

ANSWER KEY — 4 JULY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
C	A	D	C	D	A	B	D	A	A
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
D	C	C	C	D	C	D	B	A	B
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
B	B	A	B	A	A	B	C	D	D
Q31	Q32								
C	B								

SECTION A — LEGAL REASONING

Q1 C

Defamation does not require proof that the defendant knew the statement was false or acted with malice toward the plaintiff. All three elements are present: the statement is defamatory, it identifies Priya, and it was published to a third party. Honest belief is not a recognised defence; only the actual truth of the statement — the defence of justification — would protect Ramesh. Absent truth or another established defence, liability is made out regardless of Ramesh's subjective state of mind. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q2 A

Absolute privilege attaches to statements made in Parliament as a matter of constitutional principle. It is an unconditional and complete defence: no inquiry into malice, truth, or reasonableness is permitted, and courts have no jurisdiction to scrutinise parliamentary speeches in defamation proceedings. The defence operates even where the statement was made with full knowledge of its falsity and with deliberate intent to harm. Suresh's suit therefore fails at the threshold regardless of the gravity or falsity of Arvind's allegations. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q3 D

The element of reference to the plaintiff is judged objectively: if a reasonable reader, seeing Kiran's photograph alongside the caption, would understand the statement to refer to Kiran, the element is satisfied regardless of the publisher's actual intention. Accidental misidentification is legally irrelevant to liability, though it may reduce damages. Kiran also need not prove any financial loss because the statement was in permanent form and constitutes libel, which is actionable per se without proof of special damage. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q4 C

Fair comment is a defence to defamation where the statement constitutes a genuine expression of opinion — not a statement of fact — on a matter of public interest, such as a theatrical performance open to the public. The defence does not require the opinion to be reasonable or widely shared; it must be honestly held and based on a foundation of true facts. Absolute privilege is inapplicable here, as it is confined to Parliament, judicial proceedings, and official State communications — not newspaper reviews. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q5 D

Qualified privilege protects statements made where the publisher has a legal, moral, or social duty to communicate and the recipient has a corresponding interest in receiving the information. An employment reference to a prospective employer is a paradigm qualified privilege occasion. The privilege is not forfeited by inadvertent interception by an unintended third party, since fault lies with the interceptor rather than Nalini. Additionally, the statement's truth provides an independent complete defence of justification, insulating Nalini from liability on either basis. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q6 A

The proposition that slander is always actionable per se is incorrect. Slander, being a transient defamatory statement, generally requires the plaintiff to prove actual special damage as a condition of the action. Recognised exceptions exist — slander imputing a criminal offence, a contagious or loathsome disease, unfitness in one's trade or profession, or unchastity to a woman — but these are exceptions, not the general rule. The remaining three statements accurately reflect settled defamation principles regarding libel per se, justification, and absolute privilege. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q7 B

A price display in a shop window is an invitation to treat rather than an offer under contract law. It invites customers to present goods at the counter for purchase, at which point the customer makes an offer and the shopkeeper accepts or rejects it. No binding offer existed for Mohan to accept. His entry into the store and expression of willingness to pay constituted an offer to the shopkeeper, which the shopkeeper was free to decline. The reservation of stock for another customer is therefore legally permissible and does not constitute breach of any contract. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q8 D

A conditional or qualified acceptance constitutes a counter-offer under Section 7 of the Indian Contract Act. A counter-offer simultaneously rejects the original offer and substitutes new terms, thereby extinguishing the original offer entirely. When Dev added the servicing condition, Lata's original offer was destroyed and could not be revived. Dev's subsequent purported unconditional acceptance was therefore an attempt to accept a non-existent offer, which cannot create a binding contract regardless of whether it arrived within the originally stipulated time frame. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q9 A

Under Section 4 of the Indian Contract Act, a postal acceptance is complete as against the offeror when the letter is put into a course of transmission — here, Wednesday. Revocation of an offer is complete only when it comes to the knowledge of the offeree — here, Thursday. Since acceptance was complete against Rajan on Wednesday and revocation only reached Preethi on Thursday, the offer was already accepted before revocation could take effect. A binding contract therefore came into existence on Wednesday when the acceptance was posted, and the revocation arrived too late. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q10 A

For instantaneous modes of communication, acceptance is complete when it is received by the offeror, not when the offeror reads or acknowledges it. Electronic mail is treated as an instantaneous mode, and receipt occurs when the message arrives in the server accessible to the offeror. While Shalini prescribed a telephone response, an offeree may accept by any usual and reasonable means unless the mode is exclusively and clearly mandated. E-mail is a reasonable commercial mode, so acceptance was complete on Wednesday evening upon server receipt, creating a binding contract before Shalini read the message. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q11 D

Newspaper advertisements are generally invitations to treat rather than offers, as they invite the public to submit offers rather than committing the advertiser to a binding obligation. The phrase 'priority consideration' expressly preserves Dinesh's discretion to select any buyer rather than promising to sell to the first arrival. No unilateral contract arose because the advertisement did not clearly promise a definitive reward in exchange for performing a specific act. Meghna's arrival and presentation of cash was an offer to Dinesh, which he was legally free to reject in favour of a higher or otherwise preferable proposal. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q12 C

Under Section 4 of the Indian Contract Act, communication of acceptance is complete as against the proposer when the letter is posted, but it is complete as against the acceptor only when the acceptance reaches the proposer — that is, when the letter arrives with the offeror. The statement that the acceptor is immediately bound upon posting is therefore incorrect: the acceptor remains unbound until the acceptance reaches the offeror. It is the offeror who becomes bound from the moment of posting. The other three options correctly state the statutory scheme governing instantaneous communication, revocation timing, and counter-offers. Hence, option (C) is correct.

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING**Q13 C**

From the conditions: Aryan is at the second seat from the left in the North row. Harish sits opposite Aryan, placing Harish at the second seat of the South row. Esha sits immediately to Harish's right, placing her at the third seat of the South row. Farhan is at an extreme end of the South row, and since Geeta must sit opposite Chetan — and Bhavna (not Chetan) occupies an extreme North end — Geeta takes the first South seat and Chetan the first North seat. This leaves Divya at the third North seat, directly facing Esha at the third South seat. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q14 C

Geeta is placed at the first seat of the South row (S1) because she must sit opposite Chetan, who is forced to the first North seat after Bhavna takes N4 and Aryan is fixed at N2. Esha is at the third South seat (S3), sitting immediately to the right of Harish at S2. Between S1 (Geeta) and S3 (Esha) lies exactly one person — Harish at S2. Therefore precisely one person sits between Geeta and Esha. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q15 D

Aryan is fixed at the second seat from the left (N2), so Aryan cannot be at either extreme end. Bhavna is explicitly stated to occupy one of the two extreme ends. Since Geeta must sit opposite Chetan, and the only extreme North seat not taken by Bhavna is the first seat (N1), Chetan must be at N1 and Bhavna at N4. Divya fills the remaining N3 seat. Therefore, the two extreme positions of the North row are occupied by Chetan and Bhavna. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q16 C

In the final arrangement, the North row is Chetan–Aryan–Divya–Bhavna (N1 to N4) and the South row is Geeta–Harish–Esha–Farhan (S1 to S4). Bhavna is at N4 and Farhan is at S4, making them a directly facing pair — this statement is true. Divya faces Esha (not Geeta). Harish is at S2, not an extreme end. Chetan is at N1 while Aryan is at N2, meaning Aryan is to the right of Chetan, not the other way around. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q17 D

Om is from Chennai and is therefore an Engineer (condition 2). Priya is from Agra (condition 1). Rohan is from neither Agra nor Bhopal, so Rohan must be from Chennai, Dehradun, or Ernakulam; since Om is already from Chennai, Rohan is from Dehradun or Ernakulam. The Ernakulam resident is a Chemist; since Naina is a Baker, Naina cannot be from Ernakulam. The Dehradun resident is neither a Baker nor an Engineer, so Naina (Baker) cannot be from Dehradun either. Naina must be from Bhopal. This leaves Seema with Dehradun, as Rohan must take Ernakulam. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q18 B

Seema is an Architect, Naina is a Baker, Om is an Engineer, and Rohan lives in Ernakulam making Rohan the Chemist (condition 8). The five professions are fully assigned: Architect to Seema, Baker to Naina, Chemist to Rohan, and Engineer to Om. The only remaining profession — Designer — must belong to Priya. Priya from Agra is therefore a Designer. No other assignment is possible given the constraint that each person has a distinct profession. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q19 A

Condition 7 directly states that Om is from Chennai, making this the only directly confirmed person–city pair among the options. Naina is from Bhopal (not Ernakulam), because Naina is a Baker and the Ernakulam resident must be a Chemist; Naina also cannot be from Dehradun since the Dehradun resident is not a Baker. Rohan is from Ernakulam, not Dehradun. Seema is from Dehradun, not Bhopal. Only Om–Chennai is correct. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q20 B

The cities are distributed as follows: Priya is from Agra, Om is from Chennai, Rohan is from Ernakulam (since the Ernakulam person is a Chemist, and with Agra and Chennai taken, Rohan's restriction to neither Agra nor Bhopal leaves only Ernakulam), Seema is from Dehradun (the remaining city that fits an Architect per condition 6). This process of elimination places Naina in Bhopal. Om is from Chennai; Seema is from Dehradun; Rohan is from Ernakulam. Only Naina remains for Bhopal. Hence, option (B) is correct.

SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21 B

Reading the 'Pending Cases (Accumulated)' column directly: Allahabad = 46,00,000; Bombay = 32,00,000; Calcutta = 21,00,000; Delhi = 18,40,000; Madras = 26,40,000. The highest value is 46,00,000, which belongs to the Allahabad High Court. No arithmetic is required beyond a simple comparison of five values. Allahabad is therefore the correct answer, reflecting its status as the court with the largest accumulated backlog in India. All other options — Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta — represent substantially lower pendency figures and are incorrect. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q22 B

The formula is: $(\text{Cases Disposed} \div \text{Cases Filed}) \times 100$. For Bombay: $5,10,000 \div 5,80,000 \times 100 = 87.93\%$, rounded to 87.9%. The distractor 84.8% is the disposal rate for Delhi ($3,90,000 \div 4,60,000 = 84.78\%$). The distractor 86.5% is the rate for Madras ($4,50,000 \div 5,20,000 = 86.54\%$). The distractor 80.4% is the rate for Allahabad ($7,40,000 \div 9,20,000 = 80.43\%$). Only Bombay yields approximately 87.9%. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q23 A

Add the 'Cases Disposed (2023)' figures for all five courts: Allahabad 7,40,000 + Bombay 5,10,000 + Calcutta 2,80,000 + Delhi 3,90,000 + Madras 4,50,000. Step by step: $7,40,000 + 5,10,000 = 12,50,000$; $12,50,000 + 2,80,000 = 15,30,000$; $15,30,000 + 3,90,000 = 19,20,000$; $19,20,000 + 4,50,000 = 23,70,000$. The answer is 23,70,000. The other three options result from either omitting one court or making arithmetic errors. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q24 B

Comparing the 'Avg. Disposal Days' column across all five courts: Allahabad = 1,420 days; Bombay = 980 days; Calcutta = 1,150 days; Delhi = 860 days; Madras = 1,040 days. The lowest value is 860 days, which corresponds to the Delhi High Court. Bombay at 980 days is second-lowest, making it a plausible but incorrect distractor. The question rewards direct column-reading and numerical comparison skills. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q25 A

Allahabad pending = 46,00,000; Delhi pending = 18,40,000. To find the ratio, divide both by their highest common factor. $46,00,000 \div 18,40,000 = 2.5$, which expressed as a fraction is $5/2$. Therefore the ratio is 5 : 2. Verification: $5 \times 9,20,000 = 46,00,000$ and $2 \times 9,20,000 = 18,40,000$, confirming the common factor is 9,20,000. None of the other options — 3:1, 7:3, or 9:4 — correctly simplify this relationship. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q26 A

Reading the 'Total RE Capacity (MW)' column: Rajasthan = 24,600 MW; Gujarat = 22,000 MW; Tamil Nadu = 21,000 MW; Karnataka = 17,000 MW; Maharashtra = 9,000 MW. The highest value is 24,600 MW, which belongs to Rajasthan. Rajasthan's dominance is driven by its vast solar capacity of 20,400 MW, far exceeding every other state in solar alone. Gujarat at 22,000 MW is the closest rival but still 2,600 MW behind Rajasthan's total. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q27 B

Tamil Nadu's solar capacity = 8,400 MW and wind capacity = 12,600 MW. To simplify the ratio, find the highest common factor of 8,400 and 12,600. HCF = 4,200. Dividing both: $8,400 \div 4,200 = 2$ and $12,600 \div 4,200 = 3$. Therefore the ratio of solar to wind is 2 : 3. The distractor 3 : 2 is simply the inverse (wind to solar). The distractor 1 : 2 is incorrect as 8,400 is not half of 12,600. The distractor 3 : 5 does not match either capacity figure. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q28 C

Tamil Nadu wind capacity = 12,600 MW; Karnataka wind capacity = 7,400 MW. The difference = $12,600 - 7,400 = 5,200$ MW. This is a straightforward subtraction from the 'Wind Capacity (MW)' column. Tamil Nadu has the highest wind capacity among all five states listed, while Karnataka is third. The distractor 4,800 MW would imply Karnataka has 7,800 MW, which does not match the table. The other distractors similarly do not correspond to correct subtraction of the given values. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q29 D

Rajasthan solar = 20,400 MW; Gujarat solar = 11,200 MW. Adding them: $20,400 + 11,200 = 31,600$ MW. These two western states together account for the largest share of India's solar capacity among the five listed, benefiting from high solar irradiance in the Thar Desert and Kutch region. The distractor 28,400 MW would require Gujarat's figure to be 8,000 MW, which contradicts the table. No other combination from the table yields 30,200 MW or 33,800 MW. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q30 D

Rajasthan solar = 20,400 MW; Rajasthan total RE = 24,600 MW. Percentage = $(20,400 \div 24,600) \times 100$. Dividing: $20,400 \div 24,600 = 0.82926...$ Multiplying by 100 gives 82.93%, which rounds to 82.9%. Rajasthan's wind capacity of only 4,200 MW — small relative to its solar base — explains the heavy solar skew. The distractor 85.2% is not obtainable from any reasonable reading of the table; neither is 79.5% or 77.8%, both of which would require a significantly larger wind component than is recorded. Hence, option (D) is correct.

SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK

Q31 C

Priya is the mother of Arjun and Deepa (since Arjun is Deepa's brother and they share the same mother). Deepa's father is Suresh, which means Suresh is also Arjun's father. Since Priya is the mother of these children and Suresh is their father, Suresh must be Priya's husband. The relationship is established through the shared children, who link both parents to each other. This is a classic blood-relation chain solved by mapping each clue sequentially. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q32 B

Ravi starts and walks 10 m north. Turning right from north means facing east; he walks 5 m east. Turning right again from east means facing south; he walks 10 m south, which exactly cancels the 10 m northward movement. His net displacement from the starting point is therefore 5 m due east — only the eastward 5 m leg remains uncancelled. Direction-sense problems are best solved by sketching movements on a grid and tracking net displacement in each direction. Hence, option (B) is correct.