

Mock Test Paper - Series II: May, 2025

Date of Paper: 6th May, 2025

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

FOUNDATION COURSE

PAPER 2: BUSINESS LAWS

Question No. 1 is compulsory.

Attempt any **four** questions from the remaining **five** questions.

(Time allowed: 3 Hours)

(100 Marks)

1. (a) P, Q and R jointly promised to pay S a sum of ₹ 60,000. Examine, considering the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 -
 - (i) Can S compel any of three parties P, Q and R to pay him ₹ 60,000?
 - (ii) R is compelled to pay the whole of the amount to S. Can he recover anything from P and Q, when -
 - (1) Both P and Q were solvents.
 - (2) P is not in a position to pay anything. **(7 Marks)**
- (b) (i) Oakwood Private Limited is the holding company of Silveroak Private Limited. As per the last profit and loss account for the year ending 31st March, 2025 of Silveroak Private Limited, its turnover was ₹ 1.80 crore and paid up share capital was ₹ 80 lakh. The Board of Directors wants to avail the status of a small company. The Company Secretary of the company advised the directors that Silveroak Private Limited cannot be categorized as a small company. In the light of the above facts and in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, you are required to examine whether the contention of Company Secretary is correct, explaining the relevant provisions of the Act. **(4 Marks)**
- (ii) In the Blossom Private Limited, there are only 5 members. All of them go in a boat on a pleasure trip into an open sea. The boat capsizes and all of them died being drowned. Explain with reference to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013:

- (A) Is Blossom Private Limited no longer in existence?
- (B) Further is it correct to say that a company being an artificial person cannot own property and cannot sue or be sued? **(3 Marks)**
- (c) (i) Explain the rules laid down under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, for the mode of settlement of partnership accounts after the dissolution of a firm. What is the order in which the assets of the firm are applied? **(4 Marks)**
- (ii) Discuss the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 regarding the payment of firm debts and separate debts of partners. How are the firm's property and the partners' separate property applied in settling such debts? **(2 Marks)**
2. (a) (i) The Institute of Science and Technology, Dehradun (the buyer), placed an order for various chemicals worth ₹ 1,50,000 from a supplier in Delhi (the seller). The buyer made full advance payment, and the seller dispatched the consignment via a courier of his own choice, without reserving any right of disposal over the goods. The consignment was lost in transit, and now the buyer seeks a refund of the purchase price. With reference to the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, assess the validity of the buyer's claim for a refund. **(4 Marks)**
- (ii) Sidharth visited an authorized car showroom and purchased a car of his choice without conducting a detailed inspection. After making the payment and taking delivery of the car, he discovered a defect in the engine that could not have been detected even with a reasonable inspection. With reference to the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, advise, whether Sidharth can invoke the implied condition of merchantability and repudiate the contract due to the defect in the car. **(3 Marks)**
- (b) Explain the classification of capital under Company Law as per the Companies Act, 2013. Discuss the different types of capital and the statutory definitions associated with each. **(7 Marks)**
- (c) Explain the advantages of the LLP form of business. How does its legal structure make it a flexible and preferable business model for entrepreneurs? Also, discuss the legal capacities an LLP acquires upon registration. **(6 Marks)**
3. (a) P, Q and R, are partners in a construction firm, PQR Associates. P buys cement on behalf of the firm from D. The cement is used in the ordinary course of the firm's business. P uses the cement for his personal purposes. The supplier D, who is unaware of the private use of cement by P, claims the price from the firm. The

firm refuses to pay for the price, on the ground that the cement was never received by it. Referring to the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, answer the followings:

- (i) Whether the Firm's contention is tenable?
 - (ii) What would be your answer if a part of the cement so purchased by P was delivered to the firm by him, and the rest of the cement was used by him for his private use, about which neither the firm nor the supplier were aware? **(7 Marks)**
- (b)
- (i) "Unity Foundation" is a newly incorporated company focused on promoting education and healthcare services in rural areas. The company is registered as a section 8 company with a clear plan to reinvest all profits into its activities, and a license has been accorded by the Central Government. For the financial year ending on 31st March, 2025, the company earned a substantial profit and transferred some amount to M/s ABC Associates (a Partnership firm and one of the member of the Unity Foundation). Subsequently, on the complaint of one of the members, the Central Government, after giving an opportunity of being heard, directed the company to be wound up on the ground that a partnership firm cannot be a member of the section 8 company and it cannot transfer any part of profit to the firm. Explain, in the light of the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, whether the ground taken for winding up is sufficient. **(4 Marks)**
 - (ii) Pacific Private Limited has 9 directors on its Board of Directors. The company's Articles of Association currently state that the quorum for board meetings shall be 1/3rd of the total strength or 2 directors, whichever is higher. The company now intends to amend this article to specify that the quorum for board meetings shall be 1/3rd of the total strength or 4 directors, whichever is higher. Advise the company on the procedure for including this entrenchment provision in its Articles, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013. Would your advice differ if the company were a public company? **(3 Marks)**
- (c) What is an anticipatory breach of contract? Discuss the legal rights and options available to the promisee under the Indian Contract Act, 1872, when anticipatory breach takes place. **(6 Marks)**

4. (a) Examine the validity of the following agreements under the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 and justify your answer:
- (i) Mrs. Deepika pays a sum of ₹ 20,000 to a marriage bureau to provide information about the prospective grooms for her daughter's marriage.
 - (ii) Bharat agrees with Rahul to sell his white horse. Unknown to both the parties, the horse was dead at the time of agreement.
 - (iii) Ayush sells the goodwill of his shop to Omkar for ₹ 5,00,000 and promises not to carry on such similar business within the local limits so long as Omkar carries on like business.
 - (iv) A property worth ₹ 20,00,000 was agreed to be sold for just ₹ 2,50,000 by a person of unsound mind. **(7 Marks)**
- (b) What is a Negotiable Instrument? Explain its meaning and essential characteristics. How does the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 classify instruments as payable to order or payable to bearer? **(7 Marks)**
- (c) (i) Describe the major functions and specialised divisions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). How does it contribute to India's economic development?
- (ii) Explain the key responsibilities and organizational structure of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Highlight the legislative acts it administers and the role of the ICLS cadre. **(6 Marks)**
5. (a) (i) PQR Limited, a supplier of electronic components, entered into a contract on August 1, 2024, with PQR Enterprises for the sale of 1000 units of microchips. The contract specifically identified the microchips by serial numbers and confirmed that they were in a deliverable state, stored in PQR Limited's warehouse. The contract stipulated that the goods would be delivered on September 1, 2024.
- On August 10, 2024, a flood occurred, damaged the warehouse and destroyed the entire stock of microchips, including the 1000 units intended for PQR Enterprises. Examine, with reference to the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 who shall suffer the loss? What will be your answer if the microchips are not specifically identified and marked for PQR Enterprises at the time of the contract? **(4 Marks)**
- (ii) A purchases a motorcycle from B and uses it for some time. It turns out that the motorcycle sold by B to A was a stolen one and had to be returned to a rightful owner. A brings action against B for the return of the price. Will

he succeed? Examine this with reference to the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930. **(3 Marks)**

(b) What is a Partnership Deed? Explain its significance and list the key contents typically included in a partnership deed. Why is it advisable to have the deed in writing, even though it is not mandatory? **(7 Marks)**

(c) Enumerate and explain the duties and obligations of an agent towards the principal under the Indian Contract Act, 1872. **(6 Marks)**

6. (a) (i) Kanika purchased various cosmetic products worth ₹ 15,000 during the last week from Kartik, a shopkeeper, on credit of one month. After a fortnight, she makes out a blank promissory note, signed it and delivered to Kartik who further endorsed it to Manish for the payment of his dues. Manish, who is holder in due course, filled up the due amount of ₹ 17,000 from Kartik and on maturity presented it to Kanika for payment but she refused to pay because the amount filled up is more than the agreed amount of ₹ 15,000. It is to be noted that the amount of ₹ 17,000 is covered by the stamp affixed on it. Referring to the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 decide, whether Kanika is liable to honour the promissory note to Manish for ₹ 17,000? **(4 Marks)**

(ii) Nisha, a small business owner, receives a bill of exchange from her customer, Neeraj, which is due for payment on October 15th. On October 12th, Nisha presents the bill of exchange for payment at Neeraj's office during regular business hours, but Neeraj is not present. Nisha leaves the bill with Neeraj's assistant, requesting to be presented to Neeraj for payment when he returns. However, Neeraj's assistant forgot to give the bill, and Neeraj does not make the payment by the due date, and the bill is dishonoured. Based on the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, examine whether Nisha's presentation of the bill of exchange to Neeraj's assistant. **(3 Marks)**

(b) Explain the circumstances under which a contract of bailment may be terminated under the Indian Contract Act, 1872. **(6 Marks)**

(c) Explain the concept of the "Right of Re-sale" under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930. Under what circumstances can an unpaid seller exercise this right? **(7 Marks)**

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ANSWERS

1. (a) Section 42 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 requires that when two or more persons have made a joint promise, then, unless a contrary intention appears from the contract, all such persons jointly must fulfil the promise. In the event of the death of any of them, his representative jointly with the survivors and in case of the death of all promisors, the representatives of all jointly must fulfil the promise.
- Section 43 allows the promisee to seek performance from any of the joint promisors. The liability of the joint promisors has thus been made not only joint but "joint and several". Section 43 provides that in the absence of express agreement to the contrary, the promisee may compel any one or more of the joint promisors to perform the whole of the promise.
- Section 43 deals with the contribution among joint promisors. The promisors, may compel every joint promisor to contribute equally to the performance of the promise (unless a contrary intention appears from the contract). If any one of the joint promisors makes default in such contribution the remaining joint promisors must bear the loss arising from such default in equal shares.
- In the instant case,
- (i) S can compel any of three parties P, Q and R to pay him ₹ 60,000.
 - (ii) (1) R can recover the contribution from P and Q because P, Q and R are joint promisors.
(2) P is unable to pay anything, R is compelled to pay the whole. R is entitled to receive ₹ 30,000 from Q.
- (b) (i) As per section 2(85) of the Companies Act, 2013, Small Company means a company, other than a public company:
- (i) paid-up share capital of which does not exceed four crore rupees, and
 - (ii) turnover of which as per profit and loss account for the immediately preceding financial year does not exceed forty crore rupees:

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to—

- (A) a holding company or a subsidiary company;
- (B) a company registered under section 8; or
- (C) a company or body corporate governed by any special Act.

In the instant case, as per the last profit and loss account for the year ending 31st March, 2025 of Silveroak Private Limited, its turnover was to the extent of ₹ 1.80 crore, and paid-up share capital was ₹ 80 lakh. Though Silveroak Private Limited, as per the turnover and paid-up share capital norms, qualifies for the status of a 'small company' but it cannot be categorized as a 'small company' because it is the subsidiary of another company (Oakwood Private Limited).

Hence, the contention of the Company Secretary is correct.

- (ii) (A) **Perpetual Succession** – A company on incorporation becomes a separate legal entity. It is an artificial legal person and have perpetual succession which means even if all the members of a company die, the company still continues to exist. It has permanent existence.

The existence of a company is independent of the lives of its members. It has a perpetual succession. In this problem, the company will continue as a legal entity. The company's existence is in no way affected by the death of all its members.

- (B) The statement given is incorrect. A company is an artificial person as it is created by a process other than natural birth. It is legal or judicial as it is created by law. It is a person since it is clothed with all the rights of an individual. Further, the company being a separate legal entity can own property, have banking account, raise loans, incur liabilities and enter into contracts. Even members can contract with company, acquire right against it or incur liability to it. It can sue and be sued in its own name. It can do everything which any natural person can do except be sent to jail, take an oath, marry or practice a learned profession. Hence, it is a legal person in its own sense.

- (c) (i) **Mode of Settlement of partnership accounts (Section 48 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932):** In settling the accounts of a firm after dissolution, the following rules shall, subject to agreement by the partners, be

observed:-

- (i) Losses, including deficiencies of capital, shall be paid first out of profits, next out of capital, and, lastly, if necessary, by the partners individually in the proportions in which they were entitled to share profits;
 - (ii) The assets of the firm, including any sums contributed by the partners to make up deficiencies of capital, must be applied in the following manner and order:
 - (a) in paying the debts of the firm to third parties;
 - (b) in paying to each partner rateably what is due to him from capital;
 - (c) in paying to each partner rateably what is due to him on account of capital; and
 - (d) the residue, if any, shall be divided among the partners in the proportions in which they were entitled to share profits.
- (ii) **Payment of firm debts and of separate debts (Section 49):** Where there are joint debts due from the firm and also separate debts due from any partner:
- (i) the property of the firm shall be applied in the first instance in payment of the debts of the firm, and if there is any surplus, then the share of each partner shall be applied to the payment of his separate debts or paid to him;
 - (ii) the separate property of any partner shall be applied first in the payment of his separate debts and surplus, if any, in the payment of debts of the firm.
2. (a) (i) **Delivery of the goods to the carrier [Section 23(2) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930]:** Where, in pursuance of the contract, the seller delivers the goods to the buyer or to a carrier or other bailee (whether named by the buyer or not) for the purpose of transmission to the buyer, and does not reserve the right of disposal, he is deemed to have unconditionally appropriated the goods to the contract.

In the instant case, the Institute of Science and Technology, Dehradun placed an order for various chemicals worth ₹ 1,50,000 from a supplier in Delhi. The seller dispatched the consignment via a courier without

reserving any right of disposal over the goods. The consignment was lost in transit. According to Section 23(2), it is an unconditional appropriation of goods because of which the Institute of Science and Technology, Dehradun (buyer) has become the owner of the goods. Therefore, it will bear the risk of loss of the consignment in the way. Hence, the buyer's claim is not valid.

- (ii) **Condition as to Merchantability [Section 16(2) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930]:** Where goods are bought by description from a seller who deals in goods of that description (whether he is the manufacturer or producer or not), there is an implied condition that the goods shall be of merchantable quality.

There are two requirements for this condition to apply:

- (a) Goods should be bought by description.
- (b) The seller should be a dealer in goods of that description.

Provided that, if the buyer has examined the goods, there shall be no implied condition as regards defects which such examination ought to have revealed.

The expression "merchantable quality", though not defined, nevertheless connotes goods of such a quality and in such a condition a man of ordinary prudence would accept them as goods of that description. It does not imply any legal right or legal title to sell.

In the instant case, the defect in the engine could not have been detected even with a reasonable inspection.

Therefore, Sidharth can invoke the implied condition of merchantability and is entitled to repudiate the contract due to the defect in the car.

- (b) In the domain of Company Law, the term 'capital' is used in the following senses:

- (i) **Nominal or authorised or registered capital:** This form of capital has been defined in section 2(8) of the Companies Act, 2013. "Authorised capital" or "Nominal capital" means such capital as is authorised by the memorandum of a company to be the maximum amount of share capital of the company. Thus, it is the sum stated in the memorandum as the capital of the company with which it is to be registered being the maximum amount which it is authorised to raise by issuing shares, and upon which it pays the stamp duty. It is usually fixed at the amount, which, it is estimated, the company will need, including the working capital and reserve capital, if any.

(ii) **Issued capital:** Section 2(50) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines “issued capital” which means such capital as the company issues from time to time for subscription. It is that part of authorised capital which is offered by the company for subscription and includes the shares allotted for consideration other than cash.

(iii) **Subscribed capital:** Section 2(86) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines “subscribed capital” as such part of the capital which is for the time being subscribed by the members of a company.

It is the nominal amount of shares taken up by the public. Where any notice, advertisement or other official communication or any business letter, bill head or letter paper of a company states the authorised capital, the subscribed and paid-up capital must also be stated in equally conspicuous characters.

(iv) **Called-up capital:** Section 2(15) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines “called-up capital” as such part of the capital, which has been called for payment. It is the total amount called up on the shares issued.

(v) **Paid-up capital** is the total amount paid or credited as paid up on shares issued. It is equal to called up capital less calls in arrears.

(c) **Advantages of LLP form:** LLP form is a form of business model which:

- a. is organized and operates on the basis of an agreement
- b. provides flexibility without imposing detailed legal and procedural requirements.
- c. Easy to form
- d. All partners enjoy limited liability
- e. Flexible capital structure
- f. Easy to dissolve

Effect of registration: On registration, a LLP shall, by its name, be capable of

- a. Suing and being sued;
- b. acquiring, owning, holding and developing or disposing of property, whether movable or immovable, tangible or intangible;
- c. having a common seal, if it decides to have one; and

d. doing and suffering such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

3. (a) The given question is based on the Section 18 read with sections 25 & 26 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932. Section 18 deals with the Partner to be an agent of the firm. This means that a partner is the agent of the firm for the purpose of the business of the firm.

The partner indeed virtually holds the character of both a principal and an agent. So as far as he acts for himself and in his own interest in the common concern of the partnership, he may properly be deemed a principal and so far as he acts for his partners, he may properly be deemed as an agent.

The rule that a partner is the agent of the firm for the purpose of the business of the firm cannot be applied to all transactions and dealings between the partners themselves. It is applicable only to the act done by partners for the purpose of the business of the firm.

According to section 25, the partners are jointly and severally responsible to third parties for all acts which come under the scope of their express or implied authority. "Act of firm" connotes any act or omission by all the partners or by any partner or agent of the firm, which gives rise to a right enforceable by or against the firm.

As per section 26, the firm is liable to the same extent as the partner for any loss or injury caused to a third party by the wrongful acts of a partner, if they are done by the partner while acting:

- (a) in the ordinary course of the business of the firm
- (b) with the authority of the partners.

According to the facts given in the questions, P, a partner to PQR Associates, buys cement on behalf of the firm from D in the ordinary course of the firm's business. P uses the cement for his personal purposes. D, the supplier was unaware of the private use of cement by P and claims price from the firm. Firm refuses to pay the price on the ground that the cement was never received by it.

Referring to the stated provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, following are the answers:

- (i) Said Section is applicable only to the act done by partners for the purpose of the business of the firm. In such case, partner act as the agent of the firm for the purpose of the business of the firm. Since in the given case, P,

buys cement on behalf of the firm from D in the ordinary course of the firm's business.

Therefore, in the given case, firms' contention of refusal to pay the price on the ground that the cement was never received by it, is not tenable.

- (ii) Further for commission of the wrongful act by the partner, the firm is liable to the same extent as the partner for any loss or injury caused to a third party by the wrongful acts of a partner, if they are done by the partner while acting:

- (a) in the ordinary course of the business of the firm
- (b) with the authority of the partners.

In the given case, part of the cement so purchased by P was delivered to the firm by him and the rest of the cement was used by him for his private use, was not known to the firm and the supplier. Since the act of the P to purchase the cement was in the ordinary course of business with the authority of the partner, however wrongful use by the partner will make the firm liable to the same extent as the partner for loss or injury caused to D.

However, PQR Associates can take action against P, the partner.

- (b) (i) Formation of companies with charitable objects etc. (Section 8 company):
- Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 deals with the formation of companies which are formed to
 - promote the charitable objects of commerce, art, science, sports, education, research, social welfare, religion, charity, protection of environment etc.
 - Such company intends to apply its profit in
 - promoting its objects and
 - prohibiting the payment of any dividend to its members.
 - The Section 8 company operates under a special licence from Central Government and the Licence revoked if conditions contravened.
 - On revocation, Central Government may direct it to
 - Converts its status and change its name
 - Wind-up

- Amalgamate with another company having similar object.
- A partnership firm can be a member of Section 8 company.

In the instant case, "Unity Foundation" a section 8 company transferred some amount to M/S ABC Associates (a Partnership firm and one of the members of the Unity Foundation).

The Central Government, after giving an opportunity of being heard, directed the company to be wound up on the ground that a partnership firm cannot be a member of the Section 8 company and it cannot transfer any part of profit to the firm.

Hence, the ground for winding up taken on the basis of transfer of any part of profit by Unity Foundation to the M/S ABC Associates is correct and sufficient.

However, M/S ABC Associates can become a member of Section 8 company. Therefore, this ground is not correct hence not sufficient.

- (ii) Section 5(4) and (5) of the Companies Act, 2013 contains the following provisions:

Manner of inclusion of the entrenchment provision: The provisions for entrenchment shall only be made either on formation of a company, or by an amendment in the articles agreed to by all the members of the company in the case of a private company and by a special resolution in the case of a public company.

Notice to the registrar of the entrenchment provision: Where the articles contain provisions for entrenchment, whether made on formation or by amendment, the company shall give notice to the Registrar of such provisions in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

In the instant case, Pacific Private Limited can follow the above procedure i.e. with the consent of all the members and notice to the registrar to include the entrenchment provision in its Articles.

Yes, the advice will differ, if the company is public company, since it has to pass Special Resolution and also inform to the registrar.

- (c) An anticipatory breach of contract is a breach of contract occurring before the time fixed for performance has arrived. When the promisor refuses altogether to perform his promise and signifies his unwillingness even before the time for performance has arrived, it is called Anticipatory Breach.

Anticipatory breach of a contract may take either of the following two ways:

- (a) Expressly by words spoken or written, and
- (b) Impliedly by the conduct of one of the parties.

Section 39 of the Indian Contract Act deals with anticipatory breach of contract and provides as follows:

“When a party to a contract has refused to perform or disable himself from performing, his promise in its entirety, the promisee may put an end to the contract, unless he has signified, by words or conduct, his acquiescence in its continuance.”

Effect of anticipatory breach: The promisee is excused from performance or from further performance. Further he gets an option:

- (1) To either treat the contract as “rescinded and sue the other party for damages from breach of contract immediately without waiting until the due date of performance;

or

- (2) He may elect not to rescind but to treat the contract as still operative and wait for the time of performance and then hold the other party responsible for the consequences of non-performance. But in this case, he will keep the contract alive for the benefit of the other party as well as his own, and the guilty party, if he so decides on re-consideration, may still perform his part of the contract and can also take advantage of any supervening impossibility which may have the effect of discharging the contract.

- 4. (a) (i) Under Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, a valid contract requires free consent, lawful consideration, and a lawful object.

In the instant case, the agreement to pay ₹ 20,000 in exchange for a service (providing information about prospective grooms) is lawful.

Hence, the agreement is valid.

- (ii) According to section 20, where both the parties to an agreement are under a mistake as to a matter of fact essential to the agreement, there is a bilateral mistake. In such a case, the agreement is void.

In the instant case, the horse's death (unknown to both parties) constitutes a bilateral mistake regarding the subject matter of the contract.

Hence, the agreement is void.

- (iii) Under Section 27, agreements in restraint of trade are void. However, an exception is provided for contracts involving the sale of goodwill. The local limits within which the seller of the goodwill agrees not to carry on similar business must be reasonable.

In the instant case, the restriction is limited to the local area and does not extend indefinitely.

Hence, the agreement is valid.

- (iv) According to section 12, a contract by a person who is not of sound mind is void.

In the instant case, a property worth ₹ 20,00,000 was agreed to be sold for just ₹ 2,50,000 by a person of unsound mind.

Hence, the agreement is void.

- (b) Negotiable Instruments is an instrument (the word instrument means a document) which is freely transferable (by customs of trade) from one person to another by mere delivery or by indorsement and delivery. The property in such an instrument pass to a bonafide transferee for value.

The Act does not define the term 'Negotiable Instruments'. However, Section 13 of the Act provides for only three kinds of negotiable instruments namely bills of exchange, promissory notes and cheques, payable either to order or bearer.

It is to be noted that Hundies, Treasury Bills, Bearer Debentures, Railway Receipts, Delivery Orders, Bill of Lading etc. are also considered as negotiable instruments either by mercantile custom or usage.

- (1) **A negotiable instrument is payable to order when:**

- a. It is expressed to be so payable
- b. When it is expressed to be payable to a specified person and does not contain words prohibiting its transfer. (i.e. it is transferrable by indorsement and delivery)

- (2) **A negotiable instrument is payable to bearer when:**

- a. When it is expressed to be so payable e.g. pay bearer
- b. When the only or last indorsement (indorsement means signing of the instrument) on the instrument is an indorsement in blank i.e., the person who possesses it can demand payment.

Essential Characteristics of Negotiable Instruments

1. It is necessarily in writing.
2. It should be signed.
3. It is freely transferable from one person to another.
4. Holder's title is free from defects.
5. It can be transferred any number of times till its satisfaction.
6. Every negotiable instrument must contain an unconditional promise or order to pay money. The promise or order to pay must consist of money only.
7. The sum payable, the time of payment, the payee, must be certain.
8. The instrument should be delivered. Mere drawing of instrument does not create liability.

(c) (i) Reserve Bank of India-

- a. It is India's Central Bank and regulatory body responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.
- b. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- c. It is responsible for the control, issue and maintaining supply of the Indian rupee.
- d. It also manages the country's main payment systems and works to promote its economic development.
- e. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (BRBNM) is a specialised division of RBI through which it prints and mints Indian currency notes (INR) in two of its currency printing presses located in Nashik (Western India) and Dewas (Central India).
- f. RBI established the National Payments Corporation of India as one of its specialised division to regulate the payment and settlement systems in India.
- g. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation was established by RBI as one of its specialised division for the purpose of providing insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities to all Indian banks.

(ii) **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**

- a. MCA is an Indian Government Ministry.
- b. It is primarily concerned with administration of the Companies Act 2013, the Companies Act 1956, the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- c. It is responsible mainly for the regulation of Indian enterprises in the industrial and services sector.
- d. The Ministry is mostly run by civil servants of the ICLS cadre.
- e. These officers are elected through the Civil Services Examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission.
- f. The highest post, Director General of Corporate Affairs (DGCoA), is fixed at Apex Scale for the ICLS.

5. (a) (i) According to Section 18 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, where there is a contract of sale for unascertained goods, the property in goods cannot pass to the buyer unless and until the goods are ascertained. The buyer can get the ownership right on the goods only when the goods are specific and ascertained.

According to section 20 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, where there is an unconditional contract for sale of specific goods in deliverable state, the property in the goods passes to the buyer when the contract is made, and it is immaterial whether the time of payment of price or the time of delivery of the goods, or both, is postponed. Here, the condition is goods must be ready for delivery.

In the instant case, since the microchips were specifically identified and were in a deliverable state when the contract was formed on August 1, 2024, ownership (and risk) likely passed to PQR Enterprises on August 1, 2024.

Therefore, PQR Enterprises will suffer the loss.

Goods are not specifically identified and ascertained:

If the microchips were not specifically identified and marked for PQR

Enterprises at the time of the contract, PQR Limited will suffer the loss, as the risk would not have transferred to PQR Enterprises.

- (ii) As per Section 27 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, “no one can transfer a better title than they themselves have.” This means that a person who is not the owner of goods cannot convey ownership unless authorized by the true owner.

Also, Section 14(a) imposes an implied condition in every contract of sale that the seller has the right to sell the goods means he should be the real owner. If the seller's title turns out to be defective, the buyer must return the goods to the true owner and recover the price from the seller.

In the instant case, A will succeed in his action against B for the return of the price, as B had no title to sell the stolen motorcycle, and the sale was in breach of the implied condition.

(b) Partnership Deed

Partnership is the result of an agreement. No particular formalities are required for an agreement of partnership. It may be in writing or formed verbally. But it is desirable to have the partnership agreement in writing to avoid future disputes. The document in writing containing the various terms and conditions as to the relationship of the partners to each other is called the ‘partnership deed’. It should be drafted with care and be stamped according to the provisions of the Stamp Act, 1899. Where the partnership comprises immovable property, the instrument of partnership must be in writing, stamped and registered under the Registration Act.

Partnership deed may contain the following information:-

1. Name of the partnership firm.
2. Names of all the partners.
3. Nature and place of the business of the firm.
4. Date of commencement of partnership.
5. Duration of the partnership firm.
6. Capital contribution of each partner.
7. Profit Sharing ratio of the partners.

8. Admission and Retirement of a partner.
9. Rates of interest on Capital, Drawings and loans.
10. Provisions for settlement of accounts in the case of dissolution of the firm.
11. Provisions for Salaries or commissions, payable to the partners, if any.
12. Provisions for expulsion of a partner in case of gross breach of duty or fraud.

A partnership firm may add or delete any provision according to the needs of the firm.

(c) The duties and obligations of an agent towards the principal under the Indian Contract Act, 1872 are following:

(i) **Duty to follow instructions or customs:** According to Section 211 an agent is bound to conduct the business of his principal according to the direction given by the principal, or, in the absence of any such directions, according to the customs which prevails in doing business of the same kind at the place where the agent conducts such business. When the agent acts otherwise and any loss is sustained by the Principal, he must indemnify him, and, if any profit accrues, he must account for it.

(ii) **Duty of reasonable care and skill:** According to section 212, an agent is bound to conduct the business of the principal with as much skill as is generally possessed by persons engaged in similar business, unless the principal has notice of his want of skill.

The agent is always bound to act with reasonable diligence, and to use such skill as he possesses; and to make compensation to his principal in respect of the direct consequences of his own neglect, want of skill or misconduct, but not in respect of loss of damage which are indirectly or remotely caused by such neglect, want of skill or misconduct.

(iii) **Duty to render proper accounts [Section 213]:** An agent is bound to render proper accounts to his principal on demand. Rendering accounts does not mean showing the accounts but the accounts supported by vouchers.

(iv) **Agent's duty to communicate with principal [Section 214]:** It is the duty of an agent, in cases of difficulty, to use all reasonable diligence in

communicating with his principal, and in seeking to obtain his instructions.

(v) **Duty not to deal on his own account:** Agent should not deal on his own account without first obtaining the consent of the principal, otherwise the principal may—

(a) repudiate the transaction, (Section 215)

(b) claim from the agent any benefit which may have resulted to him from the transaction. (Section 216)

(vi) **Duty not to make secret profits:** It is the duty of an agent not to make any secret profit in the business of agency. His relationship with the principal is of fiduciary nature and this requires absolute good faith in the conduct of agency.

Secret Profit means any advantage obtained by the agent over and above his agreed remuneration and which he would not have been able to make but for his position as agent.

(vii) **Duty not to delegate:** According to section 190, an agent cannot lawfully employ to perform acts which he has expressly or impliedly undertaken to perform personally, unless by the ordinary custom of trade a sub-agent may, or, from the nature of agency, a sub-agent, must be employed.

(viii) **Agent's duty to pay sums received for principal [Section 218]:** Subject to such deductions, the agent is bound to pay to his principal all sums received on his account.

(ix) **Duty not to use any confidential information received in the course of agency against the principal.**

6. (a) (i) Section 20 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 reads as “Where one person signs and delivers to another a paper stamped in accordance with the law relating to negotiable instruments then in force in India, and either wholly blank or having written thereon an incomplete negotiable instrument, he thereby gives prima facie authority to the holder thereof to make or complete, as the case may be, upon it a negotiable instrument, for any amount specified therein and not exceeding the amount covered by the stamp.

The person so signing shall be liable upon such instrument, in the capacity in which he signed the same, to any holder in due course for such amount. Provided that no person other than a holder in due course shall recover from the person delivering the instrument anything in excess of the amount intended by him to be paid thereunder”.

In the instant case, Kanika is not liable to honour the promissory note to Manish for ₹ 17000. She is liable only for ₹ 15000.

(ii) Presentment for payment [Section 64 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881]

As per section 64 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, promissory notes, bill of exchange and cheques must be presented for payment to the maker, acceptor or drawee thereof respectively, by or on behalf of the holder as hereinafter provided.

In default of such presentment, the other parties thereto are not liable thereon to such holder.

So, presentment for payment must be made to the person primarily liable on the instrument, or in their absence, at the proper place during the usual business hours.

In this case, Nisha presented the bill at Neeraj’s office during regular business hours, but since Neeraj was not present, she left the bill with his assistant.

While leaving the bill with the assistant might be considered a practical step, it does not fulfil the strict legal requirement of presenting the bill directly to the drawee (Neeraj) or his authorised representative for payment.

Therefore, the presentation of the bill by Nisha to Neeraj’s assistant is not valid under law.

(b) A contract of bailment shall terminate under the Indian Contract Act, 1872 in the following circumstances:

1. **On expiry of stipulated period:** If the goods were given for a stipulated period, the contract of bailment shall terminate after the expiry of such period.
2. **On fulfillment of the purpose:** If the goods were delivered for a specific purpose, a bailment shall terminate on the fulfillment of that purpose.

3. **By Notice:**

- (a) Where the bailee acts in a manner which is inconsistent with the terms of the bailment, the bailor can always terminate the contract of bailment by giving a notice to the bailee.
- (b) A gratuitous bailment can be terminated by the bailor at any time by giving a notice to the bailee. However, the termination should not cause loss to the bailee in excess of the benefit derived by him. In case the loss exceeds the benefit derived by the bailee, the bailor must compensate the bailee for such a loss (Sec. 159).

4. **By death:** A gratuitous bailment terminates upon the death of either the bailor or the bailee.

5. **Destruction of the subject matter:** A bailment is terminated if the subject matter of the bailment is destroyed or there is a change in the nature of goods which makes it impossible to be used for the purpose of bailment.

- (c) **Right of re-sale [Section 54 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930]:** The right of resale is a very valuable right given to an unpaid seller. In the absence of this right, the unpaid seller's other rights against the goods that is lien and the stoppage in transit would not have been of much use because these rights only entitled the unpaid seller to retain the goods until paid by the buyer.

The unpaid seller can exercise the right to re-sell the goods under the following conditions:

- (i) **Where the goods are of a perishable nature:** In such a case, the buyer need not be informed of the intention of resale.
- (ii) **Where he gives notice to the buyer of his intention to re-sell the goods:** If after the receipt of such notice the buyer fails within a reasonable time to pay or tender the price, the seller may resell the goods.

It may be noted that in such cases, on the resale of the goods, the seller is also entitled to:

- (a) Recover the difference between the contract price and resale price, from the original buyer, as damages.
- (b) Retain the profit if the resale price is higher than the contract price.

It may also be noted that the seller can recover damages and retain the profits only when the goods are resold after giving the notice of resale to the buyer. Thus, if the goods are resold by the seller

without giving any notice to the buyer, the seller cannot recover the loss suffered on resale. Moreover, if there is any profit on resale, he must return it to the original buyer, i.e. he cannot keep such surplus with him [Section 54(2)].

(iii) **Where an unpaid seller who has exercised his right of lien or stoppage in transit resells the goods:** The subsequent buyer acquires the good title thereof as against the original buyer, despite the fact that the notice of re-sale has not been given by the seller to the original buyer.

(iv) **A re-sale by the seller where a right of re-sale is expressly reserved in a contract of sale:** Sometimes, it is expressly agreed between the seller and the buyer that in case the buyer makes default in payment of the price, the seller will resell the goods to some other person. In such cases, the seller is said to have reserved his right of resale, and he may resell the goods on buyer's default.

It may be noted that in such cases, the seller is not required to give notice of resale. He is entitled to recover damages from the original buyer even if no notice of resale is given.

(v) **Where the property in goods has not passed to the buyer:** The unpaid seller has in addition to his remedies a right of withholding delivery of the goods. This right is similar to lien and is called "quasi-lien". This is the additional right used in case of agreement to sell.