

Reviewing remission: On the need for norms to release convicts

Supreme Court should **lay down** norms for release of convicts on remission

Public-spirited activists have done well to challenge in the Supreme Court the **premature** release of 11 convicts who were serving life terms for the gang-rape of a woman and the murder of at least seven people during the 2002 anti-Muslim **pogrom** in Gujarat. **Bilkis Bano**, the **survivor**, **has** not moved the courts **so far**, but it is clear that the **controversial order** of the Gujarat government, granting remission to the convicts, **should** be subject to judicial review. **That** those found guilty of multiple murders, including that of a ~~three-year-old child~~, and a gang-rape, were found suitable candidates for premature release **is** unacceptable. **Even otherwise** there are specific legal **grounds** to question the government's decision. The remission was based on a direction from a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on a **petition** by one of the convicts. The question to be decided was whether the Gujarat government or the Maharashtra government was the appropriate government for considering their **plea** for remission. The Court **ruled** that **the State government of Gujarat**, where the crime occurred, **should** consider the matter, and not Maharashtra, **the State** to which the trial **was** transferred by the Supreme Court to **ensure** an **impartial** trial. While passing this order, the Bench also said the remission should be considered under a policy framed in July 1992, as that was the **prevailing** policy on the date of their 2008 **conviction**. This meant that the **bar** on granting remission to those convicted for murder and rape, found in the current policy, **will** not apply to these convicts.

There are at least two grounds on which the remission order appears illegal. First, the State government made a decision on its own without consulting with the Centre. Under Section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, such consultation with the Centre is mandatory in cases **probed** by the CBI. Further, the **composition** of the committee that recommended remission for the convicts **consisted** of two BJP **legislators**. Ideally, a remission panel should comprise senior government officials in charge of home or law, a district judge, the prison superintendent, and officers who **deal with probation and rehabilitation of offenders**. The **presence** of political members certainly **vitiates** its decision. Further, it appears that the **objection** of the district judge **concerned was disregarded, casting a shadow on the legitimacy** of the remission. It will be appropriate if the Supreme Court constitutes a Bench of sufficient size to reconsider judgments that allow the remission policy obtaining on the date of conviction, instead of the policy currently **in force**; as well as decide the question of whether the 'appropriate government' should be the one in the State where the crime **took place**, or the State to which the trial was transferred on judicial orders. It can also **spell out the contours** of a **rational** remission policy, one that will be informed by **humanitarian considerations** as well as the scope for **reform** of the offenders and their sense of **remorse**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Remission** (noun) – The reduction of a prison sentence, especially as a reward for good behavior. माफी, क्षमा
2. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – formulate, stipulate, set down, draw up, frame निर्धारित करना
3. **Public-spirited** (adjective) – Willing to help the wider community; socially concerned. जन-उत्साही
4. **Activist** (noun) – campaigner, reformer, demonstrator कार्यकर्ता
5. **Premature** (adjective) – untimely, early, too soon, too early, before time समय से पहले
6. **Pogrom** (noun) – massacre, slaughter, wholesale slaughter, mass slaughter हत्याकांड
7. **Survivor** (noun) – A person who survives, especially a person remaining alive after an event in which others have died. बचा हुआ, उत्तरजीवी
8. **So far** (phrase) – until now, up till now, up to now, अब तक
9. **Controversial** (adjective) – contentious, disputed, contended, at issue, moot विवादित
10. **Even otherwise** (phrase) – even in a different situation अन्यथा भी
11. **Ground** (noun) – reason, cause, basis, base, foundation, justification, आधार
12. **Petition** (noun) – plea, prayer, appeal, request, याचिका
13. **Plea** (noun) – appeal, entreaty, supplication, petition, prayer दलील
14. **Rule** (verb) – decree, order, direct, pronounce, make a judgement निर्णय करना
15. **Ensure** (verb) – make sure, make certain, see to it सुनिश्चित करना
16. **Impartial** (adjective) – unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan निष्पक्ष
17. **Prevailing** (adjective) – current, existing, prevalent, be present मौजूदा
18. **Conviction** (noun) – declaration of guilt, pronouncement of guilt, sentence, judgement दोषसिद्धि
19. **Bar** (noun) – obstruction, check, stop, block, hurdle, barrier, stumbling block बाधा, स्क्रावट
20. **Probe** (verb) – investigate, conduct an investigation into, inquire into, inquire into, तहकीकात करना
21. **Composition** (noun) – formation, arrangement, organization गठन
22. **Legislator** (noun) – lawmaker, lawgiver, parliamentarian, politician, विधायक

23. **Deal** (with) (verb) – cope with, handle, manage, attend to, see to, संभालना, निपटना
24. **Probation** (noun) – The release of an offender from detention, subject to a period of good behavior under supervision.
25. **Rehabilitation** (noun) – The action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness. पुनर्वास
26. **Offender** (noun) – wrongdoer, criminal, lawbreaker, malefactor, felon, अपराधी
27. **Vitiate** (verb) – Destroy or impair the legal validity of. बिगाड़ना, निष्फल करना
28. **Concerned** (adjective) – involved in something सम्बंधित
29. **Disregard** (verb) – ignore, take no notice of, take no account of, pay no attention to उपेक्षा करना, ध्यान न देना
30. **Cast a shadow on** (phrase) – to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant असर डालना, उदासी छाना
31. **Legitimacy** (noun) – validity, justification, soundness, well-foundedness वैधता
32. **In force** (phrase) – Valid or operative; in effect. लागू
33. **Take place** (phrase) – Occur. घटित होना
34. **Spell out** (phrasal verb) – Explain something in detail. बताना, समझाना
35. **Contour** (noun) – Outline, shape रूपरेखा
36. **Rational** (adjective) – logical, reasoned, well-reasoned, sensible, reasonable तर्कसंगत
37. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, humane मानवीय
38. **Consideration** (noun) – factor, issue, point, concern, item, matter, विचार
39. **Reform** (noun) – improvement, betterment, amelioration, refinement सुधार
40. **Remorse** (adjective) – contrition, deep regret, repentance, penitence, guilt, पछतावा, ग्लानि

Practice Exercise

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

- Public-spirited activists have done well to challenge in the Supreme Court the premature release of 11 convicts who were serving life terms for the gang-rape of a woman and the murder of at least seven people during the 2002 anti-Muslim **pogrom** in Gujarat.
 - Massacre
 - Peremptory
 - Absolute
 - Steadfast
- This meant that the **bar** on granting remission to those convicted for murder and rape, found in the current policy, will not apply to these convicts
 - Sollicitous
 - Accolade
 - Check
 - Blithe
- One that will be informed by humanitarian considerations as well as the scope for reform of the offenders and their sense of **remorse**.
 - Enfranchise
 - Repentance
 - Cursory
 - Debilitate
- Idioms & Phrase**

Major accounting firms were all too happy to be deceived by corporate **smoke and mirrors**, as long as they got lucrative consulting contracts.

 - A show of praise or approval
 - Used to convey that an action, process, or situation is the result or product of a previous one
 - Something that deceives or distorts the truth
 - Become less serious or severe
- 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.**

Managing rising electricity demand, driven by the increase in the number of users and record-breaking temperatures, will require far greater planning than is being done today.

 - Rising mercury saw April register a demand increase of 10.7%.
 - The current overdrawing of power by states like Gujarat and Maharashtra could have been avoided had
 - The process will get more complex as India moves to transition its energy sources away from fossil fuels to clean energy and renewables.
 - It is the railways that are unable to transport coal from the mines to generation stations.

T. Although Coal India fell short of its annual production target, there is no coal shortage.
 U. there been better assessment and planning of this heightened demand.
 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. You have come here with a view to insult me.
 B. The flag will be raised on the 15th of August.
 C. If I had had the money, I would have bought the house.
 D. I wish I knew what is wrong with my car
 E. All are correct
7. A. A little road engine was employed by a station yard for doing a small piece of work.
 B. From an aesthetic point of view, the painting did not appeal to me.
 C. The child burning with fever tossed in bed.
 D. The more they earn, the more they spend on luxury items.
 E. All are correct
8. Children with disabilities (A)/ and special needs also have the right (B)/ to education just as normal children do (C)/ No Error (D)
9. The country faced a rainfall deficit (A)/ of eight percent during (B)/ the four month long southwest monsoon. (C)/ No Error (D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 A. Iatraogenic
 B. Eager
 C. Arioso
 D. Arcane

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Focused on inflation – Aug 08, 2022)

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday raised **(A)/** the benchmark interest rate for a straight third meeting **(B)/** as policymakers battle to rein in inflation that has persistently 'remained at or above' **(C)/** the prescribed upper tolerance threshold for six months. **(D)**

The 50 basis points raise takes the policy repo rate to 5.4%, and, more significantly, to a level last seen in the pre-pandemic second quarter of fiscal 2019-20, **(1)/** when a growth slowdown and retail inflation of about 3.2% warranted a rate cut. **(2)/** the impact of the 90 basis points total increase from May still left the real policy rate at the time lagging behind the RBI's 100 basis points increase in retail inflation projection for the year — from 5.7% to 6.7%. **(3)/** As the MPC's Jayanth Varma had pointed out in June, when the MPC had recommended a 50 basis points increase, **(4)/** It is only now that the **cumulative (A)** increase totals 140 basis points, and **acknowledged (B)** the central bank slightly ahead of the curve. Still, as Governor Shaktikanta Das **puts (C)**, consumer price inflation, even if off April's eight-year high, remains 'uncomfortably high' with inflationary pressures **broad-based (D)**. And with

the MPC's own forecasts for the second and third quarter pegging retail price gains well above the upper tolerance mark of 6%, at 7.1% and 6.4%, respectively, the rate setting panel had little option but to continue the withdrawal of monetary accommodation to prevent inflation expectations from getting unmoored and stymieing growth by **retarding** consumption. From an external sector and exchange rate perspective as well, globalised inflationary surges are prompting policy tightening in advanced economies that is in turn roiling currency markets including appreciably weakening the rupee and adding imported inflation to the mix. Noting that 'successive shocks to the global economy' had led multilateral institutions including the IMF to lower their global growth projections and 'highlight the rising risks of recession', Mr. Das remarked, "disquietingly, globalisation of inflation is coinciding with deglobalisation of trade". Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resultant impact on trade flows from the conflict zone have _____**11**_____ supply chains for several commodities and added to price pressures for a range of goods. The latest geopolitical tensions triggered in East Asia by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in the face of Beijing's _____**12**_____ warnings, and China's decision to respond with aggressive military drills around one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, could also impact global trade at a time when uncertainty and risk aversion are already high. Mr. Das's confidence in the 'resilience' of the economy's fundamentals notwithstanding, it is probably apposite for the MPC to hereafter heed Mr. Varma's _____**13**_____ by 'providing projections of the future path of the policy rate'. This would help _____**14**_____ price gain expectations firmly and surely enhance the RBI's inflation-fighting credentials.

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

11. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resultant impact on trade flows from the conflict zone have _____**11**_____ supply chains for several commodities and added to price pressures for a range of goods.
- Imperial
 - Facetious
 - Concurrent
 - Upended
12. The latest geopolitical tensions triggered in East Asia by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in the face of Beijing's _____**12**_____ warnings
- Itinerant
 - Dire
 - Precedent
 - Reclusive
13. It is probably apposite for the MPC to hereafter heed Mr. Varma's _____**13**_____ by 'providing projections of the future path of the policy rate'.
- Abstruse
 - Alleviating
 - Exhortation
 - Chagrin
14. This would help _____**14**_____ price gain expectations firmly and surely enhance the RBI's inflation-fighting credentials.

- A. Perfidy
B. Unwitting
C. Anchor
D. Ambivalent
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.**
The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee on Friday raised **(A)**/ the benchmark interest rate for a straight third meeting **(B)**/ as policymakers battle to rein in inflation that has persistently 'remained at or above' **(C)**/ the prescribed upper tolerance threshold for six months. **(D)**
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
The 50 basis points raise takes the policy repo rate to 5.4%, and, more significantly, to a level last seen in the pre-pandemic second quarter of fiscal 2019-20, **(1)**/ when a growth slowdown and retail inflation of about 3.2% warranted a rate cut. **(2)**/ the impact of the 90 basis points total increase from May still left the real policy rate at the time lagging behind the RBI's 100 basis points increase in retail inflation projection for the year — from 5.7% to 6.7%. **(3)**/ As the MPC's Jayanth Varma had pointed out in June, when the MPC had recommended a 50 basis points increase, **(4)**/
- A. 4321
B. 1234
C. 3214
D. 1243
E. 2431
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
- RETARD**
- (i) Unable to answer this question, I **retard** my houseboat and set off round England's waterways, in search of happiness.
- (ii) Restrictive legislation could retard the development of technology and slow the growth of electronic commerce
- (iii) However, other factors such as weak business confidence may be **retarding** investment at this time.
- 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.

It is only now that the **cumulative (A)** increase totals 140 basis points, and **acknowledged (B)** the central bank slightly ahead of the curve. Still, as Governor Shaktikanta Das **puts (C)**, consumer price inflation, even if off April's eight-year high, remains 'uncomfortably high' with inflationary pressures **broad-based (D)**.

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- 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 minister will definitely come to this locality for election campaigning within the next two days.
 - (ii) He may not come here if he is denied the ticket from this constituency by his party.
- A. Whereas
 - B. Although
 - C. Due to
 - D. Unless
 - E. As opposed to

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Instead of spending so much time remonstrating _____ her, you should take a moment to explain how she could do the work properly in the future.

- A. Of
- B. From
- C. With
- D. To
- E. None of the above

Answers

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

Explanations

4. **Smoke and mirrors** (phrase) – Something that deceives or distorts the truth

5. **RQUTSP**

Managing rising electricity demand, driven by the increase in the number of users and record-breaking temperatures, will require far greater planning than is being done today. The process will get more complex as India moves to transition its energy sources away from fossil fuels to clean energy and renewables. The current overdraw of power by states like Gujarat and Maharashtra could have been avoided had there been better assessment and planning of this heightened demand. Although Coal India fell short of its annual production target, there is no coal shortage. It is the railways that are unable to transport coal from the mines to generation stations. Rising mercury saw April register a demand increase of 10.7%.

6. 'to insult me' के बदले 'to insulting me' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'with a view to, look forward to, accustomed to, habituated to addicted to' में 'to' एक Preposition है और किसी भी Preposition के बाद Main Verb अपने 'V4' (V + ing) रूप में होता है; जैसे-

- i. I did it with a view to solving her problems.
- ii. She is addicted to smoking.

➤ 'to insult me' will be replaced with 'to insulting me' because 'with a view to, look forward to, accustomed to, habituated to, addicted to' in 'to' is a Preposition and any Preposition is followed by Main Verb in its 'V4' (V + ing) form; As-

- i. I did it with a view to solving her problems.
- ii. She is addicted to smoking.

7. 'was employed by a station yard' के बदले 'was used at the station yard' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'employ' का अर्थ है 'नियुक्त करना, नियोजित करना' और यह सामान्यतः व्यक्ति के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है जबकि 'one' का अर्थ है 'उपयोग में लाना, इस्तेमाल करना' और यह सामान्यतः 'वस्तु' के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है। जैसे-

- i. He was employed in a factory. [न कि 'used']
- ii. She used this pen for writing letters. [न कि 'employed'] फिर भी ध्यान रखना है कि 'a little-road engine' का उपयोग 'Station yard' के 'द्वारा' नहीं किया जाएगा बल्कि 'station yard' 'पर' किया जाएगा। अर्थात् 'by the station yard' के बदले 'at the station yard' का प्रयोग होगा।

➤ 'was employed by a station yard' shall be substituted by 'was used at the station yard', since 'employ' means 'to employ' and it generally refers to a person whereas 'Use' means 'to use' and it is generally used for 'thing'. As-

- i. He was employed in a factory. [not 'used']
- ii. She used this pen for writing letters. [not 'employed']

However, note that 'a little-road engine' shall not be used 'by' the 'station yard' but 'at' the station yard. That is, 'at the station yard' will be used instead of 'by the station yard'.

10. **Iatrogenic** (adjective) – Relating to illness caused by medical examination or treatment.

चिकित्सकजनित

11. **Upend** (verb) – Overturn, topple, flip over, turn turtle उलट देना

12. **Dire** (adjective) – terrible, dreadful, appalling, frightful, awful, horrible, भयानक, उग्र

13. **Exhortation** (noun) – An address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something. आग्रह, प्रबोधन

14. **Anchor** (verb) – Fix (a price, rate, or amount) at a particular level.

15. (B) Replace 'Third straight' with 'Straight third' because

The order of adjectives qualifying a noun (S S A C N M)

Size → Shape → Age → Colour → Nationality → Material → Noun

16. (D) **1243**

The 50 basis points raise takes the policy repo rate to 5.4%, and, more significantly, to a level last seen in the pre-pandemic second quarter of fiscal 2019-20, when a growth slowdown and retail inflation of about 3.2% warranted a rate cut. As the MPC's Jayanth Varma had pointed out in June, when the MPC had recommended a 50 basis points increase, the impact of the 90 basis points total increase from May still left the real policy rate at the time lagging behind the RBI's 100 basis points increase in retail inflation projection for the year — from 5.7% to 6.7%.

17. **Retard** (verb) – hinder, hamper, obstruct, inhibit, impede रोकना, धीमा करना

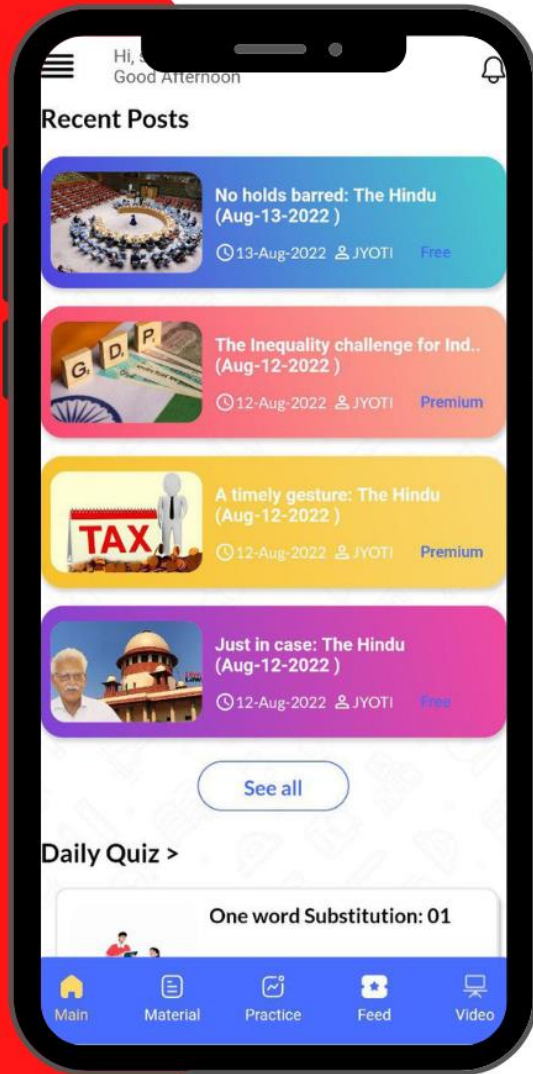
According to the given options only (ii) & (iii) are contextually correct.

18. It is only now that the cumulative increase totals 140 basis points, and puts the central bank slightly ahead of the curve. Still, as Governor Shaktikanta Das acknowledged, consumer price inflation, even if off April's eight-year high, remains 'uncomfortably high' with inflationary pressures broad-based.

19. The minister will definitely come to this locality for election campaigning within the next two days **unless** he is denied the ticket from this constituency by his party.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Peremptory	adjective	Final; categorical; dictatorial	आज्ञसूचक
	Absolute	adjective	Total; unlimited; perfect	पूर्ण
	Steadfast	adjective	Loyal; faithful	दृढ़
Q2	Solicitous	adjective	Eager and attentive, often to the point of hovering; anxiously caring or attentive	चिंताशील, उत्सुक और चौकस
	Accolade	noun	An award; an honor	सम्मान
	Blithe	adjective	Carefree; cheerful	ज़िंदादिल
Q3	Enfranchise	verb	To grant the privileges of citizenship, especially the right to vote.	मताधिकार देना
	Cursory	adjective	Hasty; superficial	सतही; त्वरित
	Debilitate	verb	To weaken; to cripple	दुर्बल करना
Q11	Imperial	adjective	Like an emperor or an empire	शाही, राज्य-संबंधी
	Facetious	adjective	Humorous; not serious; clumsily humorous	हासकर, ठिठोलिया, मसखरा
	concurrent	adjective	Happening at the same time; parallel	समवर्ती
Q12	Itinerant	adjective	Moving from place to place	चलनेवाला
	Precedent	noun	An earlier example or model of something	मिसाल
	Reclusive	adjective	Hermitlike; withdrawn from society	एकांतप्रिय
Q13	Abstruse	adjective	Hard to understand	अव्यक्त
	Alleviate	verb	To relieve, usually temporally or incompletely; to make bearable; to lessen	कम करना, हलका कर देना, धीमा करना
	Chagrin	noun	Humiliation; embarrassed disappointment	शर्मिंदगी, झेंप, नाराजगी
Q14	Perfidy	noun	Treachery	नमकहरामी
	Unwitting	adjective	Unintentional; ignorant; not aware	अनिच्छित, बेखबर
	Ambivalent	adjective	Undecided; neutral; wishy-washy	दुविधा में पड़ा हुआ, अनिर्णीत



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