

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

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By Somak Raychaudhury

The safe return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from the International Space Station as part of the Axiom-4 mission, where he was the pilot among the four-member crew, marks a watershed moment not just for Indian human spaceflight, but for the entire strategic arc of India's space programme.

For the first time since Rakesh Sharma travelled on a Soviet spacecraft in 1984, an Indian has completed a complex scientific mission, in a journey to and from the ISS, spending more than two weeks aboard, this time under the banner of international partnership and indigenous resolve.

The successful conclusion of the Axiom-4 mission, marking another milestone in the burgeoning area of commercial human spaceflight, resonates far beyond the confines of Earth's orbit. For India, a nation rapidly asserting its prowess in the global space arena, this achievement offers invaluable lessons and a powerful impetus, particularly for its ambitious Gaganyaan mission and the greater vision for its future ventures in space.

Axiom-4's journey underscored several critical advancements that are reshaping the space landscape. It highlighted the increasing reliability and capability of private-sector space transportation. This mission, executed with professionalism and a clear focus on objectives, reinforced the growing accessibility of the low-Earth orbit for a multitude of purposes — from cutting-edge scientific research and technological demonstrations to next-generation manufacturing in microgravity environments.

Axiom's journey involved several critical learnings and practical insights that India can now integrate into its own evolving human space programme. The experience provided a rich case study in several key areas. Of primary and critical importance is crew training and preparation. Observing how commercial astronauts from various professional backgrounds, who are not necessarily all career military pilots, are rigorously trained and seamlessly integrated into a complex mission profile offers valuable perspectives.

India can meticulously refine its own astronaut selection and training methodologies by studying these models. This includes adopting best practices of physiological adaptation to microgravity and psychological conditioning for isolation. Both simulation-based drills and real-time problem-solving scenarios can enhance the preparedness of Indian "vyomnauts."

Mission operations and logistics present another vital area of learning. Managing a human spaceflight mission involving multiple international partners and commercial entities, as Axiom-4 successfully did, provides an invaluable blueprint for streamlining complex operational flows. This encompasses pre-flight preparations and launch sequences, in-orbit activities, rendezvous and docking procedures, and the critical re-entry and recovery phases.

Understanding the intricacies of communication protocols, real-time decision-making, manpower management, and robust contingency control strategies for Gaganyaan and subsequent missions can significantly strengthen India's human spaceflight ecosystem.

Axiom Space's declared long-term goal of building its own commercial space station, intended to succeed the ISS, has already declared India's readiness to deploy its own Antariksh Mission. In this vision, perhaps in collaboration with the Moon, and eventually beyond, lie the challenges they must now confront in developing the frameworks for deep-space living and working.

The Axiom-4 mission has also reaffirmed the benefits of pooling resources, expertise, and technological capabilities. This mission's success will certainly accelerate private-sector participation, demonstrating the viability and potential profitability, encouraging more Indian companies to invest in space infrastructure, services, and human spaceflight support.

This could lead to a thriving ecosystem of Indian suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers catering to future missions.

The transition from short-duration missions to longer-term continuous human spaceflight demands coordinated planning across scientific, radiation protection, and psychological insights. Axiom Space's declared long-term presence requires mastering complex logistical support for astronauts, all areas where these international collaborations generate golden insights.

Axiom Space's declared long-term goal of building its own commercial space station, intended to succeed the ISS, will provide the next phase of learning for India.

India's ambition to develop the Antariksh Mission, to deploy its own space station, represents the natural next step in this evolutionary trajectory.

The article concludes that India's participation in Axiom-4 has not only validated its spacefaring capability but has also reaffirmed its commitment to multilateral cooperation and technological advancement.

The mission stands as a testament to the country's growing ability to combine international collaboration with indigenous innovation — a balance that will define India's journey from being a spacefaring nation to a space power.

1. The author's central argument in the passage is most accurately represented by which of the following statements?

- A. India's participation in Axiom-4 primarily symbolizes a diplomatic milestone rather than a technological one.
- B. The Axiom-4 mission highlights India's dependency on international collaborations for human spaceflight success.
- C. The Axiom-4 mission represents the culmination of India's past space initiatives, not a step toward future ambitions.
- D. India's participation in Axiom-4 provides both strategic lessons and operational impetus for future indigenous human space programmes, blending collaboration with self-reliance.

2. In the context of the article, the phrase "reshaping the space landscape" most nearly suggests that:

- A. The global space industry is experiencing a decline in national contributions.
- B. Private participation and technological diversification are redefining how space exploration is conducted.
- C. India's achievements are overshadowing those of established spacefaring nations.
- D. Commercial spaceflight has replaced scientific research as the dominant mode of exploration.

3. The author's tone throughout the article can best be described as:

- A. Celebratory and forward-looking, combining factual reporting with national optimism.
- B. Critical and cautious, warning against excessive collaboration in space ventures.
- C. Detached and descriptive, limiting itself to recounting events without commentary.
- D. Defensive and argumentative, responding to critics of India's space policy.

4. Which of the following best captures the relationship between India's participation in Axiom-4 and its upcoming Gaganyaan mission?

- A. Axiom-4 establishes an entirely separate framework unrelated to India's indigenous missions.
- B. Axiom-4 replaces the need for Gaganyaan by demonstrating successful collaboration.

C. Axiom-4 serves as a preparatory and experiential foundation, offering transferable lessons for Gaganyaan's execution.

D. Axiom-4's collaborative model undermines the self-reliance principles underlying Gaganyaan.

5. Which of the following inferences can be most reasonably drawn from the passage?

A. India's involvement in Axiom-4 signals the decline of public sector control in space exploration.

B. Future space missions will likely depend more on psychological and operational preparedness than on raw engineering capacity.

C. The success of Axiom-4 indicates India's strategic withdrawal from bilateral cooperation with Russia.

D. India's engagement in Axiom-4 highlights a shift from purely symbolic participation to genuine capability-building and international partnership.

6. The author's argument that "Axiom-4's journey offers invaluable lessons" implicitly assumes that:

A. The processes and methodologies used in international missions are adaptable to India's space context.

B. The private sector's involvement in space research inherently guarantees innovation.

C. India's indigenous missions have achieved complete technological parity with international standards.

D. Collaborative missions are necessary only until India establishes full autonomy in space technology.

7. Which of the following observations, if true, would most strengthen the author's conclusion about public-private cooperation in India's space programme?

A. Private aerospace firms in India have begun collaborating with ISRO to supply mission-critical components for future projects.

B. State-led missions historically failed to deliver successful outcomes without private assistance.

C. Commercial partnerships often delay missions due to bureaucratic coordination issues.

D. The private sector's focus on profit margins hampers the pursuit of scientific objectives.

8. If an alternative interpretation argued that India's Axiom-4 participation merely reflects symbolic diplomacy, which of the following would most effectively refute it?

A. The mission's detailed contributions to astronaut training, logistics, and crisis management.

B. The historical precedent of India's earlier symbolic collaborations with the USSR.

C. The prestige gained from India's inclusion in global media coverage.

D. The number of Indian private-sector companies that sponsored the project.

9. Which flaw, if any, could be reasonably attributed to the author's argument?

A. It assumes that lessons learned from short-duration missions will automatically apply to long-term deep-space operations.

B. It downplays the logistical complexity of international cooperation.

C. It fails to acknowledge potential duplication of efforts between ISRO and Axiom Space.

D. It overstates India's readiness for independent space station deployment.

10. Which analogy best parallels the reasoning structure of the author's argument?

A. A student participating in a global debate to learn techniques for improving local competitions.

B. A startup relying entirely on external funding for its early projects.

C. A chef replicating a foreign recipe without modifying it to local tastes.

D. A scientist working in isolation to prove complete self-sufficiency.

LEGAL REASONING

Disclaimer:

This passage is a reconstructed academic adaptation based on publicly available reports and legal summaries. It is intended solely for educational purposes to develop legal reasoning skills. Some facts, interpretations, or examples may be simplified or modified for clarity. Candidates must rely only on the information and principles provided in this passage while answering the questions that follow, without referring to any external legal materials or assumptions.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, represents a pivotal legislative attempt to codify the appointment process and service conditions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), one of the nation's key constitutional bodies responsible for conducting free and fair elections. The Bill aims to fill the legislative vacuum that existed since the Constitution's adoption regarding appointments to the Election Commission, as highlighted by the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (2023).

In its landmark judgment, the Supreme Court stressed the importance of insulating the Election Commission from executive dominance. Pending a law from Parliament, the Court directed that appointments to the posts of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) should be made by a temporary committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and the Leader of Opposition. The 2023 Bill now replaces that interim judicial framework with a statutory one, signifying Parliament's assertion of legislative authority in this domain.

Under the new law, the President shall appoint the CEC and ECs on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of Opposition or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha. To avoid administrative delay, the Bill explicitly provides that recommendations of the Selection Committee will remain valid even if there is a vacancy in the Committee at the time of recommendation. Supporting this structure, a Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary will prepare a panel of names for consideration, though its role is purely advisory.

Eligibility is restricted to persons who hold or have held a post equivalent to the Secretary to the Government of India, thus emphasizing bureaucratic experience and administrative efficiency. The Bill also revises the service conditions, equating the salary and privileges of the CEC and ECs to those of the Cabinet Secretary, not to that of a Supreme Court Judge, as was the case earlier under the 1991 Act. The government defends this change as promoting administrative parity, while critics warn it could erode institutional independence.

The Bill continues to safeguard the security of tenure — the CEC can be removed only through a process akin to that of removing a Supreme Court Judge, and ECs only on the recommendation of the CEC, ensuring a hierarchical check within the institution. Additionally, the Bill grants immunity from legal proceedings for any actions taken in good faith during official duties, reinforcing functional independence.

However, the Bill's critics highlight certain concerns: the possibility of a monopoly by the ruling party in the Selection Committee during vacancies; the limitation of eligible candidates to senior civil servants, excluding distinguished jurists or experts; and the shift from judicial parity to executive parity in salaries, which may symbolically tilt the balance of power toward the executive branch.

In essence, the Bill embodies an ongoing constitutional dialogue between independence and accountability, legislative supremacy and judicial oversight, and between the ideals of political neutrality and administrative pragmatism. It seeks to translate judicial recommendations into a statutory framework, while simultaneously asserting Parliament's prerogative to regulate one of the most vital institutions of Indian democracy.

11. Following a sudden resignation in the Election Commission, the government convenes the Selection Committee meeting to appoint a new Election Commissioner. The Prime Minister and a Union Minister attend, but the position of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha remains vacant. An NGO challenges the appointment, arguing that without all three members, the process violates the principle of independence as stated by the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India* (2023). The government counters that the Bill explicitly allows the process to continue even when a member's seat is vacant to avoid delay in filling constitutional posts. The petitioners insist this violates democratic accountability and creates a one-sided appointment process dominated by the ruling party.

Which interpretation aligns with the Bill's legal framework?

- A. All appointments made in the absence of the Opposition leader are unconstitutional.
- B. Parliament cannot override the Supreme Court's earlier directions.
- C. The vacancy provision must be read narrowly, requiring judicial approval.
- D. The Bill explicitly validates recommendations even when the Selection Committee has a vacancy.

12. A senior bureaucrat who served as Home Secretary for three years is recommended for appointment as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). Opposition parties allege that restricting eligibility only to individuals holding posts equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government unfairly limits the pool of candidates to civil servants, excluding eminent academicians, jurists, and election law experts. They file a writ petition claiming that the new Bill violates the constitutional spirit of diversity and independence. The government argues that the Bill intentionally restricts eligibility to experienced senior administrators to ensure administrative competence and impartial execution of elections. The petitioners contend that such exclusivity compromises the institution's pluralism.

Which interpretation is consistent with the Bill?

- A. The Bill allows the Selection Committee to include anyone with public service experience.
- B. Eligibility is limited to those who hold or have held a post equivalent to Secretary to the Government of India.
- C. Academic or judicial experts must constitute a fixed percentage of nominees.
- D. The Bill leaves eligibility entirely to presidential discretion.

13. After his appointment, the new CEC initiates major reforms in campaign financing. A political party publicly criticises him, accusing him of acting beyond his authority. Later, a complaint is filed demanding his removal. The government notes that under Article 324(5) and the 2023 Bill, only Parliament may remove the CEC, following the same procedure as that of a Supreme Court judge. The complainants argue that the Bill's provisions allow executive influence since the President acts on government advice in initiating the process. The question arises whether the CEC's removal remains protected from executive pressure under the Bill's framework.

Which interpretation correctly reflects the legal position?

- A. The CEC can only be removed by a parliamentary process equivalent to that of a Supreme Court judge.
- B. The President can remove the CEC on cabinet advice.
- C. The Prime Minister can suspend the CEC pending inquiry.
- D. The Election Commission can remove its own members through internal procedure.

14. The Search Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, proposes five names for the post of Election Commissioner. However, the Selection Committee, led by the Prime Minister, rejects all five and selects a sixth candidate of its own choosing. A public interest group challenges the appointment, alleging that the Selection Committee's rejection of the Search Committee panel undermines transparency. The government contends that the Search Committee's role is only advisory and that final discretion rests with the Selection Committee. Petitioners argue that bypassing the suggested panel dilutes accountability and violates the spirit of merit-based appointments envisioned by the Supreme Court.

Which interpretation is consistent with the Bill's mechanism?

- A. The Search Committee's recommendations are binding on the Selection Committee.
- B. The Selection Committee has discretion to consider or disregard the Search Committee's panel.
- C. The President must seek judicial clearance for any deviation.
- D. Any deviation automatically invalidates the appointment process.

15. A newly appointed Election Commissioner faces a defamation case for decisions taken during electoral roll revisions. The petitioner claims the officer's actions caused reputational harm. The officer invokes the clause under the new Bill providing legal protection for actions taken "in discharge of official duties." Critics argue this clause creates blanket immunity that may allow misconduct to go unpunished. The government defends the clause as essential to ensure fearless functioning of constitutional officers. The court must decide whether such immunity covers bona fide administrative actions taken during tenure.

Which interpretation aligns best with the principles of the Bill?

- A. All actions of Election Commissioners are immune, regardless of intent.
- B. Immunity applies to bona fide actions taken in official capacity.
- C. Immunity extends even to actions outside the scope of duty.
- D. The Bill removes immunity entirely for accountability reasons.

16. During a deadlock, the Leader of Opposition refuses to attend the Selection Committee's meeting, accusing the government of bias in shortlisting. The Prime Minister and Union Minister proceed to recommend a candidate to the President. The opposition claims the appointment is invalid due to lack of quorum. The government cites the Bill's clause validating recommendations even in the event of a vacancy or absence. Critics counter that "vacancy" cannot mean "boycott." The court must interpret whether the clause allows unilateral decisions when a member deliberately abstains.

Which reasoning is most consistent with the statutory scheme?

- A. All appointments require the presence of every member to preserve balance.
- B. The Bill explicitly allows the Selection Committee's recommendation even if a member is absent or the seat is vacant.
- C. Boycott by a member automatically suspends the appointment process.
- D. The President must defer appointments until all members attend.

17. Following a political controversy, the government amends service conditions reducing the tenure of Election Commissioners from six to three years through delegated legislation under the Bill. The Opposition argues that this violates constitutional principles of security of tenure. The government contends that since the Bill vests rule-making powers in the executive, it can adjust terms of service. Petitioners rely on the principle that independent institutions require fixed and stable tenures to maintain impartiality. The question arises whether altering tenure through executive rules aligns with the legislative intent of the Bill.

Which interpretation is correct?

- A. Any alteration reducing tenure undermines independence and contradicts the Bill's framework.
- B. The executive may revise tenure by subordinate legislation.
- C. Parliament's approval is required for tenure modifications.
- D. The tenure of ECs is at the discretion of the CEC.

18. A former Election Commissioner is nominated to a political post within three months of retirement. Civil society groups argue this violates the independence and post-tenure neutrality that the Bill seeks to ensure, while the government argues the Bill is silent on post-retirement restrictions. The petitioners claim that even silence must be read in light of the constitutional goal of impartiality in electoral institutions. The issue is whether post-tenure restrictions can be implied into the statute.

Which conclusion follows logically?

- A. The Bill's silence cannot imply a restriction beyond what it explicitly states.
- B. The Bill's principles of neutrality and independence can imply post-tenure restrictions.
- C. The President must issue executive guidelines until Parliament amends the law.
- D. The Selection Committee's oversight extends to post-retirement employment.

19. The CEC passes an order transferring multiple senior officials during an election cycle. The government accuses him of "exceeding jurisdiction" and issues a show-cause notice. The CEC argues his powers are derived directly from Article 324, which vests superintendence, direction, and control of elections in the Election Commission. The government cites the Bill to assert that administrative transfers require prior consultation. The court must interpret whether the Bill can limit constitutional powers granted under Article 324.

Which outcome is most consistent with the constitutional and statutory framework?

- A. Administrative rules may override Article 324 during elections.
- B. The CEC's powers under Article 324 are constitutionally superior and cannot be curtailed by the Bill.
- C. Consultation is mandatory before exercising constitutional powers.
- D. The President must approve all administrative actions during elections.

20. An independent candidate challenges the appointment of a new CEC, alleging that the appointment process violates transparency as the Selection Committee's minutes were not made public. The government argues that confidentiality is necessary to preserve institutional dignity. Petitioners rely on the Bill's stated objective of promoting transparency and accountability. The question arises whether procedural secrecy in appointments violates the legislative intent of the Bill.

Which interpretation best fits the law?

- A. Transparency requires all deliberations to be published.
- B. Limited confidentiality does not violate transparency if due process is followed.
- C. All appointments must be subject to judicial review before confirmation.
- D. The President must disclose reasons for every appointment publicly.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage - I

The Civil Defence Act, 1968 is a key statute in India that provides for organized measures to protect the civilian population, property, and infrastructure in situations of hostile attack or emergency. Under the Act, “civil defence” is defined broadly to include any measures — not amounting to actual combat — to protect people and property against hostile attack (by air, land, sea or otherwise), or to mitigate the effects of such attack, whether before, during, or after the attack. The Act extends to the entire territory of India (though its commencement in a particular State may be notified separately) and may also include measures taken for disaster management under amendments or rule provisions.

Under the Act, a Civil Defence Corps may be constituted in areas (towns, districts) to meet civil defence needs. Members and officers may be appointed, and rules may assign them duties. The Central Government is empowered to make rules for civil defence (Section 3) — covering prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, rescue, and related aspects. The Act also contemplates regulations by the Central Government for particular measures under Section 9.

Civil Defence Rules, 1968 — made under the Act — provide for specific powers and duties: control of lights and sounds (blackouts), camouflage requirements, dealing with outbreaks of fire, evacuation, billeting (use of premises to house evacuated persons), accommodation, and protection of utilities (water supply, handling dangerous substances) in the event of attack. The Rules allow authorized personnel to inspect premises and enforce compliance, even using necessary force, and costs may be recovered from owners failing to comply.

The Act also specifies miscellaneous provisions: members of the Corps are public servants, protection is given to action in good faith, and it includes penalties for non-compliance. The Act also ensures that normal civilian life is disturbed as little as possible under its orders. Historically, civil defence functions have evolved beyond just wartime roles to include disaster responses — flood, earthquake, chemical, biological, radiological threats — aligning with contemporary emergency management.

In practice, the objectives of civil defence include saving lives, minimizing damage, maintaining continuity of vital services, and boosting public morale during emergencies. Volunteer participation is key: civil defence is largely organized on a voluntary basis, supplemented by a small permanent staff, with volunteers trained and occasionally compensated with allowances. With rising security and disaster challenges, the Ministry of Home Affairs often calls on States/UTs to invoke civil defence authority under the Act and Rules to enhance preparedness, especially in tense geopolitical situations.

Thus, the Civil Defence Act, 1968, combined with its Rules and evolving practices, forms India’s statutory backbone for national resilience: enabling legal authority, organizational structure, and procedural tools for citizen protection under emergencies and attack.

21. Consider the following statements about “civil defence” in the Civil Defence Act, 1968:

1. It covers measures taken before, during or after a hostile attack.
2. It includes measures that amount to actual combat operations.
3. Its scope can be extended by amendment to include disaster-management measures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 2 only C. 1 and 2 only D. 1, 2 and 3

22. Which of the following statements about the constitutional/legislative basis of Civil Defence legislation in India is/are correct?

1. Defence of India (including civil defence) is a Union subject in the Seventh Schedule.
2. Parliament enacted the Civil Defence Act, 1968 under its Union legislative powers.
3. States have absolutely no role in application or administration of civil defence measures.

A. 1 only B. 1 and 2 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

23. With reference to the Civil Defence Corps under the Act, which of the following is most accurate?

1. A Civil Defence Corps may be constituted in specified areas to meet civil-defence needs.
2. Members of the Corps are treated as “public servants” for legal purposes.
3. The Corps is by statute an armed wing of the Indian Armed Forces.

A. 1 only B. 1 and 2 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

24. Which of the following powers are available to authorities under the Civil Defence Rules, 1968?

1. Ordering blackouts and controlling lights and sounds.
2. Directing evacuation and billeting (use of premises to house evacuees).
3. Ordering the wholesale nationalization of private industry for civil-defence use.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 1 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

25. Which of the following historical events most directly motivated the introduction of comprehensive civil-defence legislation in India in the 1960s?

- A. The China-India conflict (1962) and the Indo-Pak war (1965)
- B. The Emergency (1975–77)
- C. Kargil conflict (1999)
- D. 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami

26. Which of the following statements about limits/exclusions of the Civil Defence Act is/are accurate?

1. The Act extends to the whole of India but may be brought into force in a State or part thereof by notification.
2. Measures taken solely for the protection of the regular armed forces fall outside the Act’s application.
3. The Act automatically suspends all civil liberties when invoked.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 1 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

27. Which of the following best reflects the current administrative lead for civil-defence matters in India?

1. Directorate General of Civil Defence (DGCD) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
2. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as sole controller of civil defence.
3. Ministry of Defence (MoD) exercises direct administrative control over Civil Defence Corps.

A. 1 only B. 1 and 3 only C. 2 only D. 1 and 2 only

28. Which of the following about civil-defence volunteers is correct (based on statute/practice)?

1. The scheme is largely voluntary; volunteers form the backbone of civil defence units.
2. The Act forbids any allowances or compensation to volunteers.
3. Volunteers receive training in rescue, first aid and related tasks.

A. 1 and 3 only B. 1 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

29. In 2025 the MHA issued directions to States/UTs regarding civil defence. Which of the following describes that action accurately?

1. The Center asked States/UTs to invoke emergency powers under the Civil Defence Rules (e.g., for emergency procurement, activation).
2. The Center ordered nationwide disbandment of civil defence corps.
3. The advisory was issued in response to heightened India-Pakistan tensions that year.

A. 1 and 3 only B. 2 only C. 1 only D. 1 and 2 only

30. Which of the following reforms would be most consistent with the Act's purpose and demonstrated policy trajectory (including the 2009 amendment proposal)?

1. Explicitly including climate-induced and other disaster responses within the Act's scope.
2. Strengthening local Panchayat / district institutions and district civil-defence cells for implementation.
3. Removing civilian oversight and placing all civil-defence functions under military command.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

Passage - II

On 26 August 2025, India's naval capabilities received a major boost with the simultaneous commissioning of INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, two state-of-the-art stealth frigates under the Project 17A (P-17A) class. The ceremony at Visakhapatnam was presided over by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, emphasizing that these ships will "augment the Navy's combat readiness and reaffirm India's resolve to achieve self-reliance in warship design and construction."

These two frigates were built in different shipyards: INS Udaygiri by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, and INS Himgiri by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. Their simultaneous induction marks the first time in Indian naval history that two frontline surface combatants from different shipyards were commissioned together. This achievement underscores India's growing indigenous defence-industrial base and naval ship-building self-reliance.

Belonging to the P-17A class (successor to the Shivalik class), the two ships incorporate advanced stealth features, reduced radar signatures, enhanced weapons and sensor suites, next-generation integrated platform management systems, and multi-mission capability in blue-water environments (anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine, humanitarian operations). With these additions, the Indian Navy expects improved ability to act as a "First Responder" and "Preferred Security Partner" in the Indian Ocean Region — combating piracy, illicit trafficking, maritime terrorism, and providing humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HADR).

Strategically, their induction strengthens India's Eastern Fleet and maritime posture across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), particularly given the rising emphasis on maritime security, power projection, and safeguarding sea-lines of communication. From a symbolic standpoint, naming these ships after distinguished predecessors (INS Udaygiri served 1976-2007; INS Himgiri 1974-2005) connects heritage with future capability.

Moreover, the launch sends a strong message of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) in the naval realm, as both ships were indigenously designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built largely in India. These ships thus represent both capability gain and strategic signalling: to neighbours, to the maritime domain, and to India's defence-industrial ecosystem. In sum, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri significantly strengthen India's maritime power, deterrence posture, and regional influence.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri were commissioned on 26 August 2025 at Visakhapatnam.
2. Both ships belong to Project 17A (P-17A) Nilgiri class of stealth frigates.
3. Both ships were constructed at the same shipyard.

Which are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

32. Which of the following captures the industrial significance of the twin commissioning?

1. First simultaneous commissioning of two frontline surface combatants from different Indian yards.
2. Demonstrates increasing indigenous content (around 75%) and MSME involvement.
3. Shows India's complete elimination of foreign suppliers for critical ship systems.

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

33. Which statements are correct?

1. INS Udaygiri was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL).
2. INS Himgiri was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
3. The Warship Design Bureau (WDB) designed the ships.

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

34. Which of the following capability statements are consistent with P-17A frigates as described in official accounts?

1. Reduced radar and infrared signatures (stealth features).
2. Multi-mission role: anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine and HADR.
3. Exclusively shallow-water operations only (no blue-water endurance).

- A. 1 and 2 only B. 1 and 3 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

35. Which statements describe the strategic effect the Ministry emphasised?

1. These frigates strengthen the Eastern Fleet and IOR posture.
2. They make India a nuclear-armed maritime hegemon overnight.
3. They enhance India's capacity as a First Responder and Preferred Security Partner.

- A. 1 and 3 only B. 2 only C. 1 and 2 only D. 1, 2 and 3

36. Which of the following about the names is correct?

1. Earlier vessels named Udaygiri and Himgiri served in the Navy (1970s–2000s).
2. The reuse of names links heritage to modern capability.
3. The new names are entirely novel without any historical precedent.

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

37. Which of these statements are correct regarding the commissioning milestone?

1. It was the first simultaneous commissioning of two frontline surface combatants from two different Indian shipyards.
2. INS Udaygiri marks the 100th ship designed by the Warship Design Bureau.
3. Both ships were commissioned in Mumbai.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 1 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

38. Which of the following is a plausible operational challenge for integrating these ships into the fleet?

1. Interfacing modern sensor suites with legacy fleet command & control.
2. No requirement for crew training because of automation.
3. Sustaining logistics supply-chains for advanced missiles and consumables.

A. 1 and 3 only B. 2 only C. 1 only D. 1, 2 and 3

39. Which statements correctly link the commissioning to India's maritime strategy?

1. Supports SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) objectives by enhancing regional security contribution.
2. Is a direct unilateral declaration of maritime boundary claims.
3. Helps counter increasingly assertive naval activities by extra-regional powers in the IOR.

A. 1 and 3 only B. 2 only C. 1 only D. 1, 2 and 3

40. Which of the following accurately reflects the industrial footprint reported in accounts about these ships?

1. More than 200 MSMEs contributed to construction and equipment.
2. Indigenous content was reported around ~75%.
3. All major weapons (e.g., BrahMos) and sensors were fully indigenous without any foreign components.

A. 1 and 2 only B. 2 and 3 only C. 1 and 3 only D. 1, 2 and 3

QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUE

Passage-I

In a Degree college having 750 students, a sports event is organized. Each student participated in one sport among Baseball, Cricket, Hockey and Basketball. Ratio between the number of boys and girls who participated in Cricket is 11:13 and that of hockey is 15:13. The number of girls who participated in baseball is 20 less than the number of boys in baseball and the number of boys who participated in cricket is 35 more than the number of boys who participated in Hockey. The ratio between the number of boys and girls who participated in Basketball is 4 : 3 .The ratio of the number of girls and boys who participated in baseball is 7 : 9 and the difference between the number of boys and girls who participated in cricket is 20.

41. The number of boys who participated in cricket is approximately what percentage of number of girls who participated in Hockey?

(a) 190% (b) 169% (c) 134% (d) 155%

42. Find out the number of girls who participated in Basketball.

(a) 120 (b) 90 (c) 140 (d) 160

43. Find out the ratio of total student who participated in Cricket to the total number of student who participated in Baseball.

- (a) 2:3 (b) 3:2 (c) 13:7 (d) 7:8

44. Find out the total number of Girls who participated in all the games together?

- (a) 355 (b) 335 (c) 535 (d) 533

45. Find out the ratio of the total number of boys and total number of girls in college?

- (a) 71:78 (b) 71:79 (c) 17:18 (d) 79:71

Passage-II

Vidya Bharti Public School has 4000 students. The ratio of boys to girls is 3 : 2. All the students are involved in five different activities, viz Gardening, Debate, Extempore, Quiz and Dance.

16% of the boys and 28% of the girls are in Extempore and Gardening respectively. One-fifth of the boys are in Dance activities. The ratio of girls to boys in Extempore is 2 : 3.

25% of the total number of students are in Debate competition. Girls in Dance are 60% of the boys in the same game. 22% of the girls are in Quiz. The remaining girls are in Debate. 18% of the boys are in Gardening and the remaining in Quiz.

46. Which activity has the maximum number boys in the school?

- (A) Extempore (B) Dance (C) Quiz (D) Debate

47. What is the number of girls in Debate competition?

- (A) 256 (B) 288 (C) 250 (D) 245

48. The number of boys in Dance forms what percent of the number of girls in the same activity?

- (A) 66.67 % (B) 166.67% (C) 250.66% (D) 123.54%

49. The number of girls in Quiz forms what per cent of the total number of the students in the school?

- (A) 9.8 % (B) 8.8% (C) 4.9% (D) 13.5%

50. What is the total number of boys in Extempore and Debate together?

- (A) 1234 (B) 1411 (C) 1128 (D) 960



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