an out-of-body experience. I felt split in two, as though I were forging my own name, trying to pass myself off as me.

I got the cash and we went to the pub. As we settled in, Dermot said, "You know what you are? You're a drinker." His tone suggested that this was serious, but more like a fate to be tussled with than a condition in need of treatment. He sounded like a clan elder telling me I had the gift.

This wasn't exactly news to me; my diaries were full of fear and lamentation on the subject of my inability to control my drinking. But Dermot made the failing feel profound, not the key to creativity or any of those silly clichés, but psychologically demanding and existentially revealing. He took the thing I felt most debased by and imbued it with meaning.

By then, I had already professed my love for him. He'd said, "I don't think you're in love with me; you're just on a journey."

A friend of ours had a less generous reading. Lois Gould had decamped from Manhattan and wound up in Sligo, an exotic creature set down among us. In the 1970s, her first novel, Such Good Friends, had been a New York Times bestseller. Otto Preminger had adapted it for film. Lois had rented a rambling 18th-century house overlooking the sea in south Sligo that belonged to Bertolt Brecht's granddaughter. She sped around in her green Triumph convertible, her silk scarf flying. I felt about 12 years old in her company.

Lois had the air of someone who knew things, about life and love and Freud, so when she said to Dermot that I was ambitious and that my affection for him arose, unconsciously, from that, it gave him pause. He repeated it to me, sounding like he wanted reassurance that she was wrong. She was wrong. There was something juicier and more primal than ambition going on. That feeling I'd had in the bank, Is that me? Who am I?, was, in fact, the journey. But I was looking for someone else to provide the answers, and I had found in Dermot the perfect foil. Whatever his faults, he knew who he was. Surely he could tell me who I was?

https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/dermot-healy-ireland-sligo-molly-mccloskey-alcoholism-writing/

13. The narrator's trouble with signing the withdrawal slip is used mainly to show that:
(a) ordinary banking procedures had become physically difficult for him
(b) public spaces intensified his fear of being judged by others
(c) his sense of self had become unstable and unfamiliar to him
(d) drinking had already made him incapable of basic actions

14. Dermot's remark, "You're a drinker," affects the narrator because it:
(a) reduces his condition to a familiar social habit
(b) turns his shame into something grave and meaningful
(c) excuses his conduct as a sign of creative talent
(d) confirms what his diaries had already disproved

15. The comparison of Dermot to "a clan elder" suggests that his words carried:
(a) medical accuracy rather than emotional force
(b) romantic softness rather than personal authority
(c) casual humour rather than serious recognition
(d) ritual weight rather than ordinary description

16. Lois Gould's presence in the passage mainly helps to introduce:
(a) an alternative explanation for the narrator's attachment to Dermot
(b) a glamorous contrast to the narrator's provincial insecurity
(c) a social rival who unsettles the narrator's confidence in Dermot
(d) a literary authority who confirms the narrator's emotional confusion

17. The narrator rejects Lois's interpretation because he believes his feeling for Dermot came from:
(a) wounded pride rather than romantic expectation
(b) literary ambition rather than emotional dependence
(c) identity-hunger rather than social calculation
(d) unconscious rivalry rather than genuine affection

18. The final question, "Surely he could tell me who I was?" reveals the narrator's mistaken hope that:
(a) love would protect him from the damage of drinking
(b) ambition would disappear once Dermot trusted him

(c) confession would turn shame into moral authority
(d) another person's certainty could supply his own

Passage: Standing between the human-nature harmony before me and the complex realities and contradictions of the modern world behind me, I reflect on the tensions posed by rapid human development. The increasing global pressure on local and planetary life-support systems threatens to unravel the progress in human wellbeing that has been secured, as well as the welfare of the myriad fellow species on this Earth.

For much of the modern era, the global narrative of economic development has been imagined as a human story unfolding against a backdrop of nature as an externality to be exploited. Forests, rivers, soils and species appear as resources to be managed, inputs to be optimised, or constraints to be overcome. Human wellbeing advances; nature reduces. In some ways, this narrative has delivered. The condition and welfare of billions of humans have been improved beyond recognition.

Yet this model of progress is breaking. The defining pressures of the 21st century suggest that reducing nature to an exploitable commodity is no longer viable. Climate change, biodiversity loss, disrupted ecosystems and rising natural-disaster risks all point to degradation of the natural world as a systemic risk to human prosperity. My field of ecology teaches us that human lives are not merely supported by nature: they are entangled with it, emerge from it, are enmeshed in it, nourished by it, and dependent on it in countless ways, from local to planetary. Humanity is an intimate part of nature, so development that undermines the living world ultimately undermines itself.

But what if the story of human development were not a trade-off? What if we could craft a narrative of development that did not ignore the interconnections between human prosperity and the flourishing of the rest of the living world? If so, how could we define and measure this expanded notion of development?

Incorporating nature relationships into the measure of development must not mean a retreat from human development, nor a nostalgic return to some past condition that ignores the grinding poverty that has been the reality for most of humanity for most of history. Humans are now a planetary force, and most ecosystems are shaped by human activity. The question is how to direct that influence, and whether it supports long-term mutual flourishing with the natural world, or long-term mutual decline. Narratives matter here because societies do not act on data alone. Environmental discourse today is rich in warnings and speaks fluently about planetary boundaries, carbon budgets, extinction rates and ecological overshoot.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://aeon.co/essays/it-doesnt-have-to-be-us-versus-nature

19. The phrase "Human wellbeing advances; nature reduces" is used to express that:
(a) human welfare and nature always improve together
(b) economic growth has failed to improve human lives
(c) progress has often been framed as nature's depletion
(d) nature has remained untouched by human prosperity

20. In the author's view, the older development model becomes unstable mainly because:
(a) ecological damage now threatens human prosperity itself
(b) economic growth has lost all social value in the present
(c) poverty can be solved only by restoring past lifestyles
(d) human activity has become separate from natural systems

21. Which word from the passage most strongly conveys the idea that human life is woven into nature?
(a) supported
(b) nourished
(c) dependent
(d) enmeshed

22. A measure of development shaped by the author's argument would most likely ask whether development:
(a) increases wealth while reducing ecological limits
(b) supports human welfare and living systems together
(c) restores ecosystems by reducing human influence fully
(d) replaces prosperity indicators with biodiversity data

23. The author rejects a "nostalgic return" in order to make clear that:
(a) ecological concern need not oppose human development
(b) modern prosperity has solved poverty permanently
(c) past societies had better ecological knowledge than ours
(d) nature can flourish only without human involvement

24. The word "viable" means:
(a) workable
(b) desirable
(c) measurable
(d) acceptable

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: The Reserve Bank of India has approved the transfer of a record ₹2.86 lakh crore as surplus to the Central Government for the financial year 2025-26, marking one of the highest dividend payouts by the central bank.

The decision was taken during the 623rd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI, chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra in Mumbai yesterday.

In a statement, the RBI stated that its gross income increased by 26.42 per cent during Financial Year 2025-26 compared to the previous year, while expenditure before risk provisions rose by 27.60 per cent. According to the central bank, net income before risk provisions and transfer to statutory funds stood at ₹3.95 lakh crore in FY26, up from ₹3.13 lakh crore in FY25. The RBI's balance sheet also expanded by 20.61 per cent to ₹91.97 lakh crore as of March 31 this year.

The central bank stated that it had decided to transfer ₹1.09 lakh crore towards the Contingent Risk Buffer for FY26 while maintaining the buffer at 6.5 per cent of the RBI balance sheet under the revised Economic Capital Framework.

The Board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook, and deliberated on the RBI's annual accounts for the financial year 2025–26.
The bigger problem is not the amount of the latest transfer. It is the increasing importance of the RBI's balance sheet.

Surplus transfers have been around the ₹30,000 crore to ₹65,000 crore level for the past few years.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://newsonair.gov.in/rbi-approves-record-%E2%82%B92-86-lakh-crore-surplus-transfer-to-central-government-for-financial-year-2025-26/]

25. After the Partition of India, the Reserve Bank of India temporarily served as the central bank of Pakistan until which year?
(a) 1948
(b) 1949
(c) 1950
(d) 1951

26. The RBI changed its accounting year to align with the Government of India's financial year. Which period served as the transitional accounting year?
(a) April 2019 to March 2020
(b) July 2020 to March 2021
(c) January 2021 to December 2021
(d) July 2021 to June 2022

27. The recommendation to establish the Reserve Bank of India came from which commission?
(a) Indian Currency Committee of 1898
(b) Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture
(c) Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee
(d) Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance

28. The Economic Capital Framework followed by the RBI for surplus distribution is associated with the recommendations of which committee?
(a) Y. V. Reddy Committee
(b) Bimal Jalan Committee
(c) Urjit Patel Committee
(d) C. Rangarajan Committee

Passage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and reiterated that India will always be on the side of peace, placing the values of humanity over everything else. The two sides discussed trade and industrial projects, which is a significant upgrade in conversation since the war between Russia and Ukraine began almost four-and-half years ago.

India has stayed in touch with both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy since the war began in February 2022. Modi has spoken to Zelenskyy by phone at least eight times, and the two leaders have met on at least four occasions.

Their last conversation was in August, when Modi reached Tianjin, China, for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit and was to meet Putin on the sidelines.
French President Emmanuel Macron has picked the lakeside town of Evian-les-Bains, nestled at the foot of the Alps on Lake Geneva to host this year's G7 meeting.

The summit venue and the surrounding Lake Geneva region has been heavily secured for the event, designating them into two distinct zones — red and blue. Access to these zones is strictly regulated, utilising a QR-code-based entry system to ensure security throughout the duration of the summit.

G7 leaders will be keen to learn the details of the U.S.-Iran deal. A memorandum of understanding is scheduled to be officially signed in Switzerland but the precise terms are not known yet. In a statement, the secretariat of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, would end permanently.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://indianexpress.com/article/india/narendra-modi-volodymyr-zelenskyy-india-ukraine-trade-peace-g7-summit-10745194/]

29. The first summit that later evolved into the G7 was initiated in 1975 by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. It was held at which location in France?
(a) Château de Rambouillet
(b) Palais de l'Élysée
(c) Hôtel de Matignon
(d) Palace of Versailles

30. With reference to the institutional nature of the G7, consider the following statements:
I. The G7 has no permanent secretariat or treaty-based legal personality.
II. The European Union participates in G7 summits but is not counted among the "Seven".
III. The European Union holds the rotating presidency of the G7 every eighth year.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only I and II
(b) Only II and III
(c) Only I and III
(d) All I, II and III

31. Artificial intelligence was among the agenda items at the 2026 G7 Summit. Which of the following G7-led initiatives was launched under Japan's presidency in 2023 to develop guiding principles and a voluntary code of conduct for generative AI governance?
(a) Hiroshima AI Council
(b) Hiroshima AI Forum
(c) Hiroshima AI Process
(d) Hiroshima AI Accord

32. Which country joined the original G6 in 1976, giving the grouping its G7 form?
(a) Australia
(b) Canada
(c) Sweden
(d) Spain

33. Russia's suspension from the G8 process in 2014 was mainly linked to which event?
(a) Global financial crisis
(b) Iraq War intervention

(c) Eurozone debt crisis (d) Annexation of Crimea

34. In the context of G7 discussions on Iran and nuclear non-proliferation, which of the following is correct about the depositary governments of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?
(a) Its depositaries are the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia.
(b) Its depositaries are the United States, France, China and Russia.
(c) Its depositaries are the United Kingdom, France and Russia.
(d) Its depositaries are the United States, China and Russia

Passage: Three Indian sailors have been confirmed killed after the US military struck a tanker in the Gulf of Oman which it accused of violating its blockade on Iranian ports. The MT Settebello came under attack with 24 Indian crew on board, of whom 21 were rescued. The US has struck three ships in the Gulf this week, all with Indian crew on board. India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Additional Secretary Mukesh Mangal said the three seamen on board the Settebello who died were Aditya Sharma, a cadet, Shivanand Chaurashiya, a fitter, and Patnala Suresh, a chief engineer.

In its statement, iOS Marine denied Centcom's accusation that the tanker ignored warning calls. To the best of our knowledge and based on information available to us, no warning call, message, or communication was ever successfully established with the vessel prior to the actions taken against it.

The operator also denied any affiliations with Iran or Iranian oil. The vessel was a civilian merchant vessel engaged in legitimate commercial operations and should be viewed as such. Any assertions to the contrary are rejected and should be subjected to independent scrutiny as part of a transparent international investigation, the statement added. IOS Marine also claimed that the tanker had remained stationary at its position for approximately 10 days prior to the incident and had made no movement whatsoever during that period - and was hence, not transitioning through the area or engaged in any aggressive or evasive manoeuvres.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy73dr081p8o]

35. Which of the following international conventions specifies minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships?
(a) MARPOL Convention (b) MLC Convention
(c) STCW Convention (d) SOLAS Convention

36. India assumed the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for 2025-2027. Where is the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Rim Association located?
(a) Colombo, Sri Lanka (b) Ebene, Mauritius
(c) Jakarta, Indonesia (d) Muscat, Oman

37. The international legal framework for coordinated maritime search and rescue is linked to the SAR Convention. Where was the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 adopted?
(a) Hamburg (b) Geneva (c) London (d) Rome

38. The IMO Net-Zero Framework is linked to global shipping emissions and is relevant to India's green ports and maritime decarbonisation plans. The framework is associated with amendments to which convention?
(a) SOLAS Convention (b) MARPOL Convention
(c) STCW Convention (d) London Convention

39. With reference to the Iranian naval vessel struck by a U.S. submarine torpedo after participating in a multilateral naval exercise, which of the following combinations is correctly matched?

(a) Exercise: Malabar 2026; Vessel: IRIS Makran; Location: Gulf of Oman
(b) Exercise: MILAN 2026; Vessel: IRIS Dena; Location: off Galle, Sri Lanka
(c) Exercise: Sea Dragon 2026; Vessel: IRIS Sahand; Location: Bay of Bengal
(d) Exercise: Varuna 2026; Vessel: IRIS Alborz; Location: Strait of Hormuz

40. Where is the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization located?
(a) Geneva (b) Vienna (c) London (d) Rome

Passage: The 11th Meeting of the NITI Aayog Governing Council, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

In his address, the Chief Minister stated that Mizoram has become the first fully literate state in India and has recorded significant progress in the Human Development Index. He noted that all districts of Mizoram have been categorized as Front Runners in the North Eastern Region District Sustainable Development Index Report.
In alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the State Government is implementing its own roadmap, Transformed Mizoram 2047. Mizoram aims to contribute 1% to India's GDP by the year 2047.

The Chief Minister emphasized that achieving full literacy is only the beginning. The Government is now focusing on strengthening digital literacy, financial literacy, skill development, and entrepreneurship. Young people are being equipped with skills relevant to emerging industries and technologies, including Electric Vehicle (EV) Maintenance, Drone Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and Solar Technology. During the last financial year, around 26,500 youths have received various forms of skill training, with more than 72 percent securing employment thereafter. He also highlighted Mizoram's achievement as the Champion State in the IndiaSkills North East Regional Competition 2025–26.

Recognizing the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship, the State Government has launched the Chief Minister's Innovation Challenge, involving Government Departments, Civil Society Organizations, educational institutions, and grassroots stakeholders. To support aspiring entrepreneurs and start-ups, the Government has also established the Mizoram Handholding Venture Capital Fund.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://dipr.mizoram.gov.in/post/chief-minister-addresses-the-11th-niti-aayog-governing-council-meeting]

41. The cooperative federalism role of NITI Aayog is often compared with another Centre-State coordination body. Which of the following is correct about the Inter-State Council?
(a) It was formed under Article 262 to decide inter-State river water disputes permanently.
(b) It was created in 1950 under Article 280 to recommend tax devolution to the States.
(c) It was established under the Zonal Councils Act, 1956 as a statutory security forum.
(d) It was notified in 1990 under Article 263 after the Sarkaria Commission recommendation.

42. Consider the following statements about the Multidimensional Poverty Index framework used in India:
I. India's National MPI uses the Alkire-Foster methodology.
II. The global MPI is computed by OPHI in partnership with the UNDP Human Development Report Office.
III. India's National MPI is based only on income and monthly consumption expenditure.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only I and II (b) Only II and III (c) Only I and III (d) All I, II and III

43. The 11th Governing Council Meeting referred to district-level progress through aspirational parameters. Which of the following correctly represents the broad governance approach of the Aspirational Districts Programme?
(a) Centralisation, certification and compliance

(b) Classification, compensation and consultation
(c) Convergence, collaboration and competition
(d) Consolidation, codification and containment

44. The SDG India Index prepared by NITI Aayog is linked to the global Sustainable Development Goals framework. Which of the following is correct about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
(a) It was adopted in 2000 and contains 8 goals with 21 associated targets.
(b) It was adopted in 2015 and contains 17 goals with 169 associated targets.
(c) It was adopted in 1992 and contains 27 principles with no measurable targets.
(d) It was adopted in 2020 and contains 20 goals linked only to climate finance.

45. The First Five-Year Plan of India, launched after the setting up of the Planning Commission, was primarily based on which economic model?
(a) Harrod-Domar Model
(b) Solow Growth Model
(c) Lewis Dual-Sector Model
(d) Heckscher-Ohlin Model

46. Project SATH-E of NITI Aayog was launched to support transformation in school education. Which three States were selected under this initiative?
(a) Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya
(b) Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
(c) Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka

Passage: With the E85 fuel launched at an Indian Oil retail outlet in New Delhi last week, the Union government is pushing ethanol blending in fuel as a means to reduce import cost in times of present West Asia crisis, and reduce the dependence of fossil fuel.

The Central Government's aggressive push for higher ethanol blending also falls in consonance with India's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.Till now, the rollout has commenced across 48 Public Sector retail outlets in the country, enabling flex-fuel vehicle users to access this cleaner fuel.

At the launch event of E85 fuel in New Delhi, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural gas Hardeep Singh Puri stated that, Ethanol blending has increased from 1.53% in 2014 to 20% today, with the target achieved five years ahead of schedule, he stated that this transformation has helped save over ₹1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange and substituted nearly 302 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil imports. Ethanol blended petrol is also exempted from central excise duty. At present, India accounts for over 26 crore registered two-wheelers, making it the most dominant form of road transportation in the country. It is followed by approximately 50 lakh registered four-wheelers (including passenger cars, jeeps, taxis, and commercial goods carriers) on its roads.The E85 and E100 are high-ethanol fuel blends, containing higher amounts of anhydrous (water-free) ethanol. While E85 consists of 85% ethanol and 15% petrol, E100 contains 93–95% ethanol. Moreover, E85 fuel is introduced for use in flex-fuel vehicles.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/all-you-need-to-know-about-e85-fuel-what-happens-to-e20-vehicles-fuel-cost-comparison-e85-petrol-fuel-flex-vehicles-in-india/article71087811.ece]

47. Consider the following statements about AIS-171:
I. It deals with safety requirements for type approval of pure ethanol and ethanol-gasoline blended vehicles.
II. It was linked with safety standards notified for ethanol-blended fuels in 2021.
III. It is issued under the Securities Contracts Regulation Act, 1956.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) Only I
(b) Only I and II
(c) Only II and III
(d) All I, II and III

48. According to the biofuel cooperation context around the Global Biofuels Alliance, India, the United States, and Brazil collectively account for approximately what share of global ethanol production?
(a) 55% (b) 70% (c) 85% (d) 95%

49. Ethanol manufacturing units such as molasses-based and grain-based distilleries are classified by CPCB under which industrial pollution category?
(a) White Category (b) Green Category (c) Orange Category (d) Red Category

50. Which portal has been developed to monitor the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme in India?
(a) PRANA portal (b) SAMEER portal (c) PARIVESH portal (d) VAHAN portal

51. The Global Biofuels Alliance was launched on the sidelines of which event?
(a) COP28 Summit, Dubai
(b) G20 Summit, New Delhi
(c) BRICS Summit, Johannesburg
(d) World Economic Forum, Davos

52. Which of the following is correct about India's National Air Quality Index?
(a) It uses colour-coded categories and includes PM2.5 and PM10 among its pollutants.
(b) It was launched under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to monitor hospital data.
(c) It excludes particulate matter and focuses only on gaseous pollutants such as ozone.
(d) It was designed only for industrial areas and not for public air quality information.

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: Negligence, derived from the Latin word negligentia, is a fundamental concept in the Law of Torts, representing a failure to exercise the standard of care expected in a particular situation. This failure can result in various forms of damage, including physical injury, financial loss, or damage to property, making the negligent party legally liable. In legal discourse, negligence encompasses three forms: nonfeasance (failure to act), misfeasance (improper performance of an act), and malfeasance (performing an act that should not have been done at all). Each type reflects different ways in which a duty of care can be breached, leading to potential liability.

The tort of negligence is predicated on six essential elements, each of which contributes to establishing liability:

1. **Duty of Care:** This foundational element requires that a person owes a legal duty of care toward others in their actions. This duty is not merely moral or ethical but is recognized by law under specific circumstances.
2. **Breach of Duty:** Once a duty is established, it must be shown that the defendant failed to honor this duty through their actions or inactions. This breach could be failing to secure a property.
3. **Cause in Fact:** The plaintiff must demonstrate that the defendant's breach directly caused the damage, where the damage would not have occurred but for the defendant's actions.
4. **Proximate Cause:** The harm caused must be a foreseeable result of the defendant's actions, a principle that delimits the scope of the defendant's responsibility to the consequences that could be reasonably anticipated.
5. **Damages:** Actual damages resulting from the breach are necessary for a negligence claim. These could range from bodily harm to economic losses, necessitating clear evidence of harm.
6. **Res Ipsa Loquitur:** This principle shifts the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the defendant under certain conditions, suggesting that the facts of the incident imply negligence. Each of these elements plays a crucial role in determining liability under negligence. The nuances of these elements are critical in both understanding and litigating negligence, emphasizing the complexity and context-specific nature of tort law.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "https://blog.ipleaders.in/negligence-in-the-law-of-torts/"]

53. Sanya runs a paid pottery studio in Jaipur where customers are allowed to use basic tools under staff supervision. During a weekend workshop, she permitted participants to enter the kiln room to collect their finished pieces. The floor near the kiln room had become wet because of a leaking water pipe, but no warning board was placed and the area was not blocked. A participant, Radhika, slipped on the wet floor and fractured her wrist. Sanya argues that she never personally guaranteed the safety of each participant. Radhika now sues Sanya for negligence. Is Sanya liable?
(a) Yes, because Sanya permitted participants to use that area and owed them a legal duty regarding safe access.
(b) No, because Radhika entered the kiln room to collect items and had to take care while walking there.
(c) Yes, because the workshop involved tools and kilns, so liability follows from the risky nature of the activity.
(d) No, because the leak came from a pipe defect rather than from Sanya's direct handling of the floor.

54. Nitin owns a small guesthouse in Shimla. A maintenance worker informed him that the wooden railing on the first-floor staircase was loose and needed immediate repair. Nitin postponed the repair because the tourist season was busy and he did not want to close the staircase. Two days later, a guest named Armaan

used the staircase, held the railing for support, and fell when the railing came off. Armaan suffered injuries and sues Nitin for negligence. Is Nitin liable?
(a) Yes, because an injury inside a guesthouse indicates that the property was not maintained carefully.
(b) No, because Armaan used the railing for support without first checking whether it was stable.
(c) Yes, because Nitin knew the railing was loose and still kept the staircase open for guest use.
(d) No, because the railing failed when Armaan leaned on it, which was the immediate trigger.

55. Aditi owns a grocery store in Indore. One morning, a bottle of cooking oil fell in one aisle, leaving the floor slippery. Aditi noticed the spill but delayed cleaning it for fifteen minutes. Before any customer entered that aisle, a ceiling fan in another part of the store suddenly fell because of a hidden manufacturing defect and injured Kavya. Kavya sues Aditi for negligence, claiming that Aditi had failed to maintain safe store conditions. Is Aditi liable for Kavya's injury?
(a) Yes, because Aditi's delay in cleaning the spill showed a breach of store safety duties.
(b) No, because Kavya was injured by the fan defect rather than the uncleared oil spill.
(c) Yes, because unsafe maintenance in one aisle can support a claim for injuries inside the store.
(d) No, because Kavya's injury occurred before Aditi had reasonable time to clean the spill.

56. Harsh stores large quantities of flammable paint and thinner in the basement of his commercial building in Surat. The storage area has poor ventilation and an outdated fire-control system, though Harsh had been advised to upgrade it. One afternoon, fumes accumulated and caused an explosion. Meera, who lived in the adjoining building, was injured by flying glass. Due to the road closure caused by the explosion, Rohan, who lived several kilometres away, missed a business meeting and lost a major contract. Meera and Rohan both sue Harsh for negligence. Is Harsh liable?
(a) Yes, for Meera's injury, but not Rohan's loss, because proximity and foreseeability differ in the two claims.
(b) Yes, for both claims, because the explosion created physical disruption and economic loss in the same sequence.
(c) No, for both claims, because accumulated fumes rather than Harsh's direct act produced the explosion.
(d) No, for Meera's claim, but yes for Rohan's claim, because business loss followed the road closure.

57. Raghav owns a commercial laundry in Bengaluru. A steam boiler in the laundry was serviced by Trident Repairs one week before it exploded during normal operation. The blast injured two workers standing nearby. A later inspection showed that the pressure valve had been wrongly fitted during servicing. Raghav had used the boiler normally after repair and had received no warning about any defect. The injured workers sue Trident Repairs for negligence. Can negligence be inferred against Trident Repairs?
(a) No, because an explosion during normal use still requires direct evidence of each careless step.
(b) No, because the injured workers must identify the technician who fitted the valve before suing.
(c) Yes, because the boiler was used in a commercial laundry and equipment safety was expected from the owner.
(d) Yes, because the recent servicing and wrongly fitted pressure valve allow an inference against Trident Repairs.

58. In which of the following situations would the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur most likely not apply?
i. A patient is admitted for a routine appendix surgery. After the operation, she discovers a deep burn mark on her thigh, although the thigh was not part of the surgical area. The patient was unconscious throughout the procedure, and the surgical equipment, heating pads, and sterilisation devices were under the exclusive control of the hospital staff.
ii. A customer enters a departmental store during normal working hours. While walking through the crockery section, a heavy glass shelf fixed to the wall suddenly collapses and falls on him. The store had installed the

shelf, stocked it with glass bowls, and controlled access to the display area. No customer had touched the shelf immediately before the collapse.
iii. A visitor is walking inside a public park during a sudden and unusually severe storm. A large tree branch breaks and falls on him within minutes of the storm intensifying. The municipal records show that the tree had been inspected recently, no visible decay or weakness had been reported, and the branch fell during unusually strong winds.
iv. A passenger boards an amusement-park mini-train operated by park staff. While the train is moving slowly on its fixed track, one wheel detaches and the compartment tilts, injuring the passenger. The passenger had no access to the wheels, track, or maintenance system, and the ride was operated entirely by park employees.
(a) Situation i only.
(b) Situation ii only.
(c) Situation iii only.
(d) Situation iv only.

Passage: A negotiable instrument is a vital tool in the financial and commercial world, providing a written, transferable contract that promises a sum of money to a specific payee. Designed for ease and certainty, these instruments offer security and convenience for businesses and individuals alike. Whether in the form of promissory notes, bills of exchange, or cheques, they carry essential features and legal guarantees, making them widely accepted for transactions.

The key features of a negotiable instrument highlight its accessibility and utility. One of the most notable is its ease of transfer, allowing ownership to be passed without formalities or excessive paperwork. The instrument must also be in writing, whether handwritten, printed, or typed, to maintain legality and clarity. Additionally, the time of payment must be certain, ensuring that payment will occur at a definite time or event. For instance, an instrument specifying payment upon the death of a person remains valid, as death is an inevitable, defined event. Finally, the payee—the person receiving the payment—must be specified, whether an individual or an entity like a company or trade union, giving assurance of the recipient’s legitimacy.

Among the common types of negotiable instruments, each has unique characteristics serving different purposes. A promissory note involves a debtor's unconditional promise to pay a specific amount to a creditor within a set timeframe, making it ideal for straightforward loan arrangements. Bills of exchange are another form, directing a debtor to pay a specified amount to a payee on demand or at a future date. In this case, the drawer (creditor) instructs the drawee (debtor), adding a layer of accountability. Cheques, a widely used negotiable instrument, act as bills of exchange with a bank as the drawee, making them payable on demand. This allows individuals to instruct banks to pay a specified amount to the bearer or payee as listed, providing a secure way to handle money without carrying cash.

The advantages of negotiable instruments are diverse and situationally beneficial. Promissory notes are straightforward and useful for short-term loans, with simple terms and minimal formalities. Bills of exchange benefit businesses as they are easily transferable and allow for straightforward payment methods, offering a clear crediting structure for trade. Cheques stand out for convenience, allowing payees to cash or deposit payments on demand. A cheque’s functionality extends further by permitting the depositor to stop payment if necessary, offering additional security against fraud or error. Additionally, post-dated cheques provide flexibility in handling future transactions.

As negotiable instruments streamline transactions across industries, their legal backing ensures that they remain trustworthy tools within daily financial practices. Their defined structure, ease of transfer, and adaptability make them fundamental in supporting modern commerce, safeguarding both the interests of payers and payees.

59. Devendra signs a note promising to pay ₹6 lakhs to his friend, Kabir. The note states that the amount will be paid “after the successful launch of Devendra’s mobile application.” The application is still awaiting regulatory permissions, investor approval, and market release. After eighteen months, Kabir seeks to enforce the note. Devendra argues that the launch of the application is a business event and can be objectively identified once it happens. Kabir argues that the time of payment is uncertain because the launch may be delayed, abandoned, or may not qualify as “successful.” Is the note enforceable as a negotiable instrument?
(a) Yes, because a business launch is a future event that can be identified through commercial records.
(b) No, because payment depends on an event that has no definite or inevitable time of occurrence.
(c) Yes, because the amount and the payee are clear, making the timing clause workable.
(d) No, because the note does not mention a calendar date for repayment by Devendra.

60. Pranav, a trader in Lucknow, tells his associate, Ishan, in the presence of two employees that he will pay ₹2 lakhs after the next shipment is received. Pranav asks his accountant to prepare a written instrument later, but no written document is ever prepared, whether handwritten, printed, or typed. Ishan claims that the oral instruction should be treated as a negotiable instrument because witnesses heard the promise and the amount was clear. Pranav refuses, stating that an oral instruction cannot operate as a negotiable instrument. Is Pranav’s oral instruction valid as a negotiable instrument?
(a) Yes, because the amount was stated clearly and the promise was made before witnesses.
(b) No, because the promise was never reduced into a handwritten, printed, or typed form.
(c) Yes, because the accountant was instructed to prepare the written record later.
(d) No, because the payment was linked to receipt of the next business shipment.

61. Ritesh, a real-estate developer, issues a note for ₹8 lakhs after a factory closure in Nagpur. The note states that the amount will be paid “for the relief of workers affected by the closure.” It does not name any worker, welfare association, company, trade union, trustee, or representative body as the recipient. After three months, a local workers’ association approaches Ritesh and demands payment, claiming that it represents the affected workers. Ritesh refuses, arguing that the note does not specify the payee. Is the note enforceable as a negotiable instrument?
(a) Yes, because the affected workers can be identified from the factory closure records.
(b) Yes, because the workers’ association can receive the amount for worker relief.
(c) No, because the note does not specify any individual or entity as the payee.
(d) No, because the phrase used in the note reflects a charitable intention.

62. Nisha borrows ₹4 lakhs from her cousin, Varun, to expand her home-baking business. She signs a note stating, “I, Nisha, promise to pay Varun ₹4 lakhs when my business earns enough profit to comfortably repay the loan.” After a year, Varun asks for repayment. Nisha refuses, saying that her business has grown but has not reached the level of profit she had in mind. Varun argues that the note should still be treated as a promissory note because the debt, amount, and creditor are clearly mentioned. Is Nisha’s note valid as a promissory note?
(a) No, because repayment depends on Nisha’s business becoming profitable enough.
(b) Yes, because Nisha acknowledged the debt and identified Varun as the creditor.
(c) Yes, because the note mentions a fixed amount and records a loan arrangement.
(d) No, because repayment was not demanded within a set period after signing.

63. Farhan supplies kitchen equipment to restaurants. He issues a bill of exchange directing Pearl Café to pay ₹3 lakhs to his supplier, Mahavir Traders, after 90 days. Farhan signs the bill as drawer and sends it to Pearl Café for acceptance. The manager of Pearl Café signs the bill but writes below the signature: "Payment will be made if sufficient funds remain available after seasonal expenses." Farhan argues that the bill should remain valid because Pearl Café has signed and accepted it. Pearl Café argues that the added condition affects the nature of the payment direction. Is the bill valid as a bill of exchange?
(a) Yes, because seasonal expenses are a business factor capable of later calculation.
(b) Yes, because Pearl Café accepted the bill and Mahavir Traders was named as payee.
(c) No, because a bill payable after 90 days cannot operate as a bill of exchange.
(d) No, because the added words make payment depend on Pearl Café's future fund position.

64.Which of the following statements is NOT correct as per the passage?
(a) A negotiable instrument is meant to be easily transferable, so its ownership may pass without elaborate paperwork.
(b) A negotiable instrument must be recorded in writing, and such writing may be handwritten, printed, or typed.
(c) A payment linked to a person's death may still be treated as certain because death is an inevitable event.
(d) A cheque is a promissory note in which the bank promises to pay the holder at a future date.

Passage: Audi Alteram Partem is a fundamental principle of natural justice, translating to "hear the other side." This maxim ensures fairness in legal and administrative proceedings by requiring that all parties in a dispute have the opportunity to present their case before a decision is made. Central to upholding justice and preventing arbitrary decisions, Audi Alteram Partem is essential in Administrative Law.

Notice is a pivotal element of this principle, serving as a prerequisite for a fair trial by informing individuals about actions proposed against them, the charges, and the details of the hearing. The importance of clear and unambiguous notice was highlighted in cases like Punjab National Bank v. All India Bank Employees Federation and Keshav Mills Co. Ltd. v. Union of India, where unclear notices were deemed invalid.

The requirement for a fair hearing is integral, ensuring that parties can present their cases fully. Harbans Lal v Commissioner and others emphasized that not providing a fair hearing renders decisions void. The presence of both parties during the presentation of evidence is crucial, as established in Stafford v Minister of Health, ensuring transparency and fairness.

Cross-examination allows parties to challenge evidence against them. However, cases like Kanungo & Co. v Collector of Customs show that this may not always be necessary under specific statutes, like the Sea Customs Act. Meanwhile, legal representation, though not always mandatory in administrative proceedings, is often essential for understanding legal complexities, as seen in J.J. Mody v State of Bombay and Krishna Chandra v Union of India.

Exceptions to Audi Alteram Partem occur under certain conditions, like statutory exclusion, where the law itself may not necessitate a hearing, and impracticability, where holding a hearing is not feasible. Legislative functions and certain administrative actions may also not require adherence to this rule if they involve broader public interests rather than individual rights.

The principle is also adjusted in specific contexts such as academic evaluations and inter-disciplinary actions, where a formal hearing might not contribute significantly to the decision-making process. For instance, in

Jawaharlal Nehru University v. B.S. Narwal, the Supreme Court acknowledged that academic assessments might not always need a conventional application of natural justice.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://lawbhoomi.com/audi-alteram-partem-in-administrative-law/

65. Vivek, a civil contractor, applies for a municipal contract to restore an old bridge in Kochi. The tender document contains technical clauses on safety standards, insurance, environmental compliance, and penalty provisions. Vivek decides not to consult a lawyer because he believes his engineering experience is sufficient. After the contract is awarded to him, the municipality imposes penalties for non-compliance with certain legal conditions in the tender. Vivek challenges the penalty, arguing that the municipality should have advised him to take legal assistance before participating in the tender process. Is Vivek likely to succeed?
(a) Yes, because the tender involved legal clauses that required the municipality to guide the applicants.
(b) No, because legal assistance may have helped Vivek, but it was not compulsory in the process.
(c) Yes, because technical applicants cannot be expected to understand legal consequences in tenders.
(d) No, because legal representation is relevant only after penalties are imposed by the authority.

66. Kavya, a senior officer in a public housing authority, is accused of approving allotments in favour of ineligible applicants. She receives a short email asking her to attend a "review meeting regarding irregularities in allotment files." The email does not mention the specific files, the charges against her, the evidence to be used, or whether the meeting will decide disciplinary action. At the meeting, documents are placed before the committee and Kavya is asked to respond immediately. She requests time to study the allegations, but the committee proceeds and recommends her dismissal. Kavya challenges the dismissal on the ground of violation of Audi Alteram Partem. Is her challenge likely to succeed?
(a) Yes, because the notice did not clearly inform Kavya of the charges and hearing details.
(b) No, because Kavya attended the meeting and was allowed to speak before the committee.
(c) Yes, because disciplinary action cannot be taken through an internal committee process.
(d) No, because allotment irregularities justify a shorter process in a public authority.

67. Professor Raghav heads the Department of Economics at a private university. Several students complain that their dissertation marks were lower because the evaluation panel relied on factors such as originality of research, clarity of argument, and viva performance. The university appoints an academic review committee to re-evaluate the grading pattern. The committee examines the dissertations, marking rubrics, and viva records, but does not give Professor Raghav a formal personal hearing. Professor Raghav challenges the review process, arguing that he should have been heard before the committee made academic findings. Is his challenge likely to succeed?
(a) Yes, because a formal hearing should precede findings that question a professor's assessment.
(b) No, because academic evaluation may not require a conventional hearing in each review.
(c) Yes, because the review concerned student complaints and affected the professor's reputation.
(d) No, because university committees can decide academic disputes without procedural fairness.

68. The State Government announces a coastal protection project after repeated cyclone damage in Odisha. The project involves constructing a long sea wall and relocating several fishing households from a high-risk zone. The governing statute allows urgent action in notified disaster-protection projects and does not require individual pre-decision hearings where delay would affect public safety. Because of the scale of relocation and the urgent timeline before the cyclone season, the government proceeds without separate hearings for each household. A group of residents challenges the action, claiming that Audi Alteram Partem required individual hearings before relocation. Is the government's decision likely to be upheld?

(a) Yes, because public safety projects are treated as legislative functions in such cases.
(b) No, because relocation of families requires personal hearings before the project begins.
(c) Yes, because the statute and urgent conditions support an exception to individual hearings.
(d) No, because disaster planning cannot affect individual rights without prior consultation.

69. Samar imports specialised camera equipment through Chennai Port. The Customs Department alleges that he undervalued the goods to reduce duty. A notice is issued, and Samar is given a hearing. During the hearing, the customs officer relies on invoices and supplier records obtained from abroad. Samar asks to cross-examine the foreign suppliers and also says he should have been provided a lawyer because customs valuation is legally complex. The officer denies cross-examination, relying on the statutory procedure permitting documentary reliance in such matters. Samar challenges the proceeding.

Which of the following statements is/are most consistent with the passage?
I. The denial of cross-examination may be valid where the relevant statute permits reliance on documentary material.
II. Legal representation may be useful in complex proceedings, though it may not be compulsory in such matters.
III. Cross-examination becomes necessary whenever documentary evidence affects the person facing proceedings.
IV. A party can claim legal representation as a required feature in administrative proceedings of this kind.

(a) Only I and II are consistent.
(b) Only I and III are consistent.
(c) Only II and IV are consistent.
(d) Only III and IV are consistent.

Passage: The doctrine of priority, codified in Section 48 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA), is a crucial legal concept that determines the precedence of rights among conflicting interests over the same immovable property. This doctrine is essential when a transferor deals with the same property with different parties at different times, offering a method to resolve potential legal conflicts efficiently.

Grounded in the Principles of Natural Justice, the doctrine of priority adheres to the maxim "qui prior est tempore potior est jure," meaning "he who is first in time is stronger in law." This principle applies when the equities of the parties involved are otherwise equal, implying that the first transferee in time will have superior legal rights over subsequent transferees.

Section 48 of the TPA establishes that no individual can transfer better title than they possess. If a property is transferred multiple times, each subsequent transferee receives only the rights their predecessor had. This absolute rule protects transferees who may not be aware of prior transactions. The doctrine primarily applies to immovable property and hinges on the chronological sequence of the transfers.

An illustration of this doctrine's application is when a property owner, A, mortgages a property to B in August and then sells the same property to C in July of the following year. According to the rule of priority, B's rights supersede C’s due to the earlier transfer.

One notable aspect of the doctrine is that the registration of a document does not inherently affect the rights established by prior transfers. Even if a prior transferee's document is unregistered, it holds precedence over a later registered transfer, unless the latter was made in good faith and without knowledge of the earlier transaction. This principle was affirmed in the landmark case of Duraiswami Reddi v. Angappa Reddi (1945), where it was held that the rights of a prior transferee are enforceable regardless of the registration status of their documents.

There are exceptions to the doctrine of priority. For instance, Section 78 of the TPA stipulates that if a prior mortgagee commits fraud or gross negligence, they may be deferred in favor of subsequent mortgagees. Additionally, non-compliance with legal procedures in a prior transfer can lead to preference being given to a subsequent transfer that complies with the law.

The doctrine of priority also has implications in the context of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, particularly regarding the rights of secured creditors during the liquidation process. The case of ICICI Bank v. SIDCO Leather (2006) highlighted that the provisions of Section 48 of the TPA are deemed to be considered by the courts even in the liquidation scenarios, ensuring that the claims of first charge holders take precedence over others.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://blog.ipleaders.in/doctrine-of-priority-all-you-need-to-know/

70. Amit, a real estate developer, secured a mortgage on a commercial property from XYZ Bank in January 2018 to finance an upcoming project. The terms were standard, and the mortgage was duly registered. However, due to unexpected financial difficulties, Amit was unable to commence the project as planned. In December 2018, he obtained a second mortgage from ABC Finance to restart his stalled project, unaware that XYZ Bank had deliberately withheld crucial information about an impending zoning law change that could significantly affect the property's value. In early 2019, the zoning law change came into effect, severely restricting the type of development permitted on the property, which drastically reduced its market value. Both lenders sought to foreclose on the property due to Amit's continued financial struggles. ABC Finance, upon discovering the earlier nondisclosure by XYZ Bank, argued that their mortgage should take precedence due to XYZ Bank's fraudulent behavior in concealing the zoning change information. Determine the likely outcome of this dispute:
(a) Amit can request to annul both mortgages due to the fraudulent actions by XYZ Bank, relieving him from further obligations to both lenders.
(b) XYZ Bank's mortgage will retain precedence because the doctrine of priority is absolute, regardless of any fraudulent actions by the mortgagee.
(c) ABC Finance's mortgage will take precedence because XYZ Bank's nondisclosure of the zoning law change constitutes fraud, potentially deferring their priority.
(d) ABC Finance’s claim will not take precedence because the fraud must directly relate to the execution of the mortgage, not external factors like zoning laws.

71. Rajesh, a retired banker, decided to invest in a piece of land in his hometown. In January 2020, he entered into an agreement with Mr. Sharma, the landowner, and paid the full price upfront. However, due to some oversight, the transfer documents were not registered, though a proper sale deed was executed and signed by both parties. Later, in December 2020, Mr. Sharma, facing financial difficulties, sold the same land to Mr. Gupta, who was unaware of the prior transaction and bought the land without any due diligence in good faith. Mr. Gupta promptly registered the land in his name in January 2021. Upon discovering this second sale, Rajesh filed a lawsuit to assert his ownership, citing the original unregistered sale deed with Mr. Sharma. Mr. Gupta, now facing the possibility of losing the land, argues that his registered deed should take precedence since he was unaware of Rajesh's earlier transaction. Will Rajesh succeed?
(a) Yes, Rajesh's claim will likely succeed because his unregistered sale deed predates Mr. Gupta’s registered deed, and the principle affirms that first in time is first in right.

(b) No, Mr. Gupta's registered document will take precedence because registration of property always overrides any prior unregistered documents, regardless of the timing.
(c) Yes, Rajesh's claim will likely fail because his failure to register the document means he has no legal claim to the property.
(d) No, Mr. Gupta's claim will prevail because he acted in good faith and was not aware of Rajesh's prior transaction at the time of his purchase.

72. Mr. Arjun purchased a small commercial shop from Mr. Bhatia in January 2020 through a written sale agreement. The agreement was not registered, but possession of the shop was handed over to Mr. Arjun immediately. In May 2020, Mr. Bhatia again sold the same shop to Ms. Chitra through a registered sale deed. Ms. Chitra later claimed that her registered document should prevail over Mr. Arjun's earlier unregistered transaction. Mr. Arjun approaches the court, relying on the doctrine "qui prior est tempore potior est jure." Evaluate whose claim is likely to prevail under the doctrine of priority.
(a) Mr. Arjun, because his interest in the same immovable property was created earlier in time.
(b) Ms. Chitra, because registration by itself always defeats an earlier unregistered interest.
(c) Ms. Chitra, because a later sale deed creates a fresh title unaffected by earlier dealings.
(d) Mr. Arjun, because possession alone gives ownership even without any prior transaction.

73. Considering the doctrine of priority as described in Section 48 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA), which of the following scenarios correctly applies this legal principle?
(a) A property owner, A, sells a property to B in January and then to C in March of the same year; B's transfer is registered before C's. B's rights are superior due to the earlier transfer and registration.
(b) A property owner, A, sells a property to B in January without any formal registration, and then sells the same property to C in February, with C registering the transfer immediately. C's rights supersede B's because of the registration.
(c) A property owner, A, sells a property to B in January and then to C in March of the same year; C, unaware of B's prior purchase, registers his deed first, giving him superior rights.
(d) A property owner, A, sells a property to B in January and then to C in March of the same year; despite C's transfer being registered first, B's rights are superior due to the earlier transfer.

74. In the context of the doctrine of priority as outlined in Section 48 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (TPA), which of the following statements accurately reflects the legal precedence when multiple parties have conflicting interests over the same immovable property?
(a) A property can be transferred multiple times with each subsequent transferee gaining absolute rights over the property, regardless of prior transfers.
(b) Registration of the transfer document automatically grants superiority over any prior unregistered transfers.
(c) Even if a prior transferee's document is unregistered, it holds precedence over a later registered transfer, provided the latter was made without knowledge of the earlier transaction.
(d) A transferee can transfer a better title than they possess if the subsequent transfer is done in good faith.

Passage: In a landmark ruling on August 23, the Supreme Court of India declared that the relaxed bail provisions for first-time offenders under the new Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) will apply retrospectively. This decision enables first-time offenders, detained in pending criminal cases before the BNSS's enactment on July 1, to benefit from its provisions and potentially be released on bail.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, replacing the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, includes updated guidelines aimed at reducing the detention period for first-time offenders. According to Section 479 of the

BNSS, such individuals are to be released on bond if they have been detained for up to one-third of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offense. This is a shift from the previous stipulation under Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code, which allowed undertrial release only after serving half the maximum sentence, excluding cases involving capital punishment or life imprisonment.

This ruling comes against the backdrop of overcrowded prisons—a chronic issue in India. The National Crime Records Bureau's 2022 report highlights a staggering 131.4% occupancy rate in India's 1,330 prisons. Remarkably, about 75% of these inmates are undertrials, underscoring a systemic reliance on pre-trial detention.

The case, initiated by a PIL concerning inhuman conditions in 1382 prisons, has been under the Supreme Court's scrutiny since 2013. The court, recognizing the urgency to address prison overcrowding and the plight of undertrial prisoners, received submissions from Senior Advocate Gaurav Agrawal, appointed as amicus curiae. Agrawal emphasized the immediate need for implementing Section 479 of the BNSS to alleviate these conditions.

In response to these discussions, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the court of the Union of India's agreement on the necessity of this provision's full and retrospective application. She confirmed that any undertrial who has completed up to one-third of their maximum potential sentence should be considered for release under the new law.

This Supreme Court decision marks a significant step towards reforming the criminal justice system in India, particularly in terms of how undertrial prisoners are treated. By applying these provisions retrospectively, the court aims to not only reduce prison overcrowding but also uphold the principles of justice and fairness, providing a legal remedy for those who might have been disproportionately affected under the older legal framework.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/sc-bail-undertrials-bnss-9535391/

75. Rohan, a 28-year-old IT professional, was arrested for alleged embezzlement within his company in January 2021. He has never been convicted of any offence in the past. He has remained in pre-trial detention since his arrest, and the alleged offence carries a maximum sentence of 9 years. After the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 came into force on 1 July 2024, Rohan seeks release under Section 479 BNSS, relying on the Supreme Court's ruling that the beneficial provision applies even to pending cases registered before 1 July 2024. Assess whether he is likely eligible for release under Section 479 BNSS.
(a) Yes, since he is a first-time offender and his pre-trial custody exceeds one-third of the nine-year maximum.
(b) No, since the one-third rule is confined to offences carrying a maximum punishment below seven years.
(c) No, since custody undergone before 1 July 2024 cannot be counted while applying Section 479 BNSS.
(d) Yes, since crossing one-third is sufficient and the first-time offender condition adds no separate requirement.

76. Manish, a 30-year-old graphic designer, was arrested on suspicion of intellectual property theft related to a software development project. The offense, if proven, carries a maximum sentence of 6 years. Arrested in March 2021, Manish has been in detention without a trial since then. With the enactment of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in July 2023, which introduces new guidelines for the bail of first-time offenders, Manish seeks to apply for bail. He has been detained for over two years. Manish's lawyer argues that under Section 479 of the BNSS, which allows first-time offenders who have served up to one-third of their

maximum sentence to be released on bond, Manish qualifies for bail. Given this scenario, determine if Manish is likely to be granted bail:

(a) Yes, because he has served more than one-third of the maximum sentence, aligning with the criteria set by Section 479 of the BNSS for bail eligibility.

(b) No, because the crime of intellectual property theft is specifically excluded from the relaxed bail provisions under the BNSS.

(c) Yes, because the retrospective application of the BNSS provisions ensures that all first-time offenders detained before its enactment are eligible for bail.

(d) No, because detention duration alone does not automatically qualify an offender for bail under the BNSS.

77. Based on the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita's (BNSS) new provisions, which of the following individuals would be eligible for release on bond under Section 479, if detained before the BNSS's enactment on July 1?

(a) Mr. A, a first-time offender detained for 3 years, where the maximum sentence is 9 years.

(b) Mr. B, detained as a habitual offender for a crime with a maximum sentence of 10 years.

(c) Mr. C, a first-time offender detained for 2 years for a crime punishable by life imprisonment.

(d) All of the above.

78. Based on the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita's (BNSS) provision regarding bail for first-time offenders, which of the following scenarios best aligns with the eligibility for retrospective application of this law?

(a) A first-time offender detained since January 1 of the previous year, with a maximum sentence of 6 years, detained for 2 years.

(b) A repeat offender detained for 4 years where the maximum sentence for their offense is 10 years.

(c) A first-time offender detained for 1 year for a crime with a maximum sentence of 2 years.

(d) Both (a) and (c).

79. Under the retrospective application of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for bail Under the retrospective application of Section 479 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, how would the relaxed bail provision affect a first-time offender detained before the BNSS came into force?

(a) A first-time offender detained for any period becomes entitled to release, regardless of the punishment prescribed for the offence.

(b) A first-time offender who has completed one-third of the maximum imprisonment for an offence not punishable with death or life imprisonment may be released on bond by the Court.

(c) A first-time offender can claim release only after completing half of the maximum imprisonment prescribed for the offence.

(d) A first-time offender can claim release only if the criminal case was registered after the BNSS came into force.

Passage: The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 sets specific criteria that must be met for a marriage to be recognized legally among Hindus. Section 5 of the Act mandates that both parties involved in the marriage must be Hindus. This was clearly emphasized in the case of Yamunabai Anant Rao Adhav v. Anant Rao Shivaram Adhav (1988), which stated that marriages performed under this Act could only occur between two Hindus, thus excluding interfaith marriages.

Another critical aspect of the Act is the requirement for soundness of mind and legal consent, as outlined in Section 5(ii)(a). Both parties must be capable of giving valid consent, meaning they should not be suffering from any form of mental disorder or unsoundness of mind. Cases like Alka Sharma v. Chandra Sharma (1991) highlight the implications of mental health on marital validity, with the marriage being annulled due to one party's severe anxiety and irrational behavior.

The Act also addresses the conditions of monogamy and age requirements for a lawful Hindu marriage. Section 5(i) prohibits polygamy, stating that a marriage will be considered null and void if either party has a living spouse. Moreover, under Section 5(iii), the bride and groom must meet the minimum age requirements of 18 and 21 years, respectively. Violations of these age requirements, while not rendering the marriage void, can lead to penalties as per Section 18 of the Act, including imprisonment or fines.

Prohibitions against marrying within certain familial bounds are also specified under the Act. Sections 5(v) and 5(iv) restrict Sapinda relationships and other prohibited degrees of relationships, respectively. These sections ensure that marriages do not occur within close familial lines, upholding societal norms and genetic diversity. Customary practices that allow such marriages must be proven to be certain, reasonable, and in alignment with public policy.

Finally, the Act stipulates that all Hindu marriages must be solemnized according to the customary rites and ceremonies of at least one of the parties involved. This is covered under Section 7, which points to the importance of traditional practices like the saptapadi (seven steps), essential for the completion of the marriage ceremony. Through these regulations, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, seeks to uphold both the legal and cultural integrity of Hindu marriages, ensuring that these unions are respected and recognized under the law while maintaining adherence to traditional values and practices.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "https://lawbhoomi.com/essentials-of-a-valid-marriage-under-the-hindu-marriage-act-1955/"]

80. Avinash and Nisha, both practicing Hindus, have been in a loving relationship for over three years. Avinash, having been raised in a Hindu family, is legally recognized as a Hindu. Nisha, originally born into a Christian family, converted to Hinduism one year prior to their relationship, undergoing all requisite religious conversion procedures and rituals. They decide to marry under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, with the full support of both families. However, Nisha's Christian uncle challenges the validity of the marriage, claiming that Nisha's conversion is not genuine and thus she should not be considered a Hindu under the law. Which of the following options is correct concerning the validity of Avinash and Nisha's marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955?
(a) The marriage is invalid because Nisha was not born a Hindu and her conversion may not be recognized legally.
(b) The marriage is valid because Nisha underwent all requisite religious conversion procedures to Hinduism.
(c) The marriage is invalid because conversions to Hinduism are not recognized under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
(d) The marriage is valid only if the conversion is recognized by Nisha's original Christian community.

81. Rohit and Meena, both of sound mind and health, decided to get married under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Two days before the wedding, Meena was involved in a serious car accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury. Although she seemed to recover physically, her cognitive functions were significantly impaired. Rohit, fully aware of Meena's condition, decided to proceed with the marriage as planned. Six months later, Rohit seeks to annul the marriage, claiming that Meena was not capable of giving valid consent at the time due to her mental condition post-accident.
Which of the following options is correct concerning the annulment of the marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955?

(a) The marriage can be annulled because Meena's cognitive functions were impaired, affecting her ability to give valid consent.
(b) The marriage cannot be annulled because the injury occurred just before the wedding, and Rohit was aware of her condition.
(c) The marriage cannot be annulled because Meena was capable of giving valid consent prior to her injury.
(d) The marriage can be annulled only if Meena's condition is permanent and certified by medical professionals.

82. Sanjay and Priya have been married for eight years. Recently, Sanjay, without informing Priya, married another woman, Geeta, under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. Priya discovers the second marriage through a mutual acquaintance and decides to take legal action. Sanjay argues that his marriage to Geeta is valid because he practices a religion that historically accepted polygamy before his conversion to Hinduism, and he believes those cultural practices should still apply. Which of the following options is correct concerning the validity of Sanjay's second marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955?
(a) The marriage is valid because Sanjay's original cultural practices support polygamy.
(b) The marriage is invalid because Sanjay has a living spouse, making the second marriage void under the Hindu Marriage Act.
(c) The marriage is valid because the Hindu Marriage Act allows for the recognition of cultural practices existing prior to conversion.
(d) The marriage is invalid because Geeta was unaware of Sanjay's existing marriage.

83. Vikram, aged 20 years, and Priya, aged 17 years, are Hindus to whom the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 applies. Neither party has a living spouse, both are capable of giving valid consent, and they are not within prohibited degrees of relationship or sapinda relationship. Their families arrange the marriage, and the marriage is solemnized according to customary Hindu rites and ceremonies. Later, a dispute arises regarding the legal consequences of the marriage because both parties had not satisfied the statutory age requirement under Section 5(iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act.
Based on the above scenario, which of the following statements are false regarding the consequences of Vikram and Priya's marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act?
i. The marriage between Vikram and Priya is void due to the violation of age requirements.
ii. Priya, being under the age of 18, could lead to penalties against those who facilitated the marriage.
iii. Vikram, being under the age of 21 but over 18, is considered compliant with the age requirements for a lawful Hindu marriage.
iv. Penalties for violating the age requirements may include imprisonment or fines as specified under Section 18 of the Act.
(a) Statements i and iii
(b) Statement ii
(c) Statements iii and iv
(d) Statements i, ii, and iii

84. In a small village in Rajasthan, Anil and Priya, both members of a local tribe, decided to marry. The tribe has a longstanding custom that allows marriage between cousins to preserve familial lands and wealth within the tribe. This custom has been practiced for generations and is well-documented and recognized among community members. Anil and Priya, who are first cousins, conducted their wedding according to these tribal customs, which are different from typical Hindu ceremonies but are accepted within their community. However, when they tried to register their marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, a local registrar raised concerns about the legality of their union, citing the general prohibitions against marriages between close relatives under the Act.
Which of the following options is correct regarding the validity of Anil and Priya's marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955?

(a) The marriage is valid because it adheres to well-documented and accepted tribal customs that allow for cousin marriages.
(b) The marriage is invalid because marriages between close relatives are generally prohibited under the Hindu Marriage Act, regardless of local customs.
(c) The marriage is valid because the tribal custom predates the enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.
(d) The marriage is invalid because their marriage ceremony did not include traditional Hindu rites, which are necessary under the Act.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Passage: India has suffered multiple mass deaths due to consuming illicit liquor, across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra. The Malwani incident in 2015, which left over 100 people dead, prompted official promises of systemic reform that never fully materialised — neither there nor elsewhere. The Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad tragedy unfolded last week with more than a dozen victims of working-class backgrounds in poor neighbourhoods. Preliminary investigation has revealed a better than ad hoc supply chain with industry-grade methanol — the toxin behind most hooch tragedies— brought from outside the State and mixed with ethanol to produce a highly potent country liquor. The demand for licensed alcohol faces high State taxes, encouraging low-income individuals to turn to illicit liquor. On the other hand, adding industrial methanol increases the batch volume at negligible input cost, dramatically improving margins, although some people under investigation have also said during official questioning that it is not in the interest of 'regular' vendors to poison their 'customers'. Nonetheless, such operations are typically semi-visible local economies that get by on tolerance rather than secrecy, and so allegations of police and local authorities' complicity must be investigated. Early enforcement following most deadly incidents only arrests retail vendors; investigations into upstream suppliers and alleged kingpins have frequently proved uneven or inconclusive.

Indeed, these tragedies recur due to a perfect storm of factors that are able to repeatedly come together. One major regulatory gap in efforts to track methanol downstream is how easily it is pilfered and diverted for illicit liquor. Most victims are daily-wage labourers, and scholars have argued that the physical toll of manual labour creates a demand for cheap relief that, together with economic precarity and addiction, outweighs the wariness of poisonous substances. Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms — including better methanol accounting and affordable alcohol alternatives, required to break the cycle — is often lacking. In a 2024 analysis, public health experts found that higher prices for legal liquor push the poorest consumers toward the illicit market, which accounts for an estimated 40% of alcohol consumption in India. Likewise, total bans as in Bihar and Gujarat could deflect the market to criminal syndicates, where quality control is optional and oversight is poor. Finally, legal reviews have concluded that while the big fish are rarely caught, even those arrested are rarely convicted. Without these improvements, regulatory loopholes and weak enforcement will sustain illicit liquor as a public health crisis.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/perfect-storm-on-illicit-liquor-in-india/article71048857.ece

85. Which of the following best captures the author's argument about the recurring illicit liquor deaths in India?
(a) The deaths reflect poor risk awareness among labourers, so education about methanol should anchor reform.
(b) The deaths recur when poverty-led demand, diverted methanol, official tolerance, and weak prosecution reinforce each other.
(c) The recent tragedy shows taxation has become the key issue, while enforcement failures have a smaller role.
(d) The pattern suggests prohibition needs wider adoption, provided police improve surveillance of informal markets.

86. Which of the following would be necessarily false about the Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad liquor tragedy?
(a) The accused persons' statements introduced a commercial reason why regular vendors might avoid lethal mixing.
(b) The pattern of earlier cases suggests arrests near the point of sale may leave larger actors less examined.
(c) The Pune episode was described as a loose local adulteration case, with organised sourcing treated as unlikely.
(d) The handling of methanol matters because industrial inputs can expand illegal batches at very low cost.

87. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument about legal liquor prices?
(a) When methanol storage logs were audited monthly, fewer toxic batches surfaced despite similar retail prices.

(b) When police raids intensified after deaths, vendors shifted locations and sold through smaller intermediaries.
(c) When awareness meetings increased, many workers still drank after long shifts because abstinence felt difficult.
(d) When regulated low-cost liquor was piloted near labour settlements, illicit purchases declined while incomes stayed similar.

88. Which course of action best follows from the author's concern about semi-visible illicit liquor networks?
(a) Create coordinated probes linking retail sellers, chemical transporters, local officials, and financiers.
(b) Publicise methanol risks through labour contractors while leaving enforcement practices unchanged.
(c) Provide compensation quickly and close inquiries once immediate sellers are taken into custody.
(d) Reduce legal alcohol outlets in affected zones and rely on temporary checkpoints after incidents.

89. An official argues: "Regular vendors were unlikely to have used methanol, since harming customers would damage their future trade." What is the chief flaw in this reasoning?
(a) It treats consumer poverty as evidence that buyers had reliable access to regulated substitutes.
(b) It reads weak conviction records as proof that retail sellers handled the wider chemical chain.
(c) It assumes prohibition can shrink demand without changing the incentives of illegal suppliers.
(d) It assumes repeat business concerns would outweigh gains from cheaply expanding liquor batches.

90. Which conclusion is most strongly supported by the author's view on marginalised victims and reform?
(a) Stronger conviction rates could address demand pressures more effectively than affordability reforms.
(b) Reform efforts may fade after public outrage unless affected communities receive sustained political attention.
(c) Police raids in poor settlements could substitute for broader reforms when vulnerable consumers continue drinking.
(d) Methanol accounting may matter less where licensed liquor remains costly for poorer consumers.

Passage: Mythos access has expanded to more countries including India and organisations, but with the U.S. government's prior scrutiny. What happens if some non-state bad actor takes control of India's financial systems or examination systems or power plants? What can Anthropics even do?

India has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the India Stack, including UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework. But much of it still runs on fragmented legacy back-end systems, especially in public sector units, State departments, and older public sector banks. Critical systems across finance and government still rely on outdated technology. Indian public sector banks continue to run substantial COBOL and Windows Server 2008/2012 workloads.

India has moved quickly in its response, but significant gaps remain. It lacks an AI Safety Institute. While the U.K. and the U.S. have established world-class institutions to evaluate frontier AI systems, India has no dedicated body to test such models against Indian threat scenarios. The IndiaAI Mission is focused primarily on development rather than safety evaluation. India therefore needs a dedicated India AI Safety Institute (IAISI), supported by data-sharing arrangements with the AISI and the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI). Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities.

At the same time, the cybersecurity workforce gap is estimated at more than 6,00,000 professionals. Patch cycles for public sector banks are measured in months, not hours. That is a dangerous mismatch in the Mythos era, where attackers can move at machine speed and exploit vulnerabilities within hours. India needs a frontier AI accountability framework, modelled on California's SB 53 and the EU AI Act but tailored to Indian conditions. Any AI company operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds — such as compute, autonomy, or cyber capability — should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed IAISI. This could be built into the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, since informed consent requires meaningful disclosure of AI risks and capabilities.

The Centre should create a ₹15,000 crore-20,000 crore critical sector cybersecurity upgradation fund, including support for legacy modernisation in public sector banks. It should also fund and co-develop sovereign defensive AI models with domestic deep-tech firms to monitor telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised network segments in real time.

If a Mythos-class model becomes openly downloadable from a non-restraint-adhering lab (Meta has historically published open weights for its frontier models; Chinese labs increasingly do), then no defensive measure short of pre-emptive patching helps. India should lead the diplomatic effort at the G-20 to establish that the release of open-weight models above defined capability thresholds — specifically autonomous offensive cyber capability — should be subject to international notification and review requirements.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/securing-india-against-the-threat-of-a-mythocalypse/article71081835.ece

91. Which of the following can most reasonably be inferred from the author's discussion of India's digital architecture?
(a) India's visible digital success may depend on weaker institutional systems that remain exposed.
(b) India's public digital platforms have reduced the relevance of older banking infrastructure.
(c) India's digital front end is vulnerable because citizens use it more frequently than departments.
(d) India's legacy systems are concerning because they were not designed by domestic firms.

92. Which of the following would most likely result from India not creating the proposed India AI Safety Institute?
(a) India's development missions may receive greater funding than public-sector cyber modernisation.
(b) AI firms may prefer foreign testing bodies because domestic rules remain less demanding.
(c) Frontier model risks may be assessed through frameworks that overlook Indian failure conditions.
(d) Indian regulators may focus more on personal data than on banking system resilience.

93. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's concern about openly downloadable Mythos-class models?
(a) Open model releases can spread across jurisdictions faster than regulators can coordinate review.
(b) Some AI labs publish technical papers while withholding the most sensitive model components.
(c) International norms on frontier AI release are developing more slowly than model capability growth.
(d) Major intrusions still require credentials and system-specific access that layered monitoring can disrupt.

94. What role does the reference to the cybersecurity workforce gap and patch cycles play in the passage?
(a) It explains why India's defensive capacity may not match AI-assisted attack speed.
(b) It suggests that public-sector banks face risks because AI firms avoid disclosure.
(c) It shows that workforce expansion is more urgent than legal accountability for models.
(d) It indicates that cyber threats arise more from staffing gaps than legacy technology.

95. Which of the following is an implicit assumption behind the author's proposal for sovereign defensive AI models?
(a) Domestic deep-tech firms can build models that are less vulnerable than foreign frontier models.
(b) Defensive AI systems can interpret cyber signals quickly enough to help contain attacks in real time.
(c) Public agencies can share sensitive telemetry with private firms without creating governance risks.
(d) Cybersecurity upgrades in banks will become easier once defensive AI models are deployed.

96. Under the author's proposed frontier AI accountability framework, which of the following would necessarily be true?
(a) Foreign model assessments would remain valid after being reviewed by Indian agencies.
(b) Compute thresholds would carry more regulatory weight than autonomy or cyber capability.
(c) Disclosure duties would arise from Indian operation combined with specified model capabilities.
(d) Known harms would be disclosed through diplomatic channels before domestic review begins.

Passage: From juices to breads, the "100%" label is a near-ubiquitous marketing tool meant to assure consumers of a product's unadulterated quality. However, in two separate orders passed this month, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh each on two major food and beverage companies — Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities Ltd and Storia Foods and Beverages Pvt Ltd — for running misleading advertisements and engaging in unfair trade practices by prominently using "100%" claims on their packaging and promotional materials. It also ordered them to immediately discontinue these advertisements.

Central to both cases is the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The CCPA invoked Section 2(28) of the Act, which defines a "misleading advertisement" as one that falsely describes a product, gives a false guarantee or deliberately conceals important information. It also relied on Section 2(47), which defines an "unfair trade practice" as making false representations about the standard, quality or composition of goods.

The regulatory backdrop for these orders was set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). In an advisory issued in May last year, the food regulator noted a growing trend of brands using the "100%" term. The FSSAI underlined that the term is not defined in its advertising regulations and that its use "is likely to convey a false sense of absolute purity or superiority, potentially leading consumers to believe that competing products in the market do not comply with prescribed standards." This false sense of purity was the focal point in the case against Mrs. Bectors Food Specialities Ltd, the makers of English Oven bread. The CCPA took suo-motu cognisance of advertisements for the company's "100% Atta Bread" and "100% Whole Wheat Bread".

During the proceedings, the company admitted that the actual wheat flour (atta) content in the bread was only 87%. However, it defended the "100%" label by arguing that it was meant to convey that wheat flour was the "sole grain source" used, without any refined flour (maida). The company also relied on FSSAI labelling regulations, which state that for a bread to be classified as "Whole Wheat Bread", it must contain a minimum of 75% whole wheat flour. Since their product contained 87%, they argued the label was justified.

The CCPA rejected this, noting that while FSSAI regulations prescribe a minimum 75% threshold to classify a product as atta bread, this cannot be "elevated into a justification for making an unqualified and absolute claim such as '100% Atta Bread'." It observed that an average consumer would reasonably construe the label to mean the product is entirely composed of atta. "The use of the qualifier '100%' is absolute, unequivocal, and admits of no dilution or interpretative flexibility," the CCPA said in its order, adding that a product falling short of this literal meaning renders the claim factually incorrect.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/ccpa-100-percent-food-labels-explained-10756685/

97. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the basis for treating the "100%" label as a misleading advertisement?
(a) The front label gave the atta claim greater prominence than the ingredient details printed elsewhere.
(b) Several rival brands used grain-based claims, although most avoided numerical claims on packaging.
(c) Buyers usually read bread-percentage claims as describing the flour mix, not the product's full recipe.
(d) The campaign highlighted taste and freshness more often than the product's wheat-based formulation.

98. Which of the following is least likely to support the CCPA's finding of an unfair trade practice?
(a) The packaging led buyers to expect higher atta content than the formulation showed.
(b) The recipe met the naming threshold prescribed for whole wheat bread products.
(c) The campaign tied quality to a composition feature not matched by the recipe.
(d) The label used an undefined claim with little context on the main display panel.

99. The passage suggests that "100%" is not defined in FSSAI advertising rules, yet its use still led to regulatory action. Which of the following best resolves this apparent paradox?
(a) A term may remain undefined because regulators expect companies to assign its meaning through internal standards.
(b) A term may be widely used in advertisements because buyers often treat packaging claims with some caution.
(c) A term may be accepted for naming purposes when the product crosses the prescribed ingredient threshold.
(d) A term may lack a fixed food-law definition yet still mislead when its market impression overstates product purity.

100. For the CCPA's rejection of the company's explanation to work, which of the following has to be accepted?
(a) Buyer-facing wording should be judged by market impression, not seller intent.
(b) The remaining ingredients affected the bread's commercial value in a real way.
(c) The recipe differed from the grain profile used by comparable bread brands.
(d) The atta reference appeared with greater emphasis than other product claims.

101. Which of the following most closely follows the same logical structure as the CCPA's rejection of the company's reliance on the 75% threshold?
(a) A snack meets salt-limit rules, yet "light taste" is questioned because buyers may expect better health.
(b) A cereal meets fibre-content rules, yet its price is criticised because buyers may expect premium benefits.
(c) A drink meets fruit-beverage rules, yet "100% fruit" is rejected because the claim exceeds the rule's support.
(d) A sauce meets tomato-sauce rules, yet red packaging is questioned because buyers may expect fresher ingredients.

102. Which course of action would best align with the regulatory reasoning described in the passage?
(a) Retain front-panel claims while placing exact formulation details in a separate information panel.
(b) Align prominent numerical claims with ingredient share and the likely buyer impression created.
(c) Cite category thresholds in advertisements to show the product satisfies naming requirements.
(d) Replace percentage claims with purity-themed wording that avoids ingredient numbers upfront.

Passage: The Indian economy faces a serious dilemma: it continues to record high growth, but has failed to escape the lower-middle-income trap. For the past several years, the Indian government, business leadership, and policy establishment have presented the country's recent rapid growth as one of the most compelling success stories in the contemporary global economy. There is, of course, a strong empirical basis for this claim. India has consistently ranked among the fastest-growing large economies in the world, and since the liberalisation reforms of 1991, it has consistently been among the top performers in the developing world.

Yet the headline claim that India is now the "fastest-growing major economy" requires closer scrutiny. India's rise to this position has not necessarily resulted from a dramatic acceleration in its own growth trajectory. Rather, it has also been enabled by the gradual slowing of China's economy as it matures, ages, and transitions away from the high-growth phase that defined its earlier development.

For much of the period from the 1990s to the late 2010s, China was the world's fastest-growing major economy, often expanding at annual rates of 9 to 10 per cent. India, by contrast, was frequently the second-fastest-growing large economy, but its growth generally remained in the 6 to 8 per cent range. Since 2021, India has more or less inherited the title of the fastest-growing major economy, but not because its own growth rate has significantly accelerated. Rather, India has maintained broadly similar growth rates while China has decelerated to the 4 to 5 per cent range. In this sense, India's new status is as much a consequence of China's slowdown as it is of India's own dynamism.

Three macroeconomic indicators have been central to India's growth narrative: the size of its overall GDP, the rate at which that GDP has grown, and the expansion of India's trade in both goods and services. On all three measures, India's performance has been impressive. Its economy is much larger than it was three decades ago; its growth rate has remained comparatively high; and its integration into the global economy has deepened through rising imports and exports. In FY 2025–26, India's total goods-and-services trade reached roughly $1.84 trillion—more than 40 per cent of the GDP—making it a major trading economy, but one that remains a net importer, with an overall trade deficit of about $119 billion and a much larger merchandise trade deficit of $333 billion. Yet these indicators, while important, are also different ways of describing the same broad fact: the Indian economy has expanded.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://frontline.thehindu.com/economy/india-growth-prosperity-gap/article71146348.ece

103. All of the following can be inferred, Except:
Which of the following cannot be reasonably inferred from the author's treatment of India's growth narrative?
(a) India's growth story may be credible while still requiring a deeper development test.
(b) Public celebration of growth may rest on facts but still leave important gaps.
(c) India's recent growth image may appear stronger when judged against slower peers.
(d) India's growth record shows that its income transition has already been secured.

104. If evidence showed that after 2021 India's growth leadership came from a sharp rise in its own growth while China stayed near its earlier peak growth range, which established fact must be incorrect?
(a) India's post-1991 record placed it among stronger developing economies.
(b) India's recent title emerged while its growth stayed near its earlier pattern.
(c) India's trade profile expanded while retaining a merchandise imbalance.
(d) India's economy became larger through output expansion across decades.

105. What role does the author's discussion of GDP size, GDP growth, and trade expansion play in the passage?
(a) It separates trade performance from the wider debate over India's development.
(b) It shifts the discussion from growth ranking to government spending choices.
(c) It limits the meaning of celebrated indicators by tying them mainly to expansion.
(d) It treats trade figures as a better guide than income or productivity measures.

106. Which of the following most closely supports the fact that India's "fastest-growing major economy" label needs closer scrutiny?
(a) A wider trade base may increase India's exposure to external demand shifts.
(b) A larger GDP may raise visibility without clarifying average income gains.
(c) A reform legacy may support growth while leaving policy gaps unresolved.
(d) A peer economy's loss of pace can improve India's relative growth position.

107. Which of the following is an assumption behind the author's view that India's trade expansion does not, by itself, prove deeper economic transformation?
(a) A merchandise deficit usually matters more than the size of total services trade.
(b) A rise in trade volume may occur without resolving structural limits in the economy.
(c) A country's trade position is best judged by comparing exports with population size.

(d) A larger trade base tends to make growth less dependent on domestic consumption.

108. Which of the following is the strongest conclusion that follows from the passage?
(a) India's trade position offers a better explanation of its income status than growth.
(b) India's ranking reflects China's slowdown more than India's internal economic gains.
(c) India's progress is real, but expansion figures do not settle its development challenge.
(d) India's output expansion has reduced the urgency of structural economic reform.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]:

A Bhopal-based education trust evaluated five students named Kavya, Manav, Nisha, Pranay and Ritu for merit scholarships. Each student had three scores: a written test score out of 80, an interview score out of 40 and a social contribution score out of 30. The final merit score was calculated as 50% of the written test percentage, 30% of the interview percentage and 20% of the social contribution percentage. Kavya scored 64 in the written test, 30 in the interview and 21 in social contribution. Manav scored 58, 34 and 24 respectively. Nisha scored 70, 26 and 18 respectively. Pranay scored 62, 28 and 27 respectively. Ritu scored 56, 36 and 22 respectively. If two students had the same final merit score, the student with the higher social contribution percentage was ranked above the other. The trust also stated that a scholarship amount would not be transferred downward if a student became ineligible due to a minimum score rule.

109.Who was ranked first according to the final merit score and tie-breaking rule?
(a) Kavya
(b) Manav
(c) Ritu
(d) Pranay

110.What is the difference between the highest and the lowest final merit score?
(a) 2.25 marks
(b) 2.50 marks
(c) 2.75 marks
(d) 3.00 marks

111.What is the minimum whole-number increase required in Nisha's interview score so that her final score becomes at least equal to Ritu's final score?
(a) 2 marks
(b) 3 marks
(c) 4 marks
(d) 5 marks

112.If the social contribution weight is reduced from 20% to 10%, and the written test weight is increased from 50% to 60%, while interview weight remains 30%, who gets the highest final score?
(a) Manav
(b) Kavya
(c) Nisha
(d) Ritu

113.The trust gives ₹40,000 to rank 1, ₹30,000 to rank 2, ₹20,000 to rank 3 and ₹10,000 to rank 4. However, a student scoring below 76.6 receives nothing, and the amount is not transferred downward. How much scholarship money remains unused?
(a) ₹20,000
(b) ₹30,000
(c) ₹0
(d) ₹10,000

114.If Manav's and Pranay's interview marks are interchanged, what happens to their combined final merit score?
(a) It remains 155.50
(b) It becomes 156.25
(c) It falls to 154.75
(d) It rises to 157.00

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]: A digital skill training programme was conducted for four city batches named Jaipur, Patna, Kochi and Nagpur. Jaipur had 560 enrolled learners, Patna had 480, Kochi had 600 and Nagpur had 540. After the first week, 75% of Jaipur learners, 80% of Patna learners, 70% of Kochi learners and 65% of Nagpur learners remained active. Among active learners, 60% in Jaipur, 62.5% in Patna, two-thirds in Kochi and two-thirds in Nagpur completed all certificate requirements. Some inactive learners later rejoined the course. In Jaipur and Patna, one-fourth of inactive learners rejoined. In Kochi and Nagpur, one-third of inactive learners rejoined. Among rejoined learners, 40% in Jaipur, 50% in Patna, 45% in Kochi and four-sevenths in Nagpur completed certificate requirements. A learner who was active but not certified, or rejoined but not certified, was treated as nearly successful. A mentor allocation rule stated that each batch needed one mentor for every 48 active learners and one additional mentor for every 30 rejoined learners, with every fractional requirement rounded upward separately.

115.Which batch had the highest certification rate out of total enrolled learners?

(a) Jaipur
(b) Kochi
(c) Patna
(d) Nagpur

116.What was the overall certification rate across all four batches?

(a) 49.75%
(b) 50.23%
(c) 51.10%
(d) 52.05%

117.How many additional learners must be certified in Jaipur for Jaipur to match Patna's certification rate?

(a) 24 learners
(b) 30 learners
(c) 26 learners
(d) 28 learners

118.How many batches required the highest number of mentors under the mentor allocation rule?

(a) 3 batches
(b) 1 batch
(c) 4 batches
(d) 2 batches

119.Which batch had the highest ratio of nearly successful learners to certified learners?

(a) Nagpur
(b) Kochi
(c) Jaipur
(d) Patna

120. Each certified learner requires 12 minutes of final evaluator time, and each nearly successful learner requires 5 minutes of feedback time. What is the total evaluator time required for Kochi and Nagpur together?

(a) 140 hours 58 minutes
(b) 141 hours 49 minutes
(c) 142 hours 15 minutes
(d) 139 hours 52 minutes

Rough Work