

Express View on disability access: Everyone in movie halls

Eight years after a **landmark** piece of **legislation enshrined** the rights of all persons with disabilities (PwDs) “to participate in **recreational activities** equally with others”, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on January 8, issued its draft “Guidelines of Accessibility Standards in the Public Exhibition of Feature Films in Cinema Theatres for Persons with Hearing and Visual **Impairment**”. The **guidelines**, for which **stakeholder** comments are invited till February 15, **constitute** another welcome step towards ensuring that an **experience** that most movie **buffs take for granted can** be accessed by a section of Indians who continue to be largely excluded from it. They carry forward the spirit of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act of 2016.

According to estimates of the World Health Organisation, approximately 84 million Indians are **deaf** and hard of hearing and 75 million are blind and visually impaired. There has long been a demand for making the movie-going experience more accessible to them. **Efforts** by organisations, such as the Delhi-based NGO Saksham, and **a handful of** willing **collaborators** in the industry, like actor-producer Aamir Khan, **have resulted in** some films in the last couple of **decades**, such as Dangal and Munnabhai MBBS, having features like audio description, subtitles and closed captions. The draft guidelines require producers to deliver two versions of a film for certification by the CBFC, including one with accessibility features enabled, and call on theatres to schedule special shows for PwDs and the use of special equipment and mobile apps. Such steps can help make accessibility the norm as is the case in countries such as the US and UK. In the UK, theatres have seats into which a **visually impaired** viewer’s headphones may be **plugged** so that she can hear the audio description of the film being played.

In December 2022, the Supreme Court formed a committee to make the court more disabled-friendly and has recently released a handbook for **combating stereotypes** about PwDs. Last year, the government made it mandatory for digital offerings to **meet** the standards set under the RPwD Act. Enabling PwDs to more easily access and **savour** one of India’s most **beloved** art forms, a globally exported cultural product and significant **source** of **soft power** — cinema — **is** yet another step in the right direction.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Landmark** (adjective) – Notable, significant, milestone, historic, groundbreaking
ऐतिहासिक
2. **Legislation** (noun) – Law, statute, regulation, act, ordinance विधान
3. **Enshrine** (verb) – Preserve, protect, embody, immortalize, consecrate संरक्षित करना
4. **Recreational activity** (noun) – Leisure activity, hobby, pastime, entertainment, diversion मनोरंजन गतिविधि
5. **Impairment** (noun) – Disability, disability, dysfunction, debilitation, handicap विकलांगता
6. **Stakeholder** (noun) – Participant, shareholder, partner, contributor, interested party हितधारक
7. **Constitute** (verb) – Comprise, form, make up, establish, compose बनाना
8. **Buff** (noun) – Enthusiast, fan, aficionado, devotee, aficionado उत्साही
9. **Take for granted** (phrase) – Assume, expect, presume, overlook, undervalue हल्के में ले लेना
10. **Deaf** (adjective) – Hearing-impaired, hard of hearing, unhearing, deafened बहरा
11. **A handful of** (noun) – Few, small number, limited number, smattering, select few गिने-चुने
12. **Collaborator** (noun) – Partner, associate, ally, colleague, co-worker सहयोगी
13. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, effect परिणाम होना
14. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
15. **Visually impaired** (noun) – Blind, partially sighted, sight-challenged, low-vision दृष्टिबाधित
16. **Plug** (verb) – Insert, connect, attach, engage, fix प्लग करना
17. **Combat** (verb) – Fight against, battle, contend with, oppose, resist मुकाबला करना
18. **Stereotype** (noun) – a person or thing that conforms to a widely held but oversimplified image of the class or type to which they belong. रूढ़िवादी
19. **Meet** (verb) – Fulfill, satisfy, comply with, match, meet the requirements of पूरा करना
20. **Savour** (verb) – enjoy or appreciate (something pleasant) to the full, especially by lingering over it. मज़ा लेना
21. **Beloved** (adjective) – Dear, cherished, treasured, adored, favored प्रिय

22. **Soft power** (noun) – a country's ability to influence others without resorting to coercive pressure.

23. **Hard power** (noun) – Military strength, coercive power, force, aggression, compulsion सख्त शक्ति

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Legislation on Disability Rights:** Eight years ago, a landmark piece of legislation enshrined the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs) to participate equally in recreational activities.
2. **Draft Guidelines Issued:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued draft guidelines on January 8 for accessibility standards in cinema theatres for persons with hearing and visual impairments.
3. **Stakeholder Feedback:** Comments from stakeholders on the draft guidelines are invited until February 15.
4. **Aim of the Guidelines:** The guidelines aim to make the movie-going experience accessible to PwDs, who have been largely excluded from it.
5. **Continuation of the RPwD Act:** These guidelines carry forward the spirit of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act of 2016.
6. **Prevalence of Disabilities in India:** According to the World Health Organisation, approximately 84 million Indians are deaf and hard of hearing, and 75 million are blind and visually impaired.
7. **Demand for Accessibility:** There has been a long-standing demand to make the movie-going experience more accessible to PwDs.
8. **Efforts by NGOs and Industry Members:** Organizations like Saksham and individuals like Aamir Khan have made efforts to include accessibility features in films.
9. **Guidelines for Film Producers:** The draft guidelines require producers to deliver two versions of a film for certification, including one with accessibility features.
10. **Special Shows and Equipment:** Theatres are encouraged to schedule special shows for PwDs and use special equipment and mobile apps for accessibility.
11. **International Comparisons:** The steps proposed aim to normalize accessibility in cinemas, as seen in countries like the US and UK.
12. **Accessibility in UK Theatres:** In the UK, theatres have facilities for visually impaired viewers to plug in headphones and listen to audio descriptions of films.
13. **Supreme Court Initiatives:** In December 2022, the Supreme Court formed a committee to make the court more disabled-friendly and released a handbook to combat stereotypes about PwDs.
14. **Government Mandates for Digital Accessibility:** Last year, the government mandated that digital offerings must meet standards set under the RPwD Act.
15. **Cinema as a Cultural Export:** Enabling PwDs to access cinema is seen as a step towards inclusivity, recognizing cinema's role as a beloved art form and a significant source of India's soft power.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is the significance of the draft guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. They aim to restrict access to movie halls for persons with disabilities
 - B. They are open for stakeholder comments until February 15
 - C. They enforce stricter regulations on recreational activities for persons with disabilities
 - D. They facilitate easier access to cinema experience for persons with hearing and visual impairments
2. **What is the main purpose of the draft guidelines mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. To prioritize the rights of non-disabled individuals in recreational activities
 - B. To restrict the rights of persons with disabilities
 - C. To ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in recreational activities equally with others
 - D. To encourage discrimination against persons with hearing and visual impairments
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Celebratory
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Neutral
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Legal obligations towards persons with disabilities
 - B. Economic implications of disability access
 - C. Cultural accessibility and inclusivity
 - D. Technological advancements in cinema
5. **According to the passage, what initiatives have been undertaken to make the movie-going experience more accessible to people with disabilities (PwDs)?**
 - A. Implementing special equipment and mobile apps in theatres
 - B. Requiring producers to deliver two versions of a film, including one with accessibility features enabled
 - C. Introducing seats with headphone plugs for visually impaired viewers in theatres
 - D. All of the above
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

We must / take care / of one other / in times of crisis.

 - A. take care
 - B. in times of crisis
 - C. We must
 - D. of one other
7. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**

Bibiya asked the doctor if she could get the discharge in the morning.

 - A. Bibiya asked the doctor, "Can I get the discharge in the morning?"

- B. Bibiya asked the doctor, “How can I get the discharge in the morning?”
C. Bibiya asked the doctor, “Could I have got the discharge in the morning?”
D. Bibiya asked the doctor, “If I can get the discharge in the morning?”
8. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**
It is wrong to make accusations without will have any proof.
A. without has any proof
B. without being have any proof
C. without to be have any proof
D. without having any proof
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Social organisation where males are heads of families
A. Matriarchy
B. Patriarchy
C. Polygamy
D. Hierarchy
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
He ordered the police to pursue the robber and his gang.
A. The police were ordered to pursue the robber and his gang.
B. Order the police to pursue the robber gang.
C. Pursue the robber and gang were the orders by police.
D. The robber and gang were pursued.
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Instant
A. Immediate
B. Precise
C. Anticipated
D. Gradual
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
The old man was not only infirm but also blind and was unable to move around by himself.
A. Robust
B. Diffident
C. Anaemic
D. Hospitable
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
I don't buy it
A. Purchasing should be controlled
B. Only good decisions can be agreed on
C. I am not convinced
D. I do not like to buy
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Plastic pollution is _____ the oceans' ecosystem, but humanity doesn't take serious action against it.

- A. deciding
- B. aiming
- C. making
- D. affecting

15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**

Keen

- A. Insensitive
- B. Accurate
- C. Perceptive
- D. Subtle

16. **Parts of the following sentence have been underlined and given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.**

How simple for the English businessman to word a cable that would be intelligible to Italian, Turkish and Chinese firms? If statesmen could discuss directly and accurately the problems.

- A. statesmen
- B. intelligible
- C. businessman
- D. firms

17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word from the following sentence.**
'Artificial'

My uncle, who is a native of Australia, is a logical thinker and says that natural and unnatural stones both look beautiful in gold jewellery.

- A. Unnatural
- B. Native
- C. Natural
- D. Logical

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

Every cloud has a _____ lining.

- A. diffused
- B. silver
- C. blue
- D. grey

19. **Parts of the following sentence have been underlined and given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.**

It remains for us to apply the tools of selection, rejection or compresion in order to understand.

- A. compresion
- B. rejection
- C. selection

D. understand

20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**

Liam asked if we could proceed with the award ceremony.

- A. Liam said, "Can we proceed with the award ceremony?"
- B. Liam said, "Will we proceed with the award ceremony?"
- C. Liam said, "Should we proceed with the award ceremony?"
- D. Liam said, "Could we please proceed with the award ceremony?"

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.

Bottled water demonstrates how much humans (1)_____ nature, reflecting the tremendous value they place on it. On the other hand, bottled water indicates

(2)_____ for nature's complexities, displaying the irony that may lead to the mutual annihilation of humanity and the (3)_____.

The finest example is the (4)_____ of bottled water, which is the commercialisation of natural resources.

Holding bottled water, it is clear to see a gorgeous image of a lake and a small (5)_____ of blue and green plastic around its neck.

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

- A. commodify
- B. satisfy
- C. glorify
- D. beautify

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

- A. admiration
- B. contempt
- C. acceptance
- D. affectation

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

- A. collections
- B. humans
- C. trash
- D. environment

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

- A. corruption
- B. recycling
- C. recollecting
- D. sale

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

- A. beam
- B. bunch
- C. group
- D. piece

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **D) They facilitate easier access to cinema experience for persons with hearing and visual impairments.**

The passage states that the draft guidelines issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting aim to ensure that persons with disabilities can access the cinema experience more easily, aligning with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

2. **C) To ensure that persons with disabilities can participate in recreational activities equally with others.**

The passage highlights that the draft guidelines are in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act and aim to enable easier access to cinema for individuals with hearing and visual impairments, thus promoting equality in recreational activities.

3. **B) Celebratory**

The passage discusses various efforts and initiatives aimed at making the cinema experience more accessible to persons with disabilities. It highlights positive steps taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Supreme Court, and government, as well as efforts by organizations and individuals like Aamir Khan. The tone is celebratory as it applauds these efforts as steps in the right direction towards inclusivity and equality.

4. **C) Cultural accessibility and inclusivity.**

The passage primarily focuses on efforts to make the cinema experience more accessible to persons with disabilities. It discusses initiatives such as draft guidelines by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, efforts by NGOs and individuals, and steps taken by the Supreme Court and government. These efforts aim to ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy and participate in the cultural experience of cinema, thereby promoting cultural accessibility and inclusivity.

5. **D) All of the above.**

The passage mentions efforts such as implementing special equipment and mobile apps in theatres, requiring producers to deliver two versions of a film, including one with accessibility features enabled, and introducing seats with headphone plugs for visually impaired viewers in theatres.

6. D) 'of one other' में error है क्योंकि सही phrase 'of each other' होता है। दिए गए वाक्य में, हम 'of one other' के बजाय 'of each other' का उपयोग करने की जरूरत है।

- The error is in 'of one other' because the correct phrase should be 'of each other'. In the given sentence, we need to use 'of each other' instead of 'of one other'.

7. A) Bibiya asked the doctor, "Can I get the discharge in the morning?"
8. D) 'Without having any proof' सही है क्योंकि "having" का प्रयोग इस संदर्भ में proof की उपस्थिति को दर्शाने के लिए किया जाता है। sentence में, अभियोग करने से पहले प्रमाण की अनुपस्थिति को दर्शाने के लिए हम 'having' का प्रयोग करते हैं।
- D) 'Without having any proof' is correct because the use of "having" here indicates the presence of proof. In the given sentence, we use 'having' to denote the absence of evidence before making accusations.
9. B) **Patriarchy** (noun) – Social organisation where males are heads of families पितृसत्ता
- **Matriarchy** (noun) – a system of society or government ruled by a woman or women. मातृसत्ता
 - **Polygamy** (noun) – the practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time. बहुपत्नी प्रथा
 - **Hierarchy** (noun) – a system in which members of an organization or society are ranked according to relative status or authority पदानुक्रम
10. A) The police were ordered to pursue the robber and his gang.
11. A) **Instant** (adjective) – Immediate, prompt, instantaneous तुरन्त
- **Precise** (adjective) – marked by exactness and accuracy of expression or detail. एकदम सही
 - **Gradual** (adjective) – Slow, steady, regular, ongoing, continuing क्रमिक
12. A) **Infirm** (adjective) – Unwell, sick, ill, weak, feeble रुग्ण
- **Robust** (adjective) – Healthy, vigorous, hearty, strong, tough मजबूत
 - **Diffident** (adjective) – Shy, hesitant, insecure, timid, reticent शर्मीला
 - **Anaemic** (adjective) – Weak, feeble, lacklustre, insipid, pale, colourless कमजोर
13. C) **I don't buy it** (phrase) – I am not convinced मैं आश्वस्त नहीं हूँ
14. D) 'Affecting' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "affecting" का प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब किसी चीज़ पर प्रभाव पड़ रहा हो। sentence में, "Plastic pollution" समुद्र के ecosystem पर प्रभाव डाल रहा है, इसलिए हम इसके पहले 'affecting' का उपयोग करेंगे!
- 'Affecting' should be used because "affecting" is used when something is having an impact on something else. In the given sentence, "Plastic pollution" is impacting the oceans' ecosystem, so we use "affecting" in this context.

15. A) **Keen** (adjective) – Acute, strong, profound, lively उत्सुक

- **Insensitive** (adjective) – Unresponsive, impervious, oblivious, indifferent, Obtuse असंवेदनशील
- **Perceptive** (adjective) – Sensitive, insightful, observant, understanding, discerning
- **Subtle** (adjective) – So delicate or precise as to be difficult to analyse or describe. जटिल

16. C) The correct spelling of 'businessman' is businessman

17. C) **Artificial** (adjective) – Fake, false, synthetic, unnatural कृत्रिम

Antonym: Natural

18. B) Silver lining (phrase) – an advantage that comes from a difficult or unpleasant situation उम्मीद की किरण

19. A) The correct spelling of 'compresion' is compression

20. A) Liam said, "Can we proceed with the award ceremony?"

21. A) **Commodify**

'Commodify' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "commodify" का मतलब है प्राकृतिक चीजों को व्यापारिक वस्त्र में प्रस्तुत करना। दिए गए अंश में, "bottled water" को व्यापारिक तरीके से प्रस्तुत किया गया है, इसलिए हम पहले खाली स्थान के लिए "commodify" का use करेंगे।

- 'Commodify' should be used because the term "commodify" means to present natural things in a commercial form. In the given passage, "bottled water" is presented in a commercial manner, so we choose the word "commodify" for the first blank.

22. B) **Contempt**

'contempt' उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "contempt" का उपयोग तब किया जाता है जब किसी व्यक्ति, स्थिति, या वस्तु के प्रति तिरस्कार या अनादर व्यक्त किया जाना हो। दिए गए passage में, "bottled water" की बात करने से इंसानों के प्रकृति की जटिलताओं के प्रति अपमान की ओर संकेत होता है, इसलिए हम यहाँ "contempt" का उपयोग करेंगे।

- 'Contempt' should be used because "contempt" is used to express disrespect or scorn towards a person, situation, or object. In the given passage, talking about "bottled water" suggests disrespect for the complexities of nature, so we use "contempt" here.

23. D) **Environment**

'Environment' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में, sentence इंसान और प्राकृतिक संसार के बीच के संबंध की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "mutual annihilation of humanity and the", के माध्यम से उस तात्विक संबंध को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें इंसान और उसके चारों ओर का पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र है। इसलिए, "environment" सबसे उपयुक्त option होगा।

- 'Environment' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the relationship between humans and the natural world. Here, through "mutual annihilation of humanity and the ", it portrays that symbiotic relationship between humans and their surrounding ecosystem. Thus, "environment" would be the most appropriate choice.

24. D) Sale

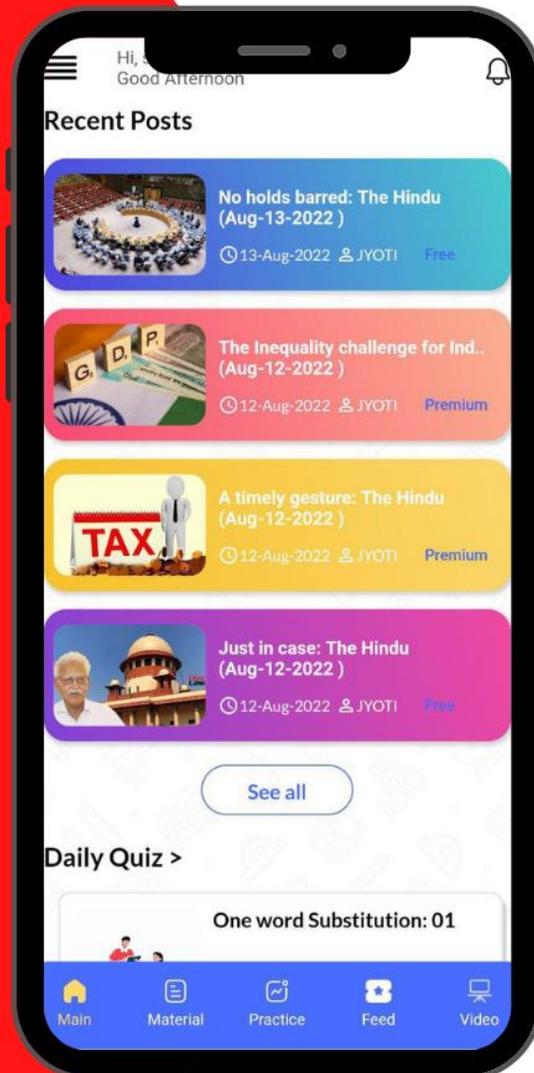
'Sale' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "sale" एक प्रक्रिया है जिसमें वस्त्र, सेवा या संसाधन को धन के बदले में प्रदान किया जाता है। दिए गए passage में, बोतलबंद पानी का उल्लेख "commercialisation of natural resources," के रूप में किया जा रहा है, जो इसे बेचने की प्रक्रिया के संदर्भ में इंगित करता है।

- 'Sale' should be used because "sale" refers to the process of providing goods, services, or resources in exchange for money. In the given passage, bottled water is mentioned in the context of the "commercialisation of natural resources," alluding to the process of selling it. Therefore, we will choose the option "sale" for this blank.

25. D) Piece

'Piece' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "piece" का प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब किसी वस्तु या सामग्री का एक हिस्सा या टुकड़ा दर्शाने के लिए बात की जाती है। sentence में, "blue and green plastic" का एक हिस्सा या टुकड़ा दर्शाने के लिए "piece" सबसे appropriate है

- 'Piece' should be used because "piece" is employed to denote a portion or fragment of an object or material. In the given sentence, a segment of the "blue and green plastic" is being described, and "piece" is the most fitting word for this context, so we'll select it.



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