

## Aldermen altercation: On the Delhi Mayor poll

By **barring** Lieutenant-Governor's **nominees** from voting, the Supreme Court of India has **scuttled mischief** in Delhi

The Supreme Court of India has rightly **shot down** the **brazen** and legally **untenable claim** that nominated **members** of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) **may** be allowed to vote in the election of its Mayor. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) **sought to bend** the rules to allow the 10 aldermen, nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, to vote in the election, despite the law **limiting** the process to elected Councillors. **That** a question **concerning** a **mayoral** election should engage national attention **is due to** the political **acrimony** between the **ruling** BJP at the Centre and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which **runs** the elected **regime** in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The BJP sought to **interpret** the relevant **provisions** in the Constitution and the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act in such a way that the specific **bar** on nominated members voting in “meetings” of the corporation should not be applied to its first meeting, at which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected. It takes a particularly **perverse** political imagination to **argue** that “meetings” do not include the “first meeting”. **Three attempts** to hold the mayoral election, **following** the MCD polls that **took place** in December 2022, **were stalled** by **clashes** between AAP and BJP councillors over this question. The **verdict vindicates** the position of AAP, which has 134 councillors in the 250-member Council, against the BJP's 104.

It is **unfortunate** that before the Court, the Lt. Governor also took the **questionable** political **stand** that the restriction on the right to vote in Article 243R(2) of the Constitution and the **proviso** to Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Act was limited to regular meetings, and not to the first meeting of the Council. The Court rejected the argument, **noting** that the law provides for the nomination of 10 people “with special knowledge and experience in municipal administration”, but without any voting right. **In keeping with** the Court's order, Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has now approved February 22 as the date for the election of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and six members of the **Standing Committee**. Last year, Parliament passed a law to **merge** the three corporations in Delhi into a single entity, a decision **criticised** for reversing the trend of having **compact** local bodies for better delivery of **civic services**. Delhi's lack of **statehood** is a source of conflict between the Centre and the elected regime in the capital territory, but the political **protagonists** should not allow Delhi's administrative structures to be **plagued** by the **tussle**. The **core message** from a **Constitution Bench** judgment of 2018, that elected bodies should not be **undermined** by unelected administrators, **is yet to hit home**.

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Aldermen** (noun) – an elected member of a city council. पौर-मुख्य
2. **Altercation** (noun) – Argument, quarrel, disagreement, dispute, squabble, clash, confrontation विवाद, तकरार
3. **Poll** (noun) – Election चुनाव
4. **Bar** (verb) – prohibit, debar, preclude, forbid, ban रोकना
5. **Nominee** (noun) – A person who is nominated as a candidate for election or for an honour or award. उम्मेदवार
6. **Scuttle** (verb) – Destroy, stymie, thwart, spoil, ruin, wreck, scupper तबाह करना, बरबाद करना
7. **Mischief** (noun) – bad behaviour (usually of children) that is not very serious शरारत, नटखटपन
8. **Shoot down** (phrasal verb) – dismiss नकार देना
9. **Brazen** (adjective) – Shameless, unabashed, blatant बेशर्मी भरी
10. **Untenable** (adjective) – indefensible, unsustainable, weak, unsound, shaky, flawed अस्थिर, असमर्थनीय
11. **Claim** (noun) – Assertion, statement, accusation, declaration, allegation, contention दावा
12. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, endeavour, strive प्रयास करना
13. **Bend** (verb) – interpret or modify (a rule) to suit someone. तोड़ना-मोड़ना
14. **Limit** (verb) – restrict, curb, check, place a limit on, cap सीमित करना
15. **Concerning** (preposition) – about, regarding, on the subject of, relating to से संबंधित
16. **Mayoral** (adjective) – relating to a mayor.
17. **Due to** (phrase) – because of के कारण, की वजह
18. **Acrimony** (noun) – Bitterness, spite, rancor, animosity, hostility, unfriendliness, ill will रूखापन
19. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling, सत्तारूढ़
20. **Run** (verb) – To control, manage, or direct संचालन करना
21. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration शासन

22. **Interpret** (verb) – understand, construe, take to mean, read व्याख्या करना
23. **Provision** (noun) – A stipulated condition प्रावधान
24. **Bar** (noun) – restriction, impediment, barrier, block, hindrance रोक
25. **Perverse** (adjective) – Aberrant, irrational, deviant, contrary, disobedient, unreasonable विकृत
26. **Argue** (verb) – Contend, say, maintain, reason, claim तर्क करना
27. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
28. **Take place** (phrase) – Happen, occur, come about, come off, transpire होना
29. **Stall** (verb) – obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, hamper रोकना
30. **Clash** (noun) – confrontation, skirmish, brush, encounter टकराव
31. **Verdict** (noun) – Decision, adjudication, decree फैसला
32. **Vindicate** (verb) – Justify, maintain, claim, support, defend, assert, prove, uphold समर्थन करना, सच या ठीक ठहराना
33. **Unfortunate** (adjective) – unlucky, hapless, out of luck, down on one's luck दुर्भाग्य
34. **Questionable** (adjective) – controversial, contentious, open to question संदिग्ध
35. **Stand** (noun) – opinion, stance, viewpoint, standpoint, view, outlook दृष्टिकोण/ राय
36. **Proviso** (noun) – rule, law, regulations, regulation, principle, provision प्रावधान/कानून
37. **Note** (verb) – Notice or pay particular attention to (something). ध्यान देना
38. **In keeping with** (phrase) – in accordance with, in agreement with, in line with को ध्यान में रखते हुए
39. **Standing committee** (noun) – a permanent committee that meets regularly. स्थायी समिति
40. **Merge** (verb) – combine, unite, blend, Join together, amalgamate विलय करना
41. **Criticise** (verb) – Censure, condemn, carp, slate, roast, slam, disapprove of आलोचना करना
42. **Compact** (adjective) – closely and neatly packed together; dense. सघन, सुगठित

43. **Civic service** (noun) – civic services means the services of drinking water supply, sanitation, drainage, sewerage, solid waste disposal, street lighting and urban environment improvement
44. **Statehood** (noun) – the condition of being a political unit within a country  
राज्य का दर्जा
45. **Protagonist** (noun) – Supporter, adherent, backer, proponent समर्थक, प्रवक्ता
46. **Plague** (verb) – torment, bother, trouble, harass, harry तंग करना, सताना
47. **Tussle** (noun) – scuffle, fight, struggle  
खींचतान, संघर्ष
48. **Core** (adjective) – Essential, central, fundamental, main, basic मूल
49. **Constitution bench** (noun) – Constitution bench is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case “involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation” of the Constitution of India
50. **Undermine** (verb) – weaken, impair, damage, sabotage, subvert कमजोर होना
51. **Hit home** (phrase) – to become completely understood

## Practice Exercise

**Direction: In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number.**

India's goods exports \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ from a nearly 17% dip in October to a \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ 0.6% uptick in November. While the value of exports recovered to \$32 billion from \$29.8 billion in October, it is still significantly below the \$39 billion averaged between April and September. Imports growth moderated to 5.4% with the value of shipments slipping to \$55.9 billion — a level last seen in February 2022, which was followed by seven months of import bills of around \$60 billion. The merchandise trade deficit eased below \$25 billion for the first time in five months. The \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ of some commodities' prices may help curb the import bill and deficit to some extent, but this could cut both ways as the value of some exports that boomed because of global price trends earlier, will also decline. A part of the import bill \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ was triggered by lower non-oil cargo, signalling slowing domestic demand, but non-oil exports' performance is a greater worry. Their share in exports growth has been shrinking since June, with the \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ accelerating for many sectors from September to November — engineering goods that drove much of India's record \$422 billion goods exports in 2021-22, contracted 11.3% while textiles fell a steeper 25%.

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
  - A. Refashioned
  - B. Suppressed
  - C. Rebounded
  - D. Marred
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
  - A. Mild
  - B. Indigenous
  - C. Robust
  - D. Overwhelming
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
  - A. Spark
  - B. Alliance
  - C. Disincentive
  - D. Easing
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
  - A. Break
  - B. Dip
  - C. Loaf
  - D. Patronage
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
  - A. Pace
  - B. Enforcement
  - C. Surge

## D. Contraction

**Directions:** In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and sixth sentences are given as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

6. **S1.** Degenerative and man-made diseases, or rather, non-communicable diseases mark epidemiological transition in the contemporary world.  
**P.** Scholars reiterate that epidemiological transition and structural change in the disease pattern are inevitable.  
**Q.** This transition is the result of rapid increments in urbanization and industrialization.  
**R.** He argued that the disease pattern is shifting from the predominance of infectious and parasitic diseases to chronic and man-made diseases.  
**S.** Omran's epidemiological transition theory, 1971 portrayed a clear picture of the changing pattern of diseases prevalent all over the world.  
**S6.** This transition has led to the rise of living standards in general, whereby people enjoy a sedentary lifestyle with good socio-economic profile.

A. SRQP

B. PSRQ

C. PQRS

D. RQPS

**Directions** In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

7. **I don't like being seen in tears by people.**  
 A. I don't like people had been seeing me in tears.  
 B. I don't like people seeing me in tears.  
 C. I don't like people to see me in tears.  
 D. I don't like myself to be seen in tears.
8. **My brother likes cricket.**  
 A. Cricket was like by my brother.  
 B. Cricket is like by my brother.  
 C. Cricket is liked by my brother.  
 D. Cricket was liked by my brother.
9. **They flew a kite in the evening.**  
 A. A kite was being flown by them in the evening.  
 B. In the evening, a kite have been flown by them.  
 C. A kite has been flown by them since evening.  
 D. A kite was flown by them in the evening.

**Directions :**In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

10. **She said to me, "The charlatan will be breaking into the safe."**  
 A. She told me that the charlatan would be breaking into the safe.  
 B. She said to me that the charlatan will be breaking in the safe.  
 C. She said to me that the charlatan can be breaking into the safe.

- D. She said to me that the charlatan is breaking into the safe.
11. **She said, "She must leave all the bad habits."**
- A. She said she has to leave all the bad habits
  - B. She said that she must have leave all the bad habits
  - C. She said that she had to leave all the bad habits.
  - D. She said that she could leave all the bad habits

12. **Priya said, "Yes, I am confounded."**
- A. Priya admitted that she was confounded.
  - B. Priya admit that she was confounded.
  - C. Priya admitted that she was confounded.
  - D. Priya admitted that she is confounded.

**Directions :In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.**

13. **Extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources**
- A. Fossils
  - B. Parsimony
  - C. Callous
  - D. Labyrinth
14. **A drug or other substance that includes sleep**
- A. Soporific
  - B. Hierarchy
  - C. Misologist
  - D. Dissertation
15. **Poem written on the death of someone loved and lost**
- A. Scullery
  - B. Irrevocable
  - C. Elegy
  - D. Antidote

**Directions: Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**

16. The book is an attempt to lay bare the secrets of this very powerful political family
- A. To save or keep something, typically money or time, for a particular purpose
  - B. In contradiction of
  - C. Give rise to
  - D. To reveal or uncover private information or feelings
17. Our flight was delayed on account of bad weather.
- A. By virtue of
  - B. Describe (something) in a particular way
  - C. Experiences a lot of problems
  - D. to pay attention to a situation carefully so that you can deal with any changes or problems
18. The votes in the swing state may turn the tide in this election.
- A. Change a situation
  - B. The beginning or early stages of something

- C. There is difficulty, danger, or unrest fermenting or expected to arise in the future.
- D. Keep under careful observation

**Directions: choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.**

**19. INTRIGUING**

- A. Proactive
- B. Eventuality
- C. Witness
- D. Uninteresting

**20. MIFFED**

- A. Pleased
- B. Large-scale
- C. Wave
- D. Existing

**Direction: In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.**

**21. SUBVERT**

- A. Admission
- B. Undermine
- C. Urge
- D. Evolve

**22. UPHEAVAL**

- A. Mutation
- B. Dramatic
- C. Slowdown
- D. Turmoil

**Directions: Find out the error, if any –**

- 23. The teacher said (A)/ that the building adjacent with his house (B)/ needed repairs. (C)/ No Error(D)
- 24. The Headmaster with all his senior teachers (A)/ have come (B)/ to attend the meeting. (C)/ No Error (D)
- 25. When she knocked the door (A)/ I said to her (B)/ Come in. (C)/ No Error(D)



## Answers

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

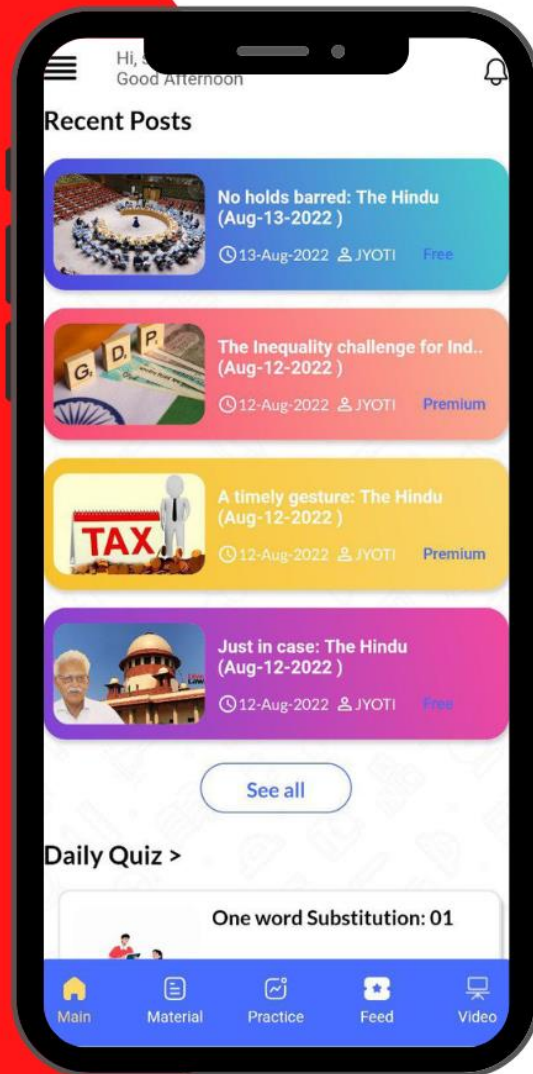
## Explanation

1. **Rebound** (verb) – Recover, rally, bounce back, return to normal, pick up पलटना
  - **Refashion** (verb) – alter, change, modify, transform, renovate नया रूपदेना
  - **Suppress** (verb) –repress, restrain, curb, stem, control दबाना
  - **Mar** (verb) – spoil, ruin, impair, upset, damage प्रभावित करना/ बिगाडना
2. **Mild** (adjective) – slight, minor, trivial मामूली
  - **Indigenous** (adjective) – Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. स्वदेशी
  - **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful मज़बूत
  - **Overwhelming** (adjective) – Very large, profuse, enormous, immense, inordinate ज़बर्दस्त
3. **Easing** (noun) – Reduction, lessening, slackening, moderation कमी /नरमी
  - **Spark** (noun) – a sense of liveliness and excitement. चिंगारी, उत्साह, जोश
  - **Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन
  - **Disincentive** (noun) – Deterrent, discouragement, hindrance, impediment, encumbrance, lack of encouragement निरुत्साहन/निराशाजनक
4. **Dip** (noun) – Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरावट
  - **Break** (noun) –disruption, breakdown, pause, halt विराम
  - **Loaf** (noun) – share, portion. हिस्सा
  - **Patronage** (noun) – support, backing, protection. संरक्षण
5. **Contraction** (noun) – Reduction, Shrinkage, Tightening संकुचन
  - **Pace** (noun) – speed, rate, swiftness, quickness गति
  - **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, coercion, enforce, execution, implementing अमल, प्रवर्तन
  - **Surge** (noun) – Sudden rise उछाल
6. **PSRQ**  
Degenerative and man-made diseases, or rather, non-communicable diseases mark epidemiological transition in the contemporary world. Scholars reiterate that epidemiological transition and structural change in the disease pattern are inevitable. Omran's epidemiological transition theory, 1971 portrayed a clear picture of the changing pattern of diseases prevalent all over the world. He argued that the disease pattern is shifting from the predominance of

infectious and parasitic diseases to chronic and man-made diseases. This transition is the result of rapid increments in urbanization and industrialization. This transition has led to the rise of living standards in general, whereby people enjoy a sedentary lifestyle with good socio-economic profile.

7. I don't like people seeing me in tears.
8. Cricket is liked by my brother.
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10. She told me that the charlatan would be breaking into the safe.
11. She said that she had to leave all the bad habits.
12. Priya admitted that she was confounded.
13. **Parsimony** – Extreme unwillingness to spend money or use resources कंजूसी
  - **Fossils** – Remains or prehistoric animal or plant preserved by being buried in earth जीवाश्मों
  - **Callous**– Showing or having cruel disgrace to others कठोर
  - **Labyrinth** – A complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze भूलभुलैयाँ
14. **Soporific** – A drug or other substance that induces sleep निद्राजनक
  - **Hierarchy** – The organization of people at different ranks in an administrative body पदानुक्रम
  - **Misologist** – Hater of learning
  - **Dissertation** – A writing on a particular subject शोध-निबंध
15. **Elegy** – Poem written on the death of someone loved and lost शोक-गीत
  - **Scullery** – A place of washing dishes adjoining kitchen बरतन सफ़ाई स्थान
  - **Irrevocable** – That which cannot be called back, that which cannot be changed or withdrawn अटल
  - **Antidote** – A medicine to cure the effect of poison प्रतिकारक
16. **Lay bare** (phrasal verb) – Reveal, explain, show, expose, display, uncover पर्दाफाश करना, भेद खोलना
17. **On account of** (Phrase) – because of, due to, by virtue of के कारण
18. **Turn the tide** (Phrase) – change a situation स्थिति को बदलना
19. **Intriguing** (adjective) – Fascinating, interesting, exciting, absorbing, captivating, stimulating दिलचस्प
  - **Proactive** (adjective) – active, take-charge, enterprising, energetic, dynamic अग्रसक्रिय
  - **Eventuality** (noun) – a possible event or outcome संभावित परिस्थिति/ घटना
  - **Witness** (verb) – see, observe, watch, look on at, be a witness to, view देखना

20. **Miffed** (adjective) – a little angry or upset क्रोधित या नाराज़, परेशान; चिढ़ा हुआ
- **Large-scale** (adjective) – broad, major, extensive, significant बड़े पैमाने पर
  - **Wave** (noun) – a sudden occurrence of or increase in phenomenon (i.e. COVID) लहर
  - **Existing** (adjective) – current मौजूदा
21. **Subvert** (verb) – undermine, destabilize, disrupt, sabotage नष्ट करना
- **Admission** (noun) – Admittance, entrance, entry भर्ती/ प्रवेश
  - **Urge** (verb) – Advise, insist, recommend, push for अनुरोध करना
  - **Evolve** (verb) – develop, progress, make progress, advance विकसित होना
22. **Upheaval** (noun) – turmoil, disturbance, turbulence, disorder, convulsion उथल-पुथल
- **Mutation** (noun) – variation, transformation, change उत्परिवर्तन
  - **Dramatic** (adjective) – (of circumstance) sudden and striking नाटकीय
  - **Slowdown** (noun) – A decline in economic activity. मंदी
23. (B) 'with' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'adjacent' के साथ Preposition 'to' का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'to' will be used instead of 'with' because the preposition 'to' is used with 'adjacent'.
24. (B) 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि दो Subjects 'with, along with, together with' से जुड़े हो, तो Verb पहले Subject के अनुसार होता है; जैसे-
- The Minister along with his followers is coming here.
- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because if two Subjects are joined by 'with, along with, together with', then Verb follows according to the first Subject; As-
    - The Minister along with his followers is coming here.
25. 'knocked' के बाद Preposition 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'knock at the door' का प्रयोग होता है किन्तु 'knock on the window' का। देखें:-
- Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.
- After 'knocked' the preposition 'at' will be used because 'knock at the door' is used but 'knock on the window'. see;-
    - Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

