

## My marriage, my way: Laws make marriage complicated.

Divorce can be the true test of marriage. This was one **takeaway** from a case SC judged this week. It was **hearing** a couple that on its path towards divorce, **took a singular leap**, and asked for its marriage to be declared invalid instead. On the **grounds** that no “**customs, rites and rituals**” had been performed. Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih granted the required “relief” and also an **illuminating tutorial** on the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. **In a nutshell**, per law, a marriage performed without “appropriate ceremonies” cannot be said to be “**solemnised**”.

Why is this **jaw-dropping**? Because **up and down** the country Indians get married in a glorious **diversity** of ways. And all of these should have equal standing in the eyes of modern law. But between the different laws that **pronounce rigidities** on the matter, they don't. The **judges** in this **instance declared**, “marriage is not an event for ‘song and dance’ and ‘**wining and dining**’.” But why can't it be? Or rather, in the countless cases where it already is, surely law shouldn't **ruin the party**.

HMA itself has been criticised for **flattening** wedding practices over time. As examples, scholars **point to the fading** of **matrilineal** practices like Aliyasantana in Karnataka and Marumakkathayam in Kerala. Besides, it only refers to Sagai, Kanyadan and Saptapadi. That's very **despiriting** for, say, Shubho Drishti and Arundhati Nakshatra. Not to mention all the marriages that completely **sidestep** the named **trinity**.

Is there any **elegant** solution to all this confusion and exclusion? Yes! The state should remain the registry for all marriages, but no longer have anything to do with **sacraments** and ceremonies.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 does **wear the dress** of such a solution. But, from its 30-day notice to how it's being **undermined** by anti-conversion laws, its **embodied** reality is citizen-unfriendly. **Moreover**, the vast **majority** of marriages **take place** under other, religion-based laws, which, like HMA, have very specific requirements for a “solemnised” marriage. What we need is a dramatically reformed version of SMA, where it becomes the **sole** interface between the state, law and citizens. Why should the state only recognise marriages that **limit** themselves to a **rigid** menu of options? Real India **certainly** doesn't. Quite happily so. But SC reminded us how **vulnerable** this happiness is. Better check if your wedding **meets** the “appropriate ceremonies” criteria. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Takeaway** (noun) – Conclusion, insight, understanding, lesson, implication निष्कर्ष
2. **Hear** (verb) – Listen, attend, perceive, overhear, eavesdrop सुनना
3. **Take a leap** (phrase) – Make a jump, take a risk, venture, plunge, leap of faith जोखिम उठाना
4. **Singular** (adjective) – Unique, exceptional, extraordinary, peculiar, distinctive अद्वितीय
5. **Ground** (noun) – Basis, foundation, reason, cause, premise आधार
6. **Custom** (noun) – Tradition, practice, convention, habit, usage परंपरा
7. **Rite** (noun) – Ceremony, ritual, observance, practice, custom अनुष्ठान
8. **Ritual** (noun) – Ceremony, rite, tradition, custom, practice रस्म
9. **Illuminating** (adjective) – Enlightening, informative, clarifying, revealing, elucidating प्रकाश डालना
10. **Tutorial** (noun) – Lesson, class, instruction, session, guide शिक्षण
11. **In a nutshell** (phrase) – In summary, briefly, concisely, simply, to sum up संक्षेप में
12. **Solemnise** (verb) – duly perform (a ceremony, especially that of marriage). शास्र के अनुष्ठान करना
13. **Jaw-dropping** (noun) – Astonishment, amazement, wonder, shock, stupefaction अचंभित करने वाली बात
14. **Up and down** (phrase) – Everywhere, all over, throughout, extensively, widely चारों ओर
15. **Diversity** (noun) – Variety, multiplicity, range, assortment, heterogeneity विविधता
16. **Pronounce** (verb) – Declare, state, articulate, enunciate, proclaim घोषित करना
17. **Rigidity** (noun) – Stiffness, inflexibility, rigour, strictness, hardness कठोरता
18. **Instance** (noun) – Example, case, occurrence, situation, illustration उदाहरण
19. **Wining and dining** (noun) – Feasting, entertaining, hosting, treating, indulging दावत उड़ाना
20. **Ruin the party** (verb) – to cause trouble for someone at a moment when they are enjoying a success के लिए परेशानी खड़ा करना
21. **Flatten** (verb) – to stop increasing or stop something from increasing

22. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signal, hint at, refer to संकेत करना
23. **Fading** (noun) – Diminishing, weakening, disappearing, vanishing, declining धीरे-धीरे कम होना
24. **Matrilineal** (adjective) – In a matrilineal society or relationship, the fact of someone belonging to a particular family depends only on female relatives मातृवंशीय
25. **Despiriting** (adjective) – Disheartening, demoralizing, discouraging, depressing, dismaying हतोत्साहित करना
26. **Sidestep** (verb) – Avoid, evade, dodge, bypass, skirt टाल देना
27. **Trinity** (noun) – Here it refers to Sagai, Kanyadan and Saptapadi.
28. **Elegant** (adjective) – Graceful, stylish, sophisticated, refined, tasteful सुरुचिपूर्ण
29. **Sacrament** (noun) – Rite, ceremony, ritual, ordinance, liturgy संस्कार
30. **Wear the dress** (phrase) – Assume the role, take on, adopt, embody, personify भूमिका ग्रहण करना
31. **Undermine** (verb) – Subvert, weaken, undercut, sabotage, erode कमजोर करना
32. **Embodied** (verb) – Personified, alive, in person, in material form, सन्निहित
33. **Moreover** (adverb) – Furthermore, additionally, besides, also, likewise इसके अलावा
34. **Take place** (phrase) – Occur, happen, transpire, ensue, come about होना
35. **Sole** (adjective) – Only, single, lone, exclusive, solitary एकमात्र
36. **Limit** (verb) – Restrict, confine, bound, cap, constrain सीमित करना
37. **Rigid** (adjective) – Stiff, inflexible, unyielding, uncompromising, strict कठोर
38. **Certainly** (adverb) – Definitely, surely, undoubtedly, positively, indeed निश्चित रूप से
39. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – At risk, exposed, susceptible, open to, prone to कमजोर
40. **Meet** (verb) – Fulfill, satisfy, match, comply with, accord पूरा करना

## Summary of the Editorial

- Case Background:** The Supreme Court recently adjudicated a case involving a couple seeking to have their marriage declared invalid due to the absence of customary rituals, despite pursuing a divorce.
- Legal Interpretation:** Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih highlighted the requirements of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, stressing that a marriage lacking "appropriate ceremonies" cannot be considered as "solemnised."
- Diversity in Marital Practices:** The editorial emphasizes the wide variety of marriage customs across India, which should ideally be recognized equally under the law.
- Legal Rigidities:** Current laws, including the Hindu Marriage Act, enforce strict conditions on what constitutes a legally recognized marriage, often disregarding diverse cultural practices.
- Cultural Erosion:** The editorial criticizes the Hindu Marriage Act for potentially diminishing rich matrimonial traditions such as Aliyasantana and Marumakkathayam due to its narrow definitions.
- Call for Reform:** It suggests that the state should maintain records of marriages but not interfere with the sacramental aspects of these unions.
- Special Marriage Act Critique:** The Special Marriage Act, 1954, while intended as a solution, is seen as inadequate and restrictive, especially with its 30-day notice requirement and vulnerability to anti-conversion laws.
- Predominance of Religious Laws:** Most Indian marriages are governed by religion-specific laws, which dictate stringent conditions for recognition.
- Proposal for Legal Reform:** The editorial advocates for a substantial overhaul of the Special Marriage Act to make it the primary framework for marriage registration, devoid of religious stipulations.
- State's Role in Marriage:** It questions why state recognition of marriages should be limited to traditional formats, suggesting a broader, more inclusive approach.
- Reflection on Societal Norms:** The piece points out that real societal practices in India are more flexible and varied than what is legally acknowledged.
- Legal Vulnerability:** The Supreme Court's decision serves as a reminder of the legal vulnerabilities couples face if their marriages do not adhere to prescribed ceremonies.

13. **Impact on Individuals:** The rigid legal framework can have personal and emotional impacts on individuals whose marriages fall outside the narrow legal definitions.
14. **Need for Inclusivity:** The editorial argues for legal systems that respect and incorporate the diverse cultural landscapes of India.
15. **Future Implications:** It concludes with a cautionary note on ensuring that one's marriage aligns with legal requirements to avoid potential complications, emphasizing the ongoing relevance and impact of this issue.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Critical
  - B. Indifferent
  - C. Amused
  - D. Sympathetic
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The necessity of traditional ceremonies in marriage
  - B. Legal complexities and diversity in marriage practices
  - C. The importance of song and dance at weddings
  - D. The role of the Supreme Court in personal matters
3. **What does the case described in the passage illustrate about the role of traditional ceremonies in the legal recognition of marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955?**
  - A. The case highlights that the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, requires traditional ceremonies for a marriage to be legally recognized, reflecting a rigid interpretation that may not align with modern diverse practices.
  - B. It underscores the flexibility of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, allowing any form of ceremony to be valid as long as the couple considers themselves married.
  - C. The case points to the Act's emphasis on spiritual elements, such as Sagai and Kanyadan, over legal formalities.
  - D. It reveals the Act's adaptation to contemporary wedding practices by including modern ceremonies in its scope.
4. **Based on the discussion in the passage, which of the following best reflects the criticism of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, regarding cultural diversity?**
  - A. The Act has been praised for preserving traditional marriage ceremonies across different Indian cultures.
  - B. The Act has been criticized for not acknowledging and preserving matrilineal practices such as Aliyasantana and Marumakkathayam, which have faded over time.
  - C. The Act effectively addresses all forms of marriage ceremonies equally and has been instrumental in unifying diverse marriage practices under a single legal framework.
  - D. The Act has been lauded for its modern approach and inclusivity of new age ceremonies like Shubho Drishti and Arundhati Nakshatra.
5. **What is implied in the passage about the effectiveness of the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 in addressing the issues of religious ceremonies in marriage?**
  - A. The SMA provides a secular framework for marriage but is hindered by its 30-day notice requirement and challenges from anti-conversion laws.
  - B. The SMA has successfully replaced all religious marriage laws and is widely appreciated for its modern approach and flexibility.
  - C. The SMA has been ineffective as it mandates religious ceremonies, contradicting its purpose of being a secular marriage law.

- D. The SMA fully supports all matrimonial customs and traditions, ensuring that no cultural practices are overlooked.
6. **According to the passage, which of the following best illustrates the impact of the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) on traditional wedding practices?**
- A. The HMA promotes specific ceremonies such as Sagai, Kanyadan, and Saptapadi, which has resulted in the marginalization of other traditional practices.
- B. The HMA has led to a greater acceptance of varied cultural practices in weddings by mandating inclusivity in all religious ceremonies.
- C. The HMA has completely eliminated the practice of religion-based wedding ceremonies, leading to a uniform secular approach across India.
- D. The HMA has been praised for enhancing the sanctity of marriage by strictly adhering to ancient matrimonial traditions.
7. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**
- S1:** It is well known that collaborations between industry and academia can be mutually beneficial.
- S4:** Determining and managing impediments to collaborations between industry and academia requires a multi-pronged approach.
- P:** Merely possessing expertise in a particular field is not enough to be an intellectual.
- Q:** However, most Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) have not focused on such collaborations or on intellectual property (IP) and technology transfers.
- R:** Chinese leader Xi Jinping orders greater protection for foreign companies' rights and intellectual property (IP).
- S:** While universities conduct and encourage basic research, many of them do not capitalise on the same research by commercialising their IP; they miss out on likely gains from patents, licensing, or start-up companies.
- A. P and Q
- B. P and R
- C. P and S
- D. Q and S
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. It was revealed that nearly 70 lakh mobile phone connections involved in cybercrime and financial fraud have been disconnected so far. A sum of Rs 900 crore lost by 3.5 lakh victims has been recovered.
- B. Widespread user awareness about cyber fraud and improved multi-agency coordination emerged as the core elements of the strategy to tackle the menace.
- C. The discussions at a meeting convened recently by the Centre on issues related to financial cybersecurity and digital payment fraud left no one in doubt about the enormity of the challenge at hand.

- D. Improving response time in handling alerts on online fraud and enhanced information sharing, it was stressed, could provide the decisive edge in dealing with scamsters.
- BDAC
  - CABD
  - BCAD
  - ABCD
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- P. an unparalleled popularity  
Q. the lotus Temple has always enjoyed  
R. as shown by its pre-dominance in literature and art  
S. throughout the length and breadth of India from the earliest times down to the present day,
- QPSR
  - PSQR
  - QRSP
  - QPRS
10. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.**  
After hours of persistent pursuit and percecution, the little prince was at last deserted by the rabble and left to himself.
- Persistent
  - Rabble
  - Percecution
  - Deserted
11. **Select the most appropriate homophone to fill in the blank.**  
The doctors gave him more powerful drugs in the \_\_\_\_\_ hope that he might recover
- when
  - vein
  - wane
  - Vain
12. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word in the given sentence.  
In order to protect his identity, the spy had to efface all evidence of his true name and occupation from his personal documents
- reveal
  - clarify
  - maintain
  - Destroy
13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.  
Comprehend
- Distort
  - Deter
  - Assimilate
  - Complex



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

Suman has bought a black and a white shawl to wear with her new dress.

- A. to wear with
  - B. her new dress.
  - C. a black and a white shawl
  - D. Suman has bought
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Like a cat on a hot tin roof
- A. Studying very hard
  - B. Being lazy
  - C. Being in a state of agitation
  - D. Urging somebody not to worry about something
16. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined segment in the sentence given below.**  
Most of the people say that some people fight for the cause but most of them don't support it.
- A. Are out of frying pan onto the fire
  - B. Spare the rod and spoil the child
  - C. Pay only lip service
  - D. Mind their P's and Q's
17. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**  
The Greeks are considered to be a courageous race valuing the knowledge, beauty and wisdom.
- A. Wisidiom
  - B. Knowledge
  - C. Valuing
  - D. Courageous
18. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.  
The theory or philosophy of law
- A. Jurisprudence
  - B. Pacifism
  - C. Cosmology
  - D. Philia
19. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.  
Animals especially on a farm, regarded as an asset.
- A. Livid
  - B. Livery stable
  - C. Livelihood
  - D. Livestock
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**  
Tall promises were being made by each candidate
- A. Each candidate made tall promises.

- B. Each candidate can make tall promises.
- C. Each candidate has made tall promises.
- D. Each candidate was making tall promises.

**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.

As I (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the stream and began climbing the hill, the grunting and chattering increased, as though the langurs were trying to warn me of some hidden danger. I looked up and saw a great orange-gold leopard, sleek and spotted, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on a rock about twenty feet away from me. The leopard looked at me once, briefly and with an air of disdain, and then sprang into a dense thicket, making (3) \_\_\_\_\_ no sound as it melted into the shadows. I had (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the leopard in his quest for food. But a little later I heard the quickening cry of a barking deer as it fled through the forest. After that (5) \_\_\_\_\_, I did not see the leopard again.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
  - A. crossed
  - B. entered
  - C. drowned
  - D. Passed
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
  - A. swinging
  - B. dancing
  - C. poised
  - D. Playing
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
  - A. hardly
  - B. silently
  - C. loudly
  - D. Absolutely
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
  - A. disturbed
  - B. facilitated
  - C. helped
  - D. Prevented
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
  - A. encounter
  - B. quarrel
  - C. meeting
  - D. exchange

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. **A) Critical**

A. The tone of the passage is critical, as evidenced by the author's scrutiny of the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriage Act, pointing out how they do not accommodate the diverse ways people choose to marry in India. The author criticizes the legal rigidities and the lack of flexibility in recognizing different marriage ceremonies.

B. Incorrect because the passage expresses strong opinions about the need for legal reform, which indicates engagement rather than indifference.

C. Incorrect because there is no element of amusement or humor in the discussion of legal issues surrounding marriage; the tone is serious and focused on critique.

D. Incorrect because, although the passage shows understanding towards those affected by the rigid laws, the primary tone is not sympathetic but critical of the laws themselves

2. **B) Legal complexities and diversity in marriage practices**

A. because the passage argues against the necessity of adhering strictly to traditional ceremonies as mandated by law.

B. Correct because the passage discusses how current laws do not accommodate the diverse cultural practices of marriage in India and suggests a need for legal reform to address these complexities.

C. Incorrect as this is mentioned only to critique the judicial statement that a marriage is not about "song and dance," using it as a point to argue against the restrictive legal definitions of marriage.

D. Incorrect because the main focus is not on the Supreme Court's role per se but on the broader issue of how state laws regulate marriage ceremonies. The mention of the Supreme Court serves to highlight specific instances of the broader theme.

3. **A) The passage illustrates that the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, strictly requires "appropriate ceremonies" for a marriage to be considered "solemnised." The judges in the case ruled based on the absence of traditional "customs, rites, and rituals," suggesting a stringent adherence to prescribed ceremonies which does not necessarily accommodate the diverse ways in which modern Indian marriages are celebrated.**

B) Incorrect because the Act does not show flexibility; the case emphasizes the necessity of specific traditional ceremonies for legal recognition.

C) Incorrect as the case discussion focused more on the legal requirements rather than spiritual or religious elements.

D) Incorrect because the judges' ruling and the discussion suggest that the Act has not adapted to include modern practices but remains rigid in requiring traditional ceremonies.

4. **B) The passage points out that the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, has been criticized for its role in the fading of certain matrilineal practices in Indian cultures such as Aliyasantana and Marumakkathayam. This criticism stems from the Act's narrow reference to certain ceremonies, which neglects other culturally significant practices.**

A) Incorrect because the Act is critiqued for flattening, not preserving, diverse practices.

C) Incorrect as the Act does not address all forms of ceremonies equally, leading to criticisms of its rigidity and lack of inclusivity.

D) Incorrect because the passage indicates that modern ceremonies like Shubho Drishti and Arundhati Nakshatra are neglected under the Act, not included or praised.

5. **A) The SMA provides a secular framework for marriage but is hindered by its 30-day notice requirement and challenges from anti-conversion laws.**

The passage describes the Special Marriage Act (SMA) as appearing to offer a solution to the issues with religious ceremonies in marriage laws. However, it notes the act's shortcomings, such as the 30-day notice period and complications arising from anti-conversion laws, which make it citizen-unfriendly. This suggests that while the SMA aims to provide a secular framework, its effectiveness is limited by these issues.

B. Incorrect because the passage indicates that the SMA is undermined by specific legislative requirements and is not fully accepted.

C. Incorrect as the SMA does not mandate religious ceremonies; it is criticized for other reasons, such as the notice period and anti-conversion laws.

D. Incorrect because the passage suggests that the SMA, like the HMA, does not support all matrimonial customs, which necessitates a reformed version of the law.

6. **A) The passage criticizes the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) for promoting specific ceremonies like Sagai, Kanyadan, and Saptapadi, which leads to the fading of other matrilineal practices such as Aliyasantana in Karnataka and Marumakkathayam in Kerala. This shows that the HMA has contributed to the marginalization of various traditional practices.**

B. Incorrect because the passage points out that the HMA has led to the fading of certain practices, not greater acceptance.

C. Incorrect as the HMA does not eliminate religion-based ceremonies but rather specifies certain ones, leading to the exclusion of others.

D. Incorrect because the passage does not praise the HMA but criticizes it for its narrow focus, which undermines the diversity of matrimonial practices.

7. **D) Q and S**

The correct answers for S2 and S3 in the given paragraph are Q and S, respectively

**P: "Merely possessing expertise in a particular field is not enough to be an intellectual."**

This sentence, while insightful, does not directly relate to the specific theme of industry-academia collaboration and its challenges.

**R: "Chinese leader Xi Jinping orders greater protection for foreign companies' rights and intellectual property(IP)."**

This sentence is out of context as it shifts focus to a specific political action in China, which is not directly relevant to the general theme of industry-academia collaboration.

8. **B) CABD**

C: This is a starting sentence as it sets the stage for what follows, talking about the "discussions at a meeting."

A: Sentence A follows C logically as it provides specific details ("nearly 70 lakh mobile phone connections...") related to the "challenge" mentioned in C

B: Sentence B talks about "Widespread user awareness about cyber fraud and improved multi-agency coordination..." as a response or strategy, which seems to be a logical step after identifying the

problem and its scale (as mentioned in A).

D: Sentence D provides more detailed strategies ("Improving response time in handling alerts on online fraud and enhanced information sharing..."), which builds upon the general strategy mentioned in B.

9. **A) QPSR**

The Lotus Temple has always enjoyed an unparalleled popularity throughout the length and breadth of India from the earliest times down to the present day, as shown by its pre-dominance in literature and art

10. C) 'percecution' के बदले 'persecution' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'percecution' गलत वर्तनी है। सही spelling 'persecution' है।

- **persecution** will be used instead of 'percecution' because 'percecution' is spelt incorrectly. The correct spelling is 'persecution'.

11. D) **Vain** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में, sentence उम्मीद के विषय में बात कर रहा है, जिसे पूरी तरह से प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सकता। "Vain" शब्द का अर्थ है बिना किसी प्राप्ति या सफलता के। इसलिए, 'Vain' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

**Vain** (adjective) – producing no result; useless बेकार/ व्यर्थ

- **Vain** should be used because in this context, the sentence is speaking about a hope that cannot be fully realized. The word "vain" means without any achievement or success. Thus, "vain" would be the most appropriate choice.

12. D) **Efface** (verb) – Erase (a mark) from a surface; to eliminate or make indistinct. मिटाना

**Synonym: Destroy** (verb) – Put an end to the existence of something by damaging or attacking it. नष्ट करना

- **Reveal** (verb) – Make (previously unknown or secret information) known to others. प्रकट करना
- **Clarify** (verb) – Make (a statement or situation) less confused and more comprehensible. स्पष्ट करना
- **Maintain** (verb) – Cause or enable (a condition or situation) to continue. बनाए रखना

13. C) **Comprehend** (verb) – Understand, grasp, make sense of, catch. समझना

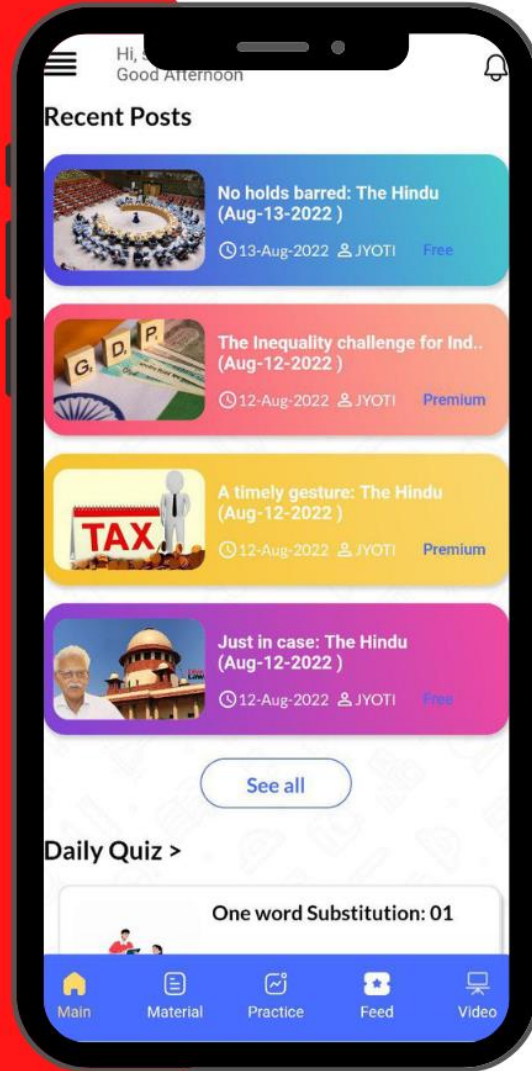
**Synonym: Assimilate** (verb) – Absorb, take in, understand, internalize. समझ लेना; आत्मसात् करना

- **Distort** (verb) – Twist out of shape, misrepresent, pervert, warp. विकृत करना
- **Deter** (verb) – Discourage, prevent, dissuade, inhibit. रोकना
- **Complex** (adjective) – Complicated, intricate, involved, convoluted. जटिल

14. C) 'a black and a white shawl' के बदले 'black and white shawls' का प्रयोग होगा यदि दो अलग अलग शॉल्स की बात हो रही है। या 'a black and white shawl' अगर एक ही शॉल की बात हो जिसमें काला और सफेद दोनों रंग हों।

- 'black and white shawls' will be used instead of 'a black and a white shawl' if referring to two separate shawls. Or 'a black and white shawl' if referring to a single shawl that is both black and white.
15. C) **Like a cat on a hot tin roof** (idiom) – Being in a state of agitation व्याकुलता की स्थिति में होना!
16. C) **pay only lip service to** (phrase) – to say that you agree with something but do nothing to support it  
के प्रति बनावटी हमदर्दी दिखाना
- **Out of frying pan onto the fire** (phrase) – move from one bad situation to another आसमान से गिरा खजूर पर अटका
  - **Spare the rod and spoil the child** (phrase) –if you don't punish your child, they will become spoiled बच्चे को दुलार में बिगाड़ देना
  - **Mind their P's and Q's** (phrase) –be careful and attentive सावधान और चौकस रहना
17. A) The correct spelling of 'Wisidiom' is 'Wisdom' which means "the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise" ज्ञान, समझदारी.
18. A) **Jurisprudence** (noun) – The theory or philosophy of law विधिशास्त्र
- **Pacifism** (noun) – the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable. अहिंसावाद
  - **Cosmology** (noun) – the science of the origin and development of the universe. ब्रह्माण्ड शास्त्र
  - **Philia** (noun) – affectionate regard or friendship in social contexts. मित्रता/स्नेह
19. D) **Livestock** (noun) – Animals, especially on a farm, regarded as an asset. पशुधन
- **Livid** (adjective) – Furiously angry. बहुत नाराज
  - **Livery stable** (noun) – A place where horses and vehicles are kept for hire. अश्वाशाला
  - **Livelihood** (noun) – A means of securing the necessities of life. आजीविका
20. D) Each candidate was making tall promises.
21. A) **'Crossed'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "crossed" का अर्थ होता है किसी नदी या धारा को पार करना। जबकि 'Entered' का अर्थ है प्रवेश करना, 'Drowned' का अर्थ है डूबना, और 'Passed' का अर्थ है गुजर जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Crossed'** should be used because it means to go over a river or stream. Whereas, 'Entered' means to go inside, 'Drowned' means to submerge in water, and 'Passed' implies moving past something, which don't fit in this context.
22. C) **'Poised'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "poised" का अर्थ होता है संतुलित या तैयार रहना। जबकि 'Swinging' का अर्थ है झूलना, 'Dancing' का अर्थ है नाचना, और 'Playing' का अर्थ है खेलना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Poised'** should be used because it means balanced or ready. Whereas, 'Swinging' implies moving back and forth, 'Dancing' means to move in a rhythmic way, and 'Playing' means engaging in an activity for enjoyment, which don't fit in this context.

23. D) '**Absolutely**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह बताता है कि तेंदुआ छिपकर जाता है और इस प्रक्रिया में उसका कोई शोर नहीं होता। जबकि 'Silently' और 'Hardly' दोनों इस संदर्भ में अधिक निश्चित नहीं होते, और 'Loudly' का अर्थ है जोर से, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- '**Absolutely**' should be used because it emphasizes that there was no sound at all when the leopard disappeared into the shadows. Whereas, 'Silently' and 'Hardly' don't provide that definitive emphasis, and 'Loudly' implies making a lot of noise, which doesn't fit in this context.
24. A) '**Disturbed**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "disturbed" का अर्थ होता है परेशान करना या विघटित करना। संदर्भ से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि व्यक्ति ने चीता को उसके खाने की खोज में विघटित किया। जबकि 'Facilitated' का अर्थ है सुविधा पहुंचाना, 'Helped' का अर्थ है मदद करना, और 'Prevented' का अर्थ है रोकना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- '**Disturbed**' should be used because it means to perturb or interrupt. In context, it is clear that the individual had interrupted the leopard in its quest for food. Whereas, 'Facilitated' means to make easier, 'Helped' means to assist, and 'Prevented' means to stop, which don't fit in this context.
25. A) '**Encounter**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "encounter" का अर्थ होता है अचानक मुलाकात होना। जबकि 'Quarrel' का अर्थ है झगड़ा, 'Meeting' का अर्थ है मुलाकात या सम्मेलन, और 'Exchange' का अर्थ है आदान-प्रदान, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- '**Encounter**' should be used because it means a sudden or unexpected meeting. Whereas, 'Quarrel' means a disagreement or fight, 'Meeting' means an arranged gathering or assembly, and 'Exchange' implies a mutual giving and receiving, which don't fit in this context.



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