

Court **cap** on airfares is the wrong answer

On Monday, a two-judge **bench** of the Supreme Court **said** that the Court would “definitely **interfere**” in a case related to the pricing of airline tickets. **The apex court** has been **hearing** a Public Interest **Litigation seeking** an independent regulatory scheme **in order to** ensure **transparency** in airfare pricing. On November 17 last year, the apex court had **sought** replies from the Union government, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) on the matter. While giving more time for the Centre to respond, the SC **pointed to** what it called “**exploitative**” practices by airlines, especially during festive seasons and events such as the Kumbh, when airfares are known to **soar** to many times the normal rate.

On the face of it, the apex court’s observations **echo** the concerns of the average air traveller. It is true that airfares **climb up**, often suddenly, and especially around the festive season. Customers feel cheated as tickets on the same flight could have significantly different prices depending on how and when a booking is made. There is a widely shared belief that, as the PIL argues, “the state cannot remain a **mute spectator** to this ongoing **violation** of rights”. And that “**inaction** by the state in regulating fare algorithms, cancellation policies, service continuity, and **grievance mechanisms constitutes** a **dereliction** of its constitutional duty and **calls for** urgent judicial **intervention**”.

However, while the concerns are real, the apex court’s **intervention** in this matter would **stoke** concerns of judicial **overreach**, and it would also be **counterproductive**. The petitioner has argued that dynamic pricing by airlines should be seen as a violation of a passenger’s fundamental right and that the courts should treat airlines as **essential** services and order **curbs** on airfares. But this is about how the aviation sector is run, which is the **domain** of the executive and legislature. **Moreover**, a **move** to **artificially** fix or cap prices **will** actually **worsen** the situation on the ground. Higher prices are a signal to businesses, **entrepreneurs** and the **government** that demand for air travel **is outstripping** supply. **Arbitrary capping** through judicial **diktat will** further **erode** the profit motive for **existing** and **potential** airlines, **depressing** supply. The solution doesn’t **lie** in putting **ad-hoc** curbs on prices but in **nudging** regulation in a manner that **boosts** supply. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Cap** (noun) – limit, ceiling, restriction, constraint, curb सीमा
2. **Bench** (noun) – court, tribunal, judges, judiciary, council न्यायाधीशों की पीठ
3. **Interfere** (verb) – intervene, meddle, intrude, intercede, obstruct हस्तक्षेप करना
4. **The apex court** (noun) – the highest court of law in a country, such as the Supreme Court in India सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
5. **Hear** (verb) – examine, try, investigate, adjudicate, judge सुनवाई करना
6. **Litigation** (noun) – lawsuit, case, legal action, dispute, judicial proceeding मुकदमेबाजी
7. **Seek** (verb) – request, solicit, demand, pursue, solicit मांगना
8. **In order to** (phrase) – for the purpose of doing something or with the aim of achieve something ताकि या के उद्देश्य से
9. **Transparency** (noun) – clarity, openness, accountability, lucidity, visibility पारदर्शिता
10. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – to mention something as a reason or to suggest that something is true की ओर इशारा करना
11. **Exploitative** (adjective) – unethical, unfair, predatory, abusive, oppressive शोषणकारी
12. **Soar** (verb) – escalate, surge, skyrocket, rise, climb बढ़ना
13. **On the face of it** (idiom) – used to say that something seems to be good, true, etc. but that this opinion may change as you find out more प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
14. **Climb up** (phrasal verb) – to increase in amount, number, or value तेजी से बढ़ना
15. **Mute** (adjective) – silent, quiet, speechless, dumb, noiseless मौन
16. **Spectator** (noun) – observer, viewer, onlooker, witness, bystander दर्शक
17. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, transgression, defiance, contravention उल्लंघन
18. **Inaction** (noun) – passivity, inertia, idleness, negligence, dormancy निष्क्रियता
19. **Grievance** (noun) – complaint, injustice, resentment, objection, hardship शिकायत
20. **Mechanism** (noun) – system, procedure, process, method, structure तंत्र या प्रणाली
21. **Constitute** (verb) – compose, comprise, form, represent, establish गठित करना या होना
22. **Dereliction** (noun) – negligence, abandonment, failure, neglect, desertion कर्तव्य का त्याग या लापरवाही

23. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – to need or deserve a particular action, remark, or quality आवश्यकता होना
24. **Intervention** (noun) – mediation, interference, intercession, involvement, arbitration हस्तक्षेप
25. **Stoke** (verb) – fuel, ignite, provoke, incite, stimulate भड़काना
26. **Overreach** (noun) – excess, overstepping, exaggeration, immoderation, extremity अपनी सीमा से बाहर जाना
27. **Counterproductive** (adjective) – harmful, adverse, damaging, negative, unintended उल्टा असर करने वाला
28. **Essential** (adjective) – crucial, vital, fundamental, indispensable, necessary अनिवार्य
29. **Curb** (noun) – check, restraint, control, brake, suppression नियंत्रण
30. **Domain** (noun) – field, realm, sphere, area, territory कार्यक्षेत्र
31. **Moreover** (adverb) – furthermore, additionally, besides, also, likewise इसके अलावा
32. **Artificially** (adverb) – unnaturally, synthetically, falsely, spuriously, factitiously कृत्रिम रूप से
33. **Worsen** (verb) – aggravate, exacerbate, degenerate, deteriorate, decline और बिगाड़ना
34. **Entrepreneur** (noun) – businessman, industrialist, financier, promoter, tycoon उद्यमी
35. **Outstrip** (verb) – exceed, surpass, eclipse, overtake, transcend से आगे निकलना
36. **Arbitrary** (adjective) – random, erratic, whimsical, capricious, inconsistent मनमाना
37. **Diktat** (noun) – decree, order, command, edict, mandate आदेश
38. **Erode** (verb) – corrode, weaken, deteriorate, disintegrate, wear नष्ट करना
39. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present, prevailing, actual, extant वर्तमान
40. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, probable, prospective, latent, dormant संभावित
41. **Depress** (verb) – reduce, lower, diminish, weaken, dampen कम करना
42. **Lie** (verb) – exist, reside, consist, remain, dwell स्थित होना
43. **Ad-hoc** (adjective) – temporary, provisional, improvised, unplanned, impromptu तदर्थ या विशेष उद्देश्य के लिए

44. **Nudge** (verb) – push, prompt, encourage,
poke, prod धीरे से प्रोत्साहित करना

45. **Boost** (verb) – enhance, amplify, increase,
strengthen, improve बढ़ावा देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court recently indicated it may intervene in a case involving airline ticket pricing.
2. The matter stems from a PIL seeking an independent regulatory mechanism for airfare pricing transparency.
3. In November 2023, the Court sought responses from the Union government, DGCA, and AERA.
4. The Court referred to “exploitative” pricing practices, especially during festivals and large events.
5. Airfares tend to spike sharply during high-demand periods such as Kumbh or festive travel seasons.
6. Public sentiment often reflects frustration regarding dynamic pricing and price disparities on the same flight.
7. Petitioners argue airfares cannot be left unchecked as it leads to rights violations of consumers.
8. The PIL claims state inaction over pricing algorithms, cancellation rules, and grievance mechanisms amounts to constitutional neglect.
9. While the concerns are valid, judicial interference raises fears of judicial overreach.
10. The aviation market setup — including pricing — falls within the executive and legislative domain, not the judiciary.
11. Petitioners want airlines treated as essential services to justify fare caps.
12. However, price caps are likely to be counterproductive, not protective.
13. High prices signal demand, encouraging more airlines, routes, and investment.
14. Artificial capping would likely reduce profit incentives, hurting existing and potential carriers.
15. The editorial concludes that the solution lies in boosting supply through regulation, not judicial price-fixing.

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

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Judicial price caps may harm aviation
 - B. Festive airfares boost aviation growth
 - C. Passengers always benefit from courts
 - D. Airlines enjoy profits without limits
2. **Who filed the litigation demanding regulation of airfare pricing?**
 - A. A national Airports operational government agency
 - B. A regional Airports Economic Regulatory Authority
 - C. A central Directorate General of Civil Aviation
 - D. A concerned Public Interest Litigation petition
3. **When did the Supreme Court earlier seek replies from aviation authorities?**
 - A. On the seventh of September last year
 - B. On the seventeenth of November last year
 - C. On the thirteenth of February last year
 - D. On the twenty-third of August last year
4. **What conclusion can be inferred regarding price-capping of airfares?**
 - A. It would likely reduce supply and worsen the situation
 - B. It would surely enhance profits and improve demand
 - C. It would certainly promote regulation and good pricing
 - D. It would quickly stabilize fares without side effects
5. **Identify the sentence with correct subject-verb agreement (from the passage):**
 - A. The apex court have been hearing a difficult litigation case
 - B. The state remain a mute spectator to ongoing violations
 - C. Higher prices are a signal to businesses and entrepreneurs
 - D. The petitioner argue that dynamic pricing violates rights
6. **Choose the most appropriate word to complete the sentence.**

"Continuous deforestation has led to severe soil _____ in the region."

 - A. Ornament
 - B. Erosion
 - C. Diplomacy
 - D. Ornamentation
7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Relentless."**
 - A. Fragile
 - B. Sporadic
 - C. Coherent
 - D. Austere
8. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

Much of what appears to be coordination (1)/ among the regulatory bodies and private stakeholders (2)/ are, in fact, coincidental overlaps (3)/ caused by differing mandates. (4)

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

9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the phrase “Drive home the point.”**
A. To convey something forcefully and clearly
B. To delay without purpose
C. To change direction suddenly
D. To conceal information deliberately
10. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A belief or opinion that goes against the established doctrine, especially in religion or ideology'.**
A. Sedition
B. Heresy
C. Blasphemy
D. Schism
11. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word “Amorphous.”**
A. Nebulous
B. Nefarious
C. Negligent
D. Nemesis
12. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
The car began to **decellrate** before the signal.
A. decellrate
B. decellorate
C. deccecelerate
D. decelerate
13. **Change the following from active to passive:**
The laboratory will have double-checked the reagents by dawn.
A. The reagents have been double-checked by the laboratory by dawn.
B. The reagents will have been double-checked by the laboratory by dawn.
C. The reagents will be double-checked by the laboratory by dawn.
D. The reagents would have been double-checking by the laboratory by dawn.
14. **Select the correct option for the Direct Speech conversion of the sentence below.**
He confessed that the violin concerto would have remained fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches.
A. He said, "The violin concerto would have remained fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches."
B. He said, "The violin concerto would have remained fragmentary if the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches."
C. He said, "The violin concerto will be remaining fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches."
D. He said, "The violin concerto would be fragmentary if sketches had not been bequeathed."
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Opacity.”**
A. Density
B. Ambivalence
C. Transparency

D. Vagueness

16. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**

The philosopher cited a rare **aporia** in the text

- A. The reader encountered aporia in the Platonic dialogue.
- B. The critic interpreted aporia as a poetic device.
- C. The engineer measured the bridge's aporia in millimeters.
- D. The aporia indicated a contradiction in logic.

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

Now, the maid is clean the floor which is in the second stair.

- A. is cleaning
- B. cleaning
- C. has cleaned
- D. cleans

18. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Jettison."**

- A. Rejuvenate
- B. Reciprocate
- C. Relinquish
- D. Remunerate

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

That none of the representatives found the proposal viable (1) / is less surprising than the fact (2) / that neither the chairperson nor the legal counsel (3) / were briefed beforehand. (4)

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

20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

(P) During the pandemic, I — and seemingly every other bearded dad with a preteen — acquired a van, hoping to transform it into a camper van.

(Q) Happily for me, an inveterate speedster, it also had a V8 geared for cruising at high speed.

(R) We raced from Los Angeles to Seattle to Illinois, on to New Orleans and later to Colorado before finding ourselves bedding down one night at the exurban spread of an old college friend, Mikolaj, who had moved to Minnesota.

(S) My wife and I gradually built our cheap house on wheels, complete with a tiny stove, a fridge, a sink, a couch that turned into a bed and a sleeping loft.

- A. P, R, Q, S
- B. Q, P, S, R
- C. R, S, Q, P
- D. P, S, Q, R

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.

On Nicolás Maduro's watch, Venezuela's economy contracted 80% in less than a decade. Some 7.8 million Venezuelans fled from the economic hardships. If extreme poverty was at 11% in 2013, the year Hugo Chávez died and Mr. Maduro ____1____ to presidency, it now stands at 53%, while household poverty is much higher, at 82%, as per the UN. The oil-rich country had witnessed anti-government protests in recent years which were met with ____2____. Before the July 28 presidential election, opinion polls showed that Edmundo González, the main opposition candidate, ____3____ a 20-point lead over the President. But none of these seemed to have ____4____ in the election, according to official results. Mr. Maduro won 51% of the vote, while Mr. Gonzalez secured 44%, said Venezuela's election authority. Mr. Maduro can now extend his rule for six more years. But the opposition has reported widespread irregularities in the counting, and accused the President and his allies in state institutions ____5____ stealing the vote.

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

- A. Extended
- B. Intended
- C. Ascended
- D. Overextended

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

- A. Enthusiasm
- B. Draw on
- C. Tackle with
- D. Crackdowns

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

- A. Has
- B. Have
- C. Had
- D. Have been

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

- A. Referred
- B. Measured
- C. Mattered
- D. Covered

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

- A. In
- B. Of
- C. On
- D. By

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- A) Judicial price caps may harm aviation**
 The central argument is that court-imposed airfare controls would worsen supply issues, discourage industry participation, and amount to judicial overreach.
 B. Festive airfares boost aviation growth – The passage mentions high fares but does not present them as growth benefits.
 C. Passengers always benefit from courts – It never claims passengers always gain from judicial action.
 D. Airlines enjoy profits without limits – It does not argue airlines have unlimited pricing freedom, only examines regulation.
- D) A concerned Public Interest Litigation petition**
 A Public Interest Litigation demanding airfare regulation was filed to seek transparency and fairness – PIL ने यह याचिका दायर की थी जिससे किराए को लेकर स्पष्टता और न्याय सुनिश्चित हो सके।
 A – No such agency filed a litigation in the passage.
 B – AERA only received notice; it did not file litigation.
 C – DGCA responded to the Court; it was not the petitioner.
- B) The passage states the replies were sought on November 17 last year – नवंबर 17 को अदालत ने जवाब मांगा था।**
 A – No reference to September exists in the passage.
 C – February is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.
 D – August is never stated in the passage at all.
- A) It would likely reduce supply and worsen the situation**
 The passage suggests capping would depress airline incentives, reduce supply, and worsen prices – किराया सीमा लगाने से प्रोत्साहन घटेगा और स्थिति और खराब होगी।
 B – Passage states opposite; profits would erode.
 C – Regulation alone is not claimed as beneficial; boosting supply is.
 D – Passage warns of harmful side effects, not stability.
- C) Higher prices are a signal to businesses and entrepreneurs**
 “Higher prices are...” → Plural subject (prices) + plural verb (are) is correct.
 B – “state” is singular; verb should be “remains.”
 A – Singular subject “court” requires “has,” not “have.”
 D – Singular “petitioner” requires “argues,” not “argue.”
- B) Erosion (noun) – Gradual destruction, wearing away, undermining, deterioration, decline**
 क्षरण
- B) Relentless (adjective) – Constant and unceasing; showing no reduction in intensity. निरंतर / अथक**
 Antonym: **Sporadic (adjective) – Occurring irregularly; not continuous. अनियमित**

- **Fragile** (adjective) – Easily broken. नाजुक
 - **Coherent** (adjective) – Logical and consistent. सुसंगत
 - **Austere** (adjective) – Strict or severe in manner. कठोर
8. C) **are** के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject 'Much of what appears to be coordination' Singular है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular (is) होना चाहिए।
'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the Subject 'Much of what appears to be coordination' is Singular, so the Verb must also be Singular
9. A) **Drive home the point** – To make something clearly understood. बात समझाना
10. B) **Heresy** (noun) – A belief or opinion that goes against the established or orthodox doctrine, especially in religion or ideology विधर्म या प्रचलित सिद्धांत के विरुद्ध मत
- **Sedition** (noun) – Conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state राजद्रोह
 - **Blasphemy** (noun) – The act of speaking disrespectfully about sacred things or religion ईश-निंदा
 - **Schism** (noun) – A split or division between strongly opposed parties, often in a church or organization मतभेद या फूट
11. A) **Amorphous** (adjective) – Lacking a clear structure, focus, or distinct shape; vague or ill-defined. (निराकार)
Synonym: **Nebulous** (adjective) – In the form of a cloud or haze; hazy, vague, or ill-defined. (अस्पष्ट)
- **Nefarious** (adjective): Wicked, villainous, or criminal in nature. (अधम/कुटिल)
 - **Negligent** (adjective): Failing to take proper care in doing something. (लापरवाह)
 - **Nemesis** (noun): A long-standing rival or an inescapable agent of someone's downfall. (प्रतिद्वंद्वी)
12. D) The correct spelling of 'decellrate' is '**decelerate**', which means "to slow down or reduce speed" – गति कम करना, धीमा करना।
13. B) **The reagents will have been double-checked by the laboratory by dawn**
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 "The laboratory" Subject है, "will have double-checked" Verb (Future Perfect Tense) है और "the reagents" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The reagents" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will have been double-checked" (Future Perfect Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the laboratory" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
In active to passive transformation, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
The verb is converted into its passive form, keeping the same tense.
In this sentence:
Active: The laboratory (Subject) + will have double-checked (Future Perfect Verb) + the reagents (Object)

Passive: The reagents (Subject) + will have been double-checked (Future Perfect Passive Verb) + by the laboratory (Agent)

Hence, option (B) "The reagents will have been double-checked by the laboratory by dawn" is right

14. A) **He said, "The violin concerto would have remained fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches."**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb "confessed that" को "said," में बदला गया है और Reported Clause के Tense को उसके मूल रूप में वापस लाया गया है। वाक्य में "would have remained" पहले से ही Conditional Past Perfect है, इसलिए इसे यथावत रखा गया है। "had the late maestro not bequeathed" Clause भी पहले से सही है और कोई परिवर्तन आवश्यक नहीं है। इस प्रकार, सही Direct Speech रूप होगा — "He said, 'The violin concerto would have remained fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches.'"

To change a sentence from Indirect to Direct Speech, the reporting verb "confessed that" is changed to "said," and the tense of the reported clause is restored to its original form. Here, "would have remained" is already in the Conditional Past Perfect, so it remains unchanged. The clause "had the late maestro not bequeathed" is also grammatically correct and requires no alteration. Hence, the correct Direct Speech form is — "He said, 'The violin concerto would have remained fragmentary had the late maestro not bequeathed his annotated sketches.'"

15. C) **Opacity (noun) – Lack of transparency or clarity. अपारदर्शिता**

Antonym: **Transparency (noun) – Openness and clarity. पारदर्शिता**

- **Density (noun) – Compactness or thickness. घनत्व**
- **Ambivalence (noun) – Mixed or conflicting feelings. द्वंद्व**
- **Vagueness (noun) – Lack of precision. अस्पष्टता**

16. C) **The engineer measured the bridge's aporia in millimeters.**

वाक्य में 'aporia' का अर्थ है — दर्शन में उत्पन्न होने वाली बौद्धिक उलझन या संदेह की स्थिति (a state of doubt or impasse in philosophical reasoning)।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'aporia' का समान उच्चारण और वर्तनी वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द प्रयोग हुआ हो (homonym)।

विकल्प C में 'aporia' का प्रयोग भौतिक माप के अर्थ में हुआ है — किसी संरचना में मापा जा सकने वाला अंतर/रिक्त स्थान (a measurable gap or space), जिसे millimeters में नापा गया है। दोनों का उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह भिन्न हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, aporia refers to a philosophical state of doubt or puzzlement.
In option C, aporia is used in the sense of a measurable physical gap or space.
They share the same spelling and pronunciation but convey different meanings, making them homonyms.

17. A) 'is clean' के बदले **'is cleaning'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "Now" दिया गया है, जो Present Continuous Tense का संकेत देता है। Present Continuous में structure होता है: is / am / are + verb + ing। इसलिए यहाँ "is cleaning" grammatically सही है।

- The adverb "Now" indicates an action happening at the present moment.
- For an action in progress, English uses the Present Continuous Tense:
- is / are / am + verb-ing
- Hence, "is cleaning" is the correct replacement.

Other options are incorrect:

- cleaning → incomplete verb form
- has cleaned → Present Perfect (completed action)
- cleans → Simple Present (habitual action)

Correct sentence:

Now, the maid is cleaning the floor which is on the second stair.

18. C) **Jettison** (verb) – To abandon or discard someone or something that is no longer wanted. (त्याग देना)

Synonym: **Relinquish** (verb) – Voluntarily cease to keep or claim; give up. (त्यागना)

- **Rejuvenate** (verb): To make someone or something look or feel younger, fresher, or more lively. (कायाकल्प करना)
- **Reciprocate** (verb): To respond to a gesture or action by making a corresponding one. (अदला-बदली करना)
- **Remunerate** (verb): To pay someone for services rendered or work done. (पारिश्रमिक देना)

19. D) 'were' के बदले 'was' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'neither...nor' संरचना में Verb, उसके निकटतम Subject से मेल खाता है। यहाँ 'legal counsel' एक Singular Subject है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular ('was') होगा।

- 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because in a 'neither...nor' construction, the verb agrees with the nearest subject. Here, the nearest subject 'legal counsel' is singular, hence the verb should also be singular ('was')

20. D) **P, S, Q, R.**

P starts the paragraph with the subject "I" (the narrator) and the verb "acquired," which introduces the main action: buying a van to transform into a camper.

S follows P because it continues with the subject "My wife and I" (which includes the narrator from P) and the verb "built," which directly connects to the goal mentioned in P ("hoping to transform it"). This establishes a clear sequence: first acquired the van, then built it into a camper.

Q comes after S as it refers to "it" (the van) and describes a feature it had: "a V8 geared for cruising." This adds detail to the van that was built.

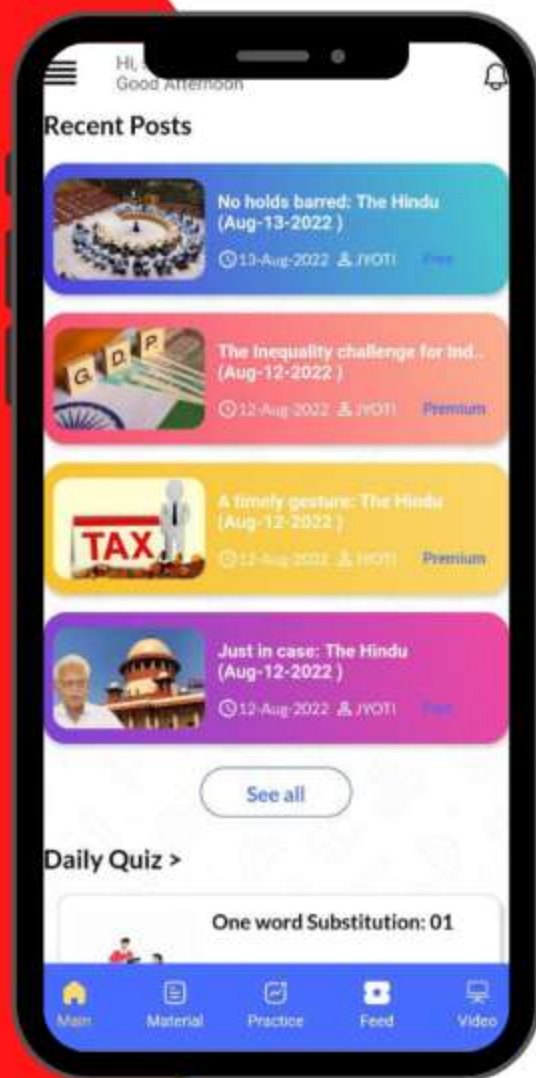
R concludes the paragraph with the subject "We" (the narrator and his wife) and the verb "raced," which describes how they used the van (with its V8) for traveling. This completes the narrative.

In Hindi:

- P paragraph की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "I" (narrator) को introduce करता है और verb "acquired" बताता है कि उसने एक van खरीदी ताकि उसे camper van में transform कर सके।

- S, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह subject "My wife and I" (जो P के "I" को include करता है) और verb "built" को जोड़ता है, जो P में mentioned goal ("hoping to transform it") को directly continue करता है। इससे sequence clear होती है: पहले van acquire की, फिर उसे build किया।
 - Q, S के बाद logically fit होता है क्योंकि यह pronoun "it" (van) को refer करता है और उसकी एक feature describe करता है: "a V8 geared for cruising." यह built van के बारे में additional detail देता है।
 - R paragraph को complete करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "We" (narrator और उसकी wife) और verb "raced" introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि उन्होंने van (जिसमें V8 था) का use कैसे किया traveling के लिए। यह narrative को conclude करता है।
21. C) '**Ascended**' का use होगा क्योंकि "ascended" का अर्थ है ऊपर उठना या किसी उच्च पद पर पहुंचना। sentence में बताया गया है कि 2013 में, जब ह्यूगो चावेज़ की मृत्यु हुई और श्री मदुरो राष्ट्रपति पद पर 1, तो गरीबी की दर 11% थी। इसलिए 'ascended' यहाँ सही बैठता है। जबकि 'Extended' का अर्थ है विस्तार करना, 'Intended' का अर्थ है इरादा रखना, और 'Overextended' का अर्थ है आवश्यकता से अधिक विस्तार करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- 'Ascended' will be used because it means to rise or move up to a higher position. The sentence mentions that in 2013, the year Hugo Chávez died and Mr. Maduro 1 to the presidency, the poverty rate was at 11%. Therefore, 'ascended' fits here. Whereas 'Extended' means to lengthen or expand, 'Intended' means to plan or aim, and 'Overextended' means to stretch beyond limits, which are not appropriate in this context.
22. D) '**Crackdowns**' का use होगा क्योंकि "crackdowns" का अर्थ होता है कठोर कार्रवाई या सख्त दमन। sentence में mention है कि हाल के वर्षों में सरकार विरोधी विरोध प्रदर्शन देखे गए, जिनसे कठोर दमन के साथ निपटा गया। इसलिए 'crackdowns' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Enthusiasm' का अर्थ है उत्साह, 'Draw on' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ का उपयोग करना, और 'Tackle with' का अर्थ है समस्या का सामना करना, लेकिन इनमें से कोई भी इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।
- 'Crackdowns' will be used because it means severe measures or strict suppression. The sentence mentions that anti-government protests in recent years were met with strict suppression, making 'crackdowns' the correct choice. Whereas 'Enthusiasm' means excitement, 'Draw on' means to use something, and 'Tackle with' means to face a problem, none of which fit this context.
23. C) '**Had**' का use होगा क्योंकि "had" का अर्थ होता है भूतकाल में किसी घटना या स्थिति को व्यक्त करना। sentence में mention है कि चुनाव से पहले, विपक्षी उम्मीदवार एडमुण्डो गोंज़ालेज़ को राष्ट्रपति पर 20 अंकों की बढ़त थी। यह घटना पूरी तरह past में है, इसलिए 'had' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Has' वर्तमान काल में उपयोग होता है, 'Have' भी present tense के लिए है और plural subjects के साथ प्रयोग होता है, और 'Have been' का उपयोग present perfect tense में होता है, जो इस वाक्य के भूतकालीन संदर्भ में गलत है।

- 'Had' will be used because it indicates a past event or state. The sentence states that before the election, opposition candidate Edmundo González had a 20-point lead over the President. Since this is entirely in the past, 'had' is correct here. Whereas 'Has' is used for the present tense, 'Have' is also for the present tense and plural subjects, and 'Have been' is used in the present perfect tense, which is incorrect in this past context.
24. C) '**Mattered**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "महत्व रखना"। यहाँ यह दर्शाया गया है कि चुनाव परिणाम में उन तथ्यों का कोई महत्व नहीं था, जैसे विपक्षी उम्मीदवार की बढ़त या अन्य मुद्दे। इसलिए, 'mattered' सही है। 'Referred' का अर्थ है "संदर्भित करना", जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह चुनाव परिणाम में महत्व की बात नहीं करता। 'Measured' का अर्थ है "मापा गया", जो यहाँ सही नहीं क्योंकि संदर्भ किसी घटना को मापने का नहीं है। 'Covered' का अर्थ है "कवर करना या छुपाना," जो इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं है।
- 'Mattered' will be used because it means "to be important." The sentence indicates that none of the mentioned facts (opposition lead, issues) were important in influencing the election result, making 'mattered' appropriate 'Referred' means "to mention or direct to something," which does not fit the context 'Measured' means "to assess or quantify," which is irrelevant here, 'Covered' means "to conceal or include," which is not contextually suitable.
25. B) '**Of**' का use होगा क्योंकि "accused of" एक सामान्य वाक्यांश है जहाँ "of" के बाद उस अपराध या गलत काम का उल्लेख होता है जिसके लिए किसी पर आरोप लगाया जाता है। यहाँ, विपक्ष ने राष्ट्रपति और उनके सहयोगियों पर "वोट चोरी करने" का आरोप लगाया है, इसलिए 'of' सही प्रीपोज़िशन है। 'In' का अर्थ है "के अंदर", जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'On' का अर्थ है "के ऊपर", जो यहाँ सही नहीं बैठता। 'By' का उपयोग "द्वारा" के लिए होता है, लेकिन यह वाक्य संरचना में सही नहीं है।
- 'Of' will be used because "accused of" is a common phrase where 'of' is followed by the specific crime or wrongdoing someone is accused of. In the sentence, the opposition has accused the President and his allies of stealing the vote, making 'of' the correct preposition. 'In' means "inside," which doesn't fit the context. 'On' means "on top of," which isn't appropriate here. 'By' is used to indicate "by someone," but it doesn't suit the sentence structure.



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