

Portentous overkill: On the BBC documentary on PM Modi

Arrests and blocking of access to the British Broadcasting Corporation documentary **were** **unwarranted**

The **aftermath** of the release of a BBC documentary on the Gujarat **pogrom** of 2002, which questions the actions taken by the then Gujarat government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **can** only be **termed** as yet another **rendition** of the ‘**Streisand effect**’. After issuing directions to disable access to the first **episode** on websites using emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021 and Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) also blocked over 50 tweets with a link to the documentary. But this only **resulted in** citizens gaining access through **screenings** and shares over smartphones — **akin to** how the **suppression** of information has the **unintended consequences** of raising more awareness, or the ‘**Streisand effect**’. **Other actions** such as the police **detention** of 13 students at Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi, **on the pretext** that they were about to have a screening **were** an overkill and **amounted to** an **abuse** of power. It goes without saying that the government should not **arbitrarily** block the **dissemination** of media content just because it is **critical of** the **regime**. **Its justification** to use emergency powers to block access to the documentary, as being **propagandist** and of a **colonial mindset**, **does** not **hold water** if it is seen in the **continuum** of coverage of the pogrom and the aftermath. In any case, **propaganda** should be **countered** by propaganda, and not **ensorship**.

The **events** that **led to** the pogrom, the **horrific** crimes, the **callousness** of the then regime and the lack of sufficient **recourse** to law and order steps, **have** all been well recorded and **commented upon** in the Indian press. The BBC documentary is just another media investigation into a portion of India’s history that changed the **course** of the polity not just in Gujarat but also **elsewhere**. The online **blocking** of the first episode using emergency powers **cannot** be justified on the basis provided by the MIB that it is “propagandist”, and only **reflects** a recent **tendency** to utilise IT rules to **assert executive power** rather than **address** this as a free speech issue. The IT rules were **amended** in February 2021 to allow for increased government control over online news publications — actions that are now being heard in courts. Recent High Court orders have also **weighed in on** the need to protect free speech and have **stayed** the government’s moves to control freedom of expression on digital platforms. In its actions, a clear **case** can be made that the central government is more **keen** on blocking critical content than using the IT rules to **regulate** hate speech and misinformation — the true **bane** of the digital media **ecosystem** today.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Portentous** (adjective) – done in a pompously or overly solemn manner so as to impress. असाधारण/ गैरमामूली
2. **Overkill** (noun) – excessive use, treatment, or action. कार्रवाई
3. **Documentary** (noun) – film or television or radio programme that provides a factual report on a particular subject.
4. **Unwarranted** (adjective) – unjustified, undue, groundless, unreasonable, unfounded अनुचित
5. **Aftermath** (noun) – consequence, effect, outcome (of a significant unpleasant event) दुष्परिणाम
6. **Pogrom** (noun) – massacre, slaughter, mass murder, mass homicide, mass execution हत्याकांड
7. **Term** (verb) – call, name, entitle, title, designate, describe as कहना
8. **Rendition** (noun) – version, Interpretation प्रतिपादन
9. **Streisand effect** (noun) – the way in which attempts to hide, remove, or censor information can lead to the unintended consequence of increasing awareness of that information
10. **Episode** (noun) – incident, event, occurrence, happening, occasion घटना
11. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – give rise to, lead to, bring about, bring, produce नतीजतन
12. **Screening** (noun) – A showing of a movie, video, or television program.
13. **Akin to** (adjective) – Of similar character. सदृश, समान
14. **Suppression** (noun) – repression, crushing, oppression दमन
15. **Unintended** (adjective) – unintentional, accidental, inadvertent, unplanned, unwitting अनपेक्षित
16. **Consequence** (noun) – result, effect, outcome, upshot परिणाम
17. **Detention** (noun) – custody, imprisonment, arrest, confinement, incarceration हिरासत
18. **Pretext** (noun) – excuse, false excuse, ostensible reason बहाना
19. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – be equal to के बराबर होना
20. **Abuse** (noun) – misuse, mistreat, ill-treatment दुरुपयोग
21. **Arbitrarily** (adverb) – In an arbitrary manner; by will only; despotically; absolutely. मनमाने ढंग से

22. **Dissemination** (noun) – Distribution, broadcasting, diffusion, propagation, spreading प्रसार
23. **Critical of** (adjective) – in opposition to, Anti, hostile to, opposed to, not in favour of विरोध में
24. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration शासन
25. **Propagandist** (noun) – a person who disseminates messages calculated to assist some cause or some government प्रचारक
26. **Colonial** (adjective) – relating to or characteristic of a colony or colonies (i.e. britishers)
27. **Mindset** (noun) – Approach, attitude, mentality, outlook, belief नज़रिया/ दृष्टिकोण
28. **Hold water** (phrase) – appear to be valid, sound, or reasonable. मान्य प्रतीत होता है
29. **Continuum** (noun) – a range or series of things that are slightly different from each other and that exist between two different possibilities. निरंतरता
30. **Propaganda** (noun) – information and ideas that may be false or exaggerated, which are used to gain support for a political leader, party, etc. मतप्रचार, दुष्प्रचार
31. **Counter** (verb) – hit back at, answer, respond to, retort to, contradict विरोध करना
32. **Censorship** (noun) – the suppression of all or part of a play, movie, letter, or publication considered offensive or a threat to security
33. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
34. **Horrific** (adjective) – dreadful, awful, horrendous, horrible, terrible दहला देनेवाला
35. **Callousness** (noun) – insensitive and cruel disregard for others. निष्ठुरता
36. **Recourse** (to) (verb) – employ, use, utilize; resort to सहारा लेना
37. **Comment upon** (phrasal verb) – To speak about a particular topic. टिप्पणी करना
38. **Course** (noun) – a procedure adopted to deal with a situation कार्यप्रणाली
39. **Elsewhere** (adverb) – somewhere else, at another place, in another place और कहीं
40. **Reflect** (verb) – Reveal, expose, suggest, signal, indicate, show, display, manifest, exhibit, signify दर्शाना

41. **Tendency** (noun) – inclination, propensity, likelihood प्रवृत्ति
42. **Assert** (verb) – To defend or maintain (one's rights, for example).
43. **Executive power** (noun) – Executive power implies certain authority to control administration and manage various activities within a nation
44. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना
45. **Amend** (verb) – revise, alter, change, modify, qualify संशोधन करना
46. **Weigh in on** (phrase) – to give an opinion or enter a discussion or argument:
47. **Stay** (verb) – Stop, halt, delay, defer, postpone, adjourn, रोक लगाना
48. **Case** (noun) – Circumstance, situation, event, instance, occasion मामला, स्थिति
49. **Keen** (on) (adjective) – enthusiastic about, all in favour of, favourable toward, उत्सुक
50. **Regulate** (verb) – control, check, legalize नियंत्रण करना
51. **Bane** (noun) – something that causes trouble and makes somebody unhappy परेशानी का कारण, दुःख का कारण
52. **Ecosystem** (noun) – (in general use) a complex network or interconnected system. परिस्थितिकी तंत्र

Practice Exercise

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

[Editorial page]

1. **DETENTION**

- A. Custody
- B. Bizarre
- C. Intrinsic
- D. Promising

2. **PRETEXT**

- A. Excuse
- B. Exotic
- C. Compatible
- D. Demonstrate

3. **DISSEMINATION**

- A. Entangle
- B. Prompt
- C. Quirk
- D. Spreading

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

The film walks a fine line between parody and homage.

- A. To be the most important or most prevalent
- B. To achieve or maintain a balance
- C. Take an active role in what one is urging and directing others to do
- D. To achieve something at the loss of something

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) the weekend at Bengaluru reflected(A)/ The Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held over(B)/ financial heft and fresh hopes.(C)/
- (ii) its marketing viability and strong financial underpinnings.(D)/ can cope with two pandemic years and (E)/ That a league, domestic in spirit and international in flavour,(F)/ still remain economically robust is a pointer to(G)/

A. ABC, EFDG

B. DGFE, BAC

C. BAC, FEGD

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. While I am (A)/ doing the house works (B)/ I like to listen to (C)/ music on the radio. (D)/ no error(E)
- 7. I was very lucky (A)/ that day (B)/ and caught (C)/ a log of fish. (D)/ no error(E)

8. Several banks (A)/ are shown interest (B)/ in the proposed development (C)/ of the public sector. (D)/ no error(E)
9. In order (A)/ to be successful (B)/ you must worked (C)/ very hard. (D)/ no error(E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
- A. Embryology
B. Extrovert
C. Ebulient
D. Incongruous

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Back on track – Dec 13, 2022)

Her latest appointment as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) comes with a surfeit of goodwill. **(1)/** Decades ago, when P.T. Usha travelled by the Madras-Mangalore Mail, her employers, the Railways, permitted an unscheduled stop at her hometown Payyoli in North Kerala. **(2)/** Such was the respect she garnered for her medal-winning exploits at the Asian level while the collective heart-break she bequeathed in narrowly missing a bronze in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics is remembered even today. **(3)/** After she retired from track-and-field, she evolved as a coach, groomed fresh talent and kept an eye on the grassroots. **(4)/**

Additionally, it busts the patriarchy inherent in many sports hierarchies across India. She becomes the first woman president of the IOA, a post she was elected to ____a____. In a sense the IOA's hand was forced as factionalism drew censure from the International Olympic Committee and there were whispers of a ban. A change of guard from the earlier well-entrenched ____b____ with political links was inevitable and Usha was seen as the ideal candidate. Already a nominated Rajya Sabha member, Usha's latest sporting ____c____ was seen as an organic progress. Having handled many batons while running her famous relays, Usha will find the latest one perhaps the toughest to ____d____. As the umbrella organisation for sports bodies in India, the IOA has to deal with sister associations lost in dissidence. Stadiums become **white elephants**, leased out for housing loan expos or music concerts. Age-fudging and doping are grim realities as young athletes, seeking jobs, chase medals at the zonal, age-group and national levels. Medals **often(A)** secure a career **opening(B)** in public sector units, banks and a few corporates and Usha is **aware(C)** of this. She and her team of administrators that includes sportspersons and other officials, need to **crack(D)** the whip. For all the political jostling that happens during the elections, men and women representing opposite ideologies shake hands and become entrenched in sports administration, seeking brownie points and fame.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. She becomes the first woman president of the IOA, a post she was elected to ____a____.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Consistent
(ii) Unopposed
(iii) Transparent
(iv) Comprehensive
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. A change of guard from the earlier well-entrenched _____ b _____ with political links was inevitable and Usha was seen as the ideal candidate.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Credibility
 - (ii) Slowdown
 - (iii) Lobby
 - (iv) Omen
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. Already a nominated Rajya Sabha member, Usha's latest sporting _____ c _____ was seen as an organic progress.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) Variation
 - (ii) Elevation
 - (iii) Battering
 - (iv) Practice
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. Having handled many batons while running her famous relays, Usha will find the latest one perhaps the toughest to _____ d _____.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Drop
 - (ii) Emit
 - (iii) Manoeuvre
 - (iv) Bolster
- A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

15. **Identify the part of speech of given highlighted word**

For all the political **jostling** that happens during the elections, men and women representing opposite ideologies shake hands and become entrenched in sports administration, seeking brownie points and fame.

- A. Noun
- B. Adjective
- C. Verb
- D. Conjunction
- E. None of the above

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

Her latest appointment as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) comes with a surfeit of goodwill. **(1)**/ Decades ago, when P.T. Usha travelled by the Madras-Mangalore Mail, her employers, the Railways, permitted an unscheduled stop at her hometown Payyoli in North Kerala. **(2)**/ Such was the respect she garnered for her medal-winning exploits at the Asian level while the collective heart-break she bequeathed in narrowly missing a bronze in

the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics is remembered even today. (3)/ After she retired from track-and-field, she evolved as a coach, groomed fresh talent and kept an eye on the grassroots. (4)/

- A. 2341
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a phrase, Identify the best express (es) the meaning of the phrase.

White elephants

- A. To make someone do something that they are not willing to do
- B. To make people work very hard and treat them strictly and perhaps harshly
- C. To agree to pay money in order to use land, a building for a particular period of time
- D. Something that you no longer need and that is not useful any more, although it cost a lot of money
- 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.

Medals **often(A)** secure a career **opening(B)** in public sector units, banks and a few corporates and Usha is **aware(C)** of this. She and her team of administrators that includes sportspersons and other officials, need to **crack(D)** the whip

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. C – D
- 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) Meeting my boss at the pub was an interesting experience.

(ii) It was a disaster.

- A. Unlike
- B. Though
- C. In brief
- D. Otherwise
- E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

She blushed _____ the mention of her qualities.

- A. Of

- B. In
- C. At
- D. To

Answers

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

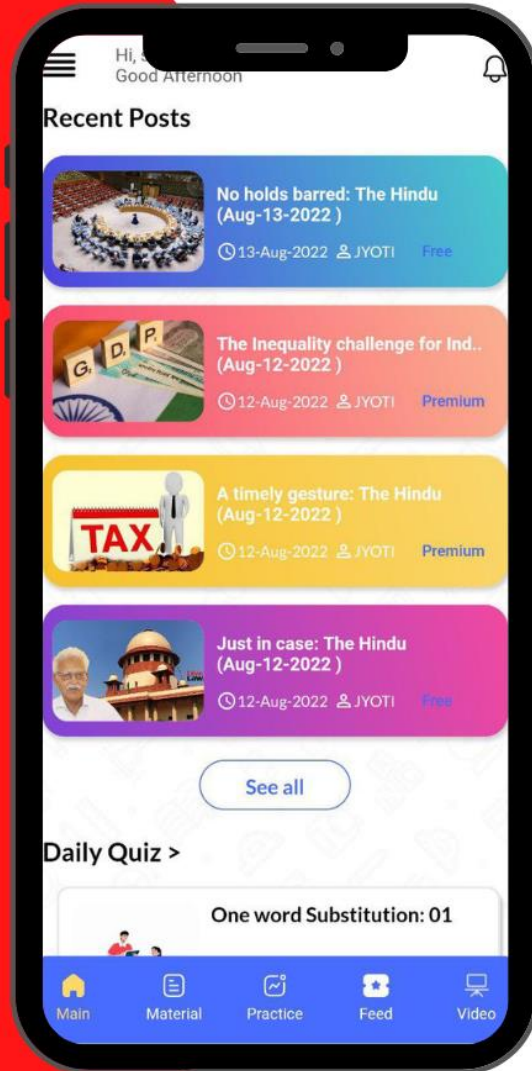
Explanations

- Detention** (noun) – custody, imprisonment, arrest, confinement, incarceration हिरासत
 - Bizarre** (adjective) – strange, unusual, peculiar विचित्र
 - Intrinsic** (adjective) –essential, innate, fundamental, basic आंतरिक/ स्वाभाविक
 - Promising** (adjective) – encouraging, auspicious, hopeful, bright आशाजनक
- Pretext** (noun) – excuse, false excuse, ostensible reason बहाना
 - Exotic** (adjective) – unusual, different अजीब, अनोखा
 - Compatible** (adjective) –appropriate, suitable, congruent अनुकूल
 - Demonstrate** (verb) – show, prove, display, manifest, evidence प्रदर्शित करना
- Dissemination** (noun) – Distribution, broadcasting, diffusion, propagation, spreading प्रसार
 - Entangle** (verb) – tangle, interweave, embroil उलझाना
 - Prompt** (verb) – induce, provoke, inspire, stimulate, motivate, lead प्रेरित करना
 - Quirk** (noun) – habit, oddity, trait, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity विचित्रता
- Walk a fine line** (phrase) – to achieve or maintain a balance संतुलन बनाना
- BAC, FEGD**
 The Indian Premier League (IPL) auction held over the weekend at Bengaluru reflected financial heft and fresh hopes. That a league, domestic in spirit and international in flavour, can cope with two pandemic years and still remain economically robust is a pointer to its marketing viability and strong financial underpinnings.
- (B) 'works' के बदले 'work' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि कामए कार्य के अर्थ में 'work' एक uncountable noun होता है और 'गृह कार्य' के लिए 'home work' का प्रयोग होता है।
 - 'work' will be used instead of 'works' because 'work' is an uncountable noun and 'home work' is used for 'home work'.
- (C) 'catched' के बदले 'caught' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'catch'(पकडना) का v^2 तथा v^3 रूप 'caught' होता है।
 - 'caught' will be used instead of 'catched' because 'caught' has v^2 and v^3 forms of 'caught'.
- (B) 'shown' के बदले 'showing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'several banks' active subject है जिसके बाद 'are' का प्रयोग v^4 के साथ present continuous tense बनाएगा।
 - 'shown' will be used instead of 'showing' because 'several banks' is the active subject after which the use of 'are' will form the present continuous tense with v^4 .

9. (C) 'worked' के बदले 'work' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'must' एक modal auxiliary verb है और कोई भी modal auxiliary verb अपने बाद V¹ लेता है।
- 'work' will be used instead of 'worked' because 'must' is a modal auxiliary verb and any modal auxiliary verb takes V1 after itself.
10. **Ebullient** (adjective) – Boiling; bubbling with excitement; exuberant उत्तेजित, जोशीला
11. **Unopposed** (adjective) – not opposed; unchallenged निर्विरोध
- **Consistent** (adjective) – persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
 - **Transparent** (adjective) – obvious, explicit, unambiguous, unmistakable, apparent पारदर्शी/स्पष्ट
 - **Comprehensive** (adjective) – inclusive, all-inclusive, complete विस्तृत
12. **Lobby** (noun) – Faction, alliance, pressure group, interest group, campaign group गुट
- **Credibility** (noun) – trustworthiness, reliability, Integrity, acceptability विश्वसनीयता
 - **Slowdown** (noun) – A decline in economic activity. मंदी
 - **Omen** (noun) – Sign, portent, warning, forecast, premonition, augury संकेत
13. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
- **Variation** (noun) – change, difference, variance, alteration, deviation विभिन्नता
 - **Battering** (noun) – damage caused by an action or event क्षति, नुकसान
 - **Practice** (noun) – habit, custom, tradition, way, system, routine प्रथा, कार्य
14. **Manoeuvre** (verb) – manipulate a situation to achieve a goal/aim चतुराई से साथ प्रबंध करना
- **Drop** (verb) – Abandon, stop, shelve, discontinue, give up छोड़ना
 - **Emit** (verb) – discharge, release, give off, give out, pour out निकालना
 - **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, encourage, support, augment, sustain. मजबूत करना
15. Here Jostling is noun
- Jostling** (noun) – the act of competing with other people in order to get what you want धक्का मुक्की, प्रतिस्पर्धा
16. (A) **2341**
- Decades ago, when P.T. Usha travelled by the Madras-Mangalore Mail, her employers, the Railways, permitted an unscheduled stop at her hometown Payyoli in North Kerala. Such was the respect she garnered for her medal-winning exploits at the Asian level while the collective heart-break she bequeathed in narrowly missing a bronze in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics is remembered even today. After she retired from track-and-field, she evolved as a coach, groomed fresh talent and kept an eye on the grassroots. Her latest

appointment as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) comes with a surfeit of goodwill.

17. **White elephants** (phrase) – something that you no longer need and that is not useful any more, although it cost a lot of money बहुत खर्चीला पर अब बेकार वस्तु
18. Medals often secure a career opening in public sector units, banks and a few corporates and Usha is aware of this. She and her team of administrators that includes sportspersons and other officials, need to crack the whip.
19. Meeting my boss at the pub was an interesting experience. **In brief**, it was a disaster.



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