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LOGICAL REASONING

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Logical Reasoning3

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) directions to virtual private network (VPN) service providers are significant. They say that VPN providers should store data of Indian users for up to five years; this reinforces the importance of striking a balance between the need to protect user privacy and the government's legitimate requirement to access data for cyber security. VPN is used to hide location as well as encrypt information being transferred between the sender and receiver. This can be the data of an enterprise sent over a cloud network and storage, or two individuals exchanging files. On the one hand, this service is extremely useful for users accessing the Internet over public Wi-Fi systems but on the other hand, the end-to-end encryption makes it a lethal weapon in the hands of cybercriminals. The big worry for security agencies across the world is that VPNs allow criminals to transmit data without the fear of getting their IP addresses traced.

For example, law enforcement agencies in Europe banned a VPN service provider last year after it was discovered that cybercriminals were using the platform. This also has commercial ramifications for businesses like Netflix and other content providers that have geographical restrictions. For example, a user in India can use VPN and pretend to be a Netflix subscriber in the US to watch content that may be restricted in this country. Last year the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had even suggested banning VPN in India to counter cyber threats and other nefarious activities. However, VPN also helps companies, government agencies, and individuals encrypt data transmitted over the internet. It prevents any snooping and information tapping by external sources while the data is in transit.

The Centre itself had liberalised rules last year for the IT industry to enable them to work from home using VPN platforms. VPN adoption has jumped manifold in India in the first half of 2021 as companies moved to secure communication networks as more employees worked from home. The number of VPN installations soared to 348.7 million as at June-end 2021 against 45.24 million as at December-end 2020, according to Atlas VPN's Global VPN Adoption Index. India ranked fourth among 85 countries in the VPN penetration rate for H1 2021. While the government's security needs are understandable, banning VPN services is not a good idea.

SOURCE: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/article65407808.ece>

1. Which of the following is the primary purpose of the passage?

- (a) To suggest that VPN aids cybercriminals and should be banned.
- (b) To establish that the number of VPN users have jumped manifold in India in the past year
- (c) To emphasize that banning VPN altogether is not a good idea
- (d) All of the above

2. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the idea of the author?

- (a) VPN services must be regulated by the government.
- (b) More people should subscribe to VPN to bypass geographical restrictions.
- (c) Government agencies must use VPN for secure data transfer.
- (d) VPN is useful while using public Wi-Fi networks

3. Which of the following is the author's assumption that makes VPN a lethal weapon in the hands of cybercriminals?

- (a) Usefulness in accessing the public Wi-Fi systems.
- (b) End-to-end encryption while transferring data.
- (c) Accessibility to Netflix content which is banned in one's country.
- (d) All of the above

4. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Government should provide VPN services.
- (b) Government agencies should keep an eye on the use of VPN services.
- (c) VPN can give rise to antisocial activities.
- (d) VPN has been advantageous in its encryption of data.

5. Which of the following can be used by the government as a measure to strengthen cyber security?

- (a) Banning VPN.
- (b) Directing VPN providers to store data of the users.

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(c) Monitoring public wifi networks.

(d) Imposing geographical restriction

6. Which of the following is not an assumption?

(a) Data can be useful till five years.

(b) Public wi –fi system provides benefits by complete encryption of data.

(c) VPN increases cyber threats.

(d) VPN platforms enables work from home system.

1.Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The author, by suggesting pros and cons of VPN, concludes by suggesting that banning VPN might not be a good idea. Option (a) is incorrect as the author does not suggest banning VPN services. Option (b) is incorrect because the statement is not the primary purpose of the passage.

2.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. as people bypassing geographical restrictions through VPN will amount to misuse of VPN which is not the idea of the author. Option (a) is incorrect because the author promotes regulation of VPN and opposes its complete ban. Option (c) and (d) are incorrect because they strengthen the arguments given by the author where he suggests the pros of VPN.

3.Ans: (b)

Sol.: Option (b) is the correct explanation of making VPN a lethal weapon in the hands of cybercriminals. It enables them to hide their IP address. Option (a) is incorrect as this feature is useful for common people while accessing public wi-fi. Option (c) is incorrect because accessibility to Netflix content will not make VPN a lethal weapon.

4.Ans: a

Sol. : Option (a) is correct as it cannot be inferred from the passage that the government should provide VPN. Options (b), (c) and (d) are expressly mentioned by the author.

5.Ans. (b)

Sol.: Option (b) is correct as this measure has been taken by the MieTY as a legitimate step to strengthen cyber security. Option (a) is incorrect because banning VPN is not an option suggested by the author and the government itself has liberalized the VPN rules. Option (c) is incorrect because VPN can easily bypass monitoring by public wifi networks. Option (d) is incorrect because VPN can bypass Geographical restriction.

6.Ans. (d)

Sol.: Option (d) is correct. As it is not an assumption but is directly stated in this passage, last paragraph first line.