

Remission without reform: On the release of 11 convicts in Bilkis Bano case

Premature release of prisoners must be done with **discretion** and **wisdom**

The release of 11 convicts **sentenced** to life for the **heinous** murder of seven people and the gang-rape of three women during the Gujarat **communal pogrom** of 2002 **is** a **questionable** decision by the State. **On the face of it**, it also appears to be illegal, as their **terms** seem to have been **remitted** without the required consultation with the Union government. It **defies** logic that those convicted for direct involvement in the rape of three women, the murder of a three-year-old and six others can be considered candidates for premature release under any remission policy. One of the convicts had obtained an order from the Supreme Court in May, under which **Gujarat**, the State in which the crime occurred, was **held** to be the appropriate government to consider his premature release. The Court had asked the State to decide the application under its 1992 remission policy, as it was the relevant one on the date of **conviction** in 2008. However, it is difficult to treat this as a **waiver** of the requirement under Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which makes consultation with the Centre mandatory. Further, a **Constitution Bench**, in 2015, **held** that ‘consultation’ meant ‘**concurrence**’ in this **provision**. The remission also **runs contrary to** the spirit of **contemporary** thinking on treating crimes against women and children, especially rape combined with murder, as so heinous that the **perpetrators** should not be considered for remission. It is not clear if the committee that recommended remission had considered the **disquieting** effect the release of these prisoners might have on the **survivors** and other members of the affected community.

A life sentence normally means that a convict has to spend the natural life in prison. The Cr.P.C. does permit premature release in the form of remission or **commutation**, but it should be based on a legal and constitutional scheme, and not on a **ruler’s whimsy**. The power of remission has been **conferred** on the Union and State governments — apart from the **sovereign** power of **clemency** enjoyed by the President and Governors — so that it can be used to **temper** the law’s **rigours** with an element of **grace**. While the benefit of remission **ought** not to be denied to anyone without a **ray of hope** that they will be free one day, it is a power to be **exercised** with discretion and wisdom. Further, **any decision** on remission **should** be linked to the convict’s expression of **regret** and some promise of reform. It would be **unjustified** if given for political **considerations merely** because of **elapse** of the minimum number of years they have to serve. With an Assembly election **due** in Gujarat at the end of the year, it is difficult not to **read** political **significance into** this decision. The **sight** of the released convicts being **greeted** and **feted** on their release **will not sit easy** on the country’s **conscience**.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’

Vocabulary

1. **Remission** (noun) – forgiveness, pardoning, absolution, exoneration; cancellation, setting aside क्षमा, माफी
2. **Reform** (noun) – improvement, betterment, amelioration, सुधार
3. **Convict** (noun) – prisoner, inmate अपराधी
4. **Premature** (noun) – untimely, early, too soon, too early, before time समय से पहले
5. **Discretion** (noun) – circumspection, care, carefulness, caution, wariness, विवेक
6. **Wisdom** (noun) – intelligence, understanding, insight, perception बुद्धिमानी
7. **Sentence** (to) (verb) – Declare the punishment decided for (an offender) सज़ा देना
8. **Heinous** (adjective) – odious, wicked, evil, atrocious, monstrous, disgraceful, जघन्य
9. **Communal** (adjective) – collective, cooperative, community, communalist सांप्रदायिक
10. **Pogrom** (noun) – massacre, slaughter, mass murder, mass homicide, mass execution हत्याकांड
11. **Questionable** (adjective) – controversial, contentious, open to question संदिग्ध
12. **On the face of it** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently, outwardly, it seems प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
13. **Term** (noun) – period, spell, stint, duration अवधि
14. **Remit** (verb) – cancel, set aside, revoke, repeal; pardon, forgive छोड़ना, छूट देना
15. **Defy** (verb) – disobey, refuse to obey, go against, rebel against अवहेलना करना, चुनौती देना
16. **Hold** (verb) – believe, think, consider, take the view, feel, मानना
17. **Conviction** (noun) – declaration of guilt, pronouncement of guilt, sentence दोषसिद्धि
18. **Waiver** (noun) – renunciation, surrender, repudiation, rejection, relinquishment छूट-पत्र, त्याग
19. **Constitution Bench** (noun) – a bench of the Supreme Court having five or more judges on it.
20. **Hold** (verb) – (of a judge or court) rule; decide. निर्णय करना
21. **Concurrence** (noun) – Agreement, accord, consensus, harmony सहमति.
22. **Provision** (noun) – term, clause, requirement, प्रावधान

23. **Run contrary to** (phrase) – to be opposed to के विपरीत/ विरुद्ध होना
24. **Contemporary** (adjective) – present-day, present, current, present-time, immediate, समकालीन
25. **Perpetrator** (noun) – A person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act. अपराधी
26. **Disquieting** (adjective) – appalling, horrifying, horrific, dreadful, awful, frightful बेचैन करनेवाला
27. **Survivor** (noun) – A person who survives, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died. बचा हुआ
28. **Commutation** (noun) – the act of replacing a punishment with a less severe one:
29. **Ruler** (noun) – leader, sovereign, monarch, potentate शासक
30. **Whimsy** (noun) – capriciousness, caprice, volatility, fickleness, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity सनक
31. **Confer** (on) (verb) – grant to, award to, endow with, vest in, प्रदान करना
32. **Sovereign** (adjective) – supreme, absolute, unlimited, unrestricted सार्वभौम, सर्व-श्रेष्ठ
33. **Clemency** (noun) – mercy, mercifulness, leniency, lenience, mildness क्षमा, रहम
34. **Temper** (verb) – moderate, modify, modulate, alleviate, allay, assuage, lessen घटाना
35. **Rigour** (noun) – strictness, severity, sternness, stringency कठोरता
36. **Grace** (noun) – favour, good will, generosity, kindness, benefaction कृपा
37. **Ought to** (modal verb) – should, must करना चाहिए
38. **Ray of hope** (phrase) – A small indication that something may improve, succeed, or turn out for the best in the end. आशा की एक किरण
39. **Exercise** (verb) – use, employ, make use of, utilize प्रयोग करना
40. **Regret** (noun) – remorse, sorrow, contrition, contriteness, repentance पछतावा
41. **Unjustified** (adjective) – irrational, unreasonable, unsound, unreasoned अनुचित
42. **Consideration** (noun) – A fact or a motive taken into account in deciding or judging something. उद्देश्य, विचार
43. **Merely** (adverb) – only, purely, solely, simply, सिर्फ, केवल
44. **Elapse** (noun) – pass, go by बीतना

45. **Due** (adjective) – expected, awaited, anticipated, scheduled for
46. **Read into** (phrasal verb) – infer from, interpolate from, assume from, attribute to तर्क करना
47. **Sight** (noun) – perception, judgement, belief, opinion, point of view, दृष्टि
48. **Greet** (verb) – welcome, meet, receive अभिवादन करना
49. **Fete** (verb) – celebrate, glorify, honour, admire, commend उत्सव मनाना
50. **Not sit easy** (phrase) – To not be agreeable to one's values or sensibilities.
51. **Conscience** (noun) – sense of right and wrong, sense of right, moral sense अन्तश्चेतना

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[\[Editorial page\]](#)

1. **REMISSION**

- A. Forgiveness
- B. Implement
- C. Caustic
- D. Anachronism

2. **POGROM**

- A. Massacre
- B. Apprehensive
- C. Ameliorate
- D. Adroit

3. **WHIMSY**

- A. Desultory
- B. Replenish
- C. Capricious
- D. Acerbic

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

While they do not define or lead to success at all times, they do ***put the spotlight on*** underrated gems that might have otherwise been overlooked.

- A. Attract more attention than anyone else present in the situation
- B. Be the responsibility of a particular person or group
- C. To reach the same quality or standard as someone or something else
- D. To focus on or bring attention to someone or something

5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

The compensation formula is flawed and there is a risk of making States too dependent on this committed revenue

P. While the June GST Council meeting is scheduled in Chandigarh, the initial choice of Srinagar was more apt.

Q. The verdant settings and cool climate could have mellowed the mood of the Council members getting ready for

R. a fiery battle over extension of the GST compensation payments beyond the June 30 deadline.

S. It's not difficult to see why many States want extension of these payments.

T. The promise made by the Centre to compensate States for shortfall in GST revenue (if it did not grow at compounded rate of 14 per cent annually)

U. in the first five years after transition to the GST regime, has so far worked well in States' favour.

Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P B.T C.U D.Q E.R

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. The man was reportedly upset over his sister's death about a fortnight behind.
 B. Despite elaborate search operations, the police could find no trace of the missing girls.
 C. The Magician, who has been using his talent for making the public aware of social issues, is confident that his mission would be a success.
 D. The revelation comes at a time when women's reservation is being deliberated upon.
 E. All are correct
7. A. The factory always emits a loud sound of hammering while operations of its machines generate a strong vibration, causing severe inconvenience to residents.
 B. Slick advertising campaigns, soaring gold prices and increasing purchasing power for consumers have helped develop a market for diamond.
 C. The society for animal welfare has urged people to keep an eye on injured birds during the forthcoming festival.
 D. In the afternoon devotees organised a programme in which the name of the deity was chanted one lakh time.
 E. All are correct
8. The martyrdom (A)/ about Sardar Bhagat (B)/ Singh created (C)/ a stir. (D)/ No Error(E)
9. He is well (A)/ known in Hindi, (B)/ Urdu and (C)/ Arabic languages. (D)/ No Error. (E)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Munificent
 B. Whorish
 C. Mordant
 D. Pretentious

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Currency caution – July 25, 2022)

The Indian rupee is experiencing its worst slump in four years. Since the start of 2022, the currency has depreciated by more than 7% against the U.S. dollar, weakening past a historic low of 80 to a dollar mark earlier this week.

While the Indian currency is not alone in fare poorly against the greenback, **(A)**/ with even the historically strong euro and the British **(B)**/ pound taking a hammering and weakening by more than the rupee has, **(C)**/ the fact that other currencies too have appreciably lost value against the dollar can only offer cold comfort to India's real economy. **(D)**

Domestic manufacturers and services providers are now having to cope with not just higher dollar prices for the raw materials, equipment or other supplies they may need to procure from overseas, in the wake of the supply disruptions caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, but they also face

_____ **11** _____ import bills — the slide means they have to fork out more rupees for the same dollar price from even just a few months ago. The Finance Minister and the RBI Governor have sought to explain the _____ **12** _____ causes for the pressure on the currency and allay apprehensions that the rupee may be in a ‘free fall’, a scenario that could ultimately prove rather damaging for macro-economic stability by _____ **13** _____ imported inflation at a time when both fiscal and monetary authorities are battling to tame _____ **14** _____ inflation.

While the Minister’s statement in the Lok Sabha cited factors including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and soaring crude oil prices as major drivers of the rupee’s depreciation, Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday acknowledged concerns about the rupee and pointed to the fact that foreign portfolio investors were “selling off assets and fleeing to safe haven” in the wake of global monetary policy tightening. So far in 2022, FPIs have **dumped (A)** \$29.6 billion in Indian equity and debt after three straight years of net investments, with the **prospect (B)** of more, sharp interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve to tame four-decade-high U.S. inflation likely to do little to **staunch (C)** the **outflows**. The dollar index, a measure of the greenback’s value against a **basket (D)** of six major currencies, too offers little reassurance to the rupee. The RBI will need to judiciously utilise every dollar in its war chest to ensure that a likely slowdown in exports and sticky imports do not add more undue pressure on the rupee. **(1)/** The rupee’s real effective exchange rate (REER), which provides a weighted average value in relation to a basket of currencies of its major trading partners, is also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued and has room to depreciate further. **(2)/** The index is just shy of a 20-year high hit last month indicating that investors are betting strongly on dollar-backed assets. **(3)/** Notwithstanding Mr. Das’s assertion that India’s underlying fundamentals ‘are strong and resilient’ with foreign exchange reserves ‘adequate’, **(4)/**

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. In the wake of the supply disruptions caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, but they also face _____ **11** _____ import bills — the slide means they have to fork out more rupees for the same dollar price from even just a few months ago.
 - A. Obsequious
 - B. Munificent
 - C. Mounting
 - D. Benevolent
12. The Finance Minister and the RBI Governor have sought to explain the _____ **12** _____ causes for the pressure on the currency.
 - A. Proximate
 - B. Obsequious
 - C. Dissolution
 - D. Quixotic
13. A scenario that could ultimately prove rather damaging for macro-economic stability by _____ **13** _____ imported inflation at a time.
 - A. Beset
 - B. Spurring

- C. Rustic
D. Contentious
14. When both fiscal and monetary authorities are battling to tame _____¹⁴_____ inflation.
A. Perfunctory
B. Complement
C. Runaway
D. Proximity
- 15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**
While the Indian currency is not alone in fare poorly against the greenback, **(A)**/ with even the historically strong euro and the British **(B)**/ pound taking a hammering and weakening by more than the rupee has, **(C)**/ the fact that other currencies too have appreciably lost value against the dollar can only offer cold comfort to India's real economy. **(D)**
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
- 16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
The RBI will need to judiciously utilise every dollar in its war chest to ensure that a likely slowdown in exports and sticky imports do not add more undue pressure on the rupee. **(1)**/ The rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER), which provides a weighted average value in relation to a basket of currencies of its major trading partners, is also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued and has room to depreciate further. **(2)**/ The index is just shy of a 20-year high hit last month indicating that investors are betting strongly on dollar-backed assets. **(3)**/ Notwithstanding Mr. Das's assertion that India's underlying fundamentals 'are strong and resilient' with foreign exchange reserves 'adequate', **(4)**/
A. 1234
B. 3241
C. 3214
D. 2143
E. 2134
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence
OUTFLOW
(i) The Government approved changes to currency legislation to further liberalise capital **outflows**.
(ii) He wanted to know why the trust was so severely in **outflows**, despite receiving record funding from the government.

(iii) I do owe him an **outflow**, as it was reading his blog that first got me hooked.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

So far in 2022, FPIs have **dumped (A)** \$29.6 billion in Indian equity and debt after three straight years of net investments, with the **basket (B)** of more, sharp interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve to tame four-decade-high U.S. inflation likely to do little to **staunch (C)** the outflows. The dollar index, a measure of the greenback's value against a **prospect (D)** of six major currencies, too offers little reassurance to the rupee.

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. B – D
- E. No arrangement

19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.

- (i) The man goes to the park every Sunday
 - (ii) He loves watching the ducks in the lake.
- A. Whereas
 - B. Although
 - C. Unless
 - D. As

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I reason _____ him but could not bring him round.

- A. At
- B. For
- C. With
- D. To
- E. None of the above

Answers

1. A 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. E 6. A 7. E 8. B 9. B 10. D 11. C 12. A
 13. B 14. C 15. 16. B 17. A 18. D 19. D 20. C [Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Put the spotlight on** (phrase)– To focus on or bring attention to someone or something

5. **PQRSTU**

The compensation formula is flawed and there is a risk of making States too dependent on this committed revenue. While the June GST Council meeting is scheduled in Chandigarh, the initial choice of Srinagar was more apt. The verdant settings and cool climate could have mellowed the mood of the Council members getting ready for a fiery battle over extension of the GST compensation payments beyond the June 30 deadline. It's not difficult to see why many States want extension of these payments. The promise made by the Centre to compensate States for shortfall in GST revenue (if it did not grow at compounded rate of 14 per cent annually) in the first five years after transition to the GST regime, has so far worked well in States' favour.

6. 'behind' के बदले 'ago' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'behind' एक Preposition है जिसका अर्थ है 'के पीछे' जबकि 'ago' एक Adverb of Time है जो 'पहले' के अर्थ में past time के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, जैसे-

i. She was standing behind Mohan. (के पीछे)

ii. I came here a month ago (के पहले)

➤ 'ago' will be used instead of 'behind' because 'behind' is a Preposition which means 'at the back of' whereas 'ago' is an Adverb of Time which means 'former' for past time is used, such as-

i. She was standing behind Mohan. (behind)

ii. I came here a month ago

8. 'about' के बदले 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'martyrdom of somebody' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे-

i. We cannot forget the martyrdom of Khudiram Bose.

➤ 'of' will be used instead of 'about' because 'martyrdom of somebody' is used, like-

i. We cannot forget the martyrdom of Khudiram Bose.

9. 'in' के बदले 'for' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'be known for something' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे-

i. Amitabh Bacchan is well known for his acting.

ii. She is well known for her singing.

➤ 'for' will be used instead of 'in' because 'be known for something' is used, like-

i. Amitabh Bacchan is well known for his acting.

ii. She is well known for her singing.

10. **Pretentious** (adjective) – attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed. मिथ्याभिमानि

11. **Mounting** (adjective) – rising, Increasing, growing, escalating बढ़ता हुआ

12. **Proximate** (adjective) – nearly, close, near निकटवर्ती

13. **Spur** (verb) –stimulate, encourage, prompt, propel, prod, induce, impel प्रेरित करना
14. **Runaway** (adjective) – uncontrolled, rampant, out of control, unsuppressed अनियंत्रित
15. Replace 'Faring' with 'Fare' as gerund is used after preposition

Fare (verb) – Perform

16. (B) 3241

The index is just shy of a 20-year high hit last month indicating that investors are betting strongly on dollar-backed assets. The rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER), which provides a weighted average value in relation to a basket of currencies of its major trading partners, is also signalling that the Indian currency is still overvalued and has room to depreciate further. Notwithstanding Mr. Das's assertion that India's underlying fundamentals 'are strong and resilient' with foreign exchange reserves 'adequate', the RBI will need to judiciously utilise every dollar in its war chest to ensure that a likely slowdown in exports and sticky imports do not add more undue pressure on the rupee.

17. **Outflows** (noun) – A large amount of money that is transferred out of a place; outflowing, outpouring(currency) बहिर्वाह

According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.

19. The man goes to the park every Sunday **as** he loves watching the ducks in the lake.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Implement	verb	To carry out	कार्यान्वित करना
	Caustic	adjective	Like acid; corrosive	काटू, दाहक, कटू
	Anachronism	noun	Something out of place in time or history; an incongruity	तिथि व समय की अशुद्धता; बेतुकापन
Q2	Apprehensive	adjective	Worried; anxious	भयभीत, सशंक, शंकित
	Ameliorate	verb	To make better or more tolerable	सुधारना
	Adroit	adjective	Skillful; dexterous; clever; shrewd; socially at ease	निपुण, चतुर
Q3	Desultory	adjective	Without a plan or purpose; disconnected; random	अनियमित, असंबद्ध
	Replenish	verb	To fill again; to resupply; to restore	फिर से भरना
	Acerbic	adjective	Bitter; sour; severe	कड़वा; पीड़ादायक
Q11	Obsequious	adjective	Fawning; subservient; sucking up to	चापलूस, गुलामाना
	Munificent	adjective	Very generous; lavish	उदार
	Benevolent	adjective	Generous; kind; doing good deeds	भलाई करनेवाला
Q12	Obsequious	adjective	Fawning; subservient; sucking up to	चापलूस, गुलामाना
	Dissolution	noun	The breaking up or dissolving of something into parts; disintegration	विघटन, विलयन
	Quixotic	adjective	Romantic or idealistic to a foolish or impractical degree	विलक्षण
Q13	Beset	verb	To harass; to surround	घेर लेना, सताना
	Rustic	adjective	Rural; lacking urban comforts or sophistication; primitive	देहाती

	Contentious	adjective	Argumentative; Quarrelsome	विवादास्पद
Q14	Perfunctory	adjective	Unenthusiastic; careless	असावधान
	Complement	verb	To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart	जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना
	Proximity	noun	Nearness	निकटता

