

## Young love: On a weaponisation of the POCSO Act

POCSO Act must not allow parental **pushback** against **adolescents**

On January 9, the Supreme Court formally **acknowledged** an issue that legal **scholars**, child rights experts, and young adults in **consensual** relationships have long **voiced**: the **menace** of the POCSO Act being **weaponised** by families to punish young persons, but especially young men in romantic relationships with young women. The intervention **validates** years of **alarm** over how a **statute** designed to **shield** against **predatory** violence has been **subverted** into **enforcing** parental authority and traditional social boundaries. The **systemic vulnerability** lies within the Act's **inflexible architecture**. Scholars have argued that by **establishing** a **rigid** age of **consent** at 18 years and applying **strict** liability, in which the minor person's consent is **rendered** legally irrelevant, POCSO **casts** an **indiscriminate** **net** on those it **deems** to be **offenders**. Together with its **stringent** provisions and mandatory minimum **sentences**, which are intended to **deter** **heinous** offenders, the Act is easily **manipulated** by disapproving families. In cases of **elopement** crossing caste or religious lines, parents often file charges of kidnapping and sexual assault; this **triggers** the Act if the woman is under 18. As a result, in the current framework, a consensual adolescent relationship is hard to **distinguish** from **coercive abuse**, allowing families to use the state's **punitive machinery** against partners they consider unsuitable.

The Law Commission of India **documented** this gap in a 2023 report, **in the course of** advising against lowering the general age of consent from 18, **citing** dangers such as **trafficking** and child marriage. It also **highlighted** that **treating** two teenagers being close together with the **severity** reserved for **predatory** abuse **is** developmentally **counterproductive**, and recommended introducing "guided judicial **discretion**" in **sentencing** in cases involving adolescents aged 16-18. **Likewise**, the Court has ordered that its January 9 judgment be shared with the Law Secretary to **endeavour** to "curb this menace". However, the crisis is **made worse** by the absence of **interventions** that are not punitive. When young adults find their personal **autonomy at odds with** their families' expectations, they are often left **isolated**; the problem begins here. There is a lack of **confidential** counselling services for adolescents **navigating** relationships and emerging sexuality. **Resources** to **mediate with** families struggling with these **intergenerational transitions** **are** also virtually **non-existent** outside of traditional, **often conservative**, community structures. Until the state invests in **bolstering** these social services, prioritising education and counselling over **invoking** a response led by the police, and **tweaking** the Act to **admit** this **recourse**, the legal system will leave young couples **vulnerable to** familial **wrath** and **prosecutorial overreach**.

**[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Pushback** (noun) – resistance, opposition, rebuff, rejection, outcry विरोध
2. **Adolescent** (noun) – teenager, youth, minor, juvenile, young person किशोर
3. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, grant, recognize, concede स्वीकार करना
4. **Scholar** (noun) – academic, intellectual, researcher, expert, polymath विद्वान्
5. **Consensual** (adjective) – mutual, agreed, voluntary, common, shared परस्पर सहमत
6. **Voice** (verb) – express, utter, articulate, declare, ventilate व्यक्त करना
7. **Menace** (noun) – threat, danger, peril, hazard, jeopardy खतरा
8. **Weaponise** (verb) – exploit, harness, utilize, manipulate, abuse हथियार की तरह इस्तेमाल करना
9. **Validate** (verb) – confirm, verify, authenticate, endorse, ratify पुष्टि करना
10. **Alarm** (noun) – anxiety, apprehension, dread, trepidation, dismay घबराहट
11. **Statute** (noun) – law, enactment, decree, act, regulation कानून
12. **Shield** (verb) – protect, guard, defend, safeguard, screen बचाना
13. **Predatory** (adjective) – exploitative, rapacious, greedy, vulturous, parasitic शिकारी
14. **Subvert** (verb) – undermine, destabilize, sabotage, overturn, ruin पलट देना
15. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, impose, execute, administer, apply लागू करना
16. **Systemic** (adjective) – structural, inherent, ingrained, deep-rooted, pervasive व्यवस्थात्मक
17. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, susceptibility, fragility, exposure, defenselessness संवेदनशीलता
18. **Lie** (verb) – exist, reside, dwell, consist, remain निहित होना
19. **Inflexible** (adjective) – rigid, uncompromising, unyielding, adamant, unwavering कठोर
20. **Architecture** (noun) – structure, framework, configuration, composition, design संरचना
21. **Establish** (verb) – institute, create, set up, found, initiate स्थापित करना
22. **Rigid** (adjective) – stiff, unbending, stringent, austere, firm सख्त
23. **Consent** (noun) – agreement, permission, assent, accord, concurrence सहमति

24. **Strict** (adjective) – stern, rigorous, severe, harsh, stringent कड़ा

25. **Render** (verb) – make, leave, cause to be, represent, deliver बना देना

26. **Cast the net** (phrase) – to involve a wide range of people or things in a particular situation व्यापक दायरे में लेना

27. **Indiscriminate** (adjective) – random, haphazard, aimless, chaotic, non-selective अंधाधुंध

28. **Deem** (verb) – consider, judge, regard, reckon, believe समझना

29. **Offender** (noun) – culprit, criminal, lawbreaker, wrongdoer, perpetrator अपराधी

30. **Stringent** (adjective) – strict, firm, rigid, rigorous, tight सख्त

31. **Sentence** (noun) – punishment, conviction, penalty, judgment, verdict सजा

32. **Deter** (verb) – discourage, dissuade, prevent, daunt, stop रोकना

33. **Heinous** (adjective) – atrocious, monstrous, odious, wicked, abominable घृणित

34. **Manipulate** (verb) – exploit, control, influence, maneuver, handle हेरफेर करना

35. **Elopement** (noun) – running away to marry secretly, absconding, escape, flight भागकर शादी करना

36. **Trigger** (verb) – activate, initiate, spark, provoke, prompt शुरू करना

37. **Distinguish** (verb) – differentiate, discern, discriminate, tell apart, separate अंतर करना

38. **Coercive** (adjective) – forceful, compulsory, obligatory, bullying, pressuring बलपूर्वक

39. **Abuse** (noun) – mistreatment, exploitation, ill-treatment, maltreatment, injury दुर्व्यवहार

40. **Punitive** (adjective) – disciplinary, penal, corrective, castigatory, retributive दंडात्मक

41. **Machinery** (noun) – system, structure, apparatus, organization, mechanism तंत्र

42. **Document** (verb) – record, register, detail, chronicle, archive दर्ज करना

43. **In the course of** (phrase) – during the specified period of time or process के दौरान

44. **Cite** (verb) – quote, refer to, mention, instance, specify हवाला देना

45. **Trafficking** (noun) – illegal trade, smuggling, dealing, commerce, bootlegging अवैध व्यापार

46. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, stress, underline, accentuate, feature ज़ोर देना

47. **Severity** (noun) – harshness, seriousness, gravity, intensity, rigour तीव्रता

48. **Predatory** (adjective) – exploitative, rapacious, greedy, vulturous, parasitic शोषणकारी

49. **Counterproductive** (adjective) – harmful, detrimental, damaging, adverse, biased उल्टा प्रभाव डालने वाला

50. **Discretion** (noun) – judgment, choice, volition, preference, prudence विवेक

51. **Sentencing** (noun) – the legal punishment given by a court of law सजा सुनाना

52. **Likewise** (adverb) – similarly, also, moreover, furthermore, correspondingly उसी प्रकार

53. **Endeavour** (verb) – strive, attempt, try, aspire, venture प्रयास करना

54. **Curb** (verb) – restrain, check, control, contain, inhibit अंकुश लगाना

55. **Make worse** (verb) – to make a situation more difficult or unpleasant और बिगाड़ देना

56. **Intervention** (noun) – interference, mediation, involvement, arbitration, intercession हस्तक्षेप

57. **Autonomy** (noun) – independence, self-rule, sovereignty, freedom, liberty स्वायत्तता

58. **At odds with** (phrase) – in conflict or disagreement with के विपरीत

59. **Isolated** (adjective) – lonely, alienated, detached, secluded, solitary अलग-थलग

60. **Confidential** (adjective) – private, secret, personal, classified, privileged गोपनीय

61. **Navigate** (verb) – manage, handle, steer, negotiate, pilot तालमेल बिठाना

62. **Mediate** (with) (verb) – to intervene between people in a dispute to bring about an agreement मध्यस्थिता करना

63. **Intergenerational** (adjective) – involving or affecting several generations अंतर-पीढ़ीगत

64. **Transition** (noun) – change, transformation, shift, passage, conversion परिवर्तन

65. **Non-existent** (adjective) – missing, absent, null, void, hypothetical अस्तित्वहीन

66. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, commonly अक्सर

67. **Conservative** (adjective) – traditional, conventional, orthodox, old-fashioned, cautious रुद्धिवादी

68. **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, support, fortify, boost मजबूत करना

69. **Invoke** (verb) – appeal to, cite, summon, resort to, apply आहवान करना

70. **Tweak** (verb) – adjust, modify, alter, refine, fine-tune बदलाव करना

71. **Admit** (verb) – allow, permit, accept, acknowledge, concede स्वीकार करना

72. **Recourse** (noun) – option, resort, remedy, alternative, choice सहारा

73. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) – susceptible to physical or emotional attack or harm की चपेट में

74. **Wrath** (noun) – anger, rage, fury, outrage, resentment क्रोध

75. **Prosecutorial** (adjective) – relating to the institution of legal proceedings अभियोजन संबंधी

76. **Overreach** (noun) – excess, exaggeration, immoderation, surplus, overstepping अपनी सीमा से बाहर जाना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court acknowledged that the POCSO Act is often misused by families against adolescents in consensual relationships.
2. This misuse particularly targets young men involved with young women below 18.
3. The Act, intended to protect minors from sexual abuse, has been repurposed to enforce parental control.
4. A key issue lies in the Act's strict age of consent set at 18 years.
5. Under strict liability, minors' consent has no legal meaning even if the relationship is voluntary.
6. The stringent mandatory minimum punishments make the law easier to weaponise.
7. Families use kidnapping and sexual assault charges to punish elopements, especially across caste or religious lines.
8. The current legal framework fails to distinguish consensual adolescent relationships from coercive abuse.
9. This enables families to activate punitive state machinery against partners they disapprove of.
10. The Law Commission's 2023 report highlighted this gap while advising against lowering the age of consent.
11. The Commission noted that treating teenage intimacy as predatory abuse is developmentally harmful.
12. It recommended introducing guided judicial discretion for cases involving adolescents aged 16-18.
13. The Supreme Court has circulated its judgment to the Law Secretary to help curb the problem.
14. A lack of non-punitive interventions—such as counselling and mediation—exacerbates young couples' vulnerability.
15. The editorial argues that without social services, education, and counselling reforms, the legal system will continue to expose adolescents to familial retaliation and prosecutorial excess.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred about the current implementation of the POCSO Act in consensual adolescent relationships?**

[Editorial page]

  - A. It often categorises consensual adolescent interactions as criminal conduct.
  - B. It consistently protects all minors from both coercive and consensual relationships.
  - C. It prevents families from intervening in adolescent romantic choices.
  - D. It offers flexibility for courts to evaluate adolescent consent in every case.
2. **Why is the absence of non-punitive interventions viewed as worsening the crisis described in the passage?**
  - A. Because punitive approaches do not address adolescent emotional and social needs.
  - B. Because it entirely eliminates the need for age-based legal frameworks.
  - C. Because it ensures families always approve adolescent relationships.
  - D. Because it automatically lowers the age of consent without safeguards.
3. **Which broader social dynamic can be inferred from families using POCSO provisions against eloping adolescents?**
  - A. Intergenerational disagreements are always resolved peacefully through counselling.
  - B. Familial authority often attempts to regulate romantic and social boundaries.
  - C. Adolescents freely navigate relationships without community interference.
  - D. The law is designed to prevent marriages across caste or religious lines.
4. **What can be inferred about the Law Commission's 2023 stance regarding adolescent relationships?**
  - A. It endorsed parental authority as the primary guardian of adolescent sexuality.
  - B. It proposed eliminating the age of consent to reduce legal conflicts for teenagers.
  - C. It supported treating all adolescent sexual behaviour as equally criminal.
  - D. It recognised a difference between consensual teenage intimacy and predatory sexual abuse.
5. **Why does the passage suggest that legal reforms alone will not fully resolve the crisis?**
  - A. Because social and familial attitudes also constrain adolescent autonomy.
  - B. Because legal reforms automatically reduce state intervention in personal matters.
  - C. Because punitive law is inherently incapable of prosecuting coercive sexual offences.
  - D. Because criminal law is the preferred method for addressing intergenerational conflict.
6. **Which spelling is correct for a word meaning 'calm and peaceful'?**
  - A. Serine
  - B. Serenne
  - C. Serene
  - D. Screen
7. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**  
 The after cloth bore a crimson galloon border.
  - A. The seamstress embroidered a metallic galloon on the vestment.
  - B. The merchant exported galloon rolls to ecclesiastical suppliers.
  - C. The nutritionist prescribed a galloon for boosting metabolism.
  - D. The pall was edged with fine silk galloon
8. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'The use of trickery to achieve a political or financial goal'.**

- A. Diplomacy
- B. Chicanery
- C. Bribery
- D. Propaganda

**9. Choose the correct phrasal verb:**

The professor asked the student to \_\_\_ on her thesis argument.

- A. follow up
- B. expand on
- C. point out
- D. call for

**10. Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Cancellation of a penalty or debt.'**

- A. Acquittal
- B. Permission
- C. Reprieve
- D. Partition

**11. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**

My friend **lives in a village** since 2015.

- A. Thing in a village from
- B. Is living since
- C. has been living in a village since
- D. has lived in village from

**12. Choose the correct spelling for a word meaning 'basic or fundamental'.**

- A. Rudimentry
- B. Rudimentary
- C. Rudementary
- D. Rudimentary

**13. Select the correct option:**

Far from being a liability, his dissenting views often served as a \_\_\_ to complacency within the group.

- A. counterweight
- B. detriment
- C. digression
- D. reputation

**14. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

The report was more preferable (1)/ to the previous version (2)/ due to its structured layout (3)/ and clarity of language. (4)/

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

**15. Change the following from active to passive:**

They had been making the staff report discrepancies silently.

- A. The staff had been made to report discrepancies silently.
- B. The staff were made to report discrepancies silently.

C. Discrepancies had been reported silently by the staff.  
D. The staff had been made report discrepancies silently.

16. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word “Cavalier.”**

A. Effulgent  
B. Pernicious  
C. Supercilious  
D. Quiescent

17. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**  
They enjoyed **during the holidays**.  
A. Enjoyment in the holidays  
B. enjoyed in the holidays  
C. themselves during the holidays  
D. themselves in holidays

18. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**  
Protein folding determines its biological function;  
Neticiding can lead to diseases like Alzheimer's;  
Molecular chaperones assist in correct finding;  
At both like AlphaFold predict structures accurately  
A. 1-2-3-4  
B. 1-3-2-4  
C. 3-1-4-2  
D. 4-1-3-2

19. **A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in corresponding direct speech.**  
She mentioned that she was working on a classified project.  
A. She said, "I work on a classified project."  
B. She said, "I am working on a classified project."  
C. She said, "I had worked on a classified project."  
D. She said, "I will work on a classified project."

20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Plague.”**

A. Beatify  
B. Callow  
C. Incipient  
D. Histrionic

**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.**

With the aid of globalisation, the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ planet can be viewed as a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ marketplace. By viewing the world as a single market, merchants are able to expand their reach. Agricultural products, engineering goods, food items and toiletries that were already created in India were not permitted to be (3) \_\_\_\_\_ until the 1990s. But during the 1990s, the wealthy countries (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pressure on the poor and emerging nations to open their markets so that the wealthy might more easily spread their industries. When India

first began its liberalisation and globalisation process in 1991, it was a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ step for the country.

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

- A. part
- B. half
- C. limited
- D. entire

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

- A. decentralised
- B. segregated
- C. separated
- D. unified

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

- A. martyred
- B. intoxicated
- C. imported
- D. elated

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

- A. discontinued
- B. exerted
- C. exempted
- D. conserved

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

- A. abducted
- B. engrossed
- C. emerged
- D. significant

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. A) **It often categorises consensual adolescent interactions as criminal conduct.**

The passage implies that due to strict liability and rigid consent age, consensual adolescent relationships become legally indistinguishable from coercive abuse, making them prosecutable; hence A logically follows from the text.

Why other options are incorrect:

- B suggests uniform protection without misuse, contradicting the passage.
- C contradicts the claim that families frequently weaponise the Act.
- D contradicts the criticism that the Act lacks flexibility and judicial discretion.

2. A) **Because punitive approaches do not address adolescent emotional and social needs.**

The passage suggests the problem begins when adolescents lack resources like counselling or mediation, causing punitive mechanisms to dominate — thus A is inferred.

Why other options are incorrect:

- B overstates and misrepresents the issue.
- C contradicts the claim that families often disapprove and retaliate.
- D introduces an inference not grounded anywhere in the passage.

3. B) **Familial authority often attempts to regulate romantic and social boundaries.**

The passage indicates families weaponise legal provisions to enforce social norms involving autonomy, caste, and marriage; this implies A follows logically.

Why other options are incorrect:

- A contradicts the very absence of counselling highlighted.
- C contradicts the narrative of young adults being isolated and vulnerable.
- D misattributes legal intention; the law targets abuse, not inter-caste marriage.

4. D) **It recognised a difference between consensual teenage intimacy and predatory sexual abuse.**

The passage states the Commission advised against lowering the age of consent, yet acknowledged that punishing consensual teenage closeness like predatory abuse is “developmentally counterproductive.” This implies recognition of distinction, supporting option D.

Why other options are incorrect:

- B contradicts the passage; it expressly advised against lowering the age.
- C contradicts its recommendation for “guided judicial discretion.”
- A is not implied; parental control is discussed as part of the problem, not the Commission’s endorsement.

5. A) **Because social and familial attitudes also constrain adolescent autonomy.**

The passage notes young adults face isolation when personal autonomy clashes with family expectations, and highlights lack of counselling and mediation; thus A logically follows—the issue is both legal and social.

Why other options are incorrect:

B is not implied; reforms do not “automatically” reduce intervention.  
 C contradicts the purpose of POCSO, which is specifically to prosecute abuse.  
 D contradicts the critique that excessive reliance on punitive mechanisms is part of the problem.

6. C) The correct spelling is **Serene**, which means “calm and peaceful” शांत, सौम्य.  
 7. C) वाक्य में 'galloon' का अर्थ है — वस्त्रों या सजावटी किनारों पर उपयोग होने वाला चौड़ा बुना हुआ अलंकारिक फीता (a decorative woven trimming). अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन भिन्न अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो। विकल्प C में 'gallon' (उच्चारण लगभग समान) का अर्थ है — मात्रा मापने की इकाई (a unit of volume measurement). दोनों शब्दों का उच्चारण मिलता-जुलता है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह अलग हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

In the highlighted sentence, galloon means a decorative woven trimming or braid used on garments or fabrics.

We must now choose the sentence that contains a homonym—a word with the same or similar pronunciation but a different meaning.

In option C, the word gallon is used, which means a unit of liquid measurement.

Although galloon and gallon sound similar, their meanings are completely different, making this the correct example of a homonym.

8. B) **Chicanery** (noun) – the use of trickery to achieve a political or financial goal छलकपट, धूर्ता
 

- **Diplomacy** (noun) – the art of dealing with people in a sensitive and tactful way कूटनीति
- **Bribery** (noun) – offering money or gifts to influence someone रिश्वतखोरी
- **Propaganda** (noun) – biased information used to influence public opinion प्रचार/दुष्प्रचार

 9. B) 'Expand on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे वाक्य में प्रोफेसर छात्र से उसके thesis argument को और विस्तार से समझाने की अपेक्षा कर रहा है। "Asked the student to \_\_\_ on her thesis argument" में रिक्त स्थान ऐसा phrasal verb चाहता है जिसका अर्थ विचार को आगे बढ़ाना/विस्तार करना हो। इसलिए, "expand on" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

In English

Expand on means to explain something in more detail.

A professor asking a student to give more details about a thesis argument fits perfectly.

Other Option Analysis:

Follow up – To take further action later, not to add detail.

Point out – To indicate or draw attention to something briefly.

Call for – To demand or require something.

10. C) **Reprieve** (noun) – Cancellation of a penalty or debt दंड/ऋण की समाप्ति या माफी
 

- **Acquittal** (noun) – a judgement that a person is not guilty of the crime जिसके लिए आरोप लगाया गया था, दोषमुक्ति
- **Permission** (noun) – consent or authorization to do something अनुमति

- **Pardon** (noun) – officially forgiving someone for a crime अपराध की क्षमा

11. C) "has been living in a village since" का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि since के साथ Present Perfect Continuous Tense लगाया जाता है जब कोई क्रिया भूतकाल में शुरू होकर अभी तक जारी हो। In English

- "Since 2015" indicates an action started in the past and continues till now → requires Present Perfect Continuous tense.
- "has been living" correctly shows continuous action from past to present.

Other Option Analysis:

- Option 1 → Grammatically incorrect; "Thing in a village from" makes no sense.
- Option 2 → "Is living since" → Present Continuous tense cannot be used with "since".
- Option 4 → "has lived in village from" → Incorrect preposition and tense; "from" should not be used with "since".

12. B) The correct spelling of 'basic or fundamental' is '**Rudimentary**', which means "basic or elementary in nature" मौलिक / बुनियादी.

13. A) **counterweight** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे वाक्य का आशय यह बताता है कि उसके असहमतिपूर्ण विचार समूह में मौजूद आत्मसंतुष्टि (complacency) को संतुलित करने या चुनौती देने का कार्य करते थे। वाक्य में "Far from being a liability" यह स्पष्ट करता है कि वे नुकसानदायक नहीं थे, बल्कि उल्टा एक संतुलनकारी शक्ति की तरह कार्य कर रहे थे। इसलिए "counterweight" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

In English

**Counterweight** means something that balances or offsets another thing.

Here, his dissenting views balanced the group's complacency, making this the perfect fit.

Other Option Analysis

- **Detriment** – Means harm or damage, which is opposite of the intended meaning.
- **Digression** – A temporary departure from the main subject, irrelevant here.
- **Reputation** – How someone is generally regarded; doesn't fit context.

14. A) 'more preferable' के बदले केवल '**preferable**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि preferable स्वयं में comparative sense देता है और इसके साथ 'more' लगाना superfluous / गलत है। जैसे— This option is preferable to the other.

'preferable' will be used instead of 'more preferable' because the word preferable already carries a comparative meaning.

So adding more makes the expression redundant.

Example— This option is preferable to the other.

15. A) **The staff had been made to report discrepancies silently.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। वाक्य में Tense Past Perfect Continuous है ("had been making"), इसलिए Passive बनाते समय had been made to + verb संरचना का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ Active वाक्य में "They" Subject है, "had been making" Verb है और "the staff" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर

Object "The staff" Subject बन गया है, Verb "had been made to report" Passive रूप में बदल गया है और अर्थ भी समान बना रहा है।

In English

To convert from active to passive:

The object of the active sentence (the staff) becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

The verb changes to the appropriate passive causative form: had been making → had been made to report.

The original action (report discrepancies silently) remains after the verb.

Other Option Analysis:

- Option 2 → Changes tense to Simple Past; loses Past Perfect Continuous meaning.
- Option 3 → Changes meaning; "discrepancies" cannot perform the action.
- Option 4 → Missing "to" after "made"; grammatically incorrect in passive causative.

16. C) **Cavalier** (adjective) – Showing a lack of proper concern; displaying a haughty or dismissive disregard for others or important matters. (बेपरवाह / घमंडी / लापरवाह)

Synonym: **Supercilious** (adjective) – Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others; coolly and patronizingly haughty. (घमंडी / उपेक्षापूर्ण)

- **Effulgent** (adjective): Shining brightly; radiant; emanating joy or goodness. (तेजस्वी / प्रकाशमान)
- **Pernicious** (adjective): Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way. (हानिकारक / घातक)
- **Quiescent** (adjective): In a state or period of inactivity or dormancy. (निश्चल / शांत)

17. C) 'enjoyed' के साथ Reflexive pronoun का प्रयोग होता है इसलिए 'themselves during the holidays' सही होगा; जैसे— They enjoyed themselves during the holidays.

In English

- Verb "enjoyed" requires an object → "themselves" completes the meaning.
- "during the holidays" correctly indicates the time frame.

Other Option Analysis:

- Option 1 → "Enjoyment in the holidays" → Noun used incorrectly; changes meaning.
- Option 2 → "enjoyed in the holidays" → Missing object; grammatically incomplete.
- Option 4 → "themselves in holidays" → Preposition incorrect; should be "during" instead of "in".

18. B) 1-3-2-4

In English:

1 starts the paragraph by stating the importance of protein folding in determining biological function.

3 follows, explaining how molecular chaperones assist in proper folding.

2 comes next, highlighting the consequences of misfolding, such as diseases like Alzheimer's.

4 concludes by mentioning tools like AlphaFold that can predict protein structures accurately.

In Hindi:

- 1 paragraph की शुरुआत करता है और protein folding की biological function में importance बताता है।
- 3 इसके बाद आता है, जो बताता है कि molecular chaperones सही folding में मदद करते हैं।
- 2 अगला आता है, जो misfolding के परिणाम बताते हैं, जैसे Alzheimer जैसी बीमारियाँ।
- 4 अंतिम sentence है, जो AlphaFold जैसी tools का ज़िक्र करता है, जो protein structures को accurately predict कर सकते हैं।

19. B) **She said, "I am working on a classified project."**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reported Speech में दिए गए Past Continuous Tense was working को Direct Speech में उसके Present Continuous रूप am working में बदल दिया जाता है, क्योंकि Indirect Speech में Past Tense का प्रयोग अक्सर समय के अनुरूप बदलाव को दर्शाने के लिए किया जाता है। Direct Speech में सर्वनाम "she" बदलकर "I" हो जाता है क्योंकि अब वक्ता स्वयं अपनी बात कह रही है। इसलिए वाक्य बनेगा— She said, "I am working on a classified project."

In English:

When converting from Indirect to Direct Speech, the tense of the reported clause is restored to its original form.

Past Continuous in Indirect Speech ("was working") → Present Continuous in Direct Speech ("am working")

Pronouns and context remain consistent: "she" → "I"

Correct Direct Sentence:

She said, "I am working on a classified project."

20. A) **Plague** (verb) – To afflict, trouble, torment, or beset someone or something persistently; to cause constant distress. (पीड़ित करना / निरंतर परेशान करना)

**Antonym:** **Beatify** (verb) – To bless or make supremely happy; to exalt or sanctify. (धन्य करना / परम सुख प्रदान करना)

- **Callow** (adjective): Lacking adult sophistication; immature or inexperienced (often used for a young person). (अनुभवहीन / अपरिपक्व)
- **Incipient** (adjective): In an initial stage; beginning to happen or develop. (प्रारंभिक / उत्पन्न होने वाला)
- **Histrionic** (adjective): Overly theatrical or melodramatic in character or style. (नाटकीय / ढोंगी)

21. D) **Entire**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "पूरा" या "सम्पूर्ण," और यहाँ वाक्य में यह दर्शाने के लिए प्रयोग किया गया है कि वैश्वीकरण की सहायता से पूरा ग्रह एक ही बाज़ार के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। 'Part' का अर्थ है "भाग," जो यहाँ संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यह पूरे ग्रह की बात कर रहा है। 'Half' का अर्थ है "आधा," जो यहाँ संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि ग्रह

को आधा या टुकड़ों में नहीं देखा जा सकता। 'Limited' का अर्थ है "सीमित," जो यहाँ ग्रह के व्यापक संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- The word '**Entire**' will be used because it means "whole" or "complete," which is appropriate in the context of the sentence describing how globalization enables viewing the whole planet as a single marketplace. 'Part' means "a portion," which does not fit as the sentence talks about the entire planet. 'Half' means "a half," which is not suitable because the planet cannot be seen in halves here. 'Limited' means "restricted," which does not align with the context of describing the global scope.

22. D) '**Unified**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'unified' का अर्थ है एकीकृत या एक रूप में संगठित। यहाँ संदर्भ में पूरी दुनिया को एकल बाजार के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, जो 'unified' को उपयुक्त बनाता है। जबकि 'decentralised' का अर्थ है विकेंद्रीकृत, 'segregated' का अर्थ है अलग या विभाजित, और 'separated' का अर्थ है अलग-अलग, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Unified' will be used because it means integrated or organized into a single entity. In the context, the entire world is being viewed as a single marketplace, making 'unified' the most appropriate choice. Whereas, 'decentralised' means distributed authority, 'segregated' means divided or separated, and 'separated' means distinct or disconnected, which do not fit the context here.

23. C) '**Imported**' का use होगा क्योंकि "imported" का अर्थ है "विदेश से वस्तुओं को मंगाना।"

Passage में चर्चा हो रही है कि 1990 के पहले भारत में कृषि उत्पाद, इंजीनियरिंग सामान, भोजन सामग्री और टॉयलेट्रीज भारत में ही बनती थीं लेकिन उन्हें विदेश से मंगाने की अनुमति नहीं थी। 'Martyred' का अर्थ है "शहीद किया गया," जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Intoxicated' का अर्थ है "मज्जत/नशे में," और 'Elated' का अर्थ है "बहुत प्रसन्न," जो इस वाक्य में फिट नहीं बैठते। इसलिए 'Imported' ही सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

- '**Imported**' is the correct choice because it means "to bring goods from abroad." The passage discusses that before the 1990s, agricultural products, engineering goods, food items, and toiletries were made in India but were not permitted to be brought in from other countries. 'Martyred' means "sacrificed," which is irrelevant in this context. 'Intoxicated' means "under the influence of alcohol," and 'Elated' means "extremely happy," neither of which fits the sentence. Thus, 'Imported' is the most appropriate option.

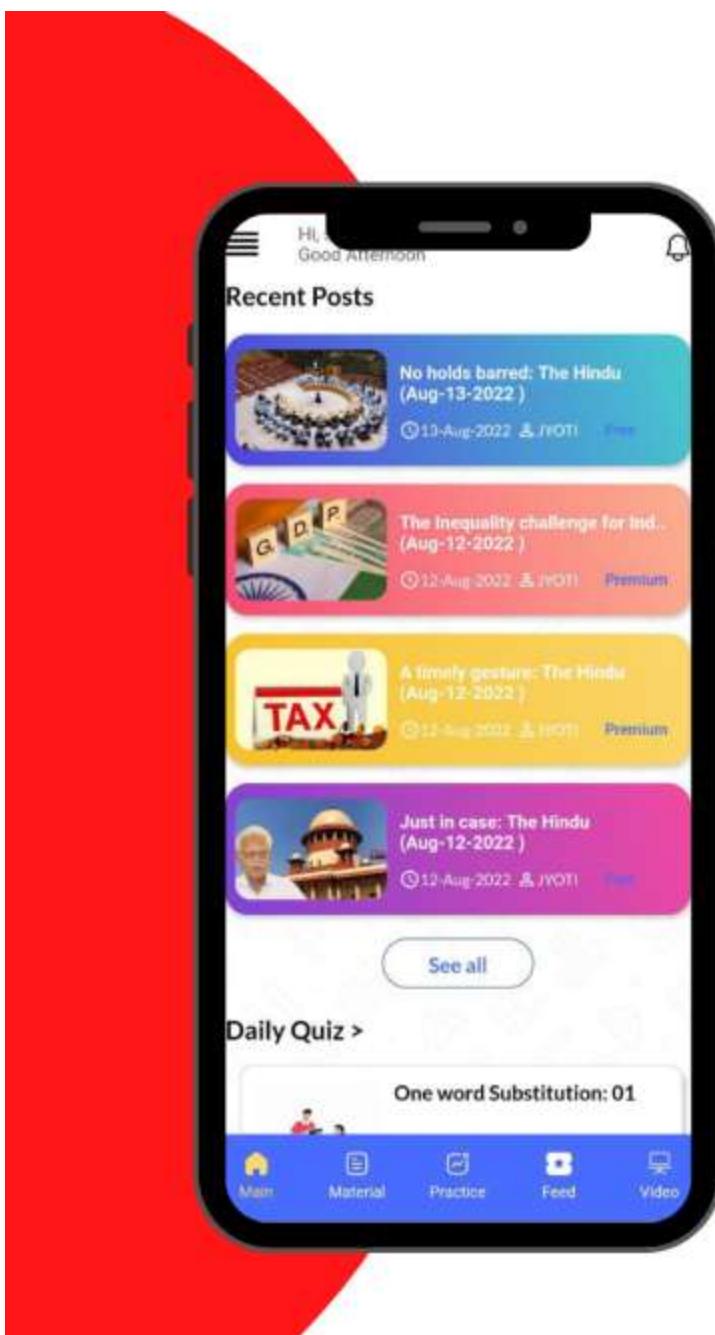
24. B) '**Exerted**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'exerted' का अर्थ होता है बल या दबाव डालना। sentence में बताया गया है कि 1990 के दशक में, अमीर देशों ने गरीब और उभरते हुए देशों पर अपने बाजारों को खोलने का दबाव डाला ताकि वे आसानी से अपने उद्योगों का विस्तार कर सकें। इसलिए, 'exerted' यहाँ सबसे उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Discontinued' का अर्थ है रोक देना, 'Exempted' का अर्थ है छूट देना, और 'Conserved' का अर्थ है संरक्षित करना, ये सभी विकल्प इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- '**Exerted**' will be used because it means to apply force or pressure. The sentence explains that during the 1990s, wealthy countries put pressure on poor and emerging nations to open their markets so they could more easily spread their industries. Hence, 'exerted' is the most appropriate here. Whereas 'Discontinued' means to stop,

'Exempted' means to grant an exemption, and 'Conserved' means to preserve, which are not suitable in this context.

25. D) **Significant** का use सही होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "महत्वपूर्ण" या "प्रमुख," और वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि 1991 में भारत ने उदारीकरण और वैश्वीकरण की प्रक्रिया शुरू की, जो देश के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम था। इस संदर्भ में 'Significant' का उपयोग बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है। 'Abducted' का अर्थ है "अपरण किया हुआ," जो संदर्भ में अनर्थक है। 'Engrossed' का अर्थ है "मग्न" या "पूरी तरह शामिल," जो वाक्य के भाव को व्यक्त नहीं करता है। 'Emerged' का अर्थ है "उभरना," लेकिन यह इस वाक्य में सही नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यहाँ प्रक्रिया की महत्ता को दर्शाया गया है।

- 'Significant' will be used because it means "important" or "noteworthy," which aligns with the context of the sentence. The sentence talks about India's decision to start the process of liberalisation and globalisation in 1991, which was a major step for the country. 'Abducted' means "kidnapped," which is irrelevant here. 'Engrossed' means "deeply involved," but it does not convey the intended meaning of the sentence. 'Emerged' means "came into view," but it does not capture the importance of the decision.



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