Unit 1 | Indian Contract Act

### Question 1

State which of the following agreements are valid contract under the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

(a) A, who owns two cars is selling red car to B. B thinks he is purchasing the black car.

(b) A threatened to shoot B if he (B) does not lend him `2,00,000 and B agreed to it.

(c) A agrees to sell his house to B against 100 kgs of cocaine (drugs).

(d) A ask B if he wants to buy his bike for `50,000. B agrees to buy bike.

(e) Mr. X agrees to write a book with a publisher. But after few days, X dies in an accident.

Answer 1

(a) A, who owns two cars is selling red car to B. B thinks he is purchasing the black car. There is no consensus ad idem and hence not a valid contract.

(b) A threatened to shoot B if he (B) does not lend him `2,00,000 and B agreed to it. Here the agreement is entered into under coercion and hence not a valid contract.

(c) A agrees to sell his house to B against 100 kgs of cocaine (drugs). Such agreement is illegal as the consideration is unlawful.

(d) A ask B if he wants to buy his bike for `50,000. B agrees to buy bike. It is agreement which is enforceable by law. Hence, it is a valid contract.

(e) Mr. X agrees to write a book with a publisher. But after few days, X dies in an accident. Here the contract becomes void due to the impossibility of performance of the contract

Unit 2 | Indian Contract Act

### Question 1

Mr. Shyam Mundra was a big businessman having one son and one married daughter. He decided to gift his house to his daughter. For this purpose, he called his lawyer at his house and made a written document for such gift. The lawyer advised him to get the transfer document properly registered. When they both were going for registration of document, they met with an accident and both died. Later, the daughter found the document and claimed the house on the basis of that document. Explain, whether she can get the house as gift under the Indian Contract Act, 1872?

### Answer –

Section 25 of Indian Contract Act, 1872 provides that an agreement made without consideration is valid if it is expressed in writing and registered under the law for the time being in force for the registration of documents and is made on account of natural love and affection between parties standing in a near relation to each other. In other words, a written and registered agreement based on natural love and affection between the parties standing in near relation to each other. In the given problem, the transfer of house made by Mr. Shyam Mundra on account of natural love and affection between the parties standing in near relation to each other is written but not registered. Hence, this transfer is not enforceable.

# Question 2

Explain the following statements in the light of provisions of Indian Contract Act, 1872:(i) "Agreements made out of love and affection are valid agreements."(ii) "Promise to pay a time barred debt cannot be enforced."

Answer

### (i) Agreements made out of love and affection are valid agreements:

A written and registered agreement based on natural love and affection between the parties standing in near relation (e.g., husband and wife) to each other is enforceable even without consideration.

The various conditions to be fulfilled as per Section 25(1) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872: (A) It must be made out of natural love and affection between the parties. (B) Parties must stand in near relationship to each other. (C) It must be in writing. (D) It must also be registered under the law. Hence, the agreements made out of love and affection, without consideration, shall be valid, if the above conditions are fulfilled.

(ii) Promise to pay a time barred debt cannot be enforced: According to Section 25(3) of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, where a promise in writing signed by the person making it or by his authorised agent, is made to pay a debt barred by limitation is valid without consideration. Hence, this statement is not correct.

Unit 3 | Indian Contract Act

# Question 1 –

Mr. Mukund wants to sell his car. For this purpose, he appoints Mr. Parth, a minor as his agent. Mr. Mukund instructs Mr. Parth that car should not be sold at price less than `2,00,000. Mr. Parth ignores the instruction of Mr. Mukund and sells the car to Mr. Naman for `1,50,000. Explain the legal position of contract under Indian Contract Act, 1872 whether:

1. Mr. Mukund can recover the loss of ` 50,000 from Mr. Parth?

2. Mr. Mukund can recover his car from Mr. Naman?

Answer –

According to the provisions of Section 11 of Indian Contract Act, 1872, a minor is disqualified from contracting. A contract with minor is void-ab-initio but minor can act as an agent. But he will not be liable to his principal for his acts.

In the instant case, Mr. Mukund appoints Mr. Parth, a minor as his agent to sale his car. Mr. Mukund clearly instructed to Mr. Parth that the minimum sale price of the car should be `2,00,000 yet Mr. Parth sold the car to Mr. Naman for `1,50,000.

(a) Considering the facts, although the contract between Mr. Mukund and Mr. Parth is valid, Mr. Parth will not be liable to his principal for his acts. Hence, Mr. Mukund cannot recover the loss of ` 50,000.

(b) Further, Mr. Naman purchased the car from agent of Mr. Mukund, he got good title. Hence, Mr. Mukund cannot recover his car from Mr. Naman.

# Question 2 –

Mukesh is running a grocery store in Delhi. He sells his grocery business, including goodwill worth `1,00,000 to Rohit for a sum of `5,00,000. After the sale of goodwill, Rohit made an agreement with Mukesh. As per this agreement, Mukesh cannot open another grocery store (similar kind of business) in the whole of India for next ten years. However, Mukesh opens another store in the same city two months later. What are the rights available with Rohit regarding the restriction imposed on Mukesh with reference to Indian Contract Act, 1872?

### Solution -

According to Section 27 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, any agreement that restrains a person from carrying on a lawful trade, profession or business is a void agreement. However, there are certain exceptions to this rule. One of the statutory exceptions includes sale of Goodwill. The restraint as to sale of goodwill would be a valid restraint provided –

- (i) Where the restraint is to refrain from carrying on a similar business,
- (ii) The restrain should be within the specified local limits,
- (iii) The restraint should be not to carry on the similar business after sale of goodwill to the buyer for a price
- (iv) The restriction should be reasonable. Reasonableness of restriction will depend upon number of factors as considered by court.

In the given case, Mukesh has sold the goodwill and there is restraint for not carrying on the same business of grocery store. However, the restriction imposed on Mukesh is unreasonable as he cannot carry similar business in whole of India for next 10 years. The restriction on restraint to similar kind of trade should be reasonable to make it a valid agreement.

Hence, Rohit cannot take any legal action against Mukesh as the restriction is unreasonable as per Section 27 of Indian Contract Act, 1872. Hence, the agreement made between in restraint of trade between Mukesh and Rohit is void agreement.

# Question 3

X agrees to pay Y ` 1,00,000/-, if Y kills Z. To pay Y, X borrows ` 1,00,000/- from W, who is also aware of the purpose of the loan. Y kills Z but X refuses to pay. X also to repay the loan to W. Explain the validity of the contract. (i) Between X and Y. (ii) Between X and W

### Answer

Illegal Agreement: It is an agreement which the law forbids to be made. As an essential condition, the lawful consideration and object is must to make the agreement valid. (Section 10). As per Section 23 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, an agreement is illegal and void, if the consideration and object is unlawful / contrary to law i.e. if forbidden by law. Such an agreement is void and is not

enforceable by law. Even the connected agreements or collateral transactions to illegal agreements are also void.

In the present case,

- (i) X agrees to give `1,00,000 to Y if Y kills Z. Thus, the agreement between X and Y is void agreement being illegal in nature.
- (ii) X borrows `1,00,000 from W and W is also aware of the purpose of the loan. Thus, the agreement between X and W is void as the connected agreements of an illegal agreements are also void.

Unit 4 | Indian Contract Act

Question 1 –

Mr. Harish owes payment of 3 bills to Mr. Ashish as on 31st March, 2022. (i) `12,120 which was due in May 2018. (ii) `5,650 which was due in August 2020 (iii) `9,680 which was due in May 2021. Mr. Harish made payment on 1st April 2022 as below without any notice of how to appropriate them:

- 1. A cheque of `9,680
- 2. A cheque of `15,000

Advice under the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872

Answer - If the performance consists of payment of money and there are several debts to be paid, the payment shall be appropriated as per provisions of Sections 59, 60 and 61 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The debtor has, at the time of payment, the right of appropriating the payment. In default of debtor, the creditor has option of election and in default of either, the law will allow appropriation of debts in order of time.

In the present case, Mr. Harish had made two payments by way of two cheques. One cheque was exactly the amount of the bill drawn. It would be understood even though not specifically appropriated by Mr. Harish that it will be against the bill of exact amount. Hence cheque of `9,680 will be appropriated against the bill of ` 9,680 which was due in May 2021.

Cheque of `15000 can be appropriated against any lawful debt which is due even though the same is time-barred.

Hence, Mr. Ashish can appropriate the same against the debt of `12,120 which was due in 2018 and balance against ` 5650 which was due in August 2020.

### Question 2

Differentiate between Novation and Alteration as per the Indian Contract Act, 1872.

#### Answer

Novation and Alteration: The law pertaining to novation and alteration is contained in Sections 62 to 67 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. In both these cases , the original contract need not be performed. Still there is a difference between these two.

1. Meaning: Novation means substitution of an existing contract with a new one. But in case of alteration the terms of the contract may be altered by mutual agreement by the contracting parties.

2. Change in terms and conditions and parties: Novation may be made by changing in the terms of the contract or there may be a change in the contracting parties. But in case of alteration the terms of the contract may be altered by mutual agreement by the contracting parties but the parties to the contract will remain the same.

3. Substitution of new contract: In case of novation, there is altogether a substitution of new contract in place of the old contract. But in case of alteration, it is not essential to substitute a new contract in place of the old contract. In alteratio n, there may be a change in some of the terms and conditions of the original agreement.

Unit 6 | Indian Contract Act

Question 1 –

P left his carriage on D's premises. Landlord of D seized the carriage against the rent due from D. P paid the rent and got his carriage released. Can P recover the amount from D?

## Answer –

Section 69 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 states that a person who is interested in the payment of money which another person is bound by law to pay, and who therefore pays it, is entitled to get it reimbursed by the other.

In the present case, D was lawfully bound to pay rent. P was interested in making the payment to D's landlord as his carriage was seized by him. Hence being an interested party, P made the payment and can recover the same from D.

# Question 2

Mr. Y aged 21 years, lost his mental balance after the death of his parents in an accident. He was left with his grandmother aged 85 years, incapable of walking and dependent upon him. Mr. M their neighbour, out of pity, started supplying food and other necessaries to both of them. Mr. Y and his grandmother used to live in the house built by his parents. Mr. M also provided grandmother some financial assistance for her emergency medical treatment. After supplying necessaries to Mr. Y for four years, Mr. M approached the former asking him to payback `15 Lakhs inclusive of `7 Lakhs incurred for the medical treatment of the lady (grandmother). Mr. Y pleaded that he has got his parent's jewellery to sell to a maximum value of `4 Lakhs, which may be adjusted against the dues. Mr. M refused and threatened Mr. Y of legal suit to be brought against for recovering the money.

Now, you are to decide upon based on the provisions of the Indian Contract Act, 1872:

- (i) Will Mr. M succeed in filing the suit to recover money? Elaborate the related provisions?
- (ii) What is the maximum amount- of money that can be recovered by Mr. M?
- (iii) Shall the provisions of the above act also apply to the medical treatment given to the grandmother?

### Answer

(i) Claim for necessaries supplied to persons incapable of contracting (Section 68 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872): If a person, incapable of entering into a contract, or anyone whom he is legally bound to support, is supplied by another person with necessaries suited to his condition in life, the person who has furnished such supplies is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of such incapable person.

In the instant case, Mr. M supplied the food and other necessaries to Mr. Y (who lost his mental balance) and Mr. Y's grandmother (incapable of walking and dependent upon Mr. Y), hence, Mr. M will succeed in filing the suit to recover money.

- (ii) Supplier is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of such incapable person. Hence, the maximum amount of money that can be recovered by Mr. M is `15 Lakhs and this amount can be recovered from Mr. Y's parent's jewellery amounting to `4 Lakhs and rest from the house of Y's Parents. (Assumption: Y has inherited the house property on the death of his parents)
- (iii) Necessaries will include the emergency medical treatment. Hence, the above provisions will also apply to the medical treatment given to the grandmother as Y is legally bound to support his grandmother.

Unit 1 | Sales of Goods Act

### Question 1 –

Avyukt purchased 100 Kgs of wheat from Bhaskar at `30 per kg. Bhaskar says that wheat is in his warehouse in the custody of Kishore, the warehouse keeper. Kishore confirmed Avyukt that he can take the delivery of wheat from him and till then he is holding wheat on Avyukt's behalf. Before Avyukt picks the goods from warehouse, the whole wheat in the warehouse has flowed in flood. Now Avyukt wants his price on the contention that no delivery has been done by seller. Whether Avyukt is right with his views under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

### Answer –

As per the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 there are three modes of delivery, i) Actual delivery, ii) Constructive delivery and iii) Symbolic delivery. When delivery is affected without any change in the custody or actual possession of the things, it is called constructive delivery or delivery by acknowledgement. Constructive delivery takes place when a person in possession of goods belonging to seller acknowledges to the buyer that he is holding the goods on buyer's behalf.

On the basis of above provisions and facts, it is clear that possession of the wheat has been transferred through constructive delivery. Hence, Avyukt is not right. He cannot claim the price back.

#### Question 2

State the difference between Sale and Agreement to sell.

Answer –

Basis of difference	Sale	Agreement to sell
Transfer of property	The property in the goods passes to the buyer immediately.	Property in the goods passes to the buyer on future date or on fulfilment of some condition.
Nature of contract	It is an executed contract i.e. contract for which consideration has been paid.	It is an executory contract i.e. contract for which consideration is to be paid at a future date.
Remedies for breach	The seller can sue the buyer for the price of the goods because of the passing of the property therein to the buyer.	The aggrieved party can sue for damages only and not for the price, unless the price was payable at a stated date.
Liability of parties	A subsequent loss or destruction of the goods is the liability of the buyer.	Such loss or destruction is the liability of the seller.
Burden of risk	Risk of loss is that of buyer since risk follows ownership.	Risk of loss is that of seller.
Nature of rights	Creates Jus in rem means right against the whole world.	Creates Jus in personam means rights against a particular party to the contract.
Right of resale	The seller cannot resell the goods.	The seller may sell the goods since ownership is with the seller.
In case of insolvency of seller	The official assignee will not be able to take over the goods but will recover the price from the buyer.	The official assignee will acquire control over the goods but the price will not be recoverable.
In case of insolvency of buyer	The official assignee will have control over the goods.	The official assignee will not have any control over the goods.

Unit 2 | Sales of Goods Act

## Question 1

Priyansh orders an iron window to an Iron Merchant for his new house. Iron merchant sends his technician to take the size of windows. The technician comes at the site and takes size of area where window to be fitted. Afterwards, Iron merchant on discussion with his technician intimates Priyansh that cost of the window will be ` 5,000 and he will take ` 1,000 as advance. Priyansh gives ` 1,000 as advance and rest after fitting of window. After three days when technician try to fit the window made by him at the site of Priyansh, it was noticed that the size of window was not proper. Priyansh requests the Iron merchant either to remove the defect or return his advance. Iron merchant replies that the window was specifically made for his site and the defect cannot be removed nor can it be of other use. So, he will not refund the advance money rather Priyansh should give him the balance of ` 4,000. State with reason under the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, whether Priyansh can take his advance back?

### Answer –

By virtue of provisions of Section 16 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, there is an implied condition that the goods should be in merchantable position at the time of transfer of property. Sometimes, the purpose for which the goods are required may be ascertained from the facts and conduct of the parties to the sale, or from the nature of description of the article purchased. In such a case, the buyer need not tell the seller the purpose for which he buys the goods.

On the basis of above provisions and facts given in the question, it is clear that as window size was not proper, window was not in merchantable condition. Hence, the implied condition as to merchantability was not fulfilled and Priyansh has the right to avoid the contract and recover his advance money back.

Unit 3 | Sales of Goods Act

### Question 1

Ayushman is the owner of a residential property situated at Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi. He wants to sell this property and for this purpose he appoints Ravi, a mercantile agent with a condition that Ravi will not sell the house at a price not less than `5 crores. Ravi sells the house for `4 crores to Mudit, who buys in good faith. Ravi misappropriated the money received from Mudit. Ayushman files a suit against Mudit to recover his property. Decide with reasons, can Ayushman do so under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930?

### Answer –

As per the Proviso to Section 27 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, a sale made by a mercantile agent of the goods would pass a good title to the buyer in the following circumstances; namely;

(a) If he was in possession of the goods or documents with the consent of the owner;

(b) If the sale was made by him when acting in the ordinary course of business as a mercantile agent; and

(c) If the buyer had acted in good faith and has at the time of the contract of sale, no notice of the fact that the seller had no authority to sell.

On the basis of above, it can be said that Ravi, the mercantile agent, sells property to Mudit who bought in good faith. Mudit obtained a good title of that residential property. Hence, Ayushman cannot recover his property from Mudit. Rather, Ayushman can recover his loss from Ravi.

## Question 2

A agrees to sell certain goods to B on a certain date on 10 days credit. The period of 10 days expired and goods were still in the possession of A. B has also not paid the price of the goods. B becomes insolvent. A refuses to deliver the goods to exercise his right of lien on the goods. Can he do so under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930?

## Answer –

Lien is the right of a person to retain possession of the goods belonging to another until claim of the person in possession is satisfied. The unpaid seller has also right of lien over the goods for the price of the goods sold.

Section 47(1) of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 provides that the unpaid seller who is in the possession of the goods is entitled to exercise right of lien in the following cases:-

1. Where the goods have been sold without any stipulation as to credit

2. Where the goods have been sold on credit but the term of credit has expired

3. Where the buyer has become insolvent even though the period of credit has not yet expired.

In the given case, A has agreed to sell certain goods to B on a credit of 10 days. The period of 10 days has expired. B has neither paid the price of goods nor taken the possession of the goods. That means the goods are still physically in the possession of A, the seller. In the meantime, B, the buyer has become insolvent. In this case, A is entitled to exercise the right of lien on the goods because the buyer has become insolvent and t he term of credit has expired without any payment of price by the buyer.

# Question 3

Discuss the essential elements regarding the sale of unascertained goods and its appropriation as per the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

Answer

### Sale of unascertained goods and Appropriation:

Where there is a contract for the sale of unascertained goods by description and goods of that description are in a deliverable state are unconditionally appropriated to the contract, either by the seller with the assent of the buyer or by the buyer with the assent of the seller, the property in the goods thereupon passes to the buyer.

Whereas, Appropriation of goods involves selection of goods with the intention of using them in performance of the contract and with the mutual consent of the seller and the buyer.

The essentials elements are:

(a) There is a contract for the sale of unascertained or future goods.

(b) The goods should conform to the description and quality stated in the contract.

(c) The goods must be in a deliverable state.

(d) The goods must be unconditionally (as distinguished from an intention to appropriate) appropriated to the contract either by delivery to the buyer or his agent or the carrier.

- (e) The appropriation must be made by:
  - (i) the seller with the assent of the buyer; or
  - (ii) the buyer with the assent of the seller.

(f) The assent may be express or implied.

(g) The assent may be given either before or after appropriation.

## Question 4

Mr. K visited M/s Makrana Marbles for the purchase of marble and tiles for his newly built house. He asked the owner of the above shop Mr. J to visit his house prior to supply so that he can clearly ascertain the correct mix and measurements of marble and tiles. Mr. J agreed and visited the house on the next day. He inspected the rooms in the first floor and the car parking space. Mr. K insisted him to visit the second floor as well because the construction pattern was different, Mr. J ignored the above suggestion. Mr. J. supplied 146 blocks of marble as per the size for the rooms and 16 boxes of tiles with a word of caution that the tiles can bear only a reasonable weight. Marble and Tiles were successfully laid except on second floor due to different sizes of the marble. The tiles fitted in the parking space also got damaged due to the weight of the vehicle came for unloading cement bags. Mr. K asked Mr. J for the replacement of marble and tiles to which Mr. J refused, taking the plea that the marble were as per the measurement and it was unsafe to fit tiles at the parking area as it cannot take heavy load. Discuss in the light of provisions of Sale of Goods Act 1930:

- 1. Can Mr. J refuse to replace the marble with reference to the doctrine of Caveat Emptor? Enlist the duties of both Mr. K. and Mr. J.
- 2. Whether the replacement of damaged tiles be imposed on M/s Makrana Marbles? Explain.

### Answer

I)

Yes, Mr. J can refuse to replace the marble as he has supplied the marble as per the requirement of the buyer i.e. Mr. K.

**Duty of Mr. K (the buyer)** is that he has to examine the marbles and tiles carefully and should follow the caution given by Mr. J i.e. the seller that tiles can bear only a reasonable weight before laying them in the parking space of his house.

**Duty of Mr. J** (the seller) is that the goods supplied (i.e. tiles and marbles) shall be reasonably fit for the purpose for which the buyer wants them.

According to the doctrine of Caveat Emptor, it is the duty of the buyer to satisfy himself before buying the goods that the goods will serve the purpose for which they are being bought.

In this case Mr. K has accepted the marbles without examination. Hence, there is no implied condition as regards to defects in marbles. Mr. J can refuse to replace the marble as he has supplied the marble as per the requirement of the buyer i.e., Mr. K.

# Alternative

According to doctrine of caveat emptor the buyer cannot hold the seller responsible for defect in goods supplied as it is the duty of the buyer to make a proper selection or choice of the goods. Section 16(1) also provides that there is no implied condition as to quality of fitness of the goods sold for any particular purpose. However, as an exception to this doctrine, the section further provides that if the buyer had made known to the seller the purpose of his purchase; relied on the seller's skill and judgement; and Seller's business is to supply goods of that description then it shall be the duty of the seller to supply such goods as are reasonably fit for that purpose.

In the instant case, Mr. K has made known to Mr. J the purpose of his purchase and relied on his skill and judgement. It was the duty of Mr. J to supply the marbles fit for that purpose including for second floor. Since the marbles supplied were not fit for second floor Mr. J is liable to replace the marbles to the extent not fit for that purpose.

**Duty of Mr. K** (the buyer) As per the above doctrine it was the duty of the buyer Mr. K to make known to Mr. J the purpose of his purchase of marbles. He has fully performed his part arranging the visit of Mr. J to the site.

**Duty of Mr. J** (the seller) is that the goods supplied (i.e. tiles and marbles) shall be reasonably fit for the purpose for which the buyer wants them. If Mr. K relied on the skill and judgement of Mr. J he failed to perform his duty by neglecting the request of Mr. K to visit second floor resulting in supplies of unfit marbles for the purpose of Mr. K.

Considering the above provisions Mr. J will be liable to replace the marbles not fit for the second floor as Mr. J is bound to the implied condition to supply the marbles as per the requirement of Mr, J when he has made him known about that and relied on his skill and judgement.

# II)

According to the doctrine of Caveat Emptor, it is the duty of the buyer to satisfy himself before buying the goods that the goods will serve the purpose for which they are being bought.

Here, Mr. J supplied the boxes of tiles with a word of caution that the tiles can bear only a reasonable weight. Even though the tiles were laid in the car parking space of Mr. K and got damaged later because of vehicle used for unloading of cement bags were beyond the reasonable weight. Hence, the seller i.e., M/s Makrana Marbles is not liable as the buyer Mr. K as before laying down the tiles, has to satisfy himself that the tiles will serve the specific purpose i.e., can be used for car parking space only.

Therefore, the replacement of the damaged tiles cannot be imposed on M/s Makrana Marbles.

Unit 3 | Sales of Goods Act

# Question 1

What are the rights of unpaid seller in context to re-sale the goods under Sale of Goods Act, 1930?

Answer

Right of re-sale [Section 54 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930]:

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) 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)].
- (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".

### Question 1

Mr. Ram and Mr. Raheem are working as teacher in Ishwarchand Vidhyasagar Higher Secondary School and also are very good friends. They jointly purchased a flat which was given on rent to Mr. John. It was decided between landlords and tenant that the rent would be `10,000 per month inclusive of electricity bill. It means electricity bill will be paid by landlords. The landlords, by mistake, did not pay the electricity bill for the month of March 2021. Due to this, the electricity department cut the connection. Mr. John has to pay the electricity bill of `2800 and `200 as penalty to resume the electricity connection. Mr. John claimed `3000 from Mr. Ram but Mr. Ram replied that he is liable only for `1500. Mr. John said that Mr. Ram and Mr. Raheem are partners therefore he can claim the full amount from any of the partner. Explain, whether under the provision of Indian Partnership Act, 1932, Mr. Ram is liable to pay whole amount of `3000 to Mr. John?

#### Answer -

According to Section 4 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, "Partnership" is the relation between persons who have agreed to share the profits of a business carried on by all or any of them acting for all. Therefore, for determining the existence of partnership, it must be proved.

- 1. There must be an agreement between all the persons concerned;
- 2. The agreement must be to carry on some business;
- 3. The agreement must be to share the profits of a business and
- 4. The business was carried on by all or any of them acting for all.

On the basis of above provisons and facts provided in the question, Mr. Ram and Mr. Raheem cannot be said under partnership as they are teachers in a school and just purchased a flat jointly. By merely giving the flat on rent, they are not doing business. They are just earning the income from the property under their co-ownership. Hence, there is no partnership between them. Therefore, Mr. Ram is liable to pay his share only i.e. `1500. Mr. John has to claim rest `1500 from Mr. Raheem.

Unit 2 | Partnership Act

### Question 1

Shyam, Mohan and Keshav were partners in M/s Nandlal Gokulwale and Company. They mutually decided that Shyam will take the responsibility to sell the goods, Mohan will do the purchase of goods for firm and Keshav will look after the accounts and banking department. No one will interfere in other's department. Once, when Shyam and Keshav were out of town, Mohan got the information that the price of their good is going down sharply due to some government policy which would result in heavy loss to firm if goods not sold immediately. He tried to contact Shyam who has authority to sell the goods. When Mohan couldn't contact to Shyam, he sold all goods at some reduced price to save the firm from heavy loss. Thereafter, Shyam and Keshav denied accepting the loss due to sale of goods at reduced price as it's only Shyam who has express authority to sell the goods. Discuss the consequences under the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932.

## Answer

According to Section 20 of Indian Partnership Act, 1932, the partners in a firm may, by contract between the partners, extend or restrict the implied authority of any partner. Notwithstanding any such restriction, any act done by a partner on behalf of the firm which falls within his implied authority binds the firm, unless the person with whom he is dealing knows of the restriction or does not know or believe that partner to be a partner.

Further, according to Section 21, a partner has authority, in an emergency to do all such acts for the purpose of protecting the firm from loss as would be done by a person of ordinary prudence, in his own case, acting under similar circumstances, and such acts bind the firm.

On the basis of provisions and facts provided in the question, though Shyam was expressly authorised to sell the goods, Mohan sold the goods at some loss. It was very much clear that Mohan has done what a person of ordinary prudence does in an emergency to protect the firm from heavy loss. Hence, this sale will bind the firm.

## Question 2

State the modes by which a partner may transfer his interest in the firm in favour of another person under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932. What are the rights of such a transferee?

### Answer

Section 29 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 provides that a share in a partnership is transferable like any other property, but as the partnership relationship is based on mutual confidence, the assignee of a partner's interest by sale, mortgage or otherwise cannot enjoy the same rights and privileges as the original partner.

The rights of such a transferee are as follows:

- 1. During the continuance of partnership, such transferee is not entitled
  - to interfere with the conduct of the business,
  - to require accounts, or
  - to inspect books of the firm.

He is only entitled to receive the share of the profits of the transferring partner and he is bound to accept the profits as agreed to by the partners, i.e., he cannot challenge the accounts.

- 2. On the dissolution of the firm or on the retirement of the transferring partner, the transferee will be entitled, against the remaining partners:
  - to receive the share of the assets of the firm to which the transferring partner was entitled, and
  - for the purpose of ascertaining the share, he is entitled to an account as from the date of the dissolution.

By virtue of Section 31, no person can be introduced as a partner in a firm without the consent of all the partners. A partner cannot by transferring his own interest, make anybody else a partner in his place, unless the other partners agree to accept that person as a partner. At the same time, a partner is not debarred from transferring his interest. A

partner's interest in the partnership can be regarded as an existing interest and tangible property which can be assigned.

## Question 3

Can a partner be expelled? If so, how? Which factors should be kept in mind prior to expelling a partner from the firm by the other partners according to the provision of Indian Partnership Act, 1932?

Answer

Expulsion of partner and factors to be kept in mind:

As per Section 33 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, a partner may not be expelled from a firm except

(i) the power of expulsion must have existed in a contract between the partners;

(ii) the power has been exercised by a majority of the partners; and |

(iii) it has been exercised in good faith. If all these conditions are not present, the expulsion is not deemed to be in bona fide interest of the business of the firm and shall be null and void.

The test of good faith as required under Section 33(1) includes three things:

- (i) The expulsion must be in the interest of the partnership
- (ii) The partner to be expelled is served with a notice
- (iii) He is given an opportunity of being heard.

Yes, a partner may be expelled by other partners strictly in compliance with the provisions of section 33.

Unit 3 | Partnership Act

Question 1 - X and Y were partners in a firm. The firm was dissolved on 12th June, 2022 but no public notice was given. Thereafter, X purchased some goods in the firm's name from Z. Z was ignorant of the fact of dissolution of firm. X became insolvent and Z filed a suit against Y for recovery of his amount. State with reasons whether Y would be liable under the provisions of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932?

### Answer

By virtue of provisions of Section 45 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, notwithstanding the dissolution of a firm, the partners continue to be liable as such to third parties for any act done by any of them which would have been an act of the firm, if done before the dissolution, until public notice is given of the dissolution.

In the instant case, X and Y were partners in a firm which was dissolved but no public notice was given. After dissolution, X purchased some goods in the firm's name from Z who was ignorant of the fact of dissolution of firm. X became insolvent and Z filed a suit against Y for recovery of his amount.

Following the provisions of Section 45, X and Y are continuing liable against third party even after dissolution of firm until public notice is given. As in the given problem, X became insolvent, therefore, Y will be liable to Z.

# Question 2

"Indian Partnership Act does not make the registration of firm's compulsory nor does it impose any penalty for non-registration." In light of the given statement, discuss the consequences of non-registration of the partnership firms in India. Also, explain the rights unaffected due to non-registration of firms.

# Answer

It is true to say that Indian Partnership Act, 1932 does not make the registration of firms compulsory nor does it impose any penalty for non-registration. Following are the consequences of Non-registration of Partnership Firms in India: The Indian Partnership Act, 1932 does not make the registration of firms compulsory nor does it impose any penalty for non-registration. However, under Section 69 of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, non-registration of partnership gives rise to a number of disabilities. These disabilities briefly are as follows :

- 1. No suit in a civil court by firm or other co-partners against third party: The firm or any other person on its behalf cannot bring an action against the third party for breach of contract entered into by the firm, unless the firm is registered and the persons suing are or have been shown in the register of firms as partners in the firm.
- 2. No relief to partners for set-off of claim: If an action is brought against the firm by a third party, then neither the firm nor the partner can claim any set-off, if the suit be valued for more than `100 or pursue other proceedings to enforce the rights arising from any contract.
- 3. Aggrieved partner cannot bring legal action against other partner or the firm: A partner of an unregistered firm (or any other person on his behalf) is precluded from bringing legal action against the firm or any person alleged to be or to have been a partner in the firm. But, such a person may sue for dissolution of the firm or for accounts and realization of his share in the firm's property where the firm is dissolved.
- 4. Third party can sue the firm: In case of an unregistered firm, an action can be brought against the firm by a third party.

Following are the Rights unaffected due to non-registration of firms: Nonregistration of a firm does not, however effect the following rights:

- 1. The right of third parties to sue the firm or any partner.
- 2. The right of partners to sue for the dissolution of the firm or for the settlement of the accounts of a dissolved firm, or for realization of the property of a dissolved firm.
- 3. The power of an Official Assignees, Receiver of Court to release the property of the insolvent partner and to bring an action
- 4. The right to sue or claim a set-off if the value of suit does not exceed `100 in value.
- 5. The right to suit and proceeding instituted by legal representatives or heirs of the deceased partner of a firm for accounts of the firm or to realise the property of the firm.

# Companies Act 2013

### Question 1

In the Flower Fans 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 Companies Act, 2013:

- (i) Is Flower Fans Private Limited no longer in existence?
- (ii) Further is it correct to say that a company being an artificial person cannot own property and cannot sue or be sued?

### Answer

- (i) <u>Perpetual Succession</u> 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.
- (ii) 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.

### Question 2

ABC Limited was into sale and purchase of iron rods. This was the main object of the company mentioned in the Memorandum of Association. The company entered into a contract with Mr. John for some finance related work. Later on, the company repudiated the contract as being ultra vires.

With reference to the same, briefly explain the doctrine of "ultravires" under the Companies Act, 2013. What are the consequences of ultravires acts of the company?

#### Answer

Doctrine of ultra vires: The meaning of the term ultra vires is simply "beyond (their) powers". The legal phrase "ultra vires" is applicable only to acts done in excess of the legal powers of the doers. This presupposes that the powers in their nature are limited. It is a fundamental rule of Company Law that the objects of a company as stated in its memorandum can be departed from only to the extent permitted by the Act, thus far and no further. In consequence, any act done or a contract made by the company which travels beyond the powers not only of the directors but also of the company is wholly void and inoperative in law and is therefore not binding on the company. On this

account, a company can be restrained from employing its fund for purposes other than those sanctioned by the memorandum. Likewise, it can be restrained from carrying on a trade different from the one it is authorised to carry on.

The impact of the doctrine of ultra vires is that a company can neither be sued on an ultra vires transaction, nor can it sue on it. Since the memorandum is a "public document", it is open to public inspection. Therefore, when one deals with a company one is deemed to know about the powers of the company. If in spite of this you enter into a transaction which is ultra vires the company, you cannot enforce it against the company.

An act which is ultra vires the company being void, cannot be ratified even by the unanimous consent of all the shareholders of the company.

Hence in the given case, ABC Limited cannot enter into a contract outside the purview of its object clause of Memorandum of Association as it becomes ultra vires and thus null and void.

## Question 2

Articles of Association of XYZ Private Limited provides that Board of Directors (BOD) can take the loan upto ` 5,00,000 for Company by passing the board resolution. In that case, the loan amount is in excess of the limit, special resolution is required to be passed in general meeting. Due to urgent needs of funds, BOD applied for loan in a reputed bank for ` 10,00,000 without passing the resolution in the general meeting. BOD gave an undertaking to bank that Special Resolution has been passed for such loan. The bank on believing on such undertaking lend the money. On demanding the repayment of loan, company denied the payment as act was ultra vires to company. Kindly, advise.

### Answer

According to doctrine of Indoor Management, persons dealing with the Company are presumed to have read the registered documents and to see that the proposed dealing is not inconsistent therewith, but they are not bound to do more; they need not enquire into the regularity of internal proceedings as required by Memorandum and Articles. This was also decided in case of Royal British Bank Vs. Turquand.

In the instant case, XYZ Private Limited have taken loan from reputed bank for `10,00,000 by passing Board Resolution while Special Resolution was necessary for such amount. BOD gave an undertaking to bank that Special Resolution has been passed for such loan. The bank on believing on such undertaking lends the money. On demanding the repayment of loan, company denied the payment as act was ultra vires to company.

On the basis of provisions of doctrine of indoor management, the bank can claim the amount of his loan from the company. The bank can believe on the undertaking given by board and no need to enquire further.

### Question 3

Explain the classification of the companies on the basis of control as per the Companies Act, 2013.

Answer

In line with the Companies Act, 2013, following are the classification of the Companies on the basis of control:

(a) Holding and subsidiary companies: 'Holding and subsidiary' companies are relative terms. A company is a holding company in relation to one or more other companies, means a company of which such companies are subsidiary companies. [Section 2(46)]

For the purposes of this clause, the expression "company" includes any body corporate.

Whereas section 2(87) defines "subsidiary company" in relation to any other company (that is to say the holding company), means a company in which the holding company—

- (i) controls the composition of the Board of Directors; or
- (ii) exercises or controls more than one-half of the total voting power either at its own or together with one or more of its subsidiary companies:

Provided that such class or classes of holding companies as may be prescribed shall not have layers of subsidiaries beyond such numbers as may be prescribed.

(b) Associate company [Section 2(6)]: In relation to another company, means a company in which that other company has a significant influence, but which is not a subsidiary company of the company having such influence and includes a joint venture company.

Explanation. — For the purpose of this clause —

- the expression "significant influence" means control of at least twenty per cent of total voting power, or control of or participation in business decisions under an agreement;
- (ii) the expression "joint venture" means a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

The term "Total Share Capital", means the aggregate of the - (1) Paid-up equity share capital; and (2) Convertible preference share capital.

# Question 4

Mr. R, a manufacturer of toys approached MNO Private Limited for supply of raw material worth `1,50,000/-. Mr. R was offered a credit period of one month. Mr. R went to the company prior to the due date and met Mr. C, an employee at the billing counter, who convinced the former that the payment can be made to him as the billing-cashier is on leave.

Mr. R paid the money and was issued a signed and sealed receipt by Mr. C. After the lapse of due date, Mr. R received a recovery notice from the company for the payment of `1,50,000/-.

Mr. R informed the company that he has already paid the above amount and being an outsider had genuine reasons to trust Mr. C who claimed to be an employee and had issued him a receipt.

The Company filed a suit against Mr. R for non-payment of dues. Discuss the fate of the suit and the liability of Mr. R towards company as on current date in consonance with the provision of the Companies Act 2013? Would your answer be different if a receipt under the company seal was not issued by Mr. C after receiving payment?

## Answer

(i) Fate of the suit and the liability of Mr. R towards the company:

# **Doctrine of the Indoor Management**

According to the Doctrine of the Indoor Management, the outsiders are not deemed to have notice of the internal affairs of the company. They are entitled to assume that the acts of the directors or other officers of the company are validly performed, if they are within the scope of their apparent authority. So long as an act is valid under the articles, if done in a particular manner, an outsider dealing with the company is entitled to assume that it has been done in the manner required. This is the indoor management rule, that the company's indoor affairs are the company's problem. This rule has been laid down in the landmark case-the Royal British Bank vs. Turquand. (Known as "Turquand Rule") In the instant case, Mr. R is not liable to pay the amount of `1,50,000 to MNO Private Limited as he had genuine reasons to trust Mr. C, an employee of the company who had issued him a signed and sealed receipt.

(ii) Liability of Mr. R in case no receipt is issued by Mr. C:

Exceptions to doctrine of indoor management: Suspicion of irregularity is an exception to the doctrine of indoor management. The doctrine of indoor management, in no way, rewards those who behave negligently. It is the duty of the outsider to make necessary enquiry, if the transaction is not in the ordinary course of business. If a receipt under the company seal was not issued by Mr. C after receiving payment, Mr. R is liable to pay the said amount as this will be deemed to be a negligence on the part of Mr. R and it is his duty to make the necessary enquiry to check that whether Mr. C is eligible to take the payment or not.

### Question 5

Mr. Anil formed a One Person Company (OPC) on 16 April, 2018 for manufacturing electric cars. The turnover of the OPC for the financial year ended 31 March, 2019 was about `2.25 crores. His friend Sunil wanted to invest in his One Person Company (OPC), so they decided to convert it voluntarily into a private limited company. Can Anil do so, as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013?

### Answer

Section 2(62) of the Companies Act, 2013 defines one person company as a company which has only one person as a member. However, a private company shall have minimum 2 members without any

restriction on the share capital or turnover. If OPC is converted into private company Mr. Anil and Mr. Sunil both can be the members of the company and investment from Mr. Sunil can be accepted.

A One Person Company can voluntarily convert itself into a private company by following the compliances given under the Companies Act, 2013.

In the instant case, OPC formed by Mr. Anil can be voluntarily converted into a private company by following the compliances given under the Companies Act, 2013. Here, the information given relating to turnover for the financial year ended 31st March, 2019 is immaterial.

## Question 6

Explain listed company and unlisted company as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

### Answer

**Listed company**: As per the definition given in the section 2(52) of the Companies Act, 2013, it is a company which has any of its securities listed on any recognised stock exchange.

Provided that such class of companies, which have listed or intend to list such class of securities, as may be prescribed in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Board, shall not be considered as listed companies.

Whereas the word securities as per the section 2(81) of the Companies Act, 2013 has been assigned the same meaning as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

## Unlisted company means company other than listed company

### Question 7

Mike LLC incorporated in Singapore having an office in Pune, India. Analyse whether Mike LLC would be called as a foreign company as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013? Also explain the meaning of foreign company

# Answer

Mike LLC is incorporated in Singapore and having a place of business in Pune, India. Since, Mike LLC is incorporated outside India and having a Place of business in India, hence it is a foreign Company. Foreign Company [Section 2(42) of the Companies Act, 2013]:

It means any company or body corporate incorporated outside India which-

- (i) has a place of business in India whether by itself or through an agent, physically or through electronic mode; and
- (ii) conducts any business activity in India in any other manner.



Unit 1 | Indian Contract Act

## Question 9 | Page 8

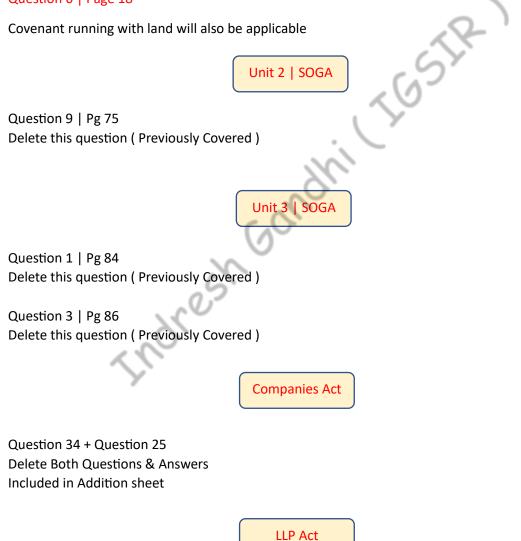
Alternative Answer – Offer should not contain a term non compliance of which amounts to acceptance

Unit 2 | Indian Contract Act

# Question 5 | Page 17

IGSIR's Note - Exceptions of No consideration No Contract – can also be answer which will make contract valid

Question 6 | Page 18



Addition in Answer of Question 11 | Pg 161

5. Any limited liability partnership which fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (3), such limited liability partnership and its designated partners shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred rupees for each day during which such failure continues, subject to a maximum of one lakh rupees for the limited liability partnership and fifty thousand rupees for every designated partner.

6. Any limited liability partnership which fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (1), subsection (2) and sub-section (4), such limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than twenty-five thousand rupees, but may extend to five lakh rupees and every designated partner of such limited liability partnership shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees, but may extend to one lakh rupees.

## 34A. Accounting and auditing standards.

The Central Government may, in consultation with the National Financial Reporting Authority constituted under section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013,—

(a) prescribe the standards of accounting; and

(b) prescribe the standards of auditing, as recommended by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India constituted under section 3 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, for a class or classes of limited liability partnerships.

Amendments - IMP

### Small co Definition

Sec 2 (85) - Paid up capital and turnover of the small company shall not exceed rupees **four crores** and rupees **forty crores** respectively.

Special Note -

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