

**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.  
Free daily practice — clatgurukul.com/daily · Pass this sheet to a friend.

**PASSAGE 1 (RC) — THE ETHICS OF GENOME EDITING (SCIENCE / BIOETHICS)**

**Q1-5**

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

When the first scientifically credible reports of CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing emerged in 2012, the technology was hailed as a revolution that would democratise the modification of living systems. A decade later, that early enthusiasm has matured into a more cautious conversation. The technique is now widely used in agricultural biotechnology, where it has produced drought-tolerant rice, disease-resistant cassava, and a range of higher-yielding cereal varieties. In medicine, the approval of CRISPR-based therapies for sickle cell disease in 2023 marked the first regulatory endorsement of the technology in a clinical setting.

These gains, however, have not silenced the underlying ethical disagreements. The most contested terrain is germline editing — modifications to embryos that will be inherited by future generations. Critics argue that the risks of such edits, including unintended off-target effects in genes whose functions are still imperfectly understood, fall on people who cannot consent. The 2018 case of the Chinese researcher who edited the genomes of twin embryos to confer HIV resistance was widely condemned as a violation of this principle, and led to his imprisonment.

Defenders of cautious germline research, by contrast, distinguish between gain-of-function enhancements and corrective edits aimed at hereditary diseases. They argue that a parent who chooses to spare a child from Huntington's disease or cystic fibrosis is exercising a form of medical preventive care, not engaging in eugenics. The risk profile, they suggest, is not categorically different from many other established medical interventions whose long-term consequences were also not fully known at the time of introduction.

National regulators have responded by drawing lines at different points. Some jurisdictions permit somatic-cell research and approved therapies but ban germline modification absolutely; others allow tightly supervised germline research short of implantation. The Indian regulatory position has remained restrictive in practice, with the Indian Council of Medical Research's 2017 guidelines treating germline editing as ethically impermissible. What unites these regulatory choices is the recognition that genome editing is no longer merely a laboratory technique; it has become a question of which decisions about the human future may be made, by whom, and on whose behalf.

**1. As used in the passage, the phrase 'fall on people who cannot consent' most nearly refers to:**

- A. Research subjects who are not formally enrolled in clinical trials
- B. Future generations whose genomes are altered before they exist, and who therefore cannot be asked for permission
- C. Researchers who work under coercive institutional conditions
- D. Regulators who are bound by international treaty obligations

**2. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?**

- A. All forms of CRISPR research are currently banned in India
- B. Germline editing was first attempted clinically in 2023 for sickle cell disease
- C. Some defenders of cautious germline research treat the line between treatment and enhancement as morally relevant
- D. The Chinese researcher who edited twin embryos in 2018 received international scientific approval

**3. Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?**

- A. Genome editing should be banned outright because its risks are not yet fully understood
- B. Genome editing has produced concrete benefits, but its ethical and regulatory questions — especially around germline modification — remain genuinely contested, with regulators drawing different lines
- C. The agricultural applications of CRISPR are uncontroversial and should be expanded immediately
- D. India's restrictive approach to germline editing is the only defensible regulatory stance

**4. The author's primary purpose in the third paragraph is to:**

- A. Reject the case for any germline editing on ethical grounds
- B. Present and partially explain the position of defenders of cautious germline research, who distinguish corrective edits from enhancements
- C. Criticise parents who wish to prevent hereditary disease in their children
- D. Argue that Huntington's disease cannot be treated by any current technique

**5. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the position of 'defenders of cautious germline research' as presented in the passage?**

- A. A large-scale prospective study finds that even narrowly targeted germline edits cause cumulative off-target mutations whose phenotypic consequences manifest only in adulthood and cannot be reversed
- B. Somatic-cell CRISPR therapy for sickle cell disease has been approved by multiple regulators
- C. Cystic fibrosis is more prevalent in some populations than others
- D. Some parents prefer adoption to genetic intervention as a response to hereditary disease risk

**PASSAGE 2 (RC) — CITIES, CARS AND THE RIGHT TO THE STREET (URBAN / POLICY)**

**Q6-10**

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

Indian cities have been built around the assumption that private cars are the natural form of personal transport, and that streets exist primarily to carry them. The assumption is recent in historical terms — until the 1990s, Indian city streets were comparatively undifferentiated public spaces shared by pedestrians, cyclists, hand-carts, bullock-carts, and a modest number of motor vehicles. It is also empirically misaligned with how Indians actually travel. In most large Indian cities, more than seventy per cent of trips are made by walking, cycling, or public transport; private cars typically account for under twenty per cent. Yet street-space allocation has moved in the opposite direction: between 2000 and 2020, the share of urban road area dedicated to motor traffic rose markedly in every major city, while footpaths shrank, bicycle infrastructure declined, and pedestrian crossings became scarcer or more dangerous.

The asymmetry has real costs. Pedestrian fatalities now account for more than thirty per cent of road deaths in Indian cities, and women, the elderly and children — groups who walk most — bear the brunt. Air quality and noise burdens are also distributionally regressive: roadside residents, often from lower-income communities, absorb the worst exposure while reaping few of the mobility benefits. The 'externality' that economists routinely discuss is not abstract; it lands disproportionately on specific bodies and neighbourhoods.

A growing number of urban scholars have begun to articulate a 'right to the street' — a claim that street space, as public infrastructure, should be allocated in rough proportion to the way it is actually used, with priority to the most vulnerable users. The argument is not anti-car. It is a redistribution claim: the existing allocation of street space disproportionately serves a minority of users and externalises costs on the majority.

Pilot interventions — protected cycle lanes in Pune, footpath restoration in Chennai, woonerf-style traffic-calmed neighbourhoods in parts of Mumbai — have shown that politically modest changes can yield significant safety and air-quality gains. Whether such pilots can be scaled depends less on technical feasibility than on whether municipal politics can sustain a redistribution of space against the entrenched expectations of car-owning households. The contest over the street, in short, is also a contest over whose convenience is treated as the city's default.

6. As used in the passage, the phrase 'distributionally regressive' most nearly means:

- A. Imposing greater costs on those with fewer resources or less political voice
- B. Reducing over time across all population groups
- C. Distributed evenly across geographical regions
- D. Increasing in scale during periods of economic recession

7. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?

- A. Cars account for the majority of trips made in large Indian cities
- B. The share of urban road area allocated to motor traffic has increased even as the share of trips made by car has remained a minority
- C. Pedestrian fatalities have declined sharply between 2000 and 2020
- D. Woonerf-style interventions have been adopted city-wide in every major Indian city

8. Which best captures the central argument of the passage?

- A. Private cars should be banned from Indian city centres
- B. Street-space allocation in Indian cities is structurally misaligned with how people actually travel, with regressive costs, and a redistribution of space toward non-car users is both feasible and overdue
- C. Pilot interventions have failed and the case for redistribution should be abandoned
- D. Air-quality concerns are exaggerated and pedestrian safety is the only relevant consideration

9. The author's primary purpose in citing pedestrian fatality and air-quality data in the second paragraph is to:

- A. Show that road accidents have decreased due to better policing
- B. Demonstrate that the costs of the current street-space allocation are concrete and fall disproportionately on specific groups
- C. Argue that all private cars in Indian cities should be electric
- D. Suggest that municipal authorities are uniquely responsible for traffic deaths

10. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- A. Strongly polemical, calling for an outright ban on cars
- B. Analytical and quietly advocacy-oriented, presenting evidence and a policy framing while acknowledging political contestation
- C. Nostalgic, lamenting the loss of pre-1990s street culture without offering a way forward
- D. Sceptical, treating the right-to-the-street framing as unworkable rhetoric

**PASSAGE 3 (CR) — SHOULD COACHING INSTITUTE ADVERTISING BE REGULATED? (EDUCATION / CONSUMER PROTECTION)**

**Q11–15**

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

A recent commentary by an education-policy researcher argues that India should impose a strict statutory regime on the advertising practices of competitive-exam coaching institutes. The argument runs as follows. Surveys conducted by consumer-protection bodies, the author observes, indicate that more than sixty per cent of coaching-institute advertisements feature 'topper' photographs or testimonials in a way that implies a stronger causal link between attending the institute and exam success than the underlying enrolment data can support. From this the author concludes that such advertising is systematically deceptive and that ordinary disclosure rules under the Consumer Protection Act are insufficient.

The argument proceeds on a particular causal claim: that the deceptive practice is structurally embedded in the industry's economic incentives, and that voluntary self-regulation has failed. The author treats the persistence of the practice despite the existing Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) code as evidence that voluntary frameworks are inadequate. The author also assumes that prospective students and parents systematically misread topper-centric advertisements as implying institute-wide success rates, rather than reading them as illustrative claims about a small minority.

The author further argues that statutory regulation is administratively feasible. The author cites a 2022 enforcement push by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) against several institutes for misleading claims, and infers that an enlarged statutory regime could scale this approach. The CCPA's enforcement actions, the author notes, resulted in monetary penalties and, in two cases, advertisements being withdrawn from circulation within thirty days.

Finally, the author argues that statutory regulation would not chill legitimate marketing. Honest disclosure of enrolment-to-success ratios, supported by standardised reporting templates, would still permit institutes to compete on the basis of verifiable claims. The author suggests that the chilling concern is therefore exaggerated and that the principal effect of regulation would be on advertisements whose informational content was already misleading.

For these reasons — empirical, doctrinal, administrative and economic — the commentary concludes that statutory regulation of coaching-institute advertising is overdue.

11. Which of the following best captures the conclusion of the commentary?

- A. The Advertising Standards Council of India should be abolished
- B. India should impose a strict statutory regime regulating the advertising practices of competitive-exam coaching institutes
- C. Coaching institutes should be banned from public advertising entirely
- D. The Consumer Protection Act should be repealed and replaced

12. Which of the following is an unstated assumption on which the commentary's case depends?

- A. Prospective students and parents systematically read topper-centric advertisements as implying institute-wide success rates rather than as illustrative individual achievements
- B. Coaching institutes are the only sector engaged in misleading advertising in India
- C. ASCI is an arm of the Government rather than an industry body
- D. Indian regulators have unlimited enforcement capacity to police all consumer advertising

13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the commentary's argument?

- A. A large randomised consumer-survey experiment finds that respondents who view topper-centric advertisements correctly identify them as claims about exceptional individuals, not as institute-wide success rates, with no statistically significant deviation from baseline understanding
- B. A few coaching institutes have voluntarily adopted internal disclosure standards exceeding the ASCI code
- C. The number of competitive-exam aspirants in India has risen sharply since 2020
- D. Some toppers featured in advertisements were also students at other institutes simultaneously

14. Which of the following, if true, would most STRENGTHEN the commentary's claim that voluntary self-regulation has failed?

- A. An independent five-year audit finds that ASCI complaints against coaching-institute advertisements rose annually, while the rate of voluntary withdrawal of contested advertisements fell to under ten per cent of upheld complaints
- B. Some coaching institutes employ in-house compliance officers
- C. ASCI was founded in the mid-1980s with industry funding
- D. Statutory regulation is less common in agricultural advertising than in coaching

15. Which of the following most fairly identifies a flaw in the commentary's argument from the 2022 CCPA enforcement push?

- A. It treats a small number of high-profile enforcement actions as proof that an enlarged statutory regime could be administered at scale, without addressing whether the resources and procedural infrastructure required for nationwide enforcement actually exist
- B. It cites only government enforcement and ignores private litigation entirely
- C. It assumes that monetary penalties are inappropriate as a regulatory tool
- D. It assumes that all coaching institutes operate in a single state

**PASSAGE 4 (CR) – IS A WEALTH TAX THE RIGHT TOOL? (PUBLIC FINANCE / DISTRIBUTION)**

**Q16–20**

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

A recent op-ed by a public-finance economist argues that India should introduce a recurring wealth tax on individuals whose net worth exceeds ₹50 crore. The argument runs as follows. Indian income-tax data, the author observes, shows that the share of national income captured by the top one per cent has risen sharply over the past two decades, even as the share of taxes paid by this group has grown more slowly. From this the author concludes that the present tax system has become structurally regressive at the top, and that a recurring wealth tax is the natural corrective.

The argument proceeds on a particular causal claim: that the principal reason wealth concentration has risen is the absence of a recurring tax on stock-of-wealth, and that such a tax would meaningfully arrest the trend. The author treats the gap between income-share growth and tax-share growth as evidence that flow-based (income) taxation is structurally insufficient.

The op-ed cites cross-country evidence to argue feasibility. Several European countries imposed wealth taxes in the post-war decades; the author notes that some — Norway, Switzerland, Spain — continue to do so. The author infers that administrative complexity is therefore manageable. The op-ed does not engage extensively with the question of why most OECD wealth taxes were repealed during the 1990s and 2000s, treating those repeals as products of political pressure rather than administrative difficulty.

The author further argues that a wealth tax would not significantly drive capital flight. The author notes that the proposed Indian rate (around 1% annually above the ₹50 crore threshold) is comparable to existing Swiss rates, and that capital flight has not been documented as a problem in the Swiss case. The author treats this analogy as sufficient to dismiss the capital-flight concern.

Finally, the op-ed argues that wealth-tax revenue could be earmarked for high-return public investments such as basic education and primary healthcare, generating large social returns. The author concludes that on every front — equity, feasibility, behavioural response and revenue use — the case for an Indian wealth tax is strong.

16. Which of the following best captures the conclusion of the op-ed?

- A. India should abolish income tax and rely entirely on a wealth tax
- B. India should introduce a recurring annual wealth tax on individuals with net worth above ₹50 crore
- C. Indian tax revenue should be allocated primarily to defence spending
- D. Switzerland's wealth-tax system should be imported wholesale into India

17. Which of the following is an unstated assumption on which the op-ed's core argument depends?

- A. The principal driver of rising wealth concentration at the top is the absence of a recurring stock-of-wealth tax, rather than other structural or policy factors
- B. Wealth concentration in India is lower than in any OECD country
- C. Property tax and securities transaction tax are not features of the Indian tax system
- D. All ₹50-crore-plus individuals are domiciled in Mumbai

18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the op-ed's case?

- A. A comprehensive review of OECD wealth-tax experience finds that the principal driver of repeal in eight of nine cases was sustained administrative difficulty — valuation disputes, illiquid-asset coverage gaps and arrears accumulation — not transient political pressure as the op-ed claims
- B. A few OECD countries are reportedly studying the reintroduction of wealth taxes
- C. Income-tax revenue in India has grown faster than nominal GDP in some recent years
- D. Some economists support consumption-tax reform as a complement to wealth taxation

19. Which of the following most fairly identifies a flaw in the op-ed's argument from the Swiss analogy?

- A. It assumes that capital-flight responses in a small, high-income, financially open economy with well-developed wealth-management infrastructure are directly transferable to a large, developing economy whose enforcement and information-exchange capacity differs substantially
- B. It cites Switzerland but ignores the fact that Switzerland is in Europe
- C. It assumes that Swiss residents pay no income tax
- D. It assumes that all wealthy Indians wish to emigrate

20. Which of the following, if successfully advanced, would most directly UNDERMINE the op-ed's claim that wealth-tax revenue would generate large social returns by funding education and healthcare?

- A. Empirical fiscal-incidence work finds that earmarking of new tax revenue in Indian public finance is rarely binding in practice, with general-revenue fungibility ensuring that earmarked funds substitute for, rather than add to, existing budget allocations to the same sectors
- B. Public spending on education has risen in recent years
- C. Wealth taxes are sometimes administered by sub-national governments
- D. Some philanthropists already fund private healthcare initiatives

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

**Q21–30 · 10 Marks**

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

21. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 replaced which earlier procedural statute?

- A. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- B. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- C. The Indian Penal Code, 1860
- D. The Code of Civil Procedure, 1908

22. The 'Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan' announced by the Government of India in 2024 primarily focuses on:

- A. Skill development of rural workers in coastal districts
- B. Capacity-building of grassroots-level officials engaged in tribal development
- C. Promotion of solar energy adoption among farmers
- D. Modernisation of municipal solid-waste management

23. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to 'TACITURN':

- A. Reticent
- B. Garrulous
- C. Stoic
- D. Phlegmatic

24. The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' most nearly means:

- A. To dispose of a weapon after a duel
- B. To hide evidence of a quarrel from outsiders
- C. To make peace and end a quarrel
- D. To delay a difficult decision indefinitely

25. Which landmark Supreme Court judgment of 2024 dealt with the constitutional validity of the electoral bonds scheme?

- A. Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India
- B. Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India
- C. Subramanian Swamy v. Union of India
- D. PUCL v. Union of India

26. The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024 was awarded to:

- A. Han Kang (South Korea)
- B. Jon Fosse (Norway)
- C. Annie Ernaux (France)
- D. Abdulrazak Gurnah (Tanzania)

27. The 'Mission Indradhanush' scheme, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide:

- A. Universal access to drinking water in rural schools
- B. Full immunisation coverage to children and pregnant women
- C. Free LPG connections to BPL households
- D. Concessional credit to micro-enterprises

28. Choose the word that best fits the blank: 'The committee's report was an \_\_\_\_ critique of the ministry's procurement practices, sparing no detail.'

- A. Insipid
- B. Excoriating
- C. Lukewarm
- D. Equivocal

29. Which constitutional Article provides for the Directive Principles of State Policy?

- A. Articles 12-35
- B. Articles 36-51
- C. Articles 52-78
- D. Articles 73-77

30. The Paris Olympics 2024 men's javelin gold was won by:

- A. Neeraj Chopra (India)
- B. Arshad Nadeem (Pakistan)
- C. Anderson Peters (Grenada)
- D. Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic)