

## Sedition redux: On trampling on press freedom

New sedition law threatens freedom of expression further

Filing **frivolous cases** against publications and **summoning** journalists without proper investigation or **perusal** of **material** evidence **have** become a part of the police **playbook** in States ruled by **vindictive** politicians who **brook** no **criticism**. The Assam Police's **decision** to **reportedly** summon the founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and consulting editor Karan Thapar of The Wire under Section 152, among others, of the BNS, **is** yet another case of the state trampling on press freedom. The fact that the summons were issued by the Guwahati Crime Branch to the journalists in a fresh sedition FIR on the same day, August 12, 2025, when the Supreme Court had issued notice on The Wire's **petition** challenging the constitutional validity of the new sedition law (Section 152) and had protected them from any "**coercive** action" by the Assam Police, **makes** these actions **egregious**. The **summons**, apart from another one related to a case registered at the Morigaon Police Station, **seem** to **pertain to** a report in The Wire on Operation Sindoor. The Wire has also **pointed to** other disturbing issues — the summons do not carry the FIR date or provide any details of the **alleged** offence or include a copy of the FIR — all of which are mandatory according to the BNSS sections **associated** with the summons. **In addition**, **keeping** the FIRs secret and **not mentioning** the reasons for the summons **hint at** police intimidation.

**Critics** of Section 152 had rightly feared that it was a rebranded version of the **colonial-era** sedition law, whose cases the Court had **kept in abeyance** in 2022. Section 152 has even more **expansive** and dangerous provisions, **setting the bar** much lower for **prosecution** than the previous sedition law. **Terms** such as "knowingly" **could** allow for prosecution even where there was no **malicious intent** to cause harm, **unlike** Section 124A's strict requirement to prove clear intent to **incite disaffection**. The **vague language** around "**sovereignty**, unity, and **integrity** of India" **provides** dangerous **latitude** to law enforcement agencies. Even **legitimate acts** such as criticism of government policy **could** be **construed** as "**endangering** unity". Without clear definitions or **safeguards**, Section 152 can target individuals for **merely** expressing opinions that authorities **deem** threatening. This law's **invocation** against journalists questioning government narratives **creates a chilling effect** on press freedom. The Court's intervention in The Wire's case, to examine Section 152's constitutional validity while protecting journalists from **coercive** action, **acknowledges** the **potential** for **abuse**. However, the Assam Police's **defiant** response suggests that without stronger judicial **oversight** and clearer guidelines, Section 152 will continue to be **weaponised** against **dissent**. The **onus** now **lies** on the Court to recognise the **unconstitutionality** of the sedition laws, in their earlier form or rebranded, which have no place in a democratic society. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Sedition** (noun) – incitement, subversion, agitation, insurrectionism, rabble-rousing  
राजद्रोह
2. **Redux** (adjective) – brought back; revived. पुनरावृत्त
3. **Trample** (verb) – crush, stomp, tread on, override, violate रौंदना
4. **Frivolous** (adjective) – trivial, groundless, baseless, vexatious, unserious तुच्छ
5. **Summon** (verb) – call, subpoena, cite, require, convene तलब करना
6. **Perusal** (noun) – examination, scrutiny, reading, review, inspection अवलोकन
7. **Material** (adjective) – relevant, pertinent, substantive, significant, germane ठोस
8. **Playbook** (noun) – game plan, strategy manual, template, tactics guide, operating script रणनीति-पुस्तिका
9. **Vindictive** (adjective) – vengeful, spiteful, retaliatory, rancorous, malicious प्रतिशोधी
10. **Brook** (verb) – tolerate, endure, allow, permit, countenance सहन करना
11. **Criticism** (noun) – censure, critique, disapproval, condemnation, reproach आलोचना
12. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, purportedly, supposedly, as claimed, by reports कथित
13. **Coercive** (adjective) – forceful, repressive, intimidating, compulsory, compelling दमनकारी
14. **Egregious** (adjective) – flagrant, outrageous, gross, shocking, blatant घोर
15. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – relate to, concern, refer to, bear on, be about संबंधित/ संबद्ध होना
16. **Point** (to) (verb) – indicate, suggest, signal, allude to, evidence संकेत
17. **Alleged** (adjective) – purported, supposed, claimed, asserted, so-called आरोपित
18. **Associated** (adjective) – related, connected, linked, attendant, corresponding संबद्ध
19. **In addition** (phrase) – moreover, furthermore, besides, additionally, plus इसके अलावा
20. **Hint** (at) (verb) – suggest, imply, insinuate, intimate, allude इशारा
21. **Intimidation** (noun) – bullying, threat, coercion, browbeating, harassment धमकी
22. **Critics** (noun) – detractors, commentators, analysts, observers, opponents आलोचक
23. **Colonial-era** (adjective) – imperial-period, British-era, Raj-era, pre-independence, colonial-period औपनिवेशिक-कालीन

24. **Keep in abeyance** (phrase) – suspend, shelve, defer, stay, hold over अस्त -व्यस्त रखना
25. **Expansive** (adjective) – broad, sweeping, extensive, wide-ranging, all-encompassing व्यापक
26. **Set the bar** (phrase) – establish a standard, set the threshold, define criteria, fix the benchmark, raise/lower standards मानक-निर्धारण
27. **Prosecution** (noun) – legal action, criminal proceedings, trial, indictment, arraignment अभियोजन
28. **Malicious** (adjective) – ill-intentioned, spiteful, malevolent, vindictive, pernicious दुराशयी
29. **Intent** (noun) – intention, purpose, aim, design, mens rea आशय
30. **Unlike** (preposition) – contrary to, in contrast to, different from, as opposed to, dissimilar to से भिन्न
31. **Incite** (verb) – provoke, instigate, foment, stir up, egg on भड़काना
32. **Disaffection** (noun) – discontent, resentment, alienation, dissatisfaction, estrangement असंतोष
33. **Vague** (adjective) – ambiguous, imprecise, unclear, nebulous, fuzzy अस्पष्ट
34. **Sovereignty** (noun) – statehood, supreme authority, autonomy, independence, national authority संप्रभुता
35. **Integrity** (noun) – unity, wholeness, cohesion, indivisibility, soundness अखंडता
36. **Latitude** (noun) – leeway, discretion, freedom, scope, room छूट
37. **Legitimate** (adjective) – lawful, valid, justified, bona fide, proper वैध
38. **Construe** (verb) – interpret, read as, take to mean, understand, parse व्याख्या करना
39. **Endangering** (adjective) – jeopardizing, threatening, imperiling, compromising, risking संकटकारक
40. **Safeguard** (noun) – protection, guarantee, check, shield, safeguard-measure सुरक्षा
41. **Merely** (adverb) – only, just, simply, purely, nothing-more-than मात्र
42. **Deem** (verb) – consider, regard, judge, view, hold मानना
43. **Invocation** (noun) – use, application, resort, calling-upon, enforcement-call आह्वान
44. **A chilling effect** (phrase) – a phenomenon where individuals or groups refrain from engaging in expression for fear of running afoul of a law or regulation. निरोधक-प्रभाव

45. **Coercive** (adjective) – compellent, oppressive, force-based, coercional, compulsory बलपूर्वक
46. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, recognize, accept, concede, own स्वीकारना
47. **Potential** (noun) – possibility, capacity, likelihood, promise, propensity संभावना
48. **Abuse** (noun) – misuse, exploitation, wrongdoing, mistreatment, excess दुरुपयोग
49. **Defiant** (adjective) – unyielding, resistant, disobedient, confrontational, unrepentant अवज्ञाकारी
50. **Oversight** (noun) – supervision, monitoring, scrutiny, watch, superintendence निगरानी
51. **Weaponise** (verb) – militarise, arm with, turn into a weapon, deploy as a weapon, instrumentalise हथियारीकरण
52. **Dissent** (noun) – disagreement, opposition, protest, dissidence, dissenting view असहमति
53. **Onus** (noun) – burden, responsibility, duty, charge, obligation उत्तरदायित्व
54. **Lie** (verb) – reside, rest, vest, inhere, be situated निहित
55. **Unconstitutionality** (noun) – constitutional illegality, invalidity, ultra vires status, breach of constitution, unconstitutional nature असंवैधानिकता

### Summary of the Editorial

1. Frivolous cases and arbitrary summons against journalists have become common tools for politicians intolerant of criticism.
2. The Assam Police summoned The Wire's editors Siddharth Varadarajan and Karan Thapar under Section 152 of the BNS.
3. This action came on the same day (August 12, 2025) that the Supreme Court had issued notice on The Wire's petition against Section 152 and granted protection from coercive action.
4. The timing of the summons highlights the police's disregard for judicial orders.
5. The case seems linked to The Wire's report on "Operation Sindoor."
6. The Wire flagged procedural violations — the summons lacked FIR date, offence details, and copy of the FIR.
7. Keeping FIRs secret and issuing vague summons suggests police intimidation of the press.
8. Critics had feared Section 152 was just a rebranded sedition law after the Court put colonial-era Section 124A in abeyance in 2022.
9. Section 152 contains broader and more dangerous provisions than 124A, lowering the threshold for prosecution.
10. Terms such as "knowingly" allow prosecution without proving intent, unlike the older law's stricter requirement.
11. The vague language about "sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India" gives unchecked power to authorities.
12. Even legitimate criticism of government policy can be branded as "endangering unity."
13. The law creates a chilling effect on press freedom by threatening dissenters with prosecution.
14. The Supreme Court's intervention shows awareness of potential abuse, but police defiance persists.
15. Ultimately, the Court must declare such sedition laws unconstitutional, as they are incompatible with democracy and free expression.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which inference best explains why Section 152 (BNS) is especially vulnerable to a constitutional challenge when compared with the old Section 124A?**
  - A. The primary problem with Section 152 is that it imposes markedly harsher punishments than Section 124A, and therefore any conviction under it would automatically be disproportionate and unconstitutional regardless of how the offence is defined.
  - B. Section 152 uses broad, undefined phrases such as “sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India” while not clearly anchoring liability in a strict intent (mens rea) requirement, thereby expanding police discretion and creating a chilling effect on protected criticism—raising classic “overbreadth” and “void-for-vagueness” concerns.
  - C. Section 152 will likely survive because the Court has consistently upheld analogous national-security statutes; therefore, any free-speech objections will be outweighed by deference to the State’s public-order interests.
  - D. The core issue with Section 152 is purely procedural—defects like missing FIR dates in summonses—which, once corrected administratively, would remove any ground for constitutional scrutiny.
2. **What is the strongest inference about institutional dynamics from the fact pattern that (i) on August 12, 2025 the Supreme Court issued notice on The Wire’s petition and protected the journalists from coercive action, yet (ii) the Assam Police issued/pressed summons the same day lacking basic FIR details?**
  - A. It indicates a concerning posture of executive-police defiance toward contemporaneous judicial restraint, signaling erosion of checks and balances unless firm oversight and clearer guidelines are imposed.
  - B. It reflects healthy institutional “competition,” which—by prompting rapid actions on both sides—ultimately strengthens transparency and will reduce misuse over time.
  - C. It most plausibly amounts to an ordinary administrative coincidence with no bearing on rule-of-law norms, because such timing issues are common and innocuous.
  - D. It shows that the police actions were carefully coordinated with the Supreme Court’s timeline to ensure maximum procedural compliance and deference to judicial directives.
3. **Read the passage carefully. Choose the option that best completes the sentence**

The Wire has pointed to the absence of basic details in the summons — the FIR date, particulars of the alleged offence, and a copy of the FIR — all of which are \_\_\_\_\_ under the BNSS.

  - A. mandatory
  - B. discretionary
  - C. recommended
  - D. exempted
4. **Based only on the passage, decide whether the statement is true or false. Pick the option that correctly evaluates it.**

Statement: According to the passage, Section 152 of the BNS is less likely than the erstwhile Section 124A to chill legitimate criticism because it demands proof of clear intent to incite disaffection.

  - A. True
  - B. False

- C. Partly true  
D. Cannot be determined
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**  
A. Technical compliance requirements of FIRs under BNSS as a procedural guide.  
B. The benefits of police autonomy in handling sensitive cases.  
C. The personal and professional profiles of two journalists from The Wire.  
D. The misuse of the new sedition law (Section 152 BNS) to suppress dissent and press freedom, and the need for strong judicial oversight
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
The chairman asked the secretary to revert back immediately / with a final conclusion on the matter, / so that the board could reach a mutual agreement / without wasting further time.  
A. with a final conclusion on the matter  
B. The chairman asked the secretary to revert back immediately  
C. so that the board could reach a mutual agreement  
D. without wasting further time
7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Be in the same boat  
A. To say two things in the same breath  
B. To be in the same unpleasant situation  
C. To do something that is dangerous  
D. To pretend to be something that you are not
8. **In the following Question, two lists are given with the keywords mentioned. You are required to match List-I with List-II and Select the option that can be used as a correct one-word substitute for the word given in List I.**  
**List-I**  
A) Nadir  
B) Rhapsody  
C) Amble  
D) Pittance  
**List-II (Meaning)**  
1. Walk slowly/leisurely  
2. Very small amount of money  
3. Lowest point  
4. Effusive praise/rapturous expression  
A. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2  
B. A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2  
C. A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1  
D. A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
The table's four legs were broken / after the movers dropped it roughly / while shifting the furniture to the new house, / causing inconvenience during unpacking.  
A. The table's four legs were broken

- B. after the movers dropped it roughly  
C. while shifting the furniture to the new house  
D. causing inconvenience during unpacking
10. **Directions: Match List I (parts of speech) with List II (example) and select the answer using the code.**
- List I**  
A. Noun  
B. Verb  
C. Present participle of verb  
D. Adjective
- List II**  
1. Experimental  
2. Experimentation  
3. Experiment  
4. Experimenting  
A. A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1  
B. A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4  
C. A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3  
D. A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
COMPENDIOUS  
A. Prolix  
B. Tendentious  
C. Circuitous  
D. Succinct
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
MONTICULE  
A. Ravine  
B. Isthmus  
C. Knoll  
D. Atoll
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
\_\_\_\_\_ than a hundred passengers were killed in the recent train accident.  
A. Less  
B. No less  
C. Fewest  
D. No fewer
14. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**  
He collected valuable coins **from the old box kept in the storeroom**, which belonged to his grandfather.  
A. out of the old box kept in the storeroom  
B. from within the old box kept in the storeroom  
C. out from the old box kept in the storeroom



D. No improvement

15. In the following Question, two lists are given with the keywords mentioned. You are required to match List-I with List-II and Select the option that can be used as a correct one-word substitute for the word given in List I.

List-I

- A) Damp squib
- B) Excerpt
- C) Rostrum
- D) Scourge

List-II (Meaning)

- 1. Small raised platform on a stage
- 2. Something that causes great trouble/suffering
- 3. Events/situations less impressive than expected
- 4. Small part of a longer text/film/music

- A. A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- B. A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- C. A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
- D. A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

16. In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and sixth sentences are given as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

S1: A licensee who wants to surrender his license shall apply in Form X to the licensing officer.

P: This shall not entitle the licensee to any compensation by way of license fee in any form.

Q: If the licensing officer is satisfied, he may accept the surrender.

R: The license shall be deemed to have been terminated from the date of such acceptance.

S: The application shall be accompanied by a declaration of stock in Form V.

S6: The licensee who has surrendered his license shall be allowed to sell the antiquities declared to another licensee or a recognized museum in India.

- A. PQRS
- B. SRQP
- C. SQRP
- D. SQPR

17. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

RIGID

- A. Obdurate
- B. Malleable
- C. Inflexible
- D. Staid

18. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Play devil's advocate

- A. To try to defeat someone by tricking them
- B. To perform with a lot of skills
- C. To delay doing something

- D. To pretend to be against an idea in order to discuss it more carefully
19. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**

**Beside preparing the annual report, she also handled client presentations and financial audits single-handedly.**

- A. Beside of preparing the annual report, she also handled client presentations and financial audits single-handedly
- B. In beside of preparing the annual report, she also handled client presentations and financial audits single-handedly
- C. No improvement
- D. Besides preparing the annual report, she also handled client presentations and financial audits single-handedly
20. **Select the correct option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
- He said, "I decided not to purchase the house, because it was near the railway track."
- A. He said that he had decided not to purchase the house because it was near the railway track.
- B. He said that he decided not to purchase the house because it had been near the railway track.
- C. He said that he has decided not to purchase the house because it is near the railway track.
- D. He said that he had decided not to purchase the house because it is near the railway track.

**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.**

In May this year, the Ministry of Finance released India's draft Climate Finance Taxonomy for public consultation. As a foundational tool, the taxonomy aims to \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_ climate-aligned investments, prevent greenwashing, and clarify for investors which sectors, technologies and practices contribute to mitigation, adaptation, or transition. Importantly, the document calls itself a "living" framework, adaptable \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ India's \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ priorities and international obligations. However, \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_ success as a \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ governance tool will depend on how it operationalises this principle.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. mobilises
- B. mobilise
- C. mobilised
- D. mobilising
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. to
- B. in
- C. of
- D. at
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. evolved
- B. evolves
- C. evolve

D. evolving

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

A. its

B. their

C. his

D. it's

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

A. apocryphal

B. ossified

C. stultify

D. credible

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

- B) Section 152 uses broad, undefined phrases such as “sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India” while not clearly anchoring liability in a strict intent (mens rea) requirement, thereby expanding police discretion and creating a chilling effect on protected criticism—raising classic “overbreadth” and “void-for-vagueness” concerns.

The passage stresses vague language (“sovereignty, unity, integrity”) + lack of clear intent threshold, enabling authorities to treat even policy criticism as threatening. That invites overbreadth/vagueness challenges and a chilling effect—precisely the constitutional risks highlighted.

A. Penalty severity isn’t discussed; the concern is definitional vagueness and low intent threshold, not quantum of punishment.

C. The passage signals active Supreme Court scrutiny and potential unconstitutionality; it does not claim a track record guaranteeing deference that would “likely” save the law.

D. Procedural defects (missing FIR details) are mentioned but the passage presents a deeper, structural rights problem; fixing forms wouldn’t cure vagueness/overbreadth.
- A) It indicates a concerning posture of executive-police defiance toward contemporaneous judicial restraint, signaling erosion of checks and balances unless firm oversight and clearer guidelines are imposed.

The passage calls the police actions “egregious” and “defiant,” despite SC protection, and notes missing FIR particulars. That supports an inference of disregard for judicial signals and a need for stronger oversight.

B. The passage does not frame this as “healthy competition”; it frames it as trampling press freedom and defiance.

C. The article treats the timing and omissions as alarming, not innocuous coincidence.

D. Far from coordinated compliance, the summonses lacked required details and ran counter to the spirit of the Court’s protective order.
- A) **mandatory**

The passage states these items are required under the BNSS, i.e., obligatory.

B. discretionary — Wrong: “Discretionary” implies optional; the passage labels them as required.

C. recommended — Wrong: “Recommended” lacks binding force; the passage indicates a legal requirement.

D. exempted — Wrong: This would mean not needed; the passage asserts the opposite.
- B) **False**

The passage argues Section 152 is vague (“sovereignty, unity, integrity”) and lacks clear safeguards, enabling action without proving clear intent—thus more likely to chill criticism. By contrast, Section 124A is described as having a stricter requirement of clear intent.

A. True — Wrong: Reverses the passage’s claim.

C. Partly true — Wrong: No component of the statement aligns; it’s not mixed.

- D. Cannot be determined — Wrong: The passage gives enough to decide (vagueness vs. stricter)
5. D) **he misuse of the new sedition law (Section 152 BNS) to suppress dissent and press freedom, and the need for strong judicial oversight.**  
The passage centers on summons to journalists, highlights vague/abusable wording in Section 152, warns of a “chilling effect,” notes Supreme Court intervention, and urges stronger oversight—squarely about misuse threatening press freedom.  
B. Police autonomy benefits: The passage argues the opposite—that unchecked actions are abusive.  
C. Profiles of journalists: They’re mentioned only as a case example; biography is not the focus.  
D. Procedural guide: BNSS/FIR omissions are cited to show arbitrariness, not to teach procedure.
6. B) ‘revert back’ गलत है क्योंकि revert का मतलब ही है “come back/return.”  
Rule: Avoid superfluous pairs like revert back, return back, mutual agreement, free gift, ATM machine, reason because, etc.  
✓ He reverted immediately. (not reverted back)  
Correct sentence:  
The chairman asked the secretary to revert immediately...
7. B) **Be in the same boat** (idiom) – Be in the same unpleasant situation एक ही कठिन/प्रतिकूल स्थिति में होना
8. A) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- **Nadir** → Lowest point. निम्नतम बिंदु।
  - **Rhapsody** → Effusive praise/rapturous expression (also a musical form). उन्मुक्त प्रशंसा/भाव-विह्वल अभिव्यक्ति।
  - **Amble** → Walk slowly/leisurely. धीमे कदमों से टहलना।
  - **Pittance** → Very small amount of money. बहुत कम धनराशि/नगण्य वेतन।
9. A) ‘The table’s four legs’ गलत है क्योंकि inanimate objects (table, chair, building) के साथ possessive ‘s नहीं लगाते। सही होगा — The four legs of the table.  
Rule: Avoid ‘s with inanimates; use “of.” Exceptions: time, distance, value, idioms, personification.  
✓ A day’s work / Nature’s fury / At a stone’s throw  
Correct sentence:  
The four legs of the table were broken...
10. A) **A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1**
- **Experimentation** → Noun: process of trying out. प्रयोग-प्रक्रिया
  - **Experiment** → Verb: to test/try. प्रयोग करना
  - **Experimenting** → Present participle. प्रयोग करते हुए
  - **Experimental** → Adjective: based on experiments. प्रयोगात्मक
11. D) **Compendious** (adjective) – Brief yet comprehensive; concise and inclusive. संक्षिप्त परन्तु समग्र/सारगर्भित।  
**Synonym: Succinct** (adjective) – Concise, expressed clearly in few words. संक्षिप्त/संक्षेप में स्पष्ट।

- **Prolix** (adjective) – Tediously long and wordy. दीर्घ/विस्तारप्रिय।
  - **Tendentious** (adjective) – Biased; promoting a particular cause. पक्षपाती/उद्देश्यपूर्ण।
  - **Circuitous** (adjective) – Roundabout; indirect. घुमावदार/परोक्ष।
12. C) **Monticule** (noun) – A small hill or mound; a minor volcanic cone. छोटा टीला/पर्वतीय उभार।  
**Synonym: Knoll** (noun) – A small rounded hill. छोटा गोलाकार टीला।
- **Ravine** (noun) – Deep narrow valley. संकीर्ण गहरी दर्रा/खड्ड।
  - **Isthmus** (noun) – Narrow land bridge. स्थल-संधि/थल-सेतु।
  - **Atoll** (noun) – Ring-shaped coral reef/island. प्रवाल द्वीप/वृत्ताकार द्वीप।
13. D) **'No fewer'** सही है क्योंकि countable nouns (passengers) के साथ “no fewer than ...” प्रयोग होता है; “no less than” uncountable/mass के लिए स्वाभाविक है। ‘Fewest’ superlative है, और ‘Less’ countable के साथ मान्य नहीं।  
‘No fewer’ is used with countables; ‘no less’ typically fits uncountables. ‘Fewest’ (superlative) doesn’t fit the structure, and ‘less’ is not used with countable plurals.
14. A) यहाँ coins box के अंदर से निकाले गए हैं → सही preposition है out of।  
out of = movement from inside → He took the ball out of the bag.  
from = origin/source → He comes from Pune.  
‘out of the old box’ will be used instead of ‘from the old box’ because the action denotes removal from inside.
15. A) **A–3, B–4, C–1, D–2**
- **Damp squib** → Event less impressive than expected; anticlimax. कम असरदार/फीका पड़ जाना।
  - **Excerpt** → Small part of a longer text/film/music. उद्धरण/अंश।
  - **Rostrum** → Small raised platform on a stage. मंच/उपदेश-मंच।
  - **Scourge** → Something that causes great trouble/suffering. अभिशाप/कठोर दंड/त्रासदी का स्रोत।
16. C) **SQRP**  
S starts with "The application", which refers directly to the application mentioned in S1 (Form X application). This establishes a clear noun connection: the application in S1 requires an attachment (Form V) as stated in S.  
Q follows S as it introduces the subject "the licensing officer" (who receives the application) and the verb "may accept", which describes the action taken on the application submitted with Form V. This creates a subject-verb relationship: the licensing officer may accept.  
R follows Q as it begins with "The license", which is the object being surrendered, and the verb "shall be deemed" explains the consequence of the acceptance in Q. The phrase "such acceptance" directly refers back to the acceptance in Q.  
P follows R as it starts with "This", which refers to the entire surrender process (termination of license in R), and the verb "shall not entitle" states the rule regarding compensation after termination.  
Finally, S6 naturally follows P, as it talks about what the licensee is allowed to do after surrender (sell antiquities), which contrasts with no compensation (P).

In Hindi:

S sentence S1 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "The application" (जिसका S1 में mention है) के साथ जुड़ने वाले document (Form V) को specify करता है। यह logical sequence बनाता है:

apply करने के बाद documents attach करने हैं।

Q, S के बाद आता है क्योंकि इसमें subject "the licensing officer" introduce होता है, जो application receive करता है, और verb "may accept" बताता है कि officer क्या action लेता है। यह S1 और S में mentioned application process को आगे बढ़ाता है।

R, Q के बाद naturally fit होता है क्योंकि यह "The license" (main object) को refer करता है और verb "shall be deemed" बताता है कि acceptance (Q में mentioned) की date से license terminate मानी जाएगी। "Such acceptance" directly Q को refer करता है।

P, R के बाद आता है क्योंकि "This" (यह) surrender और termination (R में described) को collectively refer करता है, और verb "shall not entitle" compensation के rule को बताता है। यह termination के after effect है।

S6 then P के बाद आता है, क्योंकि यह बताता है कि compensation नहीं मिलेगा, लेकिन antiquities बेचने की allowance है।

17. B) **Rigid** (adjective) – Stiff; not flexible; inflexible, unyielding. कठोर/अकड़ा हुआ

**Antonym: Malleable** (adjective) – Easily bent or shaped; adaptable, pliable. लचीला/ढलने योग्य

- **Obdurate** – Stubborn; hard-hearted. हठी/अडियल
- **Inflexible** – Not capable of being changed or bent. कठोर/अविकर्तनीय
- **Staid** – Sedate, respectable, and unadventurous. गंभीर/संयत

18. D) **Play devil's advocate** (idiom) – Pretend to oppose an idea to examine it more carefully  
विचार की गहराई से जाँच हेतु दिखावटी विरोध करना

19. D) 'Beside preparing...' गलत है क्योंकि beside = next to (स्थान), जबकि यहाँ अर्थ है "in addition to," जिसके लिए सही शब्द besides है।

जैसे— Besides teaching, she writes books. (in addition)

- 'Besides preparing...' will be used instead of 'Beside preparing...' because the intended meaning is "in addition to," not "next to."

20. A) He said that he had decided not to purchase the house because it was near the railway track.

Reporting verb is in past (said), so we backshift:

decided → had decided.

रिपोर्टिंग वर्ब past में है, इसलिए decided → had decided होगा।

- The reason clause describes a past state at the time of deciding, so we do not backshift "was" to "had been":  
was stays was, not had been.

कारण-वाक्य उस समय की अवस्था बताता है, इसलिए was को had been नहीं बनाते।

Pronoun change: I → he.

सर्वनाम परिवर्तन: I → he.



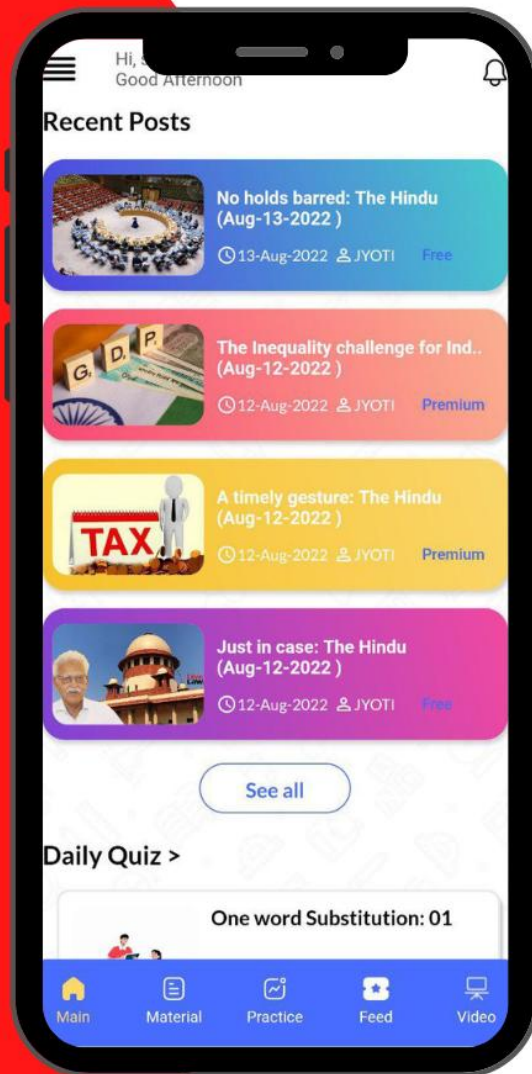
Hence: He said that he had decided not to purchase the house because it was near the railway track.

21. B) **'Mobilise'** का use होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में infinitive structure "aims to + verb" प्रयोग किया गया है। "Aims to mobilise" (लक्ष्य है जुटाना/प्रेरित करना) grammatically सही है और context में climate-aligned investments को बढ़ावा देने की बात करता है। जबकि 'Mobilises' simple present tense है जो यहाँ infinitive की जगह fit नहीं होता, 'Mobilised' past participle है जो tense structure बिगाड़ देता है, और 'Mobilising' continuous/gerund form है जो सही grammatical construction नहीं देता।
- **'Mobilise'** will be used because the structure is "aims to + base verb". The sentence says the taxonomy aims to mobilise climate-aligned investments, making "mobilise" correct. Whereas 'mobilises' is simple present, 'mobilised' is past, and 'mobilising' is continuous/gerund, none fit grammatically.
22. A) **'To'** का use होगा क्योंकि phrase "adaptable to" standard grammatical collocation है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के अनुसार ढलने योग्य होना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि framework adaptable to India's priorities यानी भारत की प्राथमिकताओं के अनुसार ढलने योग्य है। जबकि 'In' का अर्थ होता है के अंदर, 'Of' का अर्थ होता है का/की, और 'At' का अर्थ है पर — ये contextually और grammatically fit नहीं होते।
- **'To'** will be used because the correct collocation is "adaptable to", meaning capable of adjusting according to something. The sentence highlights that the framework is adaptable to India's priorities. Whereas 'in' means inside, 'of' means belonging to, and 'at' means location — none work here.
23. D) **'Evolving'** का use होगा क्योंकि "evolving" का अर्थ है लगातार बदलता या विकसित होता हुआ। Sentence में "India's evolving priorities" का मतलब है भारत की बदलती हुई प्राथमिकताएँ, और यहाँ noun "priorities" को describe करने के लिए adjective चाहिए। इसलिए 'evolving' सही है। जबकि 'Evolved' का अर्थ है पहले से विकसित हो चुका, जो context में fit नहीं बैठता। 'Evolves' verb form है और noun को directly modify नहीं कर सकता। 'Evolve' भी verb है, इसलिए यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।
- **'Evolving'** will be used because it means continuously changing or developing. The sentence requires an adjective: "India's evolving priorities", meaning India's changing priorities. Whereas 'Evolved' means already developed (past), 'Evolves' is a verb form (he evolves/it evolves) and cannot modify a noun, and 'Evolve' is also a verb, so they are incorrect here.
24. A) **'Its'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात "the document" (singular, non-living entity) की हो रही है, और किसी चीज़ के belonging/possession को दिखाने के लिए "its" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Sentence में मतलब है "however, its success...", यानी उस document की सफलता। जबकि 'Their' plural subject के लिए use होता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'His' किसी male person के लिए होता है, और document के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं। 'It's' contraction है "it is" या "it has" का, जो यहाँ grammatically फिट नहीं होता।
- **'Its'** will be used because the subject is "the document," a singular, non-human noun. "Its" shows possession (the success of the document). Whereas 'Their' refers to plural subjects, 'His' refers to a male person, and 'It's' means it is/it has, which doesn't fit here.



25. D) **Credible** का use होगा क्योंकि "credible" का अर्थ है भरोसेमंद या विश्वसनीय। sentence में बात की जा रही है कि यह framework एक governance tool के रूप में सफल हो पाएगा या नहीं, और उसके लिए उसे भरोसेमंद होना ज़रूरी है। इसलिए 'credible' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Apocryphal' का अर्थ है संदिग्ध या झूठा, 'Ossified' का अर्थ है जड़/कठोर होना, और 'Stultify' का अर्थ है निष्क्रिय या बेअसर करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Credible' will be used because it means reliable or trustworthy. The sentence is about the taxonomy's success as a governance tool, and for that, being credible is essential. Whereas 'Apocryphal' means doubtful/false, 'Ossified' means rigid, and 'Stultify' means to render ineffective — none of these fit the context.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

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