(ELECTRONIC GADGETS ARE NOT ALLOWED.)

Q.1 Read the followings news headlines:

a) Dargah dewan: Ban on hijab is violation of women's rights
b) Family-run parties biggest threat to democracy: Modi
c) Plan to include U-15 kids in young scientist prog: Min
d) Cryptic no more: Cryptos, CBDC may get to Coexist

In a Current Affairs class when students were asked to decide whether these headlines relate to important current issues or they are just news with no potential to be considered as issues, one group of students mentioned only a) & c) as issues whereas another group mentioned b), c), and d) as issues. How do you find their responses? Justify your answer in the light of the parameters on which a news item is judged whether it relates to an important issue or not. Write your answer in about 300 words. (25)

Q.2 Delhi High Court has been hearing on pleas seeking criminalisation of marital rape and has now reserved its order. This case has been widely reported in Indian media. If you are to express your opinion on this issue, from what different domain perspectives you would look at this issue for your analysis? Write your answer with convincing arguments in about 350 words. (30)

Q.3 Read the following news article published in a national newspaper recently. Identify the main issue reported in this write up. What would be your response to the issue reported here? Do you foresee any change in employee hiring policy and working profile in coming months? Write your answer justifying your stand in about 350 words. (20)

BENGALURU: Dealing with moonlighters in these times of remote work is posing a challenge for IT companies. Many tech professionals with full-time day jobs are said to be working on side projects. Companies worry that this is causing revenue and productivity losses. And it's leading to pressures to get employees back in office at the earliest, at least for somedays a week. Birlasoft CEO Dharmender Kapoor, who is also Nasscom's regional council chair for Noida, said they received a complaint that a person was working for seven companies parallelly. "We know the name of the person and which companies he worked for, because his PF records showed the employment details. It was caught by the HR managers of one of the firms, after they found multiple active PF accounts. It's difficult to catch such cases," he said.

Vikram Shroff, head of HR law practice at law firm Nishith Desai Associates, said in the absence of a centralised database in India, it is difficult for employers to find out if an employee is moonlighting. "Subject to privacy considerations, employers may need to check the employee's tax filings or provident fund account to ascertain whether there is any salary or income from other sources during the term of employment. Indian courts have also recognised the fact that moonlighting adversely affects the employee's productivity," he said. Shroff said restrictions on dual employment in India are included in the labour laws meant for factories and in certain employment standing orders. He said some technology employers include negative covenants in their contracts specifically restricting employees from taking up any other employment or commercial activities, while holding their current jobs, besides requiring them to disclose any conflicts.

Arundhati Bhattacharya, chairperson and CEO of Salesforce India, said a separate channel should be created for gig workers. "We have to create a hybrid workforce that includes part-timers. People should be given a choice. Abuses happen because you put them in a straightjacket and they are not able to get out. If you put them in a place with different security controls and requirements, it's possible to accommodate them in a hybrid structure", said Mrs. Bhattacharya.

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