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Current Affairs Practice Sheet (CAPS)

African SWINE FEVER

(Q.1-Q.7):

The deadly African Swine Fever (ASF) has killed more than 14,000 pigs in [1], the government announced today. The state government had decided against culling the pigs on Monday.

On Monday, the state's animal husbandry and veterinary department director Pulin Das had told news agency IANS that they have no plans to cull the pigs despite the central government's advice. The Kaziranga National Park authority has dug a two-km long and six-feet deep trench to protect wild boars from the ASF infection. According to the 2019 census, Assam had over 21 lakh pigs, which the authorities say could have increased to around 30 lakh now. After the outbreak in Assam, all the North-East states have sounded high alert and asked people, especially owners of piggeries, to refrain from bringing pigs from other states. The North-East's annual pork business is worth around Rs 8,000-10,000 crore.

African swine fever (ASF) is a severe, highly-contagious haemorrhagic viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. This transboundary animal disease (TAD) can be spread by live or dead pigs, domestic or wild, and pork products. It is caused by a large DNA virus of the [2] family, which also infects ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*. African swine fever is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to the OIE.

Source: Edited and recreated from news report of The Hindustan Times

- Which of the following states has been redacted by the blank [1]?
(a) Nagaland
(b) Assam
(c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Mizoram
- Which of the following virus family has been redacted by the blank [2]?

- Which of the following countries has recently banned import of pork from India due to the scare of African Swine Fever?
(a) USA (b) Japan
(c) China (d) Australia
- To cull animals of a specific species, that species need to be declared as a _____ by the Central Government.
(a) Pests (b) Fleas
(c) Vermins (d) Weeds
- Where is the headquarters of the OIE located?
(a) London (b) Paris
(c) New York (d) Geneva
- Which of the following countries is the biggest consumer of pork in the world?
(a) USA (b) France
(c) China (d) Japan
- Which of the following statements about the African Swine Fever is incorrect?
(a) Assam has the largest population of pigs and is also the largest supplier of the same in India
(b) The African Swine Fever cannot spread to humans from pigs
(c) The National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) is in Bhopal
(d) The African Swine Fever is less infectious than animal diseases and its vaccine is available unlike the Classical Swine Fever

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

- (b) Assam
- (a) Asfarviridae
- (c) China
- (c) Vermins
- (b) Paris
- (c) China
- (d) The African Swine Fever is less infectious than animal diseases and its vaccine is available unlike

the Classical Swine Fever

The African Swine Fever is less infectious than animal diseases and its vaccine is available unlike the Classical Swine Fever

Assam has seen a huge outburst of African Swine Fever. Officials believe ASF came into India through Tibet into Arunachal Pradesh and then into Assam, the state with the highest population of pigs in the country. As per the latest update issued by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the current outbreak of ASF has affected China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines,

Republic of Korea and Indonesia among others. In China, the first ASF outbreak was confirmed in August 2018 and since then more than 1 million pigs have been culled in the country. In Vietnam, the ASF outbreak was confirmed in February 2019 and since then over 6 million pigs have been culled. It is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family, which also infects ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros*. China has banned the import of pork from India citing the spread of African Swine Fever.

When an animal is classified as "vermin" by the Central Government,

the protection over the animal under the Wildlife Protection Act is removed. Vermin are wild animals that are believed to be harmful. When a species is declared vermin, it can be culled or hunted without restriction. Any species can be declared as vermin except for those species that are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and also those species that are listed in part II of the schedule II of the WPA 1972. China is the biggest consumer of pork in the world. The ASF doesn't have a vaccine as of yet.

**(Q.8-Q.12):**

Forty years after it was first envisaged, the Pakistan Army has now tied up with China to build the multi-billion dollar Diamer-Bhasha dam — much to the anger of India as it will come up in the disputed [1] region. The dam, part of a major hydro power plan, will be built jointly by state-run Chinese firm and Pakistan Army's commercial wing, Frontier Works Organisation (FWO). The Chinese firm has a 70 per cent stake in the joint venture, while the FWO holds the remaining 30 per cent stake.

The project with a total financial outlay of about Pakistani Rupees 1,406.5 billion would be completed in [2], Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Muzammil Hussain said. He added the project would have a gross storage capacity of 8.1 MAF (million acre feet) and power generation capacity of 4,500 MW (megawatt), with an annual generation of 18.1 billion units.

The project, however, drew sharp response from India, which issued a statement Thursday, saying building such projects in territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation was "not proper". "We have consistently conveyed our protests and shared concerns with both Pakistan and China on all such projects in the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation," the Ministry of External Affairs said. However, China defended itself Friday saying it is part of a "win-win" bilateral cooperation to promote the well-being of the local population.

Source : Edited and recreated from news article of The Print

8. Which of the following places has been redacted by [1]?

- (a) Balochistan
(b) Uighur Province
(c) Gilgit-Baltistan
(d) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

9. Which of the following years has been redacted by [2]?

- (a) 2024
(b) 2026
(c) 2028
(d) 2030

10. On which river has this dam been proposed?

- (a) Zaskar
(b) Gilgit
(c) Shyok
(d) Indus

11. In which year was the dam first envisaged by Pakistan?

- (a) 1980
(b) 1986
(c) 1991
(d) 1997

12. Which of the following is the Chinese firm that has been given the contract?

- (a) Beijing Construction Engineering Group
(b) China Wu Yi co., Ltd.
(c) China Power
(d) Anhui Construction Engineering Group

(Q.13-Q.17):

India on Sunday welcomed the

power-sharing deal announced by Afghanistan between President [1] and his rival [2], which ended months of political discord triggered by last year's disputed presidential election. The deal comes days after a militant attack on a maternity ward in [3], left 24 people dead. Mothers, newborn babies and nurses were among the victims.

[1] and [2] - the old rivals who both held positions in the previous government - signed the agreement on Sunday. [2], a former eye surgeon, wrote on Twitter after the ceremony that the agreement would help to form a "more inclusive, accountable and competent administration". "We now need to come together as a nation, strive to seek solutions that are practical".

The deal comes as Afghan authorities are hoping to enter peace talks with the Taliban to end years of violence. Last month, the Taliban walked out of the talks, saying any face-to-face discussions with the Afghan government had proved "fruitless". The talks reportedly broke down over a prisoner swap agreed earlier between the US and Taliban. It was meant to be a step towards ending the war, but the Taliban say Afghan officials are trying to delay the release, while officials say the militants' demands are unreasonable.

Source: Edited and recreated from news articles of The Hindu and BBC News

13. Which of the following leader's name has been redacted by [1]?

- (a) Hamid Karzai
(b) Abdul Rashid Dostum
(c) Ashraf Ghani
(d) Amrullah Saleh

14. Which of the following leader's name has been redacted by [2]?

- (a) Abdel Fatah al-Sisi
(b) Abdullah Abdullah
(c) Abdul Ghani
(d) Burhanuddin Rabbani

15. The city in which the huge explosion went off has been redacted by [3]. Which city is it?

- (a) Heart
(b) Kandahar
(c) Kabul
(d) Jalalabad

16. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Both men – the President and his rival will choose an equal number of ministers
(b) The President will lead peace talks with the Taliban, should they get under way
(c) The Reconciliation Council has been given the authority to handle and approve all affairs related to Afghanistan's peace process including the peace talks with the Taliban
(d) Earlier, a peace deal between the U.S. Government and the Taliban was signed on February, 2020

17. Last time, the present rival had acted as the _____ of Afghanistan.

- (a) President
(b) Vice President
(c) Prime Minister
(d) CEO



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

8. (c) Gilgit-Baltistan

9. (c) 2028

10. (d) Indus

11. (a) 1980

12. (c) China Power

India opposed a move by Pakistan and China to build a major hydropower plant in the Gilgit-Baltistan region on the Indus river, saying it has shared its concerns regarding such projects with both countries. The Pakistan government on Wednesday signed a Rs 442-billion contract with a joint venture formed by

China Power and the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO). The project with a total financial outlay of about Pakistani Rupees 1,406.5 billion would be completed in 2028. Publicly available data showed the dam was first envisaged in 1980. However, it was approved for construction only in 2006 by then military dictator Gen Pervez Musharraf.

13. (c) Ashraf Ghani

14. (b) Abdullah Abdullah

15. (c) Kabul

16. (b) The President will lead peace talks

with the Taliban, should they get under way

17. (d) CEO

It took two months after the Afghan election commission declared Ghani the winner. Abdullah had contested and demanded a recount. He had been firm that unlike the last time, when he was persuaded by then US Secretary of State John Kerry to accept the position of "CEO" under Ghani's presidency, this time he would not be party to a power-sharing deal. But a way was found, peacefully. Ghani will remain president, Abdullah gets no formal position in the government, but gets to nominate

half the cabinet, and will also lead the talks with the Taliban if and when they take place, as the chairman of the High Council of National Reconciliation. The Reconciliation Council has been given the authority to handle and approve all affairs related to Afghanistan's peace process including the peace talks with the Taliban. Mr Ghani will stay on as president while both men will choose an equal number of ministers. Dr Abdullah will lead peace talks with the Taliban, should they get under way. The deal comes days after a militant attack on a maternity ward in the capital, Kabul, left 24 people dead.

(Q.18-Q.24):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced the national rollout of a 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system in all states and Union Territories by [1]. As of now, about 20 states have come on board to implement the inter-state ration card portability. According to the Finance Minister, this system will enable migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country.

Under the [2], about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized foodgrain — rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Re 1/kg — from their designated Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Currently, about 23 crore ration cards have been issued to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries of [2] in all states and UTs.

In the present system, a ration cardholder can buy foodgrains only from an FPS that has been assigned to her in the locality in which she lives. However, this will change once the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system becomes operational nationally. Under the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system, the beneficiary will be able to buy subsidised foodgrains from any FPS across the country.

Source: Edited and recreated from the news article of The Indian Express

18. Which of the following month has been redacted by [1]?
- (a) January 2021
(b) February 2021
(c) March 2021
(d) April 2021
19. Which of the following Acts has been redacted by [2]?
- (a) National Food Security Act, 2010
(b) National Food Security Act, 2013
(c) National Food Security Mission Act, 2010
(d) National Food Security Mission

Act, 2013

20. Which of the following portals will provide the technological platform for the inter-state portability of ration cards?
- (a) e-POS System Management
(b) e-Management of Public Distribution System
(c) Integrated Management of e-POS
(d) Integrated Management of Public Distribution System
21. Which of the following portal hosts the data of distribution of foodgrains through E-PoS devices within a state?
- (a) Annadata (b) Annavitran
(c) Annadeya (d) Annabhojan
22. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
- (a) The whole conceptualization had started from 2018
(b) Pan Cards have been used to identify beneficiaries
(c) The intended date for roll-out was June 1, 2020
(d) It has been observed that still usages of intra-state ration card portability are way higher than the inter-state portability
23. Which of the following departments does the Poverty estimation in India?
- (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
(b) National Sample Survey Office
(c) Central Statistical Organisation
(d) NITI Aayog
24. As per the World Bank a person is extremely poor if s/he is living on less than _____ international dollars a day
- (a) 1.0 (b) 1.4
(c) 1.7 (d) 1.9

(Q.25-Q.31):

Representatives from most of the 194 member countries of the World Health Organization gather in [1] each May for the World Health Assembly. This is a flagship event for the World Health Organization, and for global health more broadly. It is at the WHA that representatives of these governments set the agenda for the World Health Organization and make other decisions about the WHO's budget and overall operations.

WHO membership is only given to countries that are members of the United Nations - which does not recognise [2] - or whose applications are approved by the World Health Assembly. What this means is that [2] has been excluded from emergency meetings and important global expert briefings on the coronavirus pandemic. This even though [2] is seen as one of the few places in the world which has successfully stemmed the spread of the coronavirus without resorting to draconian measures.

This year, the WHA was held virtually on May 18 and 19. And, as one would expect the virtual gathering was exclusively focused on COVID-19. However, lurked in the background of this meeting was the question of Taiwan's status at the WHO. World The member states agreed during their main annual assembly on Monday (May 18) to delay a controversial discussion on granting [1] [3] status, despite the United States and others stepping up pressure in recent days.

Source: Edited and recreated from UN-Dispatch

25. Which of the following places has been redacted by [1]?
- (a) New York (b) Copenhagen
(c) Geneva (d) The Hague
26. Which of the following countries/ disputed places has been redacted by [2]?
- (a) Hong Kong (b) Taiwan
(c) Thailand (d) North Korea

27. What status was being discussed to be provided to [2] in the World Health Assembly this year – [3]?
- (a) Membership
(b) Observer
(c) Dialogue Partner
(d) Permanent membership
28. The whole issue exploded further recently after a controversial interview of the WHO assistant director-general. Who is s/he?
- (a) Tedros Adhanom
(b) Yvonne Tong
(c) Bruce Aylward
(d) Maria Van Kerkhove
29. Which of the following statements regarding this year's World Health Assembly incorrect?
- (a) The EU Resolution was accepted by consensus
(b) China finally agreed to a China-centred investigation
(c) Calls for reforming the WHO specifically because it was born of the ashes of the World War II were made
(d) Beijing is vehemently opposed to participation of [2] in the WHO
30. Which edition of the World Health Assembly was held this year?
- (a) 71st (b) 72nd
(c) 73rd (d) 74th
31. What has been India's stand on the issue of [2] and WHA?
- (a) It supports the inclusion of [2] in WHO
(b) It opposes the inclusion of [2] in WHO
(c) It doesn't take a stand in this issue
(d) It supports the inclusion of [2] in WHO, but not giving the [3] status

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

18. (c) March 2021
19. (b) National Food Security Act, 2013
20. (d) Integrated Management of Public Distribution System
21. (b) Annavitran
22. (b) Pan Cards have been used to identify beneficiaries
23. (d) NITI Aayog
24. (d) 1.9
Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized foodgrain. While the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal (<http://www.impds.nic.in/>) provides the technological platform for the inter-state portability of ration cards, enabling a migrant worker to buy foodgrains from any FPS across the country, the other portal (annavitran.

nic.in) hosts the data of distribution of foodgrains through E-PoS devices within a state. The Annavitran portal enables a migrant worker or his family to avail the benefits of PDS outside their district but within their state. While a person can buy her share of foodgrains as per her entitlement under the NFSA, wherever she is based, the rest of her family members can purchase subsidised foodgrains from their ration dealer back home. Aadhaar is being used to identify beneficiaries. Under the scheme, the seeding of ration cards with Aadhaar is being done. Poverty estimation in India is now carried out by NITI Aayog's task force through the calculation of poverty line based on the data captured by the National Sample Survey Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). The World Bank defines a person as extremely poor if she is living on less than 1.90 international dollars a day, which are adjusted for inflation as well as price differences between countries. Asian Development Bank too has its own

poverty line which is currently at \$ 1.51 per person per day. Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced the national rollout of a 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system in all states and Union Territories by March 2021.

25. (c) Geneva
26. (b) Taiwan
27. (b) Observer
28. (c) Bruce Aylward
29. (b) China finally agreed to a China-centred investigation
30. (c) 73rd
31. (c) It doesn't take a stand in this issue
Representatives from most of the 194 member countries of the World Health Organization gather in Geneva each May for the World Health Assembly. This year

was the 73rd Assembly that was held. For the first time in history it was held online. The main talks this year was whether Taiwan should be given observer status in WHO or not. Several powerful members of the World Health Assembly including the United States and many European countries are advocating for Taiwan's participation in the WHA while others, namely China, are stridently opposed. The whole issue exploded after Hong Kong broadcaster RTHK aired an interview with Bruce Aylward, the WHO assistant director-general, who spoke to journalist Yvonne Tong on a video call. In this Assembly, China said no to China-centred investigation, but agreed to an independent-investigation only after the pandemic is over. India, which has traditionally stuck to a One-China policy — in short, it considers Taiwan a part of China — has not yet taken a stand, but has been in conversation with some of Taiwan's advocates as well.



(Q.32-Q.38):

During his intervention at the video conference of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group in response to the Covid-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made three important points.

Despite our own needs, India has ensured medical supplies to over 123 partner countries, including [1] members of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Modi also reiterated the now-accepted fact that the coronavirus pandemic has underlined the woeful limitations of the existing international order — it has affected the rich and the poor, the most developed and the least developed nations alike. Third, in the post-Covid-19 world, there has to be “a new template of globalisation based on fairness, equality, and humanity”.

It is clear that New Delhi is trying to recreate the decades-old movement that sought to stay away from choosing between the two competing powers on either side of the [2]. New Delhi should engage more seriously with NAM and play the leadership role to its best advantage. Any half-hearted approach will be disastrous not only to India's image but also its strategic outreach in these times of leadership crisis at the global and regional level. There is no doubt that once the world has conquered the coronavirus pandemic, there will be a tectonic shift in the global balance of power. India cannot be a lone crusader nor can it align with one or the other power. We are neither too powerful nor too negligible.

Source: Edited and recreated from news article of The Print

32. Which of the following number has

been redacted by [1]?

- (a) 59 (b) 65
(c) 73 (d) 81

33. Which of the following Wars will replace the blank [2]?

- (a) World War I (b) World War II
(c) Cold War
(d) Cold War and World War II

34. Who was the Chairman of this year's virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group?

- (a) Ilham Aliyev
(b) Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
(c) Shavkat Mirziyoyev
(d) Emomali Rahmon

35. Which of the following were the founding countries of the NAM?

- (a) India, Cambodia, Egypt
(b) Yugoslavia, Belarus, India
(c) India, Yugoslavia, Egypt
(d) Egypt, Argentina, Yugoslavia

36. In which year was the Bandung Conference held?

- (a) 1952 (b) 1955
(c) 1958 (d) 1961

37. Which of the following groups was established in 2005 when the NAM countries met in Jakarta and Bandung?

- (a) New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP)
(b) Asian-African Entente (AAE)

to stay away from choosing between the two competing powers on either side of the Cold War. On May 4, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement Contact Group under the chairmanship of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. The Bandung Conference happened in 1955 with three founding countries – India, Yugoslavia and Egypt. In 2005, on the 50th anniversary of the original conference, leaders from Asian and African countries met in Jakarta and Bandung to launch the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP). They pledged to promote political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two continents. The pre-Independence Asian Relations Conference held in Delhi in 1947 could be said to have set the tone and

(c) Afro-Asian Cooperation Union (AACU)

(d) New Asian-African Economic Partnership (NAAEP)

38. Where was the pre-Independence Asian Relations Conference held in 1947?

- (a) Jakarta (b) Delhi
(c) Beijing (d) Tokyo

(Q.39-Q.43):

The Supreme Court, on Monday, refused to order the restoration of 4G mobile internet services in Jammu and Kashmir, but set up a special committee, led by the [1] to take a call on the issue after factoring in the security situation on the ground. Besides the [1], the Secretary of the Department of Telecommunication Secretary and Chief Secretary of J&K will be part of the panel, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice NV Ramana ordered.



Internet speed has been restricted in Jammu and Kashmir for several months. The last order was issued on April 27 extending the restrictions till May 11. Three petitioners, including the Foundation for Media Professionals and Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir, had challenged the orders restricting the internet speed. They had contended that 2G internet speed was not enough for access to online education and healthcare services during the COVID-19 lockdown. The restrictions violated citizens' Right to Education and the Right to Health, which were part of the Right to Life and Liberty guaranteed under Article [2] of the Constitution, and went against the SC verdict in [3] case that provided for safeguards against misuse of powers under the Telecom

Rules, they argued.

It said the special committee must also examine the appropriateness of the alternatives suggested by the petitioners regarding limiting the restrictions to those areas where it was necessary and the allowing faster internet (3G or 4G) on a trial basis over certain geographical areas and advise the government on the issue in terms of its directions in [3]'s case.

Source: Edited and recreated from the news article of Tribune India.

39. Which of the following has been redacted by [1]?

- (a) Union Home Minister
(b) National Security Advisor
(c) Union Home Secretary
(d) Chief of Defence Staff

40. Which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution has been redacted by [2]?

- (a) 20 (b) 21
(c) 22 (d) 23

41. Whose name out of the following has been redacted by [3]?

- (a) Ved Bhasin
(b) Anuradha Bhasin
(c) Keshar Singh
(d) M. C. Mehta

42. Internet services in J&K were totally shut in early May. Which of the following cases led to the shutdown of internet?

- (a) Pulwama encounter
(b) Handwara encounter
(c) Kupwara encounter
(d) Kulgam encounter

43. KK Venugopal said “Faster 4G internet speed would give the enemy information even about troop movements”. Who is K Venugopal?

- (a) Solicitor General of India
(b) Attorney General of India
(c) Union Home Secretary
(d) Cabinet Secretary

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

32. (a) 59

33. (c) Cold War

34. (a) Ilham Aliyev

35. (c) India, Yugoslavia, Egypt

36. (b) 1955

37. (a) New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP)

38. (b) Delhi

Despite our own needs, India has ensured medical supplies to over 123 partner countries, including 59 members of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). It is clear that New Delhi is trying to recreate the six-decade-old movement that sought

tenor of India's foreign policy outlook. The conference was touted as an effort in the direction of overcoming the forced isolation of the Asian mind and spirit.

39. (c) Union Home Secretary

40. (b) 21

41. (b) Anuradha Bhasin

42. (b) Handwara encounter

43. (b) Attorney General of India

The committee will be headed by the Union Home Secretary. [2] has been redacted by Article 21. Asserting that right to access the internet was not a fundamental right, the UT administration asserted it could be curtailed in the

interest of the “sovereignty”, “security” and “integrity” of India. Faster 4G internet speed would give the enemy information even about troop movements, Attorney General KK Venugopal had submitted. The restrictions violated citizens' Right to Education and the Right to Health, which were part of the Right to Life and Liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution, and went against the SC verdict in Anuradha Basin case that provided for safeguards against misuse of powers under the Telecom Rules, they argued. Mobile internet was completely suspended earlier in May during the Handwara encounter that was launched in search of two terrorists affiliated to HizbulMujahideen.



(Q.44-Q.48):

India's wholesale food inflation declined to 3.6% in April from 5.49% a month ago, official data released on Thursday showed even as the government suspended the release of the headline wholesale inflation number due to the nationwide lockdown-led disruptions in data collection.

Inflation, as measured by the wholesale price index (WPI), was 1% in March, down from 2.26% in February.

"In view of the limited transactions of products in the wholesale market in the month of April, 2020, due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic, it has been decided to release the price movement of selected Sub-groups/Groups of WPI, following the principles of adequacy".

As per the statement, the price collection of manufactured products to estimate WPI through personal visits of officials was suspended from March 19 due to the preventive measures and announcement of nationwide lockdown by the government to contain spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

44. Which ministry releases WPI?
- (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 (b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
 (c) Ministry of Finance
 (d) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
45. The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to

- _____ in 2017
- (a) 2009-10 (b) 2010-11
 (c) 2011-12 (d) 2012-13

46. Mark the correct statement.
- (a) WPI tracks the inflation at consumer level
 (b) Base year of CPI is 2012
 (c) RBI had adopted the WPI as its key measure of inflation
 (d) CPI includes all transactions at the first point of bulk sale in the domestic market
47. Who is the current minister of ministry responsible for release of WPI?
- (a) Piyush Goyal
 (b) Ram Vilas Paswan
 (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
 (d) Pralhad Joshi
48. Who releases headline inflation?
- (a) Bureau of Labor Statistics
 (b) NSO
 (c) CSO
 (d) Ministry of Agriculture

(Q.49-Q.53):

Cyclone Amphan has commenced landfall since 2.30 pm on Wednesday and it will continue for about four hours, said Director of Indian Meteorological Department, Bhubaneswar Centre, HR Biswas. Odisha and West Bengal have evacuated nearly 1.5 lakh and 3.3 lakh people respectively ahead of the landfall of cyclone Amphan.

Amphan is the Bay of Bengal's fiercest cyclone this century after it intensified with sustained wind speeds of up to 270 kilometers per hour, on Monday night.

At least three people, including a 13-year-old girl, had died in West

Bengal, authorities said. Two more killed by falling trees in neighbouring Bangladesh.

Strong winds upturned cars in West Bengal's capital Kolkata and felled trees and electricity poles, television pictures showed. Officials said it was too early to estimate a toll on life or damage to property.

49. What is the another name of cyclone in Pacific ocean?
- (a) Hurricane (b) Typhoon
 (c) Cyclone (d) Temperate storm
50. Which of the following ferocious cyclone affected India in 2019?
- (a) Hudhud (b) Fani
 (c) Titli (d) Katrina
51. Amphan name is given by:
- (a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan
 (c) India (d) Thailand
52. IMD is headquartered in:
- (a) Kolkata (b) Delhi
 (c) Mumbai (d) Pune
53. What is the meaning of landfall of cyclone?
- (a) It means outer part of cyclone intersects with coastline
 (b) It means eye of cyclone intersects with coastline
 (c) It means when heavy rainfall start
 (d) None of the above

(Q.54-Q.58):

Israel's new government, headed once again by Prime Minister [1], was sworn into office on Sunday, ending nearly a year-and-a-half of political stalemate involving [2] stormy elections and multiple rounds of coalition negotiations.

The ceremony, which took place in Israel's parliament, the [3], in accordance with coronavirus social distancing directives, marked a fifth term for [1].

The arrangement has also produced the largest and perhaps most politically broad government in Israel's history. It could spare Israelis another round of elections for at least three years, but could also hamper its ability to function.

Thirty-four ministers and around 16 deputy ministers, some in newly created offices, will manage the country as it emerges from a two-month covid-19 lockdown facing a deepening economic crisis and rising tension with the Palestinians.

54. Fill [1] with a suitable option.
- (a) Ehud Olmert
 (b) Benjamin Netanyahu
 (c) Ariel Sharon
 (d) Yitzhak Rabin
55. Fill [2] with a suitable option.
- (a) 2 (b) 3
 (c) 4 (d) 5
56. Fill [3] with a suitable option.
- (a) Knesset (b) Mercosur
 (c) Pan - Arab (d) Senate
57. Who was the most close competitor of [1] in elections?
- (a) Avigdor Lieberman
 (b) Naftali Bennett
 (c) Benny Gantz
 (d) Aryeh Deri
58. What is the name of the party of [1]?
- (a) Joint list (b) Likud
 (c) UTJ (d) Shas

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

44. (a) **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
 The WPI is published by the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Wholesale Price Index focuses on the price of goods traded between corporations, rather than the goods bought by consumers, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index.
45. (c) **2011-12**
 The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017
46. (b) **Base year of CPI is 2012**
 WPI, tracks inflation at the producer level and CPI captures changes in prices levels at the consumer level.
 In April 2014, the RBI had adopted the CPI as its key measure of inflation. Both baskets measure inflationary trends (the movement of price signals) within the broader economy, the two indices differ in which weightages are assigned to food, fuel and manufactured items.
47. (a) **Piyush Goyal**
 Piyush Vedprakash Goyal is an Indian politician and the current minister of Railways and Commerce in the Government of India. He was elevated to the Cabinet Minister position on 3 September 2017.
48. (a) **Bureau of Labor Statistics**
 Headline inflation is the raw inflation figure reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that is released monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI calculates the cost to purchase a fixed basket of goods, as a way of determining how much inflation is occurring in the broad economy.
49. (a) **Hurricane**
 Incidentally, hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones are all the same, just different names for tropical storms in different parts of the world; Hurricane in the Atlantic, Typhoon in the Pacific and Cyclone in the Indian Ocean.
50. (b) **Fani**
 Areas affected. Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, East India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka. Part of the 2019 North Indian Ocean cyclone season. Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike the Indian state of Odisha since the 1999 Odisha cyclone.
51. (d) **Thailand**
 "Amphan", pronounced as "Um-pun", means sky. The name was given by Thailand in 2004, years ago. The name comes from a list by a grouping of countries, World Meteorological Organisation/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or WMO/ESCAP.
52. (b) **Delhi**
 IMD is headquartered in Delhi and operates hundreds of observation stations across India and Antarctica. Regional offices are at Mumbai, Kolkata, Nagpur and Pune. IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization.
53. (b) **It means eye of cyclone intersects with coastline**
 A Landfall is the intersection of the center of a tropical cyclone with a coastline, according to the US National Hurricane Center. Typically, in strong tropical cyclones, a landfall occurs when the eye of the cyclone moves over land.
54. (b) **Benjamin Netanyahu**
55. (b) **3**
56. (a) **Knesset**
 The Knesset (Israel's unicameral parliament) is the country's legislative body. The Knesset took its name and fixed its membership at 120 from the Knesset Hagedolah (Great Assembly), the representative Jewish council convened in Jerusalem by Ezra and Nehemiah in the 5th century BCE.
57. (c) **Benny Gantz**
 Benny Gantz is from Blue and White party. Benjamin Netanyahu party got 36 seats and Benny Gantz party got 33 seats.
58. (b) **Likud**
 Benjamin Netanyahu is from Likud party. It is a centre right wing political party in Israel. It was founded in 1973 by Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon in an alliance with several right-wing parties.



(Q.59-Q.62):

In response to the biggest economic crisis since 1979 triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent 54-day lockdown – one of the harshest in the world, the Central government's fiscal relief so far is limited to just about [1] of GDP. It has, however, allowed states to increase their borrowing limit unconditionally by 0.5% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) or Rs 1.07 lakh crore.

The money that the poor got in their hands over the last two months following the Central government announcements has been just Rs 33,176 crore so far, Finance Minister Sitharaman said. This includes Rs 10,025 crore to women Jan Dhan account holders, Rs 16,394 crore to farmers under PM Kisan Yojana (frontloading of payment without additional fiscal cost), Rs 2,807 crore to old persons, widows and the disabled, and Rs 3,950 crore to construction workers (also without any fiscal outgo since it is paid from the Building and Construction Workers' Cess Welfare Fund).

The Centre has also finally agreed to a continuous demand from states to increase their borrowing limit. Finance Minister Sitharaman said the borrowing limit has been increased to 5 per cent of GSDP from 3 per cent of GSDP, but states can borrow only 0.5 per cent of it unconditionally. The Centre has linked 1 per cent – to be released in tranches of 0.25 per cent each – to reforms in urban local body revenues, one-nation one ration card, power distribution and ease of doing business.

59. fill [1] with a suitable option.

- (a) 0.11% (b) 1.1%
(c) 2% (d) 2.9%

60. Accounts opened under PMJDY are being opened with _____ balance

- (a) Zero
(b) 500
(c) 1000
(d) 5000

61. One Nation, One Ration Card specified in the above paragraph, is most useful for?

- (a) Migrant workers
(b) Home based workers
(c) Person who quit job from foreign country
(d) Domestic workers

62. Atmanirbhar Package is introduced by government in _____ version of lockdown.

- (a) First
(b) Second
(c) Third
(d) Fourth

(Q.63-Q.69):

Objections have been raised to the permanent settlement of displaced Brus in Kanchanpur subdivision of [1] district and a demand made to resettle them outside. The objections and the demand have been made by two social organisations of the subdivision - [2] and [3].

[2], an organisation in Jampui hills of the subdivision, submitted a memorandum to chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Saturday. "We...the people of Jampui hills....raised our strong objection to the proposed settlement of displaced Mizoram

Brus at CCRE, Behliangchhip and PaschimHmunpuimoujas or at any other location adjacent to our Mizo traditional boundaries of Jampui hills. Except for the Brus, none of the other local community, who are important stakeholders, have been consulted by the government in the whole process," the memorandum signed by its general secretary ZairemthiamaPachau and president David Ralte, said.

[3], an organisation of Bengalis living across the subdivision, submitted a memorandum to Kanchanpursubdivisional magistrate ChandniChandran with the demand. It threatened to resume its movement against the displaced Brus and launch an indefinite strike if its demand is not met.

Source: Edited and recreated from the news article of Telegraph India

63. Which of the following districts of Tripura has been redacted by [1]?

- (a) Unakoti (b) Gomati
(c) North Tripura (d) West Tripura

64. Which of the following organizations have been redacted by [2] and [3] respectively?

- (a) Mizo Convention and Yuva Nagarik Suraksha Mancha
(b) YuvaNagarikSuraksha Mancha and Mizo Convention
(c) Bengali Tripura Nagrik Mancha and Tripura Mizo Convention
(d) Tripura Mizo Convention and Bengali Tripura Nagrik Mancha

65. In which year did the Dhebar Commission create the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)?

- (a) 1970 (b) 1971
(c) 1972 (d) 1973

66. Other than Tripura, ___[x]___ is involved in the quadripartite agreement signed by the Brus. What is [x]?

- (a) Assam
(b) Manipur
(c) Mizoram
(d) Arunachal Pradesh

67. What financial assistance will be provided for each Bru family other than land for constructing a house in the rehabilitation package?

- (a) Rs. 1 lakh
(b) Rs. 2 lakh
(c) Rs. 3 lakh
(d) Rs. 4 lakh

68. How many PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) are there in India?

- (a) 72 (b) 75
(c) 79 (d) 82

69. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- (a) Most of the PVTGs in India are in the state of Odisha
(b) In 2006, the PTGs were renamed as PVTGs
(c) There are a total of 1005 Scheduled Tribes in India
(d) The Brus had returned to [x] in eight phases of repatriation since 2009



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

59. (b) 1.1%

60. (a) Zero

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner. Accounts opened under PMJDY are being opened with Zero balance.

61. (a) Migrant workers

According to the Finance Minister, this system will enable migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country.

62. (d) Fourth

Much of the May 12 (lockdown 4.0) Atmanirbhar package of Prime Minister Narendra Modi totaling Rs 20 lakh crore and elaborated over the last five days by Sitharaman has been liquidity driven, with little burden on the exchequer.

63. (c) North Tripura

64. (a) Mizo Convention and Yuva Nagarik Suraksha Mancha

65. (d) 1973

66. (c) Mizoram

67. (d) Rs. 4 lakh

68. (b) 75

69. (c) There are a total of 1005 Scheduled Tribes in India

In the middle of the Covid-19 lockdown, two community-specific groups have renewed their opposition to the permanent settlement of Bru refugees from Mizoram in Tripura's North Tripura district.

The objections and the demand have been made by two social organisations of the subdivision, the Mizo Convention and the YuvaNagarikSuraksha Mancha.

As per the agreement, each resettled family will get 0.03 acre (1.5 ganda) of land for building a home, Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance, and Rs 4 lakh as a one-time cash benefit for sustenance. They will also receive a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000, and free rations for two years from the date of resettlement.

In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.

In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.

All Bru currently living in temporary relief camps in Tripura will be settled in the state, if they want to stay on. The Bru who returned to Mizoram in the eight phases of repatriation since 2009, cannot, however, come back to Tripura.



(Q.70-Q.76):

The recent incidents at the Pangong Tso lake area between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the LAC involve a picturesque lake, mountains, helicopters, fighter jets, boats, eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, fisticuffs and injuries. The disputed boundary between India and China, also known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is divided into [1] sectors. The countries disagree on the exact location of the LAC in various areas, so much so that India claims that the LAC is [2] long while the Chinese believe it to be around 2,000 km long.

The two armies try and dominate by patrol to the areas up to their respective perceptions of the LAC, often bringing them into conflict and leading to incidents such as those witnessed in Naku La earlier this month. The LAC mostly passes on the land, but Pangong Tso is a unique case where it passes through the water as well. The points in the water at which the Indian claim ends and Chinese claim begins are not agreed upon mutually.

Most of the clashes between the two armies occur in the disputed portion of the lake. As things stand, 45 km-long [3] portion of the lake is under Indian control, while the rest is under China's control.

Source: Edited and recreated from news reporting of The Indian Express

70. Which of the following has been redacted by [1] – the number of sectors of the LAC?
- (a) 2 (b) 3
(c) 4 (d) 5
71. What length of the LAC that is claimed by India has been redacted

by [2]?

- (a) 1567 km (b) 2479 km
(c) 3488 km (d) 4584 km

72. In which of the following states/UT is the Naku La situated?

- (a) Sikkim
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Ladakh

73. Which of the following has been redacted by [3]?

- (a) Eastern (b) Western
(c) Northern (d) Southern

74. Which of the following statements is incorrect about the Pangong Tso Lake?

- (a) It is identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance
(b) It is not a part of the Indus river basin area
(c) Major portion of the lake lies in the Tibetan Autonomous Region
(d) In India the lake is situated in Ladakh region

75. The Pangong Tso Lake is an endorheic lake. What does this mean?

- (a) It is a saline water lake which freezes in the winter
(b) It is a limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies
(c) It is formed by water collected in the caldera
(d) It is a sweet-water lake which

normally freezes in the winter

76. The barren mountains on the lake's northern bank are called "fingers". What is its name?

- (a) Lanak La
(b) Ngari Prefecture
(c) Chang Chenmo
(d) Kong Ka

(Q.77-Q.80):

The government has provided Rs [1] financial assistance using digital payment infrastructure to about 39 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to protect them from the impact of COVID-19 lockdown.

As part of the Rs 1.70 lakh crore PMGKP, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26, the government announced [2] to women and poor senior citizens and farmers. The implementation of the package is being continuously monitored by

77. Which of the following amounts has been redacted by [1]?

- (a) 25,700 crore (b) 29,680 crore
(c) 34,800 crore (d) 37,600 crore

78. Which of the following benefits have been redacted by [2]?

- (a) Foodgrains and cash payment
(b) Employment and foodgrains
(c) Foodgrains and transport allowance
(d) Shelter and foodgrains



central and state governments, the finance ministry said in a statement. However, not all this money is in addition to what was announced in the Union Budget; some of the announcements refer to expenditure which would have happened under normal circumstances as well.

Ever since the March 22 Janata Curfew, there have been demands that the government should come out with a relief package for the poor, as well as those in the informal sector, which accounts for 90 per cent of all jobs in the country — the demands increased after Prime Minister

79. As per the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Package what medical insurance has been given for all health workers (doctors, paramedics, Asha workers etc.) treating patients?

- (a) Rs. 1 lakh (b) Rs. 10 lakh
(c) Rs. 25 lakh (d) Rs. 50 lakh

80. The fund allocation for PMGKY is ____ of the nation's GDP.

- (a) 0.5% (b) 0.8%
(c) 1.1% (d) 1.4%

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

70. (b) 3
71. (c) 3488 km
72. (a) Sikkim
73. (b) Western
74. (a) It is identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance
75. (b) It is a limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies
76. (c) Chang Chenmo
The disputed boundary between India and China, also known as the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is divided into

three sectors: western, middle and eastern. India claims that the LAC is 3,488 km long while the Chinese believe it to be around 2,000 km long.
The Naku La Pass is situated in Sikkim. Most of the clashes between the two armies occur in the disputed portion of the lake. As things stand, 45 km-long western portion of the lake is under Indian control, while the rest is under China's control.
The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention.
An endorheic basin (also endoreic basin or endorreic basin) is a limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies

of water, such as rivers or oceans, but converges instead into lakes or swamps, permanent or seasonal, that equilibrate through evaporation.
The barren mountains on the lake's northern bank, called the Chang Chenmo, jut forward in major spurs, which the Army calls "fingers". India claims that the LAC is coterminous with Finger 8, but it physically controls area only up to Finger 4.
77. (c) 34,800 crore
78. (a) Foodgrains and cash payment
79. (d) Rs. 50 lakh
80. (b) 0.8%
The government has provided Rs 34,800

crore financial assistance using digital payment infrastructure to about 39 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to protect them from the impact of COVID-19 lockdown.
The FM said the package will cost the national exchequer Rs 1.7 lakh crore, which is 0.8 per cent of India's estimated gross domestic product in the current financial year (about Rs 204 lakh crore). As part of the Rs 1.70 lakh crore PMGKP, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26, the government announced free foodgrains and cash payment to women and poor senior citizens and farmers. Medical insurance cover of Rs 50 lakh for all health workers (doctors, paramedics, Asha workers etc.) treating patients.



(Q.81-Q.85):

Eleven people, including a six-year-old girl, died and over 350 were admitted to hospitals after styrene monomer gas leaked from a chemical plant belonging to LG Polymers India at R.R. Venkatapuram in Visakhapatnam.

The gas leak began around 3.30 a.m. in the plant, which is situated in the midst of a densely populated area. It was set up in 1961 in the area, then a suburb.

The gas reportedly spread over a radius of about 3 km, affecting at least five villages — R.R. Venkatapuram, Padmapuram, B.C. Colony, Gopalapatnam and Kamrapalem. About 2,000 people were evacuated from the 3-km radius.

Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar Meena said that among those killed, two were accidental deaths — a 19-year-old medical student fell from the balcony of the second floor of his house after he was blinded by the fumes and the other fell into a well while trying to escape the gas. The others were declared brought dead at hospitals.

81. What is the source of Styrene monomer gas?
- (a) Natural gas
(b) Automobiles
(c) Nuclear fission
(d) Leather cutting
82. Which of the following Zoological park is in Visakhapatnam?
- (a) National Zoological park

- (b) Indira Gandhi Zoological park
(c) Alipore Zoological Park
(d) Thrissur Zoological park

83. What is the term used for deficiency of oxygen in the brain?
- (a) Brain Hypoglossamia
(b) Brain Hypoxia
(c) Brain Anoxia
(d) Brain solution
84. What are the effects of short term exposure to styrene?
1. Respiratory issues
 2. Eye irritation
 3. Gastrointestinal problems
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1,2 and 3
85. Where is the world's worst industrial disaster took place?
- (a) USA (b) Japan
(c) India (d) Germany

(Q.86-Q.91):

Out of India's total workforce of 471.5 million, only 12.3% are regular workers receiving some form of social security, while the rest are mostly casual workers or petty producers surviving under various degrees of informality (figures for 2018). A vast majority of migrant workers belong to the category of informal casual workers. Available data on the size of the migrant workforce in India are rather patchy. According to the

2011 Census, there were 54.3 million persons (workers as well as non-workers) in the country who migrated from one State to the other.

Workers' shift out of agricultural occupations as well as out of their rural bases is set to accelerate, unless new economic opportunities are created in the countryside.

A majority of the workers who leave villages find themselves in the bottom rung of the urban economy, earning a precarious living as drivers, factory workers, security guards and domestic helpers. Their livelihoods are directly or indirectly linked to economic activities that cater to the demand from the relatively affluent in India and abroad (such as from industries producing sophisticated IT products).

86. According to the latest ILO report, in which of the following countries highest migration occur in the world?
- (a) Latin America
(b) Asia
(c) Europe
(d) Northern America
87. Which of the following is not a foreign migrant worker according to ILO?
- (a) Border workers
(b) Military personnel
(c) Citizen returning to work in the country in question after working abroad
(d) Person born in, and working in the country in question, but who does not have citizenship

88. Which of the following state saw the highest spike in the COVID cases due to migration?
- (a) Tamil Nadu
(b) Kerala
(c) Rajasthan
(d) Punjab
89. States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and _____ accounted for 48.9% of these inter-State migrants, much higher than their combined share in India's population (of 36.8%).
- (a) Odhisa
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Punjab
(d) Madhya Pradesh
90. Which of the following are the effects of labour migration from their respective states?
- (a) Employment opportunities will increase in the emigrated state
(b) Employment opportunities will decrease in the migrated state
(c) Disguised unemployment in agriculture will decrease in the migrated state
(d) All of the above are the effects
91. Labour laws in India such as the Industrial Disputes Act, _____ ("ID Act") provide protection to workmen such as redundancy/retrenchment compensation.
- (a) 1947 (b) 1958
(c) 1964 (d) 1978



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

81. (a) **Natural gas**
Styrene is a clear, colorless aromatic liquid that comes from petroleum and natural gas. Styrene-based polymers are used to make products we use every day such as appliances and electronics, automotive components, flooring, insulation, medical devices, packaging, paper coatings, toys and consumer goods, and tires.
82. (b) **Indira Gandhi Zoological park**
Indira Gandhi Zoological Park is located amidst Kambalakonda Reserve Forest in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the third largest zoo in the country.
83. (b) **Brain Hypoxia**
Brain hypoxia is a form of hypoxia or oxygen deficiency affecting the brain. It occurs when the brain does not receive enough oxygen even though blood is still flowing. When oxygen supply is totally cut off, it is called brain anoxia.
84. (d) **1,2 and 3**
Short term exposure leads to all of the above problems.
85. (c) **India**
The Bhopal disaster, also referred to as the Bhopal gas tragedy, was a gas leak incident on the night of 2-3 December 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. It is considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster.
86. (c) **Europe**
Northern America – 23%
Latin America – 2.7%
Asia – 13.3%
Europe – 32%
87. (c) **Citizen returning to work in the country in question after working abroad**
Citizen returning to work in the country in question after working abroad - No, as holding the citizenship of the country of origin
88. (a) **Tamil Nadu**
Rank –
1. Tamil Nadu 2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Telangana 4. Karnataka
5. Kerala
89. (d) **Madhya Pradesh**
Available data on the size of the migrant workforce in India are rather patchy. According to the 2011 Census, there were 54.3 million persons (workers as well as non-workers) in the country who migrated from one State to the other. The 'heartland' States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh accounted for 48.9% of these inter-State migrants, much higher than their combined share in India's population (of 36.8%).
90. (c) **Disguised unemployment in agriculture will decrease in the migrated state**
hose engaged in agriculture and allied activities as a share of the combined workforce in U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh fell to 49.1% in 2018 from 64.1% in 2005. This meant that, between 2005 and 2018, 19.3 million persons left agricultural work in these four States alone and sought job opportunities elsewhere.
91. (a) **1947**
Labour laws in India such as the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 ("ID Act") provide protection to workmen such as redundancy/retrenchment compensation. However, such protection is available only to certain category of employees termed as 'workmen'.

(Q.92-Q.96):

The Navy dispatched two ships, INS Jalashwa and INS Magar, to Male under Operation "SamudraSetu".

Defence sources confirmed that INS Shardul and INS Airavat had set sail to the UAE. Modalities at the port of entry were being finalised and should be in place before the ships reach, a defence source said.

INS Jalashwa is set to reach Male on May 8 and INS Magar on May 10.

The other three amphibious ships are landing ship tanks (LST) and can normally have large enough capacity.

The ship will return to Kochi port.

92. 'SamudraSetu' mission is related to:
- (a) Exploration of oil in Indian Ocean
 (b) Military exercise between countries
 (c) Evacuation of citizens
 (d) Finding a new route to counter swiss canal
93. Male is the capital of:
- (a) Maldives (b) Mauritius
 (c) Seychelles (d) Comoros
94. Which of the following is a port of UAE?
- (a) Tangier-Med Port
 (b) Jebel Ali
 (c) Port of Mombasa
 (d) Saleem Sahab Port
95. The largest fleet of amphibious assault ship is operated by the:
- (a) Russia (b) Germany
 (c) China (d) USA
96. Which of the following is the largest container port in India?

- (a) Kochi port (b) Chennai port
 (c) JNPT (d) Paradip port

(Q.97-Q.101):

A team of six [1] specialists from turbine manufacturer Power Machines have come to Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KNPP) to complete the vibration adjustment of the new generator stator in the second unit.

India's atomic power plant operator Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) has two 1,000 MW power units supplied by [1].

The second unit was stopped afternoon so that the high vibration in the generator is set right.

"In March 2020, preventive maintenance was completed at Block 2 (Unit 2), in the framework of which the generator stator was successfully replaced".

The unit was operated at a lower capacity due to the need to complete the vibration adjustment of the new stator.

"This is a common world practice for this type of electrical machines," he added.

97. Fill [1] with a suitable option.
- (a) German (b) Russian
 (c) American (d) Japanese
98. _____ is the first nuclear power plant of India.
- (a) Tarapur (b) Kudankulam
 (c) Kalapakkam (d) Narora
99. Construction of Kudankulam was halted in October 2011 after protests against the plant led by The People's Movement against Nuclear Energy in the wake of which country's incident?
- (a) Japan (b) Russia
 (c) USA (d) South Korea

100. What are the type of reactors in Kudankulam power plant?

- (a) Boiling water reactor
 (b) Pressurised heavy water reactor
 (c) Pressurised water reactors
 (d) Gas cooled reactor

101. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited is an Indian public sector undertaking based in _____.

- (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai
 (c) Chennai (d) Kolkata

Q.102-Q.108):

The Indian Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman today announced six measures for the MSME sector as part of the Modi government's ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package.

The six measures for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) include collateral-free loans, additional debt and equity infusion. The government has also announced a new policy that will shield the Indian MSME businesses from unfair competition from foreign companies.

According to the MSME Development Act, [1], enterprises which are in the manufacturing and service sectors qualify as MSMEs, subject to investment and turnover limits.

E-market linkage to be provided across the board as trade fairs etc. will get rarer in the post-COVID world.

102. What is the meaning of collateral?

- (a) Another name of emi
 (b) Interest free loans
 (c) Security against loan
 (d) Loan of 5 years

103. Recently, definition of MSME has changed by Finance minister. What is the reason behind it?

- (a) To allow for relatively bigger companies to avail the benefits of cheaper and priority loans
 (b) To include agriculture based industries
 (c) To make eligible for WTO loans
 (d) To promote Make in India

104. _____ is a SME focused lending platform

- (a) Campifi (b) Indifi
 (c) Bharatifi (d) Gangfi

105. Fill [1] with a suitable option.

- (a) 2000 (b) 2002
 (c) 2006 (d) 2008

106. What is the full form of TDS?

- (a) Tax Dissolution System
 (b) Tax Deduction System
 (c) Tax Dissolution at Source
 (d) Tax Deduction at Source

107. Which of the following is not the measure taken by Finance Minister for MSME sector?

- (a) ₹3 lakh crore collateral-free Automatic Loans for Businesses, including MSMEs
 (b) ₹20,000 crore subordinate debt for Stressed MSMEs
 (c) Global tenders to be allowed up to ₹200 crores
 (d) All the pending dues from the government or government-owned companies will be cleared in the next 45 days.

108. Who is the current minister of MSME?

- (a) Nitin Gadkari
 (b) Rajnath Singh
 (c) Amit Shah
 (d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

92. (c) **Evacuation of citizens**
 Indian Navy has launched Operation "SamudraSetu" - meaning "Sea Bridge", as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas. Indian Naval Ships Jalashwa and Magar are presently enroute to the port of Malé, Republic of Maldives to commence evacuation operations from 08 May 2020 as part of Phase-1.
93. (a) **Maldives**
 Male is the densely populated capital of the Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean. It's known for its mosques and colorful buildings. The Islamic Centre (Masjid-al-Sultan Muhammad Thakurufaanu Al Auzam) features a mosque, a library and a distinctive gold dome.
94. (b) **Jebel Ali**
 Jebel Ali also sometimes written "Mina Jebel Ali" is a deep port located in Jebel Ali, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Jebel Ali is the world's ninth busiest port, the largest man-made harbour, and the biggest and by far the busiest port in the Middle-East.
95. (d) **USA**
 An amphibious warfare ship (or amphib) is an amphibious vehicle warship employed to land and support ground forces, such as marines, on enemy territory during an amphibious assault. The largest fleet of these types is operated by the United

States Navy.

96. (c) **JNPT**
 Cochin port (Kerala) is considered to be one of the largest port between Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. This port is equipped with maritime facilities. Chennai port is second largest and third oldest port in India. Jawaharlal Nehru port (Mumbai) is the largest container port in India and is also known by NhavaSheva.
97. (b) **Russian**
 A team of six Russian specialists from turbine manufacturer Power Machines have come to Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KNPP) to complete the vibration adjustment of the new generator stator in the second unit.
98. (a) **Tarapur**
 On 11 October 1960, the Indian government issued a tender for India's first nuclear power station near Tarapur, Maharashtra and consisting of two reactors, each generating around 150 MW of electricity and to be commissioned in 1965.
99. (a) **Japan**
 Construction was halted on the project in October 2011 after protests against the plant led by The People's Movement against Nuclear Energy in the wake of Fukushima. The Indian Supreme Court dismissed the protestor's public suit

against the plant in May 2013.

100. (c) **Pressurised water reactors**
 Kudankulam is the only nuclear plant in India that uses pressurised water reactors (PWR) rather than boiling water reactors (BHR) or pressurised heavy-water reactors (PHWR). The PWRs are based on Russian technology and were supplied by Atomstroyexport.
101. (b) **Mumbai**
 The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited is an Indian public sector undertaking based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is wholly owned by the Government of India and is responsible for the generation of nuclear power for electricity. NPCIL is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy.
102. (c) **Security against loan**
 Collateral definition is - property (such as securities) pledged by a borrower to protect the interests of the lender. How to use collateral in a sentence.
103. (a) **To allow for relatively bigger companies to avail the benefits of cheaper and priority loans**
 Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman on May 13 said that the definition of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) will be changed to allow for relatively bigger companies to avail the benefits of cheaper and priority loans.

104. (b) **Indifi**
 Indifi is a SME focused lending platform. It offers right-fit credit products for MSMEs, improving the standard of risk assessment, and leveraging the supply chain linkages of MSMEs.

105. (c) **2006**

106. (d) **Tax Deduction at Source**
 The concept of TDS was introduced with an aim to collect tax from the very source of income. As per this concept, a person (deductor) who is liable to make payment of specified nature to any other person (deductee) shall deduct tax at source and remit the same into the account of the Central Government.

107. (c) **Global tenders to be allowed up to ₹200 crores**
 The Indian government will now disallow tenders up to ₹200 crores from foreign companies. The government justified the decision by saying that the move is aimed at protecting MSMEs from the unfair competition from foreign entities.

108. (a) **Nitin Gadkari**
 The Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is NitinGadkari and the Minister of State is Pratap Chandra Sarangi since 31 May 2019.



(Q.109-Q.111):

World Water Day was observed more online than in-person this year on [1], given the guidelines notified by the WHO in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, yet its broader aim remained constant: to raise awareness on the importance of freshwater and advocate for its sustainable management.

More than any previous year, there was a recognition of the importance of water in handwashing and personal hygiene practices, an action that is as important as social distancing and nationwide lockdowns in breaking the circuit of coronavirus transmission.

Due to climate change, water cycles experience significant change, which reflects in water availability and quality. A warmer climate causes more water to evaporate from both land and oceans; in turn, a warmer atmosphere can hold more water, roughly 4% more water for every 1°F rise in temperature.

Water resources planning must be given due consideration while dealing with climate impacts. As tanks and ponds can store and recharge the excess rainwater to the aquifer, their rejuvenation (desilting) facilitates flood and drought management. We need to revisit our rich tradition and culture of water wisdom in water resources management. More public awareness on the need for climate-resilient actions, including protecting carbon sinks like oceans, wetlands, peatlands, and mangroves, adopting climate-smart agricultural techniques, rainwater harvesting, waste-water reuse, and judicious use of water, should be generated and inculcated in each citizen.

109. Fill [1] with a suitable option.

- (a) 28th February

- (b) 2nd March
-
- (c) 22nd March (d) 9th April

110. What is the theme of 2020 World Water Day?

- (a) Conservation of Drinking water
-
- (b) Reuse of Water
-
- (c) Water and Climate change
-
- (d) Industrial contamination of water

111. Which of the following is not a characteristics of 'Peatland'?

- (a) They cover around 3% of global land surface
-
- (b) Area remains in yearlong waterlogged condition
-
- (c) Fast decomposition of plant takes place
-
- (d) Type of wetland grow on the peat soil

(Q.112-Q.116):

Reports of Donald Trump-led US government planning to temporarily suspend various guest worker visas, including H1-B visas, have caused an uncertainty in the Indian IT/ITes sector — the highest beneficiary of these visas.

According to US official data, 2,75,000 H1-B visa applications were received for FY21 alone. However, due to stricter regimes and compliance costs, the rejection rate for these visas stood at 30 per cent in the first quarter of FY20. The rejection rate for Indian IT/ITes and consultancy firms is even higher than the US-headquartered firms. Nearly 67 per cent of fresh H1B visa applications for FY21 came from India, the data showed.

Amid a soaring unemployment rate in the US with 20.5 million jobs having been lost in April alone due

to Covid-19 pandemic, four US lawmakers have written to Trump seeking "suspension of guest worker visas for at least next year or until unemployment returned to normal levels." The letter mentions that given the extreme lack of jobs for American job-seekers, it defies common sense to admit more foreign workers for such limited employment.

"A move to temporarily suspend the H1-B visas will be unprecedented for the Indian IT/ITes sector who definitely rely on these visas for many of their contracts within US. The industry needs to adopt a wait-and-watch policy to see if the Republicans also vote for the legislation that bans H1-B visas. If at all such a law is passed, it will trigger a new wave of recruitment by Indian IT firms within the US in short term. For now, there is a huge uncertainty," Shailesh Shah, CEO, Strta Consulting, told TMS.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services earlier extended a grace period of 60 days for H1-B visa holders who were laid off, in a big relief to lakhs of Indian techies stranded in the US right now. Many skilled professionals from the IT industry who were laid off in the current wave of unemployment have been asked to either leave the country or find a suitable job within the period.

"Any such law, if at all passed, will be only implemented next year, given the H1B visa applications process for this year has already begun. Even a temporary ban on H1-B visas is highly unlikely as Indian and global tech firms, and Silicon Valley start-ups have been hiring Indians on H1-B visas," said Pareekh Jain, founder, EIIRTRend and Pareekh Consulting.

112. What is the permissible duration of stay in United States under H1B Visa?

- (a) 2 years (b) 3 years
-
- (c) 4 years (d) 5 years

113. H1B Visa of USA is under the Immigration and Nationality Act, 1965, section 101(a)(15)(H). What is another popular name for Immigration and Nationality Act, 1965?

- (a) Simon Doe
-
- (b) Hart Celler
-
- (c) Clifford Hawkins
-
- (d) None of the above

114. Fill in the blanks -

Donald Trump is the _____ President of the United States.

- (a) 42nd (b) 43rd
-
- (c) 44th (d) 45th

115. Which Indian company was the largest receiver of H1B visas among all the Indian companies in FY-2019?

- (a) HCL Technologies
-
- (b) Tata Consultancy Services
-
- (c) Wipro
-
- (d) Larsen & Toubro Infotech

116. What is the grace period provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for H1-B visa holders who were laid off following the COVID-19 outbreak?

- (a) 30 days (b) 60 days
-
- (c) 45 days (d) 90 days



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

109. (c) 22nd March

110. (c) Water and Climate change

The choice of theme for the event this year, "Water and Climate Change" reflected the desire of policymakers to address the impact of climate change on the water sector.

111. (c) Fast decomposition of plant takes place

Peatlands are a type of wetlands that occur in almost every country on Earth, currently covering 3% of the global land surface. The term 'peatland' refers to the

peat soil and the wetland habitat growing on its surface. In these areas, year-round waterlogged conditions slow the process of plant decomposition to such an extent that dead plants accumulate to form peat. Over millennia this material builds up and becomes several metres thick.

112. (b) 3 years

The duration of stay is three years, extendable to six years; after which the visa holder may need to reapply. An exception to maximum length of stay applies in certain circumstances.

113. (b) Hart Celler

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 also known as the Hart-Celler Act, is a federal law passed by the 89th United States Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The 1965 legislation was named the Hart-Celler Act for its principal sponsors in the Senate and House of Representatives.

114. (d) 45th

Donald John Trump is the 45th and current president of the United States. Before entering politics, he was a businessman and television personality.

115. (b) Tata Consultancy Services

India's IT services giant Tata Consultancy Services was the largest Indian recipient company of initial or fresh H-1B visas in the FY-2019. Total of 1367 H1B Visas were issued to TCS in the FY-2019.

116. (b) 60 days

The Trump administration has provided a 60-day grace period to work visa and green card holders and applicants who were in the middle of having their petitions processed before the coronavirus pandemic disrupted it.

(Q.117-Q.121):

Shares of defence companies were in focus in the intraday trade after the government said it would relax foreign direct investment norms in defence manufacturing by allowing 74 per cent FDI under the automatic route. Even though the stock market traded muted, defence stocks bucked the overall trend and hit the intraday high of as much as 10 per cent from previous close in early trade Monday. However, the shares gave up the gains later with most ending in the red.

The shares of Hindustan Aeronautics jumped 10 per cent, Bharat Electronics rose 5.53 per cent, BEML advanced 5.31 per cent, Astra Microwave Products surged 4.93 per cent, and Bharat Dynamics traded up 4.71 per cent in the early hours on the BSE. Barring Hindustan Aeronautics closing up 4 per cent, others ended in the negative territory amid weak market sentiment.

According to the current FDI policy, [x] per cent overseas investments are permitted in the defence industry -- 49 per cent under the automatic route, while beyond that government approval is required. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the FDI limit for the sector under automatic route would be raised from 49 per cent to [y] per cent.

Meanwhile, benchmark equity indices - Sensex and Nifty - ended sharply down on Monday, as investors fretted over the announcement of extension of the nationwide coronavirus lockdown till May 31. The government's fiscal stimulus package also couldn't revive confidence in investors. Sensex closed 1,068 points lower at 30,028 and Nifty declined 313 points to 8,823.

"Indian indices ended lower (contrary to the trend in Asian and European markets) for the third consecutive day on May 18 as details of Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced by the Finance Minister over Wed-Sun disappointed listed corporates and market participants. Extension of lockdown and large additions of Covid-19 cases also dampened spirits. At close Nifty was down 313.60 points or 3.43% at 8823.25," Deepak Jasani, Head Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

"Index has given a closing below 21&50 DMA which further points out weakness in the counter. Moreover, The Index has formed a bearish marubozu candle which suggests selling pressure in the index. At present level index is having good resistance level at 9150 level while support comes at 8,740 levels," Sumeet Bagadia, Executive Director, Choice Broking, said.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/markets/stocks/defence-stocks-rise-up-to-10-after-govt-relaxes-fdi-norms/story/404241.html>

117. Under the current FDI Policy, what is the limit of foreign investment allowed in Defence sector, redacted as [x] in the passage?

- (a) 51% (b) 66%
(c) 75% (d) 100%

118. Investments from which of the following countries can come to India only under Government route FDI?

- (a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh
(c) China (d) All of the above

119. Government of India is planning to increase the FDI limit in Defence under automatic route to what percentage, redacted as [y]?

- (a) 66% (b) 74%
(c) 75% (d) 80%

120. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in India is regulated by FEMA Act 2000. Which Organisation/Institution is vested with sole power/authority to regulate on the subject?

- (a) RBI
(b) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)
(c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(d) None of the above

121. Fill in the blanks -

Any Investment under _____ % stake is classified as FPI.

- (a) 5% (b) 10%
(c) 15% (d) 20%

(Q.122-Q.126):

The US is joining the rest of the G7 in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, in an effort to contain China's influence on AI.

The initiative was launched in 2019 to build a consensus on AI ethics, but has made little impact since — partly because the US initially refused to join.

White House officials feared the group would damage US tech firms, even though its recommendations aren't legally binding and it can't regulate private companies. Cédric O, France's digital affairs minister, had warned the US that its decision would help China export its authoritarian approach to AI.

"If you don't want a Chinese model in western countries, for instance to use AI to control your population, then you need to set up some rules that must be common," he told Wired in January.

Today's announcement suggests the US has heeded the warning.

"The pandemic has made clear why AI development aligned with privacy, freedom, and civil liberties is such an imperative," said Michael Kratsios, the White House's Chief Technology Officer, tweeted today. "It is critical that America stand alongside those who share and promote our values."

In an op-ed for The Wall Street Journal, Kratsios described the group as a bulwark against authoritarian regimes abusing AI.

He said its first act will be committing to using AI responsibly to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, drawing a stark contrast to China, which has been accused of using the tech to punish critics of its response to the outbreak.

"It is critical that America stand alongside those who share and promote our values and push back on such efforts," said Kratsios, who worked Trump supporter Peter Thiel before joining the White House.

Still, the US' motivations for joining the rest of the G7 in the program are unlikely only ethical. China has publically aims to become the world's leader in AI by 2030, but the US won't give up the top spot without a fight. Its best chance of retaining its lead will be strengthening its ties to other democratic nations.

<https://thenextweb.com/neural/2020/05/28/us-joins-g7-ai-alliance-to-counter-chinas-influence/>

122. Which of the following countries is NOT a part of G7?

- (a) USA (b) UK
(c) The Netherlands (d) Italy

123. Where was the 46th G7 summit scheduled to be held?

- (a) USA (b) France
(c) UK (d) Italy

124. The G7 is considering the creation of a group of 10 democratic countries, dubbed as D10, to reduce its dependence on a Chinese company. Which company is it?

- (a) Xiaomi (b) Huawei
(c) ZTE (d) None of the above

125. European Union is a member of G7 and holds all the privileges and obligations of membership but without the right to host or chair a summit. Who is the current President of European Parliament?

- (a) Ursula von der Leyen
(b) David Sassoli
(c) Charles Michel
(d) None of the above

126. Who currently holds the presidency of G7?

- (a) Angela Merkel
(b) Justin Trudeau
(c) Donald Trump
(d) Boris Johnson

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

117. (d) 100%

According to the current FDI policy, 100 per cent overseas investments are permitted in the defence industry -- 49 per cent under the automatic route, while beyond that government approval is required.

118. (d) All of the above

The government of India has dropped foreign direct investment (FDI) coming from its neighbours from the automatic approval list. A release by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said, "An entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the government route". Such investments will now need prior government approval.

119. (b) 74%

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

said the FDI limit for the sector under automatic route would be raised from 49 per cent to 74 per cent.

120. (a) RBI

In India, foreign direct investment policy is regulated under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 2000 governed by the Reserve Bank of India. Under the FEMA Rules, 2019, only RBI has been vested with the power to make regulations.

121. (b) 10%

In October, 2019, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), had reclassified FDI and FPI with a view to widen the scope of regulation. The new rules state that any investment below 10% stake through any route will be classified as FPI. This means, even direct investments below 10% stake will be classified as FPI.

122. (c) The Netherlands

The Group of 7 or G7 is an intergovernmental

economic organization that consists of world's largest economies such as France, Canada, Italy, Germany, Japan, UK and US.

123. (a) USA

The 46th G7 summit was scheduled to be held on June 10 through June 12, 2020, originally to take place in Camp David, United States, on behalf of the Group of Seven. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting will be conducted by video conference.

124. (b) Huawei

United Kingdom is seeking to form a new alliance of 10 countries (G7 along with India, South Korea and Australia), dubbed as 'D10', to align against China and reduce its reliance on Chinese telecom giant Huawei. The move comes amidst the backdrop of heightened security concerns after the UK launched a probe into Huawei's involvement in the country's mobile network upgrade following the United States imposed

sanctions against the Chinese telecom company. As of now, Nokia and Ericsson are the only companies capable of providing 5G infrastructure but none of the two can as quickly and cheaply as Huawei.

125. (b) David Sassoli

The European Parliament is one of three legislative institutions of the European Union, which together with the Council of the European Union is tasked with amending and approving the Commission's proposals. David Sassoli is the current President of The European Parliament.

126. (a) Angela Merkel

Each year the heads of government take turns assuming the presidency, whose job it is to set the agenda for and host the annual summit. The leader who has been in office the longest of the eight leaders is considered the Senior G7 leader; currently Angela Merkel since 2014, and previously from 2011 to 2012.



(Q.127-Q.132):

India's antitrust body is looking into allegations that Alphabet Inc's Google is abusing its market position to unfairly promote its mobile payments app in the country, five sources familiar with the case told Reuters.

The complaint was filed in February and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has kept the identity of the complainant confidential, the first source with direct knowledge of the case said.

The complaint alleges the U.S. tech giant more prominently showcases its Google Pay app inside its Android app store in India, giving it an unfair advantage over apps of competitors which hurts consumers, the source added.

Google did not respond to a request for comment. Two of the sources said the watchdog informed Google about the case being filed a few days ago and the company will respond in due course.

The CCI can direct its investigations unit to conduct a wider probe into the allegations, or dismiss the case if it finds no merit in it.

127. Who is the CEO of Alphabet,google's parent Company ?

- (a) Satya Nadella (b) Larry Page
(c) Sergey Brin (d) Sundar Pichai

128. What was the name of Google Pay when it was launched in India ?

- (a) Google Payout
(b) Google Payment
(c) Tez
(d) Google Instant

129. Which of the following is the common

function of Competition Commission of India ?

- (a) Eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition,
(b) Promote and sustain competition,
(c) Protect the interests of consumers,
(d) All of the above.

130. When was the Competition Commission of India established ?

- (a) 2003 (b) 2009
(c) 2004 (d) 2006

131. How many members are there in the Competition Commission of India ?

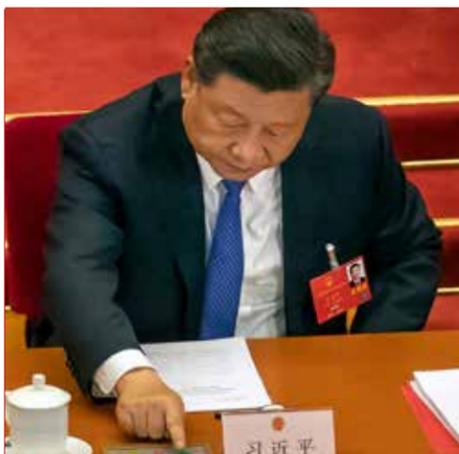
- (a) 5 (b) 6
(c) 8 (d) 9

132. Who is the Current chairman of Competition Commission of India ?

- (a) Ashok Kumar Gupta
(b) AshwinLohani
(c) Mukesh Jaiswal
(d) Chandra Shekhar Singh

(Q.133-Q.137):

China's Parliament on Thursday passed new legislation for Hong Kong that will for the first time empower Beijing



to draft national security laws for the Special Administrative Region (SAR).

At the closing session of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, the draft legislation was passed overwhelmingly, with 2,878 votes for, one against and six abstentions in the Communist Party-controlled legislature.

The law, called the "NPC Decision on Establishing and Improving the Legal System and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to Safeguard National Security", essentially empowers the NPC to draft new national security laws for Hong Kong.

133. Hong Kong was formerly a British colony and was handed over to mainland China in which year ?

- (a) 1992 (b) 1994
(c) 1997 (d) 2001

134. In which year the Umbrella Revolution in China took Place ?

- (a) 2012 (b) 2013
(c) 2018 (d) 2014

135. What was the main reason of the Hongkong protest of 2019 ?

- (a) Interference of China in Hongkong politics
(b) China's Economic Policies
(c) Extradition Bill
(d) Interference in the Hongkong's election

136. Hongkong is part of China under the 'One Country,two system' Principle. Which is the other region which is been governed by this Principle ?

- (a) Macau (b) Seoul



- (c) Taipei (d) Taiwan

137. The Special Administrative Region term of Hongkong will end in which year ?

- (a) 2040 (b) 2047
(c) 2050 (d) 2042

(Q.138-Q.141):

China has issued a statement reiterating its long-standing objections to the presence of the US [1] missile defence system in [2]. Its opposition came following reports of an overnight operation to bring in new, replacement interceptor missiles to the US base in [2].

China has been objecting to the defence system since it was first deployed in [2] three year ago, causing a deterioration in ties between the two countries.

This missile defense system has been designed and manufactured by the US company[3]. [2 is not the only country with this missile defense system. It has been previously deployed in the UAE, Guam, Israel and Romania.

The US had previously announced that the deployment of this missile defense system was a countermeasure against potential attacks, particularly after the country had engaged in testing ballistic missiles.

138. Which has been replaced by [1] in the above passage ?

- (a) FSAF (b) S-400
(c) THAAD (d) BARAK 8

139. Which has been replaced by [2] in the above passage ?

- (a) Japan (b) Hongkong
(c) North Korea (d) South Korea

140. Which has been replaced by [3] in the above passage ?

- (a) Anti Ballistic (b) Antiship
(c) Ballistic (d) Surface to Air

141. What is the Capital of South Korea ?

- (a) Seoul (b) Busan
(c) Incheon (d) Daegu

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

127. (d) SundarPichai

128. (c) Tez

129. (d) All of the above.

130. (a) 2003

131. (b) 6

132. (a) Ashok Kumar Gupta

Explanation - The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is looking into allegations that Google is abusing its market position to unfairly promote its mobile payments app in the country. The complaint alleges that Google showcases its Google Pay app inside its Android app store in India more prominently. Thus, it gives it an unfair advantage over apps of competitors, which hurts consumers.

This is Google's third major antitrust challenge in India.SundarPichai,an Indian American business executive, the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiary Google LLC.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India. It is responsible for enforcing The Competition Act, 2002 throughout India.It prevents activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. It was established on 14 October 2003 and became fully functional in May 2009. CCI consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Central Government. Ashok kumar Gupta is the present chairman of CCI.

133. (c) 1997

134. (d) 2014

135. (c) Extradition Bill

136. (a) Macau

137. (b) 2047

Explanation - A draft legislation on national security has been tabled before China's Parliament which will allow Beijing to draft national security laws for Hong Kong and also operate its national security organs in it. This, will make changes in the Basic Law, the mini-constitution which defines ties between Hong Kong and Beijing (China's capital). Basic Law allows Hong Kong to enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, barring matters of defence and foreign affairs.

Hong Kong was formerly a British colony

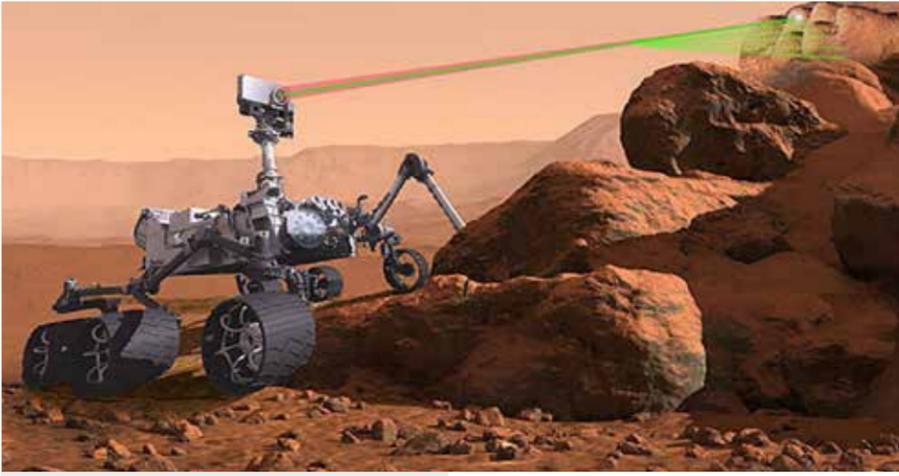
and was handed over to mainland China in 1997, becoming one of its Special Administrative Regions (SAR).In 2014, over one lakh city residents took part in the Umbrella Revolution to protest against China's denial of democratic reforms. In 2019, the largest protest till now, took place against a proposed extradition law, and continued with pro-democracy marches even after the legislation was withdrawn.

138. (c) THAAD

139. (d) South Korea

140. (a) Anti Ballistic

141. (a) Seoul



(Q.142-Q.146):

In its mission to Mars this summer, NASA is sending a new laser-toting robot as one of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.

[1] packs what would typically require several sizable pieces of equipment into something no bigger than a cereal box. It fires a pulsed laser beam out of the rover's mast to vaporise small portions of rock from a distance, providing information that will be essential to the mission's success.

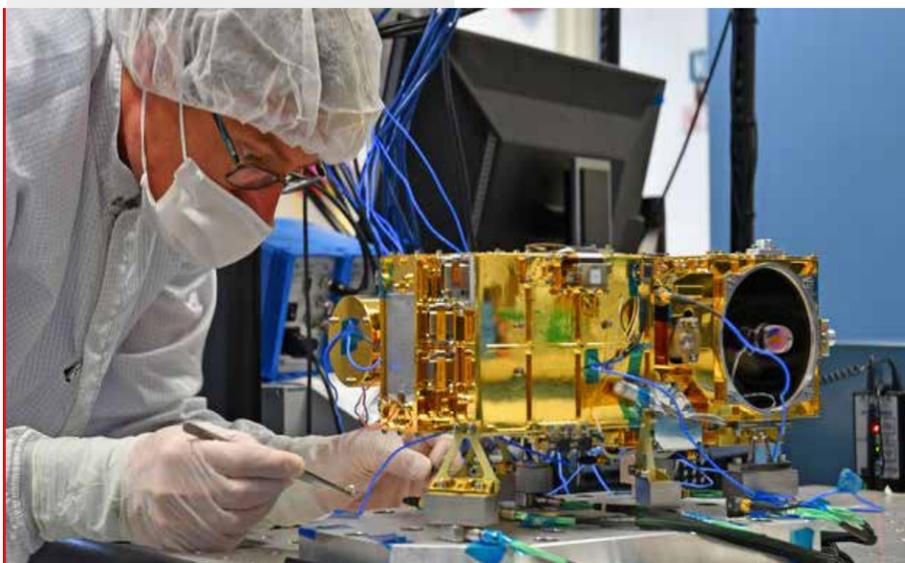
NASA lists five things to know

* From more than 7 m away, [1] can fire a laser to study rock targets smaller than a pencil point. That lets the rover study spots it can't reach with its arm.

can listen each time the laser hits a target. The popping sound created by the laser subtly changes depending on a rock's material properties. The Mars 2020 rover marks the third time this particular microphone design will go to the Red Planet. In the late 1990s, the same design rode aboard the Mars Polar Lander, which crashed on the surface. In 2008, the Phoenix mission experienced electronics issues that prevented the microphone from being used.

142. What is the name of the Mars rover which is scheduled to be launched in 2020?

- (a) Curiosity (b) Houston
(c) Perseverance (d) SuperCam



* [1] looks at rock textures and chemicals to find those that formed or changed in water on Mars long ago.

* [1] looks at different rock and "soil",

* Scientists can learn about how atmospheric molecules, water ice, and dust absorb or reflect solar radiation. This helps predict Martian weather better.

[1] includes a microphone so scientists

143. Which Instrument aboard the Mars rover could potentially detect fossilised microbial life?

- (a) SuperCam
(b) Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals
(c) Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment

(d) Battery

144. For the first time the Mars 2020 rover will also carry on its mission to Mars a;

- (a) Helicopter (b) Drill
(c) Water (d) Jet engine

145. From which of the following islands, Mars 2020 Rover will be launched?

- (a) Kodiak Island, Alaska
(b) Cape Canaveral, Florida
(c) Wallops Island, Virginia
(d) Fraser Island, Australia

146. Which instrument aboard the Mars 2020 rover could identify which elements in the Martian dust may be harmful to humans?

- (a) Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals
(b) Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment
(c) SuperCam
(d) None of the above

(Q.147-Q.150)

Speaker Om Birla has nominated 15 MPs from Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to assist the Delimitation Commission in redrawing the Lok Sabha and the Assembly constituencies of the northeastern States and the Union Territory.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Jitendra Singh and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah are among the 15 MPs who will be associates of the Delimitation Commission.

The appointments were made after the Commission had recently written to Mr. Birla and other presiding officers of the Assemblies to nominate associate members. They will help the panel in its task.

Jammu and Kashmir at present has no Assembly. It is a Union Territory with a provision of a legislature.

The Commission, constituted on March 6 headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, met on Thursday to review its work.

147. Under which article, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census?

- (a) Article 79 (b) Article 80
(c) Article 81 (d) Article 82

148. What is the main motive of the delimitation commission?

- (a) To provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.
(b) Fair division of geographical areas
(c) To follow the principle of "One Vote One Value"
(d) All of the above.

149. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by-

- (a) Parliament
(b) Central Government
(c) President
(d) Cabinet Committee

150. Who is the Present Chief Election Commissioner of India?

- (a) B. Surya (b) Sunil Arora
(c) Nasim Zaidi (d) Achal Jyoti



ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

142. (c) Perseverance

143. (a) SuperCam

144. (a) Helicopter

145. (b) Cape Canaveral, Florida

146. (c) SuperCam

Perseverance is a Mars rover manufactured by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for use in NASA's Mars 2020 mission. Nearly identical in design to the Curiosity rover, Perseverance will carry seven scientific instruments to study the Martian surface at Jezero crater, 23 cameras in total, and two microphones. SuperCam is a suite of remote-sensing

instruments for the Mars 2020 rover mission that performs remote analyses of rocks and soils with a camera, two lasers and four spectrometers to seek organic compounds that could hold bio signatures of past microbial life on Mars, if it ever existed there.

The Mars Helicopter (previously named the Mars Helicopter Scout) is a planned robotic helicopter that will test the technology to scout interesting targets for study on Mars, and help plan the best driving route for future Mars rovers. The small drone helicopter will be deployed in 2021 from the planned Perseverance rover as part of the Mars 2020 mission.

The Perseverance rover will be launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station,

Florida and the launch window is July 17 - Aug. 5, 2020.

The SuperCam will also identify elements which are harmful to humans so that may help plan future manned missions to Mars.

147. (d) Article 82

148. (d) All of the above

149. (c) President

150. (b) Sunil Arora

Explanation - The bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir state into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh has made delimitation of their electoral

constituencies inevitable. Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population. Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.



Afghanistan Power Sharing Deal



GI Tag to Saffron and other Products



J & J 4G



African Swine Fever



GOCO Model



Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant



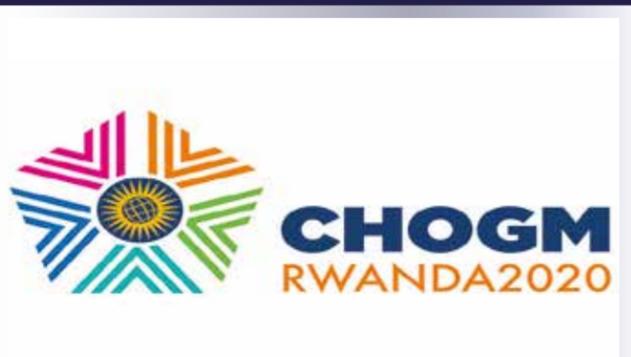
Amphan Cyclone



H1B Visa



Aatma Nirbhaar Bharat Scheme



CHOGM



India China Conflict over Nakula and Pangong Tso



Fdi Norms Relaxation



India and Saudi Arabia Bilateral Relationship



Labour Reforms



g7



Indo Nepal dispute over Kalapani



Migrant Workers and their Movement



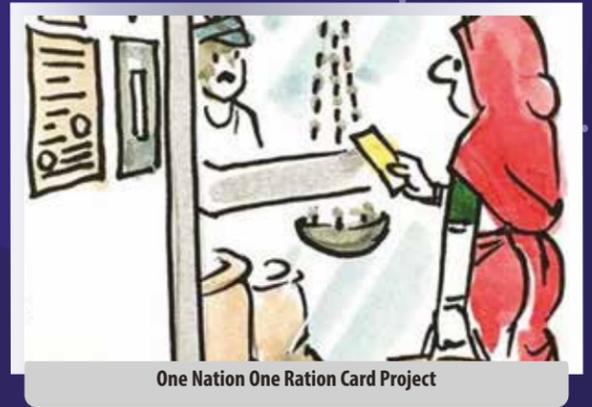
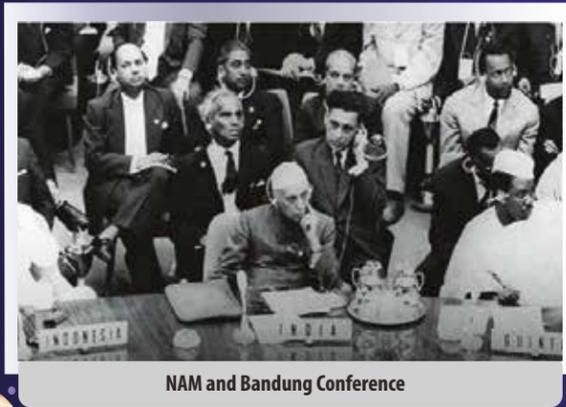
Monetary Policy: Target Rates

Unemployment Below 6.5%

2 to 3% Annual Increase in Gross Domestic Product

Core Inflation Rate between 2 and 2.5%

Monetary Policy Changes



PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN PACKAGE

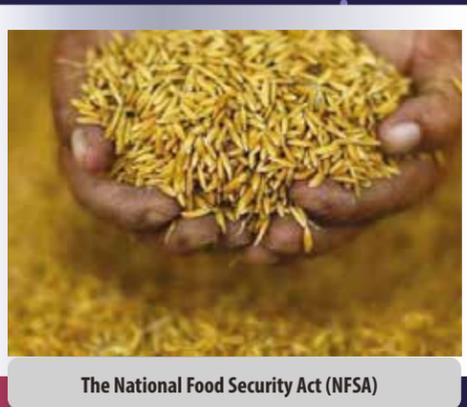
PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

farmers, Women Jan Dhan Account Holders, MGNREGA workers, Women SHGs, Old Age / Widow / Disabled pensioners, private employees to benefit

PM Garib Kalyan Yojana

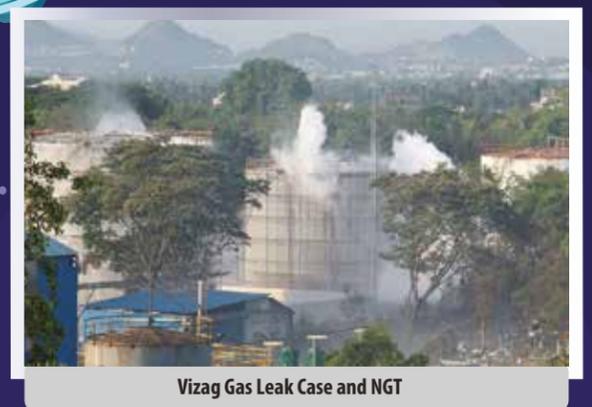
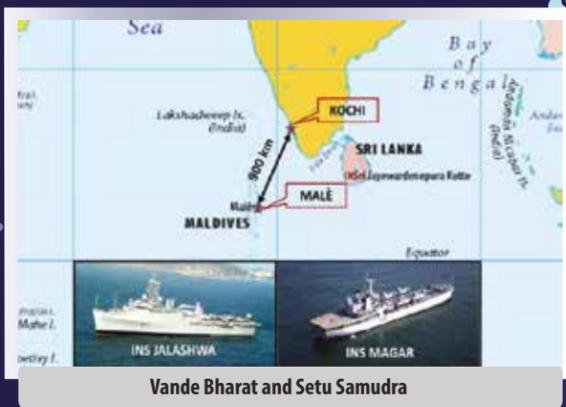
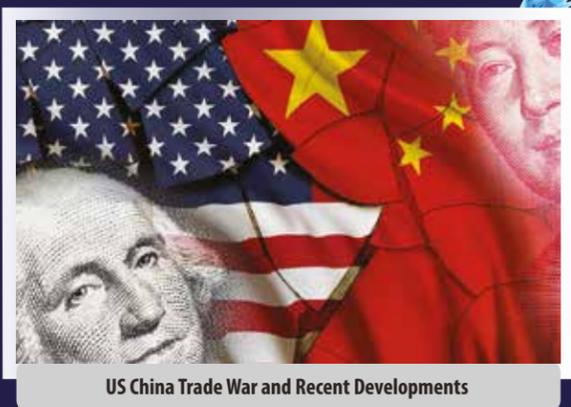
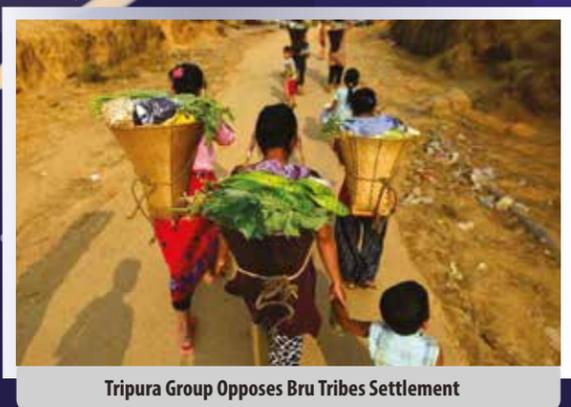


**pic
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2020**



WPI VS CPI

WPI and CPI



Legal Current Affairs

1. The Supreme Court has held that corruption and bribery taking place in a deemed university can be tried under the Prevention of Corruption



Act, 1988. It has said that definition of 'public servant' includes all individuals, authorities connected to a deemed university and can be tried and punished under the anti-corruption law. The Supreme Court observed that the officials of a deemed university do not perform any less of a public duty than their counterparts in other universities.

2. The Supreme Court of India gave its judgement on the admission criteria



of minority institutions. It held that National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is mandatory for admission to all the medical colleges and the right of minority institutions is not absolute and is amenable to regulation. The SC held that the fundamental and religious rights of minorities and rights available under Article 30 are not violated by provisions carved out in Section 10D of the MCI and Dentists Act.

3. In a reply to a query under the Right to Information (RTI) "if the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will



be part of the Electoral College for the election of the President of India", the Election Commission of India (ECI) has asked to refer to Article 54 of the Constitution of India. Article 54 specifically mentions NCT of Delhi and Puducherry as eligible to be part of the Electoral College. There is no word about the newly-formed UT of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

4. The Union government directed States and Union Territories to invoke



the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to fight the Covid-19 outbreak. The colonial-era Act empowers the state governments to take special measures and prescribe regulations in an epidemic. The act provides penalties for disobeying any regulation or order made under the Act. These are according to section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant).

5. Amid the coronavirus-induced lockdown, an increasing number of states that include Uttar Pradesh,



Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat have pushed through changes to their labour laws by way of ordinances or executive orders. Since labour is a concurrent subject under the Constitution of India, states can frame their own laws but need the approval of the Central government. The Uttar Pradesh government has approved an Ordinance exempting businesses from the purview of all the labour laws except few for the next three years. Similarly, the Madhya Pradesh government has also suspended many labour laws for the next 1000 days.

6. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) found LG Polymers prima facie liable



under the strict liability principle for the Vizag gas leak. The NGT directed the company to deposit an initial amount of 50 crore and formed a fact-finding committee.

7. The Supreme Court refused to restore 4G services in Jammu & Kashmir and ordered setting up of a high-powered committee to look into the contentions raised by petitioners



against limited 2G services in the Union Territory. In August 2019, the Central government had suspended all modes of communications in the wake of revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, granted under Article 370. Eventually, services were partially restored, with internet speed restricted to 2G. A plea was filed by 'Foundation for Media Professionals' for restoration of high-speed internet in Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Covid-19 situation.

8. The Gujarat High Court has set aside the election of a BJP leader in 2017



on grounds of "corrupt practice" and "manipulation of record". The order passed on a petition, filed by the opposing Congress candidate, alleged that the returning officer had illegally rejected 429 votes received via postal ballot. The Court held election as void under Section 100(1)(d)(iv) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The observation gains relevance since the number of rejected votes (429) was more than the victory margin (327). The judgment also held that the instructions of the Election Commission was not followed, giving an unfair advantage to the winning candidate and thus materially affecting the election.

9. The Jammu and Kashmir administration notified the J&K Grant



of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules 2020. It amended the rules for issuing domicile certificates in the Union territory. The new rules provide a simple time-bound and transparent procedure for issuance of domicile certificates.

10. A Draft legislation on national security has been tabled before China's Parliament which will allow Beijing to draft national security laws



for Hong Kong and also operate its national security organs in it. It will make changes in the Basic Law, the mini-constitution which defines ties between Hong Kong and Beijing (China's capital). Basic Law allows Hong Kong to enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, barring matters of defence and foreign affairs.

11. The announcement is to conduct



biennial election for 9 vacant seats for the members of Legislative Council of the Maharashtra State Legislature, was made by the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission of India has issued orders to conduct elections under Article 324.

12. A Division Bench of the Rajasthan High Court has upheld the notion that the reproductive choice of a woman is a fundamental right encompassed under the umbrella of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It also held that right of child rape survivor to make any reproductive choice outweighs



the right of the unborn child to be born, even in cases where pregnancy is at an advanced stage. In doing so, the Division Bench set aside a Single Bench judgment which impinged upon the statutory right of seeking medical termination of pregnancy provided to survivors of rape by The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

13. The Delhi Government has appointed former Delhi HC judge Justice Sunil Gaur as 'Claims Commissioner' to investigate the damages and to award compensation relating to the



riots which took place in Delhi in February. The appointment is in terms of the directions given by SC in the 2009 case "Destruction of Public and Private Properties v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2009) 5 SCC 212. The term of appointment is for six months, subject to further extensions.

14. Justice Dipankar Dutta was sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court by Bhagat Singh Koshyari,



the Governor of Maharashtra in the presence of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at Raj Bhavan. Justice Datta who is the 45th Chief Justice of Bombay High Court assumes office as Chief Justice BP Dharmadhikari is retired.

ONE LINERS

1. Confederation of All India



Traders (CAIT) has announced to launch 'Bharatmarket', a national e-commerce marketplace.

2. American private equity giant Silver Lake Partners has announced to buy 1.15% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 5,655.75 crore (\$750 million).

3. Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar launched



"The Saras Collection" on the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal in New Delhi.

4. Civil Aviation Ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have launched the Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones (GARUD) portal.

5. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has started to include Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Muzaffarabad in its meteorological sub-division of Jammu & Kashmir.

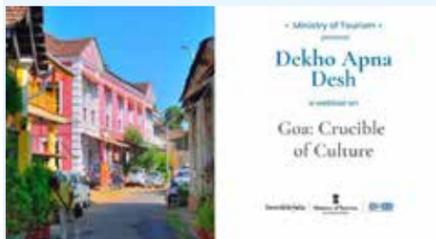
6. The Government of India has launched its biggest ever



evacuation exercises named the Vande Bharat Mission, to bring home nearly 15,000 Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.

7. The incident of Styrene gas leakage occurred in a chemical plant LG Polymers industry in the early hours at 3 am in RR Venkatapuram village, GopalapatnamMandal in Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh on 7 May.

8. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India organized



the 16th webinar titled "Goa-Crucible of Culture" under the DekhoApnaDesh series on 7 May 2020.

9. Kashmiri saffron received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

10. The Maharashtra government has announced the inclusion of state's whole population under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Aarogya Yojana.

11. Uttar Pradesh State government passed an ordinance 'Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020' to suspend labour laws for the next three years.

12. The United States Food and Drug Authority (USFDA) has allowed



emergency use of the antiviral drug, Remdesivir for treatment of severely ill COVID-19 patients.

13. Russia will launch first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring Arctic climate this year at the end of the year, General Director of Lavochkin aerospace company Vladimir Kolmykov told sputnik news agency.

14. US President Donald Trump



has nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as his envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

15. Dubai has announced a new date for the mega Expo event from 1st Oct 2021 to 31st March 2022.

16. The Iranian Parliament has announced the decision to replace its currency "Rial" with another basic unit of currency called the "Toman."

17. Iraq's Parliament chose an American-backed former Intelligence Chief, Mustafa



al-Kadhimi as the new Prime Minister.

18. China has successfully launched a new rocket named "Long March 5B" into space as it steps up Moon landing plans.

19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the online Summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group was held on 4 May 2020 to discuss the response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

20. Amazon has topped the BrandZ



Top 75 Most Valuable Global Retail Brands 2020 ranking. BrandZ ranking was unveiled by WPP and Kantar.

21. UNICEF released a report titled "Lost At Home" on 5 May.

22. Delhi has emerged as the top most state with the highest Internet penetration rate among all the other states of India, according to a study titled 'Digital in India' by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

23. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) extended environmentalist and actorproducer DiaMirza's term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of 2022.

24. Australia restricts the use of



saliva & sweat to shine ball under COVID-19 guidelines. Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in consultation with doctors has come up with guidelines, restricting the utilization of saliva and sweat to shine the ball

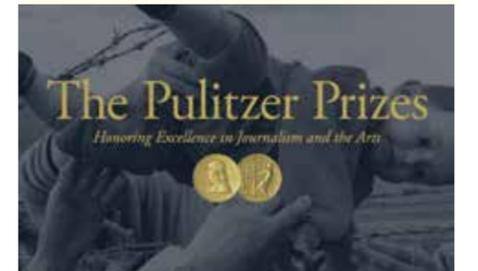
25. Discus thrower Sandeep Kumari has been banned for 4 years by WADA's Athletics Integrity Unit for flunking a dope test.

26. Egyptian professional tennis player Youssef Hossam has been banned from professional tennis for life for match-fixing, as per

the official notification by the Tennis Integrity Unit on 4 May 2020.

27. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the road link from Dharchula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulekh (China Border) on 8 May.

28. Three Indian journalists have



been honoured with the "Pulitzer Prize 2020" in the field of feature photography.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a Special economic and comprehensive package of Rs.20 lakh crores on 13 May 2020, equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, for relief and credit support related to businesses, especially Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to support Indian Economy's fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

30. The Supreme Court (SC)



brought cooperative banks under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Act of 2002 (SARFAESI Act) that empowers lenders to seize and sell defaulters' assets.

31. Prime Ministers Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) trust has allocated Rs.3,100crore for fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

32. Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to install ventilator-beds in all the government-run district hospitals in all 75 districts of the state.

33. The Sohrai Khovar painting of Jharkhand and Telia Rumaal of Telangana have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry

34. The World Health Organization



(WHO) and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on 9 May to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox.

35. Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday on 08 May.

36. China successfully launched two satellites into orbit on 12 May 2020, to test the space-based Internet of Things (IoT) communications technology.

37. Slovenia becomes the 1st nation in Europe to declare an official



end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

38. The Ministry of Tourism organized the 18th DekhoApnaDesh webinar series on 12 May 2020.

39. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has organised the Indo-Bangladesh "Virtual Conference".

40. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar participated in the virtual meeting of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries on 13 May.

41. World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and Nursing Now has released the first "The State of the World's Nursing 2020" report amid COVID19 pandemic.

42. As per the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual rankings,



India has secured the 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI). In the previous year, India ranked 76th.

43. Odisha cadre IAS, Manoj Ahuja has been appointed the new chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

44. IAS officer V. Vidyavathi is appointed as the new Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) effective from 12th May 2020.

45. Former Commonwealth gold medalist Indian boxer Akhil



Kumar was re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA).

46. The Head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Roberto Azevedo has announced his resignation, a year before his term expires.

47. International Hockey Federation (FIH) has extended the term of Narinder Batra as President of FIH until May 2021.

48. Para-athlete Deepa Malik has announced her retirement from Paralympics games to hold her post as the president of the Paralympic Committee of India.

49. The FIFA U-17 Women's World



Cup has been rescheduled between 17 February and 7 March 2021.

50. The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.

51. Indian tennis player Sania Mirza becomes 1st Indian to win Fed



Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone.

52. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune has developed and validated the indigenous IgG ELISA test 'COVID KAVACH ELISA' for antibody detection for COVID-19.

53. Eminent historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away due to COVID-19.

54. Former Lok Sabha MP and senior Janta Dal(S) leader Raja Rangappa Naik passed away.

55. Actor Sai Gundewar, who rose

to prominence through MTV's show Splitsvilla, has passed away due to brain cancer, in US while undergoing treatment.

56. Reliance Industries Limited



(RIL) announced the sale of 1.34% stake in its digital services subsidiary, Jio Platforms to global Private Equity (PE) firm General Atlantic for Rs 6,598.38 crores, to accelerate consumer business and cut debt.

57. Severe Cyclonic storm 'Amphan' over southeast bay and adjoining southwest bay has intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm as it moved northwards.

58. India Post has released a Special Postal Cover dedicated to the migrant workers with an objective of paying tribute to them.

59. The Government of India implemented the recommendations made by the Shekatkar Committee to create border infrastructure.

60. In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, Charan Paduka (चरणपादुका) campaign has been started for the migrant labourers passing through the state.

61. The Union Territory, Ladakh has become corona virus free as the region have not reported any fresh case since 3rd May 2020.

62. Prime Minister Benjamin



Netanyahu finally swore in his new government on 17 May for the fifth time.

63. Nepal approved a new map that included the territories of Kalapani, Lipuleh and Limpiyadhura

64. Lesotho Prime Minister, Thomas Thabane has formally resigned from the post.

65. In Abu Dhabi, Al Ain Zoo celebrated 'World Turtle Day' to encourage the international humanitarian action to conserve and protect the Oldest Creatures on Earth - turtles.

66. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union



Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) through Video Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

67. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attended Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) through video conference.

68. India became the second largest producer of Personal Protective Equipment in the world. China is the leading producer of PPE in the world.

69. India & Bangladesh signed the



2nd Addendum to the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade in Dhaka.

70. Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma will be resigning from Soft Bank board of directors. Jack Ma serving for nearly 13 years in the board.

71. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan is likely to take charge as the Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board on May 22, 2020.

72. The Appointments Committee of

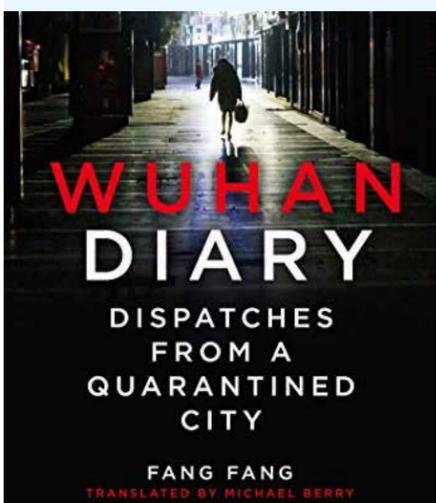


the Union Cabinet has appointed Govinda Rajulu Chintala as the Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

73. World Bank Group has appointed Carmen Reinhart as its new Vice President and Chief Economist.

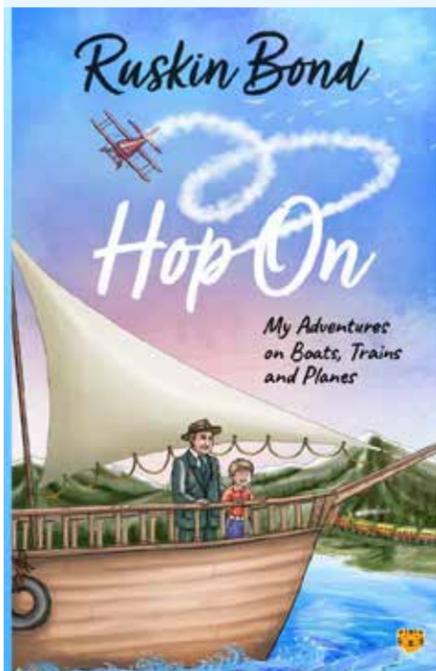
74. Indian economist Abhas Jha has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia.

75. The book titled as "Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City" authored by Chinese literary writer Fang Fang is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19, captures the challenges of daily life and the changing moods and emotions of being quarantined without reliable information &



is a remarkable record of the extraordinary time.

76. Ruskin Bond's new book titled



'Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes' was released on his 86th Birthday in an e-book format.

77. A new parasitic fungus was discovered by a Denmark biologist called "Troglomycestwitteri".

78. Noted Marathi dramatist, litterateur, theatre personality and National Award-winning director, Ratnakar Matkari passed away in Mumbai

79. The King George Medical University in Uttar Pradesh became the first government hospital to launch plasma therapy to treat COVID-19.

80. Maharashtra Day and Gujarat



Day is celebrated in the Indian states of Maharashtra and Gujarat on 1 May every year.

81. Black rice of Manipur, also called the Chak-Hao, Gorakhpur Terracotta and Kadalai Mittai of Kovilpatti bagged Geographical Indication tag.

82. Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to



provide mid-day meal ration.

83. The Pakistan Navy successfully test-fired a series of anti-ship missiles in the North Arabian Sea on 25 April.

84. India sent 50,000 surgical gloves and one lakh tablets of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to Bangladesh to help its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

85. President of the United States Donald Trump nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

86. Australia has informed India that their premier multilateral air combat training exercise Pitch Black 2020 scheduled from July 27 to August 14 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation

87. Professor Wang Rong, director of



China Institute for Educational Finance Research of Peking University, was elected director of IIEP Council of UNESCO, with the tenure of four years.

88. The United States Navy has said that it will host the world's largest maritime exercises in Hawaii again this year, but the drills will only be held at sea because of the Corona virus.

89. India has extended \$ 150 million



foreign currency swap support

to Maldives to help reduce the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID 19).

90. The US space agency NASA has partnered with SpaceX, Blue Origin and Dynetics to build lunar landing systems that can carry astronauts to the moon by 2024.

91. Union Minister of External



Affairs S. Jaishankar joins his counterparts from Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa for a meeting on 28 April.

92. Union Minister of Environment,



Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar represented India in the first virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue on 28 April.

93. According to a CRISIL Research report, Karnataka retained its 1st position in terms of total installed renewable capacity in FY20 followed by Tamil Nadu(2nd) & Gujarat(3rd).

94. According to the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP), India has been ranked at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability with the score of 49 out of 100.

95. A senior judge of the Calcutta



High Court (HC) Justice Dipankar Datta was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Bombay HC on 28 April.

96. Ministry of Housing and Urban



Affairs, additional secretary, Shiv Das Meena has been appointed as chairman and managing director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for a period of six months with immediate effect.

97. TS Tirumurti, now Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as India's new Ambassador/ Permanent Representative to the UN.

98. Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar was appointed as



the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on 29 April.

99. Former Karnataka cricketer J. Arunkumar, 45 years old, was



appointed as the head coach of the USA (United States of America) men's national team.

100. The President of India appointed advocate Bollampalli Vijaysen Reddy as the judge of Telangana High Court.

Articles You Cannot Afford To Miss

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Virtual Summit

Modi has for the first time addressed the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit since assuming office in 2014.

Highlights of the online summit

- The online NAM Contact Group Summit on “United against COVID-19” was hosted by current NAM Chairman and Azerbaijan President IlhamAliyev.
- The NAM leaders announced the creation of a task force to identify requirements of member countries through a common database reflecting their basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight

• Unlike the UN or the Organization of American States, the NAM has no formal constitution or permanent secretariat.

- All members of the NAM have equal weight within its organization.
- The movement’s positions are reached by consensus in the Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government, which usually convenes every three years.
- The administration of the organization is the responsibility of the country holding the chair, a position that rotates at every summit.

under the Disaster Management Act of 2005.

- Under the Act, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was set up under the Prime Minister, and the National Executive Committee (NEC) was chaired by the Home Secretary.
- The State governments and authorities exercised powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 to issue further directions.
- District authorities such as the Commissioner of Police have consequently

Regulations, 2020: These regulations provides for the issuance of stay orders which can send ‘at-risk individuals’ to a government-specified accommodation facility.

- Both U.K.’s and Singapore’s laws set out unambiguous conditions and legally binding obligations.
- As such, under Singaporean law, the violators may be penalised up to \$10,000 or face six months imprisonment or both.
- In contrast, Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code has a fine amount of



against COVID-19.

What is the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)?

- The NAM is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- The group was started in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961.
- After the UN, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.

Its formation

- NAM emerged in the context of the wave of decolonization that followed World War II.
- It was created by Yugoslavia’s President, Josip Broz Tito, India’s first PM, Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt’s second President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Ghana’s first president Kwame Nkrumah, and Indonesia’s first President, Sukarno.
- All five leaders believed that developing countries should not help either the Western or Eastern blocs in the Cold War.
- As a condition for membership, the states of the NAM cannot be part of a multilateral military alliance (such as the NATO) or have signed a bilateral military agreement with one of the “big powers” involved in Great Power conflicts.
- However, its idea does not signify that a state ought to remain passive or even neutral in international politics.

Terms of summits

• The ministers of foreign affairs of the member states meet more regularly in order to discuss common challenges, notably at the opening of each regular session of the UN General Assembly.

Its relevance today

- One of the challenges of the NAM in the 21st century has been to reassess its identity and purpose in the post-Cold War era.
- The movement has continued to advocate for international cooperation, multilateralism, and national self-determination, but it has also been increasingly vocal against the inequities of the world economic order.
- On the contrary, from the founding of the NAM, its stated aim has been to give a voice to developing countries and to encourage their concerted action in world affairs.

2. Laws to deal with Pandemics

India lacks specific legislation to deal with pandemics like COVID. While NDMA 2005 and Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 has been invoked to deal with the present situation, both acts lack specific provision in dealing with the pandemics. Here we can take lessons from UK’s Coronavirus Act and Singapore’s regulations to create a well-drafted Indian COVID 19 law.

Which acts were used for enforcing lockdown?

- The home ministry issued directions to State governments and district authorities

issued orders to impose Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in public places.

Issues with the laws used for lockdown

- The invoking of the Disaster Management Act has allowed the Union government to communicate seamlessly with the States.
- But serious questions remain whether the Act was originally intended to or is sufficiently capable of addressing the threat of a pandemic.
- The use of the archaic Epidemic Diseases Act reveals the lack of requisite diligence and responsiveness of government authorities in providing novel and innovative policy solutions to address a 21st-century problem.
- Another serious problem is that any violation of the orders passed would be prosecutable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

But section 188 of IPC is a very ineffective and broad provision dealing with disobedience of an order issued by a public servant.

The UK and Singapore’s laws to deal with the pandemic

- U.K.’s Coronavirus Act, 2020: It deals with issues including emergency registration of healthcare professionals, temporary closure of educational institutions, audio-visual facilities for criminal proceedings, powers to restrict gatherings, and financial assistance to industry.
- Singapore’s Infectious Diseases

₹200 to ₹1,000 or imprisonment of one to six months.

• Even then, proceedings under Section 188 can only be initiated by private complaint and not through a First Information Report.

• As such, offences arising out of these guidelines and orders have a weak basis in terms of criminal jurisdiction thereby weakening the objectives of the lockdown.

Problems in the government’s approach

- The Union government showed no inclination towards drafting or enacting COVID-19-specific legislation that could address all the issues pre-emptively.
- There has been little clarity on a road map to economic recovery.
- A consolidated, pro-active policy approach is absent.
- In fact, there has been ad hoc and reactive rule-making, as seen in the way migrant workers have been treated.
- This has also exposed the lack of coordination between the Union and State governments.

Conclusion

In past instances, the Union government has not shied away from promulgating ordinances. These circumstances call out for legislative leadership, to assist and empower States to overcome COVID-19 and to revive their economic, education and public health sectors.

Back2Basics: National Disaster Management Act 2005

• On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act.

• The act envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister.

• The act also provides for State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers.

• NDMA and SDMAs spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

• The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.

• According to the Disaster Management Act, 2005 a disaster is defined as-

• A catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or manmade causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial

loss of life or human suffering or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.

• The MHA has defined a disaster as an "extreme disruption of the functioning of a society that causes widespread human, material, or environmental losses that exceed the ability of the affected society to cope with its own resources.

Epidemic Diseases Act 1897

• The Epidemic Diseases Act is routinely enforced across the country for dealing with outbreaks of diseases such as swine flu, dengue, and cholera.

• The colonial government introduced the Act to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that had spread in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency in the 1890s.

• Using powers conferred by the Act, colonies authorities would search suspected plague cases in homes and among passengers, with forcible segregations, evacuations, and demolitions

of infected places.

• Historians have criticised the Act for its potential for abuse.

• In 1897, the year the law was enforced, Lokmanya Tilak was punished with 18 months' rigorous imprisonment after his newspapers Kesari and Mahratta admonished imperial authorities for their handling of the plague epidemic.

Provisions of the 1897 Epidemic Diseases Act

• The Act is one of the shortest Acts in India, comprising just four sections. It aims to provide for the better prevention of the spread of Dangerous Epidemic Diseases.

• The then Governor-General of colonial India had conferred special powers upon the local authorities to implement the measures necessary for the control of epidemics.

• Although, the act does define or give a description of a "dangerous epidemic disease".

Its various sections can be summarized as

under

• The first section describes all the title and extent, the second part explains all the special powers given to the state government and centre to take special measures and regulations to contain the spread of disease.

• The second section has a special subsection 2A empowers the central government to take steps to prevent the spread of an epidemic, especially allowing the government to inspect any ship arriving or leaving any port and the power to detain any person intending to sail or arriving in the country.

• The third section describes the penalties for violating the regulations in accordance with Section 188 of the IPC. Section 3 states, "Six months' imprisonment or 1,000 rupees fine or both could be charged out to the person who disobeys this Act."

• The fourth and the last section deals with legal protection to implementing officers acting under the Act.

Why are India and Nepal fighting over Kalapani?

The story so far: The dispute over Kalapani, which lies on the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, between Nepal and India was revived in November 2019 when India published a revised political map showing the newly created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Both India and Nepal lay claim to Kalapani. The map showed Kalapani as part of Pithoragarh district. Nepal protested immediately and drew attention to the lingering issue. On May 8, India inaugurated the Darchula-Lipulekh pass link road, cutting across the disputed Kalapani area which is used by Indian pilgrims to Kailash Mansarovar. Nepal hit back by summoning the Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, to convey a formal protest.

Where is Kalapani located?

Kalapani is a region located in the easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. It shares a border on the north with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal in the east and south. The region resembles a slice of cake wedged in between Limpiadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani. The area is in India's control but Nepal claims the region because of historical and cartographic reasons. The area is the largest territorial dispute between Nepal and India consisting of at least 37,000 hectares of land in the High Himalayas.

What is the cause of the dispute?

The Kalapani region derives its name from the river Kali. Nepal's claims to the region is based on this river as it became the marker of the boundary of the kingdom of Nepal following the Treaty of Sugauli signed between the Gurkha rulers of Kathmandu and the East India Company after the Gurkha War/Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16). The treaty was ratified in 1816. According to the treaty, Nepal lost the regions of Kumaon-Garhwal in the west and Sikkim in the east. According to Article 5, the King of Nepal gave up his claims over the region west of the river Kali which originates in the High Himalayas and flows into the great plains of the Indian subcontinent. According to the treaty, the British rulers recognised Nepal's right to the region that fell to the east of the river Kali. Here lies the historic origin of the dispute.



According to Nepal's experts, the east of the Kali river should begin at the source of the river. The source according to them is in the mountains near Limpiadhura, which is higher in altitude than the rest of the river's flow. Nepal claims that a land mass, high in the mountains that falls to the east of the entire stretch starting from Limpiadhura downwards, is theirs. India on the other hand says the border begins at Kalapani which India says is where the river begins. The dispute is mainly because of the varying interpretation of the origin of the river and its various tributaries that slice through the mountains. While Nepal's claim of the territory east of Kali

on their way to Kailash Mansarovar. The nearby markets have been used by various mountain communities. The Himalayas have several passes that connect the Gangetic region with the Tibetan plateau but Lipulekh is strategically located as it is nearest to the heart of the Indian state or the National Capital Region and can be of particular concern in case of an armed conflict with China.

What are Nepal's claims regarding Lipulekh pass?

The importance of Himalayan passes with the Tibetan plateau was amply highlighted in the 1962 war. During that war, Chinese

of Kalapani to secure the mountain pass. He reached an agreement with Delhi and handed over the region for security purposes to India. According to another interpretation subscribed to by Kanak Mani Dixit, India, worried over an aggressive China in the 1950s, got the King of Nepal to agree to a proposal to station 18 military outposts along Nepal's northern frontier. In 1969, under bilateral negotiations all the posts were removed barring Kalapani.

Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal Jayant Prasad says the region was always a part of India and India's claims to the area are based on British Indian maps dating back to the 19th century. When pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar paused with the takeover of Tibet by Chinese forces in the mid-1950s, India deployed troops at the Lipulekh pass in 1959, according to Mr. Prasad, who was part of the Eminent Persons Group formed in February 2016 to ensure frank conversation between India and Nepal on controversial issues.

Where have Nepal and India erred?

India and China were in clear violation of Nepal's concerns during the 2015 Lipulekh agreement between India and China which renewed India's Mansarovar pilgrimage connection. Neither side consulted Nepal or sought its opinion before that agreement that boosted pilgrimage and trade to Tibet. Nepal's then Prime Minister, the late Sushil Koirala, reportedly cancelled a visit to Delhi following this agreement. Diplomats also maintain that India should have resolved the issue with Nepal when the late Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala raised it with India during the 2006 India visit when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh received him at the airport in Delhi. Indian officials suggested that it could be resolved later. Analysts now say South Block should have acted promptly on Koirala's suggestion. Though Nepal has been steadfast in citing the Sugauli treaty as the foundation of its territorial claims, on occasion, some of the new generation leaders have spoken against the treaty. According to Uddhab Pyakurel of Kathmandu University,

*What is the strategic importance of the region?
Why do both sides stake claim to the area?*

is based on the Limpiadhura origin, India says the river actually takes the name Kali near Kalapani.

Why is Lipulekh pass important?

The region juts into the Himalayas and is connected to the other side of the mountain range through the Lipulekh pass, which has been used for centuries by Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims and tourists

forces used the pass of Se La in Tawang and reached the Brahmaputra plains in the east. The military defeat in the east clearly demonstrated that weakly guarded passes were a major vulnerability of Indian military preparedness against China. In comparison to Se La which was somewhat fortified, Lipulekh was vulnerable.

Nepali analysts say that King Mahendra was concerned that India would take military steps to forcefully take the region

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” for example had indicated frustration with the Treaty of Sugauli after his Prime Ministerial stint in 2009 saying that the treaty had become irrelevant and championed the cause of a Greater Nepal

going into the region west of the Kali. This shows that the Nepali claim based on the Sugauli treaty is not consistent either.

What is the current position?

Nepal has published a revised official

map incorporating the territory from the Limpiadhura source of the Kali to Kalapani and Lipulekh pass in the northeast of the triangular region as its territory. On May 22, the Cabinet led by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli registered

a constitution amendment motion to grant constitutional status to the map. Indian observers say this move makes any future solution on the Kalapani issue nearly impossible as a constitutional guarantee will make Kathmandu's position inflexible.

Explained: What is the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system?

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced the national rollout of a ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system in all states and Union Territories by March 2021. As of now, about 20 states have come on board to implement the inter-state ration card portability.

According to the Finance Minister, this system will enable migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country.

What is the one ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system?

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, about 81 crore persons are entitled to buy subsidized foodgrain — rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Re 1/kg — from their designated Fair Price Shops (FPS) of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

Currently, about 23 crore ration cards have been issued to nearly 80 crore beneficiaries of NFSA in all states and UTs.

In the present system, a ration cardholder can buy foodgrains only from an FPS that has been assigned to her in the locality in which she lives. However, this will change once the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system becomes operational nationally. This is how it will work:

Suppose a beneficiary lives in the district of Basti in Uttar Pradesh and migrates to Mumbai for work. Currently, she is no longer able to purchase subsidised foodgrains from a PDS shop in her new locality in Mumbai. However, under the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ system, the beneficiary will be able to buy subsidised foodgrains from any FPS across the country.

The new system, based on a technological solution, will identify a beneficiary through biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPSs, and enable that person to purchase the quantity of foodgrains to which she is entitled under the NFSA.

How will the system of ration card portability work?

Ration card portability is aimed at providing intra-state as well as inter-state portability of ration cards.

While the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ system will enable migrant workers and their family members to access PDS benefits from any Fair Price Shop in the country.

portal (<http://www.impds.nic.in/>) provides the technological platform for the inter-state portability of ration cards, enabling a migrant worker to buy foodgrains from any FPS across the country, the other portal (annavitrans.nic.in) hosts the data of distribution of foodgrains through E-PoS devices within a state.

The Annavitrans portal enables a migrant worker or his family to avail the benefits of PDS outside their district but within their state.

While a person can buy her share of foodgrains as per her entitlement under the NFSA, wherever she is based, the rest of her family members can purchase



subsidised foodgrains from their ration dealer back home.

Since when has the One Nation, One Ration Card System been in the works?

Work on this ambitious project started about two years back when the government launched a scheme called Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) in April 2018 to reform the public distribution system in the

country.

The PDS system was marred with inefficiency leading to leakages in the system. To plug the leakages and make the system better, the government started the reform process.

For, this purpose it used a technological solution involving the use of Aadhaar to identify beneficiaries. Under the scheme, the seeding of ration cards with Aadhaar is being done.

Simultaneously, PoS machines are being installed at all FPSs across the country. Once 100 per cent of Aadhaar seeding and 100 per cent installation of PoS devices is achieved, the national

foodgrains from any FPS by using their existing/same ration card.

How many states have come on board to roll out inter-state portability of ration cards?

It was initially proposed to nationally rollout the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ scheme by June 1, 2020.

So far, 17 states and UTs — Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu — have come on board to roll out the inter-state portability of ration cards under the NFSA.

Three more states — Odisha, Mizoram, and Nagaland — are expected to come on board by June 1, taking the number of States and UTs to 20 under the One Nation, One Ration Card System.

How has been the experience of Ration Card Portability so far?

The facility of inter-state ration card portability is available in 20 states as of now but the number of transactions done through using this facility has been low so far.

According to data available on the IMPDS portal, only 275 transactions have been done until May 14. However, the number of transactions in intra-state ration card portability is quite high.

The data available on the Annavitrans portal shows that about one crore transactions took place using the facility last month. It means that usages of intra-state ration card portability are way higher than the inter-state portability.

portability of ration cards will become a reality.

It will enable migrant workers to buy

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Explained: How Cyclone Amphan was named

Cyclone Amphan is a very intense storm which can wreak large-scale damage, India Meteorological Department Director General M Mohapatra has said.

Amphan has intensified into a super cyclonic storm and is expected to make a landfall on May 20 between the Digha islands in West Bengal and Hatia islands of Bangladesh, Mohapatra said at a press briefing.

It is likely to de-intensify to an extremely severe cyclonic storm when it makes a landfall.

He added that the coastal districts of West Bengal will receive heavy to extremely heavy rainfall on May 19 and 20. These include East Midnapur, South and North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Kolkata in West Bengal.

The storm is also likely to impact the coastal districts of north Odisha, including Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore.

The biggest cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal in two decades with strong winds can do a large scale damage to road transport, essential goods transportation, electric poles, telephone poles, older houses, crops, etc., said IMD.

The cyclone can adversely impact the

monsoon, thus the Kerala onset is expected to be delayed to June 5, it added.

Authorities have been making preparations to evacuate more than 5 million people to safer places even as the storm approaches.

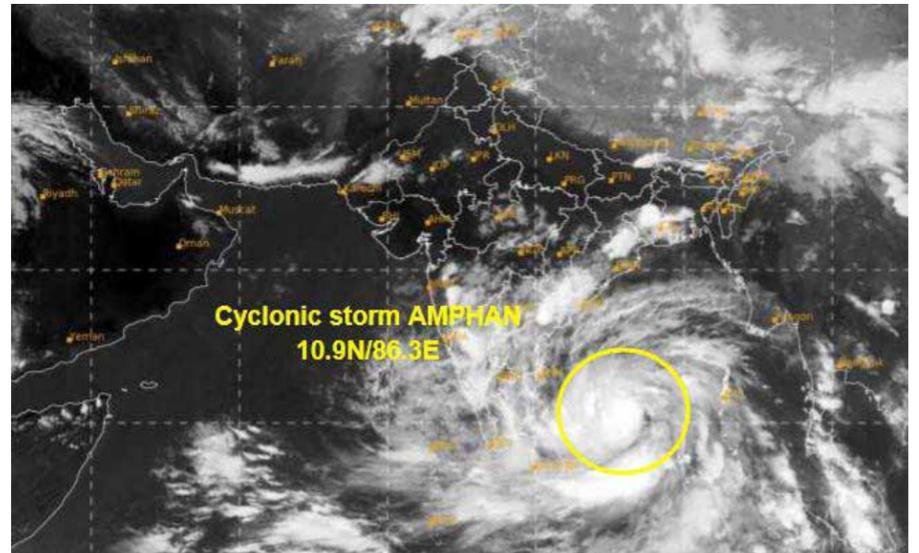
How was the cyclone named 'Amphan'?

As per National Hurricane Centre, US, naming cyclone makes communications easier and faster and reduces confusion when multiple tropical storms are occurring at the same time. The IMD, too, is of the opinion that naming cyclone helps in quick identification of storms and can lead to better management through warning messages as it is much earlier to remember names than technical terms.

The name 'Amphan' comes from a list of names submitted by a group of countries -- World Meteorological Organisation/ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or WMO/ESCAP.

The panel under which India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Maldives, Oman, Sri Lanka and Thailand fall decides names of cyclones in the particular region. The countries submit a list of cyclone names from time to time to choose the names from the pool.

'Amphan' happens to be the last name on



the current list before a new one begins. The name Amphan, which is pronounced as 'Um-pun', means sky and was given by Thailand in 2004.

The name Fani (pronounced as Foni), which hit Odisha last year, meant 'hood of a snake', and was given by Bangladesh.

Cyclone Titli, which hit Andhra Pradesh and parts of Odisha, was named by Pakistan and Ockhi, which brought a lot of

damage in 2017, was named by Thailand.

The names which India suggested are Agni, Akash, Bijli, Jal, Lehar, Megh, Sagar, and Vayu.

While selecting names for cyclones, countries first analyse them to see if the word is easily understood by people in the region, hence the names are generally familiar words.

Art Of Cross-examination : Basic Canons

Introduction:

The law of evidence is a system of rules for ascertaining controverted questions of fact in a judicial investigation of the dispute before the Court.

In India, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 ("Indian Evidence Act") is the principal legislation indicating, what is evidence, what are the types of evidence, what are the facts on which evidence are to be led and what are the facts on which evidence need not be led, who has the burden to lead the evidence, and last, as pertinent for the present discussion, how is the veracity of evidence led and claims made by the parties or witnesses thereof, are to be proved.

Modes to test the veracity of witnesses:

There are several ways in which the veracity of the averred and collected facts can be proved to varying degrees. For example, a statements on oath, attaches a degree of authenticity to the statements of a witness of the parties. Similarly, for the limited purposes, the brain-mapping test and Narco-analysis test assist in determining the veracity of the statements of witnesses. However, among them, the cross-examination is the principal and perennial mode, to equate the veracity of the averments of a witness in all types of disputes.

Cross-examination – Purpose and its foundational subject-matter:

Under the Indian Evidence Act, section 137, provides for the cross-examination. Professor Wigmore had once remarked the cross-examination as "the greatest legal engine ever invented for the discovery of truth". It is a "powerful searchlight to draw out the truth and further the cause of justice. Its object inter alia is to impeach the very credit of the concerned witness and shake his entire testimony" by "piercing through the evidence (see para. 9 & 10) given by the witness, who has been examined in examination-in-chief". Thus, it is essential to briefly appreciate its cardinal principles.

However, at the outset, it is also pertinent to discuss the material on which generally the cross-examination of the witnesses is based. Primarily, statements made by a witness in their Evidence by way of Affidavit or in examination-in-chief, along with exhibited documents, are the basis for every cross-examination, in all types of cases, i.e. criminal or civil. In criminal

matters, such documents are generally encompassed in the Charge-sheet and the supplementary report, if any. It includes Arrest Memo, Seizure Memo, First Information Report, Inquest Report, Post-mortem Report, Site plans, statements under made under section 161 and 162 of the CrPC, 1973 by such witnesses during the investigation.

Similarly, in the civil disputes, the contracts entered by the parties, the record of ownership i.e. Jamabandi, the record of possession, i.e. Khasra Khatoni, the site plan of the land, communication between the parties, bills, receipts, and alike documents varying form the subject-matter of the cross-examination. Where one of the party is a legal entity, the documents like, LLP Deed, Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association, Board Resolutions, Meetings minutes, Balance sheets, and documents and communications, are often the subject of study before the Courts.

Canons of Cross-examination:

With this background, we may now proceed to discuss several cardinal principles, often to be remembered, while preparing for the cross-examination and at the time of cross-examination of a witness, in today's gait of the litigation in the Indian Courts. It must be remembered that such principles are always non-exhaustive and often molded as per the facts and circumstances of the case, the nature of the witness, the nature of the judicial officer supervising the trial, and also the nature of opposing counsel. Some of these basic tenets may be drawn as follows:

1. Know the law: It is indisputable to state that good understanding of the substantive laws, the procedural laws, and the adjective laws is always quint-essential for effective cross-examination by any lawyer. This is because the questions of cross-examination are generally based on relevant facts, pertinent to the case in hand, essential elements of an offence or transaction, and the procedure governing such offence or transaction.

For example, it is pertinent to know the essential elements for commission and recusal from an offence like theft, murder, unlawful assembly, etc. Equally, it is important to have a bird's eye view of the essential procedural prerequisites like what documents require registration, what documents require stamping, what documents need to be filed in original, when can a party file their certified copies.

2. Know the facts: A dossier of the case must be thoroughly read and as far as possible, read in chronological order along with the annexures/exhibits/reports attached. A conjoint reading of the pleadings or evidential-affidavits and the documents or evidence attached is always recommended, instead of, reading the documents dis-jointly. In the exercise, mark out the deficiencies and contradictions found in the documents or statements, as the case may be.

It would be apt to cite an instance from the cross-examination of Richard Pigott by Sir Charles Russel before the Parnell Commission. At the very beginning of the cross-examination, Sir Charles Russel asked the witness to write some words like the name of the witness, "likelihood", and "proselytism" on a clean sheet of paper. At last, carelessly, he again asked to write another word "hesitancy". Now Sir Charles had an incriminating letter, written by the witness, wherein, the witness had spelt the word "hesitancy" as "hesitency". Interestingly, the witness on the given paper again spelt the word as "hesitency". Little did anyone realize when asked, but this had a decisive advantage to Sir Charles later in the trial.

3. Sync the laws and facts: Identify the relevant statutory provision(s) and the facts of the dispute before framing a questionnaire for cross-examination. Read the provisions and mark out the essential elements categorically, despite having read the provisions on an earlier occasion(s). This assists an examining lawyer to prepare the questionnaire which syncs the statutory essentials with the relevant facts of the case in hand.

4. Prior research on documents: Once the above-suggested exercise is done, the examining lawyer must examine whether the document(s)/evidence which have not been produced by the witness are publicly accessible i.e. public documents. If yes, the lawyer must procure such document/evidence and check whether the information or facts mentioned therein support the cause of the party, he is representing. If yes, the witness may be examined in terms of the following example viz.

A witness has in his examination-in-chief stated that the advance for purchase of a particular property was issued by his wife from the accounts of the company. She was director of the company while issuing funds for the purchase.

Question: In your examination-in-chief, at page ____, you state that your wife was the director of the Company at the relevant point of time. Is that correct?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Whether you have placed any evidence on record before the Court to show that your wife was director of the company at the relevant time?

Answer: No.

Now, this fact can be easily verified from the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs through the Company Identification Number of the Company. If the availed record of the company shows such a person as a director of the company, no more question should be put on this point. If the record does not show his wife as director, the witness may be further questioned as follows:

Question: Whether he can produce the document showing him being a director of the company?

Answer: Yes/No.

The examining lawyer can always produce such a document in the Court as evidence to discredit this statement. However, the last question is not recommended when the document affirmatively proves the statement of a witness. The question if asked will merely remove the deficiencies in the witness's testimony. Instead, the examiner must leave with an indication of deficiency and not complete the file of the opposite party. The witness should be asked to produce the documents only for those facts which you are aware, either do not exist as stated, or, if exist, support your case or at least raise a doubt to the witness's testimony, or, such a document is necessitated for further examination and it is not available to the public.

5. Whom not to call: It is recommended not to call a person as a witness, to whom, the opposite party is bound or will call as a witness. This will give such an examiner an opportunity to cross-examine such a witness.

6. Not the number: It must always be first appreciated whether a witness to be cross-examined, even avers anything against your client. It must be remembered that it is not the number of the witnesses produced or the number of witnesses cross-examined which determine the result of a trial. Every witness need not be compulsorily crossed.

7. Never assume facts or make the witness introduce disadvantageous facts: It is a pertinent principle for an examining lawyer to not assume the existence of a fact unless such a fact by the witness in his examination-in-chief or evidence by way of affidavit has been averred so and it is not of very trifling nature. Additionally, the witness should not be questioned on a fact which the witness missed or did not state in his examination-in-chief, and its non-statement was advantageous to your party. For example, in a case of murder by firing by a pistol, a witness of the recovery does not state the weapon recovered and/or does not indicate the use of a particular type of weapon.

8. Not a memory test: It must always be remembered that cross-examination is not a memory test. The figures must not be questioned on, unless, they are essential to the facts in issue.

For example, it would generally be redundant to question the witness on the amount advanced as security in an agreement or contract of sale, profit or loss, the value of the assets, the amount of liability of a company, etc. unless the records present before the court are disputed.

9. Project by formidable inferences: The contradictions or the inconsistency in the testimony of a witness must often be shown by a chain of questions and formidable inference from the answers to those questions. Generally, a direct question should not be asked. This is because the witnesses are always dread of direct self-contradiction.

For example, a witness to an incidence of murder may be asked - What is his profession/occupation? Where were you on ___(a particular date) ___? Why was he at this place on this day? Was he not in his office? What was the time of the day when he was at the place of incidence? When a party gets a favorable answer in any of the said questions, which strongly infers that he was not present at the place of incidence on that date, he should not be asked by a question like he was present at the place of incidence, were you? This is because a direct question will often be met with a direct answer and will limit the scope of inquiry. However, a direct question may put when you have sufficient evidence to discredit the testimony of the witness [Read with point 16 & 17].

1. Don't triumph over trifles: An examining lawyer though must point but should never triumph over small wins or trifling contradictions. The recommendation equally applies while pointing out several procedural glitches which are easily curable in nature.

2. Switch after a favorable answer: In a situation where you receive a favorable answer, it is always recommended to quickly pass on other queries. Don't ever ask the same question again to show the triumph. It often happens that an inexperienced lawyer repeats the question and the witness molds his answer in the second time taking away the real effect of the favorable answer.

For example, when a witness state that he was at a particular place on a particular date which is a date of the incident, it is imprudent to question that, whether on this date of incidence you were at the place of incidence. He may often state that he was back by that time or correct his former statement.

2. Expert witness: On occasions where the witness is called as an expert witness, prior research on the subject and the writings of the witness, if any, is a must. Additionally, the questions like whether what he states is a mere opinion or a scientific fact, are there any other possibilities for a cause, what is the source for his conclusion, what was the number of samples he examined, what does he specialize in (i.e. cardiologist doctor), how long has he practiced as a cardiologist, and the alike question may be asked.

3. No open question: It is often recommended to not ask a question to an expert which is wide enough for him to travel in the realm of his specialty of which the examining lawyer often have little

knowledge.

4. Perjured witness: On the occasion where the witness subject to cross-examination is a prepared witness or perjured witness, the sequence of questioning becomes essential. Make such witness repeat his statement, flip him to end, middle, and alike. It is pertinent to note the movement of his eyes, hands, the pitch of voice, the words used, and expression made. It would be apposite to quote an interesting episode from The Art of Cross-examination by Francis Wellman as follows:

"An amusing account is given in the



Green Bag for November, 1891, of one of Jeremiah Mason's cross-examinations of such a witness. "The witness had previously testified to having heard Mason's client make a certain statement, and it was upon the evidence of that statement that the adversary's case was based. Mr. Mason led the witness round to his statement, and again it was repeated verbatim. Then, without warning, he walked to the stand, and pointing straight at the witness said, in his high, impassioned voice, 'Let's see that paper you've got in your waistcoat pocket!' Taken completely by surprise, the witness mechanically drew a paper from the pocket indicated, and handed it to Mr. Mason. The lawyer slowly read the exact words of the witness in regard to the statement, and called attention to the fact that they were in the handwriting of the lawyer on the other side.

"Mr. Mason, how under the sun did you know that paper was there?" asked a brother lawyer. 'Well,' replied Mr. Mason, 'I thought he gave that part of his testimony just as if he'd heard it, and I noticed every time he repeated it he put his hand to his waistcoat pocket, and then let it fall again when he got through'" [page 17].

5. Rapid questions: If the opposite party has a strong case or prepared witnesses, select the weakest point and put the questions rapidly at the same pitch of voice. This often derives the opportunity of the witness to imagine and manufacture the answer within such time. Such witness may be confronted with leading questions. Such questions often help in breaking the pre-arranged version of the party and calls for a spontaneous narrative.

6. The sequence of examination: The sequence of cross-examination often plays a critical role in the success of cross-examination and there is no one opinion of same and it varies with the nature of the fact, witness, and case. For example, whether such witness is afraid, honest, well-versed, short-tempered etc.? Often, it is recommended to lay a foundation before an important question is asked. However, a time a direct question may dismantle the

witness at once.

7. Discrediting the testimony: Discrediting the testimony and discrediting a witness are two different things. It goes without saying that to discredit a witness it is essential to research the background of the witness. However, a question as to the character of the witness must not be too remote. A remote throwing of mud often arouses unconscious sympathy for the witness, particularly, when the witness is women or any particular category of community which has been subjected to injustices in past.

11. Respectful and submissive words: The lawyer should always be respectful to the court and the opposing counsel. Never form conclusions and show triumph before-hand. The examiner may use the words like "It will be for the Court to consider" or "it may be worth thinking my lord" while addressing the Court.

12. Don't object unless cannot be sustained: While your witnesses are being examined by the opposite counsel, do not object for the mere sake of objection. Make only genuine objections which can sustain. This unconsciously develops an image of your knowledge and demeanor in the mind of the judge and acts as a bonus point.

13. Never be casual: Never overlook a fact or piece of evidence. It must be remembered that non-examination of a document or statement amounts to an admission of such a fact or the document [Read with Point 7].

14. Never judge your case: Never believe your case to be very strong or very weak while preparing or conducting a cross-examination. It is again apposite to quote from the Art of Cross-examination, wherein the author, Francis Wellman observes as follows:

"Knowledge is only the impression of one's mind and not the fact itself, which may present itself to many minds in many different aspects. The unconscious sense impressions sight, sound, or touch would be the same to every human mind; but once you awaken the mind to consciousness, then the original impression takes on all the color of motive, past experience, and character of the individual mind that receives it. The sensation by itself will be always the same. The variance arises when the sensation is interpreted by the individual and becomes a perception of his own mind. When a man on a hot day looks at a running stream and sees the delicious coolness, he is really adding something of himself, which he acquired by his past experience to the sense impression which his eye gives him" [page. 43].

Thus, the variance arises due in impression arise due to past experiences of a witness, attention he had paid to an incident, degree of readiness to look at the impression in a required way, the relation of the witness with the party and sense to make the side for which he appears win. Often the party's state varied versions on different occasions due to lapse of time. Such a witness often states based on recollection which is often molded due to above-said factors. The witness must be examined on these factors.

5. The basic w's: Last, every witness called for cross-examination should be examined on contours of who, how, when, what, why, where. The best example of the use of these words can be easily noticed the successful cross-examination of Charles J. Guiteau by Mr. John K. Porter where the witness was examined whether he was insane at the time of the commission of assassin of President Garfield. The accused-witness averred it as a command of God. The witness was examined like who asked you to commit the act, did he ask you to kill, how did he ask, did God ask you to buy a pistol, and likewise.

CONCLUSION:

It has been often said that the lawyer is an actor at the time of cross-examination. However, today this central role of the cross-examiner appears to wade due to the huge pendency of litigation in the Indian Courts and the era of litigation having majorly been shifted to summary proceedings under special legislations. Often it is seen that the Courts carry their work in a regular way due to heavy pendency of cases, leaving the cross-examination being done under the supervision of the opposing counsel and the Court master, with fractional interventions of the Court when needed. Thus, the demeanor of the witnesses, of the opposite counsel, and lastly, the arguing counsel often go unnoticed. Given this, the decisions are often thus, solely based on the questions put and answers made, as noted on the sheet of papers.

Additionally, it is important to decide when should a contrary piece of evidence i.e. any letter, mail, etc. be introduced before the Court to discredit the testimony of the witness. There are varying views on it. Several lawyers introduce it at the beginning, read the statement to witness in parts, and then question on different occasions which statement is true? On the other hand, some lawyers prefer to first question on former statements and then introduce the evidence to discredit the testimony of such witness. This is basically, make the witness lie more to impeach his creditworthiness by the introduction of strong contrary evidence. If this approach is followed, the contrary evidence should be duly concealed to avert an opportunity to such witness to make improvements in his testimony before the introduction of the discrediting evidence [Read with 16].

8. Don't merely hope favorable answer: It is often recommended to not ask a question with a mere hope of getting the answer. David Graham, a successful cross-examiner, once said, "a lawyer should never ask a witness on cross-examination a question unless in the first place he knew what the answer would be, or in the second place he didn't care".

9. Maintenance of eye contact: It is essential for the cross-examiner to maintain eye contact with the witness, all through the cross-examination. The movement of the hands, eyes, the pitch of the voice, all speak. For example, a prepared witness often looks at his counsel before answering any question, once his sequence of the story is broken [Read with Point 14].

10. Clarity and calmness: The examining lawyer must always maintain clarity, self-control, and his dignity. A lawyer must avoid equivocal questions as they lead to equivocal answers. The examining lawyer must never show disappointment, even if, he receives an unfavorable answer from the witness. Instead, he may occasionally show as if this was the answer he wanted to hear. Additionally, it is the golden rule of cross-examination that "hold your temper while you lead the witness to lose his".

Understanding The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991

The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 ("Act") was enacted after the outbreak of Bhopal Gas Leak, to provide immediate relief to persons affected by an accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. The Act came into force from 01.04.1991.

Section 3 of the Act incorporates the principle of "Absolute Liability" or payment of compensation on "No-Fault Basis". The Owner is liable to pay compensation to the Claimant for Death, Damage, or Injury. The amount of compensation required to be paid by the Owner is specified in Schedule of the Act. The maximum amount of compensation in the case of Fatal Accident is Rs. 25,000/- which is in addition to the reimbursement of medical expenses up to Rs. 12,500/-.

For claiming compensation prescribed in the Schedule, the Claimant would be required to make an application to the Collector, having jurisdiction over the area in which the accident had taken place, within 5 years from the date of incident/accident.[1] The Claimant is not required to plead and establish that the death, injury or damage was on account of wrongful act, negligence or default of any person. [2] Upon receipt of the Application, the

Collector would be required to conduct an inquiry and thereafter pass an Award after providing an opportunity of hearing to the Owner.[3]

The Claimant's right to claim relief under this Act is in addition to any other right to claim compensation under any other law for the time being in force. However, in case, the Owner is also directed to pay compensation under any other law, the Owner would be entitled to adjust the compensation already paid under this Act. [4]

The compensation under this Act can be claimed only when the Owner is dealing with a Hazardous Substance. Under the Act, "hazardous substance" means any substance or preparation which is defined as hazardous substance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), and exceeding such quantity as may be specified, by notification, by the Central Government"[5]. A bare perusal of this definition would make it abundantly clear that only if the substance or preparation is defined as hazardous substance under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, then only it will be considered as Hazardous Substance for this Act.

But what happens when an accident has taken place and there was no notification w.r.t. to the substance of the Industry being declared as Hazardous Substance by the Central Government. Can the Collector deny granting immediate relief under this Act in absence of the notification by the Central Government?

The High Court of M.P.[6] while dealing with the question of whether Electricity is a "Hazardous Substance" or not in absence of any notification by the Central Government. The Court conjointly read the definition of Hazardous Substance under this Act and the Environment Protection Act and concluded that a thing/material/substance, which is known as intensely hazardous, then it has to be treated as a hazardous substance to effectuate the purposes for the enactment of the Public Liability Insurance Act and therefore, the issuance of notification by the Central Government is not sine-qua-non to make a substance hazardous.

The High Court further observed that some articles may not be hazardous in small quantities and these articles have to be notified as Hazardous over a certain quantity and for this purpose notification is required to be issued by

the Central Government. To come to this conclusion the Court relied upon the judgment delivered by the Allahabad High Court[7] wherein it was observed that the Notification can only narrow down the scope of Hazardous Substance defined in the Environment Protection Act, and if the substances are not specified in the notification they will be regarded as Hazardous Substance if they come within the definition of Hazardous Substance under the Environment Protection Act. The Court concluded that Electricity is a Hazardous substance irrespective of the quantity.

Owner under the Act is defined as "a person who owns, or has control over handling, any hazardous substance at the time of accident and includes,— (i) in the case of firm, any of its partners; (ii) in the case of an association, any of its members; and (iii) in the case of a company, any of its directors, managers, secretaries or other officers who is directly in charge of, and is responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company;". [8] The Act also defined the term handling which "in relation to any hazardous substance, means the manufacture, processing, treatment, package, storage, transportation by vehicle, use, collection, destruction, conversion, offering for sale, transfer or the like of such hazardous substance"[9]. Thus, the "owner" not only means a person who owns but also who has control over handling any hazardous substance at the time of the accident.[10]

The Owner is required to take out insurance policies against liability to give relief under Section 3 of the Act[11] and comply with the directions issued by the Central Government w.r.t. handling of Hazardous Substance.[12] Failing which, the owner may be imprisonment for a term not less than one year and six months but which may extend to six years, or with a fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees, or both.[13]

Thus, once a claimant can establish that the substance or material is hazardous as per the definition of Hazardous Substance under the Environment Protection Act, then the Claimant would be entitled to payment of compensation under this Act from the person who was owning or was having control over the handling of the Hazardous Substance at the time of the Accident.

The casteless outcastes of Indian society, subjected for centuries to unfathomable social suppression and economic depravity have been compiled together as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (hereinafter "SC/ST") under the Constitution. Their plight has been described in various ways. Rabindranath Tagore described it as a "gigantic cold-blooded repression". Dr. B.R. Ambedkar termed it as a system of "graded inequality". Swami Vivekananda spoke for Shudra Raj and questioned the heredity claims of the Brahmanas, while calling out to "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached".

To ameliorate the lot of these SC/ST's reservation in promotion has been provided for. The issue can be broadly classified in two categories, namely, the pre and post Indra Sawhney (1992) eras.

The pre Indra Sawhney era.

Contrary to popular perception, reservation in matters of promotion was upheld by the Supreme Court even prior to the introduction of the 77th and 85th Constitutional Amendments. Article 16(4) permits the State to make any provision for reservation of appointment of posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, "is not adequately represented in the services under the State". Although, the expression used in the aforesaid sub-clause (4) was "reservation of appointments or posts" and not "promotion", the Supreme Court consistently interpreted the said provision as permitting reservation in matters of promotion as well. So, in Rangachari (1962), Justice Gajendragadkar upheld reservation at the promotion tier for selection posts. It was opined that "adequately represented" encompassed "size" as well as "values". The numerical and qualitative tests were both



RESERVATION IN PROMOTION A PERSPECTIVE

to be applied to determine adequacy and the State could, therefore, take the view that a certain percentage of selection posts should also be reserved, the adequacy of such representation being considered qualitatively. After about 20 years, a prayer was made in Karamchari Sangh (1981) that Rangachari required to be reconsidered. In rejecting the said prayer, Justice Krishna Iyer said that a "Constitutional proposition on which a whole nation directs its destiny are not like Olympic records to be periodically challenged and broken by fresh exercises.....". Justice Iyer felt that

real power could be shared by the weakest sections only if the doors of the higher desks were opened to them. The higher echelons are the real controllerates and not just the menial levels. Further, Article 16(4) was not meant for Harijans to only become scavengers and sweepers, but officers as well. In the interregnum, a Bench of seven Judges had in N.M. Thomas (1976) also upheld the said view.

Indra Sawhney (1992) – The erroneous rationale:

After noticing that Rangachari had held the field for about 30 years, Justice Reddy placed reliance on the observation in Rangachari that there was "the risk" involved in sacrificing efficiency of administration. Therefore, the 9 Judge Bench in Indra Sawhney took the view that there was no justification to multiply "the risk" which would be the consequence of holding that reservation can be provided in matters of promotion. It is submitted that the observation in Rangachari was in the context of Article 335 and the obligation of the State to consider the

claims of the backward classes consistently with the maintenance of the efficiency of administration. Rangachari only required that "the risk involved in sacrificing the efficiency of administration must always be borne in mind when any State sets about making a provision for reservation of appointments or posts." The said observation is the mandate set out under Article 335 of the Constitution and ought not to have been the basis for negating the law as it stood for over three decades. Further, Indra Sawhney went on to permit reservation in matters of direct recruitment even in higher levels of administration and not merely at the level of Class III and Class IV. The said view begged the question that if reservation by way of direct recruitment was permissible for Class I and Class II posts, then why not by way of promotion?

The 77th Constitutional Amendment (1995) and the 85th Constitutional Amendment (2001)

Indra Sawhney upheld reservations already made and while holding that it's aforesaid decision of striking down reservations shall operate only prospectively, it also permitted reservations which had already been provided in matters of promotion to continue to operate for a period of five years from that date. In the intervening period, Article 16(4A) was introduced by way of the 77th Constitutional Amendment w.e.f. 17.6.1995 and reservation in promotion was bought back. Consequential seniority was also provided by way of the 85th Constitutional Amendment given effect from 17.6.1995. The said amendments became the subject matter of challenge before the Constitution Bench in Nagaraj (2006). The amendments were upheld but with the additional mandate that the State will have to show the existence backwardness, inadequacy of representation and overall administrative efficiency before making provision for reservation in promotions. While Indra Sawhney required that the State can utilise the material it already had in its possession, Nagaraj laid down that the State "has to collect" quantifiable data. This was subsequently interpreted by the Supreme Court to mean that a fresh exercise had to be carried out to collect quantifiable data to determine inadequacy of representation. This is contrary to Indra Sawhney as explained hereinafter. The requirement of establishing backwardness of SC's and ST's has been struck down in Jarnail Singh (2018) since SC's and ST's are "indubitably" backward as per Indra Sawhney.

Adequacy of Representation – Who is to determine?

Indra Sawhney in categorical terms held that since Article 16(4) used the words "in the opinion of the State", the requirement of adequate representation was a matter "within the subjective satisfaction of the State". The State could form that opinion on the basis of material "it has in its possession already or it may gather such material through a Commission/Committee". "All that is required is, there must be some material upon which the opinion is formed. Indeed, in this matter, the Court should show due deference to the opinion of the State, which in the present context means the executive." The Supreme Court went on to say that the scope and reach of judicial scrutiny in matters within subjective satisfaction of the executive, as laid down in Barium Chemicals (1967) would apply for the said purposes as well.

The test laid down in Barium Chemicals required that there should exist circumstances which, in the opinion of the Authority, justified the action taken. In Rohtas Singh (1969), Barium Chemicals was explained to mean that the formation of the opinion was subjective but the existence of circumstances relevant to the inference as the sine qua non for action must be demonstrable. It was held that the existence of circumstances in question were open to judicial review, the opinion formed by the Government was not amenable to review by the Courts. The same view was reiterated in Rustom Cooper (1970) and thereafter again in Bhikhubhai (2008) and has continued to hold the field.

In spite of the above, the Supreme Court has continued to strike down reservations made by the State on the ground of inadequacy of representation by following the tests laid down in Nagaraj and by examining each issue in detail wherein it has sometimes substituted its own opinion for the opinion of the State. It is in B.K. Pavitra (2019) that the Supreme Court recognized the complementary principles of the executive arm being aware of prevailing conditions and the opinion of the government on adequacy of representation forming a part of the subjective satisfaction of the State.

The Origin of the Four-fold Classification

In ancient times the classification was not based on "caste" as is presently understood nor was it on the basis of birth. On the contrary, four-fold classification was based on the "Gunas" of a person. Lord Krishna describes three Gunas in the Bhagawad Geeta in Chapter XIV. The "Sattwa Guna" denotes purity, luminosity, selflessness; the "Rajas Guna" denotes passion, activity and attachment to action and the fruits

of action; the "Tamas Guna" is borne of ignorance, lethargy, selfishness and delusion.

Lord Krishna went on to say the following:

4. If the embodied one meets with death when SATTWA is predominant, then he attains to the spotless worlds of the "Knowers of the Highest".

5. Meeting death in RAJAS, he is born among those attached to action; and dying in TAMAS, he is born in the womb of the senseless.

17. Knowledge arises from SATTWA, greed from RAJAS, heedlessness, delusion and also ignorance arise from TAMAS.

(Translation from the commentary of the Bhagawad Geeta by Swami Chinmayanandaji)

Based on the above Gunas, a four-fold classification has been made in the Geeta. So, the Brahmanas are those with a major portion of Sattwa, a little Rajas and with minimum Tamas; the Kshatriyas have mostly Rajas, some Sattwa and a bit of Tamas; the Vaishyas have mostly Rajas, then Tamas and hardly any Sattwa; and the Shudras have mostly Tamas, a little Rajas and with virtually no Sattwa.

The Brahmana, who was in a state of Sattwa, could control his sense organs and had mastery over his mind and could in meditation dwell on the Infinite. The grant of the Brahmana status on the basis of birth is unknown to the scriptural teachings of Lord Krishna. The caste system established on the basis of birth is a distortion which is deliberately practiced by the Brahmanas in a self-serving manner.

The Kshatriyas, in whom the dominant quality was Rajas, would be attached to his action and would engage in new endeavours to gain more and more prowess and splendour. But, his Rajas Guna was coloured by some Sattwik qualities because of which he would also be generous and would have other noble qualities of benefitting other people.

The Vaishyas would have a domination of the Rajas quality, which would be supplemented by the nature of Tamas. So the Vaishya would be engaged in action, but would not be having the nobility of the Kshatriyas. He would be greedy on account of the Tamas Guna.

The Shudras were those who were of the lowest category since they had a domination of Tamas and were the kind of persons who

would be lazy or those remaining in a state of intoxication.

The lower categories could move up by increasing the Sattwa Guna and by reducing the Tamas Guna and vice versa. Thus, the same person could fall in different classifications at different times, depending on his inner disposition. A perfectly valid classification, having a spiritual basis was distorted by those who claimed to be Brahmanas and who continued the distortion by granting the "caste" on the basis of birth. A so-called Brahmana by birth, whose predominant trait was, in fact, Tamas, would ruin the temple where he sits as a priest. Similarly, a so-called Shudra (on the basis of birth), who was, in fact, endowed with Sattwik qualities would raise even ordinary menial jobs to a high spiritual level. This spiritual four-fold classification has been denigrated by various self-serving expositions resulting in the convoluted system that is in vogue today.

Conclusion

While it is true that various benefits have been granted to the backward classes for many decades since independence, it is equally true that their condition continues to remain pitiable. Along with other steps, one can perhaps take guidance from the scriptures. Lord Ram granted the boon of Bhakti to the khexat who met him on the banks of the Holy Ganges. The same grace was showered on the backward tribal Nishad Chief who accompanied Lord Rama in the forest. Even when Bharatji embraced the Nishad Chief, Tulsidasji records in Shri Ramcharitamanas that he felt as if he had embraced Lakshmana and could not control the love in his heart.

(Manahu Lakhana San Bheta Bhaee, Premu Na Hridaya Samai)

The examples set out in these scriptural texts are required to be given effect to if the injustice meted out to these classes is to be permanently eradicated. Love, compassion and enfoldment can do wonders. Sir Martin Luther King had said:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Till then a SC will remain a SC. No matter what position he occupies.

Vishakhapatnam And Bhopal:

A Look At Our Morbid Past On The Road To Justice

History doesn't repeat itself, but it does have a tendency to rhyme. Paraphrasing Mark Twain seems apt for the events that have transpired at a chemical plant in Vishakhapatnam as it belled toxic gases into neighbouring villages, wreaking havoc on people, fauna and flora. The tragic incident forces us to revisit the deep scars that remain enmeshed in the lake city of Bhopal as a foreboding to what may arise in the future in Vishakhapatnam.

Strict v/s Absolute liability

The National Green Tribunal elicited a quick response to the situation, taking suo motu cognizance of the matter and proceeded to constitute a five-member committee to investigate into the incident. The order dated 8th of May[1] stated that the tragic event prima facie attracts the principle of strict liability, a doctrine conceived out of 19th century common law tort jurisprudence.[2]

The doctrine has received a major revamp through the Indian Supreme Court, more specifically through the earnest efforts of Justice PN Bhagwati as he devised the principle of absolute liability in the Oleum Gas Leak case, holding it to be better suited to Indian conditions. The judgment states that if an enterprise or industrial establishment is engaged in "dangerous activities" including the leak of toxic gases then the principle of strict liability would



apply sans its exceptions. [3]

The NGT by viewing the entire incident

through the lens of strict liability has indeed erred right at the beginning of the victims' journey towards justice. The

South Korean industrial conglomerate now has an opportunity to work around the charges by exploring exceptions to the

doctrine of strict liability which include incidents occurring due to an Act of God, third party's fault or the performance of statutory duty to name a few. These exceptions can be explored in the backdrop of the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID 19 pandemic that had led to a shut-down of the plant's operations.

A Game of Committees killing the need for fair investigation?

While the NGT proceeded to constitute a five-member committee in its order, the Andhra Pradesh Government set up its own high-powered committee to look into the issue. It is pertinent to note that the Central Pollution Control Board, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board and the Ministry of Forests and Climate Change have already been served notice in the case by the NGT. Under these circumstances, the inclusion of senior officials from Central and Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board as members and convenor (emphasis added) in these committees becomes problematic, giving the impression that the authorities are rather investigating their own follies. These developments have arisen after the boards have already been under heavy criticism for their issuance of Environmental Clearance, Consent for Establishment as well as Consent for Operation certificates to the LG plant. In fact, no environmental clearance had been given to the said plant since 1997 or when its operational capacities were expanded later.[4] This alarming scenario clearly falls foul of the rule against bias, which is an essential part of the principles of Natural Justice.

Envisaging compensation as a continuous and dynamic phenomenon

The NGT's order directing LG Chemicals to deposit 50 crores with the offices of the District Magistrate raises the oft debated

issue of compensation in industrial disasters.

Looking back at the Bhopal Gas tragedy, we find the Union of India initially litigating for damages worth \$3.3 billion in New York. But Justice Keenan (the judge who heard the case in New York) ruled that proceedings should arise in India, something which the Indian side had been arguing against, skeptic of domestic courts' capability of handling tortious litigation of such scale. This delivered a devastating shock to the victims as proceedings remained lagging in courts for almost three decades. Aided by the Supreme Court authorities settled for a paltry sum of \$470 million that was a mere fifteen per cent of the initial demand (\$3.3 billion). [5]

What makes compensation in the Bhopal case a tough task is the continuing nature of the insidious impacts of the disaster. During the entire duration where the authorities and courts were busy with a facile delivery of justice, the number of victims flared up significantly as medical complications kept mounting, even transmitted across generations. It is interesting to note that the rising numbers did not impact the magnitude of settlement or call for a revision of the same. Even now, as the world battles the COVID 19 virus, victims of the gas tragedy find themselves fatally predisposed to the pandemic.[6] A significant chunk of the fatalities of COVID 19 in Bhopal happen to be victims of the terrible gas tragedy. What exacerbates the situation are reports of the victims being turned down by hospitals and caught in procedural and chaotic quagmires in pursuit of medical assistance even from hospitals which were specifically created for responding to the medical needs of the gas tragedy victims.[7]

Need for enabling encumbrance free scientific research, analysis and impact

assessment

New hurdles were born with the Union Carbide's lobby of aggressive litigation blocking India's access to testing MIC for medical research purposes through the existing laws on Intellectual Property and trade secrets.[8] Similar complications could to arise in the case of the Styrene gas leak in Vishakhapatnam as reports suggests that research on the effects of the compound on human and animal life are inadequate and wanting. Apparently, there have been no recorded deaths on account of exposure to the deadly gas making the Vishakhapatnam incident a global first. This revelation raises several doubts on whether the chemical that the residents of the affected villages were exposed to was styrene or a deadlier compound formed through styrene's reaction with the environment.[9] This issue as it seems merits thorough scientific research before a final compensation is imposed on LG chemicals and elicits a need to encompass both monetary and non-monetary components (such as healthcare or welfare benefits, research grants)

A conflict in the application of legal principles to attaining justice for victims

Another problematic aspect lies in the state's cosmetic application of the doctrine of Parens Patriae.[10] What transpired in Bhopal exemplifies how the state managed to attain a monopoly over the legal representation of victims in the guise of fulfilling its legal duties towards citizens. While the move appeared to be a messianic gesture in the interest of impoverished and indigent victims, it rather succeeded in stifling their voices against a deep pocketed Conglomerate. Lower courts in the Bhopal case clearly point towards the culpability of UCC (Union Carbide Corporation), Government of India and Madhya Pradesh in the disaster. However, the doctrine of

necessity places the same governments in the position of defending the victims. As observed in the long drawn out battle in Bhopal the govt clearly seemed to be a bad negotiator for the victims, cutting them a deal from a large corporate rather than assisting them in the legal battle against it. Further, it allows the government to play the role of both Plaintiff and defendant indulging in a gigantic breach of faith while appearing to act in the interest of citizens. As a consequence, justice is bound to take a back seat.[11] Such a conflict between the doctrine of necessity and the principles of natural justice can be a cause of concern when the Vishakhapatnam incident reaches courts.

A transition from civil to criminal side of industrial disasters.

While the Civil side of the Justice system was found to be wanting for the victims of the Bhopal Gas disaster, the criminal aspect of the story seems to have died a premature death. It started with dropping of criminal charges against corporate leadership and modification of offences from culpable homicide to voluntarily causing hurt and culminated with the criminal charges being completely dropped in a supreme court driven settlement in 1989.[12] This clearly sets a poor precedent for corporate criminal liability in India on environmental matters painting a bleak picture for the victims in Vishakhapatnam.

While justice may have suffered a slow and agonising death in the case of Bhopal, Vishakhapatnam still remains a fledgling menace that stands the chance of being averted from turning into a full blown dark spot in India's judicial history, but only if we learn from our past and tread carefully.

Aarogya Setu: An analysis of the Data Access and Knowledge Sharing Protocol, 2020

The Aarogya Setu mobile application was introduced as India's technological tool to fight against the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The App is based on contact tracing, which means that it helps identify people who are likely to be carriers of the disease. While the erstwhile methods of contact tracing required physical interviews with people, mobile technology has made the task a lot easier and safer.

The use of such applications, however, has raised a number of privacy concerns. Ever since the publication of the app, there have been several concerns regarding the vast collection of data and its end-use, especially in the absence of any clear legal basis or legislative framework to address these growing concerns.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on May 11, 2020, notified the Aarogya Setu Data Access and Knowledge Sharing Protocol, 2020. Through this Protocol, the government attempts to answer common queries surrounding the collection and use of data. However, the legal basis for collection and end-use of the data remains unattended.

The invasion of privacy through such collection of data can only be justified if it satisfies the three-fold requirement as enunciated by the Supreme Court in Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India. The Protocol, which is in the nature of an executive order, does not even satisfy the first requirement of legality, which postulates that there must be a law in existence to justify an encroachment on privacy. An executive notification cannot be used to encroach upon fundamental rights. Only a legislative Act or an Ordinance (when the Parliament is not in session) providing legal framework for the app could have satisfied the requirement of legality.

Definitions under the Protocol

One area where the Protocol does well is clearly defining the key terms used throughout, unlike the privacy policy of



Aarogya Setu

में सुरक्षित | हम सुरक्षित | भारत सुरक्षित

the app.

"Appropriate health responses" have been defined to include prevention and management of the COVID-19 pandemic, syndromic mapping, contact tracing, communication to an affected or at-risk individual's family and acquaintances, performance of statistical analysis, medical research, formulation of treatment plans or other medical and public health responses related to the redressal and management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The definition of "individuals" includes persons who are infected, at high risk of being infected, or who have come in contact with infected individuals. While this definition is a welcome clarification, it is still not clear why this definition was adopted considering that the data of "all" users of the app is collected.

"Response data" is the umbrella term used for all data collected through the app. This includes within its fold demographic data, contact data, self-assessment data and location data. This classification of data

into categories is helpful to identify the data being collected, but the use of data throughout the Protocol is indicated in terms of the umbrella of response data and not their respective categories.

While the meaning of each of the constituent categories of response data is self-apparent, the terms have still been defined under the Protocol, which is encouraging from a privacy perspective.

Setting of accountability

The ministry responsible or the government department in charge of the App and enforcement of any claims was unclear before the publishing of the Protocol. The Protocol has clearly established the MeitY as the authority responsible for its enforcement. However, the Protocol also lays down that the MeitY shall act under the overall direction of the Empowered Group 9 on Technology and Data Management ("Empowered Group") which has been created via the National Disaster Management Authority.

Collection and processing

The Protocol imbibes proportionality and purpose limitation for the collection of data and its use. It is provided that response data will be collected proportionately and be strictly used only for the purpose of formulating appropriate health responses.

The storage of contact and location data on the device by default is a step in the right direction. This data may be uploaded to the server for appropriate health responses.

Type of data	Period of retention	Action post retention period
Contact, location and self-assessment data	180 days ordinarily	Permanent deletion
Demographic data	180 days ordinarily or 30 days from an individual's request to delete, whichever is earlier	Deletion (It is interesting to note that the term 'permanent deletion' has been used for the former set of data and not for this category.)

Data sharing principles

The sharing of data with governments, ministries, and health departments has

also been compartmentalised by the Protocol.

Sharing of personal data

Response data containing personal data will be shared with the concerned authorities when such sharing is strictly necessary to formulate or implement an appropriate health response. It would have been a privacy-positive step to limit the sharing of personal data to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and health departments.

However, making "other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and State Governments..." does not seem to pass the proportionality test, as the benchmarks for such strict necessity or when this clause may be invoked has been kept vague. It would have made for a better approach if ministries and departments apart from health were given personal data access only in times of critical need.

Sharing of de-identified data

In cases where assistance in formulating a critical health response is required, response data will be shared in de-identified form. It is pertinent to note here that the term "critical health response" used for this purpose is undefined. The term "de-identified data" is defined under the Protocol and is different from anonymised data, which is a term used under the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. De-identified data has been defined to mean data that has been stripped of personally identifiable information and has been assigned a randomly generated ID.

Further, the National Informatics Centre has been placed under an obligation to maintain records of data sharing. This includes documentation of when the data was shared, with whom the data is being shared, the categories of data being shared, and the purpose of sharing.

Obligations of entities with whom data is shared

A strict purpose limitation has been placed on any entity with whom data is shared. Further, data shall not be retained beyond a maximum ceiling of 180 days in any manner. The entity receiving response data is also barred from sharing the data further with any third party, unless strictly necessary. Any third party with whom such data is shared shall also be subject to the same obligations as are applicable on the entity sharing it.

Violations

The Protocol states that any violations of the directions under it shall be punishable as per Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DMA). It is interesting to note, however, the interplay

of this direction with paragraph 6(d) of terms of use of the app, which relieves the government from any liability in case of unauthorised access to data or modification thereof. Until such a head-on conflict is resolved by amending the terms of use of the app, it remains to be seen how the violations of Protocol will be dealt with.

Further, under the DMA, offence for an intrusion of privacy can be made only under Section 51(b), which lays down the offence of refusing to comply with any direction made by an appropriate authority without reasonable cause. Where this offence is committed by a department of the government, it would fall under Section 55 of the DMA, under which the head of the concerned department is deemed guilty of the said offence. Pertinently, no prosecution can be initiated under Section 55 without the previous sanction of the

Central or state government, as the case may be.

Does the Protocol bridge Aarogya Setu to privacy?

This Protocol could be seen as the government's response to the growing concerns surrounding the vast data collected by the application and a legal vacuum in which it was being done. It is laudable on part of the government to bring in this Protocol to dispel fear regarding the working of the app and its privacy policy. However, the Protocol has failed to address the bigger concern of absence of a law without which any encroachment of privacy would be a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Although the existence of legislation would not by itself justify an encroachment, it

would at least satisfy the first requirement of legality. Before the notification of the Protocol, Justice (Retd.) BN Srikrishna also pointed out that there is no accountability in the system in case of data breach. Accountability concerns remain unresolved even after the notification of this Protocol as it is inconsistent with the Terms of Use of the App.

It is the need of the hour that Parliament immediately brings an Ordinance to give legal basis to the app and provide a robust mechanism to ensure rights are not violated and remedies are provided in case of their infringement.

SECTION ON CRITICAL REASONING

Evaluating Inductive Arguments Strong vs. Weak

As we have seen, an inductive argument is any argument claiming either explicitly or implicitly that if the premises all are true then the conclusion is probably true though not certain. In logic we evaluate inductive arguments as either "strong" or "weak." An inductive argument is strong when it is indeed the case that if the premises are true then the conclusion is probably true though not certain, and an inductive argument is weak when it is not the case that if the premises are true then the conclusion is true.

To determine whether an inductive argument is strong or weak, ask yourself a hypothetical question: If the premises were true (and this need only be asked hypothetically as a thought experiment), then would they provide enough information to make it likely that the conclusion is true? If "Yes," then the argument is strong. If "No," then the argument is weak.

The distinction between strong and weak inductive arguments will become clearer after you have examined some examples.

The following are all strong inductive arguments.

* Without any exceptions, Ed has eaten a Dick's burger for lunch every day for the past two years. Today is an ordinary day. Therefore, Ed will probably eat a Dick's burger for lunch today, although it is not certain.

* In all of recorded history it has never snowed in San Diego in the month of August. So it probably won't snow next August in San Diego.

* No human being has ever run a one-minute mile. Ed has never done anything athletic. Thus, it is unlikely Ed will run a one-minute mile today when he goes to the track for the first time.

* It is 100 degrees outside and the temperature is rising. Ice cream melts at 34 degrees.

Therefore, if I leave my ice cream cone directly out in the hot Sun right now, it will probably melt in less than an hour.

The following are all weak inductive arguments.

* It has been raining for two days in a row. So it will probably be raining every day

next month.

* Jan is from Minnesota. Bob Dylan grew up in Minnesota. Therefore, Jan probably likes Bob Dylan's music.

in each case is that the conclusion is probably true if the premises are true. However, some are strong arguments and some are weak because some succeed in showing that their conclusions probably

arguments, state whether it is strong or weak.

1. Serious biologists will tell you that mice are mammals. Thus mice are mammals.

2. It has rained every day in the Darién Gap for the past twenty-five years. Thus it will probably rain in the Darién Gap tomorrow.

3. Different cultures have different beliefs about morality. Thus there is no objective basis outside of cultural norms for any moral claim.

4. Wei-jin's math teacher says that God exists. Thus God probably exists.

5. Two teenagers were found writing graffiti on the school walls yesterday. Thus all teenagers are delinquents.

6. A reliable study showed that 90 percent of Bellevue College's students want better food in the school cafeteria. Latisha is a student at Bellevue College. It follows that Latisha probably wants better food at the cafeteria.

7. Hakim has eaten at Joe's Café every day for two weeks, and has liked the food each time.

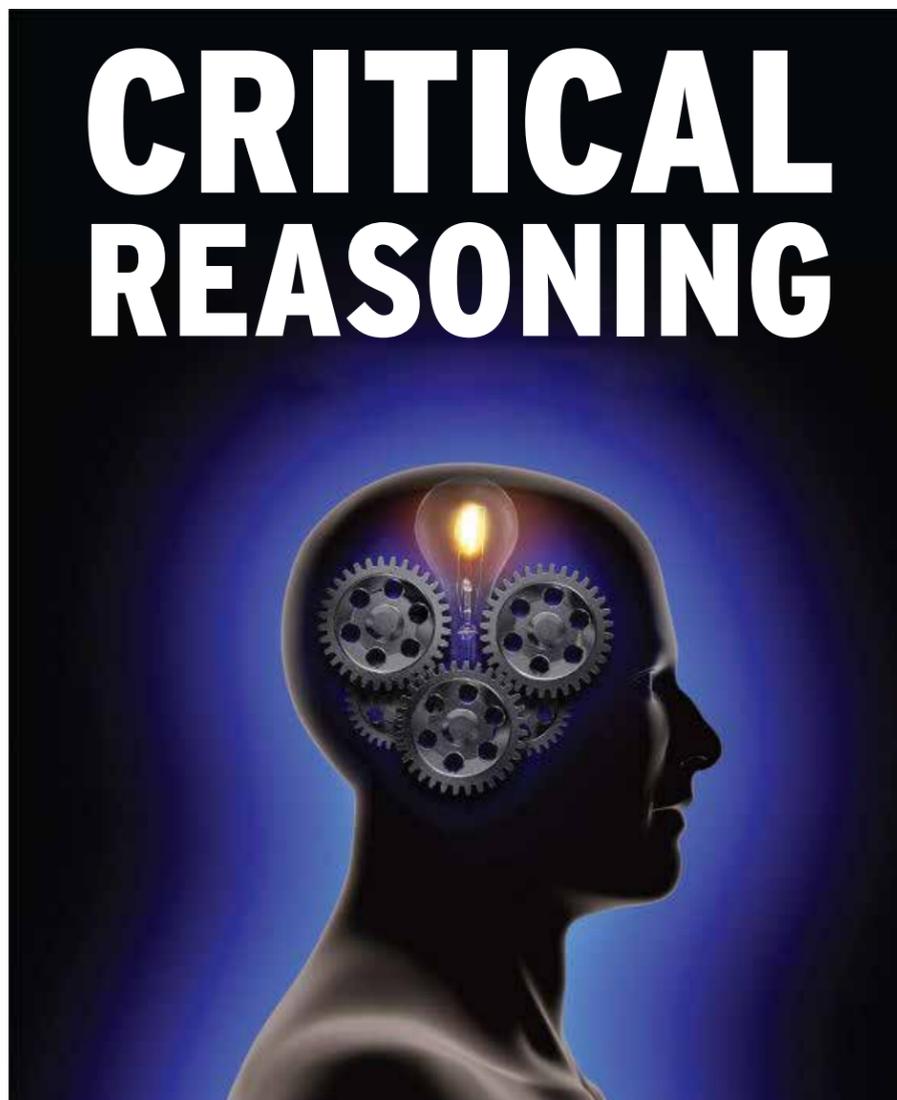
Hakim plans to go to Joe's Café tonight for dinner, and on the basis of his past experiences concludes that he will likely enjoy this meal, too.

8. Paul has eaten at Joe's Café once before for breakfast, and liked the food. On that basis, Paul concludes that he will love the food at Joe's Café tonight when he goes there for dinner.

9. Upon landing at the SeaTac Airport, plane passengers saw broken buildings, large cracks in the runway, fire engines running about, and paramedics assisting injured people. The passengers concluded that an earthquake just occurred.

10. A box contains 1000 U.S. coins. Two selected at random were one cent pennies. Thus the entire box probably contains nothing but pennies.

11. An official state parks sign at a beach says, "Attention: Beyond this point you may encounter nude sunbathers." Therefore the beach in front of you is probably sanctioned for clothingoptionaluse.



CRITICAL REASONING

* Phat is an artist. Therefore, Phat very likely has an MFA degree from San Francisco State.

* We interviewed 10 people in front of a Catholic church in Renton, Washington after Mass last Sunday and 9 of them said they were Catholic. It follows that probably 90 percent of all

Americans are Catholic.

Notice that each of the eight arguments above is inductive because the claim

are true if their premises are true, and some do not.

Ask yourself: If the premises were true, would they provide enough information to make it likely (i.e., better than 50 percent chance) that the conclusion is true? Yes: The argument is strong. No: The argument is weak.

**Practice Problems: Strong and Weak Arguments

For each of the following inductive

12. An elderly lady drove 50 miles out of her way to visit the officially sanctioned clothing optional beach at the state park, and complained to the park ranger there that she was offended by the nudity she saw through her binoculars. Thus the ranger should arrest every nude sunbather at the beach for disorderly conduct.

13. A spokeswoman for the nude sunbathers at the officially sanctioned

clothing-optional beach plans to explain politely to the elderly woman complainant that no one at the beach had broken any law. Therefore it is likely that this particular elderly woman will subsequently and happily join the nudists for a game of Frisbee on the beach.

14. Ranger Dan has listened to the elderly woman's strident complaint about beach nudity.

Ranger Dan has also listened to over a dozen nudists shout their points of view regarding the elderly woman's complaint. Ranger Dan works under an incompetent site administrator who demands that Dan resolve all beach user-conflict quickly and in such a way that avoids negative media attention. Thus Ranger Dan is probably feeling frustrated.

Answers:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Strong | 6. Strong | 11. Strong |
| 2. Strong | 7. Strong | 12. Weak |
| 3. Weak | 8. Weak | 13. Weak |
| 4. Weak | 9. Strong | 14. Strong |
| 5. Weak | 10. Weak | |

Section on Quantitative Techniques

1. I. Sum of n natural number = $\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$
 II. Sum of n even number = $(n)(n+1)$
 III. Sum of n odd number = n^2
2. I. Sum of sq. of first n natural no. = $\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$
 II. Sum of sq. of first n odd natural no. = $\frac{n(4n^2-1)}{3}$
 III. Sum of sq. of first n even natural no. = $\frac{2n(n+1)(2n+1)}{3}$
3. I. Sum of cube of first n natural no. = $\frac{n^2(n+1)^2}{4} = \left[\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right]^2$
 II. Sum of cube of first n even natural no. = $2n^2(n+1)^2$
 III. Sum of cube of first n odd natural no. = $n^2(2n-1)^2$
4. I. $x^n - y^n$ is divisible by $(x+y)$ When n is even
 II. $x^n - y^n$ is divisible by $(x-y)$ When n is either odd or even.
5. For any integer n, $n^3 - n$ is divisible by 3, $n^5 - n$ is divisible by 5, $n^{11} - n$ is divisible by 11, $n^{13} - n$ is divisible by 13.
6. **Algebra Identities:**
 I $(a+b)^2 + (a-b)^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2)$
 II $(a+b)^2 - (a-b)^2 = 4ab$
 III $a^3 + b^3 = (a+b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$
 IV $a^3 - b^3 = (a-b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$
 V $a^4 + a^2 + 1 = (a^2 + a + 1)(a^2 - a + 1)$
 VI If $a + b + c = 0$, then $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = 3abc$

$$\text{VII } \frac{(a+b)^2 - (a-b)^2}{ab} = 1$$

$$\text{VIII } \frac{(a+b)^2 + (a-b)^2}{a^2 + b^2} = 2$$

$$\text{IX } a\frac{b}{c} + d\frac{e}{f} + g\frac{h}{i} - j\frac{k}{l} = (a+d+g-j) + \left(\frac{b}{c} + \frac{e}{f} + \frac{h}{i} - \frac{k}{l}\right)$$

X If $a+b+c = abc$, then

$$\left(\frac{2a}{1-a^2}\right) + \left(\frac{2b}{1-b^2}\right) + \left(\frac{2c}{1-c^2}\right) = \left(\frac{2a}{1-a^2}\right)\left(\frac{2b}{1-b^2}\right)\left(\frac{2c}{1-c^2}\right) \text{ and}$$

$$\left(\frac{3a-a^3}{1-3a^2}\right) + \left(\frac{3b-b^3}{1-3b^2}\right) + \left(\frac{3c-c^3}{1-3c^2}\right) = \left(\frac{3a-a^3}{1-3a^2}\right)\left(\frac{3b-b^3}{1-3b^2}\right)\left(\frac{3c-c^3}{1-3c^2}\right)$$

7. Units of Measurement of Area and Volume

The inter-relationships between various units of measurement of length, area and volume are listed below for ready reference:

Length

1 Centimetre (cm)	=	10 millimetre (mm)
1 Decimetre (dm)	=	10 centimetre
1 Metre (m)	=	10 dm = 100 cm = 1000 mm
1 Decametre (dam)	=	10 m = 1000 cm
1 Hectometre (hm)	=	10 dam = 100 m
1 Kilometre (km)	=	1000 m = 100 dam = 10 hm
1 Myriametre	=	10 kilometre

Area

$$1 \text{ cm}^2 = 1 \text{ cm} \times 1 \text{ cm} = 10 \text{ mm} \times 10 \text{ mm} = 100 \text{ mm}^2$$



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Section on Reading Comprehension

Six most important types of RC Questions

There are 6 most important types of questions for Reading Comprehension:

1. Main Idea/Primary Purpose Questions

Many people believe there is no difference between the main or central idea of the passage and the primary purpose of the author of the passage. This is simply not true. Let's take a look at the subtle but important difference between them:

Main Idea

The question might look something like this:

- "Which of the following best states the central idea of the passage?"
- "Which of the following most accurately states the main idea of the passage?"
- "Which of the following is the principal topic of the passage?"
- "The main topic of the passage is...."

Primary Purpose

The question might look like this:

- "The primary purpose of this passage is to..."
- "The primary purpose of the passage as a whole is to..."
- "The primary focus of this passage is on which of the following?"
- "The main concern of the passage is to..."
- "In the passage, the author is primarily interested in..."
- "The passage is chiefly concerned with..."

Strategy:

Main Idea: Look in the first and last paragraphs for the main idea. Any conclusion words like therefore, thus, so, hence, etc. that you see are most likely introducing the main idea. The correct answer will say the same thing as it says in the text, but using different words. The Main Idea is not always stated explicitly in the passage – in fact, more likely than not, it is not stated explicitly. Therefore, in order to answer this type of question when it is more implicit:

Re-read the first line of every passage, and the last line of the first and last paragraphs. This should

give you the general structure or outline of the argument, with which you can answer the Main Idea question.

After determining the general structure or content of the argument, eliminate answer choices that are too broad or too specific, i.e. answer choices that go beyond the content of the passage, or that deal with content only discussed in one paragraph of the passage.

Make brief notes – a couple of words- regarding the Main Idea on the text on your scrap paper while you read.

Primary Purpose: What is the author trying to do? What is his intention? If he is evaluating a theory, then the answer could be something like "Discuss an interpretation". Note that the correct answer would deal with "an interpretation", because the author is only dealing with one theory. If the Primary Purpose is to criticize 2 new books, then his intention or his primary purpose might be to "Critique new studies". Again, as in Main Idea questions, re-read the first line of every passage, and the last line of the first and last paragraphs. This should give you the general structure or outline of the argument, with which you can answer the Primary Purpose question.

Note: A good main idea or primary purpose does not go beyond the scope of the passage, nor does it limit itself to discussing only one part of the passage.

2. Title Questions

Title questions are very similar to Main Idea questions, though are less common. The passages in the real CLAT will not have titles. The title question might look like this:

"Which of the following titles best summarizes the passage as a whole?"

Strategy:

Treat this as a Main Idea question. A good title sums up the central idea of a passage. Therefore, in order to answer this type of question:

1. Look in the first and last paragraphs for the main idea. Any conclusion words like therefore, thus, so, hence, etc. that you see are most likely introducing the Main Idea/Title. The correct answer will say the same thing as it says in the

text, but using different words.

2. Re-read the first line of every passage, and the last line of the first and last paragraphs. This should give you the general structure or outline of the argument, with which you can answer the Title question.

3. Make brief notes – a couple of words- regarding the Title on the text on your scrap paper while you read.

4. After determining the general structure or content of the argument, eliminate answer choices that are too broad or too specific, i.e. answer choices that go beyond the content of the passage, or that deal with content only discussed in one paragraph of the passage.

3. Specific Detail or Target questions

Specific Detail or Target questions are probably the most common types of questions, and the easiest to answer. The question might look like this:

"According to the passage,...."

"The passage states that"

Strategy

The Specific Detail or Target that we are looking for could be a Line Number, or a Name or Date. Go to the Line Number or Name or Date, and then read several lines above and below it. Find the answer choice that basically says the same thing as in the passage, though usually with different words or word order.

4. Inference or Assumption Questions

This is probably the most difficult type of Reading Comprehension problem. The questions might look like this:

▪ "It can be inferred that the author makes which of the following assumptions?"

▪ "Which is an assumption underlying the last sentence of the passage?"

▪ "Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the hypothesis mentioned in lines 17-19?"

▪ "With which of the following statements regarding chaos theory would the author be most likely to agree?"

Strategy:

First, treat this type of problem as a Specific Target question. Look for a target in the question, find it in the text, and then look above and below it. Often you do not have to infer very much, the answer remains within the text.

If the answer must be inferred and is not stated explicitly within the text, then choose the answer choice that can be inferred or assumed from the information given. Again, you should not have to infer very much – only one or two logical steps removed from the information in the passage.

Make sure that the answer choice you decide on does not violate or contradict the Main Idea of the passage - if it does, the answer choice is probably wrong.

5. Attitude or Tone of the passage Questions

The question might look like this:

"The author's attitude towards Morgan's theory could best be described as one of ..."

Strategy:

Look for descriptive words, adjectives or adverbs, that could tell you the author's attitude. For example, the words unfortunately or flaw suggest a negative connotation, while strength or valuable emphasize the positive. Make brief notes – a couple of words- regarding the Tone of the text on your scrap paper while you read. Additionally, keep in mind that the author's attitude toward a theory, book, or ethnic group will almost always be respectful, even when somewhat critical.

6. Organization of the passage questions

The question might look like this:

▪ "Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?"

▪ "Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph of the passage?"

▪ "One function of the third paragraph is to..."

Strategy:

Re-read the first line of every passage, and the last line of the first

and last paragraphs. This should give you the general structure or outline of the argument, with which you can answer the question. Remember to make brief notes about the structure of the text on your scrap paper. If you are looking for the organization of one paragraph, read the first and

second sentence of the paragraph. That will give you a rough idea of what is the structure or organization of the paragraph.

Some tips about reading passages:

a. Read the whole text of the passage once.

b. Make brief notes about the text on your scrap paper.

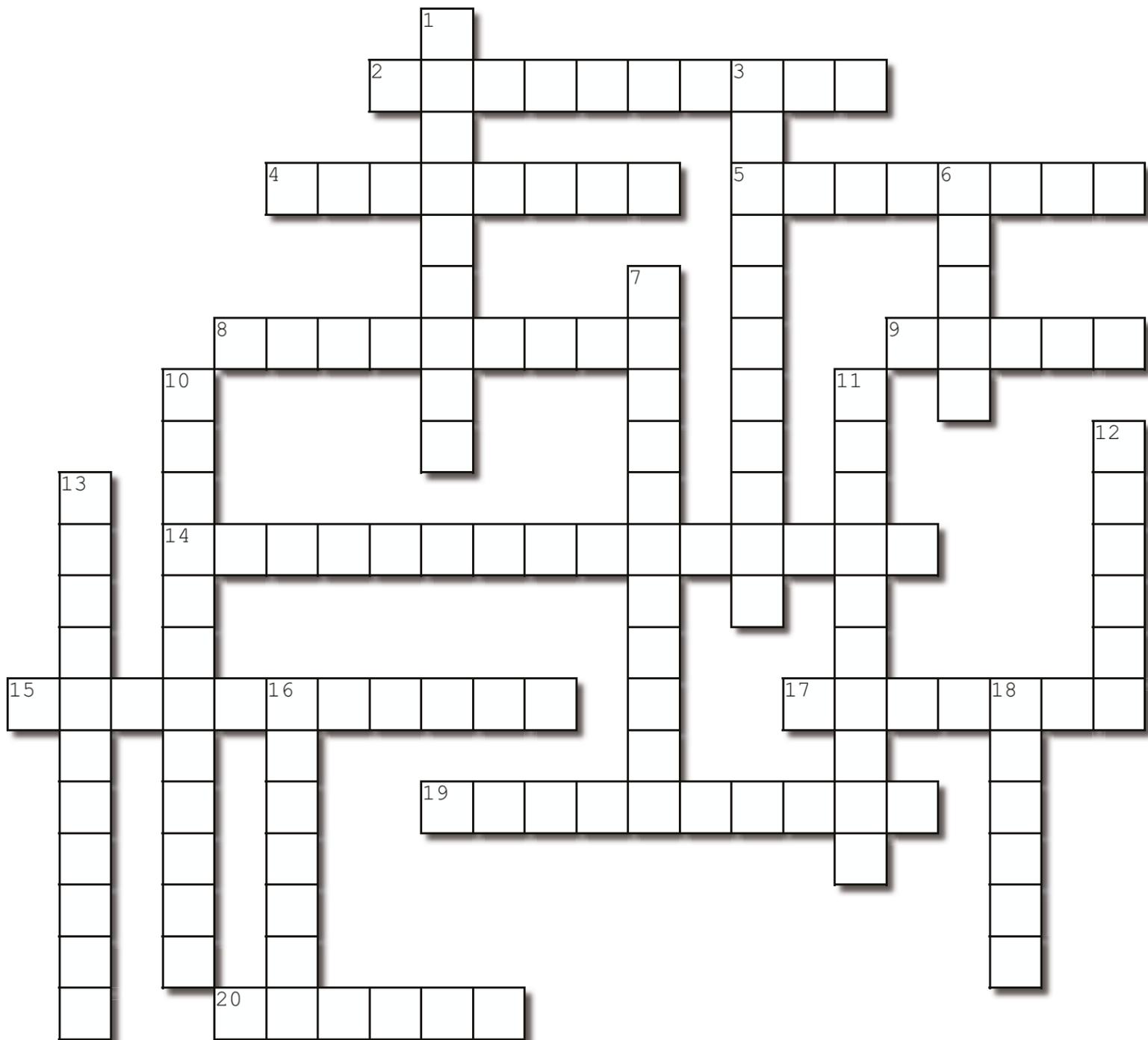
c. Remember that the tone or attitude of the passage is usually respectful and moderate, never going to extremes of praise nor criticism.

d. Look out for structural words that tell you the important ideas or transitions in a passage.

e. Go back to the text of the passage for the answers to specific questions.

LEGAL TERMS CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

2. A pending litigation
4. A penalty or other type of enforcement used to bring about compliance with the law or with rules and regulations
5. The offices of a judge and his or her staff
8. To charge someone with a crime
9. An unlawful act done in against payment of money
14. A form of discovery consisting of written questions to be answered in writing and under oath
15. The sale of a debtor's property with the proceeds to be used for the benefit of creditors
17. A written law passed by a legislative body
19. A court order to stop doing or to start doing a specific act
20. A written request to the court in a case

Down

1. Procedures used to obtain disclosure of evidence before trial
3. Type of evidence indicating that a defendant did not commit the crime
6. A written statement submitted in a trial or appellate proceeding that explains one side's legal and factual arguments
7. Generally making good, or giving the equivalent for any loss, damage or injury caused by a persons actions
10. The study of law and the structure of the legal system
11. To say that something is true
12. To testify or give under oath or sworn affidavit
13. The first court appearance of a person accused of a crime
16. In fact
18. The appellate court agrees with the lower court decision and allows it to stand valid

1. Discovery - Procedures used to obtain disclosure of evidence before trial
2. LisPendens - A pending litigation
3. Exculpatory - Type of evidence indicating that a defendant did not commit the crime
4. Sanction - A penalty or other type of enforcement used to bring about compliance with the law or with rules and regulations
5. CHAMBERS - The offices of a judge and his or her staff
6. Brief - A written statement submitted in a trial or appellate proceeding that explains one side's legal and factual arguments

7. RESTITUTION - Generally making good, or giving the equivalent for any loss, damage or injury caused by a persons actions
8. Prosecute - To charge someone with a crime.
9. VENAL - An unlawful act done in against payment of money
10. JURISPRUDENCE - The study of law and the structure of the legal system
11. Allegation - To say that something is true
12. Depose - To testify or give under oath or sworn affidavit
13. Arraignment - The first court appearance of a person accused of a crime
14. Interrogatories - A form of discovery consisting of written questions to be answered in writing and under oath

15. LIQUIDATION - The sale of a debtor's property with the proceeds to be used for the benefit of creditors
16. DEFACTO - In fact
17. STATUTE - A written law passed by a legislative body
18. UPHOLD - The appellate court agrees with the lower court decision and allows it to stand valid
19. INJUNCTION - A court order to stop doing or to start doing a specific act
20. MOTION - A written request to the court in a case