

Daily Practice — Legal Reasoning · Logical Reasoning · Quantitative Techniques

Every question is passage-based, CLAT-2026 grade. Darken one bubble. Negative marking applies. Full solutions with examiner notes are in the companion answer sheet.

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SECTION — LEGAL REASONING

LEGAL PRINCIPLE — LEGAL CURRENT AFFAIRS · A BANK'S LETTER IS NOT 'LAW': LOOK OUT CIRCULARS, GUARANTORS AND ARTICLE 21 (Q1-Q4)

Article 21 of the Constitution provides that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. In *Satwant Singh Sawhney v. D. Ramarathnam* (1967) the Supreme Court held that the right to travel abroad is part of 'personal liberty', so the executive could not refuse a passport at its unguided discretion. In *Kharak Singh v. State of Uttar Pradesh* (1962) the Court had already held that police regulations without statutory backing are not 'law' for the purpose of curtailing personal liberty. In *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) it added that the procedure itself must be just, fair and reasonable: a restriction is valid only if it rests on law enacted by a competent legislature and that law prescribes a fair procedure. Applying these principles, the Madras High Court in October 2026 dismissed a bank's application for review of an order that had revoked a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against a guarantor of a large corporate loan. An LOC is an administrative alert asking immigration authorities to stop a person at the border. The LOC rested only on a bank official's letter to the Bureau of Immigration, and the bank conceded that it had lodged no complaint of fraud with any investigating agency. The Court held that 'law' under Article 21 means legislation, so a letter written by a bank cannot be 'law'; that a civil debt binds a person's money and property, not his body or movement; and that a borrower or guarantor does not mortgage his constitutional rights to the lender. The Court did not hold that a defaulter can never be stopped from travelling: a restriction imposed under a statute, through a fair procedure, for example where fraud is under criminal investigation, may still be valid. A review of a court's own order is a narrow remedy, confined to an error apparent on the face of the record or a similar sufficient reason; it is not a re-hearing of arguments already decided.

1. Kiran stood guarantor for a loan taken by a construction firm, which has defaulted. No complaint of fraud has been lodged against anyone. The lending bank's branch manager writes to the Bureau of Immigration asking that Kiran be stopped at any airport, and an LOC is issued on that letter alone. Kiran challenges the LOC. Applying the principle in the passage, the LOC:

- ☐ A. Is valid, because the lender is a nationalised bank and so is part of the State for the purposes of the fundamental rights in Part III of the Constitution
- ☐ B. Is invalid, because it restricts Kiran's personal liberty on the strength of a bank's letter, which is not law enacted by any legislature
- ☐ C. Is valid, because a guarantor who has undertaken to repay another's debt may fairly be required to stay in India until it is repaid
- ☐ D. Is invalid, because the right to travel abroad is absolute under Article 21 and cannot be restricted for any reason whatsoever

2. Meher, a director of a company that borrowed heavily, is being investigated by the police on a complaint that she diverted the loan money by forging invoices. Under a statute enacted by Parliament, a magistrate may, after notice and a hearing, direct an accused under investigation to surrender her passport. After hearing Meher, the magistrate so directs. Meher argues that the Madras High Court's ruling protects her. Her argument:

- ☐ A. Succeeds, because the High Court held that a person who owes money to a bank can never be prevented from leaving the country at all
- ☐ B. Succeeds, because any restriction on a borrower's travel abroad treats a commercial debt as though it were a criminal offence
- ☐ C. Fails, because once a loan has been diverted the borrower forfeits her right to travel abroad under Article 21 altogether
- ☐ D. Fails, because the restriction rests on a statute and a fair hearing, in a case of alleged fraud under criminal investigation

3. A government department issues a circular, not enacted by any legislature, authorising the chairpersons of public sector banks to request LOCs against any defaulter whose dues exceed Rs 50 crore. An LOC is issued against Farid, a defaulting guarantor, solely on such a request. No fraud is alleged. On the principles in the passage, the LOC is:

- ☐ A. Invalid, because the circular is an executive instrument and not law enacted by a legislature, so it cannot curtail personal liberty
- ☐ B. Valid, because the circular was issued by the government itself, and not by a private creditor writing to immigration on its own behalf alone
- ☐ C. Valid, because the Rs 50 crore threshold confines the power to large defaulters and so makes the procedure fair and reasonable
- ☐ D. Invalid, because the circular names bank chairpersons and not branch managers, who alone know the facts of each defaulted loan

4. After losing, the bank files a review application before the same judge. It raises no new fact and points to no mistake in the record; it argues only that the judge should have given greater weight to the public interest in recovering public money. On the principle in the passage, the review application should be:

- ☐ A. Allowed, because the recovery of public money is a matter of public interest that justifies the court hearing the matter again
- ☐ B. Allowed, because a court may always reconsider its own order whenever a party shows that a stronger argument was available to it
- ☐ C. Dismissed, because it seeks a re-hearing of an argument already decided and shows no error apparent on the face of the record
- ☐ D. Dismissed, because a review application can be filed only by the person whose fundamental right was restricted, not by a bank

LEGAL PRINCIPLE — LAW OF TORTS · DEFAMATION: PUBLICATION, REFERENCE AND THE DEFENCES OF FAIR COMMENT AND PRIVILEGE (Q5-Q9)

Defamation is the publication of a false statement that tends to lower a person in the estimation of right-thinking members of society, or to make them shun or avoid him. In a permanent form, such as writing or print, it is libel; in a transient form, such as spoken words, it is slander. The plaintiff must show that the statement was defamatory, that it referred to him, and that it was published that is communicated to some person other than the plaintiff. A letter sent to the plaintiff alone, and read by no one else, is not published. In *Mahendra Ram v. Harnandan Prasad* (1958) the Patna High Court held a defendant liable for sending a defamatory letter in Urdu to a plaintiff who could not read Urdu, because the defendant knew that some third person would have to read it out to him. A



made by a husband to his own wife, or by a wife to her own husband, is not publication; but a statement about the plaintiff made to the plaintiff's spouse is. The defendant's intention is irrelevant to reference: in *Hulton v. Jones* (1910) a newspaper was liable to a real Artemus Jones for a sketch about a fictitious person of that name, because readers reasonably took it to refer to him. Three defences are central. Justification: substantial truth is a complete defence in a civil action. Fair comment: an honest opinion on a matter of public interest, based on facts that are true, is protected however harsh, but the defence does not cover an assertion of fact. Privilege: statements made in Parliament or in the course of judicial proceedings enjoy absolute privilege; a statement made in the discharge of a duty to a person who has a corresponding interest in receiving it enjoys qualified privilege, which is lost if the maker acted with malice or published it more widely than the duty required.

5. Arun writes a letter to his neighbour Bhola accusing him of stealing electricity from the society's meter. The accusation is false. Arun seals the letter and posts it to Bhola, who reads it alone and, furious, shows it to five friends to prove how he is being insulted. Bhola sues Arun for libel. Bhola will:

- ☐ A. Succeed, because the letter is in writing and so is a libel, which is actionable whether or not anyone other than Bhola reads it
- ☐ B. Succeed, because the accusation reached five friends, and Arun ought to have foreseen that an angry neighbour might show it around
- ☐ C. Fail, because Arun communicated the statement only to Bhola, and Bhola's own showing of the letter is not publication by Arun
- ☐ D. Fail, because an accusation of stealing electricity concerns a minor civic matter and cannot lower anyone in the eyes of others

6. Seema knows that her elderly tenant, Ram Lal, cannot read English and has his letters read to him by the local postmaster. She writes to Ram Lal in English, falsely stating that he is a known swindler who cheats shopkeepers, and posts it. As usual the postmaster reads it aloud to him. Ram Lal sues. Seema is:

- ☐ A. Liable, because she knew a third person would have to read the letter to Ram Lal, so its communication to that person was published
- ☐ B. Not liable, because the letter was addressed only to Ram Lal, and a letter sent to the plaintiff alone is never a publication at all in law
- ☐ C. Not liable, because it was the postmaster, and not Seema, who chose to read the letter aloud and so communicated its contents
- ☐ D. Liable, but only for slander, because the words reached the postmaster's ears by being read out aloud rather than on paper

7. Over dinner, Vikram falsely tells his wife Neha that their neighbour Kunal is a drug dealer. The next day Vikram writes the same thing in a note that he hands to Kunal's wife, Priya. Kunal sues Vikram. Which statement is correct?

- ☐ A. Vikram is liable for both statements, because each was a false imputation of crime communicated to a person other than Kunal
- ☐ B. Vikram is liable for neither statement, because a statement made to a married person is treated as made to the couple as one
- ☐ C. Vikram is liable only for the remark to Neha, because a note handed to Kunal's own wife is in law the same as a note to Kunal
- ☐ D. Vikram is liable only for the note to Priya, because a statement to one's own spouse is not publication but one to his is

8. A film critic writes in a national magazine: 'Director Rohan Mehra lifted the entire screenplay of his new film from an unpublished novel by his former assistant. The film itself is a tedious, self-indulgent bore.' The claim about the screenplay is false; the critic genuinely holds the opinion about the film. Mehra sues for libel. Which statement is correct?

- ☐ A. The critic is protected on both statements by fair comment, since a new film by a well-known director is a matter of public interest
- ☐ B. The critic is liable for both statements, because fair comment cannot protect any review that is so harsh about a director's work
- ☐ C. The critic is liable for the plagiarism claim, which is a false assertion of fact, but protected by fair comment on the opinion
- ☐ D. The critic is protected by justification on the plagiarism claim, since the opinion about the film shows his review was honest

9. Ms Rao, a shop owner, dismissed her cashier Tarun and, honestly but wrongly believing he had stolen from the till, wrote 'dismissed for theft' in a confidential reference requested by a firm considering hiring him. A week later she posted the same words on her shop's public social-media page. Tarun had stolen nothing. Tarun sues. On the principles in the passage, Ms Rao is:

- ☐ A. Not liable for the reference, which is covered by qualified privilege, but liable for the post, which went far beyond any duty
- ☐ B. Liable for both, because the statement was false, and an honest belief cannot excuse a false accusation of theft against anyone
- ☐ C. Not liable for either, because she honestly believed the accusation, and honest belief is the essence of every defence here
- ☐ D. Liable for the reference, which was in writing and so a libel, but not for the post, which was only a passing online remark

SECTION — LOGICAL REASONING

LOGICAL REASONING — INFERENCE · THE HOSPITAL THAT PHONED ITS DISCHARGED PATIENTS (Q10-Q13)

In January a district hospital began telephoning every patient 48 hours after discharge from its general wards. A nurse asked about medicines, symptoms and follow-up visits, and arranged an early review where needed. In the six months before the change, 14 per cent of patients discharged from these wards were readmitted within 30 days. In the six months after it, the hospital reached 70 per cent of discharged patients by phone, and their 30-day readmission rate was 9 per cent. The other 30 per cent, whose numbers were wrong, switched off or unanswered after three attempts, were readmitted at a rate of 18 per cent. The number of discharges was nearly the same in both periods, and the hospital made no other change to its discharge procedures.

10. Which of the following must be true on the basis of the information given?

- ☐ A. The calls caused the readmission rate of the patients who were reached to fall by five percentage points within the six months
- ☐ B. The overall 30-day readmission rate for discharged patients was lower in the six months after the change than in the six before
- ☐ C. The patients whom the hospital could not reach were, on average, older than the patients whom the hospital did reach by phone
- ☐ D. Had every discharged patient been reached by phone, the overall readmission rate after the change would have been 9 per cent

11. Each of the following can be validly concluded from the information EXCEPT:

- ☐ A. More than a quarter of the patients discharged in the six months after the change could not be reached by the hospital by phone at all
- ☐ B. In the six months after the change, the patients who were reached had a lower readmission rate than those who were not
- ☐ C. By themselves, the calls cut the readmission rate of the patients who were reached by exactly five percentage points in six months
- ☐ D. The overall readmission rate in the six months after the change was below 12 per cent of all the patients who were discharged



12. Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information?

- ☐ A. The calls made the patients who could not be reached more likely to be readmitted, by diverting nurses from the wards to the phones every day
- ☐ B. The hospital's readmission rate would have risen to 18 per cent for every patient if it had made no calls to anyone after January
- ☐ C. The patients the hospital could not reach differed in some way from the average discharged patient and were not a random cross-section
- ☐ D. The hospital should stop trying to reach patients whose numbers are switched off and concentrate on those who answer at once

13. Suppose the 18 per cent rate of the patients who could not be reached is simply the usual rate for patients like them, unaffected by the programme, and that the two groups made up the same shares of discharges before the change. Which inference then follows?

- ☐ A. The calls cut the readmission rate of the patients they reached by five percentage points, from 14 per cent to 9 per cent
- ☐ B. The calls cut the readmission rate of the patients they reached by about three percentage points, from about 12.3 per cent
- ☐ C. The calls had no effect on readmissions at all, because the overall rate after the change was still well above 9 per cent
- ☐ D. The calls cut the overall readmission rate by about four percentage points, from 14 per cent to about 10 per cent across all patients

LOGICAL REASONING — PARADOX · MORE PUBLIC TOILETS, MORE COMPLAINTS (Q14–Q17)

Last year the Ranipur municipal corporation built 300 public toilets in its markets and bus stands, where open urination had long been the commonest civic complaint. Each toilet is free to use, is cleaned four times a day and has an attendant. Yet in the twelve months since the toilets opened, the number of complaints about open urination received by the corporation's civic helpline has more than doubled compared with the twelve months before. Over the same period, field inspectors who walk fixed routes through the same markets and bus stands every day report seeing people urinating in the open noticeably less often than they did before the toilets were built.

14. Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent discrepancy described above?

- ☐ A. Many of the people who now use the new toilets are traders and drivers who used to relieve themselves in the open near their stalls and stands
- ☐ B. The corporation spent considerably more than it had budgeted on building the toilets, and had to defer the repair of several roads
- ☐ C. Most of the new toilets were built at the busiest markets, where open urination had been seen most often before the toilets opened
- ☐ D. Every new toilet carries a large board giving the helpline number and inviting citizens to report any open urination they see nearby

15. Each of the following, if true, helps to explain the rise in complaints despite the inspectors' reports EXCEPT:

- ☐ A. Last year the helpline began accepting complaints with photographs on a messaging app, whereas earlier it took calls only on a landline
- ☐ B. The attendants at the new toilets have been asked to report every case of open urination they see nearby, and do so through the helpline
- ☐ C. Since the toilets opened, the helpline records each complaint about the same spot as a separate entry instead of merging them
- ☐ D. The toilets are used most heavily in the morning, when traders arrive to open their stalls and commuters crowd the bus stands

16. Which of the following, if true, would make the discrepancy hardest to explain?

- ☐ A. The helpline received complaints through the same channels and recorded them in the same way in both years, and the toilets display no notice about it
- ☐ B. The field inspectors walked longer routes in the year after the toilets opened, covering several markets that they had not visited in any of the earlier years
- ☐ C. Residents of the city were, according to a survey, more satisfied with the cleanliness of the markets after the toilets opened than they were before
- ☐ D. The number of people visiting the markets and bus stands each day was about the same in the year after the toilets opened as in the year before

17. Which of the following, if true, would resolve the discrepancy WITHOUT implying any change in how readily citizens complain about a given incident?

- ☐ A. Citizens have become more aware of hygiene after a campaign on the radio, and are therefore far less willing to ignore open urination
- ☐ B. The helpline's new software, introduced along with the toilets, makes filing a complaint quicker and lets callers remain anonymous if they wish
- ☐ C. The inspectors walk their routes between 10 am and 5 pm, while the toilets close at 9 pm and most open urination now occurs late at night
- ☐ D. Local newspapers have published the helpline number every week since the toilets opened, encouraging readers to call it regularly

SECTION — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

QUANT — TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE · BAR/LINE GRAPH DI · PASSENGER TRAFFIC AT FOUR AIRPORTS IN A STATE (Q18–Q21)

A state's civil aviation department publishes a grouped bar graph of annual passenger traffic, in lakh passengers, at the four airports in the state over three years, together with a line showing what percentage of each airport's 2024–25 traffic travelled on international flights. The table reproduces the values plotted. Growth of an airport over a period means the change in its traffic as a percentage of its traffic at the start of that period. International passengers at an airport are its total traffic multiplied by its international share. The department uses the graph to decide which airports need new terminals and to project future traffic.

Airport	2022–23 (lakh passengers)	2023–24 (lakh passengers)	2024–25 (lakh passengers)	International share of 2024–25 traffic (%)
P	120	150	180	20
Q	80	96	108	25
R	60	66	93	10



Airport	2022-23 (lakh passengers)	2023-24 (lakh passengers)	2024-25 (lakh passengers)	International share of 2024-25 traffic (%)
S	40	48	42	5

18. Which airport recorded the highest percentage growth in passenger traffic from 2022-23 to 2024-25?
- ☐ A. Airport R
- ☐ B. Airport P
- ☐ C. Airport Q
- ☐ D. Both P and R equally
19. By what percentage did the combined passenger traffic of the four airports grow from 2023-24 to 2024-25?
- ☐ A. 17.5%
- ☐ B. 14.89%
- ☐ C. 15.2%
- ☐ D. 20.0%
20. How many lakh international passengers did the four airports handle in 2024-25 taken together?
- ☐ A. 63.45 lakh
- ☐ B. 74.4 lakh
- ☐ C. 63.0 lakh
- ☐ D. 84.6 lakh
21. Suppose Airport P's traffic keeps growing every year at the same percentage at which it grew from 2023-24 to 2024-25. In which year will P's annual traffic first exceed 300 lakh passengers?
- ☐ A. 2025-26
- ☐ B. 2026-27
- ☐ C. 2028-29 or later
- ☐ D. 2027-28

QUANT — ENERGY & POWER · CASELET REASONING · A HOUSING SOCIETY'S ROOFTOP SOLAR PLANT (Q22-Q26)

A housing society installs a rooftop solar plant. The table gives the plant's details. Each kW of capacity generates 1,500 units of electricity a year. Because most solar power is produced in the daytime, the society can use at most 48,000 solar units a year directly; every solar unit beyond that is exported to the grid, and the distribution company pays the society Rs 4 for each exported unit. Every solar unit used directly replaces a unit that would otherwise have been bought from the grid at Rs 8. The society's net electricity expenditure for a year means its payment for grid units minus its earnings from exported units. Ignore taxes, loss of output over time and the time value of money unless a question says otherwise.

Item	Value
Plant capacity	40 kW
Generation per kW per year	1,500 units
Installed cost	Rs 50,000 per kW
State subsidy	20% of installed cost
Solar units the society can use directly per year (maximum)	48,000 units
Society's annual electricity consumption	78,000 units
Grid tariff paid by the society	Rs 8 per unit
Rate paid for units exported to the grid	Rs 4 per unit

22. How many units of electricity does the plant generate in a year?
- ☐ A. 48,000 units
- ☐ B. 60,000 units
- ☐ C. 78,000 units
- ☐ D. 6,00,000 units
23. What is the total annual monetary benefit to the society from the plant, counting both the grid purchases it avoids and its earnings from exports?
- ☐ A. Rs 4.80 lakh
- ☐ B. Rs 3.84 lakh
- ☐ C. Rs 4.32 lakh
- ☐ D. Rs 2.40 lakh
24. The plant costs Rs 32,000 a year to clean and maintain. Counting the subsidy, how long will the society take to recover its own investment from the plant's annual benefit net of maintenance?
- ☐ A. 4 years
- ☐ B. 3 years 8 months
- ☐ C. 5 years
- ☐ D. 4 years 6 months
25. By what percentage does the plant reduce the society's annual net electricity expenditure, correct to one decimal place (ignore maintenance)?
- ☐ A. 61.5%
- ☐ B. 69.2%
- ☐ C. 76.9%
- ☐ D. 64.1%
26. The society wants to add capacity so that its earnings from exports exactly equal its payment for grid units, making its net electricity expenditure zero. Since it already uses 48,000 solar units directly, all additional generation would be exported. How many kW of capacity must it add?
- ☐ A. 40 kW
- ☐ B. 32 kW
- ☐ C. 20 kW
- ☐ D. 12 kW

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

7 quick questions · not negatively marked

- Which case held that the right to travel abroad is part of personal liberty? _____
- Defamation in a permanent form, such as print, is called what? _____
- Is a defamatory remark made by a husband to his own wife a publication? _____
- Airport R's traffic rose from 60 to 93 lakh. Percentage growth? _____
- Which case held police regulations without statutory backing are not 'law'? _____
- Maneka Gandhi (1978) — what must the procedure under Article 21 be? _____
- Under Article 21, 'law' means what, as the Madras High Court held? _____

