

## Trust in machines: On the Supreme Court and the EVM

It is **reassuring** that the Supreme Court of India found nothing to **impair** faith in EVMs

The Supreme Court of India's **rejection** of the demand for 100% verification of the paper trail left by the **votes cast** through electronic voting machines **comes** as no surprise, as there is no hard evidence that the current verification system suffers from any **irremediable lacuna**. The two **concurring judgments** of the **Bench reiterate** the **faith** the judiciary has **so far reposed in** the **integrity** of the electoral process, especially after the introduction of the voter verifiable paper audit trail, or VVPAT. In the process, the Bench also rejected the idea of reverting to paper ballots, as such a measure would **indeed** be **regressive** and **negate** the **gains** from the **elimination** of **vulnerabilities associated** with paper ballots. This is not the first time that the Court has declined to interfere with the system **in place**; it had earlier refused to order 50% verification of the paper trail in one case and 100% verification in another. The Court has utilised this **petition** to review the administrative and technical **safeguards** in the system and found nothing to impair its faith in it. The two **directions** given by the Court **address** the other serious **apprehensions**: that the symbol loading units be secured and kept in safe custody for 45 days after declaration of results and that the top two losing candidates could **seek** a verification of the **micro-controllers** in 5% of the EVMs in **specified** polling booths so that **tampering**, if any, may be detected.

In a 2013 ruling, the Supreme Court **held** that "a paper trail is an **indispensable** requirement of free and fair elections". In another case, it favoured the increase in the number of polling stations in which VVPAT verification would be done from one per Assembly constituency or segment to five. The **introduction** of a paper audit trail itself **was** in response to apprehensions that voters had no way of **ascertaining** if their votes were recorded correctly. It is **somewhat ironical** that the verification system put in place to address such fears itself has become a **bone of contention** as **to the extent** to which the paper trail has to be verified. **Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, in his opinion, **has** recorded suggestions that VVPAT slips may be counted through machines, and that symbols loaded in the VVPAT units may be **barcoded** for easy counting in future. It **ought to** be clear that such technological advancement alone can make the process **suspicion-proof**. A larger **point to be made** is that the apprehensions and suspicions of possible **manipulation** indicate a level of **mistrust** in the Election Commission of India not seen in the past. **Voter confidence** in the system of voting and counting **is** one thing, but the need for the election **watchdog** to be seen as **impartial** is quite another. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Paper trail** (noun) – a series of documents that show a record of your activities
- **Barcode** (verb) – to put a barcode on. बारकोड लगाना

## Vocabulary

1. **Reassuring** (adjective) – Comforting, encouraging, soothing आश्वासन देने वाला
2. **Impair** (verb) – Damage, weaken, reduce, deteriorate कमजोर करना
3. **Cast a vote** (phrase) – Vote, ballot, elect मतदान करना
4. **Irremediable** (adjective) – Unrepairable, incurable, irreversible असुधार्य
5. **Lacuna** (noun) – Gap, deficiency, flaw, shortfall खामिया
6. **Concurring** (adjective) – Agreeing, coinciding, concurrent सहमत
7. **Bench** (noun) – a group of judges or magistrates न्यायपीठ
8. **Reiterate** (verb) – Repeat, restate, reaffirm दोहराना
9. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, to date अब तक
10. **Repose trust/faith in someone** (phrase) – Place confidence in, rely on, trust किसी पर भरोसा करना
11. **Integrity** (noun) – Honesty, uprightness, probity, rectitude अखंडता
12. **Indeed** (adverb) – In fact, actually, truly, really वास्तव में
13. **Regressive** (adjective) – Retrogressive, backward, negative प्रतिगामी
14. **Negate** (verb) – Nullify, invalidate, cancel, void नकारना
15. **The Gain** (noun) – Benefit, advantage, profit, improvement लाभ/ सुधार
16. **Elimination** (noun) – Removal, exclusion, erasure, getting rid of उन्मूलन
17. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, susceptibility, liability, fragility कमजोरियों
18. **Associated** (with) (adjective) – Connected, linked, related संबंधित
19. **In place** (phrase) – Established, set up, operational स्थापित
20. **Petition** (noun) – Appeal, request, plea, application याचिका
21. **Safeguard** (verb) – Protect, shield, guard, secure सुरक्षित रखना
22. **Direction** (noun) – Instruction, guidance, command, order निर्देश
23. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, handle, manage सुलझाना, निपटाना
24. **Apprehension** (noun) – Anxiety, fear, concern, misgiving चिंता
25. **Seek** (verb) – Ask for, solicit on, demand, require मांगना

26. **Micro-controller** (noun) – A small computer on a single integrated circuit
27. **Specified** (adjective) – Stated, mentioned, designated, defined निर्दिष्ट
28. **Tampering** (noun) – Interference, meddling, manipulation, alteration हेरफेर/ छेड़छाड़
29. **Hold** (verb) – to have an opinion, etc. कोई राय आदि रखना
30. **Indispensable** (adjective) – Essential, necessary, crucial, vital अनिवार्य
31. **Ascertain** (verb) – Determine, find out, discover, establish पता लगाना
32. **Somewhat** (adverb) – Slightly, a little, to some extent, moderately कुछ हद तक
33. **Ironical** (adjective) – Contradictory, paradoxical, unexpected विडंबनापूर्ण
34. **A bone of contention** (phrase) – Subject of dispute, point of disagreement विवाद का विषय
35. **To the extent** (phrase) – To the degree, as far as, to the level की हद तक
36. **Ought to** (modal verb) – Should, must, is expected to करना चाहिए
37. **Suspicion-proof** (adjective) – Beyond doubt, unquestionable, trustworthy संदेहरहित
38. **Make a point** (phrase) – Make a case for something मुद्दा बनाना
39. **Manipulation** (noun) – Influence, control, alteration, falsification हेरफेर
40. **Mistrust** (noun) – Distrust, suspicion, doubt, skepticism अविश्वास
41. **Watchdog** (noun) – Supervisor, monitor, overseer, regulator निगरानी संस्था
42. **Impartial** (adjective) – Fair, just, unbiased, neutral निष्पक्ष

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## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court of India rejected the demand for 100% verification of the paper trail from electronic voting machines (EVMs).
2. The Court found no substantial evidence suggesting flaws in the current verification system, which includes the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT).
3. The judgments supported the continued use of EVMs and reinforced the judiciary's trust in the electoral process's integrity.
4. The Court also dismissed the idea of returning to paper ballots, considering it a step backward that would reintroduce old vulnerabilities.
5. Previous rulings had similarly declined major changes to the verification process, such as 50% or 100% verification demands.
6. This recent ruling was an opportunity for the Court to reassess the administrative and technical safeguards of the EVM system.
7. Two specific directives were issued: ensuring the security of symbol loading units and allowing the top two losing candidates to request verification of micro-controllers in 5% of EVMs in selected polling booths.
8. These measures aim to address concerns about potential tampering with the machines.
9. A 2013 Supreme Court ruling highlighted the necessity of a paper trail for free and fair elections.
10. The Court has progressively increased the scope of VVPAT verification from one to five polling stations per Assembly constituency.
11. The introduction of VVPAT was originally in response to voter concerns about the accuracy of their vote being recorded.
12. Despite these measures, there remains contention over the extent to which VVPAT verification should be carried out.
13. Justice Sanjiv Khanna suggested technological improvements like machine counting of VVPAT slips and barcoding of symbols for easier verification.
14. There is a growing perception of possible bias and manipulation within the Election Commission of India, indicating a decline in public trust.
15. It is essential not only for the voting and counting processes to be trustworthy but also for the Election Commission itself to be perceived as impartial.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Reassuring
  - B. Skeptical
  - C. Dismissive
  - D. Hostile
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The vulnerability of paper ballots in elections
  - B. Judicial support for electronic voting systems
  - C. The inefficiency of the Indian judiciary
  - D. The rise of technology in daily life
3. **According to the passage, why did the Supreme Court of India reject the idea of reverting to paper ballots in favor of retaining electronic voting machines (EVMs)?**
  - A. Because the use of paper ballots was found to be less secure and more vulnerable to tampering compared to electronic voting machines, which might regress the progress made in securing elections.
  - B. Because the electronic voting machines are easier and cheaper to maintain than paper ballots, leading to cost savings for the government.
  - C. Because the paper ballots require more time for counting, and the electronic systems provide instant results, which is essential for maintaining public order.
  - D. Because there is a high demand from the public to use technology in voting to align with modern technological advancements globally.
4. **What actions has the Supreme Court of India directed to address concerns about the security of electronic voting machines (EVMs)?**
  - A. The Court has ordered that all electronic voting machines be replaced with newer, more advanced models before the next election cycle to ensure enhanced security.
  - B. The Court has mandated a recount of votes using paper ballots in constituencies where the winning margin is less than 1% of the total votes cast.
  - C. The Court directed that symbol loading units be secured and kept in safe custody for 45 days after the declaration of results, and allowed the top two losing candidates to seek verification of the micro-controllers in 5% of the EVMs in specified polling booths.
  - D. The Court has introduced a new software update for all electronic voting machines to be implemented immediately to protect against hacking and tampering.
5. **According to the 2013 ruling by the Supreme Court of India, what was considered an indispensable requirement for ensuring free and fair elections?**
  - A. The integration of biometric verification systems in all electronic voting machines to enhance security measures and ensure the authenticity of votes cast.
  - B. The introduction of a paper trail to enable voters to see a printed verification of their cast vote, addressing concerns about the accuracy of electronic voting machines.
  - C. Mandatory webcasting from all polling stations to provide real-time surveillance and ensure transparency during the electoral process.

- D. An increase in the number of election observers at each polling station to prevent potential electoral fraud and ensure the integrity of the voting process.
6. **In the context of the passage, which word is a synonym for "apprehensions" as used in the description of voter concerns?**
- A. Indifference
  - B. Misgivings
  - C. Enthusiasm
  - D. Certainty

**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.**

The Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the project to design and develop the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) on March 7. This aircraft will be a fifth-generation, medium-weight stealth fighter jet. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) is spearheading the project, valued at around Rs 15,000 crore. Under this project, DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) will collaborate with various private and public sector agencies to develop the stealth jet and associated technology. It's \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ that approximately five prototypes will be built within a span of five years. The manufacturing of these prototypes will involve the public sector unit Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ India into a select group of nations either possessing or developing 5th generation fighter jets.

A fifth-generation fighter jet possesses four primary attributes. Firstly, it boasts stealth capabilities, rendering it nearly invisible to enemy radars due to its minimized radar cross-section. Secondly, it can achieve 'Supercruise', enabling it to fly faster than the speed of sound without \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ fuel-intensive afterburners. Thirdly, it is equipped with advanced avionics, sensors, and network-centric operations. Increasingly, artificial intelligence is being integrated to enhance the pilot-aircraft interface, allowing a single pilot to manage both flight and combat operations. Lastly, it has the ability to \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ adversaries by detecting and engaging targets from considerable distances, facilitated by active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars.

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. Associated
  - B. Anticipated
  - C. Excavated
  - D. Incensed
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. Endorsement
  - B. Promotion
  - C. Separation
  - D. Endeavour
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Propel

- B. Repel
- C. Expel
- D. Exile

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

- A. pointing to
- B. resulting in
- C. relying on
- D. carrying out

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

- A. Permit
- B. Harm
- C. Confirm
- D. Outperform

12. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

- P. One such major service disruption occurred on April 15.
  - Q. The RBI has noted with concern that in the absence of 'a robust IT infrastructure and IT risk management framework, the bank's core banking system and its online and digital banking channels have suffered frequent outages in the past two years... resulting in serious customer inconvenience'.
  - R. In a significant development having implications for the entire banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited to stop the onboarding of new customers through online and mobile banking with immediate effect and also barred it from issuing credit cards henceforth.
  - S. The bank was found deficient in building operational resilience, even as the RBI clarified that there were no curbs on providing services to existing customers, including those using credit cards.
- A. RSPQ
  - B. QPRS
  - C. QRPS
  - D. RQPS

13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**

- A. As per the latest findings, 19 government schools in the state are without students, while a staggering 3,148 schools have less than 50 each.
  - B. Also, 811 schools are being run by a lone teacher.
  - C. Over the past year, a series of reports in The Tribune has shed light on the dire state of government schools in Haryana.
  - D. These deficiencies raise serious questions about access to education for children across the state.
- A. DCAB
  - B. CBDA

- C. CABD
- D. CDAB

14. Choose the best substitute for the bracketed segment in the following sentence to complete the sentence meaningfully.

(No sooner did she shouted), than the thieves ran away leaving all the jewellery on the table.

- A. No sooner do she shouts
- B. No sooner does she shout
- C. No sooner had she shout
- D. No sooner did she shout

15. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

Mathematical problems are never solved daily by him.

- A. He never solves mathematical problems daily.
- B. He has solved never mathematical problems daily.
- C. He solve never mathematical problems daily.
- D. He solves never mathematical problems daily.

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

My colleagues have lacked the conscience needed to be morally correct on this grave issue.

- A. conscience
- B. colleagues
- C. morally
- D. Grave

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

When Mayank came, / I shall go / with him to / the circus.

- A. with him to
- B. When Mayank came
- C. I shall go
- D. the circus

18. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Bite the bullet

- A. To take a risk
- B. To enjoy something immensely
- C. To endure a painful situation
- D. To criticise someone harshly

19. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Awkward

- A. Graceful
- B. Meaningful
- C. Innocent
- D. Huge



20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.

On the day of independence, a jubilant crowd from all over the country cheered and wept.

- A. Triumphant
- B. Cryptic
- C. Elated
- D. Gloomy

21. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the following sentence.**

It is raining a lot in April and May, but the summer is very dry.

- A. was raining a lot on
- B. will rains a lot of
- C. rains a lot in
- D. rain a lot at

22. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

**The story explores the conflicting range of human emotions.**

- A. The conflicting range of human emotions had explored by the story.
- B. The conflicting range of human emotions did explored by the story.
- C. The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story.
- D. The conflicting range of human emotions has explored by the story

23. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

**Vikash gave you the information?**

- A. Was the information given to you by Vikash?
- B. Have the information been given to you?
- C. Has the information given to you?
- D. You have been given the information?

24. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.

She has been working in this company from five years.

- A. working at this company for five years
- B. working with this company since five years
- C. working in this company for five years
- D. No substitution required

25. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has decided to incentivise them through a star-rating system, based on 'efficiency and timelines in grant of environmental clearance'
- Q. The highest rank will be given to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) which approves projects in the shortest period, has a high rate of clearance, ensures quick disposal of complaints, conducts minimum site visits and asks for fewer 'essential details'.

- R. While major projects such as highways are cleared by the Centre, the state authorities assess the environmental impact of proposed works pertaining to mining, industry, power plants and infrastructure development.
- S. In a move that could trigger a frantic race among the states at the cost of compromising on environmental protection,
- A. SPQR      B.QRPS      C.SQPR      D.PRQS

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. A) Reassuring

A. Correct because the passage gives a sense of comfort and confirmation regarding the integrity of the electoral process and the effectiveness of the technological safeguards in place.

B. Incorrect because the tone is not one of doubt or disbelief; rather, the passage emphasizes trust and confidence in the EVM system upheld by the Supreme Court.

C. Incorrect because the passage does not trivialize or disregard concerns but rather addresses them with judicial decisions and technological proposals.

D. Incorrect because the passage does not express antagonism or opposition; it discusses the judicial stance and technological improvements in a positive light.

### 2. B) Judicial support for electronic voting systems

A. Incorrect because this is mentioned as a side point to highlight the advantages of electronic systems, not as the main theme.

B. Correct as the central theme revolves around the Supreme Court's decisions and opinions supporting the use of EVMs and VVPAT to ensure election integrity.

C. Incorrect because the passage illustrates the judiciary's proactive and positive role in securing electoral processes, not inefficiency.

D. Incorrect because, although it discusses technological implementations in voting systems, the focus is specifically on their judicial endorsement and the electoral context, not on general technological advancement in daily life.

### 3. A) The correct answer is A because the passage states that reverting to paper ballots would be regressive and negate the gains from the elimination of vulnerabilities associated with paper ballots, indicating that EVMs are considered more secure.

Option B is incorrect as the passage does not discuss the maintenance costs of EVMs versus paper ballots.

Option C is incorrect because the passage does not mention the speed of counting as a reason for the preference for EVMs.

Option D is incorrect as there is no mention of public demand for technology use in voting or alignment with global technological advancements in the passage.

### 4. C) The correct answer is C because the passage specifies that the Court has given directions concerning the security of the symbol loading units and the verification of micro-controllers in EVMs by the top losing candidates, which addresses concerns about potential tampering.

Option A is incorrect as there is no mention of replacing EVMs with new models in the passage.

Option B is incorrect because the passage does not discuss any mandate for recounts using paper ballots.

Option D is incorrect as there is no information about a software update for EVMs in the passage.

5. **B) The introduction of a paper trail to enable voters to see a printed verification of their cast vote, addressing concerns about the accuracy of electronic voting machines.**

The 2013 Supreme Court ruling explicitly mentioned that a paper trail, or Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), is an indispensable requirement for free and fair elections. This was introduced in response to voter concerns about whether their votes were recorded correctly.

A: There was no mention in the ruling or the passage about integrating biometric systems into electronic voting machines.

C: The passage does not discuss mandatory webcasting from polling stations as part of the Supreme Court's decisions.

D: Increasing the number of election observers was not specified in the 2013 ruling as a measure for ensuring free and fair elections.

6. **B) Misgivings** - indicating doubts or concerns about the reliability or honesty of something.

The word "apprehensions" in the passage refers to the doubts and concerns voters have regarding the accuracy and reliability of their votes being recorded correctly. "Misgivings" is a synonym that conveys a similar sense of doubt and unease.

A: Indifference implies a lack of concern, which is the opposite of having apprehensions.

C: Enthusiasm indicates a positive feeling, which contrasts with the negative connotations associated with apprehensions.

D: Certainty is the direct opposite of apprehensions, as it implies full confidence without any doubts.

7. B) 'Anticipated' का use होगा क्योंकि "anticipated" का अर्थ होता है पूर्वानुमानित या प्रत्याशित। Sentence में बताया गया है कि लगभग पांच prototypes बनाए जाएंगे, जो कि एक पूर्वानुमानित योजना का हिस्सा है, इसलिए 'anticipated' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Associated' का अर्थ है संबंधित, 'Excavated' का अर्थ है खोदकर निकालना, और 'Incensed' का अर्थ है बहुत गुस्सा होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Anticipated' will be used because it means expected or predicted. The sentence indicates that about five prototypes are expected to be built, which is part of a forecasted plan, making 'anticipated' fitting here. Whereas, 'Associated' means related, 'Excavated' means dug out, and 'Incensed' means very angry, which don't fit in this context.

8. D) 'Endeavour' का use होगा क्योंकि "endeavour" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष लक्ष्य या उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रयास करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि परियोजना भारत को एक विशेष समूह में शामिल करेगी, जिसमें 5वीं पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू जेट विकसित करने वाले देश शामिल हैं, इसलिए 'endeavour' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Endorsement' का अर्थ है समर्थन देना, 'Promotion' का अर्थ है बढ़ावा देना, और 'Separation' का अर्थ है अलग करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Endeavour' will be used because it means to attempt to achieve a specific goal or objective. The sentence mentions that the project will propel India into a select group of nations developing 5th generation fighter jets, making 'endeavour' fitting here. Whereas, 'Endorsement' means to support, 'Promotion' means to encourage or advance, and 'Separation' means to divide or disconnect, which don't fit in this context.

9. A) 'Propel' का use होगा क्योंकि "propel" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को आगे बढ़ाना या धकेलना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि इस project की मदद से भारत उन चुनिंदा देशों के समूह में शामिल हो जाएगा जो 5th generation fighter jets विकसित कर रहे हैं, इसलिए 'propel' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Repel' का अर्थ है दूर करना या विकर्षित करना, 'Expel' का अर्थ है निकालना या बाहर करना, और 'Exile' का अर्थ है निर्वासन में भेजना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Propel' will be used because it means to drive or push something forward. The sentence mentions that with this project, India will join a select group of nations developing 5th generation fighter jets, making 'propel' fitting here. Whereas, 'Repel' means to drive or force back, 'Expel' means to push out or eject, and 'Exile' means to send into exile, which don't fit in this context

10. C) "relying on" का use होगा क्योंकि "relying on" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ पर निर्भर होना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह जेट बिना fuel-intensive afterburners के ध्वनि की गति से तेज़ उड़ सकता है, इसलिए 'relying on' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि जेट आमतौर पर इस तकनीक पर निर्भर करता है। जबकि 'Pointing to' का अर्थ है इंगित करना, 'Resulting in' का अर्थ है परिणामस्वरूप होना, और 'Carrying out' का अर्थ है क्रियान्वयन करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

"relying on" will be used because "relying on" means depending on something. The sentence mentions that the jet can fly faster than the speed of sound without fuel-intensive afterburners, hence 'relying on' is appropriate here as it reflects that the jet typically depends on this technology. Whereas, 'Pointing to' means indicating, 'Resulting in' means as a result of, and 'Carrying out' means executing, which don't fit in this context.

11. 'Outperform' का use होगा क्योंकि "outperform" का अर्थ होता है किसी के प्रदर्शन से बेहतर प्रदर्शन करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि यह विमान दूरी से लक्ष्यों का पता लगाकर उन्हें संलग्न कर सकता है, जिससे 'outperform' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Permit' का अर्थ है अनुमति देना, 'Harm' का अर्थ है नुकसान पहुँचाना, और 'Confirm' का अर्थ है पुष्टि करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Outperform' will be used because it means to perform better than someone else. The sentence explains that the jet can detect and engage targets from considerable distances,

making 'outperform' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Permit' means to allow, 'Harm' means to cause damage, and 'Confirm' means to verify, which don't fit in this context.

12. D) RQPS

R: Sentence R introduces the main action by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) affecting Kotak Mahindra Bank, setting a context for regulatory intervention in the banking sector.

Q: After introducing the RBI's directive in sentence R, sentence Q explains the reasons behind this action. It highlights the deficiencies in the bank's IT infrastructure and risk management, which have led to frequent service disruptions.

P: Sentence P mentions a specific instance of service disruption on April 15, which exemplifies the ongoing issues described in sentence Q. Placing this after Q makes sense because it gives a concrete example of the problems that have been occurring, making the RBI's concern more tangible and justified.

S: Finally, sentence S concludes the paragraph by detailing the scope of the RBI's restrictions, clarifying that existing customers can continue to use their services, including credit cards. This wraps up the discussion by addressing the immediate effects on the bank's operations and customer relations following the RBI's directive.

13. C) CABD

C is the introductory statement. It provides context by mentioning the series of reports highlighting the poor state of government schools in Haryana.

A follows, as it presents concrete data and specific examples of the issues first introduced in Sentence C. It mentions the number of schools affected by student shortages and those operating with minimal student counts, directly elaborating on the "dire state" referenced in Sentence C.

B adds further detail to the narrative established by Sentence A by illustrating another significant problem—schools with only one teacher.

D concludes the sequence as it summarizes the impact of the issues presented in Sentences A and B.

14. D) 'No sooner did she shouted' के बदले 'No sooner did she shout' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'No sooner' के साथ जब 'did' का प्रयोग होता है और इसके बाद base form of verb आता है। जैसे—  
No sooner did he arrive than it began to rain.

- 'No sooner did she shout' will be used instead of 'No sooner did she shouted' because with 'No sooner', 'did' is used followed by the base form of the verb. Like— No sooner did he arrive than it began to rain.

15. A) He never solves mathematical problems daily

16. B) 'colleages' के बदले 'colleagues' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'colleages' गलत spelling है। सही spelling 'colleagues' है।

- 'colleagues' will be used instead of 'colleages' because 'colleages' is a spelling error. The correct spelling is 'colleagues'.

17. B) Replace 'came' with 'comes', when the condition is stated in the present tense, the result or consequence is typically expressed using the simple future tense.

For example:

If you heat water (present tense), it will boil (simple future tense).

When Mayank comes" (conditional clause in present tense) corresponds to "I shall go" (main clause in simple future tense).

18. C) **Bite the bullet** (idiom) – To endure a painful situation सख्त परिस्थिति सहना।

19. A) **Awkward** (adjective) – Clumsy, inept, uncoordinated, uncomfortable. अजीब

**Antonym: Graceful** (adjective) – Elegant, poised, smooth, effortlessly beautiful. सुगम

- **Meaningful** (adjective) – Significant, purposeful, substantial, consequential. सार्थक
- **Innocent** (adjective) – Not guilty, blameless, pure, naive. मासूम
- **Huge** (adjective) – Enormous, gigantic, vast, large. विशाल

20. D) **Jubilant** (adjective) – Showing great joy, satisfaction, or triumph; rejoicing; exultant. प्रफुल्लित

**Gloomy** (adjective) – Lacking in light; dim or dark; causing sadness or depression; dreary. उदास

- **Triumphant** (adjective) – Having achieved victory or success; victorious; exultant. विजयी
- **Cryptic** (adjective) – Having a meaning that is mysterious or obscure; enigmatic. रहस्यमय
- **Elated** (adjective) – Very happy or proud; in high spirits; overjoyed. उल्लासित

21. C) 'is raining' के बदले 'rains' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में सामान्यतः अप्रैल और मई में होने वाली बारिश की बात की जा रही है इसलिए simple present tense का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— It generally rains in the evening.

'rains' will be used instead of 'is raining' because the sentence is talking about the general occurrence of rain in April and May, so the simple present tense will be used; Like— It generally rains in the evening.

22. C) The conflicting range of human emotions is explored by the story

23. A) Was the information given to you by Vikash?

24. C) In the given sentence, the underlined segment "working in this company from five years" is incorrect because "from" should be replaced with "for" to indicate the duration of her work in the company. Also, the correct preposition to use with "company" is "in". Therefore, option C) "working in this company for five years" is the most appropriate substitution.

25. A) **SPQR**

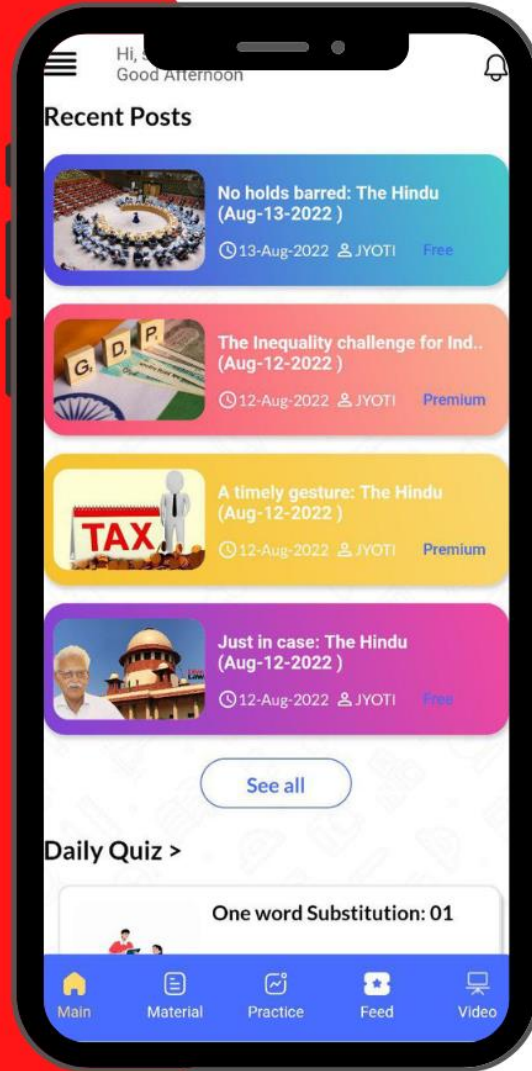
**S:** This sentence seems to be a good start, as it introduces a significant action or development without referring to any prior context.

**P:** This sentence logically follows sentence S, explaining what the move mentioned in sentence S actually is.

**Q:** This sentence provides further details about the star-rating system introduced in sentence P.

**R:** This sentence concludes the paragraph by describing the responsibilities of the SEIAA mentioned in sentence Q. It makes more sense here after we've established what the rating system is and how it will work.





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