

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

By Harish Damodaran

(The Indian Express, July 14, 2025)

It was William S. Gaud, administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), who coined the term “Green Revolution.”

In a speech delivered on March 8, 1968, Gaud dwelt on the “paramount importance of the world food problem” and how countries such as India were addressing it through the planting of high-yielding varieties of wheat.

This development, he said, had the makings of a new revolution: “It is not a violent Red Revolution like that of the Soviets... I call it the Green Revolution.”

It’s the same USAID that has been shut down by the Donald Trump administration in July. Among the institutions impacted by the closure of the agency — that oversaw civilian foreign aid and development assistance from the US government — is the Mexico-headquartered International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT).

Synonymous with the renowned agricultural scientist Norman Borlaug, CIMMYT bred the semi-dwarf varieties Lerma Rojo 64A, Sonora 63, Sonora 64, and Mayo 64 that Indian farmers first sowed in 1964–65. Over the next few years, these varieties spread to new countries, laying the foundations of the world’s “Green Revolution.”

While CIMMYT and its sister body — the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) — have continued to function with support from the World Bank-funded Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), USAID had been among their main financiers.

CIMMYT is now looking to India for help. Its Director General, Bram Govaerts, was in New Delhi recently, seeking “stronger and long-term support” from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other public agencies.

According to him, the end of US federal funding presents both a challenge and an opportunity for countries such as India to increase their contributions and gain a greater say in shaping CIMMYT’s agenda.

Both were key to the US cultivating soft power and projecting a positive global image during the Cold War. That was the time the US saw the Soviet Union as a rival bent on spreading communism to developing countries. The Green Revolution served as America’s “non-violent” weapon against hunger and instability.

The irony now is that the very agency which symbolized that partnership — USAID — has itself been dismantled by a US administration increasingly turning inward.

For India, the development opens up a historic opportunity to repay the “Green Debt” owed to the international scientific institutions that helped it transform from a ship-to-mouth economy to a net exporter of grains.

How India Benefited

The Indian Green Revolution story is inseparable from CIMMYT and IRRI. Their high-yielding varieties, released for commercial cultivation by Indian scientists between 1967 and 1968, boosted wheat and rice productivity exponentially.

Among these, the varieties Kalyan Sona and Sonalika released by M. S. Swaminathan's team at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, were particularly impactful. They were derived from CIMMYT material and produced yields of 4–4.5 tonnes per hectare — compared to 1–1.5 tonnes from the earlier tall Indian wheats.

Under the leadership of scientists like B. P. Pal, C. Subramaniam, and Norman Borlaug, India achieved self-sufficiency in wheat production by the early 1970s.

Over time, Indian scientists led by the same IARI and ICAR institutions released many improved descendants of these original semi-dwarf varieties, including HD 2967 and HD 3086, both of which continue to dominate wheat fields.

The table published with the article lists the top 10 wheat varieties cultivated in India — from DBW 187 (2019) to PBW 826 (2022) — together covering more than 20 million hectares, most derived from CIMMYT-linked germplasm.

Why India Matters Now

CIMMYT's director stated that with USAID gone, developing nations such as India, China, and Brazil must shoulder greater responsibility for global agricultural research and food security.

Given India's stature as both a beneficiary and now a donor in several international collaborations, extending more robust funding to CIMMYT is both an act of gratitude and strategic investment.

Indian institutions, particularly IARI, ICAR, and state agricultural universities, now have an opportunity to play a guiding role in the next stage of crop improvement — not merely as recipients but as co-architects of global agricultural science.

1. The author's reference to the "Green Debt" in the title most nearly suggests:

- A. The environmental damage caused by Green Revolution practices.
- B. India's moral and strategic obligation to reinvest in institutions that once helped it overcome famine.
- C. Financial loans taken by India from US-funded agricultural agencies.
- D. The loss of biodiversity resulting from monoculture wheat varieties.

2. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- A. To criticise the US for dismantling USAID.
- B. To narrate the history of wheat cultivation in India.
- C. To highlight a geopolitical shift giving India a chance to assume leadership in agricultural science.
- D. To argue that India should abandon dependence on foreign germplasm.

3. The tone of the author is best described as:

- A. Nostalgic yet forward-looking.
- B. Sarcastic and dismissive.
- C. Alarmist about agricultural collapse.
- D. Purely celebratory.

4. Which statement, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument?

- A. India has recently doubled its annual contribution to CGIAR institutes.
- B. India's domestic wheat productivity has declined since 2015.
- C. The US announced new funding for CIMMYT's Mexico facility.
- D. Global wheat demand is projected to fall.

5. What rhetorical effect does the author achieve by contrasting the "Red Revolution" with the "Green Revolution"?

- A. To frame agricultural reform as a peaceful and constructive form of revolution.
- B. To criticise the Soviet Union's economic policies.

C. To highlight that India's revolution was militaristic.

D. To show that the Green Revolution failed to achieve political change.

6. Which of the following assumptions underlies the author's argument that India should increase support to CIMMYT?

A. India has adequate financial and institutional capacity to fund international agricultural research.

B. Wheat productivity in India has reached its natural limit.

C. The US will eventually restore USAID.

D. India is legally bound to fund CGIAR institutes.

7. If the author's suggestion were implemented, which of the following consequences would most directly align with his reasoning?

A. India gains co-decision power in CIMMYT's research agenda.

B. CIMMYT's focus shifts entirely to maize research.

C. US returns as primary donor and reasserts control.

D. Indian farmers reject CIMMYT varieties as outdated.

8. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the claim that India owes a "Green Debt"?

A. Indian scientists independently developed all high-yielding varieties without CIMMYT input.

B. CIMMYT is now fully funded by private philanthropies.

C. India's grain exports fell sharply post-1970.

D. Global food production declined despite India's success.

9. Which reasoning pattern is most parallel to the author's argument structure?

A. A student once helped by a scholarship now funds the scholarship for others.

B. A scientist invents new seeds to compete with CIMMYT.

C. A country imports food to avoid dependence on local research.

D. A company stops paying taxes after earning profits.

10. If the US had not dismantled USAID, what implicit assumption does the passage suggest would hold?

A. India's opportunity for leadership would be smaller.

B. The Green Revolution would not have succeeded.

C. CIMMYT would have ceased to exist regardless.

D. India would remain dependent on grain imports.



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LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

When one person signifies to another person his willingness to do or not do something (abstain) to obtain the assent of such person to such an act or abstinence, he is said to make a proposal or an offer. In general terms, offer ensues when one party expresses his intention to another party to obtain the consent of the other party to do or not to do such an act and abstinence. To create a lawful contract it must be communicated, section 4 of the Act states that when the proposal comes in the knowledge of a person for whom it is made then such proposal is said to be communicated. A social invitation is not considered to be an offer as such an invitation doesn't create legal relation. It is only an invitation to offer and not an actual offer. Acceptance of an offer must result in a valid contract and such acceptance shall give rise to legal relation. The offer should be clear and definite.

In contract, after having an offer, acceptance should be there by the other party to constitute Agreement. Section 2(b) of the Act defines acceptance when the person to whom the proposal is made gives his consent to such an offer, the offer is said to be accepted. The offer should be accepted unconditionally by the offeree to whom the offer is made, only then it will amount to acceptance. When the offer is accepted it becomes a promise and constitutes agreement. There must be consensus-ad-idem (meeting of minds), i.e., the promisor and promisee must be thinking of the same thing in the same sense while offering and accepting the proposal.

Acceptance can be in the expressed form or implied form. If the parties are negotiating or discussing the agreement then it is not said to be accepted. Acceptance must be in a reasonable amount of time and must be communicated to offeror; mere silence will not amount to acceptance.

Section 4 of the Act states when the acceptance is said to be completed. Acceptance is said to be complete when it comes into the knowledge of the offeror. Before the communication of acceptance is completed the promisor can revoke the acceptance but not after the communication of such acceptance is completed.

11. Sanya sends an email to Rohan offering to sell her iPad for ₹40,000, asking him to confirm "by Monday evening." Rohan reads the email but doesn't respond. On Monday night, he transfers ₹40,000 to Sanya's bank account without informing her and assumes that payment constitutes acceptance. The next morning, Sanya sells the iPad to someone else and returns his money, stating that silence or unilateral payment cannot constitute acceptance. Rohan argues that since he performed the condition (payment), the contract was complete.

Under Sections 2(b) and 4, what is the correct legal position?

- A. Rohan's payment is implied acceptance.
- B. Acceptance was communicated once payment was made.
- C. Sanya is bound by the contract.
- D. No contract exists as acceptance was not communicated to Sanya.

12. Tina invited her friends via WhatsApp to dinner at her restaurant and wrote, "₹500 per person, pay at the table." Raj went, dined, and paid ₹500. Later, Tina demanded ₹1,000, claiming her message was only a "social invitation," not a binding offer. Raj contended that it was an offer that became a contract once he accepted by performance.

What is the correct legal analysis?

- A. It was a social invitation, no contract.
- B. Raj is correct; Tina's invitation was an offer because it included price and performance terms.
- C. No enforceable offer existed since friendship negates legal intent.
- D. Both parties acted in good faith, so contract unenforceable.

13. Arjun offered by letter to sell his antique table to Meera for ₹25,000, specifying, "Please reply by 5th October." Meera mailed acceptance on 5th October, but Arjun didn't receive it until 7th October. On 6th October, Arjun sold the table to another buyer, claiming no acceptance had reached him. Meera sued, arguing that acceptance was complete when posted.

Who is correct?

- A. Meera, since acceptance is complete when dispatched.
- B. Arjun, as acceptance was received late.
- C. No contract, since both parties were mistaken.
- D. None, since no offer existed.

14. Rahul offered to sell his bike to Priya for ₹50,000. Priya replied, "I'm ready to buy it for ₹45,000." Rahul refused and sold the bike to another person. Priya then wrote back, "I accept your original offer of ₹50,000." Rahul denied the contract. Priya argued that her final message was valid acceptance.

Is there a valid contract?

- A. Yes, as Priya later accepted.
- B. No, because counter-offer extinguished the original offer.
- C. Yes, because intention was clear.
- D. No, because acceptance wasn't communicated.

15. Rehan wrote to Diya offering to sell a plot for ₹8 lakh, adding, "Please respond within 10 days." Diya posted her acceptance on the 9th day. However, the letter reached Rehan on the 12th day. In the meantime, Rehan revoked the offer through a telegram sent on the 10th day, received by Diya on the 11th day. Diya claims the contract is valid as her acceptance was sent earlier.

Who is right under Section 4?

- A. Diya, since acceptance was within deadline.
- B. Rehan, since revocation reached before acceptance reached.
- C. Both, since cross-communication creates confusion.
- D. None, because of delay.

16. Kabir offers to sell his farmhouse to Ananya for ₹25 lakh. Ananya sends her acceptance by courier on Monday. On Tuesday, Kabir sends a letter revoking his offer. The revocation reaches Ananya on Wednesday, and Kabir receives her acceptance on Thursday. Kabir claims no contract existed as he revoked before receiving her acceptance.

Who is correct?

- A. Kabir, since revocation was earlier.
- B. Ananya, since acceptance was dispatched before revocation.
- C. No one, since postal rule doesn't apply to property.
- D. Both, since communication was incomplete.

17. Mira offered to sell her painting to Neel for ₹1 lakh. Neel responded, "I'll buy it if you include the frame." Mira didn't reply. A week later, Neel sent another letter, "I agree to buy the painting as originally offered." Mira refused, saying her original offer had lapsed.

Is there a binding contract?

- A. Yes, since Neel later accepted.
- B. No, because counter-offer terminated the original offer.
- C. Yes, since frame addition was minor.
- D. None, since Mira didn't reply.

18. During a phone call, Ishaan tells Kritika, "I'll sell my guitar for ₹5,000." Before Kritika could respond, the call drops. She immediately texts, "I accept your offer." Ishaan reads it hours later and claims no valid acceptance occurred as the phone conversation wasn't completed. Kritika argues that the text constituted prompt communication.

Under Section 4, decide.

- A. Acceptance valid since sent promptly.
- B. Invalid because telephonic communication requires mutual understanding.
- C. Valid because offer continued till rejection.
- D. Void since offer wasn't oral.

19. Farhan, an art collector, wrote to Zoya offering to buy her sculpture for ₹3 lakh, saying "Offer valid till Saturday." On Friday night, Zoya emailed her acceptance, but Farhan's server crashed. The email was delivered to his inbox but remained unread until Sunday. Meanwhile, Farhan sold the sculpture to another buyer. Zoya sues for breach, claiming acceptance was complete when sent.

Who is correct?

- A. Zoya, since acceptance was complete upon dispatch.
- B. Farhan, as unread email doesn't complete communication.
- C. Both acted in good faith.
- D. Neither, since technology failed.

20. Aakash offers Rina ₹2 lakh to design a logo for his startup. Rina replies, "I'll confirm after consulting my team." Before she responds, Aakash hires another designer. When Rina later accepts, Aakash refuses. She sues, claiming the offer was still open. Aakash argues he revoked by conduct (hiring another).

Is the revocation valid?

- A. No, since Rina hadn't been informed.
- B. Yes, revocation can be by conduct showing intention to withdraw.
- C. No, since hiring another isn't legal notice.
- D. Yes, as silence implied acceptance.

By Ready For Exam

Passage-II

In contracts, it is through communication that a party can initiate an offer to which the other can either accept or simply reject, or can also place their offer. Section 3 and 4 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 deals with the communication, acceptance and revocation of proposals and when the communication is complete respectively.

Communication can be divided into two types i.e., oral communication and written communication. Oral communication can only occur when the offer and acceptance is done completely on the oral or verbal basis. An oral acceptance is communicated when the offeror hears and understands about the offer. A written communication happens only when the offeror and the offeree communicate the intention to offer or accept through a written form. A written communication happens only when the offer and acceptance, both are in the written form, i.e. either through a mail or telefax.

Now oral communication can be further divided into two (1) personal communication and (2) telephonic conversation. A personal level communication can be done when the offeror and the offeree are sitting next to each other and hence communicating their offers and acceptances. In a telephonic type of oral communication, as the name suggests, the communication is completed through the telephone. For example, C calls up D and tells him that he will sell the book for Rs. 200 and D accepts it in the same telephonic conversation or accepting it some other time.

21. Amit wrote to Bhavna offering to sell his car for ₹3 lakh on 1st July and posted the letter the same day. Bhavna received it on 4th July and posted her letter of acceptance on 5th July. Amit, however, changed his mind and sent a telegram revoking the offer on 3rd July, which reached Bhavna on 6th July. On 7th July, Amit received Bhavna's acceptance letter. Amit refused to sell, claiming the offer was revoked before Bhavna accepted. Bhavna argued that under Section 4, communication of revocation is complete only when it comes to the knowledge of the offeree, and her acceptance became complete as soon as she posted it.

Which party is correct in law?

- A. Amit, because he dispatched revocation first.
- B. Both offer and revocation became invalid simultaneously.
- C. Neither, since letters crossed each other.
- D. Bhavna, because her acceptance was complete before revocation reached her.

22. Sneha made a telephonic offer to Rahul to sell her laptop for ₹50,000. The call got disconnected before Rahul could respond. Rahul immediately sent a message saying "I accept the offer," but Sneha didn't see it until the next day and had already sold the laptop. Rahul sued, claiming oral communication was complete once he sent the acceptance. Sneha argued that telephonic communication is instantaneous, and acceptance is only complete when heard and understood by the offeror.

Who is correct?

- A. Rahul, because acceptance was sent without delay.
- B. Sneha, because in instantaneous communication, acceptance must be heard and understood.
- C. Both, since message was within reasonable time.
- D. None, as disconnection invalidated the offer.

23. Kriti emailed Raj on Monday offering to rent her flat for ₹20,000/month. Raj saw the email on Tuesday but replied accepting it on Thursday. Before receiving Raj's reply, Kriti emailed revocation on Wednesday morning, which Raj read Thursday evening after sending his acceptance. Kriti claims the contract is revoked; Raj insists his acceptance is valid since he sent it before reading the revocation.

Under Section 4 of the Indian Contract Act, which statement is correct?

- A. Raj's acceptance is valid; communication is complete when sent.
- B. Kriti's revocation is valid; communication complete when received.
- C. Both offers lapsed.
- D. The contract is void due to cross-communication.

24. Mehul offered to buy Arti's scooter through WhatsApp for ₹30,000. Arti replied, "Will confirm tomorrow." The next day she sent, "I agree," but Mehul never saw the message because his phone was switched off for two days. Meanwhile, he sold the scooter to someone else. Arti sued for breach. Mehul claimed that since he didn't read the message, there was no communication of acceptance. Arti argued that communication was complete when she sent it.

Whose contention is legally sustainable?

- A. Mehul, since unread messages can't complete communication.
- B. Arti, since acceptance was sent within a reasonable time.
- C. Both, since digital delivery creates ambiguity.
- D. None, since contract is void for delay.

25. Nisha, a textile dealer, offered to sell 500 meters of fabric to Aarav for ₹1 lakh via courier on 10th May. The courier reached on 14th May. On 13th May, before receiving the letter, Aarav got a market alert that fabric prices crashed and sent a telegraph revoking any "previous or incoming offer." On 14th May, he received Nisha's offer but never responded. Nisha sued for breach, claiming Aarav's general revocation had no effect until an actual offer was received. Aarav argued his pre-emptive revocation negated acceptance.

Is there a valid contract?

- A. Yes, since Aarav didn't reject after receiving the offer.
- B. No, because offer was never accepted.
- C. Yes, because revocation before receipt is ineffective.
- D. No, because revocation was valid pre-emptively.

26. Pooja sent Raghav a letter offering to sell her house for ₹40 lakh, stating, "Offer open until 5 p.m. Friday." Raghav posted acceptance Thursday afternoon. On Friday morning, Pooja sent a letter of revocation that reached him Friday afternoon. Raghav claimed his acceptance created a binding contract before he got the revocation.

Who is correct?

- A. Pooja, since revocation was within deadline.
- B. Raghav, since acceptance was complete when posted.
- C. Both, since timings overlap.
- D. None, since postal rule doesn't apply.

27. Alok offers by email to sell a diamond ring to Tanvi for ₹5 lakh. Tanvi replies, "I accept," but accidentally sends it to the wrong address. Realizing this, she sends a new email five hours later. Before reading the corrected email, Alok sells the ring to another buyer. Tanvi sues, arguing her acceptance was valid once sent, regardless of error.

Decide.

- A. Tanvi's acceptance is valid; dispatch constitutes completion.
- B. The acceptance is invalid; communication must reach correct recipient.
- C. The contract is void due to delay.
- D. Both parties are discharged.

28. Rhea makes an oral offer to Kunal at a café to sell her watch for ₹10,000. Kunal says, "I'll think about it." Two hours later, he calls and says, "I accept," but Rhea's phone battery dies midway, and she doesn't hear him. Kunal believes acceptance is valid since he spoke it. Rhea claims no communication occurred because she didn't hear it.

Whose argument is stronger?

- A. Kunal, because he verbally accepted the offer.
- B. Rhea, because oral acceptance is complete only when heard and understood.
- C. Both, since network failure was unforeseeable.
- D. Neither, since time lapsed.

29. Mohan, a trader, emailed an offer to Neeta to sell 1,000 kg of rice for ₹20/kg. Neeta immediately replied, "Agreed." But before Mohan opened her email, his assistant accidentally deleted it, and Mohan, assuming no reply, sold the stock elsewhere. When Neeta demanded delivery, Mohan claimed no communication occurred.

Can Neeta enforce the contract?

- A. Yes, because acceptance is complete when sent by offeree.
- B. No, because communication wasn't received.
- C. Yes, since deletion by mistake can't negate a valid acceptance.
- D. No, because there was no acknowledgment.

30. Tanya offered to sell her car to Jatin for ₹5 lakh. Jatin said, "I'll confirm in three days." On the second day, Tanya sold the car to someone else without informing Jatin. On the third day, Jatin called and accepted. Tanya claimed her offer had lapsed once she sold the car.

Under Section 4, who is correct?

- A. Jatin, because the offer was open for three days.
- B. Tanya, because offer lapses when revoked before acceptance.
- C. Jatin, since he accepted within the stated time.
- D. Both, since no notice of revocation was sent.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage-I

India's biotechnology ecosystem is undergoing a major transformation through the launch of the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, officially approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2024. The policy is designed to interlink biotechnology with economic growth, environmental sustainability and job creation, thus aligning with India's goals of green growth, self-reliance and the vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047".

A key component of this policy is the establishment of the National Biofoundry Network (NBN), launched in August 2025. The network links six premier institutions and is intended to provide an end-to-end platform—from design and prototyping to scaling up biomanufacturing—for innovations in synthetic biology, gene editing, climate-smart agriculture, carbon capture, bio-based materials and more.

Under the BioE3 framework, "Bio-Enablers" such as Bio-AI Hubs, Biomanufacturing Hubs and Biofoundries are to be created. The policy emphasises convergence of biotechnology with engineering, AI and digital technologies, and fosters a circular bioeconomy. The DBT (Department of Biotechnology) under the Ministry of Science & Technology serves as the nodal agency.

India's bioeconomy has reportedly grown from about USD 10 billion in 2014 to USD 165.7 billion in 2024, with the goal of reaching USD 300 billion by 2030. Six thematic verticals have been identified: bio-based chemicals & enzymes; functional foods & smart proteins; precision biotherapeutics; climate-resilient agriculture; carbon capture & utilization; marine & space biomanufacturing.

The policy also signals India's intention to transition from being research-led to manufacturing-led in biotechnology, enabling start-ups, MSMEs and academia via shared infrastructure, incubation support and scale-up facilities. The BioE3 Challenge for Youth is another initiative under this policy, inviting students, researchers and startups to design "microbes, molecules & more" for solutions in health, agriculture, environment and industry.

However, significant challenges remain: regulatory clarity for advanced biotech (e.g., gene editing, synthetic biology), institutional coordination across ministries, funding and scale-up bottlenecks, and building skilled manpower. These are crucial for translating the policy's promise into real-world impact and for delivering the ambitious bioeconomy target.

In summary, the BioE3 Policy and the National Biofoundry Network together represent India's strategic pivot towards a high-performance bio-manufacturing economy where biology, digital tech and engineering converge—catalysing innovations, generating employment and contributing to sustainable development.

31. Under the BioE3 Policy, "Bio-Enablers" refer to:

1. Bio-AI Hubs
2. Biofoundries
3. Biomanufacturing Hubs

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

32. Which of the following statements about the National BioFoundry Network (NBFN) is correct?

1. It was launched in August 2025.
2. It links six premier biotechnology institutions in India.
3. It functions under the Ministry of Power.

- 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 sectors are *specifically targeted* under the BioE3 Policy's thematic verticals?

1. Climate-resilient agriculture
2. Marine and space biomanufacturing
3. Artificial intelligence hardware development

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

34. Which of the following are challenges identified in implementing BioE3 Policy?

1. Lack of regulatory clarity for synthetic biology
2. Funding and scaling bottlenecks
3. Oversupply of trained manpower

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

35. The BioE3 Youth Challenge focuses on:

1. Encouraging student and startup participation in biotechnology innovation
2. Providing financial support through BIRAC
3. Promoting fossil-fuel-based solutions

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

36. Which of the following global frameworks inspired India's BioE3 approach?

- A. OECD Bioeconomy 2030 Framework B. Kyoto Protocol
C. Basel Convention D. G20 Green Trade Initiative

37. Which of the following correctly pairs *international initiatives* similar to BioE3?

1. UK's BioFoundry Network
2. US BioMADE program
3. Japan's BioCircular 2025

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

38. Which institution under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) is primarily responsible for promoting bioinnovation funding in India?

- A. BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) B. ICAR
C. NITI Aayog D. CSIR

39. Which of the following statements about the *circular bioeconomy* is true?

1. It emphasizes reuse and recycling of biological resources.
2. It aims at reducing environmental waste while generating economic value.
3. It eliminates industrial participation entirely.

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

40. Which of the following policies aligns most closely with the objectives of BioE3 Policy in India?

- A. National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021–2030 B. PM-KUSUM Scheme
C. National Education Policy 2020 D. National Water Policy 2012

Passage - II

India's maritime strategy has recently incorporated an innovative initiative known as the Blue Ports Framework, aimed at transforming the nation's fishing-harbour infrastructure into sustainable, smart and inclusive hubs that support the Blue Economy. Launched under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD) of the Government of India, the framework is designed to upgrade key fishing harbours through advanced technology, environmental stewardship and stakeholder inclusion.

Under the Blue Ports Framework, three pilot "Smart & Integrated Fishing Harbours" have been approved — at Vanakbara (Diu), Jakhau (Gujarat) and Karaikal (Puducherry) — with a combined investment of approximately ₹ 369.80 crore. The core objective is to integrate smart technologies (such as IoT-sensor networks, satellite communication, AI/5G platforms and real-time analytics) with eco-friendly infrastructure (rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient lighting, electric equipment, waste/sewage treatment and marine-debris clean-up).

The framework emphasises economic viability, ecological sustainability, and social inclusion — recognising that fishing harbours are not merely physical infrastructure but strategic gateways in the aquatic value chain, connected to food-and-nutritional security, livelihood generation and exports. Support is provided under flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

The Blue Ports Framework promises improved post-harvest efficiency, enhanced traceability, higher export competitiveness and more resilient coastal livelihoods. For instance, the FAO-TCP aligns the capacity-building of public and private stakeholders, and draws lessons from successful global case studies such as the Port of Vigo (Spain). Yet, the initiative also faces significant challenges: widespread infrastructure gaps in Indian fishing harbours (e.g., high post-harvest loss rates), limited cold-chain and waste-treatment facilities, lack of universal digital monitoring, and the need for climate-resilient design across India's 2.02 million km² exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

In summary, the Blue Ports Framework marks India's attempt to integrate maritime infrastructure, coastal livelihoods and sustainability within the broader Blue Economy agenda. By turning traditional fishing harbours into smart portals of value creation and resilience, the programme seeks to deliver enhanced economic returns, better environmental outcomes and stronger socially inclusive systems.

41. Consider the following statements regarding the institutional framework of Blue Ports:

1. It is implemented under the Department of Fisheries.
2. The initiative is a collaboration with the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).
3. It is supported under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

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

42. Which of the following pilot harbours are included under the Blue Ports Framework?

1. Jakhau (Gujarat)
2. Vanakbara (Diu)
3. Karaikal (Puducherry)
4. Paradip (Odisha)

Select the correct answer:

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

43. Which of the following is *not* a feature of eco-friendly design under the Blue Ports initiative?

- A. Rainwater harvesting systems B. Electric port equipment
C. Marine debris removal mechanisms D. Nuclear-powered desalination units

44. Which of the following best represents the core pillars of the Blue Ports Framework?

1. Economic viability
2. Ecological sustainability
3. Social inclusion

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

45. Which of the following are identified as *key challenges* to the Blue Ports programme?

1. Lack of cold-chain and waste-management facilities
2. Inadequate digital monitoring
3. Surplus funding from private investors

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

46. Which of the following international examples is cited for capacity building under the Blue Ports Framework?

- A. Port of Rotterdam (Netherlands) B. Port of Vigo (Spain)
C. Port of Durban (South Africa) D. Port of Qingdao (China)

47. Which of the following global frameworks supports the same principles as the Blue Ports initiative?

- A. FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries B. WTO Agreement on Agriculture
C. UN Convention on Biodiversity Trade D. IMF's Blue Bonds Mechanism

48. Which of the following correctly defines the Blue Economy as per India's National Maritime Policy?

- A. Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and jobs while preserving ecosystem health.
B. Exploitation of marine resources without restrictions.
C. Exclusive focus on naval defence infrastructure.
D. Industrialisation of ports regardless of environment.

49. Which of the following statements are correct about the Indian fisheries sector?

1. It contributes over 1% to India's GDP.
2. It provides employment to more than 30 million people.
3. India is the world's third-largest fish-producing country.

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

50. Which of the following technologies are most relevant for achieving smart-port operations under Blue Ports?

1. Internet of Things (IoT)
2. Blockchain
3. Artificial Intelligence
4. Geo-spatial satellite mapping

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

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Passage-I

Three Friends Ahil, Biru and Chandan went to a shop. Each of them had Rs. 3000. In the shop, the session sale discount was 10% on the MRP. Biru and Chandan were regular customers so they got 20% each an additional discount on the discounted price but Ahil being a new customer didn't get any additional discount. Only Chandan had a membership card of the shop which gave an additional discount of 25% on the discounted price. They all like Watch of 3 different brand A, B and C and they purchased one piece each of that brand The marked price of each piece was same. In last, when they calculated then they found that Biru had paid Rs. 360 more than that of Chandan.

51. If all of them combine the money paid for watch then, the total money paid by them for three pieces of the watch was what percentage of the total marked price of the three watch?

- (A) 62% (B) 72% (C) 78% (D) 68%

52. The amount paid by Ahil for the watch was how much more than that by Chandan?

- (A) 45% (B) 50% (C) 55.33% (D) 66.67%

53. What is the ratio of the amount paid by Ahil to that by Chandan?

- (A) 9:7 (B) 3:2 (C) 6:5 (D) 5:3

54. How much money was left with Ahil after purchasing the Watch?

- (A) Rs. 900 (B) Rs. 500 (C) Rs. 1200 (D) Rs. 750

55. What was the marked price of the Watch?

- (A) Rs. 1800 (B) Rs. 2400 (C) Rs. 2000 (D) Rs. 2150

Passage – II

Directions: Study the given information carefully to answer the questions.

M.S. Dhoni scored runs against different countries in three different years. NOTE: Total runs scored in a year = Australia + England + Pakistan

2015: The total runs scored in 2015 were 1200. The runs scored against England were $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the runs against Pakistan in 2016. The average runs scored against Australia and England was 300. 2016: The total runs scored against Australia and Pakistan was 1200. The ratio of the total runs scored against Pakistan in 2015 to that of the total runs scored against Pakistan in 2016 is 4:3. The total runs scored against England in 2016 were equal to the total runs scored against England in 2017.

2017: The sum of the total runs scored against Australia and England is equal to the total runs scored against Pakistan. The total runs scored in 2017 were 1400. The total runs scored against Australia were twice of the runs scored against England in 2015.

56. What were the total runs scored in 2016?

- (A) 1100 (B) 1500 (C) 1600 (D) 1400

57. What is the sum of the runs scored against England in all three years?

- (A) 800 (B) 950 (C) 850 (D) 1050

58. What is the ratio of the total runs scored against Australia in 2015 to that of the total runs scored against England in 2017?

- (A) 7:9 (B) 9:7 (C) 11:7 (D) 9:8

59. What is the difference between the total runs scored against Pakistan in 2015 to the total runs scored against Pakistan in 2016?

- (A) 150 (B) 200 (C) 100 (D) 300

60. The total runs scored against Australia in 2016 is what percentage of the total runs scored against Australia in 2017?

- (A) 250% (B) 100% (C) 150% (D) 200%