## The gun and the pen: On the conclave of State Home Ministers

Stringent laws are only part of the solution to violent extremism
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent observations at a conclave of State Home Ministers contained a possibly unintended explanation for why academicians, students and lawyers are languishing in prison on terrorism charges. He called for the elimination of all forms of Naxalism, be it of the gunwielding variety or the kind that uses the pen "to raise international support" and "to mislead the youth". The remarks came alongside his emphasis on how the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act had given an impetus to combating terrorism. In effect, he has conveyed a disconcerting message that the police would treat armed militants and intellectuals alike, if the Government suspects a concordance in their outlook. Considering that the UAPA has been frequently and even unfairly invoked in cases that appear to have no nexus with terrorism, Mr. Modi's views raise a question whether his comments are a justification of sorts for the continued incarceration of many who do not seem to have indulged in any particular extremist act. Incitement to violence, especially mobilising support for armed insurgency, is indeed a grave offence, but unless there is a proven connection between the nature of the support given and an actual act of terror or a plot to commit one, it is difficult to treat the two things as one.

Recent judicial orders declining bail to activist Umar Khalid in the Delhi riots case, and Jyoti Jagtap of the Kabir Kala Manch in the Elgar Parishad case are good examples of how the police straddle the huge gulf between the nature of their participation in a protest or an event and an actual act of violence by invoking UAPA, and thus eliminating the need to have concrete evidence to show their involvement in a communal or Maoist plot. While this may highlight the potential for misuse of UAPA and the impediments to liberty found both in the law and in its judicial interpretation, it also has a distinct side-effect: the manipulation of political discourse in such a way that those who question the actions, methods and processes of the state that cause mass resentment are criminalised. It is in such a backdrop that the use of political catchwords such as 'Urban Naxals', a term that even Mr. Modi has used recently, should be seen. Far from being linked to any terrorist or Maoist conspiracy, the term is merely used to tarnish those with an alternative point of view. The Government arming itself with more stringent laws is only part of the solution to the threat posed by violent extremism. Looking for remedies to the underlying causes is more important than conjuring up conspiracies in the name of dismantling its support structures.
[Practice Exercise]
$>$ Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denote 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

1. Conclave (noun) - meeting, assembly, conference, gathering, council सम्मेलन
2. Stringent (adjective) - rigorous, strict, harsh, severe, rigid कठोर
3. Violent (adjective) - wild, fierce, savage, intense, forceful हिंसात्मक
4. Extremism (noun) - fanaticism, radicalism, zealotry, zeal, fundamentalism, उग्रवाद/ अतिवाद
5. Observation (noun) - remark, comment, opinion, thought, statement टिप्पणी, विचार
6. Unintended (adjective) unintentional, accidental, inadvertent, unplanned, unwitting अनपेक्षित
7. Languish (verb) - to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation, often for a long time: दीन अवस्था में रहना
8. Prison (noun) - jail, penitentiary, lockup, brig जेल
9. Call for (phrasal verb) - demand, require, request, ask for, मांग करना
10. Elimination (noun) - removal, eradication, liquidation, excretion, abolition निष्कासन, हटाव
11. Naxalism (noun) - The Naxalite-Maoist insurgency, officially referred to as the Left Wing Extremism, is an ongoing conflict between Maoist groups known as Naxalites or Naxals and the Indian government नक्सलवाद
12. Wield (verb) - to have and use power, authority, etc. शक्ति, अधिकार आदि रखना और उनका प्रयोग करना
13. Mislead (verb) - deceive, fool, trick, hoodwink, delude बहकाना
14. Remark (noun) - Comment, Statement टिप्पणी
15. Alongside (Adv./prep.) - Together with, along with, in conjunction with साथ - साथ
16. Impetus (noun) - motivation, stimulus, incitement, incentive प्रोत्साहन
17. Combat (verb) - Fight, counter, battle सामना करना/ लड़ना
18. In effect (phrase) - in fact; for all practical purposes वस्तुतः, असल में;
19. Convey (verb) - express, communicate, indicate, tell, say बताना
20. Disconcerting (adjective) - disturbing, upsetting, confusing, unsettling, discomfiting चिंताजनक
21. Militant (noun) - someone who is engaged in a war or who acts aggressively for their cause उग्रवादी
22. Intellectual (noun) - a person who enjoys thinking deeply about things बुद्धिजीवी
23. Alike (adverb) - in the same way समान रूप से
24. Suspect (verb) - regard as guilty, think to be guilty, have a suspicion, have a feeling संदेह करना
25. Concordance (noun) - the state of being similar to or agreeing with something सामंजस्य, सादृश्य, समानता
26. Outlook (noun) - perspective, prospect, attitude, view, viewpoint हष्टिकोण
27. Considering (preposition) - bearing in mind, taking into consideration, taking into account ध्यान में रखते हुए
28. Invoke (verb) - to use a law in order to achieve something नियम, क़ानून आदि प्रयोग करना
29. Nexus (noun) - a complicated series of connections between different people or things विभिन्न व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच जटिल संबंध
30. Justification (noun) - grounds, reason, just cause, basis, rationale, premise तर्कसंगति
31. Incarceration (noun) - imprisonment, internment, confinement, detention बन्दीकरण, कैद करना
32. Indulge (verb) - To engage or take part, especially freely or avidly में पड़ना, लिप्त होना
33. Incitement (noun) - provocation, inducement, spur, encouragement, agitation भड़कावा
34. Mobilise (verb) - Assemble, marshal, organize, summon, gather together जुटाना
35. Insurgency (noun) - rebellion, insurgence, uprising, revolution, insurrection उग्रवाद
36. Indeed (adverb) - as expected, to be sure, in fact, in point of fact वास्तव में
37. Grave (adjective) - serious, important, all-important, गंभीर
38. Plot (noun) - conspiracy, intrigue, secret plan, secret scheme षड्य़ंत्र
39. Commit (verb) - perform, execute, perpetrate, cause, do, carry out करना
40. Straddle (verb) - to combine different styles or subjects
41. Gulf (noun) - an important difference between the ideas, opinions, or situations of two groups of people खाई, अंतर
42. Concrete (adjective) - specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस
43. Maoist (adjective) - A follower of the communist doctrines of Mao Zedong. माओवादी
44. Highlight (verb) - underline, underscore, call attention to, focus attention on, stress, emphasize प्रमुखता से दिखाना
45. Potential (noun) - Ability, capacity, possibility, capability संभावना
46. Impediment (noun) - hindrance, obstacle, obstruction बाधा
47. Liberty (noun) - freedom, independence, स्वतंत्रता
48. Interpretation (noun) - explanation, rendition, reading, version व्याख्या
49. Distinct (adjective) - recognizable; marked; precise; explicit and clearly defined अलग, विशिष्ट
50. Side-effect (noun) - adverse effect प्रतिकूल प्रभाव
51. Manipulation (noun) - The action of manipulating someone in a clever or unscrupulous way. चालाकी, हेरफेर करना
52. Discourse (noun) - Speech, Talk, Dialogue, Conversation संभाषण, भाषण
53. State (noun) - Government सरकार
54. Mass (adjective) - large-scale, extensive व्यापक
55. Resentment (noun) - Anger, bitterness, animosity, pique, indignation, rancor नाराजगी
56. Criminalise (verb) - to make something illegal:
57. Backdrop (noun) - situation, setting, milieu, medium, background, backdrop पृष्ठभूमि
58. Catchword (noun) - slogan, motto, shibboleth, buzzword, नारा
59. Far from (phrase) - not at all
60. Conspiracy (noun) - plot, intrigue, scheme, cabal, collusion साजिश
61. Merely (adverb) - only, purely, solely, simply, सिर्फ़, केवल
62. Tarnish (verb) - to make people think that someone or something is less $\operatorname{good}$ कलंक/ धब्बा लगाना,
63. Arm oneself with (verb) - to equip someone with whatever is needed to
fight against someone or something. से लैस करना
64. Pose (verb) - constitute, present, create, cause, produce, give rise to, खड़ा करना (चुनौती)
65. Remedy (noun) - solution, answer, cure, antidote, corrective उपाय
66. Underlying (adjective) - important but hidden बुनियादी
67. Conjure up (phrasal verb) - evoke, invoke, call forth, visualize, प्रकट करना
68. Dismantle (verb) - to end an organization or a system gradually in an organized way गिराना, उद्ध्वस्त

करना

## Practice Exercise

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

[Editorial page]

1. Stringent laws are only part of the solution to violent extremism
A. Infinitesimal
B. Rigorous
C. Inundate
D. Amoral
2. the Government suspects a concordance in their outlook.
A. Acquiesce
B. Censure
C. Burgeon
D. Similarity
3. Mr. Modi's views raise a question whether his comments are a justification of sorts for the continued incarceration of many who do not seem to have indulged in any particular extremist act
A. Imprisonment
B. Prolific
C. Congenial
D. Propitious
4. Idioms \& Phrase

The mayor wasn't directly involved, but the voters are going to lay this scandal at his door.
A. To become able to act independently and with confidence
B. Prove to be the case
C. To hold someone responsible for something
D. To notice or give attention to (something)
5. Direction: Five 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 World Health Organization (WHO) chief, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, in a recent briefing, noted that 90 million cases of coronavirus have been reported since the Omicron variant was first identified 10 weeks ago.
P. The MEA said no Indian official will be present at the opening or closing ceremonies of the games, which run from February 4 to 20
Q. The MEA said the commander's participation in the torch relay was "regrettable".
R. will still take part in both the games and in the opening ceremony along with support staff

- followed China's move this week to choose a PLA commander as one of the participants of the traditional torch relay.
S. On the eve of the opening of the Winter Olympics in Beijing on Friday, India announced a diplomatic boycott of the games.
T. The commander was involved in the June 15, 2020 clash in Galwan Valley. He was subsequently given military honours by Beijing.
U. The decision for an official boycott of the games - a lone Indian athlete who qualified, skier Arif Khan,
Which among the following will be the Second sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?
A. $P$
B.S
C.T
D.Q
E.R

Direction (Q6 - Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them
6. Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents, (A)/ according to the experts (B)/ report on highway safety. (C)/ No error(D)
7. I (A)/ never saw (B)/ you at the party yesterday. (C)/ No error(D)

Directions (8-9): Directions: In each of the questions below, a sentence is given with two blanks that indicate that some parts are missing. Identify the correct pair of words that fit in the sentence to make it grammatically and contextually correct.
8. Eight of the Congress's 11 MLAs have joined the ruling BJP, in the latest iteration of a Goan curse. The State has gained a particular $\qquad$ for its politicians $\qquad$ switching sides in utter disregard for the people's verdict.
A. Mockery, overtly
B. Disaffection, predominantly
C. Notoriety, brazenly
D. Foothold, persistently
E. None of the above
9. India's surfeit of economists, goes an old $\qquad$ , has given our economy a jumble of policies all too $\qquad$ for our own good.
A. Quip, unwieldy
B. Slump, diverse
C. Entreaty, coherence
D. Cohesion, bulky
E. None of the above

## 10. Find out the misspelt word

A. Encourage
B. Dissension
C. Aggravate
D. Furtile

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.
(The Hindu Editorial: Boxed in - Oct 03, 2022)
The Reserve Bank of India's rate decision on Friday was ultimately inevitable. (1)/ Monetary policymakers were left with little choice but to raise interest rates by 50 basis points, as a bout of extreme volatility in international financial markets combines with persistently high domestic retail inflation to threaten macroeconomic stability, globally and in India.(2)/ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

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cited the 'aggressive monetary policy actions and even more aggressive communication from advanced economy central banks' as a third shock -- following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine - which he said had thrust the 'global economy into the eye of a new storm'. (3)/ "Emerging market economies, in particular, are confronted with challenges of slowing global growth, elevated food and energy prices, spillovers from advanced economy policy normalisation... and sharp currency depreciations," Mr. Das explained, elaborating on the external challenges confronting emerging economies, including India. (4) The rupee too has been under pressure, weakening by more than 7\% against the dollar since the start of the current fiscal year in April. And this has added upward pressure to price stability by way of imported inflation. The RBI's September issue of the Monetary Policy Report in fact elevated(A) observes that the 'second-round effects of low growth and high inflation globally could keep domestic inflation at pertinently(B) levels even beyond eight quarters, necessitating( $C$ ) appropriate monetary actions to anchor( $D$ ) inflation expectations'.

The central bank's own projections, in fact, do not anticipate a slowing in India's retail inflation below its upper tolerance threshold of $6 \%$ till the January-March quarter. And Mr. Das was right to point out the multiple factors that could $\qquad$ 11 $\qquad$ the RBI's inflation outlook. These include the likelihood of higher pass-through of input costs by service providers on increased demand, as well as upside risks to food prices from both the lower kharif output of rice and pulses, and the unseasonably excess $\qquad$ of rainfall in some regions that have pushed up the prices of vegetables. The surfeit of liquidity or cash in the banking system, which is expected to be $\qquad$ 13 $\qquad$ by enhanced government spending in the coming months, could also threaten price stability and the RBI Governor was at pains to note that the policy stance of a $\qquad$ 14 $\qquad$ 'withdrawal of accommodation' had become an imperative. Specifically, he pointed out that 'even as the nominal policy repo rate had been raised by 190 basis points since May, the rate adjusted for inflation still trailed the 2019 levels'. With the RBI's latest surveys of households' inflation expectations (A)/ and consumer confidence too signalling (B)/ that price pressures will continue to restrain (C)/ consumption, inflation control will have to remain the top policy priority (D)

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 - Q14)
11. Mr. Das was right to point out the multiple factors that could $\qquad$ the RBI's inflation outlook
A. Ineffable
B. Upend
C. Enervate
D. Burlesque
12. As well as upside risks to food prices from both the lower kharif output of rice and pulses, and the unseasonably excess $\qquad$ of rainfall in some regions that have pushed up the prices of vegetables.
A. Proprietary
B. Spells
C. Belligerents
D. Circumlocutions
13. The surfeit of liquidity or cash in the banking system, which is expected to be $\qquad$ by enhanced government spending in the coming months
A. Largess
B. Implemented
C. Incessant
D. Buoyed
14. The RBI Governor was at pains to note that the policy stance of a $\qquad$ 'withdrawal of accommodation' had become an imperative.
A. Calibrated
B. Beget
C. Demagogue
D. Disparate
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.
With the RBl's latest surveys of households' inflation expectations (A)/ and consumer confidence too signalling (B)/ that price pressures will continue to restrain (C)/ consumption, inflation control will have to remain the top policy priority (D)
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error

## 16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

The Reserve Bank of India's rate decision on Friday was ultimately inevitable. (1)/ Monetary policymakers were left with little choice but to raise interest rates by 50 basis points, as a bout of extreme volatility in international financial markets combines with persistently high domestic retail inflation to threaten macroeconomic stability, globally and in India.(2)/ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das cited the 'aggressive monetary policy actions and even more aggressive communication from advanced economy central banks' as a third shock -- following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine - which he said had thrust the 'global economy into the eye of a new storm'. (3)/ "Emerging market economies, in particular, are confronted with challenges of slowing global growth, elevated food and energy prices, spillovers from advanced economy policy normalisation... and sharp currency depreciations," Mr. Das explained, elaborating on the external challenges confronting emerging economies, including India. (4)
A. 2341
B. 4321
C. 4231
D. 2143
E. 1234
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

## SURFEIT

(i) Others complain of a supposed surfeit of unfalsafiable assertions.
(ii) Rhetoric may produce a surfeit of judgments.
(iii) It is my opinion that this measure is suffering from a surfeit of rules.
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. (i), (ii)
D. (ii), (iii)
E. All are correct
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.
The RBI's September issue of the Monetary Policy Report in fact elevated(A) observes that the 'second-round effects of low growth and high inflation globally could keep domestic inflation at pertinently(B) levels even beyond eight quarters, necessitating(C) appropriate monetary actions to anchor(D) inflation expectations'.
A. $C-A$
B. $A-B$
C. $\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{C}$
D. $\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{C}$
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) A cleaner river connected to functional drainage can aid in the speedy removal of flood waters, and improve the environment
(ii) There are other basic challenges which are particularly worrisome to less affluent residents.
A. Beside
B. Despite
C. Yet
D. Unlike
E. None of the above
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I was disappointed $\qquad$ my success in the new venture.
A. Of
B. In
C. On
D. To

## Answers

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

## Explanations

4. Lay something to someone's doorstep(phrase) - to hold someone responsible for something किसी को ज़िम्मेदार ठहराना
5. SPURTQ

On the eve of the opening of the Winter Olympics in Beijing on Friday, India announced a diplomatic boycott of the games. The MEA said no Indian official will be present at the opening or closing ceremonies of the games, which run from February 4 to 20. The decision for an official boycott of the games - a lone Indian athlete who qualified, skier Arif Khan, will still take part in both the games and in the opening ceremony along with support staff - followed China's move this week to choose a PLA commander as one of the participants of the traditional torch relay. The commander was involved in the June 15, 2020 clash in Galwan Valley. He was subsequently given military honours by Beijing. The MEA said the commander's participation in the torch relay was "regrettable".
6. (A) 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents' के बदले 'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'little' एक Quantitative Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'less' है, जबकि 'few' एक Numeral Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'fewer' है और 'rainfall' एक Uncountable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'little/little/very little, less' etc. का प्रयोग होगा जबकि 'accidents' एक Plural Countable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. का प्रयोग होगा।
'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' will be used instead of 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents', because 'little' is a Quantitative Adjective whose Comparative is 'less', while 'few' is a Numeral Adjective Whose Comparative is 'fewer' and 'rainfall' is an Uncountable Noun which is preceded by 'little/little/very little, less' etc. Where 'accidents' is a Plural Countable Noun preceded by 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. Will be used.
7. (B) 'never saw' के बदले 'did not see' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Simple Past में Negative Sentence बनाने के लिए 'did + not+ V1' या 'didn't + V1' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे- I did not/didn't see him at the party yesterday.
'did not see' will be used instead of 'never saw' because 'did + not V1' or 'didn't + V1' is used to make Negative Sentence in Simple Past;
i. I did not/didn't see him at the party yesterday.
8. Notoriety (noun) - the state of being well known for something bad बदनाम, कुख्याति, Brazenly (adverb) - boldly, flagrantly, openly, blatantly, brashly बेशर्मी से
> Mockery (noun) - ridicule, derision, parody, spoof उपहास
> Overtly (adverb) - Openly, clearly, obviously, blatantly, visibly, explicitly खुलकर
> Disaffection (noun) - dissatisfaction, discontent असंतोष
> Predominantly (adverb) - In a predominant manner. मुख्य रूप से
> Foothold (noun) -a strong first position from which further progress can be made पैर जमाना
> Persistently (adverb) - In a persistent manner; continuously. लगातार
9. Quip (noun) - a funny and clever remark परिहास; चुटकुला

Unwieldy (noun) - cumbersome, awkward, clumsy, unmanageable, ponderous बोझिल
> Slump (noun) - Recession, downturn, decline, depression मंदी
$>$ Diverse (adjective) - Varied, various, different, distinct विविध
> Entreaty (noun) - appeal, request, prayer विनती
> Coherence (noun) - consistency, coherency, integrity सम्बद्धता
> Cohesion (noun) - unity, solidarity एकजुटता
> Bulky (adjective) - large, heavy, hefty, massive भारी-भरकम
10. Futile (adjective) - useless, pointless, vain, fruitless, unavailing व्यर्थ
11. Upend (verb) - To invalidate, destroy, or change completely; overthrow: पलटाना
12. Spell (noun) - period, time, stretch दौर, चरण
13. Buoyed (verb) - to keep something at a high level ऊँचे स्तर पर रखना
14. Calibrated (adjective) - calculated, planned, computed, determined नियोजित
15. No Error
16. (E) 1234

The Reserve Bank of India's rate decision on Friday was ultimately inevitable. Monetary policymakers were left with little choice but to raise interest rates by 50 basis points, as a bout of extreme volatility in international financial markets combines with persistently high domestic retail inflation to threaten macroeconomic stability, globally and in India. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das cited the 'aggressive monetary policy actions and even more aggressive communication from advanced economy central banks' as a third shock -- following the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine - which he said had thrust the 'global economy into the eye of a new storm'. "Emerging market economies, in particular, are confronted with challenges of slowing global growth, elevated food and energy prices,
spillovers from advanced economy policy normalisation... and sharp currency depreciations," Mr. Das explained, elaborating on the external challenges confronting emerging economies, including India.
17. Surfeit (noun) - glut, excess, surplus, plethora, superfluity अतिरेक

According to the given options all options are contextually correct.
18. The RBI's September issue of the Monetary Policy Report in fact pertinently observes that the 'second-round effects of low growth and high inflation globally could keep domestic inflation at elevated levels even beyond eight quarters, necessitating appropriate monetary actions to anchor inflation expectations'.
19. A cleaner river connected to functional drainage can aid in the speedy removal of flood waters, and improve the environment yet there are other basic challenges which are particularly worrisome to less affluent residents

## Explanation of other important words




