

Privacy and transparency: On the RTI Act amendment, petitions

There must be no information **asymmetry** between state and citizens

On Monday, the Supreme Court of India referred a series of **petitions** challenging the **amendment** to Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, to a Constitution Bench, recognising its “constitutional sensitivity”. The Chief Justice of India even **remarked** that the Court might “have to **lay down** what is meant by ‘personal information’”. The RTI Act, 2005 was **enacted** to create an informed **citizenry** and ensure state **accountability**, which is **vital** for a democracy. Over two **decades** later, the DPDP Act has delivered a body blow by **diluting** one of its foundational sections. Section 8(1)(j) originally allowed the **withholding** of personal information only if it had no relationship to any public activity or interest, or if its disclosure **resulted in** an **unwarranted invasion** of privacy. Crucially, the section included a “public interest **override**” as an integral feature of the 2005 Act, permitting disclosure if a Public Information Officer was satisfied that the larger public interest justified it. The DPDP **amendment** removes this override and **prohibits** the disclosure of “any information which relates to personal information”, **amounting to** a **blanket** ban. This enables rejecting requests **concerning** officials, **procurement** records, **audit** reports or public spending. In its campaign for the RTI, the Internet Freedom Foundation has **highlighted** a “**legitimate uses**” **paradox** here: while Section 7 of the DPDP Act allows the state to process personal data without **consent**, the RTI amendment prevents citizens from using similar principles to **seek** transparency from the state. Thus, while the government can **monitor** the citizen, the citizen is **denied** the ability to **scrutinise** the government.

This amendment also creates a severe “**chilling effect**” on the press. As argued in one of the **writ petitions** by The Reporters’ Collective, journalists could be classified as “**data fiduciaries**” under the DPDP Act and its Rules when collecting information for investigative reports. **Non-compliance** with the Act **can** attract fines up to ₹250 crore. Such a legal framework threatens reducing journalism to just publishing government releases. It is **ironic** that the DPDP Act provides **exemptions** to startups but **omits** similar protections for journalism. This is in sharp **contrast** with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which balances privacy and transparency to ensure accountability. The Constitution Bench must refer to the judgment, Central Public Information Officer (2019), which held that personal information should remain private unless disclosure is necessary for the larger public interest. It is known that the RTI has significantly reduced state-citizen (this includes the poor) information asymmetry over two decades. **Ensuring** its survival **is essential** for a responsive government.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Asymmetry** (noun) - imbalance, disparity, inequality, disproportion, unevenness
विषमता
2. **Petition** (noun) - appeal, plea, application, suit, entreaty याचिका
3. **Amendment** (noun) - alteration, modification, revision, correction, adjustment संशोधन
4. **Remark** (verb) - state, observe, mention, declare, comment टिप्पणी करना
5. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) - to officially establish a rule, or to state clearly how something should be done निर्धारित करना
6. **Enact** (verb) - legislate, pass, approve, ratify, sanction कानून बनाना
7. **Citizenry** (noun) - population, inhabitants, public, community, residents नागरिकगण
8. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, liability, answerability, amenability, obligation जवाबदेही
9. **Vital** (adjective) - crucial, essential, indispensable, critical, pivotal महत्वपूर्ण
10. **Decade** (noun) - Period of ten years दशक
11. **Dilute** (verb) - weaken, diminish, thin, attenuate, reduce कमजोर करना
12. **Withhold** (verb) - retain, reserve, keep back, suppress, conceal रोक लेना
13. **Result in** (phrasal verb) - to lead to a particular outcome or to cause something to happen परिणाम होना
14. **Unwarranted** (adjective) - unjustified, groundless, gratuitous, baseless, inexcusable अनुचित
15. **Invasion** (noun) - intrusion, violation, infringement, encroachment, breach अतिक्रमण
16. **Override** (noun) - nullification, cancellation, reversal, overrule, disregard उपेक्षा/रद्द करना
17. **Prohibit** (verb) - forbid, ban, bar, restrain, interdict निषेध करना
18. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to be equivalent to or to be the same as something के बराबर होना
19. **Blanket** (adjective) - comprehensive, total, overall, sweeping, inclusive पूर्ण/व्यापक
20. **Concern** (verb) - relate to, involve, affect, pertain to, interest के संबंध में
21. **Procurement** (noun) - acquisition, sourcing, purchasing, attainment, obtaining खरीद
22. **Audit** (noun) - inspection, examination, scrutiny, verification, probe लेखापरीक्षा

23. **Highlight** (verb) - emphasize, stress, underline, spotlight, accentuate उजागर करना
24. **Legitimate** (adjective) - legal, valid, lawful, authorized, licit वैध
25. **Paradox** (noun) - contradiction, inconsistency, anomaly, incongruity, puzzle विरोधाभास
26. **Consent** (noun) - agreement, permission, accord, concurrence, assent सहमति
27. **Seek** (verb) - search, pursue, quest, strive, endeavour तलाश करना
28. **Monitor** (verb) - observe, track, supervise, watch, scan निगरानी करना
29. **Deny** (verb) - refuse, reject, decline, disallow, veto इनकार करना
30. **Scrutinise** (verb) - examine, inspect, scan, study, investigate सूक्ष्म जांच करना
31. **Chilling effect** (noun) - a discouraging or deterring effect, especially on the exercise of legal rights (like free speech) डराने वाला प्रभाव
32. **Writ petition** (noun) - a formal written order issued by a court to a government official or lower court to act or stop acting in a certain way रिट याचिका
33. **Data fiduciary** (noun) - an entity or individual who decides the purpose and means of processing personal data डेटा न्यासी
34. **Non-compliance** (noun) - disobedience, defiance, violation, infringement, dereliction गैर-अनुपालन
35. **Ironic** (adjective) - paradoxical, sarcastic, sardonic, satirical, incongruous विडंबनापूर्ण
36. **Exemption** (noun) - immunity, exclusion, exception, dispensation, release छूट
37. **Omit** (verb) - exclude, leave out, skip, neglect, overlook छोड़ देना
38. **Contrast** (noun) - difference, distinction, disparity, variation, divergence अंतर/विपरीत
39. **Essential** (adjective) - necessary, fundamental, requisite, vital, imperative आवश्यक

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court has referred petitions against the RTI amendment to a Constitution Bench due to its constitutional importance.
2. The Court may need to clearly define what counts as “personal information” under the law.
3. The RTI Act, 2005 was created to ensure transparency, accountability, and informed citizenship in a democracy.
4. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 has weakened the RTI framework.
5. Earlier, Section 8(1)(j) allowed withholding personal data only when it was unrelated to public interest or violated privacy.
6. The original RTI law included a “public interest override” that allowed disclosure if larger public good required it.
7. The DPDP amendment removes this override and effectively imposes a blanket ban on sharing personal information.
8. This change can block access to information about officials, procurement, audits, and public expenditure.
9. Activists point out a “legitimate uses” paradox in the law.
10. The state can process citizens’ personal data without consent under DPDP rules.
11. However, citizens are denied similar power to seek transparency from the government through RTI.
12. The amendment may create a chilling effect on journalism and investigative reporting.
13. Journalists could be treated as “data fiduciaries” and face heavy fines up to ₹250 crore for violations.
14. Unlike journalism, startups receive exemptions under the DPDP Act, showing imbalance in protections.
15. Since RTI has reduced information gaps between the state and citizens for two decades, protecting its strength is crucial for democratic accountability.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following is the most likely primary intention behind the petitioners' challenge to the DPDP Act's amendment?** [Editorial page]
 - A. To protect the privacy of government officials from unwarranted public scrutiny.
 - B. To restore the 'public interest override' to prevent a blanket ban on disclosing personal information held by the state.
 - C. To argue that the DPDP Act's penalties for journalists are too severe and should be reduced to match those for startups.
 - D. To ensure that citizens, like the state, can process personal data without consent for any purpose.
2. **The passage suggests that the amendment to the RTI Act, when viewed alongside the provisions of the DPDP Act, creates a paradoxical situation primarily because it:**
 - A. grants the state greater power to collect personal data while simultaneously weakening the public's power to access information about the state's activities.
 - B. imposes heavy fines on journalists but provides exemptions to startups, creating an uneven playing field in the economy.
 - C. brings Indian data protection laws in line with the European Union's GDPR, which balances privacy and transparency.
 - D. protects the personal information of citizens from private companies but not from the government.
3. **The reference to the Supreme Court's 2019 judgment (Central Public Information Officer, 2019) in the passage is used to support the idea that:**
 - A. The current Constitution Bench should overturn this previous judgment to strengthen privacy.
 - B. The principle of disclosing personal information for the larger public interest is already established in Indian jurisprudence.
 - C. The definition of 'personal information' has been conclusively settled and needs no further interpretation.
 - D. The RTI Act has failed to reduce information asymmetry between the state and its citizens over the last two decades.
4. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the author in the passage?**
 - A. Cautiously optimistic that the Supreme Court's referral to a Constitution Bench will resolve the issue in favor of privacy.
 - B. Neutrally analytical, presenting the arguments of both the government and the petitioners without favoring either side.
 - C. Strongly critical and concerned about the implications of the amendment on transparency and democracy.
 - D. Dismissive and skeptical of the petitions challenging the amendment, viewing them as exaggerated.
5. **What is the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. A detailed comparison between India's DPDP Act and the European Union's GDPR.
 - B. The potential harm caused by the DPDP Act's amendment to the RTI Act, undermining transparency, press freedom, and democratic accountability.

- C. The procedural history of a case as it moves from the Supreme Court to a Constitution Bench in India.
D. The need to redefine 'personal information' to protect the privacy of public officials from unnecessary harassment.
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Grandiose."**
A. Obsequious
B. Ostentatious
C. Oblivious
D. Obstinate
7. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Gag."**
A. Muddle
B. Muzzle
C. Mollify
D. Mortify
8. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the phrase "White elephant."**
A. A profitable business venture
B. A rare valuable object
C. A helpful friend
D. A costly but useless possession
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Draw a blank
A. Remember details very clearly
B. Avoid tasks with excuses
C. React angrily without reason
D. Fail to find answer
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Hit below belt
A. Support firmly with honesty
B. Attack unfairly or personally
C. Act bravely under pressure
D. Walk slowly without purpose
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Candid."**
A. Mendacious
B. Magnanimous
C. Mellifluous
D. Meretricious
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Indigenous."**
A. Abstemious
B. Adventitious
C. Adroit
D. Ardent
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Fatigue."**
A. Vicissitude
B. Vilification

- C. Vigor
D. Vacillation
14. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence**
During his short period when he stays in Paris, he immersed himself in the city's art and culture.
A. Summit
B. Sojourn
C. Convocation
D. Itinerary
15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Tom is a person who searches for and collects discarded items, turning what others throw away into valuable treasures for his community.
A. Scavenger
B. Forager
C. Hunter
D. Gatherer
16. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence**
Honesty is a quality that forms part of your character or personality, reflecting how genuine and trustworthy you are in all your interactions.
A. Aspect
B. Feature
C. Trait
D. Parameter
17. **Read the following sentences to find whether there is any error in any part :**
If I was you (a)/ I would have told (b)/ the principal (c)/ to keep his mouth shut. (d)
A. If I was you
B. I would have told
C. the principal
D. to keep his mouth shut
18. **Read the following sentences to find whether there is any error in any part :**
I want you (a)/ to pick up the box (b)/ of glasses gently (c)/ and kept it on the table carefully. (d)
A. I want you
B. to pick up the box
C. of glasses gently
D. and kept it on the table carefully
19. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
O. Imposed in 2016, the liquor ban aimed to curb alcohol-related harm, but it has, instead, fuelled the rise of a thriving black market for illicit liquor, costing countless lives and leading to significant revenue loss.
P. This tragedy is not an isolated incident.

Q. Bihar has repeatedly faced such fatal outcomes, with over 350 deaths linked to spurious liquor since prohibition began.

R. The latest hooch tragedy in Bihar, claiming over 35 lives (unofficial reports put the figure at around 65) in Siwan, Saran and Gopalganj districts, exposes the stark inefficacy of the state's prohibition policy.

A. ROPQ

B. PRQO

C. OQRP

D. RQPO

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

O. One of the most relevant findings that emerged from this scholarship is the idea that institutions established during colonialism can have persistent effects many years after countries transitioned to sovereign rule.

P. The Great Divergence is a term used to describe the gap in economic and political development between the west and the east.

Q. This in turn helped them to reap economic rewards.

R. It emerges from this idea that in the 17th and the 18th centuries, the advantages that western Europe enjoyed due to industrialisation allowed them to project political power elsewhere.

A. ROPQ

B. PRQO

C. OQRP

D. ROQP

Comprehension

Down a steep, narrow staircase, the basement of the McMillan Memorial Library in Nairobi (1) _____ more than 100 enormous, dust-covered bound volumes of newspapers. Here too are the minutes of council meetings and photographic negatives going back more than a century. "Here lie some of the minute-by-minute recorded debates from the time British colonial powers ruled Nairobi, when it was a segregated city," says Angela Wachuka, a publisher. Seconds later, a power cut (2) _____ the room into darkness. "We still have a great deal of work to do," she adds.

Wachuka and writer Wanjiru Koinange first ventured (3) _____ this neoclassical building when they were hunting for a venue to host the Kwani?, now Kenya's most significant literary festival renamed Nairobi Litfest. The McMillan library, in the heart of Nairobi's central business district, seemed ideal. The only building in Kenya protected by an act of parliament, the library has colonial roots. It was inaugurated in 1931 as a "whites-only" space, the racial segregation continuing until 1958, when the city council (4) _____ its management.

The building inspired Wachuka and Koinange to found Book Bunk, a project dedicated to restoring neglected libraries. Now, nearly a decade later, their work has been captured in How to Build a Library, a film by two Kenyan film-makers. The documentary follows the two women as they navigate the bureaucratic and financial (5) _____ involved in restoring and transforming three libraries.

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

- A. holds
 - B. hold
 - C. holding
 - D. held
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
- A. pertness
 - B. adduced
 - C. apocalypse
 - D. plunges
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
- A. with
 - B. in
 - C. into
 - D. to
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
- A. took after
 - B. take away
 - C. took over
 - D. takes down
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
- A. communique
 - B. moratorium
 - C. concoct
 - D. obstacles

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B) To restore the 'public interest override' to prevent a blanket ban on disclosing personal information held by the state.**
 The passage explicitly states that the original Section 8(1)(j) had a "public interest override" that the DPDP amendment removed, creating a "blanket ban." The inference is that the petitioners want to restore this crucial provision to allow for disclosure when it serves the public good.
- A) grants the state greater power to collect personal data while simultaneously weakening the public's power to access information about the state's activities.**
 The passage directly states the "legitimate uses" paradox: the DPDP Act allows the state to process data without consent (power for the state), while the RTI amendment prevents citizens from seeking information (power taken away from the citizen). This creates an asymmetric relationship where the state can monitor the citizen, but the citizen cannot monitor the state.
- B) The principle of disclosing personal information for the larger public interest is already established in Indian jurisprudence.**
 By referencing this judgment, the author provides a legal precedent that aligns with the "public interest override" that was removed. The inference is that the principle of prioritizing public interest in disclosure is not new but has been a recognized part of Indian law, which the Constitution Bench should now reaffirm.
- C) Strongly critical and concerned about the implications of the amendment on transparency and democracy.**
 The author's choice of words is loaded and negative. Phrases like "body blow," "diluting," "blanket ban," "severe chilling effect," and "ironic" reveal a tone of strong criticism and deep concern for the future of transparency and accountability.
- B) The potential harm caused by the DPDP Act's amendment to the RTI Act, undermining transparency, press freedom, and democratic accountability.**
 The entire passage builds around the central problem created by the DPDP Act's amendment. It starts by announcing the legal challenge, explains the specific change to Section 8(1)(j), and then systematically explores its negative consequences: the "legitimate uses" paradox, the "chilling effect" on the press, and the erosion of the RTI's role in reducing information asymmetry.
- B) **Grandiose** (adjective) – Impressive or magnificent in appearance or style, especially pretentiously so. (भव्य/दिखावटी)
 Synonym: **Ostentatious** (adjective) – Characterized by vulgar or pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice. (दिखावटी/भड़कीला)

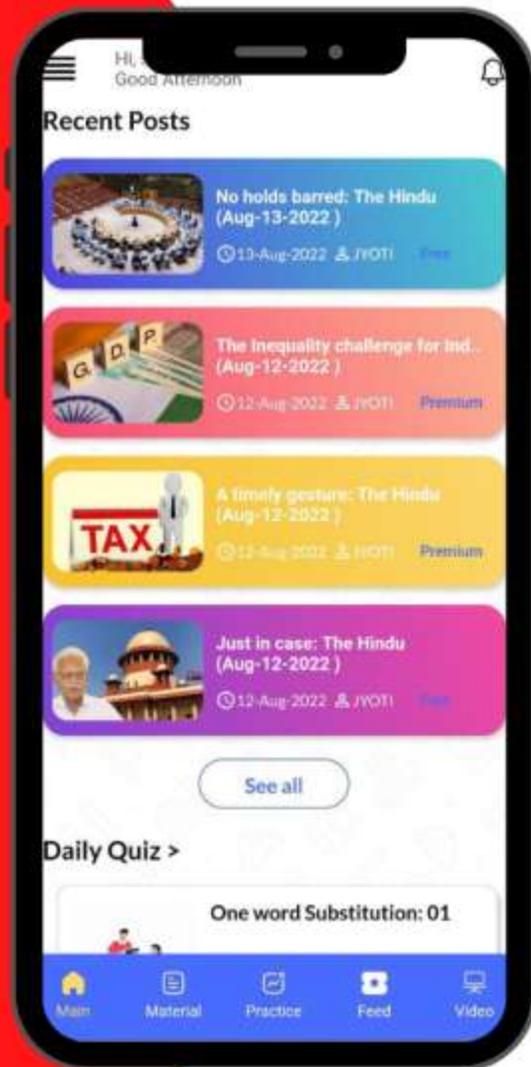
 - Obsequious** (adjective): Obedient or attentive to an excessive or servile degree. (चापलूसी करने वाला)

- **Oblivious** (adjective): Not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one. (बेखबर)
 - **Obstinate** (adjective): Stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action. (जिद्दी)
7. B) **Gag** (verb) – To prevent someone from speaking freely or disseminating information; to silence. (चुप करना / गला घोटना)
Synonym: **Muzzle** (verb) – To prevent a person or group from expressing their opinions freely. (मुंह बंद करना / चुप कराना)
- **Muddle** (verb): To bring into a disordered or confusing state. (गड़बड़ करना)
 - **Mollify** (verb): To appease the anger or anxiety of someone. (शांत करना)
 - **Mortify** (verb): To cause someone to feel very embarrassed or ashamed. (अपमानित करना)
8. D) **White elephant** (phrase) – A costly but useless possession; burden or liability. बेकार की महंगी वस्तु / बोझ
9. D) **Draw a blank** (idiom) – Fail to find answer उत्तर न मिलना / कुछ याद न आना
10. B) **Hit below belt** (idiom) – Attack unfairly or personally अनुचित या व्यक्तिगत आघात करना
11. A) **Candid** (adjective) – Truthful and straightforward; frank. (स्पष्ट / निष्कपट)
Antonym: **Mendacious** (adjective) – Not telling the truth; lying or deceitful. (मिथ्या / झूठा)
- **Magnanimous** (adjective): Very generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival. (उदार)
 - **Mellifluous** (adjective): (of a voice or words) sweet or musical; pleasant to hear. (मधुर)
 - **Meretricious** (adjective): Apparently attractive but having in reality no value or integrity. (दिखावटी)
12. B) **Indigenous** (adjective) – Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native. (स्वदेशी)
Antonym: **Adventitious** (adjective) – Happening or carried on according to chance rather than design or nature; coming from outside. (आकस्मिक / बाहरी)
- **Abstemious** (adjective): Not self-indulgent, especially when eating and drinking. (संयमी)
 - **Adroit** (adjective): Clever or skillful in using the hands or mind. (निपुण)
 - **Ardent** (adjective): Enthusiastic or passionate. (उत्साही)
13. C) **Fatigue** (noun) – Extreme tiredness or exhaustion resulting from mental or physical exertion; a state of weakened capacity. (थकान)
Antonym: **Vigor** (noun) – Physical strength and good health; effort, energy, and enthusiasm. (शक्ति / जोश)
- **Vicissitude** (noun): A change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant. (उतार-चढ़ाव)
 - **Vilification** (noun): Abusively disparaging speech or writing; the act of defaming someone. (तिरस्कार / निंदा)

- **Vacillation** (noun): The inability to decide between different opinions or actions; indecision. (दुविधा / हिचकिचाहट)
14. B) **Sojourn** (noun) – a temporary stay, especially when traveling. अस्थायी प्रवास
- **Summit** (noun) – the highest point or part, especially of a mountain or hill. शिखर
 - **Convocation** (noun) – a large formal meeting of people (such as church officials). सभा
 - **Itinerary** (noun) – a planned route or journey. यात्रा कार्यक्रम
15. A) **Scavenger** (noun) – a person who searches for and collects discarded items. कचरा बीनने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Forager** (noun) – a person or animal that searches widely for food or provisions. भोजन के लिये घूमनेवाला
 - **Hunter** (noun) – a person or animal that hunts. शिकारी
 - **Gatherer** (noun) – a person who gathers or collects things, especially food. संग्राहक
16. C) **Trait** (noun) – A quality or characteristic that forms part of a person's nature or personality. विशेषता
- **Aspect** (noun) – A particular part or feature of something. पहलू
 - **Feature** (noun) – A distinctive attribute or aspect of something. लक्षण
 - **Parameter** (noun) – A limit or boundary that defines the scope of a particular process or activity. परिमाण
17. A) 'was' के स्थान पर '**were**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह Unreal / Hypothetical Condition है और ऐसे मामलों में Subjunctive Mood के अनुसार were प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— If I were a bird, I would fly.
- 'were' will be used instead of 'was' because the sentence expresses an Unreal / Hypothetical Condition, and in such cases Subjunctive Mood requires were; Like— If I were a bird, I would fly.
18. D) 'kept' के स्थान पर '**keep**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'want you to' के बाद आने वाले दोनों verbs को infinitive रूप में होना चाहिए; जैसे— I want you to go and meet him.
- 'keep' will be used instead of 'kept' because after the structure "want you to", both verbs should be in the infinitive base form; Like— I want you to go and meet him.
19. A) **ROPQ**
- R introduces a tragic event.
 - follows R because it explains the cause behind the recurring tragedies: "Imposed in 2016, the liquor ban aimed to curb alcohol-related harm..." This gives background to the prohibition policy mentioned in R, explaining why the policy was introduced and how it has backfired. O explains the cause of such tragedies (the liquor ban)
 - P comes next after O as it generalizes the incident: "This tragedy is not an isolated incident." After describing the liquor ban's failure, P generalizes the specific tragedy in R by stating that this is part of a larger pattern.
 - Q concludes the paragraph by providing more context: "Bihar has repeatedly faced such fatal outcomes..." This supports P by detailing how often such incidents have occurred, linking them to the 2016 prohibition policy.
20. B) **PRQO**

- P introduces the main concept, "The Great Divergence," providing the foundational term that the rest of the sentences will elaborate on.
 - R uses the phrase "It emerges from this idea," referring back to "The Great Divergence" mentioned in P.
 - Q uses "This in turn," referring to the political power mentioned in R and its resulting economic rewards. This sentence logically follows R by providing the outcome of political power — economic benefits. It completes the cause-effect relationship established in R.
 - introduces a broader finding that ties back to P, R, and Q by stating how the effects of colonial institutions continue to be felt.
21. A) **Holds'** सही है क्योंकि subject "the basement" singular है। इसलिए verb भी singular form में होना चाहिए। "Holds" simple present tense में subject-verb agreement सही बनाता है और बताता है कि basement अभी उन volumes को रखता है। "Hold" plural verb है, इसलिए singular subject के साथ गलत है। "Holding" use करने के लिए auxiliary verb चाहिए जैसे "is holding", जो यहाँ नहीं है। "Held" past tense है, जबकि sentence general present situation बता रहा है।
- Holds' is correct because the subject "the basement" is singular, so the verb must also be singular in the simple present tense. "Holds" correctly maintains subject-verb agreement and shows that the basement currently contains the volumes. "Hold" is a plural verb and does not agree with a singular subject. "Holding" is a participle and would require an auxiliary verb like "is holding" to be grammatically correct. "Held" is past tense, but the sentence describes a general present condition.
22. D) **Plunges'** सही है क्योंकि यह verb है और sentence में action दिखा रहा है कि room अचानक darkness में चला गया। Passage present tense narration में लिखा गया है, इसलिए "plunges" tense consistency भी maintain करता है। "Pertness" noun है, verb नहीं है, इसलिए grammatically गलत है। "Adduced" का मतलब evidence देना होता है, जो यहाँ fit नहीं होता। "Apocalypse" noun है, जिसका मतलब destruction होता है, और यह verb की जगह use नहीं हो सकता।
- Plunges' is correct because it functions as a verb showing sudden action — the room suddenly goes into darkness. The passage is written in present tense narration, so "plunges" keeps the tense consistent. "Pertness" is a noun and cannot function as a verb in the sentence. "Adduced" means presented as evidence, which does not match the context. "Apocalypse" is a noun meaning destruction and cannot grammatically replace a verb here.
23. C) **Into'** सही है क्योंकि "ventured" के साथ movement दिखाने के लिए सही preposition चाहिए। "Ventured into" का मतलब होता है अंदर प्रवेश करना। "With" साथ होना दिखाता है, movement नहीं। "In" location बताता है, लेकिन entry का sense नहीं देता। "To" दिशा दिखाता है, लेकिन अंदर जाने का clear meaning नहीं देता।
- 'into' is correct because the verb "ventured" requires a preposition that shows movement from outside to inside. "Ventured into" is a standard expression meaning to enter a place. "With" shows association, not movement. "In" indicates location but does not clearly express entry. "To" shows direction toward a place but does not necessarily mean entering it.

24. C) **Took over**' सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब है control या management संभालना। Sentence में library की management की responsibility की बात हो रही है, इसलिए "took over" logically fit बैठता है। "Took after" का मतलब किसी जैसा होना होता है। "Take away" का मतलब हटाना या ले जाना होता है। "Takes down" का मतलब गिराना या लिख लेना होता है। ये सभी context में गलत हैं।
- Took over' is correct because it means to assume control or management. The sentence refers to the city council taking control of the library's management, so this phrasal verb logically fits the context. "Took after" means to resemble someone. "Take away" means to remove something. "Takes down" means to dismantle or write down. None of these convey the idea of assuming authority.
25. D) **Obstacles**' सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब difficulties या challenges होता है। Sentence में bureaucratic और financial problems की बात हो रही है, जो restoring process में challenges बनती हैं। "Communique" का मतलब official message होता है, जो यहाँ fit नहीं होता। "Moratorium" का मतलब temporary ban होता है, जो context से related नहीं है। "Concoct" verb है, noun नहीं, इसलिए grammar भी गलत हो जाता है।
- Obstacles' is correct because it means difficulties or challenges. The sentence refers to bureaucratic and financial problems involved in restoring the libraries, so "obstacles" logically completes the idea. "Communique" means an official statement, which does not fit the meaning. "Moratorium" means a temporary ban or suspension, which is unrelated here. "Concoct" is a verb meaning to invent or fabricate, and it does not fit grammatically after "bureaucratic and financial."



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