

Breaking the rules: On the reversing of the Vanashakti ruling

Post-facto clearance must remain the exception, not the rule

The majority **decision** by a **Bench** of the Supreme Court to reverse its May 2025 order, which had **stayed** the **grant** of post-facto environmental clearances, **illustrates** the difficulty of **dealing with** the **seemingly irreversible** consequences of a **much-abused** law. The controversy is also about the form of the Environment Ministry's instruments that **normalised** those exceptions. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and EIA notifications of 1994 and 2006 are framed around prior environmental clearance (EC), which means that large construction and industrial projects must not start work until an authority has **assessed** their consequences. **Decisions** by the Court including Common Cause (2017) and Alembic Pharmaceuticals (2020) **treated** post-facto EC as **impermissible** where prior EC was mandatory. The **order** in May, in Vanashakti, **read** this as **ruling out** post-facto ECs **altogether** for such projects. The new majority does not say 'EC first' is no longer the rule but locates a **narrow space** for post-facto clearances by **relying on** Alembic, D. Swamy, and others to allow '**regularisation**' when **considerable** resources have already been **committed**, usually with fines. This still means that the Ministry can maintain 'EC first' as the legal default and allow post-facto clearances only in rare, highly **constrained** cases. In any case the **spirit** of the EC **regime** remains **ex ante**.

A **clearance** granted after construction **has** begun or finished cannot **replicate** the EIA's **rationale**, which is to make environment-related decisions before the **potential cumulative** consequences are **underway**. Post-facto clearances can only **impose** penalties, prescribe **mitigation** or order closure or **demolition**. Even if the judiciary permits such ECs in some circumstances now, the clearances will be **remedial** and sit uneasily with the structure of environmental **jurisprudence** in India since the 1990s. The majority's **concern** about differential treatment of past and future violators **is** also understandable, even if its remedy is not. Vanashakti **struck down** the 2017 notification and **subsequent** Environment Ministry office **memoranda** that **facilitated** post-facto ECs, but it let **existing** post-facto ECs stand. The majority treated this as discriminatory, which is fair, but unequal treatment during a shift from a permissive to a stricter regime is to be expected during regulatory housekeeping. Its **existence** does not by itself require that an old route be revived. The Court has also **recalled** the **bar** on post-facto ECs and reopened the legal question, indicating that limited post-facto regularisation is not in itself **untenable**. In the end, the Ministry must treat post-facto ECs as exceptional not least because they are **inherently at odds with** the legal **framework**. Any **complaint** about discrimination between past and future violators **should** be **addressed** by **tightening** legacy clearances, not by **normalising** post-facto regularisation. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ruling** (noun) – judgment, decision, verdict, order, decree निर्णय
2. **Post-facto** (adjective) – after the fact, retrospective, retroactive, subsequent तथ्योत्तर/बाद में
3. **Bench** (noun) – a court of law with a number of judges. न्यायपीठ
4. **Stay** (verb) – suspend, halt, stop, pause, put on hold रोक लगाना
5. **Grant** (noun) – award, conferment, allocation, bestowal, provision अनुदान
6. **Illustrate** (verb) – demonstrate, show, exemplify, indicate, highlight उदाहरण देना
7. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – handle, manage, address, tackle, cope with निपटना
8. **Seemingly** (adverb) – apparently, on the face of it, outwardly, ostensibly प्रतीत होता है
9. **Irreversible** (adjective) – unchangeable, permanent, irrevocable, unalterable अपरिवर्तनीय
10. **Much-abused** (adjective) – widely misused, frequently exploited, overused बहुत दुरुपयोग किया गया
11. **Normalise** (verb) – standardize, legitimize, regularize, validate, make normal सामान्य बनाना
12. **Assess** (verb) – evaluate, judge, appraise, gauge, measure आकलन करना
13. **Impermissible** (adjective) – not allowed, prohibited, forbidden, unacceptable, banned अनुमति नहीं
14. **Rule out** (phrasal verb) – exclude, eliminate, reject, dismiss, preclude खारिज करना
15. **Altogether** (adverb) – completely, entirely, totally, wholly, absolutely पूरी तरह से
16. **Narrow** (adjective) – limited, restricted, small, tight, confined संकीर्ण
17. **Space** (noun) – scope, room, leeway, capacity, opportunity गुंजाइश
18. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend, count, bank, trust, lean on निर्भर होना
19. **Regularisation** (noun) – formalization, authorization, standardization, legitimization वैधीकरण
20. **Considerable** (adjective) – significant, substantial, sizable, ample, extensive काफी
21. **Committed** (adjective) – invested, allocated, devoted, pledged, assigned निवेश किया हुआ

22. **Constrained** (adjective) – restricted, limited, confined, circumscribed, curbed
सीमित
23. **Spirit** (noun) – essence, intention, principle, core, meaning भावना
24. **Regime** (noun) – system, framework, arrangement, scheme, structure व्यवस्था
25. **Ex ante** (adjective) – beforehand, in advance, pre-emptive, predictive
पूर्वानुमानित
26. **Replicate** (verb) – duplicate, reproduce, copy, recreate, imitate दोहराना
27. **Rationale** (noun) – reasoning, logic, basis, principle, justification तर्क
28. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, likely, prospective, future, probable संभावित
29. **Cumulative** (adjective) – collective, aggregate, accumulated, total, combined
संचयी
30. **Underway** (adjective) – in progress, ongoing, happening, proceeding, occurring
जारी
31. **Impose** (verb) – levy, enforce, apply, set, charge लागू करना
32. **Mitigation** (noun) – alleviation, reduction, easing, lessening, relief न्यूनीकरण
33. **Demolition** (noun) – destruction, razing, leveling, wrecking, dismantling विध्वंस
34. **Remedial** (adjective) – corrective, restorative, reparative, curative, therapeutic सुधारात्मक
35. **Jurisprudence** (noun) – body of law, legal theory, philosophy of law, case law
न्यायशास्त्र
36. **Strike down** (phrasal verb) – annul, invalidate, quash, overturn, cancel रद्द करना
37. **Subsequent** (adjective) – following, later, ensuing, succeeding, next बाद का
38. **Memoranda** (noun) – official notes, communications, directives, notices ज्ञापन
39. **Facilitate** (verb) – enable, assist, aid, make easier, help सुविधा प्रदान करना
40. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present, extant, prevailing, ongoing मौजूदा
41. **Existence** (noun) – being, presence, reality, actuality, survival अस्तित्व
42. **Recall** (verb) – revoke, retract, withdraw, rescind, take back वापस लेना
43. **Bar** (noun) – prohibition, ban, restriction, embargo, block प्रतिबंध
44. **Untenable** (adjective) – indefensible, unsustainable, unjustifiable, flawed, weak असमर्थनीय

45. **Inherently** (adverb) – intrinsically, basically, fundamentally, essentially, by nature स्वाभाविक रूप से
46. **At odds with** (phrase) – in conflict with, inconsistent with, contrary to, clashing with. के विपरीत
47. **Framework** (noun) – structure, system, scheme, plan, outline ढांचा
48. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, handle, attend to, confront सुलझाना
49. **Tighten** (verb) – strengthen, make stricter, reinforce, toughen, enhance प्रबंध दृढ़ बनाना
50. **Normalise** (verb) – standardize, legitimize, regularize, validate, make normal सामान्य बनाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court's majority decision has reversed its earlier May 2025 order that had halted post-facto environmental clearances (ECs).
2. This reversal highlights the challenges of dealing with long-standing misuse of environmental laws.
3. The debate centres on how the Environment Ministry issued instruments that normalised post-facto clearances.
4. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and EIA notifications (1994, 2006) require prior environmental clearance before any major project begins.
5. Past Supreme Court rulings—Common Cause (2017) and Alembic Pharmaceuticals (2020)—held post-facto ECs as impermissible where prior EC is compulsory.
6. The May Vanashakti ruling interpreted these judgments as completely ruling out post-facto ECs.
7. The new majority judgment, however, carves out a *narrow* space for post-facto clearances.
8. It relies on earlier rulings such as Alembic and D. Swamy to justify limited “regularisation” when significant resources have already been spent.
9. This allows the Ministry to retain “EC first” as the default law, with post-facto clearances allowed only in rare cases.
10. Post-facto ECs cannot fulfil the core purpose of the EIA, which is to evaluate environmental impact before damage occurs.
11. Such clearances can only impose penalties, mitigation measures, or order closure/demolition—never prevent the initial harm.
12. Even if permitted by courts in exceptional cases, post-facto ECs remain inconsistent with India's environmental jurisprudence since the 1990s.
13. The majority also raised concerns about unequal treatment between past violators (whose post-facto ECs were allowed) and future violators.
14. While this inequality exists, it is natural during a shift from a lenient to a stricter regulatory regime and does not require reopening old channels.
15. Ultimately, the Environment Ministry must treat post-facto ECs as exceptional, and concerns about discrimination should be solved by tightening old clearances—not by normalising post-facto approvals.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Analytical and cautionary
 - B. Celebratory and optimistic
 - C. Casual and conversational
 - D. Indifferent and neutral
2. **What concern did the Court primarily express about the different treatment of violators?**
 - A. Unequal outcomes for earlier and later violators
 - B. Unclear standards for current and pending cases
 - C. Vague directions for project-related violations
 - D. Confusing rules for new and existing clearances
3. **Why does the passage argue that post-facto clearance remains problematic?**
 - A. It creates conflicts with other judicial doctrines
 - B. It increases reliance on retrospective penalties
 - C. It results in weaker review of environmental harm
 - D. It cannot fulfil the intended preventive function
4. **What can be inferred about the Ministry's future role regarding post-facto clearances?**
 - A. It may resume issuing broader retrospective approvals
 - B. It must restrict approvals to rare exceptional situations
 - C. It is likely to loosen oversight for ongoing irregularities
 - D. It should prioritise penalties over preventive action
5. **What broader implication can be drawn about the judiciary's position on post-facto approvals?**
 - A. It allows them only when constrained by irreversible commitments
 - B. It intends to establish them as a standard regulatory pathway
 - C. It expects them to gradually replace prior environmental reviews
 - D. It aims to normalise them for all industrial and construction projects
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Cry over spilt milk

 - A. cry too much over a petty issue
 - B. regret about something that happened and cannot be changed
 - C. unnecessarily worry about the future
 - D. complain about being forced to drink milk
7. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Endangered."**
 - A. Secure
 - B. Vulnerable
 - C. Common
 - D. Flourishing
8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Underline."**
 - A. Neglect
 - B. Overstate
 - C. Accentuate
 - D. Reinforce
9. **Select the most appropriate word which means the same as the group of words given.**

- A shortage of vitamins, minerals, etc. needed for good health
- A. Deficiency
 - B. Nutrition
 - C. Defect
 - D. Disease
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
Devotional songs are sung superbly by Sastri.
- A. Sastri has been singing devotional songs superbly.
 - B. Sastri sings devotional songs superbly.
 - C. Sastri has superbly sung devotional songs.
 - D. Sastri is singing devotional songs superbly
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
If you are going to keep eating those cookies, you are going to _____ your dinner
- A. allow
 - B. cheer
 - C. miss
 - D. mute
12. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
He suffered / from fever when he was interviewed / for the job. / No error
- A. He suffered
 - B. from fever when he was interviewed
 - C. for the job.
 - D. No error
13. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
She often goes for a walk / with her dog / in the night.
- A. in the night
 - B. with her dog
 - C. She often goes for a walk
 - D. No error
14. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the phrasal verb "Stem from."**
- A. To separate from something
 - B. To deviate from something
 - C. To escape from something
 - D. To originate from something
15. **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) Three things have made it possible
 - b) Understated history, the strength of soft power, but most of all, putting the right people
 - c) Among India's external relationships, if there is one that rises above the cliché 'going from strength to strength' when it is used as a description, it is New Delhi's relationship with Paris

d) In the right place, even when it is by happenstance, to suit the all-round growth of a relationship

A. c, b, d, a

B. c, a, b, d

C. a, b, c, d

D. a, c, b, d

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

It is terrible that education systems all over the world are being held in captivity due to poverty, both at the governmental and family levels, despite the fact that education is claimed to be so important for human progress and the _____ of global economies

A. dismantling

B. revitalisation

C. abrogation

D. devastation

17. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.**

Every season the river overflows its banks and when it goes down it leaves silt for crops to be grown

A. Gruwn

B. Season

C. Overflows

D. Silt

18. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error.**

Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

He did not pass the examination / in spite of / his best efforts. / No error

A. He did not pass the examination

B. in spite of

C. his best efforts.

D. No error

19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Entirety."**

A. Fragment

B. Wholeness

C. Unity

D. Totality

20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word "Incentive."**

A. Hindrance

B. Apathy

C. Distraction

D. Motivation

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 matchbox _____(1)_____ a valuable service to _____(2)_____ in lighting fires. It remained a centre of attraction in every kitchen _____(3)_____ recent times. In the past, it

was _____(4)_____ to see a house without a matchbox. The cardboard box with 50-odd sticks became part and parcel of every _____(5)_____, the rich or the poor.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

- A. rendering
- B. renders
- C. render
- D. rendered

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

- A. misandry
- B. mankind
- C. savant
- D. tyrant

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

- A. Till
- B. Yet
- C. For
- D. While

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

- A. plentiful
- B. banal
- C. rare
- D. trite

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

- A. exile
- B. allegiance
- C. instinct
- D. abode

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Analytical and cautionary**
 The passage analyses Supreme Court decisions, legal principles, and environmental policies. It warns against normalising post-facto clearances, making the tone analytical and cautionary.
 - B. Celebratory and optimistic — The passage does not celebrate; instead it expresses concern.
 - C. Casual and conversational — The style is formal and legal, not casual.
 - D. Indifferent and neutral — The passage clearly takes a critical stance on post-facto clearances.
2. A) **Unequal outcomes for earlier and later violators**
 A is correct because the passage explicitly states that the majority worried about “differential treatment of past and future violators.”
 - B is incorrect because the passage does not mention unclear standards for “current and pending cases.”
 - C is incorrect because the issue was not about vague directions but unequal treatment.
 - D is incorrect because the Court’s concern was not about confusing rules but discriminatory treatment.
3. D) **It cannot fulfil the intended preventive function**
 A is incorrect because the key issue is conflict with the preventive structure, not with other doctrines.
 - D is correct because the passage states that post-facto EC cannot replicate the EIA’s ex-ante purpose, which must occur before consequences begin.
 - B is incorrect because increased penalties are mentioned but not the main reason for the problem.
 - C is incorrect because the passage highlights the loss of ex-ante purpose, not weaker review per se.
4. B) **It must restrict approvals to rare exceptional situations**
 B is correct because the passage concludes that the Ministry must treat post-facto ECs as “exceptional” and maintain ‘EC first’ as the default.
 - A is incorrect because the text argues against normalising post-facto clearances.
 - C is incorrect because loosening oversight contradicts the passage's warning.
 - D is incorrect because prioritising penalties is not recommended; prevention remains central.
5. A) **It allows them only when constrained by irreversible commitments**
 A is correct because the majority permits post-facto regularisation only in narrow cases where significant resources are already committed.
 - B is incorrect because the judiciary explicitly rejects making post-facto ECs standard.
 - C is incorrect because nothing in the passage suggests replacement of prior reviews.

- D is incorrect because the Court does not aim to normalise post-facto ECs; it upholds ex-ante assessment as the rule.
6. B) **Cry over spilt milk** (idiom) – regret about something that happened and cannot be changed
जो हो चुका है उसके लिए पछताना
7. B) **Endangered** (adjective) – At risk of extinction or harm; threatened, imperiled. लुप्तप्राय / संकटग्रस्त
Synonym: **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Exposed to the possibility of being harmed; at risk. असुरक्षित / संवेदनशील
- **Secure** (adjective) – Safe and protected. सुरक्षित
 - **Common** (adjective) – Ordinary, not rare. सामान्य
 - **Flourishing** (adjective) – Thriving, successful. फल-फूल रहा
8. A) **Neglect**
Underline (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate. जोर देना / रेखांकित करना
Antonym: **Neglect** – To pay no attention or give little importance to something; उपेक्षा करना / अनदेखा करना
- **Overstate** – Exaggerate; बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहना
 - **Accentuate** – Emphasize; जोर देना
 - **Reinforce** – Strengthen; मज़बूत करना
9. A) **Deficiency** (noun) – A shortage of vitamins, minerals, etc. needed for good health अभाव
- **Nutrition** (noun) – the process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth. पोषण
 - **Defect** (noun) – a shortcoming, imperfection, or lack. दोष
 - **Disease** (noun) – a disorder of structure or function in a human, animal, or plant, especially one that produces specific signs or symptoms. रोग
10. B) **Sastri sings devotional songs superbly**
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए: Passive वाक्य "Devotional songs are sung superbly by Sastri" को Active वाक्य में बदलते समय Passive वाक्य का Subject "Devotional songs" Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में Verb "are sung" (Present Simple Passive) को Active Voice में Present Simple Tense के अनुसार "sings" में बदला गया है। "By Sastri" को Active वाक्य में Subject "Sastri" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है। इस प्रकार, वाक्य Active Voice में बदलकर "Sastri sings devotional songs superbly" बन जाता है।
- To change Passive to Active Voice: In the passive sentence "Devotional songs are sung superbly by Sastri," the subject of the passive sentence "Devotional songs" becomes the object of the active sentence. The verb "are sung" in Present Simple Passive changes to "sings" in Present Simple Active. The agent "by Sastri" becomes the subject "Sastri" in the active sentence. Hence, the active sentence becomes "Sastri sings devotional songs superbly."
11. C) **Miss** का use यहाँ होगा क्योंकि 'miss' का अर्थ है खो देना या अनुपलब्ध होना। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि यदि आप कुकीज़ खाते रहेंगे, तो आप अपने रात के खाने को 'miss' करेंगे, अर्थात् भोजन को पूरा नहीं कर पाएंगे। 'Allow' का अर्थ है अनुमति देना, जो यहाँ contextually सही नहीं है। 'Cheer' का अर्थ है खुश

करना या प्रोत्साहित करना, जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Mute' का अर्थ है आवाज बंद करना, जो भोजन के संदर्भ में असंगत है।

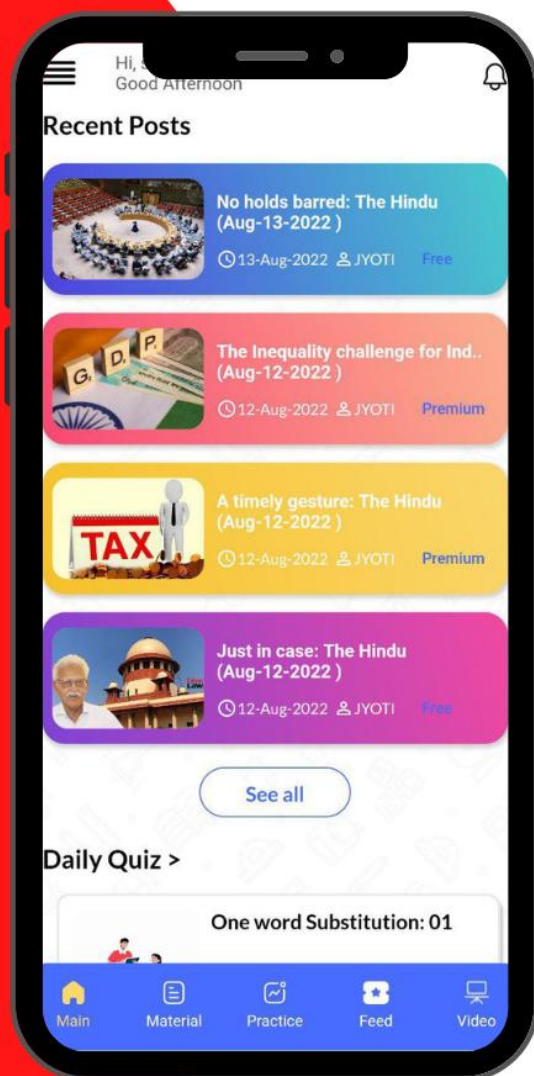
- Miss' is used because it means to lose or fail to have something. The sentence implies that if you continue eating cookies, you will miss your dinner, i.e., you won't be able to have or complete your meal. 'Allow' means to permit, which doesn't fit in this context. 'Cheer' means to make someone happy or encourage, which is irrelevant to the sentence. 'Mute' means to silence, which is not contextually appropriate here.
12. A) '**suffered**' के बदले 'was suffering' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "when he was interviewed" अतीत के किसी specific समय पर चल रही अवस्था (ongoing condition) बताता है; ऐसे में Past Continuous उचित है; जैसे— He was suffering from fever when he was interviewed for the job.
- Use 'was suffering' instead of 'suffered' because "when he was interviewed" refers to an ongoing state at a specific past time, so Past Continuous fits; Like — He was suffering from fever when he was interviewed for the job.
13. A) '**in the night**' में error है क्योंकि सही phrase 'at night' होगा। 'In the night' का USE तब किया जाता है जब किसी specific night का जिक्र हो, जबकि सामान्य तौर पर रात के समय (general nighttime) के लिए 'at night' का use होता है।
- The phrase 'in the night' is incorrect in this context because it is not the appropriate idiomatic expression for general nighttime activities. The correct phrase is 'at night'. The preposition 'in' is used for specific parts of the night (e.g., in the middle of the night) but not for general references.
14. D) Stem from (phrasal verb) – To originate from, to arise as a result of. उत्पन्न होना / किसी कारण से निकलना
15. B) **c, a, b, d**
- c: Sentence C introduces the main subject of the paragraph, "New Delhi's relationship with Paris," and makes a clear standalone statement
 - a: Sentence A refers to "it" without introducing what "it" is. Given that sentence C introduces a distinct relationship, it makes logical sense that "it" in sentence A refers to this relationship, thus providing the link from C to A. Also, sentence A introduces the notion of "three things" that have made this relationship possible but does not specify what these three things are
 - b: Since sentence A mentions "Three things have made it possible," the subsequent sentence should provide details about these three things. Sentence B does this by listing "understated history, the strength of soft power," and "putting the right people."
 - d: Sentence D adds more specifics to the third element mentioned in Sentence B "putting the right people," thus it logically follows B.
- Option Elimination Method –
- Option A (c, b, d, a): This can be eliminated as sentence A cannot come last since it introduces the notion of "three things" without specifying them, which B and D elaborate upon.
 - Option C (a, b, c, d): This can be eliminated because sentence A cannot come first, as it refers to "it" without a clear antecedent introduced.
 - Option D (a, c, b, d): This can be eliminated for the same reason as C, sentence A cannot be the opening sentence due to the lack of a clear antecedent for "it."

16. B) '**Revitalisation**' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को नई जान डालना या पुनः जीवन देना। वाक्य में उल्लेख है कि शिक्षा को मानव प्रगति और वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के पुनर्जीवन (revitalisation) के लिए महत्वपूर्ण बताया गया है। इस संदर्भ में 'revitalisation' पूरी तरह उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Dismantling' का अर्थ है तोड़ना या नष्ट करना, 'Abrogation' का अर्थ है किसी कानून या प्रणाली को रद्द करना, और 'Devastation' का अर्थ है विनाश। ये तीनों विकल्प वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Revitalisation' will be used because it means bringing new life or energy to something. The sentence mentions the importance of education for human progress and the revitalisation of global economies, making 'revitalisation' the correct fit here. Whereas, 'Dismantling' means to break apart or destroy, 'Abrogation' means the cancellation of a law or system, and 'Devastation' implies destruction, which do not fit the context.
17. A) The correct spelling of 'Gruwn' is '**Grown**' which means "to increase in size or maturity over time" बढ़ना, विकसित होना.
18. D) **No error**.
19. A) **Entirety** (noun) – The state of being complete or whole. संपूर्णता / पूर्ण रूप
Antonym: **Fragment** (noun) – A small part broken off from the whole. खंड / टुकड़ा
- **Wholeness** (noun) – The state of being complete. पूर्णता
 - **Unity** (noun) – The state of being united. एकता
 - **Totality** (noun) – The whole of something. समग्रता
20. D) **Incentive** (noun) – Something that motivates or encourages a person to act; inducement, stimulus. प्रोत्साहन / प्रेरणा
Synonym: **Motivation** – The reason or encouragement for doing something. प्रेरणा / उत्साह
- **Hindrance** – Obstacle or obstruction. बाधा
 - **Apathy** – Lack of interest or feeling. उदासीनता
 - **Distraction** – Something that diverts attention. ध्यान भटकाना
21. D) **Rendered** का use होगा क्योंकि "rendered" का अर्थ है "सेवा दी/प्रदान की," और पूरा अनुच्छेद भूतकाल (remained, was, became) में चल रहा है; इसलिए simple past 'rendered' ही संदर्भ और काल-समरूपता के हिसाब से सही है। जबकि 'rendering' एक participle रूप है जिसे मुख्य क्रिया बनाने के लिए सहायक क्रिया चाहिए; 'renders' simple present है जो passage के past flow से मेल नहीं खाता; और 'render' base form है जो बिना 'to' या auxiliary के यहाँ सही नहीं है।
- 'Rendered' will be used because it means "provided/gave" a service, and the passage maintains past narration (remained, was, became), so the simple past 'rendered' is grammatically and contextually correct. Whereas, 'rendering' is a participle that needs an auxiliary to act as the main verb; 'renders' is simple present and clashes with the past context; and 'render' is a bare infinitive/base form that is ungrammatical here without 'to' or a helping verb.
22. B) **Mankind** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ अर्थ है "समूची मानवता" को एक उपयोगी सेवा देना—"service to mankind" एक स्वाभाविक और प्रचलित कोलोकेशन है। व्याकरण की दृष्टि से 'to' के बाद 'mankind' (समष्टिवाचक संज्ञा, आर्टिकल की ज़रूरत नहीं) सही है। जबकि 'misandry' (पुरुष-द्वेष) अर्थतः असंगत है; 'savant' गिननीय संज्ञा है—'a savant/savants' चाहिए; और 'tyrant' भी गिननीय है—'a tyrant' चाहिए और संदर्भतः गलत है।
- 'Mankind' will be used because the idea is "rendering a valuable service to all humans"—"service to mankind" is the natural collocation. Grammatically, after the

preposition 'to' we need a suitable noun; 'mankind' works without an article.

'Misandry' means hatred of men (semantically off), 'savant' is countable and would need an article/plural, and 'tyrant' is also countable and contextually ill-fitting.

23. A) **Till** का use होगा क्योंकि "till" का अर्थ होता है "तक/अब तक पहुँचना।" वाक्य कहता है: It remained a centre of attraction in every kitchen till recent times — यानी हाल के समय तक यह रसोई का आकर्षण बना रहा। यहाँ till + noun phrase ("recent times") समय की सीमा दर्शाने वाला सही संरचनात्मक प्रयोग है। जबकि 'Yet' प्रायः विरोध/विपरीतार्थ (but) या "अब तक" के अर्थ में आता है और ऐसे noun phrase से पहले इस तरह नहीं लगाया जाता; 'For' अवधि बताता है (जैसे for many years), "for recent times" अप्राकृतिक है; और 'While' एक clause की अपेक्षा करता है ("while it was common"), केवल noun phrase ("recent times") के साथ व्याकरणतः सही नहीं है।
- **'Till'** will be used because it means "up to" and correctly sets a time limit with a noun phrase: till recent times. Whereas, 'Yet' is adversative/temporal and not used directly before a bare noun phrase here; 'For' marks duration (needs a period like "for years"), making "for recent times" awkward; and 'While' introduces a clause, not a lone noun phrase—so they don't fit this context.
24. C) **Rare** का use होगा क्योंकि "rare" का अर्थ है बहुत कम/दुर्लभ। वाक्य कहता है: "In the past, it was _____ to see a house without a matchbox", यानी अतीत में बिना माचिस-बॉक्स के घर देखना असामान्य था। संरचना "it + was + adjective + to + verb" (it was rare to see...) व्याकरण की दृष्टि से पूरी तरह सही और स्वाभाविक है।
- **'Rare'** will be used because it means uncommon. The sentence asserts that in the past, seeing a house without a matchbox was unusual; the pattern "it was rare to see..." is a standard "it + be + adjective + to-infinitive" construction. Whereas, plentiful means abundant and doesn't collocate in "it was plentiful to see...". Banal and trite mean dull/clichéd and typically modify ideas/remarks, not an event like "to see a house without...", so "it was banal/trite to see..." is semantically and collocationally awkward.
25. D) **Abode** का use होगा क्योंकि "abode" का अर्थ होता है घर/निवास-स्थान, और वाक्य में कहा गया है कि माचिस का डिब्बा "हर _____ का अभिन्न हिस्सा" बन गया—यह स्वाभाविक रूप से घर/रसोई के संदर्भ में फिट होता है। जबकि 'Exile' का अर्थ निर्वासन/देश-निकाला, 'Allegiance' का अर्थ निष्ठा (अमूर्त), और 'Instinct' जन्मजात प्रवृत्ति है—ये "हर ... का हिस्सा" वाले गृह-परिस्थित संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं। साथ ही, 'every' के बाद singular countable noun चाहिए; 'abode' ऐसा संज्ञा है, पर 'allegiance' अमूर्त है और बाकी अर्थ-संगति नहीं बैठते।
- **'Abode'** will be used because it means a home/dwelling, and the sentence says the matchbox became "part and parcel of every _____," which naturally refers to a household. Whereas, 'Exile' means banishment, 'Allegiance' is abstract loyalty, and 'Instinct' is an innate tendency—none fit a household context. Grammatically, 'every' + singular countable noun is required; 'abode' satisfies this, while the others don't fit the meaning (and 'allegiance' is abstract).



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