

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG15



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test: 2 Hours (120 minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

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

DO NOT OPEN TILL 2PM

Section A: English Language

Passage: “In the heart of the remotest mountains rises the little Kirk; the dead all slumbering around it, under their white memorial-stones, ‘in hope of a happy Resurrection’: – dull wert thou, O reader, if never in any hour (say of moaning midnight, when such Kirk hung spectral in the sky, and Being was as if swallowed up in darkness) it spoke to thee – things unspeakable, that went into thy soul’s soul. Strong was he that had a Church, what we can call a Church: he stood thereby, though ‘in the centre of Immensities, in the conflux of Eternities,’ yet manlike towards God and man; the vague shoreless Universe had become for him a firm city, and dwelling which he knew.”

First we should distinguish theism from mere belief in the supernatural. The latter, illustrated by ghost-stories, tales of second sight, rituals and sacrifices to prevent the failure of a harvest or a navy, the consulting of the sacred geese, and the throwing of the salt always over one’s left shoulder, is a human universal, and was known even to our Pleistocene ancestors. A more hostile name for this is superstition.

And the former, theism? The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary says that theism is “belief in a deity or deities, as opp. to atheism.” The kind of theism I want to focus on is more specific than this. Theism in my sense, Theism with a capital T, is belief not in deities but in God with a capital G. This is a much less universal phenomenon than supernaturalism/superstition. It has a historical particularity; in the Judaeo-Christian-Islamic tradition, we can more or less see where Theism begins. It begins with the writing of the first chapter of Genesis, where the author makes it as clear as he knows how that the God of whom he speaks, Yahweh, is not just another heavenly being like the sun or the moon, but the sun and moon’s creator.

The difference between Theism as belief in God and theism as belief in deities is that the latter can easily be just another variety of supernaturalism. Especially where the deities are small and local enough, there seems little difference in principle between believing in such deities and believing in fairies or ghosts: think of nature-gods like Iris the rainbow-goddess, or Freya/Persephone of the harvest, or Thor the thunder-god. The classical pagan gods were very frequently of this sort, as were the deities of pagan Norway and Britain and Mexico. In another common pattern, pagan deities arose by ‘euhemerising’ apotheosis – by the route from being a human hero to occupying yet another alcove in the cluttered and haphazard pantheon of (say) the Rome of late antiquity. This was a route, indeed, that mortal Roman emperors regularly trod. Even Greek generals sometimes took it too.

Extracted with edits and revisions from https://philosophynow.org/issues/99/Theism_History_and_Experience

1. Which of the following best describes the author’s main concern in the passage?
 - (a) To trace how belief in local deities developed into organised monotheistic religion.
 - (b) To show how churches gave early communities a defence against superstition.
 - (c) To separate general supernatural belief from a specific idea of Theism.
 - (d) To compare pagan deities with the moral authority of the Judaic God.
2. What can be inferred from the descriptive opening about the “little Kirk” among the mountains and graves?
 - (a) The Church matters mainly because it preserves burial practices across generations.
 - (b) The Church gives human life a stable orientation amid death and immensity.
 - (c) The Church turns natural darkness into proof of divine presence and order.
 - (d) The Church becomes meaningful only when placed in remote surroundings.
3. Which of the following comes closest to the meaning of the sentence: “the vague shoreless Universe had become for him a firm city, and dwelling which he knew”?
 - (a) The Church made existence understandable by removing uncertainty and doubt.
 - (b) The Church helped the believer imagine eternity as a familiar earthly dwelling.

- (c) The Church transformed fear of death into confidence in bodily resurrection.
- (d) The Church gave the believer a stable spiritual home within cosmic vastness.

4. "Theism in my sense, Theism with a capital T, is belief not in deities but in God with a capital G." Which of the following best elaborates this sentence?

- (a) Theism here means belief in a supreme creator, not merely in gods or spirits.
- (b) Theism here means any belief that accepts forces beyond the natural world.
- (c) Theism here means belief in many deities organised within a sacred pantheon.
- (d) Theism here means ritual belief used to control harvests, war and fortune.

5. Why does the author refer to deities such as Iris, Freya, Persephone and Thor?

- (a) To show that pagan traditions were structured around one supreme creator.
- (b) To prove that nature-gods were historically derived from mortal heroes.
- (c) To illustrate gods tied to natural forces and close to supernatural belief.
- (d) To argue that classical pagan gods were more universal than Theism.

6. Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from the passage?

- (a) The author believes that supernatural belief became meaningful only after Genesis.
- (b) The author treats Theism as historically specific and distinct from superstition.
- (c) The author presents pagan gods as morally superior to later monotheistic belief.
- (d) The author argues that churches matter more as institutions than as symbols.

Passage: The art market likes certainty. It prefers painters' names printed in bold type, dates fixed neatly to a decade, values pinned confidently to price estimates. Yet behind this appearance of assurance lies an industry structured around risk. Enormous sums of money change hands on the basis of attribution (who created this work), and attribution itself often rests on a fragile, negotiated consensus or the determined opinion of one or more experts (some of them more self-proclaimed than objectively expert) rather than an established fact. A single name on a museum label can anchor the value of an artwork, determine its place in art history and shape scholarly narratives for generations. Change that name, and the consequences ripple outward. A painting can lose tens of millions in value. Is the world's most expensive painting, Salvator Mundi ("Saviour of the World"), indeed by Leonardo da Vinci, as many of the top Leonardo scholars confirm? Its last sale price was \$450.3 million in 2017 at Christie's. But scholars of equal renown are convinced that it is a derivative work, not by Leonardo at all, in which case it might be worth only \$450,000. That's quite a difference for an opinion to make. Enough question marks have been thrown up around Salvator Mundi that the painting has yet to be displayed in public since its sale.

Calling attribution into question can cause a museum's reputation to wobble. A collector's confidence can evaporate. Governments, insurers, lenders, heirs and institutions all depend on attribution being right, even though they know, at some level, that it might not be. This tension is not accidental. The art market is an overheated system built on partial information, asymmetries of knowledge, and incentives that quietly encourage optimism. Sellers benefit from the highest plausible attribution. Buyers hope that the name on the label will hold. Auction houses rely on inherited scholarly opinions that may be decades old. Museums, once they've committed, are rarely eager to reverse themselves. The result is a system that functions not because certainty is common, but because doubt is carefully managed.

Attribution, in this sense, is not merely a scholarly exercise. It is the keystone of an economic and cultural structure. Without it, prices collapse, catalogues unravel, and historical narratives lose coherence. And yet attribution is also deeply human, shaped by judgment, intuition, training and, inevitably, bias. For most of art history, attribution rested almost entirely on connoisseurship: the trained eye of experts who compared brushwork, composition and handling across an artist's oeuvre. Connoisseurs developed astonishing sensitivity to visual nuance, often identifying hands and workshops with remarkable precision. But connoisseurship is also subjective. Two equally

qualified scholars might disagree profoundly, and have done, repeatedly, down the centuries. In some cases, their disagreements have lasted generations.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://aeon.co/essays/could-ai-replace-human-art-experts-in-attributing-paintings>

7. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- (a) Art prices are unstable because auction houses often exaggerate estimates.
- (b) Attribution matters because museums alone decide artistic reputation.
- (c) The art market projects certainty while depending on managed uncertainty.
- (d) Connoisseurship has failed because scientific proof is absent in art history.

8. Why does the author discuss Salvator Mundi in the first paragraph?

- (a) To show how disputed attribution can drastically alter value and reception.
- (b) To show how expert disagreement can permanently destroy artistic authenticity.
- (c) To suggest that auction prices provide stronger evidence than scholarly judgment.
- (d) To indicate that public display ultimately confirms the authorship of a painting.

9. Which of the following is least compatible with the passage's explanation of why disputed attributions may continue to survive?

- (a) Museums may resist revising attributions after publicly adopting them.
- (b) Expert endorsement generally settles disputes before market reliance develops.
- (c) Sellers may favour the strongest attribution that remains plausibly defensible.
- (d) Buyers may depend on the continued authority of the name attached.

10. What does the author most likely mean by calling attribution the "keystone" of an economic and cultural structure?

- (a) Attribution is a specialised label added after price and history are settled.
- (b) Attribution supports financial value, catalogues and historical meaning.
- (c) Attribution matters mainly when museums lend works to private buyers.
- (d) Attribution removes uncertainty by converting opinion into established fact.

11. Which of the following best explains the passage's view of connoisseurship?

- (a) It is obsolete because visual judgment cannot assist attribution.
- (b) It is decisive because qualified experts rarely disagree seriously.
- (c) It is valuable for visual judgment but vulnerable to subjectivity.
- (d) It is irrelevant because art prices depend only on auction estimates.

12. The passage seems to be a part of which of the following types of writing?

- (a) A critical essay examining how attribution sustains value despite uncertainty.
- (b) A scholarly review evaluating methods used to authenticate individual paintings.
- (c) A market analysis measuring financial losses caused by disputed authorship.
- (d) A museum study tracing institutional changes in cataloguing and attribution.

Passage: The aurochs, the mammoth and the steppe bison are long extinct, but their painted likenesses still look relatively fresh across the walls and roofs of Altamira. Or so said Diego Garate Maidagan, who is one of the very few humans allowed to enter that exalted cave in northern Spain. I met Garate last summer in a small Basque village called Gauteigiz Arteaga. A professor of prehistory and Palaeolithic art at the University of Cantabria, he told me he'd been inside Altamira as recently as the week before, furthering his lifelong investigations of the prep work, tools and methodologies developed by early Homo sapiens painters.

About 34,000 years ago, our distant ancestors began making frescoes with chiaroscuro effects through that suite of subterranean vaults, which remained in use for many millennia, until the cave mouth was sealed by a rockfall. The best part of a geological epoch passed before a curious gun dog clawed its way across the threshold in 1868, leading a succession of witnesses into the first such prehistoric gallery ever seen by modern eyes. The technique on display at Altamira seemed much too sophisticated for troglodytic numbskulls, as Palaeolithic people were then assumed to be, and self-appointed experts from France initially declared the whole thing a hoax. (Those accusers were to look pretty stupid when similar caves were found in their own country.) Pablo Picasso is said to have visited, or at least looked at some photos, and the quote attributed to him is possibly apocryphal, but an appraisal for the ages nonetheless: “After Altamira, all is decadence.”

The site was opened to the public in 1917, partly closed in the 1970s, then shut for good in 2002, as a century or so of gaping admiration revealed the paint-stripping effects of moisture and carbon monoxide from the breath of too many beholders. A replica cave, with replica artwork, was created on an adjacent site. Today, only Garate and other select scholars have access to the original sanctuary.

Garate’s specialism requires close attention to the etching or “pecking” technique whereby the artists used flint blades to outline figures on the rock before applying their ochre and charcoal. Altamira is rare and precious, he told me, because those reds and blacks are still so solid and vivid. The colours were preserved in the near-quarantine conditions imposed by that long-ago landslide. The latest thinking on the subject proposes that our ancestors painted their way across western Europe, and what we now know as ‘cave art’ is only what survived on the deepest, darkest surfaces they touched.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2026/jun/02/journey-into-spain-palaeolithic-cave-paintings-altamira>

13. Which of the following most accurately explains why Altamira occupies a special historical place in the passage?

- (a) Its vivid paintings made it the best-preserved Palaeolithic cave known to scholars.
- (b) Its sophistication forced experts to abandon earlier views of prehistoric people immediately.
- (c) Its closure made it the first prehistoric cave protected from unrestricted visitation.
- (d) Its discovery introduced modern observers to a prehistoric painted gallery of unprecedented kind.

14. The initial claim that Altamira was a hoax was mainly based on which assumption?

- (a) The paintings seemed too well preserved to have survived from prehistoric times.
- (b) Palaeolithic humans were thought incapable of producing such sophisticated artwork.
- (c) The cave’s isolation made experts suspect a recent reconstruction of the site.
- (d) The animal figures seemed too precise to have been made without modern tools.

15. What does the passage most strongly suggest about the restriction of public access to Altamira?

- (a) Conservation concerns eventually outweighed unrestricted access to the original cave.
- (b) The replica reduced visitor pressure enough to keep the original partly accessible.
- (c) Access was restricted mainly because visitors interfered with archaeological research.
- (d) Restrictions followed renewed doubts about the prehistoric origin of the paintings.

16. Which of the following is the most convincing conclusion from the latest thinking on cave art?

- (a) Early humans likely painted more surfaces than the surviving caves reveal.
- (b) Cave art was usually created only in sealed underground sanctuaries.
- (c) Western Europe contains all the art ever made by early Homo sapiens.
- (d) The deepest surfaces were chosen because they were artistically superior.

17. What does the word “apocryphal” most nearly mean as used in the passage?

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (a) exaggerated | (b) unauthenticated |
| (c) misremembered | (d) overcelebrated |

18. All of the following are supported by the passage, except:

- (a) Altamira’s paintings were preserved partly because the cave was sealed.
- (b) Early critics doubted Altamira because its technique seemed too advanced.
- (c) Public access to Altamira eventually harmed the original painted surfaces.
- (d) Replica artwork was created before the original cave was opened to visitors.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

*Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.*

*The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?*

W. B. Yeats, “The Second Coming” (1920)

A Critique of W. B. Yeats’s “The Second Coming”

Richard Ellmann interprets “The Second Coming” through Yeats’s belief that history develops in recurring cycles rather than moving steadily towards progress. The widening gyre represents an age reaching the limits of its controlling order. When the falcon can no longer hear the falconer, established authority loses its power to direct events, and disorder begins to replace coherence.

Ellmann regards the poem’s second movement as more disturbing than a simple prediction of destruction. Yeats imagines that the collapse of one historical order will prepare the birth of another. The creature moving towards Bethlehem therefore represents a new dispensation emerging as the Christian era reaches the end of its cycle. Its brutal appearance reverses the familiar associations of Bethlehem with innocence, infancy and divine love.

For Ellmann, this reversal gives the final image much of its terror. The new age does not arrive as redemption but as something primitive, violent and emotionally indifferent. The “rough beast” is therefore not merely a symbol of contemporary political disorder. It embodies Yeats’s larger vision of historical transformation, in which creation and destruction remain inseparable. The poem turns the Christian expectation of a Second Coming into an unsettling prophecy of an unfamiliar and frightening civilisation.

Adapted from Richard Ellmann, *The Identity of Yeats* (Oxford University Press, 1954).

19. What would best describe the speaker’s position in Yeats’s poem?
 - (a) A historian who sees present chaos as the return of a familiar past order.
 - (b) A believer who reads present chaos as a prelude to Christian restoration.
 - (c) A pessimist who regards present chaos as collapse without any succeeding order.
 - (d) A visionary who reads present chaos as the birth of a threatening new age.

20. What is the best way to interpret “Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born”?
 - (a) Historical: a violent civilisation is returning in essentially familiar form.
 - (b) Prophetic: a violent new age displaces the expected promise of redemption.
 - (c) Religious: Christianity is being reborn through an age of apocalyptic violence.
 - (d) Psychological: the beast externalises the speaker’s fear of present disorder.

21. Why does Ellmann emphasise the contrast between Bethlehem and the “rough beast”?
 - (a) To show that Christian civilisation contains the violence that finally destroys it.
 - (b) To suggest that the new age inherits Christian symbols while rejecting its values.
 - (c) To reverse sacred birth imagery into a vision of threatening historical renewal.
 - (d) To separate Yeats’s religious imagery from his cyclical account of history.

22. Ellmann’s critique is best summed up by which statement?
 - (a) Yeats uses apocalyptic imagery to depict one civilisation yielding cyclically to another.
 - (b) Yeats turns cyclical history chiefly into a metaphor for his contemporary politics.
 - (c) Yeats depicts historical destruction without imagining a coherent succeeding order.
 - (d) Yeats treats collapse as a temporary crisis within a continuing Christian order.

23. What is most strongly implied by the falcon’s inability to hear the falconer?
 - (a) Social forces reject authority because its claims no longer appear legitimate.
 - (b) Authority persists, but growing distance weakens coordination without ending control.
 - (c) Rival authorities compete unsuccessfully to control the same social forces.
 - (d) Authority has lost effective command over forces that once remained responsive.

24. Which description best captures the tonal movement of the poem?
 - (a) From bewilderment at disorder to fascination with the power of transformation.
 - (b) From alarm at social breakdown to dread of an approaching historical order.
 - (c) From religious expectation to cautious hope for an unfamiliar civilisation.
 - (d) From despair at social breakdown to solemn acceptance of inevitable renewal.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: The MHS hosted a thought-provoking seminar on 18 Feb 2024 to commemorate the historic 1946 Royal Indian Naval RIN Uprising that sparked from Mumbai. The Seminar was preceded by a Wreath Laying ceremony at the Naval Uprising Memorial in Coopersage, where wreaths were laid by Rear Admiral Manish Chadha, FOMA and other senior naval officers.

The Seminar featured Commodore Srikant B Kesnur, (Retd) and Ms. Janhavi Lokegaonkar, Senior Research Associate at the Maritime History Society, who rendered deep insights into this pivotal event in India's struggle for independence. Ms. Janhavi's talk delved into massive recruitment of Indian troops by the British, their significant contribution to the Allied efforts in World War II, their fight for the British cause amidst India's Freedom Struggle and discriminatory as well as racial challenges they faced that led to the RIN Uprising. In his compelling talk titled "Naval Uprising to National Uprising of Feb 1946 - The Last War of Independence," Commodore Srikant Kesnur eloquently articulated how the 'Naval Mutiny' evolved into a formidable national uprising that reverberated across the British Empire, hastening its eventual exit from India. He stated that the actions of the participants in the mutiny transcended mere dissent and instead represented a resolute stand against colonial oppression and a fervent desire for self-determination. He underscored that the post-independence narratives of this seminal event have often been marginalised, failing to receive the attention and recognition it truly deserves. The event concluded with a vibrant discussion among the attendees, highlighting the importance of acknowledging and commemorating the multifaceted contributions of individuals.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://indiannavy.gov.in/node/38691>]

25. Who chaired the commission appointed to investigate the causes and circumstances of the Royal Indian Navy uprising?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) Mehr Chand Mahajan | (b) K.S. Krishnaswami Iyengar |
| (c) Saiyid Fazl Ali | (d) Radhabinod Pal |

26. Which British initiative arrived in India shortly after the February 1946 naval uprising to negotiate the country's constitutional future?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Cripps Mission | (b) Cabinet Mission |
| (c) Mountbatten Plan | (d) Wavell Conference |

27. The RIN uprising received extensive solidarity from sections of Bombay's working population. In the wider history of the Indian trade-union movement, which of the following persons served as the first President of the All India Trade Union Congress?

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) N. M. Joshi | (b) Joseph Baptista |
| (c) Dewan Chaman Lal | (d) Lala Lajpat Rai |

28. The Revolt of 1857 led the British to reconsider the organisation of the Indian armed forces, while the RIN Mutiny of 1946 again exposed disaffection within colonial military establishments. Which of the following commissions was appointed to recommend the reorganisation of the Indian Army after the Revolt of 1857?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Sandhurst Committee | (b) Peel Commission |
| (c) Hunter Commission | (d) Welby Commission |

29. The modern INS Vikrant carries forward the name of India's first aircraft carrier. Before its acquisition and completion for the Indian Navy, the original INS Vikrant had been laid down for the Royal Navy under which of the following names?

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) HMS Albion | (b) HMS Hercules |
| (c) HMS Hermes | (d) HMS Eagle |

Passage: The placards demanding justice for students affected by repeated examination paper leaks were impossible to miss. What stayed with me at Jantar Mantar, however, was something else. Young people wrote poetry on cardboard, sang songs of resistance, shared water and food with strangers, debated without resentment, and, as the crowds dispersed, stayed back to clean the protest site. The protest was demanding accountability from the state, but it was also quietly rehearsing the habits of democratic citizenship. Every generation experiences a political moment that reshapes not only governments but also citizenship. The JP Movement produced a generation of political leaders. The Mandal movement fundamentally altered the grammar of political representation. The India Against Corruption movement transformed corruption into the organising principle of a mass political campaign and eventually found expression in party politics.

It is too early to place the recent paper leak protests in the same league. Their immediate political consequences remain uncertain. Whether they secure policy reforms or compel governments to strengthen recruitment systems will be judged over time. Yet focussing only on those outcomes risks overlooking their deeper significance.

The immediate grievance was the NEET-UG paper leak, and the immediate ask was the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, which has been met. Nevertheless, the deeper question was about trust. When examinations repeatedly fail to guarantee fairness, it is not only careers that are at risk but the faith in public institutions too. Beyond the immediate controversy, these protests reveal an important shift in how young Indians relate to politics, political authority, and democracy itself.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/gen-z-protests-indian-democracy/article71281427.ece>]

30. The expansion of electoral participation among younger citizens in India is linked to the Sixty-first Constitutional Amendment. Which of the following Articles of the Constitution was amended for this purpose?

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Article 324 | (b) Article 325 |
| (c) Article 326 | (d) Article 327 |

31. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 is administered by which Union Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Education
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Law and Justice
- (d) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

32. Under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026, an investigation into an offence must ordinarily be completed within what period?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| (a) Thirty days | (b) Two months |
| (c) Three months | (d) Six months |

33. Consider the following statements concerning the constitutional right to protest:

1. Article 19(1)(b) protects the right of citizens to assemble peaceably and without arms.
2. Restrictions on this right may be imposed in the interests of public order and the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

34. Which Supreme Court judgment held that indefinite suspension of internet services is impermissible and that suspension orders must satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality?

- (a) Shreya Singhal v. Union of India
- (b) Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India
- (c) PUCL v. Union of India
- (d) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India

35. Which of the following correctly describes the panel constituted by the Supreme Court to investigate allegations of violence during the 2026 youth protests?

- (a) A serving judge and four district magistrates
- (b) A former Chief Justice and four civil servants
- (c) A former Supreme Court judge, two retired judges and two retired police chiefs
- (d) Two sitting judges, two police chiefs and one cabinet secretary

Passage: India has officially designated Glaw Lake as the country's 101st Ramsar site and the first in Arunachal Pradesh, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced. The move underscores India's commitment to wetland conservation, biodiversity protection and sustainable livelihoods.

Yadav described it as a significant milestone for biodiversity conservation, water and climate security, and sustainable livelihoods. India continues her journey beyond a century in designating Ramsar sites. I am delighted to announce Glaw Lake as Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar site—a significant milestone for biodiversity, water and climate security, and sustainable livelihoods, he further stated.

Fed by perennial mountain streams, it is surrounded by lush vegetation, with over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species recorded within the site and its catchment area, Every new Ramsar site strengthens our resolve to protect nature while securing the future of communities that depend on these invaluable ecosystems," he said.

Earlier this year, on June 5, Prime Minister Modi announced that the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh, had been designated as Ramsar site.

Wetlands are vital for human survival. They are among the world's most productive environments; cradles of biological diversity that provide the water and productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival.

Wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits or "ecosystem services" that they provide humanity, ranging from freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.newindianexpress.com/india/2026/Aug/03/glaw-lake-becomes-indias-101st-ramsar-site-first-in-arunachal-pradesh>]

36. Which of the following Indian Ramsar Sites was removed from the Montreux Record following successful ecological restoration and was associated with a Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award?

- (a) Loktak Lake
- (b) Keoladeo National Park
- (c) Chilika Lake
- (d) Sambhar Lake

37. The National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems was created through the merger of which of the following two programmes?

- (a) National River Conservation Plan and National Afforestation Programme
- (b) National Wetlands Conservation Programme and Green India Mission
- (c) National Lake Conservation Plan and National River Conservation Plan
- (d) National Lake Conservation Plan and National Wetlands Conservation Programme

38. Glaw Lake is situated within the landscape of which tiger reserve?

- (a) Pakke Tiger Reserve
- (b) Namdapha Tiger Reserve
- (c) Kamlang Tiger Reserve
- (d) Dampa Tiger Reserve

39. Under Criterion 1 of the Ramsar Convention, a wetland may be designated as internationally important if it:

- (a) supports threatened species or ecological communities.
- (b) represents a rare or unique natural wetland type.
- (c) regularly supports at least 20,000 waterbirds.
- (d) supports one per cent of a waterbird population.

40. Which of the following was the first wetland in the world to be designated as a Ramsar Site?

- (a) Camargue Wetlands - France
- (b) Cobourg Peninsula - Australia
- (c) Wadden Sea Coast - Netherlands
- (d) Doñana Wetlands - Spain

41. The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands is co-located with the headquarters of IUCN in which of the following Swiss towns?

- (a) Lausanne
- (b) Bern
- (c) Gland
- (d) Basel

Passage: Harnessing advances in data, science, and technology, the 2026 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) provides a comprehensive assessment of sustainability worldwide. The EPI offers a scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards in environmental performance and provides practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future. EPI indicators provide a way to spot problems, set targets, track trends, understand outcomes, and identify best policy practices. Going beyond the aggregate scores and drilling down into the data to analyze performance by issue category, policy objective, peer group, and country offers even greater value for policymakers. This granular view and comparative perspective can assist in understanding the determinants of environmental progress and in refining policy choices.

Composite indices, such as the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), synthesize many variables into a single number to ease communication about and interpretation of complex subjects. Doing so, however, risks losing information and obscuring the science upon which we rely. To address this challenge, this methodology describes the decisions and techniques used to construct the 2026 EPI, from data selection and indicator construction to weighting, aggregation, and other considerations. The OECD handbook on composite indicators (Nardo et al. 2008) serves as an authoritative guide to best practices in composite indicator design, to which we have adhered to as closely as possible. The EPI is meant to be an analytically rigorous, methodologically sound tool grounded in the best available data.

Each metric in the EPI tracks a specific dimension of environmental sustainability. The underlying data must permit meaningful comparisons across countries and through time while measuring outcomes that matter for policy.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://epi.yale.edu/>]

42. Which country secured the first position in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Luxembourg

(c) Estonia

(d) United Kingdom

43. Which of the following correctly represents India's rank and score in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index?

(a) 175th with a score of 23.46

(b) 176th with a score of 22.46

(c) 177th with a score of 21.78

(d) 174th with a score of 25.06

44. Which South Asian country achieved the highest rank in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index?

(a) Sri Lanka

(b) Bhutan

(c) Nepal

(d) Maldives

45. Which of the following correctly states the coverage of the 2026 Environmental Performance Index?

(a) 177 countries, 47 indicators and 12 issue categories

(b) 175 countries, 45 indicators and 11 issue categories

(c) 180 countries, 48 indicators and 13 issue categories

(d) 193 countries, 50 indicators and 15 issue categories

46. The indicators used in the 2026 EPI are organised under which three policy objectives?

(a) Environmental Health, Resource Efficiency and Ocean Resilience

(b) Pollution Control, Circular Economy and Climate Finance

(c) Climate Adaptation, Green Finance and Ecosystem Services

(d) Environmental Health, Ecosystem Vitality and Climate Change

47. Among the three principal policy objectives of the 2026 EPI, India obtained its highest global position in which objective?

(a) Climate Change

(b) Ecosystem Vitality

(c) Environmental Health

(d) India obtained the same position in all three objectives

48. Which country ranked first in the Biodiversity and Habitat issue category of the 2026 EPI?

(a) Costa Rica

(b) Bulgaria

(c) Zambia

(d) Poland

Passage: Saudi Arabia and the United States have moved into a new phase of their long-running discussions over peaceful nuclear cooperation. In July 2026, the two governments signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement together with a bilateral safeguards arrangement, creating a framework for a long-term partnership in nuclear energy. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the arrangement is intended to facilitate American participation in Saudi Arabia's emerging nuclear power sector while maintaining commitments relating to nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

The initiative forms part of Riyadh's wider effort to diversify its energy system and develop new sources of electricity as domestic demand expands. Saudi Arabia has for several years explored the construction of nuclear power reactors and has held discussions with international suppliers. For Washington, cooperation also carries commercial significance because it could provide opportunities for American nuclear technology firms and strengthen the United States' position in the global civil nuclear market.

At the same time, nuclear cooperation with the Kingdom has attracted scrutiny because civilian nuclear programmes involve technologies and materials governed by extensive international safeguards and export-

control rules. Questions surrounding fuel-cycle activities, inspection arrangements and verification have therefore featured prominently in policy debates.

The agreement is not merely a commercial contract. International nuclear cooperation operates within a network of domestic laws, bilateral commitments and global non-proliferation institutions. The U.S.-Saudi arrangement must consequently pass through prescribed governmental procedures before its provisions can be fully implemented, illustrating how contemporary energy partnerships are closely intertwined with international security and nuclear governance.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.energy.gov/articles/united-states-and-saudi-arabia-reach-historic-nuclear-cooperation-agreement>]

49. The first Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement based on the IAEA model contained in INFCIRC/153 entered into force in 1972 with which country?

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) Finland | (b) Austria |
| (c) Sweden | (d) Switzerland |

50. Consider the following statements regarding the Zangger Committee:

- I. It was established to harmonise the interpretation of Article III(2) of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
II. Its understandings and nuclear export "Trigger List" are published through the IAEA's INFCIRC/209 series.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Only I | (b) Only II |
| (c) Both I and II | (d) Neither I nor II |

51. The International Atomic Energy Agency shared the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize with which of the following individuals?

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Hans Blix | (b) Mohamed ElBaradei |
| (c) Yukiya Amano | (d) Sigvard Eklund |

52. The U.S. legal framework commonly referred to as a "123 Agreement" derives its name from a provision of which of the following statutes?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Atomic Energy Act of 1946 | (b) Atomic Energy Act of 1954 |
| (c) Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 | (d) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 |

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Instructions Q.53–Q.58: Please answer the questions that follow based only on the rules and facts provided. This section tests your ability to identify the material words in a rule, consider their plausible interpretation, and determine how the rules apply when the facts are modified. It is not designed to test any prior knowledge of contract law.

Rules

A contract of guarantee is a promise to discharge the liability of another person if that person defaults. The person giving the guarantee is called the surety, the person whose liability is guaranteed is called the principal debtor, and the person receiving the guarantee is called the creditor. A guarantee may be oral or written.

Anything done or promised for the benefit of the principal debtor may provide sufficient value for the surety's guarantee. The surety need not receive a separate payment or personal benefit for the guarantee to be binding.

A guarantee extending to a series of transactions is a continuing guarantee. The surety may revoke a continuing guarantee by giving notice to the creditor. Revocation affects transactions entered into after the notice reaches the creditor but does not affect liability arising from earlier transactions.

Unless the guarantee provides otherwise, the surety's liability is equal in extent to that of the principal debtor, subject to any monetary limit stated in the guarantee. The creditor need not first sue the principal debtor or exhaust remedies against the principal debtor. However, if the creditor and principal debtor alter the terms governing future transactions without the surety's consent, the surety is discharged from liability for transactions occurring after that alteration. Merely delaying recovery or refraining from suing the principal debtor does not discharge the surety.

Facts

Neel operated a café and regularly purchased packaged food from Saira. On 2 January, Neel and Saira agreed that Saira would make deliveries every Monday and that Neel would pay each invoice within 30 days of the relevant delivery.

Before Saira made the first delivery, Kabir telephoned her and stated: "If you supply Neel under this arrangement and he fails to pay, I will pay his unpaid invoices up to a total of ₹3 lakh." Saira agreed to supply Neel on that basis. Kabir did not sign any document and received no payment or other personal benefit for giving the guarantee.

Saira delivered goods worth ₹40,000 on 5 January, ₹45,000 on 12 January, ₹50,000 on 19 January and ₹55,000 on 26 January. Neel paid the invoices for the first two deliveries but failed to pay for the deliveries of 19 and 26 January.

On 22 January, Kabir sent Saira a letter stating that he was revoking his guarantee. The letter reached Saira on 24 January. Saira nevertheless continued supplying Neel under the existing arrangement.

53. What was the effect of Kabir giving his guarantee orally rather than in writing?

- (a) The guarantee was invalid because every promise concerning another person's debt must be written.
- (b) The guarantee covered only the first delivery because an oral guarantee cannot cover multiple transactions.
- (c) The guarantee was valid because the Rules permit a guarantee to be either oral or written.
- (d) The guarantee became valid only when Neel failed to pay one of the later invoices.

54. What was the effect of Kabir receiving no separate payment or personal benefit?

- (a) His guarantee was unenforceable because the surety must personally receive something of value.

- (b) His guarantee could be binding because Saira's supplies to Neel benefited the principal debtor.
- (c) His guarantee became binding only when Neel agreed to compensate him for assuming the risk.
- (d) His guarantee remained revocable for past transactions because he received no personal benefit.

55. What was the effect of Kabir's revocation reaching Saira on 24 January?

- (a) It cancelled Kabir's liability for every delivery made before or after Saira received the notice.
- (b) It affected the 19 January delivery because Neel had not yet defaulted when the notice arrived.
- (c) It had no effect because a continuing guarantee cannot be revoked while supplies are being made.
- (d) It preserved liability for earlier deliveries but excluded the delivery made after the notice arrived.

56. Applying all four Rules, which statement correctly describes Kabir's liability?

- (a) Kabir is liable for the unpaid delivery of 19 January but not for the delivery of 26 January.
- (b) Kabir is liable for both unpaid deliveries because revocation operates only after the supply arrangement ends.
- (c) Kabir is liable for neither delivery because Neel's default occurred after the revocation notice was sent.
- (d) Kabir is liable only after Saira sues Neel and proves that Neel cannot satisfy a judgment.

57. Assume instead that Kabir did not revoke the guarantee. On 20 January, Saira and Neel agreed, without consulting Kabir, that all subsequent deliveries would be payable within 60 days rather than 30 days. What would be the effect on Kabir's liability for the delivery of 26 January?

- (a) He would remain liable because extending the payment period reduces the immediate burden on Neel.
- (b) He would remain liable because the price and quantity of the delivered goods were not altered.
- (c) He would be discharged because the future payment terms were altered without obtaining his consent.
- (d) He would be discharged only if Neel expressly refused to pay within the original 30-day period.

Modified Facts

Assume that Kabir did not revoke his guarantee and that Saira and Neel did not alter the 30-day payment term. Neel failed to pay the ₹50,000 invoice for the delivery of 19 January when it became due.

For the next two months, Saira repeatedly requested payment from Neel but did not commence legal proceedings against him. She neither released Neel from the debt nor entered into any agreement extending the time for payment. Saira then demanded ₹50,000 from Kabir under the guarantee. All other relevant facts remain the same.

58. Applying Rule 4, can Kabir avoid liability under the modified facts?

- (a) Yes, because Saira was required to sue Neel immediately after the invoice became overdue.
- (b) No, because delaying proceedings against Neel does not by itself discharge Kabir's liability.
- (c) Yes, because repeated requests for payment amounted to an alteration of the original arrangement.
- (d) No, but only after Saira proves that Neel lacks sufficient assets to discharge the invoice.

Instructions Q.59–Q.64: Please answer the questions that follow based only on the rules and facts provided. This section tests your ability to identify the material words in a rule, consider their plausible interpretation, and determine how the rules apply when the facts are modified. It is not designed to test any prior knowledge of the law of torts.

Rules

An employer is vicariously liable for a tort committed by an employee in the course of employment. Whether a person is an employee depends on the substance of the relationship, including the employer's control over how and when the work is performed, the provision of equipment and the integration of the person's work into the employer's business. The description used in a written agreement is relevant but not conclusive.

An employee acts in the course of employment when performing assigned work or doing something sufficiently connected with that work. An act may remain within the course of employment even if it is performed carelessly, contrary to instructions or through an unauthorised method.

An instruction restricting the manner in which assigned work must be performed does not ordinarily remove conduct from the course of employment. However, an instruction limiting the kinds of work the employee is authorised to undertake may place substantially different conduct outside the course of employment.

A minor deviation for a personal purpose does not necessarily take an employee outside the course of employment. A substantial journey undertaken entirely for a personal purpose does so. After such a personal journey, the employee re-enters the course of employment when the employee has sufficiently resumed the assigned work or journey. A private intention to resume work later is insufficient by itself.

Facts

SwiftDrop Logistics entered into a written agreement with Dev that described him as an “independent delivery associate.” Dev was required to work fixed eight-hour shifts, wear the company’s uniform and follow routes assigned through its delivery application. SwiftDrop supplied the delivery van, paid Dev a fixed monthly amount and prohibited him from appointing another person to make deliveries in his place. A supervisor could change Dev’s route and give him instructions throughout each shift.

On 14 November, Dev was directed to deliver medical equipment to four clinics. The company’s safety policy prohibited drivers from holding or using mobile phones while driving. Drivers were required to stop the van safely before answering any call.

While travelling towards the second clinic, Dev made a seven-minute deviation of approximately 500 metres to purchase medicine from a pharmacy. He then returned to the assigned route and continued towards the clinic.

A clinic employee telephoned Dev to explain which entrance should be used for the delivery. Dev answered the call without stopping the van. While discussing the entrance, he failed to notice a red traffic signal and struck Leena, who was crossing the road. Leena suffered a fractured arm.

59. What was the effect of the agreement describing Dev as an “independent delivery associate”?
- (a) It prevented an employment relationship because the parties recorded their chosen description in writing.
 - (b) It was relevant but not conclusive because the substance of the working relationship must be examined.
 - (c) It established employment only if Dev had previously objected to the description used in the agreement.
 - (d) It was irrelevant because anyone driving a vehicle belonging to a business must be its employee.
60. What was the effect of Dev’s seven-minute deviation to visit the pharmacy?
- (a) It permanently ended the course of employment because the pharmacy visit served a personal purpose.
 - (b) It suspended the course of employment until SwiftDrop expressly approved the deviation afterwards.
 - (c) It remained decisive because an employee cannot resume work during the same assigned journey.
 - (d) It did not exclude liability because Dev had returned to the assigned route before the accident.
61. What was the effect of SwiftDrop’s instruction prohibiting the use of a mobile phone while driving?
- (a) It placed Dev outside his employment because disobedience to a safety instruction changes his legal status.
 - (b) It removed the call from his employment because SwiftDrop had prohibited the physical act he performed.
 - (c) It regulated how Dev performed his assigned work but did not necessarily take that work outside employment.
 - (d) It excluded SwiftDrop’s liability because an employer cannot be responsible for conduct it sought to prevent.
62. Applying all four Rules, which statement correctly describes SwiftDrop’s liability for Leena’s injury?

- (a) SwiftDrop is liable because Dev negligently performed assigned delivery work in the course of employment.
- (b) SwiftDrop is not liable because Dev's written agreement classified him as an independent delivery associate.
- (c) SwiftDrop is not liable because Dev combined a personal pharmacy visit with the assigned delivery journey.
- (d) SwiftDrop is liable only if its supervisor specifically instructed Dev to answer the call while driving.

63. Assume instead that Dev had not begun the assigned deliveries. Without informing SwiftDrop, he drove the company van 12 kilometres in the opposite direction to collect furniture purchased for his home. The accident occurred while he was travelling towards the furniture shop. Would SwiftDrop be vicariously liable?

- (a) Yes, because the accident occurred during Dev's fixed working hours in a van supplied by SwiftDrop.
- (b) Yes, because Dev privately intended to begin the assigned deliveries after collecting the furniture.
- (c) No, because using a company vehicle for personal purposes prevents liability throughout the employee's shift.
- (d) No, because Dev was undertaking a substantial journey entirely for his own purpose when the accident occurred.

Modified Facts

Assume that Dev first drove 12 kilometres to collect the furniture and placed it in the company van. He then travelled back to the assigned delivery route and began driving towards the first clinic.

After Dev had rejoined the route, an employee of the first clinic telephoned him to explain where the medical equipment should be unloaded. Dev answered the call without stopping the van. While discussing the delivery, he negligently struck Leena at a pedestrian crossing. All other relevant facts remain the same.

64. Applying Rules 2 and 4, would SwiftDrop be vicariously liable under the modified facts?

- (a) No, because Dev's earlier personal journey prevented him from re-entering the course of employment that day.
- (b) Yes, because Dev had resumed the assigned journey before negligently answering the delivery-related call.
- (c) No, because furniture remained inside the van when Dev returned to the assigned delivery route.
- (d) Yes, but only because the clinic employee initiated the telephone call that distracted Dev.

Passage: Article 23 is a specific anti-exploitation guarantee. It prohibits traffic in human beings, begar and other similar forms of forced labour. Article 23 applies against both the State and private persons. A private contractor, employer, landlord, agent or intermediary may violate Article 23 if labour is extracted through prohibited compulsion. This makes the right wider than many fundamental rights which mainly control State action.

The central test is whether the labour is truly voluntary. Begar means labour or service taken without payment and without free consent. Forced labour under Article 23 is not limited to physical force or imprisonment. In *People's Union for Democratic Rights v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court treated economic compulsion as constitutionally relevant. Force may include physical force, legal force, threat, poverty, hunger, debt, social vulnerability or economic necessity. When a person works for less than the statutory minimum wage, the law may presume that the work is forced labour. This presumption arises because no free worker would normally agree to sell labour below the legal minimum if a real choice existed. Payment of some wage does not prevent Article 23 from applying if the wage is below the minimum wage. Therefore, a worker paid ₹250 per day when the notified minimum wage is ₹500 may still claim forced labour, even though the employer argues that some payment was made.

Article 23 also connects with statutory labour protection. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Code on Wages, 2019 support Article 23 by fixing minimum payable wages. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 gives effect to Article 23 by cancelling bonded debt and prohibiting bonded labour. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 supports Article 23 by punishing commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking-related activities. Article 35 further enables Parliament to make punishment-related laws for enforcing Article 23, strengthening national

enforcement across the country in every sector. These laws do not replace Article 23; they help enforce it through offences, rescue, release, rehabilitation and wage protection.

Article 23(2) creates a narrow exception. The State may impose compulsory service for a public purpose under Article 23(2). However, that exception is not unlimited. Compulsory public service cannot discriminate only on religion, race, caste, class or any of them. A flood-relief duty, civic emergency service, or national service requirement may be valid if it is imposed for public purpose and without prohibited discrimination. But compulsory service for private gain, caste-based village labour, unpaid domestic service, bonded agricultural work, or underpaid construction work cannot be justified under Article 23(2). Thus, Article 23 does not merely prohibit slavery-like conduct; it constitutionalises dignity in labour by testing consent, wage, compulsion and public purpose together.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/article-23-of-the-indian-constitution/>]

65. After a sudden embankment breach, a District Magistrate issues an emergency order requiring residents to assist in flood-control work for one day. The order has two parts. First, all owners of tractors and water pumps must make their equipment available for shifting sandbags. Secondly, residents of two low-income colonies must report for manual embankment work because, according to the order, they are “more accustomed to physical labour”. Residents of nearby gated colonies are exempted from manual work, though they may donate money instead. The State argues that the order is for flood relief and therefore falls within permissible compulsory public service. Is the order valid under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because the order pursues flood relief and differentiates between equipment support and manual assistance.
- (b) Yes, because the one-day emergency measure assigns different duties according to perceived practical capacity.
- (c) No, because the manual-service burden is imposed through a class-based assumption about low-income residents.
- (d) No, because requiring tractor and pump owners to assist also creates unequal burdens among residents.

66. A municipal hospital runs a public cleanliness drive during a dengue outbreak. To support the drive, it asks its private housekeeping contractor to supply additional workers. The contractor tells its workers that they must clean the hospital’s public fever clinic in the morning and the private paying ward in the evening for three days. Each worker is paid ₹150 extra per day, though the notified minimum wage for such work is much higher. Workers who refuse are told that their attendance cards may not be renewed next month. The contractor argues that the workers signed consent slips and that part of the work served public health. Does this arrangement raise an Article 23 concern under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because consent slips, low payment, threatened non-renewal and mixed public-private work must be assessed together.
- (b) Yes, because involving a private contractor weakens the public-health character of the cleanliness drive.
- (c) No, because signed consent slips and extra payment show voluntary work despite the contractor’s warning.
- (d) No, because dengue-control work supplies public purpose even if part of the duty covers private wards.

67. Sunehri Gems runs a gemstone-polishing unit in Surat. It recruits workers from drought-affected villages through an agent who arranges travel and hostel accommodation. The workers sign forms describing them as “seasonal trainees”, and they are allowed to leave the factory premises after work hours. However, they are paid ₹280 per day for polishing work, while the notified minimum wage for similar skilled work is ₹550 per day. The management argues that Article 23 cannot apply because the workers receive wages, are not physically confined, and signed trainee forms before starting work. Is this argument correct?

- (a) Yes, because paid trainees who can leave the premises are not working under physical compulsion.
- (b) No, because work below the notified minimum wage may raise a presumption of forced labour.
- (c) Yes, because Article 23 requires restraint beyond a wage dispute when some payment is made.

(d) No, because recruitment from drought-affected villages itself shows that consent was not real.

68. After a landslide blocks access to several hill villages, the State issues an emergency notification requiring licensed drone operators in the district to assist the disaster-control room for two days by mapping blocked roads, damaged bridges, and safe evacuation routes. The notification also directs the same operators to spend an additional day preparing aerial promotional maps for a private real-estate company, because the company had lent batteries and charging stations for the rescue work. Operators who refuse either assignment are told that their drone permits may be suspended for a month. The State argues that the entire notification is protected by Article 23(2). Which of the following is the most accurate conclusion?

- (a) Both assignments are protected because the notification arose from a landslide-response programme.
- (b) Both assignments are invalid because permit suspension amounts to legal force against operators.
- (c) Only the promotional mapping is covered, because the company supported the public mission with equipment.
- (d) Only the evacuation mapping is covered, because the private promotional mapping falls outside the narrow exception.

69. WorkLink is a placement intermediary that supplies waiters and kitchen helpers to banquet halls during the wedding season. It recruits workers from small towns and pays for their train tickets to the city. Before travel, each worker is given a written placement form stating the nature of work, expected duration, wage rate, and the right to refuse any assignment. The workers keep their identity documents, may leave the city after informing WorkLink, and are free to take work from other placement agencies. WorkLink deducts the travel advance in small instalments from wages, and the deduction stops once the advance is repaid. The banquet halls pay wages directly to the workers at or above the notified minimum wage. A group of workers claim that WorkLink has violated Article 23 because it is an intermediary and arranged their employment away from their hometowns. Is the claim likely to succeed?

- (a) Yes, because an intermediary arranging migrant labour may violate Article 23 even without being the employer.
- (b) Yes, because travel advances and wage deductions show that the workers' choice was not truly voluntary.
- (c) No, because the facts do not show prohibited compulsion affecting the workers' voluntary choice.
- (d) No, because Article 23 applies only to employers and not to placement intermediaries.

Passage: Section 45 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 is the basic provision defining “abetment of a thing”. It does not punish mere bad influence or moral blame; it requires a legally recognised form of participation in another act. A person abets the doing of a thing in three ways: first, by instigating another person to do it; secondly, by engaging with one or more persons in a conspiracy for doing it, if an act or illegal omission takes place in pursuance of that conspiracy; and thirdly, by intentionally aiding the doing of that thing by an act or illegal omission.

Instigation means a deliberate act of prompting another towards the prohibited conduct. It may be through words, gestures, conduct, threats, pressure, manipulation, or wilful misrepresentation. However, the accused's conduct must disclose an intention that the other person should commit the act. Mere quarrel, anger, insult, advice, passive approval, knowledge of another's plan, or presence near the scene is insufficient unless the facts show active encouragement or purposeful pushing towards the offence. Explanation 1 further treats wilful misrepresentation or wilful concealment of a material fact, which the person is bound to disclose, as instigation if it voluntarily causes, procures, or attempts to cause or procure the act.

Abetment by conspiracy under Section 45 requires more than agreement. There must be a combination of persons for doing the thing, and some act or illegal omission must occur in pursuance of that conspiracy and for the doing of that thing. Therefore, a plan discussed but wholly abandoned before any step is taken will not satisfy this form of abetment. Conversely, even a small preparatory act, if connected with the agreed design, may complete abetment by conspiracy.

Intentional aiding requires assistance given before or at the time of the act, with awareness of the criminal object. Explanation 2 clarifies that a person aids when, before or during the act, he does anything in order to facilitate its commission and thereby facilitates it. Aid may be physical, financial, informational, logistical, or through illegal omission where there is a legal duty to act. Providing a weapon, giving the victim's location, unlocking a gate, keeping watch, arranging transport, or deliberately failing to perform a legal duty may amount to aid. But innocent assistance, accidental help, or help given after the act is complete does not fall under Section 45 unless some separate offence is attracted.

The central requirement in all three forms is intentional connection with the act abetted in legal terms. The abettor need not personally commit the final offence, and the principal offender's act may supply the visible crime. Section 45 targets the mind and conduct that intentionally caused, promoted, planned, or facilitated that crime.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.ijlra.com/details/abetment-by-instigation-conspiracy-and-aiding-a-comparative-study-by-jatin-verma-sadhana>]

70. Nisha and Arjun are members of a college theatre group. Nisha is angry with Tara because Tara was selected as the lead actor instead of her. Nisha tells Arjun, who is Tara's close friend, that Tara had secretly circulated a private video of his sister, though Nisha knows this is false. She repeatedly tells Arjun, "If you have any dignity, you will destroy Tara's laptop before tomorrow's audition; otherwise, everyone will think your family can be insulted without consequence." Nisha does not give Arjun any tool, does not accompany him, and later tells others that she only "wanted him to feel the seriousness of the insult". Arjun breaks into the rehearsal room and destroys Tara's laptop. Has Nisha abetted the act under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because her false statement and pressure deliberately prompted Arjun towards the prohibited conduct.
- (b) Yes, because her anger at Tara and repeated conversations show moral blame for Arjun's conduct.
- (c) No, because she neither gave Arjun any tool nor remained present when the laptop was destroyed.
- (d) No, because she did not expressly order Arjun to destroy the laptop in direct command language.

71. Ravi, Manan and Farid initially discuss damaging the entry barrier of a rival coaching centre before its scholarship test. Ravi says the idea is risky, leaves the discussion, and later sends a message saying, "Do not involve me; I am not doing this." No step is taken while Ravi is part of the discussion. The next day, Manan and Farid make a separate plan that Farid will distract the guard while Manan breaks the barrier. Farid visits the centre in the evening, notes the guard's shift timing, and sends it to Manan. The next morning, Manan breaks the barrier, but Farid does not come to the spot because he gets frightened. Which of the following is the most accurate conclusion under the passage?

- (a) Both Ravi and Farid abetted the act, because each participated in discussions before the barrier was damaged.
- (b) Only Farid abetted the act, because he joined the later plan and took a step in pursuance of it.
- (c) Only Ravi abetted the act, because he was part of the first discussion where the idea was raised.
- (d) Neither Ravi nor Farid abetted the act, because Manan alone caused the actual damage at the centre.

72. At a university archive, Asha quarrels with Pooja, the archive supervisor, after Pooja refuses to release certain records. Asha calls Pooja "arrogant" and "corrupt" in front of Lalit, an angry student, and later hears Lalit say that he may break the display case to "show Pooja her place". Asha remains silent and walks away. That night, Lalit breaks the display case. In a separate incident, Beena, the records officer, is bound to verify which files may be destroyed. To hide her earlier mistake, she marks original land records as "duplicate waste", tells a temporary worker that the files are only photocopies, and asks him to shred them before inspection. The worker shreds the original records. Who has abetted by instigation under the passage?

- (a) Only Beena, because her bound disclosure breach and false instruction procured destruction of the records.
- (b) Only Asha, because her anger, insults and silence gave Lalit support before the display case was broken.
- (c) Both Asha and Beena, because each knew of a possible wrongful act and remained connected to it.
- (d) Neither Asha nor Beena, because neither personally broke the case or personally shredded the records.

73. Ashoka Finance stores pledged gold ornaments in a secured vault. Under a legally binding regulatory requirement applicable to such vaults, whenever pledged ornaments are accessed after business hours, the compliance officer is legally required to enter a “dual-verification hold” in the vault system. Without that entry, the system treats the access as a routine inspection. Dev, the branch manager, and Karan, the gold appraiser, agree to replace some pledged ornaments with replicas during an after-hours “inspection”. Ritika, the compliance officer, initially overhears their plan but says nothing. Later, Dev informs her that the substitution cannot occur unless she leaves the dual-verification hold blank. Ritika expressly agrees and deliberately omits the legally required entry. Before any ornament is replaced, the regional audit team arrives and stops Dev and Karan at the vault door. Has Ritika abetted the proposed substitution by conspiracy under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because her initial silence after overhearing the plan showed her participation in the conspiracy.
- (b) No, because she neither handled the pledged ornaments nor entered the secured vault with the others.
- (c) No, because the audit team prevented the agreed substitution before any ornament was actually replaced.
- (d) Yes, because her agreed omission of a legally required entry occurred in pursuance of the conspiracy.

74. At a national literary prize, Riya and Omar agree to send a forged withdrawal email in the name of a shortlisted author so that the author is removed from consideration. They decide the date, divide roles, and draft the wording orally, but before creating any email account, preparing any document, contacting any official, or taking any step, they become afraid and abandon the plan. In a separate dance competition, Kunal and Mehak agree to replace a rival team’s final performance track with a corrupted audio file. Before they lose courage and abandon the plan, Kunal creates an email ID resembling the organiser’s technical account, and Mehak uploads the corrupted file to a private folder marked with the rival team’s name, intending to use it later. Which of the following is correct under Section 45?

- (a) Both plans satisfy abetment by conspiracy, because each involved a definite agreement to affect a competition result.
- (b) Only the withdrawal-email plan satisfies abetment by conspiracy, because roles and timing were fixed before abandonment.
- (c) Only the dance-track plan satisfies abetment by conspiracy, because connected preparatory acts occurred before abandonment.
- (d) Neither plan satisfies abetment by conspiracy, because both were abandoned before the final result was affected.

Passage: Article 19(1)(a) protects freedom of speech and expression, and artistic expression is one form of that freedom. Paintings, films, plays, books, songs, satire, cartoons, performances and digital art are therefore constitutionally protected. However, an artist has no special immunity merely because the work is creative. The State may restrict artistic expression only by a law that falls within Article 19(2), namely sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offence.

A restriction must be reasonable both in its object and in its method. It must have a proximate connection with one of the Article 19(2) grounds. A remote, vague, speculative, or hypersensitive fear is not enough. If a painting, film or book merely offends, shocks, irritates, or disturbs some persons, that alone does not justify prohibition. Public order may justify restriction only when the expression has a direct tendency to create disorder, not when opposition groups threaten violence. The State’s ordinary duty is to protect lawful expression, not silence it because some people are intolerant.

In deciding whether artistic expression is obscene, indecent, or against morality, the work must be judged as a whole and in its context. Isolated scenes, words, images, nudity, sexual references, or harsh language should not be separated from the overall theme. The relevant test is not the reaction of a weak, immature, or hypersensitive person, but that of an average reasonable person applying contemporary community standards. Nudity, sexuality,

violence, or unpleasant social reality is not automatically obscene when it serves a serious artistic, literary, historical, political, or social purpose.

Pre-censorship of films may be constitutionally permissible because cinema has a strong audio-visual impact, but censorship standards must remain definite, fair and guided by Article 19(2). A certificate, ban, deletion, prosecution, or denial of exhibition cannot be based on personal morality or taste, political dislike, religious discomfort, administrative convenience, or by popular pressure alone. The authority must record reasons showing why the restriction is necessary and proportionate, and why a narrower measure would not suffice in a democratic society.

Artistic freedom also does not protect defamation, direct incitement to violence, deliberate and malicious insults prohibited by law, contempt of court, or expression that crosses the line into a constitutionally recognised restriction. Still, criminal law should not be used to punish mere unconventional ideas or unpopular artistic choices. The constitutional test is whether the restriction is imposed by valid law, pursues an Article 19(2) ground, has a direct and proximate nexus with the harm, is reasonable and proportionate, and examines the artistic work as a whole rather than through isolated offence or subjective discomfort of a particular audience.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Bobby Art International v. Om Pal Singh Hoon, (1996) 4 SCC 1]

75. A film titled Broken Courtyard depicts the life of women rescued from a trafficking network. It contains two brief scenes of partial nudity during medical examination, several harsh dialogues spoken by traffickers, and one disturbing scene where a survivor describes sexual violence without showing the act. The remaining film focuses on rehabilitation, court testimony, and the failure of social institutions. The certification authority accepts that the film has a serious social purpose, but orders deletion of the medical scenes and the harsh dialogues, stating that “some viewers may find these portions indecent if watched separately in short clips”. The director challenges the deletion. Is the deletion justified under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because nudity and harsh language in cinema may be restricted when separate clips appear indecent.
- (b) Yes, because certification authorities may impose deletions where social-purpose films contain disturbing scenes.
- (c) No, because isolated scenes and words must be judged with the overall theme and serious social purpose.
- (d) No, because films dealing with trafficking receive stronger protection than ordinary commercial entertainment.

76. Consider the following situations. Choose the correct option as per the principles of restriction on artistic expression.

1. A street play titled Walls of the City criticises a State housing policy through fictional characters. It contains sharp satire against ministers but no call for violence, no defamatory reference to an identifiable real person, and no obscene content. A political group threatens to block the venue and damage public buses if the play is performed. The District Magistrate prohibits the play, stating that deployment of police would be difficult.
2. A music performance titled Burn the Court ends with the lead performer asking the audience to gather outside a named district court the same night, break its gates, and “teach the judges a lesson”. The police record shows that several audience groups have already begun moving towards the court after rehearsals of the same performance. The State prohibits the performance under a valid law dealing with public order and incitement.

Which of the following is correct?

- (a) The restriction in Situation 1 is justified, but the restriction in Situation 2 is not justified.
- (b) The restriction in Situation 2 is justified, but the restriction in Situation 1 is not justified.
- (c) Both restrictions are justified, because each situation involves a possible public order concern.
- (d) Neither restriction is justified, because artistic expression cannot be restricted before violence occurs.

77. An artist, Tara, creates a digital exhibition titled Hungry Republic. One artwork shows a fictional goddess wearing a torn ration-card garland while standing beside empty grain sacks. The exhibition note states that the work criticises hunger, corruption in food distribution, and public indifference. Several visitors say the image is “deeply insulting” and “disturbing”. A private association sends complaints stating that the work may hurt religious feelings and may create unrest. The State orders the entire exhibition to be closed for one month, stating that it wants to avoid “unnecessary public tension”. Is the restriction justified under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because the artwork uses religious imagery in a disturbing way and may offend some viewers.
- (b) Yes, because the State may restrict exhibitions where public tension is reasonably anticipated.
- (c) No, because offence, discomfort, and speculative fear do not show a proximate Article 19(2) ground.
- (d) No, because political digital art cannot be restricted unless it expressly asks viewers to offend.

78. Consider the following Assertion and Reason.

Assertion (A): Pre-censorship of films is not unconstitutional merely because it occurs before public exhibition, but its standards must remain definite, fair and guided by Article 19(2).

Reason (R): Cinema has a strong audio-visual impact, but a certificate, ban, deletion, prosecution, or denial of exhibition cannot rest on personal morality, taste, political dislike, religious discomfort, administrative convenience, or popular pressure alone.

Choose the correct option.

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

79. Which of the following is incorrect as per the passage?

- (a) Isolated scenes, words, images, nudity, sexual references, or harsh language must be examined in relation to the overall theme of the work.
- (b) Nudity, sexuality, violence, or unpleasant social reality is not treated as obscene merely because such material appears in the artistic work.
- (c) Pre-censorship of films may be constitutionally permissible, but the governing standards must be definite, fair and guided by Article 19(2).
- (d) Denial of exhibition may rest on popular pressure alone where the restriction is temporary, non-criminal, and framed as a preventive measure.

Passage: Section 17 of the Registration Act, 1908 makes registration compulsory for certain non-testamentary documents affecting immovable property, but the Act also creates carefully limited exceptions. These exceptions must be read strictly, because an instrument which itself creates, declares, assigns, limits or extinguishes a right, title or interest of Rs.100 or more in immovable property ordinarily requires registration.

The first major exception is a document which does not itself transfer or affect immovable property, but merely creates a right to obtain another document in future. An agreement to sell, by itself, does not create ownership, charge or interest in the property; it only creates a contractual right to seek execution of a proper sale deed. The exception’s exception is Section 17(1A): a contract to transfer immovable property for consideration, executed after the 2001 amendment, must be registered if it is relied upon for part-performance under Section 53A of the Transfer of Property Act. If it is not registered, it has no effect for Section 53A, though Section 49 may still permit limited use as evidence of a contract in a suit for specific performance.

The second exception relates to court decrees and orders. A decree or order of a court generally need not be registered merely because it affects immovable property. The exception’s exception is a compromise decree or order covering immovable property which is not the subject-matter of the suit or proceeding; such a decree requires registration because parties are using the court order to transfer property outside the dispute.

The third exception concerns documents whose connection with immovable property is indirect. Instruments relating to shares in a company, endorsements or transfers of debentures, and debentures not themselves creating rights in immovable property do not require registration merely because the company owns land. But if the instrument itself creates, declares, assigns, limits or extinguishes an interest in specific immovable property, the exception will not protect it.

The fourth exception covers certain public or official acts: government grants of immovable property, partitions made by revenue officers, specified loan or collateral security orders under land improvement or agriculturists' loan laws, and certificates of sale granted to purchasers at public auction by civil or revenue officers. These are exempt because title flows from public authority or statutory process, not from an ordinary private conveyance.

Section 49 provides a separate evidentiary exception. An unregistered document that required registration cannot affect immovable property or prove the main transfer, but may be used to prove a collateral transaction not required to be effected by registered instrument, or a contract in a suit for specific performance. The exception's exception is that collateral use cannot be a disguise for proving the very transfer which required registration between parties.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://blog.ipleaders.in/registration-of-documents/>]

80. Ananya signs an unregistered document with Bhavesh for purchase of a vacant plot worth Rs. 35 lakh. The document identifies the plot, records payment of Rs. 5 lakh as advance, fixes the balance amount, and states that Bhavesh shall execute a registered sale deed within four months after obtaining land-use permission. It further states that Bhavesh will not sell the plot to anyone else during this period, and that Ananya may sue for execution of the sale deed if he refuses. The document does not give Ananya possession, does not declare her owner, and does not state that Bhavesh's title stands transferred. Does the document require registration under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because the plot is identified, the price exceeds Rs.100, and Bhavesh cannot sell it elsewhere.
- (b) Yes, because advance payment and a future sale deed clause create an interest in immovable property.
- (c) No, because the document only creates a contractual right to obtain a proper sale deed in future.
- (d) No, because registration is required only after possession is delivered and the full price is paid.

81. In 2023, Devika signs an unregistered written contract with Nalin for purchase of a mango orchard for Rs. 60 lakh. Devika pays Rs. 40 lakh, enters the land with Nalin's permission, installs drip irrigation, hires guards, and begins selling the mango crop. The contract states that Nalin will execute a registered sale deed after receiving the balance amount. Later, when land prices rise, Nalin asks Devika to leave. Devika files a suit for specific performance and also argues that, because she has acted in part-performance, Nalin cannot dispossess her under Section 53A of the Transfer of Property Act. How should the unregistered contract be treated under the passage?

- (a) It cannot support Section 53A part-performance, but may be used as evidence of a contract in a suit for specific performance.
- (b) It can support Section 53A part-performance, because possession, payment and improvements show reliance on the contract.
- (c) It cannot be used for specific performance, because an unregistered transfer contract has no legal effect after 2001.
- (d) It can be used both for Section 53A and specific performance, because it records consideration and future sale.

82. A long-running dispute arises between three brothers over a hill cottage left by their father. Arjun claims exclusive ownership under an old family arrangement, while Bharat and Chirag deny it and seek equal shares. After recording evidence, examining witnesses, and deciding the title dispute, the civil court passes a decree declaring that Arjun owns the cottage and that Bharat and Chirag have no share in it. The decree is not registered. Bharat later argues that the decree cannot affect rights in the cottage because it concerns immovable property worth far above Rs.100 and extinguishes his claimed share. Is Bharat's argument correct under the passage?

- (a) Yes, because the decree declares title and extinguishes claimed interests in immovable property worth more than Rs.100.
- (b) Yes, because an order affecting inheritance-based immovable property requires registration before it can be relied upon.
- (c) No, because registration is unnecessary whenever parties originally derived rights from a family arrangement.
- (d) No, because a court decree need not be registered merely because it affects rights in immovable property.

83. A suit is filed by Kavir against Leela claiming a declaration of title over House No. 42 in Jaipur. During the suit, both parties enter into a compromise. The compromise states that Kavir will get House No. 42, while Leela will get Kavir's separate farmhouse in Alwar, which was never mentioned in the plaint, written statement, issues, or evidence. The court records the compromise and passes a decree in those terms. The decree is not registered. Later, Leela seeks to rely on the decree to claim title over the Alwar farmhouse. Kavir objects, saying that the decree cannot transfer the farmhouse without registration. Which of the following is the most accurate conclusion?

- (a) Leela cannot rely on the decree for House No. 42 because compromise decrees affecting land require registration.
- (b) Leela can rely on the decree because court decrees generally need no registration despite affecting land.
- (c) Leela cannot rely on the unregistered compromise decree for the farmhouse because it was outside the suit.
- (d) Leela can rely on the decree because the farmhouse transfer was part of the same settlement between parties.

84. Orion Buildtech Pvt. Ltd. owns a commercial complex in Pune. It issues an unregistered document titled "Share Subscription and Debenture Security Agreement" to Mehul. The document transfers 30% shares in Orion and records debentures repayable after five years. It also states that, until repayment, Mehul shall have an "exclusive and transferable right" to occupy the third floor of the Pune complex, collect licence fees from its tenants, and prevent Orion from dealing with that floor. Later, Mehul argues that the document need not be registered because it mainly concerns shares and debentures. In the alternative, he says it should at least be admitted to prove his collateral right to collect licence fees from the third floor. Is Mehul's argument sustainable?

- (a) Yes, because the document may be used collaterally to prove fee collection without proving ownership.
- (b) No, because instruments involving shares or debentures require registration whenever the company owns land.
- (c) Yes, because the document mainly concerns shares and debentures, while the floor-related clauses are incidental.
- (d) No, because the document itself creates rights in a specific floor and collateral use would prove that transfer.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Passage: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Oslo for the forthcoming India-Nordic Summit, the visit carries the weight of a long-overdue diplomatic milestone. This is the first time an Indian Prime Minister has set foot on Norwegian soil since Indira Gandhi's visit in June 1983 — a gap of over four decades that belies the profound, if often understated, historical and contemporary linkages between our two nations. From the linguistic resonances of the word sambandh (connection) in Hindi and samband in Norwegian, to the pioneering fisheries projects of the 1950s, the roots of this relationship run deep. Yet, as the Prime Minister joins his counterparts from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden, the agenda is less about nostalgia and more about a strategic recalibration towards a partnership of the future.

The Nordic region, often viewed through the prism of its exceptional social models and tranquil landscapes, has emerged as a powerhouse of specialised technology and capital. For an India navigating a volatile global order, the “Nordic Way” offers more than just inspiration; it offers concrete solutions to the most pressing challenges of our century. The Oslo Summit represents a pivot from traditional diplomacy toward a “Green Strategic Partnership” that spans the blue economy, renewable energy, and deep-tech innovation.

Norway occupies a unique position in this constellation. It was among the first countries to recognise an independent India in 1947, and our developmental journey has been quietly intertwined ever since. In the early 1950s, Norway launched its first-ever international development programme in Kerala. This pioneering initiative, focused on modernising fisheries and introducing motorised boats, was a hallmark of the Nehru-Gerhardsen era. It is a testament to the project's success that its legacy lives on through the National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT), remaining a vital part of Kerala's coastal economy.

Today, the opportunity exists to replicate this model of localised excellence by deepening cooperation with selected Indian states — such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat — that possess the coastal or industrial infrastructure to absorb Norwegian expertise. The economic logic for a deeper engagement is now irrefutable, especially following the landmark EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA). This agreement is a game-changer, committing EFTA countries — including Norway — to a target of \$100 billion in investments in India over the next 15 years. Central to this will be the role of the Government Pension Fund Global, Norway's sovereign wealth fund. As one of the world's largest investors, its increased exposure to the Indian market would not only provide the long-term patient capital required for India's infrastructure but also signal a vote of confidence in our economic trajectory.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/norway-modi-india-nordic-summit-turn-sambandh-into-strategy-10687048/?ref=opinion_pg

85. Which inference best follows from the author's contrast between the Nordic region's image and its strategic value?

- (a) India's growing interest reflects capabilities that conventional perceptions of the Nordic region may understate.
- (b) Nordic social achievements provide the principal basis for India's emerging technology and investment partnerships.
- (c) Nordic capital has become strategically relevant because technological cooperation now carries comparatively less value.
- (d) India's engagement increasingly seeks to reproduce Nordic domestic institutions within selected Indian states.

86. Which finding would most strengthen the claim that Nordic approaches offer practical solutions for India?

- (a) Nordic investors increasingly favour economies maintaining predictable regulations for renewable-energy projects.

- (b) Indian agencies adopted some Nordic technical standards without reporting major changes in project outcomes.
- (c) Nordic states continue to rank highly in clean-energy innovation and specialised technology development.
- (d) Joint pilots adapted Nordic technologies to Indian conditions and outperformed comparable domestic projects.

87. Which course of action best follows from the author's argument for state-level cooperation?

- (a) Allocate similar Norwegian projects across coastal states to preserve geographical balance in bilateral cooperation.
- (b) Match Norwegian sectoral strengths with states possessing infrastructure needed to absorb those capabilities.
- (c) Develop national programmes first and extend identical models to participating states after central evaluation.
- (d) Prioritise states having stronger historical links with Norway before assessing their present industrial capacity.

88. What does the continuing legacy of Norway's fisheries programme most strongly support?

- (a) Development partnerships remain durable when foreign institutions continue supervising successor organisations.
- (b) Bilateral cooperation becomes strategically important after local projects influence national economic policy.
- (c) Targeted cooperation can create lasting value when capabilities become embedded in local institutions.
- (d) Historical development projects provide stronger evidence of compatibility than present investment commitments.

89. Which condition is necessary for TEPA's investment commitment to produce the transformative effect described?

- (a) India must offer viable opportunities capable of absorbing substantial long-term EFTA investment.
- (b) Norway's sovereign wealth fund must provide a significant share of the committed investment.
- (c) Most EFTA investment must enter infrastructure sectors requiring long-term patient capital.
- (d) Investment flows must begin before India expands cooperation with Nordic technology providers.

90. Which assumption is necessary for calling the summit a strategic recalibration rather than a ceremonial engagement?

- (a) Historical ties provide enough evidence to predict future cooperation without substantial new policy commitments.
- (b) Long gaps between high-level visits generally increase the strategic significance of later diplomatic summits.
- (c) Green cooperation will eventually become more important than traditional areas of India-Nordic relations.
- (d) The summit agenda meaningfully reflects intended policy direction rather than merely diplomatic presentation.

Passage: Responding to the call of a joint platform of ten central trade unions and independent sectoral federations, workers across India observed a general strike on February 12, 2026. The strike, called to resist the four labour codes and other policies the unions describe as anti-worker and pro-corporate, also served as a pointed rejection of Chief Justice Surya Kant's recent claim that trade unions were "largely responsible" for slowing down industrial growth in the country. Workers came out in their thousands in hundreds of locations, demanding policies for more equitable distribution of the wealth created by their labour.

The joint platform highlighted four demands: scrapping the four labour codes, repealing the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act and restoring MGNREGA, withdrawing the Electricity Amendment Bill and the Seeds Bill, and addressing longstanding issues related to minimum wages, privatisation, contractorisation, and pensions.

The BJP-led NDA government has notified four labour codes which are meant to curtail the right to organise and the right to collective action, including the right to strike. The strike call received support from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, the joint platform of agricultural workers' unions, and organisations of women, students, and youth.

On January 29, 2026, while hearing a PIL petition filed by Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam, a domestic workers' union, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) made oral observations in court. According to reports, he held trade unions responsible for slowing growth, discouraging investment, and hindering industrial expansion. He attributed the closure of traditional industries across the country to "aggressive protests by jhanda unions". He also suggested that minimum wages could discourage hiring and hamper employment generation, and that imposing minimum wages for domestic workers could reduce demand and make household help unaffordable for middle-class families.

Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution guarantees the right to form associations or unions as a fundamental right. The Trade Union Act, 1926, provides for registration, collective bargaining, and legal immunity for union activities. The CJI, as custodian of the Constitution, is unlikely to be unaware of these provisions.

The claim that "jhanda unions" are responsible for industrial closures has no factual basis. Reports from the Labour Bureau on industrial disputes, closures, retrenchments, and lay-offs show a drastic decline in disputes. The average annual number of industrial disputes during 2006-14 was 354. This fell to an annual average of 76 during 2015-23. By September 2023, only 30 industrial disputes had been reported—a 17-year low. Man-days lost due to strikes and lockouts fell from 203 lakh in 2006 to 3.4 lakh in 2023.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/social-justice/indian-workers-strike-2026-unions/article70623123.ece?cx_testId=32&cx_testVariant=cx_1&cx_artPos=0#cxrecs_s

91. Which option best captures the author's central argument?

- (a) Constitutional protection of unions prevents economic considerations from justifying restrictions on collective action.
- (b) The strike reflects a broader defence of organised labour against policies and claims portrayed as weakening worker rights.
- (c) Falling dispute numbers establish that union activity has played no meaningful role in India's industrial difficulties.
- (d) The CJI's remarks are problematic mainly because minimum-wage concerns conflict with statutory union protections.

92. Minimum wages may protect domestic workers yet reduce demand for them. Which principle best resolves this tension?

- (a) Wage regulation may improve bargaining power even when households already pay above the prescribed minimum.
- (b) Formal wage rules may increase worker security while raising administrative costs for domestic employers.
- (c) Higher wage floors can benefit retained workers while causing some employers to reduce hiring.
- (d) Household demand may remain stable when higher wages encourage workers to supply additional labour.

93. Which finding would most weaken the author's reliance on declining dispute statistics to reject blame on unions?

- (a) Many union-linked shutdowns were recorded as management closures rather than industrial disputes.
- (b) Union membership declined during the same period in which officially recorded disputes also decreased.
- (c) Productivity fell in some industries even while the number of reported labour disputes declined.
- (d) Several closures occurred in sectors facing import competition despite relatively stable labour relations.

94. Which conclusion is best supported by the author's reference to constitutional and statutory protection of unions?

- (a) Constitutional recognition protects every form of collective industrial action undertaken by a registered union.
- (b) Registered status prevents courts from questioning the economic consequences of organised labour activity.
- (c) Statutory protection makes economic criticism of union conduct irrelevant to public-policy debates.
- (d) The author challenges portrayals of unions that disregard their recognised institutional and legal role.

95. What role does the reference to support from farmers, women, students, and youth organisations play in the argument?

- (a) It suggests that the strike's demands had become electorally decisive outside the organised labour movement.
- (b) It establishes that each challenged policy affected non-industrial groups in substantially the same manner.
- (c) It frames the strike as part of a wider coalition around economic and social concerns beyond factory labour.
- (d) It indicates that unions required outside participation because worker mobilisation alone was insufficient.

96. All of the following can reasonably be inferred from the platform's demands, except:

- (a) Worker interests are presented as connected with employment security, rural livelihoods, and wider economic policy.
- (b) Each challenged policy is opposed for essentially the same reason as contractorisation and pension concerns.
- (c) The platform's agenda extends beyond workplace bargaining into legislation affecting broader livelihood conditions.
- (d) Labour protection is framed alongside policies affecting both organised workers and wider economic interests.

Direction for questions 97-102:

Six family members, Anuj, Bhavna, Chetan, Devika, Eshan, and Farah, start from an old family house in Jaipur. The house is treated as point (0, 0).

Family details:

- Anuj is the father of Bhavna and Chetan.
- Chetan is married to Devika.
- Eshan is the son of Chetan and Devika.
- Farah is the daughter of Bhavna.

Route details:

- Anuj walks 5 km east and stops at the Bank.
- From the Bank, Bhavna walks 4 km north and stops at the Library.
- From the Library, Chetan walks 3 km west and stops at the Clinic.
- From the Clinic, Devika walks 6 km south and stops at the Market.
- From the Market, Eshan walks 7 km east and stops at the Stadium.
- From the Stadium, Farah walks 2 km north and stops at the Cafe.

Coding rule:

- For any person, the code is made as:
- First two letters of the destination + numerical distance of that destination from the family house measured as $|x| + |y|$ + generation level of the person + reverse of the first two letters of the person's name.
- Generation level: Anuj = 0, Bhavna and Chetan = 1, Devika = 1, Eshan and Farah = 2.

97. What is the shortest distance between the Clinic and the Cafe?
 (a) $\sqrt{53}$ km (b) $\sqrt{65}$ km
 (c) $\sqrt{74}$ km (d) $\sqrt{85}$ km
98. How is the person stationed at the Market related to the person stationed at the Cafe?
 (a) Grandmother (b) Sister
 (c) Maternal aunt (d) Cousin
99. What is Farah's code according to the given coding rule?
 (a) CA09AF (b) CA11FA
 (c) CE11AF (d) CA11AF
100. What is Chetan's code according to the given coding rule?
 (a) CL6HC (b) CI7HC
 (c) CL7HC (d) CL7CH
101. Which person's code will have the smallest numerical part, and what is that code?
 (a) Devika, MA2ED (b) Chetan, CL7HC
 (c) Bhavna, LI3HB (d) Anuj, BA5NA
102. One of the family members claims: "My destination lies south of my father's destination, and the numerical portion of my code is 13." Who among the following is the person?
 (a) Eshan (b) Chetan
 (c) Devika (d) None of the above

Direction for questions 103-108:

Eight participants sit around a square park in Bhopal. Four sit at the midpoints of the sides, and four sit at the corners. All face the centre.

Positions: North, North-East, East, South-East, South, South-West, West, North-West

Participants: Riya, Sagar, Tanvi, Umang, Varun, Wamiqa, Yash, Zoya

Activities: Painting, Robotics, Dance, Debate, Music, Drama, Coding, Yoga

Clues:

1. Riya is due north of Varun.
2. Tanvi is due east of Yash.
3. Sagar sits exactly between Riya and Tanvi.
4. Wamiqa sits directly opposite Sagar.
5. Umang sits immediately clockwise to Tanvi.
6. Zoya sits immediately anti-clockwise to Riya.
7. Yash handles Coding.
8. Varun handles Music.
9. Umang handles Debate.
10. Sagar handles Robotics.
11. Wamiqa handles Drama.
12. Zoya handles Yoga.
13. Riya handles Painting.
14. Tanvi handles Dance.

103. Who sits directly opposite Wamiqa?
 (a) Tanvi (b) Riya
 (c) Sagar (d) Varun

104. If a person moves in a straight line from Zoya's position to Umang's position through the centre, in which direction does the person move?

- (a) North-East
- (b) South-East
- (c) South-West
- (d) North-West

105. Which activity is immediately anti-clockwise to Music?

- (a) Debate
- (b) Drama
- (c) Coding
- (d) Dance

106. If a code is formed by writing the position abbreviation, followed by the first two letters of the activity, followed by the last letter of the participant's name, what will be Umang's code?

- (a) SEDGU
- (b) SEDEG
- (c) ESDEN
- (d) SEDEN

107. If only the corner participants are read in clockwise order starting from North-East, which sequence of activities is obtained?

- (a) Robotics, Debate, Drama, Yoga
- (b) Yoga, Robotics, Debate, Drama
- (c) Debate, Drama, Yoga, Robotics
- (d) Robotics, Yoga, Drama, Debate

108. A message is formed by taking the initials of participants sitting at the side-midpoints in clockwise order starting from North. What message is formed?

- (a) RYVT
- (b) TVYR
- (c) VYRT
- (d) RTVY

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

[Directions for Q.109-Q114]: A State Renewable Energy Board operates a rooftop-solar programme across four districts, P, Q, R and S. The districts have 6,000, 8,000, 5,000 and 9,000 eligible households, respectively. Of these, 75% of the households in P, 60% in Q, 84% in R and 50% in S participate in the programme.

Before the installation of rooftop-solar systems, the average monthly electricity consumption of each participating household was 180 units in P, 200 units in Q, 160 units in R and 220 units in S. Assume that the total electricity requirement of a participating household remains unchanged after installation.

The solar systems generate electricity equal to 40% of total consumption in P, 35% in Q, 50% in R and 30% in S. Of the solar electricity generated, 10% in P, 8% in Q, 12% in R and 5% in S is exported to the grid. The remaining solar electricity is self-consumed. Consequently, grid import is calculated by subtracting self-consumed solar electricity, rather than total solar generation, from total consumption.

The grid tariffs are ₹6 per unit in P, ₹6.50 in Q, ₹5.50 in R and ₹7 in S. Exported electricity is credited at 60% of the applicable grid tariff. A household's net electricity bill is obtained by subtracting its export credit from the charge for electricity imported from the grid.

The government provides a capital subsidy of ₹25,000 per participating household in P and R and ₹20,000 per participating household in Q and S. It also provides a generation incentive of ₹1.50 for every unit of solar electricity self-consumed during the first twelve months.

109. What was the weighted average monthly electricity consumption per participating household across the four districts before the installation of rooftop-solar systems?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 188.40 units | (b) 190.67 units |
| (c) 192.25 units | (d) 189.75 units |

110. What is the ratio of the monthly solar electricity generated in P and R together to that generated in Q and S together?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) 211 : 220 | (b) 110 : 107 |
| (c) 220 : 211 | (d) 221 : 210 |

111. How many units of electricity are imported from the grid every month across all four districts?

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 22,53,450 units | (b) 22,86,330 units |
| (c) 22,07,280 units | (d) 23,21,550 units |

112. What is the aggregate monthly net electricity bill of participating households across all four districts?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) ₹1,37,84,932 | (b) ₹1,40,12,580 |
| (c) ₹1,39,48,932 | (d) ₹1,38,66,704 |

113. What is the government's total expenditure during the first year, including both capital subsidy and generation incentive?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) ₹42,12,13,900 | (b) ₹42,47,13,900 |
| (c) ₹42,83,13,900 | (d) ₹40,35,00,000 |

114. In the following month, 20% of the participating households in Q increase their consumption by 10%. Their solar generation, self-consumption and export remain unchanged, and the additional requirement is met entirely

through grid imports. At the same time, the export-credit rate in Q is raised from 60% to 75% of the grid tariff. How will the aggregate net bill of District Q change?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) It will increase by ₹1,24,800 | (b) It will decrease by ₹26,208 |
| (c) It will increase by ₹1,51,008 | (d) It will increase by ₹98,592 |

[Directions for Q.115-Q120]: An online retailer conducted a promotional campaign for four products, A, B, C and D. It received 2,400 orders for A, 1,800 orders for B, 3,000 orders for C and 1,500 orders for D. Their respective listed prices were ₹1,250, ₹1,800, ₹900 and ₹2,400.

The retailer offered discounts of 12% on A, 15% on B, 10% on C and 20% on D. Before dispatch, 5% of the orders for A, 4% for B, 8% for C and 4% for D were cancelled. Cancelled orders generated no revenue, payment-processing fee or logistics cost.

Of the orders dispatched, 10% of A, 12.5% of B, 5% of C and 7.5% of D were subsequently returned. A returned order generated no retained sales revenue. However, the retailer bore a non-refundable payment-processing fee equal to 2% of the discounted selling price for every dispatched order, including returned orders.

The forward-logistics costs per dispatched order were ₹60 for A, ₹75 for B, ₹50 for C and ₹90 for D. Every returned order incurred an additional reverse-logistics cost equal to 80% of the corresponding forward-logistics cost.

Based on historical averages, the retailer estimated that 80% of the returned units of A, 75% of B, 70% of C and 85% of D would be restored to saleable inventory. For contribution accounting, the expected write-off on the remaining proportion was recognised at 50% of the applicable listed price. No revenue from the units restored to inventory was recognised during the campaign.

Product contribution is calculated as retained sales revenue minus payment-processing fees, forward- and reverse-logistics costs and expected inventory write-offs. The campaign also involved a common fixed expenditure of ₹3,00,000.

115. What is the ratio of orders cancelled before dispatch to orders returned after dispatch?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) 41 : 60 | (b) 84 : 115 |
| (c) 82 : 115 | (d) 82 : 113 |

116. Approximately what percentage of the original orders was ultimately retained by customers?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 86.41% | (b) 85.72% |
| (c) 87.36% | (d) 84.93% |

117. What was the combined contribution from the four products before deducting the common fixed campaign expenditure?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) ₹82,47,235.20 | (b) ₹84,77,575.20 |
| (c) ₹80,62,405.20 | (d) ₹83,62,405.20 |

118. Which product generated the highest contribution per retained order?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) Product B | (b) Product D |
| (c) Product A | (d) Product C |

119. The final campaign contribution, after deducting the common fixed expenditure, was approximately what percentage of the total retained sales revenue?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 87.14% | (b) 88.05% |
| (c) 84.97% | (d) 86.62% |

120. Suppose the return rate of Product C doubled from 5% to 10%, while its forward-logistics cost increased from ₹50 to ₹55. Its reverse-logistics cost would continue to be 80% of its forward-logistics cost. All other figures remained unchanged. What would be the retailer's revised final campaign contribution?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) ₹79,26,475.20 | (b) ₹79,11,571.20 |
| (c) ₹80,11,571.20 | (d) ₹78,60,737.20 |

Rough Work
