

**Daily Reading Comprehension & Critical Reasoning**

Two RC passages (English-as-Language) and two CR passages (Argumentation). Read each carefully and answer based on what is stated or implied.  
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**PASSAGE 1 (RC) — THE LONG TAIL OF INDIAN PATENT LITIGATION (LAW / TECHNOLOGY)**

**Q1-5**

**READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q1-5 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.**

Indian patent litigation has, until recently, been a curiously short affair. Most disputes are resolved at the interim-injunction stage, with plaintiffs and defendants reaching commercial settlements before final trial. The data tells the story: of the approximately three thousand patent suits filed in Indian High Courts between 2010 and 2024, fewer than four per cent went to a fully reasoned final judgment after trial. The remainder either settled, were withdrawn, or are still pending — frequently for over a decade.

This pattern is a problem disguised as efficiency. A litigation system in which 96 per cent of cases settle without a reasoned outcome leaves judges with very few opportunities to articulate doctrine. Future litigants face a thin precedent base. They do not know how, for instance, the Indian doctrine of obviousness applies in software-related inventions, or how the standard for technical effect operates in biotechnology, because so few cases produce written reasoning on those questions. The result is a paradox: a high-volume jurisdiction that produces remarkably little law.

Some observers have welcomed the recent expansion of dedicated intellectual-property divisions in the Delhi High Court (notably the Intellectual Property Division established in 2021) as a corrective. The IPD has produced over four hundred substantive orders in its first three years. But this is a corrective only in part. Specialised judges can write more confidently and reason more carefully, but they cannot by themselves change the underlying incentive structure that pushes most cases toward early settlement. Settlement is rational for individual litigants — it caps cost and risk — but collectively it starves the doctrine of the case-law it needs to stabilise.

There is a deeper structural concern. Where doctrine is thin, transactional uncertainty is high. Companies cannot reliably know what their patents are worth, or how their freedom to operate will be treated by a court. The result is over-investment in defensive patenting and under-investment in actual research, since defensive patents at least generate predictable transactional value while research outputs face an uncertain enforcement landscape. The long-term cost is borne not by the litigators but by the innovation ecosystem — and ultimately by the patent system's stated beneficiaries, the Indian inventor and the Indian consumer.

**1. What is the PRIMARY function of the second paragraph in the structure of the passage?**

- A. To provide additional statistical data confirming the first paragraph
- B. To introduce the Intellectual Property Division of the Delhi High Court
- C. To establish the central paradox of the passage — that a high-volume jurisdiction produces remarkably little law — and thereby motivate the structural critique that follows
- D. To argue that interim injunctions should be abolished

**2. If a future study found that average TIME TO TRIAL in Indian patent suits had fallen from twelve years to four years, which of the author's claims would this MOST DIRECTLY affect?**

- A. The claim that companies over-invest in defensive patenting
- B. The claim that the incentive structure pushes cases toward early settlement — a shorter time to trial would weaken that incentive
- C. The claim that the IPD has produced over four hundred orders
- D. The claim that fewer than four per cent of suits go to final judgment

**3. Which scenario in a different field is MOST ANALOGOUS to the doctrinal-thinness problem the author describes?**

- A. A criminal-law jurisdiction where most cases go to full trial because plea-bargaining is unavailable
- B. A consumer-protection jurisdiction where most disputes are mediated, leaving few precedents on the scope of statutory rights
- C. A tax jurisdiction where the ITAT publishes every order in full
- D. A constitutional-law jurisdiction where the Supreme Court routinely issues advisory opinions

**4. The author's argument in the final paragraph rests on the unstated ASSUMPTION that:**

- A. The Indian Patent Act, 1970 should be repealed
- B. Defensive patenting and substantive research are partially substitutable, so enforcement uncertainty diverts investment from one to the other
- C. Indian companies cannot obtain foreign patents
- D. The Intellectual Property Division will inevitably fail

**5. In context, the phrase 'a problem disguised as efficiency' (paragraph 2) MOST NEARLY conveys that:**

- A. The settlement-driven outcome appears to save time and cost (and is therefore presented as efficient) but in fact imposes a hidden systemic cost in the form of doctrinal under-development
- B. The author endorses the current efficiency-driven approach
- C. Settlements are universally inefficient
- D. Indian patent law is too efficient and should be slowed down

**PASSAGE 2 (RC) — WHY THE INDIAN MONSOON CONFOUNDS CLIMATE MODELS (SCIENCE / CLIMATOLOGY)**

**Q6-10**

**READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q6-10 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.**

Climate models — sophisticated coupled simulations of the atmosphere, the ocean and the land surface — perform impressively well at reproducing the temperate-zone climate of Europe and North America. Their performance over the Indian subcontinent, however, is markedly weaker. The South-West monsoon, which delivers roughly seventy per cent of India's annual rainfall in a four-month window, is precisely the phenomenon current models reproduce least reliably. Different models project monsoon rainfall changes for the late twenty-first century that span the full range from a 30 per cent decrease to a 30 per cent increase, an embarrassment that no comparable phenomenon in Europe approaches.

The reasons are several, and they reveal as much about scientific method as about the Indian climate. First, the monsoon is driven by an interaction of three systems each modelled to different standards: the differential heating of the Tibetan Plateau, the moisture supply from the warming Indian Ocean, and the vertical convection that lifts warm wet air to its condensation height. Errors in each compound non-linearly when the three are coupled. Second, the rain itself occurs at spatial scales — individual storm systems of a few hundred kilometres — that lie below the resolution of most global models. Higher-resolution regional models do better but still miss extreme events.

There is also a sociological dimension to the problem worth naming. The funding for monsoon research has historically come from agencies with operational forecasting mandates — the India Meteorological Department, the Ministry of Earth Sciences — rather than from longer-horizon climate-research bodies. The result is a concentration of effort on short-range prediction (will it rain next Wednesday?) at the cost of long-range projection (how will the monsoon change in 2070?). Both are scientifically necessary; one is preferentially funded.

What does this mean for policy? It means that infrastructure investments designed to be robust to climate change in India must be built to handle a wider range of possible monsoon futures than current models suggest. Coastal embankments, urban storm-water drainage, and reservoir-design rules should incorporate model spread, not merely model means. The honest answer to the question 'what will the monsoon look like in 2070?' is not a number; it is a probability distribution with thick tails. Engineering, agricultural and urban-planning decisions must be made under that honesty, not against false precision.

**6. Which of the following BEST captures the author's PRIMARY PURPOSE in writing the passage?**

- A. To predict that monsoon rainfall will fall by 30 per cent by 2070
- B. To diagnose the technical AND sociological reasons for poor monsoon model performance and to draw a specific policy implication for infrastructure design
- C. To call for the abolition of the India Meteorological Department
- D. To celebrate the achievements of Indian monsoon modellers

**7. Suppose a new generation of regional climate models at 10-km resolution consistently reproduces historical monsoon variability. Which of the author's CLAIMS would this MOST DIRECTLY WEAKEN?**

- A. The claim that infrastructure should handle a wider range of futures
- B. The claim that monsoon funding is dominated by operational mandates
- C. The claim that the monsoon delivers seventy per cent of India's annual rainfall
- D. The claim that current model resolution is a binding constraint on monsoon reproduction

**8. The author's tone toward climate modellers is BEST described as:**

- A. Hostile — treating modellers as incompetent
- B. Diagnostic and sympathetic — identifying specific limitations without disparaging the modellers' competence
- C. Adulatory — celebrating modellers without qualification
- D. Indifferent — no view on the modellers

**9. Which of the following would be the MOST APT title for the passage?**

- A. A Brief History of the India Meteorological Department
- B. The Mathematics of Atmospheric Convection
- C. Why Climate Models Fail in India — and What That Means for the Embankments We Build
- D. Indian Monsoon: A Definite Forecast for 2070

**10. Which INFERENCE about future research is BEST SUPPORTED by the passage?**

- A. Future research will discontinue monsoon work
- B. Future research will benefit from BOTH higher-resolution regional models AND rebalancing funding toward long-horizon projection
- C. Indian climate research will be entirely foreign-funded
- D. Future research will eliminate model uncertainty by 2030

**PASSAGE 3 (CR) — SHOULD INDIA ADOPT COMPULSORY VOTING ON THE AUSTRALIAN MODEL?  
(DEMOCRACY / PUBLIC POLICY)**

**Q11–15**

**READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q11–15.**

Australia has had compulsory voting at federal elections since 1924. Adult citizens are required, by law, to attend a polling station, have their name marked off the roll, and place a ballot paper into the box. What they actually write on that paper is, of course, their own business. Failure to attend attracts a small fine. Australian voter turnout has consistently exceeded 90 per cent for almost a century. The proposal under consideration is that India should adopt the same regime for its general and State assembly elections.

The case for the proposal turns on three observations. First, low turnout in any democracy systematically biases political attention toward the demographic groups that DO turn out — typically older, wealthier and more rural — at the cost of those who do not. Compulsory voting eliminates this distortion at its root. Second, the act of voting is one of the cheapest civic exercises a State can require, compared to military conscription or jury duty, both of which constitutional democracies have routinely required. Third, the Australian experience — six generations of compulsory voting without discernible democratic backsliding — is direct empirical refutation of the most common objection that mandatory voting is incompatible with political freedom.

Opponents raise an objection that deserves more careful engagement: the right to vote, on a Lockean liberty view, includes the correlative right NOT to vote. To compel voting is to violate the liberty interest the franchise is supposed to protect. The reply is that compulsory voting requires only ATTENDANCE at the booth and the deposit of a paper. Voters who wish to register a protest may submit a blank ballot or a deliberately spoiled paper. The liberty interest is preserved in substance; only the BURDEN of attendance is imposed, and that burden is no greater than the time required to file an income-tax return.

A more serious objection is administrative. India's electoral roll is imperfect, voter mobility between States is high, and the cost of enforcing fines on non-voters at scale would be substantial. This is a real concern. But it is a concern about IMPLEMENTATION, not about PRINCIPLE. Implementation can be staged: begin with a small fine imposed only on confirmed non-voters whose names appear on a clean roll, and refine the apparatus over successive elections. The alternative — leaving distortion in place forever because removing it is administratively hard — is the perfect made the enemy of the good.

11. Which argument operates on a **STRUCTURE** most closely **PARALLEL** to the author's first argument (low turnout biases attention toward those who **DO** turn out)?

- A. Cricket should be played in only one format because audience tastes vary
- B. Speed limits should be raised because most drivers exceed them
- C. Public funding for the arts should follow audience preferences
- D. Regulators systematically attend to lobbying industries; mandatory engagement of all stakeholders removes this distortion at its source

12. Which **PRINCIPLE**, if accepted, would **BEST RESOLVE** the dispute between the author and the Lockean-liberty objector?

- A. All citizens have an absolute right to participate in any civic activity
- B. Compulsion in any form is impermissible in a constitutional democracy
- C. A burden on liberty is justified if (a) the substantive liberty interest is preserved and (b) the burden imposed is no greater than civic burdens already accepted in comparable contexts
- D. Liberty interests must always defeat administrative convenience

13. The author's response to the administrative objection rests on an unstated **ASSUMPTION** that:

- A. Stage-wise implementation can deliver meaningful improvement in turnout even before the full administrative apparatus is mature, AND that the partial improvement is preferable to the status quo
- B. Australia's administrative apparatus is identical to India's
- C. India's electoral roll is currently flawless
- D. The Election Commission has unlimited resources

14. Which **COUNTER-EXAMPLE** would **MOST SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKEN** the author's reliance on Australia?

- A. Australia uses preferential voting in its lower house
- B. Some Australian states have larger populations than others
- C. Documented evidence that compulsory voting in Australia has produced declining deliberation quality, rising spoiled ballots, and eroding party engagement over the past three decades
- D. Australia is geographically smaller than India

15. What is the **FUNCTION** of the comparison to military conscription and jury duty in paragraph 2?

- A. To argue India should reintroduce military conscription
- B. To suggest voting is the most onerous civic duty
- C. To distract from the administrative objection
- D. To establish by analogy that democracies routinely impose comparable or greater civic burdens — weakening the in-principle objection to a lighter burden of voting

**PASSAGE 4 (CR) — THE ETHICS OF REWILDING INDIAN FORESTS (ENVIRONMENT / PUBLIC POLICY)**

**Q16–20**

**READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q16–20.**

Rewilding — the reintroduction of locally extinct species or the deliberate restoration of self-sustaining ecological dynamics in areas long managed for human use — has become an attractive conservation paradigm in Europe and North America over the past two decades. India's recent translocation of African cheetahs to Kuno National Park has placed the same paradigm on the Indian table. The argument here is that rewilding, properly conceived and limited, is a defensible Indian conservation strategy. The argument is deliberately limited: it neither defends the Kuno project on its specific facts nor endorses every proposal that travels under the rewilding banner.

The case begins with an analogy that is instructive precisely because it is imperfect. Indian forestry policy since Independence has implicitly been a project of **MANAGEMENT** — selective harvesting, controlled fire regimes, plantation forestry of fast-growing species. The result is forests that look forested but function as stands of monoculture with depleted understorey diversity. Rewilding shifts the goal from **MANAGEMENT** to **RECOVERY**. The analogy is to a garden left fallow rather than ploughed: the rewilding manager intervenes minimally, allowing ecological self-organisation to produce structure and diversity over decades. The analogy is imperfect because forests are not gardens — but the imperfection is informative, not fatal.

The **PRINCIPLE** that justifies rewilding, on the present argument, is that ecological systems have a recovery capacity that intensive human management persistently underestimates. If this principle is rejected — if recovery is impossible without continuous intensive intervention — the case for rewilding collapses, because the alternative becomes simply a different intervention, not a withdrawal of intervention.

Three plausible objections deserve engagement. The first is that rewilding requires land at a scale not available in densely populated India. The reply is that rewilding does not require wilderness blocks comparable to Yellowstone; it can operate on fragmented landscapes connected by corridors, and several Indian studies have documented species recovery on landscapes of well under one hundred square kilometres. The second objection is that introduction of locally extinct species risks predation of livestock and human conflict. This is true, and it is a reason for careful site-selection and community engagement, NOT a reason to abandon the paradigm. The third — and most serious — is that the rewilding label has become a brand under which projects of uneven scientific quality are pursued. The reply concedes the point: bad rewilding is bad conservation. But the existence of weak instances does not invalidate the underlying principle, any more than weak court judgments invalidate the principle of judicial review.

16. The author's use of the **GARDEN-LEFT-FALLOW** analogy in paragraph 2 is **BEST** described as:

- A. A purely rhetorical flourish with no analytical content
- B. A definitive proof that rewilding works
- C. An argument that India should pursue a horticultural model of forestry
- D. An imperfect analogy whose explicit acknowledgement of imperfection is presented as itself informative — directing attention to the difference between gardens and forests as a productive area for refinement

17. The author identifies a PRINCIPLE that, if rejected, would collapse the case for rewilding. Which FINDING, if rigorously established, would MOST DIRECTLY REJECT that principle?

- A. Rigorous evidence that degraded Indian forests systematically fail to recover without continuous intensive management, and that all documented recoveries involve sustained intervention
- B. Evidence that the Kuno cheetah project has had several fatalities
- C. Evidence that rewilding is popular in Europe
- D. Evidence that rewilding is more expensive than plantation forestry

18. Which REASONING FLAW, if any, can be identified in the author's reply to the third objection (that rewilding is a 'brand' covering uneven projects)?

- A. The reply commits AD HOMINEM — attacking the proponents of rival paradigms personally
- B. There is no flaw — the reply is a clean concession-and-distinction move
- C. The reply commits CIRCULAR REASONING — assuming the principle the objection challenges
- D. The reply commits the FALLACY OF NO TRUE SCOTSMAN — defining 'real' rewilding as only the good instances and excluding the bad as definitionally outside the category

19. The author's reply to the first objection (that rewilding requires Yellowstone-scale land) employs which RHETORICAL MOVE?

- A. An emotional appeal to Indian patriotism
- B. A re-framing — accepting land scarcity but rejecting the assumption that rewilding requires large unfragmented blocks, citing Indian studies on smaller landscapes
- C. A constitutional argument under Article 48A
- D. A dismissal of the objection without engagement

20. The author's CONCESSION ('bad rewilding is bad conservation') functions in the argument as:

- A. A surrender to the third objection
- B. An admission that undermines the entire passage
- C. A factual claim about conservation cost
- D. A strategic concession that defuses empirical force while preserving the normative principle, supported by an analogy to judicial review

**SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Q21–28 · 8 Marks**

Standalone questions on current affairs, static GK, vocabulary in context and idiom usage. No passage required.

21. The official currency of Argentina is the:

- A. Peso
- B. Bolívar
- C. Real
- D. Sol

22. The G20 summit hosted by Brazil in 2024 produced the Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration. Which of the following was a HEADLINE INITIATIVE adopted at that summit?

- A. The expansion of the G20 to include the African Union as a permanent member
- B. The unanimous adoption of a global minimum corporate tax of 30 per cent
- C. The launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
- D. The signing of a binding climate-finance treaty

23. Choose the word whose meaning is CLOSEST to that of the underlined word in the sentence: 'The minister surrounded himself with sycophants who praised every decision he made.'

- A. Critics
- B. Strangers
- C. Advisors
- D. Flatterers

24. The idiom 'to gild the lily' MOST NEARLY means:

- A. To improve a thing that is already beautiful, often making it worse by overdoing the embellishment
- B. To accept a difficult duty without complaint
- C. To work in a flower garden
- D. To deceive a customer with false advertising

25. Choose the option that BEST completes the sentence: 'After three weeks of negotiations, the company decided to \_\_\_\_ its acquisition bid for its rival.'

- A. take up
- B. follow through on
- C. back out of
- D. look into

26. Under the proviso to Article 368(2) of the Constitution, certain constitutional amendments require ratification by the legislatures of NOT LESS THAN ONE-HALF of the States, in addition to passage by Parliament. Which of the following amendments would FALL WITHIN this requirement?

- A. An amendment that revises pension rules for retired judges
- B. An amendment to the Preamble alone
- C. An amendment that introduces a new Schedule of administrative rules
- D. An amendment that alters the manner in which the President is elected (Article 54 / Article 55)

27. Manu Bhaker became the first Indian since Independence to win two Olympic medals at a SINGLE Olympic Games at Paris 2024. In which discipline were both medals won?

- A. Wrestling
- B. Boxing
- C. Shooting
- D. Archery

28. The Padma Vibhushan, conferred annually on Republic Day, is the \_\_\_\_ highest civilian award of the Republic of India.

- A. Third
- B. Second
- C. Fourth
- D. First