

LOGICAL REASONING**(Identifying Premises)****Passage 1**

Little can be more brazen, or cynical, than to alter prison rules to facilitate the release of a murder convict for political reasons. But that is exactly what Nitish Kumar's JDU government in Bihar did earlier in April when it amended the Bihar Prison Manual 2012 to remove the phrase "the murder of a public servant". The existing rule disallowed remission of convicts of terrorism, rape-cum-murder and murder of state officers. Within a fortnight of the change, former RJD MLA Anand Mohan was set to be freed from prison, purportedly to re-enter the electoral arena ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. His political influence is expected to pull in some of Bihar's approximately 6-7% Rajput vote. It is also seemingly why the opposition in Bihar spoke with a forked tongue: criticising the change in rule yet not criticising Mohan's release.

The 1990s-2000s saw criminality in politics countrywide reach epidemic proportions. Mohan as a regional strongman had made his political name on an anti-Mandal, anti-Dalit plank in the Bihar of early 1990s, the peak time of anti-Mandal protests. In 2007, a trial court sentenced Mohan to death for the 1994 lynching of Gopalganj DM, a Dalit officer. Patna HC commuted that sentence to life.

Cut to another remission case. The Supreme Court last week pulled up the Gujarat government and GoI for their reluctance to share files on the early release, which was also just ahead of Gujarat assembly elections, of 11 lifers in the Bilkis Bano case. SC said it was critiquing the grant of remission that showed "complete non-consideration for the gravity of the offences". Recently, the Haryana government, presumably with an eye on 2024, justified frequent paroles to Dera chief and rape-and-murder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim, claiming he wasn't a "hardcore prisoner".

Politicians flouting due process is not new. But it's something worse entirely when the executive appears to arrogate to itself the right to lay waste criminal justice procedure – Bihar government is unmoved by the criticism over Mohan's release. GoI and Gujarat government have told SC they may challenge the court's order to share the Bilkis Bano files. Remission, fairly applied, is a chance at a second life. But, and this is as distressing as it is unsurprising, governments are rarely concerned over remissions for politically irrelevant convicts.

1. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly
GoI and Gujarat government have told SC they may challenge the court's order to share the Bilkis Bano files. Remission, fairly applied, is a chance at a second life. But, and this is as distressing as it is unsurprising, governments are rarely concerned over remissions for politically irrelevant convicts.
Underlined part of the statement is
(a) Premise (b) Counter premise
(c) Conclusion (d) Additional premise
2. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly
Politicians flouting due process is not new. But it's something worse entirely when the executive appears to arrogate to itself the right to lay waste criminal justice procedure – Bihar government is unmoved by the criticism over Mohan's release.
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(a) Premise (b) Counter idea
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3. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly
Little can be more brazen, or cynical, than to alter prison rules to facilitate the release of a murder convict for political reasons. However that is exactly what Nitish Kumar's JDU government in Bihar did earlier in April when it amended the Bihar Prison Manual 2012 to remove the phrase "the murder of a public servant".
Underlined part of the statement is
(a) Premise (b) Additional premise
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4. Which of the following is true in context of above passage?
- (a) There parallel logic drawing regarding a situation in Bihar, Gujarat and Haryana.
(b) There contrary logic drawing regarding a situation in Bihar, Gujarat and Haryana.
(c) Either (a) or (b) (d) None of the above.
5. Read the following carefully and answer in context of the above passage.
- (a) 3rd paragraph strengthens the idea of 2nd paragraph.
(b) 3rd paragraph weakens the idea of 2nd paragraph.
(c) 3rd paragraph weakens the idea of 2nd paragraph.
(d) None of the above

Passage 2

Bitter differences over the history to be taught in school textbooks are neither new, nor confined to India. But this debate has higher stakes here because school learning outcomes are poor and improving them is critical to empowering millions. A grounding in objective facts, and before that the idea of shared objective facts, is the minimum bedrock for India's progress. When textbook revisions take place in a way that suggests the facts of our dense history can be replaced by 'new facts' with every 'new mood of the nation', it entrenches the dangerous disease that goes by the name of 'WhatsApp University' instead of remedying it.

With the Yogi government notifying last week that UP board schools will fully teach NCERT's 'rationalised' syllabi from the 2023-24 session, these 'rationalisations' made last year have come under the spotlight again. Unfortunately, the quality that is standing out is lack of reason. When quizzed about the deletion of content on Mughal rulers or how RSS was banned after Gandhi's assassination or the Emergency's abuses of power or the 2002 Gujarat riots, the NCERT director has tried to offload all agency onto the 'expert committees' and called the debate itself 'unnecessary'. But BJP leaders have done this defence no favours by welcoming how NCERT has moved 'Akbar, Babar, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb' from the history books to the 'dustbin'.

Interpretations change with time and with different social movements and political dispensations. This happens everywhere. As do changes in emphasis. In the US the critical race theory controversy has highlighted how differently different states teach the Jim Crow laws and the civil rights movement. The UK continues to be embattled in how much of the Empire's depredations to acknowledge inside the classrooms. But such interchanges have a very different shape than something that happens, for example, in Bangladesh – which leader announced the country's independence changes every time Awami League and BNP switch governments. Writing fresh narratives advances discourse. Simply deleting facts creates epistemic fractures that wound and ultimately disable conversation.

6. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly:
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7. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly:
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Interpretations change with time and with different social movements and political dispensations. This happens everywhere. As do changes in emphasis. In the US the critical race theory controversy has highlighted how differently different states teach the Jim Crow laws and the civil rights movement.
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Underlined part of the above statement
(a) Strengthens the idea of the above passage.
(b) Weakens the idea of the above passage.
(c) Contradicts the idea of the above passage.
(d) Weakens the premise of the above passage.
10. Read the following statement carefully and answer accordingly:
Interpretations change with time and with different social movements and political dispensations. This happens everywhere. As do changes in emphasis. In the US the critical race theory controversy has highlighted how differently different states teach the Jim Crow laws and the civil rights movement.
Underlined part of the above statement
(a) Strengthens the idea of the above passage.
(b) Contextually weakens the idea of the above passage.
(c) Supports the idea of the above passage.
(d) Compliments the idea of the above passage.
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