

## Talking Governor: On tensions between Arif Mohammad Khan and Kerala CM

Kerala is **witnessing** an ugly **spat** between the Governor and the Chief Minister

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan's **outburst** against the **ruling** Communist Party of India (**Marxist**) and its **functionaries** including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan **marks** an **escalation** in tensions between him and the elected government. Until now, Mr. Khan and Mr. Vijayan had maintained a functional relationship despite their **apparent differences**. **At the heart of** the current **flare-up** is Kannur University's controversial decision to appoint the wife of Mr. Vijayan's private secretary as an associate professor. Mr. **Khan**, who is also the chancellor of the university, **has** been critical of the move, but his decision to hold a full-length press conference crossed a line and damaged the **majesty** of his office. In the **presser**, Mr. Khan **lashed out** at CPI(M) functionaries and **labelled** some of their actions as being anti-national, **nepotism**, and anti-social. As an unelected appointee of the Centre, a Governor of a State is expected to **appreciate** the popular **mandate** of the elected government. By going public with his views, Mr. Khan has **precipitated** a situation which should have been avoided. **The CPI(M) and other parties** in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), led by Mr. Vijayan **have reciprocated** the Governor's feelings, making the **exchange** a **nasty** episode. Among other things, representatives of the ruling front have called Mr. Khan an **unhinged** agent of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Mr. Khan could have raised his concerns, however **valid** as he might **deem** them to be, with Mr. Vijayan rather than **triggering** a completely avoidable public spat.

Mr. Khan's **unprecedented** public **criticism** of the elected government **is incongruous** with the high **office** that he **holds**, but the **issues** that he has raised **put** the ruling front **on the defensive**. One can **debate** whether a Governor is **mandated** to **enforce** standards of governance, but Mr. Khan is **evidently** not **restrained**. He had raised a **hue and cry** over the practice of State pensions to political appointees who serve as personal staff of Ministers for 30 months. Mr. Khan has now **locked horns** with the LDF over governance questions related to universities and the **crippling** of the Lok Ayukta, the anti-corruption **ombudsman** that might lose its powers to punish to the State Assembly. The Governor has **made it clear** that he will not be signing two Acts, one related to higher education and one on Lok Ayukta. **Regardless of** the Assembly's powers to make such laws, the moral case for doing so is rather **tenuous**. Electoral majority is the foundation of representative democracy, but institutional **checks and balances** are also its **integral** parts. The elected government and the Governor should both **pipe down**, and discuss these questions in a calm manner with the objective of **seeking** solutions and **advancing** the State's development.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Reciprocate** (verb) – Respond, counter, reply, give in return जवाब देना
- **Exchange** (noun) – Conversation, argument, talk, discussion बातचीत
- **Nasty** (adjective) – Spiteful, mean, malicious, vicious, horrible बुरा

## Vocabulary

1. **Witness** (verb) – see, observe, view, perceive देखना
2. **Spat** (noun) – Fight, quarrel, argument, row, squabble कहा-सुनी, झगड़ा
3. **Outburst** (noun) – a sudden expression of a strong feeling, especially anger भड़ास
4. **Ruling** (adjective) – Governing, reigning, administrating, leading, controlling सत्तारूढ़
5. **Marxist** (adjective) – relating to or supporting a social, political, and economic theory that is based on the writings of Karl Marx मार्क्सवादी
6. **Functionary** (noun) – official, bureaucrat, officer, public servant, officeholder अधिकारी
7. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, denote, show, demonstrate, exhibit चिह्नित करना
8. **Escalation** (noun) – increase, rise, growth, upsurge, expansion वृद्धि
9. **Apparent** (adjective) – obvious, evident, clear, manifest, plain स्पष्ट
10. **Differences** (noun) – discrepancies, dissimilarities, disparities, variations मतभेद
11. **At the heart of** (phrase) – Most importantly
12. **Flare-up** (noun) – A sudden burst of anger or passion; an angry dispute. गुस्से से भड़क उठना
13. **Majesty** (noun) – Magnificence, splendor, dignity, grandeur, stateliness महिमा
14. **Presser** (noun) – Press conference
15. **Lash out** (phrasal verb) – criticize; attack, hit out, strike out कीचड़ उछालना
16. **Label** (verb) – to describe somebody/something in a particular way, especially unfairly वर्णन करना, विशेषतः अनुचित रूप से
17. **Nepotism** (noun) – favoritism, bias, partiality, preferential treatment, partisanship भाई-भतीजावाद
18. **Appreciate** (verb) – Recognize with gratitude मान करना
19. **Mandate** (noun) – the power that is officially given to a group of people to do something, especially after they have won an election जनादेश
20. **Precipitate** (verb) – to make something happen suddenly or sooner than expected
21. **Unhinged** (adjective) – highly disturbed, unstable, or distraught. अस्थिर
22. **Valid** (adjective) – sound, legitimate, true, reasonable वैध
23. **Deem** (verb) – consider, judge, think, reckon, regard समझना

24. **Trigger** (verb) – provoke, activate, cause, spark off, set off आरंभ करना
25. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – never having happened or existed before अभूतपूर्व
26. **Criticism** (noun) – censure, condemnation, critique, disapproval, आलोचना
27. **Incongruous** (adjective) – incompatible, inconsistent, contradictory, discordant, inappropriate बेमेल
28. **Hold the office** (phrase) – to occupy a powerful position or role, esp. in government t
29. **On the defensive** (phrase) – acting in a way that shows that you expect somebody to attack or criticize you बचाव की मुद्रा में होना
30. **Debate** (noun) – discussion, dispute, argue, argument बहस
31. **Mandate** (verb) – to order someone to do something
32. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, impose, apply, force, compel लागू करना
33. **Evidently** (adverb) – clearly, apparently, obviously, manifestly, plainly जाहिर तौर पर
34. **Restrained** (adjective) – Cool and formal in manner; calm, reserved, controlled शांत
35. **Hue and cry** (phrase) – a noisy expression of public anger or disapproval हुल्लड़, कोलाहल
36. **Lock horn** (phrase) – fight, cross swords, argue, wrangle, dispute लड़ाई
37. **Crippling** (noun) – An act of causing severe damage or problems
38. **Ombudsman** (noun) – A government appointee who investigates complaints by private persons against the government लोकपाल
39. **Make clear** (phrase) – clarify, explain, elucidate, स्पष्ट करना
40. **Regardless of** (phrase) – in spite of, despite, notwithstanding, without regard to, irrespective of भले ही
41. **Tenuous** (adjective) – slight, fragile, insubstantial तुच्छ, क्षुद्र
42. **Checks and balances** (noun) – counterbalancing influences by which an organization or system is regulated, typically those ensuring that political power is not concentrated in the hands of individuals or groups.
43. **Integral** (adjective) – entire, intact, essential, complete, full अभिन्न
44. **Pipe down** (phrasal verb) – to stop making noise; become quieter: शांत हो जाना
45. **Seek** (verb) – search for, hunt for, ask for, call on , solicit on तलाश करना
46. **Advance** (verb) – progress, promote, further r, proceed, forward आगे बढ़ाना

## Practice Exercise

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

1. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan's **outburst** against the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist)
  - A. Chronicle
  - B. Reticent
  - C. Flare-up
  - D. Fecund
2. Mr. Khan's unprecedented public criticism of the elected government is **incongruous** with the high office
  - A. Strange
  - B. Ameliorate
  - C. Sordid
  - D. Epigram
3. Kerala is witnessing an ugly **spat** between the Governor and the Chief Minister
  - A. Quarrel
  - B. Circuitous
  - C. Denizen
  - D. Blithe

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

Many have criticized the government of **running with the hare and hunting with the hounds** regarding the territorial dispute between the two nations.

- A. Be eager to do what someone wants.
  - B. Provide someone or something with challenging competition or opposition.
  - C. To support or attempt to placate both sides of a conflict or dispute.
  - D. Derive reward or enjoyment in return for one's outlay or efforts.
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.**
- Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 apparently to stop NATO's further expansion into its neighbourhood.**
- P.** Sweden, which has stayed out of military alliances for 200 years, stated that NATO membership would strengthen its national security and stability in the Baltic and Nordic regions.
- Q.** it would be the biggest strategic setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin whose most important foreign policy focus has been on weakening NATO.
- R.** But in less than three months, the same invasion has pushed two countries in that neighbourhood to consider NATO membership.
- S.** Last week, the Prime Minister and President of Finland, which has stayed neutral since the end of the Second World War,

T. said they hoped their country would apply for NATO membership “without delay”.

U. If these two countries now formally apply for membership,

Which among the following will be the **LAST** 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 beggar whom he had suspected to be guilty turned out to be innocent.  
B. I ordered some books on English Grammar but none has arrived yet.  
C. Unless you will study hard, you cannot pass.  
D. I don't appreciate those who laugh at others without any apparent reason.  
E. All are correct
7. A. Each of the four great tragedies of Shakespeare is worth reading.  
B. On last Saturday I met my friend accidentally.  
C. If someone has finished the work, he may go home.  
D. The players whom we have selected for our team are young and ambitious.  
E. All are correct
8. I like (A)/ the poetries (B)/ of Byron and Shelley. (C)/ No error(D)
9. The principal and the staff (A)/ are awaiting for (B)/ the chief guest. (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**  
A. Absence  
B. Buoyant  
C. Adultery  
D. Camouflage

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

**(The Hindu Editorial: Sops for votes – Aug 29, 2022)**

After considering the formation of an expert body to examine **(A)/** the issues relating to political parties promising free goods **(B)/** to voters in its election manifestoes, **(C)/** the Supreme Court has stayed its hand and referred the issue to a three-judge Bench. **(D)**

Also referred for deeper consideration is the correctness of an earlier judgment in S. Subramaniam Balaji vs Tamil Nadu (2013), which ruled that making promises in a manifesto would not amount to a corrupt practice.

Over the few hearings, the Bench moved from vague references to ‘freebies’ to making rational distinctions between welfare schemes **(1)/** offered crucial perspectives on the political economy of welfarism, socialism and pre-election promises of ‘freebies’. **(2)/** and socio-economic concessions on the one hand, and poll-time announcements of material goods and items as incentives to vote. **(3)/** The proceedings before a Bench, headed by the now retired Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, last week, **(4)/** This clarity itself was lacking in the initial stages, as \_\_\_\_\_**11**\_\_\_\_\_ references to ‘freebies’ and **railery** against political parties for their approach to welfare dominated the discourse.

Those who have approached the Court against irrational promises found support from the Union government. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi making public comments disapproving of the 'freebie' culture, the Government's stand is no surprise.

However, the Government was \_\_\_\_\_**12**\_\_\_\_\_ to examine the issue through discussions among political parties and favoured a judicially appointed panel. But, such a panel may not achieve much. Most parties oppose any \_\_\_\_\_**13**\_\_\_\_\_ on their right to appeal to voters through means of their choice and, if elected, use their mandate to distribute finances and resources as they deem fit, subject to law and legislative approval. Therefore, it is no surprise that the Bench has included in its reference, questions on the scope of judicial intervention in the matter and whether any enforceable order can be passed. The two-judge Bench judgment in 2013 had examined the issue in the \_\_\_\_\_**14**\_\_\_\_\_ of the DMK coming to power in 2006 on a promise to distribute television sets to the poor and implementing it. It ruled that the Directive Principles of State Policy allow such schemes and that spending of public funds on them could not be questioned if it was based on appropriations passed by the legislature. It also concluded that poll promises by a party could not be termed a 'corrupt practice'. That Bench had also rejected the argument that giving benefits to everyone, that is, the poor and the well-off, would violate the equality norm in Article 14. When it came to state largesse, it said, the rule against **treating (A)** unequals as equals would not be **applicable (B)**. Does this amount to implying that the Directive Principles can **override (C)** fundamental rights, as the petitioners have argued? This too **awaits (D)** examination.

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

11. This clarity itself was lacking in the initial stages, as \_\_\_\_\_**11**\_\_\_\_\_ references to 'freebies' and raillery against political parties for their approach to welfare dominated the discourse.
  - A. Periphery
  - B. Omnibus
  - C. Epigram
  - D. Supercilious
12. However, the Government was \_\_\_\_\_**12**\_\_\_\_\_ to examine the issue through discussions among political parties and favoured a judicially appointed panel.
  - A. Reluctant
  - B. Protracting
  - C. Bereft
  - D. Facile
13. Most parties oppose any \_\_\_\_\_**13**\_\_\_\_\_ on their right to appeal to voters through means of their choice and, if elected, use their mandate to distribute finances and resources as they deem fit, subject to law and legislative approval.
  - A. Delude
  - B. Contrived
  - C. Bane
  - D. Fetters

14. The two-judge Bench judgment in 2013 had examined the issue in the \_\_\_\_\_14\_\_\_\_\_ of the DMK coming to power in 2006 on a promise to distribute television sets to the poor and implementing it.
- A. Ostentatious
  - B. Inept
  - C. Backdrop
  - D. Inundate

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.**

After considering the formation of an expert body to examine **(A)**/ the issues relating to political parties promising free goods **(B)**/ to voters in its election manifestoes, **(C)**/ the Supreme Court has stayed its hand and referred the issue to a three-judge Bench. **(D)**

- A. (A)
  - B. (B)
  - C. (C)
  - D. (D)
  - E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

Over the few hearings, the Bench moved from vague references to 'freebies' to making rational distinctions between welfare schemes **(1)**/ offered crucial perspectives on the political economy of welfarism, socialism and pre-election promises of 'freebies'. **(2)**/ and socio-economic concessions on the one hand, and poll-time announcements of material goods and items as incentives to vote. **(3)**/ The proceedings before a Bench, headed by the now retired Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, last week, **(4)**/

- A. 4213
  - B. 4312
  - C. 1234
  - D. 2143
  - E. 3412
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

**RAILLERY**

- (i) He said that he would introduce a note of good-humoured, good-natured **raillery**.
  - (ii) The temptation, in addressing so manifestly absurd and error-filled a piece of work, is to **raillery**.
  - (iii) They are embedded in a social and cultural world, linked to other concepts and feelings and sparked by stimuli specific to that **raillery**.
- 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.  
When it came to state largesse, it said, the rule against **treating (A)** unequals as equals would not be **applicable (B)**. Does this amount to implying that the Directive Principles can **override (C)** fundamental rights, as the petitioners have argued? This too **awaits (D)** examination.
- 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) Steps taken to correct the economy may seem wrong, but  
(ii) Integrity is an absolutely essential policy in terms of principle and reliability.
- A. In conclusion  
B. Although  
C. On the other hand  
D. Briefly  
E. As opposed to
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks  
No one should discriminate \_\_\_\_\_ the poor.
- A. By  
B. Against  
C. With  
D. To



## Answers

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

## Explanations

4. **Run with the hare and hunt with the hounds (phrase)** – to try to support both sides in an argument or conflict, in order to make your own life easier.
5. **RSTPUQ**  
 Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 apparently to stop NATO's further expansion into its neighbourhood. But in less than three months, the same invasion has pushed two countries in that neighbourhood to consider NATO membership. Last week, the Prime Minister and President of Finland, which has stayed neutral since the end of the Second World War, said they hoped their country would apply for NATO membership "without delay". Sweden, which has stayed out of military alliances for 200 years, stated that NATO membership would strengthen its national security and stability in the Baltic and Nordic regions. If these two countries now formally apply for membership, it would be the biggest strategic setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin whose most important foreign policy focus has been on weakening NATO.
6. 'will study' के बदले 'study' का प्रयोग होगा।  
 ➤ 'will study' will be replaced by 'study'.
7. 'Last' के पहले 'the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'last/next' का प्रयोग यदि day के नाम के बाद हो तो इनके पहले 'the' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है किन्तु day के नाम के पहले हो तो 'the' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-  
 i. He came here on Monday last.  
 ii. He came here on the last Monday.  
 ➤ 'the' will be used before 'Last' because if 'last/next' is used after the name of the day then 'the' is not used before them but before the name of the day then 'the' is used; like-  
 i. He came here on Monday last.  
 ii. He came here on the last Monday.
8. 'poetries' के बदले 'poetry' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'poetry' एक uncountable noun है और इसका plural नहीं बनाया जा सकता है।  
 ➤ 'poetry' will be used instead of 'poetries' because 'poetry' is an uncountable noun and cannot be made plural.
9. 'for' का प्रयोग नहीं होगा क्योंकि 'await' = 'wait for' (के लिए प्रतीक्षा करना) ।  
 ➤ 'for' will not be used because 'await' = 'wait for'.
10. Camouflage (noun) – disguise, mask, hide, conceal, cover छलावरण
11. **Omnibus** (adjective) – comprising several items सार्वत्रिक

12. **Reluctant** (adjective) – Unwilling, Unenthusiastic, Disinclined, Loath, Hesitant, Indisposed  
अनिच्छुक

13. **Fetter** (noun) – Shackle, Chain, Restraint, Restriction रोक

14. **Backdrop** (noun) – Background, Setting, Milieu पृष्ठभूमि

15. 'Its' के बदले 'their' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Noun' plural (i.e. Political parties) है इसलिए pronoun भी plural होगा!

16. (A) **4213**

The proceedings before a Bench, headed by the now retired Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, last week, offered crucial perspectives on the political economy of welfarism, socialism and pre-election promises of 'freebies'. Over the few hearings, the Bench moved from vague references to 'freebies' to making rational distinctions between welfare schemes and socio-economic concessions on the one hand, and poll-time announcements of material goods and items as incentives to vote.

17. **Raillery** (noun) – good-humoured teasing परिहास, मज़ाक

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

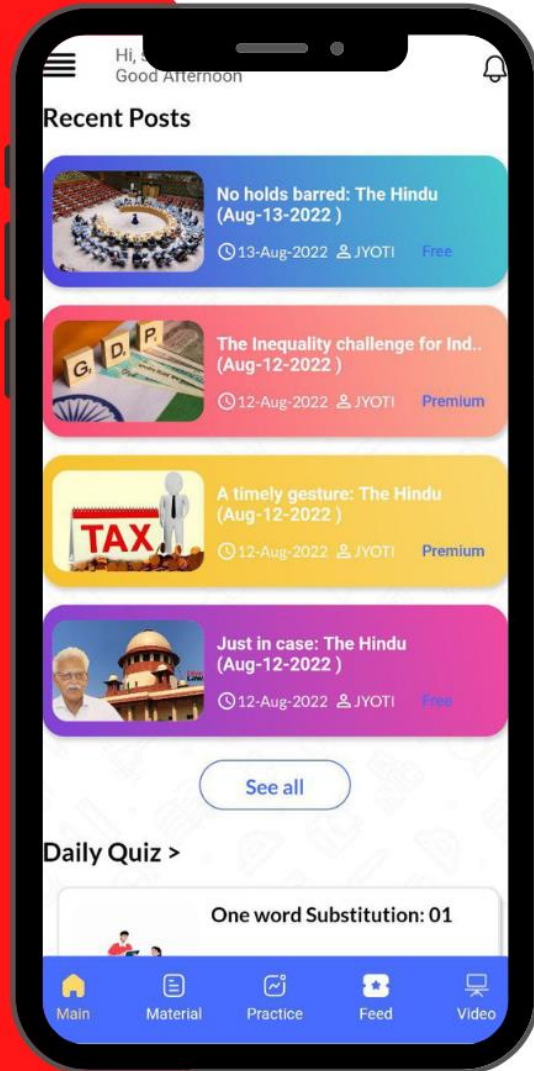
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

They are embedded in a social and cultural world, linked to other concepts and feelings and sparked by stimuli specific to that milieu.

18. Steps taken to correct the economy may seem wrong, but **on the other hand**, integrity is an absolutely essential policy in terms of principle and reliability.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Chronicle</b>	noun	A record of event in order of time; a history	इतिवृत्त, इतिहास
	<b>Reticent</b>	adjective	Quiet; restrained; reluctant to speak, especially about oneself	मौन रहने वाला
	<b>Fecund</b>	adjective	Fertile; productive	उपजाऊ, फलप्रद
Q2	<b>Ameliorate</b>	verb	To make better or more tolerable	सुधारना
	<b>Sordid</b>	adjective	Vile; filthy; squalid	घिनौना
	<b>Epigram</b>	noun	A brief and usually witty or satirical saying	चुटकुला, सूक्ति
Q3	<b>Circuitous</b>	adjective	Roundabout; not following a direct path	घुमावदार
	<b>Denizen</b>	noun	Inhabitant	निवासी
	<b>Blithe</b>	adjective	Carefree; cheerful	ज़िंदादिल
Q11	<b>Periphery</b>	noun	The outside edge of something	उपनगर
	<b>Epigram</b>	noun	A brief and usually witty or satirical saying	चुटकुला, सूक्ति
	<b>Supercilious</b>	adjective	Haughty; patronizing	घमंडी, अधीन होना
Q12	<b>Protract</b>	verb	To prolong	विलंब करना
	<b>Bereft</b>	adjective	Deprived or left desolate, especially through death	वंचित
	<b>Facile</b>	adjective	Fluent; skillful in a superficial way; easy	सरल, सुगम, आसान
Q13	<b>Delude</b>	adjective	To deceive	धोखा देना
	<b>contrived</b>	adjective	Artificial; labored	काल्पनिक
	<b>Bane</b>	noun	Poison; torment; cause of harm	फटकार, लानत, शाप
Q14	<b>Ostentatious</b>	adjective	Excessively conspicuous; showing off	दिखावटी
	<b>Inept</b>	adjective	Clumsy; incompetent; gauche.	अयोग्य
	<b>Inundate</b>	verb	To flood; to cover completely with water; to overwhelm	बाढ़ लाना



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

