

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE &amp; LOGICAL REASONING

## PASSAGE - I

**Source:** *The Indian Express* — “The return of Chindia” by Shashi Tharoor

**Published:** Thu, 11 September 2025

**URL:** <https://epaper.indianexpress.com/c/78130469>

IN THE EVER-SHIFTING theatre of international diplomacy, moments of quiet recalibration often speak louder than grand pronouncements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Beijing — his first in seven years — and his meeting with President Xi Jinping on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, may not have yielded dramatic breakthroughs, but it marked something far more valuable: A deliberate pivot from confrontation to conversation.

Five years ago, the tragic loss of 20 Indian lives in the Galwan Valley cast a long shadow over Sino-Indian relations. The border, unresolved and volatile, became a metaphor for the broader diplomatic freeze. Trade slowed, flights ceased, and the spirit of “Chindia” — that hopeful portmanteau coined in headier times to capture the promise of Asian synergy — was shelved in surrender to strategic suspicion. But today, the machinery of engagement is whirring once more.

The symbolism is unmistakable. Indian pilgrims have returned to Hindu and Buddhist sites in Tibet. Direct flights are resuming. Visa restrictions are easing. Patrolling has resumed on our disputed frontier. Both nations are orchestrating a flurry of high-level exchanges to formalise the thaw. These gestures, though modest, are not without meaning. They signal a shared intent to move beyond the recriminations of the past and to reimagine a relationship that has too often been defined by its fault lines.

India and China share a rich tapestry of historical engagement that stretches back over two millennia, the era of the Golden Road and the Silk Road, which served as conduits not only for trade in silk, spices, and precious stones, but also for profound cultural and religious exchange. Buddhism, born in India, found fertile ground in China through the travels of monks and scholars, while ancient Indian texts like the Arthashastra referenced Chinese goods, attesting to early awareness and interaction.

Chinese students studied at Nalanda, and an Indian monk, Bodhidharma, took martial arts to the famed Shaolin Temple in China.

Fast forward to the mid-20th century, and the spirit of cooperation was rekindled as both nations emerged from colonial shadows into sovereign statehood. India was among the first non-communist countries to recognise the People’s Republic of China, and the 1940s and 1950s saw vibrant exchanges in science, education, and diplomacy, with both countries participating in landmark events like the Asian Relations Conference (1947) and the Bandung Conference (1955), in which Jawaharlal Nehru’s India took it upon itself to introduce Communist China to the world. Despite later tensions, this era was marked by mutual respect and the optimism of “Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai”, laying the groundwork for a relationship that, even today, seeks to balance ancient affinities with modern aspirations.

At the heart of the Modi-Xi dialogue was a reaffirmation of a principle that ideally ought to be self-evident but has long been elusive: That India and China can be development partners, not just rivals. The assertion that “differences should not turn into disputes” is more than diplomatic boilerplate — it represents a conscious effort to de-escalate the dominant rhetoric since 2020, when it was all “Hindi-Chini bye-bye”. In an era of global volatility, where trade wars flare and alliances shift with alarming speed, such clarity is welcome.

Of course, the spectre of American tariffs looms large over this rapprochement. President Donald Trump’s stinging levies — 30 percent on Chinese goods, with threats of escalation to 145 per cent, and a punishing 50 percent on Indian exports — have jolted New Delhi into reconsidering its strategic calculus. India, once courted as a prized partner, now finds itself labelled a “laundromat for the Kremlin” by Washington’s trade hawks. The economic fallout is real: Exporters face closure, jobs have been lost and more hang in the balance, and the promise of preferential treatment lies in tatters.

In this context, China's overtures — welcoming Indian commodities, fast-tracking investments, and publicly rebuking American "bullying" — are not merely opportunistic. They reflect a recognition that Asia's two largest economies must find common cause in a multipolar world. Strategic autonomy, a theme both leaders underscored, is not just a slogan; it is a necessity.

Yet, we must temper optimism with realism. The border remains a tinderbox with no progress on de-escalation to the status quo ante of April 2020, even while both sides promise progress toward a permanent border agreement. Our massive trade deficit with China persists and is compounded by huge non-tariff barriers imposed on Indian companies. The structural asymmetries in the relationship — military, economic, and political — cannot be wished away.

Just recently the exodus of over 300 Chinese engineers from Foxconn's pivotal iPhone 17 manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka revealed how painfully Beijing could squeeze our ambitions. China has leveraged its dominance in rare-earth production and processing by restricting exports of rare earths and rare-earth magnets, which are crucial for electric vehicles and electronics, to India. It has also imposed trade restrictions on the export of high-end capital equipment, including for electronics assembly and other sectors, heavy-duty tunnel boring machines and solar equipment, severely impacting India. The real test lies not in the symbolism of summits but in the substance of sustained cooperation.

Still, there is reason to hope. The resumption of dialogue, the restoration of people-to-people ties, and the shared commitment to multilateralism suggest that India and China are willing to engage — not as antagonists, but as interlocutors. In a world increasingly defined by zero-sum thinking, that alone is a victory.

The spirit of "Chindia", it seems, is stirring once more. Slowly and cautiously, but unmistakably. Let us hope it endures.

The writer chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

1. In the context of the passage, which of the following best captures the author's purpose in invoking ancient historical interactions — such as Bodhidharma's travels and Nalanda's role — within a discussion of modern diplomatic developments?

- A. To demonstrate that present-day attempts at engagement draw legitimacy from a much older civilisational foundation
- B. To suggest that cultural exchange outweighs contemporary geopolitical tensions
- C. To argue that historical interactions have been overstated in shaping the modern dynamic
- D. To imply that ancient ties automatically ensure long-term diplomatic stability

2. The author uses the phrase "machinery of engagement is whirring once more" primarily to emphasize:

- A. A rapid and irreversible return to pre-Galwan cooperation
- B. A cautious but genuine movement toward structured diplomatic normalisation
- C. A symbolic shift that lacks substantive policy follow-through
- D. A temporary easing of tensions driven by external pressure

3. What can be inferred about the author's view of the "Chindia" concept?

- A. It was always an unrealistic and romanticised construct
- B. It represents a naïve political slogan revived for short-term optics
- C. It is a cyclical idea that resurfaces when conditions permit cautious optimism
- D. It is central to India's foreign policy reorientation post-2020

4. The author's tone toward the renewed India-China engagement is best described as:

- A. Jubilant but dismissive of risks
- B. Detached and sceptical
- C. Idealistic and overtly enthusiastic
- D. Guarded optimism tempered by realism

5. Which of the following best summarises the passage?

- A. A nuanced exploration of how India-China ties are cautiously shifting from confrontation to dialogue amid persistent structural challenges
- B. A critique of India's response to American tariff pressure and its pivot toward China
- C. A historical survey arguing that ancient cultural ties guarantee modern diplomatic stability
- D. An argument that India must prioritise multipolarity over bilateralism in Asia

6. The author's argument that the revival of dialogue is meaningful relies on which unstated assumption?

- A. Symbolic steps inevitably translate into substantive policy change
- B. Incremental diplomatic gestures can reduce long-term mistrust even without breakthroughs
- C. India and China place equal value on managing tensions
- D. Border disputes are unlikely to influence broader cooperation

7. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that China's overtures reflect strategic calculation rather than opportunism?

- A. China's domestic economic pressures require increased trade with India
- B. China recently offered similar gestures to Japan and South Korea
- C. Chinese policymakers privately acknowledge that India's cooperation is essential for regional stability
- D. US tariffs on Chinese goods are expected to decrease next year

8. Which of the following reveals a flaw in assuming that resumed flights, visas, and pilgrimages indicate a full reset?

- A. These measures rely on longstanding bureaucratic mechanisms
- B. China continues to expand investments in South Asia
- C. India remains critical of China's rare-earth export policies
- D. Core political and military issues remain unresolved despite symbolic goodwill

9. The author's argument that optimism must be "tempered with realism" is most analogous to which scenario?

- A. A company reopening negotiations with a rival firm while acknowledging unresolved lawsuits between them
- B. A student celebrating a high score despite failing another subject
- C. A government announcing reforms but delaying all implementation
- D. A team continuing operations after losing critical funding

10. Based on the passage, which inference is most justified?

- A. India intends to align more closely with China than with the US
- B. India seeks to preserve strategic autonomy by balancing between major powers
- C. China is prepared to fully dismantle its non-tariff barriers against India
- D. India will significantly reduce trade with the US in response to tariff pressures

## LEGAL REASONING

### PASSAGE - I

In India, executed contracts are governed by the Contract Act, 1872 ("Act"), which provides for consequences in case of breach. The Act stipulates that a non-defaulting party can claim for damages as a matter of right, provided certain conditions are fulfilled. The concept of Liquidated Damages is well recognized and similar across various jurisdictions. Briefly, under section 74 of the Act, these are contractually pre-agreed damages and payable on default by either one. Usually, parties pre-estimate the loss that one may incur in case of breach and stipulate the compensation amount in the contract. The idea is to limit the scope of the compensation to be granted under the contract. In case of dispute, the courts stick to the sums agreed by the parties. By contractually agreeing to a reasonable compensation amount, the parties safeguard their interest as there is a guarantee that compensation will be granted in case of a breach. On the other hand, unliquidated damages are those which are not stipulated in a contract but the court quantifies them by assessing the actual loss or injury caused to a party. Section 73 of the Act is considered to be a bible with respect to these types of damages and a non-defaulting party can claim damages, not as a matter of right but subject to satisfying certain conditions. Duress being threats, violence, constraints, or other action used to coerce someone into doing something against their will or better judgment.

Section 73 provides "When a contract has been broken, the party who suffers by such breach is entitled to receive, from the party who has broken the contract, compensation for any loss or damage caused to him thereby, which naturally arose in the usual course of things from such breach, or which the parties knew, when they made the contract, to be likely to result from the breach of it. Such compensation is not to be given for any remote and indirect loss or damage sustained by reason of the breach."

A bare review of Section 73 gives an impression that it has an extremely wide scope of recovery for any loss or damage. The judiciary has been successful in narrowing down the scope of this section by reiterating the limitations prescribed in the section itself. Even though unliquidated damages are not quantified in a contract but the non-defaulting party is entitled to them, once it can establish the loss incurred. In order to ensure a claim for unliquidated damages is successful, it is necessary to examine the statutory components and how the courts have dealt with them.

**11.** A construction company, Zenith Builders, entered into a contract with Metro Developers to complete a luxury apartment project by December 2024. The contract contained a clause stating that "in case of delay, Zenith shall pay ₹2 crore as liquidated damages." Due to shortage of raw materials and transport strikes, Zenith delayed the project by four months. Metro Developers deducted ₹2 crore from their payment. Zenith sued, claiming the deduction was excessive and that the actual loss was negligible because property prices had increased.

Under the Indian Contract Act, 1872, which of the following is correct?

- A. The clause is invalid; only actual loss is recoverable.
- B. Metro can recover ₹2 crore regardless of proof of loss.
- C. Zenith is liable for unliquidated damages only.
- D. Court may award reasonable compensation not exceeding ₹2 crore.

**12.** A software company, SoftServe, contracted with an e-commerce platform to provide cybersecurity systems. The agreement fixed liquidated damages of ₹50 lakh for delay. When SoftServe delayed by three months due to its internal system crash, the platform suffered a cyber-attack causing ₹1.2 crore loss. It sued to recover the full amount.

Which of the following statements is correct under Section 74 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- A. Plaintiff entitled to ₹1.2 crore actual loss.
- B. Recovery limited to reasonable compensation not exceeding ₹50 lakh.
- C. Defendant not liable as damage unforeseen.
- D. Entire claim barred by limitation clause.

**13.** An exporter contracted to deliver 5000 tons of sugar to a buyer by June 2025. The contract included a clause stating ₹10 lakh per week as compensation for delay. The exporter defaulted for 6 weeks but claimed that an unexpected port strike made shipping impossible. The buyer sued for full compensation. The exporter argued that the delay was beyond control.

What should the court decide?

- A.** Compensation claim valid; ₹60 lakh payable as per clause.
- B.** Damages limited to actual loss proven by buyer.
- C.** Contract void under frustration.
- D.** Reasonable compensation may be granted up to ₹60 lakh.

**14.** Arun hired a music band for his wedding, paying ₹5 lakh in advance. Two days before the event, the band cancelled citing a more lucrative booking. Arun had to hire another band at ₹8 lakh. He sued the original band for ₹3 lakh difference plus ₹2 lakh emotional distress.

Which of the following best applies?

- A.** Compensation limited to ₹3 lakh direct loss; no emotional damages.
- B.** Full ₹5 lakh recoverable including mental distress.
- C.** Band not liable since wedding non-commercial.
- D.** Contract voidable for coercion.

**15.** A telecom company contracted with a supplier to install towers in a remote area. The contract fixed ₹20 lakh as liquidated damages for delay. The supplier failed to deliver on time because local authorities stopped the work citing safety issues. The company sought full damages. The supplier argued the delay wasn't their fault.

What should the court decide?

- A.** Supplier liable for ₹20 lakh since clause pre-agreed.
- B.** Damages recoverable under Section 73 as consequential loss.
- C.** Supplier liable only if delay self-induced.
- D.** Reasonable compensation may be awarded if loss proven.

**16.** A manufacturing firm agreed to supply 1,000 machines to the Defence Department at ₹10 crore total. The contract had no liquidated damages clause. Due to labour unrest, the firm delivered only half. The Defence Department claimed ₹4 crore as damages, including ₹1 crore for lost reputation.

Which of the following best applies?

- A.** Defence Department can recover all claimed losses.
- B.** Only direct losses of ₹3 crore recoverable; reputational loss excluded.
- C.** Claim barred since government delayed payment.
- D.** Supplier liable for liquidated damages by default.

**17.** Rachit signed a contract with a mall to open a branded store within three months. He deposited ₹5 lakh as security. Later, due to an internal family dispute, he withdrew from the contract. The mall forfeited the deposit, citing breach. Rachit sued for refund, claiming the mall suffered no loss.

What is the correct position?

- A.** Forfeiture valid; amount was reasonable pre-estimate.
- B.** Mall must return part or whole if no loss proven.
- C.** Deposit forfeiture automatic under Section 73.
- D.** Entire forfeiture void for lack of proof.

**18.** A logistics company agreed to transport perishable goods to a supermarket chain. The contract had a force majeure clause and ₹10 lakh liquidated damages for delay. The truck was held up by highway protests not covered under force majeure. Goods spoiled, causing ₹25 lakh loss. The chain claimed full damages.



Which is the correct interpretation under the Act?

- A. Company liable only for ₹10 lakh as per clause.
- B. Contract void by frustration.
- C. Liable for full ₹25 lakh actual loss.
- D. Liable for partial compensation depending on proof.

19. A multinational entered into a contract with an Indian vendor to supply turbines by December 2024. The contract mentioned ₹1 crore per month as damages for delay. The vendor delivered five months late and argued that the buyer suffered no financial loss since the project hadn't started yet.

What is the most legally accurate position?

- A. Buyer entitled to ₹5 crore full amount.
- B. Court will award reasonable compensation up to ₹5 crore.
- C. Clause void for uncertainty.
- D. Vendor excused under frustration.

20. A film producer signed a contract with a music label, agreeing that in case of breach, ₹50 lakh would be payable as damages. The label delayed soundtrack delivery, causing the film's release to be postponed. The producer sued for the fixed amount. The label contended actual loss was only ₹10 lakh and the rest was punitive.

Which is the correct position under Section 74?

- A. Full ₹50 lakh payable as per contract.
- B. Compensation limited to reasonable amount, not exceeding ₹50 lakh.
- C. Damages limited to ₹10 lakh actual loss.
- D. Contract void for unfair terms.

### Passage-II

An agreement may be defined as a mutual understanding between two or more legally competent individuals or entities about their rights and duties regarding their past or future performances and consideration as manifested by their language (oral or written) or by implication from other circumstances such as the usage of trade and course of performance. An agreement enforceable by law is a contract.

Section 23 of the Indian Contract Act says that the consideration or object of an agreement is lawful, unless it is forbidden by law; or is of such nature that, if permitted it would defeat the provisions of any law; or involves or implies injury to the person or property of another; or the Court regards it as immoral, or opposed to public policy. The Act also says that in order to provide validity to a contract, the terms of the contract must be certain and not vague or uncertain.

Section 24-30 explains certain types of agreement, which have been expressly declared to be void. An agreement in restraint of trade and an agreement by way of wager have been expressly declared void.

Any agreement which tends to be injurious to/against the interest or conscience of the public at large is said to be opposed to public policy. It is a branch of common law and unless a particular principle of public policy is recognised by that law, Courts cannot invent a new head of public policy. The ordinary function of the Court is to rely on the well settled heads of public policy and to apply them to varying situations unless harm to public interest is substantially incontestable.

Various interpretations of the provision of the statute are at our disposal now to understand the Act better. It is now evident that no agreement can sustain if any of its provisions or clauses are illegal, or tend to defeat any provision of law. It doesn't really matter if all the other elements in the agreement satisfy and validate a contract but one illegal or unlawful input may render it void.

In proximity to the cases related, a judgement came out such that – If the thing stipulated for is in itself contrary to law, the action by which the execution of the illegal act is stipulated must be held as intrinsically null.

**21.** A company, GreenTech Pvt. Ltd., entered into a contract with Arjun, a consultant, to help secure an environmental clearance for a new industrial plant. As part of the agreement, Arjun was promised ₹15 lakh “to ensure” that government officers “do not raise objections.” The contract further mentioned that Arjun would “use his influence and personal relations” with certain officials to obtain quick approval. Later, GreenTech refused to pay, stating the agreement was void. Arjun sued for breach, claiming that his work merely involved administrative assistance and did not involve any illegality.

Which of the following is most appropriate under the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

- A. Arjun can recover payment since performance was completed.
- B. Contract is partly void but partly enforceable.
- C. Arjun’s claim valid because the object was administrative.
- D. Contract void, as it defeats provisions of law and public policy.

**22.** Two pharmaceutical companies, PharmaNova and BioCare, signed an agreement fixing the prices of essential drugs to “maintain market uniformity.” The agreement also required both to share confidential data on competitors. After public backlash, PharmaNova terminated the contract. BioCare sued for breach, claiming mutual consent and commercial necessity.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. BioCare is correct because both parties consented freely.
- B. The agreement is void since price-fixing harms public interest and restrains trade.
- C. The agreement is valid because it benefits consumers.
- D. Only the confidentiality clause is void.

**23.** Maya, a teacher, signed a contract with a private coaching institute that she would not teach at any other coaching center in India for three years after leaving employment. The contract also mentioned that she would pay ₹10 lakh in damages for any violation. After resigning, she started her own online classes. The institute sued her for breach. Maya contended that the restriction was void.

Which of the following best represents the legal position?

- A. The restraint on her profession is void under Section 27.
- B. The restriction valid since it protects trade secrets.
- C. Valid because the term is for a limited time.
- D. Enforceable as Maya consented freely.

**24.** Vikas bet ₹1 lakh with his friend on whether a new film would cross ₹500 crore at the box office. When it failed, he refused to pay, saying betting contracts are illegal. His friend claimed that since the bet did not involve a criminal act, it was valid.

Which is the correct position under Indian law?

- A. Valid contract, as it involved mutual consent.
- B. Illegal since based on uncertain event.
- C. Void as a wagering agreement under Section 30.
- D. Enforceable if made before a notary.

**25.** Rajesh, a property dealer, entered into an agreement with an ex-police officer promising ₹2 lakh to “ensure” smooth municipal approval for his illegal construction. The officer later demanded additional payment. Rajesh refused, and the officer sued for the promised amount, arguing that “everyone pays facilitation fees.”

Which of the following should the court hold?

- A. Agreement valid since both consented.
- B. Agreement partly valid if corruption not proven.
- C. Rajesh must pay as consideration existed.
- D. Contract void, as the object is illegal and against public policy.

**26.** An agreement between an employer and an employee stated that upon resignation, the employee must not work in the same field within 100 km for one year. Later, the employee took up a similar job 80 km away. The employer sued for breach.

What is the likely outcome?

- A.** Clause valid as it's geographically limited.      **B.** Clause void under Section 27, as it restrains lawful profession.  
**C.** Clause valid since both parties agreed voluntarily.      **D.** Court may enforce for six months only.

**27.** A contract between a developer and a housing society stated that buyers would never challenge environmental clearance of the project before any authority. Later, serious violations emerged, and the buyers filed a writ petition. The developer argued that the clause barred them from approaching court.

Which of the following is true?

- A.** Clause void, as it defeats provisions of law guaranteeing judicial remedies.  
**B.** Clause valid because parties consented freely.  
**C.** Clause valid if not misused.      **D.** Clause partially void for environmental issues only.

**28.** A and B entered into an agreement where A would help B smuggle high-value wildlife parts in exchange for ₹20 lakh. A completed the task but B refused payment. A sued for recovery, arguing that he had merely provided transportation services.

Which of the following should the court decide?

- A.** Contract enforceable as work completed.      **B.** Void ab initio since it involves illegal object.  
**C.** Partly valid since only part was unlawful.      **D.** Recoverable if A acted in good faith.

**29.** A film producer entered into a contract with an actor prohibiting him from working in advertisements for any product for two years after film release. The actor breached and accepted an endorsement deal. The producer sued claiming loss of exclusivity.

Which is legally correct?

- A.** Clause valid during contract performance, void after termination.      **B.** Clause void ab initio under Section 27.  
**C.** Clause valid as restraint reasonable.      **D.** Enforceable by industry practice.

**30.** Two gambling app developers entered into a "profit-sharing" contract where each would divide earnings from online betting games. After six months, one party refused to pay, claiming the agreement was void. The other argued that the app operated under foreign jurisdiction.

Which is correct under Indian law?

- A.** Contract valid if conducted abroad.  
**B.** Void as wagering contracts are unlawful in India.  
**C.** Valid as gaming licenses protect such contracts.  
**D.** Valid if only advisory services offered



## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

### Passage-I

Biosphere Reserves (BRs) in India represent some of the most ecologically significant landscapes that integrate conservation, sustainable use, and community participation. Established under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, they aim to harmonise the relationship between people and nature by balancing biodiversity conservation with economic development. India currently has several biosphere reserves notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), many of which are also recognised under UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

A typical biosphere reserve in India consists of three zones: a core zone dedicated to strict protection of ecosystems; a buffer zone where limited research, monitoring, and eco-friendly activities are allowed; and a transition zone where sustainable human practices, including traditional agriculture and settlements, are permitted. This zoning is crucial for ensuring that ecological and social systems coexist without major conflict.

Indian Biosphere Reserves host diverse ecosystems, ranging from tropical evergreen forests to cold deserts and mangroves. They protect globally significant flora and fauna, including endemic species, migratory birds, and species found nowhere else. Community participation is an important component, especially among indigenous groups whose traditional ecological knowledge contributes to sustainable management. Several reserves, such as the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and the Sundarbans, represent transboundary ecological linkages, indicating that conservation here has implications beyond India's borders.

India's biosphere reserves also serve as important climate-adaptation laboratories, helping researchers study long-term ecological processes such as hydrological cycles, carbon sequestration, species migration patterns, and ecosystem resilience. With increasing climate-change threats, these reserves offer natural buffers against extreme weather events by stabilising soil, regulating water flow, and maintaining genetic diversity.

Despite their importance, biosphere reserves face multiple challenges, including anthropogenic pressure, habitat fragmentation, unregulated resource extraction, climate-induced shifts in species distribution, and increasing tourism activity. Some reserves face conflicts over land rights and benefit-sharing with local communities, which affects conservation outcomes. Ecological fragmentation around buffer zones also reduces connectivity between habitats and impacts migratory species.

Nevertheless, biosphere reserves remain a model for India's integrated conservation approach, combining scientific research with traditional knowledge and community-based management. India's long-term environmental policies continue emphasising these reserves as testing grounds for sustainable development, ecological restoration, and climate-change mitigation strategies.

**31.** Which of the following statements about the ecological significance of Indian Biosphere Reserves is correct?

1. They protect endemic species.
2. They serve as climate-adaptation laboratories.
3. They prohibit all human activities.

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

**32.** Which of the following is highlighted as a contribution of indigenous communities in biosphere reserves?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Replacing traditional practices with modern agriculture | B. Contributing traditional ecological knowledge |
| C. Preventing all economic activity                        | D. Operating commercial mining                   |

**33.** Which of the following roles does the buffer zone serve?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Strict protection without human access  | B. Space for research, monitoring and eco-friendly activities |
| C. Area designated exclusively for tourism | D. Intensive agriculture zone                                 |

**34.** Which of the following is an ecological function mentioned for biosphere reserves?

- A. Enhancing groundwater pollution
- B. Regulating water flow and stabilising soil
- C. Enhancing unregulated mining
- D. Promoting invasive species

**35.** Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. All Indian Biosphere Reserves are UNESCO-recognised.
- B. Some, but not all, are part of UNESCO's MAB network.
- C. UNESCO recognition is mandatory for designation.
- D. UNESCO directly manages India's biosphere reserves.

**36.** Which of the following BEST represents the future policy role of biosphere reserves in India?

- A. Serving only as forest-harvesting areas
- B. Sites exclusively focused on ecotourism
- C. Testing grounds for sustainable development & restoration
- D. Banning all research for preservation

**37.** Which was India's first Biosphere Reserve?

- A. Gulf of Mannar
- B. Nilgiri
- C. Sundarbans
- D. Nanda Devi

**38.** Which Biosphere Reserve in India is also a *UNESCO World Heritage Site*?

- 1. Sundarbans
- 2. Nanda Devi
- 3. Simlipal

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

**39.** Which Indian Biosphere Reserve contains the only tropical alpine meadows in the country?

- A. Nanda Devi
- B. Nokrek
- C. Pachmarhi
- D. Agasthyamalai

**40.** Which of the following Biosphere Reserves has a transboundary component with Bangladesh?

- A. Pachmarhi
- B. Simlipal
- C. Sundarbans
- D. Kutch

### PASSAGE - II

As India celebrates the centenary of its organised international hockey journey, the occasion marks not just a sporting milestone but a reflection of the country's socio-cultural evolution. Indian hockey formally entered the global stage in 1925, when the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) sent a team to New Zealand for a maiden international tour. This centennial year, therefore, becomes an opportunity to revisit the legacy of a sport that once defined India's identity on the world stage.

Indian hockey's "Golden Era," spanning roughly from 1928 to 1956, continues to remain unparalleled in sporting history. India won six consecutive Olympic gold medals during this period, a record that still stands unchallenged. The magic of Dhyan Chand, often regarded as the greatest field hockey player ever, symbolised both technical mastery and artistic finesse. His role in India's early dominance continues to shape global perceptions of Indian hockey. The 100-year celebration also highlights how the sport represented national pride during the freedom struggle, with victories becoming symbolic assertions of self-respect under colonial rule.

The centenary commemoration has also drawn attention to the transformation of hockey in modern India. The shift from natural grass to synthetic turf in the late twentieth century forced Indian players to adapt their traditional dribbling style to new speed-based and power-centric requirements. Following years of decline, the establishment of the Hockey India Federation in 2009 and structural reforms in coaching, junior programmes, and high-performance centres facilitated a resurgence. India's bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, after a gap of 41 years, demonstrated renewed competitiveness at the global level.

The celebrations also recognise the expanding role of technology and analytics in training, injury monitoring, and match strategy. The rise of domestic leagues, including the Hockey India League, has helped create financial opportunities and global exposure. Yet, the challenges remain significant: inadequate grassroots infrastructure, uneven state-level development, and competition from cricket continue to affect hockey's national presence.

This 100-year milestone, therefore, serves not merely as nostalgia but as a strategic checkpoint for assessing how India can position itself again as a global hockey powerhouse. The government's Khelo India scheme, Odisha's state-led investment model, and partnerships with international coaches constitute important pillars of this revival. The centenary allows stakeholders to address systemic issues and outline a roadmap for the next hundred years, aiming to blend tradition with innovation in a sport that remains deeply woven into India's sporting heritage.

**41.** With reference to India's 100 years of hockey, consider the following statements:

1. India's first international hockey tour took place in 1925.
2. The tour was conducted under the Indian Hockey Federation.
3. The tour was held in Australia.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**42.** The transition from natural grass to synthetic turf led to which of the following changes in Indian hockey?

- A. Emphasis shifted from power-centric to dribbling-centric play
- B. Traditional dribbling had to adapt to a faster, power-based game
- C. Matches became longer in duration
- D. India immediately won multiple Olympic medals

**43.** Which institutional reform contributed to India's hockey revival in the 21st century?

- A. Formation of Sports Authority of India
- B. Introduction of National Games
- C. Establishment of Hockey India Federation in 2009
- D. Adoption of cricket-style revenue sharing

**44.** What does the passage identify as a major barrier limiting hockey's national presence today?

- A. Lack of international competitions
- B. Dominance of cricket
- C. Absence of synthetic turf
- D. Ban on foreign coaches

**45.** Which of the following BEST describes modern developments in Indian hockey?

1. Use of performance analytics
2. Creation of domestic leagues
3. Decline in financial opportunities

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

**46.** Which state's investment model has been highlighted in the passage as significant in India's hockey revival?

- A. Punjab      B. Odisha      C. Karnataka      D. Maharashtra

**47.** Which of the following developments marked India's resurgence after decades of decline?

- A. Silver medal at 2016 Rio Olympics
- B. Gold at 2014 Asian Games
- C. Bronze medal at 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- D. Qualification for 2018 World Cup

48. With reference to FIH, consider the following:

1. It is headquartered in Lausanne.
2. It governs both field hockey and ice hockey.
3. It organises the Hockey World Cup.

Which statements are correct?

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

49. Which of the following trophies is associated with Indian domestic hockey?

- A. Duleep Trophy      B. Ranji Trophy      C. Beighton Cup      D. Santosh Trophy

50. Who was the captain of India's men's hockey team during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze win?

- A. Harmanpreet Singh      B. Manpreet Singh      C. Rupinder Pal Singh      D. Sreejesh P.R.

### Quantitative Technique

#### Passage-I

**Study the given information and answer the following question:**

There are total 800 students in a class; respective ratio of boys and girls among them is 9:7. Each student likes one among the four fruits viz. Mango, Litchi, Guava and Banana. 20% of the total number of boys likes Banana. 30% of total number of girls likes Mango. Respective ratio of number of boys who like Banana and number of boys who like Litchi is 3:4. 40% of the total number of students likes Mango. Respective ratio of number of boys and number of girls who like Guava is 1:3. 20% of the total number of girls likes Litchi.

**51. Find the respective ratio of number of boys who like Litchi and number of girls who like Guava**

- (A) 7:4      (B) 8:5      (C) 6:5      (D) 4:3

**52. Find the difference between total number of students who like Mango and total number of students who like Litchi.**

- (A) 130      (B) 210      (C) 150      (D) 220

**53. Number of girls who like Mango is what percent more than the number of girls who like Banana?**

- (A) 8%      (B) 7%      (C) 5%      (D) 9%

**54. Find the average of the number of boys who like Mango and number of boys who like Guava**

- (A) 100      (B) 120      (C) 90      (D) 110

**55. Find the sum of total number of students who like Guava and total number of students who like Banana**

- (A) 260      (B) 250      (C) 290      (D) 240

## PASSAGE-II

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

P, Q and R are three Residential colony with an average population of 660. The ratio of the population in Colony P, Q and R is 40 : 36 : 23.

Colony P: 30% of the population are children and 220 adults are male. 47.5% of the population are male. Colony Q : 83.33% of the population are adults. The number of male children is equal to the number of female children. The number of adult Females is equal to the number of adult males in Colony P.

Colony R: There are 100 children and the number of adult male and adult female is equal. 60% of the children are females.

56. The average number of female children in colony P and R is what percent of the difference between the adult male population of Colony Q and R?

- (A)35% (B)27.5% (C)38% (D)42%

57. What is the average number of adult males in all three colony combined?

- (A)260 (B)275 (C)245 (D)270

58. What is the ratio of the difference between the total adult population of P and R to the total adult female population of all three Colony?

- (A)9:25 (B)10:37 (C)3:4 (D)23:12

59. Find out the total male child in all the Colony together?

- (A)260 (B)240 (C)220 (D)NOT

60. What is the difference between the total male and total female population of all the three Colony?

- (A)200 (B)940 (C)100 (D)160



Don't worry, don't fear — CLAT Gurukul brings your NLU near!

# CLAT Gurukul

For 1-to-1 Mentorship with **Anurag Choubey Sir**

Call Now: +91 **7033005444**

**CLAT Gurukul** | Personalized Guidance for Every Aspirant