

## Undermining autonomy: On judicial endorsement of a tenure extension system

Allowing **piecemeal** extensions to ED, CBI heads is a **setback** to their independence

The Supreme Court's **verdict** **upholding statutory amendments** made in 2021 to allow multiple extensions of service to heads of investigative agencies **is** a setback to the **cause** of protecting their institutional independence. While **the part** of the judgment **quashing** the two one-year extensions given to the Director of Enforcement, S.K. Mishra, **may be welcomed**, the rest of it is **a free pass** to the government to undermine the autonomy of these agencies. The Court has asked Mr. Mishra to **step down** on July 31. In 2021, it had **directed** the government not to **grant** any extension to him beyond November that year. It has now **ruled** that even though Parliament can remove the basis for any judgment through **legislation**, it cannot **nullify** a court direction. Mr. Mishra was appointed for a two-year term in 2018, but in 2020, the original appointment was **retrospectively amended** to make it a three-year tenure. He was given two annual extensions in 2021 and 2022, despite crossing the age of **superannuation**. The government ignored the Court's earlier **observation** that such extension should be given to those who have **attained** superannuation only in "rare and exceptional cases". However, the larger **import** of the latest judgment **is** that it **endorses** the changes enabling annual extensions to the CBI and ED Directors until they complete five years in that office.

**The heads** of the CBI and ED **have** an **assured term** of two years **regardless of** superannuation, and the **introduction** of a power to extend it to five years **means** an officer may get up to three annual extensions. As the **petitioners** who challenged the extension given to Mr. Mishra, as well as the Court-appointed **amicus curiae**, **argued**, piecemeal extensions undermine the independence of the office, and encourage a **carrot-and-stick** policy to make Directors **toe the government's line**. The Court has rejected, without much justification, their **contention** that the 2021 changes to the Central Vigilance Commission Act, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act and the Fundamental Rules go against the **spirit** of earlier judgments that **mandated** fixed tenures to the CBI and ED heads only to **insulate** them from **extraneous** pressures. The **finding** that the amendments do not **violate** any fundamental rights **is** quite surprising, as **allowing** the government to have Directors who can pick and choose what cases to investigate based on political instructions **certainly offends** the rights of citizens to equal treatment and **impartial** investigation. At a time when there is a **cloud** of **suspicion** over the misuse of government agencies against political **opponents**, the Court's **endorsement** of a tenure extension system designed to undermine their independence **is** not **conducive** to **the rule of law**. **[Practice]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, dent, destabilize, damage, demoralize कमजोर करना
2. **Autonomy** (noun) – Independence, freedom, sovereignty, self-rule, self-determination स्वतंत्रता
3. **Endorsement** (noun) – Approval, support, backing, validation, ratification समर्थन
4. **Tenure** (noun) – Term, period of office, incumbency, regime कार्यकाल
5. **Piecemeal** (adjective) – Gradual, bit by bit, little by little, step by step क्रमशः, आहिस्ता-आहिस्ता
6. **Setback** (noun) – Hindrance, obstacle, impediment, drawback बाधा/ झटका
7. **Verdict** (noun) – Judgment, decision, resolution, decree निर्णय
8. **Uphold** (verb) – Support, back, endorse, sustain, maintain समर्थन करना
9. **Statutory** (adjective) – legal, lawful, legitimate, rightful, constitutional. वैधानिक
10. **Amendment** (noun) – Modification, revision, change, alteration संशोधन
11. **Cause** (noun) – Reason, basis, grounds, rationale कारण
12. **Quash** (verb) – Overturn, reverse, annul, negate रद्द करना
13. **Welcome** (verb) – Greet, receive, accept, embrace स्वागत करना
14. **Free pass** (noun) – Unrestricted permission or freedom; a situation where someone can do as they wish without consequences.
15. **Step down** (verb) – Resign, quit, leave, retire इस्तीफा देना
16. **Direct** (verb) – Order, command, instruct, guide निर्देश देना
17. **Grant** (verb) – Give, confer, bestow, award प्रदान करना
18. **Rule** (verb) – Decide, determine, decree, command निर्णय लेना
19. **Legislation** (noun) – Law, statute, act, ordinance विधान, क़ानून
20. **Nullify** (verb) – Cancel out, negate, invalidate, annul रद्द करना, अमान्य ठहराना
21. **Retrospectively** (adverb) – with effect from a date in the past. पूर्वव्यापी रूप से
22. **Amend** (verb) – Modify, revise, adjust, adapt संशोधन करना
23. **Superannuation** (noun) – Retirement, the act of retiring or of leaving one's job

- or position, particularly for those above the statutory age limit. सेवानिवृत्ति
24. **Observation** (noun) – Comment, remark, statement, utterance टिप्पणी
25. **Attain** (verb) – Achieve, reach, gain, realize प्राप्त करना
26. **Import** (noun) – Significance, meaning, relevance, implication महत्त्व
27. **Endorse** (verb) – Support, back up, uphold, advocate समर्थन करना
28. **Assured** (adjective) – Certain, guaranteed, sure, definite निश्चित
29. **Term** (noun) – Period, time, duration, span अवधि
30. **Regardless of** (phrase) – Despite, in spite of, notwithstanding बावजूद
31. **Petitioner** (noun) – Applicant, claimant, supplicant, requestor याचिकाकर्ता
32. **Amicus curiae** (noun) – Friend of the court; an adviser, often voluntary, to a court of law in a particular case. न्याय मित्र
33. **Carrot-and-stick** (adjective) – relating to a policy approach that offers both a reward and threat of punishment.
34. **Toe the line** (phrase) – Conform, follow the rules, obey नियमों का पालन करना
35. **Contention** (noun) – Assertion, claim, argument, opinion, position, view तर्क
36. **Spirit** (noun) – Essence, nature, meaning, sense भाव
37. **Mandate** (verb) – Authorize, order, command, instruct आदेश देना
38. **Insulate** (verb) – Protect, shield, safeguard, defend सुरक्षित रखना
39. **Extraneous** (adjective) – Irrelevant, immaterial, unnecessary अनावश्यक
40. **Finding** (noun) – Conclusion, decision, verdict निष्कर्ष
41. **Violate** (verb) – Breach, break, infringe, transgress उल्लंघन करना
42. **Certainly** (adverb) – Definitely, surely, unquestionably निश्चित रूप से
43. **Offend** (verb) – Insult, affront, upset, annoy; break a commonly accepted rule or principle. अपमानित करना; उल्लंघन करना,
44. **Impartial** (adjective) – Unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, neutral निष्पक्ष
45. **Cloud** (noun) – threat, menace, trouble, spectre. आशंका
46. **Suspicion** (noun) – Doubt, mistrust, skepticism, uncertainty संदेह

47. **Opponent** (noun) – Rival, adversary,  
challenger, competitor प्रतिद्वंद्वी

48. **Endorsement** (noun) – Approval,  
support, backing, validation, ratification  
समर्थन

49. **Conducive** (adjective) – Beneficial,  
helpful, advantageous, favorable  
अनुकूल

50. **The rule of law** (phrase) – The principle  
that all people and institutions are  
subject to and accountable to law that is  
fairly applied and enforced.

## Summary of the editorial

1. The Supreme Court has upheld amendments allowing multiple extensions to heads of investigative agencies, a move seen as a blow to institutional independence.
2. A part of the judgement welcomed is the quashing of two one-year extensions given to Director of Enforcement, S.K. Mishra.
3. The court ruling also permits the government to undermine the autonomy of these agencies.
4. Despite the court's direction in 2021 to not grant any extension beyond November to Mr. Mishra, he was given two annual extensions in 2021 and 2022.
5. Mr. Mishra's original appointment in 2018 was retrospectively amended to a three-year tenure in 2020.
6. The government overlooked the court's previous observation that extensions should only be given in "rare and exceptional cases" beyond the age of superannuation.
7. The judgement endorses changes allowing annual extensions to the CBI and ED Directors until they complete five years in office.
8. The heads of CBI and ED have an assured term of two years, regardless of superannuation, and now have the potential to receive up to three annual extensions.
9. Petitioners and the Court-appointed amicus curiae argued that piecemeal extensions compromise the independence of the office, incentivizing Directors to adhere to the government's directives.
10. The court rejected the contention that the 2021 amendments violate the spirit of previous judgements that advocated for fixed tenures for CBI and ED heads to protect them from external pressures.
11. The Court's finding that these amendments do not infringe on any fundamental rights is considered surprising.
12. The allowance for the government to dictate which cases are investigated based on political instructions is seen as an affront to the rights of citizens to equal treatment and unbiased investigation.
13. These amendments potentially facilitate the misuse of government agencies against political opponents.
14. The court's endorsement of a tenure extension system undermines the independence of these agencies.
15. This verdict is seen as detrimental to the rule of law due to its potential to diminish the independence of key institutions.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the Supreme Court's verdict on the statutory amendments made in 2021 imply regarding the institutional independence of investigative agencies?**
  - A. It promotes the institutional independence of investigative agencies, allowing for more extended tenures.
  - B. It has no substantial impact on the institutional independence of investigative agencies.
  - C. It undermines the institutional independence of investigative agencies by endorsing multiple extensions of service.
  - D. It ensures the institutional independence of investigative agencies by strictly limiting tenure extensions.
2. Based on the passage, which of the following statements does **NOT** represent the meaning of the term '**nullify**' in the context of the court's ruling?
  - A. To make a court direction ineffective
  - B. To retract a court direction
  - C. To undermine the effectiveness of a court direction
  - D. To prolong the tenure of a director beyond the superannuation age
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements best represents the concerns raised about the potential implications of the extension system for the heads of the CBI and ED?**
  - A. The extension system compromises the objective functioning of the CBI and ED as it can encourage directors to prioritize cases based on political instructions, thereby violating the rights of citizens to equal treatment and impartial investigation.
  - B. The extension system ensures a steady leadership at the helm of CBI and ED, therefore enhancing their efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out investigations.
  - C. The extension system provides an opportunity for the heads of CBI and ED to gain more experience and expertise in their respective roles, consequently improving their job performance.
  - D. The extension system, by allowing the heads of CBI and ED to stay longer in office, creates a stable environment for the development and implementation of long-term strategies in these organizations.
4. **"At a time when there is a cloud of suspicion over the misuse of government agencies against political opponents, the Court's endorsement of a tenure extension system designed to undermine their independence is not conducive to the rule of law."** Here, '**endorsement**' means all of the following **EXCEPT**:
  - A. approval
  - B. advocacy
  - C. derision
  - D. support
5. **Based on the passage, what is the tone of the author?**
  - A. Admiring
  - B. Neutral
  - C. Critical

D. Excited

**6. What is the main theme of the passage?**

- A. The merits of tenure extensions in investigative agencies
- B. The increase in judicial authority in India
- C. The impact of autonomy and independence on investigative agencies
- D. The rise of political interference in sport agencies

**7. Identify whether the given statements are true or false based on below passage**

**A.** The government ignored the Court's earlier observation that such extension should be given to those who have attained superannuation only in "rare and exceptional cases".

**B.** The Court has asked Mr. Mishra to step down on July 31. In 2021, it had directed the government not to grant any extension to him beyond December that year.

- A. A is true and B is false.
- B. A is false and B is true.
- C. Neither A nor B is true.
- D. Both A and B are true.

**8. Based on the passage, the author would most likely support which of the following options?**

- A. The statutory amendments that enable the government to provide multiple extensions of service to heads of investigative agencies, as it provides a necessary degree of flexibility for complex investigations.
- B. The Supreme Court's verdict that upholds these amendments, as it endorses a system that facilitates the government's ability to maintain continuity in its investigations.
- C. A system that restricts the tenure of the heads of investigative agencies to a fixed term, without the possibility for extensions, in order to protect the independence and autonomy of these agencies.
- D. The court's rejection of the contention that amendments to the Central Vigilance Commission Act and the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act undermine the spirit of earlier judgments.

**9. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

**Today's fast-paced world,/ where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics,/ upskilling has become indispensable to career growth in/ and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market.**

- A. Upskilling has become indispensable to career growth in and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market today's fast-paced world, where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics.
- B. Today's fast-paced world, where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics, and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics.
- C. Upskilling has become indispensable to career growth in today's fast-paced world, where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics, and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market today's fast-paced world.

- D. Where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics, upskilling has become indispensable to career growth in/ and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market.

**10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**

After three marriages, many men would have been more than ready to call it a day

- A. Call it as a bad day
- B. Call it as a good and productive day
- C. Stop thinking in daytime
- D. Stop working on something

11. Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph

**1. Rajasthan recently released the draft Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 for public comments.**

- A. The Rajasthan Gig Workers Bill is a first of its kind legislation in India that assures gig workers of social security, welfare schemes and rights protection.
- B. It has come at the heels of labour protests in Delhi by delivery workers at Zomato-owned Blinkit,.
- C. Gig workers' rights are under contention not just in India, but globally too.
- D. India's 10-minute delivery platform over cutting commissions.

**2. A comparison between latest happenings on gig workers' rights in United States and India allows one to appreciate that India might be two steps ahead, legislatively speaking.**

- A. ABCD
- B. DBCA
- C. ABDC
- D. DABC

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

- P. Currently, India's estimated internet users is set to reach 900 million by 2025.
- Q. Combine that with the fact that 11% of the global web3 pool is from India, the answer is apparent: The future of the web will have India leading the way.
- R. The internet industry has come a long since the last few decades.
- S. And the revolution has already begun.

- A. SQRP
- B. RQPS
- C. SQPR
- D. RPQS

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

- P. One of the key elements that contribute to a remarkable first impression is a stylish and sturdy door.
- Q. A door that not only complements the architectural design of your home but also exudes elegance and durability, which sets the tone for the entire living space and elevates the curb appeal of your home.
- R. The entrance of your home serves as the gateway to your personal haven, and the first impression it creates can leave an ever-lasting impact on your guests.
- S. The right choice of door adds the element which attracts the eyes and leaves a pleasing impact along with the anticipation for what lies beyond.

- A. RPQS
- B. RSPQ
- C. SRQP
- D. SPRQ



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

- P. However, there is one key element that has acted as a catalyst and fueled the growth of the Indian startup ecosystem; the rise of startup incubators.
- Q. In recent years, India has emerged as one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems in the world.
- R. This growth is driven by a number of factors, including a young and growing population, a rising middle class, and a government that is increasingly supportive of homegrown entrepreneurs.
- S. In 2021, we saw a record number of startups being founded in the country, with over 14,000 new registered businesses, which has only doubled since then.
- A. QSPR                      B.PSRQ                      C.QSRP                      D.PQSR

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

- P. In today's fast-paced world, the design of commercial interior spaces has become more than just an aesthetic choice. Enter human-centered design briefs, the driving force behind creating purposeful and impactful commercial interiors.
- Q. From ergonomic furniture to intuitive layouts, human-centered design briefs consider every element that can influence the user's experience.
- R. By placing the needs and desires of the end-users at the forefront, human-centered design briefs ensure that every aspect of the space is thoughtfully crafted to enhance productivity, well-being, and overall satisfaction.
- S. It is a powerful tool that can shape the way people interact and experience a space.
- A. QSPR                      B.PSRQ                      C.QSRP                      D.PQSR

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

- P. The Europeans, and especially the French, will take heed of the fact that Narendra Modi is attending the Bastille Day parade,
- Q. This year India and France are celebrating the completion of 25 years of strategic alliance and partnership.
- R. which is celebrated in the same way as we celebrate Independence Day in India, by a special military parade on the Champs Elysees in Paris.
- S. Therefore, the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has been invited as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade, on July 14th.
- A. QSPR                      B.PSRQ                      C.QSRP                      D.PQSR

**Comprehension**

The IITs and IIMs are India's \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ higher-education institutions. A seat in either is almost like a podium finish in the Olympics. Their entrance tests are so tough that they have \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ a multi-crore tutorial ecosystem. With blockbuster brand value, recall and reputation, both brands are \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ opportunities to \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ the lucrative foreign market.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Abysmal
- B. Top-notch
- C. Substandard

D. Inferior

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

A. Spawn

B. Create

C. Spawned

D. Retreated

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

A. Seeking

B. Seek

C. Sought

D. Sacking

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

A. Joining

B. Tap

C. Binding

D. Using

**Answers**

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

**Explanations**

1. **C) It undermines the institutional independence of investigative agencies by endorsing multiple extensions of service.**

The passage discusses the Supreme Court's verdict upholding amendments made in 2021, allowing for multiple extensions of service to heads of investigative agencies. It mentions that this verdict is seen as a setback to their institutional independence, as it allows the government to undermine the autonomy of these agencies. Hence, the verdict does not promote, ensure, or have no impact on institutional independence; instead, it undermines it, making option C the correct answer.

2. **D. To prolong the tenure of a director beyond the superannuation age**

The term 'nullify' in this context refers to the ability to make a court direction void or ineffective. Options A, B, and C all reflect this understanding. However, option D refers to extending the tenure of a director, which is unrelated to the concept of nullifying a court direction as discussed in the passage.

3. A) The passage outlines concerns raised by the petitioners and the Court-appointed amicus curiae about the possible undermining of the independence of the CBI and ED due to the power to extend their head's terms to five years. They argue that such an extension system could lead to the heads prioritizing cases based on political instructions rather than an impartial judgement, which in turn violates citizens' rights to equal treatment and impartial investigation. The other options, although they could be potential implications of an extension system, are not reflected in the concerns raised in the passage.
4. **C) Derision** – This is the correct answer because derision means contempt or ridicule, which is the exact opposite of endorsement. The court isn't mocking or showing contempt for the system; instead, it's supporting it, which is what endorsement implies.

**Endorsement** (noun) – the act of expressing support or approval for something. समर्थन approval, recommendation, advocacy, support, backing.

5. C) Critical

The author's tone throughout the passage can be classified as "critical." This can be inferred from phrases such as "undermine the autonomy," "setback to the cause," and "not conducive to the rule of law." The author clearly critiques the Supreme Court's verdict and the government's actions concerning tenure extensions for the heads of investigative agencies.

6. **C) The impact of autonomy and independence on investigative agencies**

The passage focuses on the changes in the system of extending tenures to the heads of investigative agencies and the implications this has for their independence and autonomy. It critically discusses the Supreme Court's endorsement of these changes and the government's subsequent actions, arguing that these measures have the potential to compromise the

impartiality and effectiveness of these agencies. Therefore, the main theme is the impact of autonomy and independence on investigative agencies.

7. **A.) A is true and B is false.**

A. The government ignored the Court's earlier observation that such extension should be given to those who have attained superannuation only in "rare and exceptional cases".

**This statement is true. The passage states,** "The government ignored the Court's earlier observation that such extension should be given to those who have attained superannuation only in "rare and exceptional cases".

B. The Court has asked Mr. Mishra to step down on July 31. In 2021, it had directed the government not to grant any extension to him beyond **December** that year.

**This statement is false. The passage says,** "The Court has asked Mr. Mishra to step down on July 31. In 2021, it had directed the government not to grant any extension to him beyond **November** that year."

8. C) The author of the passage argues against the Supreme Court's verdict that upholds amendments allowing for multiple extensions to the heads of investigative agencies. The author views this as undermining the independence and autonomy of these agencies and hence would not support options A, B, and D, which endorse this verdict and its outcomes. Therefore, option C is the correct answer, as it aligns with the author's stance of protecting the independence and autonomy of investigative agencies by restricting their tenure to a fixed term without the possibility for extensions.

9. C) Upskilling has become indispensable to career growth in today's fast-paced world, where technological advancements, evolving industry dynamics, and shifting employer expectations significantly influence the job market.

10. D) **Call it a day** (phrase) – Stop working on something अंत करना, खातमा करना

11. C) **1ABDC2**

**1:** It introduces the subject of discussion, a specific gig workers bill proposed in Rajasthan.

**A:** This sentence follows the first one because it uses the pronoun 'it', referring back to 'The Rajasthan Gig Workers Bill' mentioned in the first sentence.

**B:** It provides a temporal connection, indicating what event occurred just prior to the introduction of this bill.

**D:** This sentence is referring to the Blinkit platform mentioned in sentence B, and it further explains why there were protests. "Blinkit" is understood as "India's 10-minute delivery platform" from the previous sentence.

**C:** The second line expands on the topic by stating that gig workers' rights are not only a matter of contention in India but also globally.

**2:** This sentence concludes the paragraph, summarizing the preceding information and providing a broader context of comparing India's gig workers' rights progress to that of the United States. It uses a time sequence-indicating word, 'latest', which implies that the events discussed earlier are recent developments.

**12. D) RPQS**

**R:** "R" serves as an introductory sentence. It introduces the topic of the internet industry's evolution over the last few decades.

**P:** "P" naturally follows "R". The details about the estimated number of internet users in India in the future is an extension of the theme introduced in "R". The word "currently" acts as a Time Sequence Indicating Word. It shifts the time frame from the past in "R" to the present and future in "P".

**Q:** "Q" builds on the information in "P". The phrase "Combine that with the fact..." indicates a link to previously mentioned data, referring back to the statement in "P".

**S:** "S" is the logical concluding sentence after "Q". The statement "And the revolution has already begun" implies that the effects of the trends mentioned in "Q" are already visible, concluding the idea initiated in the previous sentences.

**13. A) RPQS**

**R:** In this sentence, the writer introduces the concept of a home's entrance and its role in creating a first impression. It sets up the main theme and forms a good starting point.

**P:** After setting the theme with the first sentence, this sentence talks about an important factor (a door) that contributes to this first impression. It's a logical continuation as it expands on the idea mentioned in the previous sentence.

**Q:** This sentence further elaborates on the attributes of the door mentioned in the previous sentence (P). The use of "A door" establishes a clear connection with the noun "door" from the preceding sentence

**S:** This sentence concludes the paragraph by underlining the impact of choosing the right door, summarizing the points made in the previous sentences. The reference to the "right choice of door" connects back to the ideas introduced in P and Q.

**14. C) QSRP**

**Q:** This sentence is a suitable starting point as it provides the introduction to the main topic about the Indian startup ecosystem.

**S:** This sentence logically follows sentence Q. It provides a time sequence, referring to a specific year (2021) after the general 'recent years' mentioned in Q. Additionally, the "we" refers to a general, unspecified group that could be assumed from the context introduced in Q.

**R:** The sentence follows from S because it refers back to the 'growth' mentioned in S ("This growth"), It delves into explaining the factors behind this growth.

**P:** The "However" in this sentence signals a shift or addition to the previous factors listed in R, making this an ideal concluding statement. The sentence also refers to "the growth of the Indian startup ecosystem", further connecting back to R and the overall theme introduced in Q.

**15. B) PSRQ**

**P:** This sentence introduces the concept of "human-centered design briefs", which is important for creating effective commercial interiors.

**S:** This sentence adds further to the introduction, describing "it" as a powerful tool that shapes

people's interaction and experience in a space. The use of "it" here is a pronoun that must refer back to a noun previously mentioned, which in this case is "human-centered design briefs".

**R:** Continuing from S, this sentence further elaborates the concept of "human-centered design briefs", explaining how they work by putting the needs and desires of the end-users at the forefront.

**Q:** This sentence gives examples (ergonomic furniture, intuitive layouts) of how the "human-centered design briefs" affect the user experience. Therefore, it's best placed after the introduction and explanation of what the design briefs do (in P, S, and R).

16. **A) QSPR**

**Q:** This sentence provides the context that India and France are celebrating 25 years of strategic alliance and partnership. It's the most logical place to start as it sets the stage for the rest of the information.

**S:** Following Q, S logically follows as it gives the reason why the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is invited as the Guest of Honor for the Bastille Day Parade.

**P:** After establishing why Narendra Modi is attending the Bastille Day Parade, P explains how the French and other Europeans view his attendance.

**R:** The final sentence provides further details about how Bastille Day is celebrated, which relates back to Narendra Modi's attendance at the parade.

17. **B) Top-notch** (adjective) – excellent, first-rate, outstanding, superior, superb, श्रेष्ठ

context से पता चलता है कि IITs and IIMs को भारत में विशिष्ट संस्थान माना जाता है। इस प्रकार, top-notch का अर्थ है उच्च गुणवत्ता या प्रथम श्रेणी, context में सबसे उपयुक्त बैठता है। बाकी options में negative अर्थ हैं जो positive context से मेल नहीं खाते।

The context suggests that IITs and IIMs are considered elite institutions in India. Thus, "top-notch" meaning high quality or first-rate, fits the context best. The rest of the options have negative connotations which don't match with the positive context.

18. **C) Spawn** (verb) – generate, create, produce, engender, provoke, उत्पन्न करना

वाक्य past tense में है, इसलिए verb का past form "spawned" (जिसका अर्थ है विकसित करना या उत्पन्न करना) उपयुक्त है। spawn, Create और present form में हैं जो वाक्य के tense से मेल नहीं खाते। The sentence is in the past tense, so the past form of the verb "spawned" (meaning to cause to develop or originate) is appropriate. 'Spawn', 'Create', and 'Retreated' are in the present form which doesn't match with the tense of the sentence.

19. **A) Seek** (verb) – look for, search for, try to find, quest, pursue, खोजना

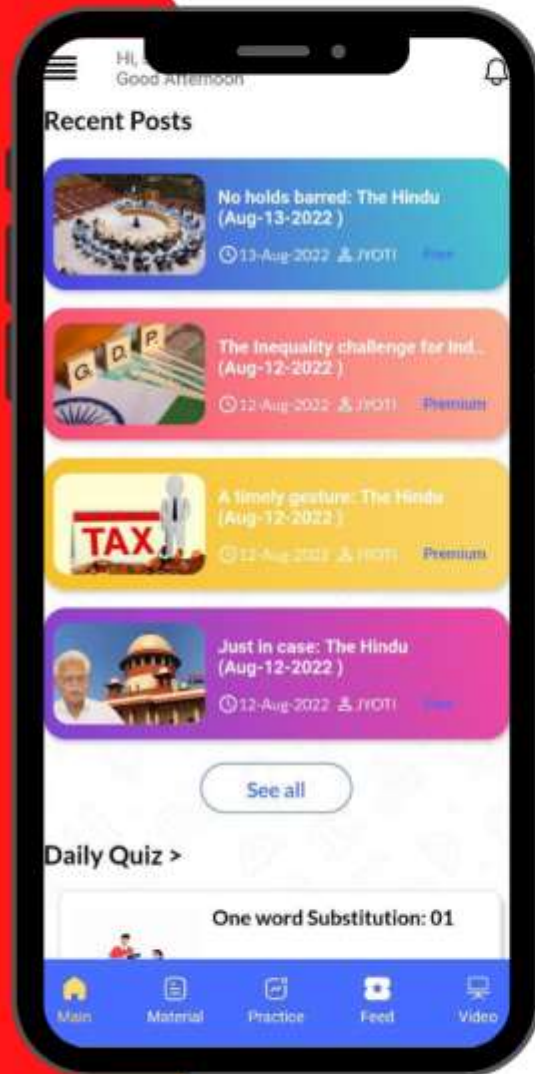
वाक्य present continuous tense में है, इसलिए हमें present participle " seeking " का उपयोग करने की आवश्यकता है। Sacking का अर्थ है Dismissal- बर्खास्तगी context जो में सबसे उपयुक्त नहीं बैठता है।

The sentence is in the present continuous tense, so we need to use the present participle "seeking". The other options, 'Seek', 'Sought', and 'Sacking' don't match with the tense of the sentence.

20. **Tap** (verb) – utilize, exploit, make use of, draw upon, harness, उपयोग करना

विकल्प B दो कारणों से सबसे उपयुक्त है, पहला यह कि V1 का उपयोग infinitive (i.e.To) के बाद किया जाता है और second, contextually, Tap the opportunity का अर्थ है किसी चीज का लाभ उठाना या उसका उपयोग करना।

Option B is most appropriate because of two reason, first one is that V1 is used after the infinitive (i.e. To) and second one is contextually, Tap the opportunity means to take advantage of or make use of something.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

