

Beyond limits: On the Supreme Court order upholding J&K Delimitation Commission

The real issues in J&K are **statehood** and special status, more than delimitation

The **gulf** between **legality** and political **legitimacy** **can** be quite **substantial**. The Supreme Court **verdict** upholding the constitution of a Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir and the **subsequent** delimitation exercise **is indeed in line with** the law, especially the constitutional provisions that **empower** Parliament to form new States, **alter existing** ones, and change their status and boundaries, as well as the Jammu and Kashmir **Reorganisation** Act, 2019. However, it will be wrong to see it as **granting** judicial **imprimatur** to the political **import** of the **redrawing** of **constituencies** in the Union Territory. **Most political parties** in J&K, which was **downgraded** to Union Territory status in August 2019, **have** opposed the Commission's report that added six seats in Jammu division and one in Kashmir division to take the total number of seats to 90. The parties see in the exercise an attempt to **weaken** the Muslim majority region's political and electoral significance and boost the **prospects** of parties with a base in Jammu. They consider this as an extension of the project to **strip** J&K of its status and **privileges** and **repurpose** its politics to the advantage of the **ruling** party. **This question** of legitimacy **can** be answered by the **outcome** of an election, if and when one is held, to the territorial legislature. However, the **readjustment** of boundaries may by itself **cast a shadow** on that process too.

The **petition** that challenged the formation of the Delimitation Commission **was** a **belated** one, as it was filed after the panel published its draft order. The Court **brushed aside** its key **contention** that the delimitation has been **frozen throughout** the country until after the first Census held after 2026, noting that Article 170, which **deals with** this, applies only to States, and not Union Territories. It has also noted that J&K will be **governed** by its own reorganisation law, which allows the 2011 Census to be the basis for its delimitation, **unlike** the rest of the country, where the 2001 census was the basis for the last redrawing of constituency boundaries. It also rejected arguments **rooted** in the idea that some **provisions** of the Reorganisation Act **were** not **consistent** with the Constitution, noting that these provisions had not been specifically challenged. While the Court may be right in upholding the formation of the delimitation panel, the extensions given to it, and its decision based on laws currently **assumed** to be **valid**, the impression is **inescapable** that the people of J&K are being presented with a **fait accompli** on matters **concerning** their political **destiny**, as long as **the core question** — the validity of the **withdrawal** of its statehood and special status in 2019 — **remains** undecided.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Uphold** (verb) – endorse, support, sustain, validate, ratify कायम रखना/उचित ठहराना
2. **Delimitation** (noun) – a dividing line or boundary; the action of fixing the boundary or limits of something. सीमा-निर्धारण
3. **Delimitation Commission** (noun) – a commission established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Delimitation Commission Act. The main task of the commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies based on a recent census.
4. **Statehood** (noun) – the condition of being a political unit within a country राज्य का दर्जा
5. **Gulf** (noun) – an important difference between the ideas, opinions, or situations of two groups of people खाई, अंतर
6. **Legality** (noun) – permitted or recognized by law कानूनी
7. **Legitimacy** (noun) – justification, validity, soundness, well-foundedness वैधता
8. **Substantial** (adjective) – sizeable, considerable, significant महत्वपूर्ण
9. **Verdict** (noun) – Decision, adjudication, decree फैसला
10. **Subsequent** (adjective) – following, future, succeeding, after, ensuing बाद में
11. **Indeed** (adverb) – as expected, to be sure, in fact, in point of fact वास्तव में
12. **In line with** (phrase) – In accordance with के अनुसार
13. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, enable, permit, entitle, allow सशक्त करना /अधिकार देना
14. **Alter** (verb) – change, modify, convert, make changes to, amend बदलना
15. **Existing** (adjective) – current मौजूदा
16. **Reorganisation** (noun) – the action or process of changing the way in which something is organized. पुनर्गठन
17. **Grant** (verb) – bestow on, confer on, give; allow, accord, permit देना
18. **Imprimatur** (noun) – authoritative approval न्यायिक इजाजत
19. **Import** (noun) – Significance, importance, consequence, seriousness महत्व
20. **Redrawing** (noun) – an act or process of changing borders of country पुनर्निर्धारण

21. **Constituency** (noun) – An area whose voters elect a representative to a legislative body. चुनाव क्षेत्र
22. **Downgrade** (verb) – to lower the status; demote, lower, degrade दर्जा घटाना
23. **Weaken** (verb) –undermine, diminish, lessen, reduce, impair कमज़ोर करना
24. **Prospect** (noun) –The possibility of future success संभावना
25. **Strip something of** (phrasal verb) – to take status or possessions away from somebody छीनना(दर्जा)
26. **Privilege** (noun) – the special right विशेषाधिकार
27. **Repurpose** (verb) – To adapt or utilize (something) for a new purpose
28. **Ruling** (adjective) – Governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling सत्तारूढ़
29. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, end result, consequence, upshot, effect परिणाम/ नतीजा
30. **Readjustment** (noun) – Change, modification, alteration, reformation पुनः समायोजन /फेर-बदल
31. **Cast a shadow** (phrase) – to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant असर डालना
32. **Petition** (noun) – appeal, request, application, याचिका
33. **Belated** (adjective) – late, delayed, postponed, deferred, tardy देर से
34. **Brush aside** (phrasal verb) – disregard, ignore, dismiss, pass over, put aside खारिज करना
35. **Contention** (noun) – Assertion, argument, opinion, belief, claim तर्क
36. **Frozen** (adjective) – incapable of being changed or moved or undone स्थिर
37. **Throughout** (adverb) – all over, all round, in every part of सर्वत्र (पूरे राज्य में)
38. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Cope with, handle, manage, attend to, see to संभालना, निपटना
39. **Govern** (verb) – Rule, oversee, administer, administrate, direct, manage, control नियंत्रित करना
40. **Unlike** (preposition) – in contrast to; different from के विपरीत; से भिन्न
41. **Rooted** (adjective) – Entrenched, engrained, ingrained, fixed, imbedded में निहित
42. **Consistent** (adjective) – reasonably or logically harmonious; agreeing, accordant तर्कयुक्त/ के अनुरूप

43. **Assume** (verb) – accept, take on, take up
स्वीकार करना
cannot be changed now जो पहले ही घटित
हो चुका है तथा उसे बदला नहीं जा सकता
44. **Valid** (adjective) – sound, legitimate,
true, reasonable, authentic उचित, वैध
45. **Inescapable** (adjective) – unavoidable,
Inevitable, inexorable, undeniable
अपरिहार्य
46. **Fait accompli** (phrase) – something that
has already happened in the past and
47. **Concerning** (preposition) – about,
regarding, on the subject of, relating to
संबंधित
48. **Destiny** (noun) – future, fate, fortune,
luck भाग्य/ नियति
49. **Withdrawal** (noun) – removal, taking
away, taking out, pulling out वापसी

Practice Exercise

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

1. it will be wrong to see it as granting judicial imprimatur to the political import of the redrawing of constituencies in the Union Territory.
 - A. Prominence
 - B. Significance
 - C. Blowback
 - D. Nudge
2. the impression is inescapable that the people of J&K are being presented with a fait accompli on matters concerning their political destiny
 - A. Inevitable
 - B. Lofty
 - C. Transparent
 - D. Vulnerable
3. The gulf between legality and political legitimacy can be quite substantial.
 - A. Ambitious
 - B. Myriad
 - C. Stated
 - D. Abyss
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

A restaurant that looks spick and span attracts more customers

 - A. Foolish hope
 - B. With cruel intent
 - C. Neat and clean
 - D. In confusion
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) crude oil prices on Thursday touched multi-year highs,(A)/ with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalating,(B)/ breaching the \$100 per barrel mark (C)/
 - (ii) a significant disruptions in supplies — as per some estimates(D)/, Russia accounts for one in every 10 barrels of oil consumed globally,(E)/ the spike in prices is driven by worries of (F)/ along with being the largest supplier of natural gas to Europe(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. Sakshi was so tired (A)/that she could not hardly (B)/ talk to the guests for (C)/ a few minutes. (D)/ No Error(E)
7. He (A)/ goes (B)/ to office (C)/ by foot. (D)/ No Error(E)
8. The hundred-rupees notes (A)/ that he gave them for the goods bought from them looked genuine (B)/ but later they reliably (C)/ learnt that the notes were all counterfeit(D)/ No Error(E)
9. People blamed (A)/ him (B)/ for being (C)/ a coward person. (D)/ No Error(E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Accomplish
 - B. Enthusing
 - C. Subdued
 - D. Jagged

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Big Tech layoffs– Feb 01, 2023)

As the growth-oriented technology industry confronts one of its worst contractions, with mass layoffs over the span of a few months, there is a sense of panic and anxiety.(1)/ THANKS to the enormous balance sheets, Big Tech has historically been a resilient industry, absorbing most of the economic shocks.(2)/ It is also considered a bellwether for decisions on corporate spending and hiring.(3)/ The shakeout is being viewed as an instance of social contagion — companies imitating what others are doing.(4)/ Facing criticism, the tech giants are projecting the staff _____a_____ as a course correction following a period of aggressive scaling up and bolstering of workforce during the pandemic. Amid predictions of a recession and a severe economic _____b_____ in the West, the belt-tightening, it is argued, sends a message to shareholders of putting the brakes on any needless spending. The jury is out _____c_____ whether the approach is **prudent** or myopic.

When the world's most valuable and cash-rich firms resort to large-scale job cuts, worries of a ripple effect are _____d_____. Knock-on consequences are expected in the consulting, marketing, advertising and manufacturing spaces. The developments are also **bound(A)** to have an impact on India's export **prospects(B)**, especially in the information technology sector. The **consolation(C)**, if any, is that most people losing jobs are highly employable professionals, given their education and work experience **credentials(D)**. Salaries may deflate, but the tech industry is still a big employer. Competitive re-hiring(A)/ may be back with(B)/ a vengeance sooner (C)/ rather than latter.(D)/

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. Facing criticism, the tech giants are projecting the staff _____a_____ as a course correction following a period of aggressive scaling up and bolstering of workforce during the pandemic

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Intent
 - (ii) Sackings
 - (iii) Watchful
 - (iv) Advisable
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

12. Amid predictions of a recession and a severe economic _____ b _____ in the West, the belt-tightening, it is argued, sends a message to shareholders of putting the brakes on any needless spending.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Stipend
- (ii) Diversity
- (iii) Downturn
- (iv) Headroom

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

13. The jury is out _____ c _____ whether the approach is prudent or myopic.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) In
- (ii) At
- (iii) By
- (iv) On

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

14. When the world's most valuable and cash-rich firms resort to large-scale job cuts, worries of a ripple effect are _____ d _____.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Consistent
- (ii) Inevitable
- (iii) Sensible
- (iv) Subsequent

A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (ii) 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.**

Competitive re-hiring(A)/ may be back with(B)/ a vengeance sooner (C)/ rather than latter.(D)/

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

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

As the growth-oriented technology industry confronts one of its worst contractions, with mass layoffs over the span of a few months, there is a sense of panic and anxiety.(1)/ THANKS to the enormous balance sheets, Big Tech has historically been a resilient industry, absorbing most of the economic shocks.(2)/ It is also considered a bellwether for decisions on corporate

spending and hiring.(3)/ The shakeout is being viewed as an instance of social contagion — companies imitating what others are doing.(4)/

- A. 2314
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- 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

PRUDENT

- (i) These reasons make it more **prudent** to use straight line correspondences
- (ii) His decision was **prudent** and timely
- (iii) Strong wage demands and **prudent** consumer spending are pushing up inflation.

- 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 developments are also **bound(A)** to have an impact on India's export **prospects(B)**, especially in the information technology sector. The **consolation(C)**, if any, is that most people losing jobs are highly employable professionals, given their education and work experience **credentials(D)**.

- 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) She was chosen as commencement speaker
 - (ii) The fact that she was an alumna of the school
- A. Unlike
 - B. On account of
 - C. Yet
 - D. Otherwise

E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I am greatly concerned _____ the safety of his money.

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

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **Import** (noun) – Significance, importance, consequence, seriousness महत्त्व
 - **Prominence** (noun) – Fame, importance, distinction, reputation, status प्रमुखता
 - **Blowback** (noun) – unexpected (bad & harmful) outcomes झटका
 - **Nudge** (noun) – Encouragement, stimulation, motivation प्रोत्साहन
2. **Inescapable** (adjective) – unavoidable, Inevitable, inexorable, undeniable अपरिहार्य
 - **Lofty** (adjective) – High, grand, elevated, distinguished उच्च
 - **Transparent** (adjective) – obvious, explicit, unambiguous, apparent पारदर्शी/ स्पष्ट
 - **Vulnerable** (adjective) – unprotected, susceptible, defenseless, weak अरक्षित
3. **Gulf** (noun) – an important difference between the ideas, opinions, or situations of two groups of people खाई, अंतर
 - **Ambitious** (adjective) – Having a strong desire for success or achievement महत्वाकांक्षी
 - **Myriad** (adjective) – countless, innumerable, infinite, numberless, numerous असंख्य
 - **Stated** (adjective) – claimed, supposed, professed कथित
4. **Spick And Span** (phrase) – neat and clean साफ़-सुथरा
5. **BAC, FDEG**
 With the conflict between Russia and Ukraine escalating, crude oil prices on Thursday touched multi-year highs, breaching the \$100 per barrel mark. The spike in prices is driven by worries of a significant disruptions in supplies — as per some estimates, Russia accounts for one in every 10 barrels of oil consumed globally, along with being the largest supplier of natural gas to Europe.
6. (B) 'not' या 'hardly' में से किसी एक का ही प्रयोग कर वाक्य को Negative बनाया जाता है क्योंकि 'not' का अर्थ है 'नहीं' और 'hardly' का अर्थ है 'न के बराबर' जैसे-
 - i. He will not do it.
 - ii. He will hardly do it.
 - Using only one of 'not' or 'hardly' the sentence is made negative because 'not' means 'not' and 'hardly' means 'negligible' like-
 - i. He will not do it.
 - ii. He will hardly do it.
7. (D) 'by foot' के बदले 'on foot' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'on foot' idiomatic use है जिसका अर्थ है 'walking' अर्थात् 'पैदल, टहलते हुए'; जैसे-

- i. Are you going by bicycle or on foot?
- 'on foot' will be used instead of 'by foot' because 'on foot' is idiomatic use which means 'walking'; As-
 - Are you going by bicycle or on foot?
8. (A) 'hundred - rupees' के बदले 'hundred-rupee' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि किसी Numeral Adjective तथा Noun का प्रयोग एक Adjective की तरह हो तो इस Noun का Plural नहीं बनता है; जैसे-
- I have bought a three-room flat.
 - A five-man committee will look into the matter.
 - He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes.
- 'hundred-rupee' will be used instead of 'hundred - rupees' because if a Numeral Adjective and Noun is used as an Adjective then Plural of this Noun is not formed; As-
 - I have bought a three-room flat.
 - A five-man committee will look into the matter.
 - He gave me some five hundred-rupee notes.
9. (D) 'person' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है, क्योंकि 'coward' एक Singular Countable Noun है जिसका अर्थ है 'कायर, डरपोक, कापुरुष'; जैसे-
- He is not a coward.
- The use of 'person' is unnecessary, because 'coward' is a Singular Countable Noun; As-
 - He is not a coward.
10. **Accomplish** (verb) – achieve, carry out, execute, complete, perform पूरा करना
11. **Sacking** (noun) – an act of dismissing someone; dismissal, firing बर्खास्त करना
- Intent** (noun) – aim, purpose, intention, objective इरादा
 - Watchful** (adjective) – Alert, observant, attentive, vigilant, on the alert सतर्क
 - Advisable** (adjective) – Sensible, wise, prudent, worthwhile, suitable, logical उचित
12. **Downturn** (noun) – A decline in economic, business, or other activity. मंदी
- Stipend** (noun) – a particular amount of money that is paid regularly to someone वृत्ति
 - Diversity** (noun) – variety, miscellany, assortment, mixture विविधता
 - Headroom** (noun) – scope, flexibility, margin, freedom, latitude स्वतंत्रता
13. **Jury is out on** (phrase) – a decision has not yet been reached on a controversial subject
14. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, bound to happen, sure to happen अपरिहार्य
- Consistent** (adjective) – persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
 - Sensible** (adjective) – reasonable, wise, prudent, shrewd समझदार

- **Subsequent** (adjective) – following, future, succeeding, ensuing आगामी, उत्तरगामी

15. 'latter' के बदले 'later' का प्रयोग होगा

16. (B) **2314**

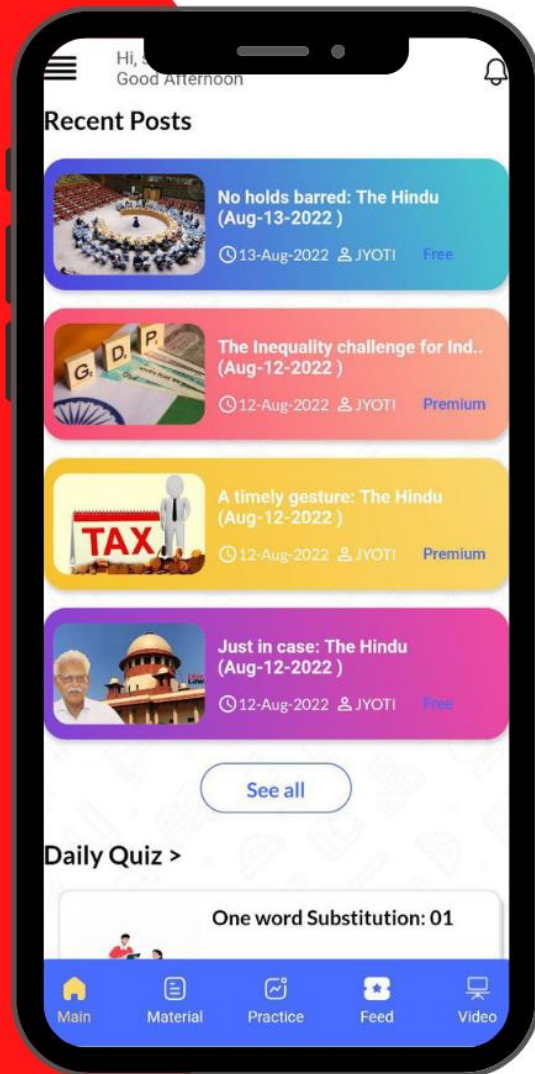
THANKS to the enormous balance sheets, Big Tech has historically been a resilient industry, absorbing most of the economic shocks. It is also considered a bellwether for decisions on corporate spending and hiring. As the growth-oriented technology industry confronts one of its worst contractions, with mass layoffs over the span of a few months, there is a sense of panic and anxiety. The shakeout is being viewed as an instance of social contagion — companies imitating what others are doing.

17. **Prudent** (adjective) – careful, judicious, wise, cautious, sensible विवेकी, चतुर

According to the given options only (i) AND (ii) are contextually correct.

Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like Strong wage demands and **buoyant** consumer spending are pushing up inflation.

18. The developments are also bound to have an impact on India's export prospects, especially in the information technology sector. The consolation, if any, is that most people losing jobs are highly employable professionals, given their education and work experience credentials.
19. She was chosen as commencement speaker **on account of** the fact that she was an alumna of the school.



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