

APPENDIX 1: QUESTION BOOKLET FOR CLAT 2026 (UG)

UG 2026

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test - 120 Minutes

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 34 (Thirty Four) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work.

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

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- I. On a sunny day in Southern Nigeria, my uncle and aunt took their children to the hospital. Because their daughter had suffered swollen joints and body pains for months, a doctor advised genetic testing. The results diagnosed her with sickle cell anemia, a genetic blood condition characterized by defective hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that ferries oxygen around the body. In the 15 years since her diagnosis, my cousin has undergone multiple blood transfusions and debilitating pain crises. Throughout her life, she has been described by relatives as “unwell” and “frail.” Her parents and teachers prohibited her from play and physical exertion. Kids made fun of her for being sick. My family and I are relieved that she is alive.

Millions of people worldwide live with sickle cell anemia, although an exact count remains elusive due to factors such as underdiagnosis, underreporting, and early deaths. In Nigeria, an estimated 1 in 4 individuals bear the sickle cell trait. As a medical anthropologist, I am interested in how the condition influences families and relationships. Beyond the physical pain caused by sickle cell disease lies mental health battles, social stigma, and financial strain, which often silently impact patients and families.

In December 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved two gene therapies for treating sickle cell disease—one that uses gene editing to alter patients' DNA and another that uses the body's cells to produce sufficient anti-sickling hemoglobin to reduce or stop pain crises. Considering the procedures may cost around US\$2.2 million per patient, the breakthroughs will provide little relief in Africa. The promise of this advancement rings hollow when financial barriers lock out those who need it most. More practically and immediately, the lives of many millions could be improved by social changes aimed at reducing stigma and enhancing accommodations for those who bear sickle cell disease. While malaria is often associated with tropical and subtropical regions, it can affect anyone in contact with infected mosquitoes. However, there are variations in genes that have been linked with resistance to malaria. Everyone carries two versions of this gene—one inherited from each parent. Compared to individuals with two “normal” copies, a person with one normal and one sickle cell—causing version has a tenfold reduced risk of malaria. This is because sickle cell hemoglobin carries less oxygen, and low oxygen impairs Plasmodium growth in red blood cells. In addition, compared to normal red blood cells, sickle cells die earlier and get removed from the bloodstream faster, along with the parasites.

But individuals with two disease-causing versions are likely to have sickle cell anemia, which can lead to death. Today most sufferers receive treatment, but they may still experience fatigue; swelling of the hands and feet; stunted growth; episodes of bone pain; recurring infections; severe conditions of the kidneys, lungs, muscles, and skeleton; and a variety of associated illnesses.

Source: <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/sickel-cell-treatment-fda/>

- Which of the following best represents the paradox presented in the passage?
 - Sickle cell anemia is a debilitating disease, yet it offers resistance to malaria in certain individuals.
 - Despite being a genetic disorder, sickle cell anemia can be completely cured with lifestyle changes.
 - Medical advancements have led to the complete eradication of sickle cell anemia, yet cases are increasing.
 - Sickle cell patients are considered weak, yet they perform better in sports than do healthy individuals.
- If a researcher were to challenge the claim that social stigma significantly impacts sickle cell patients, which of the following counterarguments would be most effective?
 - The passage provides no statistical data or concrete evidence on how stigma affects patients.
 - Sickle cell anemia is purely a medical condition and has no social implications.
 - The financial burden of treatment is a bigger issue than any social stigma.
 - Most sickle cell patients receive free treatment, so stigma is not a concern.
- The passage suggests that individuals carrying only one sickle cell gene have a reduced risk of malaria because:
 - They produce more red blood cells, which help fight malaria.
 - Their hemoglobin carries less oxygen, making it harder for malaria parasites to survive.
 - They have an enhanced immune system that naturally fights off malaria.
 - Their red blood cells mutate to prevent malaria infection.

4. What is the primary criticism the author makes about the recent advancements in gene therapy?
 - (A) The therapies do not actually work in treating sickle cell anemia.
 - (B) They are too expensive and thus inaccessible to the majority of patients who need them.
 - (C) They have significant side effects that outweigh their benefits.
 - (D) They are being prioritized over more affordable alternative treatments.
5. Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the relationship between genetics and disease resistance?
 - (A) Genetic mutations always lead to negative health outcomes.
 - (B) Some genetic traits that cause diseases can also provide survival advantages.
 - (C) People with genetic disorders are more prone to all infectious diseases.
 - (D) The presence of a single sickle cell gene completely prevents malaria.
6. What does the passage imply about the social perception of sickle cell anemia in Nigeria?
 - (A) It is widely regarded as a minor health issue with no serious consequences.
 - (B) It is viewed solely as a medical condition without any societal implications.
 - (C) It is often associated with weakness and frailty, leading to stigma and exclusion.
 - (D) It is seen as a disease that primarily affects the elderly.

II. Whenever you're actively performing a task — say, lifting weights at the gym or taking a hard exam — the parts of your brain required to carry it out become “active” when neurons step up their electrical activity. But is your brain active even when you're zoning out on the couch? The answer, researchers have found, is yes. Over the past two decades they've defined what's known as the default mode network, a collection of seemingly unrelated areas of the brain that activate when you're not doing much at all. Its discovery has offered insights into how the brain functions outside of well-defined tasks and has also prompted research into the role of brain networks — not just brain regions — in managing our internal experience.

In the late 20th century, neuroscientists began using new techniques to take images of people's brains as they performed tasks in scanning machines. As expected, activity in certain brain areas increased during tasks — and to the researchers' surprise, activity in other brain areas declined simultaneously. The neuroscientists were intrigued that during a wide variety of tasks, the very same brain areas consistently dialed back their activity. It was as if these areas had been active when the person wasn't doing anything, and then turned off when the mind had to concentrate on something external. Researchers called these areas “task negative.” When they were first identified, Marcus Raichle, a neurologist at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, suspected that these task-negative areas play an important role in the resting mind. “This raised the question of ‘What's baseline brain activity?’” Raichle recalled. In an experiment, he asked people in scanners to close their eyes and simply let their minds wander while he measured their brain activity.

He found that during rest, when we turn mentally inward, task-negative areas use more energy than the rest of the brain. In a 2001 paper, he dubbed this activity “a default mode of brain function.” Two years later, after generating higher-resolution data, a team from the Stanford University School of Medicine discovered that this task-negative activity defines a coherent network of interacting brain regions, which they called the default mode network. The discovery of the default mode network ignited curiosity among neuroscientists about what the brain is doing in the absence of an outward-focused task. Although some researchers believed that the network's main function was to generate our experience of mind wandering or daydreaming, there were plenty of other conjectures. Maybe it controlled streams of consciousness or activated memories of past experiences. And dysfunction in the default mode network was floated as a potential feature of nearly every psychiatric and neurological disorder, including depression, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease.

Source: <https://www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/news/>

7. What is the primary function of the default mode network as suggested by researchers?
 - (A) To maintain brain activity when a person is not engaged in an external task.
 - (B) To regulate motor functions during physical activities.
 - (C) To increase focus and attention during complex cognitive tasks.
 - (D) To process only visual and auditory stimuli from the environment.

8. What led researchers to first identify the default mode network?
- (A) The discovery that certain brain areas remained constantly active.
(B) The observation that some brain areas became less active during tasks.
(C) The identification of specific neurons responsible for creativity.
(D) The ability to monitor brain activity in real-time during cognitive tasks.
9. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- (A) Persuasive and argumentative (B) Satirical and critical
(C) Informative and analytical (D) Emotional and subjective
10. What can be inferred about the potential implications of the default mode network in neuroscience?
- (A) It may be crucial in understanding and treating neurological and psychiatric disorders.
(B) It suggests that brain activity completely stops when a person is not performing a task.
(C) It proves that the human brain is incapable of multitasking.
(D) It has no significant impact on cognitive functioning.
11. Which of the following best captures the meaning of “baseline brain activity” as used in the passage?
- (A) The minimum level of activity required for survival.
(B) The fundamental neural processes that occur even when the brain is at rest.
(C) The highest level of brain activity during problem-solving.
(D) The ability of the brain to remain inactive in the absence of a task.
12. The passage suggests that the default mode network's function is most closely related to which of the following?
- (A) A computer's processor running background applications even when idle.
(B) A vehicle that requires an external push to start.
(C) A radio that only works when tuned to a specific frequency.
(D) A factory that shuts down completely when production is paused.

III. In 1942, shortly after the United States entered World War II, there was widespread concern among media leaders that the free press would be among the war's casualties. The polarized yellow journalism of the interwar period was widely blamed for fueling isolationism and undermining national morale. To preempt the potential nationalization of media, Time magazine founder Henry Luce asked University of Chicago President Robert Hutchins to convene a commission on press freedom and responsibility. Its goal was to lay out standards of professionalism that would come to define the U.S. industry and its regulation in the following decades.

Their 1947 report laid out principles that can be briefly summarized as:

Drawing a distinction between “news” and “opinion”

Defining news as information broadly agreed upon across a diverse society

Ensuring that opinions dividing society are represented with balance

For much of the postwar period, implementing the Hutchins principles was the central responsibility of editorial staff in American media institutions and, through the “fairness doctrine,” of federal media regulators. Prior to the Hutchins Commission, U.S. media was generally filled with more misinformation and was more polarized than it is today. The “golden age” of journalism that many look back fondly on was, to a large extent, a result of the Hutchins Commission's standards of journalistic integrity that separated “news” that bridges divides from “opinion” that reflects them. But there is no going back to the simplistic and often exclusionary media landscape of the mid-20th century. For worse and often for better, 21st-century social media enables a cacophony of voices

to be accessible to anyone with an internet connection, platforming a diversity of ideas and opinions and stories across the world. But over the years, it has become clear that social media faces a crisis perhaps even more dramatic than that which precipitated the Hutchins Commission — schools banning social media and even smartphones as evidence of their psychological harms mounts; Elon Musk turning X into a mouthpiece for his right-wing personal and policy priorities; Meta adjusting its content moderation policies in ways that appear to align with the priorities of the Trump administration; and TikTok potentially being banned outright.

We believe, therefore, that it's time to relearn some of the commission's lessons and adapt them to our pluralistic, digital age.

With a deeply polarizing U.S. election fresh in our minds, the need to redesign platforms that bridge divides has never been more urgent. In a paper this essay is adapted from, we and our co-authors showed how the lessons of the Hutchins Commission can be adapted to the far more plural and digital world we live in today. There is no longer a monolithic “U.S. audience,” but we have advanced computational tools that allow us to implement the Hutchins principles across the diverse and intersecting audiences that social media reaches. We suggest three concrete strategies to achieve this: Provide social context, such as by encouraging the communities among which social posts are widely accepted or divisive to annotate them. The goal here is to facilitate the production of common understandings or “meta-consensus” that undergirds the social fabric. Algorithms that cluster social networks by communities, which drive recommender systems, already track this information; we should just make it transparent to users.

Source: <https://www.noemamag.com/building-a-prosocial-media-ecosystem/>

13. The passage presents the Hutchins Commission as having played which of the following roles in U.S. media history?

- (A) A regulatory body that enforced partisan restrictions on media outlets.
- (B) A government-appointed censorship board controlling wartime information.
- (C) A foundational influence on defining journalistic professionalism in postwar America.
- (D) A group that pioneered social media ethics in the early 20th century.

14. What does the author most likely mean by referring to social media as a “cacophony of voices”?

- (A) A disorganized flood of opinions lacking coherence or credibility.
- (B) A welcome expansion of democratic participation in media.
- (C) A dangerous tool used exclusively for misinformation and propaganda.
- (D) A digitally controlled space that limits individual expression.

15. Which of the following best characterizes the author's attitude towards the Hutchins Commission's legacy?

- (A) Reverential and uncritical, advocating its total reinstatement in today's media.
- (B) Skeptical, portraying it as outdated and ill-suited to modern challenges.
- (C) Nuanced, recognizing its historical value while calling for adaptive application.
- (D) Indifferent, using it only as a passing example without broader significance.

16. What implicit criticism does the author level at 21st-century social media platforms like X, Meta, and TikTok?

- (A) They rely too heavily on traditional journalistic standards in a post-truth world.
- (B) They actively shape public discourse to align with elite political interests.
- (C) They invest excessively in user privacy at the expense of public transparency.
- (D) They prioritize open debate over accuracy and fact-checking.

17. The proposed solution of providing “social context” and “meta-consensus” is best understood as an attempt to:
- (A) Create a centralized authority that approves all online content.
 - (B) Enforce strict bipartisan regulations on internet platforms.
 - (C) Foster cross-community understanding through transparency and annotation.
 - (D) Reduce users' exposure to dissenting views to avoid polarization.

18. The reference to the “simplistic and often exclusionary” media landscape of the mid-20th century serves primarily to:
- (A) Undermine nostalgia for a so-called golden age of journalism.
 - (B) Illustrate why government regulation of media is inherently flawed.
 - (C) Praise the straightforward media systems that predated social media.
 - (D) Argue for a return to 20th-century models of audience segmentation.

IV. Clouds are our lifelong companions. Sometimes they drift overhead as wispy filigrees. On other days, they darken the sky and dump rain on us. But for all our familiarity with these veils of water vapour, they have been keeping a secret from us. Clouds are actually floating islands of life, home to trillions of organisms from thousands of species.

Along with birds and dragonflies and dandelion seeds, a vast ocean of microscopic organisms travels through the air. The French chemist Louis Pasteur was among the first scientists to recognise what scientists now call the aerobiome in 1860. He held up sterile flasks of broth and allowed floating germs to settle into them, turning the clear broth cloudy. Pasteur captured germs on the streets of Paris, in the French countryside and even on top of a glacier in the Alps. But his contemporaries balked at the idea. “The world into which you wish to take us is really too fantastic,” one journalist told Pasteur at the time. It took decades for people to accept the reality of the aerobiome. In the 1930s, a few scientists took to the sky in airplanes, holding out slides and Petri dishes to catch fungal spores and bacteria in the wind. Balloon expeditions to the stratosphere captured cells there as well. Today, 21st-Century aerobiologists deploy sophisticated air-samplers on drones and use DNA-sequencing technology to identify airborne life by its genes. The aerobiome, researchers now recognise, is an enormous habitat filled only with visitors.

Those visitors come from much of the planet's surface. Each time an ocean wave crashes, it hurls fine droplets of sea water into the air, some of which carry viruses, bacteria, algae and other single-celled organisms. While some of the droplets fall quickly back to the ocean, some get picked up by winds and rise up into the sky, where they can be carried for thousands of miles. On land, winds can scour the ground, lofting bacteria and fungi and other organisms. Each morning when the sun rises and water evaporates into the air, it can draw up microscopic organisms as well. Forest fires create violent updrafts that can suck microbes out of the ground and strip them off the trunks and leaves of trees, carrying them upwards with the rising smoke.

Many species do not simply wait for physical forces to launch them into the air. Mosses, for example, grow a stalk with a pouch of spores at the tip, which they release like puffs of smoke into the air. As many as six million moss spores may fall on a single square metre of bog over the course of one summer. Many species of pollinating plants have sex by releasing billions of airborne pollen grains each spring. Fungi are particularly adept at flight. They have evolved biological cannons and other means for blasting their spores into the air, and their spores are equipped with tough shells and other adaptations to endure the harsh conditions they encounter as they travel as high as the stratosphere.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20250610-the-microbes-that-thrive-in-the-clouds>

19. The portrayal of clouds as “lifelong companions” that “have been keeping a secret from us” is rhetorically intended to:
- (A) Establish a thematic contrast between empirical reality and sensory familiarity.
 - (B) Undermine the legitimacy of meteorological discourse rooted in anthropocentric metaphors.
 - (C) Juxtapose ecological insignificance with human overreliance on visual perception.
 - (D) Elevate anecdotal observation above scientific verification in environmental studies.

20. The author's inclusion of microbial launch mechanisms—ranging from moss puffing spores to fungal “biological cannons”—primarily serves to underscore:
- (A) The futility of resisting natural dispersal systems in global agriculture.
 - (B) The evolutionary ingenuity with which organisms transcend environmental constraints.
 - (C) Humanity's negligible role in the atmospheric proliferation of pathogens.
 - (D) The taxonomic commonalities that underlie seemingly disparate species of airborne flora.
21. Which of the following best encapsulates the paradox underlying the historical trajectory of aerobiology, as detailed in the passage?
- (A) A field built on invisible agents initially relied on physical collection methods.
 - (B) Empirical validation preceded technological capacity for accurate identification.
 - (C) Scientists' resistance to intuitive conclusions delayed formal theoretical acceptance.
 - (D) Aerobiology's most significant contributors remained unknown due to academic marginalisation.
22. The function of the imagery describing ocean waves, forest fires, and sunrises lifting organisms into the sky is to:
- (A) Reinforce the randomness and volatility of natural microbe dispersal mechanisms.
 - (B) Argue that anthropogenic forces pale in comparison to natural atmospheric disruptions.
 - (C) Establish the atmospheric realm as both biologically vibrant and ecologically dynamic.
 - (D) Demonstrate that biological processes in the air mirror those occurring in aquatic biomes.
23. Which of the following would most accurately challenge the assertion that the aerobiome is “an enormous habitat filled only with visitors”?
- (A) Evidence of microbial communities exhibiting reproduction cycles within clouds.
 - (B) Genetic sequencing revealing terrestrial origins for all atmospheric bacteria.
 - (C) A new taxonomy redefining mosses and fungi as part of the plankton family.
 - (D) Satellite imaging showing cloud structures fluctuating in microbial density across time zones.
24. Based on the passage, which of the following most accurately infers the significance of natural forces in the global dispersal of airborne microorganisms?
- (A) Natural forces mainly help to recycle moisture within oceanic and terrestrial boundaries, indirectly influencing local ecosystems but rarely transporting microorganisms across large distances.
 - (B) The ocean is the sole origin of airborne microorganisms, since only ocean waves and related phenomena are discussed as significant sources in the process of global microbial movement.
 - (C) Multiple natural phenomena—including ocean waves, wind, sunlight, and forest fires—play overlapping roles in launching microorganisms into the air, allowing for widespread distribution far beyond their points of origin.
 - (D) Forest fires are implicated as the principal mechanism by which organisms reach the atmosphere, with other natural processes serving only as minor contributors compared to the sheer upward force created by fire-induced updrafts.

CURRENT AFFAIRS INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

V. A state in eastern India has taken a significant leap in modernizing its electoral process by testing a mobile-based voting system during its recent local body elections. The trial initiative is designed to make voting more accessible to certain groups of voters traditionally facing challenges in visiting polling booths. The mobile solution was rolled out in partnership with a government-backed technology center and the state's election authority. Officials describe it as a step toward improving electoral participation and reducing logistical barriers. To maintain voting integrity, the system employs multiple layers of identity verification and digital safeguards. These include secure login mechanisms, verification tools, and limitations on device-based access to avoid misuse. Election officials assured that every vote cast could be tracked through internal systems to ensure accuracy without compromising anonymity.

In a separate development, the central election authority has tightened rules regarding public access to digital recordings from polling booths. Citing legal and privacy considerations, the commission clarified that these recordings would no longer be accessible to the public or media after elections. They may, however, be retained for a brief period and produced in court if necessary, during legal disputes. The Commission underlined that these measures align with evolving standards of electoral conduct and privacy. Officials stressed that technology is an internal support mechanism and not a substitute for formal electoral processes. These parallel moves—one to expand accessibility and another to restrict uncontrolled disclosure—signal a broader evolution in India's democratic systems. Observers say they reflect growing efforts to balance technological advancement with legal and ethical safeguards in electoral administration.

25. Which Indian state piloted mobile phone based e-voting during its municipal elections?

- (A) Assam (B) Bihar (C) West Bengal (D) Jharkhand

26. Which agency co-developed the mobile e-voting app used in municipal elections?

- (A) I4C (B) NIC (C) C-DAC (D) BEL

27. What is the name of the mobile app developed for e-voting pilot?

- (A) E-Vote (B) E-SECBHR (C) VoteSecure (D) B - Vote

28. Which technology ensures the immutability of votes in Bihar's e-voting system?

- (A) Cloud computing (B) Blockchain
(C) Artificial Intelligence (D) Quantum encryption

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI):

- (1) It is a permanent constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.
 - (2) The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) enjoys the same status and privileges as a Supreme Court judge.
 - (3) The ECI is responsible for conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and local bodies.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 1 and 3 only (C) , 2 and 3 (D) 1 only

30. Who appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- (A) President of India (B) Prime Minister
(C) Parliament (D) Chief Justice of India

VI. As India celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives on [X] and marks four years of the Ministry of Cooperation, the focus is on harnessing the potential of cooperatives and MSMEs, especially through initiatives like the PM Vishwakarma scheme to empower artisans and promote inclusive economic growth. As India commemorates the International Day of Cooperatives this July, attention is turning toward the growing

synergy between cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), especially in light of the transformative PM Vishwakarma Scheme. This alignment is redefining grassroots enterprise by providing artisans and small producers with greater access to resources, markets, technology, and institutional support. Cooperatives are playing a pivotal role in financially empowering MSMEs by allowing them to pool their financial resources, thereby reducing dependency on high-interest informal credit. Under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, artisan cooperatives are now able to access loans at concessional interest rates of 5-7%, a stark contrast to the burdensome rates often faced by individual borrowers. Moreover, shared access to tools, machinery, and raw materials has significantly lowered production costs and enhanced operational efficiency, particularly for small-scale entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban India.

31. Which of the following will replace [X] in the passage?

- (A) 5th July 2025 (B) 8th July 2025 (C) 10th July 2025 (D) 15th July 2025

32. **Statement 1:** Cooperatives are state-controlled profit-making enterprises.

Statement 2: Cooperatives are member-owned and democratically controlled institutions.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- (A) Only Statement 1 (B) Only Statement 2
(C) Both (D) Neither

33. Which ministry is the nodal agency for implementing the PM Vishwakarma Scheme?

- (A) Ministry of Labour and Employment
(B) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
(C) Ministry of Rural Development
(D) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

34. Which cooperative is famous for leading India's White Revolution?

- (A) SEWA (B) AMUL (C) IFFCO (D) NAFED

35. Which constitutional amendment recognized cooperatives as a fundamental right in India?

- (A) 91st (B) 97th (C) 99th (D) 87th

36. When was the Ministry of Cooperation established in India?

- (A) 2022 (B) 2021 (C) 2018 (D) 2020

VII. A significant regional gathering focused on chemical disarmament and safety was recently held in India, bringing together representatives from various Asian nations. The event aimed to strengthen cooperation and compliance among participating countries under a prominent international agreement.

The convention in question is a widely endorsed global framework that prohibits the development and use of certain hazardous materials with the potential for mass harm. With near-universal acceptance, the treaty plays a crucial role in promoting global peace and security.

The international body responsible for monitoring the implementation of this agreement has received global recognition for its efforts, including a prestigious international award a decade ago. The recent meeting focused on enhancing transparency, technical cooperation, and compliance mechanisms.

India, a longstanding supporter of this global framework, has a dedicated authority to oversee its national obligations. A respected Indian industry body, known for representing the chemical sector, also gained international attention recently for its contributions toward promoting safety and compliance in this domain. Experts at the meeting emphasized the need for continued vigilance against misuse of toxic substances and stressed the importance of international collaboration in the destruction of legacy stockpiles and the regulation of substances used in crowd-control situations.

37. Consider the following statements -
 (1) The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), a body with 193 member countries, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Convention.
 (2) India signed the treaty after it came into force and currently enforces its provisions through the National Authority under the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000.
 Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 (A) 1 only (B) 2 only (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2
38. What is the main objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)?
 (A) Promote the use of chemical weapons for peaceful purposes
 (B) Ban chemical weapons and require their destruction within a stipulated time
 (C) Permit selective chemical weapons for defense only
 (D) Encourage stockpiling for national security
39. When did the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) come into force?
 (A) 14 January 1993 (B) 26 August 2000 (C) 1 July 2005 (D) 29 April 1997
40. Through which authority does India implement the Chemical Weapons Convention domestically?
 (A) National Security Committee (NSCA)
 (B) National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)
 (C) Bureau of Chemical Research & Development (BCRAD)
 (D) Indian Council of Chemists (ICOC)
41. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Australia Group?
 (A) It is a legally binding treaty.
 (B) It works through consensus among its members.
 (C) It aims to prevent the spread of chemical and biological weapons.
 (D) It was formed after the Iran-Iraq War.
42. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) came into force in:
 (A) 1965 (B) 1972 (C) 1975 (D) 1980

VIII. Recently, leaders from some of the world's most advanced economies gathered for the 51st summit held in Kananaskis, Canada. The meeting brought together prominent policymakers to engage on a range of pressing global issues amid ongoing geopolitical and environmental uncertainties.

A notable development at the summit was the attendance, once again, of a major emerging economy's head of government as an invited guest, despite that country not being a formal member of the forum. This participation underscores the evolving scope and influence of the summit beyond its core membership. One of the notable policy frameworks introduced focuses on tackling an escalating natural hazard affecting vast regions globally, with an emphasis on preventive and responsive measures. This initiative highlights a collaborative approach among the participants, aiming to enhance resilience and leverage scientific and local expertise to manage these increasingly frequent incidents.

Another key agenda item focused on securing access to certain strategic resources crucial for future technologies and sustainable development. The commitments made are aimed at diversifying supply sources, encouraging domestic value creation, and fostering innovations in this sector to reduce over-reliance on select suppliers. The summit also reinforced support for a partnership dedicated to enhancing the robustness and inclusiveness of

global supply networks, particularly for sustainable industries, by mobilizing investments and technical cooperation in various economies. The attendees collectively condemned certain forms of extraterritorial coercion, reaffirming their commitment to defending the rights and security of individuals abroad. Efforts to combat illicit migration networks were also addressed, with the establishment of coordinated action plans to prevent exploitation and dismantle criminal enterprises engaged in such activities. The forum's history dates back to the mid-1970s, originating as a smaller group before expanding to include additional members and experiencing shifts in membership based on geopolitical events. The European Union continues to participate as a formal but non-member entity, and major international financial and multilateral institutions frequently engage with the summit.

43. 52nd G7 Summit is scheduled to be held in which Country?

- (A) Kananaskis, Canada (B) Apulia, Italy
(C) Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France (D) Kyoto, Japan

44. What is the G7, and which countries are its members?

- (A) A formal alliance of seven countries: France, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, US, Canada
(B) An informal forum of advanced economies: France, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, US, Canada
(C) A trade organization including Russia, China, and India
(D) A military alliance of NATO countries

45. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the headquarters of the G7 (Group of Seven)?

- (A) The G7 headquarters is located in Paris, France
(B) The G7 headquarters is in Washington D.C., USA
(C) The G7 has no permanent headquarters
(D) The G7 headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium

46. Which issue was condemned by the G7 at the 51st Summit as aggressive foreign interference targeting individuals abroad?

- (A) Cyberterrorism (B) Transnational Repression (TNR)
(C) Economic Sanctions (D) Trade Imbalances

47. Consider the following statements about the origins and participation in the G7:

- (1) The European Union (EU) participates in the G7 as a non-enumerated member, along with leaders from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and United Nations (UN) who are often invited to its meetings.
(2) The G7 was originally formed in 1975 as the G6, comprising the United States, United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Japan, and Italy, in response to the 1973 oil crisis and related financial turmoil.
(3) Canada joined the group in 1976, transforming the G6 into the G7.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only (C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2, and 3

IX. The Prime Minister visited Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district, Tamil Nadu, during the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, and the Brihadisvara Temple ([UNESCO World Heritage Site]). He highlighted the Chola Empire's democratic traditions, and released a commemorative coin marking [X] years of Rajendra Chola I's Gangetic expedition. The Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival Commemorated X years of Rajendra Chola I's legendary maritime expedition to Southeast Asia and also marked the rich Tamil Shaiva Bhakti tradition. Rajendra Chola I, son of Rajaraja Chola I, was one of the greatest rulers of the Chola Empire. He was the first Indian king to lead

overseas military expeditions, extending Chola influence across South and Southeast Asia. Titles and Legacy: He assumed titles like Gangaikonda Cholan (after defeating the Pal as in Bengal) and Kadaram Kondan (after naval victories in the Srivijaya Empire), Pandita Cholan, and Mudikondan. Founded a new capital, Gangaikondacholapuram, to commemorate his northern conquests. Built Brihadesvara Temple (Gangaikondacholeeswaram) and Chola Gangam Lake (Ponneri) in present-day Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu. Military and Naval Prowess: He reasserted control over Chera and Pandya regions; defeated Jayasimha II of Western Chalukyas, Tungabhadra River became the northern frontier. His conquests included Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Kedah, Tambralinga, and Burma, establishing one of India's earliest blue-water navies. Trade, Culture, & Administration: Under his rule, Tamil merchant guilds like Manigramam and Ayyavolethrived, fostering trade and cultural exchange with China and Southeast Asia. Promoted Shaivism, patronized Chidambaram's Nataraja Temple, yet maintained religious tolerance toward Vaishnavism and Buddhism.

48. Which among the following will replace [X] in the passage?

- (A) 100 (B) 500 (C) 1000 (D) 1500

49. Which of the following part of the Indian Constitution is inspired from Cholas?

- (A) Parliamentary Form of Government
(B) Local Self Governance
(C) Election System
(D) Appointment of Governors

50. Who was the founder of Gangaikondacholapuram, the Chola capital commemorating northern conquests?

- (A) Rajaraja Chola I (B) Kulothunga Chola I
(C) Rajendra Chola I (D) Vijayalaya Chola

51. Which of the following best describes the significance of the Chola Sengol placed in the Indian Parliament?

- (A) It is a sword gifted by the British to symbolise India's independence
(B) It is a traditional sceptre symbolising the transfer of power, rooted in Chola dynasty customs
(C) It is a Chola dynasty relic, representing military prowess
(D) It is a Chola throne used by the Lok Sabha Speaker during parliamentary sessions

52. Which of the following statements is/are correct:

- (1) The Brihadeeswara Temple was built by Chola Emperor Rajaraja I between 1003-1010 CE.
(2) The temple is dedicated primarily to the deity Vishnu, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
(3) Brihadeeswara Temple exemplifies the zenith of Dravidian architecture with its towering 216-foot vimana, monolithic Nandi, and intricate stone carvings.
- (A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) All - 1, 2 and 3 (D) 1 and 3 only

LEGAL REASONING

- X. President Droupadi Murmu, pursuant to the authority vested in her by Article 143(1) of the Constitution of India, invoked said provision to refer fourteen constitutional questions of significant public importance to the Supreme Court for its advisory opinion. The advice given by the judiciary in such matter is not binding. This reference sought to elucidate the constitutional parameters governing the roles of Governors and the President in the matter of granting assent to state legislation under Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution. Article 200 delineates the Governor's powers upon presentation of a bill passed by a State Legislature, stipulating that the Governor shall declare either assent to the bill, the withholding of assent, or reservation of the bill for the President's consideration. The first proviso to Article 200 further empowers the Governor to return a bill, excluding a Money Bill, to the Legislature for reconsideration. In case the Legislature re-passes the bill, with or without amendment, and presents it to the Governor, the Governor is constitutionally mandated not to withhold assent. Article 201 addresses the scenario wherein a bill is reserved by a Governor for the President's consideration, specifying that the President shall declare either assent or the withholding of assent, and may direct the Governor to return the bill to the Legislature for reconsideration. The Supreme Court, in its effective ruling in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Union of India*, articulated that Governors are constitutionally bound to act in accordance with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, save in exceptional circumstances where proposed legislation undermines fundamental constitutional principles or compromises judicial independence. SC ruled, Constitution does not allow Governor to exercise "absolute veto". The Court further affirmed that the discretionary powers conferred upon both Governors and the President under Articles 200 and 201 are subject to judicial review, particularly when exercised arbitrarily, and that procedural delays cannot be sanctioned within a constitutional democracy. Moreover, the Court clarified that Article 361, which provides immunity to the President and Governors from court proceedings for acts performed in the exercise of their powers, does not operate to preclude judicial review of actions taken under Articles 200 and 201. The Supreme Court under article 142 also laid down the guidelines prescribing time limits within which the Governor and President has to perform their constitutional duty as the constitution is silent about the time limit. Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass such a decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice and this is exercised when the constitution or statute does not provide the required relief or does not provide the adequate remedy. The President's reference articulated several pertinent concerns, including the absence of prescribed constitutional timelines for Governors and the President to act under Articles 200 and 201, the justiciability of decisions made thereunder, and the question of whether courts possess the authority to prescribe timelines or deem assent through judicial orders. Additionally, the reference sought to delineate the scope of Article 142.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) An excerpt from article titled 'For The Record: The 14 questions President Murmu has asked the SC', published at The Indian Express.

53. In response to a prolonged delay by a Governor in granting assent to a bill re-passed by a State Legislature, the President refers a question under Article 143 to the Supreme Court, asking whether such inaction can constitutionally be treated as "deemed assent." The Court must decide whether it can intervene despite no explicit "deeming" provision in Articles 200 or 201. Based on the constitutional philosophy and prior rulings referenced in the passage, which of the following best reflects the judicial approach the Court is most likely to adopt?
- (A) Since Articles 200 and 201 are silent on "deemed assent," judicial intervention would amount to judicial legislation and exceed constitutional limits; the Court must defer to the political branches in such scenarios.
 - (B) Wherein constitutional silence leads to executive paralysis, the Court may invoke Article 142 to do complete justice by effectively treating undue delay as unconstitutional and prescribing appropriate relief, even if that involves innovative remedies.
 - (C) The Court may express concern over delay but cannot act, since judicial enforcement of assent timelines would conflict with the President's immunity under Article 361 and violate separation of powers.
 - (D) Article 143 reference limits the Court to rendering non-binding advice; any substantive order on "deemed assent" would lack enforceability and should be left to parliamentary clarification.

54. Assertion (A): According to the Supreme Court's ruling in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Union of India*, the discretionary powers vested in Governors under Article 200 of the Constitution are not subject to judicial scrutiny.

Reason (R): Article 36a of the Constitution grants Governors immunity from legal proceedings for actions undertaken while exercising their constitutional powers.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

55. The doctrine of harmonious construction dictates that courts should interpret seemingly conflicting legal provisions in a way that gives effect to both, avoiding interpretations that render any of them redundant but every law and its provision should align with the Constitution as it is a grundnorm. The Legislative Assembly of Vidarbha passed a Land Reform Bill (non-money bill). The Governor returned it citing a potential violation of Article 14 (equality before law). The Legislature re-passed it with minor changes. A state law, the Vidarbha State Governance Act, 2024, in Section 12(3), states the Governor "may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, withhold assent if the amendments proposed by the Governor were not substantially incorporated." Applying the doctrine of harmonious construction, what action should the Governor now take?

- (A) Reserve the bill for the President's consideration under Article 200, arguing that the persistent Article 14 concern overrides the re-passage.
- (B) Withhold assent, relying on Section 12(3) of the state law, as the minor changes don't substantially address the Article 14 issue, thus giving effect to the state legislative intent.
- (C) Grant assent, as the proviso to Article 200 mandates that upon the Legislature re-passing the bill, the Governor "shall not withhold assent."
- (D) Seek an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court under Article 143(1) regarding the bill's compliance with Article 14, to reconcile the perceived conflict before acting.

56. Based on the President's reference under Article 143 and the Supreme Court's prior ruling in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Union of India*, what can be reasonably inferred about the Supreme Court's likely view on the necessity of prescribed timelines for Governors to act on state legislation?

- (A) The Supreme Court likely believes that the absence of prescribed timelines in Articles 200 and 201 is a deliberate constitutional choice to allow for nuanced consideration of each bill.
- (B) The Supreme Court likely considers the prescription of timelines to be solely within the legislative domain and beyond the purview of judicial pronouncements, even in an advisory capacity.
- (C) The Supreme Court likely believes that any imposition of timelines would unduly interfere with the discretionary powers constitutionally vested in Governors and the President.
- (D) The Supreme Court likely views the absence of timelines as a potential lacuna that could lead to unwarranted delays, undermining the democratic process, thereby justifying action under article 142.

57. A petition is filed challenging a Governor's prolonged delay in granting assent to a state bill. The Governor invokes Article 361, claiming immunity from judicial proceedings. The petitioners argue that this delay violates constitutional propriety and democratic process under Articles 200 and 201. How is the Court most likely to interpret the relationship between Article 361 and judicial review of the power to be exercised by Governor under Articles 200 and 201?

- (A) The Court will likely prioritize judicial review over the immunity clause, allowing scrutiny of both the action and the officeholder.
- (B) The Court will likely interpret Article 361 as a complete bar to any judicial scrutiny of the Governor's decisions made under Article 200 or 201.
- (C) The Court will likely uphold judicial review of the Governor's decisions for legality and constitutionality, while maintaining personal immunity from litigation under Article 361.
- (D) The Court will likely allow judicial review only if mala fide intent is proven, treating all other delays as discretionary.

XI. In *Piramal Capital v. 63 Moons* (2025), the Supreme Court upheld DHFL's resolution plan and clarified that IBC's avoidance and fraudulent trading provisions are distinct in purpose, triggers, and remedies.

Under Chapter III, avoidance actions are rooted in the resolution professional's statutory duty in Section 25(2)(j) to "file applications for avoidance of transactions in accordance with this Chapter." Because Section 26 states that the mere filing of such applications does not stall the corporate-insolvency-resolution process (CIRP), the Code treats them as ancillary, asset-restitutive remedies.

The Court explained the various transactions that come under the ambit of 'Avoidance Applications' as follows:

(1) Preferential transfers as governed by Sections 43W4 put a chosen creditor in a better position than the pari-passu distribution under Section 53; (2) Undervalued dealings like gifts or bargain transfers outside the ordinary course as provided by Sections 45W9 allows the Adjudicating Authority to reverse such dealing or bargain, discharge security interests or order disgorgement; and (3) Extortionate-credit transactions. The Resolution professional (RP) may file Avoidance Application, where the Corporate Debtor (CD) had been a party to an Extortionate Credit transaction involving the receipt of financial or operational debt during the period within two years preceding the insolvency commencement date. Sections 50-51 empowers the tribunal to annul or re-price the debt. In every case the impugned asset, the counter-party and the transfer instrument are objectively identifiable, enabling the tribunal to set the transaction aside and claw the value back into the estate.

Fraudulent or wrongful trading, by contrast, is housed exclusively in Section 66 of Chapter VI. It targets the conduct of those who, while the company was already financially distressed, "knowingly carried on business with intent to defraud creditors" or in a manner gravely prejudicial to their interests. Because the inquiry centres on subjective intention rather than on a pinpointed transfer, the provision eschews restitution and instead authorises the tribunal to compel personal contributions from directors or others who were "knowingly parties" to the fraud. Importantly, Section 66 is absent from the list of duties in Section 25(2); the legislature thereby signalled that an RP's obligation to file avoidance petitions does not extend to wrongful-trading claims, which involve a quasi-delictual assessment of managerial culpability rather than the mechanical unwinding of tainted transactions.

The remedial vectors therefore diverge. Chapter III empowers the Adjudicating Authority to vest property back in the corporate debtor, cancel liens, order third parties to pay over unjust benefits, or re-price consideration-remedies enumerated in Sections 44, 48, 49 and 51. Section 66, on the other hand, authorises only one outcome: a monetary order directing wrongdoers to replenish the debtor's assets, with no jurisdiction to undo specific transfers whose contours may remain hazy until a full inquiry into intent is complete.

Source: IBC | Difference Between 'Avoidance Transactions' & 'Fraudulent Or Wrongful Trading' : Supreme Court Explains, Indian Express.

58. Vidarka Telecom Ltd., a company undergoing insolvency proceedings, had gifted a premium office space to its sister company Vidarka Ventures just six months prior to the insolvency proceeding commencement date. The Resolution Professional (RP) filed an application under the IBC seeking to reverse this transaction. In a separate development, it was also discovered that Vidarka's CEO had, during a prolonged period of financial distress, continued to borrow aggressively from multiple vendors despite knowing that the company was unable to repay. He also diverted incoming payments to personal accounts. However, the RP did not initiate any proceedings related to the CEO's conduct, citing lack of express obligation. Which of the following best reflects the correct legal treatment of these two situations under the IBC?
- (A) Both the gift transaction and the CEO's misconduct fall within the RP's duties under Section 25(2), and must be jointly pursued under Chapter III.
 - (B) The gift transaction is covered under Chapter VI due to the undervaluation, while the CEO's actions are treated as preferential transfers under Chapter III.
 - (C) The gift transaction is rightly challenged by the RP under Chapter III, but the CEO's conduct falls outside the RP's duties and must be addressed separately under Section 66.
 - (D) Both situations are matters of fraudulent trading and must be addressed solely under Section 66 due to the underlying financial misconduct.
59. Assume that during proceedings against Vidarka Telecom Ltd., it is revealed that the CEO had no personal financial gain, and all the aggressive borrowing was done solely to continue operations with the hope of business revival. No diversion of funds occurred. Would this new information impact the legal treatment of the CEO's conduct under Section 66?
- (A) This weakens the application of Section 66, as absence of dishonest intent contradicts the requirement of "intent to defraud."
 - (B) This strengthens the claim under Section 66, as continuing to incur debts during distress itself meets the threshold.
 - (C) This has no effect, because RP is not statutorily obligated to file under Section 66, regardless of facts.
 - (D) This weakens the application of Chapter III, since lack of intent renders undervalued transactions legally valid.
60. In the CIRP of Vidit Motors Pvt. Ltd., the resolution professional files an application under Section 45 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, alleging that the corporate debtor transferred land worth 110 crore to an unrelated party for just 11 crore six months before the insolvency proceeding commencement date. The application is pending, and the unrelated party has contested it. Meanwhile, a resolution plan has been submitted and is under evaluation. One of the CoC members raises concern that the pending undervalued transaction claim will delay the approval process. Which of the following is most accurate?
- (A) The resolution plan cannot be approved until the undervalued transaction claim is adjudicated.
 - (B) The resolution professional is required to stay the CIRP until the avoidance claim is resolved.
 - (C) The avoidance claim is an ancillary proceeding and does not stall the CIRP or delay plan approval.
 - (D) The CoC must wait for NCLT to conclude the undervaluation hearing before voting on the resolution plan.

61. In the CIRP of Vidur Chemicals Ltd., a claim under Section 66 is filed, alleging that its managing director continued entering into high-risk speculative trades even after the company's liabilities had far exceeded its assets. The trades caused 130 crore in losses, but it is unable to pinpoint the exact counterparties or identify the specific trades that caused the loss due to poor documentation. The concerned authority now seeks an order requiring reversal of those trades and cancellation of the resulting asset transfers. What is the most accurate legal position?
- (A) The tribunal can order reversal of the transactions once the financial distress and misconduct is proved.
- (B) The tribunal may only issue a monetary direction against wrongdoers and cannot reverse the trades.
- (C) The tribunal must direct recovery from counterparties even if they acted without knowledge of the company's distress.
- (D) The tribunal cannot entertain the petition if the exact trades and counterparties are untraceable.
62. All of the following cannot be inferred from the passage, except:
- (A) The resolution professional is duty-bound to file applications under Section 66 of the IBC when wrongful trading is suspected.
- (B) Avoidance remedies under Chapter III aim to restore specific assets to the corporate debtor's estate.
- (C) Section 66 provides for setting aside of undervalued or preferential transactions if done with intent to defraud.
- (D) The Code treats fraudulent trading and avoidance actions as interchangeable, since both aim at financial recovery.
63. Which of the following scenarios does not comply with the legal framework governing avoidance and fraudulent trading actions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, as explained in the passage?
- (A) A resolution professional files an application under Section 45 of the IBC to reverse a transfer of land to a related party at a fraction of its market value made six months before the insolvency commencement date. The Adjudicating Authority allows the application and restores the asset to the debtor.
- (B) A petition is filed for wrongful trading under Section 66 against former directors who concealed losses and continued trading. The tribunal, after inquiry, imposes a personal monetary liability but declines to set aside any transactions due to lack of specificity.
- (C) A suspended director is found to have concealed the company's insolvency status and raised funds from small investors without intent to repay. The tribunal, on application by a creditor, orders the director to personally contribute funds to the estate under Section 66.
- (D) A financial creditor demands that the tribunal reverse a security interest granted to another lender one year before insolvency, claiming it gives that lender undue priority. The resolution professional has not initiated any avoidance action under Chapter III.

XII. The Karnataka High Court ruled that commercial bike taxis services including those provided by aggregators such as Rapido, Ola and Uber can no longer operate in the state until the relevant rules and regulations are laid down under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 by the state. The court granted a six week period to these companies to wind down operations.

Rapido began offering commercial bike taxi services in Karnataka in around 2016, capitalising on the demand for affordable and quick transport. From the very outset, however, these ran afoul of the state Transport Department which says that two-wheelers with white number plates are meant for private or personal use only and cannot be used for commercial purposes under the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. A 2024 order by the state government said that bike taxi services violated the Motor Vehicles Act and were unsafe for women. Such bike taxi services in Karnataka have been operating till now on the strength of the 2022 interim order of the

Karnataka HC, which stopped the government from taking any coercive action against bike taxis until further directions. At the heart of the 2022 petitions before the Karnataka HC was a plea to permit the registration of two wheelers as “transport vehicles” or “contract carriages”. Section 2(7) of the MV Act defines a contract carriage as motor vehicle engaged under a contract for carrying passengers for hire or reward.

However, the HC noted that the Supreme Court's 2023 order in *Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited v Union of India and Ors*, which dealt with the functioning of two-wheelers as bike taxis in Maharashtra, said that “the ultimate decision on regulation of the operation of such bike taxis including the question as to whether to grant a license to an aggregator... is within the domain of the concerned State Governments.” The Karnataka HC thus said that the state government will have to “frame Guidelines under Section 93 and Rules under Section 96 of the MV Act” without which commercial bike taxi services cannot be operated. Notably, it said that the court itself could not issue directions to the Transport Department to register motorcycles as contract carriages. Section 93(1)(iii) of the MVA states that aggregators cannot operate without a license subject to the conditions prescribed by the state government, while Section 96 deals with the power of the state government to make rules under the MVA. At the moment, only Maharashtra and Delhi have specific regulations for such bike taxis, although the one in Maharashtra is yet to come into effect.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled “Bike taxis not banned by Karnataka HC, but likely to leave Bengaluru streets. Here's why”, published in The Indian Express.

64. SpeedGo, a bike taxi aggregator operating successfully in Maharashtra and Delhi, applies to start operations in Karnataka. Soon after, the Karnataka government introduces a new rule requiring all bike taxi drivers of such aggregator to have at least five years of driving experience—a requirement not present in other states where SpeedGo operates. From a legal standpoint, how would this new rule affect SpeedGo's operations in Karnataka?
- (A) SpeedGo can continue operating in Karnataka as long as it follows the rules and practices from Maharashtra and Delhi, since there is no national uniformity required under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
 - (B) SpeedGo can legally operate in Karnataka only if it ensures all its drivers meet the five-year driving experience requirement, as state-specific rules must be followed.
 - (C) SpeedGo can operate temporarily while challenging the rule in court, since the High Court has allowed such exceptions for aggregators.
 - (D) SpeedGo can ignore the new rule until the Karnataka government frames comprehensive guidelines for bike taxis.
65. A group of Bengaluru residents forms a community bike-sharing network called "EcoRide." Members use their private two-wheelers (with white number plates) to give rides to each other who share the same route and share costs for fuel and maintenance, coordinated through a mobile app. No vehicles are registered as commercial or transport vehicles. Is EcoRide's model in contravention of the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988?
- (A) No, because the contract carriage is allowed under the MV Act.
 - (B) Yes, because private vehicles (white number plates) cannot be used for contract carriage or for commercial transport.
 - (C) No, as the rides are neither for commercial purposes nor involves hire or reward to constitute it a contract carriage.
 - (D) Yes, aggregator was not registered as commercial or transport vehicles.

66. QuickMoto registers its motorcycles as “contract carriage”. QuickMoto starts operating commercial bike taxi service but runs into trouble from the state government who seizes its bikes. QuickMoto claims that its operations are lawful and should be allowed to continue. Which of the following arguments would strengthen QuickMoto’s case for continuing operations in Karnataka?
- (A) The coercive action taken by the Karnataka Government is in violation of the 2022 interim order by the Karnataka HC.
- (B) Registration of motorcycles as “contract carriages” is permitted under Section 2(7) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as recognized by the High Court.
- (C) State government had issued specific rules for licensing of aggregator and including motorbikes as contract carriages.
- (D) Section 96 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, empowers the state government to make rules for transport vehicles. The delay on part of the government is unconstitutional.
67. A group of individuals in Mysuru, Karnataka, decide to independently offer commercial bike taxi rides to customers without using any aggregator platform such as Rapido, Ola, or Uber. These individuals use motorcycles bearing yellow number plates. Based on the information provided, are these independent bike taxi operators legally permitted to offer their services in Karnataka at this time?
- (A) Yes, because they are not affiliated with any aggregator platform and hence, they are exempt from the current restrictions imposed on aggregators and can operate legally on their own.
- (B) No, because the operation of such bike taxi services requires the state government to first frame specific rules or guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- (C) Yes, as they have obtained contract carriage permits for their motorcycles, which legally allows them to operate as transport vehicles for hire or reward under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- (D) Yes, if they limit their bike taxi operations exclusively to rural areas within Karnataka, where the current restrictions and lack of regulations may not apply as strictly as in urban centers.
68. Which of the following statement(s) can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?
- (1) The revocation of the suspension order of bike taxi operations as decided by Karnataka High Court is contingent on the state government framing specific guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- (2) Government's objection to bike taxi services is solely based on the classification of two-wheelers with white number plates as vehicles meant solely for private use under state rules.
- (3) The interplay between interim judicial orders and the absence of clear regulatory frameworks has resulted in a situation where bike taxi services have operated in a legal grey area, subject to shifting administrative and judicial directives.
- (A) 1 and 3
(B) 2 and 3
(C) Only 1
(D) 1 and 2
69. Which of the following statement(s) cannot be certainly concluded from the passage?
- (1) The Karnataka government's reluctance to allow bike taxi services is motivated solely by concerns over the safety of passengers.
- (2) If the state government were to frame guidelines under the Motor Vehicles Act, the High Court would be obligated to permit the immediate resumption of bike taxi operations.
- (3) The primary intent behind the High Court's direction to suspend bike taxi services is to permanently ban such services rather than to ensure proper regulation.
- (A) 1 and 3
(B) 2 and 3
(C) 1 and 2
(D) 1, 2 and 3

XIII. The right to food is a more complex right than other constitutional rights like right to education or the right to information. The prior one being a part of Directive principle of State Policy as provided in the constitution where the later ones are fundamental rights provided in the constitution. The entitlements and responsibilities associated with the right to food are far from obvious. In the case of the right to information, some basic entitlements and responsibilities are easy to identify: every citizen has a right of access to public records and conversely, every civil servant has a duty to part with the relevant records. If he refuses to do so, action can be taken. The right to information can therefore be translated into legal entitlements and enforced in a court of law. It is justiciable. Ideally, the right to food should be seen as a right to 'nutrition', as in Article 47 of the Constitution. It states: The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

This brings out a related problem that the right to food is not 'justiciable', in the sense of being enforceable in a court of law. It is in the light of these and related problems that legal enforcement of the Directive Principles (including the primary duty of the state to raise "the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people") was explicitly ruled out in the Constitution.

However, it must also be remembered that although Article 37 explicitly states that the Directive Principles shall not be enforced by any court', it goes on to stress (i) that these principles are nevertheless 'fundamental to the governance of the country', and (ii) that "it shall be the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws". Therefore the DPSP's can be made enforceable only through legislation and the violation of that legislation would give a cause of action to the affected party.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) An excerpt from article titled 'Democracy and Right to Food', published at 'JSTOR'.

70. According to the passage, what is not a difference between the right to food and the right to information?
- A violation of the right to information can be enforced whereas that of the right to food cannot be enforced directly.
 - Right to information has its roots in the Constitution whereas right to food does not.
- III.** Right to food and Right to information both are part of Directive Principle of State Policy.
- Only II
 - Both I and III
 - Both II and III
 - Only III
71. Vidhi and her family live in an apartment complex in New Delhi. Due to the lockdown imposed by the government to control the spread of a global pandemic, the supply of fruits is severely restricted: only essential items are delivered such as pulses and a few vegetables. Vidhi's 6-year-old son has a condition where he is required to consume fruits for all three meals of the day. However, the fruits that he has grown up eating are no longer available. Vidhi claims that her son's right to food, and Article 47 has been violated. Which of the following statements is true?
- Vidhi cannot claim a violation of the right to food as it is not hers but her son's right to claim it.
 - Vidhi on behalf of her child cannot claim a violation of the right to food as it is not justiciable.
 - Vidhi can claim a violation of the right to food only if Vidhi's son's medical condition suffers.
 - Vidhi cannot claim such a violation as she can easily substitute the fruits her son was used to with another kind of food.

72. Suppose Central Government in accordance with the directives provided in the Article 47 of the constitution passed a law which provided that to uplifted the nourishment level of children upto 6 years of age, the government with the help of local government body would distribute the nutrients pack to all children upto the age of 6 years. Vidhi is the mother of 3 year old, Vidhan. She was refused to get the nutrient pack, although she fulfilled the requirements of the legislation. Can she claim that her right has been violated?
- (A) Yes, as it constitutes the violation of Article 47 of the Constitution.
 (B) Yes, because her statutory right has been violated.
 (C) No, because DPSPs are not justiciable i.e. enforceable before the court.
 (D) No, because there is no violation of any fundamental right of any person.
73. Vidhaan, a migrant labourer in the city of Jaipur, holds a ration card in his name. He goes to a ration shop to purchase monthly ration for his family. His family comprises his wife, an old mother, one teenage daughter and one adult son. The person at the ration shop refuses to give him ration as he notices that his ration card has expired. When he returns home empty-handed, his son is angry at the lack of ration and decides to sue the local ration store for the violation of their right to food as the National Food Security Act gives the right to ration card holder to get ration from such ration shops. Which of the following statements is true?
- (A) Vidhaan is responsible for violating his son's right to food as his ration card had expired.
 (B) Vidhaan is not responsible for violating the right to food as being an adult, Vidhaan's son could have himself got a ration card made.
 (C) The ration store owner is liable for violating the right to food of the family as being a government run shop, it was obliged to supply ration.
 (D) None of the above
74. Consider that certain factual situation in the above question is substituted, Vidhaan's ration card had not expired and yet the ration shop keeper arbitrarily refused to give him the monthly ration under the concerned Act. Can Vidhaan claim the violation of his right under the concerned Act?
- (A) No, as there is valid reason for not giving Vidhaan the monthly ration.
 (B) No, as there exists no right to food for which a violation can be claimed.
 (C) Yes, as ration shopkeeper is obliged to give Vidhaan the monthly ration under the Act.
 (D) Yes, as Vidhaan's son's right to get ration under the Act has been infringed by the ration shop keeper.
75. Even though the right to food is not a 'justiciable' right, which of the following reasons make its impact 'far-reaching'?
- (A) The fact that it is a directive principle of state policy, the government of the day is obliged to enforce it.
 (B) The fact that it is a principle that the Government needs to keep in mind while making laws on that matter.
 (C) The fact that it being a directive principle, it needs to be harmoniously constructed with fundamental rights.
 (D) The fact that the Government should be held responsible for the health of all the citizens.

XIV. The principle of independence of the judiciary is vital for the establishment of real participatory democracy, maintenance of the rule of law as a dynamic concept and delivery of social justice to the vulnerable sections of the community. In a case in 1995, *C. Ravichandran Iyer v. Justice A.M. Bhattacharjee & Ors.*, the Supreme Court went to the extent of holding that for a judge, "the standard of conduct is higher than that expected of a layman." It was also declared, "The Judges of higher echelons, therefore, should not be mere men of clay with all the frailties and foibles, human failings and weak character which may be found in those in other walks of life. They should be men of fighting faith with tough fibre not susceptible to any pressure, economic, political or any sort".

So, what can a citizen make out of this completely avoidable public praise by such a senior judge? Have those in positions of responsibility and even others who have publicly praised the Prime Minister in the recent past forgotten the Charter called “The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life”? This was adopted by the full Court, in 1997, to serve as a guide to be observed by the judges which, according to the charter, was “essential for an independent, strong and respected judiciary, indispensable in the impartial administration of justice”. The Charter is “a complete code of the canons of judicial ethics” and categorically declares among many others the following values: “. A Judge should practise a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office” and “Every Judge must at all times be conscious that he is under the public gaze and there should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esteem in which the office is held.” To my mind, both stand violated now.

In a Constituent Assembly Debate, Professor K.T. Shah (Bihar) spoke of the dangers lying ahead on May 24, 1949: “In my opinion, Sir, if I may so with all respect, this Constitution concentrates so much power and influence in the hands of the Prime Minister in regard to the appointment of judges, ambassadors, or Governors to such an extent, that there is every danger to apprehend that the Prime Minister may become a Dictator if he chooses to do so. I think there are cases which ought to be removed from the political influence of party manoeuvres. And here is one case, viz. Judges of the Supreme Court, who I think should be completely outside that influence.”

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) An excerpt from article titled ‘The unassailable keywords for the judiciary’, published by The Hindu.

76. Mr. Vidhan is an incumbent judge of District Court of Vindhya Pradesh. He has been posted in the given court since two years. He is fond of consuming foreign alcohol. Vidhi, knew about this taste of Mr. Vidhan. She is an accused in a case of kidnapping and the case is listed in the court of Mr. Vidhan for adjudication. Vidhi employs Vinil, who personally knows Mr. Vidhan, to invite Mr. Vidhan for a get together where they can discuss about Vidhi's case. He goes to Mr. Vidhan's official chamber in court with a bottle of branded beverage. Mr. Vidhan while on duty accepts the bottle and pours it into two glasses for them. Mr. Vidhan accepts the offer of get-together. After his official hours Mr. Vidhan meets Vinil. They go to a bar and after consuming alcohol, Mr. Vidhan had a brawl with a stranger. Decide:
- (A) Mr. Vidhan's conduct in his chamber is against the values enumerated in the 1997 Charter.
 (B) Mr. Vidhan's conduct at the bar is against the values enumerated in the 1997 Charter.
 (C) Mr. Vidhan conduct at either place is not against the values enumerated in the 1997 Charter.
 (D) Mr. Vidhan's conduct in his chamber and at bar are against the values enumerated in the 1997 Charter.
77. As per the statement of Professor K.T. Shah (Bihar) in the Constituent Assembly, which of the following can be inferred?
- (A) He apprehended that the Constitution concentrates enough power in the hands of the Prime Minister for judicial appointment and thus he might be able to influence the judges of the Supreme Court.
 (B) He informed that the Constitution concentrates enough power in the hands of the Prime Minister for judicial appointment and thus he has become the Dictator.
 (C) He informed that the Constitution does not give enough power in the hands of the Prime Minister for judicial appointment and thus he can illegitimately want to dictate the judiciary.
 (D) He informed that the Constitution concentrates enough power in the hands of the Prime Minister for judicial appointment and thus cases will stay independent of political influence.
78. As per the above passage, what is the importance of the charter titled Restatement of Values of Judicial Life?
- I. A guide to be observed by the judges to ensure strength, respect and dependence of the judiciary.
 II. The Charter lays down the canons of judicial ethics and categorically declares values which judges must observe.
- (A) Only I (B) Only II (C) Both I and II (D) Neither I nor II

XV. The Supreme Court of India recently agreed to hear a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the constitutional validity of Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017. The petition, filed by Hamsaanandini Nanduri, argues that the provision is discriminatory and arbitrary towards adoptive mothers and orphaned children over three months old. Section 5(4) of the Amended Act states that an Indian woman who legally adopts a child below the age of three months or a commissioning mother who avails surrogacy is entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave. However, women who adopt children older than three months receive no benefits.

The PIL contends that this provision is incompatible with the objectives of the Maternity Benefit Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. The petition also asserts that the 12 weeks of maternity leave provided to adoptive mothers is inadequate compared to the 26 weeks of leave granted to biological mothers, failing the basic scrutiny of Part III of the Indian Constitution linked to the concept of non-arbitrariness. The plea argues that the absence of provisions for maternity leave for mothers adopting orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered children above three months old prevents them from utilizing statutory maternity benefits. Additionally, it claims that adopting a child less than three months old is nearly impossible due to procedural delays.

Furthermore, the PIL highlights that Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act conflicts with Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, which requires any orphaned, abandoned, or surrendered child to be declared "legally free for adoption" by the Child Welfare Committee. The Adoption Regulations require two months for a child to be declared "legally free for adoption."

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, was enacted to regulate the employment of Indian women in government establishments during pregnancy and post-childbirth, providing maternity leave for 12 weeks and other related benefits. The Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Act, 2017, keeping all the provisions of 1961 Act intact, made significant extensions to the original Act, including extending its applicability to all woman irrespective of their nationality who works under such establishments, extending paid leave for biological mothers (i.e. woman who delivers a child) to 26 weeks of which not more than eight weeks shall precede the date of expected delivery, and providing 12 weeks of paid leave for adoptive mothers who adopt children below three months old and 12 weeks to commissioning mother who avails surrogacy.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) An excerpt from article titled 'Maternity benefits to adoptive mothers: What the law says, why it is facing a challenge in SC', published at The Indian Express.

79. Vidhi, an Indian woman working in a private factory in Karnataka, adopts a two-month-old orphaned child, Vidhan after the enactment of the Amendment Act, 2017. Vidhi wants to avail the benefit provided under Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act, 2017. Would she be entitled to avail the said benefit?
- (A) Yes, because the provision allows maternity leave to adoptive mothers of children below three months old.
 - (B) No, because the provision provides equal maternity leave for all adoptive mothers, regardless of the child's age.
 - (C) Yes, because the provision grants more maternity leave to adoptive mothers than biological mothers.
 - (D) No, because Vidhi does not fulfil the requirement which could have given her the right to avail section 5(4) of the Act.
80. Vidhi, an expecting mother working at a government company in Mumbai, is granted 26 weeks of paid maternity leave from her office as per the Maternity Benefit Act, 2017. Her friend, Vidya, who works at the same company, adopts a child who had crossed three-month of age before adoption. Vidya wants to receive paid maternity leave under the same Act. Would she be entitled for the same?
- (A) Yes, as the 2017 Act grants maternity leave of 12 weeks to adoptive mothers also.
 - (B) No, as Vidya does not work in the government establishment to get benefit of the Act.
 - (C) Yes, as Vidya works in the government establishment to get benefit of the Act.
 - (D) No, as the child is above the required age which prevents her to avail the right under the said Act.

81. Vidhi, a Korean national and an employee at a government company in Bangalore, is expected to have a child on 27th September, 2016. She applies for the maternity leave as she wishes to deliver her child in Korea. As per the legal provision provided in the passage would she be entitled to get the maternity leave under the concerned Act?
- (A) Yes, because she works in a government establishment.
- (B) Yes, because the concerned Act extends its application to all woman irrespective of their nationality.
- (C) Yes, because both (A) and (B) are correct.
- (D) No, because she is not covered under the Act which is applicable in the present case.
82. Vidhi is a marketing manager at a large government company in Pune. She commissioned Vidya, a local resident and her colleague, to be her surrogate. They both applied for the maternity leave as per the 2017 Act. Would they get the benefit of the same?
- (A) Vidhi would get maternity leave for 12 weeks as a commissioning mother but Vidya won't get any maternity leave as she was the surrogate mother.
- (B) Vidhi would get maternity leave for 12 weeks as a commissioning mother and Vidya would get maternity leave for 26 weeks as a biological mother.
- (C) Vidhi would get maternity leave for 12 weeks as a commissioning mother and Vidya would get maternity leave for 12 weeks as a biological mother.
- (D) Vidhi won't get any maternity leave as she was the commissioning mother but Vidya would get maternity leave for 12 weeks as a biological mother.
83. Based on the legal information provided in the passage, which of the following statements can be considered to be untrue?
- (A) The Maternity Benefit Act even after the 2017 Amendment Act has not covered the private establishments under its purview.
- (B) Adoptive mothers, Commissioning mothers had no right to get maternity leave before the 2017 Amendment.
- (C) The biological mother after the amendment can avail the majority of the statutory maternity leave before the expected delivery date.
- (D) The biological mother can only take eight weeks of maternity leave before her expected delivery date as per the Amendment Act.
84. Based on the information provided in the passage, what can be inferred about the conflict between Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act and Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015?
- (A) Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act does not conflict with Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- (B) The conflict between Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act and Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, has been resolved by the Indian courts.
- (C) Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act conflicts with Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 as getting 'legally free for adoption' takes time.
- (D) The conflict between Section 5(4) of the Maternity Benefit Act and Section 38 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, is not raised as a relevant legal issues in the PIL.

LOGICAL REASONING

XVI. Navarro Consulting, a reputed management consulting firm, has recently been hired by FloraGenic Biotech, an emerging player in sustainable agriculture. FloraGenic has developed a genetically modified (GM) crop that grows 30% faster and uses 40% less water. The technology could prove to be a breakthrough in addressing food security in arid regions. However, critics argue the product may pose long-term ecological risks and impact biodiversity.

Navarro's mandate is to prepare a go-to-market strategy, but internal debates have erupted. The consulting team is divided: the Strategy Division, led by Priya, believes rapid commercialization is crucial to secure market leadership. In contrast, the Ethics and Impact Group, led by Ashwin, cautions that proceeding without broader scientific validation and public engagement may tarnish FloraGenic's image and trigger backlash.

Complicating matters, FloraGenic's CEO, Ravi, is under pressure from investors to meet quarterly revenue targets. He wants the consultants to recommend an aggressive launch plan in select African and Southeast Asian markets, where regulations are lax and demand is high. However, a leaked report from FloraGenic's R&D division warns that one strain of the crop shows unexpected soil nutrient depletion in trial zones. The report hasn't been shared with regulators yet.

Adding to the complexity, Navarro's previous client—GreenEarth Alliance, an environmental advocacy NGO—has asked for a briefing on the project, citing public interest. While Navarro has no legal obligation to disclose anything, a senior partner fears reputational damage if the NGO publicly accuses them of siding with corporate interests.

As the engagement leader, Meera must draft a final recommendation. She faces a tight deadline, internal discord, and competing ethical, strategic, and financial considerations.

85. Given the leaked report, what should be Navarro's first course of action?

- (A) Suppress the report since FloraGenic hasn't made it public.
- (B) Recommend launching in markets with fewer regulations.
- (C) Escalate concerns to FloraGenic's leadership and suggest pausing the launch.
- (D) Share the report with GreenEarth Alliance confidentially.

86. What should Meera prioritize in her final recommendation?

- (A) Meeting FloraGenic's quarterly revenue goals.
- (B) Balancing commercial urgency with long-term ecological sustainability.
- (C) Ensuring market monopoly before competitors emerge.
- (D) Recommending full public disclosure to avoid PR fallout.

87. If FloraGenic insists on launching immediately, what should Navarro ideally do?

- (A) Exit the engagement due to irreconcilable ethical differences.
- (B) Provide conditional support contingent on phased roll-out with parallel studies.
- (C) Work in harmony with FloraGenic's vision to uphold excellent client relations.
- (D) Leak information to press to delay launch indirectly.

88. Navarro's internal conflict between the Strategy Division and the Ethics Group is delaying the final report. What is the most effective step Meera should take to move forward?

- (A) Choose the Strategy Division's view to meet the deadline.
- (B) Postpone the deadline until consensus is achieved internally.
- (C) Convene a joint session to integrate both views into a nuanced recommendation.
- (D) Allow both divisions to submit separate recommendations.

89. Which of the following is the most compelling ethical rationale for delaying the launch, despite the client's commercial urgency?
- (A) Legal liability in markets with lax regulation.
 - (B) Media backlash that could affect investor sentiment.
 - (C) Unknown long-term ecological risks from incomplete field trials.
 - (D) Risk of poor product-market fit in underdeveloped markets.

XVII. The battle over US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs has taken a sharp turn. Just a day after a federal trade court ruled that the President had overstepped his authority, a federal appeals court hit pause - allowing the tariffs to stay in place for now. The legal rollercoaster is far from over, but one thing is clear: the constitutional struggle over who holds the reins of US trade policy is heating up. The lower court had issued a strong rebuke, finding that Mr Trump's broad use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose import taxes, on everything from Chinese toys to Italian wine, stretched the law far beyond its original intent. Meant for national emergencies and hostile foreign actors, the IEEPA was never designed as a blunt-force trade tool.

The court's message was pointed: presidents can't unilaterally redefine trade policy by declaring economic conditions an emergency. But that message has been temporarily muted. The appeals court's stay means the tariffs, including the blanket 10 per cent baseline duties announced on April 2, will remain in effect while litigation continues. The next hearing is scheduled for June 5, and the issue is widely expected to reach the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, businesses remain caught in the crossfire, forced to navigate a trade landscape riddled with volatility. This moment underscores just how precarious the balance of power has become. For years, successive administrations have pushed the boundaries of executive authority in trade. Mr Trump took that expansion to new heights, triggering the biggest trade war since the Great Depression. His legal team now argues that courts have no place in policing the President's economic discretion an argument that challenges core principles of checks and balances. Even if the IEEPA pathway is ultimately shut down, Mr Trump has other legal levers at his disposal, including Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act (used for national-security tariffs on steel, aluminium and cars), Section 301 (targeting unfair foreign trade practices), and even the long-dormant Section 338, which allows tariffs on nations that "discriminate" against US trade.

Source: <https://www.thestatesman.com/opinion/tug-of-war-1503439620.htm1>

90. Mr. Trump's legal team argues that courts have no role in overseeing the President's economic discretion, implying that presidential decisions on trade should be immune from judicial review. What is the primary flaw in this reasoning?
- (A) It assumes that the President has more trade expertise than courts.
 - (B) It overlooks the constitutional principle of checks and balances.
 - (C) It implies that Congress supports every presidential trade decision.
 - (D) It misinterprets economic discretion as a form of legislative power.
91. What was the primary effect of the appeals court's stay on the lower court's ruling?
- (A) The President was granted unlimited trade authority.
 - (B) The tariffs remain in effect while the legal process continues.
 - (C) The IEEPA was repealed by the court.
 - (D) Congress voted to override the court's decision.

92. All actions under IEEPA must be tied to national emergencies or hostile threats. President Trump used IEEPA to place tariffs on consumer goods like toys and wine. Based on deductive logic, what follows?
- (A) These tariffs clearly enhance national security.
 - (B) These tariffs likely fall outside IEEPA's legal scope.
 - (C) IEEPA automatically overrides trade agreements.
 - (D) Consumer goods must pose an emergency threat.
93. Successive U.S. administrations have increasingly used broad executive powers in trade. President Trump expanded this even further, launching a major trade war. From this trend, what inductive conclusion can be drawn?
- (A) Executive overreach in trade will soon be criminalized
 - (B) The President must submit all trade actions to Congress
 - (C) The courts are likely to continue challenging this expansion of power
 - (D) Presidential authority in trade is trending toward less legislative oversight

XVIII. Once again, it's the Hinduja family. Gopi Hinduja and his family, who run the Hinduja Group, are cited as Britain's richest family in the latest Sunday Times rich list. The big story so far seems to be that their wealth has dropped to £35.3bn from £37.2bn the year before. But that story, and much of the discussion there will be this weekend, risks missing the real story. "Rich list" is barely the right description for the extreme wealth we should be talking about.

In 1989, when the Sunday Times first published its annual rich list, to be included someone would need to have 6,000 times the wealth of the average person in the UK. That's already a pretty big gap — but this has now tripled to more than 18,000 times the average, according to a study by the University of Greenwich.

The problem is that wealth begets wealth. Those who own land, property and shares have seen huge returns on these investments and been able to accumulate more assets over time, generating even more returns. To make things worse, while income inequality can be tempered by measures like a minimum wage or progressive taxes, policymakers seem unable or unwilling to do anything about wealth accumulation.

Successive governments have claimed to be for "working people" but have turned a blind eye to the fact that most wealth accumulation in recent decades has been through the passive collection of returns on existing wealth, rather than earned through hard work or entrepreneurial brilliance. Worst of all, there is no upper limit on how much an individual or family can acquire. Instead, we are asked to celebrate the vast fortunes of the super-rich and watch passively as we hurtle towards the world's first trillionaires. One thing that could help curb the excesses of wealth inequality is an "extreme wealth line", an idea that is starting to gain traction among campaigners and policy experts.

Decades ago, economists at the World Bank formulated an extreme poverty line by calculating how much money someone would need to buy enough food and essentials to survive each day. That innovation helped us compare poverty across countries and eras, and helped policymakers prioritise interventions to reduce poverty. It was also an ethical statement: the point below which a society should not let any household fall.

Today, I believe we need an equivalent line for the other end of the spectrum: the point above which a society should not let any household accumulate wealth, and above which policymakers should act proactively to curb wealth accumulation.

There is a point above which wealth gives you too much power to shape politics through lobbying, party donations or freebies, just as there is a point above which the environmental impacts of super-rich lifestyles cause extreme harm to the environment. And a point above which wealth concentration undermines economic competition and reduces productive investment. Meanwhile, rising inequality tears at the social fabric that binds us together. We risk becoming an island of have-yachts and have-nots, rather than an island of strangers.

This is where it gets tricky. If you ask what that point is, you get a range of answers. Is it when someone becomes a billionaire? Is it the top 1% of wealth holders? Is it £10m, the suggestion made by the Dutch writer Ingrid

Robeyns in her excellent book *Limitarianism: The Case Against Extreme Wealth*

Here's where the work done by the compilers of the rich list to tot up the value of land, property, shares and "other assets such as art and racehorses" of the super-rich might come in handy. Turns out you need net assets of £350m to make it into this year's list. I'm not sure whether they intended it, but this is about 1,000 times the median household wealth in Great Britain. Interestingly, a recent survey found nearly two-thirds of millionaires from G20 countries think wealth poses a risk to society when someone has 1,000 times the societal median. Even the rich think there is a line.

Finding a democratic way of defining an extreme wealth line could finally give politicians the mandate and a framework to tackle inequality before it is too late. It would give the chancellor a solid rationale for raising tax rates on those whose wealth exceeds the line. If she is not prepared to go that far, tax and inheritance rules could be changed to compel the rich to donate wealth above the line to charity. If even that feels too audacious, government could limit the inheritance that any nepo baby could have to below the extreme wealth line.

Last week Bill Gates pledged to give away 99% of his fortune, quoting an 1889 essay (*The Gospel of Wealth*) by tycoon Andrew Carnegie, who wrote: "The man who dies thus rich dies disgraced." This is admirable, but it is naive and dangerous for society to rely on the enlightened philanthropist to curb inequality. We need to stop glorifying wealth through rich lists and start drawing a line on extreme wealth.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/may/17/sunday-times-rich-list->

94. What underlying critique can be inferred from the author's statement that "'Rich list' is barely the right description for the extreme wealth we should be talking about"?

- (A) The term "rich list" inaccurately glorifies wealth without addressing its systemic impact.
- (B) The Hinduja family's wealth has been exaggerated by media outlets like The Guardian.
- (C) The list should only focus on individuals whose wealth is increasing, not decreasing.
- (D) The Sunday Times has ceased to represent wealth in realistic economic terms.

95. Which of the following assumptions is most likely made by the author in claiming that the "real" story is being missed in this coverage?

- (A) Public discourse around wealth often fails to address deeper issues of inequality or structural power.
- (B) The Hinduja family is manipulating their public financial figures to gain favour.
- (C) Readers are only interested in superficial financial comparisons.
- (D) King Charles and Rishi Sunak have more significant financial stakes than reported.

96. Which of the following best reflects the central paradox presented in the passage?

- (A) Governments endorse free-market policies while increasing public spending on social welfare.
- (B) Wealth is mostly generated through work, yet only investors seem to benefit disproportionately.
- (C) While wealth accumulation is passive, society still rewards it more than active labour.
- (D) Minimum wages have increased, yet average wealth remains stagnant.

97. Based on the author's argument, which unstated assumption is most essential to the claim that policymakers are unwilling to address wealth accumulation?

- (A) Policymakers benefit personally from the existing structure of wealth distribution.
- (B) Legislative tools exist to limit wealth accumulation but are not being utilized.
- (C) Tax evasion is the primary cause of inequality in the UK.
- (D) Voters prioritize income equality over wealth equality in public discourse.

98. What policy intervention does the author suggest to address the issue of extreme wealth accumulation?

- (A) Implementing a universal basic income for all citizens.
- (B) Introducing a wealth cap above which individuals must donate their assets to charity.
- (C) Encouraging voluntary wealth redistribution among the wealthy.
- (D) Reforming inheritance laws to limit the transfer of wealth across generations.

XIX. Vilfredo Federico Damaso Pareto (1848-1923), an Italian Polymath (trained in physics and mathematics) whose genius radiated into the major fields of knowledge especially, sociology, civil engineering, economics, political science and philosophy had made several contributions to economic theories. One of his major contributions to welfare economics had been a unique theory famously known as Pareto efficiency, Pareto Optimality or Pareto equilibrium which signifies a stage from where no further improvement is possible without making someone worse off. Taking a cue from Pareto Optimality, Indian economist Bhabatosh Datta defined economic development in simple language as "some gain somewhere without any loss anywhere."

The question is: can there be real gain or economic development without adversely affecting humans, nature or environment? Or is there a win-win situation while undertaking development projects? Perhaps no, because there is always a tradeoff and achieving Pareto efficiency is an impossibility. Jeremy Bentham (1748 - 1832), English philosopher, jurist and social reformer propounded an ethical theory known in economics as Utilitarianism which enunciates a principle: "it is the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of right and wrong". Any action or policy for the improvement of the lot of humans would be ethical and desirable if it bestows maximum good for the maximum number irrespective of questions of equity.

Therefore, the trade-off was accepted as normal. This is understandable. In an era when life was "nasty, brutish and short" in the entire European continent, any economic gain anywhere for alleviating human suffering was welcome. Therefore, the trade-off between economic gain and the environmental fall-out was never given any importance although there was, as Charles Dickens said, "ugliness, ugliness, and ugliness" everywhere, especially in the early stages of coal-fired industries in England. During the first half of the twentieth century, the world badly battered by the First World War, the Great Depression and the Second World War which destroyed western Europe and many parts of Africa and Asia, didn't have breathing time to think about environmental damage because of the urgent need for reconstruction, rehabilitation, de-colonisation and providing food to hungry millions. It is only after the 1960s that awareness about the deleterious impact of war and economic development on humans and the environment started to emerge. During the post-WWII period and the next five decades the world changed beyond recognition as this period witnessed unprecedented progress of man — kind, not achieved during the preceding five thousand years.

New discoveries and inventions in medicine, mining, engineering, transport, science and technology and entrepreneurship ushered in a new industrial civilization creating mega structures, mega industries, mega container ships, mega airplanes, mega carriers and also mega weapons of destruction, which had disastrous effects on environment everywhere in the world - wanton destruction of the forests and wildlife, pollution of the wetlands, the lakes, the rivers and the oceans, poisonous emissions from the vehicles and thermal power stations, mindless use of plastics creating all-round pollution, industrial effluents polluting air, water and soil in every country and choking the cities, seriously affecting the quality of life giving rise to various diseases, pandemics and sudden deaths. Ironically, the greatest discoveries and inventions of man like fossil fuel, motor vehicles, plastics, aircraft, internet, smart phones and AI have also been the greatest bands of modern civilization. International consciousness about environmental disaster and the need to save the world took concrete shape only in the 1990s when the Kyoto protocol was signed in Japan in 1997.

So far, 30 major international conferences including the impending 2025 Belem Conference of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in Brazil have or will be held. Five mega conferences Stockholm, 1972, Rio Earth Summit, 1992, Earth Summit-11, New York, 1997 and World Summit on Sustainable development, Johannesburg, 2002 culminating with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2016, which was signed by 196 countries, had seen major decisions taken on a global scale. Unfortunately, pious statements and platitudes of the top world leaders and the 'Resolute Resolutions' passed year after year have yielded very few

concrete action plans including funding and no visible impact on environment and climate has been noticed except worsening global warming, erratic monsoons, frequent cyclones and tornadoes, deadly earthquakes, melting of Arctic and Antarctic ice and the receding snowlines and the glaciers of the Himalayas. Tragically, the United States which consumes about 25 per cent of the world's energy and resources has walked out of the Paris Agreement.

Therefore, it has been left to the individual nations to take whatever action they think fit without international support to transition from fossil fuels to green energy and fight against global warming. Accordingly, they are required to re-calibrate the trade-offs between economic development and environmental damage keeping in mind a national-view and a world-view about climate change with the shared responsibility to protect the earth. Since economic progress is a sine qua non for a nation's survival and sovereignty and the process of multi-modal economic development cannot stop, the trade-off with the environment is inevitable and an on-going fight. Economists and engineers have to assure policy-makers that the social cost-benefit analysis does not show a negative result; in fact, the benefits should far outweigh the losses elsewhere. To achieve Pareto optimality may not be possible as it is too idealistic but one can ensure Pareto minimality, which will mean minimal damage to others the humans and the environment.

99. Which of the following statements, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's claim that a trade-off between economic development and environmental degradation is inevitable?
- (A) Technological innovations have enabled some nations to achieve net-zero carbon emissions while growing their GDP.
 - (B) Historically, industrialization has always resulted in some form of environmental degradation.
 - (C) Most international climate agreements fail to enforce emission reduction.
 - (D) The global south continues to struggle with basic energy needs due to lack of development.
100. Which of the following best captures the main argument of the passage?
- (A) Economic development should be prioritized even if it severely damages the environment.
 - (B) The concept of Pareto Optimality is outdated in the modern context of global warming.
 - (C) Although achieving Pareto efficiency is unrealistic, minimizing environmental harm during development is essential.
 - (D) Global summits and agreements have failed because nations are not serious about economic development.
101. Which assumption underlies the author's suggestion that nations recalibrate the trade-off between economic development and environmental damage?
- (A) Individual nations are more capable than global organizations in addressing climate change.
 - (B) Global climate change efforts are inherently doomed to fail.
 - (C) Nations have access to tools that allow them to measure and mitigate environmental damage.
 - (D) Fossil fuels are irreplaceable in the current stage of development.
102. What would the author most likely disagree with?
- (A) The Paris Agreement was an important milestone in global climate policy.
 - (B) Development projects must go hand in hand with environmental protection.
 - (C) Climate change can be addressed without compromising on economic growth.
 - (D) Major world powers must lead the way in reducing environmental damage.

103. The author's reasoning is most vulnerable to the criticism that:
- (A) It overlooks the role of developing countries in environmental degradation.
 - (B) It places too much faith in global climate agreements.
 - (C) It assumes that environmental damage can always be accurately predicted and minimized.
 - (D) It dismisses the urgency of economic development in poorer regions.
104. Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the author's argument about the limitations of international climate agreements?
- (A) Most agreements lack enforcement mechanisms.
 - (B) Developing countries are more compliant than developed nations.
 - (C) Technology to combat climate change is too expensive to implement.
 - (D) Global warming data is often exaggerated by climate activists.

XX. Directions for questions 105- 108: Answer the following questions based on the information given below:

Seven persons P, Q, R, S, T, U and V work in different office among IBM, Facebook, Grofers, Infosys, TCS, Google and Flipkart but not necessarily in same order. Each of them goes to office at different time among 7:15am, 8:00am, 8:30am, 9:30am, 11:00am and 11:45am. The timing of one person is not known. Nobody comes before 7:00am or after 12 noon. Q works in Google. P reaches TCS at 8:30am. U goes to office at 7:15am but not in Flipkart. The difference in the timings of Q and V, who works in IBM, is 45 minutes. V goes to office at 11:00am. Neither R nor S works in Facebook. Nobody goes to office at 9:00am. The timing of the one, who works in Facebook, is not among the given times. The one, who works in Infosys, goes after one, who works in Flipkart. There is a difference of at least 3 hours between S's and V's timing.

105. Who among the following works in Flipkart?

- (A) T
- (B) S
- (C) Q
- (D) P

106. When does T go to office?

- (A) 7:15am
- (B) 11:45am
- (C) 9:30am
- (D) Cannot be determined

107. Who goes to office at 11:45am?

- (A) Q
- (B) R
- (C) T
- (D) S

108. When does the one who works at Grofers go to office?

- (A) 7:15am
- (B) 11:45am
- (C) 9:30am
- (D) 8:30am

QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

XXI. Directions: (109-114) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.

Vaibhav runs a small electronics shop in a local market. He sells gadgets such as headphones, Bluetooth speakers, and power banks. One day, he bought 3 types of gadgets: 40 headphones at 1300 each, 30 Bluetooth speakers at 1800 each, and 50 power banks at 1500 each. He marked the price of each headphone 25% above its cost price, each speaker 40% above its cost price, and each power bank 30% above its cost price. During a festive sale, Vaibhav offered a discount of 10% on headphones, 20% on speakers, and 15% on power banks. By the end of the week, Vaibhav sold 35 headphones, 25 Bluetooth speakers, and 45 power banks. Now, let's analyse how much profit or loss Vaibhav made and answer the following questions:

109. What was the total cost price of all the items Vaibhav purchased?

- (A) 164,000
- (B) 163,000
- (C) 162,000
- (D) 161,000

110. What was the marked price of one Bluetooth speaker?

- (A) 11,100
- (B) 11,040
- (C) 11,120
- (D) 11,000

111. What was the selling price of one headphone during the festive sale?

- (A) 1337.50
- (B) 1375.00
- (C) 1330.00
- (D) 1315.00

112. What was the total revenue Vaibhav earned from selling all items by the end of the week in festive season?

- (A) 159,075
- (B) 162,375
- (C) 160,825
- (D) 159,950

113. What was Vaibhav's overall profit or loss percentage? (Consider cost of unsold articles as his loss)

- (A) 2.89% profit
- (B) 2.89% loss
- (C) 3.15% profit
- (D) 3.15% loss

114. On which product did Vaibhav make the highest profit percentage, after festive season?

- (A) Headphones
- (B) Bluetooth speakers
- (C) Power banks
- (D) All had equal profit

XXII. Directions: (115-120) Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given below.

The following data provides information about the number of Web Series released by HotStar, MX-player, and ZEE in the years 2021 and 2022. The number of Web Series released by HotStar in 2021 is 33.33% less than that by MX-player in 2022. Additionally, the number of Web Series released by ZEE in 2021 is 40 more than that by MX-player in 2022. The total number of Web Series released by these three platforms in 2021 adds up to 900. Moreover, the total number of Web Series released by MX-player in both years combined is 620. The number of Web Series released by HotStar and ZEE in 2022 is 280 and 200, respectively.

115. Find the average number of Web Series released by these three platforms in 2022?

- (A) 280 (B) 200
(C) 260 (D) 300

116. The number of Web Series released by HotStar in 2022 is how much percent more/less than the number of Web Series released by ZEE in 2021?

- (A) 60% more
(B) 30% more
(C) 30% less
(D) 60% less

117. Find the ratio of the number of Web Series released by MX-player in 2022 to the number Web Series released by ZEE in 2021?

- (A) 4:5 (B) 9:10
(C) 10:9 (D) 5:4

118. Find the difference between the total number of Web Series released by MX-player and HotStar in these two years?

- (A) 200
(B) 300
(C) 100
(D) 400

119. Each Web Series is released in only one language, either Hindi or English. The ratio of the number of Web Series released by MX-player in 2021 in Hindi to that in English is 3:2. Find the number of Web Series released in English by MX-player in 2021?

- (A) 84 (B) 104
(C) 134 (D) 180

120. The number of Web Series released by HotStar in 2021 is what percent of the number of Web series released by ZEE in 2022?

- (A) 1609r (B) 1009r
(C) 1209a (D) 1259c

Answer Key

Q.No.	Correct Answer	Q.No.	Correct Answer	Q.No.	Correct Answer
1	A	41	A	81	D
2	A	42	C	82	B
3	B	43	C	83	C
4	B	44	B	84	C
5	B	45	C	85	C
6	C	46	A	86	B
7	A	47	D	87	B
8	B	48	C	88	C
9	C	49	B	89	C
10	A	50	C	90	B
11	B	51	B	91	B
12	A	52	D	92	B
13	C	53	B	93	D
14	A	54	D	94	A
15	C	55	C	95	A
16	B	56	D	96	C
17	C	57	C	97	B
18	A	58	C	98	B
19	A	59	A	99	A
20	B	60	C	100	C
21	C	61	B	101	C
22	C	62	B	102	C
23	A	63	D	103	C
24	C	64	B	104	A
25	B	65	C	105	B
26	C	66	C	106	D
27	B	67	B	107	A
28	B	68	A	108	A
29	A	69	D	109	D
30	A	70	C	110	C
31	A	71	B	111	A
32	B	72	B	112	A
33	B	73	D	113	D
34	B	74	C	114	A
35	B	75	B	115	A
36	B	76	D	116	C
37	A	77	A	117	B
38	B	78	B	118	C
39	D	79	D	119	B
40	B	80	D	120	C