

## Public sphere vitiated: On Twitter after Elon Musk

Controversies have **dogged** Twitter since Elon Musk's **takeover**

It has been nearly two months since business **magnate** Elon Musk took control of Twitter Inc. after a \$44 billion **acquisition**. **The fear** that there would be a **loosening** of content standards under his **helmsmanship** **has played itself out** to be **eerily** true. Yet, no one could have **foreseen** the **chaos** that has **reigned** since the takeover of the popular social media platform. There has been a **whittling down** of the **workforce** which has also included summary **dismissals** based on **whimsical** reasons. The **loss** of employees, especially those working in the appeals process and other content **moderation** teams, **has hurt redress** processes. Poorly **thought-out decisions** such as users paying a monthly fee to get a "verified account" **have** been **overturned** after an embarrassing increase in **impersonation**. The Twitter **accounts** of some journalists **critical of** Mr. Musk or who **merely** reported on a controversial decision by Mr. Musk to suspend the accounts of flight trackers **have** been suspended too without proper notice or explanation. Twitter also came up with a controversial rule about users not posting links to specific and rival social media platforms. This **resulted in a severe backlash** and forced Mr. Musk to post a **poll** asking his over 122 million followers whether he should **step down** as the "head of Twitter", and in turn **eliciting** a majority response **in the affirmative**. Mr. Musk has now promised to find another CEO.

The past two months have **made it clear** that Mr. Musk is **out of his depth** in running operations in a platform that has gained **outsized significance** and **appeal** despite being unable to remain a financial success consistently. **For better or worse**, Twitter has become a key member of the Internet public sphere, connecting journalists, public officials and powerful corporate leaders to the people and allowing for the **dispersal** of news, opinions and **critiques**, even if it has also **retained aspects** related to hate speech, **bullying** and **disinformation**. Twitter had tried to **mitigate misgivings** about the platform by coming up with content **moderation** principles and a rules-based order to **govern** content, although it has been a work in progress. But ever since Mr. Musk took over, this has been **overshadowed** by his **arbitrary diktats** and **posturing**. He seems to be aware that the **loss** of advertisers (a process that has continued because of the lowering of content standards) and of reputation (because of his **arbitrariness**) **will** further hurt the company's financial interests. This explains why he has agreed to step down. But his **innate tendency** of being a political reactionary **seems to get in the way** of doing the right thing. A more democratic and well-governed social media universe with newer platforms can help reduce the harm, but Twitter and its users also deserve better.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Arbitrariness** (noun) – the quality of being based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason: मनमानी
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

1. **Sphere** (noun) – domain, realm, province, field, area of interest क्षेत्र
2. **Vitiate** (verb) – to make something less effective; to spoil something विकृत करना; निरस्त करना,
3. **Dog** (verb) – (of a problem) cause continual trouble for. परेशानी का कारण बनना
4. **Takeover** (noun) – an act of assume control of something. कार्यभार सँभालना
5. **Magnate** (noun) – a wealthy and influential businessman or businesswoman
6. **Acquisition** (noun) – the act of obtaining अधिग्रहण
7. **Loosening** (noun) – an act of making something less strict.
8. **Helmsmanship** (noun) – a person who directs or control something
9. **Play out** (phrasal verb) – happen; take place. घटित होना
10. **Eerily** (adverb) – weirdly, strangely विचित्र रूप से
11. **Foresee** (verb) – be aware of beforehand; predict. पूर्वानुमान करना
12. **Chaos** (noun) – disorder, disarray, disorganization, confusion अव्यवस्था
13. **Reign** (verb) – rule, dominate, prevail, predominate, control शासन करना
14. **Whittle down** (phrasal verb) – to gradually reduce the size of something or the number of people in a group धीरे-धीरे कम करना
15. **Workforce** (noun) – employees, staff, personnel, human resources
16. **Dismissal** (noun) – Removal from office, sacking, removal, discharge, the sack पदच्युति, बरखास्तगी
17. **Whimsical** (adjective) – Erratic, unpredictable, random, impulsive, capricious सनकी
18. **Moderation of content** (noun) – the process of detecting contributions that are irrelevant, obscene, illegal, harmful, or insulting with regards to useful or informative contributions. The purpose of content moderation is to remove or apply a warning label to problematic content or allow users to block and filter content themselves
19. **Hurt** (verb) – harm, damage, weaken, mar, impair प्रभावित करना
20. **Redress** (noun) – reparation, compensation, reimbursement कष्ट-निवारण, समाधान

21. **Though-out** (adjective) – planned  
योजनाबद्ध
22. **Overturn** (verb) – reverse, annul,  
overthrow, revoke, rescind उलट देना
23. **Impersonation** (noun) – the act of  
pretending to be someone else, with  
intent to mislead or deceive प्रतिरूपण,  
छद्मरूपण
24. **Critical of** (adjective) – in opposition to,  
Anti, hostile to, opposed to, not in  
favour of विरोध में
25. **Merely** (adverb) – only, purely, solely,  
simply सिर्फ, केवल
26. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – give rise to,  
lead to, bring about, bring, produce  
नतीजतन
27. **Severe** (adjective) – acute, very bad,  
serious, grave, critical गंभीर, तीव्र
28. **Backlash** (noun) – a strong negative  
reaction by a large number of people,  
especially to a social or political  
development. प्रतिक्रिया
29. **Poll** (noun) – Election चुनाव
30. **Step down** (phrasal verb) – withdraw,  
resign (from a position or office) पद  
छोड़ना
31. **Elicit** (verb) – obtain, extract, draw,  
educate प्राप्त करना
32. **In the affirmative** (phrase) – positive,  
or showing agreement/concurrence  
सकारात्मक सहमति
33. **Make clear** (phrase) – explain,  
elucidate, spell out, clarify स्पष्ट करना
34. **Out of one's depth** (phrase) – in a  
situation that is beyond one's  
capabilities; not knowing a lot about  
something
35. **Outsized** (adjective) – exceptionally  
large, enormous, massive, vast, big,  
huge, immense, gigantic अत्यधिक
36. **Significance** (noun) – Importance,  
impact, substance, consequence महत्व
37. **Appeal** (noun) – Charm, attractiveness,  
attraction, influence आकर्षण
38. **For better or worse** (phrase) – whether  
the outcome is good or bad. परिणाम  
अच्छा हो या बुरा।
39. **Dispersal** (noun) – the action or  
process of distributing or spreading  
things or people over a wide area.  
प्रसार, फैलाव
40. **Critique** (noun) – a detailed analysis  
and assessment of something,  
especially a literary, philosophical, or  
political theory समालोचना
41. **Retain** (verb) – keep, hold, maintain,  
preserve बनाए/ बरकरार रखना

42. **Aspect** (noun) – A distinct feature or element पहलू
43. **Bullying** (noun) – the behaviour of a person who hurts or frightens someone smaller or less powerful, डराना-धमकाना
44. **Disinformation** (noun) – false information spread in order to deceive people: दुष्प्रचार
45. **Mitigate** (verb) – alleviate, reduce, ease, lessen, relieve कम करना
46. **Misgivings** (noun) – Qualm, doubt, suspicion, hesitation, worry, unease, mistrust संदेह, डर
47. **Govern** (verb) – determine, decide, control, regulate, direct, rule नियंत्रित करना
48. **Overshadow** (verb) – appear more prominent or important than.
49. **Arbitrary** (adjective) – capricious, whimsical, random, chance, erratic मनमाना
50. **Diktat** (noun) – An order or decree imposed by someone in power without popular consent. फरमान
51. **Posturing** (noun) – behaviour that is intended to impress or mislead. तेवर
52. **Innate** (adjective) – Inborn, distinctive, characteristics, essential, native, inherent, intrinsic सहज, जन्मजात,
53. **Get in the way** (phrase) – prevent something from happening. रोकना

## Practice Exercise

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

**[Editorial page]**

1. **Whimsical**

- A. Solicitous
- B. Surreptitious
- C. Capricious
- D. Anguish

2. **Dispersal**

- A. Cogent
- B. Abate
- C. Impervious
- D. Spreading

3. **impersonation**

- A. Deceive
- B. Inundate
- C. Incisive
- D. Admonish

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

**Take one's foot off the pedal**

- A. Believe that someone is responsible for something.
- B. To make less effort and start to relax
- C. To say something clearly and with a lot of force so that you are certain people understand it
- D. To accomplish something that most would deem impossible

5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

**India's industrial output rose 7.1 per cent year-on-year in April.**

**P.** The National Statistical Office's data tallies with what private consumer research firms have also been putting out.

**Q.** Kantar Worldpanel has reported volume contraction in the country's FMCG market for the last three consecutive quarters.

**R.** NielsenIQ has estimated India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector to have registered minus 4.1 per cent year-on-year volume growth in January-March,

**S.** What's worrying, however, is consumer non-durables production growing by just 0.3 per cent in April, on top of 3.3 per cent for 2021-22.

**T.** minus 2.6 per cent in October-December, and 1.4 per cent in July-September.

**U.** Coming after a 11.4 per cent increase for the whole of 2021-22, it points to a recovery, albeit from the negative growth of the preceding lockdown-impacted fiscal.

Which among the following will be the **Second** 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. A. Science has given us a lot, yet life is becoming more and more painful.  
B. She was startled to see in her drawing room a most popular film producer.  
C. He often tells us that he does not like anything more than sleeping peacefully.  
D. The manager put forward a number of criterions for the post.  
E. All are correct
7. A. It was no other than Indira Gandhi who evinced an exceptional ability to lead the country to fame  
B. She had no other hobby than that of wearing a dress of the latest design.  
C. He is the most successful man in the world I have ever known.  
D. The railway have made crossing tracks a punished offence.  
E. All are correct
8. A member shall be required (A)/ to pay interest at such rate (B)/ as is fixed by the committee. (C)/ No error (D)
9. Citizens cannot afford (A)/ to take the law (B)/ out of their hands. (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
  - A. Plagiarize
  - B. Inoculate
  - C. Athiest
  - D. Achieve

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

**(The Hindu Editorial: Shadow over Soren – 27 Aug, 2022)**

Uncertainty looms largely over Hemant Soren's continuation **(A)/** as Jharkhand Chief Minister as he is likely **(B)/** to be disqualified by the Governor as Member of the Legislative Assembly; the Governor has received **(C)/** the Election Commission of India's opinion on the question. **(D)**

But that technicality apart, it is a huge loss of face for him and the parties that form the ruling coalition in Jharkhand, i.e., the JMM, the Congress, and the RJD. **(1)/** The case against him has its roots in a mining lease that he gave himself as a Minister for Mines in 2021. **(2)/** He could also get elected in the meantime. **(3)/** Technically speaking, Mr. Soren could remain in the post for up to six months without being an MLA. **(4)/** The BJP complained to the Governor on February 11, 2022, that this act was in violation of Section 9(A) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The Governor referred the complaint to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for its opinion, as required by law, on March 28. On August 25, the ECI wrote to the Governor that Mr. Soren could be disqualified under Section 9(A). The awarding of a mining lease to himself was a \_\_\_\_\_**11**\_\_\_\_\_ act of self-service, misuse of office and breach of people's trust. One cannot also not take note of the innocence of his thought that such a transparent act of corruption would go unnoticed or unpunished \_\_\_\_\_**12**\_\_\_\_\_ of his father

Shibu Soren going to a bank and depositing the cash he had received as bribe. Mr. Soren's agonies may not end with disqualification. Two PILs against him are pending in the Jharkhand High Court which seek a **probe (A)** into the **alleged (B)** allotment of mining lease for a stone quarry in a 0.88-acre land parcel in the Angara Block of Ranchi and the alleged laundering of money via some shell companies said to be linked to his family members. On June 3, the High Court accepted the **maintainability (C)** of the PILs, holding that they did not suffer from any **anomaly (D)**.

In separate pleas, the High Court's decision was challenged by the Chief Minister and the State government in the Supreme Court, which on August 17 reserved its order in the matter and stayed the High Court proceedings. The BJP is waiting in the wings to \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ the Jharkhand government, and has tasted blood. The arrest in July of three Jharkhand Congress MLAs in West Bengal with huge amounts of money they had allegedly received to defect was a smoking gun. \_\_\_\_\_ **14** \_\_\_\_\_ by proceedings of disqualification as an MLA and potentially facing a corruption investigation, Mr. Soren will have diminished authority over the MLAs of the alliance. The honourable thing for him to do in this instance of disqualification would be to resign as Chief Minister. His absence from the central seat of power in the State will be a test for the alliance and its government.

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

11. The awarding of a mining lease to himself was a \_\_\_\_\_ **11** \_\_\_\_\_ act of self-service, misuse of office and breach of people's trust.
  - A. Desiccating
  - B. Elliptical
  - C. Disinterested
  - D. Brazen
12. One cannot also not take note of the innocence of his thought that such a transparent act of corruption would go unnoticed or unpunished \_\_\_\_\_ **12** \_\_\_\_\_ of his father Shibu Soren going to a bank and depositing the cash he had received as bribe.
  - A. Reminiscent
  - B. Magnanimous
  - C. Dubious
  - D. Sequester
13. The BJP is waiting in the wings to \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ the Jharkhand government, and has tasted blood.
  - A. Impetuous
  - B. Transgress
  - C. Upend
  - D. Rogue
14. \_\_\_\_\_ **14** \_\_\_\_\_ by proceedings of disqualification as an MLA and potentially facing a corruption investigation, Mr. Soren will have diminished authority over the MLAs of the alliance.
  - A. Ebullient
  - B. Cornered
  - C. Salutory

- D. Frenetic
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.**  
Uncertainty looms largely over Hemant Soren's continuation **(A)**/ as Jharkhand Chief Minister as he is likely **(B)**/ to be disqualified by the Governor as Member of the Legislative Assembly; the Governor has received **(C)**/ the Election Commission of India's opinion on the question. **(D)**
- A. (A)  
B. (B)  
C. (C)  
D. (D)  
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**  
But that technicality apart, it is a huge loss of face for him and the parties that form the ruling coalition in Jharkhand, i.e., the JMM, the Congress, and the RJD. **(1)**/ The case against him has its roots in a mining lease that he gave himself as a Minister for Mines in 2021. **(2)**/ He could also get elected in the meantime. **(3)**/ Technically speaking, Mr. Soren could remain in the post for up to six months without being an MLA. **(4)**
- A. 1234  
B. 2341  
C. 4312  
D. 2143  
E. 4231
17. **Find out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following question**
- (i) Congenital division of the left atrium is an unusual congenital \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) Flooding is an \_\_\_\_\_ in desert regions of Africa.
- (iii) The \_\_\_\_\_ of the social security system is that you sometimes have more money without a job.
- A. Investigation  
B. Allotment  
C. Association  
D. Anomaly  
E. None of the above
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.**  
Two PILs against him are pending in the Jharkhand High Court which seek a **probe (A)** into the **alleged (B)** allotment of mining lease for a stone quarry in a 0.88-acre land parcel in the Angara Block of Ranchi and the alleged laundering of money via some shell companies said to



be linked to his family members. On June 3, the High Court accepted the **maintainability (C)** of the PILs, holding that they did not suffer from any **anomaly (D)**.

- A. ABCD
- B. CDAB
- C. ABDC
- D. DABC
- 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) Going out with Herry has its risks.
  - (ii) Being with Jenny is as easy as falling off a log.
- A. However
  - B. Although
  - C. By comparison
  - D. Unless
  - E. Yet

20. **Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks**

I was fascinated \_\_\_\_\_ her because of her admirable manners.

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

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

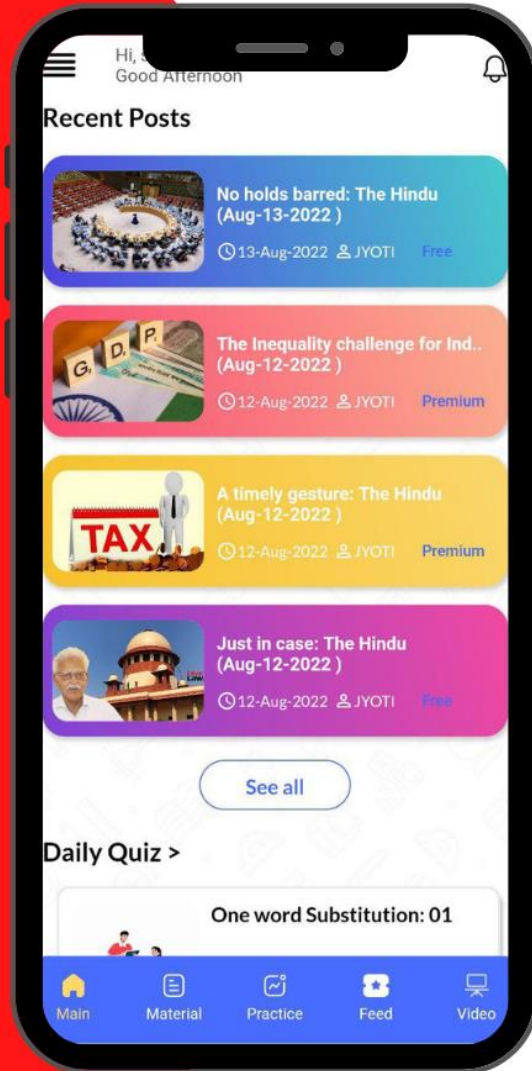
## Explanations

4. **Take one's foot off the pedal**(phrase) – to make less effort and start to relax आराम करना
5. **USPRTQ**  
 India's industrial output rose 7.1 per cent year-on-year in April. Coming after a 11.4 per cent increase for the whole of 2021-22, it points to a recovery, albeit from the negative growth of the preceding lockdown-impacted fiscal. What's worrying, however, is consumer non-durables production growing by just 0.3 per cent in April, on top of 3.3 per cent for 2021-22. The National Statistical Office's data tallies with what private consumer research firms have also been putting out. NielsenIQ has estimated India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector to have registered minus 4.1 per cent year-on-year volume growth in January-March, minus 2.6 per cent in October-December, and 1.4 per cent in July-September. Kantar Worldpanel has reported volume contraction in the country's FMCG market for the last three consecutive quarters.
6. 'criterions' के बदले 'criteria' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'criterion' एक singular countable noun है जिसका plural 'criteria' होता है, न कि 'criterions'
- 'criterions' will be used instead of 'criteria' because 'criterion' is a singular countable noun whose plural is 'criteria' and not 'criterions'.
7. 'punished' के बदले 'punishable' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'punishable offence' का अर्थ है 'दंडनीय अपराध'।
- 'punishable' will be used instead of 'punished'.
8. 'such rate' के बदले 'such a rate' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि such के बाद 'a/an' का प्रयोग होता है यदि इसके बाद singular countable noun का प्रयोग हो; जैसे-
- i. Such a boy.  
 ii. Such a book.
- 'such a rate' will be used instead of 'such rate' because 'a/an' is used after such if it is followed by a singular countable noun; like-
- i. Such a boy.  
 ii. Such a book.
9. 'out of their hands' के बदले 'into their own hands' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'take the law into one's own hands' का अर्थ है 'कानून को अपने हाथ में लेना'
- 'out of their hands' will be replaced with 'into their own hands'.
10. **Atheist** (noun) – Someone who denies the existence of god अनीश्वरवादी

11. **Reminiscent of** (phrase) – Similar to or suggestive of a particular person or thing. की याद दिलाना
12. **Brazen** (adjective) –bold and without shame. बेशर्मा
13. **Upend** (verb) – Overturn, topple, flip over, turn turtle उलट देना
14. **Corner** (verb) – to force a person into a place or situation from which there is no escape कठिनाई में डालना
15. Replace 'Loom largely' with 'Loom large' as 'loom large' is a phrase which means to become or seem more important and often cause worry.
16. (C) **4312**  
Technically speaking, Mr. Soren could remain in the post for up to six months without being an MLA. He could also get elected in the meantime. But that technicality apart, it is a huge loss of face for him and the parties that form the ruling coalition in Jharkhand, i.e., the JMM, the Congress, and the RJD. The case against him has its roots in a mining lease that he gave himself as a Minister for Mines in 2021.
17. **Anomaly** (noun) – abnormalcy, abnormality; deviation from the normal or common order or form or rule विसंगति
18. Two PILs against him are pending in the Jharkhand High Court which seek a probe into the alleged allotment of mining lease for a stone quarry in a 0.88-acre land parcel in the Angara Block of Ranchi and the alleged laundering of money via some shell companies said to be linked to his family members. On June 3, the High Court accepted the maintainability of the PILs, holding that they did not suffer from any anomaly.
19. Going out with Herry has its risks, **By comparison**, being with Jenny is as easy as falling off a log.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Solicitous</b>	adjective	Eager and attentive, often to the point of hovering; anxiously caring or attentive	चिंताशील, उत्सुक और चौकस
	<b>Surreptitious</b>	adjective	Sneaky; secret	छल से किया हुआ
	<b>Anguish</b>	noun	Agonizing physical or mental pain	पीड़ा, वेदना
Q2	<b>Cogent</b>	adjective	Powerfully convincing	ठोस, यकीनी
	<b>Abate</b>	verb	To subside; to reduce	कम करना, रोक-थाम करना
	<b>Impervious</b>	adjective	Not allowing anything to pass	अभेद्य, अप्रवेश्य
Q3	<b>Inundate</b>	verb	To flood; to cover completely with water; to overwhelm	बाढ़ लाना
	<b>Incisive</b>	adjective	Cutting right to the heart of the matter	काटा हुआ
	<b>Admonish</b>	verb	To scold gently; to warn	डाँटना, चेताना
Q11	<b>Desiccate</b>	verb	To dry out	सूखना
	<b>Elliptical</b>	adjective	Oval; missing a word or words; obscure	अंडाकार
	<b>Disinterested</b>	adjective	Not taking sides; unbiased	उदासीन, स्वार्थरहित
Q12	<b>Magnanimous</b>	adjective	Forgiving; unresentful ; noble in spirit; generous	उदार
	<b>Dubious</b>	adjective	Full of doubt; uncertain	संदिग्ध
	<b>Sequester</b>	verb	To set or keep apart	पृथक, एकांत में रहना
Q13	<b>Impetuous</b>	adjective	Impulsive; extremely impatient	अविवेकी
	<b>Transgress</b>	verb	To violate (A law); to sin	उल्लंघन करना
	<b>Rogue</b>	noun	Criminally dishonest person; a scoundrel	दुष्ट
Q14	<b>Ebullient</b>	adjective	Boiling; bubbling with excitement; exuberant	उत्तेजित, जोशीला
	<b>Salutary</b>	adjective	Healthful; remedial; curative	लाभदायक, स्वास्थ्यप्रद
	<b>Frenetic</b>	adjective	Frantic; frenzied	उत्तेजित, क्रोधित



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