

Imagined righteousness: On conduct on social media

Courts must protect rights of citizens, not allow the state **untrammelled** power

In **urging** the Union government to work on guidelines to regulate speech on social media, the Supreme Court of India is **seeking** to **empower** an executive that is already **weaponising** the legal limits on freedom of expression. In response to a **petition** by a non-profit **assailing derogatory remarks** by online figures against disabled persons, the Court issued instructions that further a **problematic** trend of the judiciary **egging on** the state to **encroach on** legal **grey areas** with **statutory** restrictions that **undermine** constitutionally guaranteed rights. To **regard distasteful humour**, however disturbing it might be, as a problem to be solved through the courts and by executive rulemaking, is to fall into a **deceptive** trap of imagined righteousness that **progressive** democracies should avoid. There are always **unpleasant** consequences in expanding powers to police speech: partisans **wield** their powers to **ferociously** monitor what is or is not appropriate, **instrumentalising** agencies of the state to **suppress** art and political speech they do not like; citizens find themselves constantly **looking over their shoulder** before expressing themselves. Under the **overbearing atmosphere** of **censored** expression, truths and ideas that must be **reckoned with** for a functioning democracy are **stifled**. People should not have to constantly look against **asterisks** that set terms and conditions for fundamental **liberties**. Film producers and directors have been pushed away from **exploring** subject matters that would help India progress socially, and journalists have been **dealing with** first information reports for **carrying out** their professional duties.

In recent years, the Union government has, formally and informally, expanded its control of online speech, with the problematic Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and an **amendment** to those Rules that would allow social media companies to be **proceeded** against for content posted by users that has been **flagged** by the government. Monday's (August 25, 2025) instructions seem set to expand those **ambitions**, which are themselves under challenge with the Supreme Court. Hate speech and speech **inciting** violence against minorities are **criminalised** in India, giving **disadvantaged** groups powerful **avenues** of **recourse** when they are **legitimately** wronged. **Handing** an executive, which already has a record of **mala fide weaponisation** of media and speech regulations, more powers **would** be dangerous in the extreme. At a fundamental level, such judicial **pronouncements**, which cite "misuse of freedom of speech" as a ground, **seem** to **misperceive** the framework of their institutional role: that of a protector of rights under a clear constitutional framework, and not of an unchallenged **lord** in a **feudal** society. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Look over one's shoulder** (phrase) – To be vigilant for some danger or harm that one suspects or fears they may encounter.

Vocabulary

1. **Righteousness** (noun) – virtue, rectitude, morality, probity, uprightness धर्मनिष्ठा
2. **Untram melled** (adjective) – unchecked, unconstrained, unrestrained, unfettered, unbridled निरंकुश
3. **Urge** (verb) – exhort, press, prod, encourage, implore आग्रह करना
4. **Seek** (verb) – aim for, pursue, endeavour to, strive for, attempt प्रयास करना
5. **Empower** (verb) – authorize, enable, vest, entitle, strengthen सशक्त करना
6. **Weaponise** (verb) – exploit, instrumentalise, arm, turn into a weapon, deploy हथियार बनाना
7. **Petition** (noun) – plea, application, writ, appeal, supplication याचिका
8. **Assail** (verb) – attack, criticize, berate, lambast, denounce आलोचना करना
9. **Derogatory** (adjective) – disparaging, insulting, demeaning, pejorative, slurring अपमानजनक
10. **Remark** (noun) – comment, statement, observation, note, utterance टिप्पणी
11. **Problematic** (adjective) – troublesome, contentious, fraught, dubious, vexing समस्याजनक
12. **Egg on** (phrasal verb) – incite, goad, spur, prod, encourage उकसाना
13. **Encroach** (on) (verb) – intrude, trespass, infringe, overstep, invade अतिक्रमण करना
14. **Grey area** (noun) – ambiguity, vagueness, uncertainty, no-man's-land, limbo अस्पष्ट क्षेत्र
15. **Statutory** (adjective) – legal, legislated, mandated, codified, lawful वैधानिक
16. **Undermine** (verb) – weaken, erode, subvert, impair, sabotage कमजोर करना
17. **Regard** (verb) – consider, view, deem, treat, see मानना
18. **Distasteful** (adjective) – offensive, objectionable, unpleasant, unpalatable, disagreeable अरुचिकर
19. **Humour** (noun) – comedy, wit, jesting, fun, jocularity हास्य
20. **Deceptive** (adjective) – misleading, illusory, specious, duplicitous, delusive भ्रामक
21. **Progressive** (adjective) – liberal, reformist, forward-looking, modern, enlightened प्रगतिशील
22. **Unpleasant** (adjective) – disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, objectionable, unwelcome अप्रिय

23. **Wield** (verb) – exercise, exert, use, command, deploy प्रयोग करना
24. **Ferociously** (adverb) – fiercely, vigorously, aggressively, savagely, vehemently उग्रतापूर्वक
25. **Instrumentalise** (verb) – exploit, harness, use, appropriate, co-opt साधन बनाना
26. **Suppress** (verb) – stifle, quash, muzzle, repress, silence दबाना
27. **Overbearing** (adjective) – domineering, heavy-handed, authoritarian, oppressive, high-handed दमनकारी
28. **Atmosphere** (noun) – climate, environment, mood, ambience, milieu माहौल
29. **Censored** (adjective) – restricted, redacted, suppressed, vetted, curtailed प्रतिबंधित
30. **Reckon** (with) (verb) – confront, contend with, account for, acknowledge, deal with सामना करना
31. **Stifle** (verb) – smother, choke, suppress, quell, muzzle दबा देना
32. **Asterisk** (noun) – star mark, star symbol, footnote mark, star, notation तारक-चिह्न
33. **Liberty** (noun) – freedom, autonomy, independence, rights, freewill स्वतंत्रता
34. **Explore** (verb) – examine, probe, investigate, delve into, survey खोजना
35. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – handle, address, tackle, manage, contend with निपटना
36. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – execute, implement, perform, conduct, undertake कार्यान्वित करना
37. **Amendment** (noun) – modification, revision, alteration, change, update संशोधन
38. **Proceed** (verb) – move ahead, go forward, act, advance, pursue आगे बढ़ना
39. **Flag** (verb) – mark, highlight, signal, identify, red-flag चिह्नित करना
40. **Ambition** (noun) – aim, aspiration, objective, goal, design महत्त्वाकांक्षा
41. **Incite** (verb) – provoke, instigate, spur, foment, egg on भड़काना
42. **Criminalise** (verb) – outlaw, prohibit, penalise, illegalise, proscribe अपराध घोषित करना
43. **Disadvantaged** (adjective) – marginalised, underprivileged, deprived, vulnerable, poorer वंचित
44. **Avenue** (noun) – channel, route, pathway, means, option मार्ग

45. **Recourse** (noun) – remedy, redress, resort, option, appeal सहारा
46. **Legitimately** (adverb) – lawfully, rightfully, justifiably, validly, properly विधिसम्मत रूप से
47. **Mala fide** (adjective) – bad-faith, dishonest, malicious, ulterior, ill-intentioned दुर्भावनापूर्ण
48. **Weaponisation** (noun) – militarisation, arming, exploitation-as-weapon, instrumentalisation, deployment हथियारकरण
49. **Procurement** (noun) – acquisition, sourcing, purchase, obtaining, buying क्रय
50. **Misperceive** (verb) – misunderstand, misread, misconstrue, misinterpret, mistake गलत समझना
51. **Lord** (noun) – master, overlord, ruler, potentate, sovereign प्रभु
52. **Feudal** (adjective) – aristocratic, manorial, lordly, medieval, pre-modern पुराने जमाने का।

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court has urged the Union government to frame guidelines for regulating speech on social media.
2. This move risks empowering an executive already accused of weaponising restrictions on free expression.
3. The case arose from a petition against derogatory online remarks targeting disabled persons.
4. By pushing executive rulemaking in speech matters, the Court encourages state intrusion into legal grey areas.
5. Treating distasteful or offensive humour as an issue for courts and government regulation is misguided.
6. Expanding state power to police speech has harmful consequences for democracy and free society.
7. Such powers are often used by partisans to suppress political and artistic speech they dislike.
8. Citizens may feel compelled to self-censor, fearing surveillance and punishment.
9. Excessive censorship stifles necessary truths and ideas vital for democratic functioning.
10. Creative industries like films and journalism already face harassment, censorship, and FIRs.
11. The Union government has tightened control over online speech through the IT Rules, 2021, and its amendments.
12. These rules allow action against social media platforms for user content flagged by the government.
13. The Court's latest instructions appear to expand these governmental ambitions further.
14. Hate speech and incitement to violence are already criminalised in India, offering legitimate legal remedies.
15. By citing "misuse of freedom of speech," the judiciary risks misinterpreting its own role, which should be to protect constitutional rights, not strengthen unchecked executive authority.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which outcome is most consistent with the author's reasoning if the Court's August 25, 2025 instructions operate alongside the 2021 IT Rules and their amendment?**
 - A. Social media firms will pre-emptively remove government-flagged posts to reduce legal risk, amplifying the chilling of art and political speech.
 - B. Disadvantaged groups will lose statutory tools to prosecute hate speech.
 - C. The judiciary will better align with its constitutional role by delegating speech regulation to the executive.
 - D. Citizens will face fewer constraints in voicing controversial opinions due to clearer rules.
2. **Which statements are explicitly supported by the passage?**
 - i. The Court's "Monday" instructions were issued on August 25, 2025.
 - ii. The 2021 IT Rules—and their amendment—expand the Union government's control and allow proceeding against platforms for government-flagged user content.
 - iii. The Union government has reduced its control of online speech in recent years.
 - iv. Hate speech and speech inciting violence against minorities are criminal offences in India.
 - A. Only i and ii
 - B. Only i, ii and iv
 - C. Only ii and iii
 - D. Only i and iii
3. **Complete the sentence from the passage with the most appropriate expression:**

"To regard distasteful humour... as a problem to be solved through the courts and by executive rulemaking, is to fall into a deceptive trap of _____ that progressive democracies should avoid."

 - A. performative rectitude
 - B. imagined righteousness
 - C. paternalistic benevolence
 - D. institutional propriety
4. **Which of the following statements is/are true according to the passage?**
 - i) The Court's August 25, 2025 instructions seem set to expand the Union government's ambitions to regulate online speech.
 - ii) The passage claims that hate speech is not criminalised in India.
 - iii) The passage argues that such judicial pronouncements misperceive the Court's institutional role as that of an unchallenged lord rather than a protector of rights.
 - A. i and iii only
 - B. i only
 - C. ii and iii only
 - D. i, ii and iii
5. **Choose the option most nearly opposite in meaning to the word as used in the passage: "stifled" (in "truths and ideas ... are stifled").**
 - A. galvanized
 - B. constricted
 - C. muzzled
 - D. throttled
6. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**

- We went away after they had left.
- A. Pronoun
B. Adjective
C. Intensifier
D. Conjunction
7. **In the given question, a statement divided into different segments is given. Rearrange all the segments to form a coherent statement.**
O: its first constitution
P: and soon got himself elected
Q: the administration of the country
R: general Iqbal Khan took over
S: after Pakistan framed
A. POSRQ
B. ROPQS
C. SORQP
D. SPORQ
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
His **gibbous** looks make him different from others.
A. hunched
B. smart
C. charming
D. disabled
9. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**
Public culture is associated with extremely new civil societies.
A. Adverb
B. Intensifier
C. Adjective
D. Noun Clause
10. **Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.**
(i) I am owning two houses in Bengaluru.
(ii) A boy was injured in the accident and was taken onto hospital.
(iii) Mr. Malhotra is a historian who's books have won international acclaim.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 1
D. All are correct
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
On that day, **pandemonium** reigned in the hall.
A. hullabaloo
B. uproar
C. peace
D. accolade

12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

The film I saw was **hilarious**.

- A. tragic
- B. serious
- C. uproarious
- D. jovial

13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

- A. It is also called a nuclear family.
 - B. It is good to be in a small family because there is better management of resources.
 - C. A small family is one with parents and a maximum of two children.
 - D. The advantages of a small family are numerous
- A. CADB
 - B. ACBD
 - C. CBDA
 - D. BACD

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

At somebody's elbow

- A. To be dominated by someone
- B. To be near someone in order to help
- C. To be kept in house
- D. To make people important

15. **Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.**

- (i) The police are working hard until they are able to arrest the culprits.
 - (ii) Since he was going to live in South Korea for some time, he thought he should learn something about their culture.
 - (iii) The company's phenomenal success are largely due to the new director and his team.
- A. 3
 - B. 2
 - C. 1
 - D. All are correct

16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

Willing to take risks and try new ideas.

- A. Resolute
- B. Desperate
- C. Adventurous
- D. Mythical

17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

We should follow patience and **forbearance**.

- A. constraint
- B. encouragement
- C. restraint

- D. support
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Member of a band of robbers
A. Pensive
B. Egoist
C. Brigand
D. Hippy
19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Go by the book
A. To buy a book of one's choice
B. To understand the book
C. To follow someone who reads books
D. To follow rules exactly
20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
P. The recent review of the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project underscores the urgent need to restore this vital waterway.
Q. However, rampant pollution has turned it into a toxic drain, threatening both public health and the environment.
R. A tributary of the Sutlej river flowing through Ludhiana, it has long been a significant resource for the region.
S. The Central and state governments' commitment of Rs 840 crore to rejuvenate the nullah is promising, yet progress has been sluggish, with pollution sources still unchecked.
A. RSPQ
B. PRQS
C. PSRQ
D. RQPS

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.

From the 'India Out' ____ (1) ____ to changing protocols for the welcome of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, Maldives President Mr. Mohamed Muizzu has ____ (2) ____ a full circle within a space of just two years.

Maldives has realised that regional ____ (3) ____ weighs far heavy than hollow nationalistic bravura for the sake of politics. Reset of diplomatic relations with India is a definite reality now for Male as India continues to ____ (4) ____ its footprint in the Indian Ocean countries on the strength of ____ (5) ____ and goodwill.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
A. rhetoric
B. candour
C. apathy
D. brevity
22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
A. travel

- B. travels
 - C. travelled
 - D. travelling
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
- A. dogmatism
 - B. pragmatism
 - C. whimsy
 - D. nihilism
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**
- A. alleviate
 - B. truncate
 - C. amplify
 - D. deepen
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
- A. egotism
 - B. avarice
 - C. misanthropy
 - D. altruism

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) Social media firms will pre-emptively remove government-flagged posts to reduce legal risk, amplifying the chilling of art and political speech.
 The passage notes platforms could be “proceeded against” for government-flagged user content and warns of an “overbearing atmosphere of censored expression,” stifling film makers and journalists—predicting risk-averse, expansive takedowns.
 B: Wrong—hate speech and incitement are already criminalised and presented as existing “avenues of recourse,” not being removed.
 C: Wrong—the author says the Court “misperceive[s]” its role; it should protect rights, not egg on executive rulemaking.
 D: Wrong—the passage anticipates more monitoring and self-censorship, not fewer constraints.
2. B) **Only i, ii and iv**
 i is dated in the passage; ii is described directly (Rules + amendment enabling action against platforms for flagged content); iv is stated plainly as criminalised. iii contradicts “expanded its control.”
 A: Incomplete—omits iv, which the passage affirms.
 C: Includes iii, which is the opposite of what the passage says.
 D: Omits ii (explicitly supported) and includes false iii.
3. B) **imagined righteousness**
 The passage explicitly characterizes this posture as a “deceptive trap of imagined righteousness,” making B the precise fit.
 A (performative rectitude): Near-idea but not the phrase used; adds “performative” nuance absent in the text.
 C (paternalistic benevolence): Suggests kindly overreach, not moral self-deception about policing speech.
 D (institutional propriety): Implies rule-conformity, the opposite of the critique in the sentence.
4. A) **i and iii only**
 i) True—those instructions “seem set to expand those ambitions.”
 ii) False—the passage says hate speech and incitement to violence are criminalised in India.
 iii) True—it explicitly criticises a shift from protector of rights to “unchallenged lord.”
5. A) **galvanized**
 In context, “stifled” = suppressed/held back. “Galvanized” = stimulated/energised (opposite).
 B) constricted = tightened/limited
 C) muzzled = silenced.

D) throttled = choked/checked.

6. D) 'after' Conjunction है, जो दो clauses We went away (main clause) और they had left (subordinate clause) को जोड़ता है। यह कालगत संबंध (temporal relation) दर्शा रहा है — अर्थात् "हम उनके जाने के बाद गए।"

'after' functions as a Conjunction, linking the two clauses and showing relation of time/sequence (one action happening later than another).

7. C) **SORQP**

S starts the paragraph by setting the context, "after Pakistan framed," which introduces the time frame and situation after Pakistan framed its constitution.

O follows logically because it elaborates on what was framed, "its first constitution," which directly links back to the context provided in S.

R comes next as it states, "General Iqbal Khan took over," indicating the immediate outcome after the constitution was framed. This connects well with the previous segments.

Q follows R naturally as it mentions, "the administration of the country," clarifying what General Iqbal Khan took over, maintaining the paragraph's coherence.

P concludes the paragraph by adding that, "and soon got himself elected," which explains the next step General Iqbal Khan took after taking control of the administration, completing the sequence logically.

8. A) **Gibbous** (adjective) – Rounded, convex, bulging, protuberant, humpbacked. उभरा हुआ/गोलाईदार

Synonym: **Hunched** (adjective) – Bent forward, stooped, having a rounded or bulging back. झुका हुआ

Smart (adjective) – Stylish, fashionable, clever, intelligent. चतुर/सज्जध वाला

Charming (adjective) – Attractive, delightful, enchanting, pleasing. मनमोहक

Disabled (adjective) – Physically impaired, handicapped, incapacitated. विकलांग

9. B) 'extremely' यहाँ एक Intensifier है, जो adjective 'new' को modify कर रहा है। यह शब्द adjective की degree को बढ़ाकर यह बताता है कि civil societies केवल 'new' ही नहीं बल्कि 'बहुत नई' (अत्यधिक नई) हैं।

'extremely' functions as an Intensifier, modifying the adjective 'new' by showing a high degree of intensity (very new, highly new).

10. A) 3

(i) Error

'am owning' के बदले Simple Present 'own' (या 'have') होगा, क्योंकि 'own' stative verb है और सामान्यतः continuous में नहीं आता; जैसे— I own two houses in Bengaluru. / I have two houses in Bengaluru.

Use Simple Present with stative 'own', not progressive. Correct: I own two houses in Bengaluru. (or: I have two houses in Bengaluru.)

(ii) Error

'taken onto hospital' गलत preposition है; सही प्रयोग— 'taken to hospital' (BrE) / 'taken to the hospital' (AmE).

Replace 'onto' with 'to': A boy was injured in the accident and was taken to (the) hospital.

(iii) Error

'who's' = 'who is/has'; यहाँ possessive चाहिए, इसलिए 'whose' होगा: Mr. Malhotra is a historian whose books have won international acclaim.

Use the possessive relative pronoun 'whose', not the contraction 'who's'.

11. C) **Pandemonium** (noun) – Chaos, disorder, commotion, mayhem, bedlam. अराजकता / अफरा-तफरी

Antonym: **Peace** (noun) – Calmness, tranquility, order, harmony, serenity. शांति

Hullabaloo (noun) – Uproar, racket, disturbance, commotion. कोलाहल / शोरगुल

Uproar (noun) – Turmoil, chaos, pandemonium, disorder. हंगामा / शोर

Accolade (noun) – Award, honor, praise, recognition. सम्मान / प्रशंसा

12. B) **Hilarious** (adjective) – Extremely funny, comical, amusing, laughable, entertaining. हास्यास्पद / अत्यंत मजेदार

Antonym: **Serious** (adjective) – Important, grave, solemn, earnest. गम्भीर

Tragic (adjective) – Causing sorrow or distress, disastrous, grievous, heartbreaking, lamentable. दुखद / त्रासद

Uproarious (adjective) – Very noisy and funny, boisterously funny, rollicking. शोरगुलपूर्ण / अत्यधिक हँसाने वाला

Jovial (adjective) – Cheerful, jolly, merry, good-humored. हँसमुख / प्रसन्नचित्त

13. A) **CADB**

C sentence starts the paragraph as it defines what a small family is, "A small family is one with parents and a maximum of two children." This establishes the context for the paragraph.

A logically follows C as it gives an additional detail about a small family by stating, "It is also called a nuclear family." This connects well to the definition given in C.

D comes next as it introduces the benefits of a small family, "The advantages of a small family are numerous," building on the context in C and A.

B concludes the paragraph by providing a specific advantage, "It is good to be in a small family because there is better management of resources," which explains one of the numerous advantages mentioned in D.

14. B) At somebody's elbow (idiom) – To be near someone in order to help किसी के पास सहायता करने के लिए होना / नज़दीक रहना

15. A) 3

(i) Error

“are working ... until” भविष्य-संदर्भ में स्वाभाविक नहीं; निरंतरता किसी भविष्य-सीमा तक दिखानी हो तो will work ... until प्रयोग करें (या उद्देश्य बताने के लिए are working ... to). सही— The police will work hard until they are able to arrest the culprits. / The police are working hard to arrest the culprits.

For an action continuing up to a future limit, prefer will work ... until (or use are working ... to for purpose). Correct as above.

(ii) Error

देश/राष्ट्र के लिए सर्वनाम its होता है; their नहीं। सही— ...he thought he should learn something about its culture.

Use its (not their) for a country. Correct: ...learn something about its culture.

(iii) Error

Subject “success” singular है; इसलिए verb is होगा, are नहीं। सही— The company’s phenomenal success is largely due to the new director and his team.

Singular subject success takes is, not are. Correct as above.

16. C) **Adventurous** (noun) – Willing to take risks and try new ideas. साहसी

- **Resolute** (adjective) – admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering. दृढ़निश्चयी
- **Desperate** (adjective) – feeling or showing a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with. निराशा/हताश
- **Mythical** (adjective) – relating to, based on, or appearing in myths or mythological tales. पौराणिक

17. C) **Forbearance** (noun) – Self-control, tolerance, patience, endurance, moderation. धैर्य / संयम

Synonym: **Restraint** (noun) – The action of keeping one’s emotions, impulses, or desires under control; self-discipline. संयम / रोक

- **Constraint** (noun) – Limitation, restriction, curb, check, inhibition. प्रतिबंध
- **Encouragement** (noun) – Support, inspiration, confidence, boost, stimulation. प्रोत्साहन
- **Support** (noun) – Assistance, backing, aid, help, advocacy. सहारा

18. C) **Brigand** – Member of a band of robbers बटमार

Pensive – Deeply or seriously thoughtful, often with a tinge of sadness विषादग्रस्त

Egoist – A lover of one’s oneself/ Super-cautious अहंकारी

Hippy – Person who is against ordinary society especially dressing हिप्पी

19. D) **Go by the book** (idiom) – To follow rules exactly नियमों के अनुसार काम करना / पूरी तरह से पालन करना20. B) **PRQS**

P + R: P issue की शुरुआत करता है और restoration की ज़रूरत को बताता है, जबकि R background information देकर P में दिए गए मुद्दे को support करता है।

R + Q: Q logically R के बाद आता है, क्योंकि R ने resource की बात की और Q ने बताया कि प्रदूषण ने उस resource को बर्बाद कर दिया।

Q + S: S naturally Q के बाद आता है क्योंकि S में दिए गए rejuvenation efforts, Q में बताई गई समस्या का समाधान दिखाने की कोशिश करते हैं।

Explanation in English:

P starts the paragraph as it highlights the recent review of the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project and emphasizes the urgent need to restore this vital waterway. This sentence sets the context for the paragraph, introducing the issue and the need for action.

R follows P because it provides background information about Buddha Nullah, stating that it is a "tributary of the Sutlej river flowing through Ludhiana" and has been a significant resource for the region. This background information explains why the restoration mentioned in P is necessary, making it a logical continuation.

Q comes next after R as it describes the problem with Buddha Nullah, explaining how "rampant pollution has turned it into a toxic drain." This sentence highlights the adverse impact of pollution on the waterway, connecting it to the urgent need for restoration mentioned in P and the background given in R.

S concludes the paragraph by discussing the Central and state governments' commitment of Rs 840 crore to rejuvenate the nullah. It mentions the slow progress and unchecked pollution sources, which ties back to the issues discussed earlier, providing a comprehensive view of the ongoing efforts and challenges.

21. A) '**Rhetoric**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है भाषण या लेख में प्रभावशाली ढंग से भरे गए शब्द, जो अक्सर राजनीतिक संदर्भ में प्रयोग किए जाते हैं। यहाँ 'India Out' एक राजनीतिक नारा है, इसलिए 'rhetoric' सही है। जबकि 'candour' (स्पष्टवादिता), 'apathy' (उदासीनता), और 'brevity' (संक्षिप्तता) इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'**Rhetoric**' will be used because it means persuasive or exaggerated language, often used in political contexts. Here, 'India Out' is a political slogan, making 'rhetoric' the correct choice. Whereas, 'candour' means honesty, 'apathy' means lack of interest, and 'brevity' means shortness, which do not fit here.

22. C) '**travelled**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ past perfect tense ('has travelled') का प्रयोग होना चाहिए, जो कि एक completed action को दर्शाता है। यह sentence में context के अनुसार सही है क्योंकि Maldives के President ने पिछले दो सालों में एक पूरा चक्र (full circle) पूरा कर लिया है। 'Travel' (present tense), 'Travels' (singular present), और 'Travelling' (continuous form) यहाँ grammatically incorrect हैं क्योंकि वे past action को नहीं दिखाते।

'**travelled**' will be used because the past perfect tense ('has travelled') is required here to show a completed action. It fits the context as the sentence states that the Maldives President has completed a full circle in two years. 'Travel' (present tense), 'Travels' (singular present),

and 'Travelling' (continuous form) are grammatically incorrect here as they do not convey the past action.

23. B) '**Pragmatism**' का use होगा क्योंकि "pragmatism" का अर्थ होता है व्यावहारिकता या वास्तविक परिणामों पर ध्यान देना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि Maldives को समझ आया कि क्षेत्रीय व्यावहारिकता (pragmatism), राजनीति के लिए दिखावटी राष्ट्रवाद (hollow nationalism) से ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण है। यहाँ 'pragmatism' सही है क्योंकि यह तर्कसंगत और लाभप्रद नीति को दर्शाता है। जबकि 'dogmatism' (हठधर्मिता), 'whimsy' (मनमर्जी), और 'nihilism' (निरर्थकता) इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

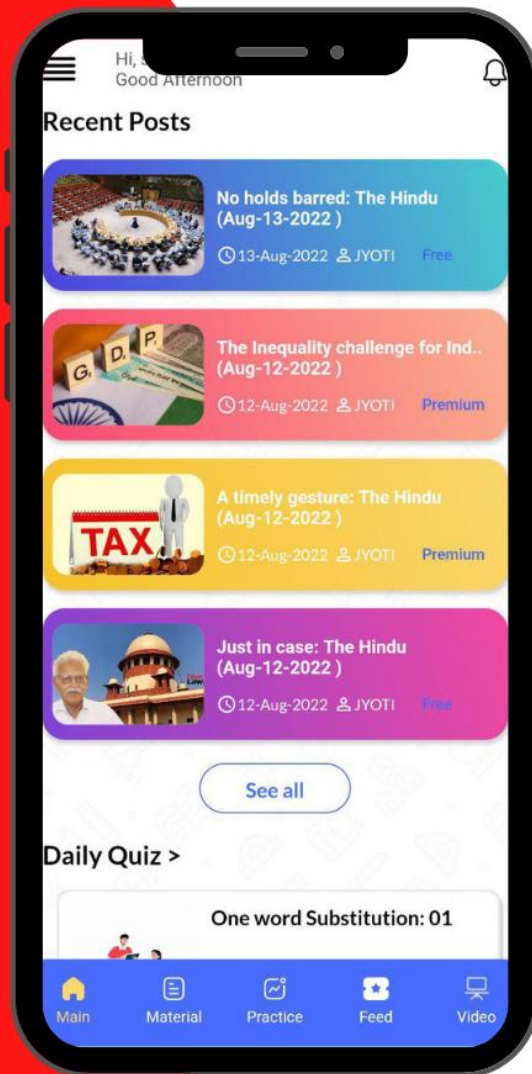
'Pragmatism' will be used because it means focusing on practical results rather than ideology. The sentence states that Maldives realized regional pragmatism holds more weight than hollow nationalist politics, making 'pragmatism' the correct choice. It reflects a rational and beneficial approach. Whereas, 'dogmatism' (rigid beliefs), 'whimsy' (arbitrary decisions), and 'nihilism' (rejection of meaning) do not fit here.

24. D) '**Deepen**' का use होगा क्योंकि "deepen" का अर्थ होता है गहरा करना या बढ़ाना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारत अपनी पहुँच और प्रभाव को हिंद महासागर के देशों में बढ़ा रहा है, इसलिए 'deepen' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'alleviate' का अर्थ है कम करना, 'truncate' का अर्थ है छोटा करना, और 'amplify' का अर्थ है आवाज़ या प्रभाव बढ़ाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Deepen' will be used because it means to strengthen or expand. The sentence mentions that India continues to strengthen its footprint in Indian Ocean countries, making 'deepen' the correct choice. Whereas, 'alleviate' means to reduce, 'truncate' means to shorten, and 'amplify' means to increase sound/effect, which do not fit here.

25. D) '**Altruism**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है निस्वार्थ भाव से दूसरों की मदद करना। यहाँ sentence में India के बारे में बात की गई है जो अपनी छाप Indian Ocean countries में 'altruism' और goodwill की ताकत से बना रहा है, जो सकारात्मक संदेश देता है। 'Egotism' (अहंकार), 'avarice' (लालच), और 'misanthropy' (मानवद्वेष) नकारात्मक शब्द हैं जो context के अनुसार सही नहीं हैं।

'Altruism' will be used because it means selfless concern for others. The sentence talks about India expanding its footprint in Indian Ocean countries through 'altruism' and goodwill, which conveys a positive message. 'Egotism' (self-importance), 'avarice' (greed), and 'misanthropy' (hatred of humanity) are negative words and do not fit the context.



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