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## ENGLISH

Though accompanied and advised by scholars and savants, Alexander the Great had only hazy ideas of what he would find in India; he seems to have thought that the Indus was part of the Nile and that beyond it lay more of Ethiopia. A fair amount had long been known by the Greeks about the Indian north-west, the seat of the Persian satrapy of Gandhara. But beyond that all was darkness.

Under the Seleucids more reliable information became available in the West about what lay beyond the Punjab. One of our informants is a Greek ambassador, Megasthenes, sent to India by the Seleucid king in about 300 BC. Fragments of his account of what he saw were preserved long enough for later writers to quote him at length. As he travelled as far as Bengal and Orissa and was respected both as a diplomat and as a scholar, he met and interrogated many Indians. Some later writers found him a credulous and unreliable reporter; they dwelt upon his tales of men who subsisted on odours instead of food and drink, of others who were cyclopean or whose feet were so large that they used them to shelter from the sun, of pygmies and men without mouths.

Such tales were, of course, nonsense. But they were not necessarily without foundation. They may well represent only the highly developed awareness shown by Indians of the physical differences which marked them off from neighbours or remote acquaintances from Central Asia or the jungles of Burma. Some of these must have looked very strange indeed, and some of their behaviour was, no doubt, also very strange in Indian eyes. Others among these tales may dimly reflect the curious ascetic practices of Indian religion which have never ceased to impress outsiders and usually improve in the telling. Such tales need not discredit the teller, and they do not mean that other things he reports must be wholly untrue. [1] They may even have a positive value if they suggest something of the way in which Megasthenes's Indian informants saw the outside world.[1]

He describes the India of a great ruler, Chandragupta, founder of the Maurya line. The ancients believed that he had been inspired to conquest by having as a youth seen Alexander the Great during his invasion of India. Whether or not this story about Alexander was true, Chandragupta usurped the Magadha throne in 321 BC and on the ruins of that kingdom built a state which encompassed not only the two great valleys of the Indus and Ganges, but most of Afghanistan (taken from the Seleucids) and Baluchistan.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *The Penguin History of the World*, by J.M. Roberts and O.A. Westad, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Penguin, 2012.]

**1.1 Based on the information in the passage above, which among the following best describes what the Greeks knew about India before Alexander arrived?**

- (a) They knew about India's people, but not much about its terrain.
- (b) They had complete knowledge of India and its people.
- (c) They had some knowledge of the area around Gandhara, but nothing else.
- (d) They had some knowledge of all of India, other than the area near Gandhara.

**1.2 Why, according to the authors, was Megasthenes able to meet and interrogate many Indians?**

- (a) Because he had been sent to India by the Seleucid king.
- (b) Because he traveled very far into India, and was respected as a diplomat and as a scholar.
- (c) Because he had a very friendly disposition, and was able to put people at their ease.
- (d) Because he used torture to extract information from people, which proved a successful interrogation technique.

**1.3 Why did some later writers think Megasthenes was a ‘credulous and unreliable reporter’?**

- (a) Because he told many tales that seemed unbelievable and fantastical.
- (b) Because they were jealous of him and wanted to discredit him.
- (c) Because they were unable to visit India themselves.
- (d) Because he did not keep written records.

**1.4 Which of the following best describes what a ‘credulous’ person would be like?**

- (a) Having great intellect and analytical abilities.
- (b) Having too much willingness to believe things without reasonable proof.
- (c) Having great generosity of heart and a willingness to donate to charitable causes.
- (d) Having a weak and sickly physique.

**1.5 Which of the following best describes what the authors feel about the story of how Chandragupta was inspired by Alexander?**

- (a) They are unsure about whether the story is true.
- (b) They are completely sure that the story is true.
- (c) They are completely sure that the story is false.
- (d) They are completely sure that Chandragupta and Alexander were allies.

**1.6 The sentence enclosed within ‘[1]’ in the passage above is grammatically incorrect. Which of the following would make it correct?**

- (a) Replace ‘values’ with ‘value’.
- (b) Replace ‘suggests’ with ‘suggest’.
- (c) Neither (a) nor (b).
- (d) Both, (a) and (b).

Malay Bhanjo was happiest when he was at his sweet shop. The smell of sweets pervaded the air and slowly made its way to the small counter where he sat with his back to the portraits of Durga, Kali, Satya Sai Baba and Lok Nath Baba – all in a harmonious row.

Malay's shop, Bhanjo Mishtanno Bhandar, was located in a nondescript lane in Hatibagan in Kolkata. This was his entire world. He left home after his bath every morning. A few minutes of prayer in front of Ma Kali, and some of the other gods that his wife had collected on her various temple visits and effectively managed to push into their home, ensured that the day goes well.

Malay liked to laugh off any mention of religiosity – he felt it wasn't masculine enough. Secretly, though, he visited the Shani temple down the lane from his shop. One might even presume that Malay was slightly scared of Shani thakur (god worshipped on Saturdays under a tree) and hence tried his best to pacify him. At times, when he forgot to slide a ten-rupee note into the donation box, he has nightmares of the blue-skinned god chasing him down the streets of Hatibagan.

For the past few days, rumours had been rife about a virus that had descended on the country. Malay was worried, and wondered whether prayers hadn't been offered to Ma Shitala in the villages. Shitala was the goddess known for her prowess in curing incurable diseases, especially small pox. But since its eradication in India, her popularity had taken a beating.

[1] Malay was engrossed in these thoughts as he walking down to his shop.[1] He noticed that a few shops were closed. Unimaginable! He shuddered at the very thought of it. Just think of not being able to make mishtis every day. The juicy khirer chawp, the roshomalai that his customers loved eating standing right there inside the shop, the whiff of shingara and roshogolla heralding the evenings – Malay quickened his steps at the probability.

Suddenly he was sure that there would be more customers in the shop today. And in the circumstances, they might even have to make more of everything than usual, he pondered, while also doing some quick mental calculations about the profits. Maybe if he closed his eyes and prayed to Ma Kali really hard, she might even tell him the exact time when the maximum number of customers would drop in.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "'The Roshogolla Makers': A sweet short story for the age of the pandemic", by Maitreyee Bhattacharjee Chowdhury, *Scroll.in*, <https://scroll.in/article/963404/the-roshogolla-makers-a-sweet-short-story-for-the-age-of-the-pandemic>]

**2.1 Which among the following best explains why Malay “liked to laugh off any mention of religiosity”?**

- (a) Malay was an atheist and did not believe in gods or religion.
- (b) Malay thought the religious feelings or beliefs were for women, and not manly things.
- (c) Malay thought that the best way to worship god was to ignore organized religion.
- (d) Malay had been upset at the way things had gone in his life and was upset with god.

**2.2 What does the word ‘nondescript’ mean?**

- (a) Crowded and busy.
- (b) Narrow and winding.

- (c) Wide and tree-lined.
- (d) Lacking distinctive or interesting features or characteristics.

**2.3 Why did Malay sometimes have nightmares of Shani thakur chasing him down the streets of Hatibagan?**

- (a) Because his wife had told him that Shani thakur would punish him if he did not return home on time.
- (b) Because he thought Shani thakur had gotten angry with the country and unleashed a virus on it.
- (c) Because he thought Shani thakur would punish him for not putting money in the donation box at the Shani temple.
- (d) Because he sometimes cheated, and used cheap ingredients to make the sweets he sold his customers.

**2.4 Why did Malay think the virus that had descended on the country was connected to Ma Shitala?**

- (a) Since Ma Shitala was known for curing incurable diseases, and after the eradication of small pox, fewer people had been offering prayers to her.
- (b) Since Ma Shitala was upset with the increasing popularity of Shani thakur, and was trying to punish people for forgetting her.
- (c) Since the Ma Shitala temple in the city had had to be shut down.
- (d) Since he had not prayed to Ma Shitala in many years.

**2.5 The sentence enclosed within '[1]' in the passage above is grammatically incorrect. Which of the following would make it correct?**

- (a) Replace “engrossed” with “engrossing”.
- (b) Replace “walking” with “walked”.
- (c) Replace “down” with “up”.
- (d) Replace “these” with “those”.

**2.6 How did Malay hope to learn the exact time when the maximum number of customers would come to his shop?**

- (a) By examining his sales records from the past few days.
- (b) By placing an advertisement in the paper announcing discounts would be available at a particular time.
- (c) By paying tribute to Ma Shitala.
- (d) By praying to Ma Kali.

Keshav Singh was a resident of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, about 300 kilometres east of the state capital, Lucknow. He was a worker of the Socialist Party, an opposition party of ‘much noise but little electoral success’ in Uttar Pradesh. On one occasion, he successfully generated some ‘noise’ among opposition ranks and in the Congress party, which governed the state, by publishing a pamphlet in collaboration with two of his colleagues. This pamphlet, entitled ‘Exposing the Misdeeds of Narsing Narain Pandey’, alleged that Pandey, a Congress party MLA, was corrupt. The pamphlet was signed by its three authors, and distributed locally in Gorakhpur as well as in the vicinity of the legislative assembly in Lucknow.

This pamphlet did not go down well with the Congress party MLAs or Pandey, who once listed the reading of books (but not pamphlets) as one of his recreational activities. They complained that the pamphlet constituted a breach of privilege, that is, the rights and immunities enjoyed by the assembly and its members. Keshav Singh and his colleagues were ordered to appear before the assembly in Lucknow to receive a reprimand. For Keshav Singh, complying with this order would have required making a railway journey of several hours from Gorakhpur to Lucknow. While his colleagues appeared before the assembly and accepted a reprimand on 19 February 1964, Keshav Singh failed to do so, citing a lack of funds to make the journey. The assembly then decided that what could not be procured voluntarily must be acquired by force. Singh was arrested and brought to the assembly on 14 March.

The matter would have ended there had Singh done the same as his co-pamphleteers and silently allowed himself to be reprimanded. But he had other ideas. When the speaker of the assembly repeatedly asked Singh to confirm his name, he refused to answer. He stood with his back to the speaker, and remained silent as the speaker posed questions to him. Matters got even worse after this. The speaker brought to the attention of the assembly a letter that would cause further consternation among Congress MLAs. Singh had written a letter to the speaker protesting against the reprimand, confirming that the statements in the pamphlet were accurate, and condemning the warrant for his arrest as tyrannical. By then, the MLAs had heard enough, and the Chief Minister moved a motion in the assembly for Singh to be imprisoned for seven days.

The assembly eventually passed a resolution in the form proposed by the Chief Minister, and Singh arrested and taken to prison for his week-long sentence.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *The Cases That India Forgot*, by Chintan Chandrachud, Juggernaut Books, New Delhi, 2019.]

**3.1 Which of the following most accurately describes the Socialist Party, as described by the author in the passage above?**

- (a) It ran a printing press used to print pamphlets of various types.
- (b) It was in power in Uttar Pradesh.
- (c) It generated a lot of publicity, but had not had won many elections.
- (d) It believed strongly in socialist values.

**3.2 Why did the Keshav Singh’s pamphlet ‘not go down well’ with the Congress party MLAs?**

- (a) Because it was printed poorly on very thin paper.

- (b) Because it had been distributed locally in Gorakhpur.
- (c) Because they thought it constituted a breach of privilege.
- (d) Because it had been signed by three authors, and not just by Keshav Singh.

**3.3 What does the word 'consternation' mean?**

- (a) A feeling of boredom.
- (b) A feeling of dismay at something unexpected.
- (c) A feeling of joy at something unexpected.
- (d) A feeling of rage.

**3.4 Keshav Singh had, according to the passage, written a letter to the speaker, confirming that the statements in the pamphlet were accurate; which of the following most accurately describes what these statements were?**

- (a) They were statements to the effect that the Chief Minister was sheltering Narsing Narain Pandey.
- (b) They were statements to the effect that the speaker was not corrupt.
- (c) They were statements to the effect that Keshav Singh was corrupt.
- (d) They were statements to the effect that Narsing Narain Pandey was corrupt.

**3.5 What reason did Keshav Singh give for not appearing before the assembly on 19 February 1964?**

- (a) That he did not have the money to travel to Lucknow.
- (b) That it was not an auspicious date.
- (c) That it took several hours to travel by train from Gorakhpur to Lucknow.
- (d) That he preferred not to accept a reprimand from the assembly.

**3.6 How did Keshav Singh answer the questions posed to him by the speaker of the assembly?**

- (a) He yelled at the speaker.
- (b) He did not answer the speaker's questions.
- (c) He told the speaker he could not hear their questions.
- (d) None of the above

It's tempting to think that the male bias that is embedded in language is simply a relic of more regressive times, but the evidence does not point that way. The world's 'fastest-growing language', used by more than 90% of the world's online population, is emoji. This language originated in Japan in the 1980s and women are its heaviest users. And yet, until 2016, the world of emojis was curiously male.

The emojis we have on our smartphones are chosen by the rather grand-sounding 'Unicode Consortium', a Silicon Valley-based group of organisations that work together to ensure universal, international software standards. If Unicode decides a particular emoji (say 'spy') should be added to the current stable, they will decide on the code that should be used. Each phone manufacturer (or platform such as Twitter and Facebook) will then design their own interpretation of what a 'spy' looks like. But they will all use the same code, so that when users communicate between different platforms, they are broadly all saying the same thing. An emoji face with heart eyes is an emoji face with heart eyes.

Unicode has not historically specified the gender for most emoji characters. The emoji that most platforms originally represented as a man running, was not called 'man running'. It was just called 'runner'. Similarly the original emoji for police officer was described by Unicode as 'police officer', not 'policeman'. [1] It was the individual platforms that all interpreted these gender-neutral terms as male.[1]

In 2016, Unicode decided to do something about this. Abandoning their previously 'neutral' gender stance, they decided to explicitly gender all emojis that depicted people. So instead of 'runner' which had been universally represented as 'male runner', Unicode issued code for explicitly male runner and explicitly female runner. Male and female options now exist for all professions and athletes. It's a small victory, but a significant one.

It's easy to slam phone manufacturers and social media platforms as sexist, but the reality is that even if they had somehow managed to design an image of a 'gender neutral' runner, most of us would still have read that runner as male, because we read most things as male unless they are specifically marked as female. And so while it is of course to be hoped that angry grammarians will come round to the idea that saying 'he or she' (or even, God forbid, 'she and he') instead of just 'he' may not be the worst thing that has ever happened to them, the truth is that getting rid of the generic masculine would only be half the battle: male bias is so firmly embedded in our psyche that even genuinely gender-neutral words are read as male.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Women use emojis the most, but world's fastest-growing language was all male until recently", book excerpt from Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed by Men, by Caroline Criado Perez, <https://theprint.in/pageturner/excerpt/women-use-emojis-most-but-worlds-fastest-growing-language-was-all-male/413460/>]

#### **4.1 Why, according to the author, is the male bias embedded in language not simply a relic of more regressive times?**

- (a) Because Japan imposed a rule that made using male pronouns compulsory in 2016.
- (b) Because of the way in which emoji was male until 2016.
- (c) Because of the manner in which English speakers use pronouns.
- (d) Because most people use 'he' when referring to people of either gender.



**4.2 Which of the following most accurately describes what the main activity of the Unicode Consortium is?**

- (a) It tries to create software standards that are used across the world.
- (b) It tries to make language gender-neutral.
- (c) It tries to encourage more women to enter the world of technology.
- (d) It tries to improve the aesthetic design of software.

**4.3 Which of the following most accurately describes how different phone manufacturers or platforms may design emoji?**

- (a) They accept the same design from the Unicode Consortium.
- (b) They do not design emoji.
- (c) They must all design the emoji in an identical fashion.
- (d) They may design their own interpretation of the same emoji.

**4.4 Which of the following most accurately describes the change Unicode brought about to the way in which they specified emoji in 2016?**

- (a) They did not bring about any changes in 2016.
- (b) They explicitly gendered all emoji.
- (c) They explicitly gendered all sports emoji.
- (d) They explicitly gendered all emoji that depicted people.

**4.5 The sentence enclosed within '[1]' in the passage above is grammatically incorrect. Which of the following would remove the grammatical error in the sentence?**

- (a) Replace 'is' with 'as'.
- (b) Replace 'individual' with 'individualistic'.
- (c) Add a semi-colon after the word 'that'.
- (d) Remove the word 'that'.

**4.6 How, according to the author, do we read most things?**

- (a) We read them as female unless they are specifically marked as male.
- (b) Unless they are specifically marked as female, we read them as male.
- (c) We read them as male, regardless of how they may be marked.
- (d) We read them as female, regardless of how they may be marked.

When the Salt Department was established, and a general prohibition was imposed on the enjoyment of one of Nature's bounties, people found the front door closed and so began to look for openings and cracks. Embezzlement, misappropriation of money, and bribery prevailed everywhere. They gave up the respectable and profitable appointment of *patwari* (land record officer) and accepted the post of guards, in the Salt Department.

An Inspector of this Department was envied even by pleaders. It was the time when English education and Christianity were regarded as synonymous terms. Education in Persian served as a certificate of distinction: and people, after reading a few love stories, became qualified for the highest position in life.

Munshi Bansi Dhar too, had read through the story of Zulaikha and had made himself familiar with the sad stories of Majnun and Farhad. These stories he supposed to be more important than the discovery of America, of the Battle of the Nile, and so set out to earn a living. His father who had a wide knowledge of the world, reasoned with him and said, "My son, you are aware of the wretched condition of our family; we have run heavily into debt; the girls are growing up fast; I am just like a tree on the bank of a river in flood, and don't know when I am going to fall; so now you must be the head and manager of the family. Don't worry for a minute about your pay or position, which is like the tomb of a saint, but rather you should regard the offerings and the *chadar*. You should look for a job which has some 'perks' attached to it. Monthly pay is like the full moon which appears for one day only and then gradually disappears. The 'perks' are a running stream, from which thirst is always quenched. You are a learned and educated man, so it is unnecessary for me to tell you what to do. It depends largely on the ability to read a man's mind and the expression on his face. Study each man, see what he is in need of, look for your opportunity, and act warily. You may be cruel or indifferent to one who is in need of something, but it is difficult to conclude a bargain with one who is not in need of anything. You must bear all this in mind, for this is what I have gathered from the experience of a life-time."

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *The Salt Inspector*, by Munshi Premchand]

**5.1 Which of the following best describes what the author means when he says "people found the front door closed and so began to look for openings and cracks"?**

- (a) Since people were not able to do what they used to do by direct means, they tried to do it indirectly and by using unscrupulous means such as bribery.
- (b) Since people were not able to make salt themselves directly, they started going to shops to buy salt in ready packages.
- (c) Since people were not able to have their land records updated by the patwaris in a timely fashion, they started buying and selling land without any paperwork.
- (d) Since people were worried that others would steal salt from their homes, they started using the back door to enter their own homes, rather than the front door.

**5.2 Which among the following most accurately describes the condition of Munshi Bansi Dhar's family at the time the incidents described in the passage took place?**

- (a) They were well-off and prosperous.
- (b) They were in a precarious financial position.
- (c) They had a very large house to live in.

- (d) They owned a large salt production facility.

**5.3 What does the word ‘embezzlement’ mean?**

- (a) Using public funds for one’s own ends
- (b) Surreptitiously listening in on other’s conversations
- (c) Overeating
- (d) Theft or misappropriation of funds kept in trust with one

**5.4 Why does Munshi Bansi Dhar’s father tell him not to worry about his “pay or position”?**

- (a) Because he had read stories in Persian.
- (b) Because he had had an education in English and was about to convert to Christianity.
- (c) Because he felt that he would make far more money through bribes rather than his regular pay.
- (d) Because they were a very respectable family and did not care for money.

**5.5 In the context of the passage, which of the following would best describe the author’s tone as regards the statement “Education in Persian served as a certificate of distinction: and people, after reading a few love stories, became qualified for the highest position in life”?**

- (a) Sincere
- (b) Sarcastic
- (c) Sad
- (d) Secretive

**5.6 Which of the following best describes what Munshi Bansi Dhar’s father tells him is the difference between monthly pay and ‘perks’?**

- (a) Monthly pay only occurred at fixed, long intervals, whereas ‘perks’ could be available on a continuous basis.
- (b) Monthly pay should be taken only in person, whereas ‘perks’ could be provided indirectly, or through intermediaries.
- (c) Monthly pay should be accepted only if it were given to one by the government, but ‘perks’ could be provided by private employers as well.
- (d) Monthly pay was only paid directly into one’s bank account, whereas ‘perks’ could also be provided in cash.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

It has been an exciting week with the release of breath-taking photos of our Universe by the James Webb Space Telescope (“JWST”). These images give us a chance to see faint distant galaxies as they were more than 13 billion years ago.

These images also raise interesting points about how the expansion of the Universe factors into the way we calculate distances at a cosmological scale.

Looking back in time might sound like a strange concept, but it's what space researchers do every single day.

Our Universe is bound by the rules of physics, with one of the best-known “rules” being the speed of light. And when we talk about “light”, we're actually referring to all the wavelengths across the electromagnetic spectrum, which travel at around a whopping 300,000 kilometres per second.

Light travels so fast that in our everyday lives it appears to be instantaneous. Even at these break-neck speeds, it still takes some time to travel anywhere across the cosmos.

Light age does not equal distance Using the JWST, we will be able to capture extremely distant galaxies as they were only 100 million years after the Big Bang – which happened around 13.8 billion years ago.

So we will be able to see light from 13.7 billion years ago. What's about to hurt your brain, however, is that those galaxies are not 13.7 billion light-years away. The actual distance to those galaxies today would be ~46 billion light-years.

This discrepancy is all thanks to the expanding universe, and makes working on a very large scale tricky.

The universe is expanding due to something called “[1]”. It's thought to be a universal constant, acting equally in all areas of space-time (the fabric of our universe).

And the more the universe expands, the greater the effect [1] has on its expansion. This is why even though the universe is 13.8 billion years old, it's actually about 93 billion light-years across.

We can't see the effect of [1] on a galactic scale (within the Milky Way) but we can see it over much greater cosmological distances.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "A Cosmic Time Machine: How the James Webb Space Telescope Lets Us See the First Galaxies in the Universe", The Conversation, <https://www.gadgets360.com/science/features/a-cosmic-time-machine-how-the-james-webb-space-telescope-lets-us-see-the-first-galaxies-in-the-universe-3168346>]

### 6.1 Who was James Webb, the person after whom the JWST has been named?

- (a) The thirty-fifth President of the United States of America.
- (b) The Italian astronomer who pioneered the use of telescopes to observe the night sky.

- (c) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA”) during the Apollo programme.
- (d) The American astronomer who proved that galaxies are not static, but are moving further away from us.

**6.2 The JWST is an international collaboration between which of the following?**

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (“ISRO”), NASA, and the European Space Agency (“ESA”).
- (b) ISRO, NASA, and the Canadian Space Agency (“CSA”).
- (c) ESA, NASA, and Roscosmos.
- (d) NASA, ESA, and CSA.

**6.3 Which of the following most accurately describes what an ‘Astronomical Unit’ is?**

- (a) The mean distance from the centre of the Earth to the centre of the Sun.
- (b) The mean distance from the center of the Earth to the center of the universe.
- (c) The distance that light travels in one year.
- (d) The mean distance from the centre of the Earth to the centre of the Moon.

**6.4 Which term has been replaced with ‘[1]’ in the passage?**

- (a) Gravity
- (b) Dark energy
- (c) Particle spin
- (d) Weak nuclear force

**6.5 Which of the following most accurately describes the difference between the JWST and the Hubble Space Telescope (“Hubble”)?**

- (a) The JWST primarily looks at the Universe in the infrared, while Hubble studies it primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths (though it has some infrared capability).
- (b) The JWST primarily looks at the Universe primarily optical and ultraviolet wavelengths (though it has some infrared capability), while Hubble studies it primarily in the infrared.
- (c) The JWST is a space-based telescope, whereas Hubble is land-based.
- (d) The JWST is used primarily for commercial purposes, while Hubble is used primarily for public scientific and research purposes.

**6.6 In October 2022, ISRO successfully launched India’s heaviest rocket, carrying 36 satellites. What was the name of this rocket?**

- (a) SLV3
- (b) ASLV
- (c) LVM3
- (d) PSLV

**6.7 At which of the following has India's first liquid-mirror telescope been built?**

- (a) Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru
- (b) Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Uttarakhand
- (c) Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram
- (d) Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

A UK-based climate activist group's protest against government plans to issue new oil licenses has triggered commuter chaos for the second day in a row, reported local media Tuesday.

The group is demanding that the British government halt all new oil and gas licences, among other demands. The latest protest follows other high-profile demonstrations, including the vandalism of an Aston Martin showroom in London and the defacing of a famous painting by throwing tomato soup at it.

The Just Stop Oil group defines itself as a coalition of working to "ensure that the government commits to ending all new licenses and consents for the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels in the UK."

Launched earlier this year, they have garnered attention due to their aggressive protest methods. Since February 2022, they have reportedly invaded the pitch during several football matches, protested on the race track during the Formula 1 race in Silverstone, vandalised many artworks in museums and blocked tankers transporting oil thus affecting the fuel distribution cycle.

A Guardian interview described the group as volunteers with the ability to remain nonviolent under pressure. Just Stop Oil is "a non-hierarchical coalition of organisers, scientists, lawyers and former workers in the oil industry who collaborate on both demands and tactics. Activists then operate in autonomous blocs with shared resources but no formal leadership. All funding comes from donations. The goal is to raise awareness on a massive scale," said the report.

What are their demands?

In a video statement issued from the top of the bridge across the Thames river, Morgan, who identified himself as a civil engineer from London, described the difficulty of holding on to the ropes at the height. "I'm willing to do this kind of thing because I am not willing to sit back and watch everything I love burn for the rest of my life."

He accused the UK government of accelerating "that process" by issuing new licences for oil and gas and of selling "all of us and our children for an uninhabitable earth."

"I can't challenge this madness in my desk job, designing bridges, so I'm taking direct action, occupying the QEII bridge until the government stops all new oil," he added.

He said that he and his friend will remain in position until the government makes a “meaningful” statement cancelling all new licences and consents for oil and gas extraction.

Meanwhile, another group of activists have blocked traffic with sit in and public rallies in different parts of London. Police have noted the protest and said that officers are on scene to remove the protesters.

On Sunday (Oct 16), a group of protesters spray-painted the glass front of an Aston Martin showroom in London’s Park Lane with orange paint as a mark of protest. No permanent damage appears to have been done, as per media reports.

Earlier, on Oct 14, two members of the group grabbed headlines when they threw canned tomato soup over a Van Gogh painting in London’s National Gallery. The 1888 painting, titled ‘Sunflowers’, has an estimated value of £72.5 million. Gallery authorities said that it suffered only “minor damages” to the frame and will continue on display.

Local media reported that over 100 people have been arrested in the past week for their role in the protests undertaken by the environmental group.

Newly-sworn in Home Secretary Suella Braverman, meanwhile, announced plans for a strict crackdown on climate protesters. Accusing them of holding the public “to ransom,” the Indian-origin Braverman said she will empower the police to act swiftly to curb such protests. Her plan also includes a provision to make disruption of businesses like oil refineries a criminal offence, punishable by up to 12 months in prison, a fine or both.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Just Stop Oil: All about the UK activist group that is climbing bridges and throwing soup at paintings", by Navmi Krishna, *The Indian Express*, <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/just-stop-oil-all-about-the-uk-activist-group-that-is-climbing-bridges-and-throwing-soup-at-paintings-8216045/>]

**7.1 On October 14, 2022, members of Just Stop Oil grabbed worldwide attention by throwing tomato soup at a famous painting. Which painting was this?**

- (a) The scream, by Edvard Munch
- (b) Orange and Yellow, by Mark Rothko
- (c) Convergence, by Jackson Pollock
- (d) Sunflowers, by Vincent Van Gogh

**7.2 Disha Ravi, an Indian climate activist, and who was arrested in February 2021 for her alleged involvement with an online toolkit linked to Greta Thunberg, founded which of the following organizations?**

- (a) Greenpeace India
- (b) Clean Air Asia, India
- (c) Fridays for Future India
- (d) CHINTAN

**7.3 In which of the following is the COP27 summit scheduled to be held?**

- (a) Sharm-al-Sheikh, Egypt
- (b) Glasgow, Scotland
- (c) Madrid, Spain
- (d) Katowice, Poland

**7.4 India's Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee recently approved the 'environmental release' of which of the following?**

- (a) Bt Cotton
- (b) Mustard hybrid DMH-11
- (c) Bt Corn
- (d) Simplot Innate Potato

**7.5 Which famous environmental thinker, author, and activist is the founder of Navdanya Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology (India)?**

- (a) Sunita Narain
- (b) Ridhima Pandey
- (c) Vandana Shiva
- (d) Norma Alvares

**7.6 Which Indian environmental movement, led by various groups including adivasis, farmers, and rights activists, and one of whose points of focus was the Sardar Sarovar Dam, counted Medha Patkar and Baba Amte among its leading spokespersons?**

- (a) Chipko Movement
- (b) Appiko Movement
- (c) Jungle Bachao Andolan
- (d) Narmada Bachao Andolan

**7.7 Which environmental activist from Karnataka, involved in environmental conservation efforts for over sixty years, and who has planted over 30,000 saplings, was awarded the Padma Shri in 2021?**

- (a) Tulsi Gowda
- (b) Sunderlal Bahugana
- (c) Harekala Hajjaba
- (d) Sindhutai Sapkal



Hi. My name is Locust.

I am a small insect. But don't underestimate me by my size. I have been around since the first human set foot on this Earth and have played a significant role in human culture and civilization. I will explain this as I speak.

For starters, I am, in fact, a grasshopper. All locusts are grasshoppers. They belong to the 'Family' Acrididae and the 'Order' Orthoptera. Now look friends. I don't really understand this taxonomy stuff, bombastic Greek words and all. It was discovered by some Swedish man called [1], who, I guess wanted to divide everything in nature into categories.

Anyway, to come back to my particulars. We locusts, when treated as single solitary insects are very unremarkable. The best use that humans can make of us is eating our flesh. We are kosher (one can eat) according to Jewish and Islamic dietary laws. Well, some of us, that is.

But everything changes when we become what scientists call as 'gregarious'. Very special conditions are required for this to happen.

A long period of drought, followed by heavy rains, which causes thick vegetation to grow, triggers a 'chemical reaction' in our primitive brains. The rush of serotonin causes us to band together. We form what are known as 'swarms'. A 'typical' swarm can consist of up to 100-150 million locusts per square kilometre.

It is in this condition that our destructive potential is revealed. We fly with the aid of the wind in whichever direction it takes us. For instance, recently, we were predicted to visit Delhi after having paid a visit to Jaipur. Instead, the wind took us to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

We descend on vegetation that comes in our way. Each of us eats a quantity of vegetation equal to our body weight. And those humans on the ground below are left desperate wondering where their next meal will come from.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Read 'L' for locusts", by Rajat Ghai, Down To Earth, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/young/read-l-for-locusts-71690>]

**8.1 The name of this scientist, famous for creating the modern system of naming biological organisms, has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above. Who is this person?**

- (a) Roger Penrose
- (b) Carl Linnaeus
- (c) Alexander Fleming
- (d) Louis Pasteur

**8.2 In April 2020, swarms of locusts invaded India; from which neighboring country did they enter India?**

- (a) Srilanka
- (b) Bangladesh

- (c) China
- (d) Pakistan

**8.3 What species do the locusts described in the previous question belong to?**

- (a) Red locusts
- (b) Rocky mountain locusts
- (c) Desert locusts
- (d) Bombay locust

**8.4 The April 2020 locust attack has been described as one of India's worst in several years; when did India's worst recorded locust attack occur before the one in 2020?**

- (a) 1993
- (b) 1956
- (c) 2012
- (d) 1857

**8.5 Dengue viruses are transmitted to humans through the bite of infected members of which mosquito species?**

- (a) Anopheles
- (b) Aedes
- (c) Culex
- (d) Tripteroides

**8.6 Who is India's current Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare?**

- (a) Radha Mohan Singh
- (b) Narendra Singh Tomar
- (c) Suraj Bhan
- (d) Balram Jakhar

R. Praggnanandhaa, the 17-year-old chess prodigy, defeated [1] for the third time in a year on Monday as he outmanoeuvred the world champion in the last round of the FTX Crypto Cup in Miami, an international chess championship.

Praggnanandhaa earned his first victory against the world champion, when he was 16, in the eighth round of the Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament last February.

His second victory against [1] came on May 20, when he stunned the Norwegian champion at the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament.

The first two games of the [1]-Praggnanandhaa match were drawn before the world No.1 went ahead by clinching the third.

In a surprise turn of events, the Indian won the fourth game to push the match into the tie-breaks. He shocked the Norwegian by winning both the games in the tie-break.

Praggnanandhaa also played a crucial role in the India 'B' team claiming a bronze medal in the 44th chess Olympiad in Chennai recently.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Teenage chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa beats world chess champion [1] thrice in a year", The Economic Times, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-updates/teenage-chess-prodigy-r-praggnanandhaa-beats-world-chess-champion-magnus-carlsen-thrice-in-a-year/articleshow/93710720.cms?from=mdr>]

**9.1 The name of which world champion chess player has been replaced by “[1]” in the passage?**

- (a) Viswanathan Anand
- (b) Garry Kasparov
- (c) Vladimir Kramnik
- (d) Magnus Carlsen

**9.2 Who is currently the youngest chess player ever to defeat the world champion whose name has been replaced with ‘[1]’ in the passage above?**

- (a) R. Praggnanandhaa
- (b) Parimarjan Negi
- (c) Gukesh D.
- (d) Pravin Thipsay

**9.3 Who is the first Indian woman to achieve the FIDE Woman Grandmaster title in chess?**

- (a) Priyanka Nuttaki
- (b) Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi
- (c) Divya Deshmukh
- (d) Koneu Humpy

**9.4 The world of chess was rocked by a cheating scandal in 2022 after the world champion whose name has been replaced with ‘[1]’ in the passage resigned from a game and leveled allegations of cheating against which player?**

- (a) Hans Niemann

- (b) Tigran L. Petrosian
- (c) Igors Rausis
- (d) Sergey Aslanov

**9.5 The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced the implementation of a pay equity policy for its women-contracted cricketers in October 2022. Which of the following did the policy provide for?**

- (a) Payment of the same match fees to men and women cricketers.
- (b) Payment of the same retainership fees to both men and women cricketers.
- (c) Payment of the same retainership fees to all women cricketers, regardless of grade.
- (d) Payment of the same retainership fees to all male cricketers, regardless of grade.

**9.6 The 36th National Games of India were conducted in 2022 in which state?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

**9.7 Which of the following won the most medals at the 36th National Games of India?**

- (a) Services
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Kerala

The fate of wild animals found in the Sundarbans in the aftermath of Cyclone [1], which struck in May 2020, remains uncertain and they would have suffered the most, forest officials have said.

Vulnerable people were evacuated from the coastal and forest areas ahead of the cyclone. However, there has been very less information about wildlife.

Meanwhile, people dependent on the Sundarbans for their livelihood have been affected too.

Hasnaina Bhuimali, whose husband works as a migrant labourer, earns her living by bartering the fish and crabs she collects from Gosaba's mudflats.

“My husband is not here. My livelihood depends on the money I earn from selling crabs or the fish I barter in the grocery store for rice and dal. We are lucky when my elder son gets some vegetables from the market which is very rare, once in a month or so,” she said.

Honey collector Prasad Rajbongshi, who works seasonally as a helper to a builder and is currently stuck with his family in the Sundarbans, is also worried.

“I came home as COVID-19 was spreading. Working as a labourer in the construction industry made me stressed. So, whenever I come to my village, I go to collect honey. This gives me an additional income,” he said.

“After our chief minister announced the lockdown, even this extra source of earning has stopped. I am worried about how I will feed so many mouths together. On top of this the cyclone blew away the roof of our house,” he added.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "Cyclone Amphan's damage to Sundarbans' wildlife not known yet", by Nivedita, Down To Earth, <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/cyclone-amphan-s-damage-to-sundarbans-wildlife-not-known-yet-71310>]

**10.1 The name of which cyclone has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?**

- (a) Nisarga
- (b) Amphan
- (c) Vayu
- (d) Fani

**10.2 The Sunderbans are located in the delta of which of the following rivers?**

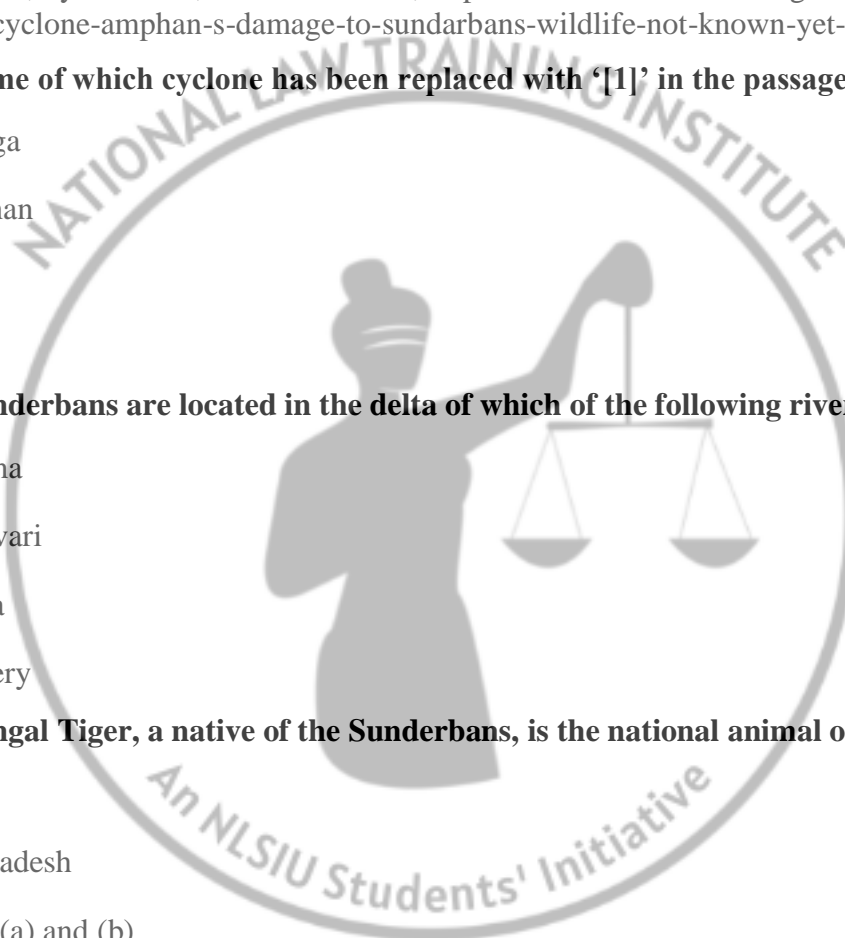
- (a) Krishna
- (b) Godavari
- (c) Ganga
- (d) Cauvery

**10.3 The Bengal Tiger, a native of the Sunderbans, is the national animal of:**

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Both, (a) and (b)
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b)

**10.4 What is the name of the tiger conservation program launched by the Government of India in April 1973?**

- (a) Project Tiger
- (b) Project Preserve
- (c) Royal Conservation Effort
- (d) Project Feline



**10.5 Who among the following is the Director General of the Centre for Science and the Environment, and the editor of the magazine Down to Earth?**

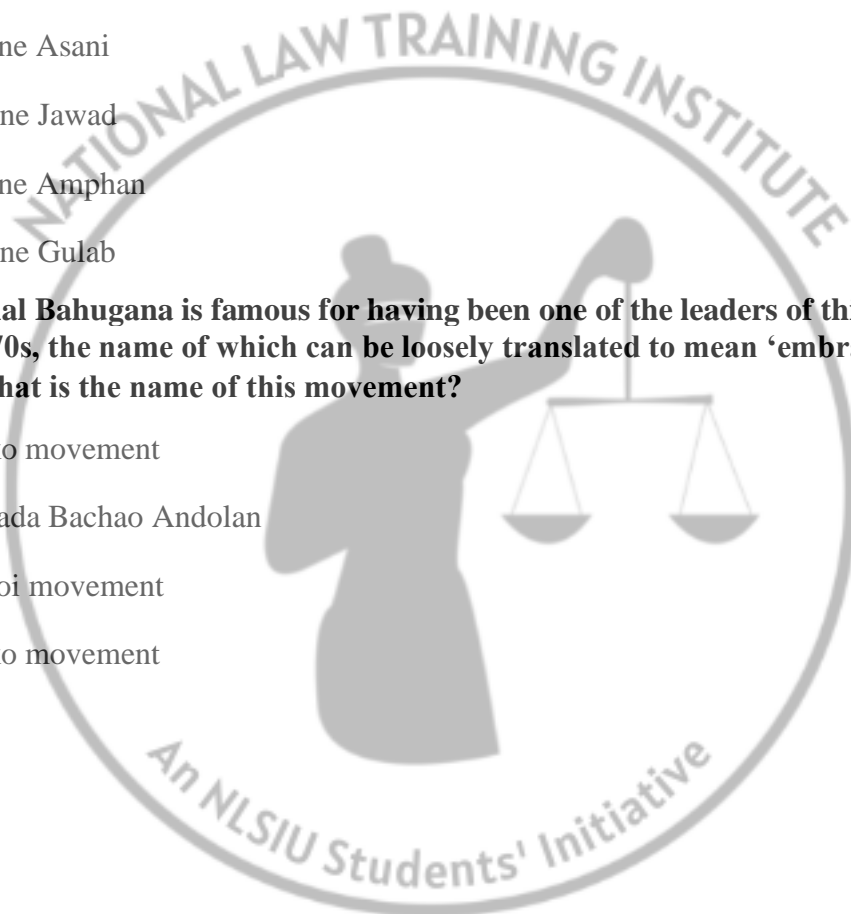
- (a) Vandana Shiva
- (b) Sunita Narain
- (c) Medha Patkar
- (d) Arundhati Roy

**10.6 Cyclone Sitrang is the second major cyclonic storm to have struck India in 2022. Which was the first?**

- (a) Cyclone Asani
- (b) Cyclone Jawad
- (c) Cyclone Amphan
- (d) Cyclone Gulab

**10.7 Sunderlal Bahugana is famous for having been one of the leaders of this movement from the 1970s, the name of which can be loosely translated to mean 'embrace' or 'tree huggers'. What is the name of this movement?**

- (a) Appiko movement
- (b) Narmada Bachao Andolan
- (c) Bishnoi movement
- (d) Chipko movement



## LEGAL REASONING

A week after Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, activists from the feminist collective Pinjra Tod were arrested, Narwal has been charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (the “UAPA”).

Since the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (the “CAA”) protests and abrogation of Article 370, this legislation has been a recurring and prominent feature—invoked against activists like Sharjeel Imam, students such as Safoora Zargar, Meeran Haider and Gulfisha Fatima, and journalists in Kashmir, most recently, 26-year-old photojournalist Masrat Zahra.

The UAPA is a special statute which was enacted in 1967 as a law to prevent, curb and punish any ‘unlawful activity’. Such activities are seditious activities or other activities against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. The term “sedition” has been defined in Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (the “IPC”), and the same definition is used to decide if a particular activity is ‘seditious’ under the UAPA.

Section 124A of the IPC defines sedition as: “Words, either spoken or written, or signs, or visible representation, or otherwise, that bring or attempt to bring into hatred or contempt, or excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India.” Section 124A of the IPC goes on to explain that the expression “disaffection” includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. The section also clarifies that comments expressing dissatisfaction with the measures of the Government with a view to obtaining their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not amount to sedition.

The UPA government in 2004 expanded the scope of UAPA to include terrorist activities and targeted terrorist organizations. So these provisions are to be invoked only in cases of threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The UAPA was amended in 2019, and since then, the government has also been empowered to designate individuals as terrorists under the UAPA.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "From Pinjra Tod to Kashmiri journalists: What's the deal with UAPA?", by Asmita Bakshi, *LiveMint*, <https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/from-pinjra-tod-to-kashmiri-journalists-what-s-the-deal-with-uapa-11590915249625.html>]

**11.1 Seema is a final-year student at the University of Delhi. She stays in the University hostel, as her home is another city in a different state. The University hostel’s rules say that women must return to the hostel by 8 p.m. every evening, whereas men are only required to return to the hostel by midnight. Seema is very upset with these rules, since she feels they discriminate unfairly between men and women. Along with some friends, she organises a series of protests on the University’s campus, asking that the rules be changed and made the same for men and women. At one such protest, she says to the gathered crowd that “These rules are a reflection of how men rule society. We must oppose these rules! We must break these rules, and along with that, the unfair advantage of men in our society!” When the local police come to hear of this, they arrest Seema and file a case against Seema for sedition under the UAPA. Will the police case succeed?**

- (a) No, since Seema’s statement was not ‘seditious’ under the UAPA.
- (b) No, since Seema is only a student, and students cannot be arrested under the UAPA.

- (c) Yes, since challenging the unfair advantages of men amounts to the same thing as challenging the government.
- (d) Yes, since a university campus is not the appropriate place to hold protests.

**11.2 Seema's roommate at the hostel, Geeta, is a big sports fan, and follows international cricket very closely. One day, during a casual conversation in the University canteen among friends, Geeta says that the Pakistani cricket team is in much better form than the Indian cricket team, and that she would be supporting the Pakistani team in the next T20 World Cup. Her friend Sumit is very upset when he hears this, and accuses Geeta of being a traitor. He files a complaint under the UAPA at the local police station, accusing Geeta of having caused disaffection against the Government of India. Is Sumit right?**

- (a) Yes, it would be traitorous to support the cricket team of another country over the Indian team.
- (b) Yes, since supporting another country's team shows that Geeta was disloyal to India.
- (c) No, since sports and sporting activities are not covered under the UAPA.
- (d) No, since merely supporting another country's team would not amount to exciting feelings of disloyalty or enmity against the Government of India.

**11.3 Sumit also stays in the University hostel, and his roommate, Colin, has a very short temper. Colin often gets very angry at things and says and does things that he later regrets. One day, Colin was attending a class held over video conferencing, where the professor was discussing the plight of migrant workers in India. Upset at the way the Government handled the lockdown imposed for the Covid-19 pandemic, and the misery it caused migrant workers, Colin unmuted himself, and shouted out loud for the whole class to hear: "This government is terrible! We should all come together and bring it down! Let's go and smash all the government vehicles we can find near our homes!" Has Colin violated the UAPA?**

- (a) No, since Colin had only spoken through video conferencing, and not in person to anyone else.
- (b) Yes, since Colin was encouraging others to commit violence against Government property.
- (c) No, since Colin often got angry and said things that he later regretted.
- (d) Yes, since interrupting a professor in the middle of a class is seditious.

**11.4 Gautami, one of Colin's classmates, was very shaken and upset by Colin's statements. For some years, Gautami has been studying relations between Nepal and India, and feels that India has been unfair to Nepal on many occasions. A few hours after the class where the incident involving Colin took place, Gautami posted a message on a social networking website, along with a map of India and Nepal; in the map, Gautami had altered the border between the two countries, such that large parts of the state of Bihar were shown as part of Nepal. In her message, she also wrote "India has long been unfair to Nepal and grabbed its territory! This map shows what the true**



**boundary between India and Nepal should be!” When the police saw this post, they filed a case against Gautami under the UAPA. Has Gautami violated the UAPA?**

- (a) No, since Gautami’s actions did not amount to causing hatred against the Government of India.
- (b) No, since Gautami was only expressing her opinion, which is protected by the freedom of speech.
- (c) Yes, since by posting the message, Gautami had acted against the territorial integrity of India.
- (d) Yes, since Gautami was spreading lies and fake news.

**11.5 When she comes to hear about the incidents involving Seema, Geeta, Colin, and Gautami, the Vice Chancellor of the University is very upset. At a conference, she says “This Government does not seem to have taken students’ sentiments into accounts in framing its policies. The Government should undertake sensitisation programmes so that the police do not go about arresting students for trivial reasons.” The police claim that the Vice Chancellor’s statements amount to sedition under the UAPA. Are they right?**

- (a) Yes, since the Vice Chancellor’s statements would create hatred against the Government of India.
- (b) No, since the vice Chancellor was only suggesting her dissatisfaction with the government’s measures, and encouraging their change through lawful means.
- (c) Yes, since students who heard the Vice Chancellor were likely to commit violence against government property.
- (d) No, since the Vice Chancellor had not committed any violence against the government herself.

Do you un mindfully forward unverified market tips on WhatsApp? The habit could land you in trouble with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”). It wouldn’t matter even if you received the tip from someone else and you were just forwarding it. You can also be penalised even if you have not used the tip to make money. This is what the latest orders passed by SEBI in the WhatsApp leaks episode signify.

Last Friday, SEBI imposed a fine of 15 lakh each on two senior employees working at Antique Broking for their involvement in the WhatsApp leaks. Both the executives at Antique were part of several WhatsApp investor groups where insider tips were being exchanged. The tips largely dealt with probable earnings of various companies and other news developments. They used to forward these tips to their clients who were institutional investors. Some of the predictions turned out to be precise, which has now landed them in trouble.

The messages included sales reports of several blue-chip companies including Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Wipro and Mindtree. Such tips are known as Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (“UPSI”) in legal parlance and refer to any company information that has not been disclosed to shareholders yet.

Lawyers say, most individuals think it is harmless to share such forwards with their peers over WhatsApp even if they don't intend to make a profit out of such tips. However, handling, discussing, sharing, or using, UPSI directly or indirectly itself is a violation of the rules.

In this case, the executives argued they didn't know that the source of information came from company insiders. They also claimed that a lot of predictions they forwarded turned out to be false. But SEBI brushed aside those arguments.

There is a rule of thumb to decide if the information is UPSI or not. If you have got it from public media such as a newspaper or a TV broadcast or even a public Twitter post, or a stock exchange filing, there is no problem in sharing it with others. However, if you have received it through private means, which include closed WhatsApp groups, any personal chats or even phone conversations, you need to be careful handling such data.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Beware, Sebi watching! WhatsApping stock tips may land you in trouble", by Pavan Burugula, *The Economic Times*, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/beware-sebi-watching-whatsapping-stock-tips-may-land-you-in-trouble/articleshow/76147212.cms>]

**12.1 Suresh is a stock broker, and works at “Dalal Street Stock Broking Limited”, a big stock trading firm based in Mumbai. He is also a member of a WhatsApp group that the other residents of the building where Suresh stays have set up, called “Our Building Group”. Usually, members exchange information about their building, and other events of importance to residents of the building. One day, however, Suresh shares some information that he has received on the “Our Building Group”. This information relates to a company whose shares are being traded on the stock exchange, and is not publicly available yet. Mahesh, another member of the “Our Building Group”, reads this information, and quickly buys some shares in the company. He later sells them for a huge profit. SEBI comes to know about this, and claims that Suresh has violated the rules relating to UPSI. Suresh says he shared the information on the “Our Building Group” by mistake, and is therefore not guilty of breaking the rules. Is he right?**

- (a) Yes, because if anyone should be punished, it is Mahesh, who bought and sold the shares in the company, and not Suresh.
- (b) No, since Suresh had shared UPSI on a WhatsApp group with the other members of the group.
- (c) Yes, since sharing UPSI by mistake is not a violation of the rules about UPSI.
- (d) No, since the “Our Building Group” was not created to share UPSI.

**12.2 Ever since he had made a profit by buying and selling the shares of the company that Suresh had messaged about, Mahesh has developed a keen interest in the stock exchange. He subscribes to various WhatsApp group where people share information about shares and companies. One day, he receives a tip based on some UPSI on one of these WhatsApp groups. He decides to return Suresh's favour, and forwards the tip to Suresh. SEBI has been keeping a close eye on Suresh, and when they realise that Mahesh has sent him this tip, SEBI decides to take action against Mahesh, claiming that Mahesh has violated the rules relating to UPSI. Are they right?**

- (a) Yes, since Mahesh should have verified the information before forwarding it to Suresh.

- (b) Yes, since Mahesh had shared UPSI with Suresh on WhatsApp.
- (c) No, since Mahesh was only trying to return Suresh's favour.
- (d) No, since Mahesh had not used the information in the tip, and was only forwarding it to someone else.

**12.3 Ganesh is a friend of both, Suresh and Mahesh, and stays in the same building as them. Ganesh, however, is very wary of the stock market and prefers not to deal in shares. One day, he receives and an invitation to join a WhatsApp group from Mahesh. Mahesh calls Ganesh immediately after sending him the invite and tells him that the members of the group that he has invited Ganesh to join, regularly exchange UPSI on it, which would help Ganesh make a lot of money. Ganesh, however, refuses to join the group, and deletes the invitation. SEBI, however, decides to take action against Ganesh, saying that by simply receiving the invitation to join a group where UPSI is shared, Ganesh has broken the rules relating to UPSI. Is SEBI right?**

- (a) Yes, since Ganesh had violated the rules by being on another WhatsApp group where Suresh and Mahesh were also members.
- (b) No, since Ganesh was very wary of the stock market, and did not deal in shares.
- (c) No, since Ganesh had not accepted the invitation to join the group, and had not received any UPSI.
- (d) Yes, since allowing others to send such invitations is itself a violation of the UPSI rules.

**12.4 Ramesh also stays in the same building as Suresh, Mahesh, and Ganesh, and is also a member of the "Our Building Group". He has a keen interest in company law, and regularly follows market news to understand the area better. He joins a WhatsApp group called "Company Insights" at the invitation of one of his friends. The members of the group share their opinions about various companies on that group. These opinions include their subjective comments on news events relating to various companies. When SEBI find out about this group, they decide to take action against all the members of the group, including Ramesh, claiming that they have all violated the rules relating to UPSI. Has Ramesh violated the rules relating to UPSI?**

- (a) No, since the opinions shared on the group were subjective, and did not include any UPSI.
- (b) No, since only the group administrator should be punished, not all the members of the group.
- (c) Yes, since the people on the group used to share their opinions about companies on the group.
- (d) Yes, since Ramesh had accepted his friend's invitation to join the group.

**12.5 Dinesh, Ramesh's brother, holds a very senior position at a large company whose shares are traded on the stock exchange. Since he holds such a senior position, he has access to a lot of information before it is disclosed to the company's shareholders. One**

**evening, Dinesh visits Ramesh for dinner. The two brothers share a few drinks before dinner; Dinesh gets very drunk, and mistakenly blurts out some information about the company that is to be announced to the shareholders of the company two days later. The next morning, Ramesh buys some shares of the company based on the information Dinesh had revealed the previous evening; he later sells the shares for a massive profit after the information is announced to the shareholders of the company. SEBI decides to take action against Ramesh for violating the rules relating to UPSI. Is Ramesh guilty of breaking these rules?**

- (a) No, since Dinesh had only shared the information at his brother's house, not on a WhatsApp group.
- (b) No, since family members are free to discuss anything they like amongst themselves.
- (c) Yes, since Dinesh had violated the law by getting drunk.
- (d) Yes, since the information Dinesh had revealed was UPSI, since it had not yet been announced to the shareholders of the company.

Under the Indian Constitution, which came into force, or commenced, on 26 January 1950, certain fundamental rights are available only to citizens of India, namely: right against discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15); right to equality of opportunity in matter of public employment (Article 16); freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19); cultural and educational rights (Article 29 and 30); and right to vote and become members of the union and state legislatures.

Equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India (Article 14) and protection of life or personal liberty (Article 21) are available to non-citizens as well.

There are some categories of persons, identified between Articles 5 and 7 of the Constitution, who are deemed eligible to become citizens of India:

i) Citizenship by domicile (Article 5): This is applicable to a person born in India before the coming into effect of the Constitution, or either of whose parents was born in India before the coming into effect of the Constitution, or who had resided in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately before the commencement of the Constitution. All such persons would be eligible to be citizens of India. For the purposes of this Article, as well as Article 6 and 7, "India", or "the territory of India" means the territory of India as it was after August 15, 1947.

ii) Citizenship of migrants to India from Pakistan (Article 6): Persons who had previously not resided in India, but had migrated from Pakistan to India have been classified into two categories:

a) those who came to India from Pakistan before July 19, 1948 were eligible to become citizens of India if they had been residing in India since the date of their migration.

b) those who came to India from Pakistan on or after July 19, 1948 were eligible to become citizens of India if they registered as a citizen of India, after residing in India for at least six months before the date of applying for registration.

iii) Citizenship of migrants of Pakistan (Article 7): If a person residing in India had migrated to Pakistan after March 1, 1947, but returned to India on the basis of a permit for resettlement in India, they would be entitled to become a citizen of India if they register themselves as a citizen of India, after residing in the territory of India for at least six months before the date of applying for registration.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Explained: The Nuts and Bolts of Indian Citizenship", by Shruti Jain, *The Wire*, <https://thewire.in/rights/india-citizenship-constitution>]

**13.1 Zubair was born in the territory of what is now Bangladesh in 1930. Since 1942, however, he had been residing in Bangalore. Since he ran an international trading business, he often travelled abroad as well. After the Constitution of India came into effect, he applied for Indian citizenship. Was Zubair eligible to become a citizen of India?**

- (a) No, since he often travelled abroad.
- (b) No, since he was born in the territory of what is now Bangladesh.
- (c) Yes, since he had applied to become a citizen of India.
- (d) Yes, since he had been residing in the territory of India since 1942.

**13.2 After the partition of India was announced, Saadat decided to move to Lahore in Pakistan. He went to Lahore on February 25, 1947. After some months, however, Saadat decided to move back to India. In March 1951, he obtained a permit for resettlement in India, and moved back to Bombay, where he had earlier resided. In December 1951 he applied to be registered as a citizen of India. Was Saadat entitled to be registered as a citizen of India?**

- (a) Yes, since he had moved back to India on the basis of a permit for resettlement in India.
- (b) No, since he had migrated to Pakistan before March 1, 1947.
- (c) No, since he had decided to move to Pakistan voluntarily.
- (d) Yes, since he had resided in the territory of India for more than six months before applying for registration as a citizen.

**13.3 Guneet had been living in a part of Punjab that came within the territory of Pakistan after the partition of India. After the country gained independence, Guneet decided to move to Amritsar in India. She arrived in Amritsar on July 19, 1948 and applied for registration as a citizen of India the very next day. Would her application succeed?**

- (a) No, since she had not been born within the territory of India.
- (b) Yes, since she had been residing in the territory of India since the date of her migration.
- (c) No, since she would have had to reside in the territory of India for at least six months after arriving in India.

- (d) Yes, since she had been forced to move to India because of the fear of religious discrimination.

**13.4 Sulekha and her parents were all born in Kenya. After India became an independent country, Sulekha decided to move to Lucknow in India. Once the Constitution came into force, however, the authorities told Sulekha that she was not eligible to be a citizen of India. Were the authorities correct?**

- (a) No, since she had not moved to India from Pakistan.
- (b) No, since she had moved to India as soon as the country became independent.
- (c) Yes, since she had not moved to India on the basis of a permit for resettlement in India.
- (d) Yes, since she had not resided in the territory of India for five years before the commencement of the Constitution.

**13.5 Manmeet was born and had lived in a village that became a part of Pakistan after the partition of India. Manmeet decided to move to India, but could only do so some months after independence, and finally arrived in India on 15 May 1948. He decided to apply to be registered as a citizen of India within ten days of reaching and staying in India. Would his application succeed?**

- (a) Yes, since he had been residing in India since the date of his migration.
- (b) Yes, since the village he used to stay in had become a part of Pakistan.
- (c) No, since he had not resided within the territory of India for at least six months before applying.
- (d) No, since he had not been born in India.

The *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016* (the “**Bill**”) seeks to recognise transgender persons, and confer anti-discriminatory rights and entitlements related to education, employment, health, and welfare measures.

The Bill provides for ‘self-perceived gender identity’ i.e. persons can determine their gender on their own. This is in line with a Supreme Court judgment (2014) which said that the self-determination of one’s gender is part of the fundamental right to dignity, freedom and personal autonomy guaranteed under the Constitution.

Along with the provision on ‘self-perceived gender identity’, the Bill also provides for a screening process to obtain a ‘Certificate of Identity’. This Certificate will certify the person as ‘transgender’. An application for obtaining such a Certificate has to be made to a District Screening Committee which must comprise five members including a medical officer, psychologist or psychiatrist, and a transgender person.

The Bill provides certain entitlements to transgender persons for their inclusion and participation in society. These entitlements, however, would only be available to a person who has had themselves certified as transgender in the manner the Bill describes.

As per international standards, 'transgender' is an umbrella term that includes persons whose sense of gender does not match with the gender assigned to them at birth. For example, a person born as a man may identify with the opposite gender, i.e., as a woman. In addition to this sense of mismatch, the definition provided under the Bill also lists further criteria to be defined as a transgender person. These additional criteria include being (i) 'neither wholly male nor female', or (ii) 'a combination of male and female', or (iii) 'neither male nor female'. For a person to successfully apply for a Certificate of Identity and be classified as a transgender person, they must show either this 'sense of mismatch', or fulfil any of these additional criteria.

The Bill specifies certain offences which include: (i) compelling transgender persons to beg or do forced or bonded labour, and (ii) physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse. These offences will attract imprisonment between six months and two years, in addition to a fine.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Explained: The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016", by Nivedita Rao, PRS Legislative Research, <https://www.prsindia.org/print/583789>]

**Answer the following questions assuming that the *Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016* has been passed and is now a law, in the form described in the passage above.**

**14.1 Grace was born as a man, but upon attaining adulthood, started identifying increasingly as a woman. Grace started wearing women's clothes, and asked to be identified as 'she'. When the Bill was passed, Grace applied for a Certificate of Identity to the local District Screening Committee. Is Grace eligible to be certified as a transgender?**

- (a) No, since Grace is biologically a man.
- (b) Yes, since Grace was born as a man but now identifies as a woman.
- (c) No, since Grace is wholly male.
- (d) Yes, since Grace wears women's clothes.

**14.2 Rajesh was brought up as a boy and sent to an all-boys school by their parents. However, Rajesh has never felt completely comfortable identifying as a man. Rajesh appears before the District Screening Committee and asks for a Certificate of Identity, so as to be classified as transgender. The District Screening Committee decides that Rajesh is not a man; it also determines that Rajesh is not a woman. Would Rajesh's application for a Certificate of Identity be successful?**

- (a) Yes, since the Committee cannot decide if Rajesh is a man.
- (b) No, since Rajesh was brought up as a boy.
- (c) Yes, since the Committee has decided that Rajesh is neither wholly male nor female.
- (d) No, since Rajesh should have felt comfortable identifying as a man after attending an all-boys' school.

**14.3 Sameena wishes to apply for a Certificate of Identity and applies to the District Screening Committee. Sameena appears before the Committee, but they reject her**

**application for certification. Sameena is disappointed with this, and challenges the decision of the Committee; Sameena says that the Committee had only male members, and so, it was not formed in the manner the Bill lays down. Is Sameena correct?**

- (a) No, since there is nothing preventing the formation of an all-male District Screening Committee under the Bill.
- (b) Yes, since Sameena wishes to be certified as a transgender person.
- (c) No – as long as the Committee had a medical officer and a psychologist or psychiatrist, it would be valid under the Bill.
- (d) Yes, since the Committee did not have a transgender person on it.

**14.4 Supreet had applied for a Certificate of Identity and been granted one. Born as a boy, Supreet had always identified as a woman. When Supreet visited his parents and told them that she had obtained a Certificate of Identity, however, her father got very upset and started yelling and screaming at her. He told Supreet that he never wanted to see Supreet again. When Supreet tried to protest, her father got even more upset, and started hitting Supreet. Supreet left her parents' home, and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment for the injuries caused to her by her father. Supreet later decided to complain against her father, saying that he should be punished under the Bill. Will Supreet's complaint succeed?**

- (a) No, since a child cannot file a complaint against their parents.
- (b) Yes, since her father had physically, verbally, and emotionally abused her, which is an offence under the Bill.
- (c) No, since the Bill only punishes abuses against transgender persons, and Supreet was born a boy.
- (d) Yes, since Supreet's father should have been more supportive of her choices.

**14.5 Beena read in the newspaper about the decision of the Supreme Court which held that the self-determination of one's gender is a fundamental right. Beena was excited at reading this news since Beena had always identified as a man despite being born a woman. Beena decided to take advantage of the Supreme Court decision, and the passing of the Bill, and decided to apply for certification as a transgender. He, therefore, wrote a letter to the Supreme Court, describing his situation. Beena then applied for some entitlements under the Bill as a transgender person, but was refused – the authority claimed that Beena had not been certified as a transgender person in the manner set out in the Bill. Is the authority correct?**

- (a) No – since the Supreme Court is the highest authority in the country, a letter to the Supreme Court has more weight than an application to the District Screening Committee.
- (b) Yes, since Beena was not eligible for certification as a transgender person under the Bill.
- (c) Yes, since Beena had written a letter to the Supreme Court, but had not applied to the District Screening Committee.



- (d) No, since the Supreme Court had declared the self determination of gender a part of one's fundamental rights.

Despite having a law against child marriages for the last 90 years, child marriages are a reality in our country. As per statistics, child marriages account for 27 per cent of marriages in India.

Legally speaking, a marriage in which either the girl is below 18 years of age, or the boy is below 21 years of age is a "child marriage". A girl below 18 years of age and a boy below 21 years of age are regarded as 'children' under the Act. The *Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006* (the "Act") has a threefold purpose, i.e., prevention of child marriages, protection of the children involved, and prosecution of offenders. This law has declared child marriage to be a punishable crime. An order can be issued by the court to prohibit its solemnisation and if a marriage is solemnised after such an order, then such a marriage shall be declared as null and void, meaning that it never existed.

'Solemnisation' here would mean conducting the religious ceremonies required to finalise a marriage under the religion of the persons being married, such as the *saptapadi* for Hindus and *offer-acceptance* for Muslims. Under Indian law, if a marriage has been solemnised, then the persons involved are 'married'.

This law also prescribes punishments for performing, conducting and helping conduct child marriages. Even the parents of the children involved can be punished for promoting or permitting child marriage. The Act also punishes an adult male who marries a child and also requires the husband to provide maintenance to his minor bride till her remarriage.

Under Section 3(3) of the Act, both the boy as well as the girl have the right to opt out of a child marriage until two years after attaining majority i.e. up to the age of 20 years for a girl and 23 years for the boy.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Legal status of child marriages in India", by Vageshwari Descale, *The Times of India*, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/legally-speaking/legal-status-of-child-marriages-in-india/>]

**15.1 Pinky, a 16-year-old girl, spent a lot of time talking to her neighbor, Ramesh, who was 23 years old. One day, Ramesh convinced Pinky to run away with him and get married. Pinky readily agreed, and the two left their homes early one morning, went to a temple in another town, and had the priest there conduct the ceremonies required for their marriage to be finalized. When Pinky's parents found out about this, they filed a complaint against Ramesh, claiming that this was a child marriage and that Ramesh should be punished under the Act. Are Pinky's parents correct?**

- (a) Yes, since Ramesh should have taken Pinky's parents' permission before marrying her.
- (b) No, since Pinky had voluntarily run away with Ramesh, and so, the law should respect her wishes.
- (c) Yes, since Pinky was only 16 years old.
- (d) No, since they had gone to another town to get married.

**15.2 After Pinky's parents brought her home, she changed her mind about Ramesh, and stopped meeting him or speaking with him entirely. Three years after the incidents described in the previous question, Pinky met a man called Ramchandra and decided to get married to him. When Ramesh heard about this, he told Pinky's parents that the proposed marriage was impossible, since Pinky was still Ramesh's wife. Was Ramesh correct?**

- (a) No, since Pinky had stopped meeting or speaking with Ramesh entirely.
- (b) Yes, since their marriage had been solemnised.
- (c) Yes, since Pinky had run away with Ramesh earlier.
- (d) No, since Pinky was below 18 years of age when she ran away with Ramesh.

**15.3 Five years after the incidents described in the first question in this set, Pinky decided yet again that she wanted to get married, this time to a man called Lakshmana, who she met online. Pinky, therefore, decided to remove all obstacles in her path, and this, time, decided to file an application under Section 3(3) of the Act, to cancel her previous marriage to Ramesh. The authority responsible for these matters, however, refused to grant Pinky's request, since, according to him, the time limit under the Act, within which Pinky could file such an application, had expired. Is he right?**

- (a) Yes, since Pinky should file for a divorce under some other law.
- (b) No, since no one can force a person to remain in a marriage they do not want.
- (c) No, since Pinky had the right to cancel her marriage to Ramesh at any time.
- (d) Yes, since Pinky had crossed 20 years of age at the time she filed the application.

**15.4 Some days after the incidents described in the previous question, Pinky and her parents were invited to visit the wedding ceremony of one of their relatives. When they reached the wedding venue, Pinky was shocked to hear that the bride and groom were both 20 years old. Pinky asked the groom's mother about this, and the mother told Pinky that the groom had already started his own business, was earning well, and was completely independent. Pinky, however, called the police and complained about what she said was a child marriage; specifically, she complained to the police about the groom's mother and said she should be punished under the Act. Is Pinky right?**

- (a) No, since the groom was already financially independent, and could take care of his bride.
- (b) No, since the bride was over 18 years of age.
- (c) Yes, since the groom's mother should have acted more responsibly.
- (d) Yes, since the parents of the children involved in a child marriage can be punished under the Act.

**15.5 Not satisfied with upsetting her family by complaining about the wedding she went to with her parents, Pinky decided to keep a close eye on the priest who had been called to perform that wedding. She soon realized that the priest often conducted weddings**

**that involved underage persons. At one such wedding, she called the police and complained about the priest. Can the priest be punished under the Act?**

- (a) Yes, since he had been performing rites for child marriages.
- (b) No, since it is the parents and family of the children involved in the marriages who should be punished, not the priest.
- (c) Yes, since it was the priest's responsibility to warn the families involved about the dangers of child marriage.
- (d) No, since Indians have the freedom of religion, a priest cannot be punished under the law.

Last year, several Jio users from different states reported that sites like Indian Kanoon, Reddit and Telegram were inaccessible through their connections. While attempting to access the website, the users were presented with a notice that the websites were blocked on orders from the Department of Telecommunications (the "DoT").

This instance is symptomatic of a larger problem of opaque and arbitrary content takedown in India, enabled by the legal framework under the *Information Technology Act, 2000* (the "IT Act"). The Government derives its powers to order intermediaries (entities storing or transmitting information on behalf of others, a definition which includes internet service providers, news websites, and social media platforms alike) to block online resources through S. 69A of the IT Act. Apart from this, section 79 of the IT Act is also relevant.

Under section 69A, the Central Government can direct any agency of the government or an intermediary to block public access to any information generated, transmitted, received, stored, or hosted in any computer resource, which means, essentially, that under this Section, the Central Government can direct a government agency or an intermediary to block public access to a website, or to some content or information posted on a website (such direction is called a "Content Removal Request"). Under S. 69A, a Content Removal Request can be sent by authorised personnel in the Central Government, not below the rank of a Joint Secretary. The Central Government can issue a Content Removal Request under S. 69A if it feels that the blocking of a website, or any information on a website, is necessary in "the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states or for preventing incitement to commit violence."

Under S. 79 of the IT Act, if an intermediary or government agency, upon receiving actual knowledge, or on being notified by the Central Government that any information, website, data or communication link residing in or connected to a computer resource controlled by the intermediary or government agency is being used to commit an unlawful act, fails to remove or disable access to that material within 24 hours of receiving such knowledge or notice, then the intermediary will be punished under the provisions of the IT Act.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Content takedown and users' rights", by Gurshabad Grover and Torsha Sarkar, *Medianama*, <https://www.medianama.com/2020/02/223-content-takedown-and-users-rights/>]

**16.1 Sunil is the editor of the popular website 'Mediagaana', which carries various journalistic stories on Internet law and policy in India. In his free time, Sunil also publishes a print newspaper that publishes controversial stories on Internet law and**

**policy in India, ‘Mediaraga’. In its latest issue, Mediaraga carried a story severely criticising the government’s policy on Content Removal Requests. The Central Government, through a Joint Secretary, issues a Content Removal Request to Sunil, asking him to stop circulating copies of Mediaraga. Sunil challenges this Notice in court. Will he succeed?**

- (a) No, since Sunil had clearly violated the provisions of S. 69A of the IT Act, and the Notice had been validly issued through a Joint Secretary.
- (b) No, since the story in Mediaraga could incite people to commit acts of violence.
- (c) Yes, since a Content Removal Request can only be issued in relation to information posted on a computer resource, and not in a printed newspaper.
- (d) Yes, since there was nothing in the story that would justify issuing a Content Removal Request.

**16.2 Mediagaana published a story written by a guest author, which criticised the government’s actions in relation to Internet blocking in Kashmir. The article urged readers to “take up arms and fight for your rights against this unjust government”. The Joint Secretary for the Telecom Department of the State of Maharashtra read the article, and issued a Content Removal Request to Mediagaana, directing it to take down the article. Mediagaana challenges the Notice in court. Will Mediagaana win the case?**

- (a) Yes, since there was nothing in the article which violated the provisions of S. 69A of the IT Act.
- (b) Yes, the notice was issued by a State Government, and not by the Central Government.
- (c) No, since Sunil also ran a separate print newspaper.
- (d) No, since the article was clearly inciting readers to commit acts of violence, and the Notice had been issued by a Joint Secretary to the government.

**16.3 The Joint Secretary for the Telecom Department of the State of Maharashtra contacts the Joint Secretary for the Telecom Department of the Central Government, Mr. Weblekar, and informs him about the article on Mediagaana mentioned in the previous question. Mr. Weblekar is upset at reading the article, and publishes a post on a popular social networking website, which says “I disagree strongly with the contents of this article published on Mediagaana. It is false, untrue, and malicious.” Is Mediagaana required to block public access to the article under S. 69A of the IT Act?**

- (a) Yes, since the Central Government had issued a valid notice under S. 69A of the IT Act.
- (b) Yes, since a Joint Secretary of the Central Government had criticised the article in such severe terms.
- (c) No, since Mr. Weblekar’s post did not mention anything that could be considered a violation of S. 69A of the IT Act.
- (d) No, since no Content Removal Request had been issued to Mediagaana.

**16.4 Mr. Weblekar decides to keep a close watch on Mediagaana, and visits the website every day. One day, he notices an article relating to website security on Mediagaana. The article describes the increasing number of cyber-attacks being conducted on websites, and describes some means popularly used by hackers to attack websites. Mr. Weblekar is informed by Ms. Netconnectkar, a senior police officer in the Indian Police Service (“IPS”) that the article is being used by notorious elements to train hackers to attack a few private websites. Mr. Weblekar promptly issues a Content Removal Request to Mediagaana under S. 69A of the IT Act, directing it to block public access to the article. Mediagaana challenges this notice in court as well. Will Mediagaana win?**

- (a) Yes, since the Content Removal Request should have been issued by Ms. Netconnectkar and not by Mr. Weblekar.
- (b) No, since the article was being used to train hackers to attack websites.
- (c) Yes, since the article did not violate the provisions of S. 69A of the IT Act.
- (d) No, since the article was being used for unlawful activities and the Central Government had issued a valid Content Removal Request to Mediagaana.

**16.5 Mr. Weblekar decides to issue another notice to Mediagaana under S. 79 of the IT Act in relation to the same article mentioned in the previous question, directing Mediagaana to remove the article from its website. Sunil receives the notice at 5 p.m. on April 2, 2020. At 7 p.m. on April 3, 2020, Mr. Weblekar notices that the article is still accessible on the Mediagaana website. He therefore decides to file a complaint in court, asking that Mediagaana be punished under the provisions of the IT Act. Will Mr. Weblekar succeed?**

- (a) Yes, since Mediagaana had not removed nor disabled access to the article within 24 hours of receiving a notice under S. 79 of the IT Act to do so.
- (b) Yes, since this was the second time he was issuing a notice to Mediagaana.
- (c) No, since Mr. Weblekar had already issued a Content Removal Request under S. 69A to Mediagaana.
- (d) No, since there was nothing in the article that threatened the sovereignty and integrity of India.

Following the recommendation of the Election Commission (the “EC”), the President disqualified 20 MLAs of the Delhi Legislative Assembly last month for holding an ‘office of profit’. The legislators in question were appointed as parliamentary secretaries to various ministries in the Delhi government.

What is the concept of ‘office of profit’?

MPs and MLAs, as members of the legislature, hold the government accountable for its work. The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators hold an ‘office of profit’ under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.

According to the definition, what constitutes an ‘office of profit’?

An office of profit has been interpreted to be a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit. The amount of such profit is immaterial.

The Supreme Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the 'test of appointment'. The factors to be considered are: (i) whether the central government or any state government ("the Government") is the appointing authority, (ii) whether the Government has the power to terminate the appointment, (iii) whether the Government determines the remuneration, and (iv) what is the source of remuneration (is it from government funds?). If the answer to two of these questions is 'yes', the person is considered to be holding an 'office of profit'.

What does the Constitution say about holding an 'office of profit'? Can exemptions be granted under the law?

Under the provisions of Article 102 and Article 191 of the Constitution, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or any state government. The articles clarify that "a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the government of India or the government of any state by reason only that he is a minister". The Constitution specifies that the number of ministers including the Chief Minister has to be less than 15% of the total number of members of the assembly (10% in the case of Delhi, which is a union territory with legislature).

Articles 102 and 191 also protect a legislator occupying a government position if the office in question has been made immune to disqualification by law.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Explained: Law on holding an 'Office of Profit', by Vibhor Relhan, *PRS Legislative Research*, <https://www.prsindia.org/theprsblog/explained-law-holding-%E2%80%98office-profit%E2%80%99>]

**17.1 Nagraj is an MLA from the State of Karnataka, and belongs to the People's Party, which is in power in that state. Since Nagraj is also qualified as an engineer, he is often called upon to consult on various construction projects. On one such occasion, he was asked to provide some advice regarding the construction of a bridge by Bridgecraft Private Limited, a private company that worked on government contracts. Bridgecraft was building the bridge in a remote part of Karnataka, and was being paid by the government of Karnataka to build the bridge. Bridgecraft offered Nagraj a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs for his advice on how to build the bridge, which Nagraj accepted. Later, when Chinappa, an MLA from the rival Everybody's Party, found out about this, he complained to the EC about Nagraj, claiming that Nagraj had held an office of profit, and should be disqualified. Is Chinappa right?**

- (a) Yes, since the bridge was being built for, and paid by, the state government.
- (b) No, since Nagraj was appointed and paid by Bridgecraft, a private company.
- (c) Yes, since the money that Nagraj received eventually came from the government.
- (d) No, since Nagraj had only provided advice about the bridge, and was not involved in its actual construction.

**17.2 The bridge that Bridgecraft built was widely applauded as having been constructed in a very sound fashion; as a result, Nagraj's fame as an engineer also spread, and he was contacted by the government of the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu to advise their Public Works Department in relation to the construction of a dam. Nagraj**

travelled to Tamil Nadu, was given an office room to sit in, advised on the project, and received a token fee of Rs.5 for his advice (he did not wish to charge a high amount as the dam was being built to provide irrigation water to a very poor district). Chinappa hears about, and once again complains to the EC, saying that Nagraj should be disqualified since he had held an office of profit under the Government of Tamil Nadu. Will Chinappa's complaint succeed?

- (a) Yes, since Nagraj had provided advice to the Government of Tamil Nadu, and had received a fee in exchange for it.
- (b) No, since Nagraj had only taken a token fee of Rs.5 for his advice.
- (c) No, since Nagraj had not held an office for profit under the Government of Karnataka, the state from which he was an MLA.
- (d) Yes, since he should not have provided advice to the government of any state other than Karnataka.

**17.3 Chinappa had been a state bus conductor many years ago; when he decided to enter politics, however, his career witnessed a meteoric rise, and he quickly became an MLA. However, Chinappa still had good relations with the employees in the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (the "KSRTC"), and followed its affairs closely. He was asked by the government of Karnataka to help them resolve some labour disputes at the KSRTC, which he did. When the state government offered to pay him for his services, he refused; the government, therefore, gave him a life-time free bus pass for use on all KSRTC buses as a gesture of their goodwill, which Chinappa accepted. Since Chinappa became an MLA, he had earned a lot of money, had his own car, and had stopped using buses; he did not, therefore use the bus pass at all. When Nagraj found out about this, however, he complained to the EC that Chinappa had held an office of profit under the state government, and that he should be disqualified. Will Nagraj succeed?**

- (a) No, since Chinappa was only helping out the government of his state.
- (b) Yes, since Chinappa belonged to a party that was in power in the state of Karnataka.
- (c) No, since Chinappa never used the bus pass, and so, had not derived any advantage or benefit from the state government.
- (d) Yes, since Chinappa had received an advantage or benefit in the form of the bus pass.

**17.4 Some years after the incidents described in the previous questions, elections are held in the state of Karnataka. Both, Nagraj and Chinappa, win their respective seats, and become MLAs in the newly constituted legislative assembly of Karnataka. The People's Party once again comes into power, and this time, Nagraj is appointed as the Minister for Public Works, and is responsible for overseeing all government construction activities in the state. Since he has to travel all over the state to discharge his duties, the government provides him a car and a driver, which he is permitted to use for his official work (all ministers are not provided this facility by the Government of Karnataka). Chinappa hears about this, and once more files a complaint with the EC,**

**saying Nagraj held an office for profit since he had been given a car and a driver, while other ministers had not. Will Chinappa succeed this time?**

- (a) No, since Chinappa's party was not in power in the state.
- (b) Yes, since Nagraj should have used his own means of transport to travel across the state for his work.
- (c) No, since Nagraj was a minister, and had been provided the car and driver for use in his official work.
- (d) Yes, since all ministers were not provided an advantage or benefit in the form of a car or driver.

**17.5 Some months after the incidents described in the previous question, there is a crisis in the state of Karnataka as several MLAs from the People's Party defected to Everybody's Party. A resolution was finally achieved when both parties agreed to come together to form a coalition government in the state. Since MLAs from both parties had to be kept happy, the new Chief Minister, Gowda, decided to appoint 33 ministers to her cabinet, with roughly an equal number from each of the two parties. Sanjeevini, a journalist who covered political news, complained to the EC, saying that this violated the Constitutional limit on how many ministers could be appointed in Karnataka, which only has 224 seats in its legislative assembly (224 MLAs were appointed to the assembly after the latest elections, i.e, all seats were filled). Will she succeed?**

- (a) No, since 33 ministers is less than 15% of the total strength of the Karnataka legislative assembly.
- (b) Yes, since, along with the Chief Minister, the total number of ministers exceed the limit prescribed under the Constitution.
- (c) No, since she is a journalist, and only MLAs may complain to the EC under this law.
- (d) Yes, since fresh elections should have been held rather than allowing a coalition government in the state.

Consumers can cheer as the *Consumer Protection Act, 2019* (the "CPA") has recently replaced the three-decade old *Consumer Protection Act, 1986*. Under the CPA, a consumer (that is, anyone who has bought a good or a service), can file a complaint against the seller or provider of the goods or services if there is any deficiency in the goods or services.

One crucial change is that now the money spent on buying the product will determine the value of the case as opposed to the previous parameter of the Maximum Retail Price ("MRP") of the purchased goods/service. "Say something is bought on discount, it's only fair that the amount the consumer has paid is the determiner in place of the MRP," says the expert.

In another change, the CPA allows consumers to file their complaint with a consumer court from anywhere. This comes as a big relief as earlier they were required to file complaint in the area where the seller or service provider was located. This is a fitting move considering the rise in e-commerce purchases, where the seller could be located anywhere.



The CPA has provisions for product liability under which a manufacturer or a service provider has to compensate a consumer if their good/service causes injury or loss to the consumer due to manufacturing defect or poor service. For instance, if a pressure cooker explodes due to a manufacturing defect and harms the consumer, the manufacturer is liable to compensate the consumer for the injury.

E-commerce will now be governed by all the laws that apply to direct selling. The CPA says that platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal etc. will have to disclose sellers' details, such as their address, website, email, etc and other conditions related to refund, exchange, terms of contract and warranty on their website to increase transparency. The responsibility of ensuring that no counterfeit products are sold on these platforms will also with the e-commerce companies.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Here's how consumers will benefit under the new Consumer Protection Act", by Shipra Singh, *The Economic Times*, <https://m.economictimes.com/wealth/spend/heres-how-consumers-will-benefit-under-the-new-consumer-protection-act/articleshow/70711304.cms>]

**18.1 Arbaz bought a laptop from an online e-commerce website; the laptop was delivered to him within the time promised on the website, and also matched all the specifications that had been listed on the website. However, Arbaz realises that the laptop is not powerful enough for his work, and he wishes to return the laptop. The company that runs the e-commerce website, "Brahmaputra", however, refuses to accept the return of the laptop – they say that their policies do not permit any returns of refunds. Upset at this, Arbaz files a complaint against Brahmaputra in the district consumer court in his area. Will he succeed?**

- (a) Yes, since the CPA permits a customer to file a complaint against a seller from anywhere.
- (b) No, since the laptop was delivered on time and matched the specifications listed on the website.
- (c) Yes, since the laptop was of no use to Arbaz as it was not powerful enough for his work.
- (d) No, since Arbaz should try and sell the laptop to another person if it was not sufficient for his purposes.

**18.2 Arbaz bought another laptop from Brahmaputra's website; this time, he chose a more powerful laptop, manufactured by Orange, a premium electronic goods manufacturer, and Brahmaputra again delivered the chosen laptop within the time promised. One day while Arbaz was working on the laptop, there were sudden, massive voltage fluctuations in the electricity supply to his house, and the laptop, which was plugged into a wall socket for charging, caught fire. Arbaz suffered some minor burns on his fingers, and he decided to file a complaint against Brahmaputra for compensation in the district consumer court located in the area where Brahmaputra's head office was located. Will Arbaz succeed?**

- (a) Yes, since Brahmaputra's poor service had caused the harm to Arbaz.
- (b) Yes, since Arbaz suffered an injury to his fingers, and so, was entitled to compensation.

- (c) No, since Arbaz can only file such a complaint for compensation against the manufacturer of the laptop, and not against Brahmaputra.
- (d) No, since Arbaz should have filed the complaint with the consumer court located in the area where he stayed.

**18.3 Once he recovers from his injuries, Arbaz buys a phone manufactured by Orange from Brahmaputra's website. One day, he was talking on the phone with someone; after talking for about 40 minutes, the phone suddenly overheated and its battery exploded, causing severe burns to Arbaz's ear. On examining the phone, it turned out that the battery overheated and exploded because it had not been fitted properly into the phone's body. Arbaz now files a complaint in the consumer court in his area against Orange. Will Arbaz succeed?**

- (a) No, since Orange is not an Indian company.
- (b) Yes, since Arbaz had suffered an injury because of a manufacturing defect in the phone.
- (c) Yes, since this was the second product from Orange with which Arbaz had had to face problems.
- (d) No, since Arbaz should not have been talking for so long on the phone in the first place.

**18.4 Since he had had so much trouble with all the things he bought from Brahmaputra's website, Arbaz decided to switch to another e-commerce website, Slipmart. Slipmart's advertising slogan, which is displayed all over their website, is "We aim to please". Happy at seeing this slogan, Arbaz bought a book from Slipmart's website. Arbaz received the book, but did not enjoy reading it. He therefore filed a complaint against Slipmart in the consumer court, claiming that since Slipmart had not 'pleased' him, they had failed to live up to their advertising slogan, and had therefore committed a deficiency in service. Will he succeed?**

- (a) No, since Arbaz not enjoying the book did not amount to a deficiency in service on Slipmart's part.
- (b) No, since Slipmart was not in the business of selling books.
- (c) Yes, since Slipmart had not lived up to its advertising slogan.
- (d) Yes, since Slipmart should have known Arbaz's preferences before selling him the book.

**18.5 Arbaz decided to give Slipmart another chance, and ordered a box of expensive foreign chocolates from their website. The chocolates were delivered on time, but when Arbaz ate them, he fell sick; it later turned out that the chocolates were counterfeit. Arbaz decided to file a complaint against Slipmart in the local consumer court, and asked that Slipmart compensate him. Slipmart claims that Arbaz should file the complaint against the manufacturer of the chocolates, and not against them. Will Slipmart succeed?**

- (a) Yes, since Slipmart had delivered the chocolates on time.
- (b) Yes, since the manufacturer of the chocolates were at fault, and not Slipmart.
- (c) No, since under the CPA, the responsibility of ensuring no counterfeit products were sold on their website was Slipmart's.
- (d) No, since it was Arbaz's responsibility to check that the chocolates were genuine before eating them.



## CRITICAL REASONING

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev launched an ill-fated anti-alcohol campaign in the then Soviet Union. According to Gorbachev's biographer, William Taubman, the campaign followed on a high-powered Politburo report that worried about the deleterious consequences of excessive drinking in the Soviet Union: Annually, 12 million drunks arrested, 13,000 rapes attributed to alcohol, along with 29,000 robberies. The anti-alcohol campaign had some beneficial public health consequences: Crime fell and life expectancy rose. But the campaign was a political and economic disaster. The people of the Soviet Union hated it, and preferred to have their access to alcohol restored.

Gorbachev forgot that the addiction of the state to alcohol revenue was even more incurable than the addiction of some citizens to alcohol itself. The budgetary losses created an economic crisis. Historians suspect that more than the loss of the Soviet Empire, it was this campaign that delegitimised Gorbachev.

As the lockdown eased in India, and social distancing went for a toss at alcohol outlets, we were reminded of how difficult an issue alcohol is to rationally discuss in India. Like in Russia, it is difficult to wean many states away from the political economy of alcohol. It lubricates not just the state coffers but whole political machines. There is also the fear that simply discussing this topic puts you on the slippery slope to prohibition; acknowledging the problem will legitimise state repression.

Liberals should, rightly, be suspicious of prohibition on moral and practical grounds. Government grossly exceeds its legitimate power when it interferes with the rights of individuals to lead their lives as they please, and fashion their selves after their own ideals, interests and preferences. And certainly, moralism or puritanism on alcohol cannot be the basis of state policy. That moralism has no basis, and it violates the dignity and freedom of individuals.

But one of the paradoxes of liberalism is this. In order for liberal freedoms to flourish, society requires more self-restraint and judgement, not less. The state should not interfere with any freedom of expression. But freedom of expression will not survive, or be rendered relatively meaningless, if social norms that flourish under this freedom simply use freedom as a cover for hate or subordinating others. The state should not interfere in matters of sexuality or intimacy. But norms of freedom will impose serious costs and will not survive if the expressions of sexuality are consistently degrading or violent, as we have seen in the locker room scandals. The state should not interfere with people's right to drink; but there will be a backlash if drinking takes forms that inflict great social harms.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "We need to question our addiction to cultural and political economy of alcohol", by Pratap Bhanu Mehta, *The Indian Express*, <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/drink-for-thought-india-lockdown-alcohol-addiction-6397378/>]

**19.1 Which of the following about the people of the Soviet Union, if true, would have resulted in the anti-alcohol campaign launched by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 not failing in the manner described in the passage above?**

- (a) They wished for the Soviet Union to be dissolved.
- (b) They liked Mikhail Gorbachev's manner of delivering speeches.
- (c) They wanted a reduction in the prices of food, which were escalating.

- (d) They were prepared to lose their access to alcohol in exchange for reduced crime rates.

**19.2 Which among the following would have resulted in the anti-alcohol campaign launched by Mikhail Gorbachev not being an ‘economic disaster’ for the Soviet Union?**

- (a) The Soviet Union moving to a capitalist economic system from a communist system.
- (b) The Soviet Union reducing its reliance on alcohol for revenue.
- (c) The Soviet Union setting up nationalized distilleries to produce more alcohol.
- (d) The Soviet Union signing international disarmament treaties.

**19.3 Based on the information in the passage above, which of the following is least likely to be true about the people of the Soviet Union in 1985?**

- (a) They preferred an increase in overall life expectancy over access to alcohol.
- (b) They preferred access to alcohol over an increase in overall life expectancy.
- (c) They preferred to have vodka over any other form of alcohol.
- (d) They preferred vodka least among all forms of alcohol.

**19.4 The author says that as the lockdown eased in India, “we were reminded of how difficult an issue alcohol is to rationally discuss in India”. Based on the author’s statements in the passage above, which of the following, if true, would have resulted in alcohol not being a difficult issue to rationally discuss in India?**

- (a) States not being dependent on the political economy of alcohol.
- (b) No apprehensions of prohibition being aroused by simply discussing the topic of alcohol.
- (c) Both, (a) and (b).
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b).

**19.5 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author’s arguments about what he describes as ‘one of the paradoxes of liberalism’?**

- (a) Self-restraint and judgment do not come automatically to everyone.
- (b) All people do not have the same capacity to exercise self-restraint and judgment.
- (c) If people have to exercise increasing amounts of self-restraint and judgement, it is impossible for society to flourish.
- (d) If people have to exercise increasing amounts of self-restraint and judgement, it is very likely that society would flourish.

Until recently, most policymakers and investors remained complacent about the potential economic impact of the coronavirus crisis. As late as the end of February, most wrongly assumed that it would have only a brief, limited, China-specific impact. Now they realise that it is generating a global shock, which will be sharp—but which most still expect to be short.

The coronavirus crisis has highlighted the downsides of extensive international integration while fanning fears of foreigners and providing legitimacy for national restrictions on global trade and flows of people: all sorts of businesses have suddenly realised the risks of relying on complex global supply chains that are specific not just to China—but to particular places such as Wuhan, the epicentre of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, governments of all stripes have rushed to impose travel bans and export restrictions. The travel ban on arrivals from Europe that the U.S. announced is particularly broad, but far from unique. All of this is making economies more national and politics more nationalistic.

Much of this disruption may be temporary. But the coronavirus crisis is likely to have a lasting impact, especially when it reinforces other trends that are already undermining globalisation. It may deal a blow to fragmented international supply chains, reduce the hypermobility of global business travellers, and provide political fodder for nationalists who favour greater protectionism and immigration controls.

The complex China-centred global supply chains on which so many Western companies have come to rely are particularly at risk. The cost advantage of producing in China has eroded in recent years as the country has become richer and wages have soared. Inertia is a powerful thing. And there are still many advantages to producing in China, such as scale and efficient logistics. But the coronavirus crisis could mark a tipping point that prompts many businesses to remodel their supply chains and invest in more resilient and often more local patterns of production.

A second enduring consequence of the coronavirus crisis may be reduced business travel. Technology gurus have long argued that videoconferencing and chat apps would eliminate the need for most business travel and allow many people to work from home more. Yet until the coronavirus crisis, business travel had continued growing, seemingly inexorably. Now, whether because of government bans, business decisions, or individual caution, all but the most essential international travel has been cancelled, and those who can work from home are increasingly staying put.

Perhaps most significantly, the coronavirus crisis plays into the hands of nationalists who favour greater immigration controls and protectionism. The crisis will strengthen those who believe in strong government, prioritising societal needs over individual freedom, and national action over international cooperation.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Coronavirus Is Killing Globalization as We Know It", by Philippe Legrain, *Foreign Policy*, [https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/12/coronavirus-killing-globalization-nationalism-protectionism-trump/?utm\\_source=PostUp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=21910&utm\\_term=Master%20Marketing%20List&tpcc=21910](https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/12/coronavirus-killing-globalization-nationalism-protectionism-trump/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=21910&utm_term=Master%20Marketing%20List&tpcc=21910)]

**20.1 Which of the following best describes the change in how, according to the author, most policymakers and investors think about the potential economic impact of the coronavirus crisis?**

- (a) While they thought the impact of the crisis would be relatively small and limited to China earlier, they now think the impact will be greater, and permanent.
- (b) While they felt the crisis would have had no impact at all earlier, they now feel its effects will last permanently.
- (c) While they thought the impact of the crisis would be relatively small and limited to China earlier, they now think the impact will be greater, although for a limited time.
- (d) While they thought the impact of the crisis would last a long time and affect the entire world earlier, they now think it will be short-lived and limited to China.

**20.2 What role does the author's statement about businesses realizing the risks of relying on complex global supply chains play in relation to his statement that the crisis has highlighted the downsides of extensive international integration?**

- (a) The two statements are not related to each other at all.
- (b) It offers evidence in support of his conclusion.
- (c) It offers contradictory evidence to challenge his conclusion.
- (d) It presents a contrasting point of view to his conclusion.

**20.3 Which of the following, if true, would most strongly support what businesses now think of complex global supply chains?**

- (a) Since countries care more about profit than the health of populations, the future stability of global supply chains is guaranteed.
- (b) Global supply chains are very deeply embedded in the international trade system, and countries will ensure they are not affected again in the future.
- (c) The crisis will result in frequent lockdowns and the shutting down of the international movement of goods and people at unpredictable intervals.
- (d) Global supply chains will evolve to deal with the impact of the crisis, such that they will no longer be affected by events such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

**20.4 Which of the following is the most likely outcome of the author's statement that economies are becoming "more national" is true?**

- (a) Travel bans and export restrictions are likely to continue, and possibly even increase.
- (b) Travel bans and export restrictions are likely to ease off over time.
- (c) Travel bans and export restrictions will cease as soon as the crisis is over.
- (d) None of the above.

**20.5 The author says that the cost advantage of producing in China has eroded in recent years as certain other things have occurred. Based on the author's reasoning and statements, which of the following would result if these other things were reversed?**

- (a) China will impose stricter laws regarding labour and factories.
- (b) China will see increasing incidents of bad weather.
- (c) China will become even richer, and wages will increase even more.
- (d) China will become a poorer country, and wages will reduce.

In June, the death of a female pregnant elephant in Kerala's Mannarkkad forest range in Palakkad evoked a public furore. Initial reports suggested a deliberate ploy to kill the elephant, but investigations revealed that local farmers had planted an explosive-laden trap as bait for menacing wild boars. The hungry elephant accidentally ate the pineapple, sustained wounds in its mouth when the explosive stuffed in it exploded, and died in pain, videos of which went viral.

Miles away in Vidarbha, Maharashtra's eastern region, five people have died in two months on account of tiger attacks. The number has been rising ever since the man-tiger conflict first broke out in the late 1990s. A fortnight on, the elephant story is dead and will soon be forgotten, like that of Avni.

Avni, who? The robust tigress had killed 14 people in Maharashtra's cotton-growing Yavatmal district in 2017-18 before being put down after one of the longest track-and-search operations to neutralise a beast. One of her cubs was captured; the other could never be found.

Alas, the Palakkad incident is the tip of an iceberg. Man-animal conflict is a complex phenomenon that needs immediate attention from policy. It is a manifestation of the conflict among diverse worldviews with regard to forest and ecosystem conservation. Hard line wildlife activists do not want humans in jungles. Rights activists, on the other end, do not want wildlife to be captured and evacuated. And governments want big-ticket projects to be cleared for development. The problem is that both wildlife and humans share forest landscapes and so must learn to co-exist, but very rarely do officials, wildlife activists or conservationists see local populations as partners in conservation.

The approach to see locals as beneficiaries of weird government doles, such as the distribution of petty cash or barbed wire fences or gas stoves to reduce the use of firewood, is obsolete. The alternative model is that of human-wildlife co-existence with regulations and incentives, and stakes for locals in conservation.

The overarching context, though, is this: India's protected forests are fragmenting; they are being turned into large zoos as we fell them to expand our infrastructure for mindless, destructive development. So when the minister for environment, forest and climate change, Prakash Javadekar, condemned Left-ruled Kerala for the elephant death and said that the incident was against our national ethos, his double-speak was quite glaring. During the lockdown, his ministry quietly cleared the way for over 30 projects that conservationists say would affect 15 tiger reserves, wildlife corridors, eco-sensitive zones and sanctuaries, including the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Assam.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Elephant in the Room", by Jaideep Hardikar, *The Telegraph*, [https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/man-animal-conflict-is-a-complex-phenomenon-that-needs-immediate-attention-from-policy/cid/1781171?ref=opinion\\_opinion-page](https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/man-animal-conflict-is-a-complex-phenomenon-that-needs-immediate-attention-from-policy/cid/1781171?ref=opinion_opinion-page)]



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

- (a) Local populations must be involved in conservation efforts, and made stakeholders in the process.
- (b) Local populations should be evacuated from places near forests.
- (c) Local populations should have no role to play in conservation efforts.
- (d) Local populations do not suffer any hardship caused by wild animals.

**21.2 Which among the following, if true, would most weaken the author's arguments in the passage above?**

- (a) Some government policies seek to provide handouts to local populations.
- (b) Local populations sometimes receive petty cash or gas stoves under government policies to reduce their use of firewood.
- (c) Government policies always consider local populations as important actors in conservation efforts.
- (d) Government policies don't always have the best interests of wildlife in mind.

**21.3 Based on the author's arguments in the passage above, which of the following is the most likely explanation for why the author begins the passage by talking about the death of the wild elephant in Kerala and the tiger attacks in Maharashtra?**

- (a) The author uses these incidents to show that there are no complexities in man-animal conflicts.
- (b) The author uses these incidents to show the challenges faced by both, wildlife and local populations, when sharing forest land.
- (c) Both, (a) and (b).
- (d) Neither (a) nor (b).

**21.4 Why does the author accuse the minister for environment, forest, and climate change of 'double-speak'?**

- (a) Because his ministry hands out 'weird' doles to local populations.
- (b) Because his ministry paid the hunter who tracked down and killed Avni.
- (c) Because his ministry did not take action to prevent the death of the elephant in Kerala.
- (d) Because the actions of his ministry during the lockdown undermine his statements about Left-ruled Kerala.

**21.5 Which of the following conservation policies is the author most likely to disagree with?**

- (a) A policy that recognises both, wild animals and local populations as stakeholders in forests.

- (b) A policy that prioritises development over the conservation of wild animal populations.
- (c) A policy that seeks to balance development with the conservation of forests, wild animals, and local populations.
- (d) A policy that incentivizes local populations to participate in conservation efforts.

Most big ideas have loud critics. Not disruption. Disruptive innovation as the explanation for how change happens has been subject to little serious criticism, partly because it's headlong, while critical inquiry is unhurried; partly because disrupters ridicule doubters by charging them with intolerance of change, as if to criticize a theory of change were identical to decrying change; and partly because, in its modern usage, innovation is the idea of progress insulated from criticism.

Disruptive innovation is a theory about why businesses fail. It's not more than that. It doesn't explain change. It's not a law of nature. It's an artefact of history, an idea, forged in time; it's the manufacture of a moment of upsetting and edgy uncertainty. Transfixed by change, it's blind to continuity. It makes a very poor prophet.

The upstarts who work at startups don't often stay at any one place for very long. (Three out of four startups fail. More than nine out of ten never earn a return.) They work a year here, a few months there—zany hours everywhere. They wear jeans and sneakers and ride scooters and share offices and sprawl on couches like Great Danes. Their coffee machines look like dollhouse-size factories.

They are told that they should be reckless and ruthless. Their investors, if they're like Josh Linkner, tell them that the world is a terrifying place, moving at a devastating pace. "Today I run a venture capital firm and back the next generation of innovators who are, as I was throughout my earlier career, dead-focused on eating your lunch," Linkner writes. His job appears to be to convince a generation of people who want to do good and do well to learn, instead, remorselessness. Forget rules, obligations, your conscience, loyalty, a sense of the commonweal. If you start a business and it succeeds, Linkner advises, sell it and take the cash. Don't look back. Never pause. Disrupt or be disrupted.

But they do pause and they do look back, and they wonder.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Disruption Machine", by Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/06/23/the-disruption-machine>]

**22.1 Which of the following best describes the author's arguments about the disruptive innovation theory?**

- (a) The author questions the ability of the theory to explain anything beyond the failure of certain companies.
- (b) The author feels that the theory is more about disruption than innovation.
- (c) The author criticises the critics who have been silent regarding this theory.

(d) The author urges the proponents of the theory to modify it so that it can explain successes of some businesses.

**22.2 Which of the following contradicts the author's arguments the most?**

(a) The disruptive innovation theory has provided an accurate formula to explain why businesses fail.

(b) The disruptive innovation theory has enormous predictive power about the future performance of businesses.

(c) It is not possible to criticise the disruptive innovation theory.

(d) The disruptive innovation theory has few opponents and is widely accepted by those who matter in business.

**22.3 Which of the following is consistent with the author's view regarding the influence that investors like Josh Linkner have on young entrepreneurs?**

(a) They motivate young entrepreneurs to create a just society.

(b) They motivate young entrepreneurs to chase success at all costs.

(c) They teach young entrepreneurs to be repentant.

(d) They teach young entrepreneurs to earn enough to be able to buy lunch for themselves.

**22.4 Which of the following, if true, most weakens the argument of the author that disruptive innovation is a theory about why businesses fail and not more than that?**

(a) The founders of most successful businesses have applied the theory of disruptive innovation.

(b) Several businesses that succeeded have been headed by leaders who have never heard of the theory of disruptive innovation.

(c) Of the businesses that failed despite adhering to the theory of disruptive innovation, all of them misapplied the theory.

(d) The disruptive innovation theory dwells on the nature of change that took place at the time of its publication at length.

**22.5 If the author were right, which of the following would ensure that the disruptive innovation theory attracts sufficient criticism?**

(a) Those who propound the theory make specific, verifiable predictions about the success and failure of businesses in the future based on the theory.

(b) The proponents of the theory appreciate that critics of the theory may be advocates of change, but may question whether the disruptive innovation theory is accurate in its hypothesis about how change plays a role in the success and failure of a company.

- (c) The proponents of the theory underscore that only sustained critique of a theory over a significant period can be the true test of its veracity.
- (d) All of the above.

This leads me to the other mystery in our daily lives related to the monetary: the curiously perennial lack of change. You might wonder where all the change goes; what causes this constant paucity; why we all hoard coins and notes of smaller denominations and lie about not possessing change even when we have it in our wallets.

The poet C.P. Surendran once gave me an insight, in Delhi, into why the situation as we know it exists. We'd arrived in Khan Market late in the morning; we had to pay the fare; not a single auto driver, though, among the line of autos parked in the front, could give us change for a hundred rupees. My old puzzlement came back: "How can not one of them have the money?" C.P. said, "These people don't bring the last day's earnings when they return to work. They begin each day afresh." And this was the first time someone had said something illuminating to me on the subject and opened my eyes to the most common sort of employee around us: the daily-wage earner. This person goes back home at night, possibly having spent part of his money on beedis, gutka, or drink, possibly giving some of it to the family, or part to an employer to whom he owes a species of mortgage. The next day he's back, like a migrant, to whom the business of livelihood is old and inevitable, but to whom money is always new. He could be anywhere. Having money doesn't mean owning it; it means to relentlessly make or break the makeshift rules of exchange. Change isn't hoarded for the purposes of saving or spending, but because it constantly needs to be earned. Others, in the salaried middle classes, or in trade or business, have to deal with this person in their own manner: by outwitting or outwaiting him, or – what's more common – by mimicking him.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Money Matters", by Amit Chaudhuri, in *The Book of Indian Essays*, edited by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Black Kite/Permanent Black, Delhi, 2020]

**23.1 Which of the following is most accurate as regards C.P. Surendran's explanation for why the auto drivers did not have change for a hundred rupees?**

- (a) It extends not only to daily-wage earners but also explains why non-daily-wage earners do not carry change.
- (b) It explains why people who ride in autos as passengers do not carry change.
- (c) It extends only to daily-wage earners but does not explain why non-daily-wage earners do not carry change.
- (d) It explains why the author does not have change for a hundred rupees.

**23.2 Which of the following, if true, would most weaken C.P. Surendran's argument for why auto drivers do not have change?**

- (a) Auto drivers do not have access to safe places where they can store their earnings; therefore, they always carry their earnings on their person.
- (b) Auto drivers deposit their daily earnings in bank accounts at the end of each day.

- (c) Auto drivers earn some money every day.
- (d) Auto drivers do not have any money left over after their expenses, payments, and other costs at the end of each day.

**23.3 Which of the following would provide an effective solution to problems that may be caused by the “curiously perennial lack of change” that the author mentions?**

- (a) Capping auto fares at a reasonable rate per kilometer.
- (b) Removing all restrictions on auto fares.
- (c) Prohibiting payment transactions using digital systems and permitting only cash transactions.
- (d) A complete shift to digital payments systems, and the banning of all cash transactions.

**23.4 Which of the following inferences about the salaried middle classes can be drawn based on the author’s comments in the passage?**

- (a) They prefer to travel in taxis rather than autos.
- (b) They sometimes try to fool auto drivers into giving them change by pretending not to have any.
- (c) They prefer to use digital payment systems over cash.
- (d) They are always willing to give auto drivers change and go out of their way to do so.

**23.5 Which of the following is an assumption that the author has made?**

- (a) That we all dislike keeping small change and are only too willing to part with it.
- (b) That all of us hoard small change and are untruthful in order not to part with
- (c) That all of us dislike riding in autos.
- (d) That all of us would gladly exchange small denominations of currency for higher-value notes.

Strict adherence to a set of laws is always critical to the smooth running of any system. It’s essential for these laws to be codified in the clearest possible wording, covering every possible scenario and thus leaving practically nothing to an individual’s discretion and good sense of morals. A game of cricket, however, despite an elaborate set of laws that serve as the guiding principle for most situations, leaves some wriggle room for subjective interpretation of some laws. And players, in these instances, are expected to uphold the most deceptively coined phrase – spirit of cricket.

Running out a non-striker backing up too far while the bowler is still in the process of releasing the ball is one of those situations. Despite the fielding side being afforded every right to affect this mode of dismissal at will and the laws of the game deeming it entirely legitimate, the cricket community somehow has never forged a consensus over this act.

Infamously named after former India all-rounder Vinoo Mankad, 'Mankading' has forever remained a grey area that inevitably raises a conscientious debate. And thus entirely unsurprisingly, it once again made headlines when another India all-rounder Deepti Sharma ran out England's Charlie Dean in this fashion at a decisive moment in a recent ODI match between the two teams.

The English commentariat exercised little restraint, questioning the Indian team's moral character and labelling the incident farcical. Their counterparts in the Indian media defended Sharma vehemently and called the criticism petty, bitter, and hypocritical. The noise around this conversation always follows a familiar theme and the political undertones that accompany the debate every time it spurs up are impossible to ignore.

Cricket's spread in the Indian subcontinent is a legacy of the region's colonial past and despite little history of on-field animosity between the two countries, there's strong baggage of perceptions that the average Indian fan continues to associate with the English. And these perceptions aren't the kindest for obvious reasons. Elitist sanctimony from the English, therefore, is going to have fewer and fewer takers moving forward.

But despite the obvious temptation to dunk on that empty phrase 'spirit of cricket' at every opportunity, those with the platform and reach to influence public opinion might want to just change course a bit. Perhaps when the debate is sparked the next time they might want to steer clear of the tired anti-colonial rhetoric and push for a more meaningful conversation that explores some realistic and achievable alternatives to 'Mankading'.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The English Obsession With 'Spirit of Cricket' Perverts the Discourse on 'Mankading'", by Parth Pandya, *The Wire*, available at: <https://thewire.in/sport/spirit-of-cricket-mankading-discourse>]

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

- (a) While Indian and English players have not exhibited animosity towards each other, Indian cricket fans have shown a positive attitude towards English cricketers.
- (b) While Indian and English players have exhibited animosity towards each other, Indian cricket fans have also shown a negative attitude towards English cricketers.
- (c) While Indian and English players have exhibited animosity towards each other, the typical Indian cricket fan has a positive view of English.
- (d) While Indian and English players have not exhibited animosity towards each other, the typical Indian cricket fan has a negative view of the English.

**24.2 Which of the following can be validly implied from the authors' arguments?**

- (a) The English are very poor cricketers who do not understand the spirit of the sport.
- (b) Indians are very poor cricketers, and do not understand the spirit of the sport.
- (c) It would be more productive to discuss viable alternatives to 'Mankading' when a debate around the practice arises again, instead of adhering to the often-repeated arguments about colonial practices.
- (d) It would be more productive to discuss viable alternatives to cricket when a debate around 'Mankading' arises again, instead of adhering to the often-repeated arguments about colonial practices.

**24.3 The author's description of how cricket spread in the Indian subcontinent is premised on:**

- (a) The idea that the sport is indigenous to the region and was adopted by colonizers.
- (b) The idea that the sport was introduced in the region by colonizers and has remained in the region even after the colonizers left.
- (c) The idea that the English would not have been able to colonize the region unless they had introduced the sport of Cricket to the people of the region.
- (d) The idea that Indians are now trying to use Cricket as a means of creating economic colonies in other nations.

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

- (a) People in the cricketing world have dramatically different views about whether 'Mankading' should be allowed to continue, particularly since there is nothing in the laws of the sport regarding this act.
- (b) The cricketing world has unanimously rejected 'Mankading' as a valid action in the sport, and there is considerable doubt regarding its legitimacy.
- (c) Players should not have to interpret the meaning of terms like the 'spirit of cricket', but instead, should be able to rely on clearly worded laws that spell out the rules of the game.
- (d) It is worth noting that the controversy around 'Mankading' has arisen due to the actions of another India all-rounder, Deepti Sharma.

**24.5 Which of the following best describes the similarities between the reactions of the English commentariat and the Indian media to the 'Mankading' incident involving Deepti Sharma and Charlie Dean?**

- (a) Both sides lauded the actions of Deepti Sharma and called her a true champion of the modern game of Cricket.
- (b) Both called for the removal of 'Mankading' as a legitimate action under the laws of Cricket.
- (c) Both made remarks of a personal nature, rather than analysing the players' actions according to the rules of the game.
- (d) Both questioned the colonial legacy of the English in India and called for all future sporting competitions to involve sports that did not have anything to do with the region's colonial past.

## QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

B Swami rented a shop for a fixed amount per month for a minimum of 20 hours and Rs.600 per hour for any extra hours (no pro-rata payment for extra hours, i.e., for any portion of an hour in excess of full hours, the total amount of Rs.600 would be charged). He incurs expenses (E) which is half the rent he pays, after which he decides to sublet the space to make a profit of 100% on his total expenditure inclusive of rent paid. He must add tax on the amount he charges the sub-lessee. The sub-lessee, S Bhumi marked his goods 80% more than the cost price (C) and then gave 2 successive discounts of 10% each and charged 18% tax.

**25.1 If the fixed amount of rent paid by B Swami per month is Rs.10,000, and the total rent he paid was R, how many extra hours did B Swami pay for?**

- (a)  $.06/R - 100$
- (b)  $10000/20 - R/120$
- (c)  $.01R/6 - 1/.06$
- (d)  $R - 1/600$

**25.2 If the total amount inclusive of tax that B Swami charged S Bhumi is A, what is the percentage of tax B Swami charged?**

- (a)  $.03A/.06 - .03E/100$
- (b)  $A/4R - 100$
- (c)  $A - R * 1/.03$
- (d)  $A /.06E - 1/.01$

**25.3 What was the price S Bhumi charged for his goods, inclusive of tax?**

- (a)  $2.36 * C * .9^3$
- (b)  $.9 * .9 * C * 1.18$
- (c)  $18 * .8 * 1.18 * C$
- (d)  $1.8 * 2 * 5.9 * C$

**25.4 B Swami paid his landlord Rs. N as rent in a certain month, which was in excess of the actual amount payable. If the excess amount paid was x, what is the total number of hours B Swami paid for?**

- (a)  $(N-x)/600 + 16 \frac{2}{3}$
- (b)  $(N-x)/600 + 3 \frac{1}{3}$
- (c)  $(N+x)/600 - 10.66$
- (d)  $(N-x)/600 + 16.33$



**25.5 S Bhumi invested a certain sum in one year, and made a profit of 75% in the first year but lost 70% in the second year. What was his final profit or loss?**

- (a) 5% profit
- (b) No profit or loss
- (c) 47.5% loss
- (d) 52.5% profit

The table below represents the results of 5 randomly selected participants in the ranking round in the women's individual archery event at the 2012 Olympic Games and the number of arrows landing in the 10-ring and inner-10 (X) ring of the target. Each archer entering the competition shot a total of 72 arrows each. Arrows landing in the 10-ring score 10 points. The scores of archers in relation to the inner-10 (X) ring is used for tie-breaking, i.e., to determine the winner when two or more archers have the same overall score. Use the data available to answer the questions that follow.

Archer	1st Half	2nd Half	10s	Inner-10 (Xs)
Deepika Kumari	327	335	25	8
Khatuna Lorig	331	338	32	4
Ki Bo-Bae	339	332	31	13
Ksenia Perova	329	330	28	7
Lin Chia-En	338	329	33	8

**26.1 Which players scored the highest and lowest total, that is, the sum of 1st half and 2nd half scores, respectively?**

- (a) Khatuna Lorig and Lin Chia-En
- (b) Deepika Kumari and Ki Bo-Bae
- (c) Ki Bo-Bae and Ksenia Perova
- (d) Lin Chia-En and Deepika Kumari

**26.2 How many archers had a higher second-half score than their first-half score?**

- (a) 2
- (b) 3

(c) 4

(d) 1

**26.3 What percentage of Deepika Kumari's total score was from arrows landing in the 10-ring?**

(a) 35%

(b) 37.8%

(c) 40.7%

(d) 42.6%

**26.4 What is the ratio of the total number of arrows landing in the X ring to the total number of arrows shot?**

(a) 1:9

(b) 3:8

(c) 5:7

(d) 4:9

**26.5 What percentage of arrows shot by Khatuna Lorig in the 10-ring landed in the X ring?**

(a) 16.5%

(b) 8.5%

(c) 22.5%

(d) 12.5%

There are two rectangular areas where floor tiles have to be laid; each area has sections and a path. The length of each section is 'x', the breadth of each section is 'y', and the width of the path is 'z'. The layout of each area is as follows:

(i) The first area has three sections and a path along the vertical edge. The vertical side of this area is three times the length of a section. The horizontal side is equal to the breadth of a section.

(ii) The second area has four sections and a path along the horizontal edge. The horizontal side of this area is four times the length of a section. The vertical side is equal to the breadth of a section.

The following guide is also provided:

$x = 6$  feet,  $y = 5$  feet,  $z = 1$  foot

The table below lists the cost and size of tiles, the regular and overtime cost of labour, as well as the number of tiles a worker can lay in an hour:

	Cost	Size	Overtime	Work
Tiles	Rs. 240 per dozen	4 * 8 inches	-	12 tiles per hour
Labour	Rs. 100 per hour per worker	-	Rs. 100 for 30 minutes per worker	per worker

[Note 1 : Tiles can only be purchased by the dozen]

[Note 2 : Overtime is paid in units of 30-minute periods (i.e., even an overtime of 1 minute would be paid as a 30-minute overtime period)]

[Note 3 : Workers are allowed to do a maximum of 2 hours overtime in a day]

**27.1 What is the ratio of the area of the paths to the area of all sections?**

- (a) 5 : 6
- (b) 2 : 7
- (c) 21 : 121
- (d) 1 : 5

**27.2 The paths must be tiled in one day by 2 workers. A working day has 7 hours. How much overtime would be payable if the paths are tiled in one day?**

- (a) Rs. 750
- (b) Rs. 300
- (c) Rs. 400
- (d) Rs. 550

**27.3 What is the total cost of tiles and labor for tiling the path?**

- (a) Rs. 5640
- (b) Rs. 5400
- (c) Rs. 5580

(d) Rs. 6040

**27.4 The cost per square foot of the area is Rs. 300. Other expenses incurred for the entire area including tiling the path, amounted to Rs. 25,200. What should the selling price per sq. ft of the area be to make 120% profit on the entire cost? Note that the paths cannot be sold.**

(a) Rs. 880

(b) Rs. 1056

(c) Rs. 960

(d) Rs. 1600

**27.5 All sections are sold and the amount is deposited at a rate of 10% simple interest for 5 years. What is the amount received after 5 years?**

(a) Rs. 3,32,640

(b) Rs. 2,77,200

(c) Rs. 5,25,000

(d) Rs. 2,58,000

