

Express View on IIM bill: Mis-management

Last week, the Lok Sabha passed a Bill that gives the government greater **say** in the appointment and removal of directors of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). The **legislation** is a significant — and unwelcome — **departure** from the IIM Act, 2017, which declared these **elite** management schools as “institutions of national importance **with a view to** help them **attain** standards of global excellence”. It had **empowered** the board of governors to appoint the director of an IIM on the basis of the recommendations of a search-cum-selection committee.

The new legislation **subordinates** the boards to the IIMs’ Visitor, the President, **virtually** giving the government **veto power** in the appointments. The **chairperson** of the board, **hitherto** appointed by its other members, **will** be nominated by the Visitor if the Bill becomes law. The government will also **prescribe** conditions for the **suspension** or **dissolution** of the IIM’s board. **Other powers** of the Visitor also **come at the expense of** the institution’s **autonomy** — the President can, **for instance, institute** inquiries and issue **directives** which will be **binding** on the IIM management.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the government will not **interfere** in the **functioning** of the IIMs. But his words do not appear **persuasive given** his ministry’s **uneasy** relationship with these institutions in the past eight years. In 2015, the education ministry **envisaged sweeping** powers for the government in IIM management — this included making the President the Visitor and giving the Centre a say in the appointment of the board.



To its credit, the PMO **overruled** the ministry’s plans. Then, in 2020, the ministry had objections to the IIM describing its one-year post-graduate programme as MBA — as is the global **norm** — saying this **went against** UGC rules. A year later, IIM-Ahmedabad refused to **accede** to an education ministry directive to review a **doctoral thesis** that described the BJP as a “pro-Hindu upper caste party”.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Institute** (verb) – establish, set up, bring about, found, introduce स्थापित करना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Say** (noun) – Influence, sway, authority, weight, clout अधिकार
2. **Legislation** (noun) – Law, statute, act, regulation, ordinance विधान
3. **Departure** (noun) – Deviation, divergence, shift, variation विचलन
4. **Elite** (adjective) – Superior, prime, exclusive, select विशिष्ट
5. **With a view to** (phrase) – In order to, for the purpose of, so as to उद्देश्य से
6. **Attain** (verb) – Achieve, reach, accomplish, gain प्राप्त करना
7. **Empower** (verb) – Authorize, enable, permit, license सशक्त बनाना
8. **Subordinate** (verb) – Make secondary, lower in rank or position, inferiorize अधीन करना
9. **Virtually** (adverb) – Nearly, almost, practically, essentially वास्तव में
10. **Veto power** (noun) – The power to reject a decision or proposal made by a law-making body
11. **Hitherto** (adverb) – Until now, so far, previously अब तक
12. **Prescribe** (verb) – Order, command, direct, dictate निर्धारित करना
13. **Suspension** (noun) – Halting, stopping, interruption, freeze निलंबन
14. **Dissolution** (noun) – Disintegration, termination, ending, closure विघटन/ भंग
15. **At the expense of** (phrase) – At the sacrifice of, at the cost of, by losing की कीमत पर
16. **Autonomy** (noun) – Independence, self-government, self-rule स्वायत्तता
17. **For instance** (phrase) – As an example, for example, such as उदाहरण के लिए
18. **Directive** (noun) – Instruction, order, command, guideline निर्देश
19. **Binding** (on) (adjective) – Obligatory, mandatory, required बाध्यकारी
20. **Interfere** (in) (verb) – Meddle, intervene, intrude हस्तक्षेप करना
21. **Functioning** (noun) – Operation, working, performance कार्य
22. **Persuasive** (adjective) – Convincing, effective, influential असरदार
23. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
24. **Uneasy** (adjective) – Anxious, unsettled, uncomfortable, edgy, apprehensive अशांत, चिंतित

25. **Envisage** (verb) – Foresee, predict, anticipate कल्पना करना
26. **Sweeping** (adjective) – Comprehensive, all-encompassing, broad, wide-ranging, extensive व्यापक
27. **To one's credit** (phrase) – Referring to something praiseworthy or honorable that someone has done इसका श्रेय है
28. **Overrule** (verb) – Revoke, nullify, overturn, set aside, cancel नकार देना
29. **Norm** (noun) – Standard, criterion, rule, guideline, benchmark मानक
30. **Go against** (phrase) – Oppose, contravene, violate, conflict with के विपरीत जाना
31. **Accede** (to) (verb) – Agree, consent, accept, comply सहमत होना
32. **Doctoral** (adjective) – Related to or constituting a doctorate, typically a Ph.D.
33. **Thesis** (noun) – Dissertation, treatise, research paper, study शोध प्रबंध

Summary of the Editorial

1. Last week, the Lok Sabha passed a bill concerning the appointment and removal of directors of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).
2. The new legislation represents a significant departure from the IIM Act, 2017.
3. The IIM Act, 2017, had declared the IIMs as “institutions of national importance,” aiming to help them reach global excellence standards.
4. The 2017 Act empowered the IIM's board of governors to appoint the director, based on a search-cum-selection committee's recommendations.
5. The new legislation gives the IIMs' Visitor (the President) a virtual veto power over appointments, subordinating the boards.
6. The chairperson of the board will now be nominated by the Visitor if the Bill becomes law.
7. The government will also have the ability to prescribe conditions for the suspension or dissolution of an IIM's board.
8. Other powers granted to the Visitor (the President) reduce the institution's autonomy, including the ability to institute inquiries and issue binding directives.
9. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated the government will not interfere in the IIMs' functioning, but this has been met with skepticism.
10. The uneasy relationship between the education ministry and the IIMs over the past eight years raises doubts about the government's intent.
11. In 2015, the education ministry sought sweeping powers over IIM management, including making the President the Visitor and influencing board appointments.
12. The PMO overruled these plans, keeping a degree of autonomy for the IIMs.
13. In 2020, the education ministry objected to the IIM calling its one-year post-graduate programme an MBA, against UGC rules.
14. IIM-Ahmedabad rejected a ministry directive to review a doctoral thesis in 2021, revealing ongoing tensions.
15. The new Bill's passage raises concerns about the future autonomy and governance of the IIMs, potentially hindering their mission to attain global standards of excellence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the potential implication of the new legislation regarding the appointment and removal of directors of the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)?** [Editorial page]
 - A. It will lead to the global expansion of IIMs.
 - B. It will increase the transparency of the appointment process.
 - C. It will enhance the autonomy of IIMs.
 - D. It could reduce the autonomy of IIMs by giving the government more control.
2. **What can be inferred from Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's statement about the government not interfering in the functioning of the IIMs, in light of the new legislation?**
 - A. His statement is fully supported by the new legislation.
 - B. His statement contradicts the intentions of the new legislation.
 - C. His statement indicates a change in the government's approach to education.
 - D. His statement confirms the government's intention to dissolve the IIM's board.
3. **Which of the following statements accurately summarizes the concern expressed in the passage about the government's involvement with IIMs?**
 - A. The government's involvement in the IIMs has been overwhelmingly positive and consistent.
 - B. The government's micromanagement of the IIMs is raising questions about the need for course correction.
 - C. The government's actions have always been in line with the UGC rules, and the IIMs have uniformly complied.
 - D. The government's interaction with the IIMs is limited to the appointment of directors only.
4. **What can be inferred from the passage about the relationship between the IIMs and the ministry concerning rules and regulations?**
 - A. IIMs strictly follow the directives given by the education ministry.
 - B. The ministry has been fully supportive of the IIMs' decisions and never overruled them.
 - C. There have been instances where the IIMs refused to comply with directives they deemed to contradict global norms or their autonomy.
 - D. The ministry always consults with the IIMs before making any decision related to them.
5. **What is the main theme of the passage discussing the recent bill passed for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)?**
 - A. The global excellence of IIMs
 - B. The relationship between the Education Minister and the IIMs
 - C. The government's increased control and potential interference in the IIMs
 - D. The infighting within individual IIMs
6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Her decision was based on a(n) _____ of factors.

 - A. amalgamation
 - B. extirpation

- C. obfuscation
D. exculpation
7. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
The large windows allowed an ABUNDANCE of natural light to fill the room.
- A. Scarcity
B. Ample
C. Plentiful
D. Sufficient
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank**
The team's _____ performance left the audience disappointed.
- A. lackluster
B. resplendent
C. ostentatious
D. ebullient
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
A people's movement seems to have taken birth across/ the tribal district of Kinnaur/ against ecologically hazardous/ hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej.
- A. A people's movement seems to have taken birth across hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej against ecologically hazardous the tribal district of Kinnaur.
B. The tribal district of Kinnaur against ecologically hazardous a people's movement seems to have taken birth across hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej.
C. Hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej a people's movement seems to have taken birth across the tribal district of Kinnaur against ecologically hazardous.
D. A people's movement seems to have taken birth across the tribal district of Kinnaur against ecologically hazardous hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej.
10. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom
"I think you've ***bitten off more than you can chew*** by agreeing to complete the project in one week."
- A. To speak without thinking
B. To accept a big challenge
C. To waste time
D. To eat a lot
E. None of the above
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. Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, who holds around 27 per cent stake in the debt-ridden Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL), has put the onus on the Union Government to keep the telecom company afloat.

- A. It had an adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liability of Rs 58,254 crore, out of which Rs 50,399.63 crore is outstanding
- B. Birla offered to hand over his stake to the government or any other entity that the latter may consider worthy of keeping the beleaguered firm operational
- C. In a letter written to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba in June,
- D. Vodafone Idea, which has a substantial mobile subscriber base of 27.7 crore users, has been sinking deeper into the mire in recent years
2. The firm is also saddled with deferred spectrum payment obligations of Rs 96,270 crore and debt owed to banks and financial institutions to the tune of Rs 23,080 crore.
- A. CBDA B. ABCD C. CADB D. ABDC
12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The results of the latest survey on tiger population published by the Karnataka Forest Department and the all-India figures published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)
- Q. According to the NTCA status report, Karnataka has the second highest number of tigers (563) after Madhya Pradesh (785)
- R. While authorities are happy with this development, there is also anxiety over the way forward
- S. indicate that the number of big cats has grown in the State
- A. PSQR B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.PRQS
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. While discussions on data and its veracity are welcome, the important point on the usefulness of available data to measure social and economic progress of a transforming economy looms large.
- Q. The debate has also to be seen in the context of the increasing global prominence of the economy and India's election to the highest statistical body of the UN for a four-year term.
- R. Recently, there has been a spate of writing on India's statistical system and the data produced by it.
- S. The ensuing debate has witnessed active participation from within and outside the government.
- A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
14. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. They tend to get overshadowed by the homogeneity of globalised norms.
- Q. The identity of tribal communities is rooted in their culture.
- R. As societies embrace modernised development, the richness, diversity, and depth of tribal cultures tend to fade away.
- S. Its uniqueness lies in the unbreakable bond between the community and nature.
- A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. Most people fantasise about having someone in their life who understands them without speaking even a word.
- Q. This entire process keeps us refined and alive and gives the insight to meet the people we want.
- R. In our whole life, we might have encountered several people with such expectations and got hurt in return.
- S. Someone who gives unconditional love, no matter what.
- A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

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

- P. I wonder if they need to.
- Q. I can't but go back to those days when a friend would bring an additional box of my favourite dish and I would return home with mine only half-eaten.
- R. While it was the exams or shoe polish checks in the earlier days, it's the lunch break that's the bugbear now, wherein the students are compelled to finish their lunch with no leftovers.
- S. Some schools, these days, seem to be more concerned about students emptying their lunch boxes.
- A. SPRQ B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

Comprehension

In its 50th meeting held Tuesday, the GST Council decided to levy a 28 per cent tax on the full face value of the bets involving online gaming, horse-racing and casinos. This is a crushing _____1_____ to the gaming industry that is growing rapidly, riding the twin waves of technology and entertainment. Unfortunately, rather than being driven by economics, moral _____2_____ seem to have influenced the Council's decision. Indeed, the Union finance minister said as much _____3_____ that the council's deliberations factored in the "moral question" of whether these activities should be taxed at the same rate as essential items. No _____4_____ has also been made between "games of skill" and "games of chance". Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Glut
- B. Blow
- C. Power
- D. Potency

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

- A. Considerations
- B. Sustentation
- C. Reinstatement
- D. Insemination

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

- A. Festering
- B. Underlining

C. Enduring

D. Arising

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

A. Ratification

B. Confrontation

C. Revelation

D. Distinction

Answers

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

Explanations

- D) It could reduce the autonomy of IIMs by giving the government more control.**
 The passage outlines the changes made by the new legislation, which includes giving the government greater say in the appointment and removal of IIM directors. The new legislation subordinates the IIMs' boards to the Visitor, the President, essentially giving the government veto power over appointments. This change contrasts with the previous IIM Act, which emphasized autonomy.
- B) His statement contradicts the intentions of the new legislation.**
 The passage details how the new legislation gives the government more control over the IIMs, including the ability to appoint directors and the chairperson of the board. Despite this, the Education Minister stated that the government will not interfere in the functioning of the IIMs. Given the evidence in the passage, this statement contradicts the actions outlined in the new legislation, making option B the correct answer.
- B) The government's micromanagement of the IIMs is raising questions about the need for course correction.**
 The passage highlights various incidents where government intervention has led to conflicts and controversies, including the overruling of ministry plans, issues with labeling a program as an MBA, and disputes between IIM Calcutta's Board and its Director. The passage underlines the need for checks and balances but argues that the government's micromanagement might be detrimental, calling for a "course correction."
- C) There have been instances where the IIMs refused to comply with directives they deemed to contradict global norms or their autonomy.**
 The passage provides examples where the IIMs did not conform to the directives of the education ministry. In one case, there was a disagreement over the use of the term "MBA" for a one-year post-graduate programme, and in another, IIM-Ahmedabad refused to review a doctoral thesis at the ministry's request. These instances show that the IIMs have not always complied with the ministry's directives, particularly when they perceived them to be at odds with global norms or their autonomy.
- C) The government's increased control and potential interference in the IIMs**
 The main theme of the passage revolves around the new legislation that gives the government greater say in the appointment and removal of directors of the IIMs. The passage highlights how this represents a significant shift from the previous approach and expresses concern over the impact this may have on the autonomy of these institutions. The author discusses the details of the bill and the history of the government's relationship

with the IIMs to underline the main theme of governmental control and potential interference.

6. A) amalgamation

- **Amalgamation** (noun) – Merger, combination, fusion, blend, मिलाप
- **Extirpation** (noun) – Eradication, elimination, destruction, annihilation, उन्मूलन
- **Obfuscation** (noun) – Confusion, bewilderment, mystification, perplexity, गोलमाल
- **Exculpation** (noun) – Absolution, exoneration, vindication, acquittal, दोषमुक्ति

7. A. Scarcity

- **Scarcity** (noun) – Shortage, paucity, dearth, deficiency, कमी
- **Ample** (adjective) – Abundant, bountiful, copious, plentiful, प्रचुर
- **Plentiful** (adjective) – Bounteous, profuse, teeming, copious, बहुतायत
- **Sufficient** (adjective) – Adequate, enough, ample, satisfactory, पर्याप्त

8. A. lackluster

- **Lackluster** (adjective) – Dull, uninspired, flat, lifeless, निरुत्साही
- **Resplendent** (adjective) – Radiant, dazzling, brilliant, splendid, चमकीला
- **Ostentatious** (adjective) – Showy, pretentious, flashy, gaudy, दिखावटी
- **Ebullient** (adjective) – Exuberant, elated, buoyant, vivacious, उत्साही

9. D) A people's movement seems to have taken birth across the tribal district of Kinnaur against ecologically hazardous hydroelectric projects on the Sutlej.

10. B) Bitten off more than you can chew (phrase) – To accept a big challenge: एक बड़ी चुनौती स्वीकार करना

11. A) CBDA

1: Sentence 1 introduces "Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla" and "Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL)."

C: Given the way sentence C ends, it's clear that it should follow sentence 1 and be followed by something related to what the letter was about. This acts as an introduction to a particular action.

B: Now we have the action that Birla took. This follows from sentence C, which mentioned the letter he wrote, and sentence 1, which mentioned his stake in the company

D: Since sentence B talked about the effort to keep the firm operational, sentence D elaborates on the reasons behind its sinking status.

A: This sentence follows D by diving into specific details of the financial problems

2: Sentence 2 further expands on the financial issues, making it a natural follow-up to sentence A.

12. A) PSQR

P: Sentence P sets the context by introducing the survey results

S: Sentence S follows naturally from P, as it specifies what those results indicate (growth in the tiger population)

Q: Sentence Q logically follows S, as it gives the specific details about Karnataka's tiger numbers, further expanding on the growth mentioned in S.

R: Sentence R wraps up the paragraph, referring to the feelings about the development mentioned in the previous sentences.

13. **B) RSPQ**

R: This sentence provides an introduction to the paragraph by setting the context that there has been a lot of writing about India's statistical system recently.

S: Building on the initial statement, this sentence discusses the debate that has followed the recent writings. It makes sense to place this sentence after R, as it continues the theme of recent discussions on the statistical system.

P: This sentence delves into the content of the debates, focusing on data veracity and its usefulness in measuring social and economic progress. It continues the discussion initiated in sentences R and S.

Q: This sentence concludes the paragraph by connecting the debate to a broader context, namely India's increasing global prominence and election to a key UN body. It sums up the importance and relevance of the ongoing debate

14. **C) QSRP**

Q: This statement introduces the subject of tribal communities and their cultural identity. It serves as a base for the discussion that follows.

S: This statement expands on the identity of the tribal communities introduced in sentence Q by describing what makes them unique. The pronoun "Its" refers back to the culture of the tribal communities.

R: This statement describes what happens to the tribal cultures (referring back to the ideas introduced in sentences Q and S) as societies embrace modernized development.

P: This statement builds on the idea presented in sentence R, explaining the overshadowing of the tribal cultures due to globalized norms.

15. **B) PSRQ**

P: Start with the general human fantasy about understanding and connection.

S: In statement S, "Someone" refers to a specific kind of person described in P. It means that P should precede S

R: A shift to reality by mentioning how we might get hurt in our search for that someone

Q: In statement Q, "This entire process" likely refers to the entire scenario described before, hinting that Q should come after other sentences that describe the process.

16. **A.) SPRQ**

S: This sentence introduces the topic of the paragraph: schools focusing on students finishing their lunch

P: This sentence follows S and shows the author questioning the need for schools to be concerned about students emptying their lunch boxes. It's a natural progression from stating a situation to questioning it.

R: Sentence R provides a comparison between the current situation (schools focusing on lunch boxes) and the past (exams or shoe polish checks). This further expands on the situation described in sentences S and P

Q: This sentence is a personal reflection that contrasts with the current situation. The author reminisces about the past when there was no such pressure to finish lunch. Placing this at the end creates a poignant finish to the paragraph, highlighting the change from past to present.

17. B) 'Blow' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में 'Blow' का अर्थ होता है एक अचानक और कठिन नुकसान या हानि। जबकि 'Glut' का अर्थ होता है अधिकता, 'Power' का अर्थ है शक्ति, और 'Potency' का अर्थ है शक्ति या प्रभाव, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

➤ 'Blow' should be used because it means a sudden and hard hit or setback, reflecting the negative impact on the gaming industry. Whereas, 'Glut' means an excess, 'Power' means strength, and 'Potency' means power or effect, which do not fit in this context.

18. A) 'Considerations' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "considerations" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय का विचार या सोचना, और इस context में, मोरल विचार ने काउंसिल का निर्णय प्रभावित किया।

'Sustentation' का अर्थ होता है पोषण या समर्थन, 'Reinstatement' का अर्थ है पुनर्नियुक्ति, और 'Insemination' का अर्थ है निषेचन, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

➤ 'Considerations' should be used because it means the action of thinking about or considering something, and in this context, moral considerations have influenced the council's decision. Whereas, 'Sustentation' means nourishment or support, 'Reinstatement' means reappointment, and 'Insemination' means insemination, which don't fit in this context.

19. B) 'Underlining' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "underlining" का अर्थ होता है किसी बात की महत्वपूर्णता या प्रामाणिकता को बल देना। इस context में, वित्त मंत्री ने स्पष्ट किया कि परिषद की विचारणाओं में "नैतिक प्रश्न" को शामिल किया गया था, इसलिए 'Underlining' शब्द सबसे उपयुक्त है।

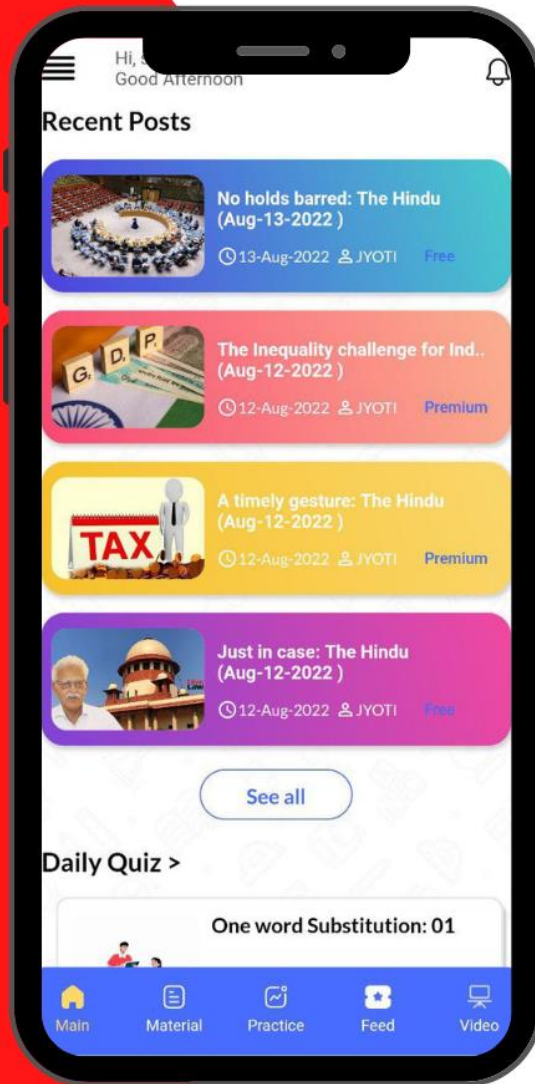
'Festering' का अर्थ है प्रकोपित करना या बिगाड़ना, 'Enduring' का अर्थ है सहिष्णुता से सहन करना, और 'Arising' का अर्थ है उत्पन्न होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

➤ 'Underlining' should be used because it means to emphasize the importance or authenticity of something. In this context, the finance minister was clarifying that the council's deliberations included the "moral question," so the word 'Underlining' is the most appropriate. 'Festering' means to become worse or more intense, 'Enduring'

means to suffer something patiently, and 'Arising' means to originate or come up, which don't fit in this context.

20. D) 'Distinction' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस context में बात हो रही है "games of skill" और "games of chance" के बीच में अंतर नहीं बताने की। 'Distinction' का अर्थ होता है किसी दो विशेषताओं या वस्तुओं के बीच में भेद या अंतर ज्ञात करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही है। 'Ratification' का अर्थ है अनुमोदन देना, 'Confrontation' का अर्थ है मुठभेड़, और 'Revelation' का अर्थ है प्रकटीकरण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Distinction' should be used because it means to recognize or show the difference between two particular features or things, and this is what the context is talking about when it refers to no difference being made between "games of skill" and "games of chance." Whereas, 'Ratification' means giving approval, 'Confrontation' means a clash, and 'Revelation' means disclosure, which do not fit in this context



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