

Undeclared Emergency: On the arrests and actions in NewsClick case

The **arrests and actions** in the NewsClick case **are** aimed at a **chilling effect**

Even for a government that has shown itself to be **intolerant** of **critical journalism**, the **actions** by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led **regime** on the news website NewsClick **smack of** extreme **vendetta** and **brazen harassment**. The government has, **thus far**, disclosed no specific **allegation** on what exactly **merited** the arrest of the site's Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha and another person under the **draconian provisions** of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act among others. **Reportedly**, the website is under investigation for a "terror case with Chinese links", but no article or content has been **brought to light** that **allegedly** suggests any link to "terror" or **pro-Chinese propaganda**. The news organisation has also said it has not been given a copy of the First Information Report or informed about the particulars of the offences it has been charged with. And yet, the journalists, contributors and employees **associated** with it have been **subjected** to raids, with many of their mobile phones and laptops **seized**. These actions against the website are not new — it has been under the **scrutiny** of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income-Tax Department since 2021, with **seizures** of electronic equipment, but no charge sheet was ever filed against it. **The Delhi High Court**, finding a **prime facie** case in favour of NewsClick, **granted interim** protection to Mr. Purkayastha from arrest and also **deterred** the ED from taking **coercive** action against the organisation. A lower court had dismissed a complaint filed by the Income-Tax department on a similar matter.

The **trigger** for the set of actions now **is apparently** an article in The New York Times that questioned the motives of an investor in NewsClick and **alleged** his **proximity** to the Chinese government, but it did not **point to** any specific article on the site that **amounted to** illegal propaganda against India. Government representatives first engaged in a **systematic vilification** and **disinformation** campaign against the site based on this article. Tuesday's actions seem **driven** by an **impulse to scapegoat** a media **outlet** and to **bring about**, therefore, a chilling effect on critical journalism. No government can or should so **brazenly** target journalists solely based on **suspicion** about its funding and **thereby undermine** the freedom of expression, which is guaranteed under the Constitution. Mr. Purkayastha was arrested and kept in jail during the Emergency in 1975 under the draconian Maintenance of Internal Security Act, on **trumped up** charges, when he was a student-activist at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Today, history seems to be repeating itself, but without even **the fig leaf** of a declared Emergency. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **A chilling effect** (phrase) – Intimidation effect, deterrent effect, silencing impact, frightening effect, discouraging influence
भय पैदा करने वाला प्रभाव
2. **Intolerant** (adjective) – Bigoted, narrow-minded, prejudiced, biased, inflexible
असहिष्णु
3. **Critical journalism** (noun) – Investigative reporting, analytical journalism, watchdog journalism, probing journalism, muckraking
4. **Regime** (noun) – Administration, government, authority, rule, governance
शासन
5. **Smack** (of) (verb) – Resemble, hint at, suggest, have overtones of, indicate संकेत करना
6. **Vendetta** (noun) – Feud, grudge, rivalry, animosity, hostility प्रतिशोध
7. **Brazen** (adjective) – Bold, shameless, audacious, blatant, unashamed धृष्ट
8. **Harassment** (noun) – Persecution, annoyance, torment, bullying, badgering
परेशानी
9. **Thus far** (phrase) – Up to this point, hitherto, so far, until now, to this extent अब तक
10. **Allegation** (noun) – Accusation, charge, claim, assertion, indictment आरोप
11. **Merit** (verb) – Deserve, warrant, earn, justify, rate योग्य होना
12. **Draconian** (adjective) – Harsh, severe, stringent, strict, extreme कठोर
13. **Provision** (noun) – Arrangement, measure, preparation, stipulation, clause प्रावधान
14. **Reportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, apparently, purportedly, reputedly कथित रूप से
15. **Bring to light** (phrase) – Expose, reveal, uncover, disclose, unveil प्रकाश में लाना
16. **Allegedly** (adverb) – Supposedly, reportedly, purportedly, professedly, ostensibly कथित रूप से
17. **Pro-** (prefix) – In favor of, supporting, endorsing, for, backing समर्थक
18. **Propaganda** (noun) – Disinformation, promotion, publicity, spin, brainwashing
प्रचार-प्रसार
19. **Associate** (with) (verb) – Connect, relate, link, affiliate, join जुड़ना
20. **Subject** (to) (verb) – Expose, subject, submit, make liable, make vulnerable
प्रस्थित करना
21. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, investigation, review, analysis समीक्षा

22. **Seizure** (noun) – Confiscation, capture, appropriation, impoundment, requisition
जब्ती
23. **Prima facie** (noun) – At first sight, on the face of it, apparently, ostensibly, superficially प्रथम दृष्ट्या
24. **Grant** (verb) – Allow, give, accord, bestow, award प्रदान करना
25. **Interim** (adjective) – Temporary, provisional, transitional, stopgap, short-term अंतरिम
26. **Deter** (verb) – Discourage, dissuade, prevent, inhibit, stop रोकना
27. **Coercive** (adjective) – Forceful, compelling, constraining, pressurizing, oppressive बलपूर्वक
28. **Trigger** (noun) – Stimulus, catalyst, impulse, cause, spark प्रेरक
29. **Apparently** (adverb) – Seemingly, ostensibly, outwardly, superficially प्रतित होने पर
30. **Allege** (verb) – Claim, assert, aver, declare, profess आरोप लगाना
31. **Proximity** (noun) – Closeness, nearness, adjacency, vicinity नजदीकी
32. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, hint at, signify संकेत करना
33. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – Equal, be equivalent to, add up to, constitute के बराबर होना
34. **Systematic** (adjective) – Methodical, organized, structured, planned व्यवस्थित
35. **Vilification** (noun) – Defamation, slander, calumny, character assassination बदनामी
36. **Disinformation** (noun) – Misinformation, falsehood, deceit, fabrication दुष्प्रचार
37. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, push, force, spur प्रेरित करना
38. **Impulse** (noun) – Urge, inclination, drive, motivation प्रवृत्ति
39. **Scapegoat** (verb) – Whipping boy, victim, fall guy, sacrifice बलि का बकरा बनाना
40. **Media outlet** (noun) – Channel, platform, broadcaster, publisher मीडिया प्रकाशन
41. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, lead to, result in, produce घटित करना
42. **Brazenly** (adverb) – Boldly, shamelessly, unabashedly, audaciously धृष्टता से
43. **Suspicion** (noun) – Doubt, mistrust, skepticism, misgiving संदेह
44. **Thereby** (adverb) – As a result, consequently, thus, hence इससे

45. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, subvert, sabotage, destabilize कमजोर करना

46. **Trump up** (phrasal verb) – Fabricate, falsify, concoct, make up झूठ बनाना

47. **The fig leaf** (phrase) – A cover or pretense, especially one that is inadequate or unconvincing. असली अभिप्रेत छुपाने के लिए एक ढकोसला

Summary of the Editorial

1. The actions against news website NewsClick by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government are viewed as extreme vendetta and harassment.
2. The government hasn't provided specific allegations for the arrest of NewsClick's Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha and another person.
3. They were arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act among other charges.
4. The website is reportedly under investigation for a "terror case with Chinese links", but no specific content has been identified linking them to "terror" or pro-Chinese propaganda.
5. NewsClick claims it hasn't been provided with the First Information Report or details of the charges.
6. Journalists, contributors, and employees linked to NewsClick have faced raids, and their electronic devices have been confiscated.
7. NewsClick has been under the scrutiny of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income-Tax Department since 2021. Though equipment was seized, no charge sheet was filed against them.
8. The Delhi High Court provided interim protection to Mr. Purkayastha from arrest and deterred the ED from taking coercive action against NewsClick.
9. A lower court dismissed a complaint by the Income-Tax department related to the same case.
10. The recent actions seem triggered by an article in The New York Times, which questioned the motives of an investor in NewsClick and his alleged links to the Chinese government.
11. This article did not specify any content on NewsClick that was illegal propaganda against India.
12. Government representatives have engaged in a vilification and disinformation campaign against NewsClick.
13. The editorial suggests that the actions aim to suppress critical journalism.
14. The editorial emphasizes the importance of the freedom of expression, which is a constitutional right.
15. The arrest of Mr. Purkayastha reminds of his arrest during the Emergency in 1975, drawing parallels between the two incidents and suggesting an undeclared state of emergency.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements reflects the government's treatment towards the NewsClick website, based on the passage?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The government has been transparent and cooperative, providing all necessary information regarding the charges and allegations to NewsClick.
 - B. The government has clearly communicated the specific reasons behind the arrest of NewsClick's Editor-in-Chief and the ongoing investigation.
 - C. The government's actions towards NewsClick are described as extreme vendetta and brazen harassment, lacking clarity on specific allegations.
 - D. The government has charged NewsClick with a terror case having explicit connections to Chinese propaganda, evidenced by articles published on the website.
2. **Based on the passage, what has been the legal outcome regarding the NewsClick case until now?**
 - A. NewsClick and its Editor-in-Chief have been convicted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
 - B. The Delhi High Court granted interim protection to NewsClick's Editor-in-Chief from arrest and deterred coercive action against the organization.
 - C. The government has provided a detailed charge sheet against NewsClick, outlining all the offences it has been charged with.
 - D. The Enforcement Directorate and Income-Tax Department have successfully proven NewsClick's involvement in terror activities linked to China
3. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Supportive
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Critical
 - D. Optimistic
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The historical context of journalism in India
 - B. The advancement of digital journalism
 - C. The government's intolerance towards critical journalism
 - D. The international perspective on Indian news outlets
5. **What is suggested by the government's failure to disclose specific allegations in the NewsClick case?**
 - A. The government is ensuring that sensitive information remains confidential to protect national security.
 - B. The government is following a systematic procedure before disclosing allegations to the public to ensure a fair trial.
 - C. The government's actions are meant to intimidate and suppress critical journalism without clear legal grounding.
 - D. The government is gathering more concrete evidence before presenting specific allegations to avoid defamation

6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. There seems to be no tangible basis for the hope and optimism behind its intent to deliver its rural and urban poor from what it perceives to be an inequitable admission system that favours the rich and the elite.
 - B. The Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly to exempt aspirants for its undergraduate medical courses from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is no magic wand that will dramatically alter the status quo.
 - C. It hopes to receive Presidential assent, even though similar Bills passed by the erstwhile AIADMK regime had been denied the favour in 2017.
 - D. Such assent is required as the proposed State law is in conflict with the parliamentary legislation regulating medical admissions.
 - E. The key element the DMK has brought to the table now to fulfil its electoral promise of abolishing NEET is a report by the Justice (retd.) A.K. Rajan Committee on the adverse impact of NEET on students and health-care delivery in the State.
- A. BACDE
 - B. ABCED
 - C. ECDBA
 - D. CABDE
7. **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. The Israeli attacks on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon following what it called “cross border fires” mark a significant escalation in the crisis that has been building up along the border in recent years.
 - A. Tensions began after Israel’s targeting of Iranian weapons and supplies within Syria.
 - B. Hezbollah, a Shia militia-cum-political party in Lebanon, and Israel, which have fought two wars before, have been observing a tenuous ceasefire for 14 years.
 - C. In July, a Hezbollah commander was killed in an Israeli raid in Syria for which the group had vowed retaliation.
 - D. Israel fears that Iranian supplies to Hezbollah via Syria, where the Shia militias fought alongside regime fighters against rebels and Sunni jihadists, would leave them stronger, enhancing Israel’s security challenges in the northern border.
 - 2. Since then, there have been attempts to target troops on Israel’s borders with Lebanon and Syria, according to Israel.
 - A. DABC
 - B. BADC
 - C. CABD
 - D. DBAC
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

- A. In what should be the last act of a long and winding tax dispute drama, British firm Cairn Energy has said it has concluded all steps prescribed by the Indian government in order to be eligible for the refund of a contentious retroactive tax levy.
- B. The firm, now rechristened as Capricorn Energy, expects to get back ₹7,900 crore.
- C. Cairn Energy was the second major firm pursued by the I-T Department for taxes it believed had accrued in the past, using retro-active legislative changes introduced in the 2012 Budget by then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.
- D. The original target for this move, that has sharply dented India's credibility, was Vodafone, which had secured a Supreme Court verdict against the tax department's demands for past transactions.
- A. DCBA
- B. ABCD
- C. DCAB
- D. BACD
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
The flowers were being plucked by the children in the garden.
- A. The children were plucking the flowers in the garden.
- B. The children are plucking the flowers in the garden.
- C. The children had been plucking the flowers in the garden.
- D. The children was plucking the flowers in the garden.
10. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
The apple tasted incredibly sweet .
- A. Delicious
- B. Pleasant
- C. Bitter
- D. Special
11. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined word and make it meaningful.**
The government has finally agreed to wave the entertainment tax on the movie.
- A. waive
- B. wager
- C. waiver
- D. web
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined phrase.**
Ravish is ready to throw caution to the wind.
- A. Fight with wind
- B. Act foolishly
- C. Spend lavishly
- D. Take risk

13. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States and save the Union at the American Civil war.

- A. No substitution
 - B. save the Union alongside
 - C. saved the Union during
 - D. saved the Union on
14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.

I must have a chance to rectify my error.

- A. worsen
 - B. alter
 - C. reason
 - D. Modify
15. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

The receptionist asked if Diya / will take a seat and / wait for the boss to call her in.

- A. The receptionist asked if Diya
 - B. No error
 - C. will take a seat and
 - D. wait for the boss to call her in
16. Select the most appropriate idiom/phrase that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Mahesh has learnt not to take things seriously.

- A. Your guess is as good as mine
 - B. Take it with a grain of salt
 - C. That's the last straw
 - D. Pull someone's leg
17. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.

- A. Dominate
 - B. Charishma
 - C. Elegant
 - D. Cavalier
18. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

I am not spoiling the sheet.

- A. The sheet does not being spoilt by me.
- B. The sheet is not being spoilt by me.
- C. The sheet must not be spoilt by me.

- D. The sheet was not being spoilt by me.
19. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Transgression
- A. Violation
 - B. Success
 - C. Virtue
 - D. Metamorphosis
20. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.

Causing or ending in death.

- A. Gruesome
- B. Foster
- C. Fatal
- D. Grotesque

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.

In today's world, handling money and making purchases and sales come naturally to us. However, prior to the development of any kind of currency, people (1) _____ in a variety of ways. The barter trade was the simplest of them all. People would trade the things they owned for the things they wanted in this kind of (2) _____. For example, if someone wanted a set of clothes and had a cow left over, he would have to find someone who would want a cow and be willing to give away a set of clothes. However, it wasn't as straightforward as 'give-and-take', and people would be cheated. The (3) _____ of money finally took root in people's minds after many years. The usually erratic barter trade eventually gave way to the monetary method of exchange as such. At first, anything could be used such as hooks, money beads, shells or trinkets. The first gold coins were used as currency near Turkey, and each coin had a different denomination. In the kingdom of Lydia, the value of each coin was first standardised around 700 BC. However, as time passed, the idea of carrying a bulky coin pouch became less (4) _____ because it attracted robbers. Checks were first created at that time by Greek and Roman traders who purchased goods from distant cities. Because they could only be used by the person whose name was on them, these were not only lightweight but also deterred robberies. In accordance with this concept, banks later issued notes in exchange for (5) _____ gold that could be used as cash.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**
- A. advertised
 - B. operated
 - C. traded
 - D. Marketed

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. contraction
- B. agreement
- C. transaction
- D. Mutation

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. concept
- B. belief
- C. notion
- D. Opinion

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. enchanting
- B. appealing
- C. bewitching
- D. Alluring

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. contained
- B. collected
- C. deposited
- D. settled

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanation

1. C) The passage states that the government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, has been intolerant of critical journalism. It describes the actions against NewsClick as a vendetta and harassment. There is no clear communication on the specific allegations that led to the arrest of the Editor-in-Chief or the charges against the website. Hence, option C is the correct answer as it accurately captures the treatment of NewsClick by the government as per the passage.
2. B) The passage does not mention any conviction of NewsClick or its Editor-in-Chief but highlights the lack of specific allegations or charge sheet provided by the government. It does state that the Delhi High Court granted interim protection to the Editor-in-Chief from arrest and deterred the ED from taking coercive actions against the organization.
3. **C) Critical**
 The tone of the passage is critical. This can be observed from the language used throughout the passage, where the author condemns the actions of the government towards the news website NewsClick. Phrases like "smack of extreme vendetta and brazen harassment," "draconian provisions," "systematic vilification and disinformation campaign," and "scapegoat a media outlet" clearly indicate a tone of criticism. The author is critical of the government's intolerance towards journalism and their actions against NewsClick which, according to the passage, seem to undermine the freedom of expression.
4. **C) The government's intolerance towards critical journalism**
 The main theme of the passage focuses on the government's actions against NewsClick, a news website, portraying an intolerance towards critical journalism. This is evident from the detailed account of the government's extreme actions, including arrests and raids without clear charges, and the systematic vilification and disinformation campaign against the site. The passage highlights the government's use of power to suppress and intimidate journalists, infringing upon their freedom of expression, and likens the situation to the undeclared emergency, implying an abuse of power and lack of transparency and fairness in their actions.
5. **C) The government's actions are meant to intimidate and suppress critical journalism without clear legal grounding.**
 The passage implies a criticism towards the government's actions against NewsClick, portraying it as an extreme vendetta and harassment. There is no specific allegation disclosed, and the news organization has not been informed about the particulars of the offences it has been charged with. These actions seem intended to create a chilling effect rather than being based on clear legal grounds.
6. A) **BACDE**

B. The Bill passed by the Tamil Nadu Assembly to exempt aspirants for its undergraduate medical courses from the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is no magic wand that will dramatically alter the status quo.

- Introduces a Bill by the Tamil Nadu Assembly concerning NEET.

A. There seems to be no tangible basis for the hope and optimism behind its intent to deliver its rural and urban poor from what it perceives to be an inequitable admission system that favours the rich and the elite.

- Refers to the Bill introduced in B, thus, logically follows B.

C. It hopes to receive Presidential assent, even though similar Bills passed by the erstwhile AIADMK regime had been denied the favour in 2017.

- "It" refers to the Bill, indicating the sequence after the introduction of the Bill. It also contains a time reference (2017).

D. Such assent is required as the proposed State law is in conflict with the parliamentary legislation regulating medical admissions.

- Follows C as it explains the reason for the need for Presidential assent.

E. The key element the DMK has brought to the table now to fulfil its electoral promise of abolishing NEET is a report by the Justice (retd.) A.K. Rajan Committee on the adverse impact of NEET on students and health-care delivery in the State.

- Provides additional information on the Bill and its rationale. While it could fit after B, its placement after D ensures a more coherent progression in the narrative, first introducing the Bill and its intent, then the challenge of getting assent and the reason for it, and finally what has changed now with the DMK's involvement.

7. B) **BADC**

- Sentence 1 mentions the Israeli attacks on Hezbollah targets, which is a significant escalation.
- Sentence B provides background information on Hezbollah and Israel's history, mentioning a ceasefire that lasted for 14 years.
- Sentence A states the starting point of tensions, which is after Israel's targeting of Iranian weapons in Syria.
- Sentence D expands upon the reasons for Israel's actions, fearing Iranian supplies to Hezbollah via Syria.
- Sentence C describes a particular event where a Hezbollah commander was killed, showing an example of the escalating tensions between Hezbollah and Israel.
- Sentence 2 states the consequences of these events, with attempts to target troops on Israel's borders.

8. B) **ABCD**

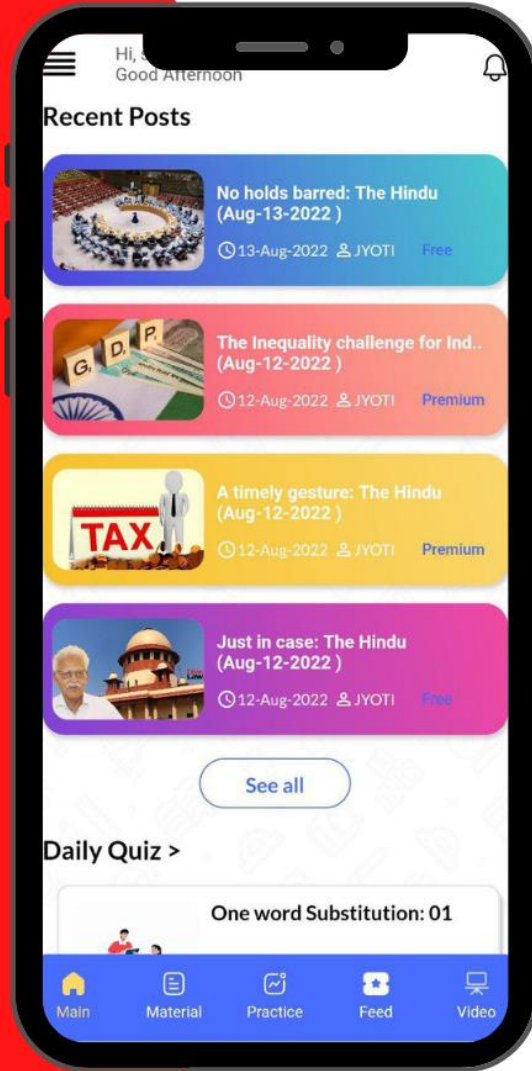
A. In what should be the last act of a long and winding tax dispute drama, British firm Cairn Energy has said it has concluded all steps prescribed by the Indian government in order to be eligible for the refund of a contentious retroactive tax levy.

- Mention of "last act of a long and winding tax dispute drama" suggests this might not be the starting statement.

- B. The firm, now rechristened as Capricorn Energy, expects to get back ₹7,900 crore.
- Use of "now rechristened" hints that there was a previous name or identity. And "The firm" is referring back to a firm previously mentioned.
- C. Cairn Energy was the second major firm pursued by the I-T Department for taxes it believed had accrued in the past, using retro-active legislative changes introduced in the 2012 Budget by then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.
- This sentence provides background on why Cairn Energy was pursued by the I-T Department. It hints that there was a first major firm before Cairn Energy.
- D. The original target for this move, that has sharply dented India's credibility, was Vodafone, which had secured a Supreme Court verdict against the tax department's demands for past transactions.
- This provides information on who was the first firm (i.e., Vodafone) and why it's important.
9. A) The children were plucking the flowers in the garden
10. C) **Sweet** (adjective) – Having the pleasant taste characteristic of sugar or honey; not salty, sour, or bitter. मीठा
- Antonym: Bitter** (adjective) – Having a sharp, pungent taste or smell; not sweet. कड़वा
- **Delicious** (adjective) – Highly pleasant to the taste. स्वादिष्ट
 - **Pleasant** (adjective) – Giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment. सुखद
 - **Special** (adjective) – Better, greater, or otherwise different from what is usual. विशेष
11. A) 'wave' के बदले 'waive' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां पर सरकार मनोरंजन कर (tax) को छोड़ देने की बात हो रही है, जो कि 'waive' का अर्थ होता है। उदाहरण के रूप में – The bank decided to waive the late fee.
- 'waive' will be used instead of 'wave' because the sentence is referring to the government giving up on the entertainment tax, which is the meaning of 'waive'. For example – The bank decided to waive the late fee.
12. D) **Throw caution to the wind** (phrase) – Take risk जोखिम लेना.
13. C) 'save' के बदले 'saved' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात हो रही है पिछले समय की जब Abraham Lincoln sixteenth president था और उन्होंने Union को save किया।
- 'saved' will be used instead of 'save' because it refers to the past time when Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president and he saved the Union.
14. A) **Rectify** (verb) – To make right, correct, amend, or adjust. सुधारना
- Antonym: Worsen** (verb) – To make or become worse, deteriorate, degrade. बिगाड़ना
- **Alter** (verb) – To change, modify, or adjust. परिवर्तन करना

- **Reason** (noun/verb) – The cause, explanation, or justification for an action or event; to think or argue logically. **तर्क करना**
 - **Modify** (verb) – To make partial or minor changes to something. **संशोधन करना**
15. C) 'will take' के बदले 'would take' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Main Clause में verb 'asked' Past Tense में है अतः Indirect Speech में भी Verb Past Tense में होगा; जैसे— She asked if he would come to the party.
- 'would take' will be used instead of 'will take' because in the Main Clause the verb 'asked' is in Past Tense, so in Indirect Speech also Verb will be in Past Tense; Like— She asked if he would come to the party.
16. B) **Take it with a grain of salt** (idiom) – Not to take things seriously **संदेहपूर्ण रवैया रखना**.
17. B) The INCORRECTLY spelt word is 'Charishma'. The correct spelling is 'Charisma' which means "a special magnetic charm or appeal" **आकर्षण, प्रेम**.
18. B) The sheet is not being spoilt by me.
19. A) **Transgression** (noun) – The act of going beyond or overstepping some boundary or limit; wrongdoing, sin, trespass. **अतिचार/ अपराध**
- Synonym: Violation** (noun) – The act of doing something that is not allowed by a rule, law, or code of conduct; breach, infringement. **उल्लंघन**
- **Success** (noun) – The accomplishment of a goal or purpose; triumph, victory. **सफलता**
 - **Virtue** (noun) – Behavior showing high moral standards; goodness, righteousness. **सद्गुण**
 - **Metamorphosis** (noun) – A change in the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one; transformation. **रूपांतर/ कायापलट**
20. C) **Fatal** (noun) – Causing or ending in death. **जानलेवा**
- **Gruesome** (adjective) – causing repulsion or horror; grisly. **डरावना**
 - **Foster** (verb) – promote the development or growth of. **पोषण करना**
 - **Grotesque** (adjective) – comically or repulsively ugly or distorted. **विचित्र**
21. C) 'Traded' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "traded" का अर्थ होता है वस्त्रों का आदान-प्रदान करना या व्यापार में लेन-देन करना। जबकि 'Advertised' का अर्थ है प्रचारित करना, 'Operated' का अर्थ है संचालित करना, और 'Marketed' का अर्थ है बाजार में प्रस्तुत करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **'Traded'** should be used because it means to exchange goods or services. Whereas, 'Advertised' means to promote, 'Operated' means to run or conduct, and 'Marketed' implies presenting in the market, which don't fit in this context.
22. C) **'Transaction'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "transaction" का अर्थ होता है कोई व्यवसायिक सौदा या समझौता जो बेचने या खरीदने की प्रक्रिया में होता है। जबकि 'Contraction' का अर्थ है संकुचन, 'Agreement' का अर्थ है समझौता या सहमति, और 'Mutation' का अर्थ है परिवर्तन या रूपांतरण, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Transaction'** should be used because it refers to a business deal or arrangement that occurs in the process of buying or selling. Whereas, 'Contraction' means a reduction in size, 'Agreement' means a mutual understanding or consent, and 'Mutation' means change or transformation, which don't fit in this context.
23. A) **'Concept'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "concept" का अर्थ होता है एक सोच या विचार जिसे लोग मानते हैं। जबकि 'Belief' का अर्थ है विश्वास, 'Notion' का अर्थ है एक आशय या सोच, और 'Opinion' का अर्थ है राय, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Concept'** should be used because it means an idea or thought that people accept. Whereas, 'Belief' means trust or faith, 'Notion' means an idea or view, and 'Opinion' means a viewpoint or judgment, which don't fit in this context.
24. B) **'Appealing'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'appealing' का अर्थ होता है आकर्षक या पसंदीदा। जबकि 'Enchanting', 'Bewitching', और 'Alluring' भी आकर्षकता को दर्शाने वाले शब्द हैं, लेकिन इस संदर्भ में 'appealing' सबसे उपयुक्त है क्योंकि यहाँ पर बात हो रही है कि लोगों को सिक्कों का भारी थैला ले जाना पसंद नहीं आ रहा था।
- **'Appealing'** should be used because it means attractive or pleasing. Whereas, 'Enchanting', 'Bewitching', and 'Alluring' are also words that denote attractiveness, but in this context, 'appealing' is the most suitable as it refers to people not finding it favorable to carry a heavy pouch of coins.
25. C) **'Deposited'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "deposited" का अर्थ होता है जमा करना। जबकि 'Contained' का अर्थ है रखना या समाहित करना, 'Collected' का अर्थ है इकट्ठा करना, और 'Settled' का अर्थ है निर्धारित करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Deposited'** should be used because it means to put money or valuables for safekeeping or particular purpose. Whereas, 'Contained' means to have within, 'Collected' means to gather, and 'Settled' implies finalizing something, which don't fit in this context.



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