

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

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WHO WOULD HAVE imagined that India, which lived from “ship to mouth” with heavy dependence on food aid under the US PL-480 programme in the 1960s, would emerge as the world’s largest rice exporter? In 2024-25 (FY25), India exported 20.2 million tonnes (MT) of rice in a global market of 61 MT. The country also runs the world’s largest food distribution programme, the PM-Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which provides 5 kg of free rice or wheat per person per month to more than 800 million people. Yet, the Food Corporation of India holds about 57 MT of rice — the highest stock in 20 years and nearly four times the buffer norm of 13.54 million tonnes as of July 1, 2025.

Poverty, too, has receded significantly. The extreme poverty head count (those earning less than \$3/day at 2021 PPP) dropped from 17.1 per cent in 2011 to just 5.3 per cent in 2022. Notwithstanding these achievements, malnutrition amongst children remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)(2019-21) reports that 35.5 per cent of children under five years of age are stunted, 32.1 per cent are underweight, and 19.3 per cent are wasted. Food security in India has evolved beyond merely ensuring caloric sufficiency; it must now encompass nutritional security as well.

One critical, and often overlooked, factor here is the health of soils. Soil micronutrient deficiencies not only impair agricultural productivity but also degrade the nutritional quality of crops. Crops grown on nutrient-deficient soils often mirror those deficiencies, leading to a silent but pervasive form of malnutrition in humans. Take zinc. Its deficiency in soils translates into low zinc content in cereals like wheat and rice, which in turn is linked to childhood stunting — a condition that affects the physical development, long-term cognitive health, as well as the professional life of a person.

Let us now turn to the status of Indian soils. Of more than 8.8 million soil samples tested under the Soil Health Card Scheme in 2024, less than 5 per cent have high or sufficient nitrogen (N), only 40 per cent have sufficient phosphate (P), 32 per cent have sufficient potash (K) and just 20 per cent are sufficient in soil organic carbon (SOC) (see graph).

Importantly, SOC is a critical parameter defining the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil — these govern its holding capacity and nutrient-use efficiency. There is also a debate as to how much SOC is considered sufficient. As per the Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISC), SOC in the range of 0.50-0.75 per cent is adequate. But the World Food Laureate, Rattan Lal, who has worked on soil health throughout his career, prescribes that the carbon content in soils should be at least 1.5 to 2 per cent. Our soils also suffer from a deficiency of sulphur, as well as micronutrients like iron, zinc and boron. These deficiencies range from moderate to severe. It won’t be an exaggeration to say that many parcels of Indian soils need to be immediately taken to an intensive care unit (ICU) to restore them to normal health so that they can produce nutritious food on a sustainable basis.

We have also observed that in some parts of the country, nitrogen (N) is overused while phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are underused. For example, in Punjab, nitrogen use exceeds recommendations by 61 per cent, while potassium use is short by 89 per cent, and phosphorus use is short by 8 per cent. Telangana also mirrors this imbalance — it overuses N by 54 per cent but its use of K is 82 per cent less, and that of P is 13 per cent less. The situation is similar in several other states. The highly imbalanced use of N, P and K and the neglect of micronutrients leads to suboptimal agricultural productivity. Nationwide, the fertiliser-to-grain response ratio has declined significantly from 1:10 in the 1970s to a mere 1:2.7 in 2015.

Moreover, the application of granular urea results in substantial nitrogen losses, with only 35-40 percent of the nitrogen being absorbed by the crops. The remaining nitrogen is either released into the atmosphere as nitrous oxide — a greenhouse gas that is 273 times more potent than carbon dioxide — or leaches into groundwater, contaminating it with nitrates and making it unsafe for consumption. So, in a way, the imbalanced use of N, P and K is also increasing the

pollution, rather than increasing grain yields. Additionally, a significant portion of urea is diverted to non-agricultural uses and also finds its way to neighbouring countries. This needs to change.

To restore soil health and improve both crop and human nutrition, India needs a paradigm shift — from indiscriminate use of fertilisers to tailored and science-based soil nutrition management. This calls for more precise and customised fertilisation strategies, which are informed by rigorous soil testing and aligned with the nutritional needs of different soils and crops.

Only when soils receive the nutrients do they produce food that nourishes rather than merely fills stomachs. This is no longer just an agricultural issue; it is a public health imperative.

Recognising the urgency of this challenge, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and OCP Nutricrops have committed to collaborating to improve soil health in India and beyond. OCP Nutricrops brings cutting-edge expertise in soil nutrition and fertiliser solutions aimed at addressing global challenges in sustainable food production. The collaboration aims to develop, implement, and scale region-specific, data-driven soil nutrition solutions that enhance crop productivity while improving their nutritional profile.

Thus, to truly move from plate to plough — and back to plate — we must start by healing Mother Earth. Only then can we walk as a healthy nation.

1. Which of the following BEST captures the central message of the passage?

- A. India must increase food grain production through more fertiliser subsidies.
- B. Improving soil health is essential not only for agriculture but also for addressing human malnutrition.
- C. India's rice export dominance proves that the country has solved its nutritional problems.
- D. Micronutrient deficiencies affect agricultural yield but have no influence on public health.

2. If a district has soils where nitrogen use is *excessively high* but phosphorus and potassium levels are *significantly deficient*, which of the following is the MOST likely consequence according to the passage?

- A. Increase in grain yields due to high nitrogen availability.
- B. Balanced nutrient uptake in crops resulting in improved soil health.
- C. Suboptimal agricultural productivity despite high nitrogen applications.
- D. Elimination of micronutrient deficiencies such as zinc and boron.

3. According to the passage, which of the following statements BEST explains why child malnutrition persists in India despite high food grain production?

- A. India exports too much rice and wheat.
- B. Soil micronutrient deficiencies reduce the nutrient quality of crops consumed by households.
- C. The PM-Garib Kalyan Yojana distributes only cereals, not pulses.
- D. Households prefer buying polished rice instead of millets.

4. Which of the following does the author identify as a *major imbalance* in fertiliser use across states like Punjab and Telangana?

- A. Overuse of phosphorus relative to nitrogen
- B. Overuse of nitrogen coupled with severe underuse of potassium
- C. Excessive use of micronutrients such as zinc
- D. Decline in demand for urea due to soil rejuvenation

5. Which data point from the passage BEST highlights India's progress in poverty reduction?

- A. Rice export capacity of 20.2 million tonnes
- B. PM-GKAY supporting 800 million people
- C. Extreme poverty dropping from 21% in 2011 to 5.3% in 2022
- D. 57 MT of rice stock in FCI storage

6. What is the meaning of the phrase “soil needs to be taken into an intensive care unit (ICU)” as used in the passage?
- A. Soils must be sterilised before reuse.
 - B. Soil health is critically damaged and requires urgent, science-based restoration.
 - C. Soils should be completely replaced with synthetic substrates.
 - D. Soils must be protected through fencing and legal enforcement.
7. According to the passage, which nutrient has the lowest proportion of Indian soils with sufficient levels?
- A. Nitrogen
 - B. Phosphorus
 - C. Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)
 - D. Boron
8. If a state continues to overuse nitrogen while severely underusing potassium and adequate micronutrient replenishment is absent, which *additional* problem is the passage MOST LIKELY implying?
- A. Nitrogen will compensate fully for micronutrient deficiencies.
 - B. Grain yield will rise but nutritional quality will decline.
 - C. Nitrogen losses will pollute groundwater and reduce fertiliser efficiency.
 - D. Crops will become resistant to pests and diseases.
9. Suppose a district increases its urea use by 40% while SOC levels remain extremely low. Based on the passage’s reasoning, which outcome is MOST predictable?
- A. Increased nitrogen absorption by crops and higher yields
 - B. Decline in fertiliser response ratio and degraded soil quality
 - C. Immediate rise in micronutrient levels
 - D. Elimination of soil acidity problems
10. A policymaker proposes: “Since India is the world’s top rice exporter, we no longer need to worry about nutrition.” Which principle from the passage MOST DIRECTLY refutes this?
- A. Export-led agriculture automatically improves rural incomes.
 - B. Food security now requires nutrient-rich food, not just calorie availability.
 - C. Rice exports generate foreign exchange which reduces malnutrition.
 - D. Micronutrient deficiencies exist only in arid regions.
11. A farmer’s cooperative decides to apply more urea every season to boost yields, ignoring soil testing. According to the passage’s logic, what long-term outcome is MOST LIKELY?
- A. Sustainable increases in yields due to higher nitrogen levels
 - B. Better nutritional quality in all crops
 - C. Higher nitrogen losses and worsening pollution with falling productivity
 - D. Immediate correction of phosphorus and potassium imbalances
12. Which of the following is MOST aligned with the passage’s proposed solution?
- A. Increasing urea subsidies to all farmers
 - B. Importing more wheat and rice to bridge nutrient gaps
 - C. Using customised fertiliser blends based on soil testing
 - D. Replacing chemical fertilisers entirely with organic manure

LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

Duty of care requires the claimant to be able to show that he was owed duty of care by the defendant. Most of the known duties of care have already been recognised by the courts, and are known as established duties of care. However, in cases where such duty has not been previously established, the courts will consider and apply the tests set out in *Donoghue v Stevenson* [1932] and the re-defined principle set out in *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* [1990]. *Donoghue v Stevenson* established the “neighbour principle” which is used to determine whether or not the defendant owes a duty of care. The application of this test is based on whether or not a particular situation may be construed as one requiring a duty of care. *Caparo v Dickman* provided a clearer application of the neighbour principle. It defined the principle as requiring three elements in establishing duty of care: reasonable foresight of harm; sufficient proximity of relationship; and that it needs to be fair, just and reasonable to impose a duty. Caparo test will only be applied in situations where it may not be clear whether there is an established duty of care.

After having established that there was a duty to care, breach of that duty is to be determined. In order to determine whether the breach of duty of care exists, the courts will apply a two-part test. Firstly, the court will consider how the defendant should have behaved in that particular situation, and, secondly, whether the defendant’s behaviour fulfilled the required standard of care. In the case of *Blyth v Birmingham Waterworks* [1856] 11 Exch 781 it was established that the defendant must meet the standard of “the reasonable person”. This is an objective test that questions what a reasonable person would have done in that particular situation.

The law strikes a balance between providing compensation where a failure has been particularly egregious, and where a genuine accident has occurred. As such, *Donoghue v Stevenson* (and subsequent cases) have held defendants to the standard of the reasonable man. If a defendant has acted reasonably, then they will not have breached the duty of care, and vice versa. Although this seemingly suggests that defendants are always judged against objective standards, there does exist some scope to alter the test, depending on the characteristics of the defendant.

The general rule is that defendants are expected to act with a reasonable level of skill in the act with a reasonable level of skill in the activity they are undertaking. Consider the leading case of *Nettleship v Watson* where the defendant argued that as a learner driver, she should be judged against a lower standard of care. The courts rejected this, and held that some who undertakes a task should be judged against the standard of a reasonably qualified, competent person undertaking that task.

In essence, this means that a defendant cannot rely on their own lack of skill or knowledge as a defence. The most important general principle regarding breach is therefore that **the applicable standard of care is that of a reasonably competent person undertaking that activity.**

In *Hall v Brooklands Auto-Racing Club* [1933] 1 KB 205 the ‘reasonable man’ was described as ‘the man in the street’ or ‘the man on the Clapham Omnibus’. Essentially, the reasonable man should not be considered as acting perfectly, merely, averagely.

13. Sabika was loading bags of grain onto a truck and struck a child with one of the bags. The child’s family sued Sabika for the tort of negligence. Which of the following if true will strengthen the case of Sabika to plead that there was no duty of care in the first place?

- (a) The loading dock was near a public place, such as a public sidewalk, and the child was merely passing by.
- (b) The child was trespassing on private property and the defendant didn’t know that the child was present at the time of the accident.
- (c) Sabika had asked the child to move to one side or he might get hurt by the bags.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

14. Proximate cause relates to the scope of a defendant's responsibility in a negligence case. A defendant in a negligence case is only responsible for those harms that the defendant could have foreseen through his or her actions. Keeping the above legal principle in mind in addition to the facts given in the above case, when the child is struck with the bag of grain, the child's bicycle on which he was riding is damaged. Three days later, the child and his father drive to a shop to have the bicycle fixed. On their way to the shop, the father and son are struck by another car. The father sues Sabika for the damages suffered as in the first place, the damage was due to Sabika's breach of duty. Decide.

- (a) The harm to the child and the damage to the bicycle was within the scope of the harm that the defendant risked by his actions.
- (b) The defendant probably could not have foreseen that the father and son would be injured on their way to having the bicycle repaired three days later
- (c) The father and son wouldn't be able to satisfy the element of proximate causation.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

15. In the landmark case of, Liebeck v McDonald's the plaintiff, a 79-year-old grandmother, ordered coffee at a drive-thru McDonald's window. She was a passenger in her grandson's vehicle. While the vehicle was still parked in the parking lot of McDonald's, she attempted to take the cover off the cup of coffee when it spilled in her lap. The coffee was so hot that it caused her third degree burns on six percent of her body. She was rushed to emergency. Like many burn victims, she had to endure surgical skins grafts due to her injuries. She was hospitalized for 3 weeks. She sued McDonald's. Which of the following facts when established will be helpful to prove the case of negligence?

- (a) The evidence presented to that jury showed that McDonald's sold its coffee at 180-190 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (b) That coffee at that temperature on a person's skin could cause third degree burns in two to seven seconds.
- (c) The evidence presented also showed that McDonald's knew about this risk for more than 10 years based on the fact that there were more than 700 other claims or reports from other customers that were also burned by McDonald's coffee being too hot.
- (d) All (a), (b) and (c)

16. Bhides owned a residential property in Collaroy. Bhides appointed Libra Collaroy Pty Limited to manage the property. In 2012, a group of school children, including the daughter of the tenant, were on the balcony when it collapsed. There was a long history of complaints regarding the state and structural integrity of the balcony from the tenant. The tenant sued the landlord and the managing agent in the District Court of NSW. Which of the following facts if true would strengthen the case of Bhides?

I. There was a cautionary signboard all over the balcony regarding the weak structure of the balcony.

II. There was no way in which the accident was unavoidable as they did not see it coming.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

17. Res ipsa loquitur is used in the cases of negligence. Which of the following is the true meaning of the latin phrase 'res ipsa loquitur'?

- (a) The facts are enough to decipher the negligence and prove the defendant guilty
- (b) Damage caused after knowing the risk cannot hold the defendant liable.
- (c) The act is void from the very beginning, not recognised in the eyes of law.
- (d) The mental state of the defendant is an important consideration.

Passage-II

In case a person gives his consent to doing of an act which leads to him getting injured, then even if an injury is caused by the other person, he cannot claim any damages from that person because the act was one for which he voluntarily consented. The consent of the plaintiff acts as a defence and this defence is called *volenti non fit injuria* which means to a willing person no injury happens. For the application of the defence of *volenti non fit injuria* there are some essential elements or conditions which should be present in a case and only when they are fulfilled, this defence can be taken to prevent liability. These are that the plaintiff has the knowledge of the risk and that the plaintiff with the knowledge of risk has voluntarily agreed to suffer the harm.

Thus, whenever the plaintiff is aware of the possibility of harm which is likely to be caused by an act and when he still accepts to do that act and therefore agrees to suffer the injury, a defendant is relieved of his liability. But only having knowledge about the risk is not enough for the application of this defence, it is known as *Scienti non fit injuria*, which means that mere knowledge does mean consent to the risk. Thus, having knowledge is only a partial fulfilment of the conditions for the application of *volenti non fit injuria*.

In the cases where the defendant is taking the defence of *volenti non fit injuria*, the burden of proof is on him to show that the plaintiff had full knowledge of the act and he had consented to the risk involved in the act and the defendant has to show that the plaintiff was also aware of the extent of risk which was involved in the act for successfully taking this defence.

The consent of the plaintiff is very important in the defence of *volenti non fit injuria* because only when he voluntarily gives his consent to an act, the defendant can take this defence. In the cases of this defence, the consent of the defendant is not required to be expressly given and even by his conduct, his consent can be taken. When a plaintiff gives his consent for an act such consent should be free from any coercion, fraud or any other such means by which the free consent can be affected. In case the consent of a person is not free, the defendant cannot claim this defence to escape liability and he will be held liable for damage caused. Free consent can be vitiated by fraud, coercion, misrepresentation etc.

18. Ram Kumar is the chief minister of State X. He was overseeing flood relief in the state on a helicopter belonging to Wind Swan Company. When he wanted a close enough view, he asked the pilot to bring the helicopter closer. The pilot rather reluctantly lowered the altitude of the helicopter. The helicopter crashed because the altitude was too low.

- (a) Wind Swan company would not be liable since Ram Kumar asked the pilot to lower the altitude.
- (b) The Wind Swan company would be liable, because the pilot ought not to have crossed the minimum altitude.
- (c) The Wind Swan company would be liable, because “bring closer” should only mean flying within the permissible altitude.
- (d) None of these.

19. Meera invited Shaileja to her house for coffee. They became good friends very soon. In the evening while they were watching a movie, Shaileja said that she did not like Chambal Valley people. Meera had a Chambal Valley boyfriend and so she felt very bad. She asked Shaileja to get out of her house and later, she brought an action for trespass against Shaileja. Decide.

- (a) Meera will not succeed because she herself waived off her right to sue Shaileja for trespass by inviting her to her house.
- (b) Meera will succeed because Shaileja was making a bad comment about her Chambal Valley boyfriend. She should not make such comments because she is in Meera’s house.
- (c) Meera will succeed because she never waived off her right to throw Shaileja out of her house when she makes such a comment.
- (d) Meera will not succeed because the law does not take care of trifles.

20. Ayushi is an Air Force Officer who is an expert in flying over low altitudes. During the 1999 Kargil War, she requisitioned to be posted to help out the jawaans fighting at the border. The Commanding Officer instructed her to not go flying for the terrain was difficult for her to fly. She insisted and the Commanding Officer allowed her to go provided she consented to the risk that ensued. She agreed and left. However, the terrain was high altitude and outside her expertise leading her aircraft to fall and damage. She was consequently injured.

- (a) Ayushi consented to the injury and thus cannot blame others
- (b) Ayushi did not consent to the injury as she did not have knowledge of the risk involved.
- (c) Ayushi should not have gone to the warfront in the first place
- (d) Ayushi should listen to the commanding officer

21. Please refer to the facts above. Ayushi was called on by the Commanding Officer to fly in Kargil. The officer told her about the risks involved and Ayushi was a bit reluctant. Under pressure, she flew in the zone and injured herself and her aircraft.

- (a) Ayushi consented to flying in Kargil and thus cannot blame others
- (b) Ayushi did not consent to the flying in Kargil and only reeled under pressure
- (c) Ayushi had to fly in national emergency. She should not have blamed anyone
- (d) Ayushi's mere knowledge of the risk does not amount to consent. She did not freely consent to flying in Kargil

22. Ankush is an F1 racer. He was asked to test drive the new McLaren and write a review on it. Ankush enquired as to whether the car had airbags in the event of an accident to which an affirmative answer was given. Ankush agreed to test drive the car. Unfortunately, Ankush lost his balance and the car crashed. No airbags were ever found and Ankush was badly injured.

- (a) Ankush must be compensated. He never consented to the test drive
- (b) Ankush may not be compensated. He had consented to test drive and write a review
- (c) Ankush must be compensated. His consent was vitiated by misrepresentation
- (d) None of the above

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage-I

Sir Creek, a 96-km tidal estuary located at the westernmost edge of India, remains one of the most complex and unresolved boundary disputes between India and Pakistan. Geographically situated in the marshy Indus River Delta region, the creek divides the Indian state of Gujarat from Pakistan's Sindh province. The region's terrain, marked by mudflats, shifting channels, and frequent tidal changes, creates cartographic difficulties that directly affect boundary demarcation. The origins of the dispute lie in differing interpretations of the 1914 Resolution signed between the Government of Bombay Presidency and the ruler of Kutch, which used a "green line" to demarcate jurisdiction. India interprets this line as determining the mid-channel boundary, while Pakistan claims that the eastern bank represents the correct boundary.

Historically, Sir Creek was of limited strategic value. However, with changes in maritime law—particularly after the adoption of the UNCLOS regime—the region gained enormous geopolitical significance. Under UNCLOS, the demarcation of land boundaries directly determines the maritime baseline, from which a state can claim its 12-nautical-mile territorial waters, 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and continental shelf rights. Thus, whichever state gains a favourable interpretation over Sir Creek stands to benefit from expanded maritime jurisdiction that includes potential hydrocarbon deposits in the Arabian Sea.

The area around Sir Creek is also environmentally sensitive, forming part of the Great Rann of Kutch ecosystem, characterised by mangroves, creeks, and estuarine biodiversity. These marshes remain uninhabited, but are frequented by fishermen from both sides, often leading to inadvertent border crossings. Hundreds of fishermen have historically been arrested for straying into disputed waters. While both countries have periodically released detained fishermen as goodwill gestures, the dispute remains a persistent source of tension.

Diplomatic negotiations have occurred intermittently since the 1960s. Although the Indo-Pakistan Joint Survey of 2007 mapped large sections using modern techniques, the core disagreement over the interpretation of the 1914 Resolution remains unresolved. India favours a thalweg principle—the mid-channel navigable line—commonly applied to river boundary disputes. Pakistan, on the other hand, asserts that historical administrative control over the eastern bank gives it rightful claim to the entire creek. Attempts at settlement have been affected by broader Indo-Pakistan tensions, including cross-border terrorism and political mistrust.

Despite its limited habitation, Sir Creek remains crucial for India's coastal security architecture. The marshy terrain is used by smugglers and infiltrators, leading the Indian Coast Guard and BSF to strengthen surveillance with radars, patrol boats, and thermal cameras. India's perspective is that resolving the dispute requires acceptance of internationally recognised principles rather than unilateral historical claims.

Today, the Sir Creek dispute represents more than a boundary disagreement; it reflects the challenges of reconciling historical maps with modern maritime law, while balancing national security, resource rights, and regional diplomacy.

23. Which principle does India prefer for boundary determination in Sir Creek?

- A. Geodesic principle
- B. Median line doctrine
- C. Territorial sovereignty principle
- D. Thalweg principle

24. Sir Creek is located in which geographical region?

- A. Indus River Delta
- B. Sunderbans Delta
- C. Gulf of Mannar
- D. Krishna–Godavari Basin

25. Which Indian state borders Sir Creek?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Goa
- D. Gujarat

26. The thalweg principle is generally applicable to:

- A. River boundaries
- B. Airspace boundaries
- C. Continental shelf demarcation
- D. Forest boundary disputes

27. Which ecosystem characterises the region around Sir Creek?

- A. Tropical monsoon forest
- B. Alpine desert
- C. Coral reefs
- D. Mangrove and marsh ecosystem

28. A key reason fishermen are frequently detained near Sir Creek is:

- A. Unauthorized coral extraction
- B. Inadvertent crossing into disputed waters
- C. Poaching protected mammals
- D. Illegal deep-sea mining

29. Pakistan's claim on Sir Creek is primarily based on:

- A. UNCLOS interpretations
- B. Military control
- C. Historical administrative control over eastern bank
- D. Geological surveys

30. Which agency plays a major role in India's coastal security near Sir Creek?

- A. Indian Coast Guard
- B. NIA
- C. DRDO
- D. ONGC

31. The Sir Creek dispute affects:

- A. Air routes
- B. Maritime boundary extension
- C. River navigation rights
- D. Satellite positioning

32. Which international organisation plays a key role in maritime boundary laws?

- A. UNCLOS / UN
- B. WTO
- C. IAEA
- D. WHO

PASSAGE - II

The ongoing dispute between the Tamil Nadu Government and the Governor represents one of the most contentious episodes in India's evolving federal structure. The confrontation largely revolves around issues of withholding Bills, delaying assent, public criticism of the elected government, and alleged interference in day-to-day administration. The friction highlights deeper constitutional debates on the role of Governors, who, though appointed by the Union Government, are expected to function as neutral constitutional heads of the state.

The Constitution outlines the Governor's powers primarily under Articles 153–162, but the controversy largely hinges on Article 200, which details the Governor's options regarding Bills passed by the State Legislature. According to Article 200, the Governor may (1) give assent, (2) withhold assent, (3) return the Bill (if it is not a Money Bill), or (4) reserve it for the consideration of the President. The Tamil Nadu Government has accused the Governor of indefinite delays, which they argue violate the spirit of the Constitution. This argument finds support in the Supreme Court's 2023 judgment, which held that Governors cannot delay Bill assent indefinitely, as it disrupts democratic functioning.

Another major flashpoint concerns the Governor's alleged refusal to read portions of the Governor's Address under Article 176, which is prepared by the elected government and sets out its policy agenda. The State has argued that this violates constitutional convention. Similarly, differences have arisen over appointments to universities, with the Governor invoking his role as Chancellor, while the State asserts that higher education falls under the State List, and the Governor cannot act independently without ministerial advice.

The dispute has wider implications for cooperative federalism. Tamil Nadu is not alone; similar tensions have occurred in Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Critics argue that the Governor's office is increasingly politicised, functioning not as an impartial arbiter but as an extension of the Union Government. Others maintain that the Governor acts within constitutional bounds and provides necessary oversight in states where political excesses may threaten constitutional order.

An additional layer of complexity is introduced by disputes over law-and-order issues, the implementation of central schemes, and allegations of the Governor refusing to follow ministerial advice in routine administrative matters. The State Government has asserted that this undermines democratically elected authority.

The Union-State dynamic in this dispute reflects structural ambiguities in India's Constitution, which borrows elements from the Westminster model but also empowers the Union with strong supervisory authority. While the Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasised that the Governor must act on the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers except in limited discretionary spheres, such disputes persist due to differing interpretations and political tensions.

Ultimately, the Tamil Nadu Governor dispute is not merely a legal conflict but a test of India's federal ethos and the resilience of constitutional conventions that hold the Union and the States together.

33. Which Article deals with the Governor's Address to the Legislature?

- A. 201 B. 154 C. 105 D. 176

34. Which constitutional principle limits the Governor's ability to act independently?

- A. Doctrine of Basic Structure B. Rule of Law
C. Aid and Advice of the Council of Ministers D. Judicial Independence

35. Which of the following is *not* a power available to the Governor under Article 200?

- A. Recommend reconsideration of a Money Bill B. Withhold assent
C. Return a non-Money Bill D. Reserve a Bill for President

36. Which Indian states have experienced similar Governor–State disputes?

- A. Odisha and Jharkhand B. Haryana and Gujarat
C. Kerala and West Bengal D. Tripura and Meghalaya

37. The controversy around the Governor refusing to read portions of the Address concerns violation of:

- A. Statutory duty
B. Constitutional convention
C. Fundamental Duty
D. Administrative order

38. The Tamil Nadu dispute exemplifies issues in:

- A. Cooperative federalism
B. Judicial sovereignty
C. Constitutional morality
D. Due process of law

39. The Governor is appointed by:

- A. Prime Minister
B. Chief Justice of India
C. Rajya Sabha
D. President of India

40. Which Schedule contains the State List?

- A. Sixth Schedule
B. Seventh Schedule
C. Eighth Schedule
D. Ninth Schedule

41. Returning a Bill for reconsideration can be done only when:

- A. The President allows
B. The Bill has financial implications
C. It is not a Money Bill
D. The Speaker recommends

42. Which body has repeatedly clarified limits on gubernatorial powers?

- A. Supreme Court of India
B. Finance Commission
C. NITI Aayog
D. Election Commission

Quantitative Technique

Passage-I

Direction (156 - 160) Study the given information carefully to answer the questions that follow:

An organization consists of 3500 employees working in different departments, viz HR, Marketing, IT, Production and Accounts. The ratio of male to female employees in the organization is 3: 2. 8% of the males work in the HR department. 22% of the female work in the account department. The ratio of males to females working in the HR department is 3 : 5. One seventh of the females work in the IT department. 46% of the males work in the Production department and The number of females is one-sixth of the males working in the same. The remaining females work in the Marketing department. The total number of employees working in the IT department is 375. 22% of the males work in the Marketing department and remaining work in the Account department.

43. The number of males working in the Account department forms approximately what per cent of the total number of males in the organization?

- (A)16 (B)8 (C)10 (D)11

44. How many females work in Production department?

- (A)140 (B)200 (C)180 (D)161

45. The total number of employees working in the Account department forms approximately what percent of the total number of female employees in the organization?

- (A)22 (B)39 (C)30 (D)46

46. The ratio of the numbers of females working in IT department to the numbers of males working in the same department is.

- (A) 7 : 8 (B) 1 : 2 (C) 8 : 7 (D) 2 : 1

47. What is the total number of employees working in the Marketing and Production departments together?

- (A)1900 (B)2040 (C)2020 (D)2031

Passage – II

In the recently held Commonwealth Games, a total number of 500 players participated in five different games, viz Athletics, Hockey, Lawn Tennis, Rugby and Badminton. 15% of the total players participated in Badminton. $\frac{2}{5}$ of the total players participated in Hockey. 6% of the total players participated in Lawn Tennis, and 25% of the total players participated in Athletics. The remaining players participated in Rugby. One-fourth of the Hockey players are females. 20% of the Badminton players are males. Half of the players who participated in Lawn Tennis are males. There are 55 female athletes. No female player participated in Rugby.

48. The number of female players who participated in Badminton is approximately what per cent of the total number of players who participated in Rugby.

- (A) 82% (B) 86% (C) 80% (D) 76%

49. What is the difference between the number of male players who participated in Hockey and the number of female players who participated in Lawn Tennis?

- (A) 125 (B) 145 (C) 130 (D) 135

50. If due to certain reason Athletics was dropped and all the athletes left the tournament, then what was the percentage of male players among the total players remaining in the tournament?

- (A) 45.66% (B) 40.33% (C) 35.33% (D) NOT

51. What is the ratio of the total number of male players participating in Badminton to the total number of female players participating in Hockey?

- (A) 10:3 (B) 3:10 (C) 5:10 (D) 3:25

52. If there is an increase of 10% in the total number of female players participating in Hockey and Badminton, then what is the total number of female players who participated in the tournament?

- (A) 225 (B) 215 (C) 218 (D) 191



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