

Lives at stake: On recurring instances of attack by 'self-styled' cow vigilantes

The Karnataka police must act with **alacrity** in **bringing** murderers to book

The **scourge** of murders, where cattle traders or transporters have been attacked by self-styled "cow vigilantes", **has surfaced** again in Karnataka — on Saturday, a 39-year-old assistant driver of a van transporting cattle was **allegedly** tortured and killed by a **right-wing activist** and his **associates**. The incident must be seen as one among recurring murderous acts across States, but **predominantly** in the north of India. From the murder of Pehlu Khan in Rajasthan, who was transporting cattle, to Mohammad Akhlaq in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, on the **suspicion** of storing cow meat — it was proven to be false — to two tribal men **lynched** by **alleged** activists of the Bajrang Dal in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, and **scores** of such incidents, the **venality** of those **committing** the murders **has** been matched by the **acuity** by law **enforcement** agencies in implementing cattle **slaughter** laws to find a **pretext** for these acts while not bringing those responsible to book. **That** the murderers of Pehlu Khan were **acquitted** for the lack of **prompt** police action **is emblematic** of this trend. The **recurrence** of these acts is also a consequence of the **emboldening** of these right-wing activists, who show little **regard** for human lives **as opposed to** their **perceived** religious beliefs on cow slaughter. Another common factor that is more **often** the case is that these acts **recur** in States ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and are generally **condoned** by its **fellow** travellers in the Sangh Parivar.

The **Opposition** in Karnataka has rightly **sought** to **put the government in the dock** and to **highlight** how this could **foster communal disharmony**. Any **dilly-dallying** by the Karnataka police in bringing the guilty to book **will** be a **signal** that this is a repetition of the injustices that were committed against Pehlu Khan and others. More so, the repeated nature of these acts **calls into question** the **outcome** of recent **jurisprudence** on cattle slaughter, the 2005 judgment by the Supreme Court **in particular** which banned cattle slaughter based on an **expansive** interpretation of the **Directive Principles of state policy**, besides Articles 48, 48A, and 51(A) of the Constitution. This judgment had **overturned** an earlier **ruling** in 1958, which had limited the ban only to "useful" cattle engaged in agriculture and **husbandry**. The judgment's interpretation **resulted in** States, mostly led by the BJP, to come up with **stringent** laws on cow slaughter, and the **stigmatisation** of Dalits, Muslims and tribals for their **dietary** habits and dependence on cattle products for a **livelihood**, besides allowing for **impudent** behaviour by **so-called** "vigilantes". It is not enough to **condemn** these acts; it is time, yet again, for a judicial **rethink** on **legislation** over cow slaughter. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Signal** (verb) – Indicate, represent, denote, show संकेत करना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **At stake** (phrase) – In jeopardy, at risk, in danger, on the line, in question खतरे में
2. **Recurring** (adjective) – Repeated, happening again, periodic, cyclical, returning बार-बार
3. **Instance** (noun) – Example, occurrence, case, illustration, incident उदाहरण
4. **Self-styled** (adjective) – Self-proclaimed, self-appointed, so-called, purported स्वकथित
5. **Vigilante** (noun) – Self-appointed enforcer, law enforcer, watchman, guardian निगरानी समिति के सदस्य
6. **Alacrity** (noun) – Eagerness, readiness, promptness, swiftness, enthusiasm तत्परता
7. **Bring someone to book** (phrase) – Hold accountable, punish, bring to justice, prosecute सज़ा देना
8. **Scourge** (noun) – Plague, affliction, curse, menace, bane विपत्ति, मुसीबत, बवाल
9. **Surface** (verb) – Emerge, come to light, appear, arise, materialize उभरना
10. **Allegedly** (adverb) – Supposedly, reportedly, purportedly, apparently, ostensibly कथित तौर पर
11. **Right-wing** (adjective) – Conservative, reactionary, traditionalist, ultraconservative दक्षिणपंथी
12. **Activist** (noun) – Advocate, campaigner, protester, agitator, reformer कार्यकर्ता
13. **Associate** (noun) – Partner, colleague, accomplice, collaborator, comrade साथी
14. **Predominately** (adverb) – Mainly, mostly, chiefly, primarily, for the most part मुख्य रूप से
15. **Suspicion** (noun) – Mistrust, doubt, skepticism, disbelief, wariness संदेह
16. **Lynch** (verb) – Execute, hang, kill, mob, punish भीड़ द्वारा हत्या करना
17. **Alleged** (adjective) – Supposed, claimed, asserted, professed, purported कथित
18. **Score** (noun) – Numerous, multiple, many, a large number, plenty अनेक
19. **Venality** (noun) – Corruption, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, fraudulence, deceit भ्रष्टता
20. **Commit** (verb) – Perpetrate, execute, carry out, perform, enact करना
21. **Acuity** (noun) – Sharpness, keenness, astuteness, shrewdness, perceptiveness कुशाग्रता

22. **Enforcement** (noun) – Implementation, execution, application, imposition, administration कार्यान्वयन
23. **Slaughter** (noun) – Killing, massacre, butchery, bloodshed, carnage हत्या
24. **Pretext** (noun) – Excuse, guise, cover, reason, justification बहाना
25. **Acquit** (verb) – Exonerate, clear, absolve, discharge, release बरी करना
26. **Prompt** (adjective) – Swift, timely, quick, rapid, immediate त्वरित
27. **Emblematic** (adjective) – Symbolic, representative, indicative, suggestive, expressive प्रतीकात्मक
28. **Recurrence** (noun) – Repetition, reoccurrence, return, repeat, relapse पुनरावृत्ति
29. **Emboldening** (noun) – Encouragement, inspiration, motivation, stimulation, incitement प्रोत्साहन
30. **Regard** (noun) – Consideration, attention, concern, thoughtfulness, respect ध्यान
31. **As opposed to** (phrase) – in contrast to, rather than, instead of, in comparison with के विपरीत
32. **Perceived** (adjective) – understood, regarded, viewed, seen समझा गया
33. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, habitually, repeatedly अक्सर
34. **Recur** (verb) – happen again, reoccur, repeat, return दोहराना
35. **Condone** (verb) – overlook, disregard, tolerate, excuse नज़रअंदाज़ करना
36. **Fellow** (adjective) – like-minded, kindred, allied, similar साथी
37. **Opposition** (noun) – resistance, dissent, objection, confrontation प्रतिपक्ष
38. **Seek** (verb) – try to find, attempt, endeavour प्रयास करना
39. **Put someone in the dock** (phrase) – accuse, charge, arraign, hold accountable दोष लगाना, जवाबदेह ठहराना
40. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, underscore, accentuate, stress प्रमुखता से दिखाना
41. **Foster** (verb) – encourage, promote, nurture, cultivate प्रोत्साहन देना
42. **Communal** (adjective) – shared, joint, collective, public सांप्रदायिक
43. **Disharmony** (noun) – discord, disunity, strife, conflict असमंजस
44. **Dilly-dallying** (noun) – procrastination, hesitation, indecision, delay ढिलाई

45. **Call into question** (phrase) – challenge, dispute, cast doubt on, question सवाल उठाना
46. **Outcome** (noun) – result, consequence, upshot, effect परिणाम
47. **Jurisprudence** (noun) – legal theory, legal philosophy, law studies विधिशास्त्र
48. **In particular** (phrase) – specifically, especially, particularly, notably विशेष रूप से
49. **Expansive** (adjective) – extensive, wide-ranging, broad, comprehensive विस्तृत
50. **Directive Principles of State Policy** (DPSP) (noun) – A set of guidelines or principles outlined in the Constitution of India that are meant to guide the government in making laws and policies for the welfare of its citizens.
51. **Overturn** (verb) – Reverse, annul, repeal, invalidate, rescind उलट देना
52. **Ruling** (noun) – Judgment, decision, verdict, decree, order फैसला
53. **Husbandry** (noun) – Animal husbandry, livestock farming, agriculture, farming, animal breeding पशुपालन
54. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, create परिणामस्वरूप होना
55. **Stringent** (adjective) – Strict, rigorous, severe, tight, harsh कठोर, सख्त
56. **Stigmatisation** (noun) – Disgrace, shame, dishonor, disapproval, branding कलंक, बदनामी
57. **Dietary** (adjective) – Nutritional, alimentary, food-related, nutritive, nourishment-based पोषण संबंधी
58. **Livelihood** (noun) – Means of support, income, subsistence, sustenance, living आजीविका
59. **Impudent** (adjective) – Insolent, disrespectful, rude, impertinent, brazen धृष्ट, बेअदब
60. **So-called** (adjective) – Supposed, alleged, self-proclaimed, self-styled, professed तथाकथित
61. **Condemn** (verb) – Denounce, criticize, censure, disapprove, reproach निंदा करना
62. **Rethink** (verb) – Reconsider, reevaluate, reassess, review, reexamine पुनर्विचार करना
63. **Legislation** (noun) – Laws, regulations, statutes, acts, ordinances कानून

Practice Exercise

1. **What was the major factor contributing to the murderers of Pehlu Khan being acquitted?**
A. A. Insufficient evidence
B. B. Lack of prompt police action
C. C. The murderers were never identified
D. D. The case was dismissed due to technicalities
2. **What was the consequence of the 2005 Supreme Court judgment on cattle slaughter?**
A. It limited the ban to only "useful" cattle engaged in agriculture and husbandry.
B. It resulted in an expansive interpretation of the Directive Principles of state policy, leading to stringent laws on cow slaughter.
C. It led to the stigmatization of right-wing activists.
D. It reduced the frequency of attacks by cow vigilantes.
3. **What was the main reason for the murder of Pehlu Khan in Rajasthan?**
A. Transporting illegal goods
B. Transporting cattle
C. Storing cow meat
D. Involvement in criminal activities
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
A. Neutral
B. Supportive
C. Optimistic
D. Critical
5. **Which of the following is the main theme of the passage?**
A. The political influence of the Bharatiya Janata Party
B. The dietary habits of Dalits, Muslims, and tribals
C. The recurring instances of violence by self-styled cow vigilantes
D. The Supreme Court's judgment on cattle slaughter
6. **Which of the following words is a synonym for "alacrity"?**
A. Eagerness
B. Indifference
C. Laziness
D. Procrastination
7. **Which word is a synonym for "venality"?**
A. Honesty
B. Corruption
C. Sincerity
D. Loyalty
8. **Which of the following words is an antonym for "emboldening"?**

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- A. Discouraging
 - B. Strengthening
 - C. Empowering
 - D. Supporting
9. **Which word is an antonym for "acuity"?**
- A. Sharpness
 - B. Insight
 - C. Incompetence
 - D. Keeness
10. **Which of the following idioms best describes the actions of the law enforcement agencies in the passage?**
- A. A stitch in time saves nine
 - B. To put the cart before the horse
 - C. To turn a blind eye
 - D. To bite off more than one can chew

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

Bird hits, cracked windshields, component failures, engine compressor surges and blade failures, flight deck indicator and system-related warnings, flight diversions, mid-air engine shutdowns, pressurisation problems, and a case of severe _____1_____ in the monsoon — these aviation-related occurrences in Indian skies in recent months, reaching a _____2_____ over the last 30 days, with most of them affecting one airline, have raised concerns about air passenger safety. In its 'show cause notice' issued recently to SpiceJet, the carrier in focus, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has highlighted some of the reported events. In its _____3_____ worded observations on the low-cost airline's operations — a fleet of narrowbody jets and turboprops — the aviation regulator has pointed to a 'degradation of safety margins', and touched _____4_____ 'poor internal oversight' and 'inadequate maintenance actions'. Further, the DGCA has added, a financial assessment (September 2021) could point to a shortage of spares and, therefore, the 'invocation' of flying with a minimum equipment list. In its initial response, the airline management has put forward a defence of being an IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) air carrier. And, second, given the scale of flight operations in India — according to Ministry of Civil Aviation data, there were 5,268 aircraft movements in the domestic sector, on July 10 — such incidents are not an aberration. It has even cited an average of 30 such episodes a day, which some official sources have backed, though _____5_____.

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1**
- A. Delays
 - B. Snowfall
 - C. Turbulence
 - D. Air pollution

12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2

- A. Crest
- B. Crestfallen
- C. Quest
- D. Crisis

13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3

- A. Testimony
- B. Tersest
- C. Termite
- D. Tersely

14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4

- A. On
- B. In
- C. Of
- D. Off

15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5

- A. Fast
- B. Feebly
- C. Firmly
- D. Finely

Directions (Q1- Q5): In the following questions, the passage/sentence is split into five parts and named P, Q, R, S and T. These five parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence/passage and find out which of the five combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

16.

- P.** Asian Americans have been targeted and attacked in cities across the country, with many incidents occurring in broad daylight and in public places.
- Q.** We must take action to stop this wave of violence and ensure that all members of our community feel safe and protected.
- R.** The recent surge in anti-Asian violence across the United States is a cause for deep concern.
- S.** This rise in hate crimes is unacceptable and has no place in our society.
- T.** This includes increasing funding for community organizations and initiatives that support Asian Americans, strengthening hate crime legislation, and promoting education and awareness about the harmful impact of racism and discrimination.

- A. RTSPQ B.SPQTR C.RPSQT D.PQRST

17.

- P. Four Tests were played in 2021 when a COVID-19 scare forced the postponement of the fifth match while India led 2-1.
- Q. The administrators agreed to play the fifth Test after a year and this was an interval like none other.
- R. The long-drawn Test series involving England and India, which commenced on August 4 last year, concluded with a pulsating climax at Birmingham's Edgbaston on Tuesday.
- S. The seven-wicket victory helped England draw the series at 2-2 through a comeback that stunned the visitors.
- T. In the fifth Test, England galloped towards the fourth innings target of 378 in just 76.4 overs with centurions Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow building on the momentum gifted by openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley.

A. RTSPQ

B.SPQTR

C.RPSQT

D.PQRST

18.

- P. This might actually not be such a bad outcome.
- Q. A move to open up the distribution sector in a big way must be preceded by more detailed consultation with stakeholders.
- R. This is not the least because of irrational tariffs and aggregate 'technical and commercial' losses of over 24 per cent.
- S. After mooting the 'delicensing' of power distribution recently, the Centre appears to be having second thoughts on the idea after objections from some States.
- T. There can be no denying that power sector reforms have made some progress in recent years, but the State-owned distribution sector, which accounts for 90 per cent of power distributed, is still hobbled by dues of over Rs. 1 lakh crore.

A. RTSPQ

B.SPQTR

C.RPSQT

D.PQRST

19.

- P. Few things in science or social science are as incontestable as the importance of maternal health to human development.
- Q. Maternal mortality indicates a woman's ability to access health care, contraceptive devices, nutrition, and, in a sense, is a mark of the efficiency of a health-care system in responding to demands made of it.
- R. A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal, PLOS Global Public Health, casts a shadow over the progress of health care targeting women in the country, but also, questions
- S. the reliability of the country's own periodic estimates of maternal mortality ratio, or MMR (number of mothers who die from complications in pregnancy for every one lakh live births.)
- T. Researchers from the International Institute for Population Sciences triangulated data from routine records of maternal deaths under the Health Management Information System,

with Census data and the Sample Registration System (SRS) to provide the MMR for all States and districts of India.

- A. RTSPQ B.SPQTR C.RPSQT D.PQRST

20.

- P.** Something or the other comes up every day telling us that industry is not doing good in the country, notwithstanding the well-intentioned Make in India and production-linked incentives.
- Q.** A decade ago, this was 22 percent.
- R.** That manufacturing is not languishing is quite well-known.
- S.** Now there is a media report that information technology (IT) companies account for around 43 percent of the forex revenues of listed firms
- T.** While the listed IT services companies earned nearly Rs 4.2 lakh crore through exports in 2021-22, a rise of 15 percent over the previous fiscal, the forex revenues or exports of the rest of the BSE 500 companies were down 11.9 percent to Rs 5.6 lakh crore in FY22.

- A. RTSPQ B.SPQTR C.RPSQT D.PQRST

Answers

1. B 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. A 9. C 10. C 11. C 12. A
25. D 14. A 15. B 16. C 17. A 18. B 19. D 20. C

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B. Lack of prompt police action

Explanation: The passage states that the murderers of Pehlu Khan were acquitted due to the lack of prompt police action, which highlights the need for law enforcement agencies to act with alacrity when such incidents occur.

2. b) It resulted in an expansive interpretation of the Directive Principles of state policy, leading to stringent laws on cow slaughter.

Explanation: The 2005 Supreme Court judgment overturned a previous ruling that limited the ban to "useful" cattle, and instead expanded the interpretation of the Directive Principles of state policy, leading to stringent laws on cow slaughter in states led by the BJP.

3. B. Transporting cattle

Explanation: The passage mentions that Pehlu Khan was murdered in Rajasthan while he was transporting cattle. This is one of the many instances where cattle traders or transporters have been attacked by self-styled "cow vigilantes."

4. D. Critical

Explanation: The tone of the passage is critical, as it highlights the negative aspects of the recurring instances of violence by self-styled cow vigilantes, the failure of law enforcement agencies, and calls for a judicial rethink on legislation over cow slaughter.

5. C. The recurring instances of violence by self-styled cow vigilantes

Explanation: The main theme of the passage is the recurring instances of violence by self-styled cow vigilantes, as it discusses various incidents, the lack of proper action by law enforcement agencies, and the need for a judicial rethink on legislation over cow slaughter.

6. A) Eagerness

Explanation: In the passage, "alacrity" refers to the need for the Karnataka police to act quickly and with enthusiasm in bringing the murderers to justice. Therefore, the synonym for "alacrity" is "eagerness."

7. B) Corruption

Explanation: In the context of the passage, "venality" is used to describe the immoral actions of those committing the murders. Therefore, the synonym for "venality" is "corruption."

8. A) Discouraging

Explanation: In the passage, "emboldening" refers to the increased confidence and motivation of the right-wing activists. Therefore, the antonym for "emboldening" is "discouraging."

9. C) Incompetence

Explanation: In the context of the passage, "acuity" refers to the skill and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in implementing cattle slaughter laws. Therefore, the antonym for "acuity" is "incompetence."

10. C) To turn a blind eye

Explanation: In the passage, the law enforcement agencies are described as having "the acuity" in implementing cattle slaughter laws as a pretext for the acts of the self-styled "cow vigilantes" while not bringing those responsible to justice. This shows that the agencies are ignoring or disregarding the crimes committed by these individuals. The idiom "to turn a blind eye" means to ignore or pretend not to notice something, which accurately describes the actions of the law enforcement agencies in this context.

11. **Turbulence** (noun) – rough air currents, irregular atmospheric motion, uneven air movement
अशांति

12. **Crest** (noun) – summit, peak, highest point, top, शिखर

- **Crestfallen** (adjective) – sad and disappointed.
- **Quest** (noun) – Search, hunt, pursuit खोज, तलाश

13. **Tersely** (adverb) – briefly, succinctly, shortly संक्षिप्त रूप से

- **Testimony** (noun) – Something that serves as evidence प्रमाण
- **Tersest** (adjective) – short, brief, curt, crisp, concise संक्षिप्त

14. **Touch on** (phrasal verb) – refer to, mention, give a mention to, comment on मोटे तौर पर
ज़िक्र करना

15. **Feebly** (adverb) – In a way that fails to convince or impress. अस्पष्टता से

- **Fast** (adverb) - quickly, rapidly, swiftly, speedily तेज़ी से
- **Finely** (adverb) – delicately, exquisitely, fine, nicely, excellently सूक्ष्मता से
- **Firmly** (adverb) – in a way that uses steady power or strength. मजबूती से

16. **RPSQT**

The recent surge in anti-Asian violence across the United States is a cause for deep concern. Asian Americans have been targeted and attacked in cities across the country, with many incidents occurring in broad daylight and in public places. This rise in hate crimes is unacceptable and has no place in our society. We must take action to stop this wave of violence and ensure that all members of our community feel safe and protected. This includes increasing funding for community organizations and initiatives that support Asian Americans, strengthening hate crime legislation, and promoting education and awareness about the harmful impact of racism and discrimination.

17. **RTSPQ**

The long-drawn Test series involving England and India, which commenced on August 4 last year, concluded with a pulsating climax at Birmingham's Edgbaston on Tuesday. In the fifth

Test, England galloped towards the fourth innings target of 378 in just 76.4 overs with centurions Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow building on the momentum gifted by openers Alex Lees and Zak Crawley. The seven-wicket victory helped England draw the series at 2-2 through a comeback that stunned the visitors. Four Tests were played in 2021 when a COVID-19 scare forced the postponement of the fifth match while India led 2-1. The administrators agreed to play the fifth Test after a year and this was an interval like none other.

18. **SPQTR**

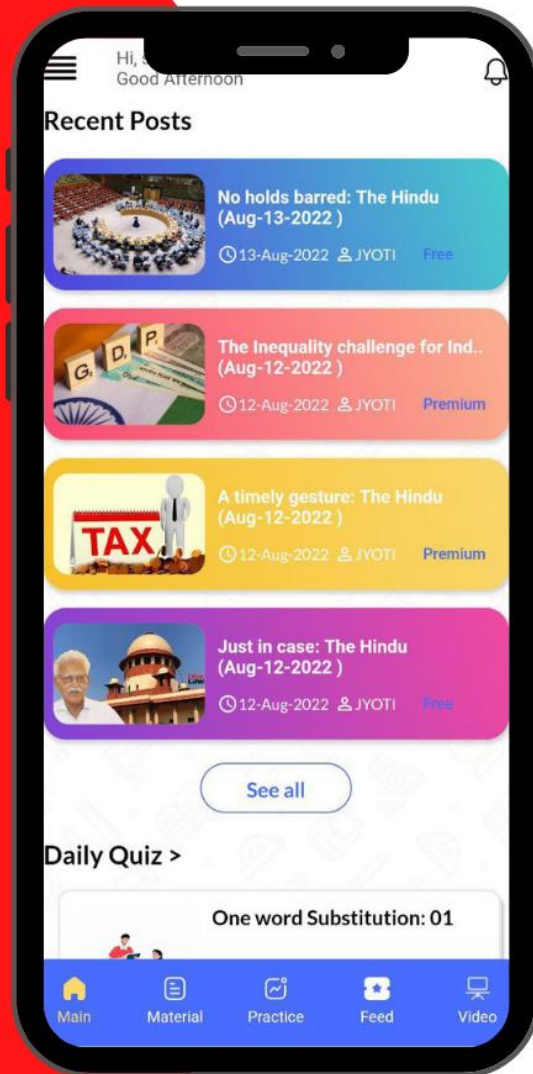
After mooting the 'delicensing' of power distribution recently, the Centre appears to be having second thoughts on the idea after objections from some States. This might actually not be such a bad outcome. A move to open up the distribution sector in a big way must be preceded by more detailed consultation with stakeholders. There can be no denying that power sector reforms have made some progress in recent years, but the State-owned distribution sector, which accounts for 90 per cent of power distributed, is still hobbled by dues of over Rs. 1 lakh crore. This is not the least because of irrational tariffs and aggregate 'technical and commercial' losses of over 24 per cent.

19. **PQRST**

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