APPENDIX 1: QUESTION BOOKLET FOR CLAT 2026 (UG)

UG 2026

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Maximum Marks: 120

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. Over a year ago—it was last Tisha B'Av—I found myself moving house for the third time since 2019. This move was the big one, resulting from the sale of the apartment in Philadelphia that my wife and I had bought together, renovated together, and had lived in for six mostly happy years and three mostly difficult ones. From the spring of 2020, we'd rented it out, furnished, once we began the final unraveling of our common life. Moves bring inevitable reckonings, moves like these exceptionally so. Amid the furniture, the books, the rugs, and various objects—both those I'd acquired independently and those passed down from ancestors—I kept five boxes, two of them equal parts tape and cardboard, containing an archive of my mental life, or at least my professional mental life. There was a box full of contracts for various articles and my book contract, drafts of that first and so far only book with copy-editor marks. Here were all the college and grad school syllabi and papers; notebooks from 10 years of higher education; xeroxed articles from course packets and research; graded tests; graded papers with comments; drafts of early, never-completed stories on legal notepads; drafts of my never-completed Ph.D. dissertation; there was my undergraduate thesis on Proust; my first semester graduate school paper on Benjamin's Arcades Project; all the worksheets and tests for the "Italian for Reading Knowledge" summer intensive course I'd needed to pass my last language requirement; there was that undergrad paper with a professor's telling remark, "brilliant but self-defeating," a memento from a riskier and more insightful era of student-teacher relations.

How could I possibly hold on to all this stuff? What purpose did I think it served? It's not as if I intended to return to my Ph.D. research at this point in my life, although all of it was in there, somewhere. The stories were juvenilia, or else written in my late 20s—which amounts to the same thing. Someone more dedicated to the art of memory or their own cult of achievement would have already digitized all this material, or at least alphabetized it. They would have arranged it lovingly, according to some clear principle, with accurate labels. Instead, I'd thrown everything into boxes as if in a traumatic flight from some invading army. Except that the trauma here was nothing more (or less) than the reality of my own existence. For almost 15 years, possibly 20, I hadn't acknowledged that I'd failed to live up to my own ambitions, or someone's ambitions for me. Instead of facing up, I'd run away, with the boxes trundling along behind.

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I'd been—I still felt, even in my late 40s—"too young to hold on, too old to just break free and run." The lyrics of Jeff Buckley's immature love-gone-bad ballad seemed no less true for my relationship to my historical self. The boxes were supposed to have contained the records of my ascent through American society (and, oh yeah, there it was, tucked inside a course packet, my college diploma!). I'd kept hold of all these documents not to provide myself with an index of failures and false starts, but because I believed myself redeemable in the way someone of my generation had been mostly trained to understand "redemption"—that is in terms of official recognition in the form of salaries, diplomas, prizes and certificates, gold stars. Perhaps I'd hoped my child might one day, after my death, become interested in the father she at present has absolutely no interest in knowing. Or with even more grandiosity, I'd imagined the interest of some future biographer. But what had this faith given me except a backache, some extra moving costs, and cramped closets?

Source: https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/arts-1etters/artic1es/genizah-of-self-marco-roth?

1. Which of the following would justify being the theme of the passage?
   (A) The importance of preserving academic and personal records for future generations.
   (B) The emotional and psychological weight of past ambitions and unrealized potential.
   (C) The necessity of organization and discipline in academic and professional life.
   (D) The struggles of moving houses multiple times in a short span.

2. What can be inferred about the author's feelings toward his past academic and professional pursuits?
   (A) He sees them as necessary steps toward personal growth.
   (B) He views them as a burden that he has failed to reconcile with.
   (C) He regrets not continuing his Ph.D. and academic career.
   (D) He believes that his past efforts will eventually be recognized.

*

3. Which of the following is not an example of a literary device being used?
   (A) Here were all the college and grad school syllabi and papers; notebooks from 10 years of higher education; xeroxed articles from course packets and research; graded tests;
   (B) With a professor's telling remark, "brilliant but self-defeating," a memento from a riskier and more insightful era of student-teacher relations.
   (C) I'd been—I still felt, even in my late 40s—"too young to hold on, too old to just break free and run."
   (D) ....resulting from the sale of the apartment in Philadelphia that my wife and I had bought together, renovated together, and had lived in for six mostly happy years and three mostly difficult ones.

4. What does the phrase "a memento from a riskier and more insightful era of student-teacher relations" suggest?
   (A) The author fondly remembers an era where professors gave more thoughtful feedback.
   (B) The author believes that student-teacher relations have become less critical and insightful.
   (C) The author regrets not paying more attention to his professor's advice.
   (D) The author thinks that academic criticism today is harsher than before.

II. A little over 15 years ago, scientists at Kyoto University in Japan made a remarkable discovery. When they added just four proteins to a skin cell and waited about two weeks, some of the cells underwent an unexpected and astounding transformation: they became young again. They turned into stem cells almost identical to the kind found in a days-old embryo, just beginning life's journey.

At least in a petri dish, researchers using the procedure can take withered skin cells from a 101-year-old and rewind them so they act as if they'd never aged at all.

Now, after more than a decade of studying and tweaking so-called cellular reprogramming, a number of biotech companies and research labs say they have tantalising hints the process could be the gateway to an unprecedented new technology for age reversal. By applying limited, controlled doses of the reprogramming proteins to lab animals, the scientists say, they are seeing evidence that the procedure makes the animals—or at least some of their organs—more youthful.

One of the key promoters of this idea, Richard Klausner, took the stage in June at a glitzy, $4,000-per-ticket retreat in San Diego, where he flashed data from unpublished experiments in which sick mice bounced back to health after undergoing the experimental treatment. Klausner was pitching nothing less than "medical rejuvenation"—a means of taking old animals and making them "young." He is the organizer and chief scientist of Altos Labs, a new research company seeded with more than $3 billion from ultra-wealthy figures in Silicon Valley and oil money from the Persian Gulf. Klausner and his financiers had swept up dozens of top scientists—offering salaries of $1 million and more—and set them to work on a technology the company now calls "rejuvenation programming." It seems to work at least in part by resetting what's called the epigenome—chemical marks on DNA that control which genes are turned on, or off, in a cell. In aging, some of these markers get flipped to the wrong positions. Reprogramming is a technology that can flip them back. But it can also change cells in dangerous ways, even causing cancer.

Source: https://www.technologyreview.com/2022/10/25/1061644/how-to-be-young-again/?u

5. Which of the following best represents the central theme of the passage?
   (A) Scientists have identified a definitive and irreversible cure for the aging process.
   (B) Cellular reprogramming offers promising possibilities for reversing aging, though it poses certain safety concerns.
   (C) Richard Klausner has effectively achieved human rejuvenation through the application of stem cell therapy.
   (D) Biotechnological firms have entirely perfected and implemented methods for reversing the effects of aging.

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6. What does the passage suggest about the role of the epigenome in aging?
   (A) It causes aging by completely shutting down DNA activity in cells.
   (B) It consists of chemical markers that influence gene expression, and errors in these markers contribute to aging.
   (C) It is a physical structure inside cells that breaks down over time, leading to aging.
   (D) It prevents cells from undergoing reprogramming, making age reversal impossible.

7. What can be inferred about the attitude of ultra-wealthy investors toward age-reversa1 research?
   (A) They are highly skeptical and unwilling to fund such speculative science.
   (B) They see it as a promising investment and are willing to provide significant funding.
   (C) They have completely abandoned the field due to the risk of cancer.
   (D) They are only interested in using the technology for cosmetic treatments.

8. Which of the following best describes the author's perspective on cellular reprogramming?
   (A) Enthusiastic but acknowledges potential dangers.
   (B) Completely dismissive of the technology.
   (C) Indifferent to the implications of the research.
   (D) Strongly opposed due to ethical concerns.

9. What is a potential risk associated with cellular reprogramming, as mentioned in the passage?
   (A) It may permanently erase a person's memories.
   (B) It can cause cells to stop functioning entirely.
   (C) It has the potential to trigger cancerous changes in cells.
   (D) It only works on mice and has no possibility of human application.

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III. Dazzling intricacies of brain structure are revealed every day, but one of the most obvious aspects of brain wiring eludes neuroscientists. The nervous system is cross-wired, so that the left side of the brain controls the right half of the body and vice versa. Every doctor relies upon this fact in performing neurological exams, but when I asked my doctor last week why this should be, all I got was a shrug. So I asked Catherine Carr, a neuroscientist at the University of Maryland, College Park. “No good answer,” she replied. I was surprised — such a fundamental aspect of how our brain and body are wired together, and no one knew why?

Nothing that we know of stops the right side of the brain from connecting with the right side of the body. That wiring scheme would seem much simpler and less prone to errors. In the embryonic brain, the crossing of the wires across the midline — an imaginary line dividing the right and left halves of the body — requires a kind of molecular “traffic cop” to somehow direct the growing nerve fibers to the right spot on the opposite side of the body. Far simpler just to keep things on the same side.

Yet this neural cross wiring is ubiquitous in the animal kingdom — even the neural connections in lowly nematode worms are wired with left-right reversal across the animal's midline. And many of the traffic cop molecules that direct the growth of neurons in these worms do the same in humans. For evolution to have conserved this arrangement so doggedly, surely there's some benefit to it, but biologists still aren't certain what it is. An intriguing answer, however, has come from the world of mathematics.

The key to that solution lies in exactly how neural circuits are laid out within brain tissue. Neurons that make connections between the brain and the body are organized to create a virtual map in the cerebral cortex. If a neuroscientist sticks an electrode into the brain and finds that neurons there receive input from the thumb, for example, then neurons next to it in the cerebral cortex will connect to the index finger. This mapping phenomenon is called somatotopy, Greek for “body mapping,” but it's not limited to the physical body. The 3D external world we perceive through vision and our other senses is mapped onto the brain in the same way.

A regular column in which top researchers explore the process of discovery. This month's columnist, R. Douglas Fields, is a neuroscientist studying the cellular mechanisms of brain development and plasticity.

Creating an internal map of neural connections that accurately reflects spatial relations in the world makes sense.

Consider how complicated it would be to wire neural circuits if the neurons were scattered willy-nilly throughout the brain. But while this internal neural mapping of connections solves a biological problem, it raises a geometric one: the topological challenge of projecting 3D space onto a 2D surface. Odd things happen when we do this. On a 2D map, an airplane taking the most direct path between two cities appears to travel in an arc, and satellites orbiting the globe appear to oscillate in a sinusoidal path.

Source:- https://www.quantamagazine.org/why-the-brains-connections-to-the-body-are-crisscrossed-20230419/

10. What central paradox does the passage highlight about neural wiring?
    (A) The nervous system prioritizes complexity over simplicity for evolutionary advantage.
    (B) Despite the complexity and inefficiency of cross-wiring, it is universally retained across species.
    (C) Neural mapping in the brain has evolved to ignore physical symmetry for computational benefit.
    (D) Brain regions responsible for somatotopy are unable to adapt to environmental demands.

11. Based on the author's tone and framing, which of the following best captures their perspective on the current scientific understanding of neural cross-wiring?
    (A) It is well-understood but inadequately communicated by medical professionals.
    (B) It has long been discredited as an evolutionary anomaly.
    (C) It remains puzzling even to experts, despite its apparent universality.
    (D) It is irrelevant in light of new technological developments in brain research.

12. What is the primary function of the “traffic cop molecules” mentioned in the passage?
    (A) To restore symmetry in neural pathways that evolve incorrectly.
    (B) To assist with the maintenance of somatotopic maps within the brain.
    (C) To guide developing neurons across the body's midline during embryonic development.
    (D) To detect malfunctioning neurons and correct cross-wiring errors postnatally.

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13. According to the passage, what makes somatotopy a rational solution to a biological problem?
    (A) It simplifies the projection of 3D perception onto a curved cortical surface.
    (B) It allows brain regions to spontaneously regenerate based on need.
    (C) It mirrors the geometric organization of the external world, easing neural communication.
    (D) It organizes spatial input in a coherent pattern that facilitates functional processing.

14. The analogy involving airplane arcs and satellite oscillations serves to:
    (A) Demonstrate the limitations of somatotopic organization in humans.
    (B) Illustrate the distortions that occur when complex 3D data is represented in 2D forms.
    (C) Argue that spatial reasoning evolved prior to logical abstraction in human brains.
    (D) Suggest that 2D neural circuits are incapable of fully modeling the 3D world.

15. Which of the following best encapsulates the author's broader argument in the passage?
    (A) Evolutionary biology often sacrifices efficiency in favor of flexibility.
    (B) Unexplained features of human anatomy often point to deep mathematical or topological constraints.
    (C) Neuroscience has largely overestimated the importance of spatial mapping.
    (D) Most neural systems prioritize simplicity over accuracy in developmental wiring.

IV. That a country with a fraction of India's human and natural resources achieves comparable GDP should prompt introspection rather than mere celebration. The question isn't just about scale, but policy and efficiency: Why isn't our immense demographic and territorial advantage translating into proportionate economic value? The root of the problem lies in the persistent inefficiencies of India's economic and institutional structures, an overreliance on low-value services, and a failure to industrialise and innovate at scale.

India's per capita income reveals a more sobering truth. According to the IMF, at $2800, India ranks 140th globally in per capita income, the lowest even among the peer BRICS nations with Brazil at $10,296, Russia at

$14,953, China at $12,969, and South Africa at $6,377. While overall GDP has surged, the wealth generated remains thinly distributed. The benefits of growth are disproportionately captured by the top 1 per cent of the population, who now own over 40 per cent of the total wealth (2023 Oxfam inequality report). If we exclude the top 5 per cent, the per capita income drops to a meagre $1,130, which is even below the lowest-income African countries.

This economic pyramid is not only top-heavy but also widening. A growing concentration of income and wealth is leaving the bottom 50 per cent and even the middle 40 per cent struggling to keep pace. This is not merely a statistical concern; it carries profound implications for social cohesion, political stability, and long-term economic sustainability. Recent reports by Oxfam indicate that the concentration of economic power in India is at an all-time high. A few conglomerates dominate critical sectors — telecom, infrastructure, digital payments, retail — raising concerns about monopolistic behaviour, regulatory capture, and democratic erosion. The widening gulf between the luxurious elite and the struggling masses endangers both economic stability and democratic integrity.

While some argue that inequality is a global phenomenon, with even China and Brazil facing similar disparities, the context differs. Unlike China, where state control allows for redistribution through public investments, or Brazil, where redistributive politics are fiercely contested, India's current political economy shows a limited appetite for directly addressing inequality.

The work of Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson in Why Nations Fail is particularly insightful here. Their central argument posits that inclusive economic institutions — not just market-friendly ones — are crucial for long-term prosperity. India must reflect on whether its institutions and policies are evolving to be more inclusive or if they risk becoming concentrated in ways that primarily benefit a narrow segment of society.

India's latest Human Development Index (HDI) ranking of 0.685 in 2023, placing it 130th globally, underscores significant developmental gaps. In contrast, fellow BRICS members like China (0.797), Brazil (0.786), Russia (0.832), and even South Africa (0.741) fare better across key human development indicators. These nations have not only achieved economic growth but have also made substantial investments in education, healthcare, and social protection.

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This comparison is instructive: India is now the second-largest economy among BRICS in absolute terms, yet it lags in converting economic size into human development gains. This raises a fundamental question: What is the benefit of rapid GDP growth if it doesn't translate into dignified livellhood, improved health, increased life expectancy, higher literacy, or more equitable access to basic services?

Moreover, within India, inter-state disparities are stark. Southern and western states usually report better HDI scores and per capita incomes, while large populations in central and eastern regions continue to experience developmental backlogs. This unevenness within the country mirrors the broader challenge of making growth inclusive, not just across classes but also across all regions.

Source:-https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/what-is-the-benefit-of-rapid-gdp-growth-if-it-doesnt-translate-to-a-dignified-life-10032061/

16. Which of the following best encapsulates the central argument of the passage?
    (A) India's economic achievements have created a global model of fiscal growth and inequality reduction.
    (B) All BRICS nations, including India, suffer from inequality due to globalization and technological disruption.
    (C) Despite impressive GDP growth, India's failure to ensure inclusive development reveals deep structural inefficiencies.
    (D) India is on track to surpass other BRICS nations in both income equality and human development.

17. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?
    (A) Excessive regulation in India has stifled private sector success and innovation.
    (B) Monopolistic practices in India are facilitated by inadequate institutional checks.
    (C) The Indian government has prioritized social protection schemes over industrial growth.
    (D) Redistribution through public investment is a more effective strategy than enabling private capital.

18. If the top 5% of India's population is excluded, the per capita income becomes $1,130. Given this, which of the following conclusions is most valid?
   (A) The economic contribution of the top 5% is overestimated in India's GDP statistics.
   (B) The average per capita income is a reliable indicator of individual economic well-being.
   (C) The bottom 959c of Indians earn incomes close to the global average, but inequality remains a problem.
   (D) Income distribution in India is significantly skewed toward a small elite, affecting national averages.

19. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the passage's critique of India's development model?
   (A) Over the past decade, India has consistently increased its budgetary allocation to public health and education.
   (B) The top 1% of earners contribute nearly 60% of India's total income tax revenue.
   (C) Informal sector workers have seen a steady rise in wage earnings since 2018.
   (D) State-level HDI improvements in northern states have outpaced those in southern states for two consecutive years.

20. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
   (A) Critical and evidence-driven
   (B) Objective and appreciative
   (C) Detached and informational
   (D) Hopeful and reformist

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V. Among other public buildings in a certain town, which for many reasons it will be prudent to refrain from mentioning, and to which I will assign no fictitious name, there is one anciently common to most towns, great or small: to wit, a workhouse; and in this workhouse was born: on a day and date which I need not trouble myself to repeat, inasmuch as it can be of no possible consequence to the reader, in this stage of the business at all events: the item of mortality whose name is prefixed to the head of this chapter.

For a long time after it was ushered into this world of sorrow and trouble, by the parish surgeon, it remained a matter of considerable doubt whether the child would survive to bear any name at all; in which case it is somewhat more than probable that these memoirs would never have appeared; or, if they had, that being comprised within a couple of pages, they would have possessed the inestimable merit of being the most concise and faithful specimen of biography, extant in the literature of any age or country.

Although I am not disposed to maintain that the being born in a workhouse, is in itself the most fortunate and enviable circumstance that can possibly befal a human being, I do mean to say that in this particular instance, it was the best thing for Oliver Twist that could by possibility have occurred. The fact is, that there was considerable difficulty in inducing Oliver to take upon himself the office of respiration,-a troublesome practice, but one which custom has rendered necessary to our easy existence; and for some time he lay gasping on a little flock mattress, rather unequally poised between this world and the next: the balance being decidedly in favour of the latter. Now, if, during this brief period, Oliver had been surrounded by careful grandmothers, anxious aunts, experienced nurses, and doctors of profound wisdom, he would most inevitably and indubitably have been killed in no time. There being nobody by, however, but a pauper old woman, who was rendered rather misty by an unwonted allowance of beer; and a parish surgeon who did such matters by contract; Oliver and Nature fought out the point between them. The result was, that, after a few struggles, Oliver breathed, sneezed, and proceeded to advertise to the inmates of the workhouse the fact of a new burden having been imposed upon the parish, by setting up as loud a cry as could reasonably have been expected from a male infant who had not been possessed of that very useful appendage, a voice, for a much longer space of time than three minutes and a quarter.

21. What is the central focus of the passage?
(A) The grim and inhumane conditions prevailing in l9th-century English workhouses.
(B) The birth and early struggle for survival of Oliver Twist in a hostile environment.
(C) The inadequacies and limitations of medical practitioners in the historical context.
(D) The unintended advantages of being born into poverty and deprivation.

22. What can be reasonably inferred about the narrator's perspective on the circumstances of Oliver's birth?
(A) The narrator views Oliver as fortunate for having been born in the workhouse.
(B) The narrator implies that Oliver was left to fend for himself immediately after birth.
(C) The narrator suggests that Oliver's survival was largely a matter of chance rather than compassionate intervention.
(D) The narrator considers Oliver's birth to be irrelevant to the overarching narrative.

23. What literary device is used in the phrase “the item of mortality whose name is prefixed to the head of this chapter”?
(A) Euphemism
(B) Metonymy
(C) Irony
(D) Alliteration

24. Which of the following best captures the nuanced irony conveyed by the narrator in describing Oliver's birth?
(A) The narrator genuinely believes that being born in a poor institutional setting such as a workhouse provides infants with better survival chances than traditional family care.
(B) The narrator satirically argues that the absence of familial and medical attention during Oliver's birth ironically increased his chances of survival.
(C) The narrator suggests that society's current medical practices and family structures have evolved to reduce infant mortality.
(D) The narrator critiques the apathetic system of workhouses by portraying Oliver's survival as a tragic mistake rather than a fortunate event.

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VI. Amid a recent resurgence of language politics in the country, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Tuesday stirred up a fresh row by criticizing the linguistic division of states which, he said, had turned a large section of the populace into "second-class citizens". "Within a decade of our Independence, there had to be a linguistic reorganization of Bharat... When we created linguistic states, a large population became second-class citizens.. .," Ravi said at an event in Gandhinagar. Scholars have long argued, however, that the linguistic organization of states has been critical in ensuring India's continued unity and integrity. Here's a brief history. The British had administered India with two systems running in parallel — a system of direct control in its provinces, and a system of indirect control across 565 princely states. The provincial boundaries India inherited in 1947, were thus products of colonial administrative exigencies and the historical process of integration of erstwhile principalities and kingdoms into the Empire.

25. The States Reorganization Act, 1956 was based on the recommendations of which commission?
(A) Sarkaria Commission (B) Fazal Ali Commission
(C) Punchhi Commission (D) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee

26. How many States and Union Territories were established by the 1956 State Reorganization Act?
(A) 14 states and 6 union territories (B) 14 states and 5 union territories
(C) 16 states and 6 union territories (D) 22 states and 8 union territories

27. Which constitutional amendment led to the incorporation of Sikkim as a full-fledged state of India?
(A) 34th Amendment Act, 1974 (B) 35th Amendment Act, 1974
(C) 36th Amendment Act, 1975 (D) 37th Amendment Act, 1975

28. Potti Sriramulu is popularly honored with the title:
(A) Andhra Kesari (B) Amarajeevi
(C) Andhra Ratna (D) Andhra Mitra

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29. Which was the first language to be given the status of "Classical Language" in India?
(A) Tamil (B) Sanskrit (C) Telugu (D) Kannada

30. Consider the following statement.
I. Digital India BHASHINI is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) led language translation platform.
II. Bhashini Platform is a part of the National Language Translation Mission.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
(A) I only (B) II only (C) Both I and II (D) Neither I nor II

VII. The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, observed annually, serves as a poignant reminder of the rapid decline of these vital coastal forests, disappearing at a rate several times faster than global forests. This day was established by UNESCO in 2015 to promote awareness about the unique ecological and socio-economic roles that mangrove ecosystems play, including coastal protection, biodiversity support, and climate mitigation. Mangroves are specialized coastal ecosystems consisting of salt-tolerant trees and shrubs that thrive in intertidal zones in tropical and subtropical regions. They are remarkable for their ability to survive in saline, oxygen-poor environments, characterized by slow-moving waters and fine sediment accumulation. Among the common mangrove species are Red Mangrove, Grey Mangrove, and Rhizophora, which contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. India's mangrove cover, as reported in the latest forest assessment, accounts for a small fraction of the country's landmass, with major concentrations in regions such as West Bengal and Gujarat. The loss of mangrove ecosystems globally is reflected in this region as well, raising concerns about habitat degradation and the impacts on coastal communities. Biodiversity thrives in mangrove habitats, which serve as breeding and nursery grounds for a vast array of species. India's mangroves are home to thousands of species across various phyla, including iconic fauna such as Bengal tigers and estuarine crocodiles, along with numerous bird species. This rich biodiversity supports fisheries by providing nurseries for marine species vital to the regional economy. These are crucial for Biodiversity Hotspot identifications.

31. The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed every year on:
(A) 21st July (B) 22nd May (C) 26th July (D) 5th July

32. With reference to Mangroves in India, consider the following statements:
(1) India's mangrove cover is 0.15% of the total geographical area.
(2) West Bengal has the largest mangrove cover, followed by Gujarat.
(3) According to ISFR 2023, India's mangrove cover is about 4,992 sq. km.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only (C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

33. With reference to the MISHTI scheme in India, consider the following statements:
(1) The scheme aims to restore and conserve mangrove ecosystems across several states and UTs.
(2) It is funded only by the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
(3) Local community involvement and economic benefit are integral components of the scheme.
(4) It was announced in India's Union Budget 2023-24.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) 1, 3 and 4 only (B) 1 and 2 only (C) 2, 3, and 4 only (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

34. The Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) was established and launched at which of the following events?
(A) COP21, Paris Agreement, 2015 (B) COP26, Glasgow, 2021
(C) COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2022 (D) COP28, Dubai, 2023

3S. The Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), which India has joined, is:
(1) An intergovernmental alliance formed to accelerate mangrove conservation and restoration globally.
(2) A binding international treaty with mandatory commitments on planting mangroves.
(3) Founded by the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia, later joined by India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
(4) Focused on raising awareness about mangroves as a nature-based solution to climate change.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only (B) 1, 3 and 4 only (C) 2 and 4 only (D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

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36. How many biodiversity hotspots are there in India?
(A) 2 (B) 3 (C) 4 (D) 5

VIII. The recent peace agreement signed between Armenia and its neighbour marks a hopeful turning point in resolving a longstanding regional conflict. Brokered by the United States, this accord represents a mutual commitment by both nations to respect territorial integrity and refrain from the use of force, signaling a significant reduction in decades of tensions.

The region at the heart of this conflict is mountainous and strategically important. Historically, the area has been a point of contention, with both parties asserting claims that date back to the early 20th century following significant geopolitical changes. A ceasefire in the 1990s resulted in a complex control arrangement, which has shifted in recent years due to renewed military actions. The United States, through its diplomatic efforts, has established a distinctive role in the region, gaining development rights to an important transit corridor. This corridor has implications for broader regional connectivity, facilitating trade and transport links across various countries. India has expressed support for the peace initiative, recognizing the potential for enhanced connectivity and economic collaboration in the area. The two nations involved in the agreement are also considered integral to a major international transport network critical to India's trade interests, especially regarding access to markets further north. Furthermore, India maintains strong bilateral relations with one of the countries involved, grounded in a treaty established in the mid-1990s, fostering cooperation in multiple spheres. Overall, the peace deal not only offers prospects for stability in a historically troubled region but also aligns with wider geopolitical and economic interests shared by global and regional actors. This development is poised to contribute positively to longstanding challenges and open new avenues for cooperation and growth.

37. Which two countries recently signed a US-brokered peace agreement over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?
(A) Armenia and Georgia
(B) Armenia and Azerbaijan
(C) Armenia and Turkey
(D) Armenia and Russia

38. India signed a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty with Armenia in which year?
(A) 1989 (B) 1991 (C) 1995 (D) 2001

39. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict first intensified after which historical event?
(A) Fall of the Ottoman Empire
(B) Collapse of the German Wall
(C) Breakup of the Soviet Union
(D) End of World War II

40. Which of the following best describes Nagorno-Karabakh?
(A) A coastal territory on the Black Sea under Armenia
(B) A mountainous, landlocked region in the South Caucasus
(C) A desert region between Georgia and Turkey
(D) A highland plateau in Central Asia

41. With reference to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements:
(1) It is a multi-modal transport corridor that combines road, rail and maritime routes.
(2) The legal framework for INSTC is provided by a trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran, and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(A) 1 only (B) 2 only (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

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42. The proposed International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) will NOT pass through which of these countries?
(A) Iran (B) Armenia (C) Azerbaijan (D) Georgia

IX. The Finance Ministry has informed Rajya Sabha that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) took up 5,892 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) since 2015 and secured the conviction of 15 people from these cases during the period. Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply: "In these cases, 1,398 Prosecution Complaints (PCs), including 353 Supplementary PCs have been filed before the respective Special Courts under PMLA. Out of which, so far, the Special Courts have framed charges in 300 Prosecution Complaints including 66 Supplementary PCs and the PMLA Special Courts have convicted 15 persons in eight conviction orders in these cases till June 30." The minlster said that the ED has filed closure reports before the special PMLA court in 49 of the total cases. In an annual report 2024-25, ED Director [X] said: "In the early years of administering PMLA, most cases pertained to drug-related offences. Till March 2014, only 1,883 Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIRs) had been registered — averaging fewer than 200 annually — and just 84 Prosecution Complaints (PCs) were filed, with assets under attachment only Rs 5,171.32 crore."

43. What has been redacted as [X] in the passage?
(A) Rahul Navin
(B) Sanjay Kumar Mishra
(C) Dr. Sridhar Srivastava
(D) Sonia Narang

44. Consider the following statement about money laundering -
I. It is the process of disguising illegal proceeds from criminal activities to make them appear legitimate, enabling criminals to enjoy profits without detection.
II. Money laundering involves placement, layering, and integration.
Which of the following statement is/are correct?
(A) I only (B) II only (C) Both I and II (D) Neither I nor II

45. Under PMLA, the punishment for the offence of money laundering is rigorous imprisonment for a minimum of:

(A) 3 years (extendable up to 7 years)
(B) 5 years (extendable up to 10 years)
(C) 7 years (extendable up to 12 years)
(D) 2 years (extendable up to 6 years)

46. Which of the following institutions is responsible for receiving information relating to suspicious financial transactions under PMLA?

(A) Enforcement Directorate
(B) Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
(C) Financial Intelligence Unit — India (FIU-IND)
(D) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

47. Consider the following statement about Enforcement Directorate.

I. It functions under the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance.

II. The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1^{st} May, 1956, when an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

(A) I only
(B) II only
(C) Both I and II
(D) Neither I nor II

X. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Thursday (August 21, 2025) termed the 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill a move to "weaken democracy" and urged the Union Government to reconsider the legislation. "The l30th Constitutional Amendment Bill, brought by the Central Government in Parliament yesterday (August 20, 2025) amidst a huge uproar, clearly appears to be one that weakens democracy in the country's current political climate," the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister posted on X. The public fears that ruling parties will mostly misuse it for their own gain, selfishness, and animosity. Therefore, our party does not agree with this Bill at all. It would be appropriate for the government to reconsider it in the interest of the country's democracy and the Constitution," the post adde on Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday (August 20, 2025) moved the Bill in the Lok Sabha, which seeks to allow for the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and other Ministers if they are arrested on serious charges for a period of 30 days.

48. Which Articles of the Constitution does the Bill propose to amend?

(A) Articles 14, 19, and 21
(B) Articles 75, 164, and 239AA
(C) Articles 80, 120, and 335
(D) Articles 32, 356, and 370

49. The Bill has been sent to which parliamentary body for further scrutiny?

(A) Select Committee of Rajya Sabha
(B) Joint Parliamentary Committee
(C) Standing Committee on Law & Justice
(D) Ethics Committee

50. A Minister can be removed from office if he is accused of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to:

(A) 10 years or more
(B) 7 years or more
(C) 5 years or more
(D) 3 years or more

51. l30th Constitution amendment bill will require which kind of majority to be passed from both the houses?

(A) Simple Majority
(B) Special Majority
(C) Special Majority with ratification of atleast half of states legislatures
(D) Effective Majority

52. The procedure for amending the Constitution was borrowed by India from which Country?

(A) USA
(B) UK
(C) Russia
(D) South Africa

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XI. Sections 269 and 270 of the Indian Penal Code, 1870, have been identically reproduced as Sections 271 and 272 of the BNS. These punish acts that are "likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life". Section 271 of the BNS, which carries a maximum punishment of six months imprisonment, punishes those who "negligently" commit such acts. Section 272 punishes those who do so "malignantly", implying that the accused intended to spread the infection. It carries a minimum punishment of six months imprisonment and a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment. Both are bailable offences. Under both provisions, the prosecution must establish that the infection is of a "disease dangerous to life" — ruling out non-lethal infections. It must also prove that the accused knew or "had reason to believe" that their action, whether negligent or malignant, may cause an infection to spread. These provisions were invoked frequently during the Covid-19 pandemic when several states used the threat of Sections 269 and 270 of the IPC to enforce lockdown orders. Another recent instance of these provisions being invoked was in March 2018, when the Health Ministry said that clinical establishments that fail to notify a tuberculosis patient to the nodal officer and local public health staff can be punished under Sections 269 and 270.

Courts have previously weighed in on how the provisions will apply, although they have limited themselves to deciding on such matters on a case-by-case basis — as opposed to laying down a test to apply across cases. In 1998, in the case of *Mr 'X' v. Hospital 'Z'* (2003), the Supreme Court held that Section 269 could not be invoked by one member of a married couple against another with AIDS if they "willingly" got married. Courts have also dealt with possible overlaps with other laws. In the case of *Shiv Kumar vs State Of Punjab* (2008), the Madras High Court held that no criminal action can be taken against the sale of'adulterated paneer' which does not meet the prescribed standards, as the issue would instead fall under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revisions) from an article titled, "Noida biryani case: the law against 'spread of deadly disease' that has been invoked", published in The Indian Express.

53. A well-known restaurant in a busy city market experiences a significant chemical leak in its kitchen due to the negligent maintenance of its storage facilities. As a result, several customers who dined at the restaurant that day suffer from severe food poisoning, and tragically, one customer succumbs to the illness. The local public health authorities, alarmed by the incident, consider initiating criminal proceedings against the restaurant owner under Section 271 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Given these facts, which of the following most accurately describes the owner's liability under Section 271 BNS?

(A) The owner is criminally liable under Section 271 because the act of negligence resulted in death and serious harm to public health.

(B) The owner is not criminally liable under Section 271 because, although the negligent act lead to death, there was no spread of infection involved.

(C) The owner is liable under Section 271 because any act of negligence that endangers public at large falls within the scope of this provision.

(D) The owner is not criminally liable under Section 271 because criminal liability requires proof of intent, not mere negligence.

54. A resident of a metropolitan city develops mild symptoms commonly associated with a seasonal cold, such as a runny nose and slight fever. Believing it to be a minor ailment, he chooses to treat himself at home with over-the-counter remedies and continues to attend his workplace, use public transport, and interact with others without wearing a mask or taking other precautions. A week later, the city experiences a sudden surge in COVID-19 cases, prompting mass precautionary testing. The resident tests positive for COVID-19, a disease classified as dangerous to life. Authorities contemplate prosecuting him under Section 271 of the BNS. Which of the following arguments would most effectively support his defence against criminal liability under Section 271 BNS?

(A) Having contracted the infection as well, he was a victim and not the source of the outbreak.

(B) He was unaware about the gravity of his symptoms.

(C) He took adequate precautions for his ailment and hence, cannot be held as negligent.

(D) He is not liable because he did not intentionally visit crowded places or large gatherings.

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55. At a large private hospital, the management fails to provide its medical staff with adequate protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, despite being aware of an ongoing outbreak of a highly infectious and life-threatening disease. Several employees subsequently contract the disease while performing their duties. When authorities initiate proceedings under Section 271 of the BNS against the hospital for negligently allowing the spread of a dangerous infection, the hospital's legal team argues that the employees voluntarily chose to work in such conditions and therefore, the hospital cannot be held liable for any resulting infections. Based on the legal principles discussed in the passage, which of the following best captures the correct legal position regarding the hospital's liability?

(A) The hospital cannot be held liable under Section 271 because the employees were aware of the risks and voluntarily undertook their duties.

(B) The hospital is not liable under Section 271 because contracting infections is a common occurrence for healthcare professionals.

(C) The hospital is liable under section 271 as the lack of equipment was owing to circumstances under the hospital's control.

(D) The hospital can be held liable under Section 271 as due to its negligence there was a likelihood of spreading the infection of a disease dangerous to life.

56. A group of individuals, seeking to sabotage a major sports tournament, deliberately infects a key player of a leading team with a highly infectious but easily curable disease in order to force several important players into mandatory quarantine and recovery, thereby weakening the team and causing them to lose crucial matches. A few players test positive, step away from competition, and the team suffers a significant defeat, leading to substantial financial and reputational losses. After the plot is uncovered, authorities consider prosecuting the perpetrators. Based on the legal provisions and concepts described in the passage, which of the following best reflects the liability of the attackers?

(A) The team management is liable under Section 271 owing to their negligent failure to safeguard the players.

(B) The attackers are liable under Section 272 because they intentionally spread an infectious disease leading to major losses.

(C) The attackers are not liable under Section 272 because there was no threat to the life of any player.

(D) The attackers are not liable under Section 272 because the spread was limited to a few players and not to the public at large.

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57. Which of the following statement(s) cannot be certainly concluded from the passage?

(1) The punishment for negligently and malignantly spreading an infection dangerous to life under the BNS is the same.

(2) The invocation of these provisions during the Covid-19 pandemic led to a significant reduction in the spread of the disease.

(3) Sale of adulterated food products that could spread dangerous infections is always prosecuted exclusively under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(A) 1 and 2
(B) 1, 2 and 3
(C) Only 2
(D) Only 3

58. Which of the following statement(s) can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?

(1) In the context of spreading dangerous infections, the policy is to treat intent and negligence similarly.

(2) During public health crises like the Covid-19 pandemic, the state can rely on criminal law as a tool for enforcing public health measures.

(3) Courts are exercising a narrow approach in criminalizing conduct related to disease transmission instead of giving a broad application principle.

(A) 1 and 2
(B) 2 and 3
(C) Only 1
(D) Only 3

XII. The Indian Penal Code, 1860 recognizes multiple modes of constructive or vicarious criminal liability. Among these, Section 34, Section 149, and Section I 20B are the primary provisions that deal with group or shared criminal conduct, each with distinct legal thresholds. Section 34 IPC states: "When a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone." This provision requires: (1) Common intention, which is a prior meeting of minds, or at least, a pre-arranged plan. (2) Participation in the act: While not necessarily equal, some degree of active involvement in the commission of the offence is essential. Mere presence at the crime scene is insufficient unless it indicates participation or support. (3) There must be a criminal act carried out in furtherance of the common intention.

In contrast, Section 149 IPC reads: "If an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly, or such as the members knew was likely to be committed, every person who, at the time of the committing of that offence, is a member of the same assembly, is guilty of that offence." Key features include: An assembly of five or more persons is designated an "unlawful assembly", if the common object of the persons composing that assembly is to commit an offence or use criminal force. The focus is on the common object of the assembly, not individual intention. There is no requirement of active participation or knowledge of the exact act. Liability arises merely by virtue of membership in an unlawful assembly (defined under Section 141 IPC). Even if the actual offender's conduct deviates slightly from the original object, other members may still be liable if the act was reasonably foreseeable. Thus, Section 34 is based on shared intention and overt acts, whereas Section 149 is based on common object and presence in an unlawful assembly.

Additionally, Section 120B IPC governs criminal conspiracy, defined under Section l20A as: "When two or more persons agree to do, or cause to be done—(a) an illegal act, or (b) an act which is not illegal by illegal means." Illegal act includes an offence, an act which is prohibited by law, or an act which furnishes ground for a civil action.

Key features include: Agreement is the core—no act needs to be committed if the object is to commit an offence. Overt act is only necessary when the agreement is for a non-offence. Participation in the actual commission is not required for liability.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled, 'Difference Between 'Common Intention' (S.34 IPC) & 'Common Object' (S.149 IPC): Supreme Court Explains with Illustrations', published at The Legal School.

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59. Three persons, Aryan, Bhushan, and Chandan decide to rob a bank after mutually discussing and agreeing upon a specific plan. During the robbery, Aryan enters the bank, Bhushan remains stationed at the entrance to alert Aryan of any danger, and Chandan stays in the getaway car, ready to flee. Aryan, while robbing the bank, shoots and kills a bank employee who was resisting him in committing robbery. Bhushan and Chandan claim they should not be held liable for murder as they neither shot nor intended to kill anyone. Can Bhushan and Chandan be legally held liable for the murder committed by Aryan?

(A) No, as their original intention was robbery, not murder.

(B) Yes, because they participated actively and the murder occurred in furtherance of their common intention.

(C) No, because mere presence at the crime scene does not amount to participation under Section 34 IPC.

(D) Yes, because under Section 34 IPC, anyone associated with the principal offender automatically shares liability, regardless of intention or participation.

60. Suppose in the previous question that Chandan genuinely believed they were only planning a peaceful protest outside the bank, unaware of Aryan and Bhushan's actual intention to commit robbery. When Aryan commits the robbery and murder, Chandan simply remains present nearby, doing nothing actively. Would this new fact strengthen, weaken, or have no effect on Chandan's criminal liability for robbery on the basis of Section 34 IPC?

(A) Strengthen, because presence at the crime scene establishes liability under Section 34 IPC.

(B) Strengthen, because ignorance of the criminal plan conclusively proves liability under Section 34 IPC.

(C) No effect, because Section 34 IPC liability arises purely from physical presence at the crime scene.

(D) Weaken, because Chandan's lack of common intention and participation reduces his liability on the basis of Section 34 IPC.

61. A group of ten individuals gathers to protest against a government policy. Initially, the protest is peaceful, but five members become violent and begin damaging property. During the violence, one of the violent protestors assaults and grievously injures a bystander. The remaining five peaceful protestors remained present in the group even when from the first act of violence, they could anticipate that the violent protestors can cause harm to anybody but they did not engage in or support violence. The prosecution charges all ten under Section 149 IPC as they constituted unlawful assembly. According to the passage provided, is charging the five peaceful protestors legally valid under Section 149 IPC?

(A) No, because mere presence in an assembly without actively supporting violence cannot attract liability under Section 149 IPC.

(B) No, because Section 149 IPC requires active participation by each accused.

(C) Yes, because Section 149 IPC makes every member present liable for any offence committed by any member of an unlawful assembly.

(D) Yes, because anyone who participates in a protest automatically becomes liable for acts of violence committed by other participants.

62. Suppose in the previous question that subsequent evidence shows that the five peaceful protestors explicitly distanced themselves by immediately leaving and publicly condemning the violence as soon as it began. With these substituted facts, would charging the five peaceful protestors under Section 149 IPC still remain legally valid?

(A) Yes, because initial presence automatically establishes liability under Section 149 IPC.

(B) No, because the facts disprove continued membership of them in the unlawful assembly, removing their liability under Section 149 IPC.

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(C) Yes, because withdrawing and condemning violence after the violence has commenced has no bearing on liability under Section 149 IPC.

(D) No, because under Section 149 IPC, once a member leaves the scene, liability is retrospectively invalidated.

63. Which of the following can be inferred about Sections 34, 149, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code?

(A) Section 34 imposes liability solely based on membership in a group, without requiring active participation or shared intention.

(B) Section 149 requires proof of a prior agreement to commit an offence, similar to Section I 20B.

(C) Section 120B creates criminal liability even if no act is committed, as long as there is an agreement to commit an offence.

(D) All three sections require actual participation in the commission of the criminal act to attract liability.

64. In which of the following scenarios would Vidhan be held liable under Section 149 IPC?

(A) Vidhan merely stands near the scene of a crime without knowing any plan or engaging in any action.

(B) Vidhan and another individual agree to commit theft and are caught before attempting any act in furtherance of it.

(C) Five people including Vidhan plan a murder and then go to his place where one stabs the person while other were restraining the victim.

(D) Six individuals were assaulting a person when Vidhan joined them and stood there with them while they assaulted him.

XIII. The Directive principles of State policy possess two characteristics. Firstly, they are not directly enforceable in any court and, therefore, if a directive is not implemented by the State, its implementation cannot be secured through judicial proceedings. This characteristic has been diluted in practice by court decisions which have enforced some of the directive principles which complemented the related fundamental rights. Secondly, they are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws. The expression "laws" must be construed in a generic sense and should include all normative exercise of power including decision making. Directive principles should be understood as positive obligations of the State. They comprise principles which require the State to do something.

Since the directive principles are not enforceable by any court, it has been advocated that they are not law, much less constitutional law and, therefore, their non—observance by the State does not entail any legal consequences. It was contested that the Directive principles of State policy have to conform to and run as subsidiary to the chapter of fundamental rights because the latter are enforceable in courts while the former are not. But such a view has been negated for reasons that being a part of the same Constitution, fundamental rights and Directive principles are equally important and neither of them is superior or inferior to the other; rather both are supplementary and complementary to each other and must be construed harmoniously. The Supreme Court in Kesvanandan Bharti case said that Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles aim at the same goal of bringing about a social revolution and establishment of a Welfare State and they can be interpreted and applied together. However, for the welfare of the State, sometimes Supreme Court can give preference to the law based on Directive principle over some fundamental rights of the individual if such overarching effect of such law would be beneficial for the overall society and in such cases the Supreme Court would not declare the law unconstitutional and to be in violation of fundamental rights.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled, 'Directive Principles of State Policy' published at Legal Service India.

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65. Article 39(d) of the Constitution, a part of the Directive principles of State policy, states that "there shall be equal pay for equal work for both men and women". Article 15(1), a part of the fundamental rights, states that "the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them." Vidhaan and Vidhi are employees of the State government, appointed on the same day to the same post. One day while having lunch they discussed their salaries and Vidhi came to know that Vidhaan was being paid more than her. She took the matter to her superiors and claimed that her fundamental right under Article 15(1) was being violated. However, her superiors claimed that they were not required to give men and women equal pay as that was a part of directive principles and therefore, not enforceable. On the basis of your reading of the passage, which of the following statements is true?

I. Although equal pay for equal work for both men and women is a directive principle, it needs to be read with the fundamental right of non—discrimination on the basis of sex on the basis of which Vidhaan and Vidhi need to be paid the same.

II. Directive principles of state policy are not enforceable principles and therefore, Vidhi cannot claim that her superiors ensure that there is equal pay for equal work for Vidhaan and herself.

III. Vidhi can ask the courts for a direction to make her office follow the directive in Article 39(d) of the Constitution.

(A) Both I and III
(B) Only II
(C) Only I
(D) Both II and III

66. Suppose the Government enacts a law based on Directive Principles under Article 39(b) — that the ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as best to serve the common good — and Article 39(c) — that the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production detrimental to the common good — which prohibits business monopolies. This law aims at the welfare of the State but appears to restrict the fundamental right to practise any profession or carry on any occupation, trade, or business. Would the Supreme Court declare such a law unconstitutional?

(A) Yes, because the fundamental right takes precedence over Directive Principles.

(B) Yes, because such a circumstance does not meet the condition to give preference to Directive Principles over fundamental rights.

(C) No, because the law serves the overall welfare of society, which is sufficient ground to uphold its constitutionality.

(D) No, because enactment of a law implementing Directive Principles automatically gives it overriding effect over fundamental rights.

67. Which of the following statement(s) cannot be inferred in the light of the legal principle provided in the passage?

I. The current position with respect to the relation of Fundamental right and Directive principles is uncertain.

II. Though the Directive Principles are positive obligation over the State, the state cannot be made bound to enact law on it.

III. The law based on Directive principle with the motive of welfare of greater section cannot in any case be given preference over a person's fundamental right as it is an enforceable right.

(A) Only I (B) Both II and III

(C) Only III (D) Both I and III

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XIV. The Income-Tax Bill, 2025, introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13, 2025, proposes to replace the Income-Tax Act, 1961 with a simplified and modernised framework, without altering the core structure of taxation law. Most definitions, tax regimes for individuals and corporations, penalty provisions, and procedural aspects remain intact. The Bill primarily focuses on refining the legal language, removing redundant provisions, and enhancing procedural efficiency. It is scheduled to come into effect from April 1, 2026.

One of the key features of the new Bill is the empowerment of the central government to frame schemes that promote faceless assessment and eliminate physical interface between taxpayers and authorities. These schemes aim to optimise resource utilisation through functional specialisation and ensure greater transparency and accountability. Importantly, all schemes notified under this provision must be laid before Parliament for scrutiny, ensuring legislative oversight.

The Bill also expands the scope of undisclosed income, particularly in the context of search proceedings. While the 1961 Act included money, bullion, jewelry, and other valuables, the 2025 Bill adds virtual digital assets to this list. These include cryptographically generated tokens, numbers, or codes representing digital value. This amendment mirrors a similar proposal in the Finance Bill, 2025, and marks a significant shift in how digital assets are treated under income tax law.

To further enhance enforcement in the digital age, the Bill allows tax authorities to access virtual digital spaces during search and seizure operations. This includes email servers, social media accounts, trading platforms, and online storage platforms. Authorities may also override access codes where necessary. The inclusion of a definition for “virtual digital space” broadens the investigative capabilities of the department in cases of tax evasion involving digital platforms.

In terms of dispute resolution, the Bill retains the mechanism of referring draft orders to a Dispute Resolution Panel for eligible assessees, such as foreign companies or those involved in transfer pricing. However, it now mandates that the panel must provide specific points of determination and give reasons for its directions, ensuring transparency in the assessment process.

Finally, the Bill clarifies the interpretation of tax treaty terms. If a term in a tax treaty is undefined both in the treaty and in the Income-Tax Act, its meaning will be as notified by the central government. If no such notification exists, the term will be interpreted in accordance with any other central law. This addition provides a hierarchical framework for treaty interpretation and resolves ambiguity in cross-border taxation scenarios.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled, 'The Income-tax Bill, 2025', published at PRS India.

68. During a search operation at the residence of Mr. Vidyut, the income-tax authorities seize certain digital tokens representing substantial monetary value. These tokens were stored in his digital wallet and not previously disclosed in his income tax returns. Mr. Vidyut argues that virtual digital assets do not fall within the scope of undisclosed income under existing income-tax laws. According to the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, is Mr. Vidyut's argument legally valid?

(A) Yes, because digital tokens are not explicitly recognized as undisclosed income under the Income-Tax Bill, 2025.

(B) Yes, because virtual digital assets are only taxable if explicitly declared as income by the taxpayer beforehand.

(C) No, because the 2025 Bill explicitly includes virtual digital assets as undisclosed income during search proceedings.

(D) No, because digital tokens were already covered under bullion and jewellery in the 1961 Act.

69. Suppose the Central Government frames a faceless assessment scheme under the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, but does not place the scheme before Parliament for scrutiny. Later, a taxpayer challenges the validity of an assessment made under this scheme on procedural grounds. Would the Central Government's failure to lay the scheme before Parliament strengthen, weaken, or have no effect on the taxpayer's procedural challenge?

(A) Strengthen, because laying the scheme before Parliament is mandatory under the Bill, ensuring legislative oversight.

(B) Weaken, because the Central Government has absolute discretion over framing procedural schemes without parliamentary scrutiny.

(C) No effect, because parliamentary oversight is optional under the new Income-Tax Bill, 2025.

(D) Weaken, because faceless assessments are inherently valid and independent of parliamentary oversight.

70. Tax authorities conducting a search on the business premises of Vidyan Enterprises suspect evasion through digital platforms. The authorities attempt to access and seize information from Vidyan Enterprises' encrypted email server and cloud storage. Vidyan Enterprises objects, arguing that such digital access exceeds the legal authority of the income-tax officials under the Income-Tax Bill, 2025. Based on the provisions of the Bill, is the objection raised by Vidyan Enterprises legally valid?

(A) Yes, because tax authorities can only search physical premises under the Bill, not virtual digital spaces.

(B) No, because the Bill explicitly permits tax authorities to access and seize digital information stored on email servers and cloud storage platforms.

(C) Yes, because digital access is allowed only if explicit consent is obtained from the taxpayer.

(D) No, because such digital access has been explicitly permitted since the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

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71. Suppose in the previous question, upon further inquiry, it is found that tax authorities not only accessed Vidyan Enterprises' email server and cloud storage but also forcibly obtained passwords from employees to gain immediate access without prior notice or formal approval from senior officials. Considering these additional facts, is the tax authorities' conduct legally justified under the Income-Tax Bill, 2025?

(A) No, because digital searches always require prior consent of the taxpayer under the provisions of the Bill.

(B) No, because forcible extraction of passwords from employees without prior formal authorization exceeds the investigative powers granted under the Bill.

(C) Yes, since the Bill permits unrestricted access to digital spaces during any tax evasion inquiry.

(D) Yes, because overriding access codes and passwords is explicitly permitted where necessary during authorized searches under the Bill.

72. Which of the following can be inferred from the provisions and objectives of The Income-Tax Bill, 2025?

(A) The Bill introduces major structural reforms in the taxation of individuals and corporations by overhauling existing definitions and regimes.

(B) The Bill eliminates the dispute resolution mechanism for foreign companies and transfer pricing cases.

(C) The Bill enhances procedural transparency through faceless assessments and requires parliamentary scrutiny of notified schemes.

(D) The Bill treats digital assets like cryptocurrencies as non-taxable, keeping them outside the scope of search and seizure.

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73. Which of the following scenarios best comply with the provisions of The Income-Tax Bill, 2025?

(A) A taxpayer is physically summoned to the Income Tax Department office for assessment, and the assessment is completed through face-to-face interaction.

(B) A foreign company receives a draft assessment order involving transfer pricing issues, and the Dispute Resolution Panel issues a decision without explaining its reasoning.

(C) During a tax raid, authorities access a taxpayer's online crypto wallet after overriding the device's security measures.

(D) A term used in a tax treaty is not defined in either the treaty or Indian law, and the taxpayer insists it must be interpreted according to international accounting standards.

XV. In India, many girls are married off early and bear children long before they should. This triggers a state of poor maternal health. There is also the possibility of a marriage not working out for varied reasons, leaving the girl or the young woman in extreme distress because often she is not financially independent. Parliament has persistently enacted legislations to give women better rights. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution provides that "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them" but under Article 15(3), it states that 'nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children'. Further, another key constitutional safeguard is provided by Article 39, which directs state policy towards equal pay and equality of opportunities for both men and women, and protecting the health of women and children. The Supreme Court leaned on these two Articles, and a host of other laws, while hearing a dispute between a Mumbai-based couple, and set down comprehensive guidelines on alimony. The court ruled that an abandoned wife and children will be entitled to 'maintenance' from the date she applies for it in a court of law.

The court specified that, in alimony cases, consideration should be given to the "reasonable and current needs" of the wife and any dependent minor children. It also noted that an application for alimony may be rejected if the wife possesses strong educational qualifications and has an independent source of income sufficient for her own sustenance. Given the large and growing percentage of matrimonial litigation, some clarity was necessary. Cases are known to drag on and acquire cobwebs, worsening the misery for vulnerable women. The Court laid down that while women can make a claim for alimony from their husbands under different laws, which bring into reality the constitutional mandates, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Section 125 of the CrPC, or the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, it would be inequitable to direct the husband to pay maintenance under each of the proceedings", urging civil and family courts to take note of previous settlements. Perhaps keeping in mind the vastness of India and its inequities, the Court also added how an "order or decree of maintenance" may be enforced under various laws as well as Section 128 of the CrPC. For women in India, especially the poor who are often overlooked in discourses, the top court's words that maintenance laws will mean little if they do not prevent dependent wives and children from "falling into destitution and vagrancy", offer a glimmer of hope.

Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled, 'Alimony Guidelines: On Maintenance Laws', published at 'The Hindu'.

74. Which of the following statement(s) would not be true in line with the legal principles explained in the passage?

(A) The State can do positive discrimination in favour of woman and children as per the Constitution.

(B) The Acts as mentioned in the passage do not abide with the mandate provided under Article 15.

(C) Any subsequent petition for alimony under different Act would require to take into consideration any previous alimony granted under different Act.

(D) Filing date would be considered the date from which the right to get alimony by a wife would accrue against her husband.

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75. Vidhaan and Vidhi, who were dating since college moved into a common house and shared the place and all its expenses. They were not legally married but pretended to be married in front of their neighbours. One day Vidhaan after beating Vidhi, abandoned her. The neighbour suggests that she should file for alimony from Vidhaan as per the Supreme Court judgment. Decide.

(A) She would be entitled to get alimony from the date of filing of application.

(B) She would be entitled to get alimony after the case is decided in favour of her.

(C) She won't be entitled to alimony as the Supreme Court ruling won't apply on her.

(D) It would depend on which judge of the Court is on the deciding bench.

76. Vidhaan and Vidhi, who were dating since college, got married in 2010. Vidhi was employed in a high-paying corporate job, while Vidhaan was a homemaker, and took tuition classes of 3 students at home. Due to issues of incompatibility that became apparent over time, Vidhi abandoned Vidhaan. Vidhaan, being aggrieved, approached the relevant authority under the Code of Criminal Procedure praying that Vidhi provides maintenance to him. On the basis of the passage, would the claim of Vidhan be sustainable?

(A) Yes, because Vidhi was qualified and he was dependent on her.

(B) Yes, because Vidhaan did not have sufficient means to live without Vidhi.

(C) Both (A) and (B).

(D) None of the above.

77. A woman files for maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC. During the proceedings, it is established that she has been living in adultery and has left the marital home without any sufficient reason. She is also earning a substantial income and is financially independent. What is the most likely outcome?

(A) The court will grant her maintenance because she is legally married to her husband.

(B) The court will deny her maintenance claim because she is living in adultery and has left the marital home without sufficient reason

(C) The court will deny her maintenance claim because she is financially independent.

(D) Both (B) and (C)

78. A young woman, Vidhi, recently abandoned by her husband, approaches the court for maintenance. During the proceedings, it is revealed that she possesses a postgraduate degree and has been offered a well-paying job but has not yet accepted it, citing the need to care for her 3 months old child. The husband's counsel argues that her educational qualifications and job offer indicate she does not require maintenance. The woman, however, insists that her current lack of income and her caregiving responsibilities justify her claim. Drawing only from the principles and reasoning described in the passage, what is the most likely approach the court will take in determining her eligibility for maintenance?

(A) The court will categorically deny her maintenance on the basis of her educational qualifications and job offer.

(B) The court will focus exclusively on the husband's financial capacity to pay, without regard to the woman's qualifications or job prospects.

(C) The court will take into consideration her "reasonable needs," current lack of income and caregiving responsibilities.

(D) The court will require her to accept the job before considering her maintenance application.

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XVI. Biometric identifiers-faces, fingerprints, iris scans and voiceprints-sit at the epicentre of today's privacy debate because, unlike passwords, they are immutable. Legislatures have therefore begun grafting a right to erasure onto data-protection regimes so that individuals may purge databases of their biometric templates. The European Union leads: Article 17 of the GDPR codifies the "right to be forgotten," entitling a data subject to compel deletion unless retention is necessary for compliance with Union or Member-State law. The rule applies squarely to biometric data, which Article 4(14) defines as personal data generated from physiological or behavioural traits. The United States lacks a federal analogue, but a patchwork of state statutes offers robust relief. Illinois's Biometric Information Privacy Act, 2008 (BIPA) bars collection of biometrics without written consent and grants a private right of action that can culminate in deletion orders. Texas's Capture or Use of Biometric Identifiers Act, 2009 (CUBI) imposes similar duties on businesses operating in the state, while Washington's H.B. 1493 (2017) mandates notice and prohibits indefinite retention. California goes further: §1798.105 of the California Consumer Privacy Act / CPRA empowers residents to demand destruction of any personal information-biometric data included-and the forthcoming California Delete Act 2026 will allow a single, centralised request to purge data brokers' files en masse.

India's new Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 creates a functional equivalent through Section 12, which obliges a "data fiduciary" to erase personal data, biometric or otherwise, when consent is withdrawn or the stated purpose achieved, save where another statute requires retention. The provision must be read with the Supreme Court's decision in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), where a nine-judge bench constitutionalised informational privacy under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 and required any restriction to satisfy proportionality. Earlier, in Sri Vasunathan v. Registrar-General (2017), the Karnataka High Court anticipated this trajectory by recognising a judicial power to redact personal data from the public domain in sensitive cases, aligning domestic jurisprudence with the EU's Google Spain ruling. Taken together, GDPR Article 17, BIPA, CUBI, Washington H.B. 1493, CCPA §1798.105, the Delete Act, and India's DPDPA §12 form an emerging trans-jurisdictional consensus: biometric data deserve heightened safeguards and, once the justificatory ground evaporates, the

individual's prerogative to compel deletion must prevail over institutional appetite for perpetual retention.
Source: Extracted (with edits and revision) from an article titled 'Safeguarding Privacy: Implementing the Right to Be Forgotten for Biometric Data, published at Manupatra.

79. Vidit Sharma, a freelance journalist based in Bengaluru, consented to a private news platform collecting his voiceprint and facial recognition data to verify his identity for a remote documentary series. Two years later, after the series ended, Vidit sent a request demanding erasure of his biometric data, citing personal privacy concerns. The platform refused, stating that its data policy allows indefinite retention for archival and documentary purposes and that biometric data linked to published journalistic content is not subject to deletion requests. Vidit approaches the High Court under Indian data protection law and seeks recognition of his right to erasure. Which of the following best reflects the correct legal position?

(A) The platform's retention policy is valid since archival and documentary purposes require indefinite retention, and Section 12 allows deletion only after the stated purpose is achieved.

(B) Vidit has a strong claim as the stated purpose for which his data was collected no longer exists, and no statutory retention exception applies.

(C) The platform may retain the data if it can prove that erasure would disproportionately affect its constitutional freedom of press and information under Article 19(1)(a).

(D) Vidit's right to erasure is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) and 21, and hence enforceable only against the state and not private parties.

80. Assume in the previous question that after Vidit filed his petition, the platform submitted an affidavit stating that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a government department, under which certain archived interviews-including biometric data-were being preserved for a publicly funded documentary archive. The department pointed to an internal circular requiring such records to be retained for a minimum of five years. The platform claimed that this constituted a lawful ground for retention under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. How does this development affect Vidit's claim for erasure?

(A) Vidit's right to erasure remains valid, as a circular or MoU does not qualify as a statutory retention requirement under Section 12.

(B) The government circular constitutes an adequate legal basis for retention, overriding Vidit's right to erasure under Section 12.

(C) Since the data relates to a public archive, it falls outside the definition of personal data subject to erasure.

(D) Vidit's claim is weakened, as it has been established in Puttaswamy that right to privacy has to be balanced with broader public interest that requires retention.

81. Vidisha Kapoor, an Indian researcher living in Germany, participated in a university-funded neuroscience study that used facial scans and voice samples to analyse emotional reactions to digital stimuli. During the study, she requested deletion of her biometric records, citing her rights under the GDPR. The university declined, stating that (i) the data was stored securely in pseudonymised form, (ii) further analysis was ongoing, and (iii) no EU or Member-State law specifically required deletion. Which of the following best represents the legal position under GDPR?

(A) The university's refusal is valid because no provision in the GDPR, as described, mandates deletion unless there is an explicit retention prohibition.

(B) The university may continue to retain the data since ongoing analysis qualifies as an extended purpose under GDPR's academic research exception.

(C) Vidisha's right to deletion does not apply because pseudonymised data falls outside the protection scope of GDPR Article 17.

(D) Vidisha's request is likely valid under Article 17, as the right to be forgotten applies to biometric data.

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82. Vidisha downloads an Illinois-based fitness app that collects voiceprints and facial data to verify users during login. She signs a standard user agreement but later withdraws her consent, citing privacy concerns and requesting deletion of her biometric information. The company responds that such deletion is not standard policy unless required by government regulation. Vidisha invokes her rights under Illinois's Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA), 2008. Which of the following best reflects her legal position under Illinois law?

(A) Vidisha may compel deletion, as BIPA prohibits biometric data collection without consent and provides a private right to enforce erasure.

(B) The company may retain the data unless the Illinois Attorney General issues a deletion order under BIPA.

(C) The company's refusal is valid, as BIPA applies only to physical biometric access systems, not apps.

(D) Vidisha's withdrawal of consent must be accompanied by a statutory violation for deletion to be enforceable.

83. Which of the following statement(s) can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?

(1) The primary motivation behind these legal provisions is to facilitate commercial innovation by reducing the regulatory burden on businesses handling biometric data.

(2) Immutability of biometric identifiers is the principal reason for the prioritization of their protection in recent legal reforms.

(3) Judicial recognition of the right to redact personal data in sensitive cases aligns Indian law with European standards.

(A) 1, 2 and 3

(B) 1 and 3

(C) Only 3

(D) 2 and 3

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84. All of the following scenarios comply with the emerging trans-jurisdictional legal framework governing the erasure of biometric data, except:

(A) A California resident requests a data broker to delete all stored biometric information under the California Consumer Privacy Act; the broker declines, arguing that biometric data are not covered unless collected directly from the individual.

(B) An Indian citizen withdraws consent for the use of their fingerprint data after a background check is completed. The data fiduciary deletes the data, citing Section 12 of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

(C) A company in Illinois collects employee iris scans for attendance monitoring purposes, without written consent. The employees on suing the company under the Biometric Information Privacy Act got the same deleted.

(D) A subject in the European Union invokes Article 17 of the GDPR to compel a private company to erase their facial recognition data, as the original contractual purpose has ended and no statutory retention obligation applies.

XVII. The Supreme Court's order in State of Haryana vs Ali Khan Mahmudabad ought to send a chill down the spine of those who care for constitutional values. Their Lordships, mercifully, granted bail to Professor Khan. His arrest is scandalous even by our low standards of civil liberties protection. But the order, even in granting relief, will have the effect of undermining free speech protections. We are now in a constitutional regime in which even the Court's philanthropic benevolence in granting bail (and that is what bail has become) lays the groundwork for further oppression.

The Court has also appointed a three-person SIT, of IPS officers in this case. Now, an SIT may be something the parties desire to aid the investigation. The culture of our adjudication encourages thèse legal travesties. But think of the macabrely comic situation of three senior police officers having to decode some esoteric dog whistle in a two-paragraph post as if it were some piece of cryptography. H M Seervai once caustically remarked on a judge that “he knows neither law nor English”. We assume that our current Lordships know both the law and English. They are supremely competent to decide within five minutes what the plain meaning or ambiguities of Khan's post might have been, and whether it was on the right side of the law. That they chose to go through the arduous route of an SIT rather than call a spade a spade, which falls within their authority, indicates two things: First, it actually shifts the presumption of innocence. It is a way of saying that if you so much as exercise your constitutional rights, it is you, the citizen, who will have to prove your innocence. The reference to a possible dog whistle in Khan's post itself shifts this presumption, and gives an indication that the Court wants to give a much longer rope to the state than it wants to give to the defendant.

The SC's jurisprudence on Article 19 has been, let us say without dog whistling, inconsistent at best. But in some ways, it is getting worse. It is a platitude that there is no such thing as absolute free speech. But the restrictions on speech have to be, even in Indian law, very narrowly tailored to things such as very evident incitement and disruption of public order. Two, shifts in legal culture are dangerous — they have enabled the requirement that free speech is only for “virtuous” speech. This is not the occasion to litigate the merits of Khan's post. The issue is not his merit, but his rights. As a matter of debate, in the public sphère, people may very well judge thèse posts to be ill-advised or unpatriotic. It is their right to do so. But as a constitutional and legal matter, it ought to be worrying when plaintiffs are almost forced to prove that their speech has patriotic merit. In fact, there is no bigger dog whistle than the state looking for patriotic merit in speech and for every citizen to prove that they are patriotic. For one thing, patriotism is a nebulous object. Who sets the standard? Under current standards, I am pretty sure Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and possibly even B R Ambedkar would have, at various moments, been deemed unpatriotic. In some ways, by shifting the terrain to patriotism, the Court is, consciously or unconsciously, legitimising an ideology, not protecting speech or liberty. It is not the Court's job to be the schoolmaster of patriotism.

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85. Which of the following is the primary critique the author levels against the Supreme Court's handling of Professor Khan's bail, as described in the passage?
(A) The Court's procedural interventions serve as effective safeguards against arbitrary detention.
(B) The Court, by imposing onerous bail conditions, effectively punishes the accused despite lack of proven guilt.
(C) The Court appropriately balances national security and free speech by granting conditional bail.
(D) The Court's use of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) ensures independent fact-finding.

86. The author states, “It is also no secret that due process is the punishment.” Which of these most nearly represents the underlying assumption?
(A) All procedural safeguards are inherently oppressive.
(B) The process of legal investigation itself can be so burdensome that it constitutes a penalty even in the absence of a guilty verdict.
(C) Only convictions, not pre-tria1 restrictions, constitute real punishment.
(D) Judicial discretion is immune from criticism in India.

87. Based on the passage, which consequence does the author most likely foresee if courts increasingly require those accused of controversial speech to “prove their innocence”?
(A) An enhanced respect for judicial processes.
(B) A reinforcement of the fundamental rights of accused individuals.
(C) A reversal of the traditional presumption of innocence, chilling free speech.
(D) Swift exonerations and a decline in misuse of sedition laws.

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88. Why does the author criticize the Supreme Court's decision to appoint a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in this case?
(A) Because referring the case to the SIT allows the Court to avoid directly upholding or denying the rights involved.
(B) Because the judges believe the SIT is better equipped than the Court to understand free speech cases.
(C) Because involving the SIT would safeguard the professor's rights more effectively.
(D) Because police officers were considered less competent than judges in interpreting speech.

89. The passage states, “Free speech is only for ‘virtuous’ speech.” From this, what logical problem does the author identify in recent Court practices?
(A) The Court refuses to judge speech as virtuous or otherwise.
(B) All ambiguous speech is automatically outside the protection of Article 19.
(C) Legal standards have upheld only virtuous speech, so this is just continuity.
(D) Constitutionally, the content of speech (virtue or patriotism) cannot be a valid basis for legal protection.

90. Assume a new judicial ruling says, “All controversial speech must be reviewed by a government-appointed committee for patriotism before publication.”
Which policy outcome is less objectionable than the Court's approach in the passage —but still inconsistent with the author's ideal of free speech?
(A) The committee only issues non-binding advisories; citizens can publish regardless of committee opinion.
(B) The committee must pre-approve all public speech, but its composition includes civil society members and retired judges.
(C) Courts provide post-publication review, but speech is presumptively legal unless proven otherwise.
(D) The government issues annual reports on the state of free expression but cannot bar or review speech directly.

XVIII. If you've struggled to fall asleep, you may have tried a slew of tips and tricks: blackout shades, leaving your phone in another room, avoiding screens before bed, and keeping your room at a cool temperature at night. Perhaps you've indulged in new sheets or a special mattress or a wearable sleep tracker, too.

Maybe these things have helped. Maybe they haven't. But there's another, more powerful approach to insomnia that's based on decades of research—and you might not even have heard of it. It works by changing our habits, questioning ideas that degrade our sleep, and bolstering our body's sleep drive. If its name is a bit of a mouthful, or its acronym a bit obscure, it makes up for it by sheer effectiveness, helping most people with insomnia slumber more contentedly. This treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, or CBT-I, is recommended by experts as the first and best treatment for insomnia, over and above sleeping pills, in part because its benefits last longer, compared to medications. It helps people fall asleep faster, spend more of the night sleeping, and feel happier with their sleep. And most people, in any case, say they'd rather try behavior change for insomnia versus a drug (which is perhaps why all those wellness sleep-hygiene tips persist). As a psychiatrist who has done extra training in sleep medicine, I've seen CBT-I work.

About 10 percent of U.S. adults—or about 25 million people—suffer from insomnia, giving CBT-I vast potential. But there's a bottleneck: Traditionally, a clinical psychologist or therapist with extra training in CBT -I delivers the treatment over the course of multiple one-on-one sessions. Yet, there were just 659 behavioral sleep specialists throughout the entire U.S. as of 2016 (the most recent survey I know of). And fewer than 10 percent of clinical psychology training programs teach CBT-I. So there just aren't enough providers—not close to enough. The good news is that the core strategies of CBT-I still work when delivered by a digital app, or even, to an extent, by self-help booklets. So anyone who puts these principles into practice is likely to get some relief—maybe even someone reading this article.

The "cognitive" element—the C in CBT-I—seeks to dispel unrealistic ideas about sleep, pessimism about our power to improve our sleep, and the rush to blame sleep problems when we don't feel good. The theory is that certain beliefs—like the idea that we need eight hours, or that a bad night's sleep guarantees a lousy next day—worsen worries about sleep. These worries seem to activate our stress system and make it harder to fall asleep and stay asleep, triggering a vicious cycle of pessimism about sleep that makes sleep poorer. CBT-I tries to put a stop to this. It really is a myth, by the way, that everyone needs their eight hours.

Which of the following presents a logical paradox most relevant to the passage?

(E) People with insomnia often know behavioral methods work better, yet still prefer medication.
(F) Insomnia patients often sleep more than they think, yet still feel exhausted.
(G) CBT-I requires trained professionals, but people seek quick fixes.
(H) People believe lack of sleep makes them feel worse, but this belief itself worsens sleep.

91. Which of the following best expresses the primary contention of the author?
(A) Sleep trackers and blackout shades are generally ineffective.
(B) Insomnia is an overdiagnosed condition in the United States.
(C) CBT-I is an effective, underutilized solution to insomnia that should be made more accessible.
(D) Behavioral sleep specialists must be regulated more stringently to ensure quality.

92. Identify the flaw in the following reasoning based on the passage:
"Since only trained sleep specialists can deliver CBT-I effectively, investing in sleep tech gadgets is the only practical option for mo.st people."
(A) It falsely assumes that gadgets are more affordable than CBT-I.
(B) It ignores evidence that CBT-I can be self-administered via apps or booklets.
(C) It relies on outdated medical research to prove its point.
(D) It confuses insomnia with other sleep disorders.

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93. Suppose a new study shows that beliefs about sleep have no significant impact on sleep quality. How would this finding affect the argument in the passage?
(A) It would strengthen the case for CBT-I's behavioral techniques.
(B) It would undermine the effectiveness of the "cognitive" component of CBT-I.
(C) It would support the continued use of sleep medications as first-line treatment.
(D) It would have no effect on the passage's argument.

94. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's argument in favor of CBT-I as a superior treatment for insomnia?
(A) A majority of patients who undergo CBT-I report no long-term improvement in their sleep patterns.
(B) CBT-I has been found to be slightly more expensive than prescription sleep medications.
(C) Many people are unaware of CBT-I as a treatment option for insomnia.
(D) Sleep medications have been proven to offer short-term relief for acute insomnia.

XIX. Hype too often influences policymakers when it comes to regulating markets. So it was reassuring to hear Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, resist the momentum behind cryptocurrencies. In his July Mansion House speech, he reiterated his scepticism over the need for a "Britcoin" central bank digital currency or a UK stablecoin, with tokens issued by finance houses and backed by their sterling reserves. As Donald Trump signs stablecoins into US law and rebrands private dollars with political colours, Mr Bailey's caution isn't just prudent, it's essential.

The governor's view is that UK banks should not be allowed to issue their own stablecoins. Nor should the Bank effectively run Britcoin bank accounts without clear public benefit. These are not the views of a luddite, but of a regulator worried, correctly, about creating a new class of imprudent assets. The key question is not whether new technologies can be adopted in finance, but whether they should be — especially when the consequences of failure could affect the wider economy.

George Osborne, the former Tory chancellor who advises a large cryptocurrency exchange, argued that Mr Trump's embrace of stablecoins, which are privately issued digital money, means Britain must sign up to remain relevant. The former Labour cabinet minister Ed Balls considered this naive, given recent history. He was right. Stablecoins are not, despite the branding, stable. These private digital tokens purport to be backed one for one by real money, often US dollars. But the peg is only as trustworthy as the institution making the promise. When a commercial bank issues a stablecoin, it is effectively minting its own currency — without, as the Bank for International Settlements noted, the backing, oversight or "lender of last resort" guarantees of a central bank. This creates a parallel financial market, one prone to runs, crashes and contagion — just as happened in 19th-century America's free banking era, when half the new banks collapsed, many unable to honour the notes they had issued.

Yet Mr Trump is pressing ahead by letting banks and even non-banks issue dollar-pegged crypto assets. He is also leveraging the power of his office for personal gain in plain sight. One of the Trump family's cryptocurrencies is conservatively estimated to have pulled in at least $320m since January, while another received a $2bn investment from a foreign government wealth fund. A third has sold at least $550m in tokens. Steven Levitsky of Harvard University spoke for many when he told the Guardian this summer that he had "never seen such open comiption in any modern government anywhere".

Source:https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jul/29/the-guardian-view-on-trumps-crypto-push-britain-is-right-to-say-no-to-digital-currency-politics

95. Which of the following principles, if accepted, would most strongly support the author's stance on resisting the rapid adoption of stablecoins and Britcoin?
(A) Innovation in finance should always precede regulation to allow maximum flexibility.
(B) A financial system's credibility depends more on market forces than on regulatory oversight.
(C) Any monetary innovation should be adopted only after ensuring systemic safeguards and long-term public benefit.
(D) Private institutions are inherently more efficient than central banks in managing digital assets.

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96. Which of the following is a flaw in George Osborne's reasoning as described in the passage?
(A) He assumes that what works for the US will also work for the UK.
(B) He believes that cryptocurrencies are more secure than fiat money.
(C) He argues that all digital currencies are inherently stable.
(D) He thinks that UK banks already have the right to issue stablecoins.

97. What implicit assumption underlies George Osborne's argument in favour of embracing stablecoins?
(A) Digital currencies backed by private entities are inherently more secure than fiat money.
(B) The relevance of a nation's financial system depends on how closely it follows US policies.
(C) Financial systems should prioritize innovation even in the face of regulatory uncertainty.
(D) The adoption of new technology is always more beneficial than resisting it.

XX. Directions: Answer the questions based on the information given below.

There are 8 boxes which have different colours among Black, Grey, Red, Orange, Pink, Yellow, Green, and Blue, but not necessarily in the same order. These boxes have different weights and none of them has the same weight. The bottommost box is considered as the 1" box, and the box above is considered as the 2" box. The yellow box has the maximum weight and is an odd-numbered box. The 3rd lightest box is an even-numbered box below the yellow box, and at least 2 boxes are between them. The black box is immediately above the box, which is the 3" lightest and is heavier than the black box. The box at the top has the lowest weight. There are 3 boxes between the lightest box and the blue box, which is not the 3" lightest. The orange box is immediately above the red box, which is the 3rd heaviest. The red box is neither the bottommost box nor the 7th box. More than 3 boxes have less weight than the Grey box. Grey box is the box number 1. The Green box is the 3" lightest one and is not the topmost box. At least 2 boxes are between the lightest box, that is the Pink box and the Yellow box. The orange box is neither the 2nd heaviest nor the 5* heaviest.

98. The ____ box is the 4th lightest.
(A) Blue
(B) Green
(C) Pink
(D) Orange

99. How many boxes are above the box which is 2nd heaviest?
(A) 3
(B) 6
(C) 4
(D) 7

100. Number of boxes above the box, which is 4th heaviest, is _____lesser than the number of boxes above the box, which is the heaviest?
(A) 1
(B) 2
(C) 3
(D) 4

101. Which among the following boxes are above the blue box?
I. Orange
II. Yellow
III. Pink
(A) Both II and III
(B) Only I
(C) Both I and III
(D) All I, II and III

XXI. During the 1990s, behavioural scientists and other mental health professionals also took the lead in expressing reservations about how abductee consultants were handling claims. The former came relatively late to the study of the phenomenon but, when they arrived, they comprised almost exclusively of experimental psychologists, psychotherapists and psychiatrists. The first discussions of the topic of abduction from this more sceptical cohort of researchers came in 1989, with debate being at its most robust from the mid-1990s until around 2000. To many in this circle, the abduction phenomenon represented a worrisome challenge to research and treatment integrity. But they also used the debate over alien abduction as an opportunity to demonstrate the value of their methods

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and professions.

This was hardly a new form of intervention for those working in the psychological sciences and medicine. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many psychiatrists and psychoanalysts took on the task of debunking supernatural experiences and beliefs, placing themselves at the front of the campaign to combat what they considered to be backward superstitions. As vocal advocates of social reform, and increasingly drawn to secular and biological explanations, those making it their profession to treat disordered minds saw their field as the first line of defence against what they deemed to be irrational claims. Visions of heaven, encounters with saints and demons, visits from deceased loved ones, suspicions of magical influence: these, specialists argued, were just products of ignorance and confused minds.

In the 1980s and ‘90s, some prominent academics and practising therapists similarly thought tales of alien abduction had mundane explanations that were being overlooked by overeager ufologists. Not surprisingly, those involved in clinical work with patients often saw a pathology at work. They tended to agree with George Ganaway, then assistant professor of psychiatry at Emory University in Atlanta, that the alien abduction experience was actually a syndrome ‘of the dissociative kind’, one rooted in the same kind of fantasy-proneness and high suggestibility found in those presenting symptoms of what was then called multiple personality disorder, or reporting satanic ritual abuse.

Led by a group of cognitive psychologists, another group took the view that abductees were unintentionally fabricating their experiences. To make their case, they turned to the studies demonstrating the prevalence of deception and confabulation. Indeed, US psychology had been taken with the problem of deception since their l9th-century investigations into spiritual mediumship. By the 1960s, psychologists were regularly employing deception in their experiments to work around the presumed deceptions and self-deceptions of their subjects. Deception became something neither immoral nor pathological but quite normal.

The recollections of abductees, it was argued, were false memories encouraged by abduction consultants

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At the same time, the American Medical Association (AMA) was expressing its doubts about the therapeutic and forensic value of information gained through techniques of memory recovery. Already in a resolution adopted in 1984, the AMA's Council on Scientific Affairs criticised the scientific status of ‘refreshing recollection’ using hypnosis, stating that ‘recollections obtained during hypnosis can involve confabulations and pseudomemories and not only fail to be more accurate, but actually appear to be less reliable than nonhypnotic recall.’ In June 1994, that same council followed up with a statement about its distrust of recovered memories of child sexual abuse, declaring them ‘to be of uncertain authenticity, which should be subject to external verification. The use of recovered memories is fraught with problems of potential misapplication. Most controversial are those memories that surface only in therapy ...’ The therapeutic setting, it was believed, worked with a highly subjective idea of truth.

Starting in 1993, teams of experimental psychologists published studies said to show that alien abduction was part of a family of new phenomena resulting from unacknowledged social-psychological influences and commonplace mental fallibilities. Caught up in what the literary critic Frederick Crews dubbed ‘the memory wars’ of the 1990s, alien abduction found a place alongside satanic ritual abuse, recovered memories and multiple personalities as something deemed scientifically spurious. Witnesses were not suspected of lying. Rather, the recollections of abductees, it was argued, were false memories encouraged by abduction consultants through leading questions in order to imaginatively relive ‘experiences’. As such, the experiences of abductees could be seen as embellishments after the fact, with vulnerable individuals filling gaps in their memories with details lifted from popular media and abduction advisers.

Akey moment came in June 1994, when Harvard Medical School formed a committee to investigate Mack's work with abductees. In its final report issued around a year later, the committee fell short of accusing Mack of misconduct, and he retained his status as ‘a member in good standing’ in the faculty. It did, however, criticise him for several shortcomings in his methods, the most serious being his neglecting to distinguish between abductees he was treating as research subjects and those who were his patients. Within a few years after this, alien abduction was no longer drawing the mainstream attention it had had. It was, once again, consigned to the scientific fringe.

As had been the case with satanic ritual abuse, the backlash from behavioural scientists and clinicians had a palpable impact on public opinion. This was also evident at the box office, as filmmakers cooled to the idea of adapting abductee stories for the big screen. The conclusion, then, would seem to be that researchers and practising clinicians stepped in to debunk the phenomenon and succeeded in undermining its credibility.

102. Some behavioural scientists used the prevalence of abduction stories encouraged by leading questions and hypnosis as support for their claim that such recollections were confabulations. What is a potential flaw in relying solely on this evidence?
(A) It presumes that all hypnotically retrieved memories are intentional fabrications.
(B) It fails to consider corroborating physical or external evidence of abductions.
(C) It assumes that clinical interventions are always objective and free from bias.
(D) It generalizes from a clinical phenomenon to popular media depictions.

103. Which of the following best expresses a core assumption of scientists who argue that alien abduction memories result from dissociative syndromes and fantasy-proneness?
(A) People are generally unable to reliably distinguish fantasy from reality.
(B) Suggestibility and certain psychological traits are sufficient to explain extraordinary experiences.
(C) All reports of abduction stem from latent mental illness.
(D) Memory can only be trusted when externally verified.

104. The drop in mainstream interest in alien abduction stories after the 1990s coincided with behavioural scientists' public debates and criticism. Which statement best reflects the passage's view of this relationship?
(A) The change in public interest was solely caused by the scientific backlash.
(B) The phenomenon's decline was unrelated to scientific or clinical opinion.
(C) The scientific backlash played a significant role, but other cultural factors—like declining interest from filmmakers—also contributed.
(D) The public ignored the scientific critique, which had little impact on views of abductions.

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105. Given the AMA's 1984 and 1994 statements, which of the following is most reasonably inferred about the association's stance toward memory recovery techniques in forensic and therapeutic settings?
(A) They considered all recovered memories to be unreliable and unusable in any situation.
(B) They encouraged more use of memory recovery in trauma therapy.
(C) They believed all testimony obtained without hypnosis is accurate.
(D) They accepted refreshed memories only if supported by objective, external evidence.

106. Which of the following, if true, would most WEAKEN the argument that alien abduction experiences are best explained by fantasy-proneness and suggestibility?
(A) Many claimants display neither dissociative symptoms nor high levels of suggestibility.
(B) The majority of abduction accounts occur in cultures with strong science fiction traditions.
(C) Most recovered memories involve traumatic or negative events.
(D) Individuals often resist hypnosis when recalling their abduction experiences.

107. Cognitive psychologists rely on studies of deception, memory confabulation, and suggestion to explain the abduction phenomenon, while figures like John Mack acknowledged “an authentic mystery” requiring further study. Which is the strongest criticism of the cognitive psychologists' approach, as implied by the passage?
(A) They dismiss all subjective experience as psychological dysfunction.
(B) Their focus on debunking prevents them from appreciating the full complexity of the reported phenomena.
(C) They advocate for the routine use of hypnosis in clinical settings.
(D) They endorse abduction stories for their narrative richness.

XXII. Directions (109- 114): Study the following information and answer **the questions below.**

In an apartment, there are two blocks: Block P and Block Q. The following information is about the number of men, women and children with their average weight. Block P has a total population of 600, with 70% men, 25% women, and the rest are children. The average weight of men in Block P is 60 kg, while the average weight of women is 50 kg. The overall average weight in Block P is 55 kg per person. Similarly, Block Q has a population of 600, with 60% men, 20% women, and the rest are children. The average weight of men in Block Q is 50 kg, and for women, it is 40 kg. The overall average weight in Block Q is 48 kg per person.

108. Find the difference between average weight of Men of Block P and average weight of children of Block Q›

(A) 10 kg
(B) 20 kg
(C) 30 kg
(D) 25 kg

109. The total weight of women of Block P is how much percent more or less than the total weight of men of Block Q?

(A) 55.55%
(B) 44.449o
(C) 58.339o
(D) 57.33%

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110. Find the respective ratio between the total weight of population of Block P and the total weight of population of Block Q?

(A) 56:47
(B) 47:56
(C) 48:55
(D) 55:48

111. Find the average of total population of Block P and Block Q together?

(A) 300
(B) 400
(C) 500
(D) 600

112. The total population of men of Block P is how much percent more or less than the total population of women of Block Q?

(A) 2429c
(B) 233to
(C) 250%
(D) 257to

113. The total population of children of Block P is what percent of the total population of men of Block Q?

(A) 11.11%
(B) 12.59r
(C) 9.099r
(D) 8.33%

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

In a family, there are six people: Vidhi, Vaibhav, Vishal, Vandana, Vidushi, and Vidhit, who are all living together in a house. Vishal is currently 35 years old. Vidhi is 9 years older than Vaibhav, who is 5 years younger than Vishal. Five years from now, Vishal's age will be 33.33% more than Vandana's age. The average age of Vandana and Vidushi is currently 25 years. Four years ago, the ratio between Vaibhav's age and Vidhit's age was 13:9.

114. Find the respective ratio of ages of Vidushi to Vidhit 6 years after from now?

(A) 29:31
(B) 31:28
(C) 31:29
(D) 28:31

115. What is average of present ages of Vidhi, Vaibhav, Vidhit and Vandana?

(A) 29 years
(B) 30 years
(C) 31 years
(D) 32 years

116. The present ages of Vidhi and Vandana together is what percent of the present ages of Vishal and Vaibhav together?

(A) 92.22%
(B) 93.339r
(C) 94.44%
(D) 98.46%

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117. Find the respective ratio of ages of Vidhi to Vandana, 4 years after from now?

(A) 17:35
(B) 35:17
(C) 43:29
(D) 29:43

118. Find the respective ratio of ages of Vaibhav to Vandana, 8 years after from now?

(A) 33:35
(B) 38:33
(C) 33:38
(D) 35:33

119. The present ages of Vishal and Vidushi together is what percent of the present ages of Vandana and Vaibhav together?

(A) 102.229o
(B) 103.339o
(C) 104.449o
(D) 109.099r

Answer Key

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

EXAM CHARCHA

EXAM CHARCHA