

Under overlords: On Centre-Delhi government relations

Supreme Court **ruling** on **aldermen** **shows** Delhi's **vulnerability** to Centre's **dominance**

The Supreme Court of India's **verdict** **holding** that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi **exercises** independent authority while appointing aldermen to the Delhi Municipal Corporation, **underscores** the **utter** vulnerability of the elected Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to central **overlordship**. The **judgment** by a three-judge Bench rightly **relies on** the letter of the law governing Centre-Delhi government relations, as well as earlier judgments that **sought to strike a balance** between the elected **regime** and the appointed administrator. The final **outcome** of the latest round of **litigation** **is** not surprising, **given** that Delhi is a Union Territory, but it raises questions about the **relevance** of having an elected Assembly for Delhi. The Court held that the Lt. Governor's **power** to appoint persons with special knowledge in municipal administration **is** his **statutory** duty, and is not one that he should exercise on the basis of advice from Delhi's Council of Ministers. The power is an exception to the **constitutional provision** that says the L-G is **bound by the aid and advice** of Delhi's Council of Ministers on all matters in the State and **Concurrent Lists**, except for the subjects of public order, police and land. The Court has rejected the Delhi government's argument that municipal administration, being a State subject, the L-G could not have acted on his own.

Tracing the nature of the appointing power to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, as amended in 1993, a law **enacted** by Parliament, the Court noted that the Act identifies different authorities, each with distinct roles. While the Administrator was **empowered** to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge, the Speaker could nominate some legislators to serve on the Corporation by rotation. And that this showed that it was an independent statutory power. **A Constitution Bench** had sought in 2018 to **lay down a framework** to avoid **escalation** of issues arising from **differences** of opinion between the L-G and the Chief Minister. Such **differences**, as well as political **acrimony** between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre and the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, **have** been the principal driving force behind multiple conflicts and legal **tussles** over governing Delhi. However, in the ultimate analysis, it is the Centre that enjoys **the final say**. As the latest verdict on aldermen shows, the Constitution allows Parliament power to enact laws **in respect of** any matter on which the Delhi Assembly has **jurisdiction**, **unlike** other States which have an exclusive legislative **domain**. Parliament can also **amend** or **supersede** any law made by the Delhi Assembly. As **legislative** and **executive powers** are **coextensive**, this effectively means that the Delhi government can be **undermined** in any way the Centre wants. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Overlord** (noun) – Dominant ruler, master, supreme authority, sovereign, dictator
अधिपति
2. **Ruling** (noun) – Decision, judgment, verdict, decree, pronouncement निर्णय
3. **Aldermen** (noun) – an elected member of a city council. नगरसेवक
4. **Vulnerability** (noun) – Susceptibility, weakness, defenselessness, exposure, sensitivity कमजोरी
5. **Dominance** (noun) – Control, supremacy, authority, command, power प्रभुत्व
6. **Verdict** (noun) – Judgment, decision, ruling, conclusion, finding फैसला
7. **Hold** (verb) – Maintain, assert, state, declare, affirm मानना
8. **Exercise** (verb) – Use, employ, apply, implement, practice प्रयोग करना
9. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, underline, accentuate जोर देना
10. **Utter** (adjective) – Complete, total, absolute, sheer, thorough पूर्ण
11. **Overlordship** (noun) – Supreme authority, dominance, control, rule, sovereignty प्रभुत्व
12. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, trust in, count on, lean on, be dependent निर्भर होना
13. **Seek** (to) (verb) – Attempt to, try to, aim to, strive to, pursue कोशिश करना
14. **Strike a balance** (phrase) – Find a middle ground, compromise, balance, reconcile, harmonize संतुलन बनाना
15. **Regime** (noun) – Government, administration, system, authority, rule शासन
16. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, end result, conclusion परिणाम
17. **Litigation** (noun) – Legal action, lawsuit, legal proceedings, court case, judicial process मुकदमा
18. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, in light of, in view of, due to देखते हुए
19. **Relevance** (noun) – Importance, significance, pertinence, applicability, relation प्रासंगिकता
20. **Statutory** (adjective) – Legal, legislated, regulated, prescribed by law, lawful वैधानिक
21. **Constitutional** (adjective) – Relating to the constitution, charter-based, fundamental, legal, lawful संवैधानिक
22. **Provision** (noun) – Clause, stipulation, condition, requirement, term प्रावधान

23. **Bound** (adjective) – Obligated, constrained, restricted, compelled, tied बाध्य
24. **The aid and advice** (noun) – The support and recommendations provided, particularly by a council or advisory body, which in the context of governance, often refers to the guidance given by the Council of Ministers to the head of state or government.
25. **Concurrent list** (noun) – A list of subjects on which both the central and state governments can legislate. समवर्ती सूची
26. **Enact** (verb) – Pass, legislate, decree, make law, establish लागू करना
27. **Empower** (verb) – Authorize, enable, permit, entitle, give power सशक्त बनाना
28. **Constitution Bench** (noun) – A bench of the Supreme Court of India dealing with fundamental constitutional issues. संवैधानिक पीठ
29. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – Establish, set, prescribe, dictate, state स्थापित करना
30. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, system, plan, scheme, outline ढांचा
31. **Escalation** (noun) – Increase, intensification, rise, growth, expansion वृद्धि
32. **Differences** (noun) – Disagreements, disputes, conflicts, divergences, variations मतभेद
33. **Acrimony** (noun) – Bitterness, hostility, animosity, rancor, resentment कटुता
34. **Tussle** (noun) – Struggle, conflict, fight, skirmish, scuffle संघर्ष
35. **The final say** (noun) – Ultimate decision, last word, final authority, conclusive opinion अंतिम निर्णय
36. **In respect of** (phrase) – Regarding, concerning, in relation to, with reference to, pertaining to के संबंध में
37. **Jurisdiction** (noun) – Authority, control, power, domain, territory अधिकार क्षेत्र
38. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, in contrast to, dissimilar to, not like, unlike के विपरीत
39. **Domain** (noun) – Area, field, sphere, realm, territory क्षेत्र
40. **Amend** (verb) – Modify, alter, revise, change, adjust संशोधित करना
41. **Supersede** (verb) – Replace, overrule, supplant, displace, take over प्रतिस्थापित करना
42. **Legislative power** (noun) – The authority granted to legislative bodies (such as parliaments or assemblies) to create, amend, and enact laws. विधायी शक्ति
43. **Executive power** (noun) – The authority exercised by the executive branch of

government, which includes the implementation and enforcement of laws, management of public policies, and administration of public affairs. कार्यकारी शक्ति

44. **Coextensive** (adjective) – Overlapping, concurrent, coinciding, matching, coterminous सहविस्तृत

45. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, sabotage, erode, subvert, destabilize कमजोर करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Supreme Court Verdict:** The Supreme Court ruled that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi has independent authority to appoint aldermen to the Delhi Municipal Corporation.
2. **Central Overlordship:** This ruling highlights the vulnerability of Delhi's elected government to central dominance.
3. **Legal Basis:** The judgment relies on the law governing Centre-Delhi relations and previous judgments balancing elected and appointed authorities.
4. **Union Territory Status:** Delhi's status as a Union Territory contributes to this central dominance.
5. **Relevance of Assembly:** The ruling questions the relevance of having an elected Assembly for Delhi.
6. **L-G's Statutory Duty:** The L-G's power to appoint aldermen is seen as a statutory duty, not requiring the advice of Delhi's Council of Ministers.
7. **Constitutional Exception:** The L-G's power is an exception to the constitutional provision that the L-G must follow the advice of Delhi's Council of Ministers.
8. **Rejection of State Subject Argument:** The Court rejected Delhi government's argument that municipal administration is a State subject.
9. **Delhi Municipal Corporation Act:** The Act, as amended in 1993, identifies different authorities with distinct roles, including the L-G's power to nominate aldermen.
10. **Constitution Bench Framework:** A 2018 Constitution Bench sought to manage conflicts between the L-G and the Chief Minister.
11. **Political Acrimony:** Ongoing conflicts stem from political differences between the central ruling party (BJP) and the Delhi ruling party (AAP).
12. **Centre's Final Say:** The Centre has the ultimate authority in governing Delhi.
13. **Parliament's Power:** The Constitution allows Parliament to enact laws on matters within the Delhi Assembly's jurisdiction.
14. **Amend or Supersede:** Parliament can amend or supersede any law made by the Delhi Assembly.
15. **Undermining Potential:** The Delhi government can be undermined by the Centre due to overlapping legislative and executive powers.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the Supreme Court of India's verdict, which of the following statements is true regarding the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) in the National Capital Territory of Delhi?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The L-G must always act on the advice of Delhi's Council of Ministers, including when appointing aldermen to the Delhi Municipal Corporation.
 - B. The L-G has the authority to appoint persons with special knowledge in municipal administration without seeking the advice of Delhi's Council of Ministers.
 - C. The L-G can independently make decisions on public order, police, and land, but must follow the Council of Ministers' advice in all other areas.
 - D. The Delhi government's interpretation of the L-G's powers was upheld by the Supreme Court, emphasizing the primacy of elected officials in municipal administration.
2. **Which of the following best explains the implications of the Supreme Court's verdict on the governance structure of the National Capital Territory of Delhi?**
 - A. It underscores the dependency of the elected government of Delhi on central authority and limits its autonomy.
 - B. It enhances the role of the elected Assembly of Delhi by expanding its powers over municipal administration.
 - C. It nullifies the necessity of having an elected Assembly in Delhi, transferring all powers to the Lieutenant Governor.
 - D. It grants the Delhi government full autonomy in matters listed under the State and Concurrent Lists, excluding public order, police, and land.
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the relationship between the Centre and the Delhi government?**
 - A. The Delhi government has exclusive legislative powers similar to other States.
 - B. The L-G and the Chief Minister have equal decision-making powers in Delhi.
 - C. The Delhi government operates independently without interference from the Centre.
 - D. The Centre has overriding powers over the legislative and executive decisions of the Delhi government.
4. **The passage suggests that the principal driving force behind multiple conflicts and legal tussles over governing Delhi is _____.**
 - A. the lack of clarity in the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act
 - B. the political differences between the ruling parties at the Centre and in Delhi
 - C. the inefficiency of the Delhi government
 - D. the administrative overreach by the Lieutenant Governor
5. **In the context of the passage, the word "acrimony" most closely means**
 - A. cooperation
 - B. emphasizing
 - C. bitterness
 - D. sympathy

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.

If I only knew then, what I know now..." It is a ____1____ the young do not understand, for they do not know that they do not know. But as time passes — sometimes in days, sometimes in years — many people have wanted to go back and counsel, scold and guide themselves to better decisions. ____2____ may wish to go back only a day, and caution their past selves against that fifth drink, or the late-night binge eating.

For others, regrets can ____3____ years and even a lifetime. It may be that, after ____4____ at a job for decades, someone may want to go back and quit, when time and opportunity allowed them to. Now, AI is trying to allow people to talk to younger versions of themselves.

According to a report in The Guardian, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have built an AI-powered chatbot that simulates a user's older self and ____5____ advice. The profile picture is aged — wrinkles, grey hair and perhaps a bit of wisdom in the eyes — to make the faux time travel feel more authentic.

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

- A. Evident
- B. Imminent
- C. Resentment
- D. Lament

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

- A. A few
- B. few
- C. Some
- D. little

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

- A. Expand
- B. Span
- C. Dimension
- D. Stretch

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

- A. slaving away
- B. backing away
- C. pulling away
- D. melting away

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

- A. Stand out
- B. Dishes out
- C. Lay out
- D. Black out

11. **Select the word from the sentence below, which is an antonym for the word 'uniformity'**

A great variety of birds is found in the sanctuaries of India.

- A. Great
B. Variety
C. Found
D. Sanctuaries
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given phrase.**
Hit the sack
A. Running on the beach
B. Cracking the exams
C. Going to sleep
D. Making money quickly
13. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
A. Mountan
B. Weekend
C. Dessert
D. Journey
14. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
A. Equally
B. Unwilling
C. Argument
D. Occured
15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed
A. Pretentious
B. Imperious
C. Airy
D. Glorious
16. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
A. ettiquete
B. rationalisation
C. elopement
D. occasion
17. **The following sentence has been divided into four segments. One of them contains an error. Select the segment that contains the error from the given options.**
I am understanding; / you like her/ because she has /a generous nature
A. you like her
B. I am understanding;
C. a generous nature
D. because she has
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
The repetitive and monotonous task of data entry made the work seem incredibly long and tedious
A. Pious

- B. Interesting
C. Precarious
D. Threatening
19. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.**
Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand
A. he could
B. so tired that
C. scarcely stand.
D. Joe was
20. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A woman having more than one husband at the same time
A. Endogamy
B. Polymathy
C. Polyandry
D. Monogamy
21. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined part in the given sentence:**
Sohan was very much perplexed to find that his younger brother Mohan had taken poison
A. At any rate
B. At his wit's end
C. At logger heads
D. At his disposal
22. **Select the most suitable expression that can substitute the underlined part of the sentence without any change in meaning.**
Planning to go for a movie just before the final-year examination is nothing but Skating on thin ice
A. doing hard work
B. being in a risky situation
C. enjoying the moment
D. going to hill stations
23. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**
A society or company provides these convenient features
A. Equipment
B. Facilitate
C. System
D. Amenities
24. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The speaker delivered a profound speech that left the audience deeply moved.
A. Deep
B. Inventive
C. Shallow
D. Occult

25. Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.

He behaved ruthlessly with his junior, to say the least

- A. Unexpectedly
- B. Inhumanly
- C. Weirdly
- D. Politely

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. **B) The L-G has the authority to appoint persons with special knowledge in municipal administration without seeking the advice of Delhi's Council of Ministers.**

A is incorrect because the Supreme Court explicitly stated that the L-G does not need to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers when appointing aldermen.

B is correct as it aligns with the Court's ruling that the L-G's power to appoint persons with special knowledge in municipal administration is an independent statutory duty.

C is incorrect because while the L-G does have independent authority over public order, police, and land, the question pertains specifically to the appointment of aldermen, where the L-G also acts independently.

D is incorrect because the Court rejected the Delhi government's argument and did not uphold the primacy of elected officials in this matter.

2. **A) It underscores the dependency of the elected government of Delhi on central authority and limits its autonomy.**

B is incorrect because the verdict does not enhance the role of the elected Assembly but rather highlights its limitations.

A is correct as it accurately captures the essence of the verdict, which underscores the vulnerability of the elected government to central authority.

C is incorrect because the verdict does not nullify the necessity of having an elected Assembly; it merely clarifies the limited autonomy of the elected government.

D is incorrect because the Delhi government's autonomy is not fully granted even in matters listed under the State and Concurrent Lists; the L-G retains certain independent powers.

3. **D) The Centre has overriding powers over the legislative and executive decisions of the Delhi government.**

A is incorrect because the passage states that unlike other States, the Delhi government does not have exclusive legislative powers.

D is correct as the passage clearly indicates that the Centre enjoys the final say and can amend or supersede any law made by the Delhi Assembly.

C is incorrect because the passage describes how the Centre can undermine the Delhi government.

B is incorrect as the passage mentions that the Constitution Bench sought to lay down a framework to avoid issues between the L-G and the Chief Minister, implying they do not have equal decision-making powers.

4. **B) the political differences between the ruling parties at the Centre and in Delhi**

A is incorrect because the passage focuses on the political acrimony rather than a lack of clarity in the Act.

B is correct as the passage directly mentions that political differences between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre and the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi are the main cause of conflicts.

C is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the inefficiency of the Delhi government as a cause for the conflicts.

D is incorrect because while administrative overreach by the L-G might be a factor, the passage emphasizes political differences as the principal driving force.

5. C) **bitterness**

C is correct as "acrimony" refers to bitterness or ill feeling, which fits the context of political conflicts described in the passage.

6. D) Lament' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lament' का अर्थ है पछताना या शोक करना। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि जब समय बीतता है, तो कई लोग वापस जाकर खुद को बेहतर निर्णय लेने के लिए सलाह, डांट और मार्गदर्शन देना चाहते हैं। जबकि 'Evident' का अर्थ है स्पष्ट, 'Imminent' का अर्थ है आसन्न, और 'Resentment' का अर्थ है क्रोध या नाराजगी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Lament' will be used because 'lament' means to regret or mourn. The sentence mentions that as time passes, many people wish to go back and counsel, scold, and guide themselves to make better decisions. This word is perfectly fitting here. Whereas, 'Evident' means clear, 'Imminent' means about to happen, and 'Resentment' means anger or bitterness, which do not fit in this context.

7. C) 'Some' का use होगा क्योंकि "some" का अर्थ होता है "some," जो संख्या या मात्रा को इंगित करता है। sentence में mention है कि कुछ लोग केवल एक दिन पीछे जाना चाहते हैं और अपने पिछले स्वयं को उस पांचवें ड्रिंक या देर रात की बिंज ईटिंग के खिलाफ चेतावनी देना चाहते हैं, इसलिए 'Some' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'A few' और 'Few' का अर्थ भी "कुछ" होता है, लेकिन 'A few' का उपयोग आमतौर पर सकारात्मक संदर्भ में किया जाता है, और 'Few' का अर्थ है "बहुत कम," जो नकारात्मक संदर्भ में होता है। 'Little' का अर्थ है "थोड़ा," जो मात्रा के संदर्भ में प्रयोग होता है, लेकिन यहां यह उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Some' will be used because it means "a few," which indicates a number or amount. The sentence mentions that some people may wish to go back only a day and caution their past selves against that fifth drink or late-night binge eating, making 'Some' fitting here. While 'A few' and 'Few' also mean "a few," 'A few' is usually used in a positive sense, and 'Few' means "very few," which is used in a negative context. 'Little' means "a small amount," used in the context of quantity, but it is not appropriate here.

8. B) 'Span' का use होगा क्योंकि "span" का अर्थ होता है एक निश्चित समयावधि को शामिल करना।

sentence में mention किया गया है कि कुछ लोगों के पछतावे सालों और यहां तक कि पूरी जिंदगी तक फैले होते हैं, इसलिए 'span' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Expand' का अर्थ है विस्तार करना, 'Dimension' का अर्थ है आयाम और 'Stretch' का अर्थ है खींचना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Span' will be used because it means to cover or include a specific period of time. The sentence mentions that for some people, regrets can extend over years and even a lifetime, making 'span' fitting here. Whereas, 'Expand' means to increase in size, 'Dimension' means an aspect or feature, and 'Stretch' means to extend or pull, which don't fit in this context.

9. A) 'Slaving away' का use होगा क्योंकि "slaving away" का अर्थ होता है कठोर परिश्रम करना, अक्सर बिना प्रशंसा या पुरस्कार के। sentence में mention किया गया है कि कोई व्यक्ति दशकों से एक नौकरी पर काम कर रहा है और वह समय पर वापस जाकर इस्तीफा देना चाहता है, इसलिए 'slaving away' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'backing away' का अर्थ है पीछे हटना, 'pulling away' का अर्थ है दूर जाना, और 'melting away' का अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे गायब हो जाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Slaving away' will be used because it means working very hard, often without acknowledgment or reward. The sentence mentions someone working at a job for decades and wanting to go back in time to quit, making 'slaving away' fitting here. Whereas, 'backing away' means to retreat, 'pulling away' means to move away, and 'melting away' means to disappear gradually, which don't fit in this context.

10. B) 'Dishes out' का use होगा क्योंकि "dishes out" का अर्थ होता है परामर्श देना या सलाह देना। Sentence में mention है कि एक AI-powered chatbot उपयोगकर्ता के बड़े संस्करण का अनुकरण करता है और सलाह देता है, इसलिए 'dishes out' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Stand out' का अर्थ है बाहर खड़ा होना, 'Lay out' का अर्थ है विस्तृत रूप से प्रस्तुत करना, और 'Black out' का अर्थ है बेहोश हो जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Dishes out' will be used because it means to give out advice or counsel. The sentence mentions that an AI-powered chatbot simulates an older version of the user and provides advice, making 'dishes out' fitting here. Whereas, 'Stand out' means to be noticeable, 'Lay out' means to arrange or plan in detail, and 'Black out' means to lose consciousness, which don't fit in this context.

11. **B) Uniformity (noun)** – The quality or state of being uniform; overall sameness, homogeneity. एकरूपता

Antonym: Variety (noun) – The quality or state of being different or diverse; the absence of uniformity or monotony. विविधता

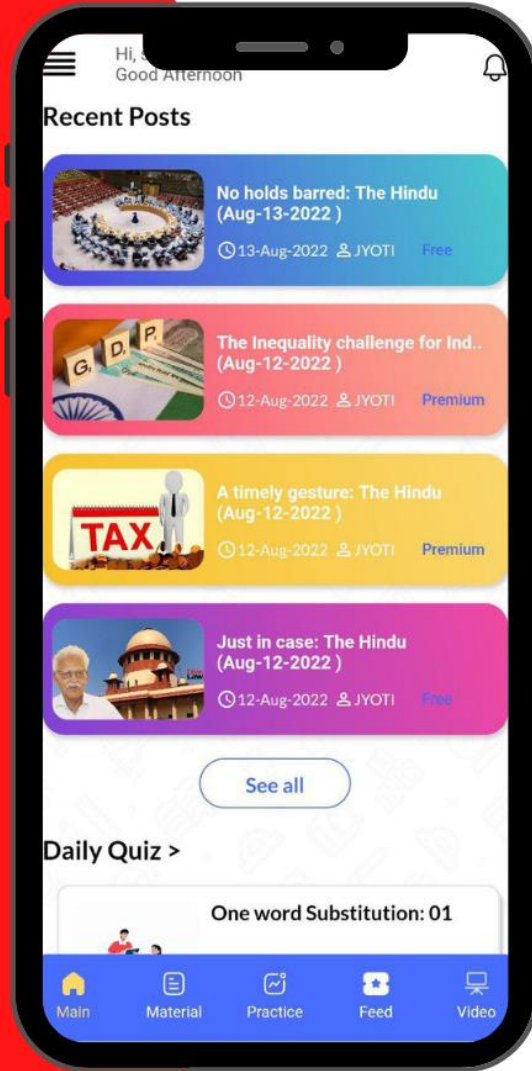
- **Great** (adjective) – Of an extent, amount, or intensity considerably above average. महान
- **Found** (verb) – Past tense of find; to discover or perceive by chance or unexpectedly. मिला
- **Sanctuaries** (noun) – A place of refuge or safety. अभयारण्य

12. **C) Hit the sack (phrase)** – Going to sleep सोने जाना

13. A) The correct spelling of 'Mountan' is 'Mountain' which means "a large natural elevation of the earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level" पर्वत, पहाड़.
14. D) The correct spelling of '**Occured**' is 'Occurred,' which means "to happen or take place" घटित होना, होना.
15. A) **Pretentious** (adjective) – Attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed दिखावटी/ बनावटी
- **Imperious** (adjective) – assuming power or authority without justification; arrogant and domineering. अभिमानी
 - **Airy** (adjective) – giving an impression of being unconcerned or not serious, typically about something taken seriously by others. हलका
 - **Glorious** (adjective) – having, worthy of, or bringing fame or admiration. गौरवशाली/ भव्य
16. A) The correct spelling of '**ettiquete**' is 'etiquette' which means "the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group" शिष्टाचार, सदाचार.
17. B) **am understanding**' के बदले 'understand' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'understand' एक Stative Verb है जो कि Present Continuous Tense में प्रयुक्त नहीं होता है; जैसे— I understand you like her because she has a generous nature.
- Note:** Stative verbs often relate to: thoughts and opinions: **agree, believe, doubt, guess, imagine, know, mean, recognise, remember, suspect, think, understand.**
- 'understand' will be used instead of 'am understanding' because 'understand' is a Stative Verb which is not used in Present Continuous Tense; Like— I understand you like her because she has a generous nature.
18. B) **Monotonous** (adjective) – Dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest. नीरस
- Antonym: Interesting** (adjective) – Arousing curiosity or interest; holding or catching the attention. दिलचस्प
- **Pious** (adjective) – Devoutly religious. धार्मिक
 - **Precaious** (adjective) – Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. अस्थिर
 - **Threatening** (adjective) – Having a hostile or deliberately frightening quality or manner. धमकी भरा
19. C) '**scarely**' के बदले 'scarcely' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'scarely' का spelling गलत है; जैसे— Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand.
- 'scarcely' will be used instead of 'scarely' because 'scarely' is a spelling error; Like— Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand.

20. C) **Polyandry** (noun) – A woman having more than one husband at the same time. बहुपतित्व
- **Endogamy** (noun) – The custom of marrying within one's own community or tribe. अंतर्विवाह
 - **Polymathy** (noun) – Knowledge of many subjects. बहुज्ञता
 - **Monogamy** (noun) – The practice of being married to one person at a time. एकपत्नी प्रथा
21. B) **At his wit's end** (idiom) – Very much perplexed अत्यधिक उलझन में
- At any rate (phrase) – Regardless of circumstances, anyway, in any case, nevertheless, anyhow किसी भी हाल में
 - At loggerheads (phrase) – In conflict, in disagreement, at odds, quarrelling, in opposition मतभेद में
 - At his disposal (phrase) – Available for use, accessible, ready to use, on hand, at one's command उपलब्ध होना
22. B) **Skating on thin ice – being in a risky situation** जोखिम भरी स्थिति में होना
23. D) **Amenities** (noun) – A society or company provides these convenient features सुविधाएं
- **Equipment** (noun) – the necessary items for a particular purpose उपकरण
 - **Facilitate** (verb) – to make an action or process easy or easier सुगम बनाना
 - **System** (noun) – a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network प्रणाली
24. C) **Profound** (adjective) – Having deep insight or understanding; intense, thorough, meaningful. गहन
- Antonym: **Shallow** (adjective) – Lacking depth of intellect or knowledge; superficial, trivial, simple. उथला
- **Deep** (adjective) – Extending far down from the top or surface; profound, intense. गहरा
 - **Inventive** (adjective) – Having the ability to create or design new things; creative, imaginative. आविष्कारशील
 - **Occult** (adjective) – Relating to mystical, supernatural, or magical powers or phenomena; hidden, mysterious. गुप्त
25. B) **Ruthlessly** (adverb) – Without pity or compassion for others; cruelly, mercilessly, brutally. निर्मम ढंग से
- Synonym: **Inhumanly** (adverb) – In a manner lacking human qualities of compassion and mercy; cruelly, mercilessly. अमानवीय ढंग से

- **Unexpectedly** (adverb) – In a way that is not expected; suddenly, surprisingly. अप्रत्याशित ढंग से
- **Weirdly** (adverb) – In a strange or unusual way; bizarrely. विचित्र ढंग से
- **Politely** (adverb) – In a respectful and considerate manner; courteously, kindly. विनम्र ढंग से



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