Don't lure, but persuade

Fiscal rationale for poll promises will **impart depth** and **meaning** to electoral campaigns

The Election Commission of India's **proposal** to require political parties to disclose the financial **implications** of the promises they make in their manifestos **will** add meaning and depth to electoral campaigns. The **idea** that parties should communicate to **electors** the fiscal rationale for promising delivery of goods or services that would involve a significant **outgo** from the **exchequer is** already part of the **Model Code of Conduct** from 2015. The ECI is now proposing a **proforma** for such disclosures. If parties agree and the idea is included in the Model Code, they will have to **spell out** the section of society that a particular promise is targeted at, the extent of coverage and the number of likely **beneficiaries**, and the cost of implementing it. They must also spell out how the required resources will be raised. To give the parties an idea of the fiscal challenge that their promised schemes may **pose**, the Centre and the States have been asked to disclose details of the budget revenue receipts and expenditure as well as the **outstanding liabilities. The information**, it is believed, **will** provide a framework under which a manifesto can be **assessed** by the voter from the perspective of its **financial viability**. It may also make parties treat **manifesto** preparation as a responsible exercise meant to persuade rather than lure the voter.

There is **bound** to be some **resentment** among sections of the political class. It may be argued that the ECI should not get into the **nitty-gritty** of manifesto formulation, especially the manner of its implementation, as that will be the political and administrative responsibility of the party that comes to power on the basis of its promises. The guideline itself arose from a Supreme Court judgment in 2013, **upholding** the right of parties to make electoral promises even if they involved distribution of consumer goods. It was **held** that such a promise would not **amount to** a **corrupt practice**, and as long as these were **financed** by budgetary **allocations** cleared by the **legislature**, they could not be **invalidated**. The Court also suggested that to prevent **extravagant** promises from **upsetting** the electoral **level playing field**, the ECI could **lay down** some guidelines. **In practice**, however, the ECI's guidelines did not **elicit** enough information, as parties made only **routine** and **ambiguous** disclosures. If implemented, detailed financial disclosures may help in informed voter choice, as **rival** parties are likely to **subject** manifesto promises to intense **scrutiny**. It may also have a more meaningful impact, be it positive or negative, on the **prospect** of a party **winning over** the **electorate** with a single **flagship** promise.   **[Practice Exercise]**

> ➢ **Implication** (noun) – Repercussion, consequence, effect प्रभाव
>
> ➢ **Proforma** (noun) – a particular type of letter, document, etc. that is created as an example to show how others of the same type should be written or prepared प्रपत्र, निर्देशन-पत्र
>
> ➢ Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicate subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes Subject and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Lure** (verb) – attract, draw, entice, allure, tempt लुभाना

2. **Persuade** (verb) – convince, influence, induce, coax, sway मनाना

3. **Fiscal** (adjective) – financial, monetary वित्तीय

4. **Rationale** (noun) – reason, justification, grounds, reasoning, basis मूलाधार

5. **Impart** (verb) – Communicate, inform, tell, convey, divulge, disclose, reveal प्रदान करना

6. **Depth** (noun) – astuteness, deepness, profoundness, profundity गहराई, गंभीरता

7. **Meaning** (noun) – the idea that is intended तात्पर्य, आशय

8. **Elector** (noun) – Voter निर्वाचक

9. **Outgo** (noun) – money paid out; an amount spent खर्च

10. **Exchequer** (noun) – the funds of a government or institution or individual राजकोष, सरकारी खजाना

11. **Model Code of Conduct** (MCC) (noun) – a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair election आदर्श आचार संहिता

12. **Spell out** (phrasal verb) – Make explicit; specify in detail बताना

13. **Beneficiary** (noun) – one who receives a benefit or advantage लाभार्थी

14. **Pose** (verb) – Present, cause, create, set, tender, throw up खड़ा करना (चुनौती)

15. **Outstanding liability** (noun) – outstanding debt, unpaid debt, remaining debt, बकाया देयता

16. **Assess** (verb) – evaluate, appraise, judge, measure, estimate आकलन करना

17. **Financial viability** (noun) – the ability to generate sufficient income to meet operating payments, debt commitments and, where applicable, to allow growth while maintaining service levels.

18. **Manifesto** (noun) – a public declaration of intentions (as issued by a political party or government) घोषणापत्र

19. **Bound** (adjective) – Certain, sure, guaranteed, assured, inevitable होना लाजिमी है

20. **Resentment** (noun) – bitterness, animosity, pique, indignation, rancor क्रोध

21. **Nitty-gritty** (noun) – the most important aspects or practical details of a subject or situation. बुनियादी तथ्य

22. **Uphold** (verb) – support, endorse, sustain, defend, back बरकरार रखना

23. **Hold** (verb) – adjudge, declare घोषित करना

24. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – be equivalent to, be tantamount to, be equal to के बराबर होना

25. **Corrupt practice** (noun) – a fraudulent activity, especially an attempt to rig an election. भ्रष्ट आचरण

26. **Finance** (verb) – Back, support, sponsor, fund

27. **Allocation** (noun) – Distribution, provision, apportionment, sharing, division आवंटन

28. **Legislature** (noun) – Government, assembly, governing body विधानमंडल

29. **Invalidated** (adjective) – Cancelled, overturned, annulled, nullified, quashed, overthrown अमान्य करना

30. **Extravagant** (adjective) – Profligate, spendthrift, overgenerous, wasteful, excessive, prodigal फ़िज़ूल ख़र्च

31. **Upset** (verb) – disturb the balance or stability of अस्तव्यस्त करना

32. **Level playing field** (phrase) – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding.

33. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – establish, prescribe, determine, dictate, lie down निर्धारित करना

34. **In practice** (phrase) – In reality वास्तविक रूप से

35. **Elicit** (verb) – call forth (emotions, feelings, and responses) निकालना

36. **Routine** (adjective) – normal and regular; not unusual or special

37. **Ambiguous** (adjective) – vague, unclear, equivocal, uncertain, obscure अस्पष्ट

38. **Rival** (adjective) – Competing, opposing, challenging, enemy, conflicting विरोधी

39. **Subject** (to) (verb) – cause to experience or suffer or make liable or vulnerable to

40. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Inspection, study, examination, analysis, inquiry, enquiry, search सूक्ष्म परीक्षण

41. **Prospect** (noun) – Hope, possibility, expectation, outlook, likelihood संभावना

42. **Win over** (phrasal verb) – Convince, persuade, win around मनाना

43. **Electorate** (noun) – Voter मतदाताओं

44. **Flagship** (noun) – the best or most important product, idea, building, etc प्रमुख

Practice Exercise

1. **According to the passage, which of the following is/are not the part of disclosure if proposal ratifies by the parties and the Idea is included in MCC**?   *[Editorial page]*
(i)   Parties will have to specify the section of society that a particular promise is targeted at
(ii) They will have to clearly mention the time-frame within which such promises will fulfill
(iii) Parties will have to spell out the extent of coverage and the number of likely beneficiaries
(iv) The cost of implementing such promises will also require to be disclosed.
  A. (i), (ii)
  B. Only (ii)
  C. (ii), (iii)
  D. (i), (iii), (iv)

2. **What is/are the points which make the Election Commission of India's proposal to require political parties to disclose the financial implications of the promises sound**?
(i)   The information will provide a framework under which a manifesto can be assessed by the voter from the perspective of its financial viability.
(ii) It will facilitate ECI to get into the nitty-gritty of manifesto formulation, especially the manner of its implementation.
(iii) It may make parties treat manifesto preparation as a responsible exercise meant to persuade rather than lure the voter.
  A. (i), (ii)
  B. (ii), (iii)
  C. (i), (iii)
  D. (i), (ii), (iii)

3. The guideline itself arose from a Supreme Court judgment in 2013, upholding the right of parties to make electoral promises even if they involved distribution of consumer goods. It was held that such a promise would not amount to a corrupt practice, and as long as these were financed by budgetary allocations cleared by the legislature, they could not be invalidated.
Which of the following statement can be inferred from the referred sentence?
A. Any schemes funded by budgetary allocations not passed the legislature deem to be invalidated.
B. Making political promises to lure voters is amount to corrupt practice.
C. Supreme Court upheld that it is up to electorate to decide the genuineness of the promises made by the political parties.
D. Consumer goods can be given away by the political parties to entice voters until and unless if the opposition parties not rise up against.

4. **What makes detailed financial disclosures imperative to implement?**
A. To pacify the resentment among sections of the political class instigated by proposal.
B. To hold back the corrupt practices made by the politician to entice voters.
C. The ECI's guidelines did not elicit enough information, as parties made only routine and ambiguous disclosures
D. To Make the election process free and Fair.

 Select the best express synonym of the given word

5. The Court also suggested that to prevent *__extravagant__* promises from upsetting the electoral level playing field, the ECI could lay down some guidelines.
    A. Proponent
    B. Comprise
    C. Perjury
    D. Profligate

Direction (Q6 – Q10): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. The call of the seas has always found an echo in me.
    B. Hardly Had I left home for Bombay when my son who is settled in Calcutta arrived without any prior information
    C. There is a Bach's violin concerto on the radio at 6 p.m. this evening.
    D. Now it can be easily said that the population of this city is greater than that of any other city in India.
    E. All are correct

7. A. The boss reminded them of the old saying that honesty is the best policy and told them that they had better be honest in their work.
    B. Lay your books aside and lay down to rest for a while.
    C. It is difficult to explain why Rajgopalachari left the Congress in 1940
    D. Both A & B are incorrect
    E. All are correct

8. ***Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom.***
    It is also evident that kickbacks have been a systemic political problem considering that the KSCA's concern was about the high rate of commissions rather than just the existence of these kickbacks to _____
    A. Have official's task cut out
    B. On the decline
    C. Grease an official's palm.
    D. Put an end to bribery.

9. ***Fill in the blank with the most appropriate Phrasal verb***
    If anything, the BJP and the Sangh Parivar affiliates in the State have sought — and rather successfully — to distract people from the issue of corruption by _____communal issues which in turn have affected public order
    A. Raking up
    B. Pointing to
    C. Fitting in
    D. Signing on

10. **Find out the misspelt word**
    A. Accommodate

B. Acquaintance

C. Amateur

D. Athiest

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.*

With President Ram Nath Kovind's term set to end on July 24, the process to elect his successor has been kicked off with the Election Commission's announcement of the schedule on Thursday. **(Known unknowns – The Hindu: 13 June, 2022)**

P. Each member has a certain vote value based on the strength of the population they represent.

Q. The Biju Janata Dal with 31,686 votes and the YSR Congress with 43,450 votes have conveyed to the Government their wholehearted support.

R. The voting is on July 18.

S. The total value of the votes that will be up for grabs is: 10,86,431.

T. The BJP-led NDA's tally is 5,25,706, around 20,000 votes short of the majority mark, but there is no doubt that its nominee will occupy Rashtrapati Bhavan.

U. The electoral college for the presidential elections has 4,809 members, which includes 233 Rajya Sabha and 543 Lok Sabha members, and 4,033 MLAs of State Assemblies.

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

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

Direction (Q12 – Q15): Cloze test based on Editorial (Known unknowns – The Hindu: 13 June, 2022)

Even though the outcome is foretold, the contest will have many layers of political meaning and symbolism, and therefore will be keenly watched by the country and the world. The new President will take over at a time when the country is faced with a _____**12**_____ religious polarisation and other challenges. This is the second presidential election where J&K's legislators will not participate, but the first after it became a UT in 2019. In the nomination of Mr. Kovind, a Dalit from the heartland, the BJP sent a political message five years ago. It will certainly have another one this year, that is being anticipated eagerly to read into what the BJP's strategy will be, going into the 2024 general election. The presidential poll will also be a test for the Opposition in terms of its unity, leadership and talking points. The Congress has the highest number of votes among the non-BJP parties but its acceptance among other parties is at the lowest in a long time. The TRS chief and Telangana CM, K. Chandrashekar Rao, and the TMC leader and West Bengal CM, Mamata Banerjee, want to lead the Opposition coalition and hence appear unwilling to _____**13**_____ the leadership to the Congress, though they have not made any public statement on the question. AAP leader and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal who is relentless in his attacks on the BJP, is equally opposed to the Congress. Considering these divergent views and conflicting ambitions, it will be a tall order for the Opposition

to **_____14_____** a united front and **_____15_____** strategy. All told, the presidential election will be a demonstration of how political forces are aligned in the country.

12. A. Crippling   B. Acute   C. Volatile   D. Mercurial

13. A. Vociferous   B. Patrician   C. Concede   D. Impervious

14. A. Comprehensive   B. Devise   C. Exacting   D. Abstinent

15. A. Legacy   B. Sycophant   C. Substantive   D. Coherent

Answers

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

13. C   14.B   15.D   **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

6. 'concerto' के बदले 'concert' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'concerto' का अर्थ है 'संगीत रचना' जबकि 'concert' का अर्थ है ' संगीत गोष्ठी'

   ➤ 'concert' will be used instead of 'concerto' because 'concerto' means 'music composition' while 'concert' means 'a musical performance given in public, typically by several performers or of several compositions'.

7. 'lay' के बदले 'lie' का या 'lay yourself' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lay' का अर्थ है 'रखना, देना, लेटाना' जबकि 'lie' का अर्थ है 'लेटना, पडना' 'lay' एक transitive verb है जिसके साथ object या reflexive का प्रयोग होता है, किन्तु 'lie' एक intransitive verb है जिसके साथ object या reflexive का प्रयोग नहीं होता है; जैसे -

   i. Lay the baby on the bed.
   ii. Lie on the sofa.
   iii. Lay yourself on the sofa.

   ➤ 'lay' shall be used instead of 'lie' or 'lay yourself' because 'lay' means 'to lay, lay down,' while 'lie' means 'to lie down, to lie' . ' lay' is a transitive verb with which object or reflexive is used, but 'lie' is an intransitive verb with which object or reflexive is not used; like -
   (i) Lay the baby on the bed.
   (ii) Lie on the sofa.
   (iii) Lay yourself on the sofa.

8. Grease someone's palm (phrase) - Give someone money in exchange for a favor; bribe someone. किसी को रिश्वत देना

   ➤ **Have one's task cut out** (Phrase) – to have something difficult to do
   ➤ **On the decline** (Phrase) – becoming worse in condition or less in size, amount, number, etc गिरावट पर
   ➤ **Put an end to** (Phrase) – abolish, do away with, get rid of, scrap, end, stop, terminate खत्म करना
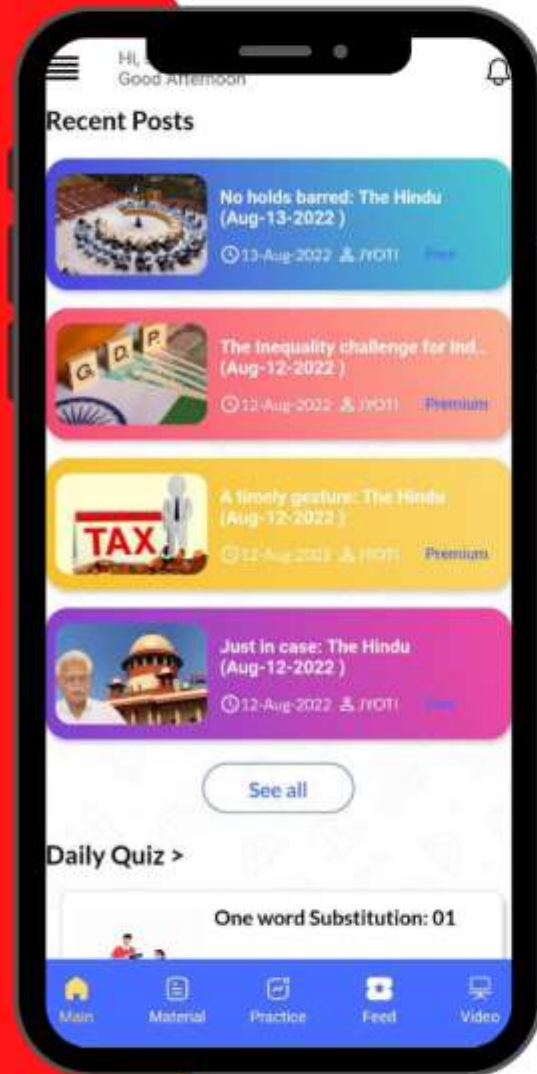
9. **Rake up** (Phrasal verb) – Revive the memory of an incident or period that is best forgotten. स्मरण कराना

   ➤ **Point to** (Phrasal verb) ¬ indicate, suggest, be evidence of, evidence, signal इंगित करना
   ➤ **Fit in** (Phrasal verb) ¬Be in harmony with other elements in a situation.

➢ **Sign on** (Phrasal verb) ¬ to join up with someone or something in a particular capacity by signing a contract or agreement. के साथ जुड़ना

10. **Atheist** (noun) – Non believer, Disbeliever, skeptic, doubter नास्तिक

11. **UPRSTQ**

With President Ram Nath Kovind's term set to end on July 24, the process to elect his successor has been kicked off with the Election Commission's announcement of the schedule on Thursday. The electoral college for the presidential elections has 4,809 members, which includes 233 Rajya Sabha and 543 Lok Sabha members, and 4,033 MLAs of State Assemblies. Each member has a certain vote value based on the strength of the population they represent. The voting is on July 18. The total value of the votes that will be up for grabs is: 10,86,431.The BJP-led NDA's tally is 5,25,706, around 20,000 votes short of the majority mark, but there is no doubt that its nominee will occupy Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Biju Janata Dal with 31,686 votes and the YSR Congress with 43,450 votes have conveyed to the Government their wholehearted support.

12. **Crippling** (adjective) – Causing a severe and almost insuperable problem. गंभीर

13. **Concede** (verb) – surrender, yield, give up, relinquish, cede, hand over सौंपना

14. **Devise** (verb) – form, formulate, concoct, design, frame, invent, ईजाद करना

15. **Coherent** (adjective) – logical, reasoned, reasonable, well reasoned सुसंगत

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q5	**Proponent**	noun	An advocate; a support of a position	समर्थक
	Comprise	verb	To consist of	समावेश करना
	Perjury	noun	Lying under oath	झूठा साक्ष्य
Q12	**Acute**	adjective	Sharp; shrewd	तीव्र, विकट
	Volatile	adjective	Quick to evaporate; highly unstable; explosive	परिवर्तनशील
	Mercurial	adjective	Emotionally unpredictable; rapidly changing in mood	अस्थिर
Q13	**Vociferous**	adjective	Loud, noisy	कोलाहलकारी
	Patrician	noun	A person of noble birth; an aristocrat	कुलीन
	Impervious	adjective	Not allowing anything to pass	अभेद्य, अप्रवेश्य
Q14	**Comprehensive**	adjective	Covering or including everything	व्यापक, विस्तृत
	Exacting	adjective	Extremely demanding; difficult; requiring great skill or care	मांग करनेवाला; कठोर, सख्त
	Abstinent	adjective	Abstaining; voluntarily not doing something especially something pleasant that is bad for you or has a bad reputation.	मिताहारी, परहेज़गार
Q15	**Legacy**	noun	Something handed down from the past; a bequest	विरासत
	Sycophant	noun	One who sucks up to other	चापलूस
	Substantive	adjective	Having substance; real; essential; solid; substantial	मौलिक

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