Three complexes,

$$\begin{split} &[\text{CoCl(NH}_3\,)_5\,]^{2+} \quad \text{(I)}, \quad [\text{Co(NH}_3\,)_5 \,\, \text{H}_2\text{O}]^{3+} \quad \text{(II)} \quad \text{ and} \\ &[\text{Co(NH}_3\,)_6\,]^{3+} \,\, \text{(III)} \end{split}$$

absorb light in the visible region. The correct order of the wavelength of light absorbed by them is (2019 Main, 10 April I)

- (a) II > I > III
- (b) I > II > III
- (c) III > I > II
- (d) III > II > I

Key Idea The wavelength (λ) of light absorbed by the complexes is inversely proportional to its Δ_0 CFSE (magnitude). Δ_0 (CFSE) $\propto 1/\lambda$

The complexes can be written as:

- I. $[CoCl(NH_3)_5]^{2+} = [Co(NH_3)_5(Cl)]^{2+}]$
- II. $[Co[NH_3]_5H_2O]^{3+} = [Co(NH_3)_5(H_2O)]^{3+}$
- III. $[Co(NH_3)_5]^{3+} = [Co(NH_3)_5(NH_3)]^{3+}$

So, the differentiating ligands in the octahedral complexes of Co (III) in I, II and III are Cl $^{\circ}$, H_2O and NH_3 respectively. In the spectrochemical series, the order of this power for crystal field splitting is Cl $^{-}$ < H_2O < NH_3 .

So, the crystal field splitting energy (magnitude) order will be $\Delta_0^{CFSE} (I) < \Delta_0^{CFSE} (II) < \Delta_0^{CFSE} (III)$

and the order of wavelength (λ) of light absorbed by the complexes will be

$$\lambda(I) > \lambda(II) > \lambda(III) \qquad \qquad \boxed{\because \ \, Energy \, (\Delta_0^{CFSE}) \propto \frac{1}{\lambda}}$$