

More and better: On India's educational infrastructure

India needs good educational **infrastructure** in all districts

The Supreme Court of India's **ruling** that there can be no reservation based on residence in admission to PG medical courses **is consistent with** the constitutional **mandate** of equality before law, but may **adversely** affect the priorities and health-care requirements of the States. The Court has reminded everyone that there is only one 'domicile' for Indians, and **that** the right to **seek** admissions anywhere in the country **must** be open to residents of all States. This is **in line with** a series of **verdicts** on the question whether there can be admissions based on institutional preference or residential requirements. The view is that **institutional preference**, that is choosing candidates who had passed out of an institution for admission to PG courses in the same institution, **is** constitutionally permissible; and that admission to UG medical courses can have a residential requirement, primarily because the basic medical needs of a region can be better **addressed** by admitting more people from the same background so that doctors emerging from the system would **render** public service there. However, on the principle that higher qualifications **brook** no **compromise** with **merit**, the **prevailing** view is that PG courses should not be open for any such residential preference, as the need to attract the best talent is higher.

Many States do fill up PG seats in government medical colleges, and seats available to them in private colleges, **barring** those that are filled on an all-India basis, with candidates drawn from their own States. **Candidates** from other States **can** enter PG medical courses in a State only through the national quota. **This system**, now **impermissible**, **has** its own **justification**, as PG students form the backbone of medical services in government hospitals. **In addition**, such students have the additional **incentive** of joining government service and, **thereby**, acquiring eligibility to apply for PG courses as 'service candidates'. The southern States, **in particular**, have invested heavily in medical education, establishing a college in almost every district. These would like to **accommodate** more candidates from their States to keep their medical services going and **with an eye on** future **manpower** needs. It is expected that **aggrieved** States may seek a review of this judgment. It is likely that the verdict will **result in** the Union government finding one more way to restrict the role of the States in medical admissions. Interestingly, the **distinction** the Court has **made** between PG and UG courses when it comes to prioritising local needs may be a **sound** argument in itself for questioning the continuing **tendency to centralise** even UG admissions across **streams**. The solution **lies** in creating educational infrastructure of near-uniform quality in every district. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Barring** (preposition) – Excepting, excluding, without, except for, exclusive of को छोड़कर

Vocabulary

1. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, foundation, base, structure, system ढांचा
difference of opinion or intention सहन नहीं करना
2. **Ruling** (noun) – Decision, judgment, verdict, decree, order फैसला
3. **Consistent** (with) (adjective) – Compatible, in harmony, aligned, coherent, uniform सुसंगत
4. **Mandate** (noun) – Order, directive, decree, command, instruction आदेश
5. **Adversely** (adverb) – Unfavorably, negatively, harmfully, detrimentally, disadvantageously प्रतिकूल रूप से
6. **Domicile** (noun) – Residence, home, dwelling, abode, habitation निवास
7. **Seek** (verb) – Search for, look for, pursue, strive for, attempt खोजना
8. **In line with** (phrase) – In accordance with, consistent with, in agreement with, as per, in keeping with के अनुसार
9. **Verdict** (noun) – Judgment, decision, ruling, pronouncement, conclusion निर्णय
10. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, handle, tackle, attend to, resolve समाधान करना
11. **Render** (verb) – Provide, deliver, offer, supply, extend प्रदान करना
12. **Brook no something** (phrase) – to not allow or accept something, especially a
13. **Compromise** (noun) – Settlement, agreement, concession, negotiation, middle ground समझौता
14. **Merit** (noun) – an advantage or a good quality of somebody/something लाभ या गुण
15. **Prevailing** (adjective) – Existing, current, widespread, predominant, prevalent प्रचलित
16. **Impermissible** (adjective) – Forbidden, prohibited, not allowed, unlawful, inadmissible अस्वीकार्य
17. **Justification** (noun) – Reasoning, explanation, defense, argument, validation तर्क
18. **In addition** (phrase) – Moreover, furthermore, besides, additionally, on top of that इसके अलावा
19. **Incentive** (noun) – Motivation, encouragement, stimulus, inducement, reward प्रोत्साहन
20. **Thereby** (adverb) – As a result, thus, consequently, hence, in this way इसके द्वारा

21. **In particular** (phrase) – Especially, specifically, notably, particularly, primarily
विशेष रूप से
22. **Accommodate** (verb) – Adjust, adapt, provide for, house, fit in समायोजित करना
23. **With an eye on** (phrase) – With the intention of, aiming for, considering, keeping in mind, planning for को ध्यान में रखते हुए
24. **Manpower** (noun) – Workforce, labor, personnel, human resources, staff
जनशक्ति
25. **Aggrieved** (adjective) – Upset, distressed, wronged, hurt, offended पीड़ित
26. **Result in** (phrase) – Lead to, cause, bring about, end in, give rise to के परिणामस्वरूप होना
27. **Make the distinction** (phrase) – Differentiate, distinguish, set apart, contrast, separate अंतर करना
28. **Sound** (adjective) – Logical, reasonable, valid, solid, reliable तर्कसंगत
29. **Tendency** (noun) – Inclination, habit, propensity, disposition, trend प्रवृत्ति
30. **Centralise** (verb) – Consolidate, concentrate, unify, bring together, coordinate केंद्रित करना
31. **Stream** (noun) – Field, discipline, branch, sector, division विभाग, क्षेत्र
32. **Lie** (verb) – Exist, rest, be found, reside, be located स्थित होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court ruled that no reservation based on residence is allowed for PG medical course admissions.
2. This decision aligns with the constitutional mandate of equality before law.
3. However, it may negatively impact States' healthcare priorities and requirements.
4. The Court reiterated that Indians have only one 'domicile' and can seek admission anywhere in the country.
5. Institutional preference for PG admissions is constitutionally allowed, but not residential preference.
6. UG medical admissions can consider residential requirements to address regional healthcare needs.
7. For PG courses, merit takes precedence over regional preference due to the need for highly skilled doctors.
8. Many States currently fill PG seats in government and private colleges with local candidates.
9. The ruling now prohibits this practice, affecting States' ability to retain medical talent.
10. PG students play a crucial role in government hospitals, making local admissions beneficial.
11. Southern States, in particular, have invested heavily in medical education infrastructure.
12. These States prefer admitting local students to maintain healthcare services and future workforce needs.
13. Aggrieved States may seek a review of the judgment due to its potential impact on their medical services.
14. The ruling may further centralize medical admissions, reducing State autonomy.
15. The long-term solution lies in improving educational infrastructure uniformly across all districts.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best represents the Supreme Court's stance on PG medical admissions?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. States can reserve seats for candidates based on residence.
 - B. Institutional preference is permissible, but residential preference is not.
 - C. Both institutional and residential preferences are allowed.
 - D. There are no restrictions on States regarding PG admissions.
2. **Why do some States prefer to reserve PG medical seats for their own residents?**
 - A. To improve their ranking in national medical education.
 - B. To ensure that their hospitals have a steady supply of doctors.
 - C. To comply with the Supreme Court's ruling.
 - D. To limit the number of candidates from other States.
3. **What is the key difference highlighted by the Supreme Court between UG and PG medical admissions?**
 - A. UG admissions allow residential preference, but PG admissions do not.
 - B. PG admissions prioritize merit, while UG admissions do not.
 - C. UG admissions are based on institutional preference, while PG admissions are not.
 - D. There is no difference; both follow the same admission criteria.
4. **What can be inferred about the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling on State-run medical services?**
 - A. It may create a shortage of doctors willing to serve in State government hospitals.
 - B. It will improve the quality of medical education in private institutions.
 - C. States will no longer be able to run their own medical colleges.
 - D. The ruling will have no significant impact on medical services in the States.
5. **Based on the passage, what is a potential long-term solution to the issue of State versus national medical admissions?**
 - A. Establishing more private medical colleges across the country.
 - B. Centralizing all medical admissions under the Union government.
 - C. Creating a uniform quality of educational infrastructure in every district.
 - D. Allowing States to fully control medical admissions.
6. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Generic
 - A. Definite
 - B. Universal
 - C. Precise
 - D. Specific
7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.
Raise the bar
 - A. To raise the price

- B. To grow taller
C. To set higher goals
D. To win a competition
8. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Had you / not reached in time, / we will have / lost our lives.
A. not reached in time
B. Had you
C. we will have
D. lost our lives
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Bang for the buck
A. More value for money
B. Less value for money
C. Dash against something
D. A sorrowful heart
10. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.**
The toy drummer plays the drum if you press the button at the back
A. playing the drum if you pressed
B. will play the drum if you will press
C. played the drum if you are pressing
D. No substitution
11. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.**
While washing your hands, rub them together for 20 seconds to remove the microbes on them.
A. No substitution
B. the microbes on their
C. the microbes on they
D. the microbes on those
12. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself
A. Trivet
B. Trilogy
C. Triplet
D. Triumvir
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**
"Everything is going to be alright," said the doctor.
A. The doctor said that everything will be alright.
B. The doctor said that everything was going to be alright.
C. The doctor said that everything is going to be alright.

- D. The doctor said that everything are going to be alright
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
India is formally moving ahead to _____ 21 MIG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia along with upgrades of their existing fleets.
- A. procure
 - B. achieve
 - C. accomplish
 - D. Advance
15. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. When we got near, we saw it was the steam rising from hot springs.
 - B. We saw in the distance a great column of smoke.
 - C. We wondered if it came from a chimney or a burning house.
 - D. We thought of taking a bath in the hot water.
- A. BCAD
 - B. ACDB
 - C. BCDA
 - D. ABCD
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Work and domestic _____ made Kajal short-tempered.
- A. gravities
 - B. weights
 - C. forces
 - D. Pressures
17. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. But the eagle, in wrath, gave the beetle a flap of his wing, and straightaway seized upon the hare and devoured him.
 - B. The beetle therefore interceded with the eagle, begging of him not to kill the poor suppliant, and pleaded with him not to kill so small an animal.
 - C. When the eagle flew away, the beetle flew after him, to learn where his nest was.
 - D. A hare, being pursued by an eagle, took himself for refuge to the nest of a beetle, whom he begged to save him.
- A. DBAC
 - B. ACDB
 - C. CBAD
 - D. DCAB
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body
- A. Drove
 - B. Cluster
 - C. Throng

D. Crowd

19. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them contains an error.

Select the part that contains the error from the given options.

You must avoid riding in a crowded bus / or travelling in a metro / during rush hour / as both are quiet unpleasant experiences.

- A. or travelling in a metro
- B. You must avoid riding in a crowded bus
- C. as both are quiet unpleasant experiences
- D. during rush hour

20. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.

- A. Exterminated
- B. Voilence
- C. Wildernesses
- D. Unmanageable

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

What every tourist must take back from Bhutan is pure honey, especially Putka, "Antibiotic" honey produced (1) _____ Melipona Bees (stingless bees) a breed found in protected areas (2) _____ 700 to 1,500 metres above sea level. Due (3) _____ their small size, they can get larger nutrients (4) _____ regular honeybees. It has a tangy/sour taste and can (5) _____ your sore throat in a matter of minutes

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

- A. with
- B. by
- C. through
- D. Of

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

- A. after
- B. between
- C. among
- D. Midst

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

- A. for
- B. to
- C. of
- D. At

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

- A. and
- B. then
- C. though
- D. Than

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

- A. appease
- B. pacify
- C. calm
- D. soothe

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. B) The Supreme Court ruled that while institutions may prefer their own graduates for PG courses, reserving seats based on a candidate's residence is unconstitutional. The rationale is that higher qualifications must prioritize merit over regional preference.
2. B) The passage explains that many States, particularly in the south, have invested heavily in medical education and rely on PG students to support their medical infrastructure. These students often join government hospitals, making them essential to the State's healthcare system.
3. A) The Court acknowledged that UG admissions can have a residential requirement to cater to the region's basic medical needs. However, it held that PG admissions must prioritize merit over regional considerations to ensure the best talent is attracted to advanced medical training.
4. A) The passage states that PG students form the backbone of government hospitals and are incentivized to join State-run medical services. With the ruling disallowing reservation based on residence, States may struggle to retain local students, leading to potential shortages in medical personnel.
5. C) The passage concludes by suggesting that the real solution is to develop educational infrastructure of near-uniform quality in every district. This would reduce the reliance on residential quotas and allow fair competition based on merit, addressing concerns about regional disparities in medical education.
6. B) **Generic** (adjective) – Characteristic of or relating to a class or group; not specific, general. सामान्य
 Synonym: **Universal** (adjective) – Applicable to all cases, general, omnipresent. सार्वभौमिक
 - **Definite** (adjective) – Clearly stated or decided, certain, unambiguous. स्पष्ट
 - **Precise** (adjective) – Marked by exactness and accuracy of expression or detail. सटीक
 - **Specific** (adjective) – Clearly defined or identified, particular, distinct. विशिष्ट
7. C) **Raise the bar** (idiom) – To set higher goals or standards उच्च मानक तय करना
8. C) **'we will have'** के बदले 'we would have' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Conditional Past Tense का प्रयोग किया गया है, और इसे यथासम्भव सही रूप में रखना चाहिए; जैसे– If he had studied, he would have passed.
 - 'we would have' will be used instead of 'we will have' because Conditional Past Tense is used here, and it should be maintained correctly; Like— If he had studied, he would have passed.
9. A) **Bang for the buck** (idiom) — More value for money धन की पूरी कीमत
10. D) No substitution
11. A) No substitution

12. B) **Trilogy** (noun) – A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself **त्रैतीयक**

- **Trivet** (noun) – a three-legged stand for supporting a hot dish or pot. **तीन पायों वाला स्टैंड**
- **Triplet** (noun) – one of three children or animals born at the same time from the same pregnancy **तिड़वाँ (शिशु)**
- **Triumvir** (noun) – one of three rulers who share power, especially in ancient Rome. **त्रैतीयक (शासक)**

13. B) The doctor said that everything was going to be alright.

14. 'A) **Procure**' का use होगा क्योंकि "procure" का अर्थ होता है प्राप्त करना या खरीदना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारत अधिकारिक रूप से Russia से MIG-29 और Sukhoi-30MKI लड़ाकू विमानों को प्राप्त कर रहा है, इसलिए 'procure' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Achieve' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना (मुकाम के रूप में), 'Accomplish' का अर्थ है पूरा करना, और 'Advance' का अर्थ है आगे बढ़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Procure' should be used because it means to obtain or purchase. The sentence indicates that India is formally moving ahead to obtain MIG-29 and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia, making 'procure' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Achieve' implies reaching a goal, 'Accomplish' means to complete, and 'Advance' means to move forward, which don't fit in this context.

15. A) **BCAD**

We saw in the distance a great column of smoke. We wondered if it came from a chimney or a burning house. When we got near, we saw it was the steam rising from hot springs. We thought of taking a bath in the hot water.

16. D) '**Pressures**' का use होगा क्योंकि "pressures" का अर्थ होता है दबाव या तनाव, जिससे किसी को परेशानी हो सकती है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि काजल को काम और घर की वजह से चिड़चिड़ापन आ गया था, इसलिए 'pressures' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'gravities' का अर्थ होता है गुरुत्वाकर्षण, 'weights' का अर्थ है भार और 'forces' का अर्थ है बल जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Pressures**' should be used because it signifies stress or tension that can lead to someone feeling irritable. The sentence mentions that Kajal became short-tempered due to work and domestic responsibilities, making 'pressures' appropriate here. Whereas, 'gravities' refers to gravitational pull, 'weights' means heaviness, and 'forces' means strength or power, which don't fit in this context.

17. A) **DBAC**

A hare, being pursued by an eagle, took himself for refuge to the nest of a beetle, whom he begged to save him. The beetle therefore interceded with the eagle, begging of him not to kill the poor suppliant, and pleaded with him not to kill so small an animal. . But the eagle, in wrath, gave the beetle a flap of his wing, and straightaway seized upon the hare and devoured him. . When the eagle flew away, the beetle flew after him, to learn where his nest was.

18. A) **Drove** (noun) – A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body **जानवरों की टोली**

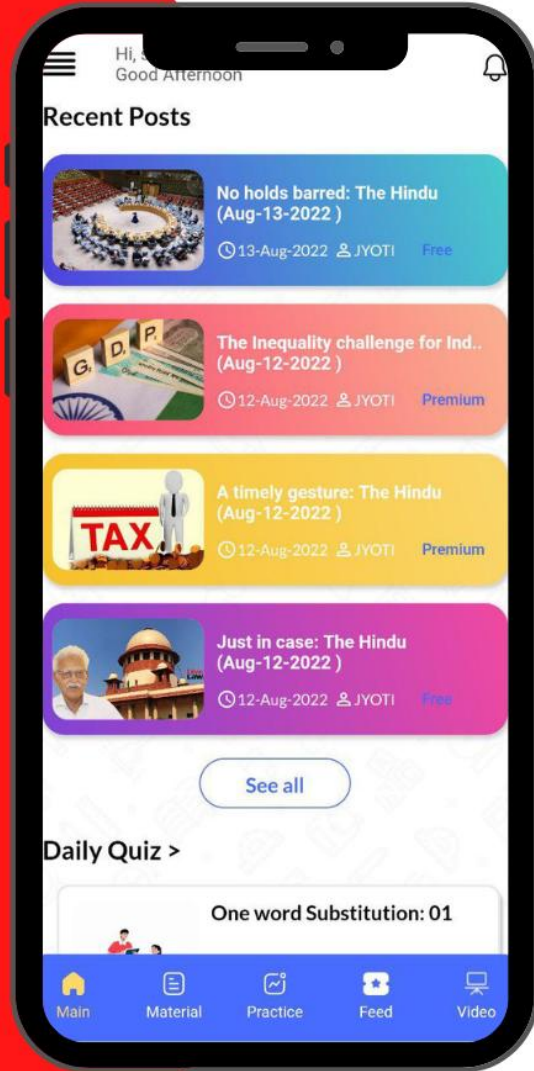
- **Cluster** (noun) – A group of similar things or people positioned or occurring closely together
समूह
 - **Throng** (noun) – A large, densely packed crowd of people or animals **भीड़**
 - **Crowd** (noun) – A large number of people gathered together **मानव समूह**
19. C) 'quiet' के बदले 'quite' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'quiet' का अर्थ होता है 'शांत' जबकि 'quite' का अर्थ होता है 'काफी' और यहाँ पर संदर्भ 'अप्रिय अनुभवों' की तीव्रता को बढ़ाने के लिए है। जैसे— यात्रा थकाऊ थी परंतु दृश्यावली बहुत सुंदर थी।
- 'quite' will be used instead of 'quiet' because 'quiet' means 'silent' while 'quite' means 'very' or 'to a considerable extent', and here the context is to intensify the unpleasantness of the experiences. Like— The journey was exhausting but the scenery was quite beautiful.
20. B) The incorrect spelling among the given options is '**Voilence**'. The correct spelling is 'violence'
हिंसात्मकता, हिंसा.
21. B) '**By**' का use होगा क्योंकि honey का production Melipona Bees द्वारा होता है। '**By**' का use किसी कार्य को करने वाले का संदर्भ में होता है, जैसे कि यहाँ पर Melipona Bees होते हैं। '**With**' का अर्थ होता है 'साथ में', '**Through**' का अर्थ होता है 'के माध्यम से', और '**Of**' का अर्थ होता है 'का', जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- '**By**' should be used because the honey is produced by Melipona Bees. '**By**' is used in the context of who is performing the action, as in Melipona Bees in this case. Whereas, '**With**' means 'along with', '**Through**' means 'by means of', and '**Of**' means 'belonging to', which don't fit in this context.
22. B) '**Between**' का use होगा क्योंकि "between" का अर्थ होता है किसी दो सीमाओं के बीच में। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह मधुमक्खियाँ 700 से 1500 मीटर की ऊँचाई के बीच पाई जाती हैं, इसलिए 'between' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'After' का अर्थ है बाद में, 'Among' का अर्थ है किसी समूह में, और 'Midst' का अर्थ है बीच या मध्य में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- '**Between**' should be used because it denotes a range within two limits. The sentence indicates that these bees are found within an altitude of 700 to 1,500 meters, making 'between' appropriate here. Whereas, 'After' implies a sequence, 'Among' means within a group, and 'Midst' means in the middle of, which don't fit in this context.
23. B) '**To**' का use होगा क्योंकि "due to" एक common phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है "के कारण"। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Melipona Bees के छोटे आकार के कारण वे अधिक nutrients प्राप्त कर सकते हैं तुलना में नियमित honeybees से, इसलिए 'to' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'For', 'Of', और 'At' इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- '**To**' should be used as the phrase "due to" means "because of". The sentence describes that due to the small size of the Melipona Bees, they can obtain more nutrients compared to regular honeybees, making 'to' appropriate here. Whereas, 'For', 'Of', and 'At' do not fit in this context.

24. D) **Than'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर comparison किया जा रहा है। "Larger nutrients" की तुलना 'regular honeybees' से की जा रही है, इसलिए 'than' यहाँ पर सही है। 'And' का अर्थ होता है 'और', 'Then' का अर्थ है 'फिर' या 'तब', और 'Though' का अर्थ है 'हालांकि', जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- **'Than'** should be used because a comparison is being made here. "Larger nutrients" are being compared to 'regular honeybees', making 'than' the correct choice. 'And' means 'additionally', 'Then' indicates a sequence or time, and 'Though' means 'however', which don't fit in this context.

25. 'D) **Soothe'** का use होगा क्योंकि "soothe" का अर्थ होता है दर्द या असहजता को कम करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह honey तुरंत sore throat को ठीक कर सकता है, इसलिए 'soothe' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Appease' का अर्थ है संतुष्ट करना, 'Pacify' का अर्थ है शांत करना, और 'Calm' का अर्थ है शांत रखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Soothe' should be used because it means to relieve pain or discomfort. The sentence mentions that this honey can address a sore throat instantly, making 'soothe' fitting here. Whereas, 'Appease' means to satisfy, 'Pacify' means to quieten, and 'Calm' means to make tranquil, which don't fit in this context.



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam