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The Question Bank

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English Language

I. At the Kumbh Mela, Haridwar, in 1867, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati did something unheard of. He installed the 'pakhanda khandana pataka', hypocrisy-denouncing flag, to challenge the forces of orthodoxy. And eight years later in Bombay, he went on to establish Arya Samaj that rests on the Vedic ideal: 'Satyam paramo dharmah', the highest religion is the religion of truth.

'The inner self of man,' he writes in his magnum opus Satyarth Prakash, 'is the knower of truth and untruth, but through selfishness, stubbornness, malevolence and ignorance, he leaves truth and inclines towards untruth.' And the Vedas, texts that are in consonance with the laws of nature, contain the Truth in its highest and purest forms.

Divinity is one in many, and many in one, believed Swamiji. God is Truth, the law of being, the upholder of 'Rita', cosmic order. The seemingly different gods in the Vedas represent his different aspects. Worship one god; bow before ideals and not idols, he advised. The Divine is so great that his image cannot be conceived or made. Though invoked by many names, 'Aum' is the first manifested sound representing him. All the key mantras begin with this sacred monosyllable that has the quintessential elements of 52 Sanskrit letters, 16 vowels and 36 consonants, each endowed with cosmic power.

'Yajna', according to him, is a key concept of the Vedas. The creation of the universe has been regarded as a yajna undertaken by Virat Purush, the creator. Its maintenance is possible by the continuous yajna of all beings, which means the performance of righteous actions by each member of society. Yajna is a process of spiritualising human activities.

Rejecting the theory that the brahmin was formed out of God's mouth, the kshatriya from his arms, the vaishya from his thighs, and the shudra from his feet, Dayanand argued that this was a distortion of the scriptures which clearly laid down the social order, ought to depend on quality, action; and temperament, of a person, and not on his birth.

1. Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- A. Academic paper
- B. Journal
- C. Fiction
- D. Non-fiction

2. Which of the following characteristics does not lead to the path of untruth as per the passage?

- A. Malevolence
- B. Superstitions
- C. Stubbornness
- D. Ignorance

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3. Which of the following phrases, used in the passage, suggests something which is an indication of condemning the pretence of having beliefs or principles, etc., that one does not really possess?

- A. Laid down the social order
- B. Distortion of the scriptures
- C. In consonance with the laws of nature
- D. Hypocrisy-denouncing flag

4. Which of the following is false about 'yajna' as per Swami Dayanand Saraswati?

- A. It is a tool to boost life energy.
- B. It is a procedure of spiritualizing human activities.
- C. It can be maintained by the continuous righteous actions by all.
- D. It is a vital concept of the Vedas.

5. As per a previous theory, which of the following is said to be formed out of God's arm?

- A. Shudra
- B. Kshatriya
- C. Vaishya
- D. Brahmin

II. Guided by his love of mountain-bike riding and adventure, Adrian had founded Synergy Trails, a construction company that specialized in installing narrow, winding dirt-bike trails in bushland for weekend and competition riders. Over the years, the 40-year-old had encountered hazardous fauna while digging around in soil, including venomous arachnids and snakes, but he knew how to distinguish the non-threatening ones from the dangerous ones. Adrian was trained in first-aid, though he never took it seriously.

With the clock ticking down towards the start of the four-day long weekend, Adrian had only a small digging job left to do. His shovel was in his vehicle, parked some 50 metres away. He considered getting it, but the job was small, and only a light dig was necessary to get beneath the shallow soil and leaf litter. So he used his hands instead. Just as his fingers slid under the pile of leaves, he felt a sharp, deep pain in his left hand. Adrian quickly pulled out his hand to see a spider gripping his left index finger. The five-centimetre-long glossy black creature had its fangs firmly embedded into the skin, piercing through to his knuckle. The pain was equivalent to a nail hammered into his finger.

But that wasn't the worst of it. Adrian knew immediately that the spider wrapped around his finger was a Sydney funnel-web (*Atrax robustus*). He frantically flicked his hand up and down to throw off the spider, but it didn't move. He persisted, shaking his hand even harder and, after three or four seconds, it finally let go of its grip and dropped to the ground at Adrian's feet. He looked down just in time to double-check the spider's identity before it buried itself back under the leaf litter. It was a fully grown male Sydney funnel-web, the deadliest spider in Australia.

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After 15 years working in the bush, encountering different types of spiders and snakes, Adrian never imagined he'd get bitten. But all it took for him to become a victim was one brief moment when he was rushing to finish a simple job. He called out to his crew mate, Phil, who was working close by. Phil dropped his shovel and ran over. The pair calmly walked to the four-wheel-drive while Adrian pinched down hard at the base of his knuckle to slow the spread of venom into his bloodstream. They both knew a bite like this, if left untreated, could cause death within an hour. Fortunately, the trail where they had been working was not very far from Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. About 10 minutes after arriving at the hospital, Adrian suddenly became incoherent and couldn't finish his sentences. Then his face and tongue started twitching, he felt nauseous.

[extracted, with edits and revisions, from Reader's Digest: The Spider bite, by Dian Godley.]

6. All of the following are true about Adrian except:

- A. He was reckless.
- B. He was adventurous.
- C. He had keen interest in insects.
- D. He loved mountain bike riding.

7. The pain was equivalent to a nail hammered into his finger. This sentence from the passage represents which figure of speech?

- A. Paradox
- B. Oxymoron
- C. Reiteration
- D. Metaphor



8. Which of the following was not the aftermath when the venomous spider bit Adrian?

- A. His face and tongue started twitching.
- B. He became incoherent.
- C. He felt nauseous.
- D. He started sweating.

9. Which of the following words from the passage means 'in a distraught way owing to fear'?

- A. Frantically
- B. Embedded
- C. Hazardous
- D. Persisted

10. Which of the following is the tone of the given passage?

- A. Ethical
- B. Emotional
- C. Humorous
- D. Romantic

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III. Real Estate and construction accounts for almost 36% of global energy consumption and nearly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions. The demolition and construction generate lot of waste, causes pollution and consumes many natural resources in large numbers. As the world becomes increasingly aware of the need to reduce its environmental footprint, the building industry is being called upon to adopt more eco-friendly practices and use green building techniques and materials.

Green building, also known as sustainable building, refers to the practice of designing, constructing, and operating buildings in an environmentally responsible manner. This includes using materials and methods that minimize the environmental impact of the building, as well as ensuring that the building is energy efficient and healthy for its occupants.

One of the most important aspects of green building is the use of sustainable materials. This includes using materials that are made from renewable resources, such as bamboo, or other materials that can be easily recycled, such as reclaimed wood. Additionally, many green building projects use low-toxicity and non-toxic materials, such as natural paint and sealants, to reduce indoor air pollution.

Another important aspect of green building is energy efficiency. They are often built with materials that use less energy to create and utilize, such as insulated glass and walls made from concrete. This also includes using energy-efficient appliances, lighting, heating and cooling systems, as well as incorporating solar and other renewable energy sources into the building's design. This not only helps reduce the building's carbon footprint, but it can also save money on energy costs in the long run. According to India's Department of Energy, green buildings can reduce energy consumption by as much as 30-40 percent compared to traditional buildings.

Green buildings focus on creating healthy indoor environments. This includes incorporating natural light, fresh air, and green spaces into the design of the building, as well as using non-toxic materials that do not off-gas harmful chemicals. This helps reduce incidences of asthma, allergies and improve overall health and well-being of the building's occupants.

11. Which of the following is the tone of the given passage?

- A. Speculative
- B. Apologetic
- C. Humorous
- D. Laudatory

12. All of the following are the characteristics of green buildings except:

- A. Environment friendly
- B. Use sustainable materials
- C. Energy efficient
- D. Robust and technologically equipped

13. Which of the following materials used in green buildings uses less energy to create and utilize?

- A. Natural paints
- B. Sealants
- C. Cork
- D. Insulated glass

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14. Which of the following is true as per the passage?

- A. Real Estate and construction accounts for 36% of greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. Green buildings focus on creating healthy indoor environments.
- C. Real Estate and construction accounts for 40 % of global energy consumption.
- D. The world is oblivious to the importance of eco-friendly practices.

15. What is the meaning of the phrasal verb 'called upon' as per the usage in the passage?

- A. Pay a visit to someone
- B. Make use of someone or something as a source of help
- C. Need or requirement of something
- D. Name someone after somebody else

IV. That Minnu Mani, a 23-year-old from the Kurichiya tribe in Kerala, secured a contract in the Women's Premier League auction is both heart-warming and a reminder. Minnu's success is a rare story for India's tribal communities. Sports has discovered some talent among tribals and politics has embraced a few. But data tells the real story. The recently released Tribal Development Report 2022 by Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation provides damning statistics. They are 8.6% of the population, and they fare considerably worse than others when it comes to access to sanitation, drinking water, education and proper nutrition.

The report also says that tribal communities have been pushed farther away from alluvial plains and fertile river basins over the decades, which has had a direct impact on their livelihood. Of the 257 Scheduled Tribe districts in the country, 230 or 90% are in either forested or hilly or dry areas. And past policies like the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 illogically pitted the imperatives of environment protection against the needs of Adivasi communities.

While that approach has been modified and today Adivasis are seen as important stakeholders in forest conservation, on-ground contestations continue. Last year's amendments to the Forest Conservation Rules have been protested by tribal communities on the ground that they undermine the rights of tribes and forest dwellers over forest resources as envisioned in the Forest Rights Act, 2009. Adivasi activists say the changes make it easier for businesses to divert forest land and make obtaining clearances by commercial entities easier. If true, these provisions have serious implications for tribal welfare.

It's also true that there has been increasing political courting of tribal communities in recent years. From expanding ST status to new communities to the Adivasi vote becoming a sought-after electoral commodity to India getting its first tribal President in Droupadi Murmu, tribals have emerged as a serious political bloc. But their genuine empowerment will lie in creating opportunities. We need thousands more Minnu Manis and Droupadi Murmus.

16. All of the following describes 'heart-warming' except:

- A. Extreme discontentment and wrath
- B. Emotionally moving
- C. Inspiring sympathetic feeling
- D. Causing feelings of happiness and pleasure

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17. Which of the following categories best describes this piece of writing?

- A. Research paper
- B. Poem
- C. Fiction
- D. Newspaper article

18. Tribals are devoid of all of the following except:

- A. Drinking water
- B. Education
- C. Job opportunities
- D. Nutrition

19. Which of the following words from the passage means 'impair'?

- A. Undermine
- B. Courting
- C. Embraced
- D. Dwellers

20. All of the following statements are 'truisms' except:

- A. More opportunities will better the tribals.
- B. Policies have always benefitted tribals.
- C. Sports and politics have some talented people from tribal sector.
- D. Adivasis are seen as important stakeholders in forest conservation.



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V. The World Health Organisation (WHO) convoked an urgent meeting on Tuesday after central African nation Equatorial Guinea confirmed its first outbreak of the highly infectious Marburg virus disease, or MVD. So far, nine deaths and 16 suspected cases have been reported. Preliminary tests turned out to be positive for the deadly disease, which is similar to Ebola.

Marburg virus disease (MVD) is a severe illness that causes viral haemorrhagic fever in humans. The virus was first identified after simultaneous outbreaks in Frankfurt and Marburg, Germany — from where it derives its name — and Belgrade, Serbia in 1967. Those first infected were exposed to Ugandan imported African green monkeys or their tissues while conducting research, as per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 30 fell ill, and seven deaths were reported.

Since then, cases have been reported in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda. In a 2004 outbreak in Angola, MVD killed 90% of the 252 infected.

Like Ebola, the Marburg virus is transmitted to primates from bats which are considered natural hosts of the virus. Fruit bats infected with the virus do not show obvious signs of illness, but it can cause serious illness or death in humans.

It spreads among humans via direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected bats, or surfaces like bedsheets. The disease can also spread during burial ceremonies if there is direct contact with the body of the deceased.

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The virus takes between two and 21 days to incubate. As per WHO, the disease has an average fatality rate of 50%, which has varied from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks. A person infected with the virus experiences sudden illness with symptoms like high fever, severe headache and discomfort. Many develop severe haemorrhagic signs within seven days, as per the CDC. In fatal cases, death often occurs eight or nine days after the onset of symptoms, usually preceded by severe blood loss and shock.

As of now, there are no authorised vaccines or drugs to treat the Marburg virus disease. The WHO, however, says that rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids and treatment of specific symptoms can improve chances of survival.

21. Which of the following is the writing style of the given passage?

- A. Informative
- B. Narrative
- C. Descriptive
- D. Abstract

22. All of the following are the agents of Marburg virus disease except:

- A. Infected bats
- B. Bedsheets
- C. Clothes
- D. Body of the deceased

23. All of the following countries are affected by Marburg virus except:

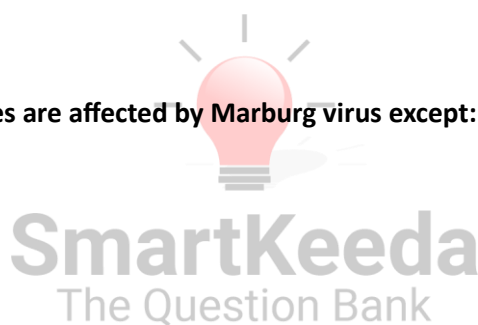
- A. Ghana
- B. Uganda
- C. South Africa
- D. Kenya

24. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- A. The spread of Marburg virus is a concern of international importance.
- B. Clear indications of Marburg virus are shown by all the agents.
- C. This disease can be fatal.
- D. Direct contact with the infected bats should be avoided.

25. What is the meaning of 'convoked' as per the usage in the passage?

- A. Dispersed
- B. Convened
- C. Gathered
- D. Segregated



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Current Affairs Including General Knowledge

VI. [1], the fifth of the Kalvari-class submarines under [2], was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 23 January 2023, at a time when China is making forays into the strategically important Indian Ocean region.

The submarine has been built indigenously by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and designed by French naval defence company Naval Group (formerly known as DCNS) as part of the Indian Navy's [2]. While four of the Kalvari-class submarines have already been commissioned, the last is likely to join the fleet by 2024.

[1] takes its name from the sand shark, a deep-sea predator endemic to the Indian Ocean. It will form part of the Western Naval Command's submarine fleet. As per the Ministry of Defence, the submarine's induction will boost the capabilities of the armed forces, enabling them to further the maritime interests of the country in deterring the enemy, and conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) to provide decisive blows in times of crisis.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Indian-made Scorpene-class 'silent killer' submarine [1]", by Sumeda, The Hindu]

26. Which submarine's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A. INS Vagir
- B. INS Vela
- C. INS Vagsheer
- D. INS Karanj

27. Which project's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- A. Project- 877
- B. Project-75I
- C. Make II Project
- D. Project MEAT

28. India joined a select band of countries on 2 September 2022 when it commissioned the country's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier. What is the name of this aircraft carrier?

- A. INS Viraat
- B. INS Vikramaditya
- C. INS Vishal
- D. INS Vikrant

29. What is the name of India's first ballistic missile nuclear submarine?

- A. INS Arighat
- B. INS Arihant
- C. INS Shishumar
- D. INS Sindhughosh

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30. The Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38SD aircraft made its first and last flypast at the 74th Republic Day parade in 2023. This aircraft was made by –

- A. Erstwhile Soviet
- B. United States
- C. France
- D. Israel

VII. The [1] Annual Meeting 2023, held in the Swiss town of Davos, ended Friday – a conference that started in a world possibly fundamentally altered but whose processes and outcomes remained pretty much business as usual. The theme of this year was [2].

Everyone agreed upon the need for green energy and the need for more money to fight climate change. According to the [1] website, "The [1] supported by more than 45 partners launched the GAEA, a global initiative to fund and grow new and existing public, private and philanthropic partnerships (PPPPs) to help unlock the \$3 trillion of financing needed each year to reach net zero, reverse nature loss and restore biodiversity by 2050."

The EU raised concerns over a US green energy law that benefits products, such as electric vehicles, made in America. But West Virginia senator Joe Manchin said the idea was not to hurt any other country but to benefit the environment. "You better be able to do it quicker, faster and better than any place in the world and then share it with your friends. That's what we're going to do," Manchin, a Democrat, said.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "[1] 2023 Davos event ends: Here are the major takeaways", The Indian Express]

31. Which organisation's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. World Bank
- D. World Trade Organisation

32. Which theme has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- A. Recover Together, Recover Stronger
- B. Cooperation in a Fragmented World
- C. People, Planet and Prosperity
- D. One Earth, One Family, One Future

33. What is the full form of GAEA?

- A. Giving to Atmosphere Earth Action
- B. Green to Advance Earth Action
- C. Green Atmosphere Earth Action
- D. Giving to Amplify Earth Action

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34. 'Global Collaboration Village', a metaverse platform aimed at fostering virtual multistakeholder cooperation, has been launched by –

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. World Trade Organisation

35. What is India's ranking in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index 2022?

- A. 101st
- B. 110th
- C. 126th
- D. 135th

VIII. Russia spent almost 50 years building its energy market in Europe. [1] destroyed it in under 50 weeks. Finding a replacement will be almost impossible. While Russia has found alternative markets for its crude oil, mostly in India, switching sales of refined products and — perhaps even more so — natural gas will take years and come at huge cost. That's if it's even possible to create markets as the world turns away from fossil fuels.

When Moscow's troops invaded Ukraine on February 24, its European energy customers took fright. A market that soaked up nearly 2.5 million barrels a day of crude, another 1 million barrels of refined products and 155 billion cubic meters a year of natural gas has all but disappeared.

Crude flows from Russia to parts of Europe began to dwindle soon after [1] troops crossed the border. By Dec. 5, when a European Union ban on seaborne imports of Russian crude came into effect, they were already down to a trickle, with [2], which secured a temporary exemption, the only remaining market. The flow of refined products is following the same trajectory ahead of similar sanctions that come into effect on Feb. 5.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Russia can't replace Europe, no matter how much oil India buys", by Julian Lee, Bloomberg, The Economic Times]

36. Which person's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A. Vladimir Putin
- B. Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- C. Alexander Lukashenko
- D. Joe Biden

37. Which country's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- A. Germany
- B. Netherlands
- C. Poland
- D. Bulgaria

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38. Nord Stream is a pair of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe that run under the Baltic Sea from Russia to _____ .

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Estonia
- D. Denmark

39. Who among the following is the President of the European Commission?

- A. Charles Michel
- B. Roberta Metsola
- C. Jean-Claude Juncker
- D. Ursula von der Leyen

40. Which operation was launched by the Indian Government to bring back Indians from Ukraine during Russia-Ukraine war?

- A. Operation Vande Bharat
- B. Operation Ganga
- C. Operation Raahat
- D. Operation Safe Homecoming

IX. India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues in January 2023 touched nearly ₹1.56 lakh crore by Tuesday evening, marking the second-highest monthly collections recorded since the launch of the indirect tax regime. January's GST kitty, which is likely to be revised upwards, is 10.6% higher than a year ago and 4.3% over December's collections, marking the 11th month in a row that revenues were over ₹1.4 lakh crore. The highest revenues so far under the GST system were recorded in April 2022, when tax inflows were ₹1,67,540 crore.

For the first ten months of 2022-23, GST revenues are now 24% higher than a year ago, with goods imports yielding 29% more GST revenue and domestic transactions (including import of services) rising 22%.

The Government has settled ₹38,507 crore to Central GST (CGST) and ₹32,624 crore to State GST (SGST) from the Integrated GST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of January 2023 after regular settlement is ₹67,470 crore for CGST and ₹69,354 crore for the SGST," the Ministry said.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "1.56-lakh-crore GST mop-up in January second highest so far", by Vikas Dhoot, The Hindu]

41. Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day is observed every year on-

- A. July 4
- B. July 3
- C. July 2
- D. July 1

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42. Which of the following Constitutional Amendment Acts introduced a new tax regime - Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India?

- A. 101st
- B. 102nd
- C. 103rd
- D. 122nd

43. Which of the following Article of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to constitute a Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council by an order?

- A. Article 280A
- B. Article 265A
- C. Article 279A
- D. Article 270A

44. HSN codes are used for the classification of goods by taxpayers during filing Goods and Services Tax (GST) returns. What is the full form of HSN?

- A. Harmonised System of Nomenclature
- B. Hindustan System of Nomenclature
- C. Higher System of Nomenclature
- D. Higher System of National Accounts

45. Which type of tax is levied on inter-state goods and service transactions?

- A. CGST only
- B. SGST only
- C. IGST only
- D. Both CGST and SGST

X. The domestic electric vehicles (EV) market is expected to touch one crore units in annual sales by [1] and would create five crore direct and indirect jobs, according to the Economic Survey 2022-23.

Talking about the enhanced budget allocation under Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of EVs (FAME), the pre-Budget document said it was increased to ₹10,000 crore under phase-II (2019-24) from ₹895 crore in phase I (2014-19). FAME-II sanctioned 2,877 charging stations in 68 cities and 1,576 charging stations across expressways/highways against 520 charging EV stations in FAME-I. The scheme had envisaged support to one million 2-wheelers, 0.5 million 3-wheelers; 55,000 cars and 7,090 buses. It incentivised 7.1 lakh EVs, sanctioned 7,210 e-buses, of which 2,172 e-buses were deployed until December 2022.

The Survey noted that India became the [2] largest automobile market in December 2022 by surpassing Japan and Germany in terms of sales. In 2021, India was the largest manufacturer of two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicles and the world's fourth-largest manufacturer of passenger cars. The sector's importance was gauged by the fact that it contributed 7.1% to the overall GDP and 49% to the manufacturing GDP while generating direct and indirect employment of 3.7 crore at the end of 2021.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "EV sales to touch 1 crore units by [1]: Economic Survey", by N Anand", The Hindu]

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46. Which year has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A. 2025
- B. 2030
- C. 2040
- D. 2047

47. Which of the following has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

48. World EV Day is celebrated every year on-

- A. September 9
- B. April 22
- C. June 5
- D. May 22

49. The Economic Survery is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Who is the present CEA to the Government of India?

- A. Sanjeev Sanyal
- B. V Anantha Nageswaran
- C. Bibek Debroy
- D. Krishnamurthy Subramanian

50. In May 2022, India's first organic waste-powered EV charging station was installed in which state?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Gujarat
- C. Delhi
- D. Maharashtra

XI. The Rashtrapati Bhavan gardens, popularly called the Mughal Gardens, were renamed [1] on January 28, 2023. Opened for the public annually during spring, the Mughal Gardens are a popular tourist spot in New Delhi. [1] will be open for the public from Tuesday and will remain so till March 26, 2023.

Like other parts of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the attached Mughal Gardens, now [1], were also designed by [2] to accommodate elements of Indian landscaping and the British style of architecture. The Mughal gardens are heavily influenced by the gardens of Persia (now Iran). A definitive feature of these gardens is the charbagh or chaharbagh layout – the division of the garden space into four parts by walkways and water channels. Most of these gardens are terraced. The style can be found throughout the lands ruled by the Mughals – including the Taj Mahal in Agra, Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, and Nishat Bagh in Kashmir. In the gardens surrounding a mausoleum, the walkways intersect at the centre where the building/tomb is usually located (as seen in around Humayun's Tomb).

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Newer elements have been added to the Mughal gardens over the years. Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam created the Herbal Gardens in the Rashtrapati Bhavan estate in 2002. He also added the Spiritual Garden and the Musical Garden to what is now the [1].

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "The story behind Rashtrapati Bhavan's Mughal Gardens, now the [1], by Priyali Prakash, The Hindu]

51. Which of the following term has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- A. Rashtrapati Udyan
- B. Central Vista Udyan
- C. Amrit Udyan
- D. Bharat Udyan

52. Whose name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

- A. Sir Lutyens
- B. Lord Irwin
- C. William Emerson
- D. Job Charnock

53. The Viceroy's palace, now known as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was built during colonial times. Who among the following was the first occupant?

- A. Lord Hardinge
- B. Lord Curzon
- C. Lord Chelmsford
- D. Lord Irwin

54. Who among the following is known as the chief architect of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project?

- A. Bimal Patel
- B. Balkrishna Doshi
- C. Laurie Baker
- D. Hasmukh Patel

55. The Government of India has changed the name of historic 'Rajpath'. What is the new name of the 'Rajpath'?

- A. Lok Kalyan Path
- B. Kartavya Path
- C. Central Vista Path
- D. Jan Marg



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Legal Reasoning

XII. Compoundable offences are those offences where, the complainant picks up the thrown gauntlet and enters into a compromise and agrees to have the charges dropped against the accused. However, the cardinal caveat is that such a compromise ought to be visited with "bonafides" and cannot stem out of illegal benefits to which the complainant is not entitled to. The Code vide Section 320 contemplates compounding of certain offences enumerated in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC"). Compounding of offences has legislatively been bifurcated in two broad categories i.e. compounding of offences without the permission of the Court and compounding of offences with the permission of the Court. The offences that dispense with the blessings of the Court or do not require court of law are of comparatively diminished magnitude such as offences under Sections 298,491,500,501 etc. of the IPC. The offences that require the strike of the gavel i.e court of law are offences such as Sections 325,406,420,494 etc. of the IPC. For example Grievous hurt cases require Compounding to be done by Court of Law. Where the accused is made a party to the proceedings of compounding an offence in which the accused resides outside the jurisdiction of the Court, there is statutorily no requirement for him to incur expenses to come and appear in the compounding proceedings. The common practice of featuring the accused in the memo of parties is a dispensable step which when dispensed with not only would expedite the Court proceedings but would also be in consonance with the intention of the legislature. The effect of compounding of an offence is fundamentally a withdrawal of the charges pressed against the accused. Let us extend this analogy further, all other proceedings such as withdrawal of a suit, withdrawal of a Special Leave Petition, withdrawal of an application, do not contemplate the other party being made part of the withdrawal proceedings and the withdrawal is proceeded with simplicitor. The said practice is not only unnecessary given that the statutory scheme but is also an inconvenience to the accused who in manner of speaking "has paid all his debts". Extracted from Compounding Of Offences: Is The Accused Invited To The "Party" - Crime - India (mondaq.com).

56. Airport authority of India has recently started to give passports only to those individuals who mention in their affidavits that there are no pending criminal charges in their name. Amandeep Singh Khair had a fight with a neighbor and the offence was registered in the local police station which was later compounded at the behest of the court. The Airport authority has refused to issue a passport claiming that the victim has since gone to the high court and the case is running on. Decide the validity of the action of the AAI?

- A. The action of AAI is completely Valid in the eyes of Law.
- B. The action of AAI is invalid in the eyes of law.
- C. AAI is the ultimate authority and can refuse issue of passport.
- D AAI is not the ultimate authority and cannot refuse issue of passport.

57. Ajit and Anjum fight over a matter in their locality over water supply in which grievous hurt is caused to Ajit. Police authorities get involved in the matter and the issue reaches court which refuses to entertain the matter due to severe lapses. The court passes an order in which it states that matter could have been compounded by the individuals on the level of police station and court has no jurisdiction to entertain the matter. Decide as an appellate judge the legality of the order?

- A. The order of the lower court is perfectly legal.
- B. The order of the court is not valid in the eyes of Law.
- C. The order of lower court is legal subject to the condition that police officials denied the order.
- D. The order results in discrimination against the accused hence invalid.

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58. Ajit and Anjum fight over a matter in their locality over water supply in which no hurt is caused to anybody. Police authorities get involved in the matter and the issue reaches court which refuses to entertain the matter due to severe lapses. The court passes an order in which it states that matter could have been compounded by the individuals on the level of police station. Decide as an appellate judge the legality of the order?

- A. The order of the lower court is perfectly legal.
- B. The order of the court is not valid in the eyes of Law.
- C. The order of lower court is legal subject to the condition that police officials denied the order.
- D. None of the options are correct as both court and police could have compounded the matter.

59. Aman who is a resident of Patiala had a small fight with Anand a resident of Ambala. The case was lodged in Ambala and Aman had to come regularly before the court for the compounding of the offence irrespective of multiple difficulties. He filed a plea before the court that he must be given exemption. According to the passage above, what is going to be the likely scenario?

- A. His plea shall be accepted.
- B. His plea shall be rejected.
- C. His plea will be forwarded to the High court.
- D. His plea will be transferred to Patiala.

60. What is the practice of the Indian Courts in general with regard to withdrawal proceedings in SLP cases in the Indian Legal Scenario?

- A. Both parties are involved
- B. Only the court and the petitioner is involved
- C. The court, the petitioner and the defendant all are involved
- D. Only the court is involved



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XIII. The Indian Contract Act, 1872 is important legislation in the field of commercial law in India. It is basically responsible for regulating contractual relationships and obligations. A common legal complexity often arises when an agreement with minor parties takes place. This is problematic because the Act does not permit such agreements outrightly.

- A. A minor is a person who is below the age of eighteen. However, where a guardian administers the minor's property, the age of majority is twenty-one.
- B. A minor is not permitted by law to enter into a contract. Hence, where a minor enters into a contract with a major person, the contract is not enforceable. This effectively means that neither the minor nor the other party can make any claim on the basis of the contract.
- C. In a contract with a minor, if the other party hands over any money or confers any other benefit on the minor, the same shall not be recoverable from the minor unless the other party was deceived by the minor to hand over money or any other benefit. The other party will have to show that the minor misrepresented her age, he was ignorant about the age of the minor and that he handed over the benefit on the basis of such representation.

61. Animesh convinces Kumud, a girl aged 18 that she would sell her land to him. Kumud's mother Parineeti is her guardian. Nonetheless Kumud, without the permission of Parineeti, sells the land to Animesh for a total sum of rupees fifty lakh, paid in full and final settlement of the price. Parineeti challenges this transaction claiming the Kumud is a minor and hence the possession of the land shall not be given to Animesh. Why is Parineeti justified in challenging the sale transaction?

- A. Kumud is of unsound mind and is not in a position to make rational decisions.
- B. Though Kumud is eighteen year old, she will be treated as a minor, as Parineeti is her guardian.
- C. Though Kumud is eighteen year old, she cannot sell the land without the permission of her mother.
- D. Though Kumud is eighteen year old she should not be treated like a person who has attained the age.

62. Animesh convinces Kumud, a girl aged 18 who claims that she was 21 that she would sell her land to him. Kumud's mother Parineeti is her guardian. Nonetheless Kumud, without the permission of Parineeti, sells the land to Animesh for a total sum of rupees fifty lakh, paid in full and final settlement of the price. Parineeti challenges this transaction claiming the Kumud is a minor and hence the possession of the land shall not be given to Animesh. Animesh can be allowed to recover the money in which of the following circumstances?

- A. He was deceived by Kumud who misrepresented her age.
- B. He honestly believed that Kumud was empowered under the law to sell the land.
- C. He was an honest person who had paid the full price of the land to Kumud.
- D. Both option A and B can be used by Animesh.

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63. Animesh convinces Kumud, a girl aged 18 that she would sell her land to him. Kumud's mother Parineeti is her guardian. Nonetheless Kumud, without the permission of Parineeti, sells the land to Animesh for a total sum of rupees fifty lakh, paid in full and final settlement of the price. Parineeti challenges this transaction claiming the Kumud is a minor and hence the possession of the land shall not be given to Animesh. In order to defend her position, Kumud will need to show which one of the following?

- A. Kumud has attained the age of majority.
- B. Kumud is mature enough to make rational decisions regarding her own affairs.
- C. The sale transaction was beneficial to her interest and will enhance her financial status.
- D. None of the above options are make Kumud eligible to defend the sale.

64. Animesh convinces Kumud, a girl aged 18 that she would sell her land to him without knowing that there is any guardian. Kumud's mother Parineeti is her guardian. Nonetheless Kumud, without the permission of Parineeti, sells the land to Animesh for a total sum of rupees fifty lakh, paid in full and final settlement of the price. Parineeti challenges this transaction claiming the Kumud is a minor and hence the possession of the land shall not be given to Animesh. Which of the following is correct?

- A. Animesh should be allowed to recover the money because even though there is no contract, Kumud and Parineeti should not be allowed to unjustly benefit from Animesh's money.
- B. Animesh should be allowed the possession of the land because Parineeti can always decide to approve the transaction between Animesh and Kumud.
- C. Animesh should not be allowed to recover the money because he induced Kumud, a minor, to sell the land.
- D. Animesh and Kumud both are liable under the law and should be punished.

65. Facts:- Animesh convinces Kumud, a girl aged 18 that she would sell her land to him knowing she is a minor. Kumud's mother Parineeti is her guardian. Nonetheless Kumud, without the permission of Parineeti, sells the land to Animesh for a total sum of rupees fifty lakh, paid in full and final settlement of the price. Parineeti challenges this transaction claiming the Kumud is a minor and hence the possession of the land shall not be given to Animesh. Court puts Kumud back in the possession of the land. Which of the following is incorrect?

- A. If Animesh is allowed to recover the money, that will defeat the law framed for protecting the minors against fraudulent persons.
- B. If Animesh is not allowed to recover that will cause him injustice as he has paid off the entire sale price.
- C. If Animesh is allowed to recover, Parineeti will benefit from both the money and the land.
- D. None of the above is incorrect in law.

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XIV. Article 124 of C.O.I states that (1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than 30 other Judges.

(2) Every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose and shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the Chief Justice, the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted:

Provided further that —

(a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;

(b) a Judge may be removed from his office in the manner provided in clause (4).

(2A) The age of a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be determined by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law provide.

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and —

(a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

(4) A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two - thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

66. The Chief Justice of India is Mr. Rakesh Prakash Singh. He is a very honest judge and is concerned about the fate of the judicial services in the country. He asks for the enlargement of the strength of judges which is critically low. With no response from the government, he issues an administrative order under Article 142 for raising the number of judges till the time parliament makes an adequate law in this regard. The decision is challenged before the Supreme Court Constitutional Bench by the government. Decide the validity of the order passed by C.J.I.

- A. It's valid as it comes in the power of the CJI
- B. It's invalid as it does not come under the power of CJI
- C. The CJI is not bound by the constitution when constitution itself is in danger.
- D. Article 142 can be used here as it's an extraordinary situation.

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67. Mankirat Singh has worked as advocate in Punjab and Haryana High Court for 3 years, in Rajasthan High court for 2 years and in Himachal High court for 5 years. He is picked up from the state bar for appointment is a supreme court judge which is resented by the members of the Supreme Court Bar. Decide the validity of his appointment?

- A. The appointment of Mankirat Singh is constitutionally valid.
- B. The appointment of Mankirat Singh is not constitutionally valid.
- C. The appointment of Mankirat Singh can be made valid via amendment of constitution.
- D. None of the above

68. Mr. Chaman Law has been a professor at the Delhi University for 30 years and is felicitated by several organizations as leading jurist of his times. He is being called by the collegium to the bar to be made a Supreme Court Judge. His appointment raises several questions as he has not presented a single petition in the live courts and is just an arm chair philosopher of law. Decide the validity of his appointment.

- A. The appointment is constitutional valid in the eyes of law.
- B. The appointment is constitutional invalid in the eyes of law.
- C. The appointment can be made constitutional post appointment by making a change in Article 124 of C.O.I.
- D. Chaman Lal cannot be appointed as Judge because holding the position of Professor of Law is a bar to become a Judge.

69. Mr. Sohan Singh is the Justice of Supreme Court of India and has recently given a judgment in which huge loss has occurred to the national exchequer of the tune of 5 Lakh Crores. Impeachment proceedings are brought against him on grounds of Incapacity as he is not to fit to hold the office. Is the ground taken by the Government for his removal correct?

- A. The decision is sound in the eyes of law.
- B. The decision is not sound in the eyes of law.
- C. Misbehavior should have been the ideal ground.
- D. The G.O.I can remove Sohan Singh as he caused huge loss to the exchequer.

70. Justice Mukhophadhya accepts the offer of being the governor of AFSPA ruled Manipur when is 40 years of age and after a practice of 15 years in the Bar. Post retirement from governorship, he is called to be a Justice of the Supreme Court of India. As per the legal requirements, is his appointment valid in the eyes of law?

- A. His appointment is valid.
- B. His appointment is not valid.
- C. His appointment is invalid but ethically it is right.
- D. None of the above

71. Parliament removes Justice Chatterjee from the Supreme Court as he was extremely discourteous against woman lawyers in his court after passing a simple majority in favour of his impeachment. Is the impeachment of Justice Chatterjee in sync with the law of our country?

- A. The impeachment is valid in the eyes of Law.
- B. The impeachment is not valid in the eyes of law
- C. The impeachment has to be accepted by the President and then it will become valid.
- D. In the present case, resignation should have been given by the Justice.

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XV. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 ("POCSO Act")-This act aims to protect, as its short title suggests, all children from sexual offences without discriminating amongst them on the basis of gender. The gender-neutral character of the Act has been recognized by the Supreme Court and the same was reaffirmed recently by the Delhi High Court. Section 377 of the IPC-This was the only provision of law prohibiting sexual violence against male children, prior to the enactment of the POCSO Act. The sexual assault of male children had long been judicially construed as a form of "unnatural offence" under Section 377, and there exist several famous examples of convictions of perpetrators of such crimes under the Section. Flavia Agnes, in a 2002 article, even noted that, "...the deletion of this section would leave a gaping void in the realm of protection of male children against adult sexual abuse."

Salient features of the POCSO Act and its amendment:

- The Act is gender neutral and regards the best interests and welfare of the child as a matter of paramount importance at every stage so as to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child. This is in sync with Article 15 of the Constitution of India.
- The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, and regards the best interests and well-being of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage, to ensure the healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- It defines different forms of sexual abuse, including penetrative and non-penetrative assault, as well as sexual harassment and pornography, and deems a sexual assault to be "aggravated" under certain circumstances, such as when the abused child is mentally ill or when the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, police officer, teacher, or doctor.
- People who traffic children for sexual purposes are also punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act. The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine.
- It defines "child pornography" as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child which include photograph, video, digital or computer-generated image indistinguishable from an actual child, and image created, adapted, or modified, but appear to depict a child;'

Major examples of the enhanced procedural standards prescribed under the POCSO Act, include provisions prohibiting the publication or disclosure of identity of the victim child, while other such standards are similar to those applicable to the sexual offences under the IPC like, the provision relating to conduction of trials under the Act in camera, and those providing for time-limits for the completion of evidence recording and trial processes. The time-limits for evidence recording and trial provide a perfect example of the disparity between the POCSO Act and the CrPC standards, since under the POCSO Act, the evidence recording process needs to be concluded within thirty days from the date of the special court taking cognizance of the offence, while the trial must be completed, as far as it is possible, within one year. Meanwhile for offences under the IPC, the CrPC stipulates the completion of the inquiry and trial within two months from filing of charge-sheet. The time-limits under the CrPC are also mandatory in nature unlike the directory provisions of the POCSO Act. The Ministry of Law has advised that there appears no period of limitation mentioned in Section 19 in regard to reporting of the offences under the POCSO Act, 2012.

Extracted from - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act — Vikaspedia.

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72. Ramesh lives in the house of Mahesh his uncle as his parents died due to SARS Virus back in 2020. Mahesh regularly molests Ramesh who has been bearing it right from his teenage to his adulthood at 25 years. Ramesh files a complaint against Mahesh after he attains the age of 30 years. Mahesh complains that the case cannot come under POCSO as he has attained the age of majority. Decide whether the case is valid in the POCSO court or not?

- A. The case can be filed in the Pocso Court.
- B. The case cannot be filed in the Pocso Court.
- C. The case can be filed only with the Consent of High Court.
- D. The case will not be filed in the Pocso court but in normal Civil Court.

73. Kenya is a child who files a case against Mohandas for violating his privacy and sexuality when he was a child. Mohandas challenges the validity of the POCSO act as it violates the equality principle between 2 citizens of the nation on the basis of age. Decide the outcome of the petition.

- A. Favourable for the petitioner.
- B. Unfavourable for the petitioner.
- C. The petition does not fullfill the validity of admission.
- D. None of the above

74. Raghav Singh is an adult movie star and regularly appears with his girlfriend Natasha. In on the videos he makes her appear like a child though they both are above 30 years of age. Raghav after getting caught by the police complains that the adult star in questions i.e his Girlfriend is an adult and he should not be charged under POCSO ACT. Decide.

- A. He will be charged under the POCSO act.
- B. He will not be charged under the POCSO act.
- C. He will be dealt under the Indian Penal code but not POCSO.
- D. His case comes under mistake of fact and law.

75. A case is filed against Mohan who is the son of an Auto rickshaw driver and adult by Sunam Singh. Sunam has alleged that Mohan has molested him in his teenage years. Sunam then files a complaint and trial runs for 3 years in the pocso court without any further headway. In the 4 th year, the court is about to give punishment to Mohan who then approaches High Court alleging delay in trial over the time limit of 1 year prescribed in POCSO Act. Decide whether his petition will succeed or not.

- A. Petition will succeed.
- B. Petition will not succeed.
- C. Petition will not succeed as Indian limitation act applies on posco cases.
- D. None of the above

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76. Vikramjit has been running a factory where he employs several hundred of children who are routinely abused by him both emotionally and physically. Police of Kapurthala catches him red handed and charges him with pocso. The court order the police to advertise his name in full newspaper asking for any person who has been harassed by him. Vikramjit files a petition in the High court alleging violation of In camera trial proceedings. Will he succeed in the case?

- A. Vikramjit will win the case as accused are entitled for protection of Privacy.
- B. Vikramjit will not win the case as he is the harasser and not the victim.
- C. He may win the case since the proceedings are meant to be in-camera.
- D. Vikramjit will not win the case as both the victim and accused are entitled to privacy protection.

XVI. Legal Aid Provides free legal services to the poor and needy peoples who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for the conduct of a case or a legal proceeding in any court, tribunal or before an authority. Legal Aid is the method adopted to ensure that no one is deprived of professional advice and help because of lack of funds. Therefore, the main object is to provide equal justice is to be made available to the poor and weaker section of society.

Persons those are entitled to Free Legal Services under the Legal Services Authorities Act are:

1. a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe;
2. a victim of trafficking in human beings or begar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
3. a woman or a child;
4. a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
5. a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
6. an industrial workman; or
7. in custody, including custody in a protective home or in a juvenile home
8. of in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or
9. a person whose annual income less than rupees fifty thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government.

There are certain objectives of the government to establish a system of the free legal system. And the Right to Free Legal Aid is also mentioned under Article 39A of the Constitution of India.

Objectives:

Right to Legal Aid in India

Free legal aid is necessary for those people as it is written in our Indian constitution under Article 14 that all the people are equal to the justice should also be provided to all persons whether they are rich or poor. Free legal aid is given to the poor who are not able to fight a case against a powerful or a rich person can also get justice.

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Legal Representation

Legal representation means that the poor and the weaker section get legal representative as they are also the citizen of India and it is our fundamental right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution of India. So whether a person is rich or a poor he has the right to have a legal representative so that they can also get free legal aid from the government. It is written under Article 39A of the Constitution of India to give Free legal aid to all the citizen of India.

77. Ramesh is the SHO of Police Station Mumbai east. He has recently arrested a person Mahesh and his child Karunesh in Covid regulations violation case. In the case before the judicial magistrate before the court who is eligible for Legal aid as per the information given in passage?

- A. Only Mahesh is covered under the Legal Aid provisions.
- B. Only Karunesh is covered under the Legal Aid provisions.
- C. Both Mahesh and Karunesh.
- D. No one should be arrested.

78. Ramesh is the SHO of Police Station Mumbai east. He has recently arrested a person Mahesh and his gang of collaborators who are involved human trafficking along with 2 girls Rekha and Seema. In the case before the judicial magistrate before the court who is eligible for Legal aid as per the information given in passage?

- A. Only Mahesh and his gang are covered under the Legal Aid provisions.
- B. Only 2 girls are covered under the Legal Aid provisions.
- C. Mahesh, his gang and the two girls are eligible under the Legal Aid provisions.
- D. None of the parts are entitled to Legal Aid.

79. Mahesh is a person of Indian origin and is residing in Calcutta. In the heat of May 2020 his purse is stolen by a guy named Sam who resides in the local area. The guy Sam uses the purse money to eat in a good restaurant. After duration of two days, Sam is arrested by the local police station officers and is produced before the local magistrate. Sam's guardian later produces a certificate of medical insanity which is refuted by the other side as a fake on the ground that he knew how to use the purse money diligently. Is Sam eligible for Legal Aid in the court of law?

- A. Yes, he is eligible for Legal Aid.
- B. No, he is not eligible for Legal Aid.
- C. Depends on the fact of the case.
- D. Sam will become eligible for Legal Aid with certain conditions.

80. Kasturi decides to challenge the Legal Aid provision in the Supreme Court of India on the grounds of being discriminatory to people who have affluent backgrounds. In her writ petition she states that the same is discriminatory to the great principles of Equality under the Indian Constitution. Is her writ petition constitutionally valid?

- A. Yes, the writ petition is constitutionally valid.
- B. The writ petition is not constitutionally valid.
- C. The writ petition is not valid as no petition can challenge legislative decision.
- D. The writ can't be admitted due to jurisdictional faults.

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81. Mohan is a contractual labour and is routinely harassed by his employer in the premises. After year of his labour with a meager yearly salary of 45000, he is suddenly thrown out of the employment by his employer due to a disease. He files a case in the judicial magistrate court and files a plea to be given legal aid. Is his plea legally valid?

- A. Yes, he can file his plea and it's legally valid.
- B. The plea is not valid in the eyes of law.
- C. The plea is not valid as the employer has a reason to throw him out of the job.
- D. None of the options are correct.

XVII. The Supreme Court recently observed that the conviction under Section 498-A IPC would not be sustainable when the marriage was found to be null and void. In appeal before the Apex Court, it was contended that, as the marriage between the parties has been held to be null and void by the judgment of the High Court of Madras, the conviction under section 498-A would not be sustainable. For Section 498A to apply, certain prerequisites must be met. Firstly, it's essential that she should be a married woman. This provision was added to shield wives and female relatives from abusive treatment at the hands of their husbands and/or male relatives. Secondly, woman must have experienced either brutality or harassment. The term "cruelty" can refer to a wide variety of behaviours. To demand a dowry is harsh in and of itself. Thirdly, such brutal harassment should have been demonstrated by either the spouse or the husband's family, if not both. Section 498A offences are Cognizable, Non-bailable and Non-Compoundable.

Cognizable crimes are those where the police can arrest without a warrant, whereas non-cognizable offences are those where the police cannot arrest without a warrant. Law enforcement has an obligation to report and investigate any crime that meets the legal definition. Non-bailable: If a complaint is lodged under Section 498A, the magistrate can refuse bail and send the accused to court or police custody without the need for a bail hearing. Non-compoundable: A petitioner cannot withdraw from a non-compoundable case i.e. cannot settle outside court (such as a rape or 498A charge) with the exception of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, where the latter charge has recently been rendered compoundable.

Extracted from – 1. Conviction U/S 498A IPC Not Sustainable When Marriage Is Found To Be Null & Void : Supreme Court (livelaw.in) 2. Section 498A IPC – iPleaders.

82. Seema and Ram married in the year 2020 and were living a disturbed matrimonial life since the date of the marriage. The daily feuds between the couple led to many emotional and verbal fights about daily chores which distanced them emotionally. After one year of marriage, Seema moved to her parents house and lived there for about an year. A case of Section 498-A was filed by the father of Seema on Ram and consequently he was arrested by the Police. Decide as a Judge whether he will be convicted under Section 498-A?

- A. The accused will be convicted under Section 498-A.
- B. The accused will not be convicted under Section 498-A.
- C. The case is not fit for application of Section 498-A due to marital status.
- D. The case is not covered under the ambit of section 498-A.

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83. Seema and Ram married in the year 2020 and were living a disturbed matrimonial life since the date of the marriage. The daily feuds between the couple led to many emotional verbal and physical fights about daily chores which distanced them emotionally. After one year of marriage, Seema moved to her house and lived there for about a year. A case of Section 498-A was filed by the father of Seema on Ram and consequently he was arrested by the Police. Decide as a Judge whether police had the power to arrest the Ram under Section 498-A?

- A. The Police officials have the power to arrest Ram.
- B. The Police officials do not have the power to arrest Ram.
- C. The Police officials cannot arrest Ram as no case is made under section 498-A.
- D. Facts are not sufficient in this case to decide a conclusive decision on power of arresting Ram.

84. Sakshi and Raju married in the year 2015 and were living a disturbed matrimonial life since the date of the marriage. The daily feuds between the couple led to many emotional, verbal and physical fights about daily chores which distanced them emotionally as well as physically. After one year of marriage, Raju started harassing Sakshi for Dowry which led to her going into depression. A case of Section 498-A was filed by the father of Sakshi on Raju and consequently he was arrested by the Police. Raju files a bail petition in the District court which is denied by the Judge. Raju appeals in the High court citing violation of Article 21 by denial of bail. Decide as a Judge whether the bail denial by District Judge was valid?

- A. The bail cannot be denied by the judge because bail is the right of the accused.
- B. The bail cannot be denied by the judge because it is guaranteed under Section 498-A.
- C. The bail can be denied by the Judge.
- D. The bail can be denied by the Judge as Raju did not submit the bail application through a proper form.

85. Sakshi and Raju married in the year 2015 and were living a disturbed matrimonial life since the date of the marriage. The daily feuds between the couple led to many emotional, verbal and physical fights about daily chores which distanced them emotionally as well as physically. After one year of marriage, Raju started harassing Sakshi for Dowry which led to her going into depression. A case of Section 498-A was filed by the father of Sakshi on Raju and consequently he was arrested by the Police. Decide as a Judge whether the offence can be compounded by both the parties by virtue of Section 498-A?

- A. The offence can be compounded as per Law.
- B. The offence cannot be compounded as per Law.
- C. The offence can be compounded but this case is not fit for compounding.
- D. The offence once registered can only be compounded after it reaches the trial stage.

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Logical Reasoning

XVIII. Minilaterals enable like-minded countries to work together in areas that are hindered by multilaterals or bigger groups of nations. For example, minilateral groups are pursuing common goals toward practical climate targets, while it has proved difficult to reach agreement on climate issues in larger multilateral settings. In a significant development, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia announced a minilateral formation committed to bolstering mangrove conservation around the world during the U.N. climate summit in Egypt last November. Called the Mangrove Alliance for Climate, the group also includes India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain. Meanwhile, the United States is also expanding its involvement in minilateralism, making it a critical tool for economic diplomacy. The Chip 4 alliance brings together the United States, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea to create a supply-chain grouping of leading chipmakers. Although the initiative is based on economic concerns, it also has an underlying geopolitical element: Its aim is to counter China's dominance in designing and producing sophisticated semiconductors. U.S. involvement in minilaterals may be motivated by geopolitical considerations, but the format also allows countries that don't wish to focus on geopolitical competition to work with the United States on issues of mutual concern.

The changing geostrategic landscape has created new opportunities for cooperation among several middle powers. Minilateralism can provide a model for emerging markets and developing countries, too. Although its benefits seem to far outweigh its costs, it does come with some risks; minilateralism could make international organizations more ineffective than they already are and could promote contention. But in many cases, bilateral relations have reached a saturation point, and multilateral institutions are weak and ineffective. With or without the United States, minilateralism is likely to thrive in the years to come, much as nonalignment gained traction during the Cold War.

[Extracted with edits and revision from "Minilateral Era" by Husaln Haqqani and Narayannapa Janardhan, ForeignPolicy]

86. Which of the following statements is the correct assumption on which the argument that minilaterals is likely to thrive in the years to come, has been made?

- A. Reaching a saturation point implies strong mutual concern and stronger partnership for cooperation in economy.
- B. International organisations are weak since they do not know how to cater risk.
- C. Multilateralism is failing all over the world.
- D. Multilateralism has failed in climate conservation and delivering climate justice.

87. Which of the following argument most strengthens the idea that minilaterals are basically meant for mutual economic concern rather than geopolitical consideration?

- A. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, Organization of American States, and the European Union are few of the strongest regional geopolitical groupings.
- B. Most minilaterals are also voluntary and not legally binding.
- C. It is worth noting that some minilaterals, including the I2U2 group, developed organically with private-public partnerships.
- D. In 2022, leaders from Singapore to India to the United Arab Emirates reiterated their desire to avoid choosing between China and the United States.

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88. Which of the following statements author would readily agree with?

- A. Economic trade-off is necessary for participation in minilateralism.
- B. Minilateralism leads countries with similar capabilities to join hands together, a feature which multilateralism does not provide.
- C. Minilateralism facilitates economic cooperation in ways that multilateralism does not.
- D. Minilateralism offers countries to grow in breadth viz. bilaterally, trilaterally and quad laterally.

89. Which of the following is a good reason for the countries who don't wish to enter minilateral group with US concerning geopolitical competition?

- A. They might be interested in other countries.
- B. They might have more important economic concerns.
- C. The format of minilateralism does not allow the same.
- D. Countries do not find them on same page with US.

90. Which of the following is an analogous to the idea of forming minilateral group?

- A. Countries joining hands together to form a military alliance to strengthen geopolitical stability.
- B. Countries forming a large group to tackle threats from a super power nation.
- C. Countries forming a small group to fight similar climate threats in their regions.
- D. Countries forming a group to create a nuclear alliance.

XIX. Richard Goodwin, the well-known American economist who taught at Harvard before migrating to Cambridge, England, because of the McCarthyite witch-hunt of the 1950s, and who, although a Marxist, did some simulations on a model of a capitalist economy. The economy in the model experienced a wave of innovations while output was determined by aggregate demand; and the simulation results showed that unless wages increased significantly because of the introduction of innovations, output and employment at the end of the wave would be lower than at the beginning. There is no reason, however, for such a rise in wages despite the rise in labour productivity because the rise in unemployment through which alone such a rise in labour productivity manifests itself would weaken workers' bargaining strength for enforcing higher wages. The conclusion about technological change causing economic retrogression in such a capitalist economy therefore remains unaffected.

Capitalist economies, however, have not actually seen economic retrogression as a consequence of technological change. The question arises: why not? If as technological change is introduced and there is a simultaneous increase in aggregate demand for some independent reason, then there need not be either a decline in employment or output in the economy introducing such a change. But there is no reason why such an increase should occur within the capitalist sector. It will have to come from outside, and not just as a coincidence; the capitalist sector must cause such an independent expansion in aggregate demand to happen. In short, it will need to have a 'market on tap' existing outside of it that it can turn to for preventing a decline in output and employment. This idea, originally advanced by Rosa Luxemburg, has been borne out in practice. Capitalism has generally had such a 'market on tap' (a phrase of the economic historian, S.B. Saul), which is why technological change under it has been accompanied not by economic retrogression but by economic progress. [Extracted with edits and revision from 'Flawed Idea Innovation and Retrogression' by Prabhat Patnaik, , Telegraph India]

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91. Which of the following can be concluded assuming that technological change under capitalism has been accompanied not by economic retrogression but by economic progress?

- A. Yes, technological change does have some correlation with economic retrogression.
- B. No, technological change cannot accompany economic progress.
- C. Yes, technological change does have some correlation with economic progress.
- D. No, technological change is a function of economic retrogression and economic progress.

92. Which of the following statement is a good reason to believe that no rise in wages occurs in capitalism market structure despite increases in labour productivity?

- A. There are external factors affecting such stagnancy in wages.
- B. Labour productivity is not dependent on wages.
- C. Capitalism market structure depends upon demand and supply curve.
- D. Rise in unemployment decreases the bargaining power of workers.

93. Which of the following cannot be drawn as inference from the argument above?

- A. Technological change have never brought economic retrogression in capitalist economy.
- B. Capitalist economy is characterised by labour productivity.
- C. Wages do affect output and employment.
- D. Innovation is not the characteristic of capitalist economy.

94. Which of the following statement supports the contention that capitalist sector must cause an independent expansion in aggregate demand to happen on the advent of technological change?

- A. If there is a wave of innovation that increases labour productivity, then it would certainly increase unemployment at some point.
- B. Market taps are not easily available in the era of innovation and technological change.
- C. Capitalist markets shrink their production to balance weakening demand due to technological change.
- D. Metropolitan capitalism could avoid any decrease in its domestic employment and output following technological change by exporting goods to the colonies where they caused deindustrialisation and reduced local production.

95. Which of the following is a premise that proves that capitalist economies, however, have not actually seen economic retrogression as a consequence of technological change?

- A. Decline in employment or output in the economy introduces such a technological change.
- B. Whenever a technological change is introduced demand is set to rise whether directly or indirectly.
- C. Technological changes lead to change in market structure.
- D. Technological change leads to decrease in labour productivity.

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XX. The study, in *Biological Psychiatry: Global Open Science* examined Magnetic Resonances Imaging (MRI) scans of adolescent brains taken before and after the lockdown and observed that the MRIs taken after the lockdown displayed signs of rapid aging. This is the first such study to try to understand the physical changes in the brain due to the lockdown and the resulting mental health crisis triggered by the Covid19 pandemic. Jonas Miller, a co-author of the study, said that the pandemic might have been such a major event that it entirely altered how adolescent brains develop. “Adolescence is already a period of rapid reorganization in the brain, and it’s already linked to increased rates of mental health problems, depression, and risk-taking behaviour,” Miller noted, adding, “Now you have this global event that’s happening, where everyone is experiencing some kind of adversity in the form of disruption to their daily routines – so it might be the case that the brains of kids who are 16 or 17 today are not comparable to those of their counterparts just a few years ago.”

Besides affecting physical health, the Covid-19 pandemic brought along with it a worldwide mental health crisis too. In many households, people had to grapple with immense mentally tasking circumstances. These included “new realities of working from home, temporary unemployment, home-schooling of children, and lack of physical contact with other family members.” In addition, one also had to deal — almost on a daily basis — with news of death and despair around one’s surroundings. The situation has been particularly unkind to children, adolescents, and young adults. But while data on worsening mental health has been available for a while, there has been no information on how our brains have physically responded to the situation.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from *Study Observes Rapid Aging in Teenagers’ Brain Scans Post-Lockdown* by Amlan Sarkar, *The Swaddle*]

96. Which of the above statement strengthens the idea that public health emergencies result into poor mental health and ageing of the brain of a lot of people?

- A. Aging of the brain itself is a naturally occurring process and part of human growth.
- B. People who have experienced chronic adversity tend to show more signs of mental health problems.
- C. Physical changes on the brain themselves do not indicate mental health problems.
- D. American Centre for Disease Control, in 2021 claimed that more than a third (37%) of high school students reported they experienced poor mental health during Covid19 pandemic.

97. Which of the following statements is a good reason for the assertion that (MRI) scans of adolescent brains taken before and after the lockdown displayed signs of rapid aging?

- A. Brain development in adolescents depends very less on external environment.
- B. Physical development coincides with mental development in most of the adolescents.
- C. The changes that young adolescents encounter during the pandemic time must be counted as adversity for the brain which resulted in rapid aging.
- D. Adolescents encounter more anxiety issues as compared to children or full-grown adults.

98. Which of the following statements is an assumption when the author states that in many households, people had to grapple with immense mentally tasking circumstances?

- A. Prior to pandemic people never use to take up mental task.
- B. Pandemic led to imbalance between mental and physical tasks.
- C. Pandemic led to circumstances which led people to do mental tasks which they never use to do.
- D. People are generally never ready to do mental tasks at home.

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99. Which of the following can be concluded from the passage above?

- A. Physical response of the brain is different from the emotional response.
- B. Physical state of brain is correlated to mental health.
- C. Physical state of the brain is completely dependent on mental health of adolescents.
- D. There is no relation of physical state of the brain with mental health.

100. Which of the following statement author would not agree with as per the argument?

- A. Adolescence is the age when mental reorganisation of the brain takes place.
- B. Mental health crisis is the result of mis-happenings and adversity.
- C. Pandemic changed the way adolescents develop their brain.
- D. If the brain over-develops from the chronological age then the outcome is uncertain.

XXI. COP15, the UN biodiversity summit held in Montreal, Canada, has come to a close with the approval of a landmark deal with the ambitious target to protect 30% of the world's biodiversity by 2030. While the summit was heralded as the "last chance" to protect species and ecosystems from destruction, previous reports suggested progress had been slow, with parties divided on the issue of financing conservation efforts. One key issue has been how to ensure a more equitable sharing of the benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources, that is, genetic materials obtained from plants, animals and microbes. Unequal benefit sharing leads to what experts call biopiracy. As The Guardian reported, an agreement has now been made on this front to set up a funding mechanism on digital sequence information (DSI).

Firstly, benefit sharing refers to a system that aims to fairly distribute any benefits arising from the use of genetic information derived from natural resources between stakeholders — such as research organizations and biotech companies — and the countries where this biological resource is found. These genetic resources have led to various scientific breakthroughs over the years — from medicines to innovations in food and cosmetics. Technological advancements have now made it possible to digitize genetic data — digital sequence information (DSI) — and store it in online databases. This complicates the equal distribution of benefits. DSI is made freely available in public databases to be utilized as a tool for scientific innovation that benefits populations around the world. For example, conservationists have used DSI to revive populations of the California condor, the largest bird in Northern America. However, countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have previously argued that open-sourced DSI "has become a loophole for pharmaceutical companies and others to avoid sharing profits deriving from their flora, fauna..." reported The Guardian.

[Extracted from "As the COP15 ends, biopiracy is the key issue, what is it?" by Ananya Singh, the Swaddle]

101. Which of the following statement describes DSI in detail?

- A. DSI is an online platform for registering innovations in research concerning biomaterials.
- B. DSI is a database which helps in finding genetic patents over the world.
- C. DSI is a public database which stores genetic data coming from genetic resources.
- D. DSI is a private database which stores data about biotech companies.

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102. Which of the following statement explains the reason that DSI has complicated equal benefit sharing among stakeholders?

- A. DSI does not provide marginal benefit to the origin country of the natural resource.
- B. DSI provides only irrelevant data hiding the core data from its users.
- C. DSI is used as loophole by the pharma companies to bypass the benefits to be shared to the source country.
- D. DSI does data discrimination and thereby cannot provide equal benefit among stakeholders.

103. Which of the following weakens the contention that DSI was aimed at fair distribution among various stakeholders?

- A. DSI was designed as a system which would stop biopiracy.
- B. DSI was based on genetic resource sharing platform and not equal distribution of profits
- C. DSI being open-sourced public platform gave unfair advantage to pharma companies.
- D. DSI facilitated scientific innovation which would benefit each and every stakeholder regardless of its origin.

104. Which of the following is an assumption made by the author while claiming that summit was heralded as the “last chance” to protect species and ecosystems from destruction?

- A. 70% of the world biodiversity has already been destroyed by the human activities.
- B. There were no earlier efforts being made to stop degradation of the environment.
- C. Eco-systems and species required immediate climate action to stop their degradation.
- D. Conservation efforts had been inadequate in previous summits pertaining to finance.

105. Which of the following statements author would not readily agree with?

- A. Benefit sharing system has to be intrinsically focused on fair and equal sharing of the benefits.
- B. Technological change has led to the digitization of the data processing, collection and retrieval.
- C. Public data and platforms pertain to open-source resources.
- D. Conservation efforts can protect biodiversity of the complete planet.

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XXII. The new findings on the link between depression and perfectionism correspond to those from past studies. Published in the Journal of Research in Personality, a 2020 paper — involving 18 longitudinal studies conducted on 5,568 participants — too, had found that perfectionism can lead people to think, feel, and behave in ways that generate stress and social disconnection, resulting in depressive symptoms. “I believe that the destructiveness of perfectionism is severely misunderstood, underestimated, and underappreciated. Moreover, research suggests we are currently facing an epidemic of perfectionism,” Martin M. Smith from York St. John University, corresponding author of the study, had told PsyPost. In addition to depression, past studies have also linked perfectionism to other mental health disorders like anxiety, eating disorders, and deliberate self-harm. With a global mental health crisis underway in the aftermath of the pandemic, this link between perfectionism and depressive symptoms could be even more dangerous.

In fact, even before the pandemic struck, perfectionism was at a record high among youth. “Irrational ideals of the perfect self-have become desirable — even necessary — in a world where performance, status, and image define a person’s usefulness and value,” notes an article published by the World Economic Forum in 2018. India, perhaps, has all the more reasons to be concerned. To begin with, one in every 20 Indians already suffers from depression, according to the WHO; in fact, mental distress is believed to be the key reason behind one student committing suicide every hour in India. Making matters worse are Indian “child-rearing practices,” which have already been criticized for cultivating perfectionism on the basis of socially perceived notions and demands — making the link between perfectionism and depression, in a country riddled with depression, scarier. Yet another study — published in the British Journal of Psychology this June — suggested that perfectionism might, in fact, curb creative thinking, too, thereby impacting one’s performance adversely. “Standards of perfection have an important impact on the process of creation. It affects the motivation, emotions, and behaviours of individuals. High strivings can be energizing, but may also rigidify the behaviours of individuals when set rigidly,”.

[Extracted from “Perfectionism Is Counterproductive and Leads to Depression, Research Shows” by Devrupa Rakshit, the Swaddle]

106. Which of the following statements support the contention of World Economic Forum that “irrational ideals of the perfect self-have become desirable- even necessary- in a world where performance, status and image define a person’s usefulness and value”?

- A. Perfectionism doesn’t just lead to depression in the long run, but is also counterproductive.
- B. Perfectionism can lead to poorer outcomes, while making people miserable and causing them to feel less fulfilled in their lives.
- C. Those who strive for excellence they perform better than perfectionists.
- D. Perfectionism is perceived as healthy, positive, adaptive, and functional for majority of humans.

107. Which of the following statement author would readily disagree with

- A. Mental distress is one of the top causes for suicidal cases in India.
- B. Perfectionism curbs creative thinking and is rather adverse for a person.
- C. Perfectionism helps one to achieve healthy mental strength and lifestyle.
- D. Perfectionism leads people to think and behave generating stress and social disconnection.

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108. Which of the following statements does not justify that standards of perfection have an important impact on the process of creation?

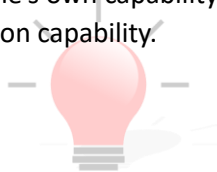
- A. Perfectionism generally leads to a fear of the idea that every time one's creation would be flawless which actually holds them back if things do not go as planned.
- B. Perfectionism can keep us from taking risks and prevent us from challenging the norm.
- C. People tend to lose a lot of things in their lives which might have important for them in order to follow perfectionism.
- D. Perfectionism breaks your creative flow while you are creating something new.

109. Which of the following statement is a critique to "child-rearing practices" in India?

- A. Indian child rearing practices are based on moral and ethical practices.
- B. Anecdotal evidence suggest that Indian child rearing is more protective and conservation in stance.
- C. Indian traditional child rearing is at par one of the best in the world.
- D. The practices cultivate perfectionism on the benchmark of socially perceived notions and demands.

110. Which of the following is an effect pertaining to perfectionism that leads to depression?

- A. Perfectionism leads to disorientation and disintegration of one's personality.
- B. Perfectionism leads to social disconnection while also generating stress.
- C. Perfectionism leads to false implication of one's own capability.
- D. Perfectionism propels deep impact on creation capability.



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Quantitative Techniques

XXIII. There were five centres (A, B, C, D and E) in a city for CLAT 2023 exam. The minimum distance between any two centres was 4 km. The combined number of students in all five centres was 2400. The number of students in Centre A was 25% more than the number of students in Centre B. The number of students in Centre C was 120 more than the number of students in Centre B and 120 less than the number of students in Centre D. There were 1020 students in Centre E.

111. The number of students in Centre E was what percentage of the number of students in Centre A?

- A. 240
- B. 300
- C. 320
- D. 340

112. What was the difference between the number of students in Centre A and the number of students in Centre D?

- A. 160
- B. 180
- C. 200
- D. 240

113. The number of students in Centre C was what percentage of the number of students in Centre D?

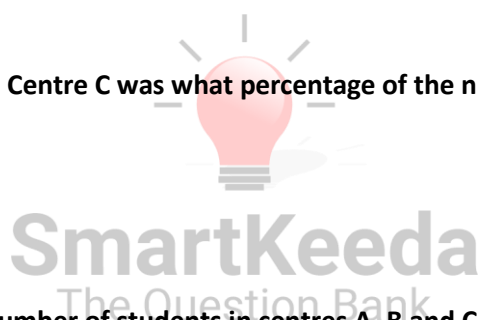
- A. 75
- B. 90
- C. 100
- D. 125

114. What was the combined number of students in centres A, B and C?

- A. 600
- B. 750
- C. 900
- D. 1000

115. Which centre had the second least number of students?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D



XXIV. Three shopkeepers sold two types of articles i.e article A and article B. The ratio of the number of article A to that of article B sold by Anuj is 3 : 5. The total number of articles sold by Dinesh, out of which 40% are article A, is 75% of the total articles sold by Anuj. The number of article B sold by Dinesh is 180. The total number of articles sold by Chirag is 25% more than that of Dinesh and the ratio of the number of article A to that of B sold by Chirag is 3 : 2.

116. What is the ratio of the number of article A sold by Chirag to the number of total articles sold by Dinesh?

- A. 2 : 3
- B. 3 : 4
- C. 3 : 5
- D. 1 : 5

117. Find the difference between the number of article A and B sold by Chirag.

- A. 90
- B. 120
- C. 100
- D. 75

118. What is the average number of article A sold by all the shopkeepers together?

- A. 145
- B. 150
- C. 165
- D. 180

119. The number of article B sold by Anuj is what percentage of the total number of articles sold by Chirag?

- A. 62.50
- B. 90.90
- C. 11.11
- D. 66.67

120. What is the total number of articles sold by all the shopkeepers together?

- A. 1025
- B. 1075
- C. 1150
- D. None of these



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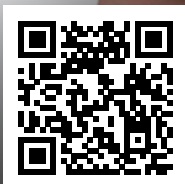
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[Cover story]

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“LawEx” is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, “LawEx” provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

Editor's Note

The Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan launched "Jaadui Pitara" a play-based learning-teaching material to strengthen conceptual understanding amongst learners of three to eight years of age. Six extraordinarily massive galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang have been discovered by James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). To know more, keep reading.

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**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
FROM INDIA AND THE WORLD**

QUICK BOOSTERS



JADUI PITARA

WHY IN NEWS?

- As envisaged under National Education Policy 2020, the Ministry of Education has launched Learning - Teaching Material for Foundational Stage and 'Jadui Pitara'.

About Jadui Pitara

- 'Jadui Pitara' is a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children between the age group of 3-8.
- It aimed at enriching the learning-teaching environment and making it more child-centric, lively and joyful for the Amrit Generation as envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).
- It comprises playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flash cards, story books, worksheets as well as reflecting the local culture, social context and languages is designed to pique curiosity and accommodate the diverse needs of learners in the foundational Stage.
- 'Jadui Pitara' developed under the National Curriculum Framework is available in 13 Indian languages.

About National Curriculum Framework (NCF)

- The NCF for foundational Stage (F.S.) was launched by Ministry of Education on October 20, 2022.
- The NCF is one of the key components of NEP 2020 that enables and energises this transformation, informed by the aims, principles, and approach of NEP 2020.
- The NCF has four sections -
 - NCF for School Education
 - NCF for Early Childhood Care and Education (Foundational Stage)
 - NCF for Teacher Education
 - NCF for Adult Education
- The Foundational Stage refers to children in the age group of 3 to 8 years, across the entire range of diverse institutions in India.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Article 21A of the Constitution makes it obligatory on the State to provide free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 and 14 years.
- Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009 aims to provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years and enforces education as a Fundamental Right.
- National Education Policy 2020 has been announced on 29.07.2020.
- The NEP 2020 envisages 5+3+3+4 curriculum pedagogical structure.





WHATSAPP CHATBOT POWERED BY CHATGPT FOR WELFARE SCHEMES

WHY IN NEWS?

- A team called 'Bhashini' of the Ministry of Electronics and I.T. (MeitY) is developing a WhatsApp chatbot powered by ChatGPT, which helps the farmers in the country to get in touch with government schemes and programmes.

Key Points

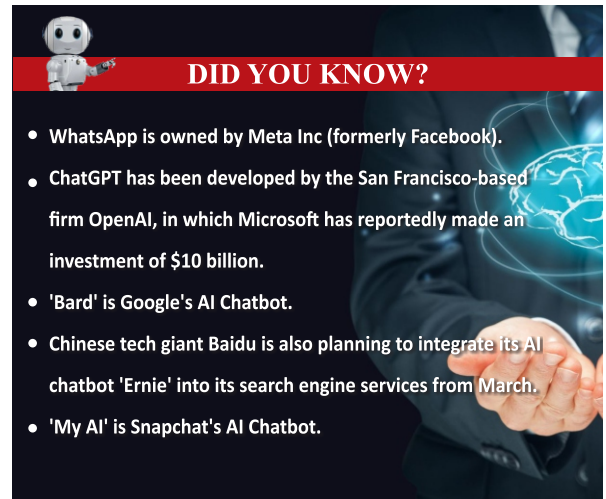
- The launch of the WhatsApp chatbot may take time as ChatGPT currently relies on input in English, and the support for local languages is limited. So to build a local language model for the WhatsApp chatbot, the Government's 'Bhasha Daan' initiative will be used.
- A user could simply ask a question using voice notes and receive a voice-based response generated by ChatGPT.
- The chatbot has been developed keeping in mind sections of India's rural and agrarian population that most depend on government schemes and subsidies.
- The model currently supports 12 languages in the test phase, including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Odia, and Assamese. If a user were to send a voice note in any of these languages, the chatbot would successfully return a response.

Key Initiatives under Digital India Programme

- DigiLocker
- Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)
- MeriPehchaan
- Digital Village
- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA)
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI)
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) 123 Pay
- Digital India GENESIS (Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups)
- Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme
- MeghRaj
- Indiastack.global

About ChatGPT

- ChatGPT is a variant of GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) which is a large-scale neural network-based language model. ChatGPT is based on GPT-3.5, a language model that uses deep learning to produce human-like text.
- It can generate responses to a wide range of topics, such as answering questions, providing explanations, and engaging in conversations.
- In addition to being able to "admit its mistakes, challenge false premises, and refuse unsuitable requests," the ChatGPT can also "answer follow-up questions."
- The chatbot was also trained using Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF).



DID YOU KNOW?

- WhatsApp is owned by Meta Inc (formerly Facebook).
- ChatGPT has been developed by the San Francisco-based firm OpenAI, in which Microsoft has reportedly made an investment of \$10 billion.
- 'Bard' is Google's AI Chatbot.
- Chinese tech giant Baidu is also planning to integrate its AI chatbot 'Ernie' into its search engine services from March.
- 'My AI' is Snapchat's AI Chatbot.

Bhasha Daan Initiative

Bhasha Daan is an ambitious project that aims to crowdsource voice datasets in multiple Indian languages as part of Project BHASHINI. People can contribute on the project's website by recording themselves reading out a portion of text, by typing out a sentence that they hear, or by translating text in one language into another.

Digital India BHASHINI

- Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHA INterface for India), an artificial intelligence (AI) led language translation platform, is a part of the National Language Translation Mission.
- A BHASHINI platform will make AI and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups and Individual Innovators in the public domain.
- This mission aims to empower Indian citizens by connecting them to the Digital Initiatives of the country in their own language, thereby leading to digital inclusion.



LIMITING WARMING BELOW 1.8°C

WHY IN NEWS?

- According to the new study published in Nature Communications, the UN-mandated Paris Agreement's target of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees celsius is probably insufficient to prevent an accelerated sea level rise over the next century.
- If the global temperature rise is not kept below 1.8°C, the world could witness an “irreversible loss” of west Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets and a rapid sea level rise.

Key Points

- Greenland and the Antarctica ice sheet will each likely contribute about 60-70 centimetres to the global mean sea level rise over the next 130 years under a high emission scenario, the findings showed.
- Reaching net zero carbon emissions before 2060 is critical to avoid this catastrophe. Missing the 2060 goal could cause the ice sheet to disintegrate and melt at an accelerated pace.
- The average global temperature has increased by slightly more than 1°C since 1880, according to the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- Over the past century, the global mean sea level has increased by about 20 centimetres. This could be partly attributed to the thermal expansion of seawater (increase in volume due to warming oceans), glacier and ice-sheet melt and changes in groundwater storage.
- By 2150, global sea level rise is estimated to rise by roughly 1.4, 0.5 and 0.2 metres under high, mid and low-emission scenarios, respectively.
- The increase could be avoided under a low greenhouse gas emission scenario, with temperatures staying below 1.5 °C.

Indian Initiatives to Tackle Climate Change

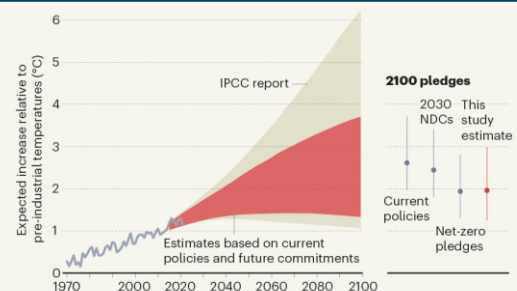
- The Government of India launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on June 30 2008, outlining eight National Missions on climate change. These include:
 1. National Solar Mission
 2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
 3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
 4. National Water Mission
 5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system
 6. National Mission for a Green India
 7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
 8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
- The India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing, inter alia, reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options by 2037-38 through forging synergies with on-going programmes/ schemes of the Government.

Global Initiatives

- Paris Agreement - seeks to keep the rise in global temperatures “well below” 2°C from pre-industrial times.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. U.N. SDGs . There are 17 broad goals.
- COP 27 presidency launched “Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda” to build climate resilience for 4 billion people living in the most climate-vulnerable communities by 2030.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Under Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India is committed -
- To reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level
- To achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- To achieve net zero emissions by 2070.
- Indian Railways is also set to achieve a net zero target by 2030.





FOREIGN NATIONALS CAN NOT BE APPOINTED AS GUARDIANS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES : DELHI HIGH COURT

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Delhi High Court has ruled that foreigners cannot say that they have a “vested right” to be the legal guardian of a disabled person or that they are entitled to the same protections under Part III of the Indian Constitution as Indian citizens.

Key Points

- A division bench was hearing a plea moved by a father whose adopted son has “severe mental retardation” with a disability certified to be 90% disability. The petitioner and his son are citizens of the USA but hold Overseas Citizenship of India cards.
- The petitioner challenged the validity of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Rules, 2001 and Board of Trust Regulations, 2012. The provisions allow only Indian citizens to be a guardian of a person.
- The High Court ruled that the Act does not specify the essential qualifications that a guardian must possess, leaving it to be determined by rules and regulations that may be framed. However, the High Court directed the Local Level Committee to examine and evaluate the circumstances.
- The Committee may consider the appointment of an Indian citizen as a statutory guardian.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35.
- The idea of fundamental rights derived from the Constitution of the USA (i.e., Bill of Rights).
- Some of them are available only to citizens, while others are available to all persons, whether citizens, foreigners or legal persons like corporations or companies.
- Article 15, Article 16, Article 19, Article 29, and Article 30 are available to citizens only.
- Article 14, Article 20, Article 21, Article 21A, Article 22, Article 23, Article 24, Article 25, Article 26, Article 27, and Article 28 are available to citizens as well as foreigners.





WORLD PANGOLIN DAY 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in February, and this year, the day falls on February 18, 2023.

Key Points

- As per the recent report, over 1,200 pangolins, also known as the scaly anteaters, were poached and trafficked in India over the past four years from 2018 to 2022.
- This report is released jointly by the World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India), and TRAFFIC, a non-governmental organisation which monitors illicit global wildlife trade.

About Pangolin

- Pangolins belong to the family Manidae and in India, they are the only known mammals with large keratin scales covering their skin. They are toothless, nocturnal, live in burrows, and feed mainly on ants and termites.
- Globally there are eight pangolin species, four each in Africa and Asia.
 - 4 Species in Africa: Black-bellied pangolin, White-bellied pangolin, Giant Ground pangolin and Temminck's Ground pangolin.
 - 4 Species in Asia: Indian pangolin, Philippine pangolin, Sunda pangolin and the Chinese pangolin.
- India is home to two species – Indian pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* and Chinese pangolin *Manis pentadactyla*.
 - Indian Pangolin is found across the Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka).
 - Chinese pangolins are found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Taiwan, China, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- In India, Chinese pangolins are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and West Bengal.

Protection Status

- As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s red list of animals, Indian pangolin and Chinese pangolin have been listed in the 'endangered (EN)' and 'critically endangered' categories respectively.
- In India, pangolins, both Indian and Chinese, are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 that prohibits its hunting, trade or any other form of utilisation.
- All pangolin species are listed in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I.



DID YOU KNOW?

- World Wide Fund for Nature – Founded: April 29 1961 | Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland | President: Pavan Sukhdev | Director General: Kirsten Schuijt
- TRAFFIC- Founded: 1976 | Founded by: World Wide Fund for Nature | John A Burton (Director) | Rick Scobey (Executive Director)



INDIA'S FIRST HYBRID-SOUNDING ROCKET

WHY IN NEWS?

- India's first hybrid-sounding rocket by private players was launched from Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu.
- Martin Foundation, in association with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam International Foundation and Space Zone India, launched the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Satellite Launch Vehicle Mission- 2023.

Key Points

- The organisations mentioned that 5,000 students were involved in the project. The selected students designed and constructed a student satellite launch vehicle (rocket) and 150 PICO satellites (satellites at a mass below 1 kg) research experiment cubes that contained different payloads.
- The rocket can be used for research in weather, atmospheric conditions and radiation.

About Hybrid Rocket

- Hybrid rocket is a bipropellant rocket engine that uses propellants in two different states (liquid and solid), which when reacted, create exhaust gases suitable for rocket propulsion.
- They also serve as easily affordable platforms to test or prove prototypes of new components or subsystems intended for use in launch vehicles and satellites.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Vikram-S, India's first privately-developed rocket, lifted off from Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) launchpad in Sriharikota.
- Vikram-S is developed by Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited.
- The launch of Vikram-S, named as a tribute to the father of India's space programme Vikram Sarabhai, is the first launch after the space segment was thrown open to private players in 2020. This mission was titled 'Prarambh'.
- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has been operating as a single-window, autonomous nodal agency of Department of Space (DOS) to boost the private space sector economy in India.
- Antrix Corporation handles ISRO's commercial deals for satellites and launch vehicles with foreign customers.





SAGAR PARIKRAMA PHASE-III

WHY IN NEWS?

- Phase III programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was started on 19th February 2023 from Hazira Port, Gujarat and ended on 21st February 2023 at Sasson Dock, Mumbai.

About Sagar Parikrama

- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and National Fisheries Development Board has launched the 'Sagar Parikrama' program to facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and stakeholders so as to disseminate information on various fisheries-related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government.
- Sagar Parikrama program is celebrated in all coastal States/U.T.s through a pre-decided sea route down right from Gujarat, Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands to have interaction program with fishermen, fisher communities and stakeholders in these locations to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.
- Phase I Programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was organized in Gujarat, started on 5th March, 2022 from Mandvi and ended on 6th March 2022 at Porbandar, Gujarat.
- Phase II The voyage Sagar Parikrama as Phase –II programme started on 22nd September 2022 from Mangrol to Veraval and ended at Mul Dwaraka, on 23rd September 2022 from Mul Dwaraka to Madhwad.

Other Schemes and Programs for the Fisheries Sector

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- Implementation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)
- Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fishers and fish farmers
- Palk Bay Scheme
- "Matsya Setu" App

DID YOU KNOW?

- India is the 3rd largest overall fish producer, and the 4th largest exporter of fish and fisheries products.
- Gujarat is the leading state in marine fish production, sharing 16.67 per cent of the country's total marine fish productions.
- Maharashtra state is 6th position in Marine fish production in India which contributes to 4.33 lakh tonnes.
- India is the 2nd major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- India ranks 1st in inland capture fish production.





JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE DISCOVERED SIX MASSIVE GALAXIES

WHY IN NEWS?

- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has discovered six extraordinarily massive first-generation galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang, according to a new study published in the journal Nature.

Key Points

- The team spotted the six monster galaxies using the Cosmic Evolution Early 44 Release Science programme of JWST.
- The programme studies the formation of the earliest galaxies when the Universe was less than five per cent of its current age.
- Researchers turned the telescope to a patch of the sky close to the Big Dipper, which appears to harbour a group of stars that form a pattern in the night sky. Hubble space telescope first observed this region in the 1990s.
- The discovery of six massive galaxies that existed between 500 million and 700 million years after the big bang has completely challenged the existing theories about the origins of galaxies.
- According to the current theory of galaxy formation, galaxies started off as small clusters of gas and dust that collapsed under gravity and gradually grew in size, forming stars along the way.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The James Webb Space Telescope, the successor of the Hubble Telescope, is the space science observatory.
- It was launched on 25th December 2021 to see further into our origins: from the formation of stars and planets, to the birth of the first galaxies in the early Universe.
- JWST is currently at its observing spot, Lagrange point 2 (L2), nearly 1 million miles (1.6 million km).
- JWST is an international partnership between National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), European Space Agency (ESA) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA).





'MISSION SHAKTI' SCHEME

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court has sought more information from the Government about Mission Shakti, intrigued by a possible chronic shortage in protection officers to deal with domestic violence cases.

Key Points

- Around 4.4 lakh cases of domestic assault are pending across a sample 801 districts. Though most of these districts have 'one-stop centres', established under Mission Shakti, to receive victims, there is still a lack of clarity about how many of them actually employ protection officers to effectively help the traumatised survivors.

About Mission Shakti

- The Government of India has launched 'Mission Shakti' - an integrated women empowerment programme as umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme seeks to make women economically empowered, exercising free choice over their minds and bodies in an atmosphere free from violence and threat. It also seeks to reduce the care burden on women and increase female labour force participation by promoting skill development, capacity building, financial literacy, access to micro-credit etc.
- 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes - 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'.
- 'Sambal' sub-scheme is for safety and security of women. The components of 'Sambal' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.
- 'Samarthya' sub-scheme is for the empowerment of women. The components of 'Samarthya' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with modifications. In addition, the existing schemes of National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under umbrella ICDS have now been included in Samarthya. A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been added in the Samarthya Scheme.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Under Mission Shakti India successfully conducted its first-ever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Test in 2019 from Dr AP J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- In this mission, a fast-moving Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was neutralised with pinpoint accuracy. This was a highly complex mission, conducted at extremely high speed with remarkable precision.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the fourth nation after the US, China and Russia in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.
- A ballistic missile defense interceptor, the Prithvi Delivery Vehicle Mark-II (PDV MK-II), developed by India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), struck and destroyed an Indian Microsat-R satellite in a flight that lasted just over half a minute.
- An ASAT weapon is anything that destroys or physically damages a satellite. ASAT missiles can be air, sea or land-based.



**SHOT
IN
THE ARM**



HOW TO UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS

"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt

Preparing for a competitive exam like CLAT can be overwhelming, especially when you're a newbie in the field of competition. Digging the stats of the previous years' results over the internet or taking reviews of the exam from your relatives can sometimes send chills down your spine. You might get to hear things like the exam is highly competitive, and you have to fight tooth and nail to grab a seat in the top NLUs or you should better stop wasting your time for such a challenging course and go for an easier career option.

In such a situation, you may find yourself swinging between the dimensions of hope and despair. First of all, you must remember that such opinions are covered like a cloak by people to hide their failures or to disappoint others on occasion.

You must believe in your ability to accomplish amazing things. The CLAT exam is indeed challenging and it's easy to become discouraged or overwhelmed during the preparation phase but your decision to attempt the CLAT exam clearly demonstrates your willingness to work hard and strive for success. No one else knows your capabilities and strength of intentions better than you. Having confidence in your abilities will help you approach the exam with a positive and determined mindset.

Also, success is never always easy or quick. There will be obstacles and setbacks along the way, but cultivating an optimistic mindset can make a significant difference in your preparation. Achieving such a mindset is no rocket science. Just before starting your study session, you should remind yourself that you can do it and you will do it. While attempting CLAT mock tests, you should celebrate small victories and acknowledge the progress you're making towards your goals.

Secondly, having a specific response to the question "Why do you want to crack the CLAT Exam?" might serve as a strong motivator to keep you committed and focused during your CLAT exam preparation. Having a clear and compelling response to this "WHY" can help you stay focused, motivated, and committed to achieving your goals. It can give you a sense of purpose and direction, and help you stay on track even when faced with challenges or setbacks. If you have a clear reason for this "Why" you can use that as a source of inspiration to keep going.

One of the greatest & most compelling responses to this "WHY" can be "to make your parents proud". Certainly, you can never repay the sacrifices made by your parents for you, but by studying hard and performing well on the CLAT exam, you have the biggest opportunity to make your parents' eyes glimmer with pride. Remember that your success is not just about you, but also about your loved ones who have supported you along the way. By studying hard and doing well on the CLAT exam, you can make them proud and give them a reason to celebrate.

Lastly & most importantly, this exam is the greatest opportunity for you to achieve your personal and professional goals. A decent rank in the CLAT exam can open doors to a wide range of opportunities in the legal field including admissions to top NLUs & a coveted job in a prestigious law firm.

So by putting in the effort now, you can set yourself up for a bright future and achieve the life you envision for yourself.

All the Best!



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK BOOSTERS



WORLD'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MILITARY (REAIM 2023)

WHY IN NEWS?

- The world's first international summit on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in the military (REAIM 2023) was held in the Netherlands on 15 and 16 February.

Themes of REAIM 2023

- Mythbusting AI: Breaking Down the Characteristics of A.I.
- Responsible Deployment and use of A.I.
- Governance Frameworks

Key Points

- The REAIM 2023, co-hosted by South Korea, hosted 80 government delegations and over hundreds of researchers and defence contractors.
- It is the first global attempt to prevent the proliferation of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) and insert ethics, responsibility, accountability and the moral factor into a rapidly developing weaponisation technology that has the potential for cataclysmic damage.
- The aim is for nations to sign up for a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty-kind of agreement. REAIM 2023 concluded in a Call to Action to the world.
- India has not signed the Call to Action — at least not yet — though China and U.S. have.

India and A.I. in Military

- The Indian defence establishment, on its part, now has a Defence Artificial Intelligence Council (DAIC) led by the defence minister to provide overall guidance and support.
- Defence minister Rajnath Singh, incidentally, had earlier declared that "25 defence-specific AI products" will be developed by 2024.
- A Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA) has also been created under the secretary (defence production), with Rs 100 crore earmarked annually for AI-enabled projects.
- The Indian Navy has 30 ongoing AI projects encompassing autonomous systems, maritime domain awareness, perimeter security, decision-making, predictive inventory maintenance and management.
- Apart from setting up an "AI core group", the Navy is also creating an AI centre of excellence at INS Valsura in Jamnagar, which already has a modern lab on AI and Big Data analysis.
- An AI centre of excellence has been established at the Military College for Telecommunication Engineering in Mhow.
- Application-oriented research in AI is also being conducted at two dedicated DRDO labs, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) and DRDO Young Scientist Laboratory (DYSL)-AI, both at Bengaluru.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Lethal Autonomous Weapons, which refer to advanced robotic systems of the future, will be capable of hitting targets without human intervention or approval.
- A person activates an autonomous weapon, but they do not know specifically who or what it will strike, nor precisely where and/or when that strike will occur.
- This is because an autonomous weapon is triggered by sensors and software, which match what the sensors detect in the environment against a 'target profile'.





RUSSIA SUSPENDS NEW START TREATY

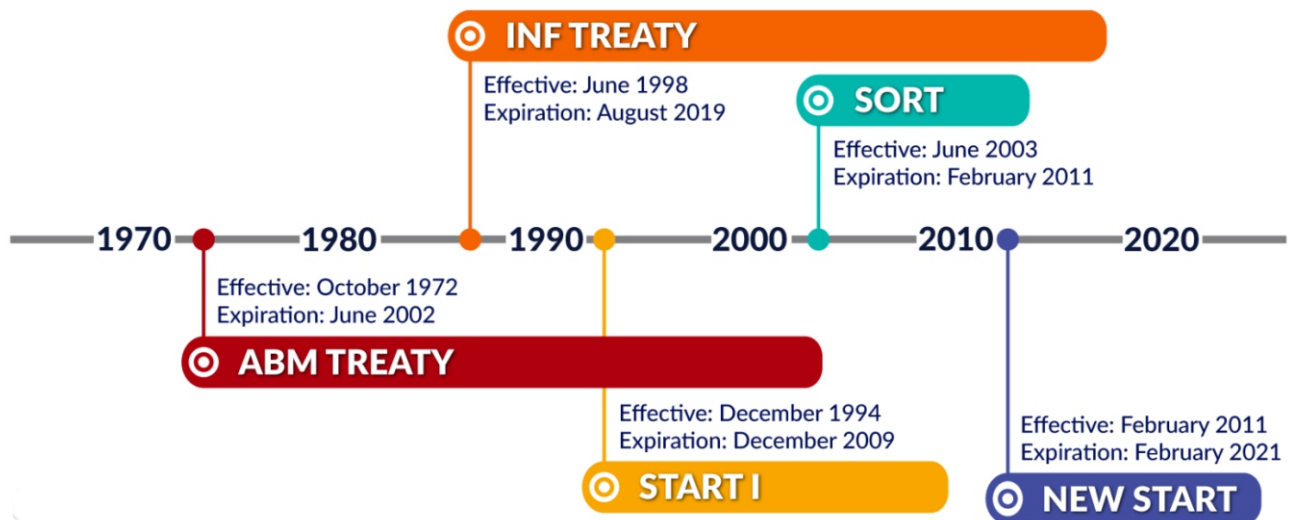
WHY IN NEWS?

- On February 21, Russia suspended its participation in the New START Treaty, the last remaining nuclear arms control agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.

About Treaty

- The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), signed in 1991, expired in late 2009, and another treaty, the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT or Moscow Treaty), was signed in 2002.
- The New START treaty, which replaced the 2002 pact, was signed in 2010 by former U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and came into force in February 2011. It was extended for five years when current U.S. President Joe Biden took office in 2021.
- It was the last remaining nuclear weapons control agreement between the two powers who together hold 90% of the world's nuclear arsenal.
- Under the Treaty, America and Russia cannot deploy more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and more than 700 long-range missiles and bombers. It also limits each country to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and delivery vehicles.

U.S.-RUSSIAN STRATEGIC ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS





INDIA – GERMANY TIES

WHY IN NEWS?

- India and Germany agreed on a vision statement to enhance cooperation on innovation and technology during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently concluded its official two-day visit to India from 25th February to 26th February.

Key Highlights

- India and Germany acknowledge that digital technologies and solutions could address key development needs and highlight the potential of these digital solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in other parts of the developing world.
- Both leaders discussed progress on the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), which India and Germany had launched during Narendra Modi's visit to Berlin for the 6th Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).
- The GSDP is an umbrella partnership that provides political guidance and steer to robust ties in climate action and SDGs.
- Under this, Germany will also place €10 billion in new and additional commitments under their development cooperation portfolio in India.
- During the IGC, India and Germany also agreed to cooperate on Green Hydrogen. The Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force was constituted in September 2022, and an Action Plan is close to finalisation.
- On "Triangular Development Cooperation", during the sixth IGC, India and Germany agreed to work on development projects in third countries. The four projects, announced in May 2022, are now in different stages of implementation:
 - I. Cameroon: Potato Seed Production through Rooted Apical Cuttings (RAC) Technology.
 - II. Malawi: Agri Business Incubator Models for Women in Agriculture & Food Systems
 - III. Ghana: Developing Bamboo-Based Enterprises for Sustainable Livelihood and Income Generation in Ghana
 - IV. Peru: Development of a geospatial portal prototype for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru (MIDIS) interventions and social programs.
- Germany has come on board the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Background

- India and Germany share a long history of cooperation in science and technology, research and innovation, institutionalised under the framework of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on 'Cooperation in Scientific Research and Technological Development', signed in May 1974.





INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INDEX 2023

WHY IN NEWS?

- India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2023.

Key Highlights

- According to the report-
- As India's size and economic influence grows on the world stage, India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.
- India has maintained continued strong efforts in copyright piracy through the issuing of "dynamic" injunction orders.
- India not only has generous R&D and IP-based tax incentives but also has a strong awareness-raising effort regarding the negative impact of piracy and counterfeiting.
- India is a global leader in targeted administrative incentives for the creation and use of IP assets for SMEs.
- The 2021 dissolution of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board, combined with the long-standing issue of an under-resourced and overstretched judiciary, raises serious concerns about rights holders' ability to enforce their IP rights in India and to resolve IP-related disputes.
- The United States of America topped the Index, followed by the United Kingdom and France.

About Index

- International IP Index 2023 is released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce.
- The Index evaluates the IP framework in each economy across 50 unique indicators which industry believes represent economies with the most effective IP systems.
- The indicators create a snapshot of an economies overall IP ecosystem and span nine categories of protection: patents, copyrights, trademarks, design rights, trade secrets, commercialisation of IP assets, enforcement, systemic efficiency, and membership and ratification of international treaties.

About IP

- IP refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, and images used in commerce.
- The main types of IP include patents for inventions, trademarks for branding, copyrights for artistic and literary works, trade secrets for confidential business information, and industrial designs for product appearance.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and committed to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).
- The WTO's Agreement on TRIPS, negotiated during the 1986-94 Uruguay Round, introduced intellectual property rules into the multilateral trading system for the first time.
- India is also a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). WIPO is the global forum for IP services, policy, information and cooperation.
- India is also a member of the Madrid System since 2013.
- Madrid System functions under the Madrid Agreement (1891) and the Madrid Protocol (1989). It is administered by the International Bureau of the WIPO.
- The system was basically introduced to provide convenience in the system of registration of marks. Every region has a different system for registration of trademarks.

Slow Progress

India's ranking and scores	Year	Rank	Score (%)
	2019	36	36.04
	2020	40	38.46
	2021	40	38.40
	2022	43	38.64
	2023	42	38.64

Source: International IP Index report





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**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS
OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**

QUICK BOOSTERS



NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2023

CONTEXT

- National Science Day is observed every year on February 28.
- Theme for 2023 - Global Science for Global Wellbeing

Background

- In 1986, the Government of India, under then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, designated February 28 as National Science Day to commemorate the announcement of the discovery of the "Raman Effect".
- In 1928, an Indian scientist named Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman invented what is now known as the Raman Effect.
- In 1930, he was given the Nobel Prize for his significant invention, which was the first Nobel Prize given in India in the field of science.

DID YOU KNOW?

- India celebrated the first National Science Day on February 28, 1987.
- National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal agency to support and coordinate celebration of the National Science Day throughout the country, particularly in scientific institutions and research laboratories.
- CV Raman, received the highest civilian award of India, Bharat Ratna, in 1954.

What is Raman Effect?

- The Raman Effect refers to the phenomenon in which when a stream of light passes through a liquid, a fraction of the light scattered by the liquid is of a different colour. This happens due to the change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.
- In general, when light interacts with an object, it can either be reflected, refracted or transmitted. One of the things that scientists look at when light is scattered is if the particle it interacts with is able to change its energy. The Raman Effect is when the change in the energy of the light is affected by the vibrations of the molecule or material under observation, leading to a change in its wavelength.
- The Raman effect forms the basis for Raman spectroscopy which chemists and physicists use to gain information about materials.
- Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation.





DISCOVERY OF 1300-YEAR-OLD BUDDHIST STUPA IN ODISHA

WHY IN NEWS?

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a 1,300-year-old stupa right in the middle of a mining site in Odisha's Jajpur district at a Khondalite mining site.
- The site is the place from where Khondalite stones were supplied for the beautification project around the 12th Century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.

Key Points

- The stupa could be 4.5-metre tall, and initial assessment showed it may belong to the 7th or 8th century.
- The archaeological asset was found at Parabhadi which is situated near Lalitagiri, a major Buddhist complex, having a large number of stupas and monasteries.
- Khondalite is quartz–manganese-rich garnet–rhodonite schist.[2] It may also contain sillimanite and graphite. Feldspar may occur in some cases.[1]

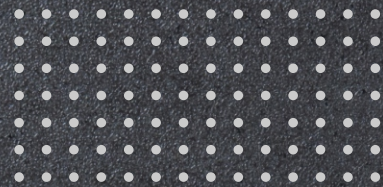
About Khondalite

- Khondalite, a type of metamorphic rock, is composed of feldspar, quartz, and mica. It is commonly used as a decorative stone in construction and is particularly prized for its durability and resistance to weathering.
- These rocks are named after the Khondalite Group of rocks, which is believed to have formed around 1.6 billion years ago during the Proterozoic era.
- Khondalite stones were widely used in ancient temple complexes. They are proposed to be used widely to maintain aesthetic value of some projects such as heritage security zone, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre, Puri lake development project, Atharnala heritage project and Matha Development Initiative.

DID YOU KNOW?

- During the fourth Buddhist Council, Buddhism was divided into two sects namely 'Mahayana Buddhism' and 'Hinayana Buddhism'.
- Mahayana sect believes in the heavenliness of Buddha and idol worship of Buddha.
- Hinayana follows the original teaching of Buddha. It emphasizes individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
- Stupas were burial mounds prevalent in India from the vedic period.
- Other Stupas in India
 - Sanchi Stupa - Madhya Pradesh
 - Piprahwa Stupa - Uttar Pradesh
 - Do-drul Chorten Stupa - Sikkim
 - Ramabhar Stupa - Uttar Pradesh
 - Dhamek stupa - Uttar Pradesh





“

MASTERING

CLAT

”

MASTERING THE CHALLENGES AND SUCCEEDING THE CLAT EXAM

The **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)**, a central National-Level Law entrance test, is a gateway to the world of Law for Law Aspirants in India. CLAT is now the single largest Law Entrance Exam in India and is preferred by those passing the 12TH Standard & opting for Law as a career option. It offers you the opportunity to secure a seat in one of the 23 NLUs (National Law Universities) of India (except for NLU DELHI which takes admissions via its separate AILET exam in India). **NLUs** or **National Law Universities** are considered the IITs of Law as they are known to provide quality legal education to Law Aspirants. These top Law colleges in India use CLAT exam scores for admission to 5-year integrated **LLB** and one-year **LLM** programmes.

Now let us understand “**Why CLAT is a difficult nut to crack?**”. CLAT is a National-Level Law Entrance Exam that attracts thousands of candidates every year. The number of seats available is limited, and thus the competition is very high. More than 60,000 students appear for the CLAT exam every year intending to secure a seat in the top NLUs. One needs to **secure a good rank** to get a seat in the top NLUs of the country. For the majority of Law aspirants, passing CLAT means getting into one of India's top five National Law Schools, having a combined capacity of around 500 students. There are a total of around 3361 seats in the National Law Universities of India, so the competition to grab one is immense. With a **selection ratio of just 0.5%**, CLAT is considered one of the toughest entrance exams in India.

Secondly, the CLAT exam covers various areas of Law, including the **English language, legal reasoning, mathematics, logical reasoning, and general knowledge**. The preparation strategy for the exam itself requires many trials by the students as it's not a conventional exam but a very dynamic one. The exam requires the student not only to be aware of current affairs but also to develop a flair for Law writing and legal knowledge. The questions in the CLAT exam are **passage-based** and require good **critical thinking** and **analytical skills** to analyze them. The legal reasoning section, in particular, involves intricate legal concepts and principles that can be challenging to understand.

The study pattern required is also not homogenous like for example NEET. NEET has 3 sections - Physics, Biology, and Chemistry equally divided and students can plan to give attention according to their strengths and weakness. CLAT is not like NEET or IITJEE, Period. The exam is unequally divided and Legal Reasoning takes the highest proportion of time in the exam as well as marks. If you do not like the Legal section, you cannot clear the CLAT exam. Similarly, if you cannot read fast, then you will not be able to clear the English and Critical Reasoning portion of the exam within the required time limit. A significant portion of preparation time is taken by GK that comes from unexpected corners and a person has to do the entire Current affairs of a year plus solid revision of static Gk topics. This makes it tough for candidates to secure a good rank and get admission to their preferred Law school.

However, the career scope after completing your degree from the top NLUs that offer admission on the basis of CLAT score is vast, and the salaries can be very lucrative, particularly for those who excel in the field and have a passion for Law.

So let's come to the burning question which must have arisen in your mind by now on CLAT, “**how to clear the CLAT exam in 2024/2025?**”

How to Clear CLAT Exam in 2024/2025?

The rules of the game have changed considerably since the new pattern of CLAT was unveiled in the year 2020. The exam unlike other exams like NEET/IIT/CUET requires first and foremost a very **good reading speed**. The pattern is not likely to be reversed in the future and it's important for all the aspirants of CLAT 2024/25 to be ready according to the needs and pattern of the exam. The ideal time of preparation for CLAT is 1 year or more but a student can **crack it in 6 months** as well if he/she has **good concentration** and **reading speed**. The CLAT exam is not to be taken at par with Boards or other Competitive exams due to the sheer difference in the nature of exams. Do not for a moment think that since you are a board topper, you can also crack CLAT, though past success will be a help in boosting confidence. As a **mentor** of the CLAT Exam since 2019 and **AIR 1272** rank holder in 2023, I will share with you all certain section-wise strategies in this CLAT blog to further your prospects in the exam.



English Section

This is the first section of the exam & requires its own mini-strategy. Questions are predominantly asked from **Comprehensions** which are fairly long and require a good analysis. The questions need to be answered by the candidates in a **max time span of 25 minutes** in order to complete the remaining sections on time. The English section is among one of the three most important reading sections of CLAT which include Legal and Critical Reasoning. Apart from reading speed candidates have to **master English Literary** devices in order to score good marks in the exam. The first thing to do as a student is to check your comprehension reading speed. Try solving at least **5 English passages** every day and you will come to know where you stand with regard to your reading speed. If your reading speed is too slow, try to find out the reason. It could be your vocabulary, your limited reading list, or your confidence issues with regard to English. If you do have around 1 year, then you can increase your reading speed to at least twice what you possess currently.

Legal Section

The next most important section for the CLAT exam is the Legal Reasoning section both by its depth as well as its size. The **Longhiest section** with the **highest number of marks** given in a particular section i.e. **40 marks**. The section has an intense focus on questions ranging from Current Legal issues like the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, and the Right to Privacy to standard questions on the topic of Cruelty given in the Indian Penal Code. The section requires absolute mastery over legal terms and Legal theory. After mastering the basics, the candidate has to revise current affairs from legal new sites such as Live Law, Bar and Bench as questions are asked from burning topics in CLAT. The tip to master the Legal section lies in the ability to master **quick reading speed** and **fast analysis** of legal terms in passages. The section can easily fetch **30+ marks** in CLAT as more than **75%** of the questions are of moderate or easy level. The ability to crack CLAT is directly proportional to cracking the legal section in the CLAT exam.

Critical Reasoning

“Analytical and critical reasoning is the rational process through which you “obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data”, while exercising logical thinking in analyzing issues and making proper decisions, to ultimately solve problems.” – McGill University

Critical Reasoning in CLAT is confused by many to be identical to English but it is not the same. The Critical Reasoning section of CLAT requires analytical and reasoning abilities in a very short span of time.

The answer has to be deciphered from the passage in the exam and the task is not easy considering the time provided. Let's say one manages to mark the **English** and **Legal section** in **1 hour 10 minutes**, then he has only **30 minutes** for **critical reasoning**. The questions come from a wide range of topics and general reading abilities will be an aid in this section of the CLAT exam as well. The first and foremost thing a student can do to learn about critical reasoning is to go first and watch the **free videos** on our Youtube channel **“LawEX by Smartkeeda”** and increase your score in this section. The next thing that can be done is reading from GMAT study materials which are available in abundance on the Internet. **'Do the work'** is the mantra for this section as it gets better with each question. Yes, with each Question!

Current Affairs

This section of CLAT is most unpredictable and questions can come from any prominent news portal, newspaper, or Static GK. The ideal time for preparation for this section of CLAT is one year with a time devotion of one hour each. A candidate may devote around **15 minutes each day** for the static Gk portion of CLAT which can come in handy if the paper is scheduled on those lines.

- The current affairs of CLAT can be covered from various sources like **Smartkeeda** GK updates, test series, Current affairs modules, newspapers, websites, etc.



- The current affairs of CLAT can be covered from various sources like **Smartkeeda** GK updates, test series, Current affairs modules, newspapers, websites, etc.
- Basic knowledge of Static Gk will be a great advantage in taking your scores to the next level.
- One of the best GK tips is to make a habit of reading the newspaper daily.
- Do not try to remember everything from everywhere. Keep a reading list for GK confined to 2 or max 3 resources and revise it.
- The art of note-making is indispensable and you need to make short notes for awards, ceremonies, and important indexes/indices.

Mathematics

This section of Maths in CLAT is done only by less than 10% of candidates in paper with 80% accuracy or more and the precise reason for the same is the complex nature of questions asked in the desired time frame. The section requires extreme practice as questions are asked from **DI sets, charts, and graphs**. The Maths section of CLAT is the deciding factor in the final selection of the **top 3 Universities** in CLAT as there is fierce competition in those brackets of colleges. The resources that you can use for good scores in the Maths section for the CLAT exam are – **Free PDFs** provided by **Smartkeeda**, Tests for entire topic coverages, etc.

Summing up

In conclusion, cracking the CLAT exam requires a well-rounded approach that encompasses both hard work and smart strategies. The journey of preparing for the exam may seem daunting, but the key is to remain committed and focused, embrace challenges, and never lose sight of the bigger picture. With the right mindset, you can easily secure the top rank and fulfill your dream of getting admission to a top Law school.





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**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE
FROM INDIA AND THE WORLD**

QUICK FACTS



1. With the demand for foreign planting materials of fruits like apple, avocado and blueberry rising over the years, the Government of India is planning to set up 10 'Clean Plant Centres', on the lines of those in developed countries such as the US, Netherlands and Israel, to boost domestic production of the selected crops. These centers will be set up under the 'Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program', which was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2023-24.
2. To promote coastal tourism in Karnataka, the country's first Marina will be constructed at Byndoor in the Udupi district.
3. According to the United Nations' (UN) new report "Trends in Maternal Mortality", India recorded the second highest number of maternal deaths in 2020, coming second at 24,000 to only Nigeria. However, there has been an overall reduction of 73.5% in MMR in India, between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, India's MMR stood at 103, a vast improvement from 384 at the turn of the century.
4. Fifteen teams of birdwatchers from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh completed the second Bird Survey Dharoi 2023 on the wetland spread over 107 square kilometres at the trijunction of Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts in north Gujarat. The bird survey was jointly organised by Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat (BCSG) and Adams Nature Retreat Resort (ANRR), Polo Forest, in collaboration with the Gujarat forest department.
5. The Kerala government entered into an agreement with the United Nations (UN) Women to boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector. Under the agreement, the Responsible Tourism Mission is to be implemented in the State.
6. So far, we have all read about the Earth having four layers. The fifth layer 'innermost inner core', recently revealed by scientists, is made of the same material as the inner core (iron and nickel). The idea that the Earth could hold a fifth layer was proposed in 2002.
7. Kerala became the first State in the country to use robotics technology for cleaning all its commissioned manholes by pressing into service the robotic scavenger Bandicoot in the temple town of Guruvayur.
8. In line with the expanding military cooperation with South East Asian nations, an Indian Navy Kilo class conventional submarine, INS Sindhukesari, docked in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the first time from February 22 to 24. The submarine, which was on operational deployment, travelled through the Sunda Strait and undertook the maiden docking in Indonesia for Operational Turnaround (OTR).
9. The 2023 ICC T20 Women's World Cup was won (6th time) by Australia after defeating South Africa. The 2023 ICC T20 Women's world cup was held in South Africa.
10. India has joined Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C). In November 2021, AIM4C was launched by the US and the UAE with an aim to accelerate investment and support for climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation.
11. As a part of the National Education Policy (NEP) drafted in 2020 and a part of the budget allocation in 2022, the Ministry of Education will set up India's first National Digital University. The National Digital University will offer diploma, certificate and degree courses. It is expected to begin its operations in the next academic year 2023-24.
12. The first semiconductor plant in India will be built in Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It will be a joint venture between India's Vedanta Limited and Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn.
13. Former IAS officer BVR Subrahmanyam has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog to replace the current CEO Parameswaran Iyer.
14. INS Sumedha participated in the Naval Defence Exhibition called the NAVDEX, and International Defence Exhibition called the IDEX conducted in Abu Dhabi.
15. As part of a military-to-military exchange program between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, the fourth edition of biennial training Exercise DUSTLIK 2023 was conducted in Uttarakhand, India.
16. India-Japan joint training exercise "Dharma Guardian" was conducted in Japan from 17 February - 2 March. It is the 4th edition of the joint military exercise "Dharma Guardian" between India and Japan.
17. The country's first solid waste-to-hydrogen plant will be set up in Pune at a cost of over Rs 430 crore. It will treat 350 tonnes of solid garbage every day to produce 10 tonnes of hydrogen. This is the first attempt in India to extract hydrogen from waste.
18. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to Haryana Police at the Haryana Police Academy in Karnal. The President's Colour is an honour given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation. At first, Uttar Pradesh Police received the award in 1952 from then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



19. The Border Roads Organisation will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh. The Centre has already made 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project. This tunnel is to be completed by 2025.
20. Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan was awarded the 2023 Marconi Prize. Dr. Balakrishnan has been cited for fundamental contributions to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing, and distributed systems. The Marconi Prize is a top honour for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation.
21. Singareni Thermal Power Plant (STPP) in Telangana is set to become the first public sector coal-based power generating station in the South and the first among the State PSUs in the country to have a flu gas desulphurization (FGD) plant.
22. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) along with the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers will take up field trials on NHAI projects for the use of Phosphor-Gypsum in National Highway construction to achieve a circular economy in the use of Gypsum.
23. The road to Jammu and Kashmir's Sinthan Top has been opened in order to promote tourism to the lesser-known destination. Sinthan Top is a high mountain pass that is located between the Breng valley in Anantnag district and Kishtwar of J&K which connects Kashmir to Chenab Valley.
24. The Union Cabinet extended by one-and-a-half year the term of the 22nd Law Commission which is mandated to identify laws which are "no longer relevant" and recommend for their repeal. According to an official release, the term of the panel has been extended up to August 31, 2024. The Commission's three year term ended on February 20.
25. The Union ministry of education has directed all states and Union territories to fix the minimum age for admission in Class 1 as six years in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
26. India's real-time retail payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has allowed for quick digital payments through apps like BharatPe and Paytm, and its equivalent network in Singapore called PayNow, were integrated to enable faster remittances between the two countries at a competitive rate. Singapore has become the first country with which cross-border Person to Person (P2P) payment facilities have been launched.
27. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways laid the Foundation Stone of the world's largest and unique Divyang Park - Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
28. India has been elected as the Chair of the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development in 2023. For the 62nd session, the priority theme of the session is decided as "Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication." Commission for Social Development is one of the key commissions tasked with monitoring and carrying out the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six main organs of the United Nations.
29. The Prime Minister of India extended his wishes to the people of Arunachal Pradesh on its 37th Statehood Day. Popularly known as the 'Land of the Dawn-lit-Mountains', Arunachal Pradesh is India's remotest State and the first Indian soil to greet the rising sun. Arunachal Pradesh became a full-fledged State on 20 February 1987. Till 1972, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA). The capital of the State is Itanagar. Itanagar is named after 'Ita fort', meaning 'fort of bricks', built in the 14th Century AD.
30. The burgeoning demand for the popular Teja variety of red chilli, famous for its culinary, medicinal and other wide-ranging uses, in the export market is proving to be a boon for the Khammam Agriculture Market, housing Telangana's second largest chilli market yard.
31. Aero India 2023 was Organised at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru from 13th Feb-17th Feb, 2023. The theme for this year is 'The runway to a billion opportunities' and the focus is on showcasing India's growth in aerospace and defense capabilities. This year, Aero India was organised by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on behalf of the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.
32. A snow leopard has been sighted for the first time at the height of about 11,120 feet in the Darma valley in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Snow leopards are usually found at a height of more than 12,000 feet. Also known as the Ounce, the snow leopard is listed as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
33. North India's first nuclear power plant will come up in Haryana in the village of Gorakhpur in the Fatehabad district. In a bid to increase India's nuclear capacity, bulk approval of the installation of 10 nuclear reactors has been given by the Government of India.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUICK FACTS



1. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed the first **Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in Equatorial Guinea**. Marburg Virus Disease (MVM) is a highly virulent disease that causes haemorrhagic fever, with a case fatality rate of up to 88%. Marburg is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads through human-to-human transmission via direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids, and with surfaces and materials contaminated with these fluids.
2. The **Carabao cup**, also known as EFL cup, is a major football trophy played in England. In 2023, the trophy was won by Manchester United. Liverpool is the most successful club in the competition. The team has won more than nine championships.
3. An **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors will participate in **Exercise Cobra Warrior**. The exercise is scheduled from 06 March 2023 to 24 March 2023 at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom. The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF.
4. An **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent comprising of 110 Air Warriors participated in **Exercise Desert Flag VIII**. This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas participated in an international flying exercise outside India. This exercise was held at Al Dhafra airbase of United Arab Emirates. Exercise Desert Flag is a multilateral air exercise in which Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea, and the USA participated.
5. **Meta** is releasing its generative AI model called "**LLaMA**" to drive research into what it called an "important, fast-changing field," in the wake of OpenAI's viral success with ChatGPT.
6. The Russian space agency, **Roscosmos**, has successfully launched a **Soyuz spacecraft** to bring back three astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) after their Soyuz capsule sprang a coolant leak. The two Russian and an American astronaut will board the empty Soyuz spacecraft to return to Earth.
7. Former CEO of MasterCard **Ajay Banga** has been nominated to be the next president of the **World Bank** following the early resignation of outgoing President David Malpass.
8. **International Mother Language Day** is celebrated every year on **21 February** to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. In 1999, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the idea of celebrating International Mother Language Day.
9. **World Day of Social Justice** is observed every year on **20 February**. The theme for World Day of Social Justice 2023 focuses on the recommendations available on the common agenda prepared to strengthen global solidarity and to rebuild trust in Government by "Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice".
10. **Spain became the first European country** to approve sick leave for women suffering from **incapacitating periods** on 16 February. Nowadays, women are provided time off during their periods in a few nations. Japan, Indonesia and Zambia, among other nations who have given menstrual leaves.
11. In a move to boost the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), the **European Parliament** has approved the law to ban the sale of new **gas and diesel cars in the European Union (EU), starting in 2035**. The new legislation sets the path towards zero CO₂ emissions for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in 2035.
12. **Scientists have discovered** a new type of **quasicrystal**, one with 12-fold symmetry, in the Sand Hills of north central Nebraska, USA, according to a recent study. It said that this quasicrystal was formed during an accidental electrical discharge, possibly by a lightning strike or a downed power line in a dune.
13. According to a new study, the Chinese practice of building embankments is also responsible for the flooding upstream of the **Loess Plateau** which is surrounded by the **Yellow river**. The mighty Yellow River, the '**mother river**' of **Chinese civilisation**, has also been known as the 'River of Disaster' and 'China's sorrow' because of the devastating floods it has caused since prehistory.
14. The **Japanese archipelago**, one of the world's prominent island groups that lies just off the **coast of Eurasia**, now has 14,125 islands, according to the Japanese Government. This is double the 6,852 islands that was the official figure way back in 1987. Japan is primarily made up of four islands known as the 'Home Islands' — **Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku**.





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**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL EVENTS
OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**

QUICK FACTS



1. For the first time ever, the year-long commemoration of the **birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj**, the Spiritual & Religious Leader of Banjara Community is being celebrated by the Ministry of Culture. The yearlong commemoration under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav begins from 26th February, 2023. Santh Sevalal Maharaj was born on 15 February 1739 at Surgondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. It is believed that there is a population of around 10 to 12 crore Banjara community across the country.
2. **Losar Festival** is one of the most significant celebrations in the **Tibetan calendar**. This year the Losar festival starts on 12 February and ends on 14 February, which coincides with the first day of the first month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. Losar marks the end of winter and the start of spring season. The end of Losar festival after three days is considered as the first day of New Year according to the Tibetan calendar. On this day, Tibetan exiles pay obeisance to the Dalai Lama.
3. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (**TRIFED**) 's **Aadi Mahotsav tribal festival** was held in New Delhi. It is an annual tribal festival of TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
4. The National Mission for Clean Ganga has allotted around Rs 650 crore to revive the dying **Adi Ganga — the original channel of River Ganga** passing through the city of Kolkata. It has also been included in a multi-country river project on combating pollution. Adi Ganga was the river's main channel till the 17th century. Around 1750, a canal was dug to connect the main course of the river with the lower part of River Saraswati adjacent to Howrah. The resultant Hooghly became the main river stretch and Adi Ganga turned into a secondary tributary.
5. Excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department (TNSDA) at **Keeladi**, a tiny hamlet in the Sivaganga district in south Tamil Nadu, have pushed the **Sangam age to 800 BCE**. The Sangam age is a period of history in ancient Tamil Nadu which was believed to be from the third century BCE to the third century CE.
6. The **Classical dance legend Kanak Rele** and the Mohiniyattam (classical dance form from the State of Kerala) exponent, who was awarded the first Guru Gopinath National Puraskaram of the Government of Kerala passed away.
7. NCP leader Ajit Pawar has directed members of his party not to organise raunchy public shows in the name of **Lavani**. Lavani is a **traditional folk art** form of **Maharashtra** in which women dancers wearing nine-yard-long sarees in bright colours, make-up, and ghunghroos perform on dholak beats on a stage before a live audience. The word Lavani comes from 'lavanya' or beauty.

Losar Festival





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TEST ZONE



PASSAGE - 1

[1] has discovered six extraordinarily massive first-generation galaxies, formed roughly 500-700 million years after the Big Bang, according to a new study. These galaxies challenge our current understanding of galaxy formation as they should not have existed so early in their life, stated a study published in the journal Nature 22 February 2023.

The team spotted the six monster galaxies using the Cosmic Evolution Early 44 Release Science programme of [1]. The programme studies the formation of the earliest galaxies when the universe was less than five per cent of its current age. Researchers turned the telescope to a patch of the sky close to the Big Dipper, which appears to harbour a group of stars that form a pattern in the night sky.

“The galaxies are in the same area in the sky but are not close to each other in three-dimensional space. Some are much further away than others,” Labbé said. The stars appeared as bright and red “fuzzy dots”. Red light typically means it is old. The team analysed these images further and found stellar masses greater than 10 billion solar masses, including one with a stellar mass of roughly 100 billion solar masses. One solar mass is the mass of our Sun. Some of these galaxies would have to be forming hundreds of new stars a year for the entire history of the universe, she added.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: “[1] spots 6 monster galaxies harbouring tens to hundreds of billions of sun-sized stars' mass: Study”, by Rohini Krishnamurthy]

1. Which telescope's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

A Hubble Space Telescope

C James Webb Space Telescope

B Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

D Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory

2. Which of the following telescope is considered the successor of the Hubble Space Telescope?

A ChandraX-ray Observatory

C Kepler Mission

B Herschel Space Observatory

D James Webb Space Telescope

3. Who among the following was the propounder of Big Bang Theory?

A Georges Lemaitre

C Otto Schmidt

B Laplace

D Carl Weizascar

4. James Webb Space Telescope is the result of an international collaboration between

A NASA

C CSA

B ESA

D All of these

5. _____ was launched by NASA to unlock the mysteries of the Sun's corona and solar wind.

A JUICE

C Artemis

B Parker Solar Mission

D James Webb Space Telescope

Q.1 (C) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (B)

Answers



PASSAGE - 2

[1] has been marked as the celebration of the 'Raman Effect' inventory and later the Government of India referred to as [2]. Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman famously known as CV Raman on this day in 1928 announces the invention of the 'Raman Effect'. The development of science has profoundly transformed human life. Humans' lives have been made easier and better by science. Computers, mobile, and other robots have been created solely with the assistance of science. As a result, science plays a significant role in our lives. Additionally, India has made a significant contribution to science. India was recognized as a separate nation and home to many great scientists, many of whom were born there.

The Raman effect occurs when a light beam passing through a transparent material is scattered in such a way as to reveal information regarding the molecular structure of the material. The Nobel Prize was awarded to C.V. Raman for his significant invention. The Indian Government is providing assistance to scientists whose contributions to science have been significant to mark the anniversary of this invention.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "[2] Theme, History, Significance, Activities", by Sonika Nitin Nimje, NDTV]

1. Which date has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

A 25 February

B 26 February

C 27 February

D 28 February

2. Which day's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

A National Science Day

B National Youth Day

C Indian Science Congress

D International Science Day

3. In _____, C V Raman was awarded the Noble Prize, the first Nobel Prize given in India in science.

A 1935

B 1940

C 1928

D 1930

4. What is the theme of 'National Science Day 2023'?

A Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

B Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future

C Global Science for Global Wellbeing

D Future of STI: Impact on Education Skills and Work

5. International Science Day is observed every year on –

A 28 February

B 10 November

C 8 March

D 16 September

Q.1 (D) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (D) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (B)

Answers



PASSAGE - 3

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday announced that Moscow was suspending its participation in a major arms control agreement with the [1]. The [2] is the last remaining nuclear arms deal between Moscow and [1], and it was extended for five years in 2021. The [2] was signed in Prague in 2010 and came into force the following year. It caps the number of strategic nuclear warheads that the [1] and Russia can deploy, and limits the use of missiles that can carry atomic weapons.

Speaking in his State of the Nation address, President Putin stressed that Russia was not fully withdrawing from the treaty yet. He said, Russia should stand ready to resume nuclear weapons tests if the [1] does so, a move that would end a global ban on nuclear weapons tests in place since Cold War times. He blamed the West for escalating the tension in the region, saying the [1] and its allies sought limitless power.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Russia decides to suspend participation in [2] for nuclear arms control with [1]", News on Air]

1. Which country's name has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

A Ukraine

B United States

C France

D Germany

2. Which treaty's name has been replaced with '[2]' in the passage above?

A New Start treaty

B Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

C Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

D Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty

3. Which of the following country has the largest nuclear weapons?

A China

B United States

C Russia

D France

4. Which year was the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) signed?

A 1998

B 1995

C 1997

D 1991

5. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed every year on –

A 26 September

B 21 March

C 5 November

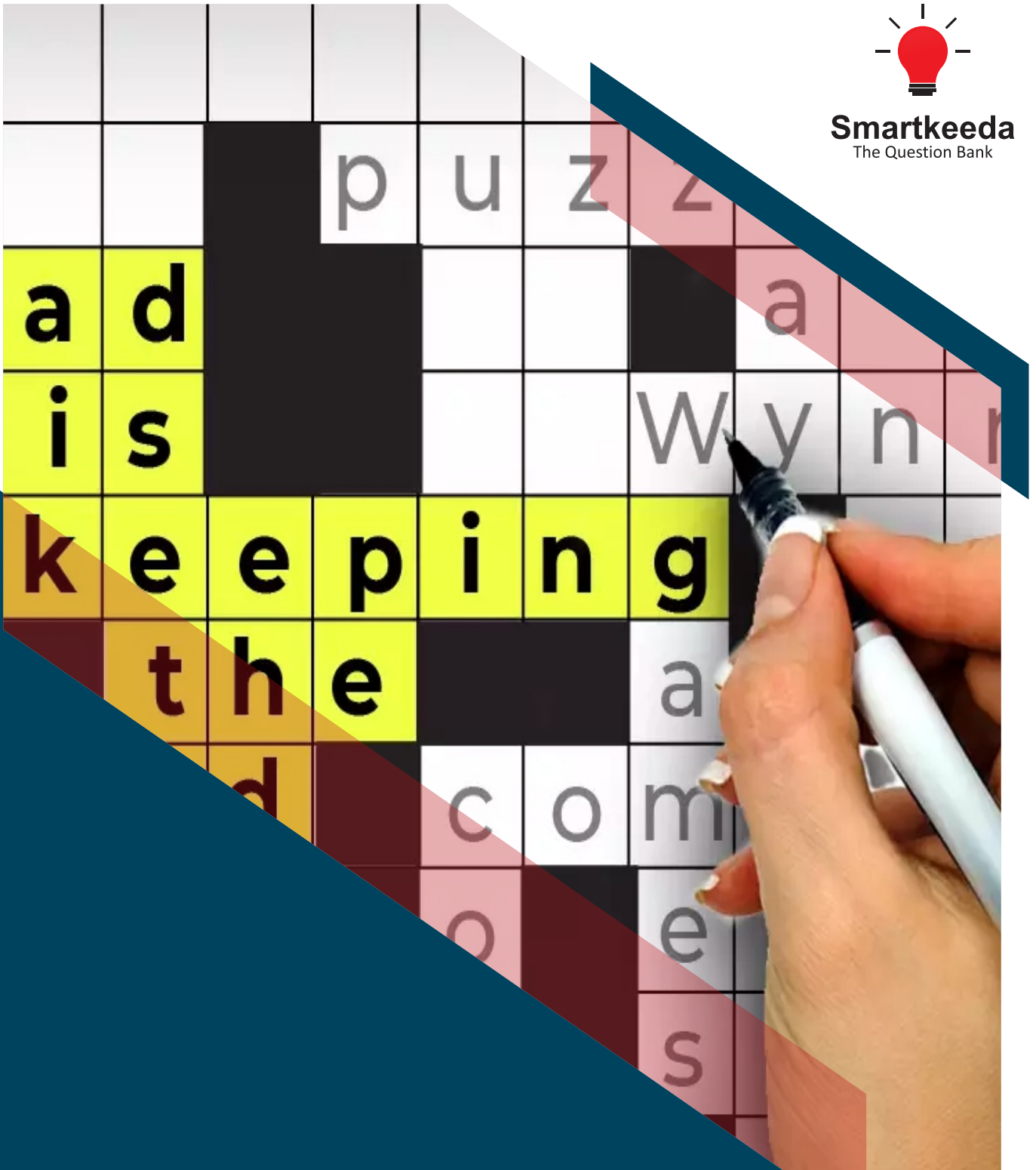
D 23 August

Q.1 (B) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (C) Q.4 (D) Q.5 (A)

Answers



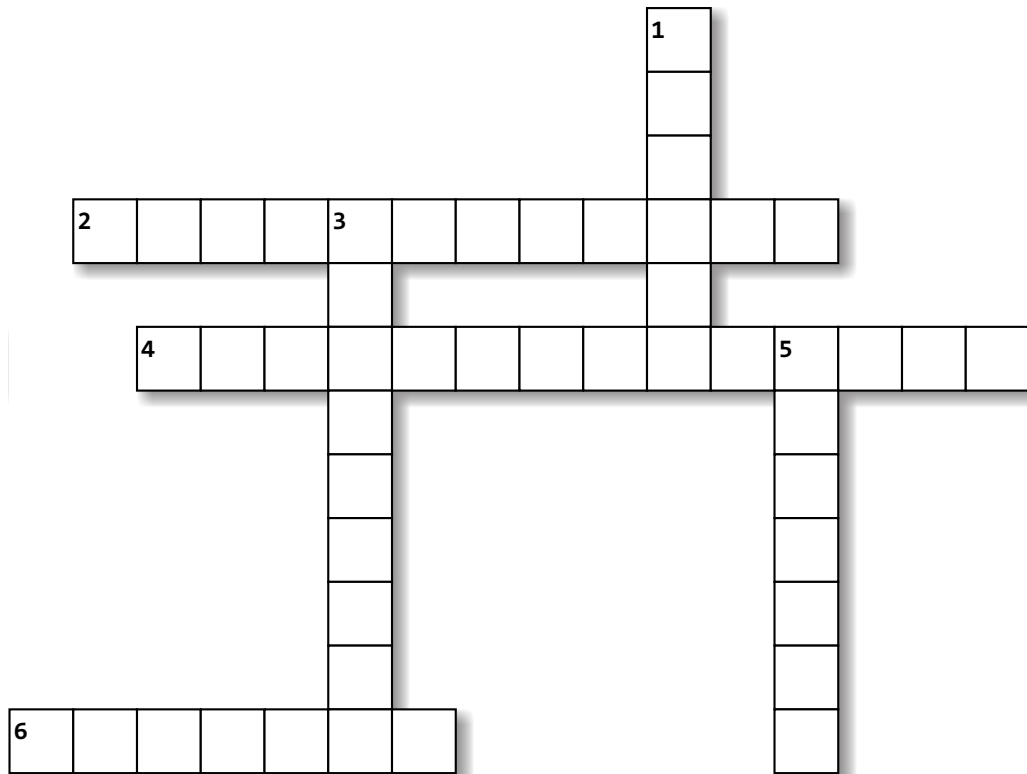
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The Question Bank



CROSSWORD CORNER



CROSSWORD - 1



Across

- World's highest tunnel will be built
- India-Japan joint training exercise
- India's first semiconductor plant

Down

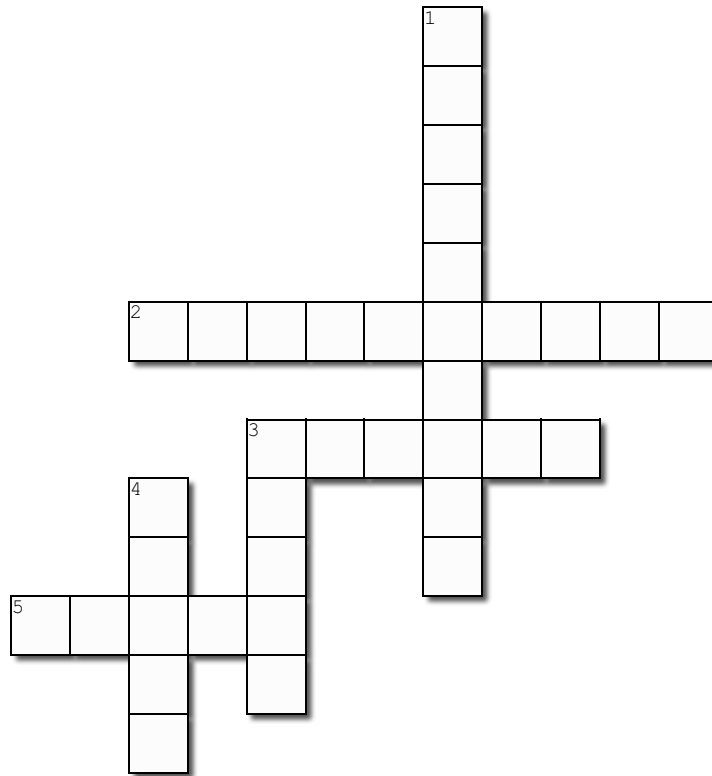
- India's first State to use robotics technology for cleaning manholes
- India's first Marina
- Military exercise between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army

Answers

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Kerala |
| 2 | Shinkula Pass |
| 3 | Karnataka |
| 4 | Dharma Guardian |
| 5 | DUSTLIK |
| 6 | Gujarat |



CROSSWORD - 2



Across

- 2. World Day of Social Justice
- 3. A traditional folk art form of Maharashtra
- 5. Meta's generative AI model

Down

- 1. International Mother Language Day
- 3. Known as Tibetan New Year
- 4. Became first European country to provide menstrual leave

Answers

- 1 21 February
- 2 20 February
- 3 Lavan! (Across) and Losar (Down)
- 4 Spain
- 5 LLaMA



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