

**Daily Practice – Legal Reasoning · Analytical Reasoning · Quantitative Techniques**

Darken one bubble per question. Negative marking applies. Answers and detailed explanations are provided in a separate companion sheet.  
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**SECTION A – LEGAL REASONING**

**Q1-12 · 12 Marks**

**PRINCIPLE A – DOCTRINE OF PITH AND SUBSTANCE – CENTRE-STATE LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE (Q1-6)**

Article 246 of the Constitution of India distributes legislative competence between Parliament and State Legislatures across three Lists in the Seventh Schedule — the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List. When a challenge is raised that a State law trenches on a Union List entry (or vice versa), the courts apply the doctrine of PITH AND SUBSTANCE. The Court asks what the true nature and character of the impugned law is — its real object — rather than its incidental effects. If the law's pith and substance falls within the competent List, incidental encroachment on another List does not invalidate it (State of Bombay v. F.N. Balsara, 1951). The doctrine has been applied in Prafulla Kumar Mukherjee v. Bank of Commerce (1947) and reaffirmed in countless decisions on banking, insurance, and entry-tax statutes. A related rule is colourable legislation — a legislature cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly (K.C. Gajapati Narayan Deo v. State of Orissa, 1953).

1. The State of Tamil Nadu enacts the 'Tamil Nadu Highway Safety Act, 2025', whose stated object is to regulate driving standards on State highways. The Act incidentally requires inter-State carrier permits to comply with a new State-issued biometric driver-credential, a subject within the Union List entry on inter-State trade. A challenge is brought. Decide:
  - A. The Act is wholly void because it touches inter-State commerce, a Union subject
  - B. The Act is valid if its pith and substance is the regulation of highway safety, a State subject, and the encroachment on inter-State commerce is incidental
  - C. The Act is valid only if Parliament has expressly delegated power to the State
  - D. The Act is valid only if the President assents to it
2. Which of the following statements about the doctrine of pith and substance is INCORRECT?
  - A. The Court looks at the true nature and character of the impugned law, not its label
  - B. Incidental encroachment on another List does not by itself invalidate the law
  - C. The doctrine is exclusively used to defend Union laws, not State laws
  - D. The doctrine was applied in Prafulla Kumar Mukherjee v. Bank of Commerce (1947)
3. The State of Karnataka levies a 'Tobacco Control Cess' on cigarette manufacturers, characterising it as a fee for inspection. The amount levied is wholly disproportionate to inspection costs and in substance operates as an excise duty (a Union subject). A challenge is brought under the doctrine of colourable legislation. The most accurate analysis is:
  - A. The cess is valid because the State has labelled it a fee, and labels are conclusive
  - B. The cess is invalid because the legislature cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly — what is in substance an excise duty cannot be saved by labelling it a fee
  - C. The cess is valid as long as Karnataka enacted it after consultation with the Finance Commission
  - D. The cess is invalid only if the Centre objects in writing
4. Parliament enacts a banking statute under Entry 45 of the Union List that incidentally regulates moneylenders, a State List subject. A moneylender challenges the statute. Apply the doctrine and decide:
  - A. The statute is invalid because it touches a State subject
  - B. The statute is valid if its pith and substance is banking and the regulation of moneylenders is incidental
  - C. The statute is valid only if Parliament obtained the consent of every State Legislature
  - D. The statute is valid only if both Lists expressly authorise the regulation
5. Which of the following BEST distinguishes the doctrine of pith and substance from the doctrine of colourable legislation?
  - A. Pith and substance applies only to State laws; colourable legislation applies only to Union laws
  - B. Pith and substance saves a law from invalidation despite incidental overlap; colourable legislation strikes down a law that pretends to be within competence but is in substance outside it
  - C. Both doctrines apply only to fiscal statutes
  - D. Pith and substance is statutory; colourable legislation is a constitutional doctrine
6. Article 254 of the Constitution governs repugnancy between Union and State laws on a Concurrent List subject. Where a State law is repugnant to a Union law on a Concurrent List subject, the State law is:
  - A. Wholly void from inception
  - B. Void to the extent of repugnancy, but may prevail in that State if it has received Presidential assent under Article 254(2)
  - C. Suspended automatically until Parliament repeals the Union law
  - D. Valid only in the rural areas of the State

**PRINCIPLE B – MISTAKE IN CONTRACT LAW – MISTAKE OF FACT VS MISTAKE OF LAW (Q7-12)**

The Indian Contract Act, 1872 distinguishes carefully between mistakes of FACT and mistakes of LAW. Section 20 declares that an agreement is VOID where BOTH parties are under a mistake as to a matter of FACT essential to the agreement. Section 21 provides that a mistake as to a law in force in India does NOT make a contract voidable — ignorantia juris non excusat — though a mistake as to a foreign law is treated as a mistake of fact. Section 22 makes clear that a unilateral mistake of fact (where only ONE party is mistaken) does NOT make the contract voidable by itself. The Supreme Court in Tarsem Singh v. Sukhminder Singh (1998) held that a common mistake about the very identity of the subject-matter renders the agreement void. Constructive mistake — induced by fraud, misrepresentation or undue influence — is treated separately under Sections 17 to 19A, which make the contract voidable at the option of the misled party rather than void.

**7. A and B enter into a contract for the sale of a specific painting that, unknown to both at the time of the contract, has been destroyed by fire the previous night. The painting was the entire subject-matter of the sale. Decide the legal status of the contract:**

- A. The contract is valid and B must pay the price
- B. The contract is void under Section 20 — there is a common mistake as to the existence of the subject-matter, a fact essential to the agreement
- C. The contract is voidable at A's option
- D. The contract is voidable at B's option

**8. Which of the following statements about mistake under Indian contract law is INCORRECT?**

- A. A common mistake of both parties as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement makes the contract void under Section 20
- B. A mistake as to a law in force in India does not by itself make the contract voidable
- C. A unilateral mistake of fact by one party automatically makes the contract void
- D. A mistake as to a foreign law is treated as a mistake of fact

**9. X, a tax-payer, enters into a settlement with the Income Tax Department mistakenly believing that the relevant statute imposes a higher tax than it in fact does. X later seeks to avoid the settlement on the ground of mistake. Decide:**

- A. X succeeds — every mistake makes a contract voidable
- B. X fails — a mistake as to a law in force in India does not, by itself, make a contract voidable under Section 21
- C. X succeeds if X can show that the Department also believed the law to be different
- D. X fails only if the settlement was made before a court

**10. A and B contract for the sale of cotton arriving on a ship named 'Peerless'. Unknown to either party, two ships of that name sail from the same port at different times, and each party intends a different ship. Which of the following BEST describes the outcome?**

- A. The contract is valid because there is some ship named Peerless
- B. The contract is void for common mistake — there is no consensus ad idem on the very identity of the subject-matter
- C. The contract is voidable at A's option only
- D. The contract is voidable at B's option only

**11. C induces D to enter into a contract by fraudulently misrepresenting the age of an antique. D later discovers the truth and sues. The legal status of the contract is:**

- A. Void under Section 20 because of a mistake of fact
- B. Voidable at D's option under Section 19 — induced mistake by fraud is treated separately from common mistake; D may rescind or claim damages
- C. Void because mistake automatically destroys the agreement
- D. Valid because D was responsible for verifying the age

**12. Which of the following BEST captures the distinction between VOID and VOIDABLE contracts in the context of mistake?**

- A. Void means the contract never had legal effect; voidable means the contract is valid until the aggrieved party rescinds it within a reasonable time
- B. Void contracts can be enforced by either party; voidable contracts cannot
- C. Void contracts arise only from mistakes of law; voidable contracts arise only from mistakes of fact
- D. Void and voidable mean the same thing in Indian contract law

## SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13–20 · 8 Marks

### PUZZLE 1 — BOOKSHELF ARRANGEMENT — FIVE VOLUMES LEFT TO RIGHT (Q13–16)

Five books — Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon — are arranged on a shelf in a single row from left to right. The following constraints are known:

1. Gamma is at one of the two ends of the shelf.
  2. Alpha is somewhere to the right of Beta and somewhere to the left of Delta.
  3. Epsilon is immediately to the left of Delta.
  4. Beta is not at either end of the shelf.
  5. There is exactly one book between Gamma and Beta.
- Each position from left (Position 1) to right (Position 5) is occupied by exactly one book, and no book occupies more than one position.

**13. Which book is at Position 1 (leftmost)?**

- A. Alpha
- B. Beta
- C. Gamma
- D. Epsilon

**14. Which book is at Position 5 (rightmost)?**

- A. Alpha
- B. Delta
- C. Epsilon
- D. Gamma

**15. Which book sits immediately to the right of Alpha?**

- A. Beta
- B. Gamma
- C. Delta
- D. Epsilon

**16. How many books sit between Beta and Delta?**

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. None

### PUZZLE 2 — RACE FINISHING ORDER — SIX RUNNERS WITH CONDITIONAL CONSTRAINTS (Q17–20)



26. In June 2026, which city had the highest petrol price?

- A. Delhi  B. Mumbai  
 C. Kolkata  D. Chennai

27. By how many rupees did the price in Delhi increase from January to June 2026?

- A. ₹3  B. ₹4  
 C. ₹5  D. ₹6

28. What is the average petrol price in Mumbai across the six months January to June 2026?

- A. ₹105  B. ₹106  
 C. ₹106.5  D. ₹107

29. In May 2026, the difference between the highest-priced and the lowest-priced city was:

- A. ₹5  B. ₹6  
 C. ₹7  D. ₹8

30. If the State Government of Maharashtra reduces VAT effective July 2026 such that Mumbai's petrol price drops to ₹100, what is the percentage reduction from the June 2026 Mumbai price?

- A. 6.5%  B. 7.4%  
 C. 8.3%  D. 9.2%

**SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK**

**Q31-40 · 10 Marks**

*Standalone questions covering blood relations, direction sense, syllogism, coding-decoding, simple arithmetic and basic GK. No passage required.*

31. Pointing to a man, Neha said, 'His wife is the only daughter of my father-in-law's only brother.' How is the man related to Neha?

- A. Brother-in-law  B. Cousin  
 C. Father  D. Husband

32. P is the son of Q. Q is the sister of R. R is the mother of S. How is S related to P?

- A. Brother  B. Cousin  
 C. Uncle  D. Nephew

33. Rajeev starts from point X and walks 7 km east, then 5 km north, then 4 km west, then 3 km south. In which direction and at what straight-line distance is he now from point X?

- A. North-East,  $\sqrt{13}$  km  B. South-West,  $\sqrt{13}$  km  
 C. North-East, 5 km  D. South-East, 5 km

34. Statements: Some books are journals. All journals are magazines.

Conclusions:

I. Some books are magazines.

II. All magazines are journals.

- A. Only conclusion I follows  
 B. Only conclusion II follows  
 C. Both I and II follow  
 D. Neither follows

35. In a certain code, PAPER is written as RCRGT. How is PENCIL written in the same code?

- A. RGPEKN  B. RGPENL  
 C. RGPEJN  D. QFOMHK

36. Find the missing number in the series: 5, 11, 23, 47, 95, \_\_\_\_

- A. 189  B. 190  
 C. 191  D. 192

37. A and B together can complete a piece of work in 10 days. A alone can do it in 15 days. In how many days can B alone complete the work?

- A. 20 days  B. 25 days  
 C. 30 days  D. 35 days

38. The average of five consecutive even numbers is 36. What is the largest of these numbers?

- A. 38  B. 40  
 C. 42  D. 44

39. Which Article of the Constitution of India abolishes 'untouchability' in any form?

- A. Article 14  B. Article 15  
 C. Article 17  D. Article 21

40. Which committee recommended the inclusion of Fundamental Duties in the Constitution of India?

- A. Sarkaria Commission  
 B. Swaran Singh Committee  
 C. Punchhi Commission  
 D. Justice Verma Committee