

## Rights at the centre: On children's right to protect their genetic information

The **interest** of the child **must** be the focus always, not just in **custody** disputes

In 1959, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the first **charter** of its kind **ensuring** basic rights to all children below 18 years, with these words: "Mankind owes to the child the best it can give." Yet, as is well-documented, **children**, because of their **vulnerability**, often **become victims** of abuse of power by the very people who are **entrusted** with their protection. The **advancements** in digital technologies **have** helped on many **fronts**, from registration of births, creating a legal identity to health care, but in its forward **march**, it should not **trample** on the rights **integral** to a **harmonious upbringing** of a child. **Leaning on** a child's fundamental right to privacy, the Supreme Court of India has **ruled** that children cannot be **mechanically subjected** to DNA tests in each and every case between **warring** parents as a shortcut to **establishing infidelity**. In a **petition** filed by a man who **questioned** his second child's **paternity**, Justices V. Ramasubramanian and B.V. Nagarathna observed that genetic information **sheds light on** a person's **essence**, going to the very heart of who she or he is. This "intimate, personal information" is part of a child's fundamental right, the Court said. Children have the right, it **pointed out**, not to have their **legitimacy** questioned **frivolously** before a court of law.

**Directing** courts to **acknowledge** that children must not be regarded as material objects, and that they be subjected to forensic/DNA testing only **as a last resort** particularly when they are not parties to a divorce **proceeding**, Justice Nagarathna observed that it is **imperative** that children do not become the **focal point** of the battle between **spouses**. While this is a welcome move, a **reading** of the 1989 United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child **shows** that there are **miles to go** before every child in India is guaranteed "special care and **assistance**". Too many **childhoods** are **cut short**, and the **maxim** 'every child has every right' **often forgotten**. India **ratified** the Convention in 1992 and over the years several laws have been **enacted** to protect the rights of children though their implementation has often been **dodgy**, failing to **shield** them from **abuse**, violence, **exploitation** or **neglect**. The **principle** of best interest of the child **must** be at the centre of every **aspect** of social behaviour and not just in custody disputes.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **March** (noun) – Progress, advance, progression, passage, development, Headway, प्रगति
- **Principle** (noun) – a fundamental source or basis of something. सिद्धांत

## Vocabulary

1. **Genetic information** (noun) – information about genes, gene products, and inherited characteristics that may derive from the individual or a family member.
2. **Custody** (noun) – the right or duty to care for a child whose parents have separated or died
3. **Charter** (noun) – a written statement of the rights, beliefs and purposes of an organization or a particular group of people  
अधिकारपत्र
4. **Ensure** (verb) – make sure, make certain, see to it सुनिश्चित करना
5. **Mankind** (noun) – all the people in the world मानवता
6. **Owe** (to) (verb) – be under a moral obligation to give someone (gratitude, respect, etc.) देनदार होना, कर्जदार होना
7. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, helplessness, defenselessness, debility दुर्बलता
8. **Victim** (noun) – An unfortunate person who suffers from some adverse circumstance शिकार
9. **Entrust** (verb) – assign the responsibility for doing something to (someone) सौंपना, जिम्मे करना
10. **Front** (noun) – a particular area of activity मोर्चा
11. **Trample** on (verb) – to treat (a person or her rights ) with disregard or contempt रौंदना
12. **Integral** (adjective) – entire, intact, essential, complete, full अभिन्न
13. **Harmonious** (adjective) – Well-balanced, balanced, proportional; agreeable सुसंगत
14. **Upbringing** (noun) – the way a child is treated and taught how to behave by his/her parents पालन-पोषण
15. **Lean** (on) (verb) – To rely or depend on someone or something. पर निर्भर होना/ भरोसा करना
16. **Rule** (verb) – decree, order, direct, pronounce, make a judgement फैसला/ निर्णय करना
17. **Mechanically** (adverb) – Without thought or spontaneity; automatically
18. (be) **Subject** (to) (verb) – bring (a person) under one's control or jurisdiction, typically by using force. के अधीन होना
19. **Warring** (adjective) – belligerent, combatant, fighting, sparring, opposing, contending झगड़ालू
20. **Establish** (verb) – confirm, prove सिद्ध करना

21. **Infidelity** (noun) – unfaithfulness, disbelief, betrayal, adultery विश्वासघात
22. **Petition** (noun) – appeal, request, application, याचिका
23. **Question** (verb) – To raise question over or on something सवाल उठाना
24. **Paternity** (noun) – paternal origin. पितृत्व /जनकता
25. **Shed light on** (phrase) – to provide information about something or to make something easier to understand पर रौशनी डालना
26. **Essence** (noun) – the basic or most important idea or quality of something मूलतत्त्व
27. **Intimate** (adjective) – private and personal; secret, innermost निजी
28. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – indicate, mention, note, highlight, emphasize इशारा करना
29. **Legitimacy** (noun) – validity, justification, soundness, well-foundedness वैधता
30. **Frivolously** (adverb) – in a silly way that does not take something seriously बिना गंभीरता के
31. **Direct** (verb) – Order, instruct, command, dictate, give order आदेश/ निर्देश देना
32. **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit, accept, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
33. **As a last resort** (phrase) – when all else has failed. अंतिम सहारा
34. **Proceeding** (noun) – course of action, action, step, measure, move कार्यवाही
35. **Imperative** (adjective) – essential, necessary, vital, indispensable, crucial आत्यावश्यक, लाज़िमी
36. **Focal point** (noun) – the centre of interest or activity. केंद्र बिंदु
37. **Spouse** (noun) – a husband or wife पति या पत्नी
38. **Reading** (noun) – Interpretation, understanding, evaluation, impression, sense, विचार, व्याख्या
39. **Miles to go** (phrase) – A Lot to do before achieving something
40. **Assistance** (noun) – help, support, backing, succor, encouragement सहायता
41. **Childhood** (noun) – The time of person's life when they are a child बचपन
42. **Cut short** (phrase) – to end (something) earlier than expected समय से पहले (कुछ) समाप्त होना
43. **Maxim** (noun) – saying, proverb कहावत

44. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again  
अक्सर
45. **Forgot** (verb) – to not be able to remember something याद न रहना, भूल जाना
46. **Ratify** (verb) – endorse, approve, validate, confirm, sanction पुष्टि करना
47. **Enact** (verb) – make law, pass, approve, ratify, validate, sanction क़ानून बनाना
48. **Dodgy** (adjective) – dishonest, deceitful, not to be trusted, dubious छली, अस्पष्ट
49. **Shield** (verb) – protect, guard, defend , keep safe बचाना
50. **Abuse** (noun) – Mistreatment, exploitation, wronging दुर्व्यवहार
51. **Exploitation** (noun) – Taking advantage, abuse, mistreatment शोषण
52. **Neglect** (noun) – Negligence, carelessness, disregard, abandonment, inattention उपेक्षा/लापरवाही
53. **Aspect** (noun) – feature, facet, side पहलू

## Practice Exercise

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

[Editorial page]

1. **Dodgy**

- A. Dishonest
- B. Emphasis
- C. Boon
- D. Succour

2. **Warring**

- A. Belligerent
- B. Stated
- C. Chronic
- D. Misplaced

3. **Fivolously**

- A. Audacious
- B. Testy
- C. Thoughtlessly
- D. Mild

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

The students who think that they can pass the examination without working hard, live in a fool's paradise.

- A. Foolish hope
- B. A great shock
- C. An Obstacle
- D. Open enmity

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 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change —(D)/ the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change — has a message that is predictably dire(E)/ amidst global turmoil,(F)/ the largest international consortium of scientists analysing and reviewing(G)/
- (ii) some of which will be irreversible(A)/ even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts,(B)/ the world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C;(C)/

- A. ABC, EFDG
- B. DGFE, BAC
- C. BAC, FDEG
- D. FDGE, CBA
- E. None of the above

6. 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) Jyoti didn't receive a scholarship  
(ii) She is an excellent student
- A. Yet  
B. Though  
C. Due to  
D. Even if  
E. None of the above

**Direction (Q7 – Q10): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

7. The Indian team cannot win the series (A)/ and ever pulling off a draw could (B)/ be a tough proposition with (C)/ its main bowlers not playing. (D)/ no error(E)
8. With this initiative, the corporation (A)/ hopes to assure the public that (B)/ it is confident of providing good service (C)/ and renewing their in with the public transport system. (D)/ no error(E)
9. The games scheduled to be held in the state (A)/ have been plunged into crisis just two months prior to the (B)/ opening ceremony by allegations of corruption, (C)/ shoddy workmanship and delays in handling over venues. (D)/ no error (E)
10. The sole idea behind (A)/ conducting such programmes (B)/ is to create awareness (C)/ among young minds for our culture. (D)/ no error(E)
11. Find out the misspelt word
- A. Ambitious  
B. Lopsided  
C. Consensus  
D. Momentum

**Direction (Q12- Q19): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(The Hindu Editorial: Going green – Feb 04, 2023)**

With the country's population set to overtake China's some time this year, India's appetite for energy to propel the economy is set to surge exponentially.(1)/ The transition to green alternatives from the current reliance on fossil fuels is therefore an urgent imperative and an opportunity to **leverage** this move to catalyse new industries, generate jobs on a sizeable scale, and add to overall economic output.(2)/ As an article presented at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos last month notes, India holds the key to hitting global climate change targets given its sizeable and growing energy needs.(3)/ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget is noteworthy for the emphasis she has laid on the government's commitment to move towards net-zero carbon emission by 2070.(4)/

In a nod to this,(A)/ Budget 2023-24 devoted a fair amount of space (B)/ for the green industrial and(C)/ economic transition needed.(D)/ With the electric vehicle (EV) revolution poised

\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_ take off as every automobile major rolls out new EV models to tap demand, the availability of indigenously produced lithium-ion batteries has become a necessity, especially to lower the cost of EVs. The Budget \_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_ proposes to exempt customs duty on the import of capital goods and machinery required to manufacture lithium-ion cells used in EV batteries. This ought to give a \_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_ to local companies looking to set up EV battery plants. Another key proposal relates to the establishment of a viability gap funding \_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_ to support the creation of battery energy storage systems with a capacity of 4,000 MWh. Energy storage systems are **crucial(A)** in power grid **alternative(B)** and **essential(C)** as India increases its reliance on **stabilization(D)** sources of power generation including solar and wind.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

12. With the electric vehicle (EV) revolution poised \_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_ take off as every automobile major rolls out new EV models to tap demand, the availability of indigenously produced lithium-ion batteries has become a necessity, especially to lower the cost of EVs.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) On
- (ii) For
- (iii) To
- (iv) In

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

13. The Budget \_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_ proposes to exempt customs duty on the import of capital goods and machinery required to manufacture lithium-ion cells used in EV batteries.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) Appreciably
- (ii) Hearteningly
- (iii) Steadily
- (iv) Disproportionately

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

14. This ought to give a \_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_ to local companies looking to set up EV battery plants.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

- (i) Fillip
- (ii) Constraint
- (iii) Tempo
- (iv) Consistency

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

15. Another key proposal relates to the establishment of a viability gap funding \_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_ to support the creation of battery energy storage systems with a capacity of 4,000 MWh.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

- (i) Criticism

- (ii) Shift
- (iii) Observation
- (iv) Mechanism

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

16. **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.**

In a nod to this,(A)/ Budget 2023-24 devoted a fair amount of space (B)/ for the green industrial and(C)/ economic transition needed.(D)/

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

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

With the country's population set to overtake China's some time this year, India's appetite for energy to propel the economy is set to surge exponentially.(1)/ The transition to green alternatives from the current reliance on fossil fuels is therefore an urgent imperative and an opportunity to leverage this move to catalyse new industries, generate jobs on a sizeable scale, and add to overall economic output.(2)/ As an article presented at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos last month notes, India holds the key to hitting global climate change targets given its sizeable and growing energy needs.(3)/ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget is noteworthy for the emphasis she has laid on the government's commitment to move towards net-zero carbon emission by 2070.(4)/

- A. 2341
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- D. 4312
- E. 4321

18. 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

**LEVERAGE**

- (i) She asked the bishop to **leverage** her sins
- (ii) More sober views were **leverage** by events
- (iii) The organization needs to **leverage** its key resources

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (iii)
- E. (ii), (iii)



19. 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.

Energy storage systems are **crucial(A)** in power grid **alternative(B)** and **essential(C)** as India increases its reliance on **stabilization(D)** sources of power generation including solar and wind.

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

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

She yearned \_\_\_\_\_ a glimpse of him.

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

## Answers

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

## Explanations

- Dodgy** (adjective) – dishonest, deceitful, not to be trusted, dubious छली, अस्पष्ट
  - Emphasis** (noun) – focus, stress, significance, importance प्रमुखता, जोर
  - Boon** (noun) – Benefit, advantage, bonus, windfall, gain, blessing वरदान
  - Succour** (noun) – help, aid, support, assist, relief, assistance राहत, सहायता
- Warring** (adjective) – belligerent, combatant, fighting, sparring, opposing, contending झगड़ालू
  - Stated** (adjective) – said, declared, expressed, avowed, averred कथित, वर्णित
  - Chronic** (adjective) – persistent, inveterate, habitual, continuing, constant चिरकालिक, पुरानी
  - Misplaced** (adjective) – Inappropriate, erroneous, misdirected, out of place, improve, inapt गलत
- Frivolously** (adverb) – in a silly way that does not take something seriously बिना गंभीरता के
  - Audacious** (adjective) – bold, daring, courageous, brave, brazen साहसी/ साहसिक
  - Testy** (adjective) – Bad-tempered, irritable, grumpy, impatient, touchy, petulant, peevish चिडचिडा, शीघ्रकोपी
  - Mild** (adjective) – not severe, serious, or harsh. सौम्य, मृदु
- Fool's paradise** (phrase) – foolish hope मूर्खतापूर्ण अभिलाषा
- FDGE, CBA**  
 Amidst global turmoil, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the largest international consortium of scientists analysing and reviewing the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change — has a message that is predictably dire. The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C; even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible.
- Jyoti didn't receive a scholarship **though** she is an excellent student
- (B) 'could' के बदले 'can' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि part(a) में 'cannot' का प्रयोग present time का बोध कराता है और part(b) में वर्णित स्थिति भी present time का बोध कराएगा।
  - 'can' will be used instead of 'could' because the use of 'cannot' in part (a) gives the sense of present time and the situation described in part (b) will also give sense of present time
- (D) 'their' के बदले 'its' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'the corporation' third person, singular number में है जिसके लिए part(b) में singular verb 'hopes' और part(c) में इसके लिए singular

pronoun 'it' तथा singular verb 'is' का प्रयोग है। अतः, इसके लिए possessive भी singular 'its' होगा।

- 'its' will be used instead of 'their' because 'the corporation' is the third person, in the singular number for which the singular verb 'hopes' in part(b) and the singular pronoun for it in part(c) The use of 'it' and the singular verb 'is' is. So, the possessive for it would also be singular 'its'.
9. (B) 'been' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है क्योंकि 'the games' active subject है जिसके लिए present perfect में active verb ['have/has + v<sup>3</sup>] का प्रयोग होता है जबकि passive verb ['have\has been + v<sup>3</sup>] का; जैसे-
- i. He has written five books.
  - ii. Five books have been written by him
- The use of 'been' is unnecessary because 'the games' is the active subject for which the active verb ['have/has + v<sup>3</sup>] is used in the present perfect while the passive verb ['have\has been + v<sup>3</sup>] ] Of;like-
    - i. He has written five books.
    - ii. Five books have been written by him
10. (D) 'for' के बदले 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'aware' या 'awareness' के लिए preposition 'of' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
- i. I was aware of his laziness.
  - ii. Her awareness of Indian culture is praiseworthy
- 'of' will be used instead of 'for' because the preposition 'of' is used for 'aware' or 'awareness'; like-
    - i. I was aware of his laziness.
    - ii. Her awareness of Indian culture is praiseworthy.
11. **Ambitious** (adjective) – Having a strong desire for success or achievement महत्वाकांक्षी
12. **Poise** (to) (verb) – be ready to act; about to do something के लिए तैयार होना
13. **Hearteningly** (adverb) – Reassuringly, comfortingly, encouragingly, soothingly उत्साहजनक से
- **Appreciably** (adverb) – considerably, substantially, significantly, markedly काफी
  - **Steadily** (adverb) – constantly, consistently, regularly, continuously, continually लगातार
  - **Disproportionately** (adverb) – Excessively, unreasonably, too, overly, suspiciously असमान रूप से
14. **Fillip** (noun) – incentive, boost, stimulus, impetus, spur प्रोत्साहन
- **Constraint** (noun) – restriction, limitation, curb, check, restraint बाधा
  - **Tempo** (noun) – pace, rate, speed गति

- **Consistency** (noun) – Constancy, stability, steadiness, reliability स्थिरता /निरंतरता
- 15. Mechanism** (noun) – procedure, process, system, operation, method तंत्र, क्रियाविधि
- **Criticism** (noun) – censure, condemnation, critique, disapproval आलोचना
  - **Shift** (noun) – change, alteration, adjustment, adaptation, amendment परिवर्तन
  - **Observation** (noun) – remark, comment, opinion, thought, statement टिप्पणी, विचार
- 16. (c)** 'for' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'devote' (किसी काम में बहुत-सा समय और शक्ति लगाना) के साथ Preposition 'to' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे-

i. I wanted to devote more time to my family

**17. (D) 4312**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget is noteworthy for the emphasis she has laid on the government's commitment to move towards net-zero carbon emission by 2070. As an article presented at the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos last month notes, India holds the key to hitting global climate change targets given its sizeable and growing energy needs. With the country's population set to overtake China's some time this year, India's appetite for energy to propel the economy is set to surge exponentially. The transition to green alternatives from the current reliance on fossil fuels is therefore an urgent imperative and an opportunity to leverage this move to catalyse new industries, generate jobs on a sizeable scale, and add to overall economic output.

**18. Leverage** (verb) –Use (something) to maximum advantage. फायदा /लाभ उठाना

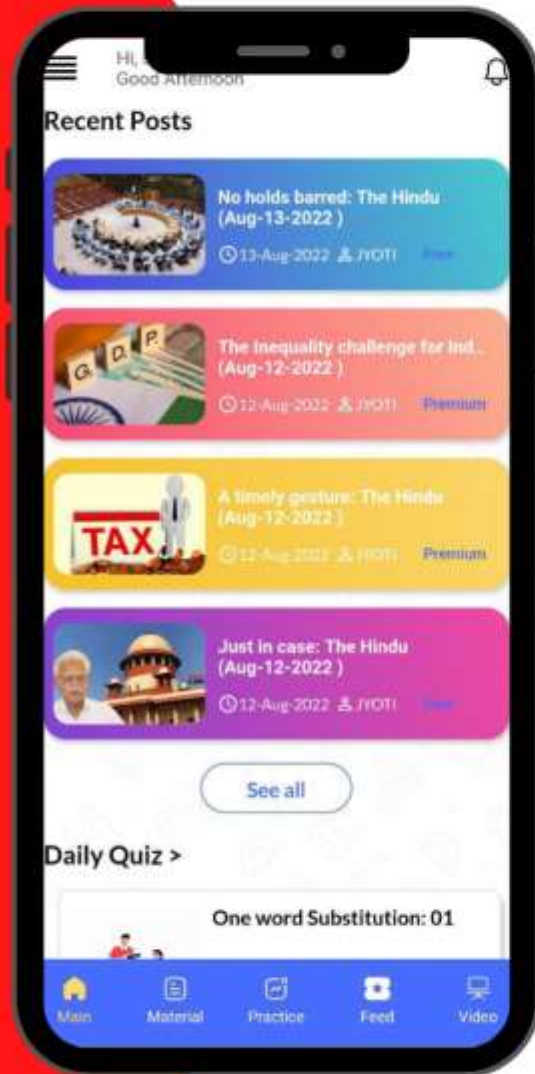
According to the given options only (iii) contextually correct.

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

she asked the bishop to absolve her sins

More sober views were vindicated by events

**19. Energy storage systems are crucial in power grid stabilisation and essential as India increases its reliance on alternative sources of power generation including solar and wind.**



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

