

## Stitch in time: on judiciary and Environment Ministry notifications

Making illegal units pay heavy fines might have limited **deterrent effect**

Last week, the Supreme Court of India finally **struck down** as “illegal” two notifications by the Union Environment Ministry that allowed industrial units to **set up**, expand operations or change their manufacturing practices without following the **due** process of taking government permission **beforehand**. Taking ‘prior’ approval is a **sacrosanct** principle **at the heart of** the Environment Impact Assessment (Notification) of 2006. **On the surface** it appeared that **the Centre**, or the Union Environment Ministry, **had instituted** a system that made a **mockery** of this principle, but there was a **rationale**, even if it was **flawed to some extent**. In March 2017, the body issued a notification providing a “one-time” six-month **window** for industries that did not have the right environmental clearances, to apply for one. In 2021, it instituted a ‘standard operating procedure’ that **in effect** allowed projects in **violation** of the laws, but which could not **avail of** the six-month window, to apply — **albeit** at the cost of heavy fines — for regularisation. **Moreover**, all these significant changes were being issued through executive orders, rather than any attempt at **amending** the **underlying** Environment Protection Act (EIA), 2006, through Parliament.

The Centre’s **reasoning** was **three-fold**. First, the **process** for regularising projects **had** already been initiated by the United Progressive Alliance government in 2012 and 2013. These were, however, struck down by the Jharkhand High Court and the National Green Tribunal on procedural grounds, and not that these projects were **irredeemably violative**. Second, **demolishing** functioning plants that were contributing to the economy and employment could **exacerbate** pollution and be disruptive. The Centre **cited** examples of various disputes involving copper mines to pharmaceutical companies where the courts had agreed that a “balanced” approach was necessary in cases involving violations. Finally, it argued that it had **put in place** a system whereby the industrial units **seeking** to be regularised would have to pay fines for the period that they had functioned in violation. The **Court** in its final **verdict has** rightly, as previous courts have, **emphasised** the principle of “prior” clearance, though its action may be a little late as it has clarified that companies that had regularised themselves under the 2017 and 2021 orders would be “unaffected” by the judgment. **That thriving** industrial units in violation of the laws **mushroomed is** a **testament** to the collective failure of regional environmental boards to **enforce** laws. So it **stands to reason** that **making** these illegal units pay, under the **purported** new procedure, **would** have been a **fruitless** exercise. The judgment should ideally **nip** any “crafty” attempts by future governments to **condone** violations in the name of the economy though it must also **trigger** on-ground **enforcement**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Stitch in time** (phrase) – timely action, early remedy, preventive measure, foresight, preemptive step समय रहते की गई कार्रवाई
2. **Deterrent effect** (noun) – discouraging impact, preventive influence, hindrance, dissuasive force, inhibition रोकथाम प्रभाव
3. **Strike down** (phrasal verb) – invalidate, annul, reject, abolish, repeal अमान्य घोषित करना
4. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – establish, install, initiate, found, organize स्थापित करना
5. **Due** (adjective) – appropriate, rightful, proper, expected, required उचित
6. **Beforehand** (adverb) – in advance, earlier, previously, ahead, prior पहले से
7. **Sacrosanct** (adjective) – sacred, inviolable, untouchable, hallowed, respected पवित्र
8. **At the heart of** (phrase) – central to, core of, essence of, main part of, foundational to केंद्र में
9. **On the surface of it** (phrase) – seemingly, at first glance, apparently, superficially, outwardly सतही रूप से
10. **Institute** (verb) – establish, initiate, create, implement, launch लागू करना
11. **Mockery** (noun) – ridicule, farce, joke, sham, insult मज़ाक / उपहास
12. **Rationale** (noun) – reasoning, logic, explanation, justification, basis युक्ति / तर्क
13. **Flaw** (verb) – damage, impair, mar, undermine, spoil दोषपूर्ण बनाना
14. **To some extent** (phrase) – partly, somewhat, moderately, marginally, slightly कुछ हद तक
15. **Window** (noun) – opportunity, chance, opening, period, timeframe अवसर
16. **In effect** (phrase) – essentially, practically, in reality, virtually, in practice प्रभावी रूप से
17. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, transgression, offense, contravention उल्लंघन
18. **Avail** (of) (verb) – make use of, take advantage of, utilize, employ, benefit from लाभ उठाना
19. **Albeit** (conjunction) – although, even though, though, notwithstanding, however हालांकि
20. **Moreover** (adverb) – furthermore, additionally, also, besides, in addition इसके अलावा
21. **Amend** (verb) – modify, revise, alter, change, update संशोधन करना
22. **Underlying** (adjective) – fundamental, basic, foundational, primary, core आधारभूत
23. **Reasoning** (noun) – logic, argument, thinking, rationale, explanation तर्क
24. **Three-fold** (adjective) – triple, tripartite, three-part, thrice, triadic तीन गुना

25. **Irredeemably** (adverb) – hopelessly, incurably, permanently, fatally, unalterably अपूरणीय रूप से
26. **Violative** (adjective) – infringing, breaking, non-compliant, unlawful, transgressive उल्लंघन करने वाला
27. **Demolish** (verb) – destroy, dismantle, tear down, wreck, flatten ध्वस्त करना
28. **Exacerbate** (verb) – worsen, intensify, aggravate, heighten, inflame बिगाड़ना
29. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, mention, quote, name, present हवाला देना
30. **Put in place** (phrase) – establish, set up, implement, apply, enforce लागू करना
31. **Seek** (verb) – try to obtain, request, pursue, aim for, solicit प्रयास करना
32. **Verdict** (noun) – judgment, ruling, decision, decree, resolution निर्णय
33. **Emphasise** (verb) – stress, highlight, underline, assert, point out ज़ोर देना
34. **Thrive** (verb) – prosper, grow, flourish, succeed, develop फलना-फूलना
35. **Mushroom** (verb) – multiply, increase rapidly, expand quickly, spread, proliferate तेजी से बढ़ना
36. **Testament** (to) (noun) – proof, evidence, indication, demonstration, confirmation प्रमाण
37. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, execute, apply, impose, uphold लागू करना
38. **Stand to reason** (phrase) – make sense, be logical, follow naturally, be understandable, be evident तार्किक प्रतीत होना
39. **Purported** (adjective) – alleged, claimed, supposed, stated, professed कथित
40. **Fruitless** (adjective) – futile, useless, ineffective, unproductive, in vain व्यर्थ
41. **Nip** (verb) – suppress, stop, thwart, snub, cut off रोक देना
42. **Crafty** (adjective) – cunning, sly, deceitful, clever, manipulative चालाक
43. **Condone** (verb) – overlook, excuse, pardon, disregard, tolerate माफ़ करना
44. **Trigger** (verb) – initiate, spark, provoke, cause, set off शुरू करना
45. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, application, imposition, execution, regulation प्रवर्तन

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court declared two Environment Ministry notifications illegal for bypassing mandatory prior environmental clearance.
2. These notifications allowed industries to start or expand operations without securing advance government approval.
3. Prior environmental clearance is a fundamental requirement under the 2006 Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification.
4. In 2017, the Ministry provided a six-month window for violators to apply for environmental clearance retroactively.
5. In 2021, a Standard Operating Procedure allowed further regularisation of violators in exchange for heavy fines.
6. These changes were made through executive orders rather than parliamentary amendments to the Environment Protection Act.
7. The Centre defended its actions on three main grounds.
8. First, similar efforts to regularise projects had been initiated by the UPA government in 2012–13.
9. Those earlier efforts were rejected on procedural—not substantive—grounds by the judiciary.
10. Second, the Centre argued that shutting down running industries would harm the economy and possibly worsen pollution.
11. Third, the government claimed violators were being penalised through fines, offering a form of accountability.
12. The Court upheld the principle of prior clearance but allowed industries already regularised under 2017 and 2021 orders to remain unaffected.
13. This highlights the failure of regional environmental boards to enforce environmental laws effectively.
14. The Supreme Court's judgment aims to prevent future governments from bypassing environmental norms under economic pretexts.
15. The ruling underscores the need for strict on-ground enforcement and deters attempts to legalise environmental violations retroactively.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Sarcastic and mocking
  - B. Supportive
  - C. Indifferent and neutral
  - D. Critical yet balanced
2. **What can be inferred about the Supreme Court's stance regarding the balance between environmental protection and industrial development?**
  - A. The Court believes industrial growth must always take precedence over environmental laws.
  - B. The Court values prior environmental clearance as essential, even if some violations are left unpunished.
  - C. The Court fully supports the Environment Ministry's attempt to regularize illegal projects.
  - D. The Court discourages any form of regularisation, regardless of the economic benefit.
3. **According to the passage, how did the Environment Ministry attempt to regularize unapproved industrial operations?**
  - A. By sending notices to shut down all illegal units immediately.
  - B. By amending the EIA Act through Parliament.
  - C. By creating executive orders offering a fine-based regularisation path.
  - D. By delegating power to regional boards for automatic clearances.
4. **According to the passage, when was the one-time six-month window notification issued by the Environment Ministry?**
  - A. March 2021
  - B. March 2017
  - C. July 2006
  - D. April 2013
5. **Choose the word most opposite in meaning to "irredeemably" as used in the passage:**
  - A. Reversibly
  - B. Permanently
  - C. Slightly
  - D. Recoverably
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. D  | 2. B  | 3. C  | 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. D) Critical yet balanced

The passage critiques the government's flawed notifications (e.g., calling them "illegal" and a "mockery" of environmental laws) but also acknowledges the rationale behind them (e.g., economic concerns, past judicial precedents).

A) The passage does not use sarcasm or mockery; it presents a reasoned critique.

B) While the passage mentions the government's reasoning, it ultimately disapproves of its actions.

C) The passage is not indifferent—it clearly takes a stance against the illegal notifications.

### 2. B) The Court values prior environmental clearance as essential, even if some violations are left unpunished.

The Court struck down the two notifications but clarified that units regularized under the 2017 and 2021 orders would remain unaffected. This shows a balanced view, upholding the importance of prior environmental clearance while not dismantling already-regularized units.

A: Incorrect – The Court did not say industrial growth should override environmental laws.

C: Incorrect – The Court deemed the Environment Ministry's actions as illegal, not supportive.

D: Incorrect – The Court allowed past regularisations to stand, not completely discouraging them.

### 3. C.) By creating executive orders offering a fine-based regularisation path.

The Ministry used executive orders — the 2017 notification and the 2021 SOP — to allow industries without prior clearance to apply for regularisation after paying heavy fines.

A: Incorrect – There is no mention of shutting down units immediately.

B: Incorrect – The passage says the Ministry did not amend the EIA Act via Parliament.

D: Incorrect – The passage critiques regional boards for failing to enforce laws, not granting automatic clearances.

### 4. B) March 2017

The passage clearly states: "In March 2017, the body issued a notification providing a 'one-time' six-month window..."

A) March 2021: Incorrect. The 2021 order referred to a standard operating procedure, not the one-time window.

C) July 2006: Incorrect. This refers to the EIA Notification year, not the one-time window.

D) April 2013: Incorrect. Though the UPA initiated regularisation efforts in 2012-13, it was not the six-month window mentioned here.

### 5. D) Recoverably

Irredeemably means "in a way that cannot be saved, improved, or corrected."

Its antonym would be “recoverably” – something that can be restored or corrected.

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 "I 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) **parallel**. 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।

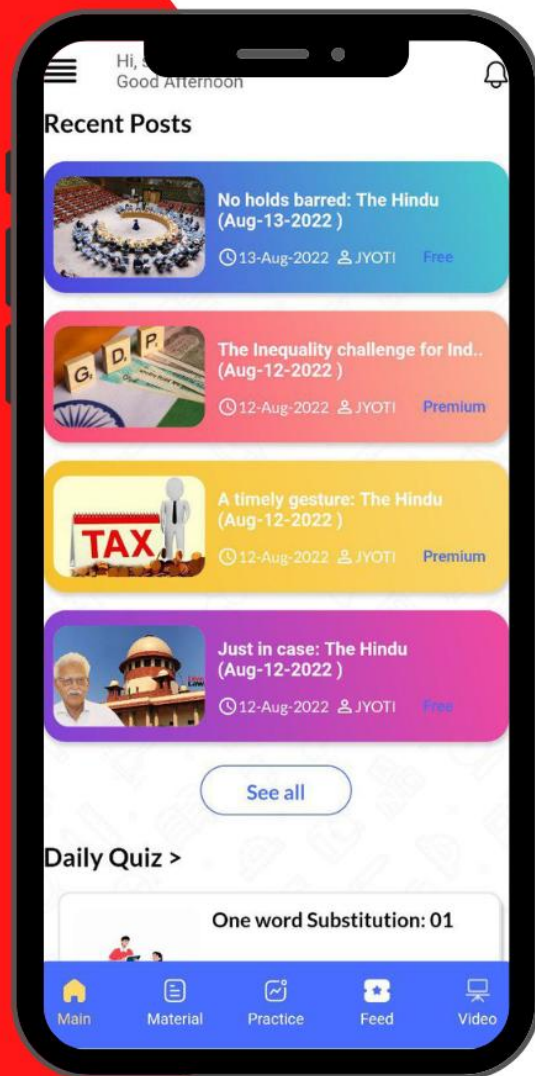
**Expansion** will be used because it refers to the act of increasing in size, scope, or intellectual capacity. The sentence discusses how reading helps us acquire knowledge and achieve intellectual growth, which directly aligns with the meaning of "expansion." **Compression**: It means reducing the 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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