

**HONS. 08/001/25**

**B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) DEGREE EIGHTH SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2025**

**INTERPRETATION OF STATUTES**

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 50

Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following questions. Each question carries **TEN** marks.

1. Discuss the role of external aids in the interpretation of statutes, highlighting their significance and limitations. Provide relevant case laws to illustrate how courts in India have utilized external aids such as legislative history, Historical facts and surrounding facts, later social, political and economic developments and, scientific inventions in statutory interpretation.
2. Discuss the rules relating to the commencement, repeal, and revival of statutes under the principles of interpretation of statutes. How have Indian courts interpreted these concepts?
3. Explain the basic rules of interpretation of statutes with special reference to the Literal Rule, the Golden Rule, and the Mischief Rule. Discuss the application and limitations of each rule with the help of relevant case laws, particularly in the Indian legal context.
4. Constitutional interpretation requires a distinct approach compared to ordinary statutory interpretation. Discuss the special rules and principles applicable to the interpretation of the Constitution of India such as the doctrine of pith and substance, harmonious construction, colourable legislation, and the basic structure doctrine with the help of landmark judgments.
5. Explain the principle of strict interpretation of penal statutes. Discuss the rationale behind this rule and the exceptions to it. How have Indian courts balanced the need for justice and the rights of the accused while interpreting penal statutes? Support your answer with relevant case laws.
6. Discuss the principle of presumption against retrospective operation of statutes. Under what circumstances can a statute operate retrospectively? Illustrate your answer with the help of relevant provisions and leading judicial decisions by Indian courts.

**P.T.O**

7. Discuss the principles of legislation based on Jeremy Bentham's Utilitarian theory.  
How has this theory influenced legislative practices and statutory interpretation?  
Critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the Utilitarian approach with the help of examples and scholarly criticism.
8. Write a short note on any two
- a. *ejusdem generis*
  - b. Statute in pari material
  - c. Assistance of earlier statutes

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