

Ayes and nays: On remote EVMs for domestic migrants

Higher **turnout** is worth **striving for**, but not without sufficient safeguards

Given the regional **variations** in **demographic** trends and economic opportunities, India has a high rate of **migration**, which doubled in the census **decade** of 2001-2011. Migrants **often** see their political and economic rights **compromised** at their place of origin and residence. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has now proposed a **mechanism** to **facilitate remote** voting for domestic migrants. The Remote Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) **prototype** can be used for up to 72 constituencies simultaneously from a single, remote polling **booth**. The ECI has invited political parties for a **demonstration** of the prototype on January 16. A **concept note** by the Commission **takes into account** the legal, operational, administrative and technological challenges **at hand**. Voter participation is comparatively high in India; yet, in 2019, one in three voters did not **turn up**. **Going by** the 2017 Economic Survey, there are around 14 crore internal migrants in the country, and they have to cross many **hurdles** to be able to vote. Anything that **advances** their rights must be **welcomed**. But a **hurried** move will only do more damage to the **integrity** of the electoral process, which many fear is **eroding**, and for valid reasons. The ECI's **recent conduct**, including in the 2022 Gujarat Assembly elections, **has** been less than **reassuring**.

The ECI **proposes** to have remote voting for migrants as early as this year. While there is no technical basis for **allegations** of fraud in the current, single-constituency, non-networked EVMs, public trust in them has never been lower than it is today. Public trust is the only strength of any electoral process. With EVMs, the voter has no way to see whether the vote is recorded as it is **cast**. The ECI's **ambitious** plan **comes against this backdrop** of public **scepticism** about its own **impartiality** and, less **justifiably**, about the **reliability** of the EVMs. The proposed plan will **add** more questions **to the mix**, including some **fundamental** ones such as about the **correlation** between citizenship and **territoriality**. In an **era** of **unprecedented** human **mobility**, the **idea** of **portable** voting rights **is** worth **considering**, but it will have **far-reaching ramifications** that should be **accounted for**. Defining a migrant who is eligible to vote **remotely** is going to be controversial — **for instance**, when does a migrant at a place become a resident? Even the ECI had expressed doubts about the practicality of remote voting rights for migrants in the past. **Meanwhile**, there is also an active demand for voting rights for Non-Resident Indians. Higher turnout is worth striving for, but not without sufficient safeguards. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Ayes and nays** (noun) – A vote in which members usually respond "yes" or "no"
2. **Turnout** (noun) – attendance, number of people present (voting in an election) उपस्थिति
3. **Strive** (for) (verb) – attempt, endeavour, aim, aspire, venture, प्रयास करना
4. **Safeguard** (noun) – protection, precaution, safety measure, safety net सुरक्षा/ बचाव
5. **Given** (adjective) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
6. **Variation** (noun) – change, difference, variance, alteration, deviation विविधता
7. **Demographic trends** (adjective) – any measurable change in the characteristics of a population over time
8. **Migration** (noun) – movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions. प्रवास
9. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
10. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again अक्सर
11. **Compromise** (verb) – expediently accept standards that are lower than is desirable समझौता करना
12. **Mechanism** (noun) – procedure, process, system, operation, method तंत्र, क्रियाविधि
13. **Facilitate** (verb) – make (an action or process) easy or easier. सुविधाजनक बनाना
14. **Remote** (adjective) – distant, faraway, far-off, detached दूरस्थ
15. **Prototype** (noun) – example, model, original, exemplar नमूना
16. **Booth** (noun) – A polling station मतदान स्थल
17. **Demonstration** (noun) – presentation, display, evidence, show प्रदर्शन
18. **Concept note** (noun) – A concept notes is a brief outline of the project you have in your mind. संक्षिप्त रूपरेखा
19. **Take into account** (phrase) – take into consideration, consider, bear in mind, include, keep in mind को ध्यान में रखना
20. **At hand** (phrase) – close in time; about to happen आसन्न
21. **Turn up** (phrasal verb) – to Arrive पहुंचना, आना

22. **Go by** (phrase) – be or act in accordance with; to follow or use information provided by something or someone: के अनुसार
23. **Hurdle** (noun) – obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, impediment बाधा
24. **Advance** (verb) – proceed, progress, go forward, move forward आगे बढ़ाना
25. **Welcome** (verb) – to be pleased to receive or accept something स्वीकार करना
26. **Hurried** (adjective) – Rushed, quick, speedy, swift, sudden, hasty जल्दी में हुआ
27. **Integrity** (noun) – morality, virtue, probity, uprightness अखंडता
28. **Erode** (verb) – undermine, eat away, diminish, abrade नष्ट करना
29. **Reassure** (verb) – encourage, assure, comfort, hearten, console आश्वस्त करना
30. **Propose** (verb) – suggest, submit, offer, put forward, advance प्रस्तावित करना
31. **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion आरोप
32. **Cast** (noun) – register (a vote). चुनाव में मतदान करना
33. **Ambitious** (adjective) – Having a strong desire for success or achievement महत्वाकांक्षी
34. **Come against backdrop of** (phrase) – in the context of के संदर्भ में
35. **Scepticism** (noun) – Cynicism, disbelief, doubt, uncertainty संदेहवाद
36. **Impartiality** (noun) – fairness, equity, justice, disinterest, objectivity निष्पक्षता
37. **Justifiably** (adverb) – justly, rightly, rightfully, properly, legitimately उचित रूप से
38. **Reliability** (noun) – Dependability, consistency, trustworthiness विश्वसनीयता
39. **Add to the mix** (phrase) – add another idea to an ongoing discussion
40. **Fundamental** (adjective) – basic and important; from which everything else develops बुनियादी और महत्वपूर्ण
41. **Correlation** (noun) – A reciprocal relation between two or more things सहसंबंध
42. **Territoriality** (noun) – refers to the monopolization of space by an individual or group.
43. **Era** (noun) – epoch, age, period, time, aeon, span युग

44. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – never having happened or existed in the past
अभूतपूर्व
45. **Mobility** (noun) – the ability to move from one place to another or travel easily एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाने का सामर्थ्य
46. **Portable** (adjective) – Moveable, transferrable, convenient, manageable
47. **Considering** (adjective) – bearing in mind, taking into consideration, taking into account ध्यान में रखते हुए
48. **Far-reaching** (adjective) – extensive, comprehensive, sweeping, broad, wide-ranging दूरगामी
49. **Ramification** (noun) – consequence, effect असर/ प्रभाव
50. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – constitute, make up, comprise, form, compose, be responsible for के लिये उत्तरदयी होना
51. **Remotely** (adverb) – far away from places where other people live दूर से
52. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, As, Such as उदाहरण के लिए
53. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – at the same time, simultaneously, concurrently, meantime इस दौरान

Practice Exercise

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

[Editorial page]

1. Anything that advances their rights must be welcomed
 - A. Mitigate
 - B. Progress
 - C. Revert
 - D. Ease
2. But a hurried move will only do more damage to the integrity of the electoral process, which many fear is eroding, and for valid reasons.
 - A. Peak
 - B. Aid
 - C. Undermine
 - D. Manage
3. The ECI's ambitious plan comes against this backdrop of public scepticism about its own impartiality and, less justifiably, about the reliability of the EVMs.
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Equity
 - C. Resilience
 - D. Buoyancy
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

If you fail this exam, it will seal your fate and make your GPA low enough to qualify for expulsion.

 - A. To solidify or confirm that a particular, usually unpleasant, thing will happen.
 - B. To continue making progress according to the intended or ideal plan.
 - C. To place or rest something above or on top of something else
 - D. Start to act or behave in a better or more responsible way
5. **Direction: Two 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.**
 - (i) India has the largest diaspora population(A)/, with nearly 1.35 crore non-resident(B)/ Indians spread across the globe.(C)
 - (ii) such as registering their(D)/ many of them leave the country for short-term work(E)/ and could miss out on exercising some of their rights(F)/ vote in India's Assembly or parliamentary elections.(G)
 - A. ABC, EFDG
 - B. DGFE, BAC
 - C. BAC, FDEG
 - D. FDGE, CBA
 - E. None of the above

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

6. Most of the Indian populations still lives (A)/ in its villages and thus the contribution (B)/ of agriculture to Indian economy (C)/ becomes very important. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. Catherine's grandfather always (A)/ lost his balance while walking (B)/ and would be found fallen (C)/on the road (D)/ No Error(E)
8. Her doctor was (A)/ annoyed because she (B)/ ignore her health (C)/ even after being hospitalized twice. (D)/ No Error (E)
9. Lalit was worry (A)/ about telling his parents (B)/ that he wanted to move out (C)/ and live independently. (D)/ No Error(E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Cummulative
 - B. Semblance
 - C. Accrue
 - D. Surreptitious

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Persisting issues – Nov 23, 2022)

There are only 30 clauses, for simplicity, but resulting in aspects of privacy protections remaining under-clarified.(1)/ A new draft of the much-awaited data protection Bill, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill) 2022, is now open for public comments. (2)/ A case in point is how clauses define the need for consent from data principals for data fiduciaries to process their personal data.(3)/The Government had previously withdrawn an earlier draft by averring that it would come up with a “comprehensive legal framework” on data privacy and Internet regulation, and this draft seems to be a standalone attempt at bettering its previous iterations. (4)/ Now, a notice is to be provided for the consent of the data principal, and the withdrawal of consent should allow for fiduciaries to remove any such data stored or is to be shared with others. The new draft, **unlike(B)** the 2018 version, does not refer to **key(B)** data protection principles such as collection limitation — obligations on the data **fiduciaries(C)** to collect only such personal data that is required for the purpose of **processing(D)**. It also does not include obligations on data fiduciaries to inform principals about data sharing recipients, duration of storage, etc. Thus, the comprehensive protection (A)/ to data principals in the form of (B)/ the information provided on their personal data (C)/ and processing by data fiduciaries, is now missing.(D)/ It does, however, include a crucial clause on fiduciaries notifying principals and the data protection authority about breaches in stored data.

The new draft proposes the establishment of a Data Protection Board of India, whose strength and composition, the process of selection, etc. will be prescribed by the Union government. As with the earlier versions, this diverges from the Srikrishna Committee Draft which allowed for judicial _____(a)_____ in the selection process of the data protection authority. It is a concern that the proposed board will not have sufficient independence from the Union government; the state is also a data fiduciary which collects vast amounts of individual data. The 2018 Bill allowed for exemptions to be granted to state institutions from acquiring informed _____(b)_____ from data principals or to process their data in the case of matters related only to the “security of the state”, and also called for a law to provide for parliamentary oversight and judicial approval of non-consensual access to personal data. But the new draft Bill continues the wide-ranging and **vaguely** _____(c)_____

exemptions and instruments, allowing for the executive to collect information which could amount to mass surveillance. Public scrutiny notwithstanding, Parliament should work towards tightening the provisions in the data protection Bill and providing for a _____(d)_____ data protection law.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. As with the earlier versions, this diverges from the Srikrishna Committee Draft which allowed for judicial _____(a)_____ in the selection process of the data protection authority.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Opportunism
- (ii) Lapse
- (iii) Context
- (iv) Oversight

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. The 2018 Bill allowed for exemptions to be granted to state institutions from acquiring informed _____(b)_____ from data principals

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Theory
- (ii) Consent
- (iii) Subject
- (iv) Rule

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. But the new draft Bill continues the wide-ranging and vaguely _____(c)_____ exemptions and instruments, allowing for the executive to collect information which could amount to mass surveillance.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Diabolical
- (ii) Damning
- (iii) Worded
- (iv) Calumny

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. Public scrutiny notwithstanding, Parliament should work towards tightening the provisions in the data protection Bill and providing for a _____(d)_____ data protection law.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Aspect
- (ii) Deposition
- (iii) Respondent
- (iv) Robust

A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

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.**

Thus, the comprehensive protection (A)/ to data principals in the form of (B)/ the information provided on their personal data (C)/ and processing by data fiduciaries, is now missing.(D)/

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

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

There are only 30 clauses, for simplicity, but resulting in aspects of privacy protections remaining under-clarified.(1)/ A new draft of the much-awaited data protection Bill, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill) 2022, is now open for public comments. (2)/ A case in point is how clauses define the need for consent from data principals for data fiduciaries to process their personal data. (3)/The Government had previously withdrawn an earlier draft by averring that it would come up with a "comprehensive legal framework" on data privacy and Internet regulation, and this draft seems to be a standalone attempt at bettering its previous iterations. (4)/

- A. 2341
- B. 1234
- C. 2413
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

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

VAGUELY

- (i) I **vaguely** remembered having met her before.
- (ii) The film starts **vaguely** enough but doesn't maintain the interest level.
- (iii) The tool is noisy to use and **vaguely** dangerous.

- 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.**

The new draft, **unlike(B)** the 2018 version, does not refer to **key(B)** data protection principles such as collection limitation — obligations on the data **fiduciaries(C)** to collect only such personal data that is required for the purpose of **processing(D)**.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. D – B
- D. A – C
- E. No arrangement

19. **In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.**

- (i) I was not in a situation to step out of the house yesterday because of my severe headache
 - (ii) I attended the sales meeting at my office on the instructions of my senior management
- A. Like
 - B. Though
 - C. Nevertheless
 - D. As
 - E. None of these

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

My brother has a reputation _____ honesty

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

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- Advance** (verb) – proceed, progress, go forward, move forward आगे बढ़ाना
 - Mitigate** (verb) – alleviate, reduce, ease, lessen, relieve कम करना
 - Revert** (verb) – Return to (a previous state, topic, etc.) लौट आना, पलटना
 - Ease** (verb) – reduce, alleviate, lessen कम होना
- Erode** (verb) – undermine, eat away, diminish, abrade नष्ट करना
 - Aid** (verb) – help, assist, support, abet सहायता करना
 - Peak** (verb) – to reach the highest point or value चरम पर पहुँचना
 - Manage** (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, or producing, especially with difficulty सफल होना
- Impartiality** (noun) – fairness, equity, justice, disinterest, objectivity निष्पक्षता
 - Optimistic** (adjective) – hopeful, positive, upbeat, bright, confident आशावादी
 - Resilience** (noun) – strength, toughness, hardiness; flexibility, ability to bounce back लचीलाता, तन्यकता
 - Buoyancy** (noun) – progress, improvement, expansion, mushrooming, उछाल
- Seal one's fate** (Phrase) – To solidify or confirm that a particular, usually unpleasant, thing will happen निश्चित रूप से होना है
- ABC, EFDG**
 India has the largest diaspora population, with nearly 1.35 crore non-resident Indians spread across the globe. Many of them leave the country for short-term work and could miss out on exercising some of their rights such as registering their vote in India's Assembly or parliamentary elections.
- (A) 'populations' के बदले 'population' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'population' जिसका अर्थ है 'आबादी' का Plural नहीं बनाया जाता है।
 - 'population' will be used instead of 'populations' because 'population' which means 'all the inhabitants of a particular place.' is not made plural.
- (C) 'would be found' के बदले 'was found' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब past की दो ऐसी घटनाओं का जिक्र हो जिनमें 'कारण' और 'परिणाम' का सम्बन्ध हो तो दोनों घटनाओं के लिए Simple Past का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
 - He lost his balance and fell down.
 - He was guilty, so he was punished.

- 'was found' will be used instead of 'would be found' because when two such events of past are mentioned in which 'cause' and 'result' are related then Simple Past is used for both the events; As-
 - i. He lost his balance and fell down.
 - ii. He was guilty, so he was punished.
8. (C) 'ignore' के बदले 'ignored' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस वाक्य में past की दो घटनाओं का जिक्र है जिनमें कारण तथा परिणाम का सम्बन्ध है।
- 'ignored' will be used instead of 'ignore' because in this sentence two events of the past are mentioned in which cause and effect are related.
9. (A) 'worry' के बदले 'worried' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'he worried' का अर्थ है 'चिंतित होना'; जैसे-
- i. She is worried about her daughter's health.
- 'worried' will be used instead of 'worry' because 'he worried' means 'to be worried'; As-
 - i. She is worried about her daughter's health.
10. **Cumulative** (adjective) – collective, accumulated संचयी
11. **Oversight** (noun) – supervision, surveillance, superintendence, inspection निरीक्षण/ निगरानी
- **Opportunism** (noun) – expediency, exploitation, taking advantage, Machiavellianism, अवसरवाद
 - **Lapse** (noun) – failure, failing, slip, error, mistake, blunder चूक, भूल
 - **Context** (noun) – perspective, circumstance, condition, setting, milieu संदर्भ
12. **Informed consent** (noun) – permission granted in full knowledge of the possible consequences सूचित सहमति
13. **Worded** (adjective) – Expressed, uttered, phrased, formulated शब्दों वाली
- **Diabolical** (adjective) – extremely bad or shocking:
 - **Damning** (adjective) – suggesting that someone is guilty दोषारोपणात्मक
 - **Calumny** (noun) – defamation, slander, denigration, libel, misrepresentation कलंक, झूठा अभियोग
14. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मजबूत
- **Aspect** (noun) – A distinct feature or element पहलू
 - **Deposition** (noun) – statement, evidence, confession बयान
 - **Respondent** (noun) – the person who is accused of something in a legal case: प्रतिवादी
15. No Error
16. (C) **2413**
- A new draft of the much-awaited data protection Bill, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill) 2022, is now open for public comments. The Government had previously withdrawn an earlier draft by averring that it would come up with a “comprehensive legal

framework” on data privacy and Internet regulation, and this draft seems to be a standalone attempt at bettering its previous iterations. There are only 30 clauses, for simplicity, but resulting in aspects of privacy protections remaining under-clarified. A case in point is how clauses define the need for consent from data principals for data fiduciaries to process their personal data.

17. **Vaguely** (adverb) – Unclearly, ambiguously, indistinctly, imprecisely अस्पष्ट

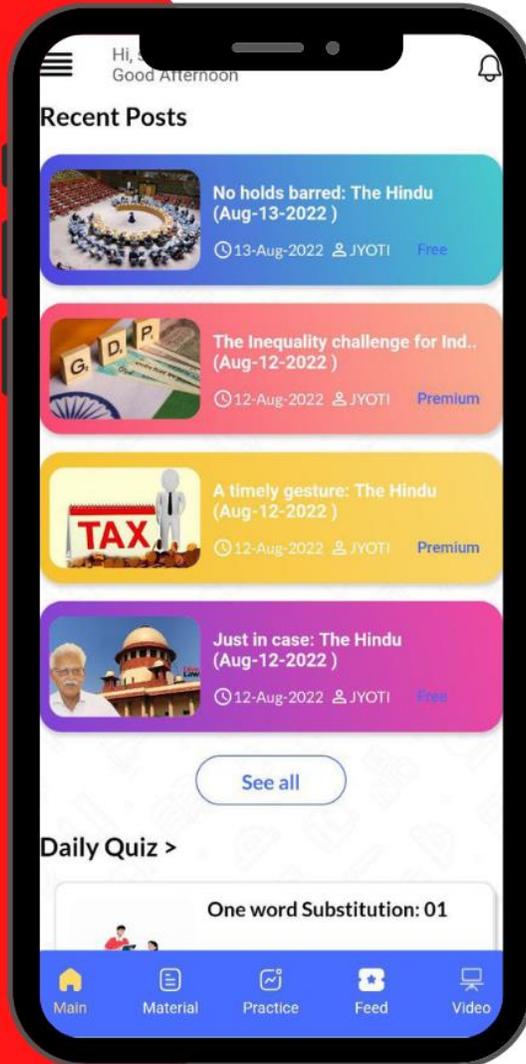
According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.

Because the (ii) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

The film starts promisingly enough but doesn't maintain the interest level.

The tool is noisy to use and deceptively dangerous.

18. The new draft, unlike the 2018 version, does not refer to key data protection principles such as collection limitation — obligations on the data fiduciaries to collect only such personal data that is required for the purpose of processing.
19. I was not in a situation to step out of the house yesterday because of my severe headache; **nevertheless**, I attended the sales meeting at my office on the instructions of my senior management.



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