

Hands-off approach: On the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards

Scientists are the best judges of **excellence** in science

The government has announced a list of 24 individual scientists and a team as **recipients** of the second edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) awards, **conferred** by the Centre for scientific achievement. As in 2024, this year too has four broad categories: the Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award and Vigyan team award. The Vigyan Ratna and Vigyan Shri are for scientists who have made **distinguished** contributions over their lifetime, and recent distinguished contributions respectively. The Yuva is for individuals under 45 and the final one for a team **endeavour** in technology development.

In theory, **the total number** of awards, under all categories, **is capped** at 56; though this year, there are fewer than the 33 awarded last year. The award announcement has been delayed by several months, but this could indicate greater **scrutiny** of **potential** awardees. It is important to note that **unlike** earlier editions of national science awards, **for instance** the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards, there is no cash component given for the RVP, to **align with** the **spirit** of the Padma awards. But scrutiny is **a double-edged sword**. Last year, it emerged that some scientists were told about being recipients, only to be informed later that their names had been dropped. Several **prominent** scientists across India wrote to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), demanding **transparency** in the process of award selection. There were concerns that **factors** other than scientific merit — for instance, criticism of government policy and political **ideology** — **may** have played a role. The PSA has not **categorically** responded to these demands except to **point out** that **the selection committee**, called the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (**chaired** by the PSA and which includes Secretaries of Ministries and members of scientific academies), “**recommended**” awardees to the Minister of Science and Technology. It is not **explicit** whether the Minister can **overturn** a recommendation made by the committee. The RVP awards were **instituted** after the Ministry of Home Affairs and heads of science departments **concluded** in 2022 that there were too many awards being given out by individual scientific departments and, hence, necessary to **trim** them and raise their ‘**stature**’ to national awards. While **awards** such as the SSB awards too **were** finalised in consultation with the Science Minister, the **centralisation** and the explicit attempt to make the RVP ‘Padma-like’, means that they appear far more **politicised** than they ought to be. If the aim of the RVP is to increase ‘stature’, the government must be seen to have an **explicitly** hands-off approach and **let** scientists judge the excellence of their **peers**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Hands-off** (adjective) – non-interfering, non-interventionist, laissez-faire, detached, uninvolved गैर-हस्तक्षेप
2. **Excellence** (noun) – distinction, quality, superiority, merit, brilliance उत्कृष्टता
3. **Recipient** (noun) – awardee, honouree, winner, receiver, beneficiary प्राप्तकर्ता
4. **Confer** (verb) – bestow, grant, award, give, present प्रदान करना
5. **Distinguished** (adjective) – eminent, illustrious, renowned, acclaimed, celebrated विशिष्ट
6. **Endeavour** (noun) – effort, undertaking, enterprise, initiative, venture प्रयास
7. **Cap** (verb) – limit, restrict, set a limit on, curb, control सीमित करना
8. **Scrutiny** (noun) – examination, inspection, review, analysis, check जाँच
9. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, likely, prospective, future, probable संभावित
10. **Unlike** (preposition) – in contrast to, different from, as opposed to के विपरीत
11. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, such as, to illustrate, as an example. उदाहरण के लिए
12. **Align** (with) (verb) – conform, match, harmonize, coordinate, agree अनुरूप होना
13. **Spirit** (noun) – essence, intention, principle, core, meaning भावना
14. **A double-edged sword** (phrase) – something that has both positive and negative consequences. दोधारी तलवार
15. **Prominent** (adjective) – distinguished, eminent, leading, notable, famous प्रमुख
16. **Transparency** (noun) – openness, clarity, accountability, candour, forthrightness पारदर्शिता
17. **Ideology** (noun) – beliefs, creed, doctrine, philosophy, dogma विचारधारा
18. **Categorically** (adverb) – unequivocally, unconditionally, absolutely, explicitly, plainly स्पष्ट रूप से
19. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – indicate, draw attention to, mention, note, highlight इशारा करना
20. **Chair** (verb) – preside over, lead, head, direct, manage अध्यक्षता करना
21. **Explicit** (adjective) – clear, direct, definite, unambiguous, straightforward स्पष्ट
22. **Overturn** (verb) – reverse, revoke, overrule, cancel, quash पलट देना

23. **Institute** (verb) – establish, found, launch, set up, introduce स्थापित करना
24. **Conclude** (verb) – decide, deduce, infer, reason, judge निष्कर्ष निकालना
25. **Trim** (verb) – reduce, cut, decrease, prune, slim down घटाना
26. **Stature** (noun) – status, reputation, standing, prestige, eminence प्रतिष्ठा
27. **Centralisation** (noun) – consolidation, concentration, unification, amalgamation केंद्रीकरण
28. **Politicise** (verb) – make political, bring politics into, influence politically राजनीतिक बनाना
29. **Explicitly** (adverb) – clearly, directly, unambiguously, expressly, categorically स्पष्ट रूप से
30. **Let** (verb) – allow, permit, enable, authorize, give permission to अनुमति देना
31. **Peer** (noun) – colleague, fellow, compeer, equal, counterpart सहकर्मी

Summary of the Editorial

1. The government has announced 24 winners for the second edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP).
2. The awards have four categories: Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team award.
3. These categories recognize lifetime achievement, recent contributions, scientists under 45, and team efforts, respectively.
4. The total number of awards is capped at 56, but this year's count (24) is lower than last year's (33).
5. The delay in announcement might indicate greater scrutiny of potential awardees.
6. Unlike previous science awards, the RVP has no cash prize, aligning it with the Padma awards.
7. However, the scrutiny process has been problematic and lacks transparency.
8. Last year, some selected scientists were later dropped without clear explanation.
9. Many prominent scientists have written to the government demanding transparency in the selection process.
10. There are concerns that non-scientific factors, like criticism of government policy, may influence selections.
11. The selection committee (RVPC) is chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser and includes government secretaries and academy members.
12. The committee "recommends" names to the Science Minister, but it's unclear if the minister can overturn these recommendations.
13. The RVP was created to consolidate numerous scientific awards and raise their stature to a national level.
14. The centralization and the "Padma-like" model make the awards appear more politicized than their predecessors.
15. The editorial concludes that for the RVP to gain true stature, the government must adopt a hands-off approach and let scientists be the sole judges of scientific excellence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The government's success in promoting scientific excellence
 - B. The need for depoliticization and transparency in science awards
 - C. The decline of scientific research in India
 - D. The role of young scientists in national development
2. **Who chairs the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee that recommends the awardees?**
 - A. The Minister of Science and Technology
 - B. The Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs
 - C. The President of India
 - D. The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)
3. **What is the primary purpose behind instituting the RVP awards in 2022?**
 - A. To provide more financial benefits to scientists
 - B. To replace the Padma awards completely
 - C. To consolidate numerous departmental awards into national-level recognition
 - D. To reward only government-employed scientists
4. **What can be inferred about the government's role in the selection process of RVP awards?**
 - A. The government directly decides all awardees without consultation.
 - B. The government maintains full transparency in selection.
 - C. The government's influence raises concerns about political interference.
 - D. The awards are completely independent of any governmental oversight.
5. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "conferred."**
 - A. Withheld
 - B. Persuaded
 - C. Examined
 - D. Predicted
6. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Outreach."**
 - A. Withdrawal
 - B. Contact
 - C. Approach
 - D. Communication
7. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.**

According to the meteorology department, yesterday Assam had the heavier rainfall of the decade.

 - A. yesterday Assam had
 - B. the heavier rainfall of the decade
 - C. According to
 - D. the meteorology department
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

Mr. Thomas helps Mr. Anil.

 - A. Mr. Anil was helped by Mr. Thomas.
 - B. Mr. Anil was being helped by Mr. Thomas.
 - C. Mr. Anil is helped by Mr. Thomas.
 - D. Mr. Anil is being helped by Mr. Thomas

9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Usurpation."**
- A. Invasion
 - B. Command
 - C. Legitimation
 - D. Manipulation
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- The seven _____ for accreditation were presented in a seminar organised by the university.
- A. criteria
 - B. criterions
 - C. criterion
 - D. criterias
11. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
- The fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions
- A. Authorisation
 - B. Emancipation
 - C. Statute
 - D. Enactment
12. **Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**
- If you think I'm responsible for the mistake, you're _____, I'm not the one who handled that task.
- A. In a jiffy
 - B. Bark up the wrong tree
 - C. Sweep under the carpet
 - D. Double-edge sword
13. **Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.**
- I was watching a whole scene very carefully.
- A. No error
 - B. a whole scene
 - C. very carefully
 - D. I was watching
14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Appraisal."**
- A. Omen
 - B. Tribute
 - C. Fragment
 - D. Assessment
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- Leisure activities are activities that people _____ in during their free time while they are not working.
- A. exempt
 - B. evaluate
 - C. engage
 - D. encourage

16. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

The branches of the tree is very long

- A. are
- B. was
- C. has
- D. had

17. Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.

You must **endur** the difficulties with courage.

- A. endure
- B. endur
- C. enduer
- D. endurr

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

Harish is clever than wise

- A. cleverest than
- B. more clever than
- C. clever as
- D. more cleverer than

19. Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.

A prudent investor always studies the market before making decisions.

- A. Imprudent
- B. Rash
- C. Careless
- D. Judicious

20. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) and was searching for them
 - (B) the grandmother couldn't find
 - (C) all around the house
 - (D) placed them on her head
 - (E) her spectacles because she had
- A. BEDAC
 - B. BADEC
 - C. CABED
 - D. ADBEC

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 Bombay High Court's _____1_____ of all those convicted in the Mumbai train blast case of July 2006, _____2_____ come as a rude shock for the families of the 189 people killed and around 800 people who were injured. The High Court has _____3_____ the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, deeming confessions gained as under duress, terming

identification parades faulty and _____ 4 _____ forensic evidence custody as not foolproof. It is a shocker because it was based on the same evidence that the trial court, in 2015, _____ 5 _____ five of the accused to death and seven to life imprisonment.

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

- A. condemnation
- B. inculcation
- C. incrimination
- D. exoneration

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

- A. have
- B. has
- C. was
- D. were

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

- A. kept out
- B. take advantage of
- C. ripped apart
- D. drove up

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

- A. sighting
- B. citing
- C. site
- D. sighing

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

- A. Precise
- B. Briefed
- C. phrased
- D. sentenced

Answers

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

[Practice exercise]

Explanation

1. B) The need for depoliticization and transparency in science awards

The passage's central idea revolves around how the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards system has become overly centralised and potentially politicised. The author stresses that the government should adopt a "hands-off approach" and allow scientists to evaluate their peers objectively — emphasizing transparency, fairness, and autonomy.

- The government's success in promoting scientific excellence: Incorrect because the passage questions, rather than praises, the government's handling of awards.
- The decline of scientific research in India: Incorrect since the passage focuses on the award process, not on research quality.
- The role of young scientists in national development: Incorrect because young scientists are mentioned only as one award category, not the main focus.

2. D) The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)

The passage clearly states that "the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (chaired by the PSA and which includes Secretaries of Ministries and members of scientific academies)" — confirming that the PSA is the chairperson.

- Minister of Science and Technology – He receives recommendations, not chairmanship.
- President of India – Has no role in the RVP committee.
- Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs – Mentioned as part of earlier decisions, not this committee.

3. C) To consolidate numerous departmental awards into national-level recognition

The passage mentions that the RVP awards were created because "there were too many awards being given out by individual scientific departments and, hence, necessary to trim them and raise their 'stature' to national awards."

- Wrong — RVP has no cash component.
- Wrong — It was made Padma-like, not a replacement.
- Wrong — No mention that only government scientists can receive it.

4. C) The government's influence raises concerns about political interference.

The passage says that "there were concerns that factors other than scientific merit — such as criticism of government policy and political ideology — may have played a role," implying potential political interference.

- Wrong — Awards are recommended by a committee, not directly decided by the government.
- Wrong — Scientists demanded transparency, implying it is lacking.
- Wrong — There is governmental oversight via the Ministry and PSA.

5. A) Withheld

"Conferred" means granted, bestowed, or officially given (an honour, title, or award). Its antonym is "withheld," which means kept back, not granted, or denied.

- B. Persuaded — Means to convince someone;

- C. Examined — Means inspected or analyzed;
 - D. Predicted — Means to forecast;
6. A) **Outreach** (noun) – Efforts to reach and engage people or groups; contact, engagement. संपर्क / विस्तार
- Antonym: **Withdrawal** (noun) – The act of pulling back or removing oneself; retreat. वापसी / पीछे हटना
- **Contact** – The state of touching or communicating. संपर्क
 - **Approach** – A way of dealing with something. तरीका
 - **Communication** – The exchange of information. संचार
7. B) 'the heavier rainfall of the decade' के बदले 'the heaviest rainfall of the decade' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम किसी दशक, समूह या श्रेणी में सबसे अधिक या सबसे अच्छा/खराब आदि की तुलना करते हैं, तो Superlative Degree का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— Yesterday, Assam experienced the heaviest rainfall of the decade.
- the heaviest rainfall of the decade' will be used instead of 'the heavier rainfall of the decade' because when comparing to find the most or the best/worst etc., within a decade, group, or series, the Superlative Degree is used; Like— Yesterday, Assam experienced the heaviest rainfall of the decade.
8. C) **Mr. Anil is helped by Mr. Thomas**
- Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Mr. Thomas" Subject है, "helps" Verb (Present Simple) है और "Mr. Anil" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Mr. Anil" Subject बन गया है। Verb को "is helped" (Present Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by Mr. Thomas" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है। इसलिए, Passive वाक्य: "Mr. Anil is helped by Mr. Thomas."
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In the active sentence, "Mr. Thomas" (Subject), "helps" (Verb in Present Simple), and "Mr. Anil" (Object) are present. In the passive form, the object "Mr. Anil" becomes the subject. The verb is changed to "is helped" (Present Simple Passive), and "by Mr. Thomas" is added. Thus, the passive sentence is: "Mr. Anil is helped by Mr. Thomas."
9. C) **Usurpation** (noun) – The illegal or unauthorized seizure of power or rights. हथिया लेना
- Antonym: **Legitimation** (noun) – The act of making something lawful or authorized. वैध बनाना
- **Invasion** (noun) – An act of invading or attacking. आक्रमण
 - **Command** (noun) – An authoritative order. आदेश
 - **Manipulation** (noun) – Skillful but often unfair handling. हेरफेर
10. A) 'Criteria' सही है क्योंकि यह 'criterion' का plural form है, जिसका अर्थ है निर्णय लेने या मूल्यांकन करने के लिए उपयोग किए जाने वाले मानक या सिद्धांत। वाक्य में "seven" से संकेत मिलता है कि कई मानदंडों का उल्लेख किया गया है, इसलिए plural form 'criteria' उपयुक्त है।

'Criteria' गलत है क्योंकि यह "criterion" का मान्य plural form नहीं है। 'Criterion' singular है और "seven" के कारण उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Criterias' व्याकरण के दृष्टिकोण से गलत है क्योंकि "criteria" पहले से ही plural form है, और "s" जोड़ना अनावश्यक है।

- Criteria' will be used because it means standards or principles (plural form). The sentence mentions 'seven,' indicating that the standards are plural. 'Criteria' is incorrect as it is an obsolete and incorrect plural form. 'Criterion' is singular and does not fit the plural requirement of the sentence. 'Criterias' is also incorrect as 'criteria' is already plural and cannot be pluralized further.

11. B) **Emancipation** (noun) – The fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions. बन्धनमुक्ति

- **Authorisation** (noun) – The official permission or approval to do something. अनुमति
- **Statute** (noun) – A written law passed by a legislative body. कानून
- **Enactment** (noun) – The process of passing legislation. विधिमान्यकरण

12. B) **Bark up the wrong tree** – To make a wrong assumption about someone or something; to accuse the wrong person. गलत व्यक्ति या चीज़ पर आरोप लगाना, गलतफहमी होना

- **In a jiffy** – Very quickly or in a short amount of time. जल्दी से
- **Sweep under the carpet** – To hide or ignore something that is wrong or embarrassing. छिपाना या अनदेखा करना
- **Double-edge sword** – A situation or outcome that has both positive and negative aspects. दोधारी तलवार

13. B) a whole scene' के बदले 'the whole scene' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब किसी विशेष दृश्य या स्थिति की बात की जा रही हो, तो 'the' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे— I was watching the whole scene very carefully.

- 'the whole scene' will be used instead of 'a whole scene' because when referring to a specific scene or situation, 'the' is used to denote that specific entity; Like— I was watching the whole scene very carefully

14. D) **Appraisal** (noun) – An evaluation or assessment of the nature, quality, or value of something. मूल्यांकन

Synonym: **Assessment** (noun) – The act of judging or evaluating something. आकलन

- **Omen** (noun) – A sign of future events. शकुन
- **Tribute** (noun) – An act showing respect or admiration. श्रद्धांजलि
- **Fragment** (noun) – A small part broken off something. टुकड़ा

15. C) 'Engage' का use होगा क्योंकि 'engage in' का अर्थ है किसी गतिविधि में भाग लेना या उसे करना। sentence में mention है कि खाली समय में लोग कौन सी गतिविधियां करते हैं। 'Engage' सही है क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि लोग अपनी खाली समय की गतिविधियों में शामिल होते हैं। Exempt का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ से मुक्त करना, जो यहां उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य में खाली समय की गतिविधियों में भागीदारी की बात हो रही है। Evaluate का अर्थ है मूल्यांकन करना, जो संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि खाली समय की गतिविधियों को 'करने' का जिक्र है, उनका मूल्यांकन करने का नहीं। Encourage का अर्थ है प्रोत्साहित करना, लेकिन वाक्य इस बात का संकेत नहीं देता कि कोई किसी गतिविधि को प्रोत्साहित कर रहा है।

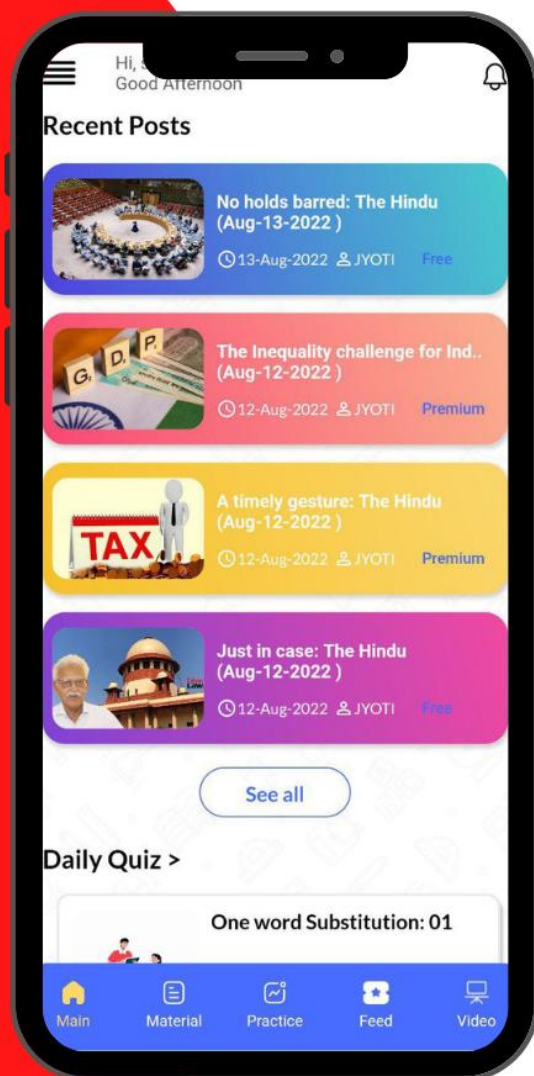
- **'Engage'** is the correct choice because "engage in" means to actively participate in or do an activity. The sentence is about what people do during their free time, making "engage" contextually and grammatically correct. 'Exempt' means to free someone from an obligation or responsibility, which doesn't align with the context as the sentence discusses participating in activities, not avoiding them. 'Evaluate' means to assess or judge something, which is irrelevant because the sentence focuses on engaging in leisure activities, not assessing them. 'Encourage' means to motivate or inspire, but the sentence does not imply motivating others to participate in leisure activities.
16. A) 'is' के बदले **'are'** का use होगा क्योंकि subject 'branches' Plural है और Plural Subject के साथ Plural Verb का use होता है। जैसे— The boys are playing in the field.
- 'are' will be used instead of 'is' because the subject 'branches' is plural, and a plural subject requires a plural verb. Like— The boys are playing in the field.
17. A) The correct spelling of 'endur' is **'endure'** which means "tolerate, withstand, bear" सहन करना, टिके रहना।
18. B) "clever than" के स्थान पर **"more clever than"** का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि किसी व्यक्ति की दो विशेषताओं की तुलना करने के लिए "more + adjective + than" का प्रयोग किया जाता है।
उदाहरण: "He is more intelligent than strong."
- "more clever than" will be used instead of "clever than" because when comparing two qualities of the same person, we use the structure "more + adjective + than". Example: "He is more intelligent than strong."
19. D) **Prudent** (adjective) – wise, sensible, judicious, shrewd, advisable विवेकपूर्ण
Synonym: **Judicious** (adjective) – showing good judgment (समझदार)
- **Imprudent** (adjective) – lacking caution (अविवेकी)
 - **Rash** (adjective) – hasty (जल्दबाज़)
 - **Careless** (adjective) – negligent (लापरवाह)
20. A) **BEDAC**
- the grandmother couldn't find her spectacles because she had placed them on her head and was searching for them all around the house
 - B starts the sentence with "the grandmother couldn't find," introducing the subject (the grandmother) and the issue (not being able to find something).
 - E follows B with "her spectacles because she had," specifying what the grandmother couldn't find (her spectacles) and hinting at the reason.
 - D comes next with "placed them on her head," explaining where the spectacles were, thus completing the thought introduced in E.
 - A follows D with "and was searching for them," describing the grandmother's action after placing the spectacles on her head.
 - C concludes the sentence with "all around the house," indicating where the grandmother was searching, rounding off the sentence with a logical conclusion
21. D) **Exoneration** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी को दोषमुक्त करना या बरी करना। passage में mention किया गया है कि बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट ने 2006 के मुंबई ट्रेन ब्लास्ट केस

में दोषी ठहराए गए सभी लोगों को बरी कर दिया, जो पीड़ित परिवारों के लिए एक झटका था। इसलिए 'exoneration' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'condemnation' का अर्थ है निंदा करना, 'inculpation' का अर्थ है दोष लगाना, और 'incrimination' का अर्थ है आरोप लगाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Exoneration' will be used because it means to free someone from blame or declare them not guilty. The passage mentions that the Bombay High Court freed all those convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train blast case, which came as a shock to the victims' families. Hence, 'exoneration' fits here. Whereas, 'condemnation' means strong disapproval, 'inculpation' means blaming, and 'incrimination' means accusing—none of which fit in this context.
22. B) '**Has**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ subject "The Bombay High Court's acquittal" singular है और present perfect tense में singular subject के साथ 'has' का प्रयोग होता है। sentence में action (acquittal) का present पर effect दिखाया गया है, इसलिए 'has' सही है। जबकि 'have' plural subjects के साथ use होता है, 'was' past continuous tense में use होता है, और 'were' plural past tense में, जो यहाँ context के अनुसार सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Has' will be used because the subject "The Bombay High Court's acquittal" is singular, and in present perfect tense, singular subjects take 'has'. The sentence shows the present effect of the action (acquittal), so 'has' is correct. Whereas, 'have' is used with plural subjects, 'was' is used in past continuous tense, and 'were' in plural past tense, which are incorrect here as per the context.
23. C) '**Ripped apart**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को पूरी तरह से खंडित कर देना। यहाँ sentence में High Court ने investigation को पूरी तरह से खारिज कर दिया है, जिसमें witnesses को untrustworthy बताया गया है, confessions को दबाव में लिया हुआ कहा गया है, और forensic evidence को unreliable बताया गया है। इसलिए 'ripped apart' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'kept out' का अर्थ है बाहर रखना, 'take advantage of' का अर्थ है फायदा उठाना, और 'drove up' का अर्थ है बढ़ाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Ripped apart' will be used because it means to completely dismantle or criticize severely. Here, the sentence states that the High Court has severely criticized the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, confessions coerced, and forensic evidence unreliable. Thus, 'ripped apart' fits perfectly. Whereas, 'kept out' means to exclude, 'take advantage of' means to exploit, and 'drove up' means to increase, none of which fit in this context.
24. B) '**Citing**' का use होगा क्योंकि "citing" का अर्थ होता है किसी साक्ष्य या उदाहरण का हवाला देना। यहाँ sentence में forensic evidence (अपराधिक साक्ष्य) का हवाला दिया जा रहा है, इसलिए 'citing' सही है। जबकि 'sighting' का अर्थ है देखना (जैसे किसी वस्तु को), 'site' का अर्थ है स्थान, और 'sighing' का अर्थ है आह भरना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Citing' will be used because it means to refer to evidence or an example. Here, the sentence is referring to forensic evidence, making 'citing' the correct choice. Whereas, 'sighting' means seeing (e.g., an object), 'site' means a location, and 'sighing' means exhaling audibly, which do not fit in this context.

25. D) **Sentenced**' का use होगा क्योंकि "sentenced" का अर्थ होता है किसी को सजा सुनाना। इस sentence में mention किया गया है कि 2015 में trial court ने पाँच accused को मौत की सजा और सात को उम्रकैद की सजा सुनाई थी, इसलिए 'sentenced' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Precise' का अर्थ है सटीक, 'Briefed' का अर्थ है संक्षिप्त जानकारी देना, और 'Phrased' का अर्थ है शब्दों में व्यक्त करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Sentenced' will be used because it means to officially declare punishment for a crime. The sentence mentions that in 2015, the trial court sentenced five accused to death and seven to life imprisonment, making 'sentenced' correct here. Whereas, 'Precise' means exact, 'Briefed' means to give summarized information, and 'Phrased' means to express in words, which do not fit in this context.



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