

## Incoming call: On the introduction of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023

**Regulation** of Internet world **must** address privacy concerns and simplify procedures

The **introduction** of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, **inches** closer to achieving the Union government's **long-standing** aim of **consolidating** the law for wireless networks and Internet service providers, with a 46-page **statute** that leaves **existing** regulatory structures largely **intact**, while simplifying **bureaucratic** procedures such as applying for licences and permits for telecom operators. Licensing processes are **set to** be digitised, and telecom operators will have a new way of **dealing with non-compliance** with their licence terms, while also having access to district- and State-level authorities for permissions and dispute **resolution** when **setting up** their equipment and optical fiber networks on public and private properties. The Bill also lets the satellite Internet industry — long **touted** as a way for at least some **remote** areas to get net connectivity — **breathe a sigh of relief**, as there is clarity that it will not need to **bid** for **spectrum**, thus putting India **on similar footing** with other countries. The Bill has been welcomed by industry bodies for **streamlining** their regulatory **landscape** and promoting their ease of doing business, and could possibly give the much-needed regulatory **stability** and enabling environment for the next phase of telecom expansion. Over half of India's population is on the **margins** of the connected world, and the Bill could help.

But issues **persist**: the **expansive** definition of telecom brings in its **ambit** a range of services, and state state authority over them raises concerns of privacy and **surveillance**. These concerns are not **merely** academic considering past allegations of state-sponsored **snooping**. The Bill tries to deal with **spamming** concerns, but its proposed solutions require additional compromises to privacy. The **issues** of surveillance reform and Internet shutdowns **have** massive **implications**, and **must** not be avoided just because they are **contentious**. The government must address these concerns with an open mind, **considering** the **vast** powers that the text of the Bill **grants** it. When the last draft was publicly **floated** for consultation, responses from industry bodies and the public were **withheld** from **scrutiny**. To **further** reassure the public of its clean motives, the government must **scrupulously** conduct rule-making with absolute transparency and consultation. This is especially important as many of the Act's provisions need **subordinate** legislation notified by the Department of Telecommunications before they **come into force**. The telecommunications landscape has evolved dramatically since the Telegraph Act was first passed in the 19th century, and regulation and law-making of the Internet world need to comprehensively address all the issues that have come with this digital explosion.

- **Inch** (verb) – to move slowly and carefully in the direction mentioned आगे बढ़ना **[Practice]**
- **Considering** (preposition) – bearing in mind, taking into consideration, taking into account ध्यान में रखते हुए
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, handle, attend to, approach, confront निपटाना (+)
2. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Established, enduring, longstanding, traditional, persistent; दीर्घकालिक
3. **Consolidate** (verb) – Strengthen, unify, merge, combine, solidify; मजबूत करना (+)
4. **Statute** (noun) – Law, regulation, enactment, ordinance, decree; कानून
5. **Existing** (adjective) – Current, prevailing, extant, present, existing; मौजूदा
6. **Intact** (adjective) – Unchanged, unaltered, undamaged, whole, unimpaired अखंड (+)
7. **Bureaucratic** (adjective) – Official, administrative, governmental, procedural, red-tape; नौकरशाही
8. **Set** (to) (verb) – ready, prepared, equipped, primed तैयार
9. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Manage, handle, address, tackle, confront; निपटाना (+)
10. **Non-compliance** (noun) – Disobedience, defiance, non-observance, nonconformity, violation; अनुपालन न करना (-)
11. **Resolution** (noun) – Solution, decision, settlement, conclusion, determination; समाधान (+)
12. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, start, initiate, install; स्थापित करना
13. **Tout** (verb) – Promote, advertise, endorse, praise, advocate; प्रचार करना
14. **Remote** (adjective) – Distant, faraway, isolated, secluded, outlying; दूरस्थ
15. **Breathe a sigh of relief** (phrase) – Feel relieved, relax, ease up, feel reassured; राहत की सांस लेना
16. **Bid** (verb) – to offer to pay a particular price for something, especially at a public sale where things are sold to the person who offers most money (an auction); बोली लगाना
17. **Spectrum** (noun) – the invisible radio frequencies that wireless signals travel over. Those signals are what enable us to make calls from our mobile devices, tag our friends on Instagram, call an Uber, pull up directions to a destination, and do everything on our mobile devices.
18. **Be on similar footing** (phrase) – Be on equal terms, be comparable, be equivalent, be alike; समान स्थिति में होना
19. **Streamline** (verb) – Simplify, organize, modernize, improve, refine; सुव्यवस्थित करना (+)
20. **Landscape** (noun) – Terrain, scenery, environment, backdrop, setting; परिदृश्य

21. **Stability** (noun) – Firmness, steadiness, constancy, durability, solidity; स्थिरता
22. **Margin** (noun) – Edge, border, brink, verge, periphery; कगार पर
23. **Persist** (verb) – Continue, endure, persevere, maintain, carry on; लगातार बने रहना
24. **Expansive** (adjective) – Comprehensive, extensive, wide-ranging, broad, inclusive; विस्तृत
25. **Ambit** (noun) – Scope, range, extent, reach, realm; दायरा
26. **Surveillance** (noun) – Observation, monitoring, watch, supervision, scrutiny; निगरानी
27. **Merely** (adverb) – Just, only, simply, solely, exclusively; केवल
28. **Snooping** (noun) – Spying, prying, eavesdropping, surveilling, investigating; जासूसी (-)
29. **Spamming** (noun) – the activity of sending advertisements by email to people who do not want to receive them: (-)
30. **Implication** (noun) – Consequence, inference, suggestion, ramification, indication; परिणाम (-)
31. **Contentious** (adjective) – Controversial, disputable, debatable, argumentative, polemical; विवादास्पद (-)
32. **Vast** (adjective) – Huge, enormous, immense, extensive, expansive; विशाल
33. **Grant** (verb) – Allow, give, provide, bestow, award; प्रदान करना
34. **Floated** (adjective) – Launched, introduced, proposed, presented, put forward; प्रस्तुत किया गया
35. **Withhold** (verb) – Retain, keep back, hold back, reserve, conceal; रोकना (-)
36. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, review, analysis, assessment; जांच
37. **Further** (verb) – Advance, promote, further, develop, encourage; आगे बढ़ाना
38. **Scrupulously** (adverb) – Carefully, meticulously, precisely, conscientiously, thoroughly; सावधानी से
39. **Subordinate** (adjective) – Lesser, secondary, ancillary, inferior, subsidiary; अधीनस्थ
40. **Come into force** (phrase) – Become effective, be enacted, be implemented, start, begin; लागू होना

(+) Denotes 'Positive words'

(-) denotes 'Negative words'

## Summary of the Editorial

1. **Aim of the Bill:** The Telecommunications Bill, 2023, aims to consolidate laws for wireless networks and Internet service providers.
2. **Length and Impact on Regulations:** It's a 46-page statute that largely maintains current regulatory structures while simplifying bureaucratic processes.
3. **Licensing Processes:** The bill digitizes the licensing processes, easing the procedure for telecom operators.
4. **Non-Compliance and Dispute Resolution:** It provides new methods for telecom operators to handle non-compliance issues and access to local authorities for resolving disputes.
5. **Benefits to Satellite Internet Industry:** The satellite Internet industry gains clarity on spectrum bidding, aligning India with other countries.
6. **Industry Reception:** The bill is praised by industry bodies for streamlining regulations and enhancing ease of business.
7. **Potential for Telecom Expansion:** It could offer regulatory stability and an enabling environment for future telecom expansion.
8. **Addressing Connectivity Gaps:** The bill aims to connect over half of India's population currently on the margins of the connected world.
9. **Privacy and Surveillance Concerns:** The broad definition of telecom in the bill raises privacy and surveillance concerns.
10. **Past Allegations of Snooping:** These concerns are significant in light of previous accusations of state-sponsored snooping.
11. **Spamming and Privacy Compromises:** The bill addresses spamming but requires compromises to privacy.
12. **Need for Surveillance Reform:** Issues of surveillance reform and Internet shutdowns are crucial and contentious.
13. **Government's Approach:** The government is encouraged to address these concerns openly, given the extensive powers the bill grants it.
14. **Transparency and Public Consultation:** Transparency and public consultation are vital, especially since many provisions require subordinate legislation.
15. **Evolution of Telecommunications Landscape:** The bill reflects the dramatic evolution of the telecommunications landscape since the 19th century, highlighting the need for comprehensive regulation in the digital age.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which one of the following statements best summarizes the author's position on the Telecommunications Bill, 2023?** [Editorial page]
  - A. The Bill is a comprehensive solution to all of India's telecommunications and internet service challenges.
  - B. The Bill primarily focuses on digitizing licensing processes and does not address privacy concerns adequately.
  - C. The Bill simplifies procedures for telecom operators but raises concerns regarding privacy and state surveillance.
  - D. The Bill will negatively impact the satellite Internet industry in India due to new spectrum bidding requirements.
2. **What is the tone of the first paragraph in the given passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Critical
  - C. Indifferent
  - D. Pessimistic
3. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, EXCEPT that:**
  - A. It aims to consolidate laws for wireless networks and Internet service providers.
  - B. It will require the satellite Internet industry to participate in spectrum bidding.
  - C. It involves digitizing the licensing processes for telecom operators.
  - D. It raises concerns about state authority over a range of services, potentially impacting privacy.
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The evolution of the telecommunications landscape in India
  - B. The challenges of privacy and surveillance in internet regulation
  - C. The history of the Internet and telecommunications
  - D. The global impact of India's telecommunications policies
5. **Based on the passage, we can infer that the author would be most supportive of:**
  - A. Strict regulations on the Internet to control user behavior.
  - B. Simplifying bureaucratic procedures for telecom operators.
  - C. Restricting the growth of the satellite Internet industry in India.
  - D. Maintaining the current complex licensing processes for telecom services.
6. **What is one of the main concerns raised by the expansive definition of telecom as mentioned in the passage?**
  - A. The increased cost of telecommunications services.
  - B. The potential for reduced competition among service providers.
  - C. Concerns of privacy and surveillance due to state authority over a range of services.
  - D. Difficulty in implementing international telecom standards.
7. **According to the passage, why is it important for the government to conduct rule-making with absolute transparency and consultation for the telecommunications Bill?**

- A. To ensure the fastest implementation of the Bill.
  - B. To prevent the monopolization of the telecom industry.
  - C. To reassure the public of the government's clean motives and address privacy concerns.
  - D. To comply with international telecommunication regulations.
8. **Which word in the passage is synonymous with "contentious"?**
- A. Uncontroversial
  - B. Inconsequential
  - C. Harmonious
  - D. Disputable

**Comprehension:**

**In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.**

Pigeon racing has become increasingly popular in parts of China (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the country's elite and its middle class. Sun Yan, the deputy general-secretary of Beijing Racing Pigeons Association, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that at least 100,000 pigeon breeders live in Beijing, and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 90,000 of them are registered with Racing Pigeons Associations at (4) \_\_\_\_\_ levels, to qualify for the games held in the spring and autumn. Competitions can be lucrative for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ owners, with some prizes amounting to tens of thousands of dollars. Liu said in recent years, pigeon racing has been surging in popularity across China.

9. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 1.**
- A. against
  - B. along
  - C. among
  - D. About
10. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 2.**
- A. said
  - B. clarified
  - C. told
  - D. Advised
11. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 3.**
- A. utmost
  - B. almost
  - C. nearby
  - D. Exact
12. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 4**
- A. different
  - B. differed
  - C. differential
  - D. Differ
13. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 5.**
- A. pigeons
  - B. birds

- C. animal  
D. Bird
14. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**  
There is hope that better forestry management will help in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wild life that is constantly facing threat because of increasing human activities.  
A. salvation  
B. guarding  
C. supervision  
D. Conservation
15. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**  
Cyclone Idai is regarded as one of the worst tropical cyclone on record to affect Africa and the Southern Hemisphere as a whole.  
A. Cyclone Idai is regarded  
B. the worst tropical cyclone  
C. as a whole  
D. to affect Africa
16. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.**  
I try to solve this problem at least for two hours  
A. am try to solve  
B. have been trying to solve  
C. tried to be solving  
D. No improvement
17. Select the **synonym** of the given word.  
INDELIBLE  
A. illegal  
B. illegible  
C. inerasable  
D. Ineffective
18. Select the **antonym** of the given word.  
AGONY  
A. anxiety  
B. distress  
C. comfort  
D. Misery
19. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**  
Every employee of the company were given a two bedroom flat as Diwali bonus  
A. as Diwali bonus  
B. a two bedroom flat  
C. Every employee  
D. were given
20. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**

The burning of the effigy of Ravana on Dussehra \_\_\_\_\_ the burning of all evils

- A. epitomizes
- B. intensifies
- C. personifies
- D. Symbolizes

21. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.**

- A. Mango, the so-called "king of fruits", is something of a national obsession in India.
- B. There was a bumper crop of mangoes in different states.
- C. It resulted in prices coming down and sales going up – much to the delight of buyers and sellers alike.
- D. 2017 proved to be a very good year for mango lovers

- A. ADBC
- B. CDAB
- C. CADB
- D. ADCB

22. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**

At night, lock the outer gate.

- A. The outer gate is requested to be locked at night.
- B. The outer gate be locked at night.
- C. Let the outer gate be locked at night.
- D. The outer gate is locked at night

23. **Select the synonym of the given word.**

TRIUMPH

- A. fight
- B. victory
- C. attack
- D. Peace

24. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.**

- A. Around 600 million of them live in areas of high to extreme water stress.
- B. India is suffering from the worst water crisis, with one billion people living in water scarcity.
- C. This is even more than that of China and US combined.
- D. The reason is that at 24 per cent, India uses the most groundwater drawn out globally

- A. BADC
- B. ACBD
- C. ADCB
- D. BDAC

25. **Select the wrongly spelt word.**

- A. contamporary
- B. cooperation
- C. controversial
- D. conquer



## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanation

1. **C) The Bill simplifies procedures for telecom operators but raises concerns regarding privacy and state surveillance.**

The passage highlights the positive aspects of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, such as simplifying bureaucratic procedures, digitizing licensing processes, and providing regulatory stability for the telecom industry. However, it also emphasizes significant concerns related to privacy and state surveillance due to the expansive definition of telecom services. The passage does not suggest that the Bill is a complete solution (Option A), nor does it imply that it will negatively impact the satellite Internet industry (Option D), as it actually clarifies that spectrum bidding is not required for this industry.

2. **A) Optimistic**

The first paragraph of the passage reflects an optimistic tone. It discusses the introduction of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, with positive aspects like the simplification of bureaucratic procedures, the digitization of licensing processes, and the provision of clarity for the satellite Internet industry. This optimism is further underscored by the Bill being welcomed by industry bodies for streamlining their regulatory landscape and promoting ease of doing business. The focus on potential benefits and improvements indicates an optimistic outlook.

3. **B) It will require the satellite Internet industry to participate in spectrum bidding.**

The passage clearly states that the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, is designed to consolidate laws (Option A), digitize licensing processes (Option C), and raises concerns about privacy due to the broad authority it grants the state over various services (Option D). However, it explicitly mentions that the satellite Internet industry will not need to bid for spectrum, contradicting Option B. Therefore, Option B is the correct answer as it is the statement that is not true according to the passage.

4. **B) The challenges of privacy and surveillance in internet regulation**

The main theme of the passage revolves around the challenges of privacy and surveillance in the context of internet regulation. While the introduction of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, brings about certain positive changes, the passage also critically examines issues related to the expansive definition of telecom, privacy concerns, state authority, and surveillance. These aspects highlight the complexity and contentious nature of regulating the internet world, especially in terms of balancing technological advancements with privacy and surveillance issues.

5. **B) Simplifying bureaucratic procedures for telecom operators.**

The passage highlights the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, and its focus on simplifying bureaucratic procedures, such as applying for licenses and permits for telecom operators. This is mentioned as a key feature of the bill, suggesting that the author views this simplification

- favorably. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the passage, as they propose actions contrary to the bill's intentions or maintain the status quo, which the bill aims to improve.
6. **C) Concerns of privacy and surveillance due to state authority over a range of services.**  
The passage specifically mentions that the expansive definition of telecom includes a wide range of services, leading to concerns about privacy and surveillance due to state authority. This is directly related to issues of state-sponsored snooping and the need for surveillance reform, as highlighted in the passage. Options A, B, and D are not mentioned or implied as concerns in the passage.
7. **C) To reassure the public of the government's clean motives and address privacy concerns.**  
The passage emphasizes the importance of absolute transparency and consultation in rule-making to reassure the public of the government's intentions and address concerns about privacy and surveillance. This is particularly vital because of past allegations of state-sponsored snooping and the vast powers that the Bill grants to the government. The other options, although plausible in a general context, are not supported by passage.
8. **D) Disputable**  
The passage describes issues of surveillance reform and Internet shutdowns as "contentious," meaning they are likely to cause disagreement or controversy. "Disputable" is synonymous with this meaning, referring to something that can be argued about.
9. C) '**Among**' का use होगा क्योंकि "among" का अर्थ होता है किसी समूह या जमात में।  
Sentence में mention किया गया है कि pigeon racing की प्रस्थिति चीन के कुछ हिस्सों में लोकप्रिय हो रही है, जो देश के अमीर और मध्यम वर्ग में है। इसलिए 'among' यहाँ सही है।  
'Against' का अर्थ है के खिलाफ, 'Along' का अर्थ है के साथ, और 'About' का अर्थ है बारे में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- '**Among**' should be used because it refers to being a part of a group or collection. The sentence mentions that pigeon racing is becoming popular in parts of China, specifically with the country's elite and its middle class, making 'among' fitting here. Whereas, 'Against' means in opposition to, 'Along' means together with, and 'About' refers to concerning or on the subject of, which don't fit in this context.
10. A) **said**' का use होगा क्योंकि जब जानकारी प्रदान की जा रही होती है बिना किसी विशेष प्रस्थिति के, तब 'said' का use सामान्यतः होता है। Sentence में Sun Yan केवल एक तथ्य प्रस्तुत कर रहा है, इसलिए 'said' यहाँ सही है। 'B. clarified' का अर्थ होता है स्पष्ट करना, 'C. told' का अर्थ है किसी को कुछ बताना (और यह आमतौर पर तब use होता है जब हम specify करते हैं कि किससे या किसे), और 'D. Advised' का अर्थ है सलाह देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **said**' should be used because when information is being provided without a specific context, 'said' is typically used. In the sentence, Sun Yan is simply presenting a fact, making 'said' appropriate here. 'B. clarified' means to make clear, 'C. told' means to inform someone (and is typically used when specifying to whom or what), and 'D. Advised' means to give counsel or advice, which don't fit in this context.

11. B) **Almost**' का use होगा क्योंकि "almost" का अर्थ होता है लगभग। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि 90,000 breeders register हैं, इसलिए 'almost' इस context में सही है, क्योंकि यह निर्दिष्ट संख्या के करीब है। जबकि 'Utmost' का अर्थ है सर्वाधिक, 'Nearby' का अर्थ है पास में, और 'Exact' का अर्थ है ठीक, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Almost' should be used because it means nearly or just about. The sentence mentions that 90,000 breeders are registered, so 'almost' fits here to suggest it's close to that number. Whereas, 'Utmost' implies the greatest degree, 'Nearby' means close in location, and 'Exact' signifies precise, which don't fit in this context.
12. A) **Different**' का use होगा क्योंकि "different" का अर्थ होता है विभिन्न या अलग। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वे विभिन्न स्तरों पर Racing Pigeons Associations के साथ registered हैं, इसलिए 'different' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Differed' का अर्थ है भिन्न होना या मतभेद होना, 'Differential' एक adjective है जिसका अर्थ है अंतर संबंधित, और 'Differ' एक verb है जिसका अर्थ है अलग होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **Different**' should be used because it means varying or distinct. The sentence mentions that they are registered with Racing Pigeons Associations at various levels, making 'different' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Differed' means to be unlike or distinct in nature, 'Differential' is an adjective that means relating to a difference, and 'Differ' is a verb meaning to be dissimilar, which don't fit in this context.
13. D) **Bird**' का use होगा क्योंकि जो competition की बात की जा रही है, वह specifically pigeon racing के लिए है, इसलिए 'Bird' यहाँ सही है। 'pigeons' के इस्तेमाल के बजाय 'Bird' एक general term होता है जो इस context में use करने के लिए और भी fitting है। 'birds' का plural form इस context में awkward हो सकता है और 'animal' यहाँ specific नहीं है।
- **Bird**' should be used because the competition being referred to is specifically for pigeon racing, making 'Bird' appropriate here. Instead of using 'pigeons', 'Bird' acts as a more general term that is even more fitting in this context. The plural form 'birds' might sound awkward in this context, and 'animal' is not specific here.
14. D) **Conservation**' का use होगा क्योंकि "conservation" का अर्थ होता है संरक्षण या संवरधन। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि अच्छे वन प्रबंधन से जीवन का संरक्षण हो सकता है जो मानवीय गतिविधियों के बढ़ते हुए कारण खतरे में है, इसलिए 'Conservation' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Salvation' का अर्थ है उद्धार या मुक्ति, 'Guarding' का अर्थ है सुरक्षा या रक्षा करना, और 'Supervision' का अर्थ है निरीक्षण या पर्यवेक्षण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **Conservation**' should be used because it means the protection and preservation of something, especially the natural environment or species. The sentence mentions that better forestry management might aid in the protection of wildlife which is at risk due to human activities, making 'Conservation' the most fitting choice. Whereas, 'Salvation'

means deliverance or redemption, 'Guarding' means protecting or defending, and 'Supervision' means overseeing, which don't fit in this context.

15. B) '**the worst tropical cyclone**' के बदले 'the worst tropical cyclones' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'one of' के बाद plural noun आता है; जैसे— He is one of the best players.

- 'the worst tropical cyclones' will be used instead of 'the worst tropical cyclone' because after 'one of' a plural noun is used; Like— He is one of the best players.

16. B) '**try**' के बदले 'have been trying to solve' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि समय की अवधि 'for two hours' के साथ Continuous Tense का प्रयोग करना उचित है।

- 'have been trying to solve' will be used instead of 'try' because when indicating a duration 'for two hours', it is appropriate to use the Continuous Tense.

17. C) **INDELIBLE** (adjective) – Making marks that cannot be removed, permanent, lasting, unerasable. **अमिट**

Synonym: **Inerasable** (adjective) – Not able to be erased or removed, permanent. **जो मिटा न सका**

- **Illegal** (adjective) – Prohibited by law, unlawful, illicit. **अवैध**
- **Illegible** (adjective) – Not clear enough to read, unreadable, unclear. **अपठनीय**
- **Ineffective** (adjective) – Not producing any significant or desired effect, unsuccessful, inefficient. **अप्रभावी**

18. C) **AGONY** (noun) – Extreme physical or mental suffering, torment, pain. **यातना**

Antonym: **Comfort** (noun) – A state of physical ease and freedom from pain or constraint, relief, solace. **सुविधा**

- **Anxiety** (noun) – A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome. **चिंता**
- **Distress** (noun) – Extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain. **व्यथा**
- **Misery** (noun) – A state or feeling of great distress or discomfort of mind or body. **दुःख**

19. D) '**were given**' के बदले 'was given' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Every employee' Singular Subject है अतः Verb भी Singular Form में होगा; जैसे— Every employee was happy.

- 'was given' will be used instead of 'were given' because 'Every employee' is a Singular Subject, so the verb should also be in Singular Form; Like— Every employee was happy.

20. D) '**Symbolizes**' का use होगा क्योंकि "symbolizes" का अर्थ होता है प्रतीक या प्रतिष्ठान बनाना। Dussehra पर Ravana की पुतला दहन करने की प्रक्रिया बुराईयों के नष्ट होने का प्रतीक होती है। इसलिए 'Symbolizes' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Epitomizes' का अर्थ है सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण प्रस्तुत

करना, 'Intensifies' का अर्थ है बढ़ाना या मजबूत करना, और 'Personifies' का अर्थ है मानवीकरण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Symbolizes' should be used because it means to represent or stand as a symbol. The act of burning the effigy of Ravana on Dussehra represents the destruction of evils. Hence, 'Symbolizes' is appropriate here. Whereas, 'Epitomizes' means to represent the best of something, 'Intensifies' means to amplify or strengthen, and 'Personifies' means to attribute human form or characteristics, which don't fit in this context.

21. A) **ADBC**

Mango, the so-called "king of fruits", is something of a national obsession in India. 2017 proved to be a very good year for mango lovers. There was a bumper crop of mangoes in different states. It resulted in prices coming down and sales going up – much to the delight of buyers and sellers alike.

22. C) Let the outer gate be locked at night.

23. B) **TRIUMPH** (noun) – A great victory or achievement, success, conquest, win. **जीत**

Synonym: **Victory** (noun) – An act of defeating an enemy or opponent in a battle, game, or competition. **विजय**

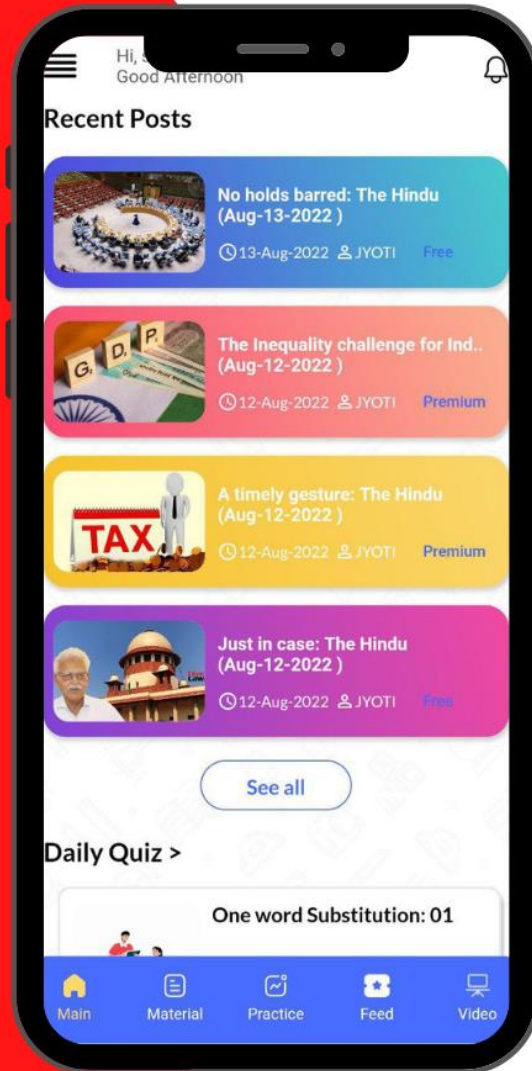
- **Fight** (noun) – A violent confrontation or struggle, battle, combat, skirmish. **लड़ाई**
- **Attack** (noun) – An aggressive and violent action against a person or place, assault, offensive, onslaught. **हमला**
- **Peace** (noun) – Freedom from disturbance, tranquility, calm, quietness. **शांति**

24. A) **BADC**

India is suffering from the worst water crisis, with one billion people living in water scarcity. Around 600 million of them live in areas of high to extreme water stress. The reason is that at 24 per cent, India uses the most groundwater drawn out globally. This is even more than that of China and US combined.

25. A) The wrongly spelt word is 'contemporary'. The correct spelling is '**Contemporary**'

**समकालीन, समवर्ती**



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**