

Law and custom: On the Supreme Court's verdict on same-sex marriage

Court **verdict** leaves **queer people** with long struggle ahead for equality

The Supreme Court of India's **refusal** to **accord** legal **recognition** to marriages between persons of the same sex **is** a huge legal **setback** to the queer community in the country. **Given** the progress in law in recent years and the **deepening** of the meaning of individual rights, there was **widespread** expectation that the five-judge **Constitution Bench** would give the Special Marriage Act (SMA), a law that allows any two people to marry, a **gender-neutral interpretation** to include people belonging to the same sex. Over the years, the **amplitude** of Article 21 of the Constitution has been **expanded** to cover the rights of privacy, **dignity** and marital choice, but the highest court has stopped short of the extra step needed to allow marriages or civil unions that are not **heterosexual**. All five judges have chosen to leave it to the **legislature** to **enact** such a law. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul have ruled that queer couples have a right to **seek** recognition for their union, but declined to **read down** the **provisions** of the SMA **to that effect**. On the other hand, Justices S. Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P.S. Narasimha reject the position, **holding** that any such recognition can only be based on **statute**. **In effect**, the Court has accepted the government's view that any **move** to **legalise** same-sex marriages **will** fall in the **legislature's domain**.

In **concluding** that there is no fundamental right to marry, the Court has **negated** the expectation that it would not allow discrimination against same-sex couples in the marital domain to continue. Marriage is **indeed** a social institution, with its own legal requirements and conditions for what **constitutes** a valid marriage. The **right** to seek social and legal **validation** through marriage **is** a matter of individual choice protected by the Constitution, but the Court still views it as being subject to **statutory limitations**. The majority **disfavours** the position that queer couples have a right to adopt children, but agrees with the minority that there is no **bar** on transpersons entering into heterosexual marriages. There is no **disagreement** among the judges about the right of such same-sex couples to **cohabit** and be free from **coercion** and threats. Given that large sections of India may be opposed to the **legalisation** of same-sex marriages on religious and cultural grounds, the **possibility** of Parliament taking the initiative to do so **is** quite **bleak**. The LGBTQIA+ community may now have to **take heart** from the Court's direction that the government should form a committee to decide the rights and **entitlements** of queer couples. **The community**, however, still **has** quite a struggle ahead before the law **catches up** with its **yearning for equality**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Verdict** (noun) – Judgment, decision, resolution, pronouncement, decree निर्णय
2. **Queer people** (noun) – LGBTQIA+ community, sexual minorities, non-heterosexuals, non-binary individuals, gender diverse individuals समलैंगिक समुदाय
3. **Refusal** (noun) – Rejection, denial, non-acceptance, declination, turning down अस्वीकार
4. **Accord** (verb) – Grant, give, bestow, confer, present प्रदान करना
5. **Recognition** (noun) – Acknowledgment, acceptance, validation, affirmation, realization मान्यता
6. **Setback** (noun) – Hindrance, obstacle, impediment, barrier, drawback बाधा
7. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind, acknowledging देखते हुए
8. **Deepening** (noun) – Intensification, amplification, augmentation, enhancement गहराव
9. **Widespread** (adjective) – Common, prevalent, extensive, ubiquitous, pervasive व्यापक
10. **Constitution Bench** (noun) – A special bench in the Supreme Court comprising at least five judges, convened to decide on cases involving the interpretation of the Constitution. संविधान पीठ
11. **Gender-neutral** (adjective) – Unisex, non-gendered, non-binary, genderless, all-gender लिंग-तटस्थ
12. **Interpretation** (noun) – Explanation, elucidation, explication, description, clarification व्याख्या
13. **Amplitude** (noun) – Range, scope, breadth, width, span विस्तार
14. **Expand** (verb) – Extend, enlarge, increase, broaden, widen विस्तार करना
15. **Dignity** (noun) – Self-respect, pride, self-worth, honor, stature मान-सम्मान
16. **Heterosexual** (noun) – A person attracted to the opposite sex. विपरीतलिंगी
17. **Legislature** (noun) – Lawmaking body, assembly, parliament, congress, council विधायिका
18. **Enact** (verb) – Legislate, pass, ratify, approve, sanction पास करना
19. **Seek** (verb) – to search for or try to obtain something मांगना
20. **Read down** (phrasal verb) – Interpret a section of a statute in a manner that restricts its scope rather than declaring it unconstitutional. अधिनियम को सीमित रूप में पढ़ना

21. **Provision** (noun) – Stipulation, condition, requirement, clause, term प्रावधान
22. **To that effect** (phrase) – Indicating that, in that manner, to that end उस प्रकार से
23. **Hold** (verb) – to have an opinion, etc. कोई राय आदि रखना
24. **Statute** (noun) – Law, ruling, bill, order क़ानून
25. **In effect** (phrase) – In practice, in reality, essentially, practically वास्तव में
26. **Legalise** (verb) – Authorize, sanction, permit, allow, approve वैध करना
27. **Legislature** (noun) – Parliament, assembly, congress, council, legislative body विधायिका
28. **Domain** (noun) – Realm, territory, jurisdiction, province, field क्षेत्र
29. **Conclude** (verb) – Determine, decide, deduce, infer, surmise निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचना
30. **Negate** (verb) – Nullify, invalidate, void, cancel, rebut अमान्य करना
31. **Indeed** (adverb) – Certainly, surely, truly, undeniably, actually वास्तव में
32. **Constitute** (verb) – Compose, make up, form, comprise, represent गठित करना
33. **Validation** (noun) – Confirmation, verification, endorsement, ratification, approval मान्यता
34. **Statutory limitation** (noun) – A legal restriction imposed by a statute or law
35. **Disfavour** (verb) – Disapprove, dislike, object to, oppose विरोध करना
36. **Bar** (noun) – Obstacle, barrier, impediment, hindrance, blockage प्रतिबंध
37. **Disagreement** (noun) – Dissension, dispute, difference, discord, variance मतभेद
38. **Cohabit** (verb) – Live together, coexist, share living space संघर्ष करना
39. **Coercion** (noun) – Compulsion, force, duress, pressure, intimidation दबाव
40. **Legalisation** (noun) – Authorization, sanctioning, approval, endorsement, ratification वैधीकरण
41. **Bleak** (adjective) – Grim, harsh, discouraging, dismal, gloomy उदास
42. **Take heart** (phrase) – Be encouraged, gain courage, feel heartened, be emboldened हौसला बढ़ाना
43. **Entitlement** (noun) – Right, privilege, prerogative, claim, allowance अधिकार
44. **Catch up** (phrasal verb) – Reach the same level, equal, match, approach पकड़ लेना (समान स्तर तक पहुँचना)
45. **Yearn** (for) (verb) – Crave, desire, long for, pine for, wish for इच्छा करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court of India denied legal recognition to same-sex marriages, a setback for the queer community.
2. There was an expectation that the Court would interpret the Special Marriage Act in a gender-neutral way to include same-sex couples.
3. Despite the expansion of Article 21 to include privacy, dignity, and marital choice, the Court refrained from legalizing same-sex marriages.
4. The judges opted to leave the matter to the legislature to create a specific law allowing such unions.
5. Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justice Kaul acknowledged the right of queer couples to seek union recognition but didn't amend the SMA.
6. Justices Bhat, Kohli, and Narasimha held that recognition of such unions should be statute-based.
7. The Court's stance aligns with the government's view that legalizing same-sex marriage is a legislative matter.
8. By concluding no fundamental right to marry exists, the Court has let discrimination against same-sex couples persist in the marital domain.
9. The judges acknowledged marriage as a social institution subject to legal and statutory limitations.
10. The majority of the judges are against the idea that queer couples should have the right to adopt children.
11. However, there's consensus on allowing transpersons in heterosexual marriages and the right of same-sex couples to cohabit without coercion.
12. Widespread opposition to same-sex marriage on religious and cultural grounds in India makes legislative action unlikely.
13. The Court has directed the government to form a committee to explore rights and entitlements for queer couples.
14. The LGBTQIA+ community faces a prolonged struggle for legal recognition and equality.
15. The path to equality for queer individuals remains uncertain, requiring significant legal, social, and cultural shifts.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred about the opinion of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul regarding the rights of queer couples?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. They believe that queer couples should not have any marital rights.
 - B. They believe that the SMA should be amended to include queer couples.
 - C. They believe that queer couples have a right to seek recognition, but the interpretation of SMA should not be changed.
 - D. They believe that Article 21 of the Constitution does not cover rights of privacy, dignity, and marital choice.
2. **What has been the Supreme Court of India's decision regarding the legal recognition of marriages between persons of the same sex?**
 - A. The Supreme Court has given the Special Marriage Act a gender-neutral interpretation.
 - B. The Supreme Court has allowed marriages or civil unions that are not heterosexual.
 - C. The Supreme Court has refused to accord legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same sex.
 - D. The Supreme Court has directed the legislature to immediately amend the Special Marriage Act to include same-sex marriages.
3. **What can be inferred about the Supreme Court's stance on same-sex marriage based on the passage?**
 - A. The Supreme Court recognizes the right to marriage as an individual choice but believes it is subject to certain statutory limitations.
 - B. The Supreme Court believes that same-sex couples have an unrestricted right to marry.
 - C. The Supreme Court has fully endorsed and supported the rights of same-sex couples to marry.
 - D. The Supreme Court has declared that marriage is not a fundamental right under any circumstance.
4. **Which of the following statements is true based on the passage about the Supreme Court's views and the situation in India regarding same-sex marriage?**
 - A. The majority of the judges support the right of queer couples to adopt children.
 - B. The Court believes that transpersons cannot enter into heterosexual marriages.
 - C. The Court agrees that same-sex couples have the right to cohabit and should be free from coercion and threats.
 - D. The majority of people in India support the legalization of same-sex marriages on religious and cultural grounds.
5. **Based on the tone of the passage, how does the author perceive the Supreme Court's verdict on same-sex marriage in India?**
 - A. As a progressive step forward for the LGBTQIA+ community.
 - B. As a neutral decision that neither supports nor opposes the community.
 - C. As a disappointing setback for the queer community's fight for equality.
 - D. As a fully supportive move toward ensuring the rights of same-sex couples
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Have egg on your face

 - A. Defeat someone thoroughly

- B. To be made to look foolish or embarrassed
C. Making a choice between two unpleasant choices
D. Reveal a secret
7. **The following sentence contains some errors. Select the option that correctly rectifies the error.**
The tiger was tranquillized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoid disturbannces by human beings.
- A. The tiger was tranquilized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoiid disturbaences by human beings.
B. The tiger was tranquilized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoid disturbances by human beings.
C. The tiger was traanquilized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoid dissturbances by human beings.
D. The tiger was tranquillized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoid disturbances by human beings.
8. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the bracketed word in the following sentence to fill in the blank.
She's reading a _____ (secrecy) novel and can't wait to find out who the killer is
- A. crisis
B. complication
C. difficulty
D. Mystery
9. **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 viable of life / depends on a pair / of conflicting realities.
- A. depends on a pair
B. No error
C. The viable of life
D. of conflicting realities
10. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
I shall be playing for four hours.
- A. four hours
B. I
C. shall be playing
D. For
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
Our team is all on the same page when it comes to our goals for the upcoming project.
- A. Be confused
B. Be in agreement
C. Be unsure
D. Be in conflict

12. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.
Bite the dust
A. To suffer a defeat
B. To fall from a height
C. To remain calm
D. To fall asleep
13. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A person who avoids sensory pleasures and physical comforts
A. Frugal
B. Epicurean
C. Bohemian
D. Ascetic
14. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word
A. Chivalrous
B. Expose
C. Confess
D. Convict
15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A person living in solitude like a saint for religious practices.
A. Hermit
B. Cretin
C. Heir
D. Heretic
16. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Clumsy
A. Jealous
B. Fierce
C. Graceful
D. Nervous
17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
No sooner had the sun risen over the horizon when the birds began to chirp and the squirrels started to scamper around the park
A. when the birds begin
B. than birds begin
C. when birds began
D. than the birds began
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
During the meeting, he went on a long and angry _____ about how the project was being mismanaged
A. shout
B. whisper

- C. rant
- D. Mutter

19. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

I had / a bad habit of / waking up / lately.

- A. lately
- B. waking up
- C. a bad habit of
- D. I had

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

Chaitnya was _____ from the school due to his inappropriate behavior

- A. expelled
- B. xpelled
- C. expeled
- D. Xpeled

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.

Once there was a king named Midas who was granted a (1) _____ by Dionysus, the god of wine. For his wish, Midas asked that whatever he (2) _____ would turn to gold. Despite Dionysus' efforts to prevent it, Midas pleaded that this was a fantastic wish, and so, it was bestowed. Excited about his newly-earned (3) _____, Midas started touching all kinds of things, turning each item into pure gold. But soon, Midas became (4) _____. As he picked up a piece of food, he found he couldn't eat it. It had turned to gold in his hand. Hungry, Midas groaned, "I'll starve! Perhaps this was not such an excellent wish after all!" Seeing his dismay, Midas' (5) _____ daughter threw her arms around him to comfort him, and she, too, turned to gold. "The golden touch is no blessing," Midas cried.

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

- A. slavery
- B. wish
- C. employment
- D. Job

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

- A. next felt
- B. touched
- C. kept
- D. Left

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

- A. legacies
- B. powers
- C. awards
- D. Visuals

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

- A. mad
- B. hungry
- C. tired
- D. Angry

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

- A. estranged
- B. guarded
- C. beloved
- D. hated

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **C) They believe that queer couples have a right to seek recognition, but the interpretation of SMA should not be changed.**

The passage mentions that "Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul have ruled that queer couples have a right to seek recognition for their union, but declined to read down the provisions of the SMA to that effect."

2. **C) The Supreme Court has refused to accord legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same sex.**

The passage states, "The Supreme Court of India's refusal to accord legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same sex is a huge legal setback to the queer community in the country."

3. A) The passage states that "In concluding that there is no fundamental right to marry, the Court has negated the expectation that it would not allow discrimination against same-sex couples in the marital domain to continue." It also mentions, "The right to seek social and legal validation through marriage is a matter of individual choice protected by the Constitution, but the Court still views it as being subject to statutory limitations."

4. C) The passage mentions, "The majority disfavours the position that queer couples have a right to adopt children," which negates option a. It also states, "agrees with the minority that there is no bar on transpersons entering into heterosexual marriages," making option b false. The text confirms, "There is no disagreement among the judges about the right of such same-sex couples to cohabit and be free from coercion and threats," which validates option c. Lastly, the passage suggests, "Given that large sections of India may be opposed to the legalisation of same-sex marriages on religious and cultural grounds," which refutes option d.

5. **C) As a disappointing setback for the queer community's fight for equality.**

The tone of the passage indicates a sense of disappointment and setback regarding the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage. The phrases such as "huge legal setback," "stopped short of the extra step needed," "has negated the expectation," and "still has quite a struggle ahead" all denote a negative perspective on the court's verdict. The expectation that the court might have made a more progressive decision and the mention of the "long struggle ahead for equality" further affirm the notion that the verdict is viewed by the author as a disappointment for the LGBTQIA+ community in India.

6. B) **Have egg on your face** (idiom) – To be made to look foolish or embarrassed **मूर्ख या शर्मिंदा दिखाई देना**

7. B) The tiger was tranquilized in the morning and kept in a cage to avoid disturbances by human beings

8. D) **Secrecy** (noun) – The action of keeping something secret or the state of being kept secret. **गुप्तता**

Synonym: **Mystery** (noun) – Something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain, enigmatic, puzzle. रहस्य

- **Crisis** (noun) – A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger; a turning point. संकट
- **Complication** (noun) – A situation or condition that complicates or makes something more difficult, challenging, or intricate. जटिलता
- **Difficulty** (noun) – The state or condition of being hard to achieve or accomplish; a challenging situation. कठिनाई

9. C) The viable of life' में error है क्योंकि 'viable' एक adjective है, और इसे noun के रूप में प्रयोग नहीं किया जा सकता है। 'viability' शब्द का इस्तेमाल करना उचित होगा, जैसे— 'The viability of life depends on a pair of conflicting realities.'

- There is an error in this sentence. The error is in 'The viable of life' because 'viable' is an adjective and cannot be used as a noun. The correct term to use would be 'viability,' e.g., 'The viability of life depends on a pair of conflicting realities.'

10. C) shall be playing' के बदले 'will be playing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'shall' का प्रयोग मुख्यतः प्रथम पुरुष (first person) के लिए होता है और 'will' का प्रयोग अन्य पुरुषों (second and third person) के लिए होता है। हालांकि, यहाँ 'I' पहले व्यक्ति के लिए है, लेकिन भविष्य के समय में किसी क्रिया को दर्शाने के लिए 'will be playing' का प्रयोग अधिक सामान्य है।

- **will be playing**' will be used instead of 'shall be playing' because the use of 'shall' is primarily with the first person, and 'will' is used with other persons (second and third person). However, even though 'I' is the first person here, 'will be playing' is more common to represent an action in the future tense.

11. B) **On the same page** (phrase)- Be in agreement सहमत हो

12. A) **Bite the dust** (idiom) – To suffer a defeat हारना

13. D) **Ascetic** (noun) – A person who practices severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons. तपस्वी

- **Frugal** (adjective) – Sparing or economical with regard to money or food. मितव्ययी
- **Epicurean** (adjective) – Devoted to sensual enjoyment, especially that derived from fine food and drink. सुरुचिपूर्ण
- **Bohemian** (noun) – A person who has informal and unconventional social habits, especially an artist or writer. रूढ़िमुक्त

14. C) The word '**Confess**' is incorrectly spelt. The correct spelling is 'Confess' अपराध का इज़हार करना.

15. A) **Hermit** (noun) – A person living in solitude, often for religious reasons, and often leading a life of austerity, simplicity, and contemplation. संत, वैरागी

- **Cretin** (noun) – A person considered to be extremely stupid or mentally handicapped. मूर्ख

- **Heir** (noun) – A person legally entitled to the property or rank of another on that person's death. **उत्तराधिकारी**
- **Heretic** (noun) – A person holding an opinion at odds with what is generally accepted, especially in religion. **विधर्मी**

16. C) **Clumsy** (adjective) – Lacking grace in movement or posture, uncoordinated, awkward, ungainly. **अनाड़ी**

Antonym: **Graceful** (adjective) – Having or showing grace or elegance, poised, elegant, coordinated.

सुसील

- **Jealous** (adjective) – Feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages, envious, covetous. **ईर्ष्यालु**
- **Fierce** (adjective) – Intense, strong, aggressive, ferocious. **उग्र**
- **Nervous** (adjective) – Anxious, agitated, edgy, tense. **चिंतित**

17. D) 'when the birds began' के बदले '**than the birds began**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'No sooner' के साथ Conjunction 'than' का प्रयोग होता है। 'When' का प्रयोग गलत है इस context में। जैसे— No sooner had I entered the room than the phone rang.

- 'than the birds began' will be used instead of 'when the birds began' because with 'No sooner' the conjunction 'than' is used. Using 'when' in this context is incorrect. Like— No sooner had I entered the room than the phone rang.

18. C) **Rant** का use होगा क्योंकि "rant" का अर्थ होता है बिना रुके किसी विषय पर गुस्से में बात करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि meeting के दौरान उसने प्रोजेक्ट की गलत प्रबंधन पर लंबी और क्रोधित बात की, इसलिए 'rant' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Shout' का अर्थ है चिल्लाना, 'Whisper' का अर्थ है धीरे से बोलना, और 'Mutter' का अर्थ है अपने आप में बड़बड़ाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Rant** should be used because it means to talk at length in a passionate or angry manner about something. The sentence mentions that during the meeting, he went on a long and angry speech about how the project was being mismanaged, making 'rant' fitting here. Whereas, 'Shout' means to yell, 'Whisper' means to speak very softly, and 'Mutter' means to murmur or grumble, which don't fit in this context

19. A) 'lately' के बदले '**late**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lately' का अर्थ होता है 'हाल ही में', जबकि यहाँ 'late' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए जिसका अर्थ होता है 'देर से'. इसलिए, इस वाक्य में सही वाक्य होगा— I had a bad habit of waking up late.

- 'late' will be used instead of 'lately' because 'lately' means 'recently', while here 'late', meaning 'delayed', should be used. Therefore, the correct sentence in this case would be— I had a bad habit of waking up late.

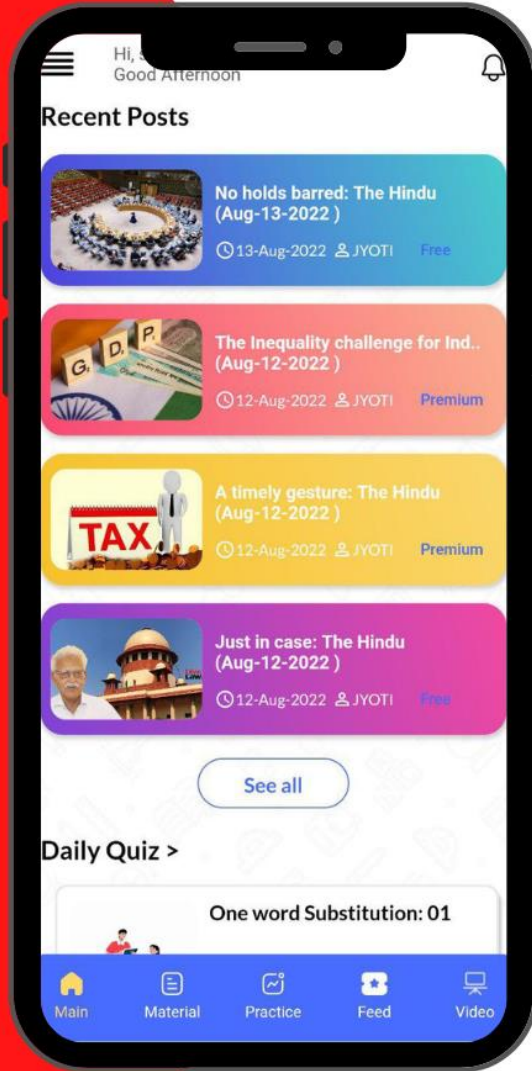
20. 'A) **Expelled**' इस रिक्त स्थान के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त शब्द है क्योंकि 'Expelled' का अर्थ है किसी संस्थान या संगठन से निकाल देना, और इस sentence में बताया गया है कि Chaitnya को उसके अनुचित व्यवहार के कारण स्कूल से निकाल दिया गया था। 'Xpelled', 'expeled', और 'Xpeled' गलत हैं क्योंकि ये सही वर्तनी नहीं हैं।
- '**Expelled**' will be the most suitable word to fill in the blank as it means to be driven out or dismissed from an institution or organization, and the sentence is conveying that Chaitnya was driven out of the school due to his inappropriate behavior. 'Xpelled', 'expeled', and 'Xpeled' are incorrect as they are not the correct spellings.
21. B) **Wish**' का use होगा क्योंकि इस context में बताया गया है कि राजा Midas को Dionysus, शराब के देवता, से एक वरदान मिला था। वरदान के लिए Midas ने यह इच्छा जताई थी कि जो कुछ भी वह छूएगा वह सोना बन जाएगा, इसलिए 'Wish' यहाँ सही है। 'Slavery' का अर्थ है दासता, 'Employment' का अर्थ है रोजगार, और 'Job' का अर्थ है काम, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **Wish** should be used because, in this context, it is mentioned that King Midas was granted a boon by Dionysus, the god of wine. For his boon, Midas expressed the desire that whatever he touches would turn to gold, making 'wish' the fitting word here. Whereas, 'Slavery' implies bondage, 'Employment' means occupation or work, and 'Job' means a task or piece of work, which are not appropriate in this context.
22. B) **Touched**' का use होगा क्योंकि "touched" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को छूना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि Midas ने यह इच्छा मांगी थी कि जो कुछ भी वह छूएगा वह सोना बन जाएगा, इसलिए 'touched' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Next felt' का अर्थ होता है अगला महसूस करना, 'Kept' का अर्थ होता है रखना, और 'Left' का अर्थ होता है छोड़ देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **Touched** should be used because it means to come into contact with something. The sentence says that Midas had wished that whatever he touched would turn to gold, making 'touched' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Next felt' implies feeling something next, 'Kept' means to retain, and 'Left' means to abandon, which don't fit in this context.
23. B) **Powers**' का use होगा क्योंकि "powers" का अर्थ होता है शक्तियां या क्षमताएं। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि Midas ने जो नई शक्ति प्राप्त की थी, वह उसे उसे सोना बनाने में use कर रहा था, इसलिए 'powers' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Legacies' का अर्थ है विरासतें, 'Awards' का अर्थ है पुरस्कार, और 'Visuals' का अर्थ है दृश्य इमेजेस, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- '**Powers**' should be used because it means abilities or capabilities. The sentence mentions that Midas started using his newly-earned ability to turn each item into pure gold, making 'powers' fitting here. Whereas, 'Legacies' means inheritances, 'Awards' means prizes or honors, and 'Visuals' implies visual images, which don't fit in this context.
24. B) '**hungry**' का इस्तेमाल होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में बताया गया है कि Midas कोई भी भोजन नहीं कर पा रहा था, क्योंकि वह सोना बन जाता था। इसलिए, इस context में 'hungry' यहाँ सही है। 'Mad' का अर्थ

होता है पागल, 'Tired' का अर्थ होता है थका हुआ, और 'Angry' का अर्थ होता है गुस्सा, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- **Hungry** should be used because the sentence mentions that Midas couldn't eat any food as it would turn to gold. Thus, in this context, 'hungry' is the most fitting. Whereas, 'Mad' means insane, 'Tired' means exhausted, and 'Angry' implies being upset, which are incorrect in this context

25. C) **'beloved'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'beloved' का अर्थ होता है प्रिय या प्यारा, और इस context में, Midas की बेटी उसे संत्वना देने के लिए उसकी बाहों में आ गई, जिसका अर्थ है कि वह उसकी प्रिय बेटी थी। 'Estranged' का अर्थ होता है दूर हो जाना, 'guarded' का अर्थ होता है संरक्षित, और 'hated' का अर्थ होता है घृणित, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- The word **'beloved'** will be used in blank number 5 because 'beloved' means dear or loved, and in this context, Midas's daughter came into his arms to comfort him, implying she was his beloved daughter. 'Estranged' means to be distanced, 'guarded' implies protected, and 'hated' means despised, which are not suitable in this context.



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