

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

I have seen Ladakh in its stillest hours: dawn breaking over Pangong Lake, prayers whispered at Thiksey Monastery, markets closing in Kargil. To wake up in that extraordinary calm in Leh, and then to walk across to hear His Holiness the Dalai Lama during one of his annual visits, is to understand how inspiration and serenity coexist in this fragile frontier.

To imagine the stillness broken by gunfire is to feel the fragility of our republic's peripheries; for blood in the recent eruption of violence cannot be dismissed as a mere law and order issue. Ladakh has given India its warriors, its faith, and its trust. A frontier that has stood by India deserves nothing less. Delhi, to its credit, has always recognised Ladakh's unique place in the Republic and must now redouble its efforts with empathy, resolve, and imagination to ensure an early return to Ladakh's traditional peace and quiet.

Ladakh has always been one of India's most steadfast frontiers. Its people and soldiers fought where few could even breathe and stood firm when other peripheries faltered. When raiders poured across this frontier in 1947, the Ladakh Scouts were raised from local volunteers who knew the mountains as second skin. In 1962, they resisted overwhelming odds against the Chinese. In 1971, they helped secure India's northern defences. Most memorably, in 1999, during the Kargil War, they earned the title of Snow Warriors, fighting in terrain where survival itself was an act of defiance. Colonel Chewang Rinchen, twice decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra, became a legend. Sonam Wangchuk (as colonel in the Indian army at the time, not the man at the centre of the current protests) was one of the bravest of these soldiers. From Kargil to Siachen, from Kushok Bakula Rinpoche to Satish Sharma, several Ladakhis earned the nation's gratitude for testing its spiritual and physical strength in a landscape once seen as India's final frontier and last line of defence.

Ladakh's bond with Delhi has always been unique and special. Delhi knows it has no frontier quite as steadfast and none as loyal. But today, Ladakh is restive. Its discontent rarely spills onto the streets, yet beneath the silence there is pain and anger. The epicentre of Ladakh's unease lies at the confluence of Chinese and Pakistani frontiers. Delhi has acted with caution, mindful that this is not just a region of monasteries and pashmina but also of sensitive borders where every administrative decision has national security implications. Yet, the Centre must recognise that empowerment is essential. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly emphasised, integration must be accompanied by development and dignity.

That delicate balance between security, ecology, and empowerment defines Delhi's challenge today. For decades, Ladakh's grievances were muted, its politics quiet waters, its youth restless, its discontent rarely spilling onto the streets. That changed after UT status. Ironically, Ladakh — historically divided by religion and politics — now stands united. The Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, once adversaries, have forged an unprecedented common cause. When Buddhists and Muslims of this frontier speak in one voice, Delhi must listen.

There are already signs that New Delhi is opening channels of engagement. Quiet conversations have taken place, and officials who know Ladakh intimately are being asked to take the lead. One such figure is S D Singh Jamwal, the police commissioner, who is among the few administrators who truly understand Ladakh, its people, its rhythms, its silences.

Within Ladakh's new politics, Sonam Wangchuk, the celebrated innovator, commands support among a section of the youth. But given Delhi's deep suspicions of movements that begin spontaneously, his agitation must be addressed step by step through institutional channels that respect both dissent and dialogue. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, meant for the northeast, is being discussed as a possible model for protecting Ladakh's land, ecology, and culture.

Meanwhile, there are already promising signs that some long-pending issues are being addressed. Key infrastructure projects have moved forward, and there is a growing recognition of the need for empowerment of local communities. Yet, enormous strategic sensitivities demand prudence. But caution does not mean indifference. Delhi's approach must reflect the weight of responsibility: ensuring that the empowerment of Ladakh goes hand in hand with preserving national security, ecological sustainability, and constitutional integrity.

Ladakh today is not alienated, but assertive. Its people seek partnership, not patronage. They want opportunity, and Delhi has needed to seize it. By striking the balance between security and self-governance, between ecology and economy, Delhi can set an example of participatory federalism for other sensitive frontiers.

Ladakh's political institutions such as the Hill Councils should be strengthened immediately, and a path for legislative empowerment sketched out, whether through a reformed Union Territory model, gradual devolution, or adaptive provisions of the Sixth Schedule adapted for Ladakh's uniqueness.

Simultaneously, policymakers must pay more attention to India's green transition plans for border regions — projects that promote livelihoods and sustainability together. Ladakh's people have proven that even in isolation and under pressure, they can remain India's most loyal frontier. Delhi must now prove that it can be the capital of empathy and imagination.

(The Indian Express, September 26, 2025 | Author: Amitabh Mattoo)

1. Which of the following best captures the central theme of the passage?

- A. Ladakh's unique geopolitical and cultural identity demands empathetic engagement and responsible governance from Delhi.
- B. The Union Territory model of Ladakh must be abolished for greater democratic participation.
- C. Ladakh's strategic location makes it unsuitable for legislative empowerment.
- D. India's national security challenges are rooted entirely in Ladakh's terrain.

2. The author's tone throughout the passage can best be described as —

- A. Condemnatory and pessimistic
- B. Detached and objective
- C. Reflective and empathetic
- D. Sarcastic and ironic

3. According to the author, which of the following pairs best exemplifies the balance Delhi must achieve in dealing with Ladakh?

- A. Religion and regional identity
- B. Security and self-governance
- C. Tradition and modernity
- D. Growth and globalization

4. Which statement best reflects the symbolic role of Ladakh in India's national imagination, as suggested by the author?

- A. A remote frontier now alienated from the Indian state
- B. A historically loyal frontier deserving reciprocal trust and empathy
- C. A volatile region needing constant military intervention
- D. A peripheral area defined only by religion and ethnicity

5. What does the author suggest as the most crucial administrative reform for Ladakh's future?

- A. Revocation of UT status and full statehood
- B. Strengthening local legislative and hill councils with devolved powers
- C. Direct central control over key ecological zones
- D. Military-led governance to ensure border stability

6. If Delhi continues to approach Ladakh primarily as a security frontier, which of the following outcomes is most consistent with the author's reasoning?

- A. Increased alienation and erosion of trust among Ladakh's people.
- B. Enhanced administrative efficiency and security stability.
- C. Rapid infrastructural progress through central intervention.
- D. Complete political integration without dissent.

7. Which inference can be reasonably drawn from the passage about Delhi's historical approach toward Ladakh?

- A. It has always prioritized decentralization.
- B. It has treated Ladakh's sensitivities with cautious central oversight.
- C. It has consistently ignored Ladakh's ecological challenges.
- D. It has often promoted aggressive demographic changes.

8. Which of the following best represents the author's view on Sonam Wangchuk's movement?

- A. It threatens Ladakh's constitutional order.
- B. It should be engaged through institutional dialogue, not suppression.
- C. It lacks legitimacy and should be ignored by the Centre.
- D. It primarily seeks secession from the Indian Union.

9. Suppose Delhi implements a Sixth Schedule-like model for Ladakh. Based on the author's argument, which of the following consequences is most likely?

- A. Greater local participation and reduced alienation.
- B. Escalation of religious and regional divides.
- C. Weakening of national security coordination.
- D. Increased dependency on central bureaucracy.

10. What is the broader principle the author wants Delhi to demonstrate through its handling of Ladakh?

- A. Political appeasement through rapid concessions.
- B. Participatory federalism balancing local voice with national interest.
- C. Strategic deterrence as the sole instrument of control.
- D. Restrictive autonomy guided by central authority.



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LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

Article 77 of the Indian Constitution lays down the provisions related to the conduct of business of the Government of India. It states that all executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President. This means that the President is the head of the Indian executive, and all actions of the executive must be taken in his or her name.

The article further states that the President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business. This means that the President has the power to make rules regarding the conduct of business of the Government of India. These rules may pertain to the allocation of business among different Ministers, as well as the procedures for conducting the business. The rules may also specify the powers and responsibilities of different officials in the executive, as well as the procedures for coordination and consultation among different branches of the executive.

The article also specifies that the President may, in the exercise of his or her discretion, require any Minister to submit any matter for the consideration of the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers is the group of Ministers who are responsible for the overall governance of the country. This means that the President has the power to require any Minister to seek the approval of the Council of Ministers before taking any executive action. This provision ensures that the executive acts in a coordinated and consultative manner, with all Ministers and officials working together to achieve the goals of the government.

Moreover, the article clarifies that the conduct of business of the Government of India includes the discharge of the functions of the President under the Constitution. This means that the conduct of business of the Government of India includes all functions that the President is required to perform under the Constitution. These functions may include the appointment of officials, the granting of pardons and reprieves, and the promulgation of ordinances. The conduct of business of the Government of India may also include the execution of treaties and agreements with other countries, as well as the formulation and implementation of policies related to national security, economic development, and social welfare.

In conclusion, Article 77 of the Indian Constitution is a crucial provision that lays down the provisions related to the conduct of business of the Government of India. It empowers the President to make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and to allocate the said business among Ministers. The article also ensures that the executive acts in a coordinated and consultative manner, with all Ministers and officials working together to achieve the goals of the government. Moreover, it clarifies that the conduct of business of the Government of India includes all functions that the President is required to perform under the Constitution. This provision is essential for ensuring the effective functioning of the Indian executive and the smooth governance of the country.

11. The President has received a request for a large-scale military intervention from a neighboring country to quell a violent insurgency. The Council of Ministers is divided on the issue, with some arguing that India should provide military assistance, while others warn against getting involved in a conflict that could have far-reaching consequences. What should the President do?

- A) Approve the military intervention and send troops to the neighboring country
- B) Refuse the request and offer diplomatic and humanitarian assistance instead
- C) Refer the matter to the United Nations for a collective decision
- D) Seek input from military experts and intelligence agencies before making a decision.

12. A natural disaster has struck a remote area of the country, causing widespread devastation and loss of life. The President has the power to declare a national emergency and allocate resources for relief efforts. However, there is limited information available about the extent of the damage and the needs of the affected communities. What should the President do?

- A) Declare a national emergency and allocate resources immediately to aid the affected communities
- B) Conduct a needs assessment and gather more information before making a decision
- C) Call on international aid organizations to provide assistance and support
- D) Mobilize the armed forces to provide relief and rescue operations

13. A Minister has proposed a controversial policy that would restrict the freedom of expression and the press. The policy has been criticized by journalists, civil society groups, and legal experts as a violation of constitutional rights. However, the Minister argues that the policy is necessary to maintain law and order. What should the President do?

- A) Reject the policy proposal and ask the Minister to come up with an alternative solution
- B) Consult with legal and constitutional experts before making a decision
- C) Refer the matter to the Supreme Court for a legal opinion
- D) Approve the policy proposal but with strict safeguards to protect freedom of expression and the press

14. The President has received a request from a foreign government to extradite a high-profile criminal suspect who is wanted for a serious crime. However, the suspect claims that they will face the death penalty if extradited, which is prohibited by Indian law. What should the President do?

- A) Reject the extradition request and offer the suspect asylum in India
- B) Extradite the suspect but seek assurances from the foreign government that the death penalty will not be imposed
- C) Conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations of the crime before making a decision
- D) Delay the decision until more information can be gathered about the situation in the foreign country

15. A senior official in the executive has been accused of accepting a large bribe from a foreign corporation in exchange for granting them a lucrative contract. The President has the power to suspend the official pending an investigation. However, the official is highly influential and has close ties to political and business leaders. What should the President do?

- A) Suspend the official immediately and launch a full-scale investigation into the allegations
- B) Offer the official the opportunity to resign voluntarily to avoid further damage to the government's reputation
- C) Refer the matter to an independent commission or ombudsman for investigation
- D) Ignore the accusations and allow the official to continue in their position without consequences

Passage-II

Article 80 of the Indian Constitution outlines the composition of the Council of States, also known as the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian Parliament and consists of 250 members, with 238 members elected by the legislative assemblies of the states and union territories, and 12 members appointed by the President of India.

The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a term of six years, with one-third of the members retiring every two years. This ensures that the Rajya Sabha is a continuing body and there is no complete dissolution of the house at any given time. The President of India can also nominate members to the Rajya Sabha if they have special knowledge or experience in fields such as literature, science, art, or social service.

The representation of states in the Rajya Sabha is based on the principle of proportional representation. The number of seats a state has in the Rajya Sabha is determined by its population, with each state having a minimum of one representative. This ensures that smaller states are not underrepresented in the upper house.

The presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha is the Vice President of India, who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. In the absence of the Vice President, the Deputy Chairman presides over the proceedings of the house. The Rajya Sabha has its own set of rules of procedure and conduct of business, which are distinct from those of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

The Rajya Sabha has several important functions, including the power to initiate and pass bills related to subjects under the Union List, the power to approve or reject money bills, and the power to investigate and scrutinize matters of public importance. The Rajya Sabha also plays an important role in the impeachment of the President and other high officials.

Overall, the composition of the Council of States as outlined in Article 80 of the Indian Constitution ensures that the upper house of the Indian Parliament is representative of the states and union territories of India. The proportional representation of states in the Rajya Sabha ensures that the interests of all states, regardless of their size, are adequately represented in the upper house. Additionally, the Rajya Sabha plays a critical role in the functioning of the Indian democracy by providing a platform for debate, scrutiny, and the passage of important legislation.

16. The Rajya Sabha is considering a bill related to the distribution of resources between the Union and the States. However, there is no clear consensus among the members of the Rajya Sabha about the constitutionality of certain provisions of the bill. Some members argue that the provisions in question violate the principles of federalism enshrined in the Indian Constitution, while others argue that the provisions are necessary for the effective implementation of national programs. What should the Rajya Sabha do in this situation? Should it pass the bill as it is, reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the provisions in question, amend the bill to address the concerns about constitutionality, or refer the bill to a special committee of experts for further study and recommendations?

- A) Pass the bill as it is
- B) Reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the provisions in question
- C) Amend the bill to address the concerns about constitutionality
- D) Refer the bill to a special committee of experts for further study and recommendations

17. The Rajya Sabha is investigating a matter of public importance related to corruption in the allocation of government contracts. However, the investigation has uncovered evidence that implicates a prominent member of the Rajya Sabha in the matter being investigated. Some members of the Rajya Sabha argue that the implicated member should be disqualified from participating in the investigation, while others argue that the implicated member should be allowed to participate and defend themselves. What should the Rajya Sabha do in this situation? Should it continue the investigation and allow the implicated member to participate, disqualify the implicated member from participating in the investigation, refer the matter to an independent committee for investigation, or delay the investigation until the matter involving the implicated member has been resolved?

- A) Continue the investigation and allow the implicated member to participate
- B) Disqualify the implicated member from participating in the investigation
- C) Refer the matter to an independent committee for investigation
- D) Delay the investigation until the matter involving the implicated member has been resolved

18. The Rajya Sabha is considering a bill related to the protection of the rights of minorities in India. However, certain members of the Rajya Sabha are opposed to the bill on the grounds that it violates the principles of secularism enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Some members argue that the bill provides necessary protections to vulnerable minority groups, while others argue that the bill is discriminatory and undermines the rights of the majority. What should the Rajya Sabha do in this situation? Should it pass the bill despite the opposition, reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the bill, amend the bill to address the concerns about its compatibility with secularism, or refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on minority rights?

- A) Pass the bill despite the opposition
- B) Reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the bill
- C) Amend the bill to address the concerns about its compatibility with secularism
- D) Refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on minority rights

19. The Rajya Sabha is considering a bill related to the establishment of a new regulatory body for the financial sector in India. However, certain members of the Rajya Sabha have expressed concerns that the new regulatory body would be too powerful and would undermine the independence of other financial regulators in the country. Some members argue that the new regulatory body is necessary for better oversight and regulation of the financial sector, while others argue that it could create bureaucratic inefficiencies and harm the financial industry. What should the Rajya Sabha do in this situation? Should it pass the bill despite the concerns, reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Reserve Bank of India on the potential impact of the new regulatory body on the independence of other financial regulators, amend the bill to address the concerns about the potential impact on the independence of other financial regulators, or refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on financial regulation?

- A) Pass the bill despite the concerns
- B) Reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of the Reserve Bank of India on the potential impact of the new regulatory body on the independence of other financial regulators
- C) Amend the bill to address the concerns about the potential impact on the independence of other financial regulators
- D) Refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on financial regulation

20. The Rajya Sabha is considering a bill related to the protection of the environment in India. However, certain members of the Rajya Sabha are opposed to the bill on the grounds that it would negatively impact the economic development of certain regions in the country. Some members argue that the bill is necessary for the protection of the environment and the health of citizens, while others argue that it could harm the livelihoods of workers in industries such as mining and construction. What should the Rajya Sabha do in this situation? Should it pass the bill despite the opposition, reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of environmental experts on the potential impact of the bill on economic development and livelihoods, amend the bill to address the concerns about its impact on certain industries, or refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on environmental protection and economic development? Additionally, should the Rajya Sabha consider the long-term impact of environmental degradation on economic development and the livelihoods of citizens, or focus solely on short-term economic gains?

- A) Pass the bill despite the opposition
- B) Reject the bill and ask the President to seek the opinion of environmental experts on the potential impact of the bill on economic development
- C) Amend the bill to address the concerns about the potential impact on economic development
- D) Refer the bill to a joint committee of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for further study and consultation with experts on environmental protection and economic development.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage-I

The 17th BRICS Summit, held on 6-7 July 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, marked a key moment for the grouping since its expansion. Brazil held the rotating presidency in 2025 and hosted the Summit under the theme “Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.”

The Summit took place amid a growing membership: the bloc now includes major emerging economies from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. The leaders adopted a Joint Declaration committing to reform of global governance, stronger multilateralism, trade and investment cooperation, artificial intelligence governance, and cooperation in climate, health and security.

Key agenda items for the Summit included: reforming the IMF and World Bank governance, enhancing the voice of the Global South, AI governance frameworks, strengthening institutional BRICS development, deepening trade and investment, and promoting sustainable development. Brazil, as Host, emphasised that the Global South must play a central role in shaping the world order.

The Summit also underscored geopolitical tensions: some member-leaders were absent or participated virtually, reflecting divergent interests and external pressures. For example, the Russian President attended remotely, and China’s leadership representation was limited.

For India, the Summit under Brazil’s presidency presented an opportunity to emphasise themes of development, reform of global institutions, emerging technologies, and South–South cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the summit and thanked Brazil’s leadership for hospitality and the successful organisation.

The Summit occurred against the backdrop of rising trade protectionism, global realignments, and a resurgence of South–South diplomacy. The Rio Summit reinforced BRICS’s ambition to act as a collective voice for the developing world, pushing for greater equity in global economic governance and strengthening intra-bloc cooperation. In conclusion, the 17th BRICS Summit in Brazil served as a platform for emerging economies to recalibrate their role in global affairs, projecting a vision of the Global South’s leadership in inclusive and sustainable governance, even as internal differences remain a challenge.

21. Which of the following statements about the 17th BRICS Summit (2025) is/are correct?

1. It was held in Rio de Janeiro on 6–7 July 2025.
2. The official theme was “Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.”
3. The leaders adopted a Joint Declaration covering IMF/World Bank reform.

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

22. Which of these agenda items was explicitly listed in the Rio Declaration and widely reported from BRICS 2025?

- A. Reform of IMF and World Bank governance
- B. Creation of a BRICS single currency effective 2026
- C. Establishment of a BRICS standing army
- D. Dissolution of the New Development Bank (NDB)

23. Which of the following statements about BRICS expansion and membership by 2025 is correct?

- A. BRICS remained limited to five original members only.
- B. BRICS had expanded to include several new members (e.g., Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Iran, and Indonesia formalised in 2025), raising total membership.
- C. BRICS was merged with G7 in 2024.
- D. BRICS expelled all African members in 2025.

24. Which statement about India at BRICS 2025 is correct?

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended and emphasised reform of global institutions and South–South cooperation.
- B. India boycotted the Summit entirely.
- C. India proposed withdrawal from the New Development Bank.
- D. India hosted the 2025 Summit in New Delhi.

25. Which of the following was **not an explicit agenda item in Rio per the official declaration and reporting?**

- A. AI governance and regulation
- B. Climate, health and security cooperation
- C. Launching BRICS common currency in 2025
- D. Strengthening multilateralism and Global South voice

26. Which Southeast Asian country was formally admitted as a BRICS member and reported as joining by early 2025?

- A. Thailand
- B. Indonesia
- C. Vietnam
- D. Philippines

27. Which multilateral development bank is associated with BRICS and was discussed in contexts of capital/institutional strengthening?

- A. World Bank (IBRD)
- B. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C. New Development Bank (NDB)
- D. IMF's SDR department

28. Which of the following best captures the Rio Declaration's stance as reported?

- A. Reaffirm BRICS role in voicing Global South priorities and call for more inclusive global governance.
- B. Announce immediate military alliance among BRICS members.
- C. Terminate all bilateral trade with non-BRICS countries.
- D. Close the New Development Bank permanently.

29. Which of the following leaders was reported to have participated virtually or sent limited representation to Rio 2025?

- A. Russian President Vladimir Putin (remote participation)
- B. Brazilian President Lula (remote participation)
- C. Indian Prime Minister Modi (remote participation)
- D. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (remote participation)

30. Which of the following new policy areas gained explicit emphasis at BRICS 2025 (Rio) according to the joint declaration and reporting?

- A. Artificial Intelligence governance and cooperative frameworks
- B. Human colonisation of Mars by 2030
- C. Elimination of national sovereign debt
- D. Unilateral abstention from UN processes

Passage-II

The Lipulekh Pass, located at an elevation of about 17,000 feet, lies on the northwestern frontier of India in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It forms a critical mountain pass connecting India with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The pass also holds immense strategic and cultural significance, as it serves as one of the traditional routes for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, undertaken by Indian pilgrims to visit Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar in Tibet.

Geographically, the Lipulekh Pass is situated near the India-China-Nepal tri-junction, making it a focal point of geopolitical attention. The region is flanked by the Kalapani and Limpiadhura areas, both claimed by Nepal as part of its sovereign territory. India, however, maintains that these areas fall under the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, based on historical evidence such as the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, which defined the boundary between British India and Nepal along the Kali River.

Tensions resurfaced in May 2020, when India inaugurated an 80-kilometre-long road connecting Dharchula to Lipulekh, facilitating troop and pilgrim movement towards the frontier. Nepal protested, publishing a new political map that included Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura within its borders, thereby escalating diplomatic friction. India maintained that the road construction was within its sovereign territory and aimed solely at improving border connectivity and religious pilgrimage infrastructure.

Lipulekh's importance also derives from its proximity to the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC). The pass serves as a key observation point for monitoring activities across the LAC and is strategically positioned near the Chumar-Demchok sector of the western Himalayas. India has enhanced its surveillance and logistics capabilities in the region following the 2020 Galwan Valley clash with China. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) maintains forward posts near the pass.

Culturally, the Lipulekh Pass route represents centuries-old trans-Himalayan trade and spiritual linkages. Traders historically crossed the pass to exchange goods such as salt, wool, and grains between Tibet and India. Today, while trade remains restricted, the pilgrimage route continues under bilateral protocols between India and China.

Diplomatically, the Lipulekh issue reflects the delicate balance India maintains with both China and Nepal—the former being a boundary management partner and the latter a culturally linked neighbour. As of 2025, while formal boundary negotiations between India and Nepal remain stalled, both sides continue to reaffirm the importance of dialogue and mutual respect for territorial integrity.

31. Consider the following statements about Lipulekh Pass:

1. It connects India with Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
2. It lies in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
3. It is one of the five official India-China border trade points.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

32. With reference to the Treaty of Sugauli (1816), consider the following:

1. It was signed between British India and the Kingdom of Nepal after the Anglo-Nepalese War.
2. It defined the River Kali as the boundary between Nepal and British India.
3. The treaty was later revised by the Treaty of Kathmandu (1860).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Which of the following statements best explains the India–Nepal boundary issue near Lipulekh?

1. Both countries claim territory based on different interpretations of the Kali River's origin.
2. Nepal claims Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura as part of its Darchula district.
3. India claims the same area as part of its Pithoragarh district.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

34. Which of the following pairs is *correctly matched*?

Feature	Associated Entity
1. Kalapani	Source of the Kali River
2. Dharchula	Base point of road to Lipulekh
3. Limpiyadhura	Easternmost village of Nepal

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

35. Which of the following is the *correct sequence* of passes from west to east along India's northern frontier?

- A. Lipulekh – Nathu La – Shipki La – Rohtang B. Shipki La – Rohtang – Nathu La – Lipulekh
C. Rohtang – Shipki La – Lipulekh – Nathu La D. Rohtang – Shipki La – Nathu La – Lipulekh

36. Which of the following statements regarding India–China cooperation on Lipulekh is correct?

1. The pass is included in the 2015 bilateral trade agreement for border trade.
2. China allows limited pilgrimage through this pass under bilateral understanding.
3. The Lipulekh trade route has been permanently closed since 2020.

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

37. Which river originates near the Lipulekh Pass region and is a tributary of the Ghaghara River?

- A. Gandak B. Kali (Sharda) C. Teesta D. Subansiri

38. Which of the following institutions manages the *Kailash Mansarovar Yatra* through Lipulekh?

1. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
2. Ministry of Tourism
3. Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN)

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

39. Which of the following statements about the *strategic importance* of Lipulekh Pass are correct?

1. It provides India access to Tibet for border surveillance.
2. It lies near the tri-junction of India, China, and Nepal.
3. It serves as a base for monitoring Chinese infrastructure in the Ngari region.

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

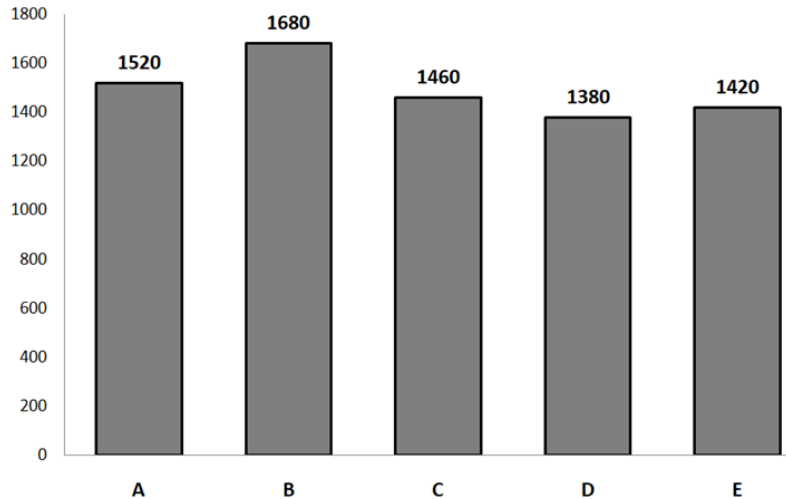
40. Which of the following correctly represents the *status of boundary negotiations* between India and Nepal as of 2025?

- A. Fully resolved through a boundary treaty.
B. Stalled, but both sides commit to dialogue and diplomatic engagement.
C. Taken to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
D. Arbitrated by China under trilateral talks.

Quantitative Technique

Passage-I

Number of Employees working in five different banks A,B,C,D and E in Jharkhand.



Ratio of Male to Female	
Bank	M : F
A	13:6
B	4:3
C	9:11
D	10:13
E	13:7

41. Find out average number of employees who work in bank A, B and E ?

- (a) 1560 (b) 1520 (c) 1540 (d) 1500

42. Find out the total number of male employee who works in Bank B and C together.

- (a) 1716 (b) 1617 (c) 1671 (d) 1761

43. The number of female employees in Bank E, is what % to the total number of employee in that department.

- (a) 70% (b) 67% (c) 53% (d) 35%

44. Find the ratio of female employee of Bank B to the number of male Employee of bank D.

- (a) 2:3 (b) 5:6 (c) 6:5 (d) 6:7

45. In Bank A, out of total male employees , 75% are married , how many male employee are married in that Bank.

- (a) 760 (b) 870 (c) 780 (d) 708

Passage-II

Study the following information carefully and answer the questions given beside.

Data given below shows number of girls and boys in different classes in a School. Number of boys in class A is equal to number of girls in class B. Number of boys in class B is 20 more than that of boys in class A. Ratio between number of girls in class A to class B is 3:2. Total number of students in class B is 20% more than that in class A.

Number of Teacher in class A = 40% of boys in class A

Number of Teacher in class B = 60% of girls in class B

46. Find out the ratio of no. of boys in class B to the no. of girls in class A

- (a) 3:4 (b) 2:3 (c) 4:3 (d) 1:2

47. The number of teacher in class B is what % to the total number of student in that class.?

- (a) 15% (b) 12% (c) 20% (d) 25%

48. Find out the total number of teacher in that school?

- (a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 40 (d) 15

49. Find out the total number of student in that school?

- (a) 100 (b) 105 (c) 110 (d) 120

50. If the number of girls in class B is increased by 20%, then by what percent the number of boys in class B should be decreased so that the total number of students in class B remains same as before?

- (a) 10% (b) 20% (c) 25% (d) 67%



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