

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

Source: “No public consultations for mining of critical and atomic minerals: Govt,” Nikhil Ghanekar, *The Indian Express*, 11 September 2025.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has said that it will now exempt mining proposals of atomic, critical, and strategic minerals from the ambit of public consultations in view of “national defence and security requirements and strategic considerations”.

In an office memorandum dated September 8, the Ministry said the exemption has been granted in response to a request made recently by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

However, such projects will be subjected to a “comprehensive appraisal” by concerned sectoral expert appraisal committees, and they will be appraised at the central level, irrespective of the project size, the memo stated.

The Ministry’s decision is in line with other changes made this year for speedy appraisal and approval of critical and strategic mineral projects. The Centre already has a separate category for critical minerals on its online clearance window portal *Parivesh*, at the request of the Ministry of Mines.

To grant the latest relaxation, the Ministry cited provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and amendments, which exempt projects related to national defence and security, as well as other strategic considerations, from public consultations.

“The above ministries’ views as examined in this matter by vis-à-vis the prevailing provisions under the EIA, 2006, and keeping in mind the national defence and security requirements, are in agreement that mining operations in all minerals notified as critical and strategic shall be exempted from public consultation... and will be appraised at the Central level irrespective of the project size,” the memo stated.

The Defence Ministry underlined that mineral resources for rare earths are scarce in India, and with supply concentration in limited parts of the world, it poses a “huge supply risk for the country and requires a steady supply of rare earth elements from domestic mines”.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Defence has requested that mining projects related to critical and strategic minerals may be considered as projects concerning national defence and security or involving other strategic considerations and may be exempted from public consultations for grant of environmental clearances, the memo stated.

Meanwhile, in a separate letter sent to the Ministry on August 29, the DAE highlighted that thorium extracted from monazite, a beach sand material, is a fuel source for use in the third-stage atomic energy programme. It added there is a need for the enhancement of production of these minerals, including uranium, by way of operationalisation of new deposits of beach sand minerals and uranium. It thus sought an exemption from public consultations.

There are 24 critical minerals listed in the Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, which include lithium, nickel, tungsten, titanium, graphite, and a few rare earths. Till date, 34 critical and strategic mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned by the Centre. The Government declared setting up of a National Critical Mineral Mission earlier this year with an expenditure of ₹16,300 crore for the period 2030–31.

1. Which of the following best captures the *central tension* in the government's decision as described in the passage?
 - A. Balancing environmental transparency with strategic security imperatives.
 - B. Managing overlapping jurisdictions between the Ministry of Defence and DAE.
 - C. Expanding beach sand mining without central oversight.
 - D. Ensuring equitable distribution of mineral profits among states.
2. The tone of the passage can best be described as:
 - A. Alarmist and accusatory.
 - B. Factual yet implicitly cautionary.
 - C. Strongly critical and polemical.
 - D. Celebratory of policy efficiency.
3. The phrase "*irrespective of the project size*" most directly implies:
 - A. Even small-scale mining proposals will undergo central-level review.
 - B. Only large atomic projects will be exempted from consultation.
 - C. Project size determines eligibility for the EIA exemption.
 - D. State-level authorities will continue to approve smaller mines.
4. The author's reference to the *Defence Ministry's statement on rare earth scarcity* serves primarily to:
 - A. Justify the exemption on strategic necessity grounds.
 - B. Undermine the rationale for environmental clearance norms.
 - C. Illustrate the overreliance on imported technology.
 - D. Highlight India's industrial weakness in non-defence minerals.
5. Which of the following rhetorical devices best represents the argument pattern in the passage?
 - A. Appeal to authority.
 - B. Slippery slope.
 - C. Reductio ad absurdum.
 - D. False equivalence.
6. Which of the following, if true, would most *strengthen* the rationale behind exempting such projects from public consultation?
 - A. Disclosure of project details could compromise classified national security data.
 - B. Prior consultations have always led to smoother project execution.
 - C. Rare earth mineral extraction poses minimal environmental impact.
 - D. Defence-related minerals are largely imported and non-strategic.
7. Which of the following best states an *unstated assumption* in the government's reasoning?
 - A. Environmental consultation processes slow down strategically significant mining.
 - B. Public hearings are constitutionally mandatory for all extractive industries.
 - C. Defence ministries have exclusive jurisdiction over environmental approvals.
 - D. Rare earth scarcity can be resolved through import substitution.
8. Which of the following, if true, would *most seriously weaken* the Ministry's justification?
 - A. Several critical minerals are non-defence in application and used widely in consumer goods.
 - B. The Parivesh portal lacks online transparency mechanisms.
 - C. The Mines and Minerals Act already mandates security clearance before approval.
 - D. The environmental clearance system operates independently of the Defence Ministry.

9. The Ministry's decision, viewed through a constitutional-governance lens, most directly raises questions about:

- A. Democratic accountability versus administrative expediency.
- B. Federal resource distribution between Centre and States.
- C. Judicial oversight of environmental litigation.
- D. Industrial licensing reform.

10. If a Public Interest Litigation were to challenge this exemption, which argument would *most directly* align with the principles of environmental jurisprudence in India?

- A. Environmental clearances cannot override procedural participation rights.
- B. The precautionary principle justifies bypassing public consultation for security reasons.
- C. Sustainable development prioritises defence over ecology.
- D. Strategic minerals automatically qualify as environmentally benign.

LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

Disclaimer

The following passage and questions are intended solely for academic and analytical purposes to help law students develop legal reasoning skills. The facts and principles mentioned may be simplified or hypothetical. You must answer based on the facts and legal rules given in the passage, even if they differ from actual law.

A contract by a minor is void ab initio. Section 11 of the Indian Contract Act states that every person is competent to contract who is of the age of majority i.e 18 years of age. In *Mohri Bibee v Dharam Das Ghose*, the Privy Council held that "agreement by minor is absolutely void. A contract by a minor is nullity for want of legal competency. Except otherwise provided by statute, it is not enforceable and does not give rise to any rights or liabilities". Though a minor cannot be a promisor, he can be a promisee. An agreement under which a minor has to receive a benefit can be enforced as against the other party. The rule of estoppel also does not apply against a minor. Where an infant represents fraudulently or otherwise that he is of age of majority and thereby induces another stopped from setting up infancy. However the minor will not be allowed to retain and enjoy the fruits of his own fraud to enter into an agreement. The court will order an equitable consideration for restitution, if the minor is still in possession of the money. However, the minor shall not be liable if the money cannot be traced out in his hands. Though an agreement by a minor is void ab initio, an exception to the rule is that if a person supplies to the minor, or a person whom the minor is legally bound to support, the necessities suited to his condition in life, he is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the minor and not personally. The term "necessaries" include those things without which an individual cannot reasonably exist, for example food, clothing, lodging.

11. Rohit, aged 17 years and 10 months, entered into an agreement with a local dealer to purchase a second-hand motorcycle for ₹55,000, promising to pay in two monthly installments. The dealer delivered the motorcycle immediately. After using it for two months, Rohit met with a minor accident that severely damaged the motorcycle. The dealer demanded full payment, but Rohit refused, arguing that the contract was void as he was a minor. The dealer approached the court, arguing that Rohit had misrepresented his age as 18 and should not escape liability for fraudulently entering into the contract.

- A. Rohit must pay full compensation because he misrepresented his age.
- B. The dealer can recover partial payment since the motorcycle was damaged.
- C. Rohit is liable to return the motorcycle or its value as he misused it.
- D. Rohit is not personally liable; the contract is void ab initio.

12. Kavya, aged 16, borrowed ₹20,000 from a moneylender to pay her school fees and purchase textbooks. When she defaulted, the moneylender sued her for repayment, arguing that the expenses were “necessaries suited to her condition in life.” Kavya’s father, a government officer, was alive and capable of maintaining her. The moneylender contended that since the funds were spent on education, they qualified as necessaries.

- A. The contract is valid as the loan was for education, a necessary.
- B. The moneylender cannot recover from Kavya personally, but may recover from her property if proven necessary.
- C. Kavya must return the money since it was used for her welfare.
- D. Kavya’s father is personally liable as her guardian.

13. Arjun, aged 17, sold his gold chain to Priya for ₹15,000, claiming ownership. Later, Priya discovered that the chain was gifted to Arjun by his uncle and reported stolen. When Priya demanded refund, Arjun argued that since he was a minor, he couldn’t be held liable for any transaction. Priya sued for recovery, claiming the contract was void, but she should be restored to her original position.

- A. Priya can recover the chain or its value if it is traceable in Arjun’s possession.
- B. Arjun cannot be sued as the contract was void.
- C. The court can hold Arjun criminally liable for fraud.
- D. The sale stands valid since the chain was gifted to Arjun.

14. Meera, aged 17, signed a six-month lease for an apartment near her college. After two months, she vacated the premises without notice, citing her minority. The landlord sued for rent, claiming the lease provided basic lodging, a necessity for a student. Meera’s parents lived in the same city and had invited her to stay with them, but she chose independence.

- A. The landlord can recover full rent from Meera personally.
- B. The landlord cannot recover rent at all as the contract is void.
- C. The landlord can claim rent from Meera’s property, but only if lodging is proven a necessity.
- D. Meera’s parents are automatically liable.

15. Ramesh, aged 17, entered into a contract with a garment company to model their new clothing line for ₹50,000. He completed the shoot, but the company refused payment, arguing that the contract was void. Ramesh sued for recovery. The company countered that since a minor cannot contract, he is also incapable of enforcing it.

- A. The contract is void; Ramesh cannot claim any money.
- B. The contract is valid because it involves talent-based work.
- C. The contract is voidable at the company’s discretion.
- D. The contract is enforceable as it benefits the minor.

16. A 17-year-old boy, Aman, borrowed ₹10,000 from a local grocer for purchasing clothes and personal accessories. Later, Aman refused to repay, citing minority. The grocer argued that clothes and grooming items are “necessaries” as they are essential for maintaining appearance and dignity. Aman’s father, a businessman, provided for his family’s expenses adequately.

- A. Aman must repay personally since the items were necessaries.
- B. The grocer may recover payment from Aman’s property only if proven necessary.
- C. The grocer cannot recover any amount since the items were non-essential.
- D. Aman’s father must repay since he benefits indirectly.

17. A minor, Leena, took a loan of ₹25,000 from her neighbor to pay overdue hospital bills of her dependent younger brother. She later refused repayment citing minority. The neighbor argued that payment for medical care of a dependent qualifies as “necessaries suited to her condition in life.”

- A. The neighbor may recover from Leena's property as the expense was necessary.
- B. The neighbor can sue Leena personally for repayment.
- C. The loan is valid since the purpose was moral and compassionate.
- D. The neighbor cannot recover any amount as Leena is a minor.

18. When 17-year-old Faizan misrepresented his age as 19, he entered into a contract to purchase a used laptop on EMI from TechTrade Ltd. After taking possession, he defaulted on payment and later claimed minority. The company demanded either the laptop's return or full payment.

- A. Faizan is estopped from denying majority since he misrepresented age.
- B. The contract is void, but Faizan may be ordered to return the laptop if still in possession.
- C. TechTrade Ltd. can claim damages for fraud.
- D. The court can enforce EMI payments since it's an executed contract.

19. A tailor supplied school uniforms worth ₹5,000 to a 16-year-old boy, who later refused payment. The tailor sued, claiming the uniforms were "necessaries" because the boy attended a private school that required specific attire. The boy's family was wealthy and easily afforded the expense, but the minor had ordered the uniforms independently.

- A. The minor is personally liable as the uniforms are necessaries.
- B. The minor is not liable since his parents could have provided them.
- C. The tailor can recover from the minor's estate, subject to proof of necessity.
- D. The tailor cannot recover since uniforms aren't essentials.

20. A 17-year-old music prodigy, Neha, signed a contract with a production company to record an album, agreeing to exclusive rights for 5 years in exchange for royalties. After one year, she sought to terminate the contract, claiming incapacity as a minor. The company claimed losses and sought to enforce the contract.

- A. Neha must fulfill the contract as it was professionally beneficial.
- B. The contract is voidable, not void.
- C. The contract is void ab initio as Neha was a minor when entering it.
- D. The company may retain recordings made before cancellation.

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Passage-II

Disclaimer

The following passage and questions are intended solely for academic and analytical purposes to help law students develop legal reasoning skills. The facts and principles mentioned may be simplified or hypothetical. You must answer based on the facts and legal rules given in the passage, even if they differ from actual law.

The first requirement of a valid contract is an agreement. Every promise and all set of promises, forming the consideration for each other is an agreement. When a person to whom the proposal is made defines his assent, the proposal is said to be accepted. A proposal, when accepted, becomes a promise. An agreement is valid when one party makes a proposal or offer to other party signifies his assent. The following are required for a valid agreement. (1) The agreement must be between two persons. It is required to be between an offeror and an offeree, who accepts the offer becomes an acceptor. Both these parties should be different persons, as one cannot enter into an agreement with himself. (2) Both the offeror and offeree in the same sense and at the same time should understand the agreement.

Sometimes, there may be invitations to offer in case of advertisement of products. An agreement to mature into a contract must create legal obligation as per the provision of contract laws that is a duty enforceable by law. Any agreement which does not create any enforceability, i.e. where the parties do not have a right to approach the court of law to avail legal remedy for breach of contract will not be a contract. This is displayed through the intention to enter into a legally binding contract which is different from a mere promise. Parties must know that if any one of them fails to fulfil his/her part of the promise, he/she would be liable for the failure of the contract. Consideration is described as something in return. It is also vital for the validity of the contract. A promise to do something or to provide something without anything in return will not be enforceable at law and, therefore, will not be valid. Consideration need not be in kind or cash. A contract without consideration is a wagering contract or betting. Besides, the consideration must also be lawful. There is no requirement of these principles being only applicable to natural persons, they are equally applicable to corporations which qualify as legal persons.

21. Rajesh, a business consultant, sent an email to his friend Ramesh saying, "I am planning to sell my old car for ₹3,00,000. Would you be interested?" Ramesh replied immediately, "Yes, I accept your offer. I will pay ₹3,00,000 next week." Rajesh refused to sell, saying he never made a formal offer but only asked if Ramesh was interested. Ramesh sued Rajesh for breach of contract, arguing that there was a valid offer and acceptance since both agreed on the same price.

- A. Rajesh made a valid offer that Ramesh accepted; a contract exists.
- B. The conversation shows mutual assent and forms an enforceable contract.
- C. Rajesh's email was a counteroffer, not an invitation to offer.
- D. Rajesh's message was merely an invitation to offer; no contract exists.

22. Neha offered to sell her smartphone to Priya for ₹20,000. Priya replied, "I'll buy it for ₹18,000." Neha rejected it. Two days later, Priya messaged, "Okay, I agree to your original offer of ₹20,000." Neha refused again, saying there was no contract. Priya insisted that her later message created a valid agreement.

- A. A contract was formed when Priya accepted the original offer.
- B. There is no contract, as Priya's counteroffer had already terminated the original offer.
- C. Neha's silence after the second message amounted to acceptance.
- D. The offer continued to exist until Priya accepted it.

23. Shreya promised to gift her cousin Mehul a laptop for his college studies. Mehul, relying on her words, didn't buy one himself. Later, Shreya changed her mind and refused to give the laptop. Mehul filed a suit claiming breach of contract. Shreya argued that there was no consideration and no legal obligation since it was only a family promise.

- A. The promise is not enforceable, as it lacks consideration and intention to create legal obligation.
- B. Mehul can enforce the promise since he relied on it.
- C. There was a valid contract due to reliance by the promisee.
- D. The court must enforce the promise as moral consideration is enough.

24. A newspaper published an advertisement stating, "We invite applications from retailers for supplying 1,000 air purifiers." ABC Pvt. Ltd. submitted its quotation offering to supply the purifiers at ₹4,000 each. The newspaper's parent company rejected it and chose another vendor. ABC sued, claiming the advertisement was an offer which it accepted by sending a quotation.

- A. The newspaper's advertisement was a valid offer.
- B. The company is liable as it rejected a valid acceptance.
- C. The advertisement was merely an invitation to offer; ABC's quotation was the offer.
- D. The company formed a contract by publishing the ad.

25. X Ltd. offered Y Ltd. to supply 10,000 steel rods at ₹100 each. Before Y could respond, X withdrew the offer by email. Y later sent acceptance, claiming they hadn't read the withdrawal in time. They insisted that the contract stood concluded once their acceptance was sent.

- A. The contract is valid since Y's acceptance was sent in good faith.
- B. The withdrawal is ineffective because Y had not read it.
- C. The offer stood revoked before acceptance reached X.
- D. Both parties are bound since they communicated within a reasonable time.

26. Ritu promised to pay her domestic help ₹10,000 for her son's wedding expenses. Later, Ritu refused to pay, stating it was a gift and not a contract. The domestic help sued, arguing that the promise was a binding agreement since she had already incurred expenses based on the promise.

- A. There was a valid contract because there was reliance and moral obligation.
- B. The promise lacked consideration and intention to create legal obligation.
- C. The contract is enforceable due to reliance-based detriment.
- D. The act of incurring expense itself forms consideration.

27. A multinational company (MNC) issued a press release stating, "We will donate ₹10 lakh to any NGO that successfully plants 10,000 trees within 12 months." Green Earth Foundation completed the task and claimed the reward. The MNC refused, saying the statement was not a formal offer but only a CSR announcement.

- A. The statement constituted a general offer accepted by performance; the NGO can claim the reward.
- B. The statement was an invitation to offer, not binding.
- C. The MNC's announcement required written acceptance first.
- D. No contract exists since it was a public statement.

28. Mr. Khanna promised to sell his house to Mr. Patel for ₹50 lakh. However, Patel later discovered the house was under mortgage and refused. Khanna sued, claiming Patel had accepted the offer and was bound. Patel argued that he had accepted under a mistaken belief that the house was unencumbered.

- A. A valid contract exists; Patel cannot withdraw.
- B. There is no consensus ad idem, so the agreement is void.
- C. Mistake of law renders contract voidable.
- D. Patel is bound but may sue for compensation.

29. Two companies, Alpha Ltd. and Beta Ltd., signed an MOU where Alpha promised to supply Beta with new software licenses at cost price. No mention was made about legal enforceability. Later, Alpha failed to deliver. Beta sued, claiming breach of contract. Alpha argued that there was no intention to create legal relations.

- A. The MOU is enforceable since it is in writing.
- B. The MOU is not enforceable if the parties did not intend legal obligation.
- C. A written MOU automatically creates contractual liability.
- D. Since both are companies, intention to be bound is presumed.

30. Rahul agreed to pay Priya ₹10,000 if she would stop smoking for six months. Priya kept her promise, but Rahul refused to pay, claiming there was no consideration since Priya only benefited herself.

- A. There was valid consideration; Priya's abstinence was a detriment.
- B. The agreement is void for lack of lawful object.
- C. Rahul's promise is unenforceable due to moral element.
- D. There was no consideration since Priya gained self-benefit.



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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage-I

In the context of India's evolving approach toward competitive examination reforms and administrative efficiency, the Special Intensive Revision Programme (SIRP) has emerged as a structured framework for accelerated academic consolidation. Initially piloted in select training academies and state public service commissions, the SIRP aims to optimize knowledge retention and analytical precision among aspirants appearing for examinations such as the UPSC Civil Services, State PSCs, and allied administrative recruitments.

The programme was conceived with the objective of addressing a critical gap observed during conventional preparation cycles: the absence of an integrated, time-bound, and assessment-backed revision mechanism. Unlike ordinary review plans, the SIRP integrates *subject-wise micro revision*, *interlinking of current affairs with static content*, and *adaptive testing protocols* that dynamically recalibrate the candidate's focus areas.

Its methodology combines the pedagogical principles of *retrieval practice* and *spaced repetition*, supported by cognitive mapping tools. Participants are expected to revise each subject in thematic clusters — for instance, "Polity-Governance," "Economy-Budget-Schemes," and "Environment-Climate-International Conventions." Each cluster includes a pre-test, followed by micro-content reinforcement sessions, and culminates in an intensive mock simulation with feedback metrics.

Furthermore, the SIRP employs AI-based analytics to track performance deviations and automatically prioritize weaker areas. Such data-driven interventions mirror global educational best practices such as the *Bloom's Mastery Learning Model* and the *Cambridge Revision Framework*. The inclusion of virtual dashboards and cloud-synced progress trackers enables both mentors and participants to monitor learning curves in real time.

Significantly, the SIRP aligns with the *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020*, which emphasizes competency-based learning, continuous assessment, and flexible evaluation systems. Many coaching institutes and universities have begun to integrate this model into their academic calendars. The programme's overarching goal is not merely to increase test scores but to cultivate analytical resilience, time management, and inter-disciplinary awareness among aspirants.

Critically, the success of SIRP depends on institutional readiness, digital accessibility, and the mentor-student ratio. Experts argue that the absence of standardized benchmarks could limit comparability across institutions. Moreover, in regions where digital infrastructure remains weak, the effectiveness of cloud-integrated revision frameworks could be compromised. Nonetheless, the SIRP remains an evolving model of academic modernization, likely to shape future competitive education strategies in India.

31. Which of the following statements correctly describes the structure of SIRP?

1. Thematic clustering of subjects
 2. Integration of pre-tests and post-tests
 3. Absence of any feedback mechanism
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

32. Assertion (A): SIRP is a data-driven academic model for UPSC preparation.

Reason (R): It uses AI analytics and digital dashboards to prioritize weak areas.

- A. Both A and R are true and R explains A. B. Both A and R are true but R does not explain A.
C. A is true, R is false. D. A is false, R is true.

33. SIRP aligns with which of the following national policy frameworks?

- A. National Education Policy 2020 B. National Policy on Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015
C. Digital India Mission D. National Policy on ICT in Education 2012

34. Which of the following is *not* a feature of the Special Intensive Revision Programme?

- A. Micro-content reinforcement B. Adaptive testing protocols
C. Static rote learning D. AI-based performance tracking

35. Which of the following challenges could potentially affect the success of SIRP?

1. Lack of digital infrastructure
 2. High mentor-to-student ratio
 3. Over-standardization of evaluation
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 3
D. 1 only

36. Which of the following are international models that influenced the design of SIRP?

1. Bloom's Mastery Learning Model
 2. Cambridge Revision Framework
 3. MIT OpenCourseWare Model
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

37. Which of the following best explains the purpose of "cluster-based revision" under SIRP?

- A. Grouping interrelated subjects for integrated understanding
B. Randomized subject testing to increase confusion
C. Segregating subjects based only on difficulty
D. Eliminating current affairs from revision

38. Which of the following cognitive models best supports SIRP's approach?

- A. Constructivist learning model B. Behaviourist model
C. Humanistic model D. Psychoanalytic model

39. Which of the following digital tools would best enhance SIRP's AI-based monitoring component?

- A. Learning Management Systems (LMS) integrated with analytics B. Traditional desktop testing tools
C. Paper-based multiple-choice assessments D. Cloud storage only

40. Which of the following performance indicators would be most relevant to evaluate the effectiveness of SIRP?

1. Increase in test accuracy
2. Reduction in revision time per subject
3. Growth in the number of mock tests attended

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

Passage - II

India's solar mission ecosystem revolves around a multi-layered framework comprising ambitious deployment targets, manufacturing capacity development, enabling policy frameworks, and ecosystem linkages across innovation, finance and trade. At the heart lies the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), launched on 11 January 2010 under the broader National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Its objective: to establish India as a global solar energy leader by creating the policy conditions for rapid technology diffusion of solar capacity across the country.

JNNSM adopted a three-phase approach: Phase I (2010-13) targeted about 1 000 MW grid-connected solar PV and 200 MW off-grid. Phase II (2013-17) raised the bar, and Phase III (2017 onwards) aimed for 100 GW of solar power capacity (then extended to March 2026) across rooftop and large-scale projects.

Beyond capacity targets, the ecosystem emphasises domestic manufacturing and self-reliance. The solar mission vision includes a leadership role in low-cost, high quality solar manufacturing and the balance-of-system components. The government has instituted a range of incentives – accelerated depreciation, viability-gap funding (VGF), preferential tariffs, bundling schemes – and created solar parks and ultra-mega solar power projects across states to provide the infrastructure backbone.

The ecosystem also interconnects with state governments, financial institutions, foreign direct investment (FDI) policy (100 % automatic route for renewables), manufacturing supply-chains (ingots, wafers, cells, modules) and export ambitions. A key measure is the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules, aimed at building gigawatt-scale manufacturing capacity for high-efficiency modules and reducing import dependence.

On the deployment side, India has tapped its solar potential (estimated by the National Institute of Solar Energy at around 748 GW) considering about 3% of waste land area. Large solar parks in high-irradiance states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh showcase operational scale and competitive tariffs. The linkages between manufacturing, deployment, grid integration, land-use and trade define the broader 'ecosystem'.

Still, the ecosystem faces challenges: manufacturing supply-chain gaps, land-acquisition bottlenecks, transmission and evacuation issues, and import reliance on cells and modules. The ecosystem's dynamic nature means that policy, regulatory clarity and ecosystem actors (states, industry, finance) must act in concert. As India progresses toward its target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, the solar mission ecosystem remains a cornerstone of its clean-energy transition strategy.

41. Which of the following statements about the solar manufacturing ecosystem in India are correct?

1. It covers the entire chain — from ingots to modules.
2. The PLI Scheme encourages high-efficiency solar module manufacturing.
3. Import dependence for modules has completely ended in India.

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

42. Which of the following states is NOT among the leading solar power producers in India?

A. Rajasthan B. Gujarat C. Maharashtra D. Arunachal Pradesh

43. Which of the following are challenges to India's solar mission ecosystem?

1. Transmission and evacuation constraints
2. Limited land availability
3. Dependence on imported cells and modules
4. Surplus domestic manufacturing capacity

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

44. Consider the following about India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030:

1. It includes solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear energy sources.
2. The target is part of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
3. The solar share in this target is projected to be the largest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following best defines the *solar mission ecosystem* in India?

- A. The network of policies, institutions, supply chains, technologies, and financial mechanisms enabling solar growth.
- B. The physical environment suitable for solar farms.
- C. The international collaboration only under ISA.
- D. The rooftop solar consumer community.

46. Which of the following is not a component of India's solar energy framework under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)?

- A. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM)
- B. Solar City Programme
- C. National Offshore Wind Energy Policy
- D. Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Programme

47. Under the PM-KUSUM Scheme, which of the following components exist?

1. Installation of standalone solar pumps
2. Grid-connected renewable energy plants up to 2 MW capacity
3. Solarization of existing grid-connected pumps

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

48. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched jointly by:

- A. India and France
- B. India and the United Kingdom
- C. India and Germany
- D. India and the United States

49. Which of the following recent technological trends is most relevant to strengthening India's solar ecosystem?

- A. Integration of solar with battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- B. Expansion of nuclear fission reactors
- C. Investment in petroleum reserves
- D. Urban diesel micro-grids

50. Which of the following statements about India's rooftop solar initiative are correct?

1. It aims to install 40 GW of rooftop capacity under the solar mission.
2. The subsidy component is administered through the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
3. Rooftop solar contributes nearly 50 % of India's total solar generation.

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

Quantitative Technique

Passage-I

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

There were 200 questions in a test. Aditi attempt 75% of the questions while candidate Bhanu attempt 50% of the questions attempted by Aditi. Each Questions carry 1 mark and no deduction for wrong answers. Bhanu scored 60 marks and Aditi scored (2/3) red marks of the marks scored by Bhanu.

51. Wrong answered by Bhanu is what percent of the total questions attempted by him?

- (A)20% (B)25% (C)30% (D)40%

52. Find the difference between the number of wrong answered by Aditi and Bhanu.

- (A)80 (B)56 (C)79 (D)95

53. If 0.25 marks will be deducted for every wrong answer then how much marks got by Aditi?

- (A)13 (B)13.5 (C)12.5 (D)14

54. For passing in the test, 33% marks are required, who will pass?

- (A)Only Aditi (B)Only Bhanu (C)Both pass (D)Both are failed

55. Ratio of obtain marks of Aditi and Bhanu is?

- (A)2:3 (B)3:4 (C)4:5 (D)2:3

Passage-II

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 225meter start from Patna junction at 7 am and travel towards Lucknow junction at a certain speed Another train Gomti Express which length is 300meter 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 manwho is standing on the platform in 15 sec

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

- (A)45km/hr (B)36km/hr (C)90km/hr (D)54km/hr

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

- (A)36km/hr (B)54km/hr (C)45km/hr (D)72km/hr

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

- (A)40sec (B)36sec (C)50sec (D)60 sec

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

- (A)12am (B)10am (C)1pm (D)12 pm

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

- (A)300km (B)270km (C)180km (D)CND