

1.

Natural disasters and crises have been an integral part of human history right from the dawn of civilization. The rise and fall of the Indus Valley and Babylonian Civilizations are a testimony to this. In the early days, individuals and communities would lead the response to a crisis. However, with the emergence of the modern welfare state and the 20th century trends of globalization, urbanization, large-scale migrations of human population and climate changes, the nature of crises facing nations has increased both in magnitude and in complexity. For example, while the frequency of calamities may have remained unchanged, increasing population densities and urbanization have resulted in a greater impact on human lives and property. In the field of public health, while science has secured a major victory over epidemics, new strains of viruses and drug-resistant microorganisms have emerged raising the spectre of global pandemics of new and more deadly diseases. Similarly, while the frequency of wars has declined, modern weapons and mass urbanization have increased manifold the humanitarian crisis caused by such conflicts. The scourge of terrorism has created new types of crises and increasing dependence on communications and computer networks have increased the threat of newer emergencies in case these are disabled by accident or design. Further, phenomena like modernization, information explosion, transnational migrations, and the economic interdependence among nations have all contributed to extending the impact of crisis situations over larger areas.

1.1 One of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the above passage?

- (a) Globalization and urbanization are primarily responsible for 4 emerging disasters and crisis situations.
- (b) The rise and fall of various ancient civilizations around the world have been attributed to natural disasters.
- (c) Developing countries like India should oppose globalization and urbanization.
- (d) Poor countries have little role to play in the mitigation of disasters and crises.

1.2 On the basis of the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- 1. Increasing globalization has led to the arms race.
- 2. Digitization has increased manifold the threat of terrorism.
- 3. Sustainable development will lead to better adaptation and mitigation of disaster situations.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |
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2.

India would reduce fossil fuels, generate more renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions and intensity, and eventually become a net-zero emitter by 2070. The goals are ambitious. They are built around the levers which, at the policy level, are most likely to create a positive impact on climate. Can policy initiatives alone fulfil India's commitments towards arresting climate change? Actions that are driven top down, via government policy, no doubt set the stage for change. But unless people shift their attitude and behaviour in tune with the policy initiatives, change will not be able to retain its momentum.

2.1 Based on the passage, the following suggestions may be made:

1. India, with the help of renewable energy, would be able to control carbon emissions completely by 2070.
2. Government may involve citizens in policy making and execution for achieving the target of net-zero emission.

Which of the above suggestions is/are valid?

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|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

2.2 What is the crucial message conveyed by the passage?

- (a) Climate change cannot be reversed only with the commitments of India.
- (b) Climate change is a global issue, and people across countries must change their attitude towards it.
- (c) Indian government should consult specialized global agencies in the formulation of climate change policy.
- (d) Policy framework along with targets should prescribe citizens' behavior for contributing to meeting net-zero emission targets by 2070.

3.

India which will soon have twice the number of Internet users as the U.S. is a large market for all kinds of new technologies. While this presents a huge opportunity, the domestic industry has not yet managed to derive the benefits. For instance, the country is operating far below its potential in electronic manufacturing. Electronic goods and components are the second largest items, after oil, in India's import bill. Also, the country's imports are almost five times its exports in this industry (based on 2020-21 data). High-value electronic components needed in the manufacture of, say, mobile phones are technology and design-intensive. Big multinational companies control these technologies and corner the bulk of the revenues. China has used its large market size as a bargaining chip in negotiations with foreign firms: stay in our markets only if you localize production and share technologies with the local firms.

3.1 Based on the passage, the following assumptions and suggestions have been made:

1. Indians have a high rate of consumption of electronics.
2. India may use its large market size as a bargaining chip for the promotion of its electronics industry.

Which of the above assumptions and suggestions is/are valid?

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 only |
| (c) 1 and 2 | (d) None |
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3.2 Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) Union government should trade with the USA not only in products but also in services like technology.
- (b) Domestic companies should invest in human resources to excel in the technologies of the electronic industry.
- (c) Despite a large user base, India is not able to scale electronics production due to technological limitations.
- (d) Big multinational companies should shift Passage + their manufacturing base from China to India.

4.

Social media is a form of communication via the Internet. Its main goal, when it came into being, was to create a virtual kinship network throughout the world. The users of social networking sites were untroubled until the coming of the 1990s. This was when cybercrime was born. Believe it or not, it is we who give away our personal information online.

Intentionally or unintentionally, we give away a lot of our personal information. Tons of cyber information available online has opened the gates for new legal challenges for which adequate laws are yet to be framed. These can range from stealing your social security benefits, filing compensation claims using your credentials and using your names for making monetary transactions in their name to using your credentials for making fake passports, PAN cards etc. It has been noted that the younger generation falls prey to such cybercrimes the most. This is majorly because of their immaturity, which is easily identified by these criminal minds. Though we wrongly end up accusing the cybersecurity loopholes in many cases.

4.1 Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

- 1. Lack of understanding about privacy among the youth could be a major reason behind cybercrimes.
- 2. Misuse of information may happen partially because of the slowly evolving legal provisions.

Which of the above assumptions is/are invalid?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4.2 What is the most rational inference that can be drawn from the passage?

- (a) The most important step to controlling cybercrimes is to upgrade the cyber security software, protocols and algorithms.
- (b) Social media is the prime medium contributing to the misuse of personal information of the youth.
- (c) Mere cybersecurity solutions will not stop the misuse of the personal information online.
- (d) The overall improvements in cybersecurity should not be limited to present-day requirements, but address future needs as well.

5.

While corruption remains endemic and deep-rooted, India's anti-corruption measures remain half-hearted and slow. This is largely because the vital institutions raised to fight graft lack genuine autonomy and a serious sense of purpose. Even a handful of anti-corruption institutions (CVC, Lokpal) that enjoy some degree of autonomy, have not shown any signs of being independent. However, fighting entrenched corruption should not be left to these handfuls of macro or elite institutions alone. This is because, while corruption that happens at the top level often attracts media attention and the occasional national outrage, a great deal of corruption, which affects the ordinary person, is at the retail level.

5.1 Which of the following statements best reflects what the passage implies?

- (a) Fight against corruption impacts mostly the top level; the ordinary man often continues to suffer.
- (b) Politicization of institutions and the lax attitude of citizens is the core reason for deep-rooted corruption.
- (c) Government must bring immediate reforms in anti-corruption institutions.
- (d) Without aware and informed citizens, overcoming corruption is a difficult task.

6.

In recent times, India has faced at least one major flood event each year. As the 2023 monsoon progresses, floods are beginning to repeat the pattern of damage and destruction. Every year 1,600 lives on average are lost due to floods, according to the National Disaster Management Authority. Floods also affect 75 lakh hectares of land and inflict damage worth Rs 1,805 crore to crops, houses and public utilities. A range of tools are available to manage floods. Broadly, these are classified as structural and non-structural. Structural measures include storage reservoirs, embankments, and diversions. These reduce flood hazards by keeping damage-causing waters away from agricultural areas, cities, industries, etc. Storage reservoirs moderate the flood peak by storing water during high-flow periods and releasing it after they have subsided. They also conserve water for irrigation, electricity generation, water supply, etc. Their effectiveness in flood moderation depends on the space available. In addition, tanks and ponds are traditional means of water conservation in India. They also aid in groundwater recharge and promote biodiversity. Non-structural methods such as flood forecasting, warnings, and flood plain zoning, help in the timely evacuation of people and regulate the use of floodplains. Note that floods are a hazard only when people go close to flood waters or hinder their movement. A forecasting and warning system provides a priori estimate of approaching floods so that people and movable assets are relocated to safer places in time. India has more than 5,500 large dams. Accurate inflow forecasts help moderate floods by estimating the space needed for storage in reservoirs.

6.1 With reference to the passage, consider the following statements.

- 1. In India, flooding is a frequent occurrence.
- 2. The prompt relocation of individuals is made possible by non-structural flood control techniques.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States including India in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. SDGs are a set of 17 interrelated global goals further subdivided into 169 targets, pledges to 'Leave No One Behind'. Thus, designed to bring the world to several life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls. The expression 'Sabka-Saath, Sabka-Vikas' which outlines India's national agenda for development and converges with its commitment towards SDGs. NITI Aayog, India's premier think tank has been entrusted the task of coordinating the SDGs and mapping the schemes, supporting ministries for each target. According to Tendulkar Committee, the poverty level is 21.9% of

the population (2011-2012). Two-thirds of health expenditure is out of patient's pocket. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is 122 per 100000 live births in 2016-17; infant mortality rate is 33 per 1000 live births in 2016. Near universal enrolment has been achieved at primary school level, but drop out is 4.34% in 2015. As per the Swachhta Status Report of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2015 more than half of the rural population of the country still defecates in open.

7.1 According to the passage, which of the following is/are of paramount importance under the SDGs?

1. Eradication of poverty.
2. Protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.
3. To bring the world to several life changing 'zeros' including zero poverty, hunger, etc.
4. Both 1 and 2

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 and 3 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 3 only | (d) 4 only |

7.2 With reference to the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Development with all and for all.
2. SDG is tasked to ensure 100% enrolment of children in schools.
3. NITI Aayog to coordinate the SDGs and mapping of schemes globally.
4. Everyone should be treated equally and no one should be left out from the benefits outlined by SDG.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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|------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 1 and 4 only |
| (c) 2 only | (d) 1 and 3 only |

7.3 What is the essential message in this passage?

- (a) The main focal point is the all-round development of the rural population.
- (b) All round development of the world as a whole in a sustainable manner.
- (c) Poverty eradication and improvement in the MMR, IMR and enrolment rate.
- (d) To implement all the goals of the SDG in efficient manner in coordination with government of all the member nations.

8.

The "End of Hunger" SDG focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture. One of the SDG's 2030 target is to ensure full implementation of sustainable food production systems and resilient practices to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of smallscale food producers. This also entails maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals. The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) defines Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) as an approach that helps guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. It takes into consideration the diversity of social, economic and environmental contexts, including agro-ecological zones. Implementation requires identification of climate-resilient technologies and practices for management of water, energy, land, crops, livestock, etc at the farm level. It also considers the links between agricultural production and livelihoods. Foreseeing the future risks of climate change, the

Government of India is implementing the National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Parallely, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) envisages "Per Drop More Crop", that is, promoting micro/ drip irrigation to conserve water. There is also a push to cluster-based organic farming through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). The mission of these programmes is to extensively leverage adaptation of climate-smart practices and technologies in conjunction with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and state governments. As we propagate climate-smart agricultural practices in India, few last-mile delivery mechanisms need to be strengthened, more so to achieve the sustainable agriculture-related SDG targets by 2030.

8.1. Which of the following is the most definitively implied by the passage?

- (a) The world needs to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices to achieve SDGs in the changing climate.
- (b) SDGs are not achievable by 2030.
- (c) Developing countries like India have lagged in developing smart agro products.
- (d) Adoption of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will lead to loss in crop biodiversity.

8.2. The passage seems to imply that:

- 1. Sustainable agriculture is the need of the hour to protect the genetic diversity of flora and fauna.
- 2. Countries need to invest more in R&D of climate-smart Agri products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9.

"Green Good Deed" is a social initiative to take environmental awareness to the people and get them involved. The campaign lauds small positive actions like cleanliness drives within the school campus, carry out waste segregation into biodegradable and non-biodegradable, paper re-cycling and conducting tree plantation drives etc. performed by individuals or organizations to strengthen the cause of environmental protection. The campaign requires the people to alter their behaviour to Green Good Behaviour to fulfil their Green Social Responsibility.

9.1. Which of the following is the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the above passage?

- (a) Green Good Deed campaign is focused on small positive actions to spread environmental awareness.
- (b) Behavior of the individuals or organizations is essential to make Green Good Deed a success.
- (c) Green Good Deed seeks to transform the people's behavior into Green Good Behavior and fulfil Green Social Responsibility.
- (d) Cleanliness drives within the school campus, carry out waste segregation into biodegradable and non-biodegradable, paper re-cycling etc. are critical to Green Good Deed campaign

10.

The rise of right-wing populists across the world has destabilized constitutional democracy, a form of government that protects citizens against the brute power of majorities on the one hand, and limits the proclivity of elected governments to hold and exercise immense power on the other. Citizens are shielded, and governments controlled by constitutions, institutions, the rule of law, an independent judiciary, fundamental rights, and democratic civil societies.

10.1 For the author, rise of populist politics raises the concern as:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) It endangers the democracy. | (b) It strengthens the rule of law. |
| (c) Strengthens the dissenting voice. | (d) Holds the Constitutional values |

11.

Youth today do not realise that one is modern only when his thoughts and actions bring out something new, which can set an example to the rest of the world. Imitating only the Western outlook in lifestyle, leaving aside their values, is not what modernism is. Should we consider a youth modern if he opts for a dozen girlfriends and then pretends to be ignorant when dowry in marriage is concerned? The family also plays a vital role in shaping one's life. If the urban population in India is divided into two broad divisions, the elite and the middle class, we will find that youths belonging to both these classes suffer from severe frustrations. The parents in the higher society are so busy with their work that their children are left neglected. Loneliness, tensions arising out of parent's unhappy relations and family feuds result in psychiatric depression in the youth. The case is similar in the middle-class families, though with a difference. Lack of attention at home ruins them. The situation is not so grave with the girls as they generally prefer to stay at home, whatever its conditions be. But young men, desperate to find some refuge; quite often come in contact with drugs, alcohol and other illegal activities. Neither are they happy with the society nor is the society happy with them.

11.1 The passage is concerned with

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) The urban youth | (b) The elite class youth |
| (c) The middle-class youth | (d) The modern girls |

11.2 Youths in the elite class families are

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) Lonely and depressed | (b) Prone to drug-addiction |
| (c) Desperate for revenge | (d) Angry and defiant |

11.3. Being truly modern means

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Imitating the West | (b) Opting for a dozen girl-friend |
| (c) Accepting dowry in marriage | (d) Doing something exemplary |
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Answer Key

1.1: B	1.2: B	2.1: B	2.2: D	3.1: C	3.2: C	4.1: D
4.2: C	5.1: A	6.1: C	7.1: D	7.2: B	7.3: B	8.1: A
8.2: C	9.1: C	10.1: A	11.1: A	11.2: A	11.3: D	