

BOOKLET SL. NO.

OMR No.

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ADMIT CARD NUMBER

[illegible]

(In Figures)

Signature of the Candidate

Signature of the Invigilator

(This Booklet contains 44 pages, including blank pages to answer questions in Part B.)

Maximum Marks : 150

General Instructions

1. This paper has two parts. Part A consists of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Part B has subjective questions.
2. A separate Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet is supplied to each candidate along with the Question Booklet (QB). You **MUST READ** the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet **BEFORE** you start the test.
3. Candidates will not be given a second blank OMR Response Sheet under any circumstance. Hence, the OMR Response Sheet should be handled carefully. Do not fold the OMR Response Sheet.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy in the QB, request the invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response Sheet with the fresh QB.
5. Candidates should ensure that the invigilator affixes their signature in the space provided in the QB and the OMR Response Sheet. Candidates should sign in the space provided in the OMR Response Sheet, and the QB.
6. Candidates should write the QB number and OMR Response Sheet number, and sign in the space provided in the attendance sheet.
7. Candidates should return the first page of the OMR Response Sheet and the QB to the invigilator after the test.
8. Possession of electronic devices including mobile phones, headphones, smart watches and digital watches is strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other fraudulent practice may be a criminal offence, and will lead to your disqualification and possibly, penal action under the law.
9. The use of any unfair means by a Candidate shall result in the cancellation of their examination.

DO NOT OPEN TILL 10:00 A.M.



PART A

Specific Instructions for Part A:

1. Part A of the paper consists of 8 (eight) passages.
2. Each passage is accompanied by Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs). Answer each question relying on what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. Some questions may require knowledge or information that is not supplied in the passage.
3. If more than one option provides a partial answer to the question, choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.
4. Each MCQ carries **1 (one) mark**. Candidates will receive **1 (one) mark** for each correct answer. There is *Negative Marking*. **0.25 marks will be deducted for each wrong answer, and for each un-attempted question.**



- I. Umeshi Uyangoda saw her husband, Udes, off to work every morning with a heavily scented handkerchief pressed to her nose, and a sordid little secret coiled inside her chest. Both were sickening, but neither as sickening as the stench from the municipal garbage dump down the road. It was this abomination, she told herself — this gigantic purveyor of toxic gas and ill fortune — that necessitated her perfume and her treachery.

Once Udes was safely out of sight, Umeshi scuttled up to the second floor, ignoring the leftovers on the breakfast table, the swarm of black flies gathering over globs of egg curry that were soaking into her tablecloth...

She went directly upstairs to her daughter's old bedroom, whose door still carried Umanga's hand-painted sign: *Beware! Highly Educated Woman Inside*. Little had been touched in the five years since the girl left for college in the United States — wooden shelves still sinking under the weight of so many books, walls still papered with magazines' cutouts of Umanga's idols, all women whose names eternally escaped Umeshi. No matter. She had eyes for only two things in this room: the Sunday newspaper supplement and a bulky Windows PC.

While the machine revved up, Umeshi spread out the Classifieds, using her thumbnail to crease down the centerfold of the BRIDEGROOMS section. The paper's flat rate of 25 rupees per word encouraged brevity, which in turn exposed the base, unfiltered aspirations of [the] entire [Sri Lankan] nation:

"Govi-Buddhist parents seek obedient, fair girl for our son (5'10"). He is Devoid of All Vices (non-smoker, teetotaler, hardworking), employed in leading bank, possessing Australian Permanent Residence (PR) and Significant Financial Assets. Desires immediate union with a slim and pretty bride. Reply with horoscope."

One had to be vigilant about the fine print, of course—*Divorced after brief incompatible marriage* or, even worse, *Christian parents seek*—but Umeshi had learned quickly that these proposals were all of a pattern, reflecting a society clinging to old feuds and ancient bloodlines. While the profession or height of a future spouse might be negotiable, caste, community and color were not... But she was willing to overlook these families' outdated notions in exchange for The Promise, the great offer of exchange that all the personal advertisements rested on: emigration. Dual citizenship for both bride and mother. A life abroad, overseas, elsewhere. Anywhere But Here.

There were no names attached to the ads. Those, presumably, came later, when BrideProposal4455@yahoo.com or nzparents25@outlook.lk had shuffled through their responses and decided that she—and Umanga—were worth their time. But that hadn't happened yet. And it stung.

Umeshi refreshed her inbox. She clicked on 'Spam' and then, growing desperate, on 'Trash'. She was new to this computer business, the mysterious world of the screen where things disappeared into black holes called Folders, never to be seen again. Not like real life, where everything piled up until you were forced to confront it. Here, On-Line, you pressed a button and started fresh—a new day, a New Window.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from Kanya D'Almeida, 'A Rotten Deal', 42 The Bombay Review, March 2023]



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1. How does the garbage dump become the cause for Umeshi's treachery?
- (A) The garbage dump was responsible for the persistent swarm of flies in her dining room, constantly reminding her of her inability to live up to her role as homemaker.
 - (B) The garbage dump symbolizes Umeshi's relationship with her environment, which she is desperate to escape.
 - (C) The garbage dump represented the failure of her country to supply adequate civic amenities, which is why she seeks to emigrate.
 - (D) Umeshi had been unsuccessful in getting the garbage dump removed from her vicinity, and thus sought to escape reminders of her defeat.
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2. What does the passage indicate about Umeshi's relationship with her daughter?
- (A) Umeshi and her daughter share no secrets, reflected in the manner in which she easily enters and habitates her daughter's room.
 - (B) Umeshi is keenly aware of her daughter's preferences, reflected in how she is meticulous in her search for a suitable match for her.
 - (C) The daughter's room is described around her own absence but through her artefacts, reflecting strained relations between mother and daughter.
 - (D) Umeshi is unfamiliar of her daughter's tastes and personality, reflected in her indifference to the books and posters in her room.
-
3. What does the above passage indicate about the role of marriage in a woman's life in Umeshi's society?
- (A) Women strive to take charge of their conditions within traditional structures of marriage.
 - (B) In modern day societies, marriage is secondary to women's professional aspirations.
 - (C) Both (A) and (B).
 - (D) None of the above.
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4. What does the extracted matrimonial advertisement communicate about the base unfiltered aspirations of those reading and relying on the advertisement?
- (A) Marital decisions are taken on the parameters of wealth and caste.
 - (B) Marital preferences are gendered, with men and women evaluated on different criteria of suitability.
 - (C) Marital decisions are family affairs, where parents are deeply involved in the selection process.
 - (D) All of the above.
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5. If the extracted advertisement is representative of most matrimonial advertisements, which of the following statements is not true about marriage in Umeshi's society?
- (A) Marriages are matters of personal choice of individuals.
 - (B) Marriages are matters of parental and societal preferences.
 - (C) Marriages are decided based on considerations of financial and social status.
 - (D) All of the above.
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6. Which of the following candidates is Umeshi likely to consider as the most eligible match for her daughter?
- (A) 38-year-old man employed at a reputed private bank in Berlin, and drawing a six-figure salary.
 - (B) 32-year-old man, once divorced, running his own business in Shanghai.
 - (C) 35-year-old Christian man, self-employed, with Permanent Residence in London.
 - (D) 35-year-old man employed at a reputed private bank in Kandy, and drawing a seven-figure monthly salary.
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7. Which of the following statements best describe the idea of 'dual citizenship' in the above passage?
- (A) Opt-in/ opt-out citizenship, where an individual can freely choose at adulthood which country/ countries they want to be a citizen of.
 - (B) A model of citizenship where an individual can be a citizen of multiple countries at once.
 - (C) Citizenship where an individual is a citizen of one country for half a year, and another country for the other half.
 - (D) A model of citizenship where an individual, on becoming a citizen of a country, can also extend the same right to their family members.
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8. The right to citizenship:
- (A) Is a fundamental right under the Constitution of India.
 - (B) Is not a fundamental right under the Constitution of India.
 - (C) Has been repealed as a fundamental right by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.
 - (D) None of the above.
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9. What does the above passage indicate about the relationship between marriage and citizenship?
- (A) There is no relationship between marriage and citizenship, as even unmarried persons can be citizens of a country.
 - (B) The passage does not indicate any relationship between marriage and citizenship.
 - (C) There is a close relationship between marriage and citizenship, as Umeshi views her daughter's marriage as a path to foreign citizenship.
 - (D) There is a close relationship between marriage and citizenship, as Umeshi wants a foreign citizen to retain her daughter's citizenship abroad.
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10. Which of the following players was awarded the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award for 2023 by the International Cricket Council?
- (A) Shashikala Siriwardene
 - (B) Chamari Athapaththu
 - (C) Nilakshi de Silva
 - (D) Smriti Mandhana
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- II. Two revolutions, the national and the social, had been running parallel in India since the end of the First World War. With independence, the national revolution would be completed, but the social revolution must go on. Freedom was not an end in itself, only 'a means to an end', Nehru had said, 'that end being the raising of the people ... to higher levels and hence the general advancement of humanity'.

The first task of this Assembly (Nehru told the members) is to free India through a new Constitution, to feed the starving people, and to clothe the naked masses, and to give every Indian the fullest opportunity to develop himself according to his capacity.

K. Santhanam, a prominent southern member of the Assembly and editor of a major newspaper, described the situation in terms of three revolutions. The political revolution would end, he wrote, with independence. The social revolution meant 'to get (India) out of the medievalism based on birth, religion, custom, and community and reconstruct her social structure on modern foundations of law, individual merit, and secular education'. The third revolution was an economic one: 'The transition from primitive rural economy to scientific and planned agriculture and industry'. Radhakrishnan (now President of India) believed India must have a 'socio-economic revolution' designed not only to bring about 'the real satisfaction of the fundamental needs of the common man', but to go much deeper and bring about 'a fundamental change in the structure of Indian society'.

On the achievement of this great social change depended India's survival. 'If we cannot solve this problem soon,' Nehru warned the Assembly, 'all our paper constitutions will become useless and purposeless ... If India goes down, all will go down; if India thrives, all will thrive; and if India lives, all will live ...' In the age of modern communications and Communist revolutions, India could not waste time. To retain her identity, Indians believed, their country must be independent and remain non-Communist. 'The choice for India,' wrote Santhanam, '... is between rapid evolution and violent revolution ... because the Indian masses cannot and will not wait for a long time to obtain the satisfaction of their minimum needs.'

The Constituent Assembly's task was to draft a constitution that would serve the ultimate goal of social revolution, of national renaissance. But this was a task far more complicated than the simple drafting of fundamental rights or the moral precepts of a preamble. What form of political institutions would foster or at least permit a social revolution? Moreover, any thought of social betterment for the nation would be mere romantic nonsense if the requisite conditions did not exist in the country. If the country were not united, if the government were not stable, if the government lacked the cooperation or the acquiescence of the people, there could be no economic progress and no government initiative for social change. What political institutions, therefore, would help to accomplish these subsidiary aims and so establish the conditions in which social change could more easily take place?

[Extracted with edits from Granville Austin, *The Indian Constitution: Cornerstone of a Nation*]

11. Why did Nehru say that freedom was not an end in itself?
- (A) As per Nehru, freedom was only 'a means to an end', with the end being the raising of the people to higher levels and general advancement of humanity.
 - (B) Nehru felt that the mere ousting of the British was not sufficient to achieve political freedom.
 - (C) Nehru did not value political freedom and did not see it as a major achievement.
 - (D) None of the above.



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12. According to the author, what did Nehru view as the first task of the Constituent Assembly?
- (A) Deliberate on the various models of constitutions existing across the world and borrow from them.
 - (B) Free India through a new constitution and to give every Indian the fullest opportunity to develop himself according to his capacity.
 - (C) Ensure national integration through a new constitution which will entrust most of the powers to the Union government.
 - (D) Make arrangements for a free and fair national election.
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13. What, according to the author, were some of the challenges that the Constituent Assembly faced in its task of drafting a constitution that would serve the ultimate goal of social revolution?
- (A) It was difficult to guess the form of political institutions would permit a social revolution.
 - (B) The stability of the government and acquiescence of the people.
 - (C) Adopting a common link language for the country.
 - (D) (A) and (B), but not (C).
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14. Which of the following statements best captures Nehru's idea of the relationship between social change, India's survival and constitution, as discussed in the extract given above?
- (A) A constitution would survive the ephemeral impulses of the society.
 - (B) A constitution should be agnostic to the realities of the society and it is only such a constitution that can drive a society forward.
 - (C) India's survival depended on social change and constitutions will become useless and purposeless if India goes down.
 - (D) No amount of social change can render a weak constitution to work effectively.
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15. The author is least likely to agree with which of the following statements?
- (A) Achieving the goal of social revolution was far more complex than the simple drafting of fundamental rights or the moral precepts of a preamble.
 - (B) Any thought of social betterment for the nation would be futile if the requisite conditions did not exist in the country.
 - (C) If the government lacked the cooperation of the people, there could be no economic progress and no government initiative for social change.
 - (D) The form of political institutions that would foster a social revolution was clear to everyone at the time of drafting of the constitution.
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16. The Constitution of India, in its Preamble, mentions the date of its adoption. Which is this date?
- (A) January 26, 1950
 - (B) November 26, 1949
 - (C) August 15, 1947
 - (D) January 1, 1950
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17. Article 1 of the Constitution of India deals with the name and territory of the Union. Which among the following expressions has been used in the provision to refer to the name of the Union?

- (A) India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.
- (B) Bharat, that is India, shall be a Union of States.
- (C) India shall be a Union of States.
- (D) Bharat shall be a Union of States.

18. In September 2023, the Indian Parliament passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Amendment) Bill. Which of the following does it pertain to?

- (A) Reservation of one-third seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- (B) Abrogation of the special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.
- (C) Adoption of one-nation, one election with effect from 2029.
- (D) Increasing the power of Governors in States.

III. In the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, the radical saints preached the ecstasy of devotional bhakti freeing them from brahmanic ritualism and laid the foundations for new values of equality and rationality which challenged priestly dominance and caste hierarchy. However, the radical saints themselves did not and could not achieve the use of reason, that is, give a socio-historical analysis of caste. It was only with the British and the 'plunge into history' could take place, when the historical and social opened up before the newly educated groups in India. The shift from kaliyuga to colonial yuga was also a shift from an ahistorical cyclical vision of time and cosmology to a historical, creative one in which human rather than divine agency was predominant. Industrialism, of course, turned this into 'clock time', emphasizing precision and work discipline, but historical time was also a gift of knowledge. Mass-based but unlettered groups like the Kartabhajas had not seen this, but those who could gain some grasp of the new weapon of historical thinking, a new social scientific outlook, could do so. Phule thus aspired not simply to the ecstasy of devotionism and escape from the life of caste and ritual, but also to the reason of analyzing and understanding history.

It was the missionaries who first communicated many of the new themes to the masses. They engaged in debates with brahmans, and they brought these debates out of narrow Sanskrit-dominated circles into a more mass audience. (Phule's first literary effort records such a debate, featuring a missionary challenging a brahman pandit.) They took up themes pioneered by the great European 'Indologists' and linked them with the new ethnographical studies of the varying caste groups in India. To these they brought the 'Aryan-non-Aryan' themes, which interpreted the caste system in terms of great and ancient racial divide between conquering invading vedic Aryan peoples and indigenous inhabitants of the subcontinent. Thus, we find, for instance, George Briggs not only writing on the chamars (1920), but also communicating and exchanging ideas with various groups of them.

The notion of an Aryan conquest was widely accepted- by missionaries, administrators and Indians themselves. Brahmans, whether in Bengal or Maharashtra, used it to emphasize the 'golden age' of the vedic Aryan period, before society was overwhelmed by indigenous decadence and by the exigencies caused by Muslim conquest. The British could simply see the Aryans as a spiritually gifted but otherwise inferior form of Europeans. Phule was a pioneer among the



intellectuals coming from the masses when he took a different tack. In *Gulamgiri*, published in 1873, he turned the theory upside down, and wrote of the golden age in pre-Aryan India, with the Aryan invasion motivated by visions of this wealth and resulting in slavery.

[Extracted from Gail Omvedt, "*Seeking Begumpura: The Social Vision of Anticaste Intellectuals*", Navayana 2019.]

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19. According to the author, what was the key contribution(s) of radical saints to society in the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries?
- (A) Radical saints brought a historical approach to study society, instead of ahistorical approaches of traditions prevailing at the time.
 - (B) Radical saints emphasized ritualism and priestly dominance in the conduct of social affairs.
 - (C) Radical saints paved the way for industrialization of society.
 - (D) Radical saints brought values of equality and rationality to the conduct of social and religious affairs.
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20. How were the radical saints unsuccessful in their own endeavor?
- (A) Radical saints were unable to dispense with priestly dominance in society, as Brahmanism continued to be highly influential.
 - (B) Radical saints were unable to bring a socio-historical study of society despite their emphasis on the values of rationality.
 - (C) Radical saints were unable to transform social and political relations between classes in society.
 - (D) Radical saints were unable to grasp the churning of history from kaliyuga to colonial yuga.
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21. Which of the following political leaders was recently in the news for saying that Sanatana Dharma is against social justice and equality?
- (A) MK Stalin
 - (B) Udhayanidhi Stalin
 - (C) Pinarayi Vijayan
 - (D) Tejashwi Yadav
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22. What influences does the author identify on Phule's analysis of caste and society at the conclusion of the first paragraph?
- i) Brahmanism
 - ii) British colonialism
 - iii) Radical saints of fifteenth to seventeenth century
 - iv) BR Ambedkar
- (A) All of the above.
 - (B) Only (ii), (iii) and (iv).
 - (C) Only (ii) and (iii).
 - (D) Only (iii) and (iv).
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23. According to the author, how did the Brahman castes view the Aryan conquest of the subcontinent?
- (A) The Aryan conquest was instrumental in ushering in scientific temperament in the conduct of social and intellectual affairs in the subcontinent.
 - (B) The Aryan conquest was instrumental in bringing reason and discourse to the masses beyond elite Sanskrit-dominated circles.
 - (C) The Aryan conquest ushered in the golden age of the subcontinent, before it was impacted by the Muslim conquest.
 - (D) All of the above.
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24. How does Phule differ from missionaries, administrators and Indians themselves on the issue of the Aryan conquest?
- (A) Phule does not differ from missionaries, administrators and Indians as he too accepts the theory of the spiritual superiority of the Aryans.
 - (B) Phule differs from missionaries, administrators and Indians on their view of the golden age or superiority of the Aryan races over indigenous peoples of the subcontinent.
 - (C) Phule differs from missionaries, administrators and Indians on his view that knowledge must be limited to the priestly castes and not be raised amongst the masses.
 - (D) Phule differs from missionaries, administrators and Indians on the view that India is a civilization with religion but without a history.
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25. What is the significance of George Briggs' exchange of ideas with the chamar castes in the early twentieth century?
- (A) It indicated that the British were free from notions of caste and untouchability in their social and intellectual interactions.
 - (B) It expanded the sphere of reason and discourse beyond the priestly castes.
 - (C) It signified the defeat of untouchability and priestly dominance as an influential social force in colonial and industrialized societies.
 - (D) It symbolized the advent of critical perspectives on colonialism and industrialization from diverse sections of society.
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26. Which of the following statements is most consistent with the British view of the Aryans?
- (A) Aryans are great authorities on matters of mysticism, but unfit for self-governance.
 - (B) Aryans were instrumental in the flourishing of trade, commerce and culture in the subcontinent.
 - (C) Aryans were responsible for the institutionalization of slavery in the subcontinent.
 - (D) Aryans brought a socio-historical analysis of caste society in the subcontinent.
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27. In this passage, what is the author's own view on the Aryan conquest?
- (A) The author agrees with the theory of the Aryan conquest, as she states that it was a widely accepted theory amongst missionaries, administrators and Indians themselves.
 - (B) The author disagrees with the theory of the Aryan conquest, as she adopts Phule's perspective expressed in his text *Gulamgiri*.
 - (C) The author makes no comment of the theory of the Aryan conquest, as she merely describes the perspectives of different schools of thought.
 - (D) The author agrees with the theory of the Aryan conquest, as the 'golden age' of the vedic period is a widely known fact.
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28. Which of the following Indologists, is the author of "Dreams, Illusions, and other Realities"?
- (A) Wendy Doniger
 - (B) Jeffrey Armstrong
 - (C) Arundhati Roy
 - (D) Madeleine Biardeau

IV. Consider a child born in India.

This child is, firstly, far less likely to be born in south India than in north India, given the former's low rates of population growth. But let's assume the child is born in the south. She is far less likely to die in the first year of her life given the lower infant mortality rates in south India compared to the rest of India. She will go to school and stay in school longer; she will more likely go to college than her contemporaries elsewhere in India.

She'll have greater political representation and more impact on elections as a voter than those peers too. In short, the median child born in south India will live a healthier, wealthier, more secure and more socially impactful life than a child born in north India.

India's regional imbalance wasn't always skewed in favour of the south and it was never as substantial as it now is. At the time of independence, the southern states were indistinguishable from the rest of India in terms of their development metrics. Today, the difference in development between some of the northern states and southern states is as stark as that between sub-Saharan Africa and the OECD countries.

Why is the south doing so much better than the north? Surely, it's not historical providence or ethnic essentialism, given their similar starting points. It's obviously not due to some policy implementation of the Government of India. That leaves policy decisions at the state level, the implementation capacity of their bureaucracies and dumb luck as other possible reasons. The capabilities of state bureaucracies are often realisations of policy decisions themselves. And luck, over a long enough period of time, is otherwise called policy vision and implementation.

So, why are states in southern India able to design better policy and implement it too? The literature credits subnationalism as one reason for the relatively better development of states in southern India. In India, instances of subnationalism are often based on linguistic identity, given that they go back millennia. That sense of belonging in a localised geography is the glue which creates the knock-on effects that accelerate growth in various spheres, simply because we as a social species achieve great things when we have a common purpose.

Compared to, say Kerala, the trajectory of decay in public services in Uttar Pradesh, and its consequent status as a laggard state, runs in the opposite direction. The United Provinces under British rule was a relatively well-administered province while the princely state of Travancore, which is now part of Kerala, was a troubled place.



The economic trajectory of India's states follows the simple maxim of the modern era: the most important economic resource a country has is its people. A healthy and well-educated population with a reasonably well-run government is likely to have better economic prospects. The income levels and job prospects in south India, unsurprisingly, are significantly better than in the north.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *South vs North: India's Great Divide*, by Nilakantan RS]

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29. Which of the following, if true, would most accurately explain why the author says that a child born in south India will have 'greater political representation and more impact on elections as a voter' than a child born in north India?
- (A) There are fewer constituencies in south India than in north India.
 - (B) There are more voters per constituency in south India than in north India.
 - (C) There are more constituencies in north India than in south India.
 - (D) There are fewer voters per constituency in south India than in north India.
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30. Which of the following can validly be inferred from the passage?
- (A) College enrolment rates in north India are lower than in south India.
 - (B) College enrolment rates in north India are higher than in south India.
 - (C) College enrolment rates in south India are lower than in north India.
 - (D) College enrolment rates in south India are the same as in north India.
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31. Which Indian state has the lowest literacy rate?
- (A) Tamil Nadu
 - (B) Bihar
 - (C) Madhya Pradesh
 - (D) Rajasthan
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32. According to the passage, which of the following is true about policy vision and implementation?
- (A) It has effects over the long term that might seem to be the result of bad fortune.
 - (B) It has effects in the short term that might seem to be the result of good fortune.
 - (C) It has effects over the long term that might seem to be the result of good fortune.
 - (D) It has effects in the short term that might seem to be the result of bad fortune.
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33. If the author's argument that the south doing better than the north is 'obviously not due to some policy implementation of the Government of India' is true, which of the following is also true in this case?
- (A) Federal government policies have had a uniform impact on states.
 - (B) Federal government policies have had varied impact on states.
 - (C) State government policies have had knock-on impacts on other states.
 - (D) State government policies have had no impact on the ground.
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34. Which of the following is mandated with overseeing the adoption and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in India?
- (A) National Academy of Sciences
 - (B) Council of Industrial and Scientific Research
 - (C) Niti Aayog
 - (D) Planning Commission
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35. Which Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the twenty-two official languages?
- (A) First Schedule
 - (B) Eighth Schedule
 - (C) Third Schedule
 - (D) Ninth Schedule
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36. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with about subnationalism?
- (A) It is stronger in Uttar Pradesh than in Kerala.
 - (B) It is stronger in Kerala than in Uttar Pradesh.
 - (C) It cannot explain the better development of some states than others.
 - (D) It is wrongly credited as the reason for the better development of some states.
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37. If the information in the passage is true, which of the following parts of India is most likely to have a better rate of development?
- (A) A place where everyone speaks different languages.
 - (B) A place where everyone speaks the same language as in other parts of India.
 - (C) A place where everyone speaks at least three different languages.
 - (D) A place where everyone speaks the same local language.
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38. Which of the following most strongly supports the author's arguments?
- (A) Richer countries do not invest in public health and education.
 - (B) Richer countries have better public health and education.
 - (C) Poorer countries have healthier and better educated populations.
 - (D) Poorer countries invest more in public health and education.
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- V. In the fourth year of medical school, I watched as, one by one, many of my classmates elected to specialize in less demanding areas (radiology or dermatology, for example) and applied for their residencies. Puzzled by this, I gathered data from several elite medical schools and saw that the trends were the same: by the end of medical school, most students tended to focus on "lifestyle" specialties—those with more humane hours, higher salaries, and lower pressures—the idealism of their med school application essays tempered or lost. As graduation neared and we sat down, in a Yale tradition, to rewrite our commencement oath—a melding of the words of Hippocrates, Maimonides, Osler, along with a few other great medical forefathers—several students argued for the removal of language insisting that we place our patients' interests above our own. (The rest of us didn't allow this discussion to continue for long. The words stayed. This kind of egotism struck me as antithetical to medicine and, it should be noted, entirely reasonable. Indeed, this is how 99 percent of people select their jobs: pay, work environment, hours. But that's the point. Putting lifestyle first is how you find a job—not a calling.)
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As for me, I would choose neurosurgery as my specialty. The choice, which I had been contemplating for some time, was cemented one night in a room just off the Operating Room (OR), when I listened in quiet awe as a pediatric neurosurgeon sat down with the parents of a child with a large brain tumor who had come in that night complaining of headaches. He not only delivered the clinical facts but addressed the human facts as well, acknowledging the tragedy of the situation and providing guidance. As it happened, the child's mother was a radiologist. The tumor looked malignant—the mother had already studied the scans, and now she sat in a plastic chair, under fluorescent light, devastated. "Now, Claire," the surgeon began, softly. "Is it as bad as it looks?" the mother interrupted. "Do you think it's cancer?" "I don't know. What I do know—and I know you know these things, too—is that your life is about to—it already has changed. This is going to be a long haul, you understand? You have got to be there for each other, but you also have to get your rest when you need it. This kind of illness can either bring you together, or it can tear you apart. Now more than ever, you have to be there for each other. I don't want either of you staying up all night at the bedside or never leaving the hospital. Okay?"

He went on to describe the planned operation, the likely outcomes and possibilities, what decisions needed to be made now, what decisions they should start thinking about but didn't need to decide on immediately, and what sorts of decisions they should not worry about at all yet. By the end of the conversation, the family was not at ease, but they seemed able to face the future.

[Extracted with edits from Paul Kalanithi, *When Breath Becomes Air*]

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39. Why did the author take exception to some of the other students' suggestion about omitting from the commencement oath the language about prioritising patients' interest over their own?
- (A) This was an entirely unreasonable demand, given that such amendments to the oath were not usual.
 - (B) This suggestion struck the author as egoistic and antithetical to medicine.
 - (C) The commencement oath carried with it a certain legacy, which was not to be tampered with.
 - (D) The amendment to the oath would jeopardise the safety of patients.
-
40. The 2023 Noble Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman for which of the following?
- (A) For their discoveries that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.
 - (B) For their discoveries relating to the genomes of extinct hominins.
 - (C) For their discoveries of sensory receptors.
 - (D) For their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.
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41. Why does the author say that the paediatric neurosurgeon delivered not just the clinical facts but also addressed the human facts as well?
- (A) The paediatric neurosurgeon took care not to reveal the diagnosis to the mother of the patient.
 - (B) Despite the patient's mother being a radiologist, the paediatric neurosurgeon took efforts to actively acknowledge the tragedy of the situation and provided guidance.
 - (C) The paediatric neurosurgeon suggested a palliative treatment plan so as to avoid the excruciating physical and mental pain that the child and the family may have to go through.
 - (D) The paediatric neurosurgeon gave many examples of similar cases to the child's family and enabled them to cope with the shocking news.
-
42. Which of the following statements best describes the attitude of the author towards the medical profession?
- (A) While the medical profession may not be a mere vocation, it is unfair to expect doctors to set aside their personal lives for the benefit of the patients.
 - (B) A good doctor should be focused exclusively on the medical facts of a case before them. The inclusion of the human element takes away the diagnostic and clinical abilities of a doctor.
 - (C) The medical profession is not a mere vocation, but a calling which requires undivided dedication to the well-being of the patients.
 - (D) Doctors should never have to worry about the reaction that a clinical diagnosis evokes. This should be the domain of trained counsellors.
-
43. Why does the author say that the conversation with the paediatric neurosurgeon may not have put the patient's family at ease, but equipped them to face the future?
- (A) The neurosurgeon did not want to give false hopes to the family and told them that the future was bleak. This was the reason they were not at ease.
 - (B) The neurosurgeon guaranteed the family that their treatment expenses will be taken of. But the family was still worried about the prospect of their child going through a difficult treatment regimen.
 - (C) The family was convinced that their child was in the hands of the best neurosurgeon available, but were still worried for their child.
 - (D) While the family's fears may not have been fully allayed, the neurosurgeon's advice seemed to provide them a practical roadmap for the future.
-
44. Which of the following legislation, recently passed by the Parliament, limits the maximum term of imprisonment to two years for registered medical practitioners, in case of a death not amounting to culpable homicide, caused due to a rash or negligent act while performing a medical procedure?
- (A) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
 - (B) The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
 - (C) The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.
 - (D) The Healthcare Providers (Protection against Violence, and Waiver of Liability) Act, 2023.
-



45. Who wrote the much-acclaimed book, 'The Covenant of Water', which also made it to the New York Times list of 100 notable books of 2023? This person also wrote the foreword to Paul Kalanithi's 'When Breath Becomes Air'.
- (A) Atul Gawande
 - (B) Anthony Fauci
 - (C) Abraham Verghese
 - (D) Siddhartha Mukherjee

VI. Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is planning to impose the highest taxation slab, also known as "sin tax", upon the digital gaming sector. A "sin tax" is a GST specifically levied on certain goods deemed harmful to society, for example, gambling, or horse racing. The Council's proposal suggests that the official view is leaning on equating (and taxing similarly) gambling with online gaming, and radically reforming the mode and tax rate of online gaming. Under the current regime, an 18% GST is imposed on the commission earned by a digital gaming platform. Under the proposed regime, a 28% GST is proposed to be applied on the Gross Gaming Value (GGV), i.e., the total Contest Pool.

Taxing gaming companies on the GGV is like charging banks with GST on the Gross Transaction Value. Or like charging a taxi driver based on the wealth of their passenger. Or a landlord based on the value of business conducted from their tenanted premises. Policymakers must appreciate that the GGV is, by no means, the income earned by a game organizer. The GGV is just the sum of contest entry buy-ins, held by online gaming companies in a fiduciary capacity, to generate a "pool" of winnings, which is disbursed back to the contest winner/winners, after deduction of the platform commission.

The "sin tax" is problematic for yet more reasons. Consumers of goods and services which are similarly subject to "sin tax" are mainly the elite of our society. In contrast, digital gaming platforms are used by 507 million Indians mainly comprising mid to lower income strata majorly from tier II and tier IV cities where consumers are extremely price sensitive. So, digital skill-gaming represents (financially and digitally) the most accessible form of entertainment, cognitive skill development, and stress-releasing activity, for these classes. <https://www.pyqonline.com>

The "sin tax" will also hamper innovation in digital gaming. Its impact will extend to other industries too. A game not only includes software but is intertwined with featuring realistic or interactive graphics, characters, music, and other ancillary content embedded into such games, which leads to creation and development of Intellectual Property and new technology.

The "sin tax" will stunt the massive employment potential shown by India's digital gaming industry. Currently, the gaming industry consists of a workforce of about a lakh employees, of whom at least 15 percent of the workforce is comprised of programmers and developers, who are at the forefront of developing new technology and fostering innovation in India.

Most of all, though, the proposed "sin tax" deserves a serious re-look because it may have a counter-intuitive and counter-product impact on the overall income of the digital gaming sector, and result in reduced tax collections. India's history is replete with examples where regressive tax measures have irreversibly threatened and hurt industries' competitiveness, and resulted in reduced tax collections.

[Extracted from: 'GST on the entire prize pool in online gaming a step too far' by Abhishek Malhotra, Times of India, January 31, 2023].



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46. Who is the vice chairperson of the GST Council?
- (A) Finance Secretary of India
 - (B) Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance
 - (C) Any member of the GST Council chosen for the position from among the Ministers nominated by each state government
 - (D) None of the above
-
47. Which of the following companies was selected to provide technology support to GST Network?
- (A) Wipro
 - (B) Infosys
 - (C) MindTree
 - (D) Cognizant
-
48. According to the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, the GST Council is a reflection of which of the following?
- (A) Asymmetric federalism
 - (B) Complementary federalism
 - (C) Cooperative federalism
 - (D) Conciliatory federalism
-
49. Which of the following statements (in relation to a sin tax) cannot be implied from the author's arguments?
- (A) A sin tax must be regressive in nature
 - (B) A sin tax typically targets consumption of extravagant goods
 - (C) A sin tax must deter behaviour that has deleterious effects in the society
 - (D) None of the above
-
50. Which of the following is not one of the arguments made by the author?
- (A) Tax on online gaming will have spill over adverse effects on innovation
 - (B) Tax on online gaming could reduce the fiscal deficit of the government
 - (C) Tax on online gaming will cause companies to reduce workforce
 - (D) None of the above
-
51. Which of the following facets of taxing online gaming does the author not find objectionable?
- (A) Taxing gaming platforms at the highest tax rate
 - (B) Taxing gaming platforms for buy-in amounts received from customers
 - (C) Taxing gaming platforms as though online gaming is the same as gambling
 - (D) Taxing gaming platforms on their income earned
-



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52. Which of the following statements is not evident from the above excerpt?
- (A) Online gaming is not exorbitantly priced
 - (B) Online gaming is already subject to taxation
 - (C) Online gaming is very popular with young adults
 - (D) The customers pay a commission to use the online gaming platform
-
53. Which of the following statements would be in line with the author's argument?
- (A) Online gaming is not speculative
 - (B) Online gaming industry employs some highly skilled persons
 - (C) Online gaming taxation will not change consumption patterns
 - (D) (A) and (B), but not (C)
-
54. What does the above passage tell us about taxation?
- (A) Taxes are collected to invest in public infrastructure
 - (B) Taxes are imposed for regulating undesirable behaviour
 - (C) Taxes are levied to redistribute income
 - (D) All of the above
-
55. Which of the following is a significant gap in the arguments presented by the author?
- (A) The author does not disprove that online gaming can have harmful effects
 - (B) The author does not explain why the gross gaming value is inappropriate
 - (C) The author does not critique the so-called current model of taxing online gaming
 - (D) None of the above
-

VII. South Africa's case charging Israel with genocide, in which provisional measures were announced on January 26, is a marker in the Middle East conflict raging currently, and posits a moral prism to view the competing narratives. Raphael Lemkin, a legal scholar and a World War II refugee from Western Ukraine who lost considerable family in the Shoah, is widely considered the architect of the Genocide Convention, which was a direct reaction to the Holocaust. Legal defences aside, that the State of Israel, a state sanctioned largely by the world's shame over allowing the Nazi Holocaust to occur, today faces a credible charge of genocide is a tragic irony of history.

It is not the seemingly indiscriminate killings of civilians in Gaza by Israeli bombardment, which may be a war crime in itself, but the motive behind it which is called into question in South Africa's case. Lemkin in his writing explained that genocide refers to a plan "aimed at destruction of the essential foundations of the life of national groups so that these groups wither and die like plants that have suffered a blight".

The question sought to be answered in the International Court of Justice ("ICJ") case is whether the nature of the Israeli military campaign itself, and/or the public declarations of collective punishment, and/or the cutting off of water, food and fuel supplies, were sufficient for the court to prescribe emergency interim measures that Israel must follow.

In a preliminary ruling, the ICJ found South Africa's case to be "plausible", or sufficient for it to direct provisional measures. Israel is *prime facie* indicated to be in violation of the Genocide Convention. The ICJ took note of the conduct of Israeli forces, statements of UN officials and Israeli officials, and the situation in Gaza in itself.



It's a make-or-break moment in international law. Although no state has formally joined the case with South Africa, the divide in those indicating support and those against runs through a global north-south divide. The global north has come out against the case itself, and as traditional exponents of what they call the international 'rules-based order', countries such as Germany, which has referred to the historical necessity to support Israel, are faced with difficult choices.

South Africa's right to bring a case is based on a particularly Lemkinesque insertion into the Genocide Convention, which made the crime of genocide a crime against all humanity – thereby making it the duty of every country to prevent such actions.

Israel has been ordered to not carry out genocide, to allow humanitarian aid, and to report to the court with a copy to South Africa within 30 days. The court has no sheriff it can send to coerce compliance, but its ruling is a moral expression of international law; Israel and its supporters will find their arguments harder to make now that the ICJ has said there is a prima facie case of genocide they are answerable for.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "For the ICJ to Say It Is 'Plausible' That Israel Is Carrying Out Genocide Is a Defining Moment", by Avi Singh, *The Wire*]

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56. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Genocide Convention:
- (A) By a simple majority.
 - (B) By a three-fourth majority.
 - (C) By unanimous vote.
 - (D) By a minority vote.
-
57. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
- (A) If Israel's actions in Gaza were conducted at some other time, South Africa might not have filed the case.
 - (B) If Israel's actions in Gaza were conducted in partnership with other nations, South Africa might not have filed the case.
 - (C) If Israel's actions in Gaza were motivated by genocidal intent, South Africa might not have filed the case.
 - (D) If Israel's actions in Gaza were motivated by other reasons, South Africa might not have filed the case.
-
58. When was the first time that the ICJ investigated genocide claims itself without relying on the findings of other tribunals like the International Criminal Tribunal?
- (A) In The Gambia's action against Myanmar in 2019.
 - (B) In Ukraine's action against the Russian Federation in 2012.
 - (C) In Somalia's action against Kenya in 2014.
 - (D) In Costa Rica's action against Nicaragua in 2014.
-



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59. Which of the following most accurately explains the meaning of the author's statement that the fact that the State of Israel 'today faces a credible charge of genocide is a tragic irony of history'?
- (A) It was inevitable that a country created partly out of guilt over the Holocaust would face plausible charges of committing similar actions.
 - (B) It is sad that a country created partly out of guilt over the Holocaust is facing plausible charges of committing similar actions.
 - (C) It is unlikely that a country created partly out of guilt over the Holocaust would commit similar actions.
 - (D) It is impossible that a country created partly out of guilt over the Holocaust would commit similar actions.
-
60. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following most accurately explains why South Africa had a right to bring the case against Israel?
- (A) Since genocide only violates a particular group's rights, only that group, and no other country, has a right to prevent such actions by bringing such a case.
 - (B) Since genocide violates everyone's rights, only the United Nations, and no particular country, has a right to prevent such actions by bringing such a case.
 - (C) Since it is particularly affected by Israel's actions, South Africa has a right to bring such a case to prevent such actions.
 - (D) Since genocide violates everyone's rights, every country has a duty to prevent such actions by bringing such a case.
-
61. Which of the following most accurately explains why the author says that the ruling in the case is 'a make-or-break moment in international law'?
- (A) International law will be undermined if other countries do not accept the ruling.
 - (B) International law will be strengthened if other countries do not accept the ruling.
 - (C) International law will be unaffected if other countries do not accept the ruling.
 - (D) International law will ensure that other countries accept and enforce the ruling.
-
62. Who among the following is presently a judge of the ICJ?
- (A) Judge Raghunandan Swarup Pathak
 - (B) Judge Dalveer Bhandari
 - (C) Judge Navanethem Pillay
 - (D) Judge Nagendra Singh
-
63. Who is the current Chief of Hamas's Political Bureau?
- (A) Ahmed Yassin
 - (B) Khaled Meshaal
 - (C) Mohammed Deif
 - (D) Ismail Haniyeh
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64. Based on the information in the passage, which of the following would be most likely if the Holocaust had not occurred?
- (A) The Genocide Convention would have been adopted sooner.
 - (B) The Genocide Convention would not have been adopted.
 - (C) The Genocide Convention would have had more signatories.
 - (D) The Genocide Convention would have had fewer signatories.
-
65. Which of the following is the author most likely to *disagree* with?
- (A) The ICJ does not have the means to ensure that Israel obeys its directions.
 - (B) The ICJ's ruling imposes a binding legal obligation which Israel will obey.
 - (C) The ICJ's ruling weakens any arguments made in support of Israel's actions.
 - (D) The ICJ's ruling exerts moral force on Israel to stop its action in Gaza.
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VIII. 'If I've understood you correctly, comrade, you said you intentionally refused to distribute our material because you didn't approve of the content. Nor did we approve of the content of your leaflets. Of course you realise, comrade, that there must be certain consequences,' said Rubashov.

Richard turned to him. 'You know yourself it contained pure nonsense.'

'I don't know anything about that,' said Rubashov dryly.

'You wrote as though nothing had happened,' said the boy, 'they smashed the party to a pulp and all we got were empty phrases about the unbroken will for victory, nothing but a heap of lies, just like in the world war. Whoever we showed it to just spat. But you know all that yourself.'

Rubashov answered matter-of-factly: 'That's the second time you're ascribing to me an opinion I don't share. I have to ask you to desist.'

Richard slowly turned, his bloodshot eyes gaping at Rubashov in disbelief.

Rubashov continued: 'Our party is undergoing a difficult trial. Other revolutionary parties have been through more. The will of the party must remain unbroken. Whoever now turns soft and sentimental does not belong in our ranks. Anyone who contributes to a state of panic is playing into the hands of the enemy, no matter what he believes. His actions make him harmful to the movement and therefore he must be treated correspondingly.'

'So I'm harmful to the movement,' Richard said. 'I'm playing into the hands of the enemy.'

'Your leaflets,' Rubashov said, 'which you admit to authoring, are full of sentences such as "We have suffered a defeat", "We have been hit by a catastrophe". This is defeatism. It's demoralising and cripples the fighting strength of the movement.'

'I only know', said Richard, 'that you have to tell people the truth, because they know it anyway. Trying to feed them a lie is absurd.'

'The party leadership', Rubashov went on, 'has declared that the party has not suffered a defeat but has made a strategic temporary retreat, and that there is no reason to depart from its previous political course.'



'The party leadership is mistaken,' said Richard, 'You speak of a "strategic retreat" when more than half of our people have been killed and the ones left are happy to be alive and running to the others in droves... No one here understands all the hair-splitting that you people are coming up with over there, on the outside...'

'The party cannot be wrong,' said Rubashov. 'You and I can make mistakes – but not the party. The party, comrade, is more than you and me and a thousand others like us. The party is the embodiment of the revolutionary idea in history. History knows no vacillating and no consideration for feelings. It flows, powerfully and unerringly, towards its goal. On every bend it deposits debris and sludge and the bodies of the drowned. But – it knows its course. History doesn't make mistakes. Anyone who doesn't have this unconditional faith in the party doesn't belong in its ranks.'

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *Darkness at Noon*, by Arthur Koestler]

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66. Which party formed the first democratically elected communist government in the world, and where?
- (A) The Communist Party of India (Maoist), in Andhra Pradesh.
 - (B) The Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation, in Bihar.
 - (C) The Communist Party of India (Marxist), in West Bengal.
 - (D) The Communist Party of India, in Kerala.
-
67. Which of the following explains why Richard thinks that Rubashov is accusing him of 'playing into the hands of the enemy'? <https://www.pyqonline.com>
- (A) Because Rubashov said that Richard's leaflets were poorly written.
 - (B) Because Rubashov had caught him leaking secrets to the enemy.
 - (C) Because Rubashov said that Richard's leaflets contributed to a state of panic.
 - (D) Because Rubashov thought that Richard's leaflets were not telling people the truth.
-
68. India was ranked highest in the world for which of the following risks in the World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Risk Report?
- (A) Infectious diseases
 - (B) Inequality
 - (C) Disinformation and misinformation
 - (D) Illicit economic activity
-
69. Which, according to Rubashov, was the first time that Richard ascribed an opinion to him that he didn't share?
- (A) When Richard said that he did not receive their materials.
 - (B) When Richard said that they must now acknowledge the truth.
 - (C) When Richard said that Rubashov knew the party leadership was mistaken.
 - (D) When Richard said that Rubashov knew their materials were rubbish.
-



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70. Why does Rubashov say that there must be certain consequences for Richard?
- (A) Because Richard intentionally refused to distribute their material.
 - (B) Because Richard distributed the material they provided him.
 - (C) Because Richard refused to take a contradictory stance to the party.
 - (D) Because Richard ascribed opinions to Rubashov that he didn't share.
-
71. Which of the following most accurately describes the main difference between Rubashov's and Richard's arguments?
- (A) Rubashov's arguments are based on his analysis of the situation, whereas Richard's are based on the belief that the party cannot be mistaken.
 - (B) Rubashov supports the party leadership completely, whereas Richard disagrees with them and wants to take over the leadership of the party himself.
 - (C) Rubashov believes that the party's materials should have been circulated as-is, whereas Richard wanted to make slight modifications to them.
 - (D) Richard's arguments are based on his analysis of the situation, whereas Rubashov's are based on the belief that the party cannot be mistaken.
-
72. Who among the following is the Chairperson of the News Broadcasting and Digital Standards Authority?
- (A) Justice A.K. Sikri
 - (B) Justice A.M. Khanwilkar
 - (C) Justice Madan B. Lokur
 - (D) Justice Indira Banerjee
-
73. Why does Rubashov say that Richard doesn't belong in the party?
- (A) Because Richard thinks the party cannot make mistakes.
 - (B) Because Richard thinks the party made mistakes.
 - (C) Because Richard did not support the movement anymore.
 - (D) Because Richard had mistakenly circulated his own leaflets.
-
74. Which of the following changes to the party's materials would most weaken Richard's opposition to circulating them?
- (A) Making them shorter and easier to understand.
 - (B) Making them describe the situation accurately and truthfully.
 - (C) Strengthening their message that the party had made a strategic temporary retreat.
 - (D) Strengthening their message that there was no reason to depart from the party's previous political course.
-
75. Which of the following is Rubashov most likely to disagree with?
- (A) That history knows its course and flows unerringly towards its goal.
 - (B) That the party is the embodiment of the revolutionary idea in history.
 - (C) That history does not have a pre-determined, goal-driven course.
 - (D) That the party was mistaken in recruiting Richard in the first place.
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Appendix III: Index of corresponding questions in all sets

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