

Time and change: On the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs and new criminal laws

Panel should be given more time to study new criminal laws

A parliamentary committee appears to be quite close to finalising its report on the three Bills **seeking** to replace the **existing** criminal laws. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has postponed the **adoption** of the draft report, **following** demands from Opposition members that they be given more time to study it. The report is said to have at least three **dissenting** notes, mainly **pertaining** to the text of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which will replace the Indian Penal Code and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which will come in the place of the Code of Criminal Procedure. There appears to be **unanimity** on the third Bill, the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, the one **in lieu of** the Indian Evidence Act. Having begun its **deliberations** only on August 24, and having held only 12 sittings, there may be questions about the **adequacy** of the **scrutiny**. **The whole point** of introducing these new criminal codes **was** to **bring about** a major **overhaul** of a body of law **deemed** to be too **colonial** in **orientation**. Any meaningful study of these Bills **ought to** have involved wide consultations among **stakeholders** across the country. Ideally, the panel should hold sittings across the country and listen to lawyers and **activists** on the details of the various sections, besides members of the subordinate judiciary who actually work the law and procedure **laid down** in the codes.

The **demand** for more time to **examine** the report **has emerged** because the draft report was said to have been circulated in English only days before it was scheduled to be adopted, and that the Hindi version was made available only **on the eve of** the sitting. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for November 6. It would be **unwise** to treat the current **deferment** as nothing more than a brief **interlude** to give more time to panel members to study the draft report. Rather, it should be seen as an opportunity to extend the time given to the committee by a few more months. The government seems to be **keen on** getting the Bills introduced in Parliament and passed during the winter session. There is no reason for such **haste**. It might be argued that **considerable sections** of the new laws **are mere** reproductions of the old Codes and that one study by the Standing Committee may be enough before they are introduced in the legislature. However, there are areas that may require deeper scrutiny: **for instance**, the scope for misuse, if any, in the new definitions, the **desirability** of introducing new offences such as 'hate speech' and whether there is further scope for procedural reform in the criminal justice system. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Seek** (verb) – Search for, attempt to find, try to obtain, aim for, strive for प्रयास करना
2. **Existing** (adjective) – Present, current, prevailing, ongoing, extant मौजूदा
3. **Adoption** (noun) – Acceptance, approval, ratification, embracing, adoption अपनाना
4. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing, post, succeeding के बाद
5. **Dissenting** (adjective) – Disagreeing, differing, opposing, nonconforming, objecting असहमत
6. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – Relate to, concern, be connected with, be applicable to, have relevance to संबंधित होना
7. **Unanimity** (noun) – Consensus, agreement, concord, unity, uniformity आम सहमति
8. **In lieu of** (phrase) – Instead of, in place of, as a substitute for, as an alternative to के बदले में
9. **Deliberation** (noun) – Consideration, contemplation, reflection, pondering, discussion विचार-विमर्श
10. **Adequacy** (noun) – Sufficiency, suitability, appropriateness, enough, ample पर्याप्तता
11. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, analysis, audit, review जांच
12. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, effect, induce, generate, provoke लाना
13. **Overhaul** (noun) – Revamp, improvement, renovation, overhaul, refurbishment कायापलट
14. **Deem** (verb) – Consider, regard, view as, believe, judge मानना
15. **Colonial** (adjective) – Pertaining to colonization, imperialistic, annexationist, colonial उपनिवेशवादी
16. **Orientation** (noun) – a person's basic attitude, beliefs, or feelings in relation to a particular subject or issue.
17. **Stakeholder** (noun) – Interested party, investor, shareholder, participant, contributor हितधारक
18. **Activist** (noun) – Campaigner, advocate, protestor, agitator, reformer कार्यकर्ता
19. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – Establish, stipulate, prescribe, dictate, ordain निर्धारित करना
20. **Examine** (verb) – Inspect, scrutinize, study, assess, evaluate जांच करना
21. **Emerge** (verb) – Appear, surface, come out, materialize, arise प्रकट होना

22. **On the eve of** (phrase) – Just before, preceding, prior to, on the verge of, on the brink of किसी घटना के ठीक पहले
23. **Unwise** (adjective) – Foolish, imprudent, ill-advised, indiscreet, injudicious अनुचित
24. **Deferment** (noun) – Postponement, delay, adjournment, suspension, stay स्थगन/मोहलत
25. **Interlude** (noun) – Interval, intermission, break, pause, hiatus अंतराल
26. **Keen on** (phrasal verb) – Eager, enthusiastic about, interested in, intent on, committed to उत्सुक होना
27. **Haste** (noun) – Hurry, rush, speed, swiftness, precipitateness जल्दबाजी
28. **Considerable** (adjective) – Substantial, significant, sizable, large, appreciable पर्याप्त
29. **Mere** (adjective) – Only, just, solely, simply, no more than केवल
30. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, as an example, to illustrate, such as, like उदाहरण के लिए
31. **Desirability** (noun) – Attractiveness, appeal, worth, advisability, allure वांछनीयता

Summary of the Editorial

1. A parliamentary committee is nearing completion of a report on three bills intended to revamp India's criminal laws.
2. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has delayed finalizing the report, conceding to the Opposition's request for more time to review it.
3. The committee's report includes at least three dissenting notes related to two major bills intended to replace the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.
4. There is agreement on the third bill, aimed at replacing the Indian Evidence Act.
5. The committee, having only begun its work on August 24 and held 12 sittings, may not have had enough time for thorough scrutiny.
6. The goal of the new criminal codes is to modernize and de-colonize the current laws.
7. There's a call for broader consultations with legal stakeholders and members of the judiciary to better understand the practical implications of the new laws.
8. The committee should consider traveling across the country for a more inclusive consultation process.
9. The push for more time is partly due to the late distribution of the draft report, particularly in Hindi.
10. The committee's next meeting is set for November 6, and this delay should be used to extend the review period.
11. The government is eager to introduce and pass these bills in the upcoming winter parliamentary session.
12. There is no urgent need for this haste in passing the new laws.
13. Some sections of the proposed laws are very similar to the existing ones, but others may need close examination.
14. New definitions and the introduction of offences such as 'hate speech' require careful consideration to avoid potential misuse.
15. The process should include an assessment of whether the proposed laws offer chances for further procedural reforms in the criminal justice system.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the second paragraph of the passage?**
A. Indifferent
B. Urgent
C. Cautionary
D. Celebratory
2. **What would be an appropriate title for the passage?**
A. The Quick Adoption of New Criminal Codes
B. Debating the Revision of Colonial Laws
C. The Rushed Reformation of Criminal Laws
D. Celebrating New Definitions in Criminal Justice
3. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
A. The efficiency of the parliamentary committee
B. The need for multilingual reports in government
C. The procedural reform in the criminal justice system
D. The deliberation over and potential overhaul of the criminal law system
4. **What concern is raised by the Opposition members regarding the Parliamentary Standing Committee's draft report on the new criminal laws, and how does it relate to the process of deliberation?**
A. The Opposition members have no concerns about the draft report but request more sittings for comprehensive understanding, highlighting the process as thorough and exhaustive.
B. Opposition members are worried about the hastiness of the legislation process and demand more time for scrutiny due to the report being circulated in English shortly before adoption, pointing to a need for a more inclusive and deliberative process.
C. Opposition members are content with the pace of legislation and the languages in which the report is circulated, underscoring their trust in the current scrutiny process.
D. The concern of the Opposition pertains solely to the substance of the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill and not to the process of deliberation or the language in which the draft report was circulated.
5. **According to the passage, what should be the approach of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs towards the examination of the new Bills replacing the existing criminal laws?**
A. The Committee should limit its consultations to members of the subordinate judiciary, as they are the ones who work with the law and procedure laid down in the codes.
B. The Committee should quickly finalize the report without further consultation to expedite the introduction of the Bills in Parliament during the winter session.

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- C. The Committee should extend the deliberation period and engage in wide consultations with stakeholders such as lawyers, activists, and members of the subordinate judiciary to ensure a comprehensive examination of the Bills.
- D. The Committee should disregard the dissenting notes in the report as they pertain only to minor issues that do not impact the overall efficacy of the proposed laws.
6. **Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**
It's risky to invest all your savings in one company; it's like _____.
- A. going down in flames
B. putting all your eggs in one basket
C. biting the bullet
D. breaking a leg
7. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined group of words.**
Sometimes we have to accept replacing something with something else, if we want to move forward.
- A. evaluation
B. change
C. invasion
D. Invention
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Dishevelled
- A. Assertive
B. Tidy
C. Tainted
D. Rigid
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
I _____ to many countries to find the source of true happiness.
- A. triveled
B. travelled
C. travalled
D. Travellid
10. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Abhorrent
B. Jugglary
C. Gesture
D. Magnificence
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the following sentence.**
Irrespective of the chaos in the classroom, our class teacher stays cool as a cucumber.
- A. Stays calm and composed
B. Behaves like a vegetable
C. Scolds all the students in the classroom
D. Develops a fever

12. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Hazard

- A. Marvel
- B. Miracle
- C. Ardent
- D. Accident

13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

He is a smug and very _____ person who thinks only about himself.

- A. arsonist
- B. diffident
- C. egoistic
- D. Humble

14. Select the word segment which substitutes the bracketed word correctly and completes the sentence meaningfully.

I (am here) since 1981.

- A. have been here
- B. had been here
- C. was here
- D. has been here

15. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

You shall repented tomorrow for your misdeeds.

- A. for your misdeeds
- B. tomorrow
- C. shall repented
- D. You

16. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

She think Alex is abandoning her.

- A. was thinking
- B. thought
- C. thinks
- D. was to think

17. Select the most appropriate segment that can substitute the bracketed word in the following sentence.

The bridge that (connecting) the two valleys across the Brahmaputra river has recently been constructed in Arunachal Pradesh

- A. will be connecting
- B. had connected
- C. will be connected
- D. Connects

18. Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.

Naina has six children, and I always _____ with their names.

- A. get mixed up
- B. get rid of
- C. get away clean
- D. get cold feet

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

When it comes to planning her wedding, Maria wants _____.

- A. down for the count
- B. a black sheep
- C. the whole fifteen miles
- D. the whole nine yards

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

I know that I can count on my best friend to be by my side through _____ and thin.

- A. tough
- B. heavy
- C. thick
- D. Fat

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.

I do not know how the party ended. I do not want to know. I went (1)____ upstairs, and undressed and (2)____ into bed, and lay there in the burning dark while the last guest gurgled in the hall below about the wonderful evening she had spent. I lay there (3)____ the front door shut after her, and Lavinia's steps came up the stairs and passed the door to the guest room beyond. And then after a couple of centuries (4)____, the clock struck three and I (5)____ to sleep.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. over
- B. through
- C. around
- D. Straight

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

- A. gnawed
- B. lurched
- C. peeped
- D. Crawled

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

- A. still
- B. toward
- C. while
- D. Down

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

- A. crossed
- B. eroded
- C. elapsed
- D. Persisted

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

- A. dozed off
- B. called off
- C. took off
- D. put off

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. C) The tone of the second paragraph can be inferred as cautionary. The author suggests that the deferment of the draft report should not be taken lightly but rather as an opportunity to thoroughly review the proposed Bills. The language used indicates a warning against rushing the process and emphasizes the need for extended time for consideration, signaling the importance of careful deliberation over the potential impacts of the new laws.
2. B) The passage discusses the process of revising existing criminal laws, which are described as too colonial in orientation. The title "Debating the Revision of Colonial Laws" encapsulates the main focus of the passage, which is the deliberation and discussion taking place within a parliamentary committee concerning the overhaul of these laws.
3. D) The main theme of the passage revolves around the ongoing efforts and discussions related to changing the criminal laws, which are seen as outdated due to their colonial origins. It highlights the process of the parliamentary committee's work, the issues raised by opposition members for more time to review the Bills, and the implications of introducing new codes. The theme centers on the careful consideration needed for such a significant overhaul of the criminal law system.
4. B) The passage indicates that Opposition members requested more time to study the draft report which was circulated in English only days before the scheduled adoption, and the Hindi version was provided only on the eve of the sitting. This concern suggests that they believe the process is being rushed and that the committee's members need more time to adequately review the report in a language accessible to them, thus advocating for a more inclusive and thorough process of deliberation.
5. C) The passage emphasizes the need for a meaningful study of the Bills, which would involve wide consultations with stakeholders across the country. It suggests that ideally, the Committee should listen to lawyers, activists, and members of the subordinate judiciary to understand the details of the various sections. This approach is advocated to ensure that the major overhaul of the colonial-oriented body of law is thoroughly vetted and to consider the practical implications of the new codes.
6. B) **Putting all your eggs in one basket** (idiom) - Investing all resources into one plan or venture, thus risking everything if it fails.
 - **Going down in flames** (idiom) - Failing spectacularly or catastrophically. भयंकर तरीके से असफल होना
 - **Biting the bullet** (idiom) - Facing a difficult or unpleasant situation courageously or stoically. मुश्किल स्थिति का सामना करना

- **Breaking a leg** (idiom) - A way to wish someone good luck, especially before a performance. किसी को प्रदर्शन से पहले शुभकामनाएं देने की एक तरह
7. B) **Change** (noun) - the act or process of making or becoming different. परिवर्तन
- **Evaluation** (noun) - the making of a judgment about the amount, number, or value of something; assessment. मूल्यांकन
 - **Invasion** (noun) - an instance of invading a country or region with an armed force. आक्रमण
 - **Invention** (noun) - the creation of something in the mind. आविष्कार
8. B) **Dishevelled** (adjective) – Messy, untidy, unkempt, rumped. बिखरा हुआ
Antonym: **Tidy** (adjective) – Neat, organized, orderly, well-kept. सुव्यवस्थित
- **Assertive** (adjective) – Confident, forceful, self-assured, outspoken. स्वाभिमानी
 - **Tainted** (adjective) – Contaminated, polluted, corrupted, impure. दूषित
 - **Rigid** (adjective) – Stiff, inflexible, unyielding, unbending. कठोर
9. B) **Travelled** का use होगा क्योंकि 'travelled' सही वर्तनी (spelling) है और इसका अर्थ है किसी जगह से दूसरी जगह जाना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि मैंने कई देशों में यात्रा की है ताकि मैं सच्ची खुशी का स्रोत खोज सकूँ, इसलिए 'travelled' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Triveled,' 'Travalled,' और 'Travelld' गलत वर्तनी (incorrect spelling) में हैं, इसलिए वे इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **Travelled** should be used because it is the correct spelling and it means to go from one place to another. The sentence says that I have gone to many countries to find the source of true happiness, making 'travelled' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Triveled,' 'Travalled,' and 'Travelld' are incorrect spellings, making them unsuitable for this context.
10. B) The incorrectly spelled word is '**Jugglary**'. The correct spelling is 'Jugglery जादूगरी' or 'धूर्तता'.
11. A) **Cool as a cucumber** (idiom) – Stays calm and composed शांत और संयमित रहता है
12. D) **Hazard** (noun) – A danger or risk, a potential source of harm or adverse effect. खतरा
Synonym: Accident (noun) – An unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury. दुर्घटना
- **Marvel** (noun) – A wonderful or astonishing person or thing, something that causes wonder or admiration. अद्भुत
 - **Miracle** (noun) – A surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is considered to be divine. चमत्कार

- **Ardent** (adjective) – Very enthusiastic or passionate. **उत्साही**
13. C) **Egoistic**' का use होगा क्योंकि "egoistic" का अर्थ होता है अपने आप में ही सिर्फ सोचने वाला या स्वार्थी। Sentence में कहा गया है कि वह व्यक्ति सिर्फ अपने बारे में ही सोचता है, इसलिए 'egoistic' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Arsonist' का अर्थ है जो आग लगाता है, 'Diffident' का अर्थ है आत्म-विश्वास की कमी रखने वाला, और 'Humble' का अर्थ है विनम्र, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **Egoistic**' should be used because it means someone who is self-centered or selfish. The sentence describes a person who thinks only about himself, making 'egoistic' the most fitting choice here. Whereas, 'Arsonist' means someone who sets fires, 'Diffident' means lacking self-confidence, and 'Humble' means modest or unpretentious, which don't fit in this context.
14. A) **have been here**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस sentence में बताया गया है कि किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु का 1981 से अब तक एक continuous presence है। 'Since' का प्रयोग होने के कारण, यहाँ 'Present Perfect Continuous Tense' का प्रयोग करना उपयुक्त होगा।
- 'have been here' will be used because the sentence indicates a continuous presence of someone or something from 1981 to the present time. Because 'since' is used, it is appropriate to use the 'Present Perfect Continuous Tense' in this context
15. C) **shall repented**' में error है, यहाँ 'shall repent' होना चाहिए। 'Shall' के साथ Base Form का प्रयोग किया जाता है। जैसे— You shall repent tomorrow for your misdeeds.
- The error is in 'shall repented'; it should be 'shall repent.' With 'shall,' the Base Form of the verb is used. Like— You shall repent tomorrow for your misdeeds.
16. C) **thought**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'is abandoning' Present Continuous Tense में है, और इसे जोड़ने वाली verb 'think' Simple Present Tense में होनी चाहिए। जैसे— She thinks Alex is abandoning her.
- **thought**' will be used because the verb 'is abandoning' is in Present Continuous Tense, and the verb connecting it, 'think,' should be in Simple Present Tense; Like— She thinks Alex is abandoning her.
17. D) **Connects**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'The bridge' Present Tense में है और यहां का अर्थ भी वर्तमान समय से मेल करता है। इसके अनुसार, Relative Clause में भी Verb Present Tense में होगा; जैसे— The book that lies on the table is mine.
- **'Connects'** will be used instead of 'connecting' because 'The bridge' is in Present Tense and the meaning here also aligns with the present time. Accordingly, in the Relative Clause, the Verb will also be in Present Tense; Like— The book that lies on the table is mine.
18. A) **Get mixed up** (idiom) – To become confused or to mistake one thing for another. **भ्रंत होना**

- **Get rid of** (idiom) – To eliminate or dispose of something or someone; to relieve or free oneself from something. छुटकारा पाना
 - **Get away clean** (idiom) – To escape a situation without receiving any punishment or without being caught. बिना पकड़े जाए भाग जाना
 - **Get cold feet** (idiom) – To become nervous or anxious and reconsider a decision about an upcoming event. नर्वस होना या फैसला बदल देना
19. D) **The whole nine yards** (idiom) – to do something completely or thoroughly; to include or consider every possible option or resource. पूरा होना
- **Down for the count** (idiom) – defeated or unconscious; unable to continue. हार चुकना
 - **A black sheep** (idiom) – a member of a family or group who is regarded as a disgrace or embarrassment. कलंक
 - **The whole fifteen miles** (idiom) – it is not a common idiom, but it would imply going above and beyond what is required or expected, an exaggeration of "the whole nine yards". अधिक होना
20. C) **Through thick and thin** (phrase) – through difficult times and situations सुख-दुख में, मुसीबतों में
21. D) **'Straight'** का use होगा क्योंकि इस sentence में बताया गया है कि मैं बिना किसी देरी या टाइम-पास किए ऊपर गया, उसे उतारकर बिस्तर में चला गया। 'Straight' का मतलब होता है सीधे, बिना किसी देरी के। जबकि 'Over' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के ऊपर जाना, 'Through' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के माध्यम से जाना, और 'Around' का मतलब है आसपास, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Straight'** should be used because the sentence describes the speaker going upstairs without any delay or detour, undressing, and getting into bed. 'Straight' implies doing something directly, without any delay. On the other hand, 'Over' suggests going over something, 'Through' suggests going via a particular route, and 'Around' implies going in a circuitous way, which do not fit in this context.
22. D) Blank no. 2 को fill करने के लिए **'Crawled'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Crawled into bed' एक common phrase है, जिसका अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे और कठिनाई से बिस्तर में जाना। यहाँ 'Crawled' उपयुक्त है क्योंकि यह describe करता है किसी व्यक्ति को बिस्तर में जाते हुए। जबकि, 'Gnawed' का अर्थ है कटा हुआ या चबाया हुआ, 'Lurched' का अर्थ है अचानक मूव करना और 'Peeped' का अर्थ है झाँकना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **'Crawled'** should be used to fill in blank no. 2 because 'crawled into bed' is a common phrase meaning to move slowly and with effort into bed. Here, 'crawled' is suitable as it describes a person going into bed. Whereas, 'Gnawed' means to bite or chew, 'Lurched'

implies moving abruptly, and 'Peeped' means to look quickly and secretly at something, which are incorrect in this context.

23. C) इस context में, 'while' शब्द का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'while' एक conjunction है जो दो actions को connect करता है जो simultaneously हो रहे होते हैं। इस sentence में, लेखक बेड पर लेटे हुए हैं और उन्हें यह सुनाई दे रहा है कि गेस्ट हॉल से निकल रही है, इसलिए 'while' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'still' का अर्थ है अब तक या फिर भी, 'toward' का अर्थ है किसी दिशा में, और 'Down' का अर्थ है नीचे की दिशा में, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

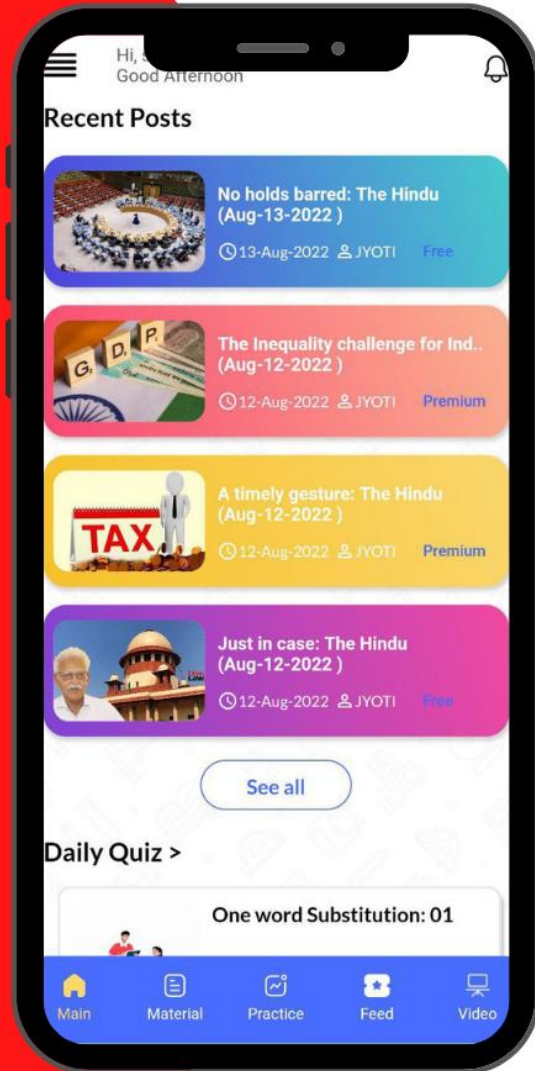
- 'While' should be used in this context as it is a conjunction that connects two actions occurring simultaneously. In this sentence, the writer is lying in bed and hears the front door shut after the guest, making 'while' fitting here. Whereas, 'still' means up to and including the present or the time mentioned; 'toward' implies in the direction of, and 'Down' means in a descending or more remote direction or place, which don't fit in this context.

24. C) 'Elapsed' का use होगा क्योंकि "elapsed" का अर्थ होता है समय बीतना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि कुछ सदियों के बाद घड़ी ने तीन बजाए, तो यहाँ 'elapsed' सबसे सही शब्द है क्योंकि यह समय के बीतने की बात कर रहा है। 'Crossed' का अर्थ है पार करना, 'Eroded' का अर्थ है घिसना या नष्ट होना, और 'Persisted' का अर्थ है बना रहना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Elapsed' should be used because it means the passing of time. The sentence narrates that a couple of centuries 'elapsed,' and then the clock struck three, so 'elapsed' is the most fitting word here as it indicates the passing of time. Whereas, 'Crossed' means to go across, 'Eroded' means to wear away, and 'Persisted' implies continuing to exist, which don't fit in this context.

25. A) इस context में, 'dozed off' सही विकल्प होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है कि किसी ने नींद में चला गया या सो गया। जैसा कि sentence में बताया गया है, पात्र बिस्तर में लेटा है और फिर उसे नींद आ जाती है, इसलिए 'dozed off' यहाँ सही है। वहीं, 'called off' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को रद्द कर देना, 'took off' का अर्थ है उड़ान भरना या शुरू होना, और 'put off' का अर्थ है टाल देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Dozed off' should be used in this context as it means to fall asleep. As the sentence portrays the character lying in bed and subsequently falling asleep, 'dozed off' is fitting here. On the other hand, 'called off' means to cancel something, 'took off' refers to starting or departing swiftly, and 'put off' means to postpone, which are not appropriate in this context.



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