

Economics and exclusion: On SC upholding 10% EWS quota

Use of sole income criterion for quotas is questionable, but it should be made to work in a non-exclusionary way

On the face of it, a new kind of reservation in education and jobs solely based on income or economic criteria was destined to face several constitutional hurdles. However, given that the special provision in favour of 'Economically Weaker Sections' (EWS) among those who are not eligible for community-based quotas meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, was introduced through an amendment to the Constitution, only a demonstration that the new quota violated the basic structure of the Constitution would have succeeded in dislodging it. By a majority of three to two, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that the amendment does not violate the basic structure. In the process, the Court has recorded a major paradigm shift in its conception of what constitutes valid affirmative action. For the first time, it has upheld a kind of reservation that specifically excludes those from the three existing categories of beneficiaries and is extended solely on the basis of economic criteria. When in Indra Sawhney (1992), a nine-judge Bench upheld OBC reservation, but favoured exclusion of advanced sections of the beneficiary communities from its purview, it introduced a form of economic criteria for the first time. However, the criteria were used to exclude individuals, while the groups continued to be eligible for reservation. At the same time, the Court struck down a provision for 10% reservation for economically backward sections introduced by the Congress regime, on the ground that the Constitution does not provide for reservation solely based on economic criteria.

The logic behind this scheme of affirmative action was that reservation is a tool of reparation for groups excluded from mainstream avenues of advancement due to caste discrimination, while it should not become a benefit or reward for individual members of the same groups who may have made reasonable progress. This logic was wholly inverted in 2019 when the BJP-led regime amended the Constitution to provide reservation solely on economic criteria to sections other than those enjoying reservation under the categories of SCs, STs and OBCs. The resort to economic or income criterion as the sole marker for identifying a beneficiary is obviously unsustainable from the point of view of equality of opportunity. All five judges agree that the introduction of an economic criterion does not violate the Constitution. However, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, with Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, concurring, has correctly found that the exclusion of groups that already enjoy reservation from accessing this new form of affirmative action violates the equality norm, which is a basic feature of the Constitution.

The Constitution Amendment came with considerable political legitimacy as very few members voted against it. The Court could not have lightly struck it down. The majority acknowledges Parliament's power to create a new set of criteria and a new target for affirmative action. Their opinions wholeheartedly endorse the exclusion of communities that benefit from existing reservation norms, contending that such exclusion is necessary to achieve the intended object of emancipating

economically weaker sections and, if they are included, it may **undermine** the entire idea of providing such reservation. This approach is clearly **flawed** because this creates a **vertical reservation** scheme based on economic weakness, a **factor** that could be applicable to all communities, but **consciously excludes** a large segment. There was some **merit** in the argument that reservation cannot be used as a **poverty alleviation** measure, and that a collective **remedy** meant to be **compensatory** discrimination in favour of historically **deprived** classes cannot be converted into a scheme to identify individuals based on their low-income levels and **confer** the same benefit. The existing income criterion of ₹8 lakh a year has already been questioned by the Court in a separate case, as it is **liable** to **result in** excessive coverage of socially advanced classes. When those **exempted** from filing I-T returns are only those with taxable income below ₹2.5 lakh, it makes no sense to extend the reservation benefits to sections earning upto ₹8 lakh. Also, the majority view that the 50% **ceiling** is applicable only to caste-based quotas and not for EWS reservation is constitutionally unsustainable, as it is a vertical compartment that is **carved out of the open competition segment**.

Once **the idea** of using economic criterion alone **is** accepted **in principle**, as has been done even by the **dissenting** opinion, it can only be argued that the benefit should have been **modulated** to **maximise** the beneficiaries. The objective of economic emancipation could have been better achieved if the income-based reservation had been **thrown open** to all sections of society. **The fear** that some sections may **corner** a large **share** of the reservation **cake had** earlier been partially **addressed** by the ‘creamy layer’ norm for backward classes, but it also meant that the **well-off** among them will have to **compete** in open competition. By introducing an income criterion and **barring** OBCs, besides SC/ST communities, from the EWS **silo**, there is a clear violation of equality in their eligibility to **avail** of a part of the open competition opportunities. The Government should consider both opening up the EWS quota to all communities and keeping the income criterion much lower than the ceiling, **perhaps** at the same level as the **income tax slab**, to identify the ‘creamy layer’ so that **some poorer sections** of communities, if they are **crowded out** on the OBC or SC/ST merit list, **could** still avail of some **residual** benefits under the EWS scheme. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Legitimacy** (noun) – Acceptability, rightfulness, correctness वैधता

Vocabulary

1. **Economics** (noun) – the condition of a region or group as regards material prosperity.
2. **Uphold** (verb) – support, endorse, sustain, defend, back बरकरार रखना
3. **Sole** (adjective) – one and only, single, solitary, lone एकमात्र, अकेला
4. **Questionable** (adjective) – controversial, contentious, open to question संदिग्ध
5. **Non-exclusionary** (adjective) – not restricted to the person, group, or area concerned; not exclusive. गैर-बहिष्कृत
6. **On the face of it** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently, it seems प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
7. **Solely** (adverb) – only, merely, just, exclusively, uniquely केवल
8. **Destined** (adjective) – certain to meet; predestined, fated, preordained नियत किया हुआ; पूर्वनिर्दिष्ट
9. **Hurdle** (noun) – obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, impediment बाधा
10. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
11. **Amendment** (noun) – change, modification, revision, alteration, improvement संशोधन
12. **Demonstration** (noun) – presentation, display, evidence, show प्रदर्शन
13. **Violate** (verb) – breach, infringe, rape, break, transgress उल्लंघन करना
14. **Dislodge** (verb) – remove, extricate, dislocate, eject हटाना
15. **Rule** (verb) – decree, order, direct, pronounce, make a judgement फैसला सुनाना
16. **Paradigm Shift** (noun) – a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions. मूलभूत परिवर्तन
17. **Conception** (noun) – idea, concept, notion, perception, thought अवधारण
18. **Constitute** (verb) – form, establish, make, compose, institute बनाना, गठित करना
19. **Valid** (adjective) – legitimate, true, reasonable, authentic उचित, वैध
20. **Affirmative action** (noun) – it means positive steps taken to increase the representation of (women and) minorities in areas of employment, education, and culture from which they have been historically excluded.
21. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present मौजूदा

22. **Beneficiary** (noun) – Recipient, receiver
लाभार्थी
23. **Extend** (verb) – offer, give, grant, present
प्रदान करना
24. **Purview** (noun) – scope, range of
experience, outlook, perspective,
perception दायरा
25. **Strike down** (phrasal verb) – to make null
and void; abolish a law रद्द करना
26. **Regime** (noun) – government,
administration शासन
27. **Ground** (noun) – reason, cause, basis,
base, foundation आधार; कारण
28. **Reparation** (noun) – Compensation,
amends, restitution, reimbursement
क्षतिपूर्ति/भरपाई
29. **Mainstream** (adjective) – considered
normal, and having or using ideas, beliefs,
etc. that are accepted by most people:
मुख्यधारा
30. **Avenue** (noun) – method, approach,
course of action मार्ग, वीथि
31. **Advancement** (noun) – Progress,
development, improvement, expansion
उन्नति
32. **Reasonable** (adjective) – sensible,
acceptable, satisfactory, logical, within
reason उचित
33. **Invert** (verb) – reverse, upturn; to reverse
in position, order, direction पलटना
34. **Amend** (verb) – revise, alter, change,
modify, qualify संशोधन करना
35. **Resort** (to) (noun) – recourse to, turning
to, the use of, utilizing सहारा
36. **Marker** (noun) – Indicator, sign, indication,
symbol, pointer सूचक
37. **Unsustainable** (adjective) – not able to be
upheld or defended. अस्थिर; टिकाऊ नहीं
होना
38. **Concur** (verb) – agree, be in agreement, be
in accord, be in accordance सहमत होना
39. **Access** (verb) – to be able to use or obtain
something such as a service
40. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion
मानक, प्रतिमान
41. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial,
significant, large, extensive, sizeable काफी
42. **Lightly** (adverb) – in a way that is not
serious or solemn; carelessly. हलके
में/लापरवाही से
43. **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit,
accept, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
44. **Whole-heartedly** (adverb) – with complete
sincerity and commitment. पूरे तौर पर

45. **Endorse** (verb) –support, approve, sanction, back, ratify समर्थन करना
46. **Contend** (verb) –assert, argue, claim, maintain, allege तर्क देना, दावा करना
47. **Emancipate** (verb) – free, liberate, release, मुक्त करना
48. **Undermine** (verb) – weaken, impair, sabotage, subvert कमजोर करना
49. **Flawed** (adjective) – faulty, defective, damaged, blemished, imperfect, inconsistent त्रुटिपूर्ण
50. **Vertical reservation** (noun) – Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes is referred to as vertical reservation.
51. **Consciously** (adverb) – Deliberately, intentionally, knowingly, willfully, determinedly, on purpose
52. **Merit** (noun) – Good point, strong point
53. **Poverty Alleviation** (noun) – a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian, that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty गरीबी उन्मूलन, गरीबी निवारण
54. **Remedy** (noun) – solution, answer, cure, antidote, corrective उपाय
55. **Compensatory** (adjective) –reducing or offsetting the unpleasant or unwelcome effects of something. प्रतिपूरक, क्षतिपूरक,
56. **Deprived** (adjective) – Disadvantaged, underprivileged, poor, destitute, depressed, dispossessed वंचित
57. **Confer** (verb) – award, bestow, present, grant, give प्रदान करना
58. **Liable** (adjective) – Likely, apt, prone, predisposed संभाव्य
59. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – give rise to, lead to, bring about, bring, produce नतीजतन
60. **Exempt** (verb) – free, excuse, relieve, release, absolve छूट देना, मुक्त करना
61. **Ceiling** (noun) – upper limit, maximum, limitation, highest permissible level उच्चतम सीमा
62. **Carve out** (phrasal verb) – to make or create; take something from a larger whole से बनाना
63. **The open competition segment** (noun) – it refers to Unreserved category.
64. **In principle** (phrase) – in general, but possibly not in detail सिद्घांत रूप में,
65. **Dissenting** (adjective) – disagreeing, opposing, disputing, deferring, dividing, varying असहमत
66. **Modulate** (verb) – Change, alter, adjust, vary, transform, revise, modify व्यवस्थित करना, ठीक करना, ऊँचा-नीचा करना

67. **Maximise** (verb) – make as large or great as possible बढ़ाना; अधिकतम करना
68. **Throw open** (phrase) – make something accessible. खोलना
69. **Corner** (verb) – gain control over एकाधिकार जमा लेना
70. **A share of cake** (phrase) – a portion or part of something
71. **Address** (verb) – to speak to someone in a particular way or using a particular name से संबोधित करना
72. **The Well-off** (noun) – The wealthy or rich person/people अमीर लोग
73. **Compete** (verb) – contest, contend, vie, strive, participate स्पर्धा करना, प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेना
74. **Bar** (verb) – prohibit, debar, preclude, forbid, ban रोकना
75. **Silo** (noun) – a system, process, department, etc. that operates in isolation from others.
76. **Avail** (of) (verb) – Use to one's advantage लाभ उठाना
77. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
78. **Income tax slab** (noun) – it means different tax rates are prescribed for different ranges of income
79. **Crowd out** (phrasal verb) – oust, overthrow, remove. निकाल देना, हटा देना
80. **Residual** (adjective) –remaining, left over शेष

Practice Exercise

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

1. if they are included, it may undermine the entire idea of providing such reservation
 - A. Purported
 - B. Weaken
 - C. Ineffable
 - D. Archetype

2. it can only be argued that the benefit should have been modulated to maximise the beneficiaries
 - A. Adjust
 - B. Intractable
 - C. Gratuitous
 - D. Preeminent

3. The Constitution Amendment came with considerable political legitimacy as very few members voted against it.
 - A. Inert
 - B. Peripatetic
 - C. Synthesis
 - D. Acceptability

4. **Idioms & Phrase**
 It remains to be seen whether the more sociologically oriented sociolinguists, which this book in a way represents, will finally take that road.
 - A. To take strong action to try to make it happen
 - B. Used to express the notion that something is not yet known
 - C. To aim or direct something at someone or something
 - D. Be the time or setting of (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.**
While economic commentary post the Russian invasion of Ukraine has largely focused on oil — Brent crude topping \$100/barrel and the likelihood of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinder price increasing once polling in Uttar Pradesh concludes on March 7 — there is also the impact on the “other oil”.
 - P. The ongoing conflict and disruption in shipments from Black Sea ports is rubbing off on these oils too,
 - Q. compounded by dry weather in South America and Indonesia imposing a 20 per cent domestic market sale obligation on its palm oil exporters.
 - R. Sunflower is India’s fourth most consumed cooking oil, after palm, soyabean and mustard.
 - S. The country imports about 98 per cent of its sunflower oil requirement — almost 93 per cent of that coming from Ukraine and Russia. Moreover, it’s not only sunflower.

T. India also imports the bulk of its soyabean oil from Argentina and Brazil and palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia.

U. Crude palm futures prices in Malaysia scaled record highs of 7,000-plus ringgit per tonne last week.

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

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

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

6. The minister for Education (A)/ vehemently refused (B)/ the allegation that he had taken bribes(C)/ No Error. (D)
7. If I were Sumit (A)/ I would not attend (B)/ the wedding. (C)/ No Error. (D)
8. He says that (A)/ he reads novels (B)/ to pass away the time. (C)/ No Error. (D)
9. He left for Mumbai on Sunday (A)/ arriving there (B)/ on Monday (C)/ No Error. (D)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Strengthening
- B. Wholeheartedly
- C. Pesimmist
- D. Misanthropist

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Kicking around – Oct 11, 2022)

The two competitions have received fresh leases of life: the ISL has returned to the traditional home-and-away format after two stifling seasons in a bio-bubble, **(1)**/ while the World Cup is back in the country's embrace after seemingly slipping out of it, once in 2020 because of COVID-19 and then two months ago when FIFA suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and withheld the hosting rights. **(2)**/ With the ninth season of the Indian Super League (ISL) commencing in Kochi and the ball set to roll at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Bhubaneswar from Tuesday, **(3)**/ football in India can finally put behind a chaotic and unpleasant period that was littered with boardroom battles and litigation in the nation's highest courts. **(4)**/ Under the new AIFF administration, the expectation is for these two championships to usher _____**11**_____ a productive era for the sport in India. The ISL is crucial for players' preparation ahead of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. A good performance at the premier continental tournament can enhance the nation's _____**12**_____. The World Cup may provide _____**13**_____ to further the overall development of women's football in the country, which is still in its nascent stages.

It was eight years ago that the ISL was introduced with the aim of revolutionising the game.

Months before that, in December 2013, (A)/ India had won the rights to host its first global (B)/ competition — the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup. But since then, (C)/ progress were been only incremental. (D)

The ISL's top-down approach, the lack of a pyramid of leagues held together by the principle of promotion and relegation, and the absence of qualitative reforms at the grassroots have resulted in India _____14_____ at 106 in the world rankings and at 19 in the Asian pecking order. The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be a 48-team affair, expanded from the current 32. Eight spots are guaranteed for Asia, but India has to at least be in the top 10 at the continental level to have a realistic chance of qualification. The U-17 World Cup did trigger a change. A **bunch(A)** of players, including the **flourished(B)** of Suresh Wangjam, Aniket Jadhav and Lalengmawia Apuia, **likes(C)** together at the AIFF's developmental side Indian Arrows, then went on to become regulars for their ISL clubs and **eventually(D)** secured berths in the Indian national team. Such a clear-cut trajectory does not exist for the women. If the U-17 Women's World Cup can help lay a similar pathway, it would have done its job.

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

11. Under the new AIFF administration, the expectation is for these two championships to usher _____11_____ a productive era for the sport in India.
- A. In
B. By
C. With
D. On
12. A good performance at the premier continental tournament can enhance the nation's _____12_____.
- A. Conventional
B. Standing
C. Endemic
D. Covenant
13. The World Cup may provide _____13_____ to further the overall development of women's football in the country, which is still in its nascent stages.
- A. Autocratic
B. Impetus
C. Fecund
D. Incandescent
14. The ISL's top-down approach, the lack of a pyramid of leagues held together by the principle of promotion and relegation, and the absence of qualitative reforms at the grassroots have resulted in India _____14_____ at 106 in the world rankings and at 19 in the Asian pecking order.
- A. Charlatan
B. Anachronism
C. Languishing
D. Loquacious
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.

Months before that, in December 2013, **(A)**/ India had won the rights to host its first global **(B)**/ competition — the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup. But since then, **(C)**/ progress were been only incremental. **(D)**

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

The two competitions have received fresh leases of life: the ISL has returned to the traditional home-and-away format after two stifling seasons in a bio-bubble, **(1)**/ while the World Cup is back in the country's embrace after seemingly slipping out of it, once in 2020 because of COVID-19 and then two months ago when FIFA suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and withheld the hosting rights. **(2)**/ With the ninth season of the Indian Super League (ISL) commencing in Kochi and the ball set to roll at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Bhubaneswar from Tuesday, **(3)**/ football in India can finally put behind a chaotic and unpleasant period that was littered with boardroom battles and litigation in the nation's highest courts. **(4)**/

- A. 3412
- B. 1234
- C. 3421
- D. 2143
- E. 1243

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

CHAOS

- (i) Ever since our secretary walked out, the office has been in a state of total/utter **chaos**.
- (ii) If you don't have anything **chaos** to say, it's better to say nothing.
- (iii) She played a **chaos** role in the civil rights movement.

- 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.

A **bunch(A)** of players, including the **flourished(B)** of Suresh Wangjam, Aniket Jadhav and Lalengmawia Apuia, **likes(C)** together at the AIFF's developmental side Indian Arrows, then went on to become regulars for their ISL clubs and **eventually(D)** secured berths in the Indian national team.

- 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) They all lived in the same apartment complex, and the evening was early.
 - (ii) Aysha invited them to her apartment for a cup of coffee
- A. Despite
 - B. Like
 - C. Therefore
 - D. Since
 - E. As soon as

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He is destined _____ the post of D.M. and is expected to be promoted soon.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. For

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Remains to be seen**(Phrase)—Used to express the notion that something is not yet known
 देखना बाकी है

5. **RSTPQU**

While economic commentary post the Russian invasion of Ukraine has largely focused on oil — Brent crude topping \$100/barrel and the likelihood of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinder price increasing once polling in Uttar Pradesh concludes on March 7 — there is also the impact on the “other oil”. Sunflower is India’s fourth most consumed cooking oil, after palm, soyabean and mustard. The country imports about 98 per cent of its sunflower oil requirement — almost 93 per cent of that coming from Ukraine and Russia. Moreover, it’s not only sunflower. India also imports the bulk of its soyabean oil from Argentina and Brazil and palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia. The ongoing conflict and disruption in shipments from Black Sea ports is rubbing off on these oils too, compounded by dry weather in South America and Indonesia imposing a 20 per cent domestic market sale obligation on its palm oil exporters. Crude palm futures prices in Malaysia scaled record highs of 7,000-plus ringgit per tonne last week.

6. (B) ‘refused’ के बदले ‘denied’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘refuse’ का अर्थ है ‘अस्वीकार करना’ जबकि ‘deny’ का अर्थ है ‘किसी चीज की सत्यता मानना’। किसी के ‘प्रस्ताव’, ‘माँग’, ‘भेंट’ को ‘refuse’ किया जाता है जबकि किसी ‘अभियोग’, ‘आरोप’ को ‘deny’ किया जाता है; जैसे-

- i. He offered her a diamond ring but she refused to take it.
- ii. She hotly denied all the charges brought against herself.

➤ ‘denied’ will be used instead of ‘refused’ because ‘refuse’ means ‘to reject’ while ‘deny’ means ‘believe the truth of something’. One’s ‘offer’, ‘demand’, ‘offer’ is ‘refuse’ while ‘deny’ is used to ‘propose’, ‘accuse’; like-

- i. He offered her a diamond ring but she refused to take it.
- ii. She hotly denied all the charges brought against herself.

7. (D) No error.

8. (C) ‘to pass away the time’ के बदले ‘to pass the time’ या ‘to pass time’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘to pass the time’ या ‘to pass time’ का प्रयोग होता है जिसका अर्थ ‘उबाऊपन से बचने के लिए समय गुजारना’।

‘to pass away the time’ shall be substituted with ‘to pass the time’ or ‘to pass time’ as ‘to pass the time’ or ‘to pass time’ is used which means “boredom” To pass the time to escape.

9. (B) ‘arriving’ के बदले ‘to arrive’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि purpose (उद्देश्य) बताने के लिए Infinitive का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- i. He left for America to participate in an International Seminar

➤ 'to arrive' will be used instead of 'arriving' because Infinitive is used to indicate purpose; like-

ii. He left for America to participate in an International Seminar.

10. **Pessimist** (noun) – a person who tends to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen निराशावादी
11. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) – to cause important changes to start happening प्रवेश करना
12. **Standing** (noun) – status, position, reputation, rank, stand स्थिति, प्रतिष्ठा
13. **Impetus** (noun) – momentum, impulse, incentive, stimulus, impulsion प्रोत्साहन
14. **Languish** (verb) – to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation, often for a long time: शिथिल होना
15. **(D)** 'has' should be used instead of 'were' because when 'since' introduces an action or event at a point of time in the past, we can use the past simple or present perfect after since and the present perfect in the main clause.
16. (A) **3412**
With the ninth season of the Indian Super League (ISL) commencing in Kochi and the ball set to roll at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Bhubaneswar from Tuesday, football in India can finally put behind a chaotic and unpleasant period that was littered with boardroom battles and litigation in the nation's highest courts. The two competitions have received fresh leases of life: the ISL has returned to the traditional home-and-away format after two stifling seasons in a bio-bubble, while the World Cup is back in the country's embrace after seemingly slipping out of it, once in 2020 because of COVID-19 and then two months ago when FIFA suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and withheld the hosting rights.
17. **Chaotic** (adjective) – disordered, disorganized, disorderly, messy, confused अस्तव्यस्त
According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.
Because the (ii) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
If you don't have anything constructive to say, it's better to say nothing.
She played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement.
18. A bunch of players, including the likes of Suresh Wangjam, Aniket Jadhav and Lalengmawia Apuia, flourished together at the AIFF's developmental side Indian Arrows, then went on to become regulars for their ISL clubs and eventually secured berths in the Indian national team.
19. **Since** they all lived in the same apartment complex, and the evening was early, Aysha invited them to her apartment for a cup of coffee

Explanation of other important words

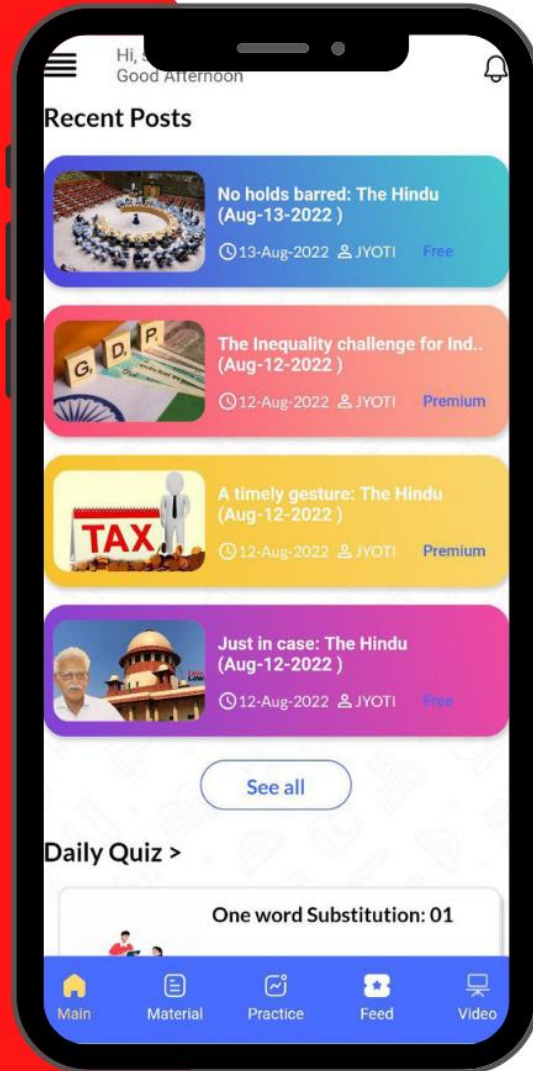
Sr.no	Words		Meaning	
Q1	Purported	adjective	Rumored; claimed	कथित
	Ineffable	adjective	Incapable of being expressed or describe	व्यक्त करने में असमर्थ
	Archetype	noun	An original model or pattern	मूलरूप आदर्श
Q2	Intractable	adjective	Uncontrollable; stubborn; disobedient	असभ्य
	Gratuitous	adjective	Given freely; unjustified; unprovoked; uncalled for	मुफ्त, निःशुल्क, ऐच्छिक
	Preeminent	adjective	Better than anyone else; outstanding; supreme	उत्तम
Q3	Inert	adjective	Inactive; sluggish; not reacting chemically	निष्क्रिय
	Peripatetic	adjective	Wandering; travelling continually itinerant	पथिक
	Synthesis	noun	The combining of parts to form whole	संश्लेषण
Q12	Conventional	adjective	Common; customary; unexceptional	पारंपरिक
	Endemic	adjective	Native; restricted to a particular region or era; indigenous	स्थानिक
	Covenant	noun	Solemn agreement; a contract; a pledge	प्रतिज्ञापत्र, अनुबंध करना
Q13	Autocratic	adjective	Ruling with absolute authority; extremely bossy	निरंकुश, एकतंत्र
	Fecund	adjective	Fertile; productive	उपजाऊ, फलप्रद
	Incandescent	adjective	Brilliant; giving off heat or light	गरमागरम, उत्साही
Q14	Charlatan	noun	Fraud; Quack; con man	मायावी, झूठा, धोखेबाज़
	Anachronism	noun	Something out of place in time or history; an incongruity	तिथि व समय की अशुद्धता; बेतुकापन
	Loquacious	adjective	Talking a lot or too much	बातूनी

Vocabulary of the Passage (Q11 – Q15)

1. **Kick around** (phrasal verb) – To informally discuss something, typically a plan or idea.
2. **Crucial** (adjective) – essential, vital, important, pivotal महत्वपूर्ण, निर्णायक
3. **So far** (phrase) – thus far अब तक
4. **Live up to** (phrase) – Meet the requirements or expectations of पूरा करना
5. **Commence** (verb) – start, begin, initiate, launch, kick off शुरू करना
6. **Ball set to roll** (phrase) – to start an activity or do something which other people will join in with later
7. **Chaotic** (adjective) – disordered, disorganized, disorderly, messy, confused अस्तव्यस्त
8. **Unpleasant** (adjective) – Not pleasant; displeasing; अप्रिय
9. **Littered** (adjective) – filled or scattered with a disorderly accumulation of objects or rubbish से भरा हुआ
10. **Boardroom** (noun) – Hall, assembly room, meeting room
11. **Litigation** (noun) – Lawsuit, trial, hearing, court case, proceeding, legal action मुकदमेबाज़ी
12. **Fresh/new lease of life** (phrase) – new energy and enthusiasm
13. **Home-and-away** (adjective) – having one game played at each competitor's home ground;
14. **Stifling** (adjective) – smothering, asphyxiating, throttling, suffocating, choking दम घुटनेवाला
15. **Bio-bubble** (noun) – a hosting arrangement for sporting events that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, under which events are held at a centralized site, often behind closed doors, with strict quarantine and safety protocols in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
16. **Embrace** (noun) – the state of taking in or encircling; Inclusion आलिगन, शामिल करना
17. **Seemingly** (adverb) – apparently, ostensibly, evidently, outwardly, superficially प्रतीत होता
18. **Slip** (verb) – to leave, or escape फिसलना, जाना
19. **Suspend** (verb) – discontinue, interrupt, delay, hang, stop निलंबित करना
20. **Withhold** (verb) – to refuse to give something or to keep back something रोक लेना

21. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) – to cause important changes to start happening
प्रवेश करना
22. **Productive** (adjective) – Useful, helpful, constructive, beneficial उपयोगी
23. **Era** (noun) – period, age, time, generation, युग
24. **Premier** (adjective) – prime, chief, foremost, principal, first प्रधान, मुख्य
25. **Continental** (adjective) – of or relating to continents महाद्वीपीय
26. **Enhance** (verb) – improve, increase, strengthen, raise, boost बढ़ाना
27. **Standing** (noun) – status, position, reputation, rank, stand स्थिति, प्रतिष्ठा
28. **Impetus** (noun) – momentum, impulse, incentive, stimulus, impulsion प्रोत्साहन
29. **Further** (verb) – Advance, promote, foster, broaden, expand, spread, extend आगे बढ़ाना
30. **Nascent** (adjective) – in the earliest stages of development शुरुआती
31. **Revolutionise** (verb) – to completely change something so that it is much better क्रांतिकारी बदलाव लाना
32. **Incremental** (adjective) – gradual, progressive, step-by-step, phased वृद्धिशील
33. **Pyramid of league** (noun) – a system of English football leagues (= groups of competing teams) that can be shown in the shape of a triangle, with the Premier League at the top and the many amateur leagues at the bottom
34. **Relegation** (noun) – the act of moving a football team to a lower division
35. **Qualitative** (adjective) – Involving distinctions based on qualities गुणात्मक
36. **Grassroots** (noun) – Base, origin, foundation, root, bedrock आधारिक
37. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – give rise to, lead to, bring about, cause नतीजतन
38. **Languish** (verb) – to exist in an unpleasant or unwanted situation, often for a long time: शिथिल होना
39. **Pecking order** (noun) – the order of importance of people in a group:
40. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow बढ़ाना
41. **Spot** (noun) – a particular place or area
42. **Realistic** (adjective) – practical, sensible, pragmatic, वास्तविक
43. **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, start, prompt, activate, cause, spark off, set off शुरू करना
44. **Bunch** (noun) – group समूह

45. **The likes of** (phrase) – A similar kind ऐसी ही तरह की
46. **Flourish** (verb) – thrive, prosper, bloom, grow, succeed सफल होना
47. **Indian Arrows** (noun) – Indian Arrows is the club was formed by the All India Football Federation in 2010, with a main goal of nurturing young Indian football talents
48. **Eventually** (adverb) – finally; ultimately. आखिरकार
49. **Secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, get, procure प्राप्त करना
50. **Berth** (noun) – Seat, place
51. **Clear-cut** (adjective) – distinct, clear, definite, unequivocal, specific स्पष्ट
52. **Trajectory** (noun) – Path, arc, curve, track, course प्रक्षेप-पथ
53. **Lay** (verb) – Put into a certain place or abstract location रखना
54. **Pathway** (noun) – a way of achieving a specified result; a course of action. मार्ग



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