

## Same rights: On Government's response to appeals to allow same-sex marriage

As relationships change, constitutional rights on freedoms and **liberties** must **expand**

The Supreme Court has **sought** the Government's response to appeals to allow same-sex marriage under a special law, in another **bid** to provide legal **sanction** to **widening** social customs. A **Bench** of CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli **agreed** to hear two partners who said the **non-recognition** of same-sex marriage **amounted to discrimination** that **struck** at the rights of **LGBTQIA+** couples. The **petitioners cited** the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which provides a civil marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law. Listing the case for hearing, the Court also transferred cases pending before several High Courts to itself. It is a first step towards same-sex marriage, which has been **legalised** in 30-odd countries, including the U.S. where this July the House of Representatives approved legislation to protect such marriages. This **legislative** action came **amidst concern** that an **aggressive** Supreme Court could **revisit settled** laws after it **overturned** Roe vs Wade on **abortion** rights. After the K.S. Puttaswamy verdict (2017) which **upheld** the right to privacy and Navtej Singh Johar (2018) that **decriminalised** homosexuality, there was hope that same-sex marriages would follow, but that has not been the **case**. At **depositions** in courts and outside, the Centre has opposed same-sex marriage, and said judicial **interference** will cause "complete **havoc with** the **delicate** balance of personal laws".

This is **perhaps** one of the reasons why the Supreme Court may consider allowing same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, and not several other personal laws such as the Hindu Marriage Act. Over the past few years, it has **passed** a series of judgments that challenged **conservative** society and brought hope and **expanded** the scope for people who do not **conform** to age-old social **norms**. **Eventually** though, even if the **Court rules** in its favour, the **march** towards equality for the LGBTQIA+ community **will** be long and **arduous**. **Enforcing** something like same-sex marriage in a **diverse** country with **varying** customs and traditions **will** not be easy. Social mindsets are conservative and so **well-entrenched** that **anyone** who feels differently **is stigmatised, humiliated** and **ostracised**. Together with the Court, more needs to be done at the **societal** level to **chip away at** conservative views on sex, gender, women and the LGBTQIA+ community. **Alongside the call for** legalising same-sex marriage, **activists** have been seeking the extension of the benefits of a traditional marriage to same-sex couples, including the right to **adopt** children. As people's relationships change, and society **undergoes** transformation, constitutional rights on freedoms and liberties must extend to every **sphere**, including a same-sex couple's life.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Rule** (verb) – Decide, Judge, Declare, Pronounce, Decree, Dictate निर्णय देना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Liberty** (noun) – freedom, independence  
स्वतंत्रता
2. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge,  
grow, broaden बढ़ाना /विस्तार करना
3. **Seek** (verb) – ask for, solicit, call for मांगना
4. **Bid** to (noun) – attempt, effort, try,  
endeavor प्रयास
5. **Sanction** (noun) – authorization,  
permission, approval, consent,  
endorsement मंजूरी
6. **Widen** (verb) – expand, broaden, extend,  
enlarge, increase विस्तृत बनाना
7. **Bench** (noun) – The judge or judges  
composing a court. न्यायपीठ
8. **Non-recognition** (noun) – refusal to  
acknowledge the existence, validity, or  
legality of something. गैर मान्यता
9. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – be equal to के  
बराबर होना
10. **Discrimination** (noun) – Unfair treatment  
of a person or group on the basis of  
prejudice भेदभाव
11. **Strike** (verb) – Attack, hit, assault, पर प्रहार  
करना
12. **LGBTQIA+** (noun) – LGBTQIA+ is an  
abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
transgender, queer or questioning,  
intersex, asexual, and more.
13. **Petitioner** (noun) – requester, suppliant,  
suppliant, applicant, claimant याचिकाकर्ता
14. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, make reference to,  
mention, allude to हवाला देना
15. **Legalise** (verb) – Make legal, validate वैध  
बनाना
16. **Legislative** (adjective) – legislation, legal,  
lawmaking, parliamentary, statutory  
विधायी
17. **Amidst** (preposition) – in the middle of के  
बीच
18. **Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry,  
apprehension fear चिंता
19. **Aggressive** (adjective) – assertive, forceful,  
competitive, insistent, vigorous  
आक्रमणशील
20. **Revisit** (verb) – reconsider, rethink,  
reassess फिर से विचार करना
21. **Settled** (adjective) – Established, stable,  
firm स्थापित
22. **Overturn** (verb) –reverse, annul,  
overthrow, revoke, rescind उलट देना
23. **Abortion** (noun) –Termination of  
pregnancy गर्भपात

24. **Uphold** (verb) – support, endorse, sustain, defend, back बरकरार रखना
25. **Decriminalise** (verb) – make legal, decriminalize, legitimize अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करना
26. **(Not) the Case** (phrase) – not true.
27. **Deposition** (noun) – statement, sworn statement, affidavit, attestation बयान
28. **Interference** (noun) – intrusion, intervention, intercession, involvement दखल अंदाजी/ हस्तक्षेप
29. **Havoc** (with) (noun) – confusion and lack of order विनाश
30. **Delicate** (adjective) – careful, considerate, sensitive नाजुक
31. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
32. **Pass** (verb) – declare, pronounce (a judgement) पारित करना
33. **Conservative** (adjective) – Traditional, conventional, conformist, traditionalist रूढ़िवादी
34. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden बढ़ाना
35. **Conform** (verb) – comply with rules, standards, or laws. के अनुरूप/ अनुपालन करना
36. **Norm** (noun) – standard, rule, criterion मानदंड
37. **Eventually** (adverb) – finally; ultimately आखिरकार
38. **March** (noun) – advance, progression, progress, evolution प्रगति
39. **Arduous** (adjective) – Difficult, hard, laborious, demanding, strenuous, onerous कठिन
40. **Enforce** (verb) – impose, apply, carry out, administer, implement लागू करना
41. **Diverse** (adjective) – varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diversified विविध, भिन्न प्रकार का,
42. **Varying** (adjective) – Differing, diverging, fluctuating, contrasting अलग-अलग
43. **Well-entrenched** (adjective) – firmly or solidly established; placed अच्छी तरह से स्थापित
44. **Stigmatise** (verb) – condemn, denounce, defame गाली देना/ कलंक लगाना
45. **Humiliate** (verb) – shame, humble, mortify, embarrass, disgrace अपमानित करना
46. **Ostracise** (verb) – exclude, shun, exile, banish समाज से बाहर निकालना

47. **Societal** (adjective) – social, society, communal, community, public सामाजिक
48. **Chip away** (at) (phrasal verb) – to remove, take away, or withdraw gradually दूर करना
49. **Alongside** (adv./prep) – Together with, along with, in conjunction with के साथ - साथ
50. **Call** (for) (noun) – demand, Request, plea, appeal मांग
51. **Activist** (noun) – campaigner, reformer, demonstrator कार्यकर्ता
52. **Adopt** (verb) – legally take (another's child) and bring it up as one's own. गोद लेना
53. **Undergo** (verb) – Experience, feel, suffer, endure, go through से गुज़रना
54. **Sphere** (noun) – domain, realm, province, field, area, region क्षेत्र

### Practice Exercise

1. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.

When Sirisha knock at the door someone peeped through the window.

- A. knocked door
  - B. knocked at the door
  - C. knocked at the door
  - D. No substitution required
2. Select the option that gives the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom. You have put me in a tight corner by telling me to keep quiet.

- A. An embarrassing situation
  - B. A comfortable situation
  - C. A difficult situation
  - D. A secret place
3. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

**Ransack**

- A. Seize
  - B. Raid
  - C. Protect
  - D. Pilfer
4. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

**CENTRE**

- A. Periphery
  - B. Clear
  - C. Mainstream
  - D. Definite
5. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.  
**Now after the COVID-19 situation has \_\_\_\_\_, Bangladesh has started air travel services for other countries including India.**
- A. Improved
  - B. Progressed
  - C. Advanced
  - D. Enriched

6. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

**Eventually**

- A. Initially
  - B. Primarily
  - C. Originally
  - D. Ultimately
7. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

**A tank for fish or water plants**

- A. Reservoir  
B. Aviary  
C. Aquarium  
D. Museum
8. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.  
**An image of a God used for worship**  
A. Model  
B. Idol  
C. Icon  
D. Temple
9. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.**  
A. Finally, it can be termed as the channel for all trade, and what is more important, of all ideas.  
B. It also provides framework to all economic development.  
C. It is the road which determines the site of many cities and the growth and nourishment of all.  
D. The road is one of the great fundamental institutions of mankind.  
A.CABD                      B.DCBA                      C.BDAC                      D. DBAC
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
Athens was / a most luminous / of all city-states / of ancient Greece.  
A. Athens was  
B. of all city-states  
C. of ancient Greece  
D. a most luminous
11. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.  
**They catch whale sharks commercially in some places around the world.**  
A. Whale sharks were caught commercially in some places around the world.  
B. Whale sharks are being caught commercially in some places around the world.  
C. Whale sharks have been caught commercially in some places around the world.  
D. Whale sharks are caught commercially in some places around the world.
12. Select the correct active voice form of the given sentence  
**A cartoon film is being watched by Praveen.**  
A. Praveen would like to watch a cartoon film.  
B. Praveen had been watching a cartoon film.  
C. Praveen is watched a cartoon film.  
D. Praveen is watching a cartoon film.
13. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.  
**She said to her, "Will you ready my suit tomorrow?"**  
A. She asked her if she would ready her suit tomorrow.  
B. She asked her if she would ready her suit the next day.  
C. She asked her that if she would ready her suit tomorrow

- D. She said her if she would ready her suit tomorrow.
14. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.  
**We ordered a Pizza / which are one of / my favourite foods.**
- A. which are one of  
B. No error  
C. my favourite foods  
D. We ordered a Pizza
15. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.  
**We thought / there was a good idea / to wear snow boots / before we stepped out.**
- A. We thought  
B. before we stepped out  
C. to wear snow boots  
D. there was a good idea
16. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Deceive  
B. Leisure  
C. Believe  
D. Wellfare
17. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.  
**Trendy**
- A. Common  
B. Foreign  
C. Popular  
D. Familiar
18. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.  
None of the boys was **willing to admit** that he was in the wrong.
- A. No substitution required  
B. willing to admitting  
C. ready to admitting  
D. admit
19. Select the most appropriate meaning of the following idiom. "**Nip in the bud**"
- A. To destroy early  
B. To cut the buds  
C. To destroy late  
D. Not to destroy
20. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.  
You are welcome **to partake** this light refreshment.

- A. No improvement required
- B. to partake of
- C. for partaking
- D. in partaken

**Comprehension:**

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank. There is always something so fascinating about trains and journeys. There (1) \_\_\_\_\_ certain symbols and signages inside and outside of the train. The (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of most of them might not be known to everyone. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ you are a frequent traveller or not, you may have (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the letter X or a cross mark on the back of the last (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the train.

**21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. were
- B. are
- C. had been
- D. will be

**22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. Senses
- B. Charge
- C. Worth
- D. Meanings

**23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

- A. Whether
- B. Whichever
- C. Whatever
- D. However

**24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**

- A. Distinguished
- B. Recognised
- C. Noticed
- D. Known

**25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

- A. Booth
- B. Coach
- C. Bus
- D. Rail



## Answers

1. B    2. C    3. C    4. A    5. A    6. D    7. C    8. B    9. B    10. D    11. D    12. D  
 13. B    14. A    15. D    16. D    17. C    18. A    19. A    20. B    21. B    22. D    23. A    24. C  
 25. B

## Explanations

1. 'knock at the door' के बदले 'knocked at the door' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिया गया वाक्य simple past tense में है इसलिए verb की past form (knocked) का प्रयोग होगा न कि present form (knock) में।

2. **A tight corner** (phrase) – A difficult situation एक कठिन स्थिति

3. **Ransack** – Loot, rob, raid, despoil, plunder, vandalize, pillage, strip, ravage लूटना

**Antonym** – Protect रक्षा करना

- **Seize** – Grab, snatch, grasp, clutch, take hold of जब्त करना
- **Raid** – Attack, search, incursion, invasion, bust, foray, swoop, robbery धावा
- **Pilfer** – Steal, rob, thief, take, poach चोरी

4. **Centre** – the point that is equally distant from every point on the circumference of a circle or sphere केंद्र, मध्यविंदु

**Antonym** – Periphery परिधि

- **Clear** – Well-defined, sharp, distinct स्पष्ट
- **Mainstream** – Normal, typical, conventional, ordinary मुख्यधारा
- **Definite** – Sure, certain, positive, fixed, final निश्चित

5. **Improve** (verb) – make or become better. सुधारना, सुधरना

- **Progress** (verb) – forward or onward movement towards a destination. प्रगति करना
- **Advance** (verb) – move forwards in a purposeful way. आगे बढ़ना
- **Enrich** (verb) – improve or enhance the quality or value of. समृद्ध बनाना

6. **Eventually** (adverb) – in the end, especially after a long delay, dispute, or series of problems; ultimately आखिरकार

- **Initially** (adverb) – originally, firstly, primarily, at first शुरू
- **Primarily** (adverb) – Chiefly, mainly, principally, mostly, largely मुख्यतः
- **Originally** (adverb) – First, initially, formerly, firstly मूलतः

7. **Aquarium** – A tank for fish or water plants मछलीघर

- **Reservoir** – a large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply. जलाशय
- **Aviary** – a large cage, building, or enclosure for keeping birds in. पक्षीशाला

- **Museum** – a building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited. संग्रहालय

8. **Idol** – An image of a God used for worship प्रतिमा

- **Model** – a thing used as an example to follow or imitate. नमूना
- **Icon** – a devotional painting of Christ or another holy figure, typically executed on wood and used ceremonially in the Byzantine and other Eastern Churches. मूर्ति
- **Temple** – a building devoted to the worship of a god or gods. मंदिर

9. **DCBA**

The road is one of the great fundamental institutions of mankind. It is the road which determines the site of many cities and the growth and nourishment of all. It also provides framework to all economic development. Finally, it can be termed as the channel for all trade, and what is more important, of all ideas.

10. 'a most luminous' के बदले 'the most luminous' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि superlative adjective के साथ 'The' article का प्रयोग होता है!

11. Whale sharks are caught commercially in some places around the world.

12. Praveen is watching a cartoon film.

13. She asked her if she would ready her suit the next day.

14. 'Are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का subject (i.e. Pizza) है जो की singular है तो singular verb (i.e. is) का प्रयोग होगा!

15. 'There was a good' के बदले 'it was a good idea' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिए गए वाक्य में Idea एक singular subject है और इसके लिए हम 'it' का प्रयोग singular pronoun के रूप में करेंगे न कि 'there' का।

16. **Welfare** – the health, happiness, and fortunes of a person or group. कल्याण

- **Deceive** (verb) – deliberately cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, especially for personal gain. धोखा देना
- **Leisure** (noun) – time when one is not working or occupied; free time. अवकाश

17. **Trendy** – very fashionable or up to date. फैशनेबल

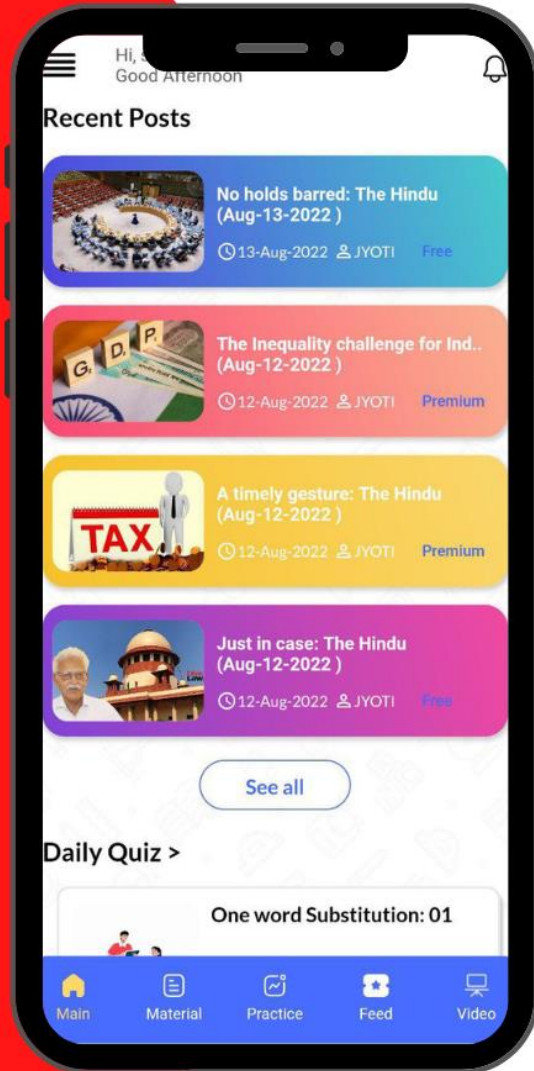
18. No substitution required

19. **Nip in the bud** – To destroy early रोकना शुरुआत में

20. 'to partake' के बदले 'to partake of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'partake' k baad fixed preposition 'of' का प्रयोग होता है जिसका अर्थ होता है 'to eat or drink something' (कुछ खाना या पीना)!

21. दिए गए रिक्त स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त शब्द 'Are' है। क्योंकि दिया गया passage simple present tense में है इसलिए verb को उसके present simple tense में ही प्रयोग होगा।

22. **Meaning** – the thing or idea that something represents; what somebody is trying to communicate  
किसी(शब्द) के द्वारा निर्दिष्ट वस्तु या विचार; अर्थ, जिसे संप्रेषित करने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है;  
तात्पर्य, प्रयोजन
23. रिक्त स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त शब्द 'whether' है क्योंकि 'whether....or' एक fixed conjunction pair है।
24. रिक्त स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त शब्द 'notice' है जिसका अर्थ होता है - 'to see and become conscious of something'
25. **Coach** – a railway carriage. कोच



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

