# Show of fairness: On the formula for selection of Republic Day tableaux

Tableau rotational plan for States and Union Territories is an equitable one

The Defence Ministry has finalised a rotational plan which will ensure that all States and Union Territories get a chance to display their tableaux at the Republic Day parade within a three-year cycle. This is a welcome step that will **potentially** avoid controversy over the selection of tableaux that has become an unfortunate and frequent **accompaniment** of the parade. This year, **tableaux** of 16 States/Union Territories (UT) **were** selected for the January 26 parade **following** an **established** process but the Opposition-ruled Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka and West Bengal that were not qualified **cried foul**. Karnataka's Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that seven **proposals** sent by the State **were** rejected by the Centre. A political motive behind selection and exclusion has **often** been suggested, under the current BJP **regime** and the previous UPA regime. Only around 15 or 16 tableaux from States/UTs are selected each year, and, obviously, all cannot be **accommodated**. Those **States** that have not been selected for the parade this year **were** invited to **showcase** their tableaux at the Bharat Parv from January 23 to 31 at the Red Fort. The new **plan**, that has been agreed to by 28 States, **is** aimed at giving everyone an equitable chance at participation.

The Defence Ministry already has an elaborate screening mechanism for participants in the parade. A committee of distinguished persons drawn from various fields including Padma awardees was set up this year too that screened proposals from States and organisations. The Ministry of Culture had empanelled 30 agencies for design and fabrication of tableaux through an open selection process and States/UTs were advised to engage these agencies following appropriate procedure. The allegations by States of discrimination with respect to their proposals may or may not be unfounded, but the selection process has to be apolitical and conducted in a transparent manner while maintaining standards to avoid questions in the first place. While the marching contingents and military platforms at the parade showcase the nation's military might, the tableaux and the performances hold a lens to the country's cultural splendour and diversity. In the backdrop of controversies year after year, the new proposal of a rotational opportunity for each State/UT offers a fairer, more transparent mechanism. The assertion by officials that the Government, Minister or Secretary do not have any role in the selection process, is reassuring. It will go a long way in keeping the festivities free from bickering.

Practice Exercise

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

# Vocabulary

- 1. **Tableaux** (plural noun) an arrangement of people who do not move or speak, especially on a stage, who represent a view of life, an event, etc. झांकी
- 2. **Equitable** (adjective) Fair, impartial, unbiased, just, balanced निष्पक्ष
- 3. **Potentially** (adverb) Possibly, feasibly, conceivably, plausibly, maybe संभावित रूप से
- 4. **Accompaniment** (noun) happening at the same time as another thing संगत, साथ
- Following (preposition) After, subsequent to, in the wake of, as a result of, post के बाद
- 6. **Established** (adjective) Settled, fixed, confirmed, entrenched, firm स्थापित
- 7. **Cry foul** (phrase) Complain, protest, object, express dissatisfaction, raise objections आपत्ति जताना
- 8. **Often** (adverb) Frequently, commonly, regularly, habitually, usually अक्सर
- 9. **Regime** (noun) Government, administration, authority, rule, system शासन
- 10. **Accommodate** (verb) Fit in, house, lodge, harbor, contain समायोजित करना

- 11. **Showcase** (verb) Exhibit, display, present, highlight, feature प्रदर्शित करना
- 12. **Elaborate** (adjective) Detailed, intricate, complex, thorough, comprehensive विस्तृत
- 13. **Screening** (noun) Examination, testing, vetting, evaluation, inspection जांच
- 14. **Mechanism** (noun) System, process, procedure, method, apparatus तंत्र
- 15. **Distinguished** (adjective) Eminent, renowned, illustrious, prestigious, notable ਸਰਿ**ਿ**ਠਰ
- 16. **Draw** (verb) Get, obtain, attract, take खींचना, निकालना
- 17. **Set up** (phrasal verb) Establish, start, initiate, create, launch स्थापित करना
- 18. **Screen** (verb) Filter, sift, sort, scrutinize, examine छानबीन करना
- 19. **Empanel** (verb) Enlist, select, choose, appoint, recruit चयन करना
- 20. **Fabrication** (noun) Manufacturing, creation, production, construction, assembly निर्माण
- 21. With respect to (phrase) Regarding, concerning, in terms of, with regard to, in relation to के संबंध में

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- 22. **Unfounded** (adjective) Baseless, groundless, unsubstantiated, unwarranted, unjustified निराधार
- 23. **Apolitical** (adjective) Nonpolitical, neutral, unbiased, impartial, nonpartisan अराजनीतिक
- 24. **Marching** (adjective) Advancing, walking, proceeding, stepping, moving forward मार्च करते ह्ए
- 25. **Contingent** (noun) Group, delegation, team, unit, detachment **ਫ**ਲ
- 26. **Might** (noun) Power, strength, force, potency, vigor शक्ति
- 27. **Hold a lens to** (phrase) Examine, scrutinize, inspect, analyze, study **ਜ**਼ਤ੍ ਤਾਕਗ
- 28. **Splendour** (noun) Magnificence, grandeur, splendor, glory, brilliance भव्यता
- 29. **Diversity** (noun) Variety, multiplicity, heterogeneity, range, assortment विविधता

- 30. **In the backdrop of** (phrase) Against the background of, in the context of, amid, in the setting of, with the backdrop of पृष्ठभूमि में
- 31. **Transparent** (adjective) Clear, open, transparent, lucid, straightforward पारदर्शी
- 32. **Assertion** (noun) Claim, declaration, statement, proclamation, affirmation **दावा**
- 33. **Reassuring** (adjective) Comforting, encouraging, heartening, consoling, supportive आश्वासन देने वाला
- 34. **Go a long way** (phrase) Be effective, contribute significantly, have a major impact, be beneficial, be advantageous बहुत ही सफ़ल होना
- 35. **Festivity** (noun) Event, carnival, celebration, cheeriness उत्सव
- 36. **Bickering** (noun) Quarreling, arguing, disagreement, dispute, squabbling झगड़ा

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# **Summary of the Editorial**

- 1. **Rotational Plan Introduction:** The Defence Ministry has finalized a rotational plan for Republic Day tableaux.
- 2. **Three-Year Cycle:** The plan ensures all States and Union Territories (UTs) get a chance to display their tableaux within a three-year cycle.
- 3. **Aim for Equity:** This move aims to avoid controversy over tableau selection, which has become a frequent issue.
- 4. **Selection Controversy:** In the past, non-selection of tableaux from some states, particularly Opposition-ruled ones, has led to allegations of political bias.
- 5. **Limited Space Issue:** Each year, only about 15 or 16 tableaux are selected, making it impossible to include all States/UTs.
- 6. **Alternative Showcase Opportunity:** States not selected for the parade are invited to showcase their tableaux at Bharat Parv event.
- 7. **Broad Agreement:** 28 States have agreed to the new rotational plan.
- 8. **Existing Screening Mechanism:** The Defence Ministry already uses a comprehensive screening process for parade participants.
- 9. **Expert Committee Involvement:** A committee including Padma awardees and experts from various fields screens the proposals.
- 10. **Empanelled Agencies for Tableaux:** The Ministry of Culture has empanelled 30 agencies for design and fabrication of tableaux.
- 11. **Apolitical and Transparent Selection:** The selection process aims to be apolitical and transparent, maintaining high standards to avoid controversy.
- 12. **Cultural Showcase:** The tableaux and performances at the parade highlight India's cultural diversity and splendour.
- 13. **Proposal for Rotational Opportunity:** The new rotational proposal is seen as a fairer and more transparent selection mechanism.
- 14. **Government's Non-involvement:** Officials assert that the government, ministers, or secretaries do not play a role in the selection process.
- 15. **Objective of Fairness:** The new plan aims to keep the Republic Day festivities free from political bickering and ensure fairness in representation.

### **Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**

- 1. What is the primary objective of the Defence Ministry's rotational plan for Republic Day tableaux? [Editorial Page]
  - A. To increase the number of tableaux from States and Union Territories each year.
  - B. To ensure a fair representation of all States and Union Territories over a three-year cycle.
  - C. To focus solely on the cultural aspects of the States and Union Territories.
  - D. To highlight the political achievements of the States and Union Territories.
- 2. What measure has been taken to maintain the apolitical and transparent nature of the tableau selection process for the Republic Day parade?
  - A. Limiting the tableaux to only military and defense themes.
  - B. Involving a committee of distinguished persons including Padma awardees for screening proposals.
  - C. Allowing only the Ministry of Culture to decide on the tableaux.
  - D. Selecting tableaux based on their political significance.
- 3. What is the tone of the passage?
  - A. Critical
  - B. Neutral
  - C. Appreciative
  - D. Indifferent
- 4. What is the most suitable subtitle for the passage "Show of fairness: On the formula for selection of Republic Day tableaux"?
  - A. Debating the Selection of Tableaux
  - B. A New Plan for Inclusive Representation
  - C. The Controversy of Cultural Display
  - D. Military Might vs. Cultural Diversity
- 5. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT regarding the selection of Republic Day tableaux?
  - A. The Defence Ministry's rotational plan ensures that all States and Union Territories get a chance to display their tableaux at the Republic Day parade within a three-year cycle.
  - B. Karnataka's Chief Minister claimed that their seven proposals were rejected due to political motives.
  - C. States not selected for the parade are excluded from showcasing their tableaux at any other event during the Republic Day celebrations.
  - D. The selection process for the Republic Day parade is designed to be apolitical and transparent.
- 6. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.
  - A. There are many gadgets that are operated by a remote control and contain a silicon chip.
  - B. This produces an infra-red beam, made up of electromagnetic waves.
  - C. When a button is pressed on the remote control, the chip sets off an electronic vibration.
  - D. The beam carries a coded signal for operating the systems.
  - A. ACDB

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12. Select the **correctly** spelt word

A. ComemorateB. CommemmorateC. CommemorateD. Comemmorate

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13. Select the most appropriate word that means the **same** as the group of words given.

Enclosed area where aircraft are kept and repaired

- A. Hose
- B. Harbinger
- C. Hanger
- D. Hangar
- 14. Select the indirect narration of the given sentence.

He said to me," What time do the banks open and close?"

- A. He said me what time did the banks open and close.
- B. He asked me what time the banks opened and closed.
- C. He wanted to know what time the banks open and close.
- D. He asked me what time do the banks open and close.
- 15. Identify the part of the sentence that contains the grammatical error.

One of the greatest responsibilities of a scientist is that his discoveries and inventions are utilized to the overall development of the nation.

- A. is that his discoveries and inventions
- B. development of the nation
- C. are utilized to the overall
- D. One of the greatest responsibilities of a scientist
- 16. Select the most appropriate **antonym** of the given word.

Sluggish

- A. Weak
- B. Dull
- C. Active
- D. Sedentary
- 17. Select the most appropriate **antonym** of the given word.

Hostile

- A. Unfavourable
- B. Adverse
- C. Amiable
- D. Violent
- 18. Select the most appropriate word that means the **same** as the group of words given.

A short story with a moral, usually with animals as characters.

- A. Parody
- B. Ode
- C. Fable
- D. Hymn
- 19. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.
  - **A.** It is called the atmosphere.
  - **B**. All parts of the earth are surrounded by air.
  - **C.** Living beings breathe in and breathe out the air all the time.

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- **D.** This process is called respiration.
- A. CBAD
- B. DACB
- C. BACD
- D. ACDB
- 20. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

Amit has the good command on English as he was born and brought up in England.

- A. a good command over
- B. No improvement
- C. a better command of
- D. the best command in
- 21. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **Idiom**.

To add fuel to the fire

- A. Simplify the problem
- B. Exploit someone
- C. To make a bad situation worse
- D. Calm down the situation
- 22. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

Deficiency

- A. Abundance
- B. Sufficiency
- C. Efficiency
- D. Inadequacy
- 23. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

Catastrophic

- A. Tough
- B. Mysterious
- C. Disastrous
- D. Delicate
- 24. Select the correctly spelt word
  - A. Definate
  - B. Definiet
  - C. Definete
  - D. Definite
- 25. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **Idiom**.

Hobson's Choice

- A. To be in an aggressive mood when facing a challenge
- B. To challenge an unworthy opponent
- C. An apparently free choice where there is no real alternative
- D. To exercise the choice to surrender before the enemy

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### Answers

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

# **Explanations**

- 1. **B)** To ensure a fair representation of all States and Union Territories over a three-year cycle. The passage outlines that the Defence Ministry has finalized a rotational plan to ensure that all States and Union Territories get a chance to display their tableaux at the Republic Day parade within a three-year cycle. This initiative aims to provide equitable chances of participation for each State/UT, thus avoiding controversy over selection. The other options, while related to the parade, do not directly address the primary objective of the rotational plan.
- 2. B) Involving a committee of distinguished persons including Padma awardees for screening proposals.

The passage mentions that to ensure the apolitical and transparent selection of tableaux, a committee of distinguished persons, including Padma awardees, was set up to screen proposals from States and organisations. This approach is meant to uphold a fair and unbiased selection process, free from political influence. The other options do not align with the measures taken as described in the passage.

3. C) Appreciative

The tone of the passage is appreciative. This is evident from the positive language used to describe the rotational plan for Republic Day tableaux. Phrases like "a welcome step," "equitable chance," and "fairer, more transparent mechanism" imply that the author views the plan favorably and appreciates the effort to ensure fairness and inclusivity in the selection process.

4. B) A New Plan for Inclusive Representation

The most suitable subtitle for this passage is "A New Plan for Inclusive Representation." The passage discusses the introduction of a rotational plan by the Defence Ministry to ensure that all States and Union Territories get an opportunity to display their tableaux at the Republic Day parade. This plan is described as equitable and aimed at giving everyone a fair chance at participation, thus making option B the most relevant subtitle.

5. C) States not selected for the parade are excluded from showcasing their tableaux at any other event during the Republic Day celebrations.

According to the passage, States that are not selected for the Republic Day parade are invited to showcase their tableaux at the Bharat Parv, which takes place at the Red Fort from January 23 to 31. This contradicts the claim in option C that states not selected for the parade are excluded from showcasing their tableaux at any other event during the Republic Day celebrations.

Option A is correct as it aligns with the passage that mentions the Defence Ministry's rotational plan to ensure all States and Union Territories get a chance to display their tableaux within a three-year cycle.

Option B is correct as it reflects the claim made by Karnataka's Chief Minister about the rejection of their proposals, implying a political motive behind the selection process.

Option D is correct, as the passage outlines that the selection process for the parade is intended to be apolitical and transparent, with a committee of distinguished persons, including Padma awardees, screening the proposals.

### 6. B) ACBD

There are many gadgets that are operated by a remote control and contain a silicon chip. When a button is pressed on the remote control, the chip sets off an electronic vibration. This produces an infra-red beam, made up of electromagnetic waves. The beam carries a coded signal for operating the systems.

- 7. B) Major' का use होगा क्योंकि "major" का अर्थ होता है प्रमुख या मुख्य। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भ्रष्टाचार हमारे देश की एक (1)\_\_\_\_\_ समस्या है, इसलिए 'major' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'Powerful' का अर्थ है शिक्तिशाली, 'Strong' का अर्थ है मजबूत, और 'Minor' का अर्थ है छोटा या मामूली, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
  - Major' should be used because it means principal or main. The sentence mentions that corruption is one of the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ problems of our country, making 'major' fitting here. Whereas, 'Powerful' means having great power, 'Strong' means having the power to perform hard, and 'Minor' implies something less important or small, which don't fit in this context.
- 8. A) 'Intention' का use होगा क्योंकि "intention" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष उद्देश्य या मकसद के साथ कोई क्रियावली करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि corruption एक ऐसी गतिविधि है जो किसी अनुचित लाभ के लिए की जाती है, जो आधिकारिक कर्तव्य के विपरीत है, इसलिए 'intention' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Passion' का अर्थ है जज्बा, 'Compulsion' का अर्थ है मजबूरी, और 'Intuition' का अर्थ है अंतर्ज्ञान, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
  - Intention' should be used because it means to do something with a specific purpose or aim. The sentence describes corruption as an act done to gain undue advantages, inconsistent with official duty, making 'intention' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Passion' means intense emotion, 'Compulsion' means being forced to do something, and 'Intuition' refers to the ability to understand something immediately, which are not fitting in this context.

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- 9. B) announced' का use होगा क्योंकि 'announced' का अर्थ होता है घोषित करना या प्रकट करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि सरकार ने लोगों की भलाई के लिए कई योजनाएं (3) हैं, इसलिए 'announced' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'denounced' का अर्थ होता है दोष लगाना या नकारना, 'written' का अर्थ होता है लिखना, और 'Concealed' का अर्थ होता है छुपाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
  - announced' should be used because it means to declare or make known publicly. The
    sentence mentions that the government has (3)\_\_\_\_\_ many schemes for the welfare
    of the people, making 'announced' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'denounced'
    means to criticize or condemn, 'written' means to have composed or recorded
    something in writing, and 'Concealed' means to prevent from being seen or known,
    which don't fit in this context.
- 10. A) 'Eliminated' का use होगा क्योंकि "eliminated" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को पूरी तरह से हटा देना या समाप्त कर देना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि corruption को समाप्त करना नामुमिकन लगता है, इसलिए 'eliminated' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'Initiated' का अर्थ है शुरू करना, 'Created' का अर्थ है बनाना, और 'Permitted' का अर्थ है अनुमित देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
  - **Eliminated'** should be used because it means to completely remove or get rid of something. The sentence mentions that it seems impossible to get rid of corruption, making 'eliminated' fitting here. Whereas, 'Initiated' means to begin, 'Created' means to make or bring into existence, and 'Permitted' implies allowing, which don't fit in this context.
- 11. B) 'Follow' का use होगा क्योंकि "follow" का अर्थ होता है नियमों और विधियों का पालन करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त भारत तभी बन सकता है जब सभी नागरिक नियमों का पालन करें, इसलिए 'follow' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'Reject' का अर्थ है नकारना, 'Disobey' का अर्थ है अनुपालन न करना, और 'Break' का अर्थ है तोड़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
  - Follow' should be used because it means to adhere to rules and regulations. The
    sentence mentions that India can become a corruption-free nation only when all
    citizens follow the rules and regulations with strong will power and cooperate
    wholeheartedly, making 'follow' fitting here. Whereas, 'Reject' means to refuse to
    accept, 'Disobey' means to fail to follow, and 'Break' implies to violate, which don't fit
    in this context.

- 12. C) The correct spelling among the options provided is 'Commemorate' (Option C). "Commemorate स्मरणोत्सव"
- 13. D) **Hangar** (noun) A large building with extensive floor area, typically for housing aircraft. विमानगार
  - Hose (noun) A flexible tube for conveying liquids or gases. नर्ली
  - Harbinger (noun) A person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another. अग्रदत
  - **Hanger** (noun) A shaped piece of wood, plastic, or metal with a hook at the top, typically used for hanging clothes in a wardrobe. कपड़े टांगने का हक
- 14. B) He asked me what time the banks opened and closed.
- 15. C) 'are utilized to the' के बदले 'are utilized for the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर उपयोग को दर्शाने के लिए 'for' की आवश्यकता है; जैसे— His inventions are utilized for the benefit of society.
  - 'are utilized for the' will be used instead of 'are utilized to the' because 'for' is needed here to indicate usage; Like— His inventions are utilized for the benefit of society.
- 16. C) Sluggish (adjective) Slow-moving, inactive, lethargic, listless. धीमा

Antonym: Active (adjective) – Engaged in action, energetic, lively, dynamic. सक्रिय

- Weak (adjective) Lacking strength, feeble, frail, delicate. कमज़ोर
- **Dull** (adjective) Not shiny, lacking brightness, lusterless; also can mean boring, uninteresting. स्ना
- Sedentary (adjective) Characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise, inactive, stationary. **बैठा-बैठा**
- 17. C) Hostile (adjective) Unfriendly, antagonistic, aggressive, confrontational. शत्रता Antonym: Amiable (adjective) - Friendly, affable, congenial, cordial. मित्रपूर्ण
  - **Unfavourable** (adjective) Not supporting, disadvantageous, adverse, detrimental. प्रतिकृल
  - Adverse (adjective) Unfavourable, harmful, detrimental, pernicious. विपरीत
  - Violent (adjective) Using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something. हिंसक
- 18. C) **Fable** (noun) A short narrative, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral. नैतिक कथा

- Parody (noun) A humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing. हंसी का अनुकरण
- **Ode** (noun) A type of lyrical stanza, usually praising or glorifying an event or individual, describing nature intellectually as opposed to emotionally. स्तव
- Hymn (noun) A religious song or poem of praise to God or a god. भजन

### 19. C) **BACD**

All parts of the earth are surrounded by air. It is called the atmosphere Living beings breathe in and breathe out the air all the time. This process is called respiration.

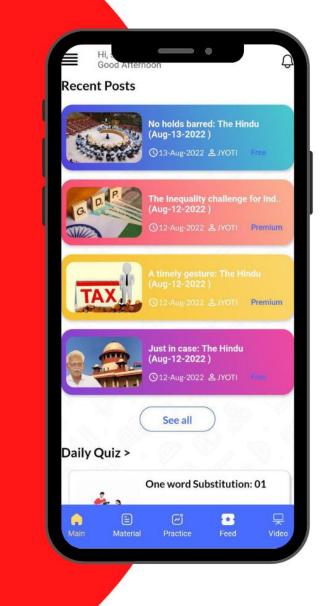
- 20. A) 'a good command over' will replace 'the good command on' because the phrase 'command over' is used to indicate proficiency in a language. The indefinite article 'a' suggests a general level of skill, suitable for the context of the sentence. The revised sentence correctly conveys that Amit has a significant level of proficiency in English due to his upbringing in England.
- 21. C) To add fuel to the fire (idiom) To make a bad situation worse एक ब्री स्थिति को और भी खराब बनाना
- 22. D) **Deficiency** (noun) A lack or shortage, insufficiency, inadequacy, scarcity. **अभाव/** कमी Synonym: Inadequacy (noun) – The state of being insufficient or not enough, lack, deficiency, shortage. अपर्याप्तता
  - Abundance (noun) A large quantity, plenty, a lot, affluence. प्रच्रता
  - Sufficiency (noun) An adequate amount, enough, plenty, adequacy. पयोप्तता
  - Efficiency (noun) The state of achieving maximum productivity with minimum waste or effort, effectiveness, productivity, competence. কু**श**लता
- 23. C) Catastrophic (adjective) Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering, disastrous, calamitous, ruinous. विनाशकारी

Synonym: **Disastrous** (adjective) – Causing great damage, devastating, catastrophic, ruinous.

### विपत्तिजनक

- Tough (adjective) Strong, sturdy, durable, robust. कठोर
- Mysterious (adjective) Difficult or impossible to understand, explain, or identify, enigmatic, puzzling, strange. रहस्यमय
- Delicate (adjective) Fine, subtle, exquisite, elegant. सूक्ष्म
- 24. D) The correct option is D. 'Definite' स्पष्ट, निर्धारित.
- 25. C) Hobson's Choice (idiom) An apparently free choice where there is no real alternative वास्तविक विकल्प के बिना एक प्रतीत होता हुआ मुक्त विकल्प

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