

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LOGICAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

For the sake of the middle class, government should cut taxes not tinker with them. It should lower import tariffs, facilitate FDI

SURJIT S BHALLA

IN MY PREVIOUS article, ('Our own deep state', IE, January 24), I had discussed how Indian taxation and FDI policy needed deep correction. I had also hinted that much was right in India, especially with regard to job growth and gender equality. In this article, I will talk about job growth and how the fantastically good news on this front is being negated by our taxation policy in general, and especially by PIT or personal income taxes (it is the pits).

Job growth in India has been misunderstood, primarily because it is part and parcel of a political-ideological package. And, also because it is easy to confuse most people almost all of the time with jargon and slogans like "what India is enduring is a K-shaped recovery". International organisations are involved in this mismatch of data with ideology. Just peruse the documents of three leading "influencers" — the World Bank, IMF and ILO.

So what is this great Indian story on employment? Simply, the Indian labour market has so transformed itself since 2011 that most policymakers and experts do not recognise, or are not appreciative of, the profound changes that have taken place. This article is not about politics even though the "start" date is 2011. The reason the first year under examination is 2011 is that the Union Ministry of Finance (MoF) has released detailed summary data on personal income tax collection for fiscal years 2011-12 through 2022-23. (Hereafter MoF-PIT data; for the latest year.

Job Growth: Conventional wisdom (CW) is that there has been a profound lack of growth in formal-sector jobs in India. It is heartening to note that the complaint is no longer about the lack of jobs. The CW critics also don't acknowledge or discuss that in the period of the fastest-ever GDP growth in India (2004-2011), job growth was a paltry 1 million a year; since 2011, job growth has increased by more than 12 million a year (NSS/PLFS data, population ≥15 years). The CW argument has now shifted to growth in paid jobs — excluding unpaid family workers — and further shifted to growth in jobs excluding agriculture. The pace of increase in paid jobs since 2011 — 10 million a year; increase in non-agriculture paid jobs, eight million a year. The latter since 2019-20, 16 million a year. I predict that the CW "experts" will now shift to a lack of growth in "formal" jobs. Here the CWs can define formal jobs as they wish since there is no clarity, or consensus, on what constitutes a "formal" job. How about a formal job as one which provides social security, union rights, and childcare and reflects your education, self-identified ability, aspirations and dreams?

There is a simple definition of a formal job — one in which income tax is paid. This definition should be acceptable to all — if not, why not? The income-tax payment criteria will, of course, miss out on all those who evade the tax net or under-report their income. According to this ultra-strict definition, the MoF-PIT data reveals that there were 18 million taxpayers in 2011/12, and 68 million in 2022/23. This is for any taxpayer; for a salaried taxpayer, the increase is from 9 million to 33 million. Since 2019-20, the increase in tax-paying salaried jobs has accelerated to 2.6 million a year, or at a 9.3 per cent annual rate. This is not just job growth — it also reflects an increase in compliance. For those reporting a positive income, the "job growth" is upwards of 9 per cent (compared to 12 per cent per annum taxpayer growth). Note that as per PLFS, paid non-agriculture job growth has been at 3 per cent a year since 2011; at 7 per cent a year since 2019. No matter how the data is sliced, or cooked, there has been an impressive acceleration in job growth since 2011; even better since 2019. It is very likely that data on non-agriculture or tax-paying populations in other countries will not better the Indian record (this is speculation but not based on no data).

How often have you read the opinion/fact analysis of experts, and institutions that know “better” — the World Bank and IMF, for instance — about the lack of formal employment and consequent low tax collection in India? Nauseatingly often. And of course our own domestic experts, across political parties and ideologies, bow to this foreign-inspired wisdom. As pointed out above, the facts are otherwise and it is imperative that we, and our policymakers, pay heed as early as Budget Day 2025.

Real Disposable Income — big decline: This large growth in employment has consequences — on real wages. When there is this level of supply being absorbed in the labour market, real wages get affected. PLFS data for salaried workers shows no increase in real wages since 2011. In contrast, real wages of casual workers have increased at an annual 2.2 per cent rate. It is unlikely that a large proportion of casual workers pay taxes. Salaried workers, with TDS, cannot avoid reporting their incomes or paying taxes.

PIT tax collections have zoomed from ₹1.7 trillion in 2011 to ₹10.5 trillion in 2022-23 and are expected to be above ₹12 trillion in 2024-25. No need to get out your calculators — that is a 15 per cent annual growth rate. This success can be attributed to two factors. High growth in employment as noted above. But with no increase in real wages, there is another important factor at work — it is called the inflation tax. Since the income-tax schedule is a progressive scale, it means there is an inflation tax. The same level of real income means an increase in nominal income. In other words, the middle-class taxpayer, especially the salaried worker, is falling behind while standing still. A ₹15 lakh nominal income in 2024-25 was ₹7.5 lakh nominal income in 2011-12 (price index has doubled). Tax outgo in 2024-25 is ₹4.5 lakh (30 per cent tax). In 2011-12 at 20 per cent tax, it was ₹1.5 lakh. Tax outgo has tripled while incomes have doubled, and real incomes are the same. This is why the middle class is upset. In the context of no increase in real pre-tax income, this can pinch, and pinch hard. As it likely did when the people voted on June 4.

The time for tinkering of tax rates is over. A non-tinkering tax cut on February 1 will be very good (and necessary) economics. It will also be very good politics. The counter-factual is business as usual (BAU). What happens with BAU? The fiscal deficit is reduced. So? Note that coincidentally, it's the “experts” who are not favourable to the Modi government who shout the loudest about the need for a decline in the fiscal deficit.

In a poll on X, close to 80 per cent of the “voters” said they expect a BAU Budget. Policies work best when they are unexpected and non-tinkering — like in 1991. Like what happened in 1991, PM Modi should also open up the economy — lower import tariffs, facilitate FDI. In other words, go against the Deep State. My bet is that Modi-Sitharaman will do right on February 1, 2025.

1. What is the primary reason the author argues that the middle class is “falling behind while standing still”?

- A. Lack of employment opportunities
- B. Real wages have stagnated despite rising nominal incomes
- C. Tax collection efficiency has decreased
- D. India's fiscal deficit has sharply increased

2. The author's overall tone toward “Conventional Wisdom (CW)” critics and global institutions is best described as:

- A. Reverential and supportive
- B. Sarcastic and dismissive
- C. Neutral and academic
- D. Detached but appreciative

3. Which of the following best captures the central thesis of the passage?

- A. India should adopt protectionist policies to safeguard domestic labour
- B. India's real wages have risen rapidly due to job growth
- C. India needs a tax cut and liberalisation push similar to 1991
- D. Formal jobs cannot be defined using tax data

4. Which assumption underlies the author's argument for reducing personal income taxes?

- A. Tax reductions automatically increase inflation
- B. Middle-class dissatisfaction is driven mainly by tax burdens
- C. India's fiscal deficit is already too low
- D. The global economy will not influence India's taxation policies

5. Which paradox does the author explicitly highlight?

- A. Job growth is rising even as unemployment rises
- B. Tax collections are increasing even as real wages stagnate
- C. Inflation is low but prices are rising
- D. Imports are rising despite lower tariffs

6. Which of the following, if true, BEST strengthens the author's claim of strong job growth since 2011?

- A. India's GDP rose steadily between 2011 and 2024
- B. EPFO payroll data shows consistent annual increases in new formal employees
- C. FDI inflows saw fluctuations during the same period
- D. Agricultural employment increased sharply

7. Which, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's claim that salaried workers' real incomes have remained unchanged since 2011?

- A. Consumer expenditure surveys show rising discretionary spending
- B. Price indices used for comparison were revised upward after 2015
- C. Companies introduced large bonuses in 2020–2024
- D. PLFS revised its wage measurement methodology

8. Which question would be MOST useful in evaluating the author's claim that India is experiencing an "inflation tax"?

- A. Has India's tax-to-GDP ratio increased since 2011?
- B. Has nominal income growth been primarily caused by inflation rather than productivity?
- C. Has FDI increased since 2020?
- D. Do taxpayers prefer progressive taxation systems?

9. If the government follows a BAU (Business as Usual) Budget and reduces the fiscal deficit, which consequence does the author imply?

- A. Real wages will automatically rise
- B. The middle-class burden will remain unaddressed
- C. India will overtake Germany's GDP
- D. FDI inflows will dramatically fall

10. The author argues that job growth is rising while real wages remain stagnant. Which explanation resolves this apparent paradox?

- A. Workers are voluntarily reducing work hours
- B. Labour supply is expanding faster than demand
- C. Firms are increasing profit-sharing arrangements
- D. Minimum wage laws have been strengthened

LEGAL REASONING

PASSAGE - I

Passing off is a common law tort which protects the goodwill of a trader from misrepresentation. Misleading the public into believing falsely that the brand being projected was the same as a well-known brand is wrong and is known as the tort of "passing off".

As held in *N. R. Dongre Vs. Whirlpool Corporation* "A man may not sell his own goods under the pretence that they are the goods of another man." Law aims to protect traders from this form of unfair competition.

Goodwill is essentially an intangible asset of a firm accruing to it by the good conduct and business performance. Therefore, it can effectively be defined as the benefits arising from connection and reputation of the business and is primarily an asset. It is intangible and rather difficult to identify per se. It is also difficult to specify when goodwill takes existence and no business which commences possesses goodwill from the start. It is generated as the business is carried on and may be augmented with the passage of time.

It has been held in the case of *CIT v. B.C. Srinivasa Setty* that the goodwill is affected by everything relating to the business, the personality of the owners, the nature and character of the business, its name and reputation, its location, its impact on the contemporary market and on the prevailing socio-economic ecology.

In a passing off action, the plaintiff must prove that there is a similarity in the trade names or marks and that the defendant is passing off his goods as those of the plaintiff's. Remedies could include injunction or damages or both. Damage or likelihood of damage form the core of all passing off actions. The concepts of reverse passing off and extended passing off also hold significance.

Extended passing off consists of those cases where misrepresentation of a particular quality of a product or services causes harm to the plaintiff's goodwill. A famous case example would be *Diageo North America Inc v Intercontinental Brands (ICB) Ltd.*, where the defendant marketed a drink named "Vodkat", which was actually not vodka, but the marketing did not actually make it clear that it wasn't so. The plaintiffs were the biggest manufacturers of vodka and they filed a suit against the defendants for passing off and it was held so.

If a defendant markets the products made by the plaintiff as the products of the defendant, the tort committed is known as reverse passing off. The customers mistakenly think the senior users' goods or services come from the junior user. This happens when the junior user dominates the market with goods or advertising and due to this senior user loses its brand value.

11. Hasan made a hair treatment product. He had shown the mixing process to Perry, a perfumer and hair-dresser, who decided to call the mixture "Medicated Mexican Balm". Perry marketed the mixture under the title "Perry's Medicated Mexican Balm". Truefitt, one of Perry's competitors, made a product that was very similar to Perry's mixture, which he marketed under the name "Truefitt's Medicated Mexican Balm", and used bottles and labels that looked like Perry's product. Perry filed a suit against Truefitt, arguing that the name "Medicated Mexican Balm" was valuable to his business and that he should have the exclusive right to prevent others from using it. Can Truefitt be held for damages or injunction under the tort of passing off?

- (a) An injunction can be claimed against Truefitt's perfume as he had an intention of misrepresenting his perfume as that of Perry's.
- (b) An injunction can be claimed against Truefitt's perfume as this is a case of extending passing off.
- (c) An injunction cannot be claimed against Truefitt's as the name of both the products can be differentiated due to their initials.
- (d) Both (A) and (B).

12. The plaintiff i.e., the "Universal Life Assurance Society" brought an action against the defendants to stop them from carrying on business with the trade name "Universal Life Assurance Association". Can plaintiffs claim for injunction under the tort of passing off?

- (a) The injunction cannot be granted as there has been no intention of misrepresentation.
- (b) The injunction sought can be granted as the names are too similar for differentiation, the tort of passing off was indeed committed.
- (c) The injunction cannot be granted as there has been no intention of harming the goodwill of the plaintiff.
- (d) The injunction sought can be granted as there was an intention of misleading the consumers through the names.

13. The defendants used the name "ACIFLO" for one of their pharmaceutical preparations. The plaintiffs sued the defendants for passing off since they had been using the name of "ARIFLO" for the same product, a name which was registered. They did not have a market in India. The plaintiffs contended that advertisements in medical journals amounted to building goodwill in India, which was being misused by the defendants. The court held that there was no passing off. What is the most likely argument the court has relied on?

- (a) The reach of medical journals was restricted to a specific class of people and so was the reputation, hence goodwill wasn't harmed. Since goodwill wasn't harmed, the tort of passing off does not apply.
- (b) The name of the products of both the defendant and plaintiff were not similar and a good differentiation could be made due to the pronunciation being different, so the tort of passing off does not apply.
- (c) The plaintiffs will have a problem when they want to market their product in India, so they should be granted an injunction.
- (d) None of the above.

14. Original Pasta Co makes macaroni under the name MACS and New Pasta Co make macaroni under the name MAX. New Pasta Co. makes theirs MAX pasta with a green stripe. Customers see lots of advertising showing MAX macaroni with a green stripe and they go to Original Pasta Co asking to purchase the green stripe macaroni under the name MACS, mistakenly believing Original Pasta Co is the same as or affiliated with New Pasta Co. Customers then learn that Original Pasta Co does not have a green stripe macaroni and they think Original Pasta Co stole the MACS mark from New Pasta Co, believing them to be selling macaroni which was a knock-off of New Pasta Co. MAX pasta. This case will fall under which category of trademark infringement?

- (a) It meets the essentials of the tort of passing off.
- (b) It is an example of extending passing off.
- (c) It is an example of reverse passing off.
- (d) All the above.

15. Champagne manufacturers of France sought injunction on use of the word "champagne" which was used by Spanish manufacturers to define their wine and they were passing it off as champagne ruining the goodwill of the actual champagne manufacturers of France. An injunction was granted. This case will fall under which category?

- (a) It meets the essentials of the tort of passing off.
- (b) It is an example of extending passing off.
- (c) It is an example of reverse passing off.
- (d) All the above.

Passage-II

To constitute a tort, it is imperative that there must be some act or omission on the part of the party being complained against, and that the act or omission must result in a legal damage, i.e., violation of a legal right vested in a person.

Unless there has been a violation of a legal right, there can be no action under law of torts. If there has been a violation of a legal right, the same is actionable whether, as a consequence thereof, the plaintiff suffered any loss or not. This is expressed in the maxim *injuria sine damno*, which basically means violation of a legal right without causing any harm, loss or damage to the plaintiff.

Damnum sine injuria, on the other hand means damage which is not coupled with an unauthorized interference with the plaintiff's right. Causing damage, however substantial, to another person is not actionable in law unless there is also violation of a legal right of the plaintiff. This is generally so when the exercise of legal right by one result in consequential harm to the other. The mere fact that a man is injured by another's act in itself is no cause of action; if the act is deliberate, the party injured will have no claim in law even though the injury is intentional, so long as the other party is exercising a legal right.

16. A union of ship companies organized under the head of Ama & Co. came together in a union and drove Sun Co. out of the coffee-carrying trade by offering reduced freight. Sun sued Ama & Co. for causing hurt to its business interests and claimed compensation. What is the nature of damage caused to Ama & Co.?

- (a) There has been a violation of its legal right to carry on trade or business without restrictions
- (b) There has been damage without legal injury
- (c) There has been a legal injury, but no damage
- (d) None of the above

17. Vivek, the owner of a mill, for the past 60 years had been using water for his mill from a stream which was fed by rainfall percolating through underground strata to the stream, but not flowing in defined channels. Vini sunk a well on her land and pumped large quantities of water, which would otherwise have gone to Vivek's stream thereby causing loss to Vivek. Can Vini be held liable for causing legal injury to Vivek?

- (a) Yes, as restricting water for her own use conveys a deliberate intention on Vini's part to cause a legal injury to Vivek
- (b) Yes, as by not ensuring that an adequate quantity of water is supplied to Vivek's land, Vini has omitted to act in a responsible manner
- (c) No, as Vini was within her legal rights to pump water for her use
- (d) None of the above

18. Tuber Co., a courier company delivered a courier package meant for somebody else to the doorstep of Ranveer. The courier contained a set of instructions for the supply of sunflower seeds from Haryana to Tamil Nadu. Ranveer was expecting to send a consignment anyway, so he sent the same to a retailer, WontTake, whose name was mentioned in the set of instructions. When the package containing sunflower seeds reached WontTake, he refused to accept the same. Ranveer had incurred heavy costs in transporting the seeds to WontTake, which he claimed as compensation in a suit filed against WontTake for non-acceptance of the sunflower seeds. Is WontTake liable?

- (a) Yes, as it was bound to accept the goods sent to it, as its name was mentioned in the set of instructions
- (b) No, as there is no legally binding contract between Ranveer and WontTake

- (c) No, as accepting the delivery of the seeds would amount to accepting the terms of the contract it never signed up for
(d) None of the above

19. Namit, an account holder with LeLo Bank, went to withdraw money by way of a legally valid self-cheque. Though there was a sufficient amount in his account, the cashier at the bank refused to encash his cheque. This is an example of:

- (a) Damnum sine injuria
(b) Injuria sine damno
(c) Abdication of public duty
(d) None of the above

20. Krish, the owner of a gym intentionally opened a gym in front of Lobo's gym, causing significant monetary damage to Lobo. Due to an increase in competition, Lobo had to reduce his gym membership fees to quite an extent. He claims the loss incurred by him by way of damages from Krish. Is Krish bound to pay him the damages claimed?

- (a) Yes, as Krish's actions constituted legal injury to Lobo's business interests
(b) Yes, as if it had not been for Krish, Lobo would have still been running a successful gym
(c) No, as mere monetary loss does not constitute legal injury
(d) None of the above

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Passage-I

The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is one of the most influential intraseasonal atmospheric phenomena affecting global weather and tropical climate variability. Characterised by an eastward-moving pulse of clouds, winds, rainfall, and pressure anomalies, the MJO typically cycles around the planet along the equatorial belt every **30–60 days**. Unlike ENSO, which is a quasi-stationary ocean–atmosphere phenomenon in the Pacific, the MJO is dynamic, propagating from the western Indian Ocean across the Maritime Continent and into the Pacific. This makes MJO a key driver of monsoon variability, tropical cyclogenesis, and global teleconnections.

The MJO consists of two major phases: the **enhanced convective phase**, associated with increased cloudiness, low-pressure conditions, and higher rainfall; and the **suppressed convective phase**, associated with clearer skies and reduced precipitation. These alternating phases drastically affect regional climate systems. For example, when the enhanced phase is located over the Indian Ocean, it typically strengthens the Indian monsoon, increasing rainfall over the subcontinent. Conversely, when the suppressed phase lies over India, it may weaken monsoon activity or cause extended dry spells.

Scientifically, the MJO is understood through its eight-phase Wheeler–Hendon index, which helps track the strength and movement of the oscillation. The amplitude of the MJO varies significantly and is influenced by background sea surface temperatures, atmospheric moisture content, and large-scale wind patterns. During strong MJO events, the oscillation can modulate tropical cyclones in both the northern and southern hemispheres, alter the Walker Circulation, and interact with ENSO conditions.

Recent climate research highlights the increasing importance of understanding MJO behaviour in a warming world. Climate models suggest that higher sea surface temperatures could intensify MJO-related convection, alter propagation speed, or modify teleconnection pathways. The interaction between MJO and mid-latitude weather patterns also influences extreme rainfall in East Africa, winter storms over the US, and heatwaves in Australia. For India, accurate prediction of MJO phase transitions helps operational monsoon forecasting, reservoir management, and agricultural decision-making.

National meteorological agencies, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD), integrate MJO diagnostics into short- and medium-range rainfall forecasting. Advanced satellite observations, reanalysis datasets, and coupled climate models are used to predict MJO amplitude and location. The MJO also affects intra-seasonal oscillations (ISOs), creating “active” and “break” spells within the monsoon. While MJO is inherently unpredictable beyond a few weeks, improvements in numerical models have enhanced predictability windows.

Despite decades of study, critical gaps remain. The MJO's interaction with monsoon trough dynamics, Indian Ocean Dipole events, and stratospheric phenomena is not fully understood. Furthermore, the effect of climate change on the strength, frequency, and propagation of MJO events is an ongoing scientific debate. Yet, the MJO remains indispensable to understanding tropical climate dynamics and remains a focus of operational forecasting and climate modelling efforts worldwide.

21. The two primary phases of the MJO are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A. Positive and negative ENSO phases | B. Enhanced and suppressed convection phases |
| C. Westerly and easterly jet phases | D. Active and passive ISM phases |

22. The Wheeler–Hendon index categorises the MJO into how many phases?

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------|
| A. Eight | B. Six | C. Ten | D. Twelve |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------|

23. Which region does the MJO begin its eastward propagation from?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| A. East Pacific | B. Atlantic Ocean | C. Arabian Sea | D. Western Indian Ocean |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|

24. Which of the following is *NOT* a direct influence of MJO mentioned in the passage?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Tropical cyclogenesis | B. Monsoon variability |
| C. Polar vortex strengthening | D. Walker circulation modulation |

25. Which Indian institution uses MJO diagnostics operationally?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Central Water Commission | B. India Meteorological Department |
| C. NITI Aayog | D. Geological Survey of India |

26. According to the passage, which factor may influence MJO behaviour under climate change?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A. Increased mid-latitude jet strength | B. Arctic sea-ice loss |
| C. Rising sea surface temperatures | D. Declining equatorial ocean salinity |

27. The MJO significantly affects which of the following regions *outside* the Indian Ocean?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. East Africa | B. Central Europe | C. Arctic Ocean | D. South Atlantic |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|

28. Which of the following interactions of MJO remains uncertain according to the passage?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Its impact on Arctic warming | B. Its effect on El Niño intensity |
| C. Its interaction with Indian Ocean Dipole | D. Its influence on Antarctic oscillations |

29. MJO propagation is MOST strongly associated with fluctuations in:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Salinity gradients | B. Atmospheric convection |
| C. Carbon flux | D. Ozone column density |

30. The amplitude of the MJO depends on which factors according to the passage?

1. Sea-surface temperatures
2. Atmospheric moisture
3. Large-scale winds

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

PASSAGE - II

The United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), scheduled for 2025, represents the third global high-level meeting dedicated to accelerating actions under Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water). Co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, this edition follows the momentum created by the 2017 New York and 2022 Lisbon conferences, with a sharper focus on strengthening multilateral ocean governance amid escalating climate and biodiversity crises. UNOC3 is expected to attract heads of state, scientists, civil society coalitions, private sector representatives, and global ocean institutions, with the broad aim of adopting actionable commitments to conserve and sustainably use marine resources.

A central thrust of UNOC3 is operationalising the High Seas Treaty (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction – BBNJ Agreement), adopted in 2023. Several countries plan to use the conference as a platform to announce timelines for ratification, implementation mechanisms, and marine protected area (MPA) designations in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The conference will also review progress on the 30×30 global biodiversity framework, which seeks to protect at least 30% of marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030. Discussions are also expected on marine genetic resource sharing, capacity-building support for developing nations, and the role of digital ocean data infrastructures.

Another crucial agenda includes addressing the consequences of ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, and intensifying marine heatwaves, all of which threaten coral reefs, fisheries, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. UNOC3 is also expected to feature new initiatives for strengthening blue-economy strategies, including sustainable fisheries, decarbonisation of the shipping industry, restoration of mangroves and seagrasses, and deep-sea mining governance. A major topic of debate will be whether a global moratorium on deep-sea mining is necessary until adequate scientific knowledge is achieved.

UNOC3 will further integrate outcomes from the UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030), emphasising improved ocean observation networks, enhanced early-warning systems for climate and tsunami risks, and open-access scientific collaboration. Several governments and philanthropic institutions are likely to commit financing for ocean-science missions, particularly in regions with limited observational capacity. Additionally, the conference aims to strengthen alignment between climate negotiations under the UNFCCC and ocean-related mandates, reinforcing the “ocean-climate nexus”.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are anticipated to play a significant role at UNOC3, advocating for climate justice, loss & damage funding, and enhanced maritime security against illegal fishing. The conference will also deliberate on plastic pollution, including updates on the ongoing negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty, expected to be finalised soon.

Overall, UNOC3 seeks to secure stronger political commitments, expand scientific collaboration, catalyse financing, and ensure that ocean governance frameworks become central to global climate and biodiversity regimes. While expectations for transformative commitments are high, the success of UNOC3 will depend on whether member states demonstrate the political will to implement and finance their ocean-related obligations.

31. UNOC3 is co-hosted by which two countries?

- A. India and Japan B. France and Costa Rica
C. Brazil and South Africa D. Indonesia and Norway

32. Which initiative seeks to protect 30% of marine areas by 2030?

- A. Blue Charter B. Ocean Compact
C. 30×30 Global Biodiversity Framework D. Ocean Resilience Pact

33. Which of the following ocean issues is **NOT** explicitly discussed in the passage?

- A. Ocean warming B. Ocean acidification
C. Deoxygenation D. Coral bleaching due to sunscreen pollutants

34. Which sector's decarbonisation is highlighted at UNOC3?

- A. Aviation B. Shipping C. Iron and steel D. Cement

35. UNOC3 will integrate progress from which UN initiative?

- A. UN Food Summit B. Global Cyber Compact
C. UN Decade of Ocean Science D. UN Desertification Strategy

36. Which area beyond national jurisdiction is linked to MPA designation efforts at UNOC3?

- A. Continental shelves B. High Seas C. Territorial waters D. Exclusive Economic Zones

37. Which of these is **NOT** a focus area of UNOC3 according to the passage?

- A. Ocean-climate nexus B. Marine genetic resources
C. Global minimum tax D. Ocean data infrastructure

38. What type of early-warning systems are mentioned as part of UNOC3 ocean science goals?

- A. Climate and tsunami early warnings B. Flood and drought warnings
C. Volcano warnings D. Asteroid impact warnings

39. Which issue is a part of ongoing global negotiations referenced at UNOC3?

- A. Arctic governance treaty B. Industrial emission standards
C. UN Migration Pact D. Global Plastics Treaty

40. Which challenge is highlighted as a scientific knowledge gap at UNOC3?

- A. Weather modification B. Cold-water corals
C. Deep-sea mining impacts D. Antarctic ozone repair

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Quantitative Technique

Passage-I

Study the given information and answer the following questions:

Mr. Satyansh Bharadwaj divided his property between two sons A and B and one daughter C. The person has Rs. 80000 in cash, Rs. 5 lakhs as land and Rs. 6 lakhs as gold. He gave half of the gold to his daughter and remaining gold divided between sons in equal proportion. He gave only 20% of total land to his daughter and divided the remaining land between sons A and B in the ratio of 3 : 1 respectively on the condition that the child who received highest share of land will give Rs. 2500 per month to his father. He gave 75% of the total cash amount to his daughter and remaining cash amount was divided between sons in equal proportion.

41. How much total property (in cash, land and Gold together) did C get?

- (A) 4.6 lakh (B) 1.34 lakh (C) 2.7 lakh (D) 3 lakh

42. The share of son A in total property was how much more than that of son B in total property?

- (A) 4 lakh (B) 1.5 lakh (C) 2.0 lakh (D) 3 lakh

43. After dividing the property, the father had lived for another 10 years, then the son who had received the highest share of land was left with how much total property after 10 years?

- (A) 1.6 lakh (B) 1.7 lakh (C) 2.7 lakh (D) 3.8 lakh

44. The share of land received by Son A was how much percentage more than that by daughter C?

- (A) 100% (B) 150% (C) 200% (D) 37%

45. What was the respective ratio of the total property received by son A and that by son B?

- (A) 13:32 (B) 13:23 (C) 12:23 (D) 23:13

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Passage - II

The following information study carefully and answer the questions given below.

There are total In India the total number of tourist in a tourist place is 800 who are from different countries USA, Italy, Chin, Australia and Mauritius. 54% of the total number of tourist are male. $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the total number of female are from Australia 25% of the total number of female is from USA The number of female from Mauritius is half of the number of female from USA $\frac{5}{6}$ th of the remaining number of females are from Italy. Total number of tourist from Australia is 192. $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the total number of male are from China 100 tourist are male from Italy. $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the remaining number of male are from Mauritius.

46. What is the respective ratio between the number of female to tourist from USA and number of male tourist from Australia?

- (A) 23:24 (B) 20:7 (C) 25:23 (D) 23:25

47. What is the approximately average number of male tourist from USA, China and Mauritius?

- (A) 77 (B) 92 (C) 85 (D) 63

48. What is the two- third of the total number of female to this from China and Mauritius?

- (A) 26 (B) 46 (C) 55 (D) 43

49. Total number of tourist from Mauritius is approximately what percent of the total number of female tourist from Italy??

- (A) 120% (B) 92% (C) 75% (D) 83%

50. What is the total number of tourist from China?

- (A) 212 (B) 122 (C) 131 (D) 130



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