

Mock Test Paper - Series I: July, 2024

Date of Paper: 30th July, 2024

Time of Paper: 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

INTERMEDIATE COURSE: GROUP – I

PAPER – 2: CORPORATE AND OTHER LAWS

Time Allowed – 3 Hours

Maximum Marks – 100

1. *The question paper comprises two parts, Part I and Part II.*
2. *Part I comprises Case Scenario based Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)*
3. *Part II comprises questions which require descriptive type answers.*

PART I – Case Scenario based MCQs (30 Marks)

Part I is compulsory

Case Scenario 1

GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd., a technology giant with operations in software development, hardware manufacturing, and IT consulting, has recorded significant financial growth over the past few years. For the financial year 2023-2024, the company reported the following financial metrics:

- Net worth: ₹ 520 crore
- Turnover: ₹ 1,050 crore
- Net profit: ₹ 4.5 crore

In the financial year 2022-2023, GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. had a net worth of ₹ 480 crore, a turnover of ₹ 1,020 crore, and a net profit of ₹ 4 crore. The company has a subsidiary, TechSubs Ltd., and a foreign subsidiary, GlobalTech International, which has a branch office in India.

GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. spent ₹ 1.2 crore on various CSR activities during the financial year 2023-2024. However, ₹ 30 lakh remained unspent and was transferred to the Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account as per section 135(6) of the Companies Act, 2013.

The company's board comprises members from different parts of the country and they ensure that the administrative overheads do not exceed the prescribed limit of total CSR expenditure.

The company held its annual general meeting on 20th August, 2024 and filed the annual return in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

On the basis of above facts and by applying applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the applicable Rules therein, choose the correct answer (one out of four) of the following Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs 1-6) given herein under: -

1. Based on the financial metrics of GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd., is the company required to constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee for the for the financial year 2023-2024?

- (a) Yes, because its net worth exceeds ₹ 500 crore.
 - (b) No, because it has not met the required net profit criteria.
 - (c) Yes, because its turnover exceeds ₹ 1,000 crore.
 - (d) No, because its net profit is less than ₹ 5 crore.
2. Given that GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. has ₹ 30 lakh in its Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) The company is not required to constitute a CSR Committee if it has unspent CSR funds.
 - (b) The company must constitute a CSR Committee in Financial year 2024-2025, as it has balance in Unspent CSR account.
 - (c) The company can use the unspent funds for any other business activity.
 - (d) The company must transfer the unspent amount to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.
3. If GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. had an average net profit of ₹ 5 crore over the past three immediately preceding financial years, what is the minimum amount it must spend on CSR activities in the financial year 2024-2025?
- (a) ₹ 5 lakh
 - (b) ₹ 10 lakh
 - (c) ₹ 20 lakh
 - (d) ₹ 30 lakh
4. GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. must ensure that the administrative overheads do not exceed a certain percentage of the total CSR expenditure. What is this percentage?
- (a) 2%
 - (b) 5%
 - (c) 10%
 - (d) 15%
5. What is the latest date by which GlobalTech Pvt. Ltd. must it file its annual return with the Registrar of Companies (RoC)?
- (a) 10th September 2024
 - (b) 15th September 2024
 - (c) 10th October 2024
 - (d) 19th October 2024

Case Scenario 2

GreenLeaf LLP is a limited liability partnership engaged in the business of eco-friendly product manufacturing. The LLP was initially established with three partners: Priya, Sameer, and EcoCorp Ltd., a corporate entity. Priya and Sameer

are the designated partners, with Priya being a resident in India. EcoCorp Ltd. has appointed Anil, an individual, as its nominee to act on its behalf.

After a few years, Sameer decides to retire, leaving Priya and EcoCorp Ltd. as the remaining partners. Due to some administrative oversight, GreenLeaf LLP continues its operations without appointing a new partner. This situation persists for seven months, with Priya being aware of the reduced number of partners. During this period, GreenLeaf LLP enters into several contracts and incurs significant financial obligations.

On the basis of above facts and by applying applicable provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and the applicable Rules therein, choose the correct answer (one out of four) of the following Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs 6-8) given herein under:

6. Given that Sameer retired and GreenLeaf LLP continued with only Priya and EcoCorp Ltd., what should GreenLeaf LLP have done within six months to comply with the LLP Act?
 - (a) Dissolved the LLP
 - (b) Continue operating with one designated partner
 - (c) Appoint at least one body corporate which should be a foreign company
 - (d) Appointed at least one more partner who should also be a designated partner, as every LLP should have at least two designated partners
7. According to the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, choose the correct statement in relation to who must be a resident in India among the designated partners?
 - (a) At least one individual designated partner shall be resident in India
 - (b) All designated partners shall only be resident in India
 - (c) It is mandatory for only corporate partners to be resident in India
 - (d) At least four designated partners shall be resident in India
8. In the given case scenario suppose EcoCorp Ltd. also leaves the LLP and the LLP continues business for more than six months with only one partner, who is personally liable for the obligations incurred during that period?
 - (a) Priya
 - (b) Both Priya and EcoCorp Ltd.
 - (c) EcoCorp Ltd.
 - (d) Priya, Sameer and EcoCorp Ltd.
9. Lavender International Entertainment Inc., headquartered and registered in New York City and a prominent name in lifestyle audio innovations, professional audio and lighting solutions, and digital transformation, is present in more than seventy countries including India. Due to certain mis-happenings, the company was unable to file its financial statements along with necessary documents for the year 2023 with the Registrar of Companies (in India) within the stipulated time as permitted by the Companies Act, 2013. It

is observed that the ROC may, for any special reason and on an application made in writing by Lavender International Entertainment, extend the 'filing time' maximum up to a certain period. From the following options, choose the correct one in this respect:

- (a) 'Filing time' in respect of filing of financial statements along with necessary documents by Lavender International Entertainment Inc. can be extended by ROC maximum by one month beyond the stipulated time period.
 - (b) 'Filing time' in respect of filing of financial statements along with necessary documents by Lavender International Entertainment Inc. can be extended by ROC maximum by two months beyond the stipulated time period.
 - (c) 'Filing time' in respect of filing of financial statements along with necessary documents by Lavender International Entertainment Inc. can be extended by ROC maximum by three months beyond the stipulated time period.
 - (d) 'Filing time' in respect of filing of financial statements along with necessary documents by Lavender International Entertainment Inc. can be extended by ROC maximum by six months beyond the stipulated time period.
10. The Board of Directors Vishvas Ltd. decide to pay 5% of the issue price of shares as underwriting commission to the underwriters. However, the Articles of Association of the company permit only 3% commission. What is the maximum amount of underwriting commission that can be paid to the underwriters.
- (a) 2%
 - (b) 3%
 - (c) 5%
 - (d) No limit has prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013 in case underwriting commission is to be paid in case of issue of shares.

Case Scenario 3

Amit, an Indian resident during the Financial Year (FY) 2021-2022, decided to pursue higher studies in Biotechnology in Switzerland. On 15th July 2022, he left India to begin his two-year academic program. The determination of Amit's residential status under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, for the Financial Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, is crucial to understand his obligations and entitlements concerning foreign exchange transactions.

In terms of financial requirements, Amit needs USD 25,000 annually to cover his tuition fees. Additionally, he requires USD 30,000 annually for incidental expenses and living costs while studying abroad. Thus, his total annual requirement amounts to USD 55,000, making it imperative to assess the provisions under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, that govern the remittance of foreign.

On the basis of above facts and by applying applicable provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, therein, choose the correct answer (one out of four) of the following MCQs (11-13) given herein under:

11. What would be Amit's residential status for FY 2022-2023 under FEMA, 1999?
 - (a) Resident in India
 - (b) Non-Resident Indian (NRI)
 - (c) Person of Indian Origin (PIO)
 - (d) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)
12. What would be Amit's residential status for FY 2023-2024 under FEMA, 1999?
 - (a) Resident in India
 - (b) Non-Resident Indian (NRI)
 - (c) Person of Indian Origin (PIO)
 - (d) Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)
13. Suppose now Amit wants more money for his living cost abroad. What is the maximum amount that can still be remitted abroad per financial year under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)?
 - (a) USD 100,000
 - (b) USD 195,000
 - (c) USD 200,000
 - (d) USD 500,000
14. ABC Real Estate Ltd., a prominent real estate company, has recently acquired a piece of land in a suburban area. The land has a small lake that is expected to generate significant tourism revenue in the future. Additionally, the land has several old structures that are permanently fastened to the earth, such as a stone pavilion and a historical monument. ABC Real Estate Ltd. plans to develop the area by refurbishing the existing structures and enhancing the natural surroundings to attract tourists.

Considering the above scenario, identify which of the following components are classified as "Immovable Property" under the General Clauses Act, 1897:

 - (a) Only the land and the stone pavilion.
 - (b) Only the land and the benefits arising from the lake.
 - (c) The land, benefits arising from the lake, and the stone pavilion.
 - (d) The land, the benefits arising from the lake, the stone pavilion, and the historical monument.
15. The Ministry of Transport is planning to construct a new highway that will connect City A and City B. According to the initial plan, the highway is expected to cover a distance of 150 kilometers. During the survey, the engineers measure the distance between the two cities as the crow flies, without considering the natural terrain and existing road curves. This method

is in line with the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897 regarding the measurement of distance for the purposes of any Central Act or Regulation.

Considering the above scenario, which statement is correct about the measurement of distance as per the General Clauses Act, 1897?

- (a) The distance should be measured along the existing roadways and curves.
- (b) The distance should be measured considering the natural terrain and obstacles.
- (c) The distance should be measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane unless otherwise specified.
- (d) The distance should be measured as a combination of straight lines and natural curves.

PART – II Descriptive Questions (70 Marks)

Question No.1 is compulsory.

*Attempt any **Four** questions out of the remaining **Five** questions.*

1. (a) ABC Limited is a registered public company having the following:

i	Directors and their Relatives	20
ii	Employees	15
iii	Ex-Employees (Shares were allotted during employment)	20
iv	Members holding shares jointly (10 shares x 2 joint-holders each)	20
v	Other Members	150

The Board of Directors of ABC Limited proposes to convert the company into a private limited company. Referring the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, advise:

- i. Whether the company can be converted into a private company?
 - ii. Whether existing number of members need to be reduced for the proposed conversion into a private company? **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Sunday Ltd. is a listed entity engaged in the business of providing engineering solutions to clients across the country. The company followed consistent growth over the years. Rate of Declaration of dividend in immediately preceding three financial years were 15%, 20%, and 25%.

Unfortunately, due to obsolescence of a special part of machinery, company incurred losses in current financial year.

Even though, during the financial year 2023-24, the company declared interim dividend of 10% on the equity shares.

The Board of Directors of the company approved the financial result for the financial year 2023-24 in its meeting held on 5th August, 2024, and recommended a final dividend of @15% in this board meeting.

The general meeting of the shareholders was convened on 31st August, 2024. The shareholders of the company demanded that since interim dividend @10% was declared by the company, so the final dividend should not be less than 20%. It was also submitted that rate of declaration of dividend in immediately preceding three years were 15%, 20% and 25%, but the Company Secretary emphasised that final dividend cannot be increased.

Advise whether the decision of Company Secretary is correct? What should be correct rate of final dividend?

Justify your answer with reference to provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. **(5 Marks)**

- (c) Analyse the below mentioned situation in the light of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.
- (i) Mr. Vinod has won a big lottery and wants to remit US Dollar 20,000 out of his winnings to his son who is in Singapore.
 - (ii) Mr. Shyam requires US Dollar 5,000 for remittance towards hiring charges of transponders. **(4 Marks)**
2. (a) Explain the meaning of Crystallization of a Floating Charge. **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Define the term 'Book of account' as per the Companies Act, 2013. **(5 Marks)**
- (c) Define the following with reference to the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897:
- (i) Measurement of Distances
 - (ii) Duty to be taken pro rata in enactments **(4 Marks)**
3. (a) Explain the exceptions to the Doctrine of Indoor Management. **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Prateek Limited, an unlisted company, registered in the State of Arunachal Pradesh with 42 shareholders, wants to organize the Annual General Meeting of the company on 13th August 2024 which happens to be Raksha Bandhan, a day declared as a holiday by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Advise the company on the feasibility of the above with reference to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. **(5 Marks)**
- (c) Explain the Doctrine of *Contemporanea Expositio*. **(4 Marks)**
4. (a) Assess the eligibility of the following individuals for appointment as Auditors in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Companies Act, 2013:

- (i) Chintamani is a practicing Chartered Accountant, and his spouse, Chitrlekha, holds securities of Nagmani Ltd. valued at a face value amount of ₹ 80,000 (with a market value of ₹ 50,000). The directors of Nagmani Ltd. are considering the appointment of Chintamani as an auditor for the company.
- (ii) Mani, the real sister of Mr. Priyanshu, a Chartered Accountant, holds the position of CFO at Parivar Ltd. The directors of Parivar Ltd. are considering the appointment of Mr. Priyanshu as an auditor for the company. **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Define the term 'Small limited liability partnership' as per the provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. **(5 Marks)**
- (c) When can the Preamble be used as an aid to interpretation of a statute? **(4 Marks)**
5. (a) Priya, Smita, Shilpa, and Shefali were partners in Sharma & Associates LLP. Shilpa resigned from the firm effective 7th May 2024. However, neither Sharma & Associates LLP nor Shilpa informed the Registrar of Companies about her resignation. Is Shilpa still liable for any losses incurred by the firm from transactions entered into after 7th May 2024? Analyze this situation with reference to the provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Vishal Ltd., an unlisted company, has been directed by the Central Government to prepare periodical financial results and undergo a limited review of these results. The Board of Directors is objecting, arguing that, as an unlisted entity, they are not required to prepare periodical financial results. Analyze this situation with reference to the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. **(5 Marks)**
- (c) In 2022, the Central Government enacted the "Digital Communications Act" to regulate and manage digital communications across the country. The Act provides specific duties and responsibilities for the Director of Digital Communications, including the oversight of digital infrastructure, enforcement of regulations, and ensuring compliance with data protection standards.
- In 2023, the Director of Digital Communications, Mr. Arjun Patel, was appointed to lead the implementation of this Act. However, in January 2024, Mr. Patel took a medical leave of absence for six months. During his absence, Ms. Priya Sharma, the Deputy Director of Digital Communications, was lawfully assigned to perform the duties of the Director.
- While Mr. Patel was on leave, a major data breach incident occurred involving a significant violation of the Digital Communications Act. Ms. Sharma took immediate action to investigate the breach, enforce penalties, and implement new compliance measures to prevent future incidents.

The actions taken by Ms. Sharma, while performing the duties of the Director, led to a legal challenge. The opposing party argued that only the Director, as specified in the Act, had the authority to enforce such penalties and measures, and that Ms. Sharma's actions were not valid.

Analyze the validity of Ms. Priya Sharma's actions in the context of the General Clauses Act, 1897, considering the provisions related to 'Official chiefs and subordinates'. **(4 Marks)**

6. (a) Enumerate the persons who are entitled to receive the Notice of the General Meeting, as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. **(5 Marks)**

OR

- (a) Enumerate the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect to the following:
- (i) Time limit for filing of annual return when Annual General Meeting is held. **(5 Marks)**
 - (ii) Time limit for filing of annual return when Annual General Meeting is not held. **(5 Marks)**
- (b) Explain the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 [read along with the Companies (Registration of Foreign Companies) Rules, 2014] in respect of 'Audit of accounts of foreign company'. **(5 Marks)**
- (c) Explain the meaning of term 'currency' as per the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. **(2 Marks)**
- (d) Define the term 'Official Gazette' as per the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897. **(2 Marks)**

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INTERMEDIATE COURSE: GROUP – I

PAPER – 2: CORPORATE AND OTHER LAWS

ANSWER TO PART – I CASE SCENARIO BASED MCQS

1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (b)
4. (b)
5. (d)
6. (d)
7. (a)
8. (a)
9. (c)
10. (b)
11. (b)
12. (b)
13. (b)
14. (d)
15. (c)

ANSWERS OF PART – II DESCRIPTIVE QUESTIONS

1. (a) According to section 2(68) of the Companies Act, 2013, "Private company" means a company having prescribed minimum paid-up share capital, and which by its articles, limits the number of its members to 200.
However, where two or more persons hold one or more shares in a company jointly, they shall, for the purposes of this clause, be treated as a single member.
It is further provided that following shall not be included in the number of members -
(A) persons who are in the employment of the company; and
(B) persons who, having been formerly in the employment of the company, were members of the company while in that employment and have continued to be members after the employment ceased.

Accordingly, total Number of members in ABC Limited are:

(i)	Directors and their relatives	20
(ii)	Joint shareholders (10x2)	10
(iii)	Other Members	150
	Total	180

- (i) ABC Limited may be converted into a private company only if the total members of the company are limited to 200. In the instant case, since existing number of members are 180 which is within the prescribed maximum limit of 200, so ABC Limited can be converted into a private company.
- (ii) There is no need for reduction in the number of members for the proposed private company as existing number of members are 180 which does not exceed maximum limit of 200.
- (b) Interim dividend:** As per section 123(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, the Board of Directors of a company may declare interim dividend during any financial year or at any time during the period from closure of financial year till holding of the annual general meeting out of the surplus in the profit and loss account or out of profits of the financial year in which such interim dividend is sought to be declared.

Provided that in case the company has incurred loss during the current financial year up to the end of the quarter immediately preceding the date of declaration of interim dividend, such interim dividend shall not be declared at a rate higher than the average dividends declared by the company during the immediately preceding three financial years.

Final dividend: The company in general meeting may declare dividends, but no dividend shall exceed the amount recommended by the Board. [Clause 80 of Table F in Schedule I]

According to the given facts, Sunday Ltd. incurred losses in current financial year 2023-24. It is also provided that, in the immediately preceding three financial years, the company declared dividend at the rate of 15%, 20% and 25% respectively. Accordingly, the rate of dividend declared shall not exceed 20%, the average of the rates $(15+20+25=60/3)$ at which dividend was declared by it during the immediately preceding three financial years.

Board of Directors of Sunday Ltd. recommended a final dividend @15% for financial year 2023-24 in the meeting held on 5th August 2024. It was approved in the general meeting. However, shareholders demanded that since Interim dividend was at the rate of 10%, so final dividend should not be less than 20%. The general meeting cannot declare the dividend at a rate higher than the rate of dividend recommended by the Board.

Yes, the decision of Company Secretary that final dividend cannot be increased beyond the rate of 15% as recommended in the Board Meeting, is correct.

- (c) According to section 5 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, any person may sell or draw foreign exchange to or from an authorized person if such a sale or drawal is a current account transaction. Provided that Central Government may, in public interest and in consultation with the reserve bank, impose such reasonable restrictions for current account transactions as may be prescribed.

As per the rules, drawal of foreign exchange for current account transactions are categorized under three headings-

1. Transactions for which drawal of foreign exchange is prohibited,
2. Transactions which need prior approval of appropriate government of India for drawal of foreign exchange, and
3. Transactions which require RBI's prior approval for drawl of foreign exchange.

- (i) Mr. Vinod wanted to remit US Dollar 20,000 out of his lottery winnings to his son residing in Singapore. Such remittance is prohibited and the same is included in the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000.

Hence Mr. Vinod cannot withdraw foreign exchange for this purpose.

- (ii) In the given situation, it is a current account transaction, where Mr. Shyam is required to take approval of the Central Government for drawal of foreign exchange for remittance of hire charges of transponders.

2. (a) **Crystallization of a Floating Charge**

When the creditor enforces the security due to the breach of terms and conditions of floating charge or the company goes into liquidation, the floating charge will become a fixed charge on all the assets available on that date. This is called crystallization of a floating charge.

A floating charge remains dormant until it becomes fixed or crystallizes. On crystallization of charge, the security (*i.e.* raw material, stock-in-trade, etc.) becomes fixed and is available for realization by the lender so that borrowed money is repaid. Crystallization of floating charge may occur when the terms and conditions of floating charge are violated or the company ceases to continue its business or the company goes into liquidation or the creditors enforce the security covered by the floating charge.

- (b) According to section 2(13) of the Companies Act, 2013, 'Books of account' includes records maintained in respect of:

- (i) all sums of money received and expended by a company and matters in relation to which the receipts and expenditure take place;
- (ii) all sales and purchases of goods and services by the company;
- (iii) the assets and liabilities of the company; and

- (iv) the items of cost as may be prescribed under section 148 in the case of a company which belongs to any class of companies specified under that section.

(c) (i) Measurement of Distances

According to section 11 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, in the measurement of any distance, for the purposes of any Central Act or Regulation made after the commencement of this Act, that distance shall, unless a different intention appears, be measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane.

(ii) Duty to be taken pro rata in enactments

According to section 12 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, where, by any enactment now in force or hereafter to be in force, any duty of customs or excise or in the nature thereof, is leviable on any given quantity, by weight, measure or value of any goods or merchandise, then a like duty is leviable according to the same rate on any greater or less quantity.

Pro rata is a Latin term used to describe a proportionate allocation.

3. (a) Exceptions to Doctrine of Indoor Management

Relief on the ground of 'indoor management' cannot be claimed by an outsider dealing with the company in the following circumstances:

1. **Knowledge of irregularity** - In case this 'outsider' has actual knowledge of irregularity within the company, the benefit under the rule of indoor management would no longer be available. In fact, he/she may well be considered part of the irregularity.
2. **Negligence:** If with a minimum of effort, the irregularities within a company could be discovered, the benefit of the rule of indoor management would not apply. The protection of the rule is also not available where the circumstances surrounding the contract are so suspicious as to invite inquiry, and the outsider dealing with the company does not make proper inquiry.
3. **Forgery:** The rule does not apply where a person relies upon a document that turns out to be forged since nothing can validate forgery. A company can never be held bound for forgeries committed by its officers.
4. Where the **question** is in regard to the very **existence of an agency**.
5. Where a **pre-condition** is required to be fulfilled before company itself can exercise a particular power. In other words, the act done is not merely ultra vires the directors/officers but ultra vires the company itself.

- (b)** Section 96(2) of the Companies Act, 2013, states that every Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be called during business hours, that is, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day that is not a National Holiday and shall be held either at the registered office of the company or at some

other place within the city, town or village in which the registered office of the company is situated.

However, AGM of an unlisted company may be held at any place in India if consent is given in writing or by electronic mode by all the members in advance.

Explanation—For the purposes of this sub-section, ‘National Holiday’ means and includes a day declared as National Holiday by the Central Government.

In the instant case, Prateek Limited, an unlisted company, can hold its AGM on 13th August 2024 which happens to be a holiday declared by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and so, this is not a national holiday.

(c) Doctrine of *Contemporanea Expositio*

This doctrine is based on the concept that a statute or a document is to be interpreted by referring to the exposition it has received from contemporary authority. The maxim “*Contemporanea Expositio est optima et fortissima in lege*” means “contemporaneous exposition is the best and strongest in the law.” This means a law should be understood in the sense in which it was understood at the time when it was passed.

This maxim is to be applied for construing ancient statutes, but not to Acts that are comparatively modern.

4. (a) (i) As per section 141(3)(d)(i) of the Companies Act, 2013, an auditor is disqualified to be appointed as an auditor if he, or his relative or partner holding any security of or interest in the company or its subsidiary, or of its holding or associate company or a subsidiary of such holding company. Further the proviso provides that, the relative of the auditor may hold the securities or interest in the company of face value not exceeding of ₹ 1,00,000.

In the present case, Chitralkha (spouse of Chintamani, the auditor), is having securities of Nagmani Limited having face value of ₹ 80,000, which is within the prescribed limits under the proviso to section 141(3)(d)(i). Therefore, Chintamani will be eligible to be appointed as an auditor of Nagmani Limited.

- (ii) As per section 141(3)(f), an auditor is disqualified to be appointed as an auditor if a person whose relative is a director or is in the employment of the company as a director or a Key Managerial Personnel. In the instant case, since Mani, real sister of Mr. Priyanshu (Chartered Accountant) is the CFO (a KMP) of Parivar Ltd., hence, Mr. Priyanshu will be disqualified to be appointed as an auditor in the said company.

(b) Small limited liability partnership

According to section 2(1)(ta) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, small limited liability partnership means a limited liability partnership:

- (i) the contribution of which, does not exceed twenty-five lakh rupees or such higher amount, not exceeding five crore rupees, as may be prescribed; and
 - (ii) the turnover of which, as per the Statement of Accounts and Solvency for the immediately preceding financial year, does not exceed forty lakh rupees or such higher amount, not exceeding fifty crore rupees, as may be prescribed; or
 - (iii) which meets such other requirements as may be prescribed, and fulfils such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.
- (c) Preamble merely affords help in the matter of construction, if there is an ambiguity in the law.

Courts refer to the preamble as an aid to construction in the following situations:

Situation 1: Where there is any ambiguity in the words of an enactment the assistance of the preamble may be taken to resolve the conflict.

Situation 2: Where the words of an enactment appear to be too general in scope or application then courts may resort to the preamble to determine the scope or limited application for which the words are meant.

5. (a) According to section 24(3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, where a person has ceased to be a partner of a LLP (hereinafter referred to as 'former partner'), the former partner is to be regarded (in relation to any person dealing with the LLP) as still being a partner of the LLP unless:
- (a) the person has notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the LLP; or
 - (b) notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the LLP has been delivered to the Registrar.

Hence, by virtue of the above provisions, as no notice of resignation was given to Registrar of Companies, Shilpa will still be liable for the loss of firm of the transactions entered after 7th May 2024.

(b) Periodical Financial Results [Section 129A of the Companies Act, 2013]

The Central Government may, require such class or classes of unlisted companies, as may be prescribed,:

- (a) to prepare the financial results of the company on periodical basis and in prescribed form
- (b) to obtain approval of the Board of Directors and complete audit or limited review of such periodical financial results in the prescribed manner; and
- (c) file a copy with the Registrar within a period of thirty days of completion of the relevant period with such fees as may be prescribed.

Therefore, the objection of the Board of Directors on the ground that as Vishal Ltd. is an unlisted company, periodical financial results need not be prepared, is not correct. Section 129A clearly specifies that the prescribed class(es) of unlisted companies has to prepare Periodical Financial Results.

(c) Official Chiefs and subordinates

According to section 19 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, a law relative to the chief or superior of an office shall apply to the deputies or subordinates lawfully performing the duties of that office in the place of their superior, to prescribe the duty of the superior.

In the instant case, Ms. Priya, the Deputy Director of Digital Communications, was lawfully assigned to perform the duties of the Director. Hence, the actions taken by Ms. Priya Sharma were valid.

6. (a) Persons entitled to receive the Notice of the General Meeting

According to section 101(3) of the Companies Act, 2013, the notice of every meeting of the company shall be given to:

- (1) every member of the company, legal representative of any deceased member or the assignee of insolvent member;
- (2) the auditor or auditors of the company;
- (3) every director of the company.

OR

(a) Time limit for Filing of Annual Return

- (i) A copy of annual return shall be filed with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) within 60 days from the date on which the Annual General Meeting ('AGM') is held.
- (ii) Where no annual general meeting is held in any year, it shall be filed with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) within 60 days from the date on which the annual general meeting should have been held, along with the reasons for not holding the AGM.

(b) Audit of accounts of foreign company

According to the Companies (Registration of Foreign Companies) Rules, 2014,

- (i) Every foreign company shall get its accounts, pertaining to the Indian business operations prepared in accordance with section 381(1) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules thereunder, shall be audited by a practicing Chartered Accountant in India or a firm or limited liability partnership of practicing chartered accountants.
- (ii) The provisions of Chapter X i.e. Audit and Auditors and rules made there under, as far as applicable, shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the foreign company.

(c) Currency

According to section 2(h) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, 'Currency' includes all currency notes, postal notes, postal orders, money orders, cheques, drafts, travelers' cheques, letters of credit, bills of exchange and promissory notes, credit cards or such other similar instruments, as may be notified by the Reserve Bank.

(d) Official Gazette

According to section 3(39) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, 'Official Gazette' or 'Gazette' shall mean:

- (i) The Gazette of India, or
- (ii) The Official Gazette of a state.

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