



**Jayakrishnan  
EduTips**

# LATEST PATTERN OBJECTIVE GENERAL ENGLISH



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Students are today enlightened and focused. They know what they are up to. They need just a ray of guidance. I feel I have accomplished the reason of my existence on this earth. Proud to be that faint ray of guidance, proud to be a reason of smile on certain lips, proud to be your teacher, friend and guide.

**Jayakrishnan Ramachandran**

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# READING COMPREHENSION

**Directions: (1-5)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

A sharp **symmetry** between violence and its opposite has remained unnoticed. It surfaced this year in the murder of Saudi Arabian dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi on Mahatma Gandhi's 149th birth anniversary, i.e. October 2. The United Nations has named this day as the International Day of Non-Violence. That is the day when over a dozen men were reportedly flown from Riyadh to Istanbul to kill one journalist. They **executed** their mission in a manner for which few **parallels** can be found, even in Arabian Nights. In a familiar tale of this global classic of folklore, a man's **dismembered** body is stitched back together by a tailor. Khashoggi's killers reportedly dissolved his body parts in acid. The mode of killing, the venue and the manner in which the journalist's body was disposed of mark a new normal in the history of violence.

The motive for this murder continues to be a subject of intelligent guessing. If suppressing a writer's voice was the motive, its success and the **reluctant** response it received are worthy of inclusion in the annals of modernity. The country renowned for the loudest upholding of the human right to freedom of expression has preferred to guard its business interests over guarding this **jaded** moral **edict**. The horror got absorbed in the debate over adequacy of evidence about fixing of responsibility. As for us, we as a nation are so occupied with dousing our own internal fires, we ignored the synchronicity of October 2 and the murder in Istanbul. Apparently, the world we now live in is so used to violence that the manner of killing and disposal of physical remains of a person do not seem all that **relevant**. In any case, feeling revulsion has little value now as an ethical act. We feel it so frequently that it has lost status among emotions with a moral bearing. Some years ago, I met a small boy who had spent most of his childhood in the kind of colony that is popularly referred to in Delhi as jhuggi-jhopri. Although this term is officially used to refer to a slum, it encompasses the attempts to cover the **gruesome** living conditions of a metropolitan slum by referring to them in Hindi as a place of improvised

huts. The term **evokes** an image of a village that has reincarnated in a city, but the huts, or jhuggis, are made of recycled tin and plastic, not wood and dry grass. The colony where this boy had grown up was located in Chanakyapuri, the heart of diplomatic New Delhi.

His parents had migrated in search of work from a village in Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh. He had very limited exposure to school life. He recalled it mainly for the beatings he got there. His life outside school was also full of suffering and witnessing of routine violence. He was in the habit of hitting others, including his little sister, hard enough to draw blood. He felt no remorse when that happened. I tried introducing him to art and singing in the hope that colours and rhythms might heal the injuries his little heart had suffered. But he remained a boy without room for emotions. Violence had turned him into a hollow human at an early age. The possibility of even partial **restoration** was slim. I tried telling him stories and arousing his interest in things he saw on television. It was a struggle because he had learnt very little about the world during the years he had spent at school. When the 2nd of October came, he asked me why it was a holiday. I told him it was Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. Years have passed but I still remember his puzzled look. Apparently, he had not heard about Mahatma Gandhi. On being told that it was Gandhi's birthday, he asked, "Who will cut the cake?"

I recall being amused by that question, but it gathered irony and meaning with the passage of time. It takes little imagination to guess what happens to such children. Where we ought to apply our ability to imagine and foresee is the social landscape **inhabited** by a growing number of such children. This is the context in which remembering Gandhi, 70 years after his assassination, might be of some precious help. What would Gandhi have said on being told about the violent habits of the boy who wanted a cake to be cut for him? It is not difficult to imagine Gandhi's commentary. He would point out that roots of violence lay in the conditions that forced the boy's family to migrate from their village in Bulandshahr to a Delhi slum. This diagnosis is consistent with the critique of modern political economy Gandhi offers in his tract, Hind Swaraj. This little book portrays the **omnipresent**

culture of violence that propels the pursuit of material prosperity at the expense of human bonds and dignity. From Gandhi's point of view, we are in a mess of our own making. Our disdain for rural distress and **alienation** from **vernacular** life are silently catching up with us as a nation and spewing violence through different channels. Politics is one such channel where hatred and bigotry have now gained social sanction.

Many of Gandhi's ideas look **arcane** today. If you discuss Gandhi with young people, they ask, "Is he relevant?" After a recent discussion about Gandhi with children, I have realised that his relevance cannot be established by talking about truth and non-violence. Neither of these familiar items of Gandhi's discourse is easy to communicate. An easier entry into Gandhi's thought and life might be through hope (picture shows Gandhi at a school at Noakhali, West Bengal, for refugee children). His urge to carry on doing something under **adverse** circumstances arose from the hope that the human urge to find love will ultimately prevail. Judith Brown characterised Gandhi as a 'prisoner of hope' in her 1989 study of his political career. Despite his hope that truth and non-violence shall prevail, he had to witness the holocaust of Partition. However, his own accomplishments and failures provide us no measure to grasp the nature and logic of his hope.

1. Which is the sharp symmetry between violence and its opposite that has been mentioned in the passage?  
 (1) The United Nations has named 2<sup>nd</sup> October as the International Day of Non-Violence.  
 (2) That it has remained unnoticed.  
 (3) That over a dozen men were reportedly flown from Riyadh to Istanbul to kill one journalist.  
 (4) The murder of Saudi Arabian dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi on the International Day of Non-Violence.  
 (5) None of these
2. Which are the parallels to the manner the murderers of Khashoggi executed their mission?  
 A. Arabian Nights  
 B. A tale of the global classic of folklore, a man's dismembered body is stitched back together by a tailor.  
 C. The mode of killing, the venue and the manner in which the journalist's body was disposed of mark a new normal in the history of violence.  
 (1) Only A (2) Only C  
 (3) Only B (4) All A, B and C.  
 (5) None of these.

3. What is the motive of the murder?  
 (1) Suppressing a writer's voice was the motive  
 (2) Receive a reluctant response.  
 (3) To guard its business interests over guarding this jaded moral edict.  
 (4) All of the above.  
 (5) None of these.
4. What is needed to stay relevant in the global healthcare order?  
 (1) The launch of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Abhiyan, or National Health Protection Mission (NHPM) under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat.  
 (2) To rapidly adapt to, embrace and drive change.  
 (3) Requires reimagining an innovative model which will transform healthcare delivery in the country.  
 (4) Significant improvements are possible in healthcare operations and costs.  
 (5) None of these.
5. Which is a difficult balance to achieve according to the author?  
 (1) To create a blueprint for the legacy we wish to build and set the trajectory for Indian healthcare for the next several decades.  
 (2) Building an inclusive and sustainable world for the future generations.  
 (3) Increasing quality and lowering cost of medical care.  
 (4) To shape the winds of change we face today into the aero-dynamics that will definitively propel our collective destinies forward.  
 (5) None of these.

**Direction (6-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Yashoda Devi was five months pregnant with her third child when we met her in Jharkhand in June. She was in extreme pain. The doctor had told her that she was very weak and had advised her to improve her nutritional intake. But Ms. Devi did not have money to follow the doctor's advice.

Ms. Devi was one of the 98 women we interviewed in the course of a small survey in 12 villages spread across two blocks of Jharkhand: Manika in Latehar district and Khunti in Khunti district. We enquired about the financial and physical hardships experienced by the respondents during pregnancy and delivery, and also studied the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) a

maternity benefit programme, nearly one year after it was officially launched.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013, every pregnant woman is entitled to maternity benefits of ₹6,000, unless she is already receiving similar benefits as a government employee or under other laws. The PMMVY was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016. Unfortunately, it violates the NFSA in several ways. First, the benefits have been reduced from ₹6,000 to ₹5,000 per child. Second, they are now restricted to the first living child. Third, they are further restricted to women above the age of 18 years.

The scheme largely defeats the purpose it is supposed to serve: according to a recent analysis, it excludes more than half of all pregnancies because first-order births account for only 43% of all births in India. In our sample, less than half of the women met the PMMVY eligibility criteria. Among those who were eligible, a little over half had applied for maternity benefits.

The application process is **cumbersome** and **exclusionary**: a separate form has to be filled, signed and submitted for each of the three instalments, along with a copy of the applicant's mother-child protection card, her Aadhaar card, her husband's Aadhaar card, and the details of a bank account linked to her Aadhaar number. The compulsory linking of the applicant's bank account with Aadhaar often causes problems. Further, the PMMVY provides little assistance to women who lose their baby, because the successive payments are made only if the corresponding conditionalities are met.

The worst form of hardship reported by pregnant women in our sample, among those related to lack of funds, was the inability to improve their nutritional intake or even to eat properly during pregnancy.

Ms. Devi, during and before her second pregnancy, was working in someone else's field where she was paid in kind (5 kg of grain per day). This time, as she was in pain, she was unable to work for wages during her pregnancy. This reduced the family's income, already strained by the last delivery's debts when they had to spend more than 12,000 by borrowing and selling assets. Ms. Devi said that if she had received maternity benefits under the PMMVY, she could have used the money to take care of her health and eat nutritious food as advised by the doctor. Like her, 42% of respondents in the sub-sample of women who were working for wages before pregnancy with an average wage of ₹126 per day of work could not work during their pregnancy and earned zero wages. In our sample, on average, respondents spent ₹8,272 on their deliveries alone. Half of the respondents who had

spent money during delivery or pregnancy said that they had to borrow money to meet the expenses. It was also common for the families of the respondents to sell assets or migrate to cover these costs. The PMMVY could help protect poor families from these financial contingencies.

The provision for maternity entitlements in the NFSA is very important for women who are not employed in the formal sector. The PMMVY, however, undermines this provision due to the dilution of the entitled amount and the exclusion criteria. Even in this restricted form, the scheme is yet to reach eligible women as the implementation record has been dismal till date. In our sample, 30 women had applied for maternity benefits, but none of them had actually received any PMMVY money. No doubt some women did receive PMMVY benefits in both districts by June (this was confirmed by the block offices) but the numbers were so small that none of them emerged in our sample. The scheme seems to be achieving very little for now, in Jharkhand at least. There is an urgent need for better implementation as well as for compliance of the scheme with the NFSA. Maternity benefits should be raised to ₹6,000 per child at least, for all pregnancies and not just the first living child.

6. What was the cause of Yashoda Devi's pain when the author had met her?
  - (1) She was five months pregnant with her third child.
  - (2) She had no money to consult a doctor.
  - (3) She was very weak and needed to improve her nutritional intake.
  - (4) She was very poor.
  - (5) None of these
7. How does PMMVY violate the NFSA in several ways?
  - A. The benefits have been reduced from ₹6,000 to ₹5,000 per child.
  - B. They are now restricted to the first living child.
  - C. They are further restricted to women above the age of 18 years.
  - (1) All A, B and C
  - (2) Only A and C
  - (3) Only C and B
  - (4) Only B and A
  - (5) None of the above
8. What is the PMMVY announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016?
  - (1) Every pregnant woman is entitled to maternity benefits of 6,000.
  - (2) A woman should be receiving benefits as a government employee or under other laws.

- (3) It violates the NFSA in several ways.
- (4) The scheme largely defeats the purpose it is supposed to serve.
- (5) None of these

9. What had reduced Yashoda Devi's family income?
- (1) The three pregnancies.
  - (2) She was unable to work for wages during her pregnancy due to pain.
  - (3) Strained by the last delivery's debts, they had to spend more than ₹12,000 by borrowing and selling assets.
  - (4) Borrow money, sell assets or migrate.
  - (5) None of these.
10. What did the respondents do to meet the expenses incurred during pregnancies?
- (1) Women work for wages with an average wage of ₹126 per day of work.
  - (2) A separate form has to be filled, signed and submitted for each of the three instalments.
  - (3) Linking of the applicant's bank account with Aadhaar.
  - (4) To empathetically try to see the world from the eyes of its most vulnerable inhabitants.
  - (5) None of these

**Directions:(11-15)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

From the outside, Bangladesh appears a country where democratic stability has ushered economic progress and shed the 'basket case' tag carried since its birth in 1971. Bangladesh no longer makes news for mass deaths from famines, cyclones and floods, and is ahead of neighbours India and Pakistan on human development, including life expectancy, maternal and child mortality, rural poverty and food security. The eighth largest country in the world by population, Bangladesh is shedding the least developing country (LDC) label and is within striking distance of middle-income status. While grassroots development, the readymade garment industry and the phenomenon of mega-non-governmental organisations deserve credit, so does the stewardship of Sheikh Hasina and her two consecutive five-year terms as Prime Minister since January 2009. She is **applauded** by the world for providing refuge to the Rohingya fleeing Myanmar pogroms, by the West for serving as a bulwark against Islamic extremism, and

by India for the dismantling of camps of Northeast militants.

The run-up to the general elections announced for December 23 is an opportunity to observe Bangladesh from the inside, and the view is unsettling. The Prime Minister has moved progressively from **autocracy** to **authoritarianism**, and fears are rife in Dhaka of oncoming political **calamity**. With Ms. Hasina and her Awami League party expected to return to power assisted by well-oiled poll rigging, the only recourse thereafter for want of political paths of dissent would be self-igniting agitations. Dhaka today is a city of guarded whispers. Given the brittle polity created by manifest intolerance, Ms. Hasina seems to have calculated that she simply cannot afford to lose at the polls. The daughter of 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman rides a tiger, fearful of **dismounting** for what she has **wrought**.

Criticism of the Hasina regime is equated with **treason** against the state. The legislature, judiciary and bureaucracy have become rubber stamps even as the Prime Minister **suffocates** the polity, with U.S.-returned son and adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy by her side. The party machine has become her personal **fief** and the attempt at dynastic continuity is palpable, as seen in the ubiquitous billboards portraying father, daughter and grandson. The harsh measures taken by the Hasina regime against journalists reflect the political whip being applied across the societal spectrum. Media houses submit meekly to self-censorship in the face of vengeful reaction even to timid criticism, and Parliament just passed a restrictive Digital Security Act in September despite well-articulated concerns about free expression.

In order to crush civil society, Ms. Hasina set out to make examples of well-known media personalities. Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star newspaper, was slapped with dozens of spurious charges of sedition and defamation. Today marks photographer and cultural activist Shahidul Alam's hundredth day behind bars, for having had the impertinence to live-stream the attacks by Awami League goons on young protesters on the streets. The international outcry on Mr. Alam's imprisonment has failed to move the Prime Minister, who is ever-more **belligerent**. Terrified of her wrath, consecutive court benches shamefully refuse to consider his bail petition.

Observers in Dhaka say Ms. Hasina's family tragedy helps explain her political persona, motivations and geopolitical leanings. Her intense survival instinct can be traced back to the assassination of her father in 1975, together with her mother, brothers and other family members. Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister,

offered refuge to the two surviving sisters (Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana) which is said to account for Ms. Hasina's decidedly New Delhi tilt. Today, Bangladesh is regarded as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's one foreign policy success in South Asia, and New Delhi has pursued Ms. Hasina for its own ends – the closure of Northeast militant camps, entry into the sizeable Bangladesh market, and access to the Northeast through Bangladesh (even as India surrounds Bangladesh with a barbed wire fence).

11. Which is the label that Bangladesh is trying to shed?
  - (1) Mass deaths from famines, cyclones and floods
  - (2) Least developing country (LDC) label
  - (3) Middle-income status.
  - (4) Of the eighth largest country in the world by population
  - (5) None of these
12. For what the Prime Minister of Bangladesh is appreciated by the world?
  - A. Serving as a bulwark against Islamic extremism.
  - B. The dismantling of camps of Northeast militants.
  - C. Providing refuge to the Rohingya fleeing Myanmar pogroms.
  - (1) Only A
  - (2) Only B
  - (3) Only C
  - (4) All A and B and C.
  - (5) None of these.
13. What do the harsh steps taken by the Hasina regime against the journalists point at?
  - (1) The political whip being applied across the societal spectrum.
  - (2) The Prime Minister has moved progressively from autocracy to authoritarianism.
  - (3) Fears of oncoming political calamity.
  - (4) Ms. Hasina cannot afford to lose at the polls.
  - (5) None of these.
14. What according to the passage is the reason for Ms. Hasina's decidedly New Delhi tilt?
  - (1) Applaud by India for the dismantling of camps of Northeast militants.
  - (2) Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, had offered refuge to Ms. Hasina and her sister.
  - (3) Bangladesh is ahead of neighbours India on human development
  - (4) Not given in the passage.
  - (5) None of these.

15. Why did Ms. Hasina set out to make examples of well-known media personalities?

- (1) Criticism of the Hasina regime is equated with treason against the state.
- (2) The only recourse for want of political paths of dissent are self-igniting agitations.
- (3) Media houses submit meekly to self-censorship.
- (4) In order to crush civil society.
- (5) None of these.

**Direction (16-20):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

On his first visit abroad, to New Delhi last week, as the President of the Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih appears to have **struck the right notes**. In India a month after assuming his new responsibility, Mr. Solih has assured New Delhi that the Maldives is **pivoting** to the 'India First' policy. The five-year-long tenure of his predecessor, Abdulla Yameen, was marked by a serious deterioration in ties with India, as Mr. Yameen steadily took his nation towards authoritarianism and into a close embrace with China.

Mr. Solih's government has adopted a different vision – one anchored in **decentralised** and people-centric governance. India seems to enjoy a special place in his worldview. He stressed that it is "our closest neighbour". President Ram Nath Kovind reciprocated by tweeting: "India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Maldives." Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the only head of government present at Mr. Solih's inauguration, on November 17. The joint statement issued during Mr. Solih's visit reflects a fine balance between the interests of both countries. To help the Maldives address its budget deficit and development challenges, India has worked out a generous \$1.4 billion assistance package. Its break-up and the period for which it is available have not been revealed yet. However, it is learnt reliably that much of the funding may be utilised for people-friendly projects in four domains: health care, education, water and sanitation.

Besides, India has offered visa facilitation that will allow Maldivians to visit India easily (with reciprocal facilities for Indian visitors to the Maldives); 1,000 "additional" training slots for the next five years; close cooperation on political and diplomatic issues; and support to the Maldives as it seeks to rejoin the Commonwealth and its entry into the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The visit resulted in the conclusion of four agreements relating to cooperation

for information technology, culture, agri-business, and visa arrangements. The new government in Male has also given assurances to be fully sensitive to India's security and strategic concerns, in the light of reports that China has gained access to one or more islands for military purposes. On the valid ground that the security interests of both countries are "interlinked", India and the Maldives have agreed to be mindful of "each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the region". The two governments now plan "to enhance maritime security" in the Indian Ocean Region. The expectation in Delhi is that the Indian Navy and Coast Guard will now be able to secure better cooperation from the Maldives for coordinated patrolling, aerial surveillance and capacity building.

Besides, intelligence agencies hope to revert to nurturing better collaboration in combating terrorism and other non-traditional security challenges. This is significant, considering that radicalisation is a live issue there. A sizeable number of Maldivian young men are reported to have left to join the Islamic State in Syria.

16. What was the tenure of , Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's predecessor marked by?
  - (1) A serious deterioration in ties with India.
  - (2) The nation moving towards authoritarianism.
  - (3) A close embrace with China.
  - (4) All of the above.
  - (5) None of these
17. What has Mr. Solih assured the Indian government of?
  - A. Striking the right notes.
  - B. India will be his first visit to abroad.
  - C. India will be a priority for Maldives.
  - (1) All A, B and C
  - (2) Only A
  - (3) Only C
  - (4) Only B
  - (5) None of the above
18. How is the vision that Mr. Solih's government has adopted different?
  - (1) It is anchored in decentralised and people centric governance.
  - (2) India seems to enjoy a special place in his worldview.
  - (3) He stressed that India is "our closest neighbour".
  - (4) India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Maldives.
  - (5) None of these

19. For which purpose has India worked out a generous \$1.4 billion assistance package?
  - (1) The trade and investment facet of the bilateral relationship.
  - (2) for people-friendly projects in four domains: health care, education, water and sanitation.
  - (3) To help the Maldives address its budget deficit and development challenges.
  - (4) For close cooperation on political and diplomatic issues
  - (5) None of these.
20. What did the visit of the President of Maldives result in?
  - (1) Visa facilitation that will allow Maldivians to visit India easily
  - (2) Conclusion of four agreements relating to cooperation for information technology, culture, agri-business, and visa arrangements.
  - (3) Maldives' entry into the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
  - (4) Coordinated patrolling, aerial surveillance and capacity building.
  - (5) None of these

**Directions:(21-25)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

President Ram Nath Kovind's choice of Vietnam as the first Southeast Asian country to visit in his capacity as the President is not surprising. A close 'ally' of India for over 70 years, and not limited to official diplomatic ties, Vietnam is critical for India's foreign policy at the regional and systemic levels. While Mr. Kovind's visit highlights the 'normal' trajectory of a presidential visit, there is a need to understand how Vietnam has **#calibrated** its domestic and foreign policy shifts and where India's relevance can fit into these policy changes.

Domestically, since the start of its Doi Moi policy – its political and economic renewal campaign –in 1986, Vietnam has made dramatic strides. Today it is a rapidly growing, regional economic giant, showing both dynamism and pragmatism in its calculations. While earlier it imported agricultural products, today it is a major exporter. Agricultural competence has furthered Vietnam's entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The Vietnam National Assembly ratified the CPTPP on November 12, asserting its growing economic impact globally, with exports increasing to

approximately \$240 billion for the year 2018. Membership to the CPTPP, which accounts for nearly 14% of the global GDP, will boost Vietnam's economic growth, from 6.8 % in 2017-18, by a further 1.1% to 3.5% by 2030. One of the core areas of Mr. Kovind's visit focussed on furthering cooperation in agriculture and innovation-based sectors, pushing the potential for increasing bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2020.

An area of potential convergence for both Vietnam and India is health care. The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, in 2016, highlighted the importance of linking economic growth to universal health care, whereby 80% population would be covered by health insurance. India too, since 2011, has been focussing on the need to deliver accessible and affordable health insurance to weaker sections of society. With Indonesia ratifying the India-ASEAN Services agreement on November 13, New Delhi is a step closer to signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, bringing India to the forefront of the services sector globally. A potential area of convergence in the realm of health care through joint public-private partnership agreements can be explored by the two countries.

Internationally, Vietnam's foreign policy is characterised by 'multidirectionalism', which addresses regional asymmetries of the power balance by engaging across a broad spectrum of states to achieve its interests. Increasingly, this asymmetrical power structure in the region, offset by the rise of China, is bringing regional and extra-regional states together to address the shifts in the normative order. Within this context, Vietnam even normalised relations with the U.S., its former opponent, credit for which is given to the late U.S. Senator, John McCain.

Today there is increasing commonality of security concerns between Vietnam and its ASEAN partners – as well as with Australia, India, Japan and the U.S., particularly in the areas of maritime security and adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. A former Vietnamese President, Trần Đại Quang, had earlier this year endorsed the term Indo-Asia-Pacific. Similarly, Mr. Kovind's speech in the Vietnamese National Assembly referred to a 'rules based order in the Indo-Pacific', reiterating India's own concerns over troubled maritime spaces. Finding compatibility between the 'Indo-Asia-Pacific' and the U.S. driven 'Indo-Pacific' necessitates a more nuanced approach whereby regional concerns of ASEAN centrality can be assuaged while accounting for diverse approaches to maintaining regional stability. In pursuance of this, the two countries have

planned a bilateral level maritime security dialogue in early 2019.

As ASEAN continues to focus on its centrality in the region, there will undoubtedly be shifts in how smaller members of ASEAN perceive the centrifugal forces of China's rise. Vietnam has helped to mitigate these by focussing on both sub-regionalism and regionalism as the core of its priorities. India too looks at both sub-regionalism and regionalism as priority avenues to pursue its foreign policy. The India-Vietnam Joint Statement of March 2018 reiterates the focus given to sub-regionalism and the Mekong Ganga Cooperation framework. However, another area is emerging in the CLV, or Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam growth triangle sub-regional cooperation, bringing these three countries together. India and Vietnam can jointly explore the potential for enhancing capacity building and providing technical assistance and training within this sub-regional grouping.

The major takeaway from Mr. Kovind's visit is the reference to the 'cooperation model' India offers, providing choices and opportunities for its friends. This reference highlights India's willingness to address issues on which increasing synergies need to evolve. One such area where convergence is likely, but has been held back due to individual preference, is the \$500 million line of credit offered to Vietnam. Both India and Vietnam possess the capacity to find compatibility in areas promoting defence cooperation and infrastructure simultaneously. Vietnam's role as country coordinator for India in ASEAN will come to a close in 2018. While the ties have progressed under the Look East and Act East Policies, going forward they need to factor in pragmatism, helping relations to move forward. India's ability to look beyond the prism of optics will remain a core challenge.

21. Why President Ram Nath Kovind's choice of Vietnam as the first Southeast Asian country to visit in his capacity as the President is not surprising?
  - (1) The relationship of India and Vietnam is limited to official diplomatic ties.
  - (2) An area of potential convergence for both Vietnam and India is health care.
  - (3) Vietnam is critical for India's foreign policy at the regional and systemic levels.
  - (4) A potential area of convergence in the realm of health care through joint public-private partnership agreements can be explored by the two countries.
  - (5) None of these
22. What is the Doi Moi policy mentioned in the passage?

- A. Vietnam's political and economic renewal campaign.  
B. India's political and economic renewal campaign.  
C. The dramatic strides made by Vietnam.

- (1) Only A  
(2) Only B  
(3) Only C  
(4) All A, B and C.  
(5) None of these.

23. How has Vietnam calibrated its domestic and foreign policy shifts?

- (1) To make dramatic strides.  
(2) So as to fit India's relevance into these policy changes.  
(3) By rapidly growing to become regional economic giant.  
(4) By showing both dynamism and pragmatism in its calculations.  
(5) None of these.

24. What are the dramatic strides made by Vietnam as mentioned in the passage?

- (1) Vietnam's economic growth has boosted from 6.8 % in 2017-18, by a further 1.1% to 3.5%  
(2) Membership to the CPTPP, which accounts for nearly 14% of the global GDP, will boost Vietnam's economic growth,  
(3) While earlier it imported agricultural products, today it is a major exporter.  
(4) Internationally, Vietnam's foreign policy is characterised by 'multidirectionalism'.  
(5) None of these.

25. What is the major takeaway from Mr. Kovind's visit to Vietnam?

- (1) India-Vietnam Joint Statement of March 2018 reiterates the focus given to sub-regionalism and the Mekong Ganga Cooperation framework.  
(2) The reference to the 'cooperation model' India offers, providing choices and opportunities for its friends.  
(3) Vietnam's role as country coordinator for India in ASEAN will come to a close in 2018.  
(4) India's ability to look beyond the prism of optics.  
(5) None of these.

**Direction (26-30):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Maya Madan, 22, lives in a brick hut in Hamid Khedi village. A few feet from her home, which is in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh, is a narrow street, criss-crossed by ditches full of dirty water. The buzz of mosquitoes breeding in these pools fills the air. It does not come entirely as a surprise that several of the cases of the State's first and India's second Zika outbreak are from Hamid Khedi and its neighbouring hamlets. Zika is spread by the mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti*. It thrives in stagnant water.

Even though the Zika virus only causes mild fever and symptoms such as rashes in most people, Madan has more to worry about as she is three months pregnant. The virus has been linked to birth defects in 5%-15% of children of infected mothers. Such birth defects include an abnormally small head (microcephaly) eye damage, shortened muscles and joints, and hearing damage.

This is why the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that in areas with ongoing Zika transmission, pregnant women should be made aware of Zika's dangers. They must use mosquito nets and repellent. Given that Zika can spread through sexual activity, they should avoid unprotected sex, while couples planning to have children should consider delaying pregnancies. Yet, 18 days into the outbreak, Madan hasn't heard anything about it. In fact, public communication about the virus seems to be limited to mosquito-control alone, with no mention of the other ways in which it can spread. Zika has the unique property of causing birth defects, which other mosquito-borne diseases do not. Yet, recently painted signs on the village walls warn about dengue and malaria, but are silent about Zika.

The Madhya Pradesh Public Health & Family Welfare Department's reluctance to counsel citizens quickly is due to an odd misinterpretation of Zika research. On November 3, 2018, a press release from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare cited the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) findings to say that the Zika strain – which had earlier caused an outbreak in Rajasthan – did not have "known mutations" for microcephaly. M.P.'s health officials are now waiting for the ICMR to genetically sequence the local Zika strain, as they believe it may also lack those mutations, and so, may not be dangerous to foetuses. Only if the strain turns out to have the dangerous genetic changes, health officials said, would they begin explicitly warning couples about delaying pregnancies during the outbreak. Pallavi Govil Jain, M.P.'s Health Commissioner, says: "Because we still don't know from the Health Ministry whether the strain can cause microcephaly, we have to be cautious

about what we tell women. If we tell them that it will impact their children, it will cause panic among the public."

This delay in launching intensive communication campaigns can cost lives, according to Zika researchers, because all Zika strains have been shown to cause birth defects. Contrary to what the Health Ministry's press release suggests, there is no "known mutation" for microcephaly. "People have got to stop saying this," says Nathan Grubaugh, an epidemiologist at the Yale School of Public Health. "It's going to drive complacency within the general population if they don't believe Zika can cause birth defects," he adds. Grubaugh studied the Brazil and U.S. Zika epidemics, in 2015.

Anant Bhan, a Bhopal-based bioethics researcher, says the State government's concern about causing alarm can be tackled with a good communications strategy. "Contextualise the communication, so that it is done sensitively. But not sharing or withholding information is not acceptable," he says.

One reason why the State Health Department cannot drag its feet about informing people is that Zika epidemics are typically larger than they appear. Nearly 80% of the infected people do not show symptoms. Therefore, surveillance systems detect only a fraction of the cases. This means that even though diagnostic tests have so far uncovered not more than 127 cases with 35 pregnant women in M.P., the actual number could be many times as much. In such a situation, says Grubaugh, telling women that Zika is linked to birth defects can motivate them to protect themselves, softening the impact of the virus. "If I were in such a situation, and if there was information that I could use to my benefit, I would want to know it. I don't want people to tell me: Oh, it's not an issue, when it actually is," he adds.

26. Why does it not come entirely as a surprise that several of the cases of the State's first and India's second Zika outbreak are from Hamid Khedi?
- (1) Hamid Khedi village is a narrow street, criss-crossed by ditches full of dirty water.
  - (2) The buzz of mosquitoes breeding in the dirty pools of Hamid Khedi fills the air.
  - (3) Zika is spread by the mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti*.
  - (4) The mosquito species that spreads Zika virus thrives in stagnant water which is ample in Hamid Khedi.
  - (5) None of these

27. Even though the Zika virus only causes mild fever and symptoms, why does Madan have more to worry?
- A. She is pregnant.
  - B. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends pregnant women should be made aware of Zika's dangers.
  - C. The virus has been linked to birth defects in 5%-15% of children of infected mothers.
- (1) All A, B and C
  - (2) Only A and C
  - (3) Only C and B
  - (4) Only B and A
  - (5) None of the above
28. What are the precautions against the spreading of Zika virus suggested in the passage for Infection prone area?
- (1) Use of mosquito nets and repellent.
  - (2) Avoiding unprotected sex.
  - (3) Considering delaying pregnancies.
  - (4) All of the above.
  - (5) Mosquito-control alone.
29. What is the reason behind The Madhya Pradesh Public Health & Family Welfare Department's reluctance to counsel citizens quickly?
- (1) An odd misinterpretation of Zika research.
  - (2) Threat of infection.
  - (3) Miscommunication about the ways by which the Zika Virus spreads.
  - (4) Lack of aware and trained staff.
  - (5) None of these.
30. When would the health officials say they begin explicitly warning couples about delaying pregnancies during the Zika outbreak?
- (1) When there is no "known mutation" for microcephaly.
  - (2) When the government would come up with a proper strategic plan to communicate.
  - (3) Only if the strain turns out to have the dangerous genetic changes.
  - (4) When they would be instructed to do so by the higher authorities in the Health Ministry.
  - (5) None of these

**Directions: (31-35)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Universities and patents benefit each other. Patents help universities to improve their ranking, establish an

#innovation ecosystem, incubate knowledge-based start-ups, earn additional revenue and measure research activity. In its biggest push to create entrepreneurial universities, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has now asked all universities in India to set up Intellectual Property (IP) Centres. As universities line up to set up these centres, they will face a strange human resources problem: despite the policy push to have more IP, we simply do not have enough IP professionals in the country.

The dearth of IP professionals is a problem related to the field of intellectual property itself. Its recent rise to #prominence in the international arena, thanks to various international treaties and trade agreements, along with the legal-centric approach where law schools and colleges are the only institutions which mandate teaching these subjects, are reasons why the supply of IP professionals is not keeping pace with demand. But there is a great opportunity now that should not be missed. The Central government conducts the only competitive examination in the country to check a person's proficiency in IP. Fine-tuning the patent agent examination to cater to the growing IP needs of the country can be a successful way to build a band of professionals and create career opportunities.

On October 28, the Central government conducted the competitive examination to test #proficiency in patent law, a type of intellectual property right (IPR) after a #hiatus of two years. Any Indian citizen with a bachelor's degree in science or technology can take the examination. Upon clearing it the person is entitled to practise before the Patent Office as a registered patent agent. Qualifying the exam allows science graduates to draft, file and procure patents from the Patent Office on behalf of inventors.

India witnessed significant changes in IPRs since the introduction of the National IPR Policy in 2016. The grants rates at the Patent Office have increased: in 2017-2018, there was a 32% increase in the number of patents granted compared to the earlier year. The Patent Office increased its workforce with the inclusion of 459 new examiners and is on the lookout for more. The timeline for filing responses to official objections for patents has been reduced by half. While the disposal rate has increased, the filing rate for patents has not changed significantly. In 2016-17, the Patent Office reported a dip of 3.2% in filing compared to the previous financial year.

The new policy has pushed universities to file more patents. Kindled by the call to have more IPRs, the higher education sector has witnessed many reforms. The UGC's call to universities, highlighted earlier, has

come after a series of policy directives to introduce awareness about IP in higher educational institutions. The number of patents applied for, granted and commercialised by universities and institutes is #factored in# the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings: no surprise that the top ranked engineering institutes in India are also the leading filers of patents. Whether a higher educational institute has an innovation ecosystem could also have a bearing, with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, awarding up to 24 points to an institute which sets up an innovation ecosystem and has a facility for identifying and promoting IPRs. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) model curriculum for its member institutions lays emphasis on the need for IPR education in technical institutes. As the IPR Chair at IIT Madras, I was part of a committee constituted to draft the IPR guidelines for institutions under the AICTE. The lack of IP professionals to teach IP was one of the reasons the committee could not suggest the mandatory introduction of IP courses in all technical institutes. Online courses on IPR are available on the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning platform. Though thousands register every year, much needs to be done to build capacity on IP in universities. We need to focus on careers rather than courses.

India has a poor patent agent density, with only about 2,000 registered patent agents currently in practice. The last time when the Patent Office conducted the patent agent exam, in 2016, around 2,600 candidates took it, a paltry number if one looks at the ambitious goals set by the IPR Policy. Despite the infrequent manner in which the examination has been conducted, the private sector does give good weightage to the examination as it is considered to be the de facto IP qualification today. The ambitious goal set by India's IPR Policy will be realised only when the examination becomes the foundation for making a career in IPR. In a dynamic field such as intellectual property, in order to create a band of qualified IP professionals there should be a push towards post-qualification continuous education as well. To achieve this, the format, membership, syllabus and the frequency of the patent agent examination will need to be addressed. This will not only increase the number and quality of IP professionals in the country but also become a new career choice for graduates with a degree in science and technology.

31. Why has encouraged the universities to file more patents?

- (1) The realization that India has a very poor patent density.
- (2) It has become a new career choice for graduates with a degree in science and technology.
- (3) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has now asked all universities in India to set up Intellectual Property (IP) Centres.
- (4) The introduction of the National IPR Policy in 2016.
- (5) None of these.

32. How do universities benefit patents?

- (1) Improve their ranking.
- (2) Establish an innovation ecosystem.
- (3) Incubate knowledge-based start-ups and earn additional revenue.
- (4) Measure research activity.
- (5) None of these

33. What can be done to solve the human resources problem that the universities will face as they line up to set up IP centres?

- (1) Fine-tuning the patent agent examination to cater to the growing IP needs of the country
- (2) The Central government should conduct competitive examination in the country to check a person's proficiency in IP.
- (3) Make available online courses on IPR on the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning platform.
- (4) Various international treaties and trade agreements, along with the legal-centric approach.
- (5) None of these.

34. Why the committee constituted to draft the IPR guidelines for institutions under the AICTE could not suggest the mandatory introduction of IP courses in all technical institutes?

- (1) There is no facility for identifying and promoting IPRs.
- (2) Due to the lack of IP professionals to teach IP.
- (3) Though thousands register every year, much needs to be done to build capacity on IP in universities.
- (4) The infrequent manner in which the examination has been conducted.
- (5) None of these.

35. How can a band of qualified IP professionals be created in a dynamic field such as intellectual property?

A. The examination should be made the foundation for making a career in IPR.

B. The format, membership, syllabus and the frequency of the patent agent examination should be addressed.

C. Post-qualification continuous education should be emphasised.

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Directions:(36-40)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Last week, a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification authorising 10 Central agencies to intercept, monitor, and **decrypt** online communications and data caused a **furor** in both Parliament and the wider civil society. The notification was described as an incremental step towards a surveillance state. The government's defence was equally swift: it protested that the notification created no new powers of surveillance. It was only issued under the 2009 Information Technology Rules, sanctioned by the previous United Progressive Alliance government. The 10 agencies had not been given a blank check; rather, specific surveillance requests, the government contended, still had to be authorised by the MHA **in accordance with** law. But whatever one makes of the government's defence, the MHA notification lays bare the **lopsided** character of the surveillance framework in India, and highlights an urgent need for comprehensive reform.

The existing surveillance framework is complex and confusing. Simply put, two statutes control the field: telephone surveillance is sanctioned under the 1885 Telegraph Act (and its rules) while electronic surveillance is authorised under the 2000 Information Technology Act (and its rules). The procedural structure in both cases is broadly similar, and flows from a 1997 Supreme Court judgment: surveillance requests have to be signed off by an official who is at least at the level of a Joint Secretary. There are three features about the current regime. First, it is bureaucratised. Decisions about surveillance are taken by the executive branch (including the review process) with no parliamentary or judicial supervision; indeed, the fact that an individual will almost never know that she is being surveilled means that finding out about surveillance, and then challenging it before a court, is a near-impossibility.

Second, the surveillance regime is vague and ambiguous. Under Section 69 of the IT Act, the grounds of surveillance have been simply lifted from Article 19(2) of the Constitution, and pasted into the law. They include very wide phrases such as "friendly relations with foreign States" or "sovereignty and integrity of India". Third, and flowing from the first two features, the regime is opaque. There is almost no information available about the bases on which surveillance decisions are taken, and how the legal standards are applied. Indeed, evidence seems to suggest that there are none: a 2014 RTI request revealed that, on an average, 250 surveillance requests are approved every day. It stands to reason that in a situation like this, approval resembles a rubber stamp more than an independent application of mind.

To arguments such as these, there is a stock response: the right to privacy is not absolute. Surveillance is essential to ensure national security and pre-empt terrorist threats, and it is in the very nature of surveillance that it must take place outside the public eye. Consequently, the regime is justified as it strikes a pragmatic balance between the competing values of privacy and security.

This is a familiar argument, but it must be examined more closely. First, let us clear a basic misconception: it is nobody's case that privacy is absolute. The staunchest civil rights advocates will not deny that an individual reasonably suspected of planning a terrorist attack should be placed under surveillance. The debate, therefore, is not about 'whether surveillance at all', but about 'how, when, and what kind of surveillance'.

36. Why did Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification authorising 10 Central agencies to intercept, monitor, and decrypt online communications and data cause a furore?
- (1) The notification created no new powers of surveillance.
  - (2) It was described as an incremental step towards a surveillance state.
  - (3) It was only issued under the 2009 Information Technology Rules.
  - (4) It was sanctioned by the previous United Progressive Alliance government.
  - (5) None of these
37. What does the MHA notification draw attention to?
- A. The 10 agencies had not been given a blank check; rather, specific surveillance requests
  - B. An urgent need for comprehensive reform

C. The lopsided character of the surveillance framework in India.

- (1) Only A and B
  - (2) Only B and C
  - (3) Only C and A
  - (4) All A and B and C.
  - (5) None of these.
38. Why the surveillance framework in India needs a comprehensive reform according to the author?
- (1) The 10 agencies had not been given a blank check; rather, specific surveillance requests.
  - (2) Everything still had to be authorised by the MHA in accordance with law.
  - (3) Only two statutes control the field.
  - (4) The existing surveillance framework is complex and confusing.
  - (5) None of these.
39. Which are the features of the current regime?
- (1) It is bureaucratised.
  - (2) The surveillance regime is vague and ambiguous.
  - (3) The regime is opaque.
  - (4) All of the above.
  - (5) None of these.
40. How the regime is justified according to the passage?
- (1) It strikes a pragmatic balance between the competing values of privacy and security.
  - (2) Decisions about surveillance are taken by the executive branch (including the review process) with no parliamentary or judicial supervision.
  - (3) The grounds of surveillance have been simply lifted from Article 19(2) of the Constitution, and pasted into the law
  - (4) There is almost no information available about the bases on which surveillance decisions are taken, and how the legal standards are applied.
  - (5) None of these.

**Direction (41-45):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Last month, 'Newsnight', a weekday BBC current affairs programme, faced much criticism online over a segment due to be aired that evening on 35-year-old Stephen Christopher Yaxley-Lennon, better known to the world as Tommy Robinson, co-founder of the English Defence League and a cause **célèbre** of the far right globally. Alongside the provision of yet another platform to him, it was the way the story was

promoted that troubled observers the most. Ahead of the programme, 'Newsnight' ran images of Mr. Robinson staring **determinedly** into the camera, his mouth covered with duct tape. "Is Tommy Robinson a man raising concerns that others ignore, or a far-right figure exploiting the victims of sexual abuse for his own ends?" asked the programme on its social media promotional.

This image of Mr. Robinson **muzzled** was the very one that he and his supporters had been seeking to project, despite the fact that as Miqdaad Versi, a spokesperson for the Muslim Council of Britain, noted on Twitter that in the last three months he has been mentioned on broadcast over 100 times. Far from him being shunned by the media, he has been interviewed on prominent news shows in recent years, as well as being an invitee at the Oxford Union. "Is Tommy Robinson being ignored and silenced by the media asks the media who won't stop reporting on him," tweeted Amna Saleem, a Scottish-Pakistani writer rather fittingly. The **preposterousness** of the suggestion that he is being silenced is also evidenced by his social media profile: clips of him speaking, often looking furtively into the camera as if to emphasise the supposed silencing, attract millions of viewers.

The notion that the far right is being muzzled despite the **inordinate** media attention it has garnered – from print, television, radio and digital – is one that it has managed to project with great success, feeding into the wider image the far right has attempted to propagate of it being an anti-establishment, revolutionary force. It also appears to be something that many of its proponents ardently believe. "We are being gagged," a supporter of Mr. Robinson, wearing a t-shirt with the logo "Free Speech Free Tommy", told the Canadian media website The Rebel Media outside a court recently. Hundreds of his supporters gathered outside the Old Bailey last month for a hearing over allegations of contempt of court that Mr. Robinson is facing over his filming of suspects in a criminal trial involving "grooming gangs". While his supporters have insisted he is a "martyr" to the British cause, and the only one to speak out, others have rightly pointed out that he has simply exploited the case of grooming gangs to further his toxic, Islamophobic world view, exacerbating the situation and taking the attention away from the victims and the debate on real practicable ways in which grooming gangs could be prevented from harming more people in the future.

He is far from the only figure on the right in Britain to present himself as a "brave soldier" of free speech, and the "oppressed" – as among the only ones willing

to take on the "dangerous liberals" supposedly trying to clamp down on free speech and impose their world view to the determinant of the marginalised majority. Katie Hopkins, an ultra-right campaigner, proclaimed herself the "Jesus of the outspoken". In May, a "Day for Freedom" protest took place on London's Parliament Square that attracted leading figures on the right. In April, Mark Meechan, a right-wing comedian, sought to portray a fine of £800 by a court in the U.K. for teaching a dog to do a Nazi salute for a YouTube video in terms of the curtailment of free speech.

The mainstreaming of this perspective has been toxic and debilitating on public life in the U.K. and beyond. A fear of being perceived to be closed to the perspectives of the right – which has been labelled "balance" – has led to a willingness by media outlets to offer voices even on issues where scientific consensus leaves little doubt. Earlier this year, the BBC faced much criticism over the space it provided to climate change deniers, until a briefing note sent to the staff in September pointed to the danger of a "false balance". "You do not need a 'denier' to balance the debate," the organisation was forced to clarify to its staff in a reference to man-made climate change.

Meanwhile, the far right has continued to rise steadily, spurred on by burgeoning acceptance of the issues raised by them that would once have been unthinkable, including by the media. There are over 100 live terror investigations related to the far-right as of October, while it emerged that MI5 is to take the lead in dealing with right-wing terrorism amid rising concern about its reach. Last week at least five men were arrested in connection with a video that showed the burning of an effigy of London's Grenfell Tower. The blaze at the tower, home to largely ethnic minority residents, in June 2017 killed 72 people.

The usurpation of the free speech debate by the far right is, of course, not confined to Britain. It has become an essential part of the playbook of the movement across the world, while Mr. Robinson himself is held up by right-wing figures across the world as a poster-boy. The unwillingness of the media in Britain and beyond to call out those efforts for what they are will only continue to bolster that effort. The ability of the media to confront the far right, without unconsciously or otherwise adopting its rules of engagement, and its positioning of debates, is likely to be one of its biggest challenges going forward.

41. What was motive behind images of Mr. Robinson staring determinedly into the camera, his mouth covered with duct tape?

- (1) Raising concerns that others ignore.
- (2) The story was promoted to trouble observers.
- (3) To garner inordinate media attention.
- (4) To promote the notion that Tommy Robinson being ignored and silenced.
- (5) None of these

42. Who is Tommy Robinson according to the passage?
- A. Pseudonym of Stephen Christopher Yaxley-Lennon.
  - B. Co-founder of the English Defence League.
  - C. Cause célèbre of the far right globally.
- (1) Only B and C
  - (2) Only C and A
  - (3) Only A and B
  - (4) All A, B, C
  - (5) None of the above
43. What do many of the proponents of the far right ardently believe?
- (1) That the far right is being muzzled.
  - (2) It has managed to project with great success.
  - (3) Tommy Robinson a man raising concerns that others ignore.
  - (4) Tommy Robinson, a far-right figure, is exploiting the victims of sexual abuse for his own ends
  - (5) None of these.
44. For whom, the mainstreaming of this perspective has been toxic and debilitating?
- (1) All far right activists
  - (2) Tommy Robinson
  - (3) Public life in the U.K. and beyond
  - (4) The proponents of the far right.
  - (5) None of these.
45. Where does the biggest threat to free speech come from?
- (1) From the media.
  - (2) From the left.
  - (3) From the far right.
  - (4) From the government.
  - (5) None of these

**Directions:(46-50)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Facebook has faced a set of **festering** and interconnected problems, many of which have come to a boil over the last two years, starting around the time of the U.S. presidential election. These were described in a New York Times investigation, the

results of which were published about 10 days ago. The crises stem from several sources, most notably Russian operatives interested in influencing the outcome of the 2016 election through information warfare, **controversies** over Facebook's internal response to the Russian campaign and the consequent tensions between Facebook's cybersecurity chief Alex Stamos and others, especially its CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg and chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg.

Facebook's response was problematic externally, too. At Congressional hearings and elsewhere in Washington, Facebook was criticised for using its political connections to skirt responsibility for its slow and inadequate response to the Russian threat and to deflect blame on to other technology companies. Other problems included Facebook's response to the (then) candidate Donald Trump's Facebook post about a ban on Muslims entering the U.S., which was shared over 15,000 times. Ms. Sandberg and Mr. Zuckerberg delegated the handling of this, and ultimately a decision to avoid conservative **backlash** was part of what went into leaving the post online. The New York Times reported that in October 2017, Facebook had increased its engagement with Definers Public Affairs, a Washington-based PR firm, and adopted a strategy to push positive content about itself and negative content about its competitors. Eventually, Definers looked into the financing activities of billionaire philanthropist George Soros, who is also frequently the target of anti-Semitic and right-wing groups. Definers circulated a paper this summer, **pointing the finger at** Mr. Soros as the backer of the anti-Facebook lobby. But by then matters had gotten worse. In March this year, an investigation by The Observer and The New York Times revealed that information from tens of millions of accounts was used by Cambridge Analytica (or researchers it partnered with) a company that worked with the Trump campaign, without explicit user **consent**. Facebook faced fines, **lawsuits** and questioning by lawmakers in Washington, London and Brussels.

Since there were several problems or crises, there is no one cause. However, if each of these issues is looked at as a symptom, a corporate culture of "delay, deny, deflect," as The New York Times headlined it, could be to blame. For instance, more than a year passed from when Mr. Stamos, Facebook's security head, discovered suspicious Russian activity to when the Facebook Board heard about it. Yet Ms. Sandberg's focus after the Board met was, reportedly, that Mr. Stamos had told the Board that the problem

was not contained. "You threw us under the bus!" Ms. Sandberg is reported to have told Mr. Stamos.

Facebook can count just under a third of humanity or 2.3 billion people among its users. Its success is predicated on monetising data that users, knowingly or unwittingly, share with the platform. Issues that impact the security of that data impact the privacy of a large chunk of humanity. If the platform is misused for disinformation campaigns, it can impact the democratic process in countries, and if harnessed to target specific individuals, it can quickly make them **vulnerable** to abuse and attacks, given the speed with which information spreads and how effectively opinions are reinforced in echo chambers.

It is unclear what lies ahead. Facebook's business model is centred on charging advertisers for the ability to target ads at specific groups of its users. Facebook is likely to change behaviour as a response to greater regulation (and Mr. Zuckerberg has said he is open to it) or users leaving the platform or sharing less data on it. However, in either case, given the size of the firm and the **giddy** success it has experienced, there will probably be considerable inertia and quick changes are unlikely to follow.

46. Why was Facebook criticized according to the passage?
- (1) For influencing the outcome of the 2016 election through information warfare.
  - (2) For getting the company influenced by the political views of its top share-holders.
  - (3) Using its political connections to skirt responsibility for its slow and inadequate response to the Russian threat.
  - (4) Putting blame on to other technology companies for its slow outcome of the election.
  - (5) None of these.
47. For what did Facebook face fines, lawsuits and questioning by lawmakers in Washington, London and Brussels?
- (1) Information from tens of millions of Facebook accounts was used by Cambridge Analytica (or researchers it partnered with) without explicit user consent.
  - (2) It adopted a strategy to push positive content about itself and negative content about its competitors.
  - (3) Definers circulated a paper this summer, pointing the finger at Mr. Soros as the backer of the anti-Facebook lobby.
  - (4) For its slow and inadequate response to the Russian threat.

(5) None of these

48. Who is to blame according to the given passage?
- (1) Since there were several problems or crises, there is no one to blame.
  - (2) Mr. Stamos, Facebook's security head.
  - (3) Ms. Sandberg.
  - (4) The corporate culture of "delay, deny, deflect," could be to blame.
  - (5) None of these.
49. How are the Face users going to be affected by the current crisis?
- (1) Facebook can count just under a third of humanity or 2.3 billion people among its users.
  - (2) If the platform is misused, it can impact the democratic process in countries or individuals vulnerable to abuse and attacks,
  - (3) Users are going to, knowingly or unwittingly, share their personal data with the platform.
  - (4) There will be high speed with which information spreads.
  - (5) None of these.
50. Which are the festering and interconnected problems that Facebook has faced?
- A. Facebook's business model is centred on charging advertisers for the ability to target ads at specific groups of its users.
  - B. Facebook is likely to change behaviour as a response to greater regulation.
  - C. Given the size of the firm and the giddy success it has experienced, there will probably be considerable inertia and quick changes are unlikely to follow.
- (1) Only A
  - (2) Only B
  - (3) Only C
  - (4) All A, B and C
  - (5) None of these

**Directions:(51-55)** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Since at least 1974, when the Supreme Court commented on the Constitution **envisaging** a cooperative federal structure, federalism has come a long way in India. In relation to the imposition of President's rule under Article 356 of the Constitution, federalism is far more mature. Between 1947 and 1977, there were 44 instances when the power to impose President's rule was **exercised**.

Between 1977 and 1996, the power was exercised almost 59 times. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet **resorted** to the power an estimated 50 times in her 14 years. The fact that it includes 15 instances between 1980 and 1984 after the Supreme Court held **federalism** a basic feature of the Constitution is quite **telling**. From 1991 till 2016, there have been 32 instances of the exercise of this power – compared to 92 instances in the preceding period. In *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994) the limitation laid down by the Supreme Court might have placed gentle breaks on exercise of this power, but the Centre continues to wield superior legislative powers, including **residuary** powers and legislative precedence. These are powers the Central government enjoys under the Constitution and States' legislative powers have **routinely yielded** to the Centre. Given this constitutional framework, what is the cooperative federalism that one can hope for?

Recently, in *Govt. of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court gently tilted the balance of executive power in favour of the Government of the National Capital Territory **vis-à-vis** the Lieutenant Governor (and by extension, the Centre). However, the court's observations on cooperative federalism were stating the obvious considering members of both cabinets take an oath to uphold the Constitution. The facts behind the case and the **acrimonious litigation**, which the Supreme Court did not examine in its July 2018 ruling, clearly bring out the yawning gap between the Constitution's intent and political reality.

Taxation powers are another **contentious** issue and the Central government has won most of the disputes purely due to express provisions in the Constitution. In the Goods and Services Tax (GST) scenario, States have foregone some taxation powers (octroi, entry tax, luxury and entertainment taxes, etc.) but have powers to levy taxes through panchayats and municipalities.

Such powers can result in an **anomalous** situation of a transaction being taxed under GST laws and a local law, and this is yet to be tested in court. After the GST amendments to the Constitution, States have power to levy tax on sale of petrol, diesel, etc. and these would be revenues of the respective States. However, the GST Council is yet to recommend inclusion of these items under GST.

This brings us to another key dynamic that defines the Centre-State relationship – sharing of taxes. The southern States have been vocal about the false positives and negatives from tax sharing and this mechanism is largely subject to the recommendations of the Finance Commission (FC) and action by Parliament. State levies and State GST form part of a

State's revenue. Under Article 269A(1) the GST Council – and not the FC – has the powers to make recommendations in relation to sharing of taxes from inter-State trade.

This is important since States have a vote in the GST Council. However, Articles 270(1A) and 270(2) provide that taxes levied under the GST laws will be shared in the manner 'prescribed' in Article 270(2) – which takes us to the FC, and not the GST Council. The possible anomaly between roles and powers of the FC and the GST Council has not been tested but it may make sharing of these revenues subject matter of the FC and Parliament rather than the GST Council, where States have more power.

States don't merely seek **parity** with each other, historically States have also sought parity with the Centre (Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions). Recommendations of the FC are placed before Parliament and States have no role in the debate. There is no provision for an aggrieved State to challenge the FC report or seek its enforcement. If the Centre refuses to make allocations as per the GST Council, or if a State is aggrieved by the recommendations itself, an aggrieved State would have to litigate in the Supreme Court as it appears that the GST Council is yet to establish a mechanism for resolving differences in terms of Article 279A(11). In 68 years of the Constitution, there is limited precedent for such extreme actions. In an era of coalition politics, this would be a true test of cooperative federalism.

51. What happened after the Supreme Court held federalism a basic feature of the Constitution?
  - (1) Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet resorted to the power an estimated 50 times in her 14 years.
  - (2) From 1991 till 2016, there have been 32 instances of the unnecessary exercise of constitutional power
  - (3) The Centre continues to wield superior legislative powers.
  - (4) Compared to 92 instances in the preceding period, the use of power became less frequent. The
  - (5) None of these.
52. What brought out the gap between the Constitution's intent and political reality?
  - (1) The facts behind the case and the acrimonious litigation.
  - (2) The incident of the facts being ignored by the supreme court.
  - (3) Considering that members of both cabinets take an oath to uphold the Constitution.