

Toon trouble: on Vikatan cartoon, I&B Ministry's move

The **power** to block content **must** be used **sparingly**

The **order** of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, **directing** the removal of a cartoon featuring the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, from a Tamil magazine's website, **is unwarranted** and **may** not fall under any of the permissible **grounds** for such removal. **Vikatan Plus**, an online-only magazine published by the Vikatan group, **has** decided to take legal steps to challenge the order. It had earlier defended the content at a **hearing** before an inter-departmental committee **constituted** under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The Ministry's **move** against the cartoon **goes** against both freedom of expression and freedom of the press. The cartoon is a piece of **trenchant** political **commentary**, as it **depicted** Mr. Modi **shackled** in chains in the presence of United States President Donald Trump. This is an **apparent** reference to **criticism voiced** in some **quarters** that Mr. Modi failed to protest against the **ill-treatment** of Indian illegal **immigrants deported** from the U.S. The Prime Minister's **approach** to a foreign policy issue **cannot** be **immune to** symbolic **denunciation** through a cartoon. It is even more **concerning** that the Vikatan website itself has been **rendered** inaccessible to some users, **apparently** based on undisclosed orders or informal instructions to web service providers.

While a formal **order** to **take down** content **is** provided for in law, it will be wholly **untenable** if the website was **sought** to be blocked without **recourse to** established procedure. The **claim** that the website has been inaccessible to some since February 15 **has** not been denied so far. **Section 69A** of the Information Technology Act **empowers** the government to block content on specified grounds, including in the interest of "friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing **incitement** to the commission of a **cognisable** offence", but it is not known which of these grounds has been **invoked**, as the order is **confidential**. How an order passed in the **exercise** of a **statutory** power can be **deemed** a secret is **inexplicable**. Even in times like the present when taking offence is a **national pastime** as well as a reason for several Chief Ministers to **unleash** the police on their **detractors**, cartoons **ought to** enjoy greater **immunity** than the written word. In this case, it is doubtful if political criticism through a cartoon can be deemed to affect friendly **ties** with the U.S. or **undermine** public order. The Centre would do well to reverse the blocking order soon. The **power** to block content **ought to** be used sparingly, mainly to **combat** offensive content such as hate speech, incitement to violence and child pornography, but not in **deference** to a political demand and **without regard to** freedom of expression. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sparingly** (adverb) – Moderately, Cautiously, Frugally, Scantily, Limitedly
संयम से
2. **Direct** (verb) – Order, Command, Instruct, Guide, Lead निर्देश देना
3. **Unwarranted** (adjective) – Unjustified, Unnecessary, Baseless, Unreasonable, Excessive अनुचित
4. **Ground** (noun) – Basis, Reason, Justification, Foundation, Cause आधार
5. **Hearing** (noun) – Session, Meeting, Inquiry, Trial, Consultation सुनवाई
6. **Constitute** (verb) – Form, Establish, Create, Organize, Compose गठित करना
7. **Trenchant** (adjective) – Sharp, Incisive, Cutting, Penetrating, Forceful तीखा
8. **Commentary** (noun) – Analysis, Critique, Review, Explanation, Interpretation टिप्पणी
9. **Depict** (verb) – Portray, Illustrate, Represent, Show, Describe चित्रित करना
10. **Shackle** (verb) – Chain, Restrain, Bind, Fetter, Confine जंजीर से बांधना
11. **Apparent** (adjective) – Evident, Obvious, Clear, Visible, Seeming स्पष्ट
12. **Criticism** (noun) – Censure, Disapproval, Reproach, Blame, Condemnation आलोचना
13. **Voice** (verb) – Express, Utter, Articulate, State, Declare व्यक्त करना
14. **Quarter** (noun) – Section, Part, Area, Region, Division क्षेत्र
15. **Ill-treatment** (noun) – Abuse, Mistreatment, Oppression, Cruelty, Neglect दुर्व्यवहार
16. **Immigrant** (noun) – Migrant, Settler, Foreigner, Newcomer, Expatriate प्रवासी
17. **Deport** (verb) – Expel, Banish, Exile, Evict, Remove निर्वासित करना
18. **Immune** (to) (adjective) – Resistant, Protected, Insusceptible, Exempt, Unaffected प्रतिरक्षित
19. **Denunciation** (noun) – Condemnation, Criticism, Accusation, Censure, Rebuke निंदा
20. **Concerning** (adjective) – Worrying, Disturbing, Troubling, Alarming, Disconcerting चिंताजनक
21. **Render** (verb) – Make, Cause, Provide, Deliver, Give बनाना
22. **Apparently** (adverb) – Seemingly, Ostensibly, Evidently, Clearly, Obviously प्रतीत होता है
23. **Take down** (phrasal verb) – Remove, Delete, Dismantle, Demolish, Erase हटाना

24. **Untenable** (adjective) – Unjustifiable, Unreasonable, Indefensible, Unsupported, Flawed असमर्थनीय
25. **Seek** (verb) – Pursue, Attempt, Strive, Request, Aim तलाश करना
26. **Recourse** (to) (noun) – Option, Alternative, Resort, Remedy, Solution सहारा
27. **Empower** (verb) – Authorize, Enable, Entitle, Permit, Allow सशक्त बनाना
28. **Incitement** (noun) – Provocation, Instigation, Encouragement, Stimulation, Agitation उकसावा
29. **Cognisable offence** (noun) – a serious crime that a police officer can investigate and arrest without a warrant.
30. **Invoke** (verb) – Cite, Refer to, Use, Apply, Call upon आह्वान करना
31. **Confidential** (adjective) – Secret, Private, Classified, Restricted, Hidden गोपनीय
32. **Exercise** (noun) – Use, Application, Implementation, Execution, Practice प्रयोग
33. **Statutory** (adjective) – Legal, Authorized, Official, Legitimate, Mandatory वैधानिक
34. **Deem** (verb) – Consider, Regard, Judge, Believe, Think मानना
35. **Inexplicable** (adjective) – Unexplainable, Mysterious, Puzzling, Baffling, Unfathomable अस्पष्ट
36. **National pastime** (noun) – Hobby, Activity, Recreation, Leisure, Pursuit राष्ट्रीय शौक
37. **Unleash** (verb) – Release, Free, Let loose, Discharge, Unchain छोड़ना
38. **Detractor** (noun) – Critic, Opponent, Adversary, Fault-finder, Slanderer आलोचक
39. **Ought to** (modal verb) – Should, Must, Need to, Have to, Be obliged to चाहिए
40. **Immunity** (noun) – Protection, Exemption, Resistance, Privilege, Safeguard प्रतिरक्षा
41. **Ties** (noun) – Relations, Connections, Bonds, Links, Associations संबंध
42. **Undermine** (verb) – Weaken, Sabotage, Erode, Subvert, Diminish कमजोर करना
43. **Combat** (verb) – Fight, Oppose, Battle, Resist, Counter सामना करना
44. **Deference** (to) (noun) – Respect, Regard, Consideration, Courtesy, Obedience सम्मान
45. **Without regard to** (phrase) – Ignoring, Disregarding, Neglecting, Overlooking, Indifferent to बिना ध्यान दिए

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Context of the Order:** The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ordered the removal of a political cartoon depicting Prime Minister Modi from the Vikatan Plus website.
2. **Vikatan's Stand:** The publication is challenging the Government's directive legally, having defended the content at a hearing under the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
3. **Editorial View:** The editorial argues that the blocking of this cartoon is unjustified and an infringement on freedom of expression and press freedom.
4. **Nature of the Cartoon:** It depicts Mr. Modi in chains before former U.S. President Donald Trump, ostensibly criticizing India's response to the ill-treatment and deportation of Indian immigrants from the U.S.
5. **Symbolic Political Critique:** The cartoon offers trenchant commentary on India's foreign policy stance; the editorial underscores that such critique should be permissible in a democracy.
6. **Unclear Legal Basis:** It is not evident how the grounds under Section 69A of the IT Act (friendly relations, public order, preventing incitement) apply to this specific content.
7. **Secrecy of Order:** The blocking order, classified as confidential, raises questions about transparency and due process in exercising statutory powers.
8. **Website Accessibility Issue:** Parts of Vikatan's website have reportedly been inaccessible to some users since mid-February, possibly due to undisclosed instructions to service providers.
9. **Due Process Concern:** Blocking or restricting content without following clear, established legal procedures undermines rule of law and media freedoms.
10. **Cartoons Deserve Leeway:** The editorial points out that satirical cartoons should enjoy broad protections, given their historical role in political commentary.
11. **Overreach and Offence:** The piece notes that India is in a climate where taking offence can lead to legal action, but it warns against curbing genuine satire or dissent.
12. **Impact on Friendly Relations:** The editorial rejects the notion that a political cartoon could realistically harm India-U.S. ties or public order.
13. **Call for Reversal:** It urges the central government to rescind the blocking directive and respect the principles of free expression.
14. **Legitimate Grounds for Blocking:** The editorial clarifies that the power to block content should be reserved for truly offensive, illegal, or harmful content (hate speech, child pornography, incitement to violence).
15. **Safeguarding Free Speech:** Lastly, it warns that using blocking powers to quell political criticism sets a dangerous precedent and erodes democratic freedoms.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Critical
 - D. Indifferent
2. **What best captures the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Support for the government's decision to censor online content.
 - B. General appreciation of cartoons as a form of humor.
 - C. Unwarranted censorship of a political cartoon and defense of press freedom.
 - D. Discussion of financial challenges facing Tamil magazines.
3. **The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's directive to remove the Vikatan cartoon is considered _____ as it does not align with the permissible grounds for content removal.**
 - A. Justified
 - B. Unwarranted
 - C. Inevitable
 - D. Essential
4. **What can be inferred about the government's action against the Vikatan cartoon?**
 - A. The government's move prioritizes national security over freedom of expression.
 - B. The blocking order seems to lack transparency and due process.
 - C. The cartoon directly incited violence, justifying its removal.
 - D. The action aligns with global standards for media regulation.
5. **Why is it suggested that cartoons should enjoy greater immunity than the written word?**
 - A. Cartoons are a form of humor and satire, which should not be taken seriously.
 - B. Governments have no authority to regulate cartoons in any situation.
 - C. Cartoons do not influence public opinion and hence should be ignored.
 - D. Political cartoons often use symbolism to critique leaders without causing real harm.
6. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

The recommendations of the committee / regarding changes in the eligibility criteria / was not accept.

 - A. was not accept
 - B. regarding changes in the eligibility criteria
 - C. The recommendations of the committee
 - D. No Error
7. **Select the most appropriate homophone to fill in the blank.**

Looking up, she realised she had swum _____ than she'd thought

- A. farthest
B. furthest
C. farther
D. further
8. **Select the grammatically correct sentence**
- A. The myriad of possibilities unfolds when the artist embarks on a journey of creative experimentation.
B. A myriad of possibilities unfolds when the artist embarks on the journey of creative experimentation.
C. The myriad of possibilities unfolds when an artist embarks on the journey of creative experimentation.
D. A myriad of possibilities unfolds when an artist embarks on a journey of creative experimentation
9. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.**
Siliguri has joined the nation to celebrate the golden jubilee of the first conquest of Mount Everest by an Indian
- A. joining the nation celebrate
B. No improvement required
C. joined the national celebration
D. joins the celebratory nation
10. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Millennium
B. Consciencious
C. Inconvenience
D. Unanimous
11. **Select the word that has the same meaning (SYNONYM) as the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The prisoners were living in appalling conditions
- A. daring
B. ingenuous
C. shocking
D. risky
12. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**
You can do your work well within the stipulated time and be more productive if you learn to keep video games at the length of your arm.
- A. at arm's length
B. at arm of your length
C. at arm of his length
D. at arm's weight

13. **Select the word that is opposite in meaning (ANTONYM) to the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
We enjoyed the gentle breeze that was blowing
- A. violent
 - B. soft
 - C. modest
 - D. garnished
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
One who brings a legal action against someone in court.
- A. Pragmatist
 - B. Plaintiff
 - C. Sanctimonious
 - D. Numismatic
15. **Select the grammatically correct sentence**
- A. Our Principal is great teacher and administrator.
 - B. Our Principal is a great teacher and an administrator.
 - C. Our Principal is a great teacher and administrator.
 - D. Our Principal is a great teacher and a great administrator
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks.**
I could _____ the reason for being _____
- A. fine; find
 - B. find; fined
 - C. barred; bard
 - D. bard; barred
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Siva is a hard worker. He works _____.
- A. bad
 - B. hard
 - C. scarcely
 - D. hardly
18. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
- A. familiar
 - B. paralel
 - C. achieve
 - D. humorous
19. **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'.**
There have been numerous attempts made by the citizens to restore parity
- A. More numerous
 - B. Quite numerous
 - C. No substitution

D. Most numerous

20. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined phrase.**

In the absence of government rule, riots have broken out all over the country and everything is in a state of complete chaos.

- A. Dictatorship
- B. Monarchy
- C. Oligarchy
- D. Anarchy

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 habit of reading is highly advantageous to us intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. As one gets into the habit of reading, one gets mental (1) _____. It helps us acquire (2) _____ and attain intellectual (3) _____. Reading takes away our (4) _____. Reading can bring (5) _____ in our sorrowful times and guide us in our duties.

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

- A. satisfaction
- B. exhaustion
- C. coverage
- D. success

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

- A. strategies
- B. knowledge
- C. readiness
- D. employment

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

- A. compression
- B. stagnation
- C. creation
- D. expansion

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

- A. boredom
- B. time
- C. vigour
- D. concern

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

- A. resentment
- B. comfort
- C. oppression
- D. lethargy

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. C) Critical

The passage criticizes the government's action in ordering the removal of the cartoon, emphasizing the importance of freedom of expression and press freedom.

A: The passage does not praise or celebrate any development; it objects to government censorship.

B: There is no evident hopefulness or positivity; instead, the passage highlights concern.

D: The passage is not neutral or detached; it explicitly takes a strong stand against the removal order.

2. C) Unwarranted censorship of a political cartoon and defense of press freedom

The passage focuses on the government's directive against the cartoon, argues it is unwarranted, and underlines the fundamental need to protect freedom of expression.

A: The passage clearly opposes the order to remove the cartoon.

B: While the passage does mention a cartoon, its main emphasis is on censorship and freedom, not humor.

D: The passage does not address monetary or financial issues of magazines; it deals with free speech concerns.

3. B) Unwarranted

The passage explicitly states that the Ministry's order is "unwarranted" because it does not fall under any permissible grounds for content removal.

A) The passage criticizes the removal order, indicating that it is not justified.

C) The action was not unavoidable but rather questionable, making "inevitable" an incorrect choice.

D) The removal is not essential, as the passage argues for freedom of expression and the press.

4. B) The blocking order seems to lack transparency and due process.

The passage highlights that the government has not disclosed the grounds for blocking the content, making the process opaque and questionable.

A) The passage does not mention any national security concerns; instead, it criticizes the move for restricting free speech.

C) There is no indication in the passage that the cartoon contained hate speech or incited violence.

D) The passage argues against the government's decision, suggesting it does not align with democratic norms of press freedom.

5. D) Political cartoons often use symbolism to critique leaders without causing real harm.

- B) The passage states that cartoons are a form of "trenchant political commentary" and should be protected under freedom of expression.
- A) While cartoons can be humorous, they can also hold serious political messages, making this an incomplete and misleading option.
- C) Cartoons can significantly influence public discourse, so this statement is false.
- B) The passage acknowledges that some content, such as hate speech, can be regulated, but this particular case does not justify such action.
6. A) 'was not accept' के बदले '**was not accepted**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह Passive Voice का वाक्य है। Passive Voice में 'be' verb के साथ Past Participle (V3) का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ 'was' के साथ 'accept' की जगह 'accepted' (V3) का प्रयोग होना चाहिए। जैसे— The proposal was approved by the board.
'**was not accepted**' will be used instead of 'was not accept' because this is a sentence in Passive Voice. In Passive Voice, the 'be' verb (was) is followed by the Past Participle (V3). Here, 'accept' must be replaced with 'accepted'. Example: The proposal was approved by the board.
7. C) '**Farther**' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "farther" दूरी (distance) को दर्शाता है। यह sentence भौतिक दूरी की बात कर रहा है कि उसने सोचा था उससे ज्यादा दूरी तैर लिया है। 'Farther' का उपयोग physical या measurable दूरी के लिए किया जाता है। 'Farthest' का अर्थ होता है "सबसे ज्यादा दूर" (superlative degree), लेकिन यह context comparative degree में है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है। 'Further' का उपयोग abstract sense में या "अतिरिक्त" (additional) के लिए होता है, जैसे "further discussion" या "further steps"। यह भौतिक दूरी के लिए सही नहीं है। 'Furthest' भी "most distant" (superlative) के लिए प्रयोग होता है और यहां comparative context की आवश्यकता है
'Farther' will be used because it refers to physical distance. The sentence mentions she had swum further in terms of measurable distance than she thought. 'Farthest' means "most distant" (superlative), but the sentence requires the comparative form. 'Further' is used in abstract or metaphorical contexts like "further discussion" and does not fit physical distance here. 'Furthest' also indicates the "most distant" (superlative form), which doesn't match the comparative context here.
8. D) A myriad of possibilities unfolds when an artist embarks on a journey of creative experimentation
9. B) No improvement required
10. B) The correct spelling is '**Conscientious**' which means "wishing to do one's work or duty well and thoroughly". ईमानदार, निष्ठावान, कर्तव्यपरायण.
11. C) '**Appalling**' (adjective) – Shocking, horrifying, dreadful, terrible, extremely bad. भयावह, बहुत बुरा

Synonym: Shocking (adjective) – Causing horror, disgust, or extreme surprise; dreadful, appalling, outrageous. चौंकाने वाला, भयावह

- **Daring** (adjective) – Bold, courageous, fearless, audacious. साहसी
- **Ingenuous** (adjective) – Innocent, naive, straightforward, candid. भोला, निष्कपट
- **Risky** (adjective) – Dangerous, hazardous, uncertain, perilous. जोखिम भरा

12. A) **'at arm's length' (phrase)** - to keep something at a safe distance“ किसी चीज़ को दूरी पर रखना”।

13. A) **Gentle** (adjective) – Mild, calm, soft, tender, light. (नम्र, कोमल)

Antonym: Violent (adjective) – Strong, forceful, rough, intense, aggressive. (उग्र, हिंसक)

- **Soft** (adjective) – Smooth, tender, gentle, delicate. (कोमल)
- **Modest** (adjective) – Humble, unassuming, moderate, decent. (विनम्र, साधारण)
- **Garnished** (verb) – Decorated, adorned, embellished. (सजाया हुआ)

14. B) **Plaintiff** (noun) – A person who brings a case against another in a court of law. वादकर्ता

- **Pragmatist** (noun) – A person who is practical and deals with situations logically rather than theoretically. व्यावहारिक व्यक्ति
- **Sanctimonious** (adjective) – Making a show of being morally superior to other people. पाखंडी
- **Numismatic** (adjective) – Relating to or the study of coins, paper currency, and medals. मुद्राशास्त्र संबंधी

15. C) 'a great teacher and a great administrator' के बदले 'a great teacher and administrator' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब two nouns (teacher और administrator) एक ही व्यक्ति के लिए प्रयोग की जा रही हैं और उनके बीच 'and' जुड़ा हुआ है, तो आमतौर पर दोबारा 'a' लगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है; जैसे—He is a skilled writer and editor.

'a great teacher and administrator' will be used instead of 'a great teacher and a great administrator' because when two nouns (teacher and administrator) refer to the same person and are connected by 'and,' the article 'a' is not repeated; Like—He is a skilled writer and editor.

16. B) **'Find'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को ढूँढना या समझना। वाक्य में "।

could _____ the reason" दिया गया है, जिसका अर्थ है कि मैं कारण को समझ सका। वहीं "Fined' का अर्थ है जुर्माना लगाया गया। वाक्य का हिस्सा "reason for being _____" यह दर्शाता है कि किसी

कारणवश किसी को जुर्माना लगाया गया था। इसलिए 'fined' यहाँ सही शब्द है। Fine; find: 'Fine' का अर्थ है अच्छा या जुर्माना, और 'find' का अर्थ है ढूँढना। वाक्य के पहले हिस्से में 'fine' का कोई अर्थ नहीं बनता। 'Barred; bard': 'Barred' का अर्थ है रोका गया और 'Bard' का अर्थ है कवि। ये शब्द संदर्भ में असंगत हैं। 'Bard; barred': 'Bard' (कवि) वाक्य में कोई तार्किक उपयोग नहीं है, और 'barred' (रोका गया) का भी कोई संबंध नहीं है।

Find' will be used because it means to understand or locate something. The sentence states "I could _____ the reason," meaning "I could understand the reason," making 'find' appropriate. 'Fined' will be used because it means a penalty imposed as a punishment, fitting the part "reason for being _____." Fine; find: 'Fine' doesn't fit as it means good or penalty. Barred; bard: 'Barred' means prohibited, and 'bard' means poet, both irrelevant here. Bard; barred: 'Bard' (poet) and 'barred' (prohibited) don't make sense in the given context.

17. B) **'Hard'** का प्रयोग सही है क्योंकि यह adverb के रूप में काम कर रहा है और इसका अर्थ है "with great effort or intensity" यानी मेहनत या लगन से। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि Siva is a hard worker (शिवा एक मेहनती व्यक्ति है), इसलिए यह अपेक्षित है कि वह कड़ी मेहनत करता है। यहाँ 'hard' सही adverb है। 'Bad' गलत है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका अर्थ "not good" (बुरा) होता है। यह यहाँ adverb की जरूरत को पूरा नहीं करता। 'Scarcely' का अर्थ है "barely" or "almost not" (मुश्किल से या न के बराबर)। यह संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि शिवा को मेहनती बताया गया है। 'Hardly' का अर्थ "almost not" (मुश्किल से) होता है, जो 'hard worker' के विपरीत है और यहाँ पर अर्थ को नकारात्मक बना देगा।

The word **'hard'** is correct because it functions as an adverb in this sentence, meaning "with great effort or intensity." The sentence says, "Siva is a hard worker," which implies that he works diligently or with great effort. Therefore, the adverb "hard" is appropriate here to describe how he works. 'Bad' is incorrect because it is an adjective meaning "not good" and cannot modify the verb "works" as an adverb is required here. 'Scarcely' means "barely" or "almost not," which does not fit the context since Siva is described as hardworking.

'Hardly' means "almost not" or "barely," which creates a negative meaning and contradicts the fact that Siva is a hard worker.

18. B) **paralel**. The correct spelling is **parallel** which means "side by side and having the same distance continuously between them". समान्तर, समांतर

19. C) No substitution required.

20. D) **Anarchy** (noun) – A state of society where there is no government or authority, leading to complete chaos or lawlessness. अराजकता

- **Dictatorship** (noun) – A form of government in which a single leader or party has absolute power. तानाशाही

- **Monarchy** (noun) – A system of government ruled by a king or queen. राजशाही
- **Oligarchy** (noun) – A system of government where a small group of people hold power. कुलीनतंत्र

21. A) 'Satisfaction' का use होगा क्योंकि यह मानसिक संतुष्टि या खुशी दर्शाता है, जो पठन-पाठन की आदत से स्वाभाविक रूप से हासिल होती है। जबकि 'Exhaustion' का अर्थ थकान है, जो पढ़ने की सकारात्मक प्रक्रिया से मेल नहीं खाता; 'Coverage' संदर्भ से बाहर है; और 'Success' सीधे मानसिक संतुष्टि या शांति को व्यक्त नहीं करता।

'Satisfaction' will be used because it conveys the sense of mental contentment or pleasure naturally gained from reading. Meanwhile, 'Exhaustion' means tiredness, which conflicts with the positive nature of reading; 'Coverage' is contextually irrelevant; and 'Success' does not directly represent mental peace or contentment.

22. B) '**Knowledge**' का use होगा क्योंकि knowledge का अर्थ है जानकारी या ज्ञान जो किसी विषय के बारे में प्राप्त की जाती है। यहाँ passage में कहा गया है कि पढ़ने की आदत से हम "ज्ञान प्राप्त" करते हैं, जो सही रूप में intellectual development का हिस्सा है। 'Strategies' का अर्थ है योजनाएँ या रणनीतियाँ, जो यहाँ ज्ञान प्राप्त करने के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Readiness' का अर्थ है तैयार रहना, जो भी sentence में contextually सही नहीं है। 'Employment' का अर्थ है नौकरी या कार्य, जो इस intellectual और emotional development से संबंधित विषय में inappropriate है।

'**Knowledge**' will be used because knowledge means information or understanding gained through learning or experience. The passage discusses the benefits of reading, and acquiring "knowledge" perfectly fits the context of intellectual growth. 'Strategies' means plans or methods, which do not fit the idea of gaining intellectual development through reading. 'Readiness' means preparedness, which does not align with the context of acquiring something through reading. 'Employment' means a job or work, which is unrelated to the intellectual and emotional benefits mentioned in the passage.

23. D) '**Expansion**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है विस्तार या किसी चीज़ का बढ़ना। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि पढ़ने की आदत हमें ज्ञान प्राप्त करने और बौद्धिक विकास (intellectual growth) में मदद करती है। 'Expansion' का अर्थ बौद्धिक विकास के साथ मेल खाता है। 'Compression' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को घटाना या संकुचित करना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'Stagnation' का अर्थ है ठहराव या प्रगति की कमी, जो वाक्य के सकारात्मक अर्थ के विरुद्ध है। 'Creation' का अर्थ है नई चीज़ का निर्माण, जो बौद्धिक विकास के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

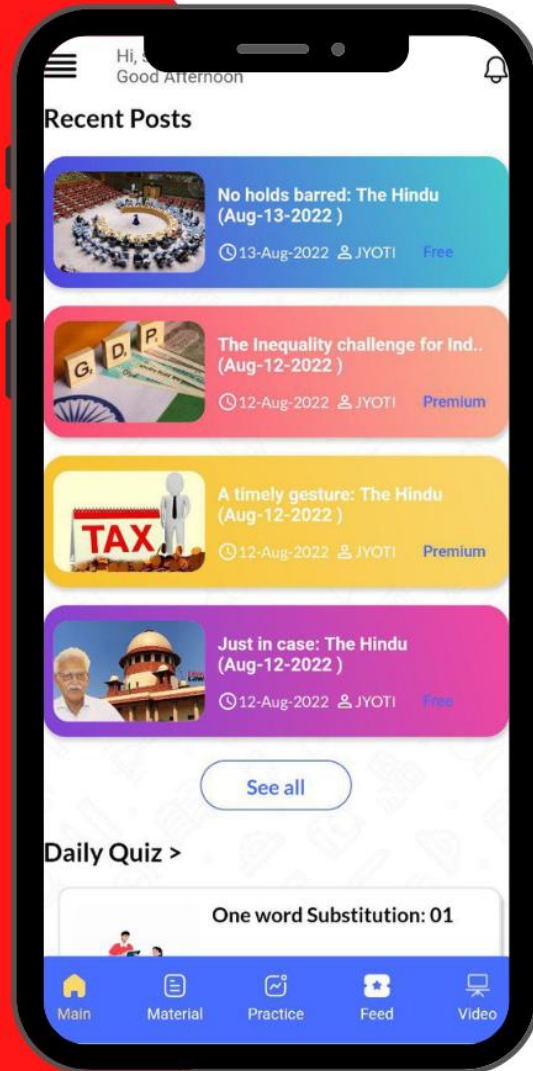
Expansion will be used because it refers to the act of increasing in size, scope, or intellectual capacity. The sentence discusses how reading helps us acquire knowledge and achieve

intellectual growth, which directly aligns with the meaning of "expansion." Compression: It means reducing the size or volume, which contradicts the idea of intellectual growth. Stagnation: It means a lack of growth or progress, which is opposite to the positive impact of reading mentioned here. Creation: It refers to producing something new, but it does not align with the concept of intellectual "growth" as implied in the sentence.

24. A) '**Boredom**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है उबाऊपन या नीरसता। यहाँ वाक्य में कहा गया है कि "Reading takes away our..." यानी कि पढ़ने से हमारी कौन-सी चीज़ दूर होती है? जब कोई पढ़ता है, तो यह उसे बोरियत (boredom) से बाहर निकालता है। Time (समय) सही नहीं है क्योंकि पढ़ाई समय को दूर नहीं करती, बल्कि उसे सार्थक बनाती है। Vigour (उत्साह) भी गलत है, क्योंकि पढ़ाई उत्साह को दूर नहीं करती बल्कि उसे बढ़ाती है। Concern (चिंता) गलत है क्योंकि पढ़ाई चिंता को खत्म करने का उल्लेख यहाँ नहीं कर रही

'**Boredom**' is the correct choice because it means a state of dullness or lack of interest. The sentence states that "Reading takes away our...", referring to something negative that reading alleviates. Reading keeps the mind engaged and prevents a feeling of dullness or boredom. Time is incorrect because reading doesn't take away time; instead, it utilizes it meaningfully. Vigour is wrong because reading doesn't take away energy; it can enhance or stimulate it. Concern is inappropriate because the sentence doesn't suggest reading eliminates worries or concerns directly.

25. B) '**Comfort**' का use होगा क्योंकि "comfort" का अर्थ है सांत्वना या राहत देना, विशेषकर कठिन समय में। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि reading हमारे दुःख भरे समय में राहत ला सकती है और हमारे कर्तव्यों में हमारा मार्गदर्शन कर सकती है। इसलिए 'comfort' यहाँ सटीक और संदर्भानुकूल है। Resentment (नाराजगी): इसका अर्थ है किसी के प्रति नकारात्मक भावना या गुस्सा। यह संदर्भ के अनुसार सटीक नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ पढ़ने के सकारात्मक प्रभाव की बात हो रही है। Oppression (दमन): इसका अर्थ है दबाव या अत्याचार। यह शब्द यहाँ विपरीत अर्थ देता है और संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। Lethargy (सुस्ती): इसका अर्थ है आलस्य या निष्क्रियता। पढ़ना सुस्ती दूर करता है, न कि बढ़ाता है, इसलिए यह संदर्भ के अनुरूप नहीं है
- '**Comfort**' is the correct choice because it means solace or relief, especially during difficult or sorrowful times. The sentence states that reading can bring relief during our sorrowful times and guide us in our duties, which makes 'comfort' the most appropriate option. Resentment: This means bitterness or anger towards someone. It does not fit here as the sentence talks about the positive effects of reading. Oppression: This means cruelty or heavy pressure, which conveys a negative meaning and does not align with the context. Lethargy: This means laziness or inactivity. Reading is generally associated with reducing lethargy, not increasing it, so it does not fit here.



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