

## A good divorce: On the Supreme Court of India's ruling

Irretrievable breakdown of marriage should be a **ground** for divorce

Not all marriages are happy, and not all divorces are unhappy. For those who want to **opt out** of a bad marriage, Monday's Supreme Court ruling on divorce will be seen as a good **move**. **Leaning on** the "guiding spirit" of Article 142(1) of the Constitution to do "complete justice" in any "cause or matter", a **Constitution Bench** said it could use this **extraordinary discretionary power** to **grant** divorce by **mutual consent** to couples **trapped** in **bitter** marriages. It also aims to **spare** couples the "agony and misery" of waiting six to 18 months for a local court to **annul** it, as **stipulated** under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The **Bench**, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, **observed** that the **law** of divorce, built **predominantly** on **assigning** fault, **fails** to serve broken marriages. It **pointed out** that if a marriage is **wrecked beyond** hope, public interest **lies** in recognising this fact, not **upholding** a 'married' status **regardless**. The Court said it could use Article 142 to **quash** pending criminal or **legal proceedings**, be it over domestic violence or **dowry**, against the man or woman. Continuing in this **strain**, the Bench said the Supreme Court could grant divorce on the grounds of an "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" if the "separation is **inevitable** and the damage is **irreparable**". Under the Hindu Marriage Act, irretrievable breakdown of marriage is not yet a ground for divorce.

In its judgment, there was a word of **caution** that the grant of divorce would not be a "matter of right, but a **discretion** which is to be **exercised** with great care... **keeping in mind** that 'complete justice' is done to both parties." Several factors would be **considered** by the Supreme Court before **invoking** Article 142 in **matrimonial** cases, including duration of marriage, period of **litigation**, the time the couple has **stayed apart**, the nature of pending cases, and attempts at **reconciliation**. The Court will have to be satisfied that the mutual agreement to divorce was not under **coercion**. In India, while **divorcees** have doubled in number over the past two **decades**, the **incidence** of divorce is still at 1.1%, with those in urban areas **making up** the largest proportion. But the divorce numbers do not tell the whole story; there are many women, particularly among the poor, who are **abandoned** or **deserted**. Census 2011 **revealed** that the population which is "separated" is almost triple the divorced number. In a country which is largely poor, where gender **discrimination** is **rife** and many women are still not financially independent, the Court's **stress** on "care and caution" and not to **rush into** a quick divorce **must** be welcomed. After all, marriage equality is not a reality for all.

- **Lie** (verb) – Remain, stay, be, keep होना, रहना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Ruling** (noun) – Judgment, decision, verdict, decree, order फैसला
2. **Irretrievable** (adjective) – Unrecoverable, irreversible, unrepairable, beyond recovery, lost जिसका सुधार न किया जा सके
3. **Breakdown** (noun) – Collapse, failure, disintegration, malfunction, deterioration टूटना
4. **Irretrievable Breakdown of Marriage** (noun) – This means the couple can no longer live together as man and wife
5. **Ground** (noun) – Reason, basis, justification, cause, motive आधार
6. **Opt out** (phrasal verb) – Withdraw, pull out, exit, retreat, disengage से बाहर निकलना
7. **Move** (noun) – initiative, step, action, act, measure कदम
8. **Lean (on)** (verb) – To rely or depend on someone or something पर निर्भर होना/ भरोसा करना
9. **Guiding spirit** (noun) – Inspiration, guiding principle, driving force, motivation, direction मार्गदर्शक भावना
10. **Constitution Bench** (noun) – a bench of the Supreme Court having five or more judges on it.
11. **Extraordinary** (adjective) – Exceptional, remarkable, outstanding, amazing, astonishing असाधारण
12. **Discretionary power** (noun) – Discretionary power can be defined as the authority that allows an administrative agency or official to choose the most reasonable decision among several options following public and private interests. विवेकाधिकार शक्ति
13. **Discretionary** (adjective) – Optional, non-compulsory, elective, voluntary विवेकाधीन
14. **Grant** (verb) – allow, accord, permit, afford मंजूरी देना
15. **Mutual** (adjective) – reciprocal, joint, common, shared, collective आपसी
16. **Consent** (noun) – agreement, assent, concurrence, accord सहमति
17. **Trap** (verb) – get stuck, catch, get caught, block, entrap, lock in फँसना
18. **Bitter** (adjective) – Unpleasant, acrimonious dispute, disagreeable पीड़ादायक
19. **Spare** (verb) – Save, exempt, relieve, let off, release से बचाना
20. **Agony** (noun) – Suffering, pain, anguish, torment, distress पीड़ा

21. **Misery** (noun) – pain, sorrow, unhappiness, sadness, grief, distress दुख
22. **Annul** (verb) – Invalidate, nullify, cancel, void, abolish रद्द करना/ अमान्य घोषित करना
23. **Stipulate** (verb) – specify, set down, set out, lay down, set forth, state clearly निर्धारित करना
24. **Bench** (noun) – The judge or judges composing a court. न्यायपीठ
25. **Predominately** (adverb) – Mainly, mostly, chiefly, primarily, for the most part मुख्य रूप से
26. **Assign** (verb) – allot, given, dispense, consign, ascribe सौंपना
27. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, show, draw attention to बताना
28. **Wreck** (verb) – Destroy, ruin, devastate टूटना
29. **Beyond** (preposition) – Further than, past, outside, exceeding, surpassing परे
30. **Uphold** (verb) – Support, maintain, defend, endorse, sustain कायम रखना
31. **Regardless** (adverb) – Despite, nevertheless, in spite of, anyway, anyhow भले ही
32. **Quash** (verb) – Annul, nullify, void, revoke, cancel रद्द करना
33. **Legal** (adjective) –Lawful, legitimate, licit, authorized, permissible कानूनी
34. **Proceeding** (noun) – Action, legal action, lawsuit, litigation, trial कार्यवाही
35. **Dowry** (noun) –an amount of money or property which, in some countries, a woman's family gives to the man she is marrying दहेज
36. **Strain** (noun) – Stress, pressure, tension, burden, load तनाव
37. **Separation** (noun) – Division, detachment, disconnection, segregation, parting अलगाव
38. **Inevitable** (adjective) –Unavoidable, inescapable, certain, sure, fated अपरिहार्य
39. **Irreparable** (adjective) – Irreversible, irrecoverable, unfixable, un-rectifiable असुधार्य
40. **Caution** (noun) –Carefulness, prudence, vigilance, circumspection, wariness सावधानी
41. **Discretion** (noun) –Judgement, discernment, prudence, judiciousness, wisdom विवेक
42. **Exercise** (verb) –Carry out, perform, implement, apply प्रयोग करना

43. **Keep in mind** (phrase) –Remember, bear in mind, consider, take into account ध्यान में रखना
44. **Consider** (verb) –Contemplate, think about, ponder, examine, review विचार करना
45. **Invoke** (verb) – to mention or use a law, rule etc. as a reason for doing something क़ानून आदि प्रयोग करना
46. **Matrimonial** (adjective) – Of or relating to Marriage वैवाहिक
47. **litigation** (noun) – Legal action, lawsuit, legal dispute, legal proceedings, legal contest मुकदमेबाज़ी
48. **Stay** (verb) – Remain, continue, persist, linger, reside रहना
49. **Apart** (adverb) – Separately, aside, away, at a distance, to one sideअलग
50. **Reconciliation** (noun) – Resolution, settlement, compromise, understanding, agreement सुलह
51. **Coercion** (noun) –Force, compulsion, duress, pressure, constraint ज़ोर-ज़बर्दस्ती
52. **Divorcee** (noun) – a person who is divorced तलाक़शुदा व्यक्ति
53. **Decade** (noun) –A period of 10 years दशक
54. **Incidence** (noun) –Occurrence, frequency, rate, prevalence, proportion घटना
55. **Make up** (phrasal verb) – Form, comprise, constitute, make बनाना
56. **Abandon** (verb) –Desert, leave, forsake, discard, relinquish त्यागना
57. **Desert** (verb) – Abandon, leave, forsake, discard, maroon छोड़ना
58. **Reveal** (verb) – Disclose, unveil, expose, divulge, make known प्रकट करना
59. **Discrimination** (noun) –Bias, prejudice, partiality, favoritism, unfairness भेदभाव
60. **Rife** (adjective) –Widespread, prevalent, rampant, common, abundant प्रचलित/व्यापक
61. **Stress** (noun) – Emphasize, Importance, Accent जोर
62. **Rush into** (phrasal verb) – Act hastily, plunge into, dive into, leap into, charge into जल्दबाज़ी में करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court of India ruled that irretrievable breakdown of marriage should be a ground for divorce.
2. The ruling relies on Article 142(1) of the Constitution, allowing the Court to do "complete justice" in any "cause or matter".
3. The Court can grant divorce by mutual consent to couples trapped in bitter marriages.
4. The ruling aims to spare couples the lengthy waiting period of six to 18 months for local court annulments.
5. The Bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, believes that fault-based divorce law fails to serve broken marriages.
6. The Court recognizes public interest in acknowledging irreparable marriages instead of maintaining a "married" status.
7. Article 142 can also be used to quash pending criminal or legal proceedings, including domestic violence or dowry cases.
8. The Supreme Court can grant divorce based on an "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" if separation is inevitable and damage irreparable.
9. The Hindu Marriage Act does not currently recognize irretrievable breakdown of marriage as a ground for divorce.
10. The Court emphasized that granting divorce is not a right, but a discretion exercised with care and consideration of "complete justice" for both parties.
11. Several factors will be considered before invoking Article 142, such as duration of marriage, litigation period, time apart, nature of pending cases, and reconciliation attempts.
12. The Court must be satisfied that the mutual agreement to divorce is not coerced.
13. Divorce rates in India remain low at 1.1%, with higher rates in urban areas.
14. Census 2011 showed that the "separated" population is almost triple the divorced number, indicating many women are abandoned or deserted.
15. The Court's emphasis on "care and caution" is important, as marriage equality is not a reality for all, especially in a country with widespread poverty and gender discrimination.

## Practice Exercise

1. **According to the passage, what is the Supreme Court of India's stance on granting divorce based on the irretrievable breakdown of marriage?**
  - A. It opposes the idea and maintains the status of marriage.
  - B. It supports the idea, using Article 142 to grant divorce by mutual consent.
  - C. It remains neutral and leaves the decision to lower courts.
  - D. It supports the idea but only if domestic violence or dowry charges are involved.
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following factors does the Supreme Court of India consider before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases?**
  - i. Duration of marriage
  - ii. Time the couple has stayed apart
  - iii. Nature of pending cases
  - A. Only i
  - B. Only iii
  - C. Both I and ii
  - D. I, ii, iii
3. **According to the passage, which factor is/are NOT considered by the Supreme Court before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases?**
  - i. Duration of marriage
  - ii. Period of litigation
  - iii. Number of children
  - iv. Attempts at reconciliation
  - A. Only i
  - B. Only ii
  - C. Only iii
  - D. I, ii, iii
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Pessimistic
  - C. Neutral
  - D. Critical
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The role of the Supreme Court in upholding marriage equality
  - B. The importance of financial independence for women in India
  - C. The Supreme Court's use of Article 142 to expedite divorce proceedings
  - D. The prevalence of gender discrimination in India
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom.**  
**Out of the frying pan and into the fire**
  - A. To escape from one danger and get caught in an even worse situation
  - B. To be unable to make a decision between two undesirable options
  - C. To be very skilled at cooking and baking

D. To be able to handle difficult situations with ease

**7. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice**

**The gardener has watered the bushes**

- A. The bushes have been watered by the gardener.
- B. The bushes are being watered by the gardener.
- C. The bushes were being watered by the gardener.
- D. The bushes has been watered by the gardener

**8. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

His outstanding performance at the audition left the judges feeling \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. perplexed
- B. flabbergasted
- C. cantankerous
- D. calm

**9. Identify the option that arranges the given parts in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph.**

**P.** A mother imagines sharing her secrets with her child. A woman practises for a difficult conversation.

**Q.** A sanitation worker dreams of becoming a lawyer to fight for workers' rights.

**R.** But I'd like to share the story behind this story: one about four working-class families who dreamed of making films and attended a film school to collectively learn, create, and take care of each other.

**S.** This is the story of Kathi, Kathi, Kaarana, a yet-to-be-released short film narrated and produced by workers from the city of Bangalore and their families.

- A. QPRS
- B. RSQP
- C. SRPQ
- D. QPSR

**10. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**

He built a website from scratch.

- A. A website has been built from scratch by him.
- B. A website was built from scratch by him.
- C. A website was building from scratch by him.
- D. A website is built from scratch by him.

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

The dog's ears perked up as it \_\_\_\_\_ the faint sound of its owner's footsteps.

- A. ascertained
- B. deciphered
- C. surmised
- D. discerned

**12. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

His recent promotion caused his colleagues to be envious of his newfound success.

- A. resentful

- B. apathetic
- C. admiring
- D. disdainful

**13. Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom**

**Rain on someone's parade**

- A. To purposely ruin someone's plans or spoil their enjoyment
- B. To express sympathy for someone's misfortune
- C. To experience a sudden change of plans due to bad weather
- D. To unexpectedly help someone in a difficult situation

**14. Select the sentence that contains no spelling errors.**

- A. His knowlege of the subjct matter is unparaelled.
- B. The goverment is making an effert to reduse pollution.
- C. Perseverance is essential for achieving long-term success.
- D. The acheivement of her goals was a testamant to her dedication.

**15. Select the most appropriate synonym of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.**

Despite her exhaustion, Emily managed to maintain a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (persistent) attitude throughout the day.

- A. ephemeral
- B. transient
- C. tenacious
- D. evanescent

**16. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

- P. For centuries, mathematicians have tackled questions related to epidemics and pandemics, along with potential responses to them.
  - Q. Mathematicians have continued this work to the present day, including during the COVID pandemic.
  - R. Predicting and understanding disease outbreaks doesn't just involve epidemiology. It takes math, too.
  - S. For instance, 18th-century Swiss mathematician Daniel Bernoulli is credited with developing the first mathematical epidemiology model, which focused on analyzing the effects of smallpox inoculation on life expectancy.
- A. RPSQ
  - B. SQRP
  - C. QSRP
  - D. RPQS

**17. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

Her diligent work ethic and attention to detail made her an invaluable member of the team.

- A. negligent
- B. industrious
- C. assiduous
- D. punctilious



18. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph

- P. "India is a country where protecting nature is part of our culture," Modi said in his speech on Sunday. "This is why we have many unique achievements in wildlife conservation."
- Q. But Indigenous people, known as Adivasi in India, say wildlife conservation projects have displaced members of their community over the past half-century. Adivasi communities in Karnataka organised protests last month to highlight how their people, who have lived in forests for centuries, have been kept out of conservation efforts.
- R. Modi also launched the International Big Cats Alliance, which he said will focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species: the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.
- S. Officials were celebrating just hours away from several of India's major tiger reserves when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in the southern city of Mysuru that the country's tiger population has steadily grown to more than 3,000 since its flagship conservation programme began 50 years ago over concerns that the numbers of the big cats were dwindling.
- A. RQSP  
B. SPRQ  
C. PQRS  
D. SQRP

19. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.

- A. Irresistible  
B. Comaraderie  
C. Preposterous  
D. Incessant

20. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.

She said to her maid, "Clean the utensils properly."

- A. She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly.  
B. She commanded her maid that kindly clean the utensils properly.  
C. She orders her maid to clean the utensils properly.  
D. She commands her maid that clean the utensils properly.

21. Identify the pair of synonyms from the underlined words in the given sentence.

The police officer began a **thorough investigation** to determine the **culprit**, while his **colleague** pursued a **meticulous** search for clues at the scene.

- A. investigation, culprit  
B. investigation, meticulous  
C. thorough, colleague  
D. thorough, meticulous

### 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.

Women empowerment has always been a (1)\_\_\_\_\_ topic of discussion around the world. It is the process of giving women the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ and opportunities to make their own decisions and lead a life without (3)\_\_\_\_\_ or discrimination. Empowerment can be achieved through various means such as education, economic independence, and equal representation in decision-making bodies. Over the years, many (4)\_\_\_\_\_ have fought for women's rights, and their efforts have resulted in significant progress.

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

- A. controversial
- B. insignificant
- C. significant
- D. futile

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

- A. power
- B. restrictions
- C. barriers
- D. disapproval

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

- A. violence
- B. restrictions
- C. bias
- D. inequality

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

- A. individuals
- B. organizations
- C. governments
- D. celebrities

**Answers**

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)**Explanations****1. Answer: B) It supports the idea, using Article 142 to grant divorce by mutual consent.**

Explanation: The passage states that the Supreme Court of India believes in using its extraordinary discretionary power, based on Article 142(1) of the Constitution, to grant divorce by mutual consent to couples trapped in bitter marriages. The Court also indicates that it could use Article 142 to quash pending criminal or legal proceedings related to domestic violence or dowry. Furthermore, the Bench suggests that the Supreme Court could grant divorce on the grounds of an "irretrievable breakdown of marriage" if the "separation is inevitable and the damage is irreparable."

**2. Correct Answer: D) I, ii, iii**

Explanation: The passage mentions that the Supreme Court of India considers several factors before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases. These factors include duration of marriage, period of litigation, the time the couple has stayed apart, the nature of pending cases, and attempts at reconciliation. Thus, all the given options are factors considered by the Supreme Court of India.

**3.** Explanation: The passage mentions several factors that the Supreme Court considers before invoking Article 142 in matrimonial cases, such as duration of marriage, period of litigation, the time the couple has stayed apart, the nature of pending cases, and attempts at reconciliation. The number of children is not mentioned as a factor in the passage. The correct answer is C.

**4. Answer: A) Optimistic**

Explanation: The tone of the passage is optimistic, as it discusses the Supreme Court of India's ruling on divorce as a good move for those who want to opt out of a bad marriage. The passage highlights the benefits of the ruling, such as sparing couples the "agony and misery" of waiting for a local court to annul their marriage and promoting the idea that irretrievable breakdown of marriage should be a ground for divorce. While the passage does mention the need for caution in granting divorces, it ultimately presents the ruling in a positive light.

**5. C) The Supreme Court's use of Article 142 to expedite divorce proceedings**

Explanation: The passage discusses the Supreme Court of India's ruling on divorce, which leans on Article 142(1) of the Constitution to grant divorce by mutual consent to couples trapped in bitter marriages. The main theme revolves around the Court's decision to use its extraordinary discretionary power to expedite divorce proceedings, aiming to spare couples the "agony and misery" of waiting for a local court to annul the marriage as stipulated under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

**6. A. Out of the frying pan and into the fire** (phrase) – To escape from one danger and get caught in an even worse situation आसमान से गिरा खजूर में अटका

7. A. The bushes have been watered by the gardener.

8. B. flabbergasted

- **perplexed** (adjective) – confused, baffled, bewildered, puzzled, mystified व्याकुल
- **flabbergasted** (adjective) – astonished, amazed, stunned, astounded, dumbfounded हैरत में डाला हुआ
- **cantankerous** (adjective) – irritable, grumpy, grouchy, bad-tempered, argumentative झगड़ालू

9. **QPSR**

A sanitation worker dreams of becoming a lawyer to fight for workers' rights. A mother imagines sharing her secrets with her child. A woman practises for a difficult conversation. This is the story of Kathi, Kathi, Kaarana, a yet-to-be-released short film narrated and produced by workers from the city of Bangalore and their families. But I'd like to share the story behind this story: one about four working-class families who dreamed of making films and attended a film school to collectively learn, create, and take care of each other.

10. B. A website was built from scratch by him.

11. D. discerned

- **Ascertain** (verb) – to find out or discover something with certainty through careful observation, investigation, or analysis. निर्धारित करना
- **Decipher** (verb) – to decode or interpret something that is difficult or obscure, such as a code, handwriting, or a language समझना
- **Surmise** (verb) – to guess or infer something based on incomplete or uncertain evidence or information अनुमान लगाना
- **Discern** (verb) – to perceive, recognize, or distinguish something, often with difficulty or by careful observation पहचानना

12. C) **admiring**- प्रशंसायुक्त

- **Resentful** (adjective) – bitter, aggrieved, disgruntled, irritated, offended क्रोधी
- **apathetic** (adjective) – indifferent, uninterested, unmotivated, dispassionate, listless उदासीन
- **envious** (adjective) – jealous, covetous, desirous, green-eyed, begrudging ईर्ष्यालु
- **disdainful** (adjective) – contemptuous, scornful, derisive, condescending, superior अभिमानी

13. **A. Rain on someone's parade** (phrase) – To purposely ruin someone's plans or spoil their enjoyment योजना या उत्सव को खराब करना

14. The correct answer is C. "Perseverance is essential for achieving long-term success." This sentence contains no spelling errors, whereas the other options each have multiple errors:

- A. "knowlege" should be "knowledge", and "subjiect" should be "subject".  
 B. "goverment" should be "government", and "effert" should be "effort", and "reduse" should be "reduce".  
 D. "acheivement" should be "achievement", and "testamant" should be "testament".

15. C. **tenacious** (adjective) – persistent, determined, resolute, dogged, unyielding दृढ़

- **ephemeral** (adjective) – fleeting, short-lived, momentary, temporary, transitory क्षणिक
- **transient** (adjective) – temporary, brief, short-term, impermanent, evanescent क्षणिक
- **evanescent** (adjective) – fleeting, vanishing, transient, ephemeral, short-lived अस्थायी

16. **RPSQ**

Predicting and understanding disease outbreaks doesn't just involve epidemiology. It takes math, too. For centuries, mathematicians have tackled questions related to epidemics and pandemics, along with potential responses to them. For instance, 18th-century Swiss mathematician Daniel Bernoulli is credited with developing the first mathematical epidemiology model, which focused on analyzing the effects of smallpox inoculation on life expectancy. Mathematicians have continued this work to the present day, including during the COVID pandemic.

17. A) negligent

- **Diligent** (adjective) – hardworking, assiduous, industrious, conscientious, persistent परिश्रमी
- **industrious** (adjective) – hardworking, diligent, assiduous, tireless, productive मेहनती
- **assiduous** (adjective) – diligent, persistent, industrious, attentive, meticulous परिश्रमी
- **punctilious** (adjective) – meticulous, scrupulous, exacting, careful, fastidious अत्यौपचारिक

18. **SPRQ**

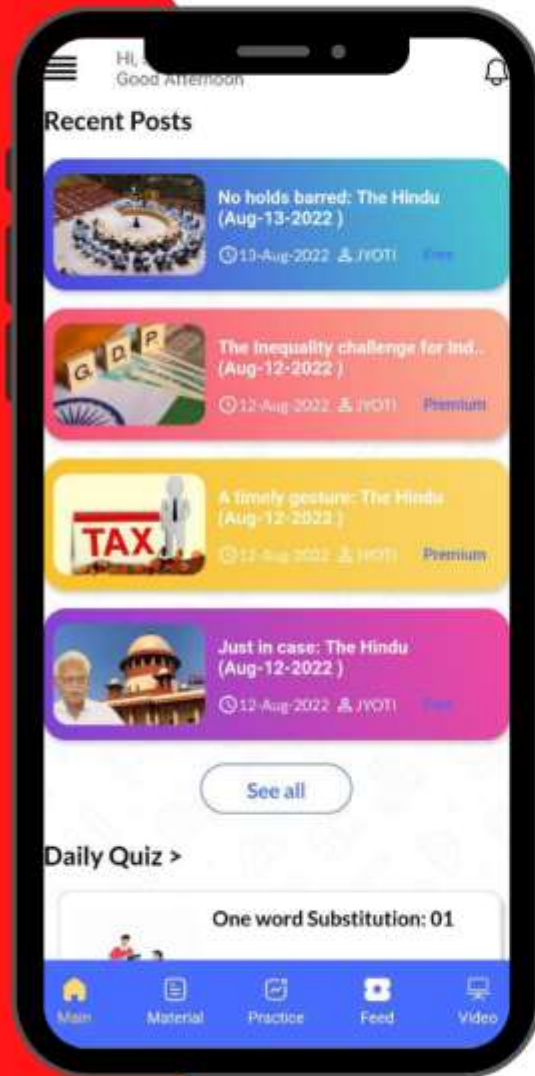
Officials were celebrating just hours away from several of India's major tiger reserves when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in the southern city of Mysuru that the country's tiger population has steadily grown to more than 3,000 since its flagship conservation programme began 50 years ago over concerns that the numbers of the big cats were dwindling.

"India is a country where protecting nature is part of our culture," Modi said in his speech on Sunday. "This is why we have many unique achievements in wildlife conservation."

Modi also launched the International Big Cats Alliance, which he said will focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species: the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.

But Indigenous people, known as Adivasi in India, say wildlife conservation projects have displaced members of their community over the past half-century. Adivasi communities in Karnataka organised protests last month to highlight how their people, who have lived in forests for centuries, have been kept out of conservation efforts.

19. B) The correct answer is option b) "Comaraderie". The incorrect spelling in this option is "Comaraderie," which should be spelled as "Camaraderie". The other options, a) Irresistible, c) Preposterous, and d) Incessant, are all spelled correctly.
20. A. She ordered her maid to clean the utensils properly.
21. D) In this sentence, the words 'thorough' and 'meticulous' are underlined. Both words have similar meanings, as they both refer to being very careful and detailed in one's work. Therefore, the correct answer is option d) thorough - meticulous, as they are synonyms
22. c) significant  
Explanation: The passage discusses the importance of women empowerment, which indicates that it is a significant topic of discussion.
23. a) power  
Explanation: The passage describes women empowerment as a process that provides women with the ability to make their own decisions, which is synonymous with giving them power.
24. b) restrictions  
Explanation: The passage emphasizes that women empowerment aims to allow women to lead a life without restrictions or discrimination.
25. b) organizations  
Explanation: Although individuals, governments, and celebrities can also fight for women's rights, organizations are more likely to have a broader and more organized impact on the cause.



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English Madhyam

