

## CLAT - UG SAMPLE PAPER – 05

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

In the eighteenth century, Japan's feudal overlords, from the shogun to the humblest samurai, found themselves under financial stress. In part, this stress can be attributed to the overlords' failure to adjust to a rapidly expanding economy, but the stress was also due to factors beyond the overlords' control. Concentration of the samurai in castle-towns had acted as a stimulus to trade. Commercial efficiency, in turn, had put temptations in the way of buyers. Since most samurai had been reduced to idleness by years of peace, encouraged to engage in scholarship and martial exercises or to perform administrative tasks that took little time, it is not surprising that their tastes and habits grew expensive. Overlords' income, despite the increase in rice production among their tenant farmers, failed to keep pace with their expenses. Although shortfalls in overlords' income resulted almost as much from laxity among their tax collectors (the nearly inevitable outcome of hereditary office-holding) as from their higher standards of living, a misfortune like a fire or flood, bringing an increase in expenses or a drop in revenue, could put a domain in debt to the city rice-brokers who handled its finances. Once in debt, neither the individual samurai nor the shogun himself found it easy to recover.

It was difficult for individual samurai overlords to increase their income because the amount of rice that farmers could be made to pay in taxes was not unlimited, and since the income of Japan's central government consisted in part of taxes collected by the shogun from his huge domain, the government too was constrained. Therefore, the Tokugawa shoguns began to look to other sources for revenue. Cash profits from government-owned mines were already on the decline because the most easily worked deposits of silver and gold had been exhausted, although debasement of the coinage had compensated for the loss. Opening up new farmland was a possibility, but most of what was suitable had already been exploited and further reclamation was technically unfeasible. Direct taxation of the samurai themselves would be politically dangerous. This left the shoguns only commerce as a potential source of government income.

Most of the country's wealth, or so it seemed, was finding its way into the hands of city merchants. It appeared reasonable that they should contribute part of that revenue to ease the shogun's burden of financing the state. A means of obtaining such revenue was soon found by levying forced loans, known as goyo kin, although these were not taxes in the strict sense, since they were irregular in timing and arbitrary in amount, they were high in yield. Unfortunately, they pushed up prices. Thus, regrettably, the Tokugawa shoguns' search for solvency for the government made it increasingly difficult for individual Japanese who lived on fixed stipends to make ends meet.

#### **1. The passage is most probably an excerpt from**

- (a) An economic history of Japan.
- (b) The memoirs of a samurai warrior.

- (c) A modern novel about eighteenth-century Japan.
- (d) An essay contrasting Japanese feudalism with its Western counterpart.

**2. Which of the following financial situations is most analogous to the financial situation in which Japan's Tokugawa shoguns found themselves in the eighteenth century?**

- (a) A small business borrows heavily to invest in new equipment, but is able to pay off its debt early when it is awarded a lucrative government contract.
- (b) Fire destroys a small business, but insurance covers the cost of rebuilding.
- (c) A small business is turned down for a loan at a local bank because the owners have no credit history.
- (d) A small business has to struggle to meet operating expenses when its profits decrease.

**3. Which of the following best describes the attitude of the author towards the samurai?**

- (a) Warmly approving
- (b) Mildly sympathetic
- (c) Bitterly disappointed
- (d) Harshly disdainful

**4. According to the passage, the major reason for the financial problems experienced by Japan's feudal overlords in the eighteenth century was that**

- (a) Spending had outdistanced income.
- (b) Trade had fallen off.
- (c) Profits from mining had declined.
- (d) The coinage had been sharply debased.

**5. The passage implies that individual samurai did not find it easy to recover from debt for which of the following reasons?**

- (a) Agricultural production had increased.
- (b) Taxes were irregular in timing and arbitrary in amount.
- (c) The Japanese government had failed to adjust to the needs of a changing economy.
- (d) There was a limit to the amount in taxes that farmers could be made to pay.

**6. The passage suggests that, in the eighteenth-century Japan, the office of tax collector**

- (a) Was a source of personal profit to the office holder.
- (b) Was regarded with derision by many Japanese.
- (c) Remained within families.
- (d) Existed only in castle-towns.

7. Which of the following could best be substituted for the word "This" (in bold) without changing the meaning of the passage?

- (a) The search of Japan's Tokugawa shoguns for solvency
- (b) The importance of commerce in feudal Japan
- (c) The unfairness of the tax structure in eighteenth century Japan
- (d) The difficulty of increasing government income by other means

8. Which of the following was the primary reason why the Tokugawa shoguns turned to city merchants for help in financing the state?

- (a) A series of costly wars had depleted the national treasury.
- (b) Most of the country's wealth appeared to be in city merchants' hands.
- (c) Japan had suffered a series of economic reversals due to natural disasters such as floods.
- (d) The merchants were already heavily indebted to the shoguns.

9. According to the passage, the actions of the Tokugawa shoguns in their search for solvency for the government were regrettable because those actions

- (a) Raised the cost of living by pushing up prices.
- (b) Resulted in the exhaustion of the most easily worked deposits of silver and gold.
- (c) Were far lower in yield than had originally been anticipated.
- (d) Did not succeed in reducing government spending

Between the eighth and eleventh centuries A. D., the Byzantine Empire staged an almost unparalleled economic and cultural revival, a recovery that is all the more striking because it followed a long period of severe internal decline. By the early eighth century, the empire had lost roughly two-thirds of the territory it had possessed in the year 600, and its remaining area was being raided by Arabs and Bulgarians, who at times threatened to take Constantinople and extinguish the empire altogether. The wealth of the state and its subjects was greatly diminished, and artistic and literary production had virtually ceased. By the early eleventh century, however, the empire had regained almost half of its lost possessions, its new frontiers were secure, and its influence extended far beyond its borders. The economy had recovered, the treasury was full, and art and scholarship had advanced.

To consider the Byzantine military, cultural, and economic advances as differentiated aspects of a single phenomenon is reasonable. After all, these three forms of progress have gone together in a number of states and civilizations. Rome under Augustus and fifth-century Athens provide the most obvious examples in antiquity. Moreover, an examination of the apparent sequential connections among military, economic, and cultural forms of progress might help explain the dynamics of historical change.

The common explanation of these apparent connections in the case of Byzantium would run like this: when the empire had turned back enemy raids on its own territory and had begun to raid and conquer enemy territory, Byzantine resources naturally expanded and more money became available to patronize art and literature. Therefore, Byzantine military achievements led to economic advances, which in turn led to cultural revival.

No doubt this hypothetical pattern did apply at times during the course of the recovery. Yet it is not clear that military advances invariably came first, economic advances second, and intellectual advances third. In the 860s the Byzantine Empire began to recover from Arab incursions so that by 872 the military balance with the Abbasid Caliphate had been permanently altered in the empire's favour. The beginning of the empire's economic revival, however, can be placed between 810 and 830. Finally, the Byzantine revival of learning appears to have begun even earlier. A number of notable scholars and writers appeared by 788 and, by the last decade of the eighth century, a cultural revival was in full bloom, a revival that lasted until the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

Thus, the commonly expected order of military revival followed by economic and then by cultural recovery was reversed in Byzantium. In fact, the revival of Byzantine learning may itself have influenced the subsequent economic and military expansion.

**10. Which of the following best states the central idea of the passage?**

- (a) The Byzantine Empire was a unique case in which the usual order of military and economic revival preceding cultural revival was reversed.
- (b) The economic, cultural, and military revival in the Byzantine Empire between the eighth and eleventh centuries was similar in its order to the sequence of revivals in Augustan Rome and fifth century Athens.
- (c) After 810 Byzantine economic recovery spurred a military and, later, cultural expansion that lasted until 1453
- (d) The revival of the Byzantine Empire between the eighth and eleventh centuries shows cultural rebirth preceding economic and military revival, the reverse of the commonly accepted order of progress.

**11. The primary purpose of the second paragraph is**

- (a) To establish the uniqueness of the Byzantine revival
- (b) To show that Augustan Rome and fifth-century Athens are examples of cultural, economic, and military expansion against which all subsequent cases must be measured
- (c) To suggest that cultural, economic, and military advances have tended to be closely interrelated in different societies
- (d) To argue that, while the revivals of Augustan Rome and fifth-century Athens were similar, they are unrelated to other historical examples.

**12. It can be inferred from the passage that by the eleventh century the Byzantine military forces**

- (a) Had reached their peak and begun to decline.
- (b) Had eliminated the Bulgarian army.
- (c) Were comparable in size to the army of Rome under Augustus.
- (d) Were strong enough to withstand the Abbasid Caliphate's military forces.

**13. It can be inferred from the passage that the Byzantine Empire sustained significant territorial losses**

- (a) In 600.
- (b) During the seventh century.
- (c) A century after the cultural achievements of the Byzantine Empire had been lost.
- (d) Soon after the revival of Byzantine learning.

**14. In the third paragraph, the author most probably provides an explanation of the apparent connections among economic, military, and cultural development in order to**

- (a) Suggest that the process of revival in Byzantium accords with this model.
- (b) Set up an order of events that is then shown to be not generally applicable to the case of Byzantium.
- (c) Cast aspersions on traditional historical scholarship about Byzantium.
- (d) Suggest that Byzantium represents a case for which no historical precedent exists.

**15. Which of the following does the author mention as crucial evidence concerning the manner in which the Byzantine revival began?**

- (a) The Byzantine military revival of the 1860s led to economic and cultural advances.
- (b) The Byzantine cultural revival lasted until 1453.
- (c) The Byzantine economic recovery began in the 900s.
- (d) The revival of Byzantine learning began toward the end of the eighth century.

**16. According to the author, "The common explanation" of connections between economic, military, and cultural development is**

- (a) Revolutionary and too new to have been applied to the history of the Byzantine Empire.
- (b) Reasonable, but an antiquated theory of the nature of progress
- (c) Not applicable to the Byzantine revival as a whole, but does perhaps accurately describe limited periods during the revival

(d) Equally applicable to the Byzantine case as a whole and to the history of military, economic, and cultural advances in ancient Greece and Rome.

Virtually everything the astronomers have known about objects outside the solar system is based on the detection of photons-quanta of electromagnetic radiation. Yet there is another form of radiation that permeates the universe: neutrinos. With (as its name implies) no electric charge, and negligible mass, the neutrino interacts with other particles so rarely that a neutrino can cross the entire universe, even traversing substantial aggregations of matter, without being absorbed or even deflected. Neutrinos can thus escape from regions of space where light and other kinds of electromagnetic radiation are blocked by matter. Furthermore, neutrinos carry with them information about the site and circumstances of their production: therefore, the detection of cosmic neutrinos could provide new information about a wide variety of cosmic phenomena and about the history of the universe.

But how can scientists detect a particle that interacts so infrequently with other matter? Twenty-five years passed between Pauli's hypothesis that the neutrino existed and its actual detection: since then virtually all research with neutrinos has been with neutrinos created artificially in large particle accelerators and studied under neutrino microscopes. But a neutrino telescope, capable of detecting cosmic neutrinos, is difficult to construct. No apparatus can detect neutrinos unless it is extremely massive, because great mass is synonymous with huge numbers of nucleons (neutrons and protons), and the more massive the detector, the greater the probability of one of its nucleons reacting with a neutrino. In addition, the apparatus must be sufficiently shielded from the interfering effects of other particles.

Fortunately, a group of astrophysicists has proposed a means of detecting cosmic neutrinos by harnessing the mass of the ocean. Named DUMAND, for Deep Underwater Muon and Neutrino Detector, the project calls for placing an array of light sensors at a depth of five kilometres under the ocean surface. The detecting medium is the seawater itself: when a neutrino interacts with a particle in an atom of seawater, the result is a cascade of electrically charged particles and a flash of light that can be detected by the sensors.

The five kilometres of seawater above the sensors will shield them from the interfering effects of other high-energy particles raining down through the atmosphere. The strongest motivation for the DUMAND project is that it will exploit an important source of information about the universe. The extension of astronomy from visible light to radio waves to x-rays and gamma rays never failed to lead to the discovery of unusual objects such as radio galaxies, quasars, and pulsars. Each of these discoveries came as a surprise. Neutrino astronomy will doubtless bring its own share of surprises.

**17. Which of the following titles best summarizes the passage as a whole?**

- (a) At the Threshold of Neutrino Astronomy    (b) Neutrinos and the History of the Universe  
(c) The Creation and Study of Neutrinos        (d) The DUMAND System and How It Works

18. With which of the following statements regarding neutrino astronomy would the author be most likely to agree?

- (a) Neutrino astronomy will supersede all present forms of astronomy.
- (b) Neutrino astronomy will be abandoned if the DUMAND project fails.
- (c) Neutrino astronomy can be expected to lead to major breakthroughs in astronomy.
- (d) Neutrino astronomy will disclose phenomena that will be more surprising than past discoveries.

19. In the last paragraph, the author describes the development of astronomy in order to?

- (a) Suggest that the potential findings of neutrino astronomy can be seen as part of a series of astronomical successes
- (b) Illustrate the role of surprise in scientific discovery
- (c) Demonstrate the effectiveness of the DUMAND apparatus in detecting neutrinos
- (d) Name some cosmic phenomena that neutrino astronomy will illuminate

20. According to the passage, one advantage that neutrinos have for studies in astronomy is that they?

- (a) Have been detected for the last twenty-five years
- (b) Possess a variable electric charge
- (c) Are usually extremely massive
- (d) Carry information about their history with them

Recent years have brought minority-owned businesses in the United States unprecedented opportunities—as well as new and significant risks. Civil rights activists have long argued that one of the principal reasons why Blacks, Hispanics, and other minority groups have difficulty establishing themselves in business is that they lack access to the sizable orders and sub-contracts that are generated by large companies. Now Congress, in apparent agreement, has required by law that businesses awarded federal contracts of more than \$500,000 do their best to find minority sub-contractors and record their efforts to do so on forms filed with the government. Indeed, some federal and local agencies have gone so far as to set specific percentage goals for apportioning parts of public works contracts to minority enterprises.

Corporate response appears to have been substantial. According to figures collected in 1977, the total of corporate contracts with minority businesses rose from \$77 million in 1972 to \$1.1 billion in 1977. The projected total of corporate contracts with minority businesses for the early 1980s is estimated to be over 53 billion per year with no letup anticipated in the next decade. Promising as it is for minority businesses, this increased patronage poses dangers for them, too. First, minority firms risk expanding too fast and overextending themselves financially, since most are small concerns and, unlike large businesses, they often need to make substantial investments in new

plants, staff, equipment, and the like in order to perform work sub-contracted to them. If, thereafter, their sub-contracts are for some reason reduced, such firms can face potentially crippling fixed expenses. The world of corporate purchasing can be frustrating for small entrepreneurs who get requests for elaborate formal estimates and bids. Both consume valuable time and resources, and a small company's efforts must soon result in orders, or both the morale and the financial health of the business will suffer.

A second risk is that White-owned companies may seek to cash in on the increasing apportionments through formation of joint ventures with minority-owned concerns. Of course, in many instances there are legitimate reasons for joint ventures; clearly, White and minority enterprises can team up to acquire business that neither could acquire alone. But civil rights groups and minority business owners have complained to Congress about minorities being set up as "fronts" with White backing, rather than being accepted as full partners in legitimate joint ventures.

Third, a minority enterprise that secures the business of one large corporate customer often runs the danger of becoming-and remaining-dependent. Even in the best of circumstances, fierce competition from larger, more established companies makes it difficult for small concerns to broaden their customer bases: when such firms have nearly guaranteed orders from a single corporate benefactor, they may truly have to struggle against complacency arising from their current success.

**21. The primary purpose of the passage is to**

- (a) Present a commonplace idea and its inaccuracies
- (b) Describe a situation and its potential drawbacks
- (c) Propose a temporary solution to a problem
- (d) Analyze a frequent source of disagreement

**22. The passage supplies information that would answer which of the following questions?**

- (a) What federal agencies have set percentage goals for the use of minority-owned businesses in public works contracts?
- (b) To which government agencies must businesses awarded federal contracts report their efforts to find minority sub-contractors?
- (c) How widespread is the use of minority-owned concerns as "fronts" by White backers seeking to obtain sub-contracts?
- (d) What is the one set of conditions under which a small business might find itself financially overextended?

**23. According to the passage, civil rights activists maintain that one disadvantage under which minority-owned businesses have traditionally had to labour (to suffer from some disadvantage or distress "labor under a delusion") is that they have**

- (a) Been especially vulnerable to governmental mismanagement of the economy

- (b) Been denied bank loans at rates comparable to those afforded larger competitors
- (c) Not had sufficient opportunity to secure business created by large corporations
- (d) Not been able to advertise in those media that each large numbers of potential customers

**24. The passage suggests that the failure of a large business to have its bids for sub-contracts result quickly in orders might cause it to**

- (a) Experience frustration but not serious financial harm
- (b) Face potentially crippling fixed expenses
- (c) Have to record its efforts on forms filed with the government
- (d) Increase its spending with minority subcontractors

**25. The author implies that a minority-owned concern that does the greater part of its business with one large corporate customer should**

- (a) Avoid competition with larger, more established concerns by not expanding
- (b) Concentrate on securing even more business from that corporation
- (c) Try to expand its customer base to avoid becoming dependent on the corporation
- (d) Pass on some of the work to be done for the corporation to other minority-owned concerns

#### **LEGAL REASONING**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court slams the Assam government for delay in the deportation of migrants back to their country. The Bench comprising the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, came down hard on government for not complying with previous orders of the Supreme Court with regards to deportation of migrants. Prior to that, the Supreme Court on 28th January, 2019 directed the government to give details on how many inmates of the detention centres have been deported and what has been the state's success rate and also instructed to deport the remaining migrants and asylum seekers as soon as possible.

There is no domestic procedure or law that governs the protection of refugees in India. There is also no regional agreement of a binding nature such as the Organization for African Unity (OAU) Convention (1974) that deals with deportation of refugees. The government in its submission to the Hon'ble Supreme Court put forth the arguments that the subject matter was not justiciable since the Court had jurisdiction only regarding fundamental rights of Indian citizens.

Moreover, it was also submitted that India was not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, therefore, it was not bound to the principle of non-refoulement. India's record with regards to principle of non-refoulement has been considerably good so far. The principle of non-refoulement being a customary international law, applies to even those states that are not state parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. Despite India not being a state party

to the 1951 Refugee Convention and also not having any domestic legislation recognizing refugees, protection from refoulement relies on general human rights law. India, for example, is a party to the ICCPR (The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and CAT (Convention against Torture) that recognizes the rights of refugees to asylum and also affirms the principle of non-refoulement.

Non-refoulement is today almost universally considered to be customary international law. This principle of non-refoulement is also a part of so-called jus cogens which is a fundamental principle of international law which is accepted by the international community of states as a norm from which no derogation is ever permitted. Further, at the universal level, mention should also be made of Article 3(1) of the UN Declaration by the General Assembly in 1967 which states that: No person referred to in Article 1 (Article 1 talks about asylum), shall be subjected to measures such as rejection at the frontier or, if he has already entered the territory in which he seeks asylum".

In India, there have been already several cases in the courts concerning the deportation of foreigners who happen to be refugees. In such cases, the judiciary has duly acknowledged the international protection of refugees and has respected the principle of non-refoulement as a part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

## 26. What can be attributed to the above passage?

- (a) According to the government, Indian courts cannot enforce fundamental rights of foreign citizens.
- (b) Fundamental rights of foreign citizens can be enforced if India is party to 1951 Refugee Convention.
- (c) Fundamental rights of foreign citizens can be enforced if law that governs the protection of refugees in India exists.
- (d) None of the above.

## 27. X, a Hindu, is a criminal who had been subjected to torture in Bangladesh. In order to avoid torture, he fled to India. Which of the following conclusions would be correct to draw from the above passage?

- (a) He will not get protection under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution because he is a criminal.
- (b) He is a Hindu from Bangladesh and hence would be considered as an Indian citizen under the new Citizenship Amendment Act.
- (c) He can get protection under the principle of non-refoulement.
- (d) None of the above

**28. Which of the following statements can be correctly attributed to the author of above passage?**

- (a) Despite various acts and laws in India dealing with the deportation of refugees, there is no such proper implementation of these laws.
- (b) There is no specific law as such that deals with the deportation of refugees; India has to rely on various international norms.
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above.

**29. After identifying some people as refugees, the Government of India put them in a detention centre. They were treated very badly and were not given food for five days. An NGO brought a case against the government in the Supreme Court. The government argued that the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction since India is not a party to any International Convention on refugees. Which of the following will be true, according to the passage?**

- (a) The Supreme Court cannot hear the matter as India is not a party to any international convention; we do not also have any domestic legislation on refugees.
- (b) The Supreme Court can hear the matter as despite not being a party to any international convention on refugees, we are party to other conventions which affirm principle of non-refoulment.
- (c) The Supreme Court should put more faith in the government of India and leave the matter in the hands of the government.
- (d) The Supreme Court is not the custodian of the rights of the refugees.

**30. Najma Kareer is a very famous writer in Bangladesh. In her latest novel she criticised the religious practices of Muslims. The very next day there was a mass uproar in the country and the head of the religious organisation issued a fatwa against her. Fearing torture and death, she fled Bangladesh and took refuge in India. The authorities now want to deport her back to Bangladesh where she fears persecution at the hands of religious fanatics. Based on the above passage, choose from the following.**

- (a) India will permit her to stay and allow her asylum as its obligation under the principle of non-refoulment which is a Customary International Law.
- (b) India has no obligation to let her stay under any International Law or Convention.
- (c) She should be deported as soon as possible so that India maintains good international ties with Bangladesh.
- (d) She has done a crime and now she should face the punishment.



# MAANSAROVAR

The word "Attempt" means to try to do something. It can also be understood as an act towards the commission of an offence which fails due to circumstances independent of the attempter's will. Thus, it means any voluntary act which does not result into yielding the intended results.

Preparation and attempt are two different things that are required in the commission of a crime. 'Preparation' means arranging the means to perform a task for committing any offence whereas the 'Attempt' is a stage that comes after Preparation in which a person is ready with all the means to attempt a crime.

A person commits the offence of 'attempt to commit a particular offence' when the person:

- Intends to commit that particular offence;
- Does preparation for the same;
- Does any act towards its commission.

Kenny, the celebrated author of Criminal Law has said that criminality of the attempt lies in the intention (*mens rea*), but this must be evidenced by what the accused has actually done towards the attainment of his ultimate objective.

## Stages of crime:

**I. Intention:** This is the first stage of any offence and it is also called the mental and the psychological stage. It is very difficult to prove the intention of anyone; just having an intention will not constitute an offence. This stage exists when the culprit first takes into consideration the idea or intention to commit an offence.

**II. Preparation:** The preparation is the second stage to commit the offence. In this, all the necessary resources are arranged which are required for the execution of the intentional criminal act. Intention and Preparation are not alone enough to constitute the crime.

**III. Attempt:** The third stage is when a person attempts to commit an offence. If the third stage is successful then finally the actual commission of the offence takes place. An attempt is a direct movement towards the execution of the crime after the preparation of the plan. Moreover, a person is guilty of attempting to commit an offence even though the facts are such that the execution of the offence seems to be impossible.

**IV. Accomplishment:** Accomplishment is the last stage in the compilation of the offence. It is considered a successful completion.

## Is an Attempt a Crime?

It can be said that any attempt to commit an offence can be said to begin after the Preparation for the same is completed and the offender begins to do something with the intention to commit an offence. The ingredients which are required to consider it as an Attempt are:

- Guilty mind;
- Some act to be done in order to commit a crime.

31. Choose the correct answer:

**I. Mens rea and preparation together can be punishable.**

**II. Intention alone can be punishable in offences such as rape.**

- (a) Only I                      (b) Only II                      (c) Both I and II                      (d) None of the above

**32. A plans to commit robbery in a bank and for that purpose, he goes to the bank where he finds a man in trouble, and instead of focusing on the offence for which he had gone to the bank, he helped that man. Which of the following statements is true?**

- (a) A is guilty because he went to the bank with the intention of robbing it.  
(b) A is guilty because he had prepared to rob the bank.  
(c) A is guilty because his act of going to the bank is a step towards commission of an offence.  
(d) A is not guilty because the act of A does not amount to Attempt.

**33. A plans to circulate fake currency notes in the market. One day he goes to the market and hands over a fake note to the shopkeeper by mistake. Decide the liability of A.**

- (a) A is liable for attempt because he has fulfilled the ingredients of attempt.  
(b) A is not liable for attempt because he did not have the intention to hand over the fake note to the shopkeeper.  
(c) A is liable because he has committed the offence.  
(d) None of the above

**34. A makes an attempt to steal some jewels by breaking a box but when he opens that box, he finds nothing in it. Decide the liability of A.**

- (a) A is not liable because he found nothing inside the box.  
(b) A is not liable because he does not fulfill the second ingredient of attempt.  
(c) A is not liable because he did not steal anything.  
(d) A is liable for attempt because all the ingredients of attempt are fulfilled.

**35. A plans to commit a robbery in a bank and for that purpose, he buys guns, motorcycle, masks, gloves, etc. What is the liability of A?**

- (a) A is liable for attempt because all the ingredients of attempt are fulfilled.  
(b) A is liable for preparation.  
(c) A is liable for attempt because his intention is supported with buying items to commit robbery.  
(d) A is not liable of anything.

In *Romesh Thapar v. State of Madras*, Patanjali Shastri, CJ, observed that "Freedom of Speech and of the Press lay at the foundation of all democratic organizations, for without a free political discussion, no public education, so essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government, is possible."

The Hon'ble Supreme Court observed in *Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms*, "One-sided information, disinformation, misinformation and non-information, all equally create an uninformed citizenry which makes democracy a farce. Freedom of speech and expression includes right to impart and receive information which includes freedom to hold opinions."

In *Indian Express Newspapers v. Union of India*, it has been held that the press plays a very significant role in the democratic machinery. The Courts have a duty to uphold the freedom of press and invalidate all laws and administrative actions that abridge that freedom.

Freedom of press has three essential elements. They are:

- I. Freedom of access to all sources of information;
- II. Freedom of publication; and
- III. Freedom of circulation.

There are many instances when the freedom of press has been suppressed by the legislature. In *Sakal Papers v. Union of India*, the Daily Newspapers (Price and Page) Order, 1960, which fixed the number of pages and size which a newspaper could publish at a price was held to be violative of the freedom of press and not a reasonable restriction under the Article 19(2).

The Freedom of Press comes within the ambit of Freedom of Speech and Expression and is subject to the following restrictions:

- I. Security of the State
- II. Friendly relations with Foreign States
- III. Public Order
- IV. Decency or Morality
- V. Contempt of Court

### **Sedition**

Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code deals with the offence of sedition. It lays down: "Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine". But Explanation 3 says "Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section."

### **36. Choose the correct statement:**

- I. Freedom of press is absolute in nature.

II. Freedom of speech includes freedom to hold opinions.

- (a) Only I                      (b) Only II                      (c) Both I and II                      (d) None of the above

**37. Which of the following can be attributed to the above paragraph?**

- (a) Sedition is a restriction on the exercise of freedom of press.  
(b) The law of sedition is archaic in nature.  
(c) Political discussion is extremely important in a democracy but not essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government.  
(d) Both (a) and (c).

**38. A newspaper criticized the government policy on Jammu and Kashmir for it being against the interest of the people. An individual, named X, from Kashmir read the news and got furious. Few days later, he joined the movement for freedom of Kashmir from India.**

- (a) The newspaper should be charged with sedition for criticizing the policy on sensitive issues like Kashmir.  
(b) The newspaper should be charged with sedition since its actions led X to join the movement for freedom of Kashmir from India.  
(c) Restriction on freedom of press can be imposed to protect the sovereignty of India.  
(d) The newspaper should not be charged with sedition since it merely criticized the government's policy.

**39. The government passed a notification stating that newspapers cannot criticize the new Citizenship Amendment Act affecting millions of Indians, otherwise it may lead to chaos and riots in India. Decide the constitutionality of the notification.**

- (a) The notification does not violate freedom of press since it tries to prevent chaos and riots in India.  
(b) The notification does not violate freedom of press since it tries to protect the sovereignty and integrity of India.  
(c) The notification does not violate freedom of press since it tries to protect the security of the state.  
(d) The notification violates freedom of press.

**40. A news article criticized the Ayodhya judgment for being biased and asked the Muslim community to disobey the judgment by building mosque on the disputed land. Decide the correct proposition.**

- (a) The article should not be taken down as writing news articles amounts to exercising freedom of speech and expression.
- (b) The news article should not be taken down since it can make all the citizens aware regarding a landmark judgment affecting them.
- (c) The news article can be taken down since reasonable restrictions can be imposed on freedom of press on the ground of contempt of court.
- (d) Both (a) and (b).

The Constitution of India guarantees to all its citizens certain fundamental freedoms, which are recognized as their fundamental rights. However, these fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of India are not absolute as no right can be. Each of these fundamental rights is liable to be controlled, curtailed and regulated to some extent by laws made by the Parliament or the State Legislatures. Accordingly, the Constitution of India lays down the grounds and the purposes for which a legislature can impose 'reasonable restrictions' on the rights guaranteed to citizens. The State cannot travel beyond the contours of these reasonable restrictions in curbing the fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens. While determining the constitutional validity of a restriction imposed on a fundamental right by a legislation, the Court is not concerned with the necessity of the restriction or the wisdom of the policy underlying it, but only whether the restriction is in excess of the requirement, and whether the legislature has overstepped the Constitutional limitations. Two of the fundamental rights guaranteed to every citizen of India are- the right to move freely throughout the territory of India and the right to reside and settle in any part of India. However, the State may impose reasonable restrictions on these rights by law, in the interests of the general public or for the protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribes.

**41. A law was enacted by the Parliament of India which consisted of a provision making it mandatory for every person riding a two-wheeler in India, to wear a helmet, failing which such person was made liable to a fine. Mr. X, a citizen of India, was fined for violation of the said provision. Mr. X challenged the constitutional validity of the said provision. In the given situation, which of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) The provision is violative of the Constitution of India because it is a restriction on the freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- (b) The provision is not violative of the Constitution of India because it is a reasonable restriction on the freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- (c) Mr. X's fundamental right to move freely throughout the territory of India is violated.
- (d) Both (A) and (C).

**42. A group of Indian students of XYZ University located in New Delhi, India posted on social networking sites that they would hold a demonstration outside the university campus, protesting against a recently passed law which made it compulsory for university students to wear uniforms while attending classes. The students further threatened to**

“use whatever means necessary” to “stop the oppression of students”. Therefore, the State Authorities placed barricades around the university campus in order to restrict movement of the students carrying out the demonstration and ensuring that the demonstration does not turn violent. In the given situation, which of the following statements is correct regarding the act of placing of barricades by State Authorities?

- (a) The act is violative of the Constitution of India because it is a restriction on the freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- (b) The act is not violative of the Constitution of India because it is a reasonable restriction in the interests of general public.
- (c) The act is violative of the Constitution of India because it is restriction in the interest of students.
- (d) The act is not violative of the Constitution of India because it is a reasonable restriction in the interest of morality.

43. The appropriate authority in a State passed an externment order against Mr. A, a citizen of India. The externment order prohibited Mr. A, from residing within the State, from the date specified in such order. The externment order was passed by virtue of powers conferred on the appropriate authority by law, and the constitutional validity of this law had been upheld by the Supreme Court of India. The externment order was passed on the ground that Mr. A was found to be frequently engaged in illegal business of narcotic drugs and was also involved in several cases of riot and criminal intimidation. In the given situation, which of the following statements is correct regarding the externment order?

- (a) It is a reasonable restriction on Mr. A’s fundamental right of free movement throughout the territory of India.
- (b) It is an unreasonable restriction on Mr. A’s fundamental right of residence and settlement in any part of India.
- (c) It is violative of Mr. A’s fundamental right of free movement throughout the territory of India.
- (d) It is an unreasonable restriction on Mr. A’s fundamental right of free movement throughout the territory of India.

44. Mr. Z, a citizen of India, was issued a passport on June 1, 2020 by the Passport Office. Mr. Z was due to travel to Spain on July 15, 2021. On July 11, 2021, Mr. Z received a letter from the Regional Passport Officer intimating him that it was decided by the Government of India to seize his passport “in public interest”. Mr. Z was required to surrender his passport within seven days of the receipt of that letter. In the given situation, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Mr. Z can challenge the letter on the ground that it is violative of his fundamental right of free movement throughout the territory of India.

(b) Mr. Z can challenge the letter on the ground that it is violative of his fundamental right to reside and settle in any part of India.

(c) Mr. Z can challenge the letter on the ground that it is violative of the law relating to passports in India.

(d) Mr. Z cannot challenge the letter on the ground that it is violative of his fundamental right(s) of free movement throughout the territory of India and/or to residence and settlement in any part of India.

**45. Which of the following statements is incorrect?**

(a) Fundamental right to movement and residence in any part of India are sacrosanct and are guaranteed to all citizens.

(b) Fundamental right to movement and residence in any part of India are sacrosanct, but are guaranteed subject to reasonable restrictions on such rights.

(c) Reasonable restrictions may be imposed, on fundamental rights to movement and residence in any part of India, by law.

(d) The constitutional validity of a law imposing reasonable restrictions on fundamental rights can be challenged by a citizen before the legislature.

Where a spouse contracts a second marriage while the first marriage is still subsisting, the spouse would be guilty of the offence of bigamy under the penal law in India, if it is proved that the first as well as the second marriages were legally valid, i.e., all the necessary ceremonies required by law or by custom have been performed at the time of contracting the marriages. According to the penal law in India, if a person, who has a living husband or wife, marries again, then such person is liable to be punished with imprisonment up to seven years along with a fine for committing the offence of bigamy. Although the penal law of India is applicable to all citizens irrespective of their religious affiliations, an exception to the offence of bigamy may be created by the law relating to marriage applicable to followers of a particular religion. Under the Hindu law relating to marriage, bigamy is not permitted. If a Hindu wife files a criminal complaint against her husband on the ground that during the subsistence of her marriage, her husband had married a second wife by converting into another religion which legally permits having more than one wife, then her husband is liable to be punished for the offence of bigamy. Further, the Hindu law relating to marriage also provides that the punishment for offence of bigamy as provided in the penal law of India would be applicable to marriage between two Hindus.

**46. Mr. A, a Hindu male, has been married to Ms. B, a Hindu female. Their marriage was solemnized as per Hindu rites and ceremonies. After his marriage to Ms. B, Mr. A underwent religious conversion into a religion 'X' which legally permits males to have two wives. Thereafter, Mr. A got married to Ms. C, a female belonging to religion 'X', in compliance with all the legal requirements of contracting a valid marriage under religion 'X'. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?**

- (a) As Mr. A married Ms. C, the marriage of Mr. A and Ms. B has become invalid.
- (b) As Mr. A is not a Hindu, the marriage of Mr. A and Ms. B has become invalid.
- (c) Mr. A's marriage with Ms. C has not affected the validity of his marriage with Ms. B.
- (d) Both (A) and (B).

**47. Mr. A, a Hindu male, has been married to Ms. B, a Hindu female. Their marriage was solemnized as per Hindu rites and ceremonies. After his marriage to Ms. B, Mr. A underwent religious conversion into a religion 'X' which legally permits males to have two wives. Thereafter, Mr. A got married to Ms. C, a female belonging to religion 'X', in compliance with all the legal requirements of contracting a valid marriage under religion 'X'. Ms. B filed a criminal complaint against Mr. A for committing the offence of bigamy. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?**

- (a) Mr. A is liable to be punished according to the Hindu law relating to marriage.
- (b) Mr. A is liable to be punished according to the penal law of India.
- (c) Mr. A has not committed the offence of bigamy.
- (d) Both (A) and (B).

**48. Mr. A, a Hindu male, has been married to Ms. B, a Hindu female. Their marriage was not solemnized as per Hindu rites and ceremonies or any other custom, but was performed by seeking blessings of their family members. After his marriage to Ms. B, Mr. A underwent religious conversion into a religion 'X' which legally permits males to have two wives. Thereafter, Mr. A got married to Ms. C, a female belonging to religion 'X', in compliance with all the legal requirements of contracting a valid marriage under religion 'X'. Ms. B filed a criminal complaint against Mr. A for committing the offence of bigamy. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?**

- (a) Mr. A has committed the offence of bigamy because he married again during the subsistence of the first marriage.
- (b) Mr. A has not committed the offence of bigamy because his first marriage is not valid.
- (c) Mr. A has committed the offence of bigamy because he underwent religious conversion in order to contract a bigamous marriage.
- (d) Mr. A has not committed the offence of bigamy because his second marriage is not valid.

**49. Mr. A, a male belonging to religion 'P', has been married to Ms. B, a female belonging to religion 'P'. Their marriage was solemnized in compliance with all the legal requirements of contracting a valid marriage under religion 'P'. Monogamy is espoused as a cherished value by the followers of religion 'P' and provided as a pre-condition for a valid marriage for the followers of the religion. After his marriage to Ms. B, Mr. A underwent religious conversion into a religion 'Q' which legally permits males to have two wives.**

Thereafter, Mr. A got married to Ms. C, a female belonging to religion 'Q', in compliance with all the legal requirements of contracting a valid marriage under religion 'Q'. Ms. B wife filed a criminal complaint against Mr. A for committing the offence of bigamy. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?

- (a) Mr. A has committed bigamy according to the Hindu law relating to marriage.
- (b) Mr. A has committed bigamy according to the penal law of India.
- (c) Mr. A has committed bigamy according to the law relating to marriage of religion 'P'.
- (d) Both (B) and (C).

**50. Which of the following statements is incorrect?**

- (a) Marrying again during the lifetime of the husband or wife is a pre-condition for performing a valid Hindu marriage.
- (b) Religious conversion is not a defence for the offence of bigamy under the penal law of India.
- (c) Bigamy is an offence under the penal law of India.
- (d) Offence of bigamy can be committed according to the provisions of Hindu law relating to marriage.

The government has amended the *Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018*. The Ministry of Finance on November 7, 2022, issued a notification for amending the scheme to provide “an additional period of 15 days” for their sale “in the year of general elections to the Legislative Assembly of any States or Union Territories with Legislature”. The bonds under this scheme are usually made available for purchase by any person for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July, and October, when specified by the Union Government. The original scheme had provided for an additional period of thirty days, as specified by the Government, in the year when Lok Sabha elections are held, while the amendment adds another 15 days.

Since Assembly elections to various States and Union Territories are held every year, the amendment effectively means that there will be 15 additional dates annually during which the bonds can be sold. Immediately after issuing the notification, the Union Government also announced the sale of electoral bonds under the 23rd tranche from the authorised branches of the State Bank of India. The notification said the sale of bonds would take place through the 29 authorised branches of the said bank from November 9 to November 15, 2022. Like in previous rounds of sale, the electoral bonds shall be valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible political party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from “Electoral Bonds Scheme Amended To Allow Sale for Additional 15 Days in Assembly Election Years”, by Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar, *The Wire*]

51. Assad buys an electoral bond worth ₹ 1,00,000/- on November 9, 2022 and plans to give the bond to the Popular People's Party (the "PPP"), which he has been supporting for many years. On November 10, he must travel out of station on some urgent business, and he only hands the bond over to a representative of the PPP on November 14, 2022. The PPP's representative deposits the bond in the Party's account on November 16, 2022, but the bank refuses to credit the bond to the party's account, on the grounds that it was no longer valid. Is the bank correct?

- (a) No, since Assad was a long-time supporter of the PPP.
- (b) Yes, since the bonds were only issued from November 9 to November 15, 2022 and were invalid after that.
- (c) Yes, since the party representative had not deposited the bond with an authorised branch of the bank.
- (d) No, since the bond was valid on November 16, 2022.

52. The Government announces that there would be a sale of a 24th tranche of electoral bonds on February 10, 2023, for a period of 15 days, since elections to the Legislative Assembly of some States are scheduled for that year. Since there are no elections to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly of the State in which Assad resides, he claims that the Government does not have the power to issue this 24th tranche of electoral bonds in 2023. Is he right?

- (a) No, since the changes to the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 mean that electoral bonds can be issued for an additional period of 15 days in any year, regardless of whether any elections are scheduled that year.
- (b) Yes, since no elections were scheduled for Assad's state in that year.
- (c) Yes, since the Government had already sold some bonds in the 23rd tranche in 2022.
- (d) No, since the changes to the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 provide that electoral bonds can be issued for an additional period of 15 days in years when there is an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State.

53. On November 10, 2022, Palak purchases an electoral bond from a branch of the State Bank of India, and hands it over to a representative of the PPP. The next day, the PPP announces that it has changed its candidates for the upcoming elections in Palak's State. Upset at this news, she tells a PPP representative that she would like her bond back. The representative tells her that the bond has already been deposited, and that the money has been credited to the party's account. Palak claims that since the period of validity of the bonds has not expired, she has the right to get her bond back from the party. Is she right?

- (a) No, since Palak cannot ask for the bond back once she has given it to a political party.

(b) No, since the party had already deposited the bond, and the money had been credited to its account.

(c) Yes, since Palak bought the bond with her own money, and has the right to ask for it back.

(d) Yes, since the PPP changed its candidates, and Palak may no longer support the party.

**54. On November 15, 2022, the Government issues another notification, announcing that from that date onwards, only political parties that have received at least 1% of the votes polled in the last elections to the Lok Sabha, or the last elections to the Legislative Assembly of a State, would be eligible to receive and deposit electoral bonds. In the sale of the 24th tranche of electoral bonds, Palak decides to give the electoral bonds she has purchased to the newly formed More Popular People's Party (the "MPPP"), which is likely to win the first elections it would be contesting, in July 2023. Is the MPPP eligible to receive the electoral bonds?**

(a) Yes, since it is likely to succeed in the upcoming elections.

(b) Yes, since it fulfils the criteria announced in the November 7, 2022 notification.

(c) No, since it does not fulfil the eligibility criteria announced in the November 15, 2022 notification.

(d) No, since it does not fulfil the eligibility criteria announced in the November 7, 2022 notification.

**55. Abraham, who lives in a different State from Assad, purchased an electoral bond in the sale of the 23rd tranche. He decides to give the electoral bond to the PPP, even though the PPP is only active in Assad's State. When the PPP representative goes to an authorised branch of the State Bank of India to deposit the electoral bond on December 5, 2022 however, the bank refuses to credit the money to the PPP's account. Which of the following would be the most valid reason for the bank to refuse to credit the money to the party's account?**

(a) The bond was no longer valid.

(b) Abraham could not give the bond to the PPP since the PPP was not active in his state.

(c) The PPP was not eligible to receive electoral bonds.

(d) The PPP could only deposit the bond in a bank branch located in Abraham's state.

### **LOGICAL REASONING**

While men and women are both considered to be more capable as they get older, only women bear the brunt of being seen as "less warm" as they age, new research has found. This series of studies is reportedly the first to look at both gender and age to determine how perceptions of women and men differ. "It's just stunning... These stereotypes are so hard-wired and deeply entrenched that

they come out even when absolutely identical information is provided about a man and a woman,” Jennifer Chatman, Distinguished Professor of Management at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business, said. In an analysis of professors’ evaluations, female professors witnessed a decline as they moved from their 30s to 40s, hitting an all-time low around the age of 47. All this while, the evaluation of male professors remained consistent. Interestingly, after the age of 47, the evaluations for women increased again, becoming equal with those of men around the early 60s. “At that point, there are different stereotypes of women, and they may benefit from being seen as more grandmotherly,” said Laura Kray, faculty director of the Center for Equity, Gender, and Leadership at Berkeley Haas and an author of the study.

Women around the age of mid 30s to late 40s also face what is called “the motherhood penalty,” where assumptions around parenting duties lead people to believe women are less committed to their careers than men. This has several repercussions, most particularly evident in hiring, promotions and wages. Women executives further pointed out that they face “hyper-scrutiny” and “scepticism” which harks back to perceptions of likeability versus agency. Gendered networks in the workplace, with men gaining greater access to senior leaders, become cemented mid-career, pose another difficulty for working women. Negative perceptions of women in middle-age can also be linked to stereotypes around menopause. In 2008, psychologists studied the attitudes of people towards women in different reproductive stages. They found that while the pregnant women or the woman with the baby were thought about in glowing terms, menopausal women were associated with negative emotions, illness and ageing.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from “How Stereotypes Affect Middle-Aged Women’s Careers”, by Ananya Singh, *The Swaddle*]

**56. Which of the following is most likely to be true if the author’s statements about gendered networks in the workplace are true?**

- (a) Mid-career women do not find it as easy to get access to senior leaders, who are usually male, as their male colleagues. They therefore find career progression or new opportunities easier to come by.
- (b) Mid-career women find it easier to get access to senior leaders, who are usually male, as their male colleagues. They therefore find career progression or new opportunities easier to come by.
- (c) Mid-career women do not find it as easy to get access to senior leaders, who are usually male, as their male colleagues. They therefore find career progression or new opportunities harder to come by.
- (d) Mid-career women find it easier to get access to senior leaders, who are usually male, as their male colleagues. They therefore do not find career progression or new opportunities harder to come by.



**57. Which of the following is most likely to be an outcome of what the author describes as the “motherhood penalty”?**

- (a) People are more hesitant to hire men from their mid 30s to their late 40s but may be more willing to hire women of a similar age.
- (b) People are more hesitant to hire women from their mid 30s to their late 40s but may be more willing to hire men of a similar age.
- (c) Women from their mid 30s to their late 40s always prioritise parenting responsibilities and so are not really interested in pursuing a career.
- (d) Women who have children are less committed to their careers than men.

**58. If professors' evaluations are the most important criteria in awarding promotions, then which of the following would be the most likely outcome, based on the information provided in the passage?**

- (a) Male professors are likely to be promoted at an even rate throughout their career, while women professors would experience a lower likelihood of promotion in the mid-career stage.
- (b) Since there is a wide disparity between the evaluations that male and female professors receive, the practice of relying upon such evaluations will quickly be abandoned.
- (c) Male and female professors will receive promotions at a similar rate throughout the course of their career.
- (d) Women professors are likely to be promoted at an even rate throughout their career, while male professors would experience a lower likelihood of promotion in the mid-career stage.

**59. Which of the following is the author most likely to disagree with?**

- (a) Women going through menopause often quit the workforce voluntarily.
- (b) Women going through menopause are more likely to be perceived negatively at the workplace and to have difficulty achieving professional success.
- (c) Women going through menopause should be permitted to take a mid-career sabbatical.
- (d) Women going through menopause are more likely to be perceived positively at the workplace and to achieve professional success.

**60. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the main argument in the passage?**

- (a) Several independent studies conducted in different countries have shown that women in the workplace are perceived positively and are favourably treated as they age.
- (b) Several independent studies conducted in different countries have shown that women in the workplace are perceived negatively and are unfairly treated as they age.
- (c) The studies mentioned in the passage have been discredited after they were published, and no reliance should be placed on them.

(d) The studies mentioned in the passage were conducted on very small sample sets and cannot be used to make general statements about the difference in perception between men and women.

**61. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken Laura Kray's arguments?**

- (a) Women professors perceived as being 'grandmotherly' are regarded as being likeable and caring.
- (b) Women professors perceived as being 'grandmotherly' are treated better by their colleagues and students.
- (c) Women professors perceived as being 'grandmotherly' are regarded as being slow, inefficient, and outdated in their field.
- (d) Women professors perceived as being 'grandmotherly' are regarded very highly and receive much more respect than younger women professors.

Why are we humans so susceptible to the doom and gloom of the news? Two reasons. The first is what psychologists call negativity bias: we're more attuned to the bad than the good. Back in our hunting and gathering days, we were better off being frightened of a spider or a snake a hundred times too often than one time too few. Too much fear wouldn't kill you; too little surely would.

Second, we're also burdened with an availability bias. If we can easily recall examples of a given thing, we assume that thing is relatively common. The fact that we're bombarded daily with horrific stories about aircraft disasters, child snatchers and beheadings — which tend to lodge in the memory — completely skews our view of the world.

In this digital age, the news we're being fed is only getting more extreme. In the old days, journalists didn't know much about their individual readers. They wrote for the masses. But the people behind Facebook, Twitter and Google know you well. They know what shocks and horrifies you, they know what makes you click. They know how to grab your attention and hold it so they can serve you the most lucrative helping of personalized ads. This modern media frenzy is nothing less than an assault on the mundane. Because, let's be honest, the lives of most people are pretty predictable. Nice, but boring. So while we'd prefer having nice neighbours with boring lives, 'boring' won't make you sit up and take notice. 'Nice' doesn't sell ads. And so Silicon Valley keeps dishing us up ever more sensational clickbait, knowing full well, as a Swiss novelist once quipped, that "News is to the mind what sugar is to the body."

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *Humankind: A Hopeful History*, by Rutger Bregman, Bloomsbury Publishing, London, 2021.]

**62. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments?**

- (a) Behavioural traits that helped us in the days when we were hunter-gatherers continue to be present in modern-day humans.
- (b) Behavioural traits that helped us in the days when we were hunter-gatherers are no longer found in modern-day humans.

(c) The negativity bias makes us more likely to be affected by depressing or sad news.

(d) We have certain behavioural characteristics that affect how we perceive and are affected by sad news.

**63. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?**

(a) Contemporary media continuously exposes us to exciting news and information, which may be just like the things we usually experience in our lives.

(b) Contemporary media continuously exposes us to exciting news and information, which may be very unlike the kinds of things we usually encounter in our lives.

(c) Contemporary media continuously exposes us to boring news and information, which may be very unlike the kinds of things we usually encounter in our lives.

(d) Contemporary media continuously exposes us to boring news and information, which may be just like the things we usually experience in our lives.

**64. Based only on the author's statement that "we'd prefer having nice neighbours with boring lives", and the author's argument about the nature of news that modern media exposes us to, which of the following would the author be most likely to agree with?**

(a) Constantly being exposed to negative news gives us a warped perspective of the world.

(b) In our hunting and gathering days, it was better for us to be unnecessarily scared rather than being scared too little.

(c) The news modern media exposes us to is just like our day-to-day experiences.

(d) The news modern media exposes us to is very different from our day-to-day experiences.

**65. The author's statements about negativity bias, if true, provide most support for which of the following conclusions?**

(a) We are more likely to notice a story about a billionaire donating their money to charity than a story about an airplane crash.

(b) We are more likely to be attracted to a news article about a rise in life expectancy in our country than a news article about a murder in our city.

(c) We are more likely to notice a story about increasing pollution levels than a story about improving educational levels in schools.

(d) We are more likely to form our opinion of the world based on the information available to us rather than information we do not have access to.

**66. Which of the following would be the most effective way of countering the effects of what the author describes as our 'availability bias'?**

- (a) Ensuring that we do not seek out news sources and stories that we may not otherwise have been exposed to.
- (b) Following only one news source and limiting our perspective of the world to that one source.
- (c) Avoiding all positive news stories, and instead only reading news stories about disasters and tragedies.
- (d) Ensuring that we seek out news sources and stories that we may not otherwise have been exposed to.

**67. The author says that “The fact that we’re bombarded daily with horrific stories about aircraft disasters, child snatchers and beheadings — which tend to lodge in the memory — completely skews our view of the world.” The conclusion the author draws in this argument follows logically if which of the following is assumed?**

- (a) Our ideas about the world are shaped by the information we are exposed to.
- (b) Modern media is concerned only with making massive profits.
- (c) Modern journalists generate news stories much faster than in the old days.
- (d) Humans once lived as hunter-gatherers.

Students decide to attend college for several reasons. These reasons include career opportunities and financial stability, intellectual growth, a time for self-discovery, norms, obligations, and social opportunities. Outside demands in society, such as technology changes, and increased educational demands also drive the need for more students to attend college. The students then spend the next few years trying to discover a path and find their way so they can become successful. The transition to college presents students with many new challenges, including increased academic demands, less time with family members, interpersonal problems with roommates and romantic interests, and financial stress. Competitive academic work and uncertainty about future employment and professional career were also noted as sources of stress. The transition to college represents a process characterized by change, ambiguity, and adjustment across all of life’s domains. The transition towards independence and self-sufficiency has been characterized as ‘stress-arousing’ and ‘anxiety-provoking’ by many college students. Failure to accomplish and develop these characteristics of development and maintain independence may result in life dissatisfaction. Emerging adulthood has also been noted to augment college students’ vulnerability to stress. Many students experience their first symptoms of depression and anxiety during this time, but a growing problem is that college campuses do not have enough resources to help all of these students. It has been noted that 75% to 80% of college students are moderately stressed and 10% to 12% are severely stressed.

**68. What according to you is the objective of the study of the present paragraph?**

- (a) To map the various stages of pressure points of adulthood in the process of education.
- (b) To narrate the anti-family agenda in the current education system.

(c) To pinpoint the obstacles targeted against meritorious students.

(d) All of the above

**69. Which factors as per the author cause more stress amongst college students?**

(a) Pressure from parents and society towards greater educational needs and increased competitive academic work.

(b) Failure to develop successful romantic interests, financial constraints and interpersonal issues with room-mates.

(c) Failure to adapt to the transition to college life and to adjust various life domains in tune with needs and requirements of college life.

(d) Inability to manage time constraints and the uncertainty pertaining to their future.

**70. Which of the following fall closest to the underlying assumption in the present study?**

(a) Problem-solving ability amongst college students is negatively associated with symptoms of depression and anxiety.

(b) Students lean towards unhealthy coping skills in order to try to lower the stress that they experience.

(c) Romantic interest is an anti-dote for stress amongst the students in the colleges.

(d) Stress is subjective for each student but affects them seriously.

**71. Suggest a suitable title for the paragraph from amongst the given titles:**

(a) Triumph and Turbulence of College Education System

(b) Negative impact of College Education System

(c) Negligence of Stress Management by parents

(d) Unemployment and Mental Instability

**72. With reference to the above paragraph, which of the following offers the most plausible solutions as a coping up mechanism for college students?**

(a) Individual students should approach counsellors for coping up with stress.

(b) Keeping in view that large number of students are experiencing stress, colleges must take steps reduce course curriculum and peer pressures.

(c) College authorities shall provide access to counseling and every student experiencing stress must engage in some form of coping mechanism to alleviate stress.

(d) The students must learn to differentiate between short term and long-term stress.

Study the information given below and answer the following questions:

Mr X has built a mansion with 10 rooms. He was confused about the colours he should use while painting each room. He had the following choice of colours: blue, hazy grey, jumping yellow, teal, violet latte, Terry Cherry and happy pink. It was also known that he could paint more than 1 room with a single colour. Finally, he set up an algorithm to decide the colours that he would be using.

- If he painted any room teal, then he did not paint any other room happy pink.
- If he painted any room blue, then he did not paint any other room jumping yellow.
- If he painted any room blue, then he painted at least one room happy pink.
- If he painted any room jumping yellow, then he painted at least one room violet latte.
- If he painted any room violet latte, then he painted at least one room happy pink.
- If he painted any room happy pink, then he painted at least rooms happy pink.

**73. Which one of the following could be a complete list of the number of rooms and colours that Mr X used to paint some of the rooms of his house?**

- (a) one blue, one Terry cherry, one violet latte, two happy pink
- (b) one blue, one teal, one Terry cherry, three happy pink
- (c) two blue, one teal, three Terry Cherry
- (d) one jacket, one Terry cherry, two violet latte and one happy pink

**74. If Mr. X did not paint any room happy pink, what was the maximum number of the different types of colours that he could paint?**

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

**75. Which one of the following statements must be false?**

- (a) Mr. X painted exactly four rooms with colours, one of which was a hat.
- (b) Mr. X painted exactly three rooms with colours, one of which was a happy pink.
- (c) Mr. X painted exactly four rooms with colours, one of which was a blue.
- (d) None of these

**76. If Mr. X painted as many different types of colours as possible, then it must be true that he did not paint one of the following types of colours.**

- (a) Blue
- (b) Hazy grey
- (c) Teal
- (d) Jumping yellow

**77. If Mr. X painted at least one room, find out which one of the following are the minimum and the maximum numbers of the types of colours that he could paint ?**

(a) 1, 4

(b) 1, 5

(c) 1, 6

(d) 2, 5

An unintended and unjust consequence of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 is its widespread persecution of teenage lovers. This law raised the age of consent from 16 to 18 years, while defining persons below 18 years as children. Consequently, when two 16-year-olds are romantically and sexually involved, but the girl's family doesn't approve the affair and files a police complaint, her consent has zero legal validity. And the consensual relationship morphs into a case of statutory rape. The Allahabad High Court has indicated how its "conscience" is concerned by such severe POCSO provisions being drawn by teenage lovers simply on the basis of family disapproval. The High Courts of Delhi, Madras and others have made similar observations in recent years and also pointed to amendments to the law that can help reduce its injustices. One suggestion that has gathered broad support is to push back both the cut-off for childhood and the age of consent to 16 years. Given that the NCRB data shows around half of POCSO cases falling in the 16-18 years age group, such an amendment is overdue. Minimizing the prosecution of consensual romances would also leave a logjammed system with more space to pursue actual sexual assault cases. The broader goal here is respecting the rights of adolescents and young adults. Their romantic and sexual autonomy needs greatly increased recognition in India.

**78. "Minimising the prosecution of consensual romances would also leave a logjammed system with more space to pursue actual sexual assault cases". In the context of the statement, which of the following strengthens the author's opinion?**

- (a) There are many unreported sexual assault cases.
- (b) Speedy prosecution of sexual assault cases is desirable.
- (c) Consensual romance, in some cases, can amount to sexual assault.
- (d) Sexual assault and rape are different.

**79. What has the author conveyed regarding the prosecution of statutory rape in India?**

- (a) Statutory rape does not violate the romantic and sexual autonomy of young adults.
- (b) Statutory rape must be met with stricter punishment.
- (c) Statutory rape must be abolished.
- (d) Statutory rape is a relic of Victorian morality.

**80. As per the above passage, which of the following does not correctly represent the author's view regarding the widespread persecution of teenage lovers under the POCSO Act?**

- (a) Teenagers have the right to love as much as adults.
- (b) Police complaints of teenage lovers may lead to their harassment.
- (c) Consent of minor girls do not have legal validity.

(d) Consent of minor girls have legal validity.

A trader deals in three varieties of rice:

Type A costing ₹40 per kg

Type B costing ₹55 per kg

Type C costing ₹70 per kg

He first prepares Mixture M1 by mixing Type A and Type B in the ratio 3 : 2.

He will prepare a final mixture M2 by mixing:

40 kg of Mixture M1, and Type C, in the ratio 5 : 3 (M1 : C).

He sells the final mixture m2 earning a profit of 10% on his overall cost price.

**81. What is the cost price per kg of Mixture M,<sup>1</sup>**

- (a) ₹46                      (b) ₹ 47                      (c) ₹ 48                      (d) ₹ 49

**82. How much Type C (in kg) is used to prepare Mixture M2?**

- (a) 20 kg                      (b) 24 kg                      (c) 30 kg                      (d) 32 kg

**83. What is the cost price per kg of the final mixture M2?**

- (a) ₹56                      (b) ₹58                      (c) ₹55                      (d) ₹62

**84. What is the selling price per kg of M2 mixture that gives 10% profit**

- (a) ₹60                      (b) ₹62.5                      (c) ₹60.5                      (d) ₹69.5

**85. What is the cost price If the shopkeeper mixes A:B:C variety in the ratio 1:1:2?**

- (a) ₹60                      (b) ₹58.75                      (c) ₹62.50                      (d) ₹53.50

**86. In what proportion should he mix variety A, B and C to get an average price of ₹60 per kg?**

- (a) 5:6:6                      (b) 2:4:7                      (c) 1:2:3                      (d) 2:2:5

**Study the information given below and answer the following questions**

YEAR	PRODUCTION	CONSUMPTION
97-97	120	125
97-98	135	130
98-99	140	130
99-00	145	135

**87. If surplus ragi available each year was exported, what % of the ragi produced between the years '97-98 and '00-01 was exported?**

- (a) 15%                      (b) 10%                      (c) 6%                      (d) None of these

**88. Between the years '96-97 and '00-01, the following can be said about the cumulative production and consumption of ragi**

- (a) **Cumulative production of ragi exceeded** that of consumption by 18 lac tones  
(b) Cumulative consumption of ragi was 89% of the cumulative consumption of ragi during this period.  
(c) Cumulative production of ragi exceeded cumulative consumption of ragi by 4.7% during this period.  
(d) Consumption of ragi never exceeded the production of ragi during this period.

**89. Which of the following statements are true?**

**I. The YOY rate of growth of production of ragi has been greater than the YOY rate of growth of consumption of ragi during the period 97-98 to 00-01**

**II. The CAGR rate of growth of production of ragi has been greater than the CAGR rate of growth of consumption of ragi during the period 97-98 to 00-01**

**III. The amount of ragi exported in a given year was greater than the previous year during all the years in the period 97-98 to 00-01**

- (a) I only                      (b) I and II only                      (c) III only                      (d) II only

**Q 90. What was the % rate of growth in production of ragi between the period 99-00 and 00-01?**

- (a) 4.05%                      (b) 5.71%                      (c) 1.67%                      (d) 10%

### **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE INCLUDING CURRENT AFFAIRS**

In 2025, the United States announced the initiation of formal procedures to withdraw from both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This move has drawn global attention, given the influential role the U.S. traditionally plays in multilateral institutions. The stated reasons behind the decision include concerns about financial transparency, institutional accountability, and the need for structural reforms within global bodies.

The withdrawal from WHO is significant because the organization plays a central role in coordinating global health responses. The absence of a major contributor could influence

collaborative efforts on disease surveillance, medical research, and emergency preparedness. Similarly, leaving UNESCO may affect the country's involvement in educational, cultural, and scientific programs, many of which require long-term commitment and international cooperation.

International reactions have varied. While some nations view the U.S. decision as a catalyst for internal reforms within global institutions, others fear that weakened participation by large economies could undermine collective action in global governance. Analysts emphasize that the long-term impact of such withdrawals depends on how member states adapt to shifting responsibilities and whether alternative leadership emerges.

As debates continue, questions arise regarding the future of multilateralism and the ability of global organizations to function effectively without the participation of major states. The situation remains under close observation by policymakers, scholars, and international agencies.

**91. Who receives official notices of withdrawal from UN-affiliated organizations?**

- (a) President of the UN General Assembly      (b) Secretary-General of the United Nations  
(c) Director-General of UNDP      (d) Chairperson of the Security Council

**92. UNESCO's World Heritage List is associated with which activity?**

- (a) Listing endangered languages  
(b) Recognizing cultural and natural sites of outstanding value  
(c) Monitoring global health surveillance  
(d) Regulating international finance

**93. WHO came into force in which year?**

- (a) 1945      (b) 1947      (c) 1948      (d) 1950

**94. As of 2025, the USA is a permanent member of which UN body?**

- (a) UNHRC      (b) UN Security Council  
(c) FAO      (d) WTO Appellate Body

**95. UNESCO was founded immediately after which major global event?**

- (a) End of World War I      (b) End of World War II  
(c) Korean War      (d) Cold War

In 2025, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia renewed a long-standing defence cooperation pact aimed at strengthening military coordination, intelligence sharing, and maritime security engagements. The agreement reflects both countries' evolving security priorities, as shifting geopolitical alignments in West Asia have encouraged states to diversify strategic partnerships. The pact underscores joint

efforts to conduct military exercises, exchange defence technologies, and develop advanced training programmes.

A significant focus of the pact is maritime security, particularly in the regions surrounding the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, which remain vulnerable due to increasing disruptions in global shipping routes. Both nations emphasize the importance of coordinated naval activity to protect strategic sea lanes used for energy transport. Analysts note that the pact is intended to enhance defence flexibility without binding either country into exclusive alliances.

The renewed collaboration comes at a time when Gulf states are reassessing their strategic postures due to changes in global power structures, energy market transformations, and emerging regional rivalries. While the full implications of the pact will unfold over time, observers believe the agreement is part of a larger pattern of defence modernization and geopolitical recalibration across South Asia and the Middle East.

**96. Which organisation headquartered in Riyadh was established to coordinate joint military counter-terror operations among Islamic nations?**

- (a) GCC
- (b) OPEC
- (c) Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC)
- (d) Arab League

**97. Pakistan conducted its first nuclear tests in 1998 at which testing site?**

- (a) Peshawar Range
- (b) Chagai Hills
- (c) Nanga Parbat Base
- (d) Karakoram Pass

**98. Which country, apart from Saudi Arabia, is the largest trading partner of Pakistan among Gulf nations as of 2025?**

- (a) Kuwait
- (b) Oman
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Bahrain

**99. The headquarters of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), of which both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are members, is located in:**

- (a) Islamabad
- (b) Cairo
- (c) Doha
- (d) Jeddah

**100. Which sea separates the Arabian Peninsula from the Horn of Africa?**

- (a) Mediterranean Sea
- (b) Caspian Sea
- (c) Red Sea
- (d) Black Sea

In 2025, Japan marked a historic political shift by electing its first woman Prime Minister, signalling a significant transformation in the country's governance and leadership structures. The election outcome reflects changing societal attitudes in Japan, where increasing public support for gender inclusivity in politics has gradually shaped electoral narratives. Analysts view this development as

part of a broader effort by Japan to modernize its political institutions and address long-standing criticisms regarding gender representation in leadership roles.

The new Prime Minister inherits a complex policy landscape, including economic recovery challenges, demographic pressure due to an aging population, and regional security concerns in East Asia. With shifting geopolitical dynamics, Japan also faces the task of recalibrating its foreign policy stance while maintaining strong alliances and economic partnerships. Domestically, the leadership transition has sparked considerable attention from both reform-minded groups and traditional political factions, each holding different expectations from the government's upcoming agenda.

While the long-term impact of this leadership milestone is yet to unfold, the event has generated renewed debates on political participation, social equality, and the future direction of Japan's governance model. Observers believe that this moment marks not only a symbolic achievement but also a potential catalyst for broader institutional reforms in the coming years.

**101. Japan's parliament is known as the:**

- (a) Diet Assembly      (b) Kokkai Forum      (c) Nihon Seikatsu      (d) National Diet

**102. Which Japanese city is considered the nation's financial hub?**

- (a) Kyoto      (b) Osaka      (c) Nagoya      (d) Tokyo

**103. Which strait separates Japan from South Korea?**

- (a) Malacca Strait      (b) Luzon Strait      (c) Korea Strait      (d) Taiwan Strait

**104. Which of the following is NOT a member of the G7, along with Japan?**

- (a) Germany      (b) Italy      (c) China      (d) Canada

**105. Which international body is Japan a major contributor to, especially in development aid?**

- (a) OPEC Fund      (b) SAARC Secretariat      (c) Black Sea Bank      (d) OECD

After months of escalating hostilities in the Gaza Strip, international mediation produced a temporary ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in early 2025. The arrangement, facilitated jointly by Egypt, Qatar, and the United Nations, aims to allow controlled humanitarian access into Gaza, ensure the release of a limited number of hostages, and enable medical evacuation of critically injured civilians. Although the ceasefire marks the first significant pause in fighting in several months, diplomats have repeatedly cautioned that it is not a long-term political settlement.

Under the ceasefire terms, Israel agreed to suspend its aerial and ground operations for a defined period, while Hamas pledged to halt rocket fire and allow aid convoys to pass through designated checkpoints. The ceasefire also includes a verification mechanism involving UN observers and regional security teams, who are responsible for reporting potential violations. Analysts note that

while the framework temporarily reduces violence, both sides maintain fundamentally opposing positions on borders, governance, and security.

Humanitarian agencies have stressed that the pause, although welcomed, is insufficient to address large-scale displacement and infrastructure collapse in Gaza. Hospitals are running at limited capacity, electricity remains intermittent, and access to clean water is still restricted. Aid organizations have also warned that unless there is sustained cooperation from all parties, the humanitarian gains achieved during the ceasefire could quickly unravel.

Diplomatic actors view the ceasefire not as an end, but as an opportunity to create momentum for broader political dialogue. However, past experiences suggest that temporary truces have often broken down due to retaliatory responses, mistrust, or disagreements over implementation. This has raised concerns about the durability of the current pause, especially given reports that certain factions on both sides remain skeptical of negotiations.

Despite these challenges, international mediators argue that even a temporary reduction in hostilities can help stabilize the region and reduce civilian suffering. Several countries have emphasized that long-term peace will require inclusive political engagement, security guarantees, and significant reconstruction efforts. Whether the present ceasefire can evolve into a more lasting arrangement remains uncertain, but global attention remains focused on ensuring that humanitarian needs are prioritised as diplomatic efforts continue.

**106. Which city hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)?**

- (a) Geneva                      (b) Amman                      (c) Jerusalem                      (d) Cairo

**107. Which international agreement is often cited as the basis for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine?**

- (a) Oslo Accords                      (b) Camp David Treaty                      (c) Geneva Initiative                      (d) Madrid Protocol

**108. Who is the current Secretary-General of the United Nations (as of 2025)?**

- (a) Ban Ki-moon                      (b) António Guterres                      (c) Kofi Annan                      (d) Kristalina Georgieva

**109. Hamas was founded in which decade?**

- (a) 1950s                      (b) 1970s                      (c) 1980s                      (d) 1990s

**110. Which UN body is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security?**

- (a) General Assembly                      (b) Economic and Social Council  
(c) Security Council                      (d) Human Rights Council

In early 2025, tensions between Cambodia and Thailand resurfaced along sections of their shared border, an area historically prone to disputes due to overlapping territorial claims. The renewed friction began after both sides accused each other of unauthorized military activities near the region

surrounding the ancient Preah Vihear Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Although the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a ruling more than a decade ago clarifying certain aspects of the boundary, disagreements about the management and monitoring of nearby zones continue to cause friction between the two Southeast Asian nations.

Reports indicate that small-scale troop mobilisations and increased surveillance led to diplomatic exchanges marked by mutual concern. While neither side has signalled an intent to escalate the situation into a large-scale confrontation, the heightened military presence has raised anxieties among local communities living near the border. These communities rely heavily on cross-border trade, agriculture, and seasonal labour, all of which can be disrupted even by minor tensions.

Both governments have stated that their national sovereignty must be respected, but have also agreed that dialogue remains the most viable way to avoid conflict. Regional organisations, including ASEAN, have encouraged de-escalation and opened channels for communication between the two countries. Analysts say that although the situation is manageable, miscommunication or an isolated clash could potentially trigger instability in the region if not handled carefully. Humanitarian groups have urged authorities to ensure that civilian populations are protected and that border markets remain operational. Earlier incidents in previous years had shown how border closures affect the livelihood of thousands of families, particularly in rural areas. This has added pressure on diplomats to reach a workable understanding to prevent disruption of daily economic activities.

Observers predict that the outcome of upcoming joint border committee meetings may determine whether the situation stabilises or becomes a recurring point of tension. Given the historical continuity of the dispute, experts note that sustainable peace will likely require precise demarcation measures, improved communication channels, and stronger regional mediation mechanisms. While the present standoff remains contained, its resolution will depend on sustained commitment from both Cambodia and Thailand to pursue peaceful dialogue rather than unilateral actions.

**111. The Preah Vihear Temple dispute between Cambodia and Thailand was addressed by which international body?**

- (a) Permanent Court of Arbitration                      (b) International Court of Justice  
(c) UN Security Council                                      (d) ASEAN Tribunal

**112. Thailand follows which form of government?**

- (a) Presidential Republic                                      (b) Constitutional Monarchy  
(c) Military Dictatorship                                      (d) Federal Parliamentary Republic

**113. Which treaty in Southeast Asia obligates members to promote peaceful settlement of disputes?**

- (a) Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC)              (b) Manila Accord  
(c) RCEP Agreement    (d) Bangkok Declaration

**114. The Preah Vihear Temple is dedicated to which deity?**

- (a) Vishnu (b) Shiva (c) Brahma (d) Indra

**115. Which regional free trade agreement includes both Cambodia and Thailand?**

- (a) USMCA (b) EU Customs Union (c) RCEP (d) Mercosur

The “Rarest of Rare” Doctrine and Its Position under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. The doctrine of “rarest of rare” has been one of the most significant principles guiding the sentencing of capital punishment in India. Originating from the Supreme Court’s landmark judgment in *Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab (1980)*, the doctrine laid down that the death penalty should be imposed only in the gravest circumstances where the alternative of life imprisonment is unquestionably inadequate. Over time, Indian courts have continued to interpret this doctrine through various rulings, balancing the demands of justice, deterrence, and human rights.

With the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), questions arose about whether the “rarest of rare” principle still holds relevance. Although the BNS redefines several offences and introduces new categories of punishment, it does not explicitly eliminate judicial discretion in capital cases. Courts retain the power to evaluate the circumstances of each offence, the conduct of the accused, and the societal impact before awarding the death penalty. In this sense, the underlying philosophy of the doctrine continues to influence sentencing.

The BNS also places greater emphasis on victim-centric justice and deterrence in heinous crimes such as terrorism, repeat sexual offences, and organised violence. While the code expands the scope of some capital offences, it also encourages proportional sentencing and judicial reasoning. Legal scholars note that although the phrase “rarest of rare” does not appear in the BNS, the judiciary is unlikely to abandon a doctrine that has been deeply embedded in India’s sentencing framework for over four decades.

Another notable shift under the BNS is the codification of certain procedural safeguards for the accused, ensuring that the imposition of the death penalty remains an exception and not the rule. The adoption of the BNS has therefore sparked fresh academic debate around sentencing reforms, the role of judicial discretion, and the future of capital punishment in India. As legal institutions transition to the new code, the interpretation of long-standing doctrines like the “rarest of rare” will continue to evolve.

**116. Which Supreme Court case first defined the “rarest of rare” doctrine?**

- (a) Japan (b) South Africa (c) India (d) Philippines

**117. In India, mercy petitions in death penalty cases are decided by—**

- (a) Prime Minister (b) Supreme Court (c) President (d) Chief Justice of India

**118. Which committee recommended major reforms in India's criminal justice system in the past?**

- (a) Justice Verma Committee (b) Malimath Committee  
(c) Shah Commission (d) Kelkar Committee

**119. Reading down statutes" is a technique used in—**

- (a) Judicial Review (b) Executive orders  
(c) Parliamentary privilege (d) Financial legislation

**120. Which country uses "Lethal Injection" as the primary execution method?**

- (a) UK (b) Japan (c) USA (d) Germany

