

UG 2027

ADMIT CARD NUMBER

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QUESTION BOOKLET NO: 2027UG19



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 31 (Thirty-One) 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

Section A: English Language

Passage: The never-ending story of the making of Victoria's house was intimately intertwined with another story that unfolded in our conversations: the gradual and constantly reconfigured settlement of her children's families. Over time, as many as four generations lived under Victoria's roof – whether by rearranging existing rooms or by adding new ones in the backyard and on top of the house. Such intertwining of materiality and relatedness becomes especially clear in a conversation with one of her daughters. A few years earlier, after three decades in her mother's home, she had moved to a small, rented house behind another property nearby, in order to make space for her own grandchildren. 'If you have problems,' she said to me, 'the only place to go is your mother's. If my husband tells me to leave, I come back here. You know that your parents will always open the door to you. My parents have never closed their doors to their children – never.'

And yet the same house that never closes its door can also close in. Victoria, who took such pleasure in recounting how it was built, spoke of those years in another register too: 'crowded together' (todos amontonados), 'you cannot fight for your life, fight for yourself'. She still dreamed of the terrace, the small garden, the raised kitchen floor she never had room to finish. Here one glimpses the enduring strength of the moral expectation to welcome one's children, and the extent to which home-leaving is understood as reversible. The house appears as something pliable – and that pliability cuts both ways. It can crowd and exhaust as readily as it can shelter; but because it is never finished, it holds the conflict open, as something that might yet be eased by a room added at the back, a wall moved, a life rearranged. A 'definitive house' forecloses that wager. The self-built one keeps it alive – for better and for worse.

Victoria's story is part of a broader reality among poor urban populations across Latin America, where roughly a quarter to a third of urban residents have lived in informal housing conditions as cities expanded through the late 20th and early 21st century. In Santiago, much of what is now the pericentral belt took shape between the 1960s and '80s through a precarious process of informal occupation of marginal land and later state-regularised poblaciones that shaped the city's growth. These are neighbourhoods slowly and collectively assembled by hand over multiple generations – their houses, streets and public spaces still bearing the marks of that history, as do the family configurations and forms of local sociability, as well as civic and political participation, that took shape within them.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://aeon.co/essays/the-art-of-dwelling-in-santiagos-self-built-homes>

1. Which option best captures the passage's central concern about Victoria's house?
 - (a) Informal housing survives because formal urban provision remains inadequate.
 - (b) Family obligations and domestic space continually reshape one another.
 - (c) Multigenerational living persists because independent housing remains unaffordable.
 - (d) Self-built homes preserve kinship by preventing permanent household separation.

2. The daughter moves out to make room for her grandchildren. She nevertheless treats Victoria's house as a place of unquestioned return. This suggests that:
 - (a) Residential departure need not terminate one's claim to familial belonging.
 - (b) Separate residence gradually reduces reliance on the parental household.
 - (c) Leaving home shifts family responsibility from descendants back to parents.
 - (d) Independent residence preserves kinship while ending material dependence.

3. What is the closest meaning of the statement that "the same house that never closes its door can also close in"?
 - (a) Continuing hospitality may eventually become impossible to maintain.
 - (b) Familial refuge may also constrain those who remain within it.

- (c) Household expansion may turn temporary dependence into permanent residence.
- (d) Domestic openness may gradually weaken ties beyond the household.

4. The self-built house remains open to further alteration. A “definitive house”, by contrast, would foreclose the author’s “wager”. The wager is that:

- (a) later generations may complete the house once family needs become stable.
- (b) economic independence may eventually eliminate domestic tensions altogether.
- (c) spatial changes may still ease tensions created by continuing family obligations.
- (d) incomplete construction may postpone the need for permanent family separation.

5. Why does the author broaden Victoria’s story to the history of Santiago’s informal neighbourhoods?

- (a) To locate household arrangements within a wider history of urban self-building.
- (b) To separate private family life from collectively produced urban settlements.
- (c) To show that regularisation ended the instability of informal neighbourhoods.
- (d) To establish informal housing as the chief model of Latin American growth.

6. Victoria takes pleasure in recalling the house she built. She also remembers the terrace, garden and kitchen floor she never completed. Together, these details suggest that:

- (a) Victoria valued the house chiefly because it preserved family continuity.
- (b) Domestic adaptation often required Victoria to defer her own plans for the house.
- (c) Self-building remained an achievement despite the sacrifices it imposed.
- (d) The house’s incompleteness gradually weakened Victoria’s attachment to it.

Passage: In 1962, Scott Carpenter flew into orbit on an Atlas rocket and made history as the sixth human in space. But shortly after, the Mercury astronaut left NASA to explore another frontier. Carpenter became a US Navy “aquanaunt,” spending almost a month on the ocean floor. Space and the deep sea had become Cold War battlegrounds, and it was important to know how people might operate in these environments.

Psychologists quickly became involved, studying how people coped with extreme living situations. Historian Layne Karafantis argues that the Sealab II and Skylab projects enabled unique methods of psychological research, and that their results influenced later exploration efforts.

Sealab was a Navy project to see if aquanauts could live undersea for extended periods. If so, they could potentially conduct long-term espionage or weapons recovery missions. In 1965, groups of ten aquanauts spent stints in a fifty-seven-foot steel cylinder off the coast of La Jolla, California. It provided a perfect opportunity for psychological research. The aquanauts took psychological questionnaires, which the researchers hoped to compare with similar ones taken by Antarctic explorers. When the aquanauts looked out the windows of the habitat, they saw inward-pointing cameras among the fish passing by. Psychologists hoped the controlled environment of the habitat would enable more detailed behavior studies. Space stations had similar potential, and in the early 1970s they became a reality. The Soviet Union built the first space station in 1971. Then NASA used the momentum from Apollo to create their own station, building Skylab within a Saturn V fuel tank.

Designing a living space in such a confined structure was a major challenge. Designer Raymond Loewy tackled it with a patriotic enthusiasm typical for the Cold War. He had designed spaces within buses, trains, and planes—including John F. Kennedy’s Air Force One. He was well prepared to take on the first American space station. Loewy gave input to NASA with psychological well-being in mind. He paid close attention to color schemes, emphasizing variety to stave off boredom. He pushed for private spaces and windows, despite the engineering difficulties.

Astronauts lived and worked in the orbiting laboratory in 1973 and 1974. In addition to running experiments and taking physiological observations, the astronauts took psychological inventories and evaluated the living situation.

While they were initially skeptical of Loewy's focus on details, Karafantis writes that his "design choices had a significant impact on the productiveness of the crew."

Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://daily.jstor.org/skylab-sealab-and-the-psychology-of-the-extreme/>

7. The astronauts initially questioned Loewy's attention to design details. What does their later experience most strongly establish?

- (a) Confined habitats required designers with prior experience in transport interiors.
- (b) Features intended for psychological well-being could also support crew productivity.
- (c) Engineering concerns had initially caused astronauts to undervalue private spaces.
- (d) Successful habitat design depended more on comfort than scientific functionality.

8. Which of the following is NOT true about Sealab's psychological research?

- (a) Aquanaut responses were intended for comparison with Antarctic data.
- (b) Cameras were meant chiefly for later comparison with astronaut behaviour.
- (c) Controlled conditions were expected to permit closer behavioural study.
- (d) Psychological research extended beyond Sealab's operational purpose.

9. What is the closest meaning of "momentum" in "NASA used the momentum from Apollo"?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) Legacy | (b) Continuity |
| (c) Prestige | (d) Impetus |

10. What do Loewy's design choices imply about habitability in Skylab?

- (a) Psychological comfort formed part of making confinement workable.
- (b) Personal privacy was valued above efficient scientific functioning.
- (c) Visual variety was intended mainly to offset social isolation.
- (d) Aesthetic concerns were given priority over technical constraints.

11. Which description most accurately identifies the nature of the passage?

- (a) A military history tracing Cold War competition through experimental habitats.
- (b) A scientific account comparing psychological data from sea and space missions.
- (c) A historical narrative showing how extreme habitats became psychological laboratories.
- (d) A design history explaining how Skylab improved upon failures observed in Sealab.

12. What broader link does the passage draw between Sealab and Skylab?

- (a) Both environments were treated as strategically equivalent Cold War spaces.
- (b) Both raised related questions about sustained human performance under stress.
- (c) Sealab functioned mainly as a preliminary model for later space stations.
- (d) Psychological research eventually displaced the original goals of both projects.

Passage: Some time ago I was doing research for a seminar I planned to offer on "media and magic". I was interested in the concept of magic as it existed in the Renaissance, and in particular with the so-called occult philosophy of thinkers like Marsilio Ficino, Giordano Bruno, Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa and Robert Fludd. It was while reading about Fludd that I discovered a startling image. It was from his major work, an ambitious, multi-volume, syncretic theory-of-everything with the cumbersome title *The Metaphysical, Physical, and Technical History of the Two Worlds, the Major as well as the Minor*. The image that jumped out at me is quite simple. In a section discussing the origin of the universe, Fludd was compelled to speculate on what existed prior to the universe, which he describes as an empty nothingness, a sort of "pre-universe" or "un-universe". He chose to represent this with a simple black square.

The image was startling to me because it was so different from the other images of Fludd's that we are used to — elaborate, ornate, hyper-complex diagrams that detail all the movements of the planets or of the mind. The black square was also startling because it immediately brought to mind examples from modern art, the most noteworthy being Kazimir Malevich's Black Square on a White Ground from 1915. Fludd's black square was, to be sure, enigmatic. Not only that, but Fludd also seemed aware of the limits of representation, noting on each edge of the black square, *Et sic in infinitum*, "And so on to infinity. . ."

Looking at it out of context, I find Fludd's image indelibly modern, in both its simplicity and its austerity. It was as if Fludd had the intuition that only a self-negating form of representation would be able to suggest the nothingness prior to all existence, an un-creation prior to all creation. And so we get a "colour" that is not really a colour — a colour that either negates or consumes all colours. And we get a square that is not really a square, a box meant to indicate boundlessness. For the image to work within the context of Fludd's cosmology, the viewer must not see the image for what it is — a black square. The viewer must understand the square as formlessness and the black inside as neither a fullness nor an emptiness. This simple little image requires a lot of work on the part of the viewer, perhaps as much work as in Fludd's other, more complex diagrams. For a synthetic, systematic thinker like Fludd, this must have been a difficult move. After all, *The Metaphysical, Physical, and Technical History* is, if nothing else, a totalising work, and work whose ambition is to include and to account for everything — even nothing.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/black-on-black/>

13. Which feature most sharply distinguishes Fludd's black square from his usual diagrams?

- (a) Its cosmological subject replaces his usual interest in the human mind.
- (b) Its modern appearance abandons the symbolic method of Renaissance thought.
- (c) Its geometric form avoids the planetary structures found in his other work.
- (d) Its severe simplicity contrasts with his normally elaborate visual systems.

14. The author calls it a "colour that is not really a colour" and a "square that is not really a square". Which device chiefly structures these expressions?

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|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Antithesis | (b) Metonymy |
| (c) Paradox | (d) Synecdoche |

15. Which pairing is least consistent with how the viewer must interpret Fludd's black square?

- (a) Visible boundary : conceptual infinity
- (b) Definite form : intended formlessness
- (c) Dark surface : neither fullness nor emptiness
- (d) Graphic simplicity : effortless interpretation

16. Fludd's work attempts to account for an enormous range of phenomena. Which word most clearly signals the blending of different systems of thought?

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|----------------|---------------|
| (a) Systematic | (b) Syncretic |
| (c) Totalising | (d) Synthetic |

17. What is chiefly implied by Fludd writing "*Et sic in infinitum*" along each edge of the square?

- (a) Visible boundaries are meant to suggest extension beyond themselves.
- (b) Endless repetition of the square is implied beyond the printed page.
- (c) Hidden structure is attributed to the nothingness before creation.
- (d) A larger geometric scheme is presumed beyond the displayed image.

18. Malevich's Black Square immediately comes to the author's mind. What role does this comparison play?

- (a) It establishes that Malevich probably drew upon Fludd's earlier cosmological image.
- (b) It shows that abstract art revived Renaissance techniques of occult representation.
- (c) It explains why Fludd rejected elaborate diagrams later in his intellectual career.
- (d) It highlights how unexpectedly modern Fludd's radically simple image appears.

Passage: A lone visitor looks for a garden outside an empty monastery. A morose housekeeper won't let anyone behind the door of her own home. A retired general living alone on a crumbling estate waits 40 years to confront the only friend he ever had. Melancholy, an affinity with oblivion without a concrete cause, suffuses the Hungarian fiction translated for foreign audiences over the past 30 years, from the tortured tales of Sándor Márai to the taut novels of Magda Szabó.

In his book *In Praise of Melancholy*, essayist László F Földényi tells the story of an Englishman who monomaniacally decides to teach himself Hungarian. For Földényi, the commitment to studying a language with at least 18 cases and cut off from its distant Finno-Ugric linguistic cousins, from a culture besieged by centuries of invasion, is to embrace melancholy, a seductive "capacity for despair". To read Hungarian literature as an outsider, the poet János Pilinszky claimed in 1972, is to acquire unique spiritual insights that come from centuries of rootlessness, alienation and strife.

Over the past year, international interest in Hungarian melancholy has surged again. In May, eight months after László Krasznahorkai won the Nobel prize in literature for his dystopian single-sentence monologues, Péter Nádas – known for his ruminative multigenerational novels – was elected a member of Germany's Pour le Mérite order of science and art, one of the country's highest honours.

The Swiss writer Nelio Biedermann's *Lázár*, about fading Hungarian nobility, has been translated into at least 25 languages, while British-Canadian David Szalay's *Flesh*, featuring the minimalistic narration of the lugubrious Hungarian man István, won 2025's Booker prize. The latter two books are fantasies of Hungarian melancholy relayed by outsiders: Szalay moved to Hungary for a decade to explore his father's birthplace, while Biedermann modeled his novel's genealogical mythology after his ancestors' Hungarian family history – neither author writes in Hungarian.

Yet in Hungary itself, the same forces that have fuelled the melancholia of the literature enjoyed by foreigners – autocratic rule and isolation – have prevented more writers from gaining broader readership.

In the wake of strongman prime minister Viktor Orbán's April loss to reformist challenger Péter Magyar, Hungary's leading professionals in publishing, theatre, radio, museums and universities have released sweeping, mobilising reports on the fallout of Orbán's 16-year rule. On 27 May, six prominent book insiders published a joint polemical statement in the Hungarian literary magazine *Litera* claiming that since 2010 "many excellent Hungarian authors have lost the opportunity to publish abroad ... as foreign partners have lost trust in Hungarian state institutions".

Extracted with edits and revisions from:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/aug/20/melancholy-made-in-hungary-is-fuelling-bestsellers-across-the-globe-and-widely-misunderstood>

19. Why does the author begin with three scenes of lonely or withdrawn characters?

- (a) To show that solitude dominates all modern Hungarian fiction.
- (b) To contrast fictional sorrow with Hungary's political experience.
- (c) To illustrate the melancholy later identified with translated Hungarian fiction.
- (d) To explain why foreign readers prefer isolated Hungarian protagonists.

20. Földényi associates Hungarian with despair. Pilinszky associates its literature with spiritual insight. Together, they suggest that:

- (a) Hungary's difficult language is itself responsible for its literary melancholy.
- (b) Outsiders understand Hungary best because they are free from its historical burdens.
- (c) Foreign readers can grasp Hungarian literature only after learning the language.
- (d) Engaging with Hungarian culture means encountering a history marked by suffering.

21. Why are Lázár and Flesch described as "fantasies of Hungarian melancholy relayed by outsiders"?

- (a) Both draw on Hungarian ties without being written in Hungarian.
- (b) Both imitate Hungarian writers while remaining culturally detached.
- (c) Both reshape Hungarian history mainly for foreign literary markets.
- (d) Both present melancholy more accessible than native Hungarian authors.

22. Hungarian melancholy has received considerable attention abroad, yet many Hungarian writers continue to struggle for wider international readership, suggesting that:

- (a) Foreign readers increasingly favour authors of Hungarian ancestry.
- (b) The forces shaping it also restrict Hungarian writers abroad.
- (c) Native writers are moving away from melancholic themes.
- (d) Outsider versions of Hungary receive greater institutional support.

23. Why does the author refer to the recent recognition of Krasznahorkai, Nádas, Biedermann and Szalay?

- (a) To suggest literary melancholy now determines Hungarian cultural prestige abroad.
- (b) To show outsider writers increasingly overshadow Hungarian-language literary figures.
- (c) To illustrate renewed international attention to Hungarian-associated melancholy.
- (d) To establish that major awards have widened access to Hungarian literature..

24. Book insiders say foreign partners have lost trust in Hungarian state institutions. According to them, this has meant that:

- (a) Hungarian writers must now publish mainly through state institutions.
- (b) politically critical books are less likely to be accepted abroad.
- (c) even strong writers may lose foreign opportunities for institutional reasons.
- (d) foreign publishers increasingly question the quality of Hungarian literature.

Section B: Current Affairs including General Knowledge

Passage: The United States has intensified action against India-linked transnational criminal networks through “Operation Hard Ball”, a coordinated law-enforcement crackdown announced by the U.S. Department of Justice in July 2026. The operation followed a multi-year federal investigation into criminal syndicates accused of carrying out extortion, shootings, targeted killings, narcotics trafficking, kidnappings and other offences across several countries.

Federal prosecutors unsealed three indictments involving 37 defendants connected with separate India-based criminal enterprises. Twenty-four people were arrested in the United States, Canada and Europe, while several others were already in custody or remained wanted. One indictment concerns the syndicate allegedly led by jailed Indian gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, whose associates are accused of operating across India, North America and Europe. Prosecutors allege that the network used encrypted communications and overseas lieutenants to coordinate violence, extortion demands and drug trafficking.

The investigation also focuses on other India-origin gangs alleged to have developed extensive international networks involving weapons, narcotics distribution and intimidation of diaspora communities. U.S. authorities said substantial quantities of cocaine and other contraband were seized during the investigation, along with firearms and cash.

Operation Hard Ball involved cooperation among American federal and local agencies as well as law-enforcement partners in Canada, Spain and other jurisdictions. The action forms part of a broader U.S. initiative aimed at disrupting foreign gangs and transnational criminal organisations. The indictments contain allegations only, and the accused remain presumed innocent unless proved guilty in court. Officials emphasized that cross-border coordination remains essential when criminal networks operate through members across continents.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdca/pr/international-crackdown-india-based-organized-crime-gangs-results-24-arrests-us-canada>]

25. Federal racketeering prosecutions against organised-crime enterprises frequently invoke the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute. RICO was enacted as Title IX of which of the following federal laws?

- (a) Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, 1968
- (b) Organized Crime Control Act, 1970
- (c) Comprehensive Crime Control Act, 1984
- (d) Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, 1994

26. What is the full form of INTERPOL?

- (a) International Police Organisation
- (b) International Police Coordination Organization
- (c) International Crime Prevention Organisation
- (d) International Criminal Police Organization

27. Operation Hard Ball formed part of the U.S. Homeland Security Task Force initiative established under Executive Order 14159. Which two officials were tasked with jointly establishing these task forces?

- (a) Secretary of State and Attorney General
- (b) Attorney General and Secretary of Homeland Security
- (c) Secretary of Homeland Security and Director of the FBI
- (d) Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence

28. India has introduced a digital mechanism to facilitate faster international police cooperation in cases involving organised crime, narcotics, arms trafficking and fugitives. Which agency developed the BHARATPOL portal?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| (a) National Investigation Agency | (b) Intelligence Bureau |
| (c) Bureau of Police Research and Development | (d) Central Bureau of Investigation |

29. Financial proceeds generated by transnational organised-crime networks bring such groups within the wider global anti-money-laundering framework. India became a full member of the Financial Action Task Force at its June 2010 Plenary held in which city?

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|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Paris | (b) Brussels |
| (c) Amsterdam | (d) Vienna |

30. Investigations involving evidence, witnesses and accused persons located across India and the United States may involve the bilateral Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in criminal matters. In which year did the India–United States criminal MLAT enter into force?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 1999 | (b) 2001 |
| (c) 2005 | (d) 2008 |

Passage: The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 29 July 2026 to further amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. The measure focused on tightening the procedure for delayed registration of births and deaths, an area with consequences for access to identity documents, public services, inheritance claims, education and welfare benefits.

Under the framework existing before the 2026 change, information about a birth or death supplied more than one year after the event could be registered on the order of executive authorities after verification and payment of the prescribed fee. The Bill created separate treatment for cases involving longer delays. Where information is furnished after one year but within two years, approval may be granted by designated magistracy authorities having jurisdiction over the place of occurrence. Where the delay exceeds two years, registration requires an order from a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class after verification of the event.

The proposal formed part of a wider evolution of India’s civil-registration system. Earlier reforms had promoted digital registration, electronic delivery of certificates and national and State-level databases of registered births and deaths. These databases support updating public records and facilitate delivery of government services.

The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 31 July and by the Rajya Sabha on 4 August 2026. Presidential assent followed on 6 August, converting the measure into the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2026, with commencement dependent on a Central Government notification.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-registration-of-births-and-deaths-amendment-bill-2026>]

31. Which of the following international organisations is one of the custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 16.9.1 concerning birth registration?

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|------------|------------|
| (a) UNESCO | (b) UNICEF |
| (c) UNFPA | (d) UNDP |

32. The use of existing civil-registration machinery for recording another important vital event was examined by the Law Commission of India. Which Law Commission Report was titled “Compulsory Registration of Marriages”?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 211th Report | (b) 257th Report |
| (c) 270th Report | (d) 275th Report |

33. “Vital statistics including registration of births and deaths” is placed under which entry of the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (a) Entry 27 | (b) Entry 28 |
| (c) Entry 29 | (d) Entry 30 |

34. Judicial developments concerning compulsory registration of marriages preceded later proposals to use civil-registration machinery for the purpose. In which case did the Supreme Court issue directions for compulsory registration of marriages in India?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Sarla Mudgal v. Union of India | (b) Seema v. Ashwani Kumar |
| (c) Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M. | (d) Lily Thomas v. Union of India |

35. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name under which provision?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Article 22(2) | (b) Article 23(2) |
| (c) Article 24(2) | (d) Article 25(2) |

36. The first complete population Census conducted throughout India on a uniform basis was held in which year?

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|----------|----------|
| (a) 1871 | (b) 1881 |
| (c) 1891 | (d) 1901 |

Passage: Samudra Manthan, formally called the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, is a Central Sector initiative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas aimed at accelerating India’s search for energy resources beneath the seabed. Approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026, the programme carries a Phase-I outlay of ₹84,084 crore and is scheduled to operate up to FY 2030–31. It seeks to reduce the high financial and technological risks associated with exploration in deepwater, ultra-deepwater and other frontier offshore areas.

A major component of the scheme is the acquisition and processing of modern geophysical information. Large-scale two-dimensional and three-dimensional seismic surveys, reprocessing of existing National Data Repository information, and the use of artificial-intelligence tools are intended to improve understanding of offshore geological structures. The programme also supports exploratory drilling, including government assistance for part of the eligible cost of selected deepwater wells.

Beyond exploration, Samudra Manthan provides for common offshore infrastructure to help commercialise successful discoveries and for dedicated manufacturing and services zones to strengthen domestic capability in specialised equipment and technical services. Capacity building, digital monitoring, technology adoption and international engagement also form part of the programme.

The government expects the initiative to expand India’s hydrocarbon resource base, support higher domestic production and reduce dependence on imported crude oil and gas. By combining public investment, risk-sharing, advanced technology and shared infrastructure, the scheme is intended to create a broader offshore exploration ecosystem while supporting energy security, industrial development and technological self-reliance. It also aims to attract sustained private investment.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=159415&NotelId=159415&ModuleId=3®=48&lang=2>]

37. Offshore mineral extraction is separately regulated under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002. Which of the following is excluded from the statutory definition of “mineral” under this Act?

- (a) Polymetallic minerals
 (b) Offshore construction minerals

- (c) Mineral oil and related hydrocarbon resources
- (d) Metallic minerals occurring in the continental shelf

38. Hydrocarbon exploration within India's maritime jurisdiction is distinct from mineral-resource activities in the international seabed area referred to under UNCLOS as 'the Area'. Where is the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority located?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| (a) Nassau, The Bahamas | (b) Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago |
| (c) Bridgetown, Barbados | (d) Kingston, Jamaica |

39. Where a coastal State seeks recognition of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, its scientific submission is examined by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). How many members constitute the Commission under UNCLOS?

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| (a) 18 | (b) 21 |
| (c) 24 | (d) 25 |

40. India's offshore exploration programme is also connected with efforts to assess unconventional gas resources. National Gas Hydrate Programme Expedition-02 identified significant gas-hydrate-bearing sand reservoirs particularly in which offshore basin?

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Krishna-Godavari Basin | (b) Kerala-Konkan Basin |
| (c) Cambay Basin | (d) Rajasthan Basin |

41. Offshore hydrocarbon exploration may involve resources located on a coastal State's continental shelf. Under UNCLOS, which Article specifically recognises the sovereign rights of a coastal State to explore and exploit the natural resources of its continental shelf?

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Article 56 | (b) Article 76 |
| (c) Article 77 | (d) Article 81 |

Passage: The Bay of Bengal has become increasingly important to India's eastern maritime strategy because it connects the Indian Ocean with Southeast Asia and major sea routes approaching the Malacca Strait. In July 2026, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled SHANTI—Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity—while launching India's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for 2028–29. SHANTI was presented as a broader approach to global governance based on peace, rules, trust, inclusive development and respect for international norms, with maritime security among India's stated priorities.

The application of SHANTI specifically to the Bay of Bengal is an analytical interpretation rather than a separately announced government maritime doctrine. The region nevertheless offers a relevant setting because its littoral states face shared challenges such as cyclones, illegal fishing, trafficking, marine pollution, vulnerable ports, cyber risks and threats to undersea communication infrastructure.

BIMSTEC provides an existing platform for cooperation among Bay of Bengal countries in areas including connectivity, security, disaster management, energy and maritime engagement. Greater information-sharing, humanitarian assistance, disaster-response coordination and capacity-building could strengthen regional resilience.

This perspective also places SHANTI alongside the evolution of India's maritime outlook from SAGAR, articulated in 2015, to MAHASAGAR, announced in 2025. While SAGAR emphasised regional security and growth, MAHASAGAR broadened India's engagement with the Global South. In this context, the Bay of Bengal could serve as a practical arena for cooperative, rules-based and development-oriented maritime action. Such cooperation could also support sustainable blue-economy development and safer regional maritime lifelines.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-bay-of-bengal-as-indias-shanti-anchor/article71287214.ece>]

42. The BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, relevant to regional cooperation against cyclones and other climate hazards in the Bay of Bengal, is located in which Indian city?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Pune, Maharashtra | (b) Bengaluru, Karnataka |
| (c) Hyderabad, Telangana | (d) Noida, Uttar Pradesh |

43. Following the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System was developed under the aegis of which body?

- (a) UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- (b) UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Secretariat (UNDRR)
- (c) World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations (WMO)
- (d) International Maritime Organization of the United Nations (IMO)

44. Rules-based maritime governance in the Bay of Bengal is closely connected with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Where is the seat of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea located?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Geneva, Switzerland | (b) Hamburg, Germany |
| (c) The Hague, Netherlands | (d) Vienna, Austria |

45. The BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity, covering road, rail, maritime, inland-water and aviation links, was developed with the support of which international financial institution?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) AIIB | (b) ADB |
| (c) NDB | (d) IBRD |

46. Vision SAGAR was articulated during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius in March 2015. The occasion was associated with the commissioning of which India-built vessel into the Mauritian National Coast Guard?

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| (a) MCGS Barracuda | (b) MCGS Victory |
| (c) MCGS Valiant | (d) MCGS Guardian |

Passage: National Handloom Day 2026 was observed across India on 7 August, highlighting the skill, creativity and economic contribution of the country's weaving community. The national celebration was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu attended as the Chief Guest. The occasion brought together weavers, designers, entrepreneurs, government officials and representatives associated with India's handloom ecosystem.

A major feature of the celebration was the presentation of the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and the National Handloom Awards 2025. Twenty-two awardees were recognised for excellence in weaving, design, innovation, marketing, entrepreneurship and institution-building. Four commemorative postage stamps celebrating distinctive Indian weaving traditions were also released.

The observance drew attention to the scale and social importance of the sector. Official data cited in connection with the event noted that India has about 35.22 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers, with women forming more than 72 per cent of this workforce. The sector remains closely connected with rural livelihoods, inherited skills and local cultural identities.

The 2026 celebrations also stressed the need to combine traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design, technology, branding and wider market access. President Murmu highlighted the potential of young entrepreneurs, designers and start-ups to connect traditional crafts with modern trends and global value chains. The Prime

Minister also described handlooms as an important pillar of rural empowerment, women-led development and the broader goal of self-reliance. Week-long activities around the country included exhibitions, promotional campaigns, films and public programmes intended to increase awareness and appreciation.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=159448&NotId=159448&ModuleId=3®=48&lang=2>]

47. In which year did the Government of India first observe National Handloom Day?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| (a) 2012 | (b) 2013 |
| (c) 2015 | (d) 2014 |

48. Which of the following honours is specifically associated with excellence in India's handloom sector?

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Shilp Guru Award | (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi Award |
| (c) Lalit Kala Akademi Award | (d) Sant Kabir Handloom Award |

49. A number of traditional Indian handloom products are protected as Geographical Indications. The Geographical Indications Registry, which has jurisdiction over GI registrations in India, is situated in which city?

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (a) Mumbai | (b) Kolkata |
| (c) Hyderabad | (d) Chennai |

50. Pochampally Ikat, one of India's prominent handloom traditions, is principally associated with which state?

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (a) Telangana | (b) Gujarat |
| (c) Odisha | (d) Kerala |

51. The Central Silk Board, relevant to silk-based handloom traditions such as Banarasi, Kanchipuram and several northeastern textiles, derives its statutory authority from which legislation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Silk Industries Regulation Act, 1952 | (b) Central Silk Board Act, 1948 |
| (c) Textiles Committee Act, 1963 | (d) Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 |

52. National Handloom Day draws historical association from the Swadeshi Movement. The 1905 session of the Indian National Congress, which endorsed Swadeshi in the backdrop of the Partition of Bengal, was presided over by whom?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) Dadabhai Naoroji | (b) Rash Behari Ghosh |
| (c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale | (d) Surendranath Banerjea |

Section C: Legal Reasoning

Passage: On 2 July 2026, the Supreme Court in *Pooja Ramesh Singh v. Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.*, 2026 INSC 668, considered NCLT and NCLAT orders affected by fake or hallucinated precedents. Six authorities relied upon by the NCLT were either non-existent, wrongly cited or accompanied by paragraphs absent from genuine judgments. The Bank stated that its counsel had not cited them; they appeared to result from the NCLT's own research. The Supreme Court set aside both orders, restored the Section 7 application and directed the NCLT to decide it afresh without expressing any opinion on its merits. Article 141 gives binding force to law declared by the Supreme Court. A fabricated decision cannot declare law because it has no authentic judicial determination or ratio decidendi. Even a genuine case becomes unreliable when attached to a wrong citation or quoted for a paragraph it does not contain. Anyone relying on precedent should verify its cause title, citation, bench, date, authoritative text and the precise proposition for which it is cited.

The Supreme Court declared zero tolerance for producing, citing or using unverified AI-generated precedents. An advocate who cites such material without verification commits misconduct. Section 35 of the Advocates Act, 1961 provides the disciplinary process when a State Bar Council has reason to believe that an advocate has committed professional or other misconduct. The Court also directed the Bar Council of India to constitute a committee, frame guiding principles and identify disciplinary consequences. An advocate's duties of dignity and candour require legal materials to be checked before they are placed before a court. Judicial responsibility is independent of counsel's responsibility. AI output cannot replace legal research, statutory interpretation or judicial application of mind. Reliance by a judge on fake or hallucinated material is a serious lapse. The Supreme Court held that a decision is no decision in the eyes of law if even an iota of such material enters the decision-making process, whether its influence is direct or indirect.

Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 permits a financial creditor to seek initiation of corporate insolvency resolution upon the occurrence of default. The adjudicating authority must determine the application from the statutory requirements, authentic records and existing law. Disputes concerning debt, guarantee, restructuring, limitation or maintainability cannot be resolved through fabricated authorities. The judgment does not prohibit legitimate use of AI. Technology may assist with searching, summarising, formatting or organising legal material, but it cannot authenticate law or make the judicial decision. Human verification and accountability must remain present at every stage.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from <https://www.livelaw.in/supreme-court/citing-ai-generated-fake-precedents-is-advocate-misconduct-judgments-based-on-them-are-void-supreme-court-539634>]

53. The NCLT admits a Section 7 application after relying partly on four precedents obtained through its own AI-assisted research. During the appeal, it is established that the precedents do not exist. The NCLAT nevertheless affirms the order because authentic financial records may independently establish debt and default. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) Both orders may stand because the financial records provide an independent factual basis for admission.
- (b) Only the NCLAT order should be reconsidered because the NCLT may conduct independent technological research.
- (c) Both orders should be set aside and the application decided afresh without the fabricated authorities.
- (d) The Section 7 application must be dismissed permanently because reliance on false precedent disproves the debt.

54. An advocate uses an AI research tool to prepare written submissions. The tool supplies a case name, citation and supporting paragraph. Without opening the reported judgment, the advocate files the submissions but

discloses that an AI tool assisted the research. The authority is subsequently found to be fabricated. Which conclusion follows from the passage?

- (a) Disclosure of AI use does not cure the failure to verify, and citing the fabricated authority constitutes misconduct.
- (b) Disclosure prevents misconduct because the court assumes responsibility for checking every authority placed before it.
- (c) Misconduct arises only if the court expressly relies upon the fabricated authority when delivering its decision.
- (d) Misconduct requires proof that the advocate personally invented the authority with an intention to deceive the court.

55. Counsel cites a genuine Supreme Court judgment using its correct cause title and reported citation. However, counsel attributes to paragraph 47 a proposition concerning limitation that does not appear anywhere in the judgment. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) The authority remains valid because existence of the judgment is sufficient for the operation of Article 141.
- (b) The attributed proposition may be used if it is consistent with the general reasoning found in similar decisions.
- (c) The defect is immaterial if counsel orally informs the court that the paragraph may have been generated by AI.
- (d) The proposition is unsafe because precedent operates through the authentic judgment and its actual ratio, not invented text.

56. A bank files a Section 7 application supported by loan documents, a corporate guarantee and records of default. The corporate debtor argues that a restructuring transaction transferred its liabilities to another company. After examining the governing documents and applicable law, the NCLT concludes that the guarantee remains enforceable. Which statement is correct?

- (a) The NCLT must reject the application because any objection concerning liability prevents consideration of debt and default.
- (b) The NCLT may decide the statutory requirements from authentic records and existing law without relying on fabricated authorities.
- (c) The NCLT must admit the application solely because the financial creditor has alleged that a default occurred.
- (d) The NCLT must await a civil court judgment whenever the effect of restructuring on a guarantee is disputed.

57. Consider the following statements:

- i. A fabricated judgment may bind under Article 141 if the legal proposition attributed to it is otherwise correct.
- ii. A judge's responsibility to verify legal authority exists independently of the responsibility of counsel.
- iii. The Supreme Court finally decided that the corporate guarantee in Pooja Ramesh Singh remained enforceable.
- iv. AI may assist legal work, but human verification and accountability must remain throughout the process.

Which statements are correct?

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

58. In proceedings before the Supreme Court, the respondent Bank produces an affidavit establishing that its counsel did not cite the fake authorities appearing in the NCLT order. The authorities apparently resulted from the Tribunal's own research and were subsequently repeated by the NCLAT. What follows from the passage?

- (a) The Bank's counsel remains responsible because the Bank benefited from the order containing the fabricated authorities.
- (b) No legal defect arises because a tribunal may independently use unverified AI research without relying on counsel.
- (c) The NCLAT's affirmance cures the original defect because appellate approval gives authenticity to the authorities cited below.

(d) Counsel is not shown responsible on those facts, but judicial reliance independently vitiates the adjudicatory process.

59. Assertion (A): A judicial decision must be set aside if fake AI-generated material enters its reasoning, even when that material has only an indirect bearing on the result.

Reason (R): Judicial conclusions must rest upon authentic legal material, and the Supreme Court has adopted zero tolerance towards reliance on fake or hallucinated precedents.

Choose the correct answer:

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

Passage: Res ipsa loquitur, meaning “the thing speaks for itself”, is an evidentiary principle used in negligence cases. It is neither an independent tort nor a substitute for the essential elements of negligence. Ordinarily, the plaintiff must prove duty, breach, causation and damage. When direct evidence of the precise negligent act is unavailable, however, the circumstances of an accident may themselves support an inference that the defendant failed to exercise reasonable care. The principle arose from *Byrne v. Boadle* (1863), where a barrel of flour fell from premises under the defendant’s management and struck a passer-by. Barrels do not ordinarily fall from buildings when proper care is exercised, while the plaintiff could not be expected to know what had occurred inside. In *Municipal Corporation of Delhi v. Subhagwanti*, the collapse of a clock tower maintained by the Corporation similarly justified an inference of negligence from the nature of the occurrence.

The doctrine generally requires that the accident be of a kind that ordinarily does not happen without negligence; that the thing or process causing the harm was under the defendant’s management or control at the relevant time; and that the circumstances reasonably connect the probable negligence with the defendant. “Exclusive control” is not applied mechanically. The inquiry is whether responsibility for the instrumentality or process was sufficiently attributable to the defendant and whether another equally probable non-negligent cause is disclosed by the evidence.

Res ipsa loquitur and prima facie evidence are not competing doctrines. Application of the maxim enables the plaintiff to establish a prima facie case through circumstantial evidence. It permits, but does not compel, a finding of negligence. The ultimate legal burden of proving the claim remains with the plaintiff, while the evidential burden shifts to the defendant to provide an explanation consistent with reasonable care or to show that the occurrence probably resulted from some other cause. The doctrine must be applied cautiously in medical negligence cases. Leaving a surgical instrument or sponge inside an unconscious patient may itself support an inference of negligence because such an occurrence ordinarily does not follow proper care. An unsuccessful treatment, unexpected complication or death does not, without more, establish negligence. Where the medical issue lies beyond ordinary experience, expert evidence may still be necessary. Conduct of the plaintiff and third parties remains relevant. If the evidence shows that the accident is equally consistent with the plaintiff’s own act, an independent third-party act or a non-negligent cause, the inference may not arise. Contributory negligence is not invariably a complete bar; when negligence of both sides is proved, it may instead affect the assessment of damages. The defendant may rebut the inference, and the court must ultimately decide liability from the whole evidence.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/critical-analysis-principle-res-ipsa-loquitur/>]

60. A sealed container falls from the upper loading floor of a warehouse and strikes Dev, who is walking on the adjoining public pavement. The loading equipment and containers are managed exclusively by the warehouse staff.

No witness can identify the particular employee or act that caused the container to fall. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) Dev's claim fails because he must identify the employee who personally mishandled the container.
- (b) The doctrine is inapplicable because falling containers create strict liability rather than an inference of negligence.
- (c) The doctrine may apply because such a fall ordinarily suggests negligence attributable to warehouse management.
- (d) Liability arises only if Dev proves that a similar container had previously fallen from the warehouse.

61. A sealed beverage bottle manufactured by Nova Drinks bursts while Tara is holding it normally. Evidence establishes that, after delivery, the retailer stored the bottle beside an industrial heater contrary to the manufacturer's instructions. Experts consider a manufacturing defect and excessive heat equally probable causes of the explosion. Tara invokes *res ipsa loquitur* against Nova alone. Which conclusion follows from the passage?

- (a) The inference may not arise against Nova because the retailer's handling is an equally probable cause.
- (b) The inference must arise because Nova controlled the bottle when it was originally sealed and distributed.
- (c) Nova is conclusively liable because Tara's proper handling excludes every possible cause other than manufacturing negligence.
- (d) Tara cannot pursue negligence because the exact physical defect in the bottle has not been identified.

62. Following a complex operation, a patient develops an infection recognised as a possible complication even when reasonable surgical care is exercised. The patient identifies no unusual occurrence during the procedure and produces no expert evidence suggesting a departure from accepted medical practice. Which conclusion is most consistent with the passage?

- (a) The doctrine applies automatically because the infection developed while the patient remained under medical supervision.
- (b) The doctrine applies because an unconscious patient cannot personally observe the conduct of the surgical team.
- (c) Negligence is established because every unexpected medical complication requires the hospital to disprove liability.
- (d) The doctrine does not apply merely from the complication without circumstances making negligence the probable explanation.

63. Consider the following statements:

- i. Application of *res ipsa loquitur* may establish a *prima facie* case through circumstantial evidence.
- ii. Application of the doctrine permanently transfers the ultimate legal burden to the defendant.
- iii. Exclusive control always requires the defendant's physical possession at the precise moment of injury.
- iv. The defendant may rebut the inference by showing reasonable care or another probable cause.

Which statements are correct?

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

64. A municipal clock tower develops visible structural cracks. The Corporation places a temporary barrier and warning sign around it but fails to inspect or repair the structure. Rohan ignores the barrier and enters the restricted area, where he is injured when the tower collapses. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) The doctrine is unavailable because any unreasonable conduct by the plaintiff completely prevents its application.
- (b) The Corporation escapes liability because the warning transferred responsibility for maintaining the tower to Rohan.

- (c) Negligence may be inferred, while Rohan's conduct may separately affect the assessment of damages.
- (d) Rohan must receive full damages because structural collapse eliminates every question of contributory negligence.

65. A ceiling panel maintained by a theatre company suddenly falls and injures a visitor. At the close of the visitor's evidence, there is no proof of interference, unusual weather or any other external cause, and properly maintained panels do not ordinarily fall. The company subsequently produces inspection records and expert evidence indicating that an internal manufacturing defect, undetectable through reasonable inspection, probably caused the collapse. Which conclusion may most appropriately be inferred?

- (a) The company remains liable because the initial inference transfers the entire burden of persuasion to the defendant.
- (b) The company avoids liability because producing maintenance records necessarily displaces the circumstantial case against it.
- (c) The court must weigh the initial inference against whether the latent-defect explanation credibly shows reasonable care.
- (d) The visitor must identify a particular maintenance failure once the company suggests an alternative explanation.

Directions (Questions 66–72): Answer each question solely on the basis of the rules and facts provided. Do not rely on any prior legal knowledge.

Rules

1. Criminal conspiracy arises when two or more persons agree to do an illegal act or to perform a lawful act through illegal means. The essence of conspiracy is the agreement itself; every conspirator need not personally perform the intended act.
2. When the agreement is specifically to commit an offence, criminal conspiracy is complete upon formation of the agreement. No additional act in pursuance of that agreement is necessary.
3. When the agreed objective is lawful but the parties intend to accomplish it through illegal means that do not themselves constitute an offence, some act besides the agreement must be performed by one or more parties in pursuance of the agreement.
4. Mere knowledge, discussion, association or presence during a criminal proposal does not establish conspiracy unless the person intentionally agrees to participate in the unlawful design. The agreement may nevertheless be inferred from coordinated conduct and surrounding circumstances.
5. An assembly of five or more persons becomes an unlawful assembly when its members share a common object specified by law, including resisting the execution of law or legal process through criminal force, committing an offence, forcibly taking possession of property or compelling another person through criminal force to act unlawfully.
6. An assembly that was lawful when formed may subsequently become unlawful if five or more members adopt an unlawful common object. A common object may arise suddenly and does not require a detailed prior agreement.
7. Mere presence near an unlawful assembly does not make a person its member. The person must intentionally join or continue in the assembly while knowing the facts that make it unlawful.
8. Every member of an unlawful assembly is liable for an offence committed by another member when that offence is committed in prosecution of the common object or is one that the members knew was likely to be committed in pursuing that object.
9. Other members are not liable under the common-object rule for an offence committed solely for one member's private purpose when it falls outside the common object and was not known to be a likely consequence.

Facts I:

Aarav, Bharat and Charu met privately and agreed to manufacture counterfeit government educational certificates and sell them to applicants. They knew that manufacturing and selling those certificates constituted criminal offences.

The participants divided their future responsibilities. Aarav would obtain printing equipment, Bharat would prepare the false seals and Charu would locate purchasers. Before any equipment was purchased or any certificate was manufactured, the police discovered a recording of their concluded agreement and arrested them.

66. Did the participants commit criminal conspiracy despite performing no additional act?

- (a) No conspiracy exists until at least one participant performs the agreed offence.
- (b) Conspiracy exists because their agreement directly concerned commission of a criminal offence.
- (c) No conspiracy exists because police prevented every planned role from being performed.
- (d) Conspiracy exists only when each participant performs an identical act toward completion.

Modified Facts I

Diya was present when Aarav, Bharat and Charu discussed their plan. They invited her to locate purchasers, but she expressly refused and stated that she would not participate.

Diya remained in the room for several minutes while they continued discussing the plan. She performed no assigned role, offered no assistance and made no statement indicating agreement. She subsequently reported the discussion to the authorities.

67. Did Diya become a member of the criminal conspiracy?

- (a) Diya joined because attending a meeting conclusively proves acceptance of its proposal.
- (b) Diya joined because knowledge of criminal plans creates agreement through continued silence.
- (c) Diya avoided liability only because she reported the discussion afterward to authorities.
- (d) Diya did not join because knowledge without agreement cannot establish criminal conspiracy.

Facts II:

Eshan and Farah agreed to establish a lawful delivery business. To attract customers, they decided to use a competitor's confidential customer database in breach of a binding confidentiality obligation. The breach furnished the competitor with a civil cause of action but did not itself constitute a criminal offence under the supplied facts.

After forming the agreement, Eshan obtained the database and uploaded it to a shared marketing account. Farah then began preparing advertisements directed towards the customers identified in it.

68. Does their conduct satisfy the supplied rule of criminal conspiracy?

- (a) Conspiracy exists because an overt act furthered their agreement using illegal means.
- (b) Conspiracy cannot concern lawful objectives even when parties employ legally prohibited means.
- (c) Conspiracy exists whenever parties discuss confidential information without actually agreeing together beforehand.
- (d) Conspiracy requires completion of the lawful business objective despite unlawful methods used.

Facts III:

Six residents gathered outside a municipal office to submit a peaceful petition opposing the lawful sealing of an unauthorised building. Their assembly was lawful when it began.

The authorised municipal officer considered the petition but refused to suspend the sealing order. The six residents then collectively decided to lock the office gates, form a physical barrier and use force if necessary to prevent the officer from leaving to execute the order. They immediately blocked the gates and pushed municipal employees attempting to open them.

69. Did the residents' initially lawful assembly subsequently become unlawful?

- (a) Assembly remained lawful because its original purpose involved submitting a peaceful petition.
- (b) Assembly remained lawful because public officials may always be pressured through obstruction.
- (c) Assembly became unlawful when members adopted obstruction by force as common object.
- (d) Assembly became unlawful only after every member personally assaulted the public official.

Modified Facts III

Kabir, who had no connection with the residents, was walking past the municipal office. He stopped on the opposite side of the road to observe the disturbance. He did not enter the group, communicate with its members, block the gate or encourage their conduct.

After watching for two minutes, Kabir continued walking. His presence did not assist the residents, and nothing established that he intended to join their assembly.

70. Did Kabir become a member of the unlawful assembly?

- (a) Kabir became member because physical presence near an unlawful assembly proves participation.
- (b) Kabir remained nonmember because mere observation without intentional joining establishes no membership.
- (c) Kabir became member because every witness must immediately disperse or face liability.
- (d) Kabir remained nonmember only because the assembly had fewer than ten participants.

Facts IV:

Gautam, Harish, Imran, Jatin, Kunal and Lokesh agreed to take possession of a disputed warehouse by forcibly removing its existing occupants. They carried wooden sticks and knew that the security guards would probably resist their entry.

The six men entered the warehouse together and ordered the guards to leave. When one guard attempted to stop them, Gautam struck him with a stick to overcome his resistance. The others continued advancing and took possession of the building while the injured guard was unable to intervene.

71. Are all six members liable for the assault committed by Gautam?

- (a) Only striker is liable because common object never extends to resulting offences.
- (b) All members escape assault liability because their principal objective concerned property possession.
- (c) All members are liable only if each personally struck the resisting guard.
- (d) All members are liable because the assault furthered their known common object.

Modified Facts IV:

Assume that the six men abandoned their plan and left the warehouse after being warned by the police. Their assembly ended, and every member returned home.

Several hours later, Gautam secretly returned alone and burned a guard's motorcycle because of an unrelated personal dispute. None of the other five knew about Gautam's private grievance, encouraged the damage or had reason to anticipate that he would return.

72. Are the other five members liable for Gautam's later offence?

- (a) Other members avoid liability because the later offence fell outside common object.
- (b) Every former member remains liable for all offences another member later commits.
- (c) Other members remain liable because earlier association permanently creates collective criminal responsibility.
- (d) Liability continues whenever the later offender originally belonged to the same assembly.

Passage: Sovereign immunity developed from the maxim *rex non potest peccare*, meaning “the King can do no wrong”. In Indian law, however, it does not confer a general exemption upon the government from every civil suit or criminal proceeding. The doctrine principally concerns the State’s liability in tort for wrongful acts committed by its servants while exercising governmental functions. Article 300 of the Constitution provides that the Union of India and a State may sue or be sued in their respective names. It continues the pre-Constitution framework of governmental liability, subject to legislation by Parliament or the State Legislature. Article 300 does not itself define sovereign functions, create absolute immunity or state every condition governing governmental liability.

The distinction between sovereign and non-sovereign functions emerged in *Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. v. Secretary of State for India*. The State was generally treated as immune for acts performed through powers that private persons could not lawfully exercise, but it could be liable for activities comparable to those undertaken by private persons. In *State of Rajasthan v. Vidyawati*, the State was held vicariously liable when a government jeep, driven negligently while returning from repairs, killed a pedestrian. The activity was not sufficiently connected with an exercise of sovereign power.

In *Kasturi Lal Ralia Ram Jain v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, immunity was accepted where property seized by police was misappropriated by a constable, because seizure and custody were treated as connected with sovereign powers. The decision has been criticised and its reach has subsequently been narrowed. In *N. Nagendra Rao & Co. v. State of Andhra Pradesh*, the Supreme Court emphasised that immunity should be confined to limited, inalienable governmental functions. The State cannot avoid ordinary tort liability merely because its employee acted under statutory authority or in a welfare activity. A separate rule applies to public-law compensation for violation of fundamental rights. In *Nilabati Behera v. State of Orissa*, the Supreme Court held that sovereign immunity is no defence to compensation under Articles 32 and 226 for an established infringement of fundamental rights. This constitutional remedy is distinct from a private-law action for damages and may coexist with other remedies. Article 21 further restricts reliance on immunity where State action or inaction unlawfully affects life or personal liberty. In *State of Andhra Pradesh v. Challa Ramakrishna Reddy*, the Court rejected immunity where prison authorities failed to protect a prisoner despite a known threat. A prisoner retains fundamental rights, and performance of a governmental function does not authorise their violation. Thus, the nature of the function remains relevant in ordinary tort claims, but cannot defeat a constitutional remedy for an established fundamental-rights breach.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from, “<https://lawbhoomi.com/doctrine-of-sovereign-immunity/>”]

73. A pedestrian brings an ordinary negligence action against a State after being injured by machinery operated in a government-owned repair workshop. The State argues that, in the absence of comprehensive legislation on governmental tort liability, Article 300 itself prevents the action. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) The action is barred because Article 300 requires separate legislation before the State may be sued.
- (b) Article 300 permits the suit, while liability depends upon the applicable law and nature of the activity.
- (c) The State is automatically liable because Article 300 abolishes every distinction between governmental functions.
- (d) Immunity necessarily applies because ownership of the workshop rests with a governmental authority.

74. A government employee negligently drives an official vehicle while returning it from routine servicing and injures a cyclist. The State contends that ownership and official use of the vehicle convert the journey into an exercise of sovereign power. Which conclusion follows from the passage?

- (a) The State is immune because an officially owned vehicle is necessarily connected with sovereign administration.
- (b) Only the employee may be liable because governmental employers are excluded from vicarious liability.
- (c) The State may be liable because routine vehicle handling is comparable to an activity undertaken privately.
- (d) The cyclist must pursue a constitutional petition because an ordinary tort action cannot lie against the State.

75. Which proposition most accurately reconciles Kasturi Lal with Nilabati Behera?

- (a) Police involvement prevents State liability in both private-law and constitutional compensation proceedings.
- (b) Recognition of constitutional compensation removed every immunity available in an ordinary tort action.
- (c) Employment of a public servant is sufficient by itself to establish governmental liability in both proceedings.
- (d) Immunity recognised in an ordinary tort claim cannot defeat compensation for an established fundamental-rights violation.

76. Prison authorities receive specific information that attackers intend to kill an undertrial prisoner. Despite having sufficient opportunity, they take no protective measures, and the prisoner is killed. His family seeks compensation under Article 226 for violation of Article 21. Which conclusion is most appropriate?

- (a) Constitutional compensation may be awarded because governmental responsibility cannot excuse the established violation of life.
- (b) The petition must fail because maintenance of prison security is necessarily an immune sovereign function.
- (c) Compensation can be recovered only from the individual officers unless the Legislature expressly accepts liability.
- (d) The family must show that prison security is also commonly performed by private persons before obtaining relief.

77. Consider the following statements:

- i. Article 300 contains an exhaustive constitutional list of functions for which immunity may be claimed.
- ii. Exercise of statutory authority does not, by itself, establish that the State is immune from tort liability.
- iii. Public-law compensation under Articles 32 and 226 is merely another name for an ordinary action in damages.
- iv. Sovereign immunity cannot defeat compensation for an established infringement of a fundamental right.

Which statements are correct?

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

78. Government officers lawfully seize commercial machinery under a statute but negligently permit it to deteriorate beyond use. The owner seeks compensation under Article 226, alleging interference with business, and also maintains an ordinary negligence claim. The court finds no established violation of a fundamental right. Which conclusion may most appropriately be inferred?

- (a) Constitutional compensation follows because every statutory seizure affecting business infringes a fundamental right.
- (b) Rejection of the constitutional claim necessarily extinguishes the owner's ordinary action against the State.
- (c) An ordinary damages claim may remain, with immunity assessed under the narrowed sovereign-function doctrine.
- (d) The State must receive immunity because statutory seizure involves authority unavailable to an ordinary private person.

Directions (Questions 79–81): Each question presents a factual outcome. Select the proposed rule that most accurately explains that outcome. Do not rely on prior legal knowledge.

Fact Scenario I

Meera discovered that Arjun's confidential business records had accidentally been discarded with waste paper. Without any request from Arjun, she recovered the records and stored them safely until they could be returned. After receiving them, Arjun signed a written promise to pay Meera ₹20,000 for protecting the records. He later refused to pay, arguing that Meera had acted before he made the promise. The court enforced Arjun's promise.

79. Which proposed rule best explains why Arjun's promise was enforced?

- (a) A subsequent promise to compensate a person who voluntarily benefited the promisor may be enforceable without fresh consideration.
- (b) A moral obligation becomes legally enforceable whenever the promisor records it in a signed written document.
- (c) A voluntary act supplies consideration only when the promisor expressly requested that act before it was performed.
- (d) A promise concerning a past benefit is enforceable only when the benefit arose from an existing commercial relationship.

Fact Scenario II

Rohan had borrowed ₹80,000 from Kavya, but she did not initiate recovery proceedings within the legally prescribed period. After the limitation period expired, Rohan signed a written promise to repay ₹50,000 of the outstanding amount. When he subsequently refused to pay, the court enforced the promise for ₹50,000 despite the absence of any new consideration.

80. Which proposed rule best explains the court's decision?

- (a) Every expired monetary claim automatically becomes enforceable when the debtor later acknowledges that the original debt existed.
- (b) A creditor may recover a time-barred debt whenever part of the original amount remains admitted by the debtor.
- (c) A signed written promise to pay wholly or partly a time-barred debt may be enforceable without fresh consideration.
- (d) A time-barred debt becomes recoverable only when the debtor makes a partial payment before signing the subsequent promise.

Fact Scenario III

Following a genuine reconciliation, two sisters, Naina and Tara, entered into a written and registered agreement under which Naina promised to pay Tara a yearly allowance. No money, property or service was given in return for the promise. The court found that the agreement arose from genuine affection between the sisters and enforced it despite the absence of consideration.

81. Which proposed rule best explains why the agreement was enforced?

- (a) An agreement between relatives is enforceable without consideration whenever it creates a continuing financial obligation between them.
- (b) A gratuitous promise becomes binding when the parties are closely related, even if the agreement remains entirely oral.
- (c) Registration alone makes every promise enforceable despite the absence of consideration or any relationship between the parties.

(d) A written and registered agreement based on natural love between near relatives may be enforceable without consideration.

Directions (Questions 82–84): Each question presents a factual outcome. Select the proposed rule that most accurately explains that outcome. Do not rely on prior legal knowledge.

Fact Scenario I

Asha instituted a non-collusive suit against Bharat in a competent court. She sought a declaration that she owned a specifically identified house and requested possession of that property. Ownership of the house was therefore directly and specifically in dispute. While the suit remained pending, Bharat sold the house to Charan. Charan paid full market value and had no actual knowledge of the litigation. The court subsequently declared Asha to be the owner and ordered that possession be delivered to her. The court held that Bharat's transfer was not automatically void but that Charan acquired the property subject to the rights established by the final decree.

82. Which proposed rule best explains Charan's legal position?

- (a) Every transfer made during litigation is automatically void from execution between parties.
- (b) Good-faith purchasers always defeat later decrees when they lacked notice of proceedings.
- (c) Pending litigation prohibits all parties from executing any documents concerning property whatsoever.
- (d) A pendente lite transfer remains subordinate to rights determined by final decree.

Fact Scenario II

Assume instead that Asha sued Bharat solely to recover an unsecured personal loan of ₹15 lakh. She claimed no ownership, possession, mortgage, charge or other right concerning Bharat's farmhouse. The farmhouse was not mentioned in the pleadings, and no question relating to it required determination.

During the money-recovery suit, Bharat sold the farmhouse to Charan for full consideration. Asha argued that the sale should remain subject to the result of her pending suit merely because its proceeds might have helped satisfy a future monetary decree.

The court rejected her argument under the doctrine governing transfers during pending property litigation.

83. Which proposed rule best explains why that doctrine does not apply?

- (a) Litigation restricts transfers only when rights in that property are directly disputed.
- (b) Every pending monetary claim prevents defendants from transferring any immovable property whatsoever.
- (c) Property transfers remain restricted whenever sale proceeds might satisfy a future judgment.
- (d) Litigation automatically places every asset owned by each defendant under judicial control.

Fact Scenario III

Assume again that Asha's pending suit directly concerned ownership of the house. Bharat applied to the court for permission to sell it to Charan because immediate structural repairs were necessary and neither party could finance them. After hearing Asha, the court authorised the sale on the conditions that the full price be deposited with the court and that the parties' competing rights attach to the deposited amount. Bharat and Charan complied with every condition.

The court permitted the transaction to proceed.

84. Which proposed rule best explains why the transfer may be permitted?

- (a) Judicial permission cannot validate transfers once property litigation has formally commenced already.
- (b) Parties may freely transfer disputed property whenever consideration reflects prevailing market value.
- (c) Court-authorized transfers may proceed subject to protective terms imposed upon the parties.
- (d) Depositing sale proceeds independently ends the pending dispute over immovable property entirely.

Section D: Logical Reasoning

Directions for 85-90:

Six specialists Arin, Bela, Chet, Diya, Emon and Farah are scheduled to review six different dossiers Kite, Loom, Mint, Nerve, Opal and Prism on six consecutive days from Monday to Saturday, with exactly one specialist and one dossier scheduled each day. Chet works exactly two days after Arin. Farah works after Diya but before Chet. Emon works before Bela, while Bela works after Chet. The Nerve dossier is reviewed immediately after Kite, and Loom is reviewed immediately after Nerve. Prism is reviewed immediately before Mint, while Opal is reviewed before Kite. Diya reviews Opal, Emon reviews Prism, and Farah reviews Nerve.

85. Which specialist is scheduled on Monday?

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| (a) Diya | (b) Arin |
| (c) Emon | (d) Farah |

86. Which dossier is reviewed by Arin?

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| (a) Prism | (b) Kite |
| (c) Loom | (d) Opal |

87. On which day is the Loom dossier reviewed?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Wednesday | (b) Friday |
| (c) Thursday | (d) Saturday |

88. Who reviews the dossier scheduled immediately after Loom and immediately before Mint?

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| (a) Bela | (b) Farah |
| (c) Chet | (d) Emon |

89. Which of the following gives the dossiers reviewed from Wednesday to Saturday in the correct order?

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Nerve, Loom, Prism, Mint | (b) Nerve, Prism, Loom, Mint |
| (c) Loom, Nerve, Prism, Mint | (d) Nerve, Loom, Mint, Prism |

90. Which two specialists are scheduled immediately before and immediately after Chet, respectively?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Arin and Bela | (b) Farah and Emon |
| (c) Diya and Emon | (d) Farah and Bela |

Directions for 91-96:

A secure data centre contains eight control modules P, Q, R, S, T, U, V and W, each of which is either enabled or disabled. Exactly four modules are enabled. Of P and Q, exactly one is enabled. R and S always have the same status. T has the opposite status to P, while U has the same status as Q. Of V and W, exactly one is enabled. If R is enabled, V must be enabled. S is enabled if and only if W is disabled. Finally, whenever Q is enabled, W must be disabled.

91. Which of the following gives exactly the four enabled modules?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Q, R, S and W | (b) P, T, U and V |
| (c) P, R, S and V | (d) Q, T, U and W |

92. If the requirement that exactly four modules are enabled is removed while every other logical condition remains unchanged, how many different configurations are possible?

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

93. Which of the following pairs consists of modules having opposite statuses in the original configuration?
- (a) T and V (b) R and S
(c) Q and U (d) S and V
94. Suppose the requirement were changed so that exactly six modules had to be enabled, while all other conditions remained unchanged. Which pair would then be disabled?
- (a) Q and V (b) P and W
(c) R and S (d) T and U
95. After the original configuration is obtained, a maintenance test temporarily reverses only the statuses of R and S, without reapplying any of the logical rules. How many modules will then be enabled?
- (a) 3 (b) 4
(c) 2 (d) 6
96. Suppose only the final condition—"whenever Q is enabled, W must be disabled"—is removed, while every other condition, including the requirement that exactly four modules are enabled, remains unchanged. How many different configurations would then be possible?
- (a) Four (b) Three
(c) One (d) Two

Passage: About 56 million years ago, Earth experienced one of its most intense periods of global warming, known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, or PETM. As atmospheric carbon dioxide levels surged, forests suffered a massive decline in canopy cover, and they took more than 100,000 years to recover, researchers report in a study. The findings offer a sobering look into what our planet's future might look like because of ongoing human-caused climate change.

The Earth has never experienced a carbon release at the pace we're creating today. The PETM gives us our best window into how Earth's climate and ecosystems respond to a massive carbon injection before humans began reshaping the planet. Humans are currently putting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at an unprecedented rate. Predicting the effects of the planet-warming greenhouse gas on vegetation is complicated. Since plants need the gas for photosynthesis, elevated carbon dioxide levels should theoretically lead to enhanced plant growth. But too much heat and its consequences, like extreme weather events and an increase in pathogens, can also stress and kill plants. That's why researchers turned to the past to see what might happen to today's forests. They collected fossilized leaf fragments hidden in the rocks of Hanna Basin in south-central Wyoming. The specimens preserve the shapes of the leaves' outermost cells, which can reveal how much sunlight the leaf received as it grew. There's this difference between sun leaves and shade leaves, even on the same plant. Leaves that grow in the shade have longer cells that stretch out looking for light, while those exposed to the sun are shorter and rounder.

The information helped the team calculate the density of the forest canopy, which they tracked across the entire PETM. At first, the forest flourished thanks to the elevated carbon dioxide. But that growth spurt didn't last. The canopy then quickly lost around 60 percent of its leaf coverage, and it stayed around 35 percent thinner than it started through the rest of the PETM. This should be a concern because the rate of carbon release has never been higher than now. This change affected the surrounding environment too. Ferns replaced the broad-leafed relatives of elms, walnuts and avocado trees. Plants and soils stored less carbon, and rivers carried more sediments. The changing climate changed the forest, and the forest changed the landscape. Leaf coverage didn't return to its extremely dense state until at least 55.7 million years ago, the team estimated. These changes mirror what we're seeing in our forests today. Starting in the 1980s, satellite images showed a greening trend because of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. But around the year 2000, researchers found that the pattern had reversed in more than 90 percent of the world's vegetated area.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/forests-didnt-fare-well-during-an-ancient-global-warming-event-offering-a-cautionary-tale-about-todays-climate-change-180989353/>

97. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage about the response of forests to rising atmospheric carbon dioxide?

- (a) Sustained canopy expansion is more likely where carbon enrichment occurs without substantial changes in the composition of forest species.
- (b) An initial fertilisation benefit may coexist with accumulating climatic stresses that later outweigh gains in forest growth.
- (c) The severity of later forest decline can be predicted from how rapidly vegetation responds to the initial increase in carbon dioxide.
- (d) Persistent canopy loss is likely only when climatic stress also reduces soil carbon storage and increases river sediment movement.

98. If policymakers accept the ecological reasoning developed in the passage, which course of action would be most appropriate?

- (a) Track forest health using both short-term growth and accumulating climatic stress indicators.
- (b) Use PETM recovery times to establish fixed restoration targets for present forest-management programmes.
- (c) Prioritise tree species capable of maintaining photosynthesis under increasingly carbon-rich atmospheric conditions.
- (d) Delay major forest interventions until vegetation decline becomes visible across several consecutive decades.

99. Which additional finding would most strengthen the argument that the PETM offers a meaningful warning for present-day forests?

- (a) Present vegetation decline is greatest in regions undergoing extensive agricultural and urban expansion.
- (b) Modern forests contain several tree species descended from lineages present during the PETM.
- (c) Laboratory studies show that additional carbon dioxide can increase photosynthesis under controlled temperatures.
- (d) Comparable ancient forests elsewhere showed the same growth-then-decline pattern under rapid warming.

100. The author suggests that the unprecedented present rate of carbon release should itself heighten concern about forest damage. Which of the following identifies the most significant flaw in this reasoning?

- (a) It links lower carbon storage with ecosystem disruption without measuring how much carbon later entered the atmosphere.
- (b) It treats faster carbon release as greater ecological risk without establishing how release rate affects forest response.
- (c) It uses prolonged canopy decline as evidence of concern without showing that ancient recovery conditions resembled current ones.
- (d) It attributes early PETM growth to carbon enrichment without separating that effect from accompanying environmental changes.

101. What is the principal function of the sun-leaf and shade-leaf distinction as accessory evidence in the researchers' reconstruction of PETM forests?

- (a) It establishes that differences in fossil cell shape can identify successive stages of forest decline without relying on other ecological evidence.
- (b) It helps exclude climatic causes other than carbon dioxide by showing that leaf-cell structure changes predictably with available sunlight.
- (c) It demonstrates that changes in cell shape record the physiological effects of warming before those effects become visible in canopy coverage.

(d) It supplies an observable link between fossil leaf morphology and past light exposure from which canopy density can be reconstructed.

102. Which of the following is best understood as an ecological outcome of the severe canopy decline experienced during the PETM?

- (a) Fern-dominated vegetation restored carbon retention even though the former broad-leafed forest community remained reduced.
- (b) Greater sunlight beneath the thinner canopy increased vegetation productivity sufficiently to stabilise surrounding soils and rivers.
- (c) Reduced carbon storage in plants and soils occurred alongside greater sediment transport as the altered forest reshaped the landscape.
- (d) The decline accelerated replacement by broad-leafed trees adapted to higher temperatures, allowing canopy density to recover sooner.

Passage: In its first review by the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) since 2007, India has elicited an expression of “grave concern” about reports of the law enforcement apparatus resorting to violence — physical and otherwise — against minority ethnic and ethno-religious groups, Dalits, and non-citizens over the years. The Committee also noted that India, which ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1968, has not provided detailed and updated information about the state’s inquiries and sanctions arising from allegations of such violence. While the government has told CERD that caste bias falls outside Article 1 of the convention because caste is not synonymous with race, CERD has allowed all forms of discrimination based on inherited status. The Committee’s concerns also span the practice of manual cleaning of sewers despite a law banning it; hate speech against, poor living conditions of, and the mass refoulement of Rohingya Muslims; the mass deprivation of citizenship via the National Register of Citizens; large-scale deletions from the Special Intensive Revisions of electoral rolls; the government’s use of the FCRA, UAPA, AFSPA, and PMLA instruments to hamper the work of civil society organisations; the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita not expressly criminalising racist hate speech; and the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act exempting “national security” projects from consultative decision-making.

Given these issues and the fragmented recourse available, the lack of suitably disaggregated data on disenfranchised communities, including due to a much-delayed Census and the slow release of NCRB data, has transcended the bounds of administrative lethargy to actively impeding independent checks of India’s claims about fighting caste- and faith-based discrimination. In fact, India has been implementing “special measures” based on 2011 Census data, which could mask a regression in the socioeconomic status of Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis. Together with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions recommending the downgrade of the NHRC last year, following the government appointing police officers to investigative roles and a lack of pluralism, CERD is effectively stepping into a vacuum. The road ahead remains clear, from restoring the NHRC’s independence and criminalising hate speech to supportive affirmative action, collecting and publishing disaggregated data, and improving the transparency of the electoral roll revisions, and strengthening enforcement overall. But if the government’s attempted use of a technicality to keep the issues of 200 million Dalits a “domestic matter” and avoid international accountability — and its dismissal of CERD’s concerns as politically motivated — is any guide, the task continues to fall to civil society to exert influence in multilateral fora and sustain political, legal, and administrative resistance to government choices that normalise India’s sadly widespread culture of discrimination of all sorts.

Extracted with edits and revisions from: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/state-of-exception-on-india-the-un-cerd-report/article71407847.ece>

103. All of the following can be inferred from the passage, except:

- (a) CERD's intervention depends on domestic accountability mechanisms first exhausting the available remedies for the alleged discrimination.
- (b) Weak or outdated demographic information can limit scrutiny even while governmental measures for disadvantaged communities formally continue.
- (c) The author's concerns extend beyond individual acts of abuse to institutional arrangements affecting investigation, transparency and accountability.
- (d) Government resistance to international scrutiny may increase the importance of civil-society engagement through legal and multilateral channels.

104. Manual sewer cleaning reportedly continues despite a statutory prohibition. Which of the following, if true, best resolves this apparent paradox?

- (a) Responsibility for sanitation regulation is distributed among municipal, State and labour authorities, each retaining separate monitoring functions.
- (b) Courts have expanded compensation and safety protections for sanitation workers when prohibited sewer-entry incidents result in serious injury or death.
- (c) Mechanised sanitation has increased unevenly across cities, leaving substantial differences in infrastructure and equipment between jurisdictions.
- (d) Violations are frequently undetected and sanctions are inconsistently imposed, leaving the practical cost of non-compliance low despite the statutory ban.

105. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's claim that CERD is "effectively stepping into a vacuum"?

- (a) CERD depends upon cooperation from national authorities for implementation of many recommendations.
- (b) The NHRC continues receiving complaints despite concerns about its composition and investigative structure.
- (c) Civil-society organisations pursue international advocacy alongside litigation before domestic institutions.
- (d) Other independent domestic bodies regularly investigate and remedy comparable rights violations effectively.

106. Which of the following is an assumption underlying the author's claim that inadequate disaggregated data impede independent checks on India's anti-discrimination record?

- (a) Independent scrutiny requires rejecting aggregate data when they cannot explain unequal socioeconomic outcomes.
- (b) Reliable scrutiny requires current, disaggregated data showing meaningful changes across affected communities.
- (c) Socioeconomic regression would establish that existing special measures were themselves designed discriminatorily.
- (d) Delayed official data matter because state sources are more reliable than civil-society evidence.

107. Which condition is necessary for the author's criticism of India's caste-race distinction as a "technicality" to have force?

- (a) Caste and race must share comparable historical origins across societies covered by the Convention.
- (b) Indian courts must have previously classified caste discrimination within the concept of racial discrimination.
- (c) Inherited-status discrimination must reasonably fall within the Convention without equating caste with race.
- (d) CERD's interpretation must prevail over India's domestic interpretation whenever the two approaches differ.

108. Which of the following is the strongest conclusion supported by the author's final argument?

- (a) International review offers stronger remedies whenever domestic institutions face concerns about independence.
- (b) Accountability may require domestic reform reinforced by civic pressure through legal and multilateral channels.

- (c) Civil-society intervention gains legitimacy when international institutions criticise national rights bodies.
- (d) Institutional reform has limited value while the government continues disputing CERD's interpretation of caste.

Section E: Quantitative Techniques

Directions for Q.109-Q114:

A competitive-examination institute enrolled 3,600 students in four specialised streams during the 2025 academic session. Of the total students, 35% joined Quantitative Aptitude, 30% joined Analytical Reasoning, 20% joined English, and the remaining students joined General Awareness. Every student was enrolled in exactly one stream.

At the end of the session, 80% of the students enrolled in Quantitative Aptitude, 75% of those enrolled in Analytical Reasoning, 85% of those enrolled in English, and 70% of those enrolled in General Awareness successfully completed their respective courses. Students who did not complete their course were not awarded certificates.

The institute also awarded a distinction certificate to selected students from among those who successfully completed their courses. Of the successful students, 25% in Quantitative Aptitude, 20% in Analytical Reasoning, 25% in English, and one-sixth in General Awareness received distinction certificates.

For the 2026 session, enrolment in Quantitative Aptitude increased by 20%, enrolment in Analytical Reasoning increased by 10%, enrolment in English decreased by 5%, and enrolment in General Awareness increased by 25%, compared with their respective 2025 enrolments. Each percentage change was applied separately to the corresponding stream.

109. How many students enrolled in 2025 did not successfully complete their respective courses?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 756 students | (b) 774 students |
| (c) 792 students | (d) 810 students |

110. How many students received distinction certificates across all four streams in 2025?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 612 students | (b) 630 students |
| (c) 648 students | (d) 666 students |

111. Approximately what percentage of all successful students received distinction certificates?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 21.79% | (b) 22.44% |
| (c) 23.08% | (d) 23.75% |

112. What was the institute's total enrolment across the four streams in 2026?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) 3,996 students | (b) 4,032 students |
| (c) 4,059 students | (d) 4,086 students |

113. By what percentage did the institute's total enrolment increase from 2025 to 2026?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 11.75% | (b) 12.25% |
| (c) 12.75% | (d) 13.25% |

114. Approximately what percentage of the total enrolment in 2026 belonged to Quantitative Aptitude and General Awareness combined?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 53.12% | (b) 53.50% |
| (c) 53.88% | (d) 54.25% |

Directions for Q.115-Q120:

A publishing company undertakes a project to digitise 72,000 pages of archived material. Team A consists of 12 operators, each capable of digitising 300 pages per day. Team B consists of eight operators, each capable of

digitising 250 pages per day. Every operator maintains the stated output rate unless a change is expressly mentioned.

Team A works alone for the first five days. Team B joins at the beginning of the sixth day, after which both teams work together at their original rates for six complete days. At the end of this six-day joint-working period, three operators from Team A leave the project.

At the same time, a software upgrade increases the output of every operator in Team B by 20%. The nine remaining operators of Team A continue at their original individual output rate, while the upgraded Team B works at its revised rate. Both teams continue until all 72,000 pages have been digitised.

After digitisation is completed, an independent quality-control team must audit one-eighth of the pages digitised by Team A during the initial five-day period. The quality-control team can audit 750 pages per day and begins only after the complete digitisation work has ended. The project is treated as complete only when this audit is finished. There are no holidays, interruptions or partially worked days.

115. What percentage of the digitisation work has been completed by the end of the eleventh day?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (a) 69.44% | (b) 70.83% |
| (c) 71.67% | (d) 72.50% |

116. What is the combined daily output after three operators leave Team A and Team B receives the software upgrade?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) 4,900 pages | (b) 5,000 pages |
| (c) 5,100 pages | (d) 5,200 pages |

117. By approximately what percentage does the combined daily output decrease after the workforce and productivity changes?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) 7.14% | (b) 8.00% |
| (c) 8.93% | (d) 9.60% |

118. How many pages does Team B digitise during the entire project?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 20,400 pages | (b) 21,000 pages |
| (c) 21,600 pages | (d) 22,200 pages |

119. How much time does the quality-control team require to complete the stipulated audit?

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

120. What is the total duration of the project, including digitisation and the subsequent quality-control audit?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) 16 days | (b) 17 days |
| (c) 18 days | (d) 19 days |

Rough Work
