

None too soon: On Governor's and the judiciary's reminder on Bills

Delay in **conveying** decision on **assent** to Bills **is** constitutionally **impermissible**

The Supreme Court has given a timely reminder to Governors that the Constitution expects that a **decision** to return a Bill to the State Assembly for **reconsideration** **should** be made "as soon as possible". It has **drawn attention to** the phrase found in the first **proviso** to Article 200, **seeking** to convey a sense of **immediacy** in the matter of returning a Bill. "The expression 'as soon as possible' contains significant constitutional content and must be **borne in mind** by constitutional authorities," the Court observed. This effectively means it would be constitutionally impermissible for Governors to **hold on to** Bills **indefinitely** without communicating their decision to the House. **The Telangana Governor**, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, against whose **apparent** inaction on several Bills the State had **approached** the Court, **communicated** to the Court that no Bills were pending with her, and that she had returned two Bills for reconsideration, while seeking further information from the government on a few others. Based on this, the Court **disposed** of the **petition**, but kept open questions that **arose** from the issue for consideration in an appropriate case. The Court's observation **addresses** the issue of delay, but it is only one **aspect** of the **controversy**. The issue of **granting** assent is seen in most parliamentary democracies as a formality, but the **peculiar discretionary powers** with which Governors are **clothed in** India have given much scope for controversy.

The Governor's **power** to **withhold** assent or return a Bill, with a message, for reconsideration **is** seen as **discretionary**. In the Constituent Assembly, it was **explicitly** clarified that returning a Bill was to be done only on advice, and that it was an **enabling** provision for a government to **recall** a pending Bill in case it had **second thoughts** on its **advisability**. There are three clear problems **associated** with Article 200, which **deals with** assent to Bills: the absence of a time limit for acting on Bills, the scope for reserving a Bill for the President's consideration against the express advice of the Cabinet and the **claim** that the Governor can **kill** any Bill by **declining** assent. The **mischief lies** in Article 163, which **hedges** the primary rule that the Governors function on the '**aid and advice**' of the Cabinet, with a **clause** that **prohibits** any inquiry into whether a particular matter fell within their **discretion** or not. These provisions give **abundant** scope for **conflict** between the government and Raj Bhavan. There is no doubt that these **ought to** be changed, either by **amending** the Constitution or through an appropriate Supreme Court **verdict**, so that **misuse** of **gubernatorial** discretion **can** be **kept in check**.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **None too soon** (phrase) – Not a moment too soon, just in time, barely timely, right on time कोई भी जल्दी नहीं
2. **Reminder** (noun) – a letter sent to remind someone of an obligation स्मरणपत्र
3. **Bill** (noun) – Legislation, proposed law, draft law, measure, enactment विधेयक
4. **Convey** (verb) – Communicate, transmit, impart, relay, express सूचित करना
5. **Assent** (noun) – Agreement, approval, consent, concurrence, endorsement सहमति
6. **Impermissible** (adjective) – Unacceptable, prohibited, forbidden, disallowed, not allowed नाजायज, अनुचित
7. **Reconsideration** (noun) – Review, re-examination, rethinking, reassessment पुनर्विचार
8. **Draw attention to** (phrase) – Highlight, point out, emphasize, underscore, bring attention to ध्यान आकर्षित करना
9. **Proviso** (noun) – Condition, stipulation, qualification, caveat, clause प्रावधान
10. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, endeavour, कोशिश करना
11. **Immediacy** (noun) – Urgency, promptness, instantaneousness, expeditiousness तत्कालता
12. **Bear in mind** (phrase) – Remember, keep in mind, take into account, be mindful of ध्यान में रखना
13. **Hold on to** (phrase) – Retain, keep, maintain, preserve, cling to रखना
14. **Indefinitely** (adverb) – Endlessly, continually, for an unspecified period, without limit अनिश्चितकालीन
15. **Apparent** (adjective) – Evident, clear, obvious, manifest, noticeable प्रत्यक्ष/ स्पष्ट
16. **Approach** (verb) – contact, accost, speak to, get in touch with पहुँचना
17. **Dispose** (of) (verb) – discard, get rid of, dispense with, clear out का निपटारा करना
18. **Petition** (noun) – Appeal, request, plea, entreaty, supplication याचिका
19. **Arise** (verb) – Emerge, occur, come up, spring up, develop उठना
20. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, attend to, focus on, confront सुलझाना, निपटाना
21. **Aspect** (noun) – Feature, facet, component, element, part पहलू

22. **Controversy** (noun) – Dispute, disagreement, argument, debate, contention विवाद
23. **Grant** (verb) – Give, award, bestow, confer, present देना
24. **Peculiar** (adjective) – Strange, unusual, uncommon, abnormal, atypical अजीब
25. **Discretionary power** (noun) – Authority, control, jurisdiction, prerogative, privilege विवेकाधिकार
26. **Clothe** (verb) – endow with a particular quality. (विशेष गुण) प्रदान करना।
27. **Withhold** (verb) – Retain, hold back, keep, suppress रोकना
28. **Discretionary** (adjective) – Optional, non-compulsory, elective, voluntary विवेकाधीन
29. **Explicitly** (adverb) – Clearly, plainly, distinctly, unambiguously स्पष्टतः
30. **Enabling** (adjective) – Empowering, facilitating, permitting, authorizing समर्थकारी
31. **Recall** (verb) – Remember, recollect, retrieve, call to mind याद करना
32. **Second thought** (noun) – a change of opinion or resolve reached after considering something again. पौनर्विचार
33. **Advisability** (noun) – Suitability, desirability, sensibleness, appropriateness सलाहकारिता
34. **Associated** (adjective) – Related, connected, linked, joined संबंधित
35. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Handle, manage, tackle, cope with निपटना, सुलझाना
36. **Claim** (noun) – Assertion, allegation, declaration, statement दावा
37. **Kill** (verb) – Quash, terminate, put an end to, nullify रद्द करना
38. **Decline** (verb) – Refuse, reject, turn down, say no to अस्वीकार करना
39. **Mischief** (noun) – Wrongdoing, misbehavior, misconduct, troublemaking शरारत
40. **Lie** (verb) – Be situated, be located, be found, be present स्थित होना
41. **Hedge** (verb) – Safeguard, protect, shield, guard सुरक्षा देना
42. **Aid and advice** (noun) – Assistance, support, help, counsel सहायता और सलाह
43. **Clause** (noun) – Provision, stipulation, requirement, condition धारा
44. **Prohibit** (verb) – Forbid, ban, bar, disallow प्रतिबंध करना

45. **Discretion** (noun) – Judgment, discernment, prudence, wisdom विवेक
46. **Abundant** (adjective) – Plentiful, ample, copious, profuse प्रचुर
47. **Conflict** (noun) – Dispute, disagreement, discord, strife संघर्ष
48. **Ought to** (modal verb) – Should, must, be obliged to करना चाहिए
49. **Amend** (verb) – Modify, alter, change, revise संशोधन करना
50. **Verdict** (noun) – Decision, judgment, ruling, resolution फैसला
51. **Gubernatorial** (adjective) – Of or relating to governor गवर्नर से संबंधित
52. **Keep in check** (phrase) – Control, restrict, restrain, curb, limit, रोकना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Supreme Court reminded Governors to make decisions on returning Bills to State Assemblies quickly.
2. The Court referenced the first proviso to Article 200, emphasizing the need for immediacy.
3. Governors are constitutionally required to communicate their decisions without undue delay.
4. The Telangana Governor, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, stated no Bills were pending with her.
5. The Court disposed of the petition but left questions open for consideration in future cases.
6. The Court's observation addresses delays but not all aspects of the controversy.
7. Governors' powers in India have led to disputes in granting assent to Bills.
8. The Governor's power to withhold assent or return a Bill is seen as discretionary.
9. The Constituent Assembly clarified that returning a Bill should be based on advice.
10. Three main issues exist with Article 200: no time limit for acting on Bills, scope for reserving a Bill for President's consideration, and potential for Governors to kill a Bill.
11. Article 163 contributes to conflicts between the government and Raj Bhavan.
12. Governors' functioning on 'aid and advice' of the Cabinet can be hindered by a clause prohibiting inquiry into discretionary matters.
13. Provisions in Articles 200 and 163 provide ample opportunity for conflict.
14. There is a need for constitutional amendments or a Supreme Court verdict to address these issues.
15. Changes could help curb the misuse of gubernatorial discretion in India.

SSC Based:- Practice Exercise

1. Which of the following best describes the constitutional expectation of Governors regarding decisions to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration, as highlighted by the Supreme Court? [Editorial page]
 - A. Decisions should be made as soon as possible.
 - B. Decisions should be made within a specific time frame.
 - C. Decisions should be made only after consulting the judiciary.
 - D. Decisions should be made based on the Governor's discretion.
2. Which of the following issues is NOT associated with Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, according to the passage?
 - A. Absence of a time limit for acting on Bills
 - B. Scope for reserving a Bill for the President's consideration against the express advice of the Cabinet
 - C. Governor's ability to kill a Bill by declining assent
 - D. Governors functioning on the 'aid and advice' of the Cabinet
3. Which of the following statements is CORRECT regarding the Supreme Court's reminder to Governors on the constitutionality of delaying decisions on Bills?
 - i. The Supreme Court has clarified that the Constitution allows Governors to hold onto Bills indefinitely without communicating their decision.
 - ii. The Supreme Court has stressed that the Constitution expects a decision to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration to be made "as soon as possible."
 - iii. The Supreme Court has stated that the Constitution allows Governors to reserve a Bill for the President's consideration without any time limit.
 - iv. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution prohibits Governors from returning a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration.
 - A. Only i
 - B. Only ii
 - C. Only iii
 - D. i, ii, iii
4. Which idiom best describes the situation where Governors delay conveying their decision on assent to Bills, as discussed in the editorial?
 - A. Add fuel to the fire
 - B. A picture is worth a thousand words
 - C. Hold one's horses
 - D. The ball is in their court
5. What is the tone of the passage?
 - A. Critical
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Sarcastic
 - D. Optimistic
6. What is the main theme of the passage?

- A. The importance of parliamentary democracy
 - B. The role of the Supreme Court in Indian politics
 - C. The issues and controversies surrounding the Governor's powers in relation to assent to Bills
 - D. The history of the Constituent Assembly
7. **What type of powers do Governors in India possess that give much scope for controversy?**
- A. Unique
 - B. Unlimited
 - C. Unusual
 - D. Ordinary
8. **The Governor's power to return a Bill for reconsideration is considered:**
- A. Compulsory
 - B. Arbitrary
 - C. Discretionary
 - D. Fixed
9. What is an antonym for "immediacy" as mentioned in the passage?
- A. Urgency
 - B. Proximity
 - C. Distance
 - D. Delay
10. What is an antonym for "withhold" as used in the passage?
- A. Retain
 - B. Grant
 - C. Reserve
 - D. Suppress

Comprehension

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

India woke up at ____1____ on Monday to watch the 95th Academy Awards held at Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, and cheer the two wins. Director Kartiki Gonsalves' Tamil documentary The Elephant Whisperers became the first ever Indian production to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short. Director S.S. Rajamouli's Telugu film RRR became the first Indian feature production to win an Oscar when its ____2____ 'Naatu Naatu' won for Best Original Song (music composer M.M. Keeravani and lyricist Chandrabose). ____3____ this cheer, however, director Shaunak Sen's All That Breathes lost the Best Documentary Feature to director Daniel Roher's Navalny. RRR's win is significant in the context of India's last wins at the Oscars in 2009, from the British production, Slumdog Millionaire — Best Original Song and Score for music composer A.R. Rahman and lyricist Gulzar's 'Jai Ho', and Resul Pookutty for Best Sound Mixing. While this Danny Boyle film can be described as a western world's interpretation of Indian cinema's song, dance and mainstream masala, RRR is an Indian mainstream production that is ____4____ about its ____5____ action pieces and dance numbers. The 'Naatu Naatu' win

can be viewed as the Academy's nod to cinema that captured the imagination of a multicultural American society

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

- A. Precipitation
- B. Erosion
- C. Dawn
- D. Uprising

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

- A. Catchy
- B. Scary
- C. Productivity
- D. Stimuli

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

- A. Amid
- B. Often
- C. Furthermore
- D. Altogether

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

- A. Systematic
- B. Problematic
- C. Unapologetic
- D. Unrealistic

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

- A. Rigour
- B. Spectacle
- C. Buoyancy
- D. Caprice

16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. The politician who transformed society, the corporate honcho who grew richer, the tech czar who changed the way we live, the incredible sports person who inspired the rest of us, the social activist who led the protests,
- Q. This is not the year of a Hero or a Heroine, an annual ritual when a person of the year is named
- R. Nor is this a time to announce the top personalities or influencers and celebrities of 2020 – a customary rating circus at the end of each year carried out by many media houses who thrust them on the public
- S. The actor who mesmerised the audiences – none deserve accolades nor are they of any real significance in 2020 the year many are calling annus horribilis – the year of disasters

- A. SPQR B.QRPS C.SQRP D.PRQS

17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**

- P. Just because things were a certain way in the past or held true for the generations before does not mean you are bound to continue them.
- Q. It's insidious how patterns and belief systems get so deeply ingrained into our subconscious minds and that we don't recognise them as something that doesn't need to be further passed down by us.
- R. We are all reflections of our environment and experiences and the most influencing factors are the family values, DNA and attributes that we inherit.
- S. It's strange how we resent what happens to us while we are growing up, yet in turn do the same to our kids.

A. RSQP B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ

18. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. Firstly, sadness, frustration, grief isn't mental illness.
- Q. Post the lockdown mental wellness has become a focal talk point and it's heartening to have people come out in large numbers to address these issues.
- R. We are surrounded by those who talk incessantly about how they chant for positivity, count their blessings and practice gratitude for positivity, surround themselves with positive people, use aromatherapy, feng shui, vastu, colour therapy, or have specific meditation and nature walk practices, along with a host of other methods to infuse positivity into their lives.
- S. There are those of us who seek positivity and those of us who are sickened by the constant "be positive" mantra thrown at us on a regular basis

A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ

19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. In my opinion, Yakub Memon was finally put out of misery.
- Q. His hope and life both extinguished, when he was hanged to death in the Nagpur Jail in the early hours today.
- R. Yakub may have preferred 'death' to being in incarceration in jail for the rest of his life.
- S. The torture of uncertainty till virtually the last hour — of life or death, depth of despair, and last days of hope against hope and unbearable tension, was probably more on his immediate family than Yakub himself.

A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

20. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph

- P. Gods, bewitching Apsaras of celestial beauty and Rakshasas and demons, passed down to them orally from time immemorial
- Q. When I was a boy of about eight , I used to go and attend the Harikathas during various festival celebrations in my small village Gorur in rural Karnataka where I grew up, where itinerant Haridasas, cymbals in hand, tapping the feet with jingling anklets to keep the beat, would sing and recount tales from our Puranas and epics and hold the village audience in thrall

- R. I was also lured by the wandering life of these singers, who led an austere mendicant 's life , who went from village to village singing stories of saints and mythic Kings, and
- S. Many a time I was tempted to jump on the band wagon of the Haridasas , captivated by the mystic charm of those heroic stories of yore as I dreamt of becoming a Harikatha exponent myself
- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS

Directions (21 – 23): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

21. The teacher's announcement to conduct a snap test came as **a bolt from the blue** to many students.
- A. Imaginary
B. Unexpected
C. Forbidden
D. Heavenly
22. He and his friend are **sailing in the same boat**.
- A. Sailing together in the same boat.
B. Sharing the financial and social conditions.
C. Being in the same difficult situation
D. Getting rid of the difficult situation.
23. To be successful in today's world, we require the **gift of the gab**.
- A. Ability to speak well
B. Good interpersonal skills
C. Divine help and guidance
D. A fierce competitive spirit.

Directions (Q24– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

24. Most of the people (A)/ are afraid of (B)/ swine flu these days. (C)/ No error (D)
25. After rising the flag to (A)/ inaugurate the sports meet, the Chairman (B)/ gave a long speech. (C)/ No Error (D).

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **Answer: A) Decisions should be made as soon as possible.**

Explanation: The passage states that the Supreme Court has reminded Governors that the Constitution expects a decision to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration to be made "as soon as possible". The Court refers to the phrase found in the first proviso to Article 200, which conveys a sense of immediacy in the matter of returning a Bill. The expression "as soon as possible" contains significant constitutional content and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities.

2. Explanation: The passage states that there are three clear problems associated with Article 200: the absence of a time limit for acting on Bills, the scope for reserving a Bill for the President's consideration against the express advice of the Cabinet, and the claim that the Governor can kill any Bill by declining assent. The 'aid and advice' of the Cabinet issue is associated with Article 163, not Article 200. Hence, the correct answer is D) Governors functioning on the 'aid and advice' of the Cabinet.

3. **Answer: B. The Supreme Court has stressed that the Constitution expects a decision to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration to be made "as soon as possible."**

Explanation: The passage states that the Supreme Court has given a timely reminder to Governors, emphasizing that the Constitution expects a decision to return a Bill to the State Assembly for reconsideration to be made "as soon as possible." The Court pointed out the phrase found in the first proviso to Article 200, which seeks to convey a sense of immediacy in the matter of returning a Bill. The Court observed that the expression "as soon as possible" contains significant constitutional content and should be kept in mind by constitutional authorities. This implies that it would be constitutionally impermissible for Governors to hold on to Bills indefinitely without communicating their decision to the House

4. Answer: C) Hold one's horses (phrase) – कार्रवाई में देरी या निर्णय लेने में धीमा होना

Explanation: The idiom "hold one's horses" refers to delaying action or being slow in making a decision. In the context of the editorial, it highlights the issue of Governors delaying their decisions on assent to Bills, which is deemed constitutionally impermissible. The Supreme Court has reminded Governors to make their decisions "as soon as possible" in order to avoid any constitutional conflicts.

5. **Answer: A) Critical**

Explanation: The tone of the passage is critical, as it highlights the problems and controversies associated with the Governor's powers in relation to assent to Bills and the potential for conflict between the government and Raj Bhavan. The passage also emphasizes the need for change in these provisions to prevent misuse of gubernatorial discretion

6. **Answer: c) The issues and controversies surrounding the Governor's powers in relation to assent to Bills**

Explanation: The passage primarily discusses the problems and controversies surrounding the Governor's powers in relation to assent to Bills, particularly the delay in conveying decisions and the discretionary powers that Governors have in India. The passage also highlights the need for changes to the Constitution or an appropriate Supreme Court verdict to address these issues.

7. **Answer: c) Unusual**

Peculiar (adjective) – strange, unusual, bizarre, weird, queer अजीबोगरीब, विचित्र, अनोखा

Explanation: In the passage, it is mentioned that "the peculiar discretionary powers with which Governors are clothed in India have given much scope for controversy." Here, "peculiar" and "unusual" are synonymous, both indicating that the powers are uncommon or distinctive.

8. **Answer: c) Discretionary**

Explanation: The passage states, "The Governor's power to withhold assent or return a Bill, with a message, for reconsideration is seen as discretionary." This means the power is left to the Governor's judgment, making it a discretionary action.

9. **Answer: D) Delay**

Immediacy (noun) – Urgency, Instantaneity, Proximity, Closeness, Nearness तात्कालिकता/तुरन्ता

Explanation: "Immediacy" in the passage implies a sense of urgency and promptness in making a decision. The opposite of this would be "delay," which means to postpone or take longer than necessary to make a decision or take action

10. **Answer: B) Grant**

Withhold (verb) – to refuse to give something, or to keep back something रोक लेना

Explanation: In the passage, "withhold" refers to the Governor's power to not give assent or approval to a Bill. The opposite of withholding something is to grant or give it. Therefore, "grant" is the antonym of "withhold" in this context.

11. **Dawn** (noun) – Daybreak, sunrise, morning भोर का समय

- **Precipitation** (noun) – rainfall, rain, snow, sleet, hail वर्षा
- **Erosion** (noun) – Decline, degradation, deterioration, attrition. क्षय
- **Uprising** (noun) – Rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny विद्रोह

12. **Catchy** (adjective) – likely to attract attention; memorable, Likeable आकर्षक

- **Scary** (adjective) – frightening, terrifying, alarming, intimidating भयानक
- **Productivity** (noun) – efficiency, output, performance, yield उत्पादकता
- **Stimuli** (plural noun) – Triggers, impulses, incentives, motivations, inducements प्रेरणा

13. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of के बीच
- **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, habitually अक्सर
 - **Furthermore** (adverb) – moreover, in addition, besides, also इसके अलावा
 - **Altogether** (adverb) – Completely, entirely, totally, wholly, fully पूरी तरह से
14. **Unapologetic** (adjective) – unashamed, confident, impenitent, unregretful शर्मिंदगी नहीं होना
- **Systematic** (adjective) – Methodical, organized, structured, orderly, well-planned व्यवस्थित
 - **Problematic** (adjective) – difficult, troublesome, complicated, challenging समस्याग्रस्त
 - **Unrealistic** (adjective) – Impractical, unfeasible, unattainable, improbable अवास्तविक
15. **Spectacle** (noun) – a visually striking performance or display.
- **Rigour** (noun) – strictness, severity, stringency, meticulousness, precision कठोरता
 - **Buoyancy** (noun) – resilience, strength, vitality, dynamism, liveliness उछाल
 - **Caprice** (noun) – Whim, unpredictability, impulsiveness, fickleness, changeability सनक, अनिश्चितता
16. **QRPS**
This is not the year of a Hero or a Heroine, an annual ritual when a person of the year is named. Nor is this a time to announce the top personalities or influencers and celebrities of 2020 – a customary rating circus at the end of each year carried out by many media houses who thrust them on the public. The politician who transformed society, the corporate honcho who grew richer, the tech czar who changed the way we live, the incredible sports person who inspired the rest of us, the social activist who led the protests, the actor who mesmerised the audiences – none deserve accolades nor are they of any real significance in 2020 the year many are calling annus horribilis – the year of disasters
17. **RSQP**
We are all reflections of our environment and experiences and the most influencing factors are the family values, DNA and attributes that we inherit. It's strange how we resent what happens to us while we are growing up, yet in turn do the same to our kids. It's insidious how patterns and belief systems get so deeply ingrained into our subconscious minds and that we don't recognise them as something that doesn't need to be further passed down by us. Just because things were a certain way in the past or held true for the generations before does not mean you are bound to continue them.
18. **SRQP**
There are those of us who seek positivity and those of us who are sickened by the constant “be positive” mantra thrown at us on a regular basis. We are surrounded by those who talk incessantly about how they chant for positivity, count their blessings and practice gratitude for positivity, surround themselves with positive people, use aromatherapy, feng shui, vastu,

colour therapy, or have specific meditation and nature walk practices, along with a host of other methods to infuse positivity into their lives. Post the lockdown mental wellness has become a focal talk point and it's heartening to have people come out in large numbers to address these issues. Firstly, sadness, frustration, grief isn't mental illness.

19. **PQSR**

In my opinion, Yakub Memon was finally put out of misery. His hope and life both extinguished, when he was hanged to death in the Nagpur Jail in the early hours today. The torture of uncertainty till virtually the last hour — of life or death, depth of despair, and last days of hope against hope and unbearable tension, was probably more on his immediate family than Yakub himself. Yakub may have preferred 'death' to being in incarceration in jail for the rest of his life.

20. **QSRP**

When I was a boy of about eight, I used to go and attend the Harikathas during various festival celebrations in my small village Gorur in rural Karnataka where I grew up, where itinerant Haridasas, cymbals in hand, tapping the feet with jingling anklets to keep the beat, would sing and recount tales from our Puranas and epics and hold the village audience in thrall. Many a time I was tempted to jump on the band wagon of the Haridasas, captivated by the mystic charm of those heroic stories of yore as I dreamt of becoming a Harikatha exponent myself. I was also lured by the wandering life of these singers, who led an austere mendicant 's life, who went from village to village singing stories of saints and mythic Kings, and Gods, bewitching Apsaras of celestial beauty and Rakshasas and demons, passed down to them orally from time immemorial.

21. **Bolt from the blue** (phrase) – a complete surprise : something totally unexpected अचानक

22. **Sail in the same boat** (phrase) – to be in the same difficult situation as someone else.

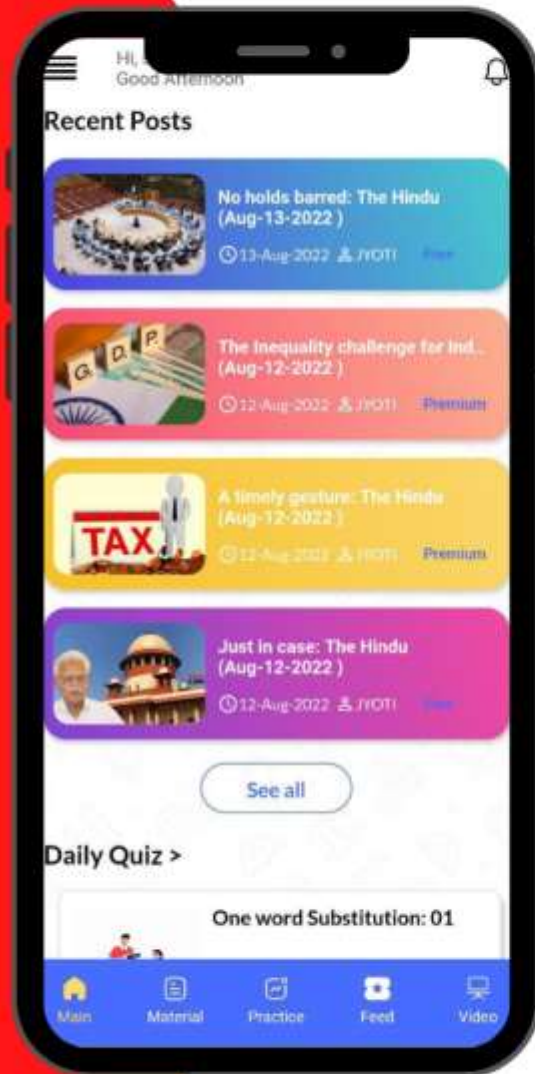
23. **Gift of the gab** (phrase) – the ability to talk glibly and persuasively. वक्तृत्व-वाग्मिता

24. No Error

25. 'rising' के बदले 'raising' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'rise' का अर्थ है 'उठना, उठाना' और यह एक

Intransitive Verb है जिसके साथ Object का प्रयोग नहीं होता है, जबकि 'raise' का अर्थ है 'उठाना, खड़ा करना' और एक Transitive Verb है जिसके साथ एक Object का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे-

- i. The sun rises in the east.
- ii. He raised an important issue in the meeting



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

