

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

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By C. Uday Bhaskar

The bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Tianjin on Sunday has aroused considerable global interest, given that it took place against the backdrop of unexpected turbulence in India-US bilateral ties, triggered by the petulant weaponisation of tariffs by US President Donald Trump.

The outcome of Tianjin is to be cautiously welcomed. It is a summit-level political endorsement by the two leaders of the broad agreements arrived at during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Delhi earlier in August. It is instructive that the official statement released by New Delhi referred to both leaders welcoming the “positive momentum and steady progress in bilateral relations since their last meeting” in Kazan, Russia, in 2024.

This is a familiar template for both Asian giants who have had a troubled relationship since the border war of October 1962. After the most recent military confrontation in Galwan, Ladakh in mid-2020, bilateral ties went into a deep freeze and it took the Kazan meeting for the beginning of thaw, with meetings such as Tianjin. A much-needed degree of stability, resumption of dialogue and contact at various levels has been restored.

However, it would be misleading to interpret the Modi-Xi meetings as having gone through the more contentious issues that have bedevilled the relationship for decades. The tangled territorial-cum-border dispute (that goes back to before 1947) and differing political and ideological orientations respectively at the core of the dissonance. Despite repeated attempts, the path to a consensual modus vivendi has remained elusive.

In the Tianjin meeting, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the successful disengagement last year and the maintenance of peace and tranquility along the border areas since then. Predictably, the old chestnut, “mutually acceptable resolution”, found mention and the statement added that the two leaders “recognised the important decisions taken by the two Special Representatives in their talks earlier this month, and agreed to further support their efforts.”

This translates into acknowledging that the border talks will remain “a work in progress” and both countries will seek to engage with each other in other domains. This was reflected in President Xi’s remarks where he noted that the two nations are cooperation partners, not rivals, and that they are each other’s “development opportunities rather than threats.” The visually rich symbolism of a “cooperative pas de deux of the dragon and the elephant” was also invoked by Xi.

The Tianjin bilateral meeting and the SCO summit are unfolding at a consequential moment in global geopolitics. The American eagle is flapping its wings in an uncertain manner, the dragon, the elephant and the Russian bear are all differently impacted. The idiosyncratic Trump tariffs had set back the India-US relationship. New Delhi has managed to maintain a delicate balance between its ties with Washington and Beijing.

The famous subtext of the “non-alignment” posture and the phrase “strategic autonomy” are being recalibrated by India to manage the simultaneous contradictions of its relationships with the US, Russia and China. A rapidly changing global order and a hyper-polar world, where major powers are grappling with complex contradictions, has added layers of challenge for India’s foreign policy.

Beijing was vehemently critical of the Indian nuclear tests of 1998 and sought to play spoiler in the 2008 US-India civil nuclear accommodation. The 2020 Galwan rupture is now being repaired in Tianjin and the SCO declaration

will hopefully create a more geopolitical re-assertion of parity. A contrarian world, where major powers are grappling with complex contradictions, has added layers of challenge for India's foreign policy.

India had bitter differences with the US during the Cold War over the NPT (nuclear non-proliferation treaty) and this relationship remained strained from 1974 to 2005. The George Bush–Manmohan Singh rapprochement that led to the Indo–US nuclear deal in 2008 turned the page. The last 17 years have seen a steady consolidation in the Indo–US partnership.

The August 27 imposition of unwarranted tariffs on India has irritated Delhi which will now seek to engage with the US in the long term, given its relevance in the Indo–Pacific strategic calculus. China has pursued policies that have been either inimical or adversarial to India's core interests. Beijing sided with Pakistan and the US in the latter part of the Cold War and has kept this pattern. New Delhi has had to navigate this geopolitical breakdown with both Washington and Beijing, going back to the 1962 war and the first thaw initiated by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The Tianjin meeting marks progress in restoring normalcy in ties between the two Asian giants but the border remains a major obstacle to full normalization. It is a "work in progress" and will remain the touchstone for durable peace and stability in the relationship. The bilateral, in a way, encapsulates India's broader foreign policy challenges in a world order that is rapidly changing and where conflicting interests often coexist uneasily.

1. The author's principal argument in the passage can be most accurately stated as:

- A. The Tianjin meeting marks the resolution of all major bilateral disputes between India and China.
- B. The meeting symbolizes diplomatic normalization but fails to eliminate structural tensions rooted in history and geopolitics.
- C. The summit represents a new alignment of India–China–US relations toward permanent cooperation.
- D. The meeting exemplifies cautious progress amid enduring strategic contradictions, reaffirming India's balancing role in a volatile world order.

2. In the context of the passage, the expression "*mutually acceptable resolution*" conveys which of the following meanings?

- A. A permanent end to hostilities through military disengagement.
- B. A diplomatic euphemism acknowledging unresolved issues without conceding ground.
- C. An idealistic aspiration for complete trust between the two governments.
- D. A technical phrase indicating the settlement of all border disputes.

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

- A. Analytical and restrained, balancing cautious optimism with strategic realism.
- B. Alarmist and sceptical, predicting renewed hostility between the two nations.
- C. Jubilant and nationalistic, celebrating India's diplomatic triumph.
- D. Detached and impersonal, avoiding any evaluative commentary.

4. According to the author, what best explains India's current diplomatic approach to China and the United States?

- A. India is abandoning its traditional non-alignment to fully align with the US-led Indo-Pacific bloc.
- B. India seeks to preserve autonomy by maintaining strategic engagement with competing powers.
- C. India's recent tariffs dispute with the US has pushed it closer to China diplomatically.
- D. India's foreign policy aims at re-establishing the Cold War balance through trilateral cooperation.

5. What inference can reasonably be drawn from the author's portrayal of the Tianjin meeting?

- A. Symbolism and dialogue often serve as stabilizing tools even when substantive resolutions remain elusive.
- B. Diplomatic rhetoric is meaningless without immediate military disengagement.
- C. Historical mistrust has permanently foreclosed all possibilities of reconciliation.
- D. The SCO platform is unsuitable for meaningful bilateral engagement.

6. The author's argument that the Modi-Xi meeting "marks progress, but border issues remain a challenge" relies on which underlying reasoning principle?

- A. Diplomatic progress can coexist with unresolved disputes if both sides maintain channels of communication.
- B. Strategic autonomy requires the complete absence of bilateral conflicts.
- C. Symbolic meetings are futile unless they produce measurable policy outcomes.
- D. The persistence of disputes negates any form of diplomatic advancement.

7. Which of the following developments, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that the Tianjin meeting restored "positive momentum" in India-China relations?

- A. Both sides agreed to increase military deployments near the Line of Actual Control.
- B. India and China resumed joint research projects in climate science and clean energy within weeks of the summit.
- C. The SCO members criticized India's economic policies during the meeting.
- D. China imposed new tariffs on Indian goods following the summit.

8. Which unstated assumption underlies the author's observation that India's "strategic autonomy" is being recalibrated?

- A. That maintaining equidistance among great powers is increasingly untenable in today's polarized order.
- B. That the Indo-US relationship has replaced all other strategic partnerships.
- C. That China's domestic politics dictate India's foreign policy recalibration.
- D. That India's non-aligned past no longer has any relevance in the 21st century.

9. If one were to challenge the author's argument, which of the following would most effectively weaken it?

- A. Evidence that both nations resumed aggressive border patrols shortly after the Tianjin summit.
- B. Reports confirming that both leaders privately agreed on a long-term peace plan.
- C. Data showing that bilateral trade volumes increased by 40% after the summit.
- D. A new cultural exchange initiative between the two countries.

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

- A. A doctor continues therapy with a patient even though full recovery is uncertain.
- B. A business refuses to trade until all disputes are legally settled.
- C. A student avoids participating in discussions until mastering the entire syllabus.
- D. A judge refuses to hear a case because both sides have conflicting evidence.

LEGAL REASONING

Disclaimer:

The following passage and questions are designed purely for academic and pedagogical purposes to strengthen analytical reasoning and legal interpretation skills for law entrance examinations. Facts, legislative references, and interpretations presented herein may not correspond to the current legal position or actual government policy.

You must rely **only** on the facts, provisions, and principles contained in the passage to answer the questions. External legal knowledge should **not** be applied.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) was a landmark in Indian education policy, guaranteeing free and compulsory education to children between six and fourteen years of age. One of its most debated features was the “no-detention policy” under Section 16, which prohibited schools from detaining or failing any student up to Class 8. The provision aimed to prevent dropouts and foster inclusive education by ensuring that every child progressed through elementary education without fear of failure.

However, over time, several reports and educational surveys indicated a decline in learning outcomes, with concerns that automatic promotion discouraged effort and accountability. The Right to Education (Amendment) Act, 2019 allowed states to decide whether to retain or abolish the policy for Classes 5 and 8. Yet, the operational framework lagged behind. In 2024, the Right to Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Rules, 2024 were notified by the Central Government to fully implement the legislative change in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The amended rules introduced clear promotion criteria, requiring periodic assessments, remedial instruction, and re-examinations before deciding on detention. A child failing in annual examinations is entitled to two months of remedial instruction and a re-test opportunity. Only if the student fails again may he or she be detained in the same class. This redefined process reflects the NEP’s emphasis on competency-based learning and teacher accountability.

Further, schools must ensure specialized interventions—personalized guidance by teachers, parental involvement, and school head monitoring—to help detained students bridge learning gaps. Even where detention is permitted, expulsion remains prohibited; no child may be denied schooling before completion of elementary education. This creates a balance between educational accountability and the child’s right to education.

The amendment has polarized the educational discourse. Supporters claim it restores discipline and seriousness to schooling while aligning with global standards where grade retention exists. Critics argue it contradicts NEP’s vision of learning without fear and risks increasing dropout rates among marginalized students. Data from ASER and NCERT highlight foundational learning deficits—only 20–25% of rural students can read grade-appropriate texts—suggesting that systemic issues, not promotion policies, lie at the root of learning failure.

In essence, the 2024 amendment marks a shift from a rights-centric, fear-free model to a performance-accountable one. It attempts to reconcile constitutional guarantees under Article 21A with practical educational challenges—ensuring that the right to education does not merely mean attending school, but achieving meaningful learning outcomes.

11. A state government issues a circular under the amended RTE Rules, 2024, mandating that all students failing in their annual exams be detained without the two-month remedial instruction and re-test opportunity. A group of parents files a writ petition claiming violation of the child’s right to education under Article 21A. The state defends that the amendment allows detention, and hence, its policy is valid.

If the court must decide based only on the principles in the passage, should the state's circular stand?

- A. Yes, the state has full autonomy to determine its promotion policy.
- B. Yes, as the amendment itself abolishes the no-detention policy entirely.
- C. No, because states can interpret the amendment flexibly to ensure discipline.
- D. No, because detention without remedial instruction and re-test violates the framework of the 2024 Rules.

12. A private aided school introduces a strict promotion rule under which any student failing in the first annual test will not be allowed to appear in the final exam. Parents argue that this violates the child's right to holistic assessment envisaged under the RTE Amendment Rules, 2024. The school claims institutional autonomy. Based on the passage, which reasoning best aligns with the amendment's spirit?

- A. The school's rule is valid as the amendment restores school discretion.
- B. The rule is invalid as it contradicts the requirement for continuous and comprehensive evaluation.
- C. The school can decide if remedial support is unfeasible due to limited resources.
- D. The state government must first issue uniform rules for assessment; until then, schools have full freedom.

13. A Class 5 student, after failing both exams and being detained, claims that detention violates her fundamental right to education under Article 21A. Her parents file a petition demanding automatic promotion. The school argues that detention after remedial instruction is permissible. Based solely on the passage, what should the court hold?

- A. The school is correct, as detention post-remedial instruction aligns with the 2024 Rules.
- B. The student is right; any form of detention violates Article 21A.
- C. The parents must approach the education department before court intervention.
- D. Detention is valid only in private schools, not government institutions.

14. A school detains a student after re-examination and directs that the student will not be provided free mid-day meals or study materials during the repeated year, arguing that the RTE Act applies only once per grade. The child's parents challenge this, citing denial of the right to education benefits.

Which principle from the passage best resolves this dispute?

- A. Benefits like meals or materials are secondary to learning outcomes.
- B. The RTE Act ceases to apply once a student fails.
- C. The RTE Act ensures continued access to education and benefits until completion of elementary schooling.
- D. Detained students cannot avail government schemes to avoid misuse of public funds.

15. A student detained in Class 8 alleges discrimination, claiming that the decision to detain was arbitrary and not based on objective assessment criteria. The principal asserts that discretion lies entirely with the teacher. Under the 2024 Rules, which argument holds stronger ground?

- A. The teacher's discretion is final and beyond review.
- B. Detention decisions are invalid unless supported by structured assessment and remedial opportunity.
- C. Detention can be based on subjective teacher evaluation if recorded in writing.
- D. The principal can overrule the teacher if learning outcomes are below expected benchmarks.

16. A group of NGOs argues that the reintroduction of detention under the RTE Amendment Rules, 2024, violates India's international obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by promoting fear-based learning. The Union Government defends the amendment as a balanced reform ensuring accountability. Based on the passage, how should this contention be viewed?

- A. The NGOs are right since any detention inherently violates global norms.
- B. The government's approach aligns with NEP 2020, balancing learning outcomes with inclusion.

C. The issue is irrelevant since international treaties are non-binding.

D. The matter should be referred to UNESCO for clarification.

17. In a public interest petition, an education activist claims that the amendment indirectly encourages dropouts among marginalized groups. The state defends that the Rules still prohibit expulsion and mandate remedial teaching. How should the court interpret this under the passage?

A. The petition is unfounded since expulsion and detention are distinct concepts; only the former is barred.

B. The state's defence is valid as the Rules balance accountability and access.

C. Dropouts are a policy issue and not justiciable in court.

D. The activist is correct because any risk of dropout undermines the object of Article 21A.

18. A state education board issues a notification exempting tribal and backward region schools from detention provisions, allowing automatic promotion up to Class 8. Critics challenge it as discriminatory. Based on the principles in the passage, is such an exemption valid?

A. No, because all schools must uniformly apply the 2024 Rules.

B. Yes, as the amendment allows contextual flexibility to ensure equity and inclusion.

C. No, because states cannot amend national rules without Parliament's consent.

D. Yes, but only if the exemption is time-bound and subject to parliamentary approval.

19. A group of teachers files a petition arguing that the reintroduction of detention increases workload and violates their right to equal treatment under service rules. The government argues that enhanced accountability is an integral part of the teacher's professional role under the 2024 amendment. Based on the passage, which interpretation is most consistent?

A. Teachers can refuse additional duties not specified in their contracts.

B. The amendment imposes no new legal duties on teachers.

C. Teacher accountability and remedial intervention are core to the amended RTE framework.

D. Teachers' rights supersede statutory obligations under educational reforms.

20. A think tank publishes a report asserting that abolition of the no-detention policy contradicts the child-centric spirit of Article 21A and recommends reinstating automatic promotion. The government responds that RTE 2024 integrates accountability without fear by ensuring remedial learning. What conclusion aligns best with the principles of the passage?

A. The report's position aligns better with the Constitution's spirit of education as a right without conditions.

B. The government's stance better reflects a balance between access and learning outcomes.

C. Both positions are equally valid as education involves moral and legal considerations.

D. Neither, because RTE 2024 only deals with procedural reforms, not constitutional principles.

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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage - I

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) is an India-led global initiative that reframes climate action as a mass movement of everyday lifestyle choices rather than purely technology or regulation-led fixes. The concept was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 (Glasgow) on 1 November 2021 and has since been launched as a broader movement by the Government of India to nudge individual and community behaviour towards “mindful and deliberate utilisation” of resources.

LiFE’s central premise is that when millions adopt small, sustained changes in consumption and daily habits (reducing single-use plastics, conserving water and energy, choosing clean mobility, preferring circular-economy products), cumulative greenhouse-gas and environmental gains follow. The mission promotes “Pro-Planet People (P3)” — a network to mobilise at least one billion people globally to practice environment-friendly lifestyles between 2022 and 2028. India has also positioned LiFE as part of its diplomatic outreach — presenting lifestyle change as a complement to national mitigation policies.

Operationally, Mission LiFE is organised around three pillars: (a) focus on individual and community attitudes/behaviours; (b) co-creation — crowdsource culturally appropriate solutions globally; and (c) leverage traditional knowledge and social norms to scale climate-friendly practices. The mission borrows lessons from India’s prior large behavioural campaigns (for example, Swachh Bharat) and seeks to mainstream the “reduce-reuse-recycle” ethos across towns and villages.

Mission LiFE sets measurable national ambitions: official documents state a target that by 2028 at least 80% of villages and urban local bodies should become environment-friendly (through demonstrable adoption of LiFE actions). Brochures also note India’s comparatively low per-capita carbon footprint (the NITI brochure cites a low per-person figure ~0.56 tonnes in the LiFE context) and uses that as an argument for India’s moral and pragmatic case to promote low-carbon lifestyles globally.

The Government institutionalised LiFE through a set of initiatives — a Mission LiFE portal, collaboration with state governments, and partnerships with civil-society groups, youth networks, and industry — to mainstream eco-labels, energy-efficient appliances, waste-reduction practices, and community mobilisation. The movement was amplified during India’s G20 presidency and through global engagements, where LiFE was presented as an agenda for behaviourally grounded climate action. In sum, Mission LiFE signals a strategic shift: complement national mitigation/technology with bottom-up societal change and exportable normative leadership on sustainable living.

21. Which of the following statements about Mission LiFE are correct?

1. It was introduced at COP26 in November 2021.
 2. It aims to mobilise at least one billion “Pro-Planet People” globally between 2022–2028.
 3. It mandates a national carbon tax by 2025.
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

22. Which of the following are the three pillars of Mission LiFE as outlined in official material?

- A. Individual/community behaviour; co-creation leveraging local cultures; leveraging traditional knowledge
- B. Rapid fossil-fuel expansion; centralised carbon markets; mandatory lifestyle compulsion
- C. Exclusive techno-fix focus; import of lifestyles; elimination of local customs
- D. Mass migration; large scale urban relocation; financial penalties for households

23. Which of the following lifestyle measures would Mission LiFE most likely endorse (based on its stated philosophy)?

- 1. Reduce single-use plastics and prefer reusable alternatives.
 - 2. Increase ownership of large SUVs and offset emissions with credits.
 - 3. Choose energy-efficient appliances and understand eco-labels.
- A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 2 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

24. Which of the following factual claims appears in Mission LiFE official documents/brochures?

- A. India's average per-capita carbon footprint cited ~0.56 tonnes (noted comparatively low).
- B. India's per-capita footprint is above the global average of 10 tonnes.
- C. The brochure does not mention per-capita footprints at all.
- D. Mission LiFE mandates a GDP contraction to meet its goals.

25. Which measurable national target is explicitly associated with Mission LiFE documents?

- A. By 2028, at least 80% of villages and urban local bodies to be environment-friendly.
- B. By 2025, all coal plants to be shut down.
- C. By 2024, banning all private cars in cities.
- D. By 2030, no individual may fly internationally.

26. Which of the following best summarises Mission LiFE's global ambition?

- A. Position India as a norm-setter by exporting culture-driven, low-carbon lifestyle practices.
- B. Replace renewable-energy deployment with behavioural nudges only.
- C. Limit LiFE to India and exclude global participation.
- D. Use LiFE to deregulate environmental standards globally.

27. Which institutional mechanisms would most logically help implement Mission LiFE at scale?

- A. Community mobilisation (Panchayats/urban local bodies), school curricula, and MSME incentives for circular products.
- B. Centralised ration cards that ban certain foods nationwide.
- C. Military enforcement of household consumption patterns.
- D. Immediate termination of all subsidies for clean appliances.

28. Which statement best captures the philosophical shift Mission LiFE advocates?

- A. From top-down techno-regulation to bottom-up behavioural mobilisation and mass movement.
- B. From lifestyle change to exclusive emphasis on geoengineering.
- C. From community action to purely market-driven solutions with no social element.
- D. From awareness to complete elimination of consumption.

29. Which of the following criticisms is most plausible (and has been voiced in debate) about a lifestyle-centred approach like LiFE?

- A. It could be seen as shifting responsibility from high-emitting producers/states to individual consumers.
- B. It automatically solves structural barriers such as lack of public transport and energy access.
- C. It negates the need for policy and infrastructural investments.
- D. It forces a single lifestyle across all cultures.

30. Which of the following is correct about the Mission's name and core phraseology?

- A. LiFE stands for "Lifestyle for Environment".
- B. It emphasises "mindful and deliberate utilisation" rather than "mindless disposal".
- C. Both A and B are correct.
- D. Neither A nor B is correct.

Passage - II

In September 2025 India took a strategic step to harness sub-surface heat by notifying its first National Policy on Geothermal Energy. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) released the document to create an enabling framework for exploration, demonstration and scaled deployment of geothermal resources as part of India's clean-energy strategy and its commitment to Net-Zero by 2070. The policy treats geothermal both as a source of firm, round-the-clock electricity and as a versatile resource for direct uses (district heating/cooling, greenhouse cultivation, aquaculture, desalination, and industrial process heat), thereby positioning it as a complement to intermittent renewables.

The policy draws on Geological Survey of India (GSI) mapping: India has about 381 hot springs (surface temperatures roughly 35–89 °C) and ten geothermal provinces (including Himalayan province, SONATA — Son-Narmada-Tapi, Cambay Graben, West Coast, Aravalli, Mahanadi, Godavari, Naga-Lusai, Andaman & Nicobar and the South Indian cratonic region). Recognising that much of India's resource is low-to-medium enthalpy, the policy emphasises both electricity pilots in higher-temperature pockets and wide direct-use deployment in medium/low enthalpy zones.

Key operational measures in the policy include explicit facilitation for exploration and long-term leases (developers may receive exploration permits and leases up to ~30 years), creation of single-window clearance mechanisms at the state level, a centralised geothermal resource and lease data repository, and pilot/demonstration projects to de-risk resource development. MNRE has sanctioned an initial set of five pilot projects to kick-start field validation and build a domestic value chain.

To address the high upfront risk and cost profile of geothermal (drilling and exploration), the policy outlines a package of incentives and facilitative measures: 100% FDI permitted in renewables including geothermal, concessional finance and long-tenor loans, viability-gap funding for early-stage projects, tax/duty concessions and waivers on open-access/ transmission charges in certain cases, and incentives to repurpose abandoned oil & gas wells. International cooperation and public-private partnerships are explicitly encouraged.

The policy also prescribes environmental safeguards (mandatory reinjection of produced fluids where feasible), reservoir stewardship, local stakeholder engagement and mechanisms to capture mineral by-products (e.g., silica). Challenges acknowledged in the document include: high exploration/drilling cost, location specificity of resources, long gestation periods, need for specialised drilling skills and geoscientific data, and limited domestic manufacturing of certain geothermal components. Overall, the policy aims to mainstream geothermal into India's renewable portfolio — as a source of baseload renewables and direct heat applications — by combining pilot demonstration, fiscal support and institutional reforms to reduce the exploration risk and attract private and international capital.

31. Consider these statements about India's National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025):

1. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) is designated as the nodal ministry and has regulatory/stewardship responsibility.

2. The policy mandates creation of a statutory “National Geothermal Energy Development Board (NGEDB)” to regulate tariffs and licensing.
3. The policy explicitly ties geothermal deployment to India’s Net Zero by 2070 goal and proposes pilot resource assessments and demonstration projects.

Which option is correct?

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

32. Which of these are **explicitly identified in Indian geothermal literature/policy as known geothermal locations or provinces?**

1. Puga Valley (Ladakh)
2. SONATA (Son–Narmada–Tapti) lineament region
3. Aravalli craton (Rajasthan)
4. Godavari graben

Choose the correct code:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only B. 1 and 3 only C. 2 and 3 only D. All four (1, 2, 3 and 4)

33. Which of the following is correctly reflected in the MNRE policy (2025) or associated implementation framework for geothermal deployment?

- A. The policy proposes exploring fiscal mechanisms such as viability gap funding (VGF), concessional loans and import duty/GST relief for geothermal equipment.
- B. The policy guarantees a fixed national feed-in tariff for all geothermal power projects, set centrally.
- C. The policy forbids FDI in geothermal projects to protect domestic industry.
- D. The policy requires states to lease geothermal blocks only for 1 year (no further extensions allowed).

34. Which of the following are explicitly covered under the MNRE 2025 policy scope?

1. Promotion of Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs) and direct-use applications (agriculture, greenhouse heating, cold storage).
2. Encouragement to repurpose abandoned oil and gas wells for geothermal exploitation.
3. A blanket exemption from all environmental clearances for geothermal drilling.
4. Standardization of geothermal resource reporting using international norms (e.g., UNFC).

Choose the correct code:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only B. 1 and 3 only C. 2 and 3 only D. All four (1, 2, 3 and 4)

35. Which statement best describes the **pilot phase approach recommended by India’s geothermal policy?**

- A. Immediate large-scale commercial deployment across all provinces.
- B. Initial focus on resource assessment, exploratory drilling and demonstration projects followed by commercial scale-up.
- C. Full privatization of exploration rights to foreign companies without government support.
- D. Direct replacement of existing coal plants with geothermal plants in the pilot phase.

36. Which of the following Indian States / UTs has **not been reported as having notable geothermal manifestations (hot springs / high geothermal prospectivity) in mainstream geothermal surveys?**

- A. Ladakh B. Gujarat C. Jharkhand D. Kerala

37. Which of the following countries from the list are among the **top five countries by installed geothermal electric capacity (MW)**?

1. Iceland
2. Philippines
3. New Zealand
4. Kenya

Choose the correct code:

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only B. 1 and 2 only C. 2 and 3 only D. 2, 3 and 4 only

38. Which statement best defines **Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS)**?

- A. EGS uses surface solar collectors to heat rock, then extracts heat via wells.
B. EGS creates or enhances permeability in hot rock (often by fluid injection / stimulation) so fluids can circulate and extract heat where natural hydrothermal reservoirs are absent or limited.
C. EGS is the practice of co-firing geothermal steam with biomass in hybrid plants.
D. EGS involves transporting shallow groundwater to distant industrial users without heat-extraction processes.

39. Which of the following statements about geothermal project economics / risks is **FALSE**?

- A. High upfront exploration and drilling costs are a major investor concern for geothermal projects.
B. Geothermal projects are completely immune to seismic risk and never induce seismicity.
C. Mineral by-products (silica, lithium, etc.) may enhance project economics but are subject to mineral/royalty rules.
D. Grid access, tariff competitiveness and financial risk mitigation (e.g., VGF, concessional loans) are important for project bankability.

40. Consider these statements about Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs) / Geothermal Heat Pumps:

1. GSHPs exploit relatively constant subsurface temperatures to provide heating and cooling.
2. Their thermodynamic efficiency necessarily collapses at high altitudes across all designs.
3. MNRE's geothermal policy (2025) explicitly includes promotion of GSHPs and district heating/cooling applications where feasible.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

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QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUE

Passage-I

Study the given information based on speed time and distance and answer the following question. Two Railway station Patna junction and Lucknow junction are 450 km apart on a straight line. Kumbh Express which length is 225 meter start from Patna junction at 7 am and travel towards Lucknow junction at a certain speed . Another train Gomti Express which length is 300 meter start from Lucknow junction at 7 am at a speed of certain speed. Gomti express crosses a platform of half of its length in 45 sec. Kumbh Express passes a man who is standing on the platform in 15 sec.

41. Find out the speed of Kumbh Express in km/hr.

- (a) 45km/hr (b) 36km/hr (c) 90km/hr (d) 54km/hr

42. Find out the speed of Gomti Express in Km/hr.

- (a) 36km/hr (b) 54km/hr (c) 45km/hr (d) 72km/hr

43. In how many time Gomti Express Crosses a man who is running at a speed of 6km/hr in same direction.

- (a) 40 sec (b) 36 sec (c) 50 sec (d) 60 sec

44. By what time both train Kumbh Express and Gomti Express meet each other.

- (a) 12 am (b) 10am (c) 1 pm (d) 12 pm

45. How far from Patna junction where both trains will be meet each other .

- (a) 300km (b) 270km (c) 180km (d) CND

Passage-II

Study the given table and answer the following question . The table shows marks obtain by 6 student in 5 different subject unit test.

Name	Hindi (100)	English (150)	Maths (125)	Computer (75)	History (50)
Rupesh	86	126	108	56	42
Ankit	76	87	98	62	36
Sarika	45	86	90	52	22
Madhu	69	114	100	63	44
Jay	55	140	123	44	38
Kartik	59	126	118	58	41

46. What % of marks obtain by Ankit in Unit test?

- (a) 81.6% (b) 80.6% (c) 82.4% (d) 83.6%

47. Find average marks obtain by all student in History. (Approx)

- (a) 37 (b) 32 (c) 39 (d) 40

48. Marks obtain by Sarika in Maths is what % to the marks obtain by Rupesh in English?

- (a) 71.42% (b) 78.56% (c) 72.67% (d) 89.11%

49. Find out the ratio of % marks obtain by Jay in Maths to the % marks obtain by Madhu in computer?

- (a) 3:4 (b) 41:35 (c) 15:17 (d) 35:41

50. Who got maximum marks in unit test?

- (a) Ankit (b) Rupesh (c) Sarika (d) NOT

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