

PART A

Passage A

Trying to imagine a post-Covid artistic universe while we are facing a new virus variant is risky, but we need to begin thinking of that possibility. Since March 2020, our minds have been stuck, cemented to the present and the immediate past.

In this two-year span when our social media face became our real self, portfolios conjured by social media, such as Content Creator and Influencer, have become much more impactful. People who are adorned with these titles behave in an artist-like manner and produce things that have a semblance to art. But are they artists, and are they creating art? We have to differentiate between the artist and the content creator. All artists are content creators, but all content creators are not artists. The influencer, at times, is an upgraded content creator. Someone who has garnered enough attention and influence to monetise his status effectively. Many artists are not sure which category's membership they seek. They would like to be artists who create content but the last two years have shown that the qualities of artistry can be sacrificed at the altar of content that has potential for virality.

Where is the art in all this? Some may believe that this discussion is high-brow elitism. Do we artists not need to ponder over the ethics of art creation, its social positionality and emotional energy? Let us not conflate the digital medium with the social media circus. They are not the same. Within our respective genres, we have to question the influential social media environment. It is amusing that even those who agree that social media manipulates our emotional status, picks on our vulnerabilities and accentuates divisions are unable to see that algorithms do exactly the same thing to art.

What about artists who have been unable to work this numerically orchestrated hidden mechanism? They have been left behind only because they do not know how to play this game. Are we going to just say they lost out because they didn't adapt? It is our responsibility to take care of them and ensure that injustice is not meted out.

There is no one art world; there are worlds around and within worlds. Many of these remain in local clusters, unseen and unheard by the mainstream powerful socio-cultural brokers. Artists who belong to these art worlds have been struggling to keep their artistry alive. Their lives came to a standstill in 2020. With public spaces becoming "no-entry" zones, these artists remained at home, unable to sing, dance or act. This caused emotional distress and economic ruin. There has been no mind space or incentive to train, imagine and create.

I also have this lurking fear that "public spaces" will become more and more out of bounds. I am not questioning the need for restrictions during Covid. But we all know that the Indian political establishment has always wanted control over public spaces. The pandemic may have provided them with the perfect excuse to further limit our access.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from T.M. Krishna, "Art, Virus and the Algorithm," *The Indian Express*, January 7, 2022]

1. Which of the following most accurately describes what the phrase 'high-brow,' as used in the passage, means?
 - a. Menial
 - b. Upper caste
 - c. Intellectual or rarefied
 - d. Unmusical
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2. Assume that a hypothetical country has a constitution that includes provisions that allocate the power to deal with various matters amongst the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the state. The constitution is the highest law of the land, and all state authorities must act in accordance with its provisions.

The constitution provides that the legislature has the sole authority and discretion to make new laws, and the judiciary has the power to resolve disputes according to the law, in the course of doing which, it may also interpret laws. Ranga, a folk artist, suffered enormous economic hardship during the lockdowns necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. He approaches the court and argues that it is the state's responsibility to support folk artists such as himself. The legislature must, he argues, pass a law providing economic support to all artists who have suffered economic distress as a result of the lockdowns. Which of the following would be most accurate in this context?

- a. The court can order the legislature to pass such a law, since the preservation of our folk-art forms is critical. If the legislature does not act by itself in such important matters, the judiciary can step in and force the legislature to do so.
 - b. The court cannot order the legislature to pass such a law, since the legislature alone has the power to make new laws. Deciding what laws to pass is a necessary part of such a power, and if the court were to order the legislature to pass any new law, it would be acting beyond the scope of its own power.
 - c. The court cannot order the legislature to pass such a law, since new laws cannot be passed on the request of a single individual. Ranga should gather more suffering artists and approach the court again.
 - d. The court can pass such an order, since helping those in need, particularly artists who are undergoing economic hardship and distress, is the same thing as interpreting legal provisions, and the judiciary alone has the power to do so under the constitution.
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3. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following best explains why the author says that “artists who have been unable to work this numerically orchestrated hidden mechanism” have been “left behind”?

- a. Artists who play acoustic instruments are no longer in demand, and as a result, acoustic instrumental music has become unpopular.
- b. Artists who are unable to determine how algorithms used in digital media work, are unable to present their works to a large audience, and they fall into obscurity.
- c. Artists whose music does not conform to rigid mathematical structures, such as those seen in electronic music, will not be able to survive in the modern era.
- d. Audiences now prefer orchestral music rather than works by solo artists, and as a result, artists who are unable to compose orchestral music in the digital medium have become unpopular.

4. The author of this passage, T.M. Krishna recently filed a petition in the Madras High Court challenging a set of legal regulations that he alleged were in violation of the rights of Indian citizens. Which law did he challenge?

- a. The Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.
- b. The Information Technology (Guidelines for Intermediaries and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- c. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.
- d. Laws that impose the death penalty.

5. Based on the author's argument on artists, content creators, and influencers, which of the following is most accurate?

- a. An artist can be an influencer.
- b. An influencer cannot be an artist.
- c. All content creators are influencers.
- d. All artists are influencers.

6. Which of the following media platforms has the highest number of users?

- a. Facebook
- b. YouTube
- c. TikTok
- d. WhatsApp

7. Which of the following statements most accurately and comprehensively communicates the author's main idea in the passage above?
- The digital medium and social media have had an adverse impact on art and artists. It is important that a space be created for artists who are unable to work in the digital medium to showcase their work, so that it can reach a larger audience.
 - Art and art forms change continuously, and those who argue that artists should not change their methods of working, or that they should not develop pathbreaking new works, are guilty of high-brow elitism.
 - Public spaces have been frivolously wasted in supporting artistic activities for too long, and the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that such spaces should always be kept in readiness to address severe medical emergencies, rather than being used for art and entertainment.
 - The increasing importance of the digital medium and social media, and lack of access to public spaces necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic have affected both art and artists in many ways, and many artists have suffered as a result of not being able to understand or work in the digital space.
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8. Who amongst the following won a Grammy Award in 2022?
- Falguni Pathak
 - Ricky Kej
 - Kusha Kapila
 - A.R. Rahman
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9. Which of the following, if true, would be a positive outcome for artists resulting from the lack of access to public spaces, and would contradict the author's statements in this regard?
- The lack of public access has meant that most artists are losing out on opportunities to perform and earn a living; consequently, they will not be able to pursue their art anymore.
 - The lack of public access has prevented interactions between artists, as a result of which they are not able to exchange ideas, and their art forms will stultify and wither away.
 - The lack of access to public spaces has resulted in the widespread adoption of digital media by artists because of which they can perform whenever and for whomever they want; as a result, they are no longer constrained by the Indian political establishment's control over public spaces.
 - Artists rely on ticket sales for their livelihood and earn very little from recording sessions or record sales.
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10. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has led the global response to the pandemic. Who is the Director General of the WHO?
- Dr. Anthony Fauci
 - Dr. Harsh Vardhan
 - Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
 - Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
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Passage B

Beware the danger of what I call Feminism Lite. It is the idea of conditional female equality. Please reject this entirely. It is a hollow, appeasing and bankrupt idea. Being a feminist is like being pregnant. You either are or you are not. You either believe in the full equality of men and women or you do not.

Feminism Lite uses analogies like 'he is the head and you are the neck'. Or 'he is driving but you are in the front seat'. More troubling is the idea, in Feminism Lite, that men are naturally superior but should be expected to 'treat women well'. No. No. No. There must be more than male benevolence as the basis for a woman's well-being.

Feminism Lite uses the language of 'allowing'. Theresa May is the British prime minister and here is how a progressive British newspaper described her husband: 'Philip May is known in politics as a man who has taken a back seat and allowed his wife, Theresa, to shine.'

Allowed.

Now let us reverse it. Theresa May has allowed her husband to shine. Does it make sense? If Philip May were prime minister, perhaps we might hear that his wife had 'supported' him from the background, or that she was 'behind' him, or that she'd 'stood by his side', but we would never hear that she had 'allowed' him to shine.

Allow is a troubling word. *Allow* is about power.

Do you remember how we laughed and laughed at an atrociously written piece about me some years ago? The writer had accused me of being 'angry', as though 'being angry' were something to be ashamed of. Of course I am angry. I am angry about racism. I am angry about sexism. But I recently came to the realisation that I am angrier about sexism than I am about racism.

Because in my anger about sexism, I often feel lonely. Because I love, and live among, many people who easily acknowledge race injustice but not gender injustice.

I cannot tell you how often people I care about – men and women – have expected me to make a case for sexism, to ‘prove’ it, as it were, while never having the same expectation for racism. (Obviously, in the wider world, too many people are still expected to ‘prove’ racism, but not in my close circle.)

But here is a sad truth: our world is full of men and women who do not like powerful women. We have been so conditioned to think of power as male that a powerful woman is an aberration. And so she is policed. We ask of powerful women – is she humble? Does she smile? Is she grateful enough? Does she have a domestic side? Questions we do not ask of powerful men, which shows that our discomfort is not with power itself, but with women. We judge powerful women more harshly than we judge powerful men. And Feminism Lite enables this.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Dear Ijeawele: A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions* (4th Estate, London, 2017)].

11. Which of the following most accurately and completely describes the author’s criticism of Feminism Lite’s language of ‘allowing’?
- It suggests that racism is more readily recognised in the world than sexism.
 - It suggests that a man has to seek his wife’s support prior to standing for political office.
 - It suggests that men are more powerful than women because they are supported by women.
 - It implies that the question of what rights a woman should have depends upon the kindness of men.
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12. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author’s argument regarding how we treat women in power?
- Women in power are expected to behave according to prevailing stereotypes and are criticised when they do not meet these expectations. Men in power often get away with a lot more and are not expected to conform to stereotypes.
 - Women in power are accorded a much higher degree of respect than powerful men and are expected to act solely in accordance with their office and responsibilities, rather than in accordance with prevailing stereotypes.
 - We are afraid of women in power, and that is why we try to ignore them. As a result, they escape scrutiny, and can get away with a lot more than powerful men.
 - Women in power often have a much more difficult time fulfilling their responsibilities, since they have not received the same opportunities to prepare for high office that men may have.
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13. Recently, Chimamanda Adichie has defended another author in relation to transphobic remarks. Who is this other author?
- Enid Blyton
 - Margaret Atwood
 - J. K. Rowling
 - Neil Gaiman
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14. Assume the Government passes a law called *The Gender Equality Act, 2022* (the “Equality Act”) on February 3, 2022. Section 2 of the Equality Act states:

“Section 2. – No person shall be denied equal opportunity for employment, or treated in a discriminatory or unfair manner on grounds of gender or sex.”

Kimmy is a Sales Manager at a private company, and was appointed to that position on December 12, 2019. On February 1, 2022, her company announced a new rule, according to which it would only retain in employment such women employees who have children; women employees who do not have children would be terminated from employment. The company’s management states that in their experience, women who have children are more mature and patient, and make better employees. Since Kimmy does not have any children, and does not want to lose her job, she decides to challenge the company’s new rule in a court. Which of the following would be the strongest argument for Kimmy to make?

- The company’s new rule does not violate Section 2 of the Equality Act. Since it was announced before the new law was passed, the Equality Act would not apply to the rule.
 - The company’s new rule does not violate Section 2 of the Equality Act. Since it is not discriminating against all women, the rule cannot be said to be discriminatory or unfair “on grounds of gender or sex.”
 - The company’s new rule violates Section 2 of the Equality Act. Kimmy wishes to continue in her job but cannot do so as a result of the rule. It is therefore unfair and discriminatory.
 - The company’s new rule violates Section 2 of the Equality Act. The rule applies only to women and not men and is therefore both discriminatory against and unfair to women.
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15. Who is the author of the first Hindi-language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize?
- Arundhati Roy
 - Geetanjali Shree
 - Kiran Desai
 - Anita Desai
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16. Which of the following most accurately describes what the word 'policed' as used in the passage means?
- a. Monitored and scrutinised
 - b. Ignored
 - c. Approached with caution and reverence
 - d. Immured in secrecy
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17. Assuming each of the following is true, which statement would support the Feminism Lite idea that "men are naturally superior but should be expected to 'treat women well'"?
- a. The only way in which the disempowered can attain well-being is to grab what they need without warning or asking those in power, since those in power would always fiercely guard what they have.
 - b. The only way in which the disempowered can attain well-being is to first receive it through the benevolence of the empowered; once they have some ability, they can then gain more power over time.
 - c. Those in power never give up their power to others, and men who pretend to care about the well-being of women do not actually live up to their promises.
 - d. Men have always been disempowered, and so, it is important that women cede some power to them, to achieve the feminist idea of equality between men and women.
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18. Which of the following most accurately describes the author's arguments about power in the passage above?
- a. We have been made to think that power is a female attribute, and that is why so many cultures across the world worship female deities.
 - b. We think that power can only be achieved by violent means, and we therefore judge people who try to achieve it by peaceful means very harshly.
 - c. We have been made to believe that power is a male attribute, and therefore, we are much more critical of and harsh about women who have power.
 - d. Society has taught us to think that a man cannot have any power unless his wife allows him to. We therefore also think that a man cannot be powerful unless he is married.
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19. Which prominent Indian feminist scholar/activist passed away in 2021?
- a. Justice Leila Seth
 - b. Dr. Vina Mazumdar
 - c. Hansa Mehta
 - d. Kamla Bhasin
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Passage C

Mangal Sunani, a villager from Komna district, was thrilled. The government was giving him a miracle cow which would greatly reduce his poverty. The cow would be impregnated with Jersey semen – brought all the way from Pune and elsewhere. So it could, over three years, make him the proud owner of several bulls and high-yield milch cows.

A little later, Sunani was even more grateful. The government had given him an acre of land free. On this, he was to grow subabul trees to provide fodder for the cattle he would soon possess. There were thirty-eight such beneficiaries in his village. The government had targeted them for a major dairy development scheme aimed at reducing poverty.

The beneficiaries were ecstatic when they learned they would also be paid the minimum wage to work on the free land, growing those trees. The project, called ‘Samanwita’, evolved around 1978. By the early ‘80s, it was in full swing.

The authorities, like everybody else pushing the scheme, were committed to their purpose. The idea was to create a new, higher breed of cattle. Impurities, in any degree, were not welcome. How then to ensure that all the cows given to the beneficiaries received only Jersey semen and none other?

This dilemma weighed heavily on the minds of those involved. What if those cows mated with local studs? They decided to prevent the cows from crossing with local bulls. That would ensure the purity of the future race. So, according to Bishwamber Joshi, principal of the high school at Komna, local bulls were subjected to a massive castration drive. ‘The livestock inspector relentlessly castrated all bulls in the region,’ he says. ‘Then, they resorted to artificial insemination of the cows with Jersey semen.’

Two years and Rs. 2 crores later, says Jagdish Pradhan, ‘just eight crossbred calves were born in the entire region. Not one extra litre of milk was produced. And subabul trees had vanished from the area, though they were planted in thousands.’

[1] A decade later, the result are even more stark: many villages across Komna are without a single studs bull. [1] The castration drive has rendered the local ‘Khariar bull’ extinct.

What upsets the villages most is that the employment is over. ‘The land is back with the government,’ says Sunani. ‘A revenue official came and told us to vacate it. So the thirty-eight acres now lie fallow.’

‘The project is one of many that brought disaster locally,’ says Pradhan. ‘The people marked out as “targets” are never consulted. There was no demand for a dairy project here. The authorities never realised that people were interested in employment and not in the subabul tree.’

As he points out, no one in power ever took a critical look at the claims of the sponsoring agencies. Nobody asked: Why do we need a dairy project in a milk-surplus district? Much less did anyone in authority wonder or worry about where the Khariar bull had disappeared to.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from P. Sainath, *Everybody Loves a Good Drought: Stories from India's Poorest Districts* (Penguin Books, New Delhi, 1996)].

20. What is India's rank out of 109 countries in the *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2021*?
- a. 98
 - b. 35
 - c. 66
 - d. 85
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21. Which of the following measures, assuming they were all feasible, could have achieved the authorities' goal of creating a new, higher breed of cattle without subjecting the Khariar bulls to a castration drive?
- a. Instead of promoting the farming of subabul trees, the authorities could have permitted the local farmers to grow vegetables on the free land that was provided to them.
 - b. The people of Komna could have been provided a diversity of employment opportunities, in addition to being provided skill-development programmes that could have prepared them for such opportunities.
 - c. The eight crossbred calves that were born in the region could have been better looked-after, and their owners could have been provided access to leading veterinary doctors and the best available medicines.
 - d. Cows could have been penned separately from the local bulls and closely monitored to prevent any intermingling between them. They could have been artificially inseminated with Jersey semen exclusively.
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22. The sentence enclosed within '[1]' in the seventh paragraph of the passage above has one or more grammatical errors. Which of the following versions of the sentence would be grammatically correct?
- a. A decade later, the results are even more stark: many villages across Komna are without a single studs bull.
 - b. A decade later, the results are even more stark: many villages across Komna are without a single stud bull.
 - c. A decade later, the result are even more stark: many village across Komna are without a single studs bull.
 - d. A decade later, the result are even more stark: many village across Komna are without a single stud bull.
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23. If Jagadish Pradhan's critique of the Samanwita project, as set out in the passage above, is accurate, then which of the following conclusions must necessarily follow?
- Had the authorities not subjected the local Khariar bulls to a castration drive, they could have avoided a disaster in Komna.
 - Had the authorities not brought cows impregnated with Jersey semen to Komna, they could have avoided a disaster in the area.
 - Had the authorities bothered to find out what the people in Komna really wanted, they could have avoided causing a catastrophe in the area.
 - Had the authorities not offered to pay farmers the minimum wage to grow subabul trees, they could have avoided a catastrophe in the area.
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24. Based on the information provided in the passage above, which of the following most accurately explains why the local bulls in Komna were subjected to a castration drive?
- The local bulls were turning unruly and violent, which posed a threat to the progress of the Samanwita project. The authorities castrated them in the hope that this would cause them to behave in a more docile manner.
 - The authorities felt that the cattle population in the area was too high. To control the rampant increase in the number of cattle, they subjected the local bulls to a massive castration drive.
 - The authorities wanted to ensure that the cows given to the beneficiaries were not impregnated by the local bulls, as this would prevent the creation of a higher breed of cattle.
 - The Samanwita project promoted the cultivation of subabul trees to provide fodder for the special cattle that the government was giving to the beneficiaries, and for the offspring of such cattle. The local bulls were consuming all the subabul leaves, and so, the authorities subjected them to a castration drive in an effort to reduce their appetite.
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25. What is the name of the umbrella organisation of farmers' unions that spearheaded the large-scale protests at New Delhi's borders against reforms to India's farm laws?
- Samyukt Kisan Morcha
 - Shetkari Sanghatana
 - Kisan Sena
 - Bharatiya Kisan Union
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26. Based on the information in the passage above, which of the following could the authorities have done to prevent the events that caused the villages to be most upset?
- Provide them more cows impregnated with Jersey semen.
 - Provide the villagers continuing employment in some form.
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- c. Provide them land that they could use to grow food for themselves.
 - d. Not castrate the local bulls.
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27. Bhuneshwar is a cattle farmer who owns about thirty cows and bulls. He makes a living by selling cows' milk, and by selling bulls to other farmers. In September 2021 the Government passes a law called *The Cattle Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2021* (the "**Cattle Trade Act**"). Section 2 of the Act states:

"Section 2. – Cows, bulls, calves, and oxen may only be sold in Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee-managed markets ("**APMC Markets**"). Any sale of such livestock outside APMC Markets is prohibited."

In October 2021, Rameshwar, Bhuneshwar's old friend, approached Bhuneshwar at his farm. Rameshwar requested Bhuneshwar to give him a bull, so that he could plough his fields easily. Rameshwar promised to look after the bull well, and Bhuneshwar agreed. The local Agricultural Produce and Livestock Market Committee ("**APMC**") heard about this and claimed that Bhuneshwar had violated Section 2 of the Cattle Trade Act. Which of the following is most accurate in this context?

- a. Since Bhuneshwar gave Rameshwar the bull at his farm, rather than at the APMC Market, he violated Section 2 of the Cattle Trade Act.
 - b. Bhuneshwar gave the bull to Rameshwar, but there is no indication that he had sold it to Rameshwar. As such, he did not violate Section 2 of the Cattle Trade Act.
 - c. Rameshwar had approached Bhuneshwar at the farm, and so, it is Rameshwar who violated Section 2 of the Cattle Trade Act, rather than Bhuneshwar.
 - d. Since ploughing a field is a critical aspect of farming, Rameshwar's need would take priority over the provisions of the Cattle Trade Act. Given this, even though Bhuneshwar violated Section 2 of the Cattle Trade Act, he should not be punished, since he was only helping Rameshwar in this critical endeavour.
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28. What is the occupation of the author of this piece, P. Sainath?

- a. Professor of Law
 - b. Journalist
 - c. Agricultural scientist
 - d. Former Bureaucrat
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Passage D

It's a make-or-break time for the world. When leaders gather in Glasgow, Scotland, for the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), they meet with the recognition that time has run out.

COP26, though delayed by a year due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic — has the task to rework its own agenda and functioning.

But the fact is negotiations on climate change are going nowhere. If you read the papers prepared by the secretariat of UNFCCC, you would understand that these are written by people from another planet.

Over the past few decades, climate negotiations have been ossified to such an extent that they have kind of lost their purpose. A myriad of committees, institutions and funds have been set up purportedly to manage climate change — but this maze is just full of papers and wordage.

COP26's top agenda should be to reclaim its leadership and voice to rebuild the trust of people — both rich and poor. This means making the agenda for action clearer and much more focused on what needs to be done — now, not even tomorrow.

The Paris Agreement may be lauded by rich countries because it managed to expunge any mention of historical emissions; it may be celebrated because it said that any discussion on loss and damage cannot be seen as a way to affix liability or to demand compensation; it may be the best treaty achieved because it allowed countries to set low and inadequate national targets and because it did nothing to finance adaptation or mitigation.

But it does not matter. In five years, events have overtaken the Paris Agreement.

The fact is that the carbon budget of the world has been appropriated by a few countries and only crumbs are available for the rest of the world. This part of the world will need to exercise its right to development and in the process will exceed the available budget. This means, all will be at risk in an interdependent world.

We know countries like India must not make the same mistakes that the already-rich have made. The world needs to secure pathways for low-carbon growth and to pay for this transformation in the still developing world. Finger-pointing and shaming the emerging world for future and inevitable emissions will cut no ice with them. At COP26, we need to confront the reality of this inequity and ensure that it is addressed.

The elephant in the room is finance—this is where the discussions must be on adaptation and on loss and damage. We do not need rocket science to calculate the crippling losses being suffered by countries and communities because of climate change-induced extreme weather events. This is why COP26 must not be lost to prevarication in negotiations and to

pusillanimous leaders. Let's hope that this COP stands out and is counted as different. It is the order of our times.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Sunita Narain, "COP 26: World is on the line at Glasgow," *Down to Earth*, 27 October, 2021]

29. Based on the information provided in the passage above, which of the following statements is the author least likely to disagree with?
- The world should have distributed more of the carbon budget to developed countries since they emit more carbon.
 - The world should not have considered creating a carbon budget at all.
 - The world's carbon budget has been equitably distributed.
 - The world's carbon budget has been inequitably distributed.
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30. Which of the following most accurately describes the author's criticism of the Paris Agreement?
- The Agreement highlighted the concerns of poorer countries and placed responsibility for financing adaptation and mitigation on more developed countries.
 - The Agreement set extremely ambitious targets for countries, without setting out any sanctions for their failure to achieve such targets.
 - The Agreement set unrealistic targets for countries, particularly poorer countries, which they would find impossible to achieve.
 - The Agreement managed to sidestep critical matters, thereby making it easier for countries, particularly rich countries to agree to it.
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31. Which among the following Indian cities was the first to announce a plan to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050?
- Mumbai
 - New Delhi
 - Bengaluru
 - Hyderabad
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32. In the passage, if the author's statements about the need to secure pathways for low-carbon growth are true, then which of the following must necessarily also be true?
- Agreements on climate change would be meaningless unless they also include decisions on how still-developing countries can be sanctioned for pursuing the same growth strategies that already-rich countries have adopted in the past.
 - Agreements on climate change would be meaningless unless they also include decisions on how to ensure developing countries can be provided financial support to achieve growth in more sustainable ways than already-rich countries.
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- c. It is meaningless to pursue the strategy of agreements between countries to achieve any progress on the question of climate change; such change can only be achieved through radical action on the ground by activist groups.
 - d. Climate change is an impossible problem to solve. Moreover, it is an inevitable consequence of natural geological process, rather than human actions. Therefore, it is meaningless to make any attempt to tackle climate change through agreements between countries.
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33. In the Glasgow Pact, adopted at the end of COP26, countries agreed to which of the following measures?
- a. An annual transfer of USD 100 billion from developed to developing countries to address climate change.
 - b. Limiting rise in global warming to 1.5°C.
 - c. Both of the above.
 - d. None of the above.
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34. Based on the information in the passage above, which of the following most accurately describes why the author says that negotiations on climate change are 'going nowhere'?
- a. Because they have been held in the same place for the last twenty years, and have not been shifted to a different location despite repeated requests for such a change.
 - b. Because they have led to a bureaucratic muddle that has only resulted in verbiage without action.
 - c. Because they have been dominated by rich and powerful countries, and the voices of the poorer and less developed countries are not heard.
 - d. Because they have withstood the test of time, and demonstrated clear leadership and a voice in which the rich and the poor both trust.
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35. Which of the following most accurately describes what the expression 'elephant in the room' as used in the passage means?
- a. A problem that is so subtle that it escapes notice.
 - b. A problem that is very big, and which cannot be solved by those tasked with tackling it.
 - c. A problem that is obvious to everyone, but which no one wants to acknowledge.
 - d. A problem that is fantastical, impossible, and completely made-up.
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36. Which of the following did India commit to at COP26?
- a. Net-zero emissions by 2070.
 - b. A phasedown of the use of coal to generate energy.
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- c. Neither (a) nor (b).
 - d. Both (a) and (b).
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37. Parliament enacts a law called the *Ecologically Sensitive Areas (Protection and Preservation) Act, 2022* (the “ESA Act”). Section 2 of the Act states:

Section 2. – (1) *The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may notify an area as an ecologically sensitive area (“ESA”), on the basis of considerations like the biological diversity of that area.*

(2) *The District Magistrate of the place within which an ESA is located may take all measures necessary for protecting the ESA and to prevent and control environmental pollution in the ESA, including restricting areas in which any industries, or industrial operations or processes may be carried out.”*

Prakritipur is an area with several lakes, situated among the foothills of the western ghats, and has a massive diversity of flora and fauna. The District Magistrate of the area is very concerned that its biological diversity is under threat. As soon as the Act is passed, she immediately issues an Executive Order that states that Prakritipur is an ESA. She institutes several measures under Section 2 of the ESA Act to protect Prakritipur. One of these was a complete ban on the use of any fertilisers in farms that adjoined Prakritipur. The District Magistrate says that such fertilisers seep into the soil and in the many streams that flow into the lakes of Prakritipur, thereby polluting the water bodies, and causing harm to the plants and animals of that area. The local farmers protest against this measure, arguing that this would deprive them of their livelihood. Which of the following is accurate?

- a. The District Magistrate has unlimited discretionary powers to undertake any measures within her jurisdiction, and so the District Magistrate’s action is valid.
 - b. The needs of environmental protection take precedence over the short-term interests of a handful of farmers, and therefore, the measures announced by the District Magistrate are valid.
 - c. Section 2 of the ESA Act talks about restricting areas in which industries, or industrial operations or processes may be carried out. Farming is not an industrial activity, and hence the Executive Order is invalid.
 - d. The District Magistrate does not have the power to issue the Executive Order.
-

38. Which of the following are under threat of devastation from rising sea levels?

- a. Marshall Islands
 - b. Kiribati
 - c. Maldives
 - d. All of the above
-

Passage E

On Sunday, the Pakistan National Assembly was to witness a vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Imran Khan. There was enough evidence to know that the Opposition parties had the numbers to oust Khan. We had heard Khan say that he would not resign and would fight till the last ball. The ruling party had claimed that they had a “trump card”, which people are now calling the “Donald Trump card”. The “trump card” turned out to be the ruling party trampling on the constitution.

April 3, 2022 will be remembered as the day the Constitution of Pakistan was subverted by a civilian government on the floor of the House. First, the vote of no-confidence was disallowed using Article 5 of the Constitution as a crutch, with Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri ruling that “circumstances show that there is a nexus between the no-confidence motion, foreign intervention and the activities of that state’s representatives deputed to Pakistan”. Then, the Prime Minister addressed the nation, announcing that he had advised the president to dissolve the National Assembly. The President dissolved the Assembly subsequently. It all happened in such a short period of time that one is still grappling with the government’s utter disregard for the rule of law in the face of an imminent defeat.

What is dangerous is how the deputy speaker’s ruling has tainted all 197 members of the Opposition, including the government’s former allies who are with the Opposition now and those of the ruling party who jumped ship, as foreign agents. PM Khan has continuously said that people will not forgive or forget those who have “sold” their souls and their country. Such a dangerous narrative will definitely have consequences for an already polarised society.

It is apparent that PM Khan knew he was not going to survive the vote of no-confidence on Sunday. That is why, instead of introspecting why his government had become so unpopular that even his allies and party members did not want him to complete his full term, why his economic policies had failed and why he lost the majority in parliament despite censoring the media, he ended up making an unconstitutional move.

I believe that all civilian governments should complete their five years but the Opposition chose a constitutional way to oust the PM. If what Suri did yesterday is not declared unconstitutional, then no Opposition would be able to bring in a vote of no-confidence against any premier — something that has been provided for in the constitution. We are supposed to be a democracy, not an autocracy.

All eyes are on the Supreme Court now as it has been hearing the arguments by the government and the Opposition.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Mehmali Sarfraz, “Imran’s No Ball,” *Indian Express*, April 6, 2022.]

39. What does the term “trump card” mean in the context of this passage?
- a. A card given to a participant in the reality TV show “The Apprentice” that protected the participant from being fired for two episodes. Since Donald Trump was the host of the show, the card was called a “Trump Card.”
 - b. Using a tactic to defeat an opponent.
 - c. Surpass by saying or doing something better.
 - d. Something that gives you an advantage over other people, especially when they do not know what it is and you are able to use it to surprise them.
-

40. Who amongst the following was recently appointed as the first female judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan?
- a. Hina Jalani
 - b. Ayesha Malik
 - c. Asma Jahangir
 - d. Shazia Kausar
-

41. Based on the passage, which of the following would logically follow from the author’s argument?
- a. All civilian governments should complete their entire terms, and attempts to oust an elected government are always unconstitutional under the Constitution of Pakistan.
 - b. All civilian governments should complete their entire terms, and the Prime Minister should “fight till the last ball” to ensure that his government completes its tenure, come what may.
 - c. All civilian governments should complete their entire terms, but if the government is unpopular, the Prime Minister should resign and introspect on his failure.
 - d. All civilian governments should complete their entire terms, but if the Opposition uses constitutional means to oust the government, then the government should not derail the constitutional process.
-

42. What is the main argument that the author makes in this piece?
- a. The Supreme Court of Pakistan should hold the deputy speaker’s acts to be constitutional.
 - b. Pakistan has become an autocracy.
 - c. The deputy speaker violated the Constitution of Pakistan by not permitting a vote of no confidence against the Government of PM Imran Khan.
 - d. Foreign intervention in ensuring a vote of no confidence does not amount to seditious behaviour.
-

43. The author ends the passage by saying that “All eyes are on the Supreme Court now...”

What did the Supreme Court of Pakistan do in this matter?

- a. Upheld the decision of the Deputy Speaker to disallow the vote of no-confidence and the order of the President dissolving the National Assembly.
 - b. Upheld the decision of the Deputy Speaker to disallow the vote of no-confidence but struck down the order of the President dissolving the National Assembly.
 - c. Struck down the decision of the Deputy Speaker to disallow the vote of no-confidence but upheld the order of the President dissolving the National Assembly.
 - d. Struck down the decision of the Deputy Speaker to disallow the vote of no-confidence as well as the order of the President dissolving the National Assembly.
-

44. The author states that “If what Suri did yesterday is not declared unconstitutional, then no Opposition would be able to bring in a vote of no-confidence against any premier...”. Which of the following is correct?

- a. The author is wrong, because even if the action is upheld, it does not follow that no Opposition will be able to bring in a vote of no-confidence against any premier.
 - b. The author is right, because all future premiers will circumvent a vote of no-confidence using the same process.
 - c. The author is right, because it is within the Deputy Speaker’s powers to disallow a vote of no-confidence, and so the process was not unconstitutional in the first place.
 - d. The author is wrong, because the Constitution of Pakistan does not permit the Opposition to bring a vote of no-confidence against the premier.
-

45. Which among the following Prime Ministers of Pakistan have lost a vote of no confidence in the Pakistan National Assembly?

- a. Benazir Bhutto
 - b. Nawaz Sharif
 - c. Imran Khan
 - d. All of the above.
-

46. Assume that the same facts as mentioned in the passage take place in a hypothetical country R, which has the same constitution as in Pakistan. Members of the Opposition challenge the decision of the Deputy Speaker in the Supreme Court of R. Which of the following reasons can they use to advance their case?

- a. The Deputy Speaker should protect a government from facing a vote of no-confidence when he is satisfied that to do so is necessary in national interest.
-

- b. The Deputy Speaker should first present the evidence of interference by foreign powers to the Opposition and give the Opposition an opportunity to be heard before disallowing the vote.
 - c. R is a democracy and as such, the Opposition should be allowed to express its disapproval of the government through a vote of no-confidence.
 - d. All of the above.
-

47. What does autocracy mean?

- a. Rule by a monarch.
 - b. Polity where the principle of autonomy is paramount.
 - c. System of government where one person has unlimited power.
 - d. All of the above.
-

48. According to the author, what should Prime Minister Khan be doing instead of the actions he has taken?

- a. Fighting till the last ball to save his government.
 - b. Introspecting on why his government is unpopular.
 - c. Approaching the Supreme Court for relief.
 - d. Dealing with the foreign agents in Parliament.
-

Passage F

On March 11, speaking at the NCRB Foundation Day, the Union Home Minister remarked that the second phase of the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), a Rs 3,500 crore project, is set to be completed by 2026 with increased use of artificial intelligence, fingerprint systems and other tools of predictive policing. The minister noted that one crore fingerprints had already been uploaded and if these were available to all police stations as part of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), there would no longer be any need to pursue criminals.

Recently, the Indore Police Commissioner unveiled a “fingerprint-based criminal record data fetching system” developed by Citizen Cop Foundation to control crime in the state. The small thumb impression machine can be added to a phone to capture fingerprints at checking points, public spaces, etc. If the fingerprint recorded matches with the police database, all information about a person’s criminal record will be pulled up. The system is being lauded as it circumvents the long waiting period in fingerprint analysis as part of investigations. The commissioner noted that existing fingerprints of those externed from a district, drug peddlers, those who escaped from jails and those who have committed theft of vehicles are being added. But the enthusiasm for generating and cross-referencing data to make policing more efficient ignores privacy concerns and structural faults of policing.

[1]The Supreme Court in K.S Puttaswamy declared a fundamental right to informational privacy as paramount and noting that any measure that sought to collect information or surveil must be legal, necessary, and proportionate' [1]. State surveillance for policing needs to be re-evaluated in this light, given that policing replicates existing casteist notions of who criminals are, and how they are to be controlled.

The existing systems of ICJS and CCTNS empower the state to cross-reference data between different pillars of the criminal justice system in the name of creating efficient police infrastructure. Beyond this, integrating “fingerprint-based criminal record data fetching system” to the list of predictive policing practices will give birth to mass surveillance, particularly of certain oppressed caste communities, based on little evidence.

Nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes were ascribed “criminality by birth” and considered as “hereditary criminals addicted to systematic commission of non-bailable offences” under the colonial Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. It has been replaced with the murky Habitual Offenders (HO) provisions, which have acted as a tool for police to continue to attribute criminality to Vimukta communities, by mandating their surveillance through regular check-ins at police stations, signing of bond undertakings for “security and for keeping the peace” through local police stations. The police maintain dossiers of habitual offenders, which includes extensive demographic details, personal information and “evidence” of criminality: Details of their habits, their method of committing crimes, property, particulars of their associates, places they frequent, etc... This effectively means that even after being acquitted by the courts, a person continues to be an object of policing. Mere suspicion or FIRs filed against an individual are sufficient to trigger the discretionary powers of the police. Those subject to policing rarely include dominant caste persons with resources, who may have even been convicted of a crime.

This has an all-encompassing impact on the lives and livelihood of these oppressed communities. They are forced to live in informal settlements in urban spaces which are heavily surveilled. With the interlinking of policing data, across different jurisdictions and centralised through the ICJS, this targeting runs the risk of being replicated as a pan-India phenomenon.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Sanjana Meshram, Mrinalini Ravindranath, Harsh Kinger, “Police, Tech and Prejudice,” *Indian Express*, March 25, 2022]

49. The sentence enclosed within ‘[1]’ in the third paragraph of the passage above has one or more grammatical errors. Which of the following versions of the sentence would be grammatically correct?

- a. The Supreme Court in K.S Puttaswamy declares a fundamental right to informational privacy as paramount and noting that any measure that sought to collect information or surveil must be legal, necessary, and proportionate.
- b. The Supreme Court in K.S Puttaswamy declared a fundamental right to informational privacy as paramount and noted that any measure that sought to collect information or surveil must be legal, necessary, and proportionate.

- c. The Supreme Court in K.S Puttaswamy declaring a fundamental right to informational privacy as paramount and noting that any measure that sought to collect information or surveil must be legal, necessary, and proportionate.
- d. The Supreme Court in K.S Puttaswamy declares a fundamental right to informational privacy as paramount and noted that any measure that sought to collect information or surveil must be legal, necessary, and proportionate.
-
50. As per the recently passed Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill, which of the following organisations is tasked with collecting, storing, sharing, disseminating, destroying, and disposing records?
- National Crime Records Bureau
 - National Police Academy
 - Central Bureau of Investigation
 - National Investigation Agency
-
51. Who amongst the following is currently the Minister of State for Home Affairs in the Government of India?
- Arjun Ram Meghwal
 - Pankaj Chaudhary
 - Anurag Thakur
 - Ajay Kumar Mishra
-
52. As per the passage, the Union Home Minister noted that if fingerprints were available to all police stations, “there would no longer be any need to pursue criminals.” Which of the following is the most accurate?
- The Minister is right because the fingerprints database will allow the police to locate criminals and thus eliminate the need to pursue them.
 - The Minister is wrong, because the need to pursue criminals will not go away because of the availability of fingerprints.
 - The Minister is right because criminals always leave fingerprints.
 - The Minister is wrong because fingerprints cannot help in pursuing criminals.
-
53. Assume that in order to make policing efficient, Parliament passes a law that requires all citizens to provide their fingerprints at the nearest police station. The fingerprints will be uploaded to a national database, and will be available to all police officers through their mobile devices. The law permits them to stop any person and check their fingerprints. Police officers see all the information about the person stored in the database, including their residence, family, prior criminal record including details of arrest, convictions and acquittals, and current investigations pending against the person,

etc. Based on the information provided in the passage, if you want to challenge this law in court, which of the following arguments will support your case?

- a. The law will make it difficult for persons who have been accused or convicted of a crime to leave their past behind.
 - b. The law violates the right to privacy and is neither proportionate nor necessary.
 - c. The law will target oppressed communities and increase surveillance on them.
 - d. All of the above.
-

54. Which of the following follows from the authors' argument in the passage above?

- a. No one should suffer only because of their caste identity.
 - b. No one should be asked to furnish their fingerprints to the police.
 - c. People should be allowed to live their lives free from state surveillance.
 - d. All of the above.
-

55. Which of the following annual publications of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) provides comprehensive data on the number of criminal cases filed annually under the Indian Penal Code and other criminal laws, data relating to arrests, and disposal of cases by courts?

- a. India Justice Report
 - b. Crime in India
 - c. Criminal Law Review
 - d. India Crime and Criminal Report
-

56. Which of the following is an argument made by authors in the passage?

- a. The fingerprinting system unveiled by the Police Commissioner of Indore is essential since it will improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system.
 - b. The mass surveillance of oppressed communities that already exists as a part of the policing system, will get strengthened with use of technological tools under the ICJS.
 - c. The concern with predictive policing mechanisms is that privacy rights of convicted individuals will be violated, since a person acquitted of a crime is no longer a subject of policing.
 - d. Persons belonging to dominant castes, even if convicted, are not subject to policing.
-

57. What does "predictive policing" mean?

- a. Predicting how police officers will behave with criminals.
 - b. Using analytical techniques to identify potential criminality.
-

- c. Determining the likelihood that a person is guilty of a crime of which they are accused.
- d. Use of analytical techniques by the police to determine if the court will hold a person guilty based on the evidence collected by the police.

Passage G

Shorn of legalese, the UAPA prohibits a judge from granting an individual bail if, on a perusal of the police diary or the police report, the judge is of the opinion that there are “reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is...*prima facie* true.” The effect of this, as Abhinav Sekhri has pointed out, is that the UAPA introduces elements of the criminal trial into the question of bail. There are traces of this in the Indian Penal Code as well, for bail under serious non-UAPA offences. This hints at a larger problem with the criminal justice system, of which the UAPA is only the starkest example. Questions of guilt or innocence are meant to be determined at the end of a trial. The question of guilt or innocence at the stage of bail short-circuits that essential procedure.

But that is not the only problem with turning bail hearings into mini-trials. The problem is also that this mini-trial – to borrow a colourful phrase from the U.S. Supreme Court – “licences one side...to fight freestyle, while requiring the other to follow the Marquis of Queensberry Rules (i.e., the rules of professional boxing).” What the judge has before them is entirely one side of the case: the police version. [1] In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examine the prosecution’s witnesses, determine inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, present its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrate that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt. [1] In a bail hearing, the defence can do none of that. The starting point of a bail hearing is the presumption that everything in the police report is true.

Such a system might possibly be defensible in a situation where criminal justice was swift, efficient and trustworthy. If, for example, criminal trials habitually concluded within six months, it might be possible to argue that in terrorism cases, six months of pretrial incarceration is a painful but proportionate price to pay (in my opinion, it is still unjustifiable, but there is at least a case to be made). However, that is not the case in India: a UAPA trial takes years – often more than 10 years. In such a situation, the court’s decision on bail, *de facto*, becomes the decision on the case: the denial of bail means that a person is likely to spend a decade or more behind bars, as the trial winds on. And given the UAPA’s abysmally low conviction rates, the trial will likely end in acquittal.

This, thus explains why bail hearings take so long, and are so convoluted. Both the defence and the prosecution know that the outcome of the bail hearing is, for all practical effects, the outcome of the case itself. But, as we have seen, while the denial of bail is effectively a finding of guilt, it has no safeguards that the criminal law puts into place before an actual finding of guilt.

[Extracted with edits and revisions from Gautam Bhatia, "How the UAPA is wrecking lives," *The Hindu*, April 7, 2022]

58. Ketanji Brown Jackson will be replacing which amongst the following as a Justice of the US Supreme Court?
- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 - Justice Anthony M Kennedy
 - Justice Clarence Thomas
 - Justice Stephen Breyer
-
59. Who amongst the following was charged under UAPA but was then released in 2021 after a court dismissed all charges against them relating to the CAA-NRC protests?
- Stanislaus Lourduswamy
 - Ishrat Jahan
 - Akhil Gogoi
 - Safoora Zargar
-
60. Which of the following statements, if true, would address the concerns raised by the author in this passage?
- Criminal trials conclude in six months.
 - Bail proceedings are mini-trials to give the defence a fair chance at making its case.
 - Questions of guilt or innocence are not determined at the stage of bail.
 - There is a presumption that everything in the police report is true.
-
61. The author states that "the outcome of the bail hearing is, for all practical effects, the outcome of the case itself." Which of the following is a premise for this conclusion?
- UAPA trials take a long time to conclude.
 - UAPA cases have a very low conviction rate.
 - Bail hearings have the same safeguards as a regular trial.
 - All of the above.
-
62. Article 22 (1) of the Constitution of India provides: "No person ...shall... be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice."

Parliament amends the UAPA to state that all trials must conclude within 6 months. If the trial does not conclude within this timeframe, the accused person shall be released on bail, if they are in jail pending trial.

Amrit was accused of an offence under the UAPA, and his trial was in progress. He was in jail since his bail was refused by the judge. After the prosecution presented its case during trial, the judge called upon Amrit's lawyer to begin the defence. A few days into the defence, Amrit's lawyer withdrew from the case. Amrit asked for time to appoint a new lawyer and give the lawyer time to prepare for the case. The judge felt that there was not enough time to bring on a new lawyer since the deadline of 6 months was fast approaching. The judge was also concerned that Amrit was accused of a serious offence and if the deadline was not met, Amrit would be released on bail where he could pose a serious security threat. He therefore denied Amrit's application for a new lawyer, and asked Amrit to complete the rest of the trial himself. At the end of the trial, Amrit was convicted for some offences and acquitted of others. He was also given a much lighter punishment than what the prosecution asked for. Amrit filed an appeal against this decision and claims that the decision should be overturned since he was denied legal representation. Which of the following is the strongest and most accurate argument for Amrit to make?

- a. The judge could not have denied legal representation to Amrit in order to meet the deadline imposed by the UAPA since the Constitution guarantees this right.
 - b. The judge was right in ensuring that the UAPA deadline was met, since otherwise a potentially dangerous criminal would have been released on bail.
 - c. Since Amrit was acquitted of some offences and received a lighter sentence, it is clear that he did not suffer because of lack of legal representation. Hence, no harm has occurred to him, and the decision cannot be overturned because of lack of legal representation.
 - d. The judge could have denied legal representation to Amrit only if he also prevented the prosecution from being represented by a lawyer. Since he did not do so, his judgment should be overturned.
-

63. Against which of the following individuals was a Look Out Circular recently issued by the CBI, preventing them from leaving the country, which an Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate directed the CBI to withdraw and asked the CBI Director to issue an apology?

- a. Karti Chidambaram
 - b. Chitra Ramkrishna
 - c. Rana Ayyub
 - d. Aakar Patel
-

64. Which of the following arguments does the author not make in the piece?

- a. In order to grant bail to a person accused of committing offences under the UAPA, the judge does not need to make a determination that the accusations are *prima facie* true.
 - b. In a bail hearing under the UAPA, the assumption is that all facts mentioned in the police report are true.
-

- c. In UAPA cases, the decision on bail in practical reality becomes the decision on the case.
 - d. In UAPA cases, there are safeguards built into a trial before a person is held to be guilty, but no such safeguards exist with respect to the judge deciding on whether to grant bail to a person or not.
-

65. The sentence enclosed within '[1]' in the second paragraph of the passage above has one or more grammatical errors. Which of the following versions of the sentence would be grammatically correct?

- a. In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examining the prosecution's witnesses, determining inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, present its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrate that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt.
 - b. In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, determine inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, present its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrate that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt.
 - c. In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examining the prosecution's witnesses, determining inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, presenting its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrate that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt.
 - d. In a trial, the defence would be entitled to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, determine inconsistencies in their testimony, examine its own witnesses, present its own evidence, and otherwise demonstrated that the case against the accused has not been made out beyond reasonable doubt.
-

66. In the context of the passage, what is the best synonym for the word "convoluted"?

- a. Complex
 - b. Simplistic
 - c. Clear
 - d. Coiled
-

Passage H

Word has it that most people are self-interested. At least that is what an unsuspecting reader of mainstream economic theory might conclude. The literature makes constant reference to "rational self-interest" as the prime motivation of economic agents. The assumption is so pervasive that rationality and self-interest are often conflated. As Nobel Laureate Robert Aumann puts it: "The assumption of rationality – that people act in their own best interests, given their information – underlies most of economic theory and indeed of economics as a whole."

This self-interest assumption, read literally, has no theoretical or empirical support of any sort. It is a kind of superstition. Anyone who has bothered to look around, or to read the world's history and literature, or even just to watch a few Bollywood films, would notice that people often act on the basis of other-regarding motives – love, kindness, solidarity, compassion, reciprocity, patriotism, public-spiritedness, and more. Some even make great sacrifices for their friends, families, community, or country.

Further, it is not always clear where self-interest ends and concern for others begins. Human beings, by nature, are interested in each other's lives. Whether an active schoolteacher, a committed trade unionist, or a passionate artist are acting out of self-interest may be hard to tell – not only for others but even for themselves. It is difficult to imagine what a totally selfish person might look like (perhaps hard-core egoists don't have babies, so they are not around any more).

With this preamble, let me turn to a specific type of non-selfish motive: public-spiritedness, broadly defined as “a reasoned habit of consideration for the public interest”. The term “public interest” may or may not be well defined, depending on the situation. The public interest of British citizens in Brexit is not clear – it is a matter of judgement. But the public interest of Indian and Pakistani citizens in avoiding nuclear war is reasonably clear. So is the public interest of humanity in avoiding self-destruction through global warming. The term “public” need not refer to the society at large – depending on the contexts, it could mean a smaller group such as a family or local community.

If public-spiritedness required strong ethical commitments, we might be sceptical of the possibility of it spreading beyond a minority of principled individuals. On the other hand, if it takes the form of sensible habits of thought that can be rationalised (if need be) with light-touch ethical reasoning, public-spiritedness may have much more of a future. This is not a small matter – it could help not only to avoid many day-to-day tragedies (from vandalism to violence) but also to build social institutions that reconcile liberty and equality. Dr Ambedkar put it very well in his stirring speech to the Constituent Assembly on 25 November 1949: “Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty would kill individual initiative. *Without fraternity, liberty and equality would not become a natural course of thing.*” Public-spiritedness is not quite fraternity (alias solidarity), but it is a step in that direction at least.

[Edited excerpt from Jean Dreze, ‘Development and Public-spiritedness’ in Jean Dreze, *Sense and Solidarity: Jholawala Economics for Everyone* (Permanent Black: 2017)]

67. What does the word ‘pervasive,’ used in the first paragraph of this passage, mean?
- Something that is improper or incorrect.
 - Something that exists or is spread through every part of something.
 - To persist in something despite lack of encouragement.
 - A tendency to do immoral and corrupt acts.

68. Which of the following options most accurately captures the author's argument:
- The focus of mainstream economics is on rational self-interest, and this focus is both justified and borne out of human experience.
 - Human beings are social creatures and always act out of solidarity and feelings of community; this proves that the assumption of rationality that mainstream economics works on is erroneous.
 - Mainstream economics operates on assumptions of rationality which presume that humans are self-focused; this misses out on experiences from everyday life which demonstrate that humans often act in ways that show public-spiritedness which is the counterpoint of selfish behaviour.
 - The problem with mainstream economics is that it is not based entirely on assumptions and beliefs derived from mathematical models, relying instead on human emotions like love, kindness and solidarity.
-

69. In 2022, which of the following central government schemes received a budget allocation 25% lower than the previous year's estimates, and led to the Parliamentary Committee on Rural Development criticising the Government of India?
- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
 - National Digital Health Mission
 - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
 - Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
-

70. In the context of the passage, which of the following most accurately describes what Dreze means in saying that 'rational self-interest' is a 'form of superstition'?
- Economics pretends to be a rational science but is based on illusory assumptions.
 - Economics is a system of tightly held beliefs that have been proven to be empirically correct.
 - Economics, like all bodies of knowledge, has some assumptions that need to be assessed against lived experience, and Dreze's analysis shows us that it is only partially correct about human choices being based on rational self-interest.
 - Neither rationality nor self-interest is ever the basis of human action.
-

71. Which of the following statements flows from Dreze's analysis?
- Public spirited people are filled with compassion for others, are highly moral and ethical, and are likely to be philanthropists and full-time activists who will make society just in the course of time.
 - To be public-spirited requires people to make strong ethical commitments; since most of us can do so, we can aspire to be a genuinely fraternal society in short order.
-

- c. People are complex beings: some are extremely selfish, some are extremely generous. We cannot make generalisations either way and should embrace complexity in life and other humans.
 - d. If we desire genuine freedoms at the individual level, and egalitarianism as a value at the societal level, we need to be able to transcend our individual interests to pursue the goal of a society that is decent, just and capable of sustaining the good life at an overall level.
-

72. Who, among the following, were awarded the Nobel prize for Economic Sciences in 2021 for their insights into the working of labour markets?
- a. David Card, Joshua Angrist, and Guido Imbens
 - b. Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson
 - c. Michael Kremer, Esther Duflo, and Abhijeet Bannerjee
 - d. William Nordhaus and Paul Romer
-

73. What would be a further example of an ‘other-regarding’ sentiment beyond those listed by the author:
- a. Avarice
 - b. Sloth
 - c. Chastity
 - d. Altruism
-

74. The author says, quoting Nobel Laureate Robert Aumann that: “The assumption of rationality – that people act in their own best interests, given their information – underlies most of economic theory and indeed of economics as a whole.” However, the author states that “this self-interest assumption, read literally, has no theoretical or empirical support of any sort.” If the author’s statement is true, then which of the following statements logically follows:
- a. People are self-interested.
 - b. Not all people are self-interested.
 - c. All people are self-interested but a few people, who are morally and ethically strong, are also other-regarding.
 - d. Both (b) and (c).
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75. Parliament passes a “Good Samaritan” law, which provides in Section 4 as follows:

“4. A person who witnesses a road accident shall stop and render all necessary assistance to the victims of the accident, unless doing so will impose a significant burden on the person. Failure to render assistance shall result in a fine of Rs. 10,000/-.”

Sohrab, an engineer, is running late for a flight and is on the way to the airport when he witnesses an accident in front of him. He slows down his car to look at the accident, and seeing the victim try to stand up, he thinks that the victim is fine and rushes on to the airport. The victim had sustained injuries and has to undergo extensive surgery as a result of not getting immediate medical care. A CCTV camera near the site of the accident captures Sohrab driving by the scene of the accident. The police want to take action against him. Which of the following arguments can Sohrab make consistent with the Good Samaritan law?

- a. Sohrab did slow down, but the victim appeared fine at a quick glance.
- b. Stopping to assist the victim would cause him to miss his flight.
- c. Sohrab was not a doctor and could not have provided the required assistance to the victim.
- d. Both (a) and (b).
