

Inconclusive chapter: On Tamil Nadu and NEET

Tamil Nadu should help prepare its students for clearing NEET

With President Droupadi Murmu **withholding assent** for the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill 2021, the State is **bracing for** another battle against National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)-based admissions. State Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has **convened** a meeting of legislature party leaders on April 9 to **strategise** the next move. With the admission season **approaching**, the **development** is **bound** to cause uncertainty and make medical aspirants **anxious**. **Exemption** from NEET now **remains** an **inconclusive** chapter in the State's decade-old policy **discourse**. No other State **effort** to **legislate** against a central **mandate** **has** been so **protracted** and **unpredictable**. In September 2017, two anti-NEET Bills met with a similar **fate** in Rashtrapati Bhavan. Four years later, the **ruling DMK** — having made NEET exemption a central electoral promise — **passed** the Bill in the Assembly based on the recommendations of the Justice A.K. Rajan Committee. Instead of forwarding it for presidential assent, Governor R.N. Ravi returned it to the House after five months. In a historic first, the Assembly **unanimously** re-adopted the Bill and sent it back to him; the Governor subsequently forwarded it to the President. Last week, Mr. Stalin informed the Assembly that assent had been denied, without specifying when Rashtrapati Bhavan had communicated the decision.

This **delay** in the matter **attaining** finality **is concerning** as students have been left facing a state of **perpetual** uncertainty. The State remains **firm** in its policy of conducting admission for government quota medical seats based on the Class 12 Board examination scores. Early on, the Ministry of Home Affairs had asked “whether the Bill **endangered** the **sovereignty**, unity and **integrity** of the nation” to which the AYUSH Ministry responded **affirmatively**. The **framers** of the Constitution **had incorporated** Article 254 (2) **empowering** the President to **grant** assent to Bills **repugnant** to central laws on Concurrent List matters. NEET has been consistently **upheld** by the Supreme Court of India too. The President is under no **obligation** to give assent, although the Bill **reflects** the collective **will** of Tamil Nadu's legislature: it was passed unanimously. True, NEET is neither **foolproof** nor an absolute measure of academic **competency**, but Tamil Nadu's legal options are limited. The judiciary is unlikely to **settle** the issue with any urgency. The State must prepare for a legal struggle, and **in the interim**, coach students to face NEET with confidence. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Inconclusive** (adjective) – unresolved, unsettled, indecisive, unconfirmed, indefinite अनिर्णीत
2. **Withhold** (verb) – refuse, hold back, deny, suppress, retain रोकना
3. **Assent** (noun) – approval, consent, agreement, endorsement, sanction स्वीकृति
4. **Brace** (for) (verb) – prepare, gear up, ready, fortify, steel oneself तैयार होना
5. **Convene** (verb) – assemble, gather, summon, call together, meet बैठक बुलाना
6. **Strategise** (verb) – plan, devise, scheme, chart out, formulate रणनीति बनाना
7. **Approaching** (adjective) – upcoming, nearing, impending, forthcoming, imminent आने वाला
8. **Development** (noun) – event, progress, occurrence, change, advancement घटनाक्रम
9. **Bound** (to) (adjective) – certain, sure, destined, inevitable, likely निश्चित
10. **Anxious** (adjective) – worried, nervous, concerned, apprehensive, uneasy चिंतित
11. **Exemption** (noun) – exclusion, waiver, relief, release, immunity छूट
12. **Discourse** (noun) – discussion, debate, dialogue, conversation, deliberation विमर्श
13. **Legislate** (verb) – enact, make laws, formulate, authorize, mandate कानून बनाना
14. **Mandate** (noun) – directive, order, decree, instruction, command आदेश
15. **Protracted** (adjective) – prolonged, extended, lengthy, dragged out, drawn-out लंबा खिंचा हुआ
16. **Unpredictable** (adjective) – uncertain, variable, erratic, unreliable, unstable अप्रत्याशित
17. **Fate** (noun) – outcome, destiny, result, consequence, end भाग्य / परिणाम
18. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, dominant, leading, in power, controlling सत्तारूढ़
19. **Unanimously** (adverb) – collectively, with one voice, without dissent, in agreement, jointly सर्वसम्मति से
20. **Attain** (verb) – achieve, reach, accomplish, gain, realize प्राप्त करना
21. **Concerning** (adjective) – worrying, troubling, alarming, distressing, disturbing चिंताजनक

22. **Perpetual** (adjective) – continuous, unending, constant, everlasting, relentless लगातार
23. **Firm** (adjective) – Definite, certain, resolved, determined, resolute, दृढ़
24. **Endanger** (verb) – risk, threaten, imperil, jeopardize, expose खतरे में डालना
25. **Sovereignty** (noun) – independence, autonomy, self-rule, dominion, authority संप्रभुता
26. **Integrity** (noun) – unity, wholeness, cohesiveness, soundness, undividedness अखंडता
27. **Affirmatively** (adverb) – positively, supportively, approvingly, agreeably, yesward सकारात्मक रूप से
28. **Framer** (noun) – drafter, author, designer, creator, originator संविधान निर्माता / प्रारूपकर्ता
29. **Incorporate** (verb) – include, integrate, embed, embody, assimilate सम्मिलित करना
30. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, enable, permit, entitle, equip सशक्त बनाना
31. **Grant** (verb) – give, allow, bestow, confer, approve देना / प्रदान करना
32. **Repugnant** (adjective) – conflicting, contradictory, opposed, inconsistent, objectionable विरोधी / असंगत
33. **Uphold** (verb) – maintain, support, validate, confirm, sustain समर्थन करना
34. **Obligation** (noun) – duty, responsibility, requirement, compulsion, commitment दायित्व
35. **Reflect** (verb) – show, express, display, indicate, reveal प्रकट करना
36. **Will** (noun) – desire, intention, wish, determination, volition इच्छा
37. **Foolproof** (noun) – reliable, error-free, infallible, secure, guaranteed अचूक
38. **Competency** (noun) – ability, skill, proficiency, qualification, capability योग्यता
39. **Settle** (verb) – resolve, decide, conclude, determine, finalize निपटाना / तय करना
40. **In the interim** (phrase) – meanwhile, in the meantime, for now, temporarily, for the short term इस बीच

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Presidential Withholding** – President Droupadi Murmu withheld assent for Tamil Nadu's 2021 Bill seeking NEET exemption.
2. **State Response** – CM M.K. Stalin has called a legislature party leaders' meeting on April 9 to decide next steps.
3. **Admission Uncertainty** – The move creates anxiety and confusion for medical aspirants during admission season.
4. **Long-Running Dispute** – Tamil Nadu's resistance to NEET has persisted for over a decade.
5. **Previous Attempts Failed** – Similar anti-NEET Bills in 2017 were also rejected by Rashtrapati Bhavan.
6. **Electoral Promise** – The ruling DMK made NEET exemption a key part of its election campaign.
7. **Justice A.K. Rajan Committee** – The 2021 Bill was based on this committee's recommendation against NEET.
8. **Governor's Delay** – Governor R.N. Ravi delayed forwarding the Bill, returning it to the Assembly after five months.
9. **Unanimous Re-adoption** – The Assembly re-passed the Bill unanimously, eventually sending it to the President.
10. **Opaque Rejection** – Stalin revealed the assent was denied, without clarifying the timeline of communication.
11. **Constitutional Provision** – Article 254(2) allows the President to approve state laws conflicting with central laws in the Concurrent List.
12. **MHA Concerns** – The Home Ministry questioned if the Bill threatened national unity; the AYUSH Ministry agreed it did.
13. **Supreme Court Stand** – NEET has been consistently upheld by the Supreme Court as constitutionally valid.
14. **Limited Legal Scope** – Tamil Nadu's chances of legal reversal are slim, and judicial processes may be slow.
15. **Interim Action Needed** – While pursuing legal remedies, the State should focus on preparing its students to succeed in NEET.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which constitutional article empowers the President to grant assent to state laws that contradict central laws on matters in the Concurrent List? [Editorial page]
 - A. Article 370
 - B. Article 254(2)
 - C. Article 356
 - D. Article 123
2. Why has the Tamil Nadu government's effort to get NEET exemption been described as "protracted and unpredictable"?
 - A. Because NEET was never a central law
 - B. Because students are not interested in medical education
 - C. Because multiple attempts to pass Bills were delayed or denied at different stages
 - D. Because Tamil Nadu was the only state to pass such a Bill
3. What is the major concern highlighted in the passage regarding the delay in the President's decision on the Bill?
 - A. NEET syllabus is too difficult for students
 - B. The delay causes confusion and anxiety among medical aspirants
 - C. The Bill might be unconstitutional
 - D. The Governor doesn't support the Assembly
4. What can be inferred about the central government's stance on state-level opposition to NEET?
 - A. It actively encourages states to make their own admission rules
 - B. It shows flexibility by easily accepting state-level laws
 - C. It resists state efforts that contradict NEET, indicating a strong central mandate
 - D. It remains neutral in education-related matters
5. What does the passage suggest about the future of the NEET exemption bill in Tamil Nadu?
 - A. It is likely to be quickly approved by the Supreme Court
 - B. It will definitely be passed by Parliament
 - C. It may face further delays and legal hurdles, requiring long-term preparation
 - D. It is no longer a matter of concern for the state government
6. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.
An awkward neither grammatically accurate sentence is the result of centre implanting.
 - A. awkward but grammatically
 - B. awkward either grammatically
 - C. awkward beyond grammatically
 - D. awkward unless grammatically

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

Can we go visit a Statue of Liberty on our trip to the United States?

- A. on our trip to
- B. Can we go
- C. the United States?
- D. visit a Statue of Liberty

8. **Select the option that is similar in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentence.**

A good critic should also be a person of great candour

- A. will
- B. resolution
- C. honesty
- D. power

9. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence.**

These glass windows are so old and one can't even see through them , they need to be replaced.

- A. Opaque
- B. Dirty
- C. Transparent
- D. Black

10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a spelling error.**

The precarious case of juvenile / delinquency against him / was dismissed by the / jury in the first hearing.

- A. The precarious case of juvenile
- B. jury in the first hearing.
- C. delinquency against him
- D. was dismissed by the

11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

By leaps and bounds

- A. Unknowingly
- B. Normally
- C. Slowly
- D. Rapidly

12. **Select the sentence that uses the given idiom correctly.**

Skating on thin ice

- A. They were on thin ice when they skated on the frozen lake.
- B. She was on thin ice while trying to balance on a tightrope.
- C. He was on thin ice after making a controversial statement.

D. They were on thin ice due to the icy conditions on the road

13. **Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**

Youth is the time when the seeds of character is sown

- A. the seeds of character will have been sowing
- B. the seeds of character had been sown
- C. the seeds of character were sown
- D. the seeds of character are sown

14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word from the following sentence.**

Confusing

The stars twinkled in the dark sky, guiding travellers on their journey.

- A. Guiding
- B. Twinkled
- C. Travellers
- D. Journey

15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

I prefer walking than riding

- A. walking to riding
- B. walking above riding
- C. walking from riding
- D. walking with riding

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

We were grateful for a book they gave us.

- A. they gave us
- B. We were
- C. grateful for
- D. a book

17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Be in seventh heaven

- A. To be ignored
- B. To start performing better
- C. To be in a state of extreme happiness
- D. To avoid talking about what's important

18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Shakespeare is great than any other English poet.

- A. was great than
- B. was greater than
- C. is greater than

D. is greatest than

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

Reckon

- A. Merit
- B. Assess
- C. Count
- D. Imagine

20. Identify the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Bread and butter

- A. Comfortable living
- B. Means of livelihood
- C. The breakfast
- D. Money making

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.

Superheroes are fictional characters with 1) _____ powers who use their powers to fight crime and protect the public. Some popular superheroes include Superman, Batman, Spider-Man and Wonder Woman. Superheroes often have backstories that 2) _____ how they have gained their powers, 3) _____ being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation. They usually have a specific outfit or clothing that they wear to hide their identity and protect 4) _____ while fighting crime. Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture 5) _____ decades, appearing in comics, movies, television shows, and video games.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.

- A. extraordinary
- B. pragmatic
- C. hereditary
- D. Familiar

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.

- A. explaining
- B. was explain
- C. explain
- D. had explain

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.

- A. therefore
- B. subsequently
- C. instead
- D. such as

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.

- A. themselves
- B. ourselves
- C. herself
- D. Himself

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. for
- B. on
- C. under
- D. Above

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. B) The passage states that "The framers of the Constitution had incorporated Article 254 (2) empowering the President to grant assent to Bills repugnant to central laws on Concurrent List matters." This clearly identifies Article 254(2) as the relevant constitutional provision.
2. C) The passage highlights that two anti-NEET Bills in 2017 failed, and the 2021 Bill was returned by the Governor, then re-adopted, and ultimately denied assent by the President. This series of events justifies the description "protracted and unpredictable."
3. B) The passage notes that "the development is bound to cause uncertainty and make medical aspirants anxious" and refers to the delay as "concerning." This underscores that student uncertainty is the central concern.
4. C) The passage mentions multiple failed attempts by Tamil Nadu to bypass NEET and notes that the AYUSH Ministry found the Bill to potentially "endanger sovereignty, unity and integrity," suggesting a firm central stance against deviation from NEET.
5. C) The passage concludes by stating that "Tamil Nadu's legal options are limited" and "the judiciary is unlikely to settle the issue with any urgency", implying ongoing challenges. It also suggests the state should prepare students for NEET in the meantime—pointing to continued uncertainty and a long road ahead.
6. A) 'neither' के बदले 'but' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'awkward' और 'grammatically accurate' वाक्य में विरोधाभास को दर्शाने के लिए 'but' उपयुक्त conjunction है; जैसे— An awkward but grammatically accurate sentence is the result of center-implanting.
 - 'but' will be used instead of 'neither' because 'awkward' and 'grammatically accurate' in the sentence show a contrast, so 'but' is the appropriate conjunction; Like— An awkward but grammatically accurate sentence is the result of center-implanting.
7. D) a' के बदले 'the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Statue of Liberty' एक विशिष्ट (specific) वस्तु है, जो एक ही है; जैसे— I want to visit the Taj Mahal.
 - 'the' will be used instead of 'a' because 'Statue of Liberty' is a specific object, which is unique; Like— I want to visit the Taj Mahal.
8. C) **Candour** (noun) – The quality of being open and honest; frankness. ईमानदारी
 Synonym: **Honesty** (noun) – The quality of being truthful and sincere. ईमानदारी
 - **Will** (noun) – The faculty by which a person decides on and initiates actions. इच्छा शक्ति

- **Resolution** (noun) – A firm decision to do or not to do something. संकल्प
 - **Power** (noun) – The ability to do something or act in a particular way. शक्ति
9. A) **Opaque** (adjective) – Not able to be seen through; not transparent. अपारदर्शी
- **Dirty** (adjective) – Covered or marked with an unclean substance. गंदा
 - **Transparent** (adjective) – Allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen. पारदर्शी
 - **Black** (adjective) – Of the very darkest color owing to the absence of or complete absorption of light; the opposite of white. काला
10. C) The correct spelling of 'delinquency' is 'delinquency,' which means "minor crime, especially that committed by young people" बाल अपराध, कुकर्म.
11. D) **By leaps and bounds** (idiom) – **Rapidly** तेज़ी से
12. C) **Skating on thin ice** (idiom) – In a risky or dangerous situation खतरे में होना
13. D) **is** के बदले **'are'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि **'the seeds'** Subject Plural है और इसके साथ Verb भी Plural होगा; जैसे— **'the seeds of character are sown'**.
- **'are'** will be used instead of **'is'** because **'the seeds'** is a Plural Subject, so the Verb will also be in Plural form; Like— **'the seeds of character are sown'**.
14. A) **Confusing** (adjective) – Lacking clarity, puzzling, bewildering. भ्रमित करने वाला
- Antonym: **Guiding** (adjective) – Directing or showing the way, leading, enlightening. मार्गदर्शन करने वाला
- **Twinkled** (verb) – Shined with a flickering or sparkling light, glimmered. टिमटिमाना
 - **Travellers** (noun) – People who are on a journey, voyagers, explorers. यात्री
 - **Journey** (noun) – An act of traveling from one place to another, trip, voyage. यात्रा
15. A) **than** के बदले **'to'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि **'prefer'** के साथ **'to'** का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— I prefer tea to coffee.
- **'to'** will be used instead of **'than'** because with **'prefer'**, **'to'** is used; Like— I prefer tea to coffee.
16. D) **'a book'** के बदले **'the book'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ specific book की बात हो रही है जो उन्होंने हमें दी थी; जैसे— We were grateful for the book they gave us.
- **'the book'** will be used instead of **'a book'** because it refers to a specific book that they gave us; Like— We were grateful for the book they gave us.

17. C) **Be in seventh heaven** (idiom) – To be in a state of extreme happiness अत्यधिक खुशी में होना
18. B) 'is great' के बदले 'was greater' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि तुलना Past Tense में हो रही है; जैसे—
Shakespeare was greater than any other English poet.
• 'was greater' will be used instead of 'is great' because the comparison is being made in the Past Tense; Like— Shakespeare was greater than any other English poet.
19. C) **Reckon** (verb) – to calculate, estimate, or regard in a specified way. गणना करना
Synonym: **Count** (verb) – to determine the total number of a collection of items. गिनना
- **Assess** (verb) – to evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of something. मूल्यांकन करना
 - **Merit** (noun) – the quality of being particularly good or worthy, especially to deserve praise or reward. योग्यता
 - **Imagine** (verb) – to form a mental image or concept of something. कल्पना करना
20. B) **Bread and butter** (idiom) – Means of livelihood **रोजी रोटी**
21. A) **Extraordinary** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence उन काल्पनिक पात्रों की चर्चा कर रहा है जो असाधारण शक्तियों के साथ आते हैं और अपने इन शक्तियों का उपयोग अपराध से लड़ने और जनता की रक्षा करने के लिए करते हैं। यहाँ "Superheroes are fictional characters with (1) _____ powers" के माध्यम से उन विशेष शक्तियों की बात हो रही है, जो सामान्य से परे हैं। इसलिए, "extraordinary" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- '**Extraordinary**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing fictional characters who come with exceptional powers and use these powers to fight crime and protect the public. Here, through "Superheroes are fictional characters with (1) _____ powers", it refers to those special powers that are beyond ordinary. Thus, "extraordinary" would be the most appropriate choice.
22. C) **Explain** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence यह बता रहा है कि सुपरहीरोज़ ने अपनी शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त की। यहाँ "Superheroes often have backstories that (2) _____ how they have gained their powers" में यह दिखाया गया है कि उनके पास कहानियाँ हैं जो यह समझाती हैं कि उन्होंने अपनी शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त की। इसलिए, "explain" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- '**Explain**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing how superheroes gained their powers. Here, through "Superheroes often have backstories that (2) _____ how they have gained their powers," it portrays that they have stories that explain how they acquired their powers. Thus, "explain" would be the most appropriate choice.

23. D) **Such as** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरो के शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त होती हैं, इसकी विभिन्न संभावनाओं की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation" के माध्यम से उन संभावनाओं का उल्लेख किया जा रहा है, जिसमें सुपरहीरो अपनी शक्तियाँ प्राप्त करते हैं। इसलिए, "such as" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

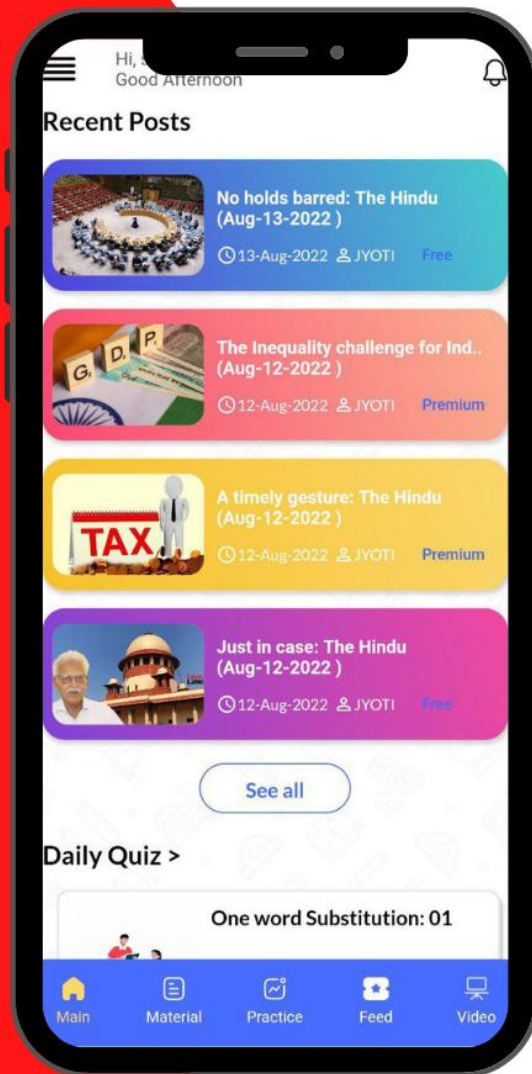
- **'Such as'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the various possibilities of how superheroes acquire their powers. Here, through "being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation," it mentions those possibilities in which superheroes gain their powers. Thus, "such as" would be the most appropriate choice.

24. A) **'themselves'** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरो की बात कर रहा है जो अपराध से लड़ते समय अपनी पहचान छुपाने और खुद की रक्षा करने के लिए एक विशिष्ट पोशाक या वस्त्र पहनते हैं। यहाँ "protect 4) _____ while fighting crime" के माध्यम से उस सुरक्षा को दर्शाया जा रहा है जो सुपरहीरो अपने आप को प्रदान करते हैं। इसलिए, "themselves" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **'themselves'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing superheroes who wear specific outfits or clothing to hide their identity and protect themselves while fighting crime. Here, through "protect 4) _____ while fighting crime," it portrays that protection which superheroes provide to themselves. Thus, "themselves" would be the most appropriate choice.

25. A) **For** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरोज़ के दशकों से लोकप्रिय संस्कृति में होने की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture (5) _____ decades" के माध्यम से उस लंबे समय की अवधि को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें सुपरहीरोज़ ने कॉमिक्स, मूवीज़, टेलीविजन शो और वीडियो गेम्स में अपनी जगह बनाई है। इसलिए, "for" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'For' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the presence of superheroes in popular culture for decades. Here, through "Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture (5) _____ decades", it portrays that extended period during which superheroes have established their place in comics, movies, television shows, and video games. Thus, "for" would be the most appropriate choice.



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