

Spirited battle: On AAP and the Delhi excise policy

AAP has a lot to explain of its excise policy, even if the CBI inquiry is **motivated**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has **accused** Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and 14 others of corruption in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22 in the National Capital Territory. On Friday, the agency searched Mr. Sisodia's house and also multiple locations in the country. Mr. Sisodia has said he expects the agency to arrest him soon. On July 21, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had recommended a CBI **probe** after the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government submitted a report alleging "**ulterior** motive of **monetary** gains" on the part of **the accused** in the implementation of the new policy, which the Delhi government then withdrew. **The controversial policy** which was **rolled out** on November 17, 2021 **had** privatised and **liberalised** the liquor trade, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government **projecting** a revenue increase of ₹9,500 crore. The report has accused Mr. Sisodia of "**deliberate** and **gross** procedural **lapses**" to give "**undue** benefits to liquor **licensees**" through the policy, and receiving **kickbacks** through **clandestine** routes, which the CBI is probing. AAP has claimed that the new policy made the liquor trade more beneficial for the public **exchequer** and consumers.

The **merits** of the case remain a subject matter of investigation, but **hardly** anyone expects the CBI to be **impartial**. The agency has been **blatantly** misused by the BJP and the Centre to target political opponents and States run by the Opposition. The BJP has been successful in putting its opponents **on the defensive** through CBI and ED investigations on a regular basis. The **irony** in this **instance** is that AAP has been a **votary** of strong central laws and central institutions to combat corruption, having transformed itself into a political party after beginning as an **anti**-corruption campaign platform. Its popularity in Delhi has **curiously alternated** with its principal opponent, the BJP. While AAP **swept** the last two Assembly elections in Delhi, the BJP won all seven Lok Sabha seats twice over during the same period. AAP's welfare schemes in Delhi helped it **replicate** its popularity in Punjab where it won power, but is now struggling to **govern**. AAP's strategy has been to **tar** all politicians — and politics itself — **with the same brush** while claiming to be the only **incorruptible** entity. Its **attempts** to **reenact** the **script** in Gujarat, the **prestigious pedestal** of the BJP where elections are **due** this year, **were** bound to invite the BJP's **wrath**. But AAP has a lot to explain. **It remains to be seen** whether the **holier-than-thou politics** crafted by AAP **survives** the **no-prisoners approach** of the BJP, even as it tries to **frame** the 2024 general election as a **contest** between AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [Practice Exercise]

- On the defensive (phrase) – protecting yourself from criticism instead of attacking or criticizing others: बचाव में, हिफाज़त में
- Curiously (adverb) – in a strange and unusual way. दिलचस्प रूप से
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

Vocabulary

1. **Spirited** (adjective) – full of energy, enthusiasm, and determination. साहसी, गरमागरम
2. **Motivated** (adjective) – Influenced by something or someone प्रेरित
3. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – charge with, indict for, arraign for, take to court for, दोष लगाना
4. **Probe** (noun) – investigation, inquiry, examination, scrutiny छानबीन, जांच
5. **Ulterior** (adjective) – hidden, covert, secret, personal, private गुप्त, परोक्ष
6. **Monetary** (adjective) – financial, fiscal, pecuniary, money आर्थिक
7. **The accused** (noun) – A person or group of people who are charged with or on trial for a crime. आरोपी
8. **Roll out** (phrasal verb) – launch, introduce, organize, start, begin
9. **Liberalise** (verb) – Remove or loosen restrictions on (something, typically an economic or political system) स्वतंत्र करना
10. **Project** (verb) – forecast, predict, estimate, calculate, gauge पूर्वानुमान करना
11. **Deliberate** (adjective) – intentional, calculated, conscious, done on purpose सोचा-समझा
12. **Gross** (adjective) – flagrant, blatant, glaring घोर
13. **Lapse** (noun) – failure, failing, slip, error, mistake, blunder चूक, भूल
14. **Undue** (adjective) – excessive, extreme, immoderate, intemperate अनुचित
15. **Licensee** (noun) – The holder of a license. लाइसेंसधारी
16. **Kickback** (noun) – bribe, payment, reward, recompense, inducement घूस, रिशवत
17. **Clandestine** (adjective) – secret, covert, furtive, surreptitious, stealthy गुप्त
18. **Exchequer** (noun) – A royal or national treasury. राजकोष, सरकारी खजाना
19. **Merit** (noun) – good point, strong point
20. **Hardly** (adverb) – scarcely, barely, only just, not much शायद ही
21. **Impartial** (adjective) – unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, निष्पक्ष
22. **Blatantly** (adverb) – In an open and unashamed manner. खुले तौर पर
23. **Irony** (noun) – paradox, paradoxical nature, incongruity, incongruousness, peculiarity विडंबना

24. **Instance** (noun) – occasion, occurrence, case घटना
25. **Votary** (noun) – follower, adherent, supporter, upholder, defender, समर्थक
26. **Anti** – (adjective) – Opposed to; against. विरोधी
27. **Alternate** (verb) – Do or perform in turn repeatedly; rotate, take in rotation
28. **Sweep** (verb) – Win all the seats जीत हासिल करना
29. **Replicate** (verb) – recreate, repeat, perform again दोहराना
30. **Govern** (verb) – rule, preside over, be in power over, reign over शासन करना
31. **Tar someone with same brush** (phrase) – Consider certain people to have the same faults.
32. **Incorruptible** (adjective) – unbribable, honest, trustworthy, scrupulous, conscientious, ईमानदार
33. **Reenact** (verb) – recreate, build up a impression of, build up a picture of फिर से कार्यान्वित करना
34. **Script** (noun) – Screenplay, play पटकथा
35. **Prestigious** (adjective) – impressive, conferring prestige, important, prominent, प्रतिष्ठित
36. **Pedestal** (noun) – plinth, base, support, bottom, bed, foot, substructure, कुर्सी, पीठ
37. **Due** (adjective) – expected, anticipated, scheduled for अपेक्षित
38. **Wrath** (noun) – anger, rage, fury, annoyance, indignation क्रोध, रोष
39. **Remain to be seen** (phrase) – Used to express the notion that something is not yet known देखना बाकी है
40. **Holier-than-thou** (adjective) – Characterized by an attitude of moral superiority.
41. **Craft** (verb) – Exercise skill in making (something) तैयार करना
42. **No-prisoner** (adjective) – Be ruthlessly aggressive or uncompromising in the pursuit of one's objectives. उद्देश्य के लिए समर्पित
43. **Frame** (verb) – formulate, draw up, plan, draft, map out बनाना
44. **Contest** (noun) – struggle, conflict, confrontation, collision, clash चुनाव लड़ना, प्रतियोगिता

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

1. On July 21, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had recommended a CBI probe
 - A. Ameliorate
 - B. Metamorphosis
 - C. Investigation
 - D. Indigent
2. AAP's strategy has been to tar all politicians — and politics itself — with the same brush while claiming to be the only incorruptible entity.
 - A. Relinquish
 - B. Opaque
 - C. Epigram
 - D. Honest
3. the Chief Secretary of the Delhi government submitted a report alleging “ulterior motive of monetary gains” on the part of the accused in the implementation of the new policy
 - A. Maverick
 - B. Hidden
 - C. Vitriolic
 - D. Indolent

Direction (Q4 – Q5): select the appropriate antonym of the given words

4. The report has accused Mr. Sisodia of “deliberate and gross procedural lapses” to give “undue benefits to liquor licensees” through the policy, and receiving kickbacks through clandestine routes, which the CBI is probing
 - A. Exposed
 - B. Vindicate
 - C. Kinetic
 - D. Gratuitous
5. The irony in this instance is that AAP has been a votary of strong central laws and central institutions to combat corruption, having transformed itself into a political party after beginning as an anti-corruption campaign platform
 - A. Tacit
 - B. Virulent
 - C. Detractor
 - D. Poignant

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

6.
 - A. Unless you work hard, you will not pass, you will not pass.
 - B. Mr. Raj has been asked to give details of his tax returns
 - C. Professionals must continuously hone their skills.
 - D. The minister was removed from a key post.
 - E. All are correct

7. A. More than 60 per cent of India's population live below the poverty line.
 B. Since we have been living in Bangalore for five years, we are reluctant to another city.
 C. It Being too costly for him, he could not buy the coat.
 D. He complained of having been tortured by the police.
 E. All are correct
8. 'The Arabian Nights'(A)/are indeed (B)/an interesting book. (C)/No Error. (D)
9. Of all the models (A)/Jessica is(B)/the more good-looking one. (C)/No Error. (D)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Straggler
 B. Chunderous
 C. Mischeivous
 D. Rancorous
11. **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.

India reported its first laboratory-confirmed, imported case of monkeypox virus when a 35-year-old man in Kerala's capital tested positive. (Time for vigilance – The Hindu: 18 July, 2022)

P. To cut the transmission chain, people who have come in contact with him in Kerala have been isolated.

Q. The first case of the virus outside Africa was first reported in the U.K. on May 6, 2022. Since then,

R. the virus has spread to over 63 countries — Europe has reported 8,238 cases from 35 countries as of July 12, and the U.S., 1,470 cases as of July 14.

S. The diagnosis was easy as the individual informed health-care workers of his contact with an infected person in the United Arab Emirates.

T. Never before has the virus spread to more than a hundred people a year during any outbreak in endemic countries except Congo.

U. In fact, sustained transmission beyond a few generations has been rare in Africa.

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

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

Direction (Q12 – Q15): Cloze test based on Editorial (Time for vigilance – The Hindu: 18 July, 2022)

While the first human case was reported in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the virus became endemic in 11 countries in Africa causing small outbreaks, no attempts were made to study it all these years. With the virus having a free run in non-endemic countries, scientists have now _____ **12** _____ many discomfoting facts: the virus appears to mutate at a much higher rate than what was assumed. And, based on genome sequences from the current outbreak, they have found the emergence of a novel clade of the virus in early March. A recent study has found monkeypox virus DNA in samples of semen, saliva, urine, rectal swabs and faeces, and at high viral loads; the infectious and disease potential of these body fluids was not studied. Whether the new _____ **13** _____ by

itself has a higher potential for human spread is not known. But surely, close sexual contact is providing the virus much opportunity to spread within the MSM community. With the _____**14**_____ spread and a few cases already detected in women, the possibility of spread into the general community cannot be totally dismissed. Increased testing, contact tracing and building awareness, and not _____**15**_____ the infected people can stop the spread.

12. A. Acute B. Beleaguer C. Unveiled D. Colloquial
13. A. Clade B. Candor C. Distinguish D. Prodigy
14. A. Congenial B. Oblique C. Sustained D. Callow
15. A. Discern B. Coup C. Inert D. Stigmatising

16. Idioms & Phrase

The survey revealed a sorry _____ in schools

- A. state of affairs
B. Be up to the task
C. Rise through the ranks
D. Have a mind of one's own
E. None of the above

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Answers

1. C 2. D 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. E 7. E 8. B 9. C 10. C 11. C 12. C

13. A 14. C 15. D 16. A

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

6. No Error

7. No Error

8. 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'The Arabian Nights' एक 'पुस्तक' का नाम है और किसी भी 'देश, संगठन, बीमारी, खेल, पुस्तक' का नाम यदि form (स्वरूप) में Plural भी है तो function (कार्य) में उसे हमेशा Singular माना जाता है; जैसे-

- i. 'The Rivals' is a famous comedy of Sheridan.
- ii. The United States is the most powerful country in the world.
- iii. Measles is a serious disease.

➤ 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because 'The Arabian Nights' is the name of a 'book' and the name of any 'country, organization, disease, sport, book' if form If there is a plural as well, it is always considered singular in the function; like-

- i. 'The Rivals' is a famous comedy of Sheridan.
- ii. The United States is the most powerful country in the world.
- iii. Measles is a serious disease.

9. 'more' के बदले 'most' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Jessica की तुलना all models (सभी मॉडल) से है।

➤ 'Most' will be used instead of 'more' because Jessica is compared to all models.

10. **Mischievous** (adjective) – naughty, bad, badly behaved, misbehaving, disobedient शैतान

11. **SPQR TU**

India reported its first laboratory-confirmed, imported case of monkeypox virus when a 35-year-old man in Kerala's capital tested positive. The diagnosis was easy as the individual informed health-care workers of his contact with an infected person in the United Arab Emirates. To cut the transmission chain, people who have come in contact with him in Kerala have been isolated. The first case of the virus outside Africa was first reported in the U.K. on May 6, 2022. Since then, the virus has spread to over 63 countries — Europe has reported 8,238 cases from 35 countries as of July 12, and the U.S., 1,470 cases as of July 14. Never before has the virus spread to more than a hundred people a year during any outbreak in endemic countries except Congo. In fact, sustained transmission beyond a few generations has been rare in Africa.

12. **Unveil** (verb) – reveal, present, disclose, divulge, make known खुलासा करना

13. **Clade** (noun) – it describes groups of similar viruses based on their genetic sequences

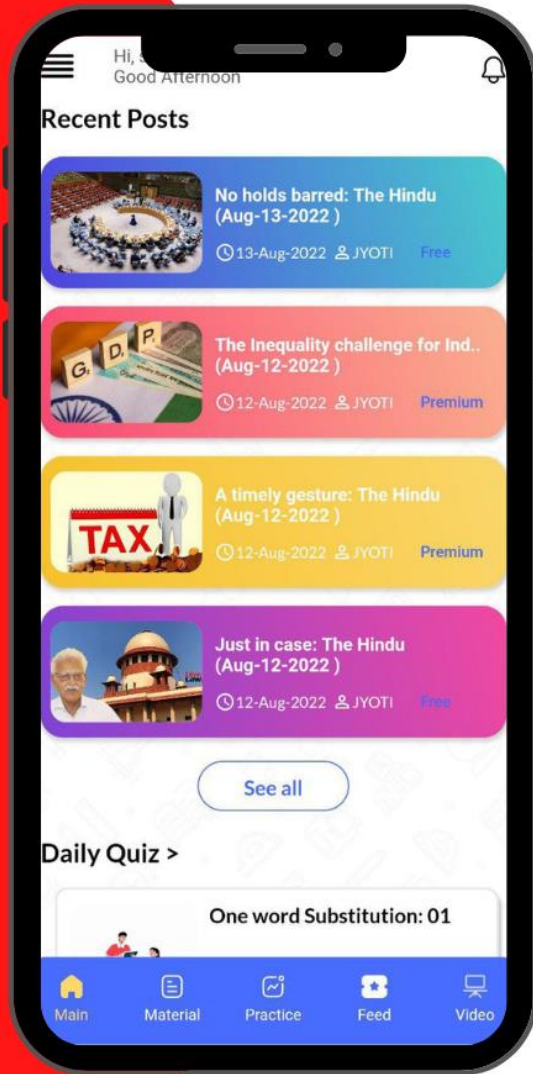
14. **Sustained** (adjective) – continuous, ongoing, steady, continual, continuing निरंतर
15. **Stigmatise** (verb) – discredit, dishonour, defame, disparage, reproach, censure कलंकित करना
16. **State of affairs** (Phrase) – A situation or set of circumstances. परिस्थिति
- **Be up to the task** (Phrase) – Able or willing to do or deal with something
 - **In Focus** (Phrase) – focused, distinct, clear, well-defined, clear-cut चर्चा में होना
 - **Rise through the ranks** (Phrase) – Advance/progress in a group/party by one's own efforts.
 - **Have a mind of one's own** (Phrase) – To have the propensity or ability to think, act, or form opinions without outside influence.

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Explanation of other important words

| Sr. NO | Words | | Meanings | |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| Q1 | Ameliorate | verb | To make better or more tolerable | सुधारना |
| | Metamorphosis | noun | A magical change in form; a striking or sudden change | कायापलट |
| | Indigent | adjective | Poor | दरिद्र |
| Q2 | Relinquish | verb | To release or let go of; to surrender; to stop doing | त्यागना |
| | Opaque | adjective | Impossible to see through; impossible to understand | अस्पष्ट |
| | Epigram | noun | A brief and usually witty or satirical saying | चुटकुला, सूक्ति |
| Q3 | Maverick | noun | A nonconformist; a rebel | आवारा |
| | Vitriolic | adjective | Caustic; full of bitterness | कटु |
| | Indolent | adjective | Lazy | आलसी |
| Q4 | Vindicate | verb | To clear from all blame or suspicion; to justify | साबित कर देना |
| | Kinetic | adjective | Having to do with motion; lively; active | सक्रिय |
| | Gratuitous | adjective | Given freely; unjustified; unprovoked; uncalled for | मुफ्त, निःशुल्क, ऐच्छिक |
| Q5 | Tacit | adjective | Implied; not spoken | मौन |
| | Virulent | adjective | Extremely poisonous; malignant; full of hate | विषैला |
| | Poignant | adjective | Painfully emotional; extremely moving; sharp or astute | मार्मिक |
| Q12 | Acute | adjective | Sharp; shrewd | तीव्र, विकट |
| | Beleaguer | Verb | To surround; to besiege; to harass | घेर लेना, धेरा डालना |
| | Colloquial | adjective | Conversational; informal in language | बोल-चाल का |
| Q13 | Candor | noun | Truthfulness; sincere honesty | स्पष्टवादिता |

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| | Distinguish | verb | To tell apart; to cause to stand out | अंतर करना, भेद करना |
| | Prodigy | noun | An extremely talented child; an extraordinary accomplishment | विलक्षण गुण-संपन्न मनुष्य |
| Q14 | Congenial | adjective | Agreeably suitable; pleasant | अनुकूल, सौहार्दपूर्ण |
| | Oblique | adjective | Indirect; at an angle | अप्रत्यक्ष |
| | Callow | adjective | Immature | अनुभवहीन |
| Q15 | Discern | verb | To have insight; to see thing clearly, to discriminate; to differentiate. | पहचानना, विचार करना, देखना |
| | Coup | noun | A brilliant victory or accomplishment; the violent overthrow of a government by a small internal group | तख्तापलट |
| | Inert | adjective | Inactive; sluggish; not reacting chemically | निष्क्रिय |



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