

Stopping the boats: On the U.K.'s new 'Illegal Migration Law'

Western democracies are **belittling** the contribution of **immigrants**

The UN **refugee** agency, the UNHCR, has **come down** strongly **on** the U.K. Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak's plan to pass a new "Illegal Migration Law" that effectively stops the **granting** of **asylum** to **migrants** who reach the U.K. illegally. **Mr. Sunak**, while standing at a **dais** marked "Stop the Boats", **said** the government is worried about the numbers of those attempting to travel to the U.K. and applying for asylum while on British **soil**, at **considerable** cost to the **exchequer**. Instead, as Home Secretary Suella Braverman explained while introducing the Bill this week, **asylum seekers** who try to enter illegally **would** either be returned to their own countries or a "third country", **presumably** Rwanda, that has entered into an agreement to provide **processing facilities** for them. They also face a lifetime ban on citizenship and re-entry to the U.K. According to the UNHCR, the law would **contravene** international laws, including the 1951 Refugee **Convention** that Britain is a **signatory** to. To start with, **those** who **flee** their homes and countries **often do** so without proper paperwork, as they are forced to leave to save their lives. **Many** of the **estimated** 45,000 who came to the U.K. on "small boats" last year **would** have been **economic refugees** rather than political asylum seekers, and it is **problematic** that the British government does not make a **distinction** between the two. The Bill makes exceptions for those arriving directly from the countries they are fleeing, but those would be a small proportion **given** the short distances "small boats" could travel. **The British government**, much like the U.S.'s Trump administration that **latched on to** the equally **catchy** "Build That Wall" slogan, **is long on** political **rhetoric**, but short on the actual **mechanics** of making such a plan work, if it fails to be a **deterrent** to small boats bringing in migrants. In addition, the **plan** to transport asylum seekers to a third country, apart from **sounding neo-colonial**, **will** also come at considerable cost, one that the **hapless** migrants are **unlikely** to be able to afford.

The British move is meant to stop the small boats, but must be seen in the larger political **context** of **anti-immigrant** and **xenophobic** beliefs gaining **salience** in other democracies. While western countries have long **quoted** international law and convention to India on its plan to forcibly **deport** Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, or to **discriminate** on the basis of religion in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, they must also **introspect** on their message to the world by **enacting** such laws themselves. By rejecting asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, nearly all of whom are coming to their **shores** by **braving** unsafe routes in search of a better life, they also belittle the real contributions immigrants have made to their societies, including those like the parents of Mr. Sunak and Ms. Braverman, who made their journey from Africa during more welcoming times. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Migration** (noun) – movement from one part of something to another.
स्थानान्तरण
2. **Belittle** (verb) – dismiss (someone or something) as unimportant. छोटा करना, कम करना
3. **Immigrant** (noun) – a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. आप्रवासी
4. **Refugee** (noun) – a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. शरणार्थी
5. **Come down on** (phrase) – criticize or punish someone harshly. निंदा करना
6. **Granting** (noun) – an act of allowing or giving देना
7. **Asylum** (noun) – the protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee. आश्रयस्थान
8. **Migrant** (noun) – a person who moves from place to place looking for work प्रवासी
9. **Dais** (noun) – a raised platform, usually at end of a room for speakers or guests of honour मंच
10. **Soil** (noun) – the land that is part of a country किसी देश की भूमि
11. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial, significant, large, extensive, sizeable, काफी
12. **Exchequer** (noun) – funds, coffers, resources, money, finances सरकारी खजाना
13. **Asylum seeker** (noun) – a person who has left their home country as a political refugee and is seeking asylum in another. शरण तलाशने वाला
14. **Presumably** (adverb) – probably, supposedly, likely, presumptively, doubtless संभावित रूप से
15. **Contravene** (verb) – Break, flout, breach, disobey, disregard, infringe उल्लंघन करना
16. **Convention** (noun) – a large meeting or conference, especially of members of a political party or a particular profession or group. सम्मेलन
17. **Signatory** (noun) – A party that has signed an agreement, especially a state that has signed a treaty हस्ताक्षरकर्ता
18. **Flee** (verb) – escape, run away, get away, bolt, leave भाग जाना, एकाएक त्यागना

19. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again
अक्सर
20. **Estimated** (adjective) – Projected, assessed, valued, अनुमानित
21. **Economic refugee** (noun) – a person who leaves his or her home country in search of better job prospects and higher living standards elsewhere.
22. **Problematic** (adjective) – difficult, hard, problematical, taxing, troublesome समस्यात्मक
23. **Distinction** (noun) – difference, contrast, dissimilarity, dissimilitude, divergence अंतर
24. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind
देखते हुए
25. **Latch on to** (phrase) – to become interested in an idea, story, or activity, and to start to use it:
26. **Catchy** (adjective) – likely to attract attention आकर्षक
27. **be long on something** (phrase) – having too much of one thing.
28. **Rhetoric** (noun) – a way of speaking or writing that is intended to impress or influence people but is not always sincere लफ्फाजी, बयानबाजी
29. **Mechanic** (noun) – the way in which something works or is done प्रक्रिया, क्रियाविधि
30. **Deterrent** (to) (noun) – obstacle, hindrance, impediment, obstruction
अवरोध, आड़
31. **Sound** (verb) – appear, look, seem
प्रतीत होना
32. **Neo-colonial** (adjective) – relating to or characterized by the control of less-developed countries by developed countries through indirect means.
33. **Hapless** (adjective) – unfortunate, unlucky, luckless, out of luck अभागी
34. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, Doubtful, Dubious असम्भव
35. **Context** (noun) – perspective, circumstance, condition, setting, milieu
संदर्भ
36. **Anti-immigrant** (adjective) – opposed to or directed against the situation in which people come to a country in order to live there permanently
आप्रवासी विरोधी
37. **Xenophobic** (adjective) – showing an extreme dislike or fear of people from foreign countries विदेशी-भीति या द्वेष से संबंधित
38. **Salience** (noun) – importance प्रमुखता

39. **Quote** (verb) – cite, quotation, recite, excerpt, mention हवाला करना, दुहराना
40. **Deport** (verb) – expel, banish, exile, transport, expatriate, extradite निर्वासित करना, निकाल देना
41. **Discriminate** (verb) – to treat one person or group worse than others भेदभाव करना या रखना
42. **Introspect** (verb) – examine one's own thoughts or feelings आत्म-निरीक्षण करना
43. **Enact** (verb) – make law, pass, approve, ratify, validate, sanction, क़ानून बनाना
44. **Shore** (noun) – a country or other geographic area bounded by a coast
45. **Braving** (adjective) – Defying, facing, confronting, bearing, enduring, suffering का सामना करते हुए

Practice Exercise

1. **What is the main concern of the U.K. government in passing the new "Illegal Migration Law"?** Editorial Page
 - A. The cost of granting asylum to migrants
 - B. The lack of proper paperwork of those fleeing their countries
 - C. The difficulty in distinguishing between economic refugees and political asylum seekers
 - D. The short distances "small boats" can travel
 2. **What does the new "Illegal Migration Law" propose to do with asylum seekers who try to enter the U.K. illegally?**
 - A. Grant them citizenship and re-entry to the U.K.
 - B. Return them to their own countries or a "third country"
 - C. Provide them with processing facilities in the U.K.
 - D. Allow them to stay in the U.K. temporarily
 3. **What is the larger political context of the U.K.'s new "Illegal Migration Law"?**
 - A. Anti-immigrant and xenophobic beliefs gaining salience in other democracies
 - B. The failure of western countries to quote international law and convention to India
 - C. The discriminatory basis of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act
 - D. The lack of real contributions immigrants have made to western societies
 4. **What is the tone of the passage towards the U.K.'s new "Illegal Migration Law"?**
 - A. Supportive
 - B. Objective
 - C. Critical
 - D. Enthusiastic
 5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The negative impact of illegal immigration on the U.K. economy
 - B. The effectiveness of the U.K.'s new "Illegal Migration Law"
 - C. The need for stricter immigration policies in western democracies
 - D. The U.K.'s disregard for international law and human rights
- Direction (Q6 – Q8): Rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
6. **A.** In the last decade, over 1,600 sq km of forest land has been cleared for industrial or infrastructure projects.
 - B.** However, the government has also initiated various afforestation programmes, including the Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAP).
 - C.** The investigation by this newspaper and ICIJ highlights the need for greater transparency in the government's mapping of forests.
 - D.** The country needs to increase its forest cover by 25 million hectares in the next seven years to achieve its climate goals.
 - E.** The CAP's plantation-centered approach has led to afforestation in discontinuous patches.

A. CADBE

B. ABDCE

C. ADEBC

D. ADBEC

7. **A.** Forest Survey of India's State of Forest Reports have shown a consistent increase in India's forests.
- B.** An investigation by this newspaper and ICIJ revealed the questionable classification of several non-forest areas as forests in official maps.
- C.** The increased area under plantations has led to the loss of good forests in the past three decades.
- D.** The government needs to adopt a more transparent approach in mapping the country's forests.
- E.** However, these reports are not entirely indicative of ecological health.

A. AECBD

B. ACBED

C. DEBAC

D. CEDAB

8. **A.** Forest restoration is critical to India's climate goals, and the country has committed to creating an additional sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
- B.** The government's reluctance to reveal granular data on the country's forest cover means that anomalies rarely come to light.
- C.** Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAP) has led to afforestation in discontinuous patches, which are far from the dense forests they are meant to replace.
- D.** The investigation shows that large sums of money deposited in the afforestation fund are lying unused.
- E.** However, the area under plantations has gone up, and the country has consistently lost good forests in the past three decades.

A. BADCE

B. ADCEB

C. AECDB

D. BCEDA

Direction (Q9 – Q10): Spot the error in the given sentence

9. Mammoths were a (A)/ species of elephants (B)/ who lived millions of year ago (C)/ but are now extinct. (D)
10. The sink is (A)/ so dirty that (B)/ one needs a very strong (C)/abrasive to cleaning it(D)

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

National Educational Policy of India 2020 is built on the foundational (1) _____ of Equity, Access, Quality and Affordability. The policy is a (2) _____ framework of India's education system from elementary to higher education. It also discusses the (3) _____ and scope of vocational training. The objective is to (4) _____ India in a vibrant knowledge society and make the country a global knowledge superpower by providing a more (5) _____, flexible and multidisciplinary education to its youth.

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. pillars
B. aims

- C. column
 - D. post
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. inclusive
 - B. comprehensive
 - C. absolute
 - D. exclusionary
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. figure
 - B. profile
 - C. shape
 - D. outline
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. renovate
 - B. transgress
 - C. transform
 - D. redo
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. atomistic
 - B. dated
 - C. holistic
 - D. total

Answers

1. A 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. D 6. D 7. A 8. C 9. C 10. D 11. A 12. B 13. D
14. C 15. C

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- A)** The cost of granting asylum to migrants. The passage states that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has expressed concern about the numbers of those attempting to travel to the U.K. and applying for asylum while on British soil, at considerable cost to the exchequer.
- B)** Return them to their own countries or a "third country". The passage explains that Home Secretary Suella Braverman has introduced the Bill, which proposes that asylum seekers who try to enter illegally would either be returned to their own countries or a "third country", presumably Rwanda, that has entered into an agreement to provide processing facilities for them.
- A)** Anti-immigrant and xenophobic beliefs gaining salience in other democracies. The passage argues that the U.K.'s move must be seen in the larger political context of anti-immigrant and xenophobic beliefs gaining salience in other democracies, and that western countries must also introspect on their message to the world by enacting such laws themselves.
- C)** Critical
Explanation: The passage expresses strong criticism towards the U.K.'s new "Illegal Migration Law." The use of words and phrases such as "belittling the contribution of immigrants," "contravene international laws," "problematic," "short on the actual mechanics," and "hapless migrants" indicate a critical tone.
- D)** The U.K.'s disregard for international law and human rights
Explanation: The passage highlights the UNHCR's opposition to the U.K.'s new "Illegal Migration Law" as it contravenes international laws and the 1951 Refugee Convention. The author also expresses criticism towards the law, calling it problematic, neo-colonial, and unlikely to be effective. The passage highlights the need for western democracies to introspect on their message to the world by enacting such laws themselves and belittling the real contributions immigrants have made to their societies. Thus, the main theme of the passage is the U.K.'s disregard for international law and human rights.
- The paragraph talks about the importance of forest restoration in India and the challenges that come with it, such as the loss of forests due to developmental projects, the drawbacks of

plantations, and the inadequacy of current afforestation programs. The paragraph begins by stating the large-scale clearing of forest land and ends with the need for transparency in mapping the country's forests. The correct sequence of the sentences is as follows: **A - D - B - E - C.**

7. The paragraph talks about the Forest Survey of India's reports and the questionable classification of non-forest areas as forests in official maps. It also highlights the issue of the loss of good forests due to the increase in plantations. The paragraph begins with a statement about the steady increase in India's forests and ends with a call for the government to adopt a more transparent approach in mapping the country's forests. The correct sequence of the sentences is as follows: **A - E - C - B - D.**
8. The paragraph talks about the critical role of forest restoration in achieving India's climate goals and the challenges that come with it, such as the government's reluctance to reveal granular data on forest cover and the inadequacy of the Compensatory Afforestation Programme. The paragraph begins with a statement about India's commitment to creating an additional sink of carbon dioxide equivalent and ends with the revelation that large sums of money deposited in the afforestation fund are lying unused. The correct sequence of the sentences is as follows: **A - E - C - D - B.**
9. (C) 'Who' के बदले 'which' या 'that' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'who' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः 'human beings, God, angel, fairy' के लिए होता है और अन्य प्राणियों या निर्जीव पदार्थों के लिए 'which' या 'that' का।
 - 'who' or 'that' shall be used instead of 'who' as 'who' is commonly used for 'humans, God, angel, fairy' and 'what' or 'that' is used for other beings or inanimate terms.
10. (D) 'to cleaning' के बदले 'to clean' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि infinitive के रूप में to + v1 का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
 - a. I wanted to go home.
 - 'to clean' will be used instead of 'to clean' as to + v1 is used as infinitive; As in – I wanted to go home.
11. A. **pillars**

The National Educational Policy of India 2020 is based on the foundational pillars of Equity, Access, Quality, and Affordability. **"Pillars" here refers to the fundamental principles on which the policy is built.**

12. B. comprehensive

The National Educational Policy of India 2020 is a comprehensive framework for India's education system, covering all levels from elementary to higher education. **"Comprehensive" means complete or covering all aspects.**

13. D. outline

The National Educational Policy of India 2020 discusses the outline or basic structure of vocational training. **"Outline" refers to a summary or plan of the main points.**

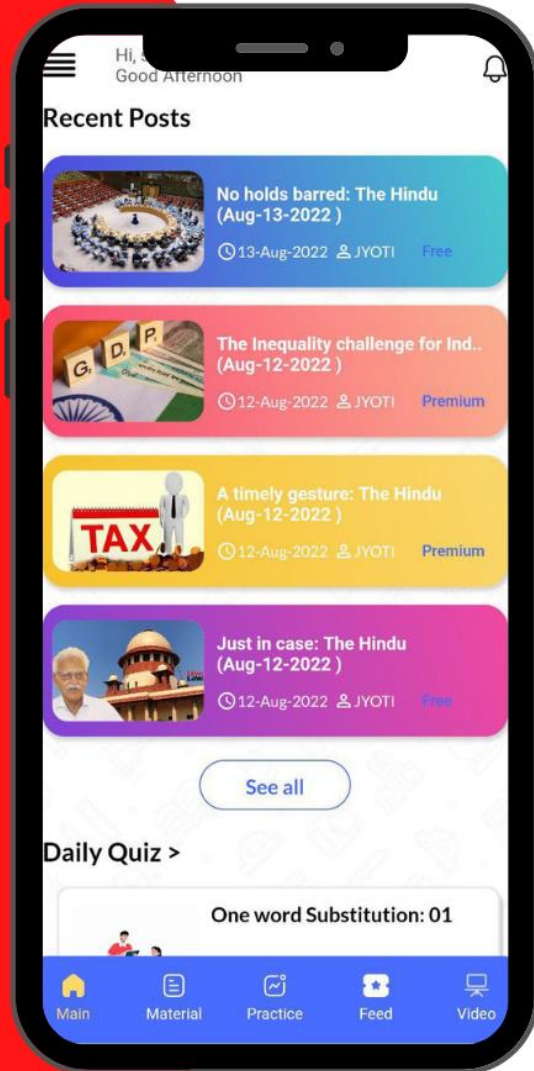
14. C. transform

The objective of the National Educational Policy of India 2020 is to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and make the country a global knowledge superpower.

"Transform" means to change in a significant way.

15. C. holistic

The National Educational Policy of India 2020 aims to provide a more holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary education to the youth. **"Holistic" means considering the whole or complete system rather than just individual parts.**



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