

## Tackling **takedowns**: On the government and online censorship

Online **censorship** is a threat to the fundamental right to free expression

The Union government's **enthusiastic misuse** of its **spurious** powers to **censor** lawful speech online **is** an **alarming** and **exponentially** growing threat to India's democracy. With **amendments** to the IT Rules, 2021 — which are themselves on **shaky** constitutional **ground** — the government has successfully pressured Meta and X to **take down** content within three-hour timelines that leave little time to push back, **lest** they lose "**safe harbour**" protections and be **dragged** into court or, worse, have their employees face personal criminal **liability**. Under the cover of fighting AI-generated content, all speech is being subjected to a **despotic regime** where the state can silence speech **at will**, destroying the promise of the Internet, which has **emerged** as an important alternative voice to express everyday concerns. **Visceral, hard-hitting expressions** of independent voices **are** an **integral** part of a society led by free ideals and representative democracy. **Weaponising** Sections 69A and 79(3)(b) of the IT Act, 2000 to take down such content, and accounts wholesale, **distorts** the public conversation in a way that benefits the ruling party, with **scant regard** for the freedoms of audiences and the **livelihoods** of creators. **Often**, entire **accounts** of the Opposition **are** deleted. Since this **infrastructure** of censorship **has** been built brick by brick without any moral **compunctions** on the path down which they lead, takedowns of independent media **outlets** and critical **commentators** have grown. Some have been reversed, at the cost of revealing their identity. The government continues to enjoy these powers under a **veil** of secrecy, publishing no meaningful data on how its **hold** on online **discourse** **has** tightened.

By opening up the **so-called** Sahyog portal to police officials around the country, **requests** under Section 79(3)(b) **have** been **supercharged** as a censorial rubber stamp **that** the IT Act simply **does** not give them. The clear Supreme Court **precedent outlining** what "actual knowledge" of **illegality** online **constitutes** for takedown orders **has** been reduced to a **mockery**. The Karnataka High Court has even **brushed aside** binding Court precedent under Shreya Singhal vs Union of India, even as the government has not **dared** to **formalise** the powers that it is **exercising** by passing a law in Parliament. Social media platforms have failed **miserably** in acting as a check in this ongoing rampage for power over online speech and have instead chosen the peace of mind that comes with automatically processing takedown notices. X continues to **resist** the Sahyog portal, but faces pressure from proceedings in the Karnataka and Delhi High Courts. The political elite must **ponder** the consequences of its campaign against online speech. Opposition-ruled States have quickly **leapt** to **leverage** the Sahyog portal's powers. A future **government** run by today's Opposition **will** likely play by the same **sordid** rules. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Takedown** (noun) - removal, dismantling, deletion, withdrawal, extraction हटाना
2. **Censorship** (noun) - suppression, restriction, control, prohibition, stifling सेंसरशिप
3. **Enthusiastic** (adjective) - eager, fervent, zealous, passionate, vehement उत्साही
4. **Misuse** (verb) - misapply, exploit, abuse, pervert, mishandle दुरुपयोग करना
5. **Spurious** (adjective) - bogus, fake, false, counterfeit, fraudulent जाली
6. **Censor** (verb) - suppress, redact, expurgate, muzzle, silence सेंसर करना
7. **Alarming** (adjective) - disturbing, frightening, worrying, daunting, shocking चिंताजनक
8. **Exponentially** (adverb) - rapidly, significantly, drastically, aggressively, sharply तेजी से
9. **Amendment** (noun) - modification, revision, alteration, correction, adjustment संशोधन
10. **Shaky** (adjective) - unstable, precarious, insecure, wobbly, tenuous अस्थिर
11. **Ground** (noun) - basis, foundation, evidence, justification, pretext आधार
12. **Take down** (phrasal verb) - to remove content from a digital platform or website हटा देना
13. **Lest** (conjunction) - for fear that, in case, to avoid, so that... not ऐसा न हो कि
14. **Safe harbour** (noun) - a legal provision to reduce or eliminate liability in certain situations सुरक्षित आश्रय
15. **Drag** (verb) - pull, haul, trail, tug, lug खींचना
16. **Liability** (noun) - accountability, responsibility, obligation, debt, burden उत्तरदायित्व
17. **Despotic** (adjective) - tyrannical, dictatorial, authoritarian, autocratic, oppressive तानाशाही
18. **Regime** (noun) - government, administration, authority, system, order शासन
19. **At will** (phrase) - whenever one wishes or desires without needing a reason इच्छानुसार
20. **Emerge** (verb) - appear, arise, surface, emanate, issue उभरना
21. **Visceral** (adjective) - instinctive, inward, intuitive, deep-seated, profound आंतरिक
22. **Hard-hitting** (adjective) - forceful, tough, direct, uncompromising, powerful प्रभावशाली
23. **Integral** (adjective) - essential, fundamental, basic, intrinsic, vital अभिन्न
24. **Weaponise** (verb) - exploit, manipulate, harness, capitalize, utilize (as a weapon) हथियार बनाना
25. **Distort** (verb) - misrepresent, twist, warp, falsify, pervert विकृत करना
26. **Scant regard** (noun) - very little or no attention or care for something कम सम्मान
27. **Livelihood** (noun) - income, subsistence, maintenance, living, sustenance आजीविका
28. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, commonly अक्सर
29. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, foundation, base, structure, system बुनियादी ढांचा

30. **Compunction** (noun) - hesitation, qualm, scruple, unease, regret मलाल
31. **Outlet** (noun) - agency, channel, medium, source, publication निकास
32. **Commentator** (noun) - analyst, critic, observer, pundit, reviewer टिप्पणीकार
33. **Veil** (noun) - cover, cloak, screen, mask, shroud घूंघट
34. **Discourse** (noun) - communication, conversation, discussion, dialogue, debate प्रवचन
35. **Tighten** (verb) - strengthen, restrict, narrow, secure, stiffen कसना
36. **So-called** (adjective) - alleged, supposed, ostensible, self-styled, purported तथाकथित
37. **Supercharged** (adjective) - accelerated, enhanced, intensified, boosted, amplified अति-शक्तिशाली
38. **Precedent** (noun) - example, model, standard, pattern, criterion मिसाल
39. **Outline** (verb) - summarize, sketch, define, delineate, trace रूपरेखा तैयार करना
40. **Illegality** (noun) - unlawfulness, wrong, crime, offense, breach अवैधता
41. **Constitute** (verb) - compose, form, establish, create, represent गठित करना
42. **Mockery** (noun) - sham, parody, farce, travesty, ridicule उपहास
43. **Brush aside** (phrasal verb) - to dismiss or ignore something as being unimportant अनदेखा करना
44. **Dare** (verb) - venture, risk, hazard, challenge, defy साहस करना
45. **Formalise** (verb) - validate, standardize, authorize, legalize, certify औपचारिक रूप देना
46. **Exercise** (verb) - apply, utilize, exert, employ, practice प्रयोग करना
47. **Miserably** (adverb) - wretchedly, poorly, hopelessly, pathetically, badly बुरी तरह
48. **Resist** (verb) - oppose, withstand, defy, combat, thwart विरोध करना
49. **Ponder** (verb) - contemplate, deliberate, reflect, meditate, muse विचार करना
50. **Leap** (verb) - jump, spring, bound, hop, vault कूदना
51. **Leverage** (verb) - exploit, utilize, maximize, influence, capitalize लाभ उठाना
52. **Sordid** (adjective) - dirty, sleazy, ignoble, vile, base घिनौना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that **online censorship by the government threatens freedom of expression.**
2. It criticizes the Union government for **misusing its powers to suppress lawful online speech.**
3. Amendments to the IT Rules, 2021 are described as **constitutionally questionable.**
4. Platforms like Meta and X are pressured to remove content within **very short deadlines (around 3 hours).**
5. Failure to comply risks losing **safe harbour protection** and facing legal consequences.
6. The government justifies actions under the pretext of controlling **AI-generated misinformation.**
7. However, the editorial claims this has created a **system where the state can arbitrarily silence speech.**
8. The use of Sections 69A and 79(3)(b) of the IT Act is seen as **weaponisation of legal provisions.**
9. Entire accounts, including those of opposition voices, are sometimes **taken down without transparency.**
10. The lack of public data on takedowns creates a **veil of secrecy around censorship practices.**
11. The **Sahyog portal** has expanded the power of police officials to request content removal.
12. This undermines the Shreya Singhal vs Union of India ruling on what constitutes valid takedown orders.
13. Courts like the Karnataka High Court are accused of **not strictly following established legal precedent.**
14. Social media companies have largely **failed to resist government pressure**, prioritizing compliance over free speech.
15. The editorial concludes that such censorship could set a dangerous precedent, as **future governments may exploit the same powers**, harming democratic discourse.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **"Visceral, hard-hitting expressions of independent voices are an integral part of a society led by free ideals and representative democracy." Which of the following statements will contradict the above statement?** [Editorial page]
- Robust criticism and independent commentary are essential pillars that strengthen the foundations of a representative government.
  - For a democracy to remain stable and competitive, the state must ensure that online discourse remains benign and avoids addressing provocative political concerns.
  - The unbridled expression of alternative voices on the internet is a primary cause of systemic instability and should be governed by strict state oversight.
- A. Only a and b  
B. Only b  
C. Only b and c  
D. All a, b and c
2. **Identify the tense and voice used in the underlined part of the following sentence from the passage:**  
"...all speech is being subjected to a despotic regime where the state can silence speech at will..."
- Present Continuous Active
  - Present Perfect Passive
  - Present Continuous Passive
  - Simple Present Passive
3. **Which of the following statements regarding the current online censorship landscape can be TRUE according to the passage?**
- The Sahyog portal has empowered police officials nationwide to issue takedown requests that exceed the legal authority provided by the IT Act.
  - Social media platforms like Meta and X have acted as a robust check against the government's attempts to silence opposition voices.
  - The government has formalized its current censorship powers by passing a definitive and transparent law through a full vote in Parliament.
  - All a, b and c
4. **What grammatical function does the phrase "built brick by brick" serve in the following sentence from the passage?**  
"Since this infrastructure of censorship has been built brick by brick without any moral compunctions on the path down which they lead, takedowns of independent media outlets and critical commentators have grown."
- Adjective phrase modifying "infrastructure"
  - Adverbial phrase modifying the verb "has been built"
  - Noun phrase functioning as the direct object
  - Prepositional phrase acting as the subject of the clause
5. **Which of the following statements can be the author's statement(s), according to the overall tone?**
- The expansion of censorship infrastructure is an alarming threat that destroys the promise of the internet as an alternative voice.

- b. Both current and future governments, regardless of their political affiliation, are likely to exploit these sordid rules of online control.
- A. Only a  
B. Only b  
C. both a and b  
D. None of a and b
6. **Direction: In the following question, four sentences are given. Find the correct sequence of these sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
1. Deep in the forests of Madagascar, these colorful reptiles were long identified by scientists primarily through their distinctive, horn-like noses.
2. Recent research has revealed that what was once thought to be a single "Pinocchio" species actually comprises multiple distinct species like Calumma pinocchio.
3. While the famous growing nose of Pinocchio is a myth, a real-life reptile in Madagascar features a similar, intriguing facial structure.
4. For decades, researchers relied on visible variations in nose length and shape for classification, but modern studies show the evolutionary story is much more complex.
- A. 1-3-2-4  
B. 3-1-4-2  
C. 3-4-1-2  
D. 2-4-1-3
7. **Selecting from the given alternatives, fill in the blank in the following sentence with the correct idiom with the meaning 'to be extremely hardworking'.**  
Rakesh was worthy to get accolades from his colleagues as he had worked \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. his fingers to the bone  
B. his heart to the spleen  
C. his bone out of his cage  
D. his eyes out of sockets
8. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Lackadaisical  
B. Lackadeisical  
C. Lacadaisical  
D. Lakadeisical
9. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**  
The manager served as a **liaision** between the sales team and the marketing department to ensure smooth communication.
- A. liaison  
B. liason  
C. liasion  
D. No replacement required
10. **Choose the correct synonym of the bold word.**  
The meeting will commence at 10 a.m. sharp, so please be on time.
- A. Cancel

- B. Pause  
C. Restart  
D. Begin
11. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "reckless".**  
A. Careful  
B. Rash  
C. Thoughtful  
D. Wise
12. **Choose the misspelt word from the given options.**  
A. Supercede  
B. Consensus  
C. Guarantee  
D. Threshold
13. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "admire".**  
A. Respect  
B. Despise  
C. Appreciate  
D. Praise
14. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Fairly.**  
A. Justly  
B. Unjustly  
C. Rightfully  
D. Honestly
15. **Choose the correct sentence where the homonym "nail" means a metal fastener.**  
A. She polished her nail with red paint.  
B. The carpenter hammered a nail into the wood.  
C. He tried to nail the thief with evidence.  
D. The cat injured me with its sharp nail.
16. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**  
The story of a person's life which is written by someone else.  
A. Essay  
B. Biography  
C. Eulogy  
D. Lecture
17. **A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. If you feel Options A, B, or C do not improve the sentence, then choose Option D: "No improvement required."**  
If you asked for directions at the petrol pump, you would not be lost now.  
A. If you had asked for directions  
B. If you would have asked for directions  
C. If you ask for directions  
D. No improvement required
18. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**

Someone has broken into our warehouse.

- A. Our warehouse has been broke into by someone.
- B. Our warehouse has been broked into.
- C. Our warehouse has been broken into.
- D. Our warehouse has been broken by someone.

19. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**

Won't you share the prize money with your siblings?

- A. Will the prize money be shared by you with your siblings?
- B. Won't the prize money be share by you with your siblings?
- C. Won't the prize money shared by you with your siblings?
- D. Won't the prize money be shared by you with your siblings?

20. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into active voice?**

You are requested not to enter.

- A. Please do not enter.
- B. Do not enter.
- C. Please not to enter.
- D. Your entry is not requested.

**Comprehension**

When I was 14, I had to start a new school. I wasn't great at starting new schools, even though I had done so quite a few times – once for my dad's work, once because I wasn't fitting in at my primary school and once because my parents didn't like the teachers. Of course, 14 is possibly the most awkward of all the ages to start a new anything. Anyway, it was halfway through the first term at the new school in Newark, Nottinghamshire, and I was (1) \_\_\_ by my history teacher, Mr Philips, at the end of a lesson. He didn't like me very much. To be fair, I was probably hard to like, from a teacher's perspective. I had trouble concentrating, I stared out of windows, I (2) \_\_\_ around. However, it is difficult to explain the shock to my self-conscious teenage soul when he told me, "I think it would be a good idea for you to join a special needs class." Now, for context, the year was 1989, and in my state comprehensive at that time the idea of being special needs" was (3) \_\_\_ to being given a leprosy bell or being marked with a cross for the plague. It was a binary system. You were either "normal" or you were "special needs". To make matters worse, I was told that another teacher – my art teacher – had come to a similar (4) \_\_\_. I resisted, and my parents even more. They thought it ridiculous and expressed that sentiment to the school. I never went to the special needs class. But the damage was done. I (5) \_\_\_ myself. I felt I was a reject. A fact confirmed when I went on a school trip to the Peak District and experienced sleep psychosis and smashed a window in my sleep. The trouble was, back then you were told you were "special needs" but never told what those needs were. Or why you were "special". I would be deep into another century before I realised that I was both autistic and had ADHD, a dual diagnosis part prompted by my son being diagnosed with autism. So for years I just had a feeling of, well, unexplained difference. I was an oddball, I told myself.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**

- A. taken over

- B. taken aside
  - C. taking in
  - D. taken aback
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
- A. trifle
  - B. jest
  - C. tampered
  - D. clowned
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
- A. proportionate
  - B. identical
  - C. akin
  - D. adjacent
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
- A. diagnosis
  - B. appraisal
  - C. verdict
  - D. assessment
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. disgrace
  - B. alienates
  - C. marginalized
  - D. stigmatised

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. C) (Only b and c)

the statement in question says: "Visceral, hard-hitting expressions of independent voices are an integral part of a society led by free ideals and representative democracy." This means that for a democracy to truly exist, citizens must have the freedom to express raw, powerful, and critical opinions, even if they are uncomfortable or challenging to the government.

statement b : This contradicts the original line because it argues that speech should be "benign" (harmless and gentle) and avoid "provocative" (hard-hitting) topics. This is the opposite of the passage's view that "visceral" and "hard-hitting" expressions are essential for a free society.

statement c: This contradicts the original line by framing free expression as a "threat" to stability that requires "strict state oversight" (control). While the original statement sees these voices as an "integral part" of democracy, this statement sees them as a problem that the state needs to silence or manage.

statement a: This statement actually supports the original line. It agrees that "robust criticism" (hard-hitting voices) is an "essential pillar" (integral part) that helps make a representative government stronger.

### 2. C) Present Continuous Passive

Voice (Passive): The subject ("all speech") is receiving the action rather than performing it. Passive voice is indicated by the structure to be + past participle ("is being" + "subjected").

Tense (Present Continuous): The action is happening now, indicated by the auxiliary verb "is" + "being" + past participle ("subjected").

### 3. A) The Sahyog portal has empowered police officials nationwide to issue takedown requests that exceed the legal authority provided by the IT Act.

The passage explicitly states that by opening the Sahyog portal to police officials, requests have been "supercharged as a censorial rubber stamp that the IT Act simply does not give them". This confirms that the portal allows for actions that exceed the specific legal authority granted by the original Act.

option (b) is FALSE: The author explicitly claims that social media platforms "have failed miserably in acting as a check" and have instead chosen "the peace of mind that comes with automatically processing takedown notices" rather than resisting the government.

option (c) is FALSE: The passage mentions that the government "has not dared to formalise the powers that it is exercising by passing a law in Parliament," indicating that these actions are being carried out without transparent, formal legislation.

### 4. B) Adverbial phrase modifying the verb "has been built"

An adverbial phrase modifies a verb by providing information about how, when, where, or to what extent an action is performed. The phrase "built brick by brick" explains the manner in which the "infrastructure of censorship" was constructed. Since it describes the action of the verb "built," it serves an adverbial function.

### 5. C) both a and b

Statement (a) is TRUE: The passage explicitly labels the government's actions as an "alarming and exponentially growing threat to India's democracy" and notes that these actions are "destroying the promise of the Internet" as an alternative voice. This perfectly mirrors the author's intense and critical tone.

Statement (b) is TRUE: In the final lines, the author warns that the "political elite" must consider the consequences, noting that the Opposition has already begun to "leverage" these powers and that a "future government... will likely play by the same sordid rules". This shows the author believes the problem transcends specific party affiliations.

6. B) 3-1-4-2

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह पैराग्राफ के विषय (Pinocchio-like structure) का overall introduction देता है। यह एक काल्पनिक पात्र (fictional character) और वास्तविक जीव के बीच तुलना करके factual ground तैयार करता है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह उस जीव की geographical location (Madagascar) और पहचान के पुराने तरीके का elaboration करता है। यह "horn-like noses" की specific detail जोड़ता है।

Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह एक "twist" या transition पेश करता है। यह बताता है कि दशकों से चली आ रही पहचान की पद्धति अब complex (जटिल) साबित हो रही है, जो पुराने और नए विचारों के बीच एक कड़ी है।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। यह "complexity" का प्रमाण देते हुए research के अंतिम परिणाम और specific species (Calumma pinocchio) का नाम बताता है।

- Sentence 3 comes first because it serves as the independent lead, bridging the myth of Pinocchio with the real-life subject. It establishes the factual ground for the entire discussion.
- Sentence 1 follows 3 because it provides the geographical scale (Madagascar) and identifies the historical identification method based on the "horn-like noses."
- Sentence 4 follows 1 because it introduces a transition from traditional methods to modern complexity. It highlights the shift in the evolutionary story, moving away from simple visible variations.
- Sentence 2 follows 4 as the conclusion. It provides the specific detail of the scientific discovery, identifying multiple species like Calumma pinocchio and resolving the complexity mentioned in the previous sentence.

7. A) 1) **his fingers to the bone** (idiom) – To work extremely hard बहुत मेहनत करना

8. A) The correct spelling is '**Lackadaisical**', which means "lacking enthusiasm and determination; carelessly lazy" – ढीला-ढाला, उदासीन, सुस्त।

9. A) The correct spelling of 'liaison' is '**liaison**', which means "a person who acts as a link to assist communication or cooperation between groups" – समन्वयक, दो पक्षों के बीच की कड़ी

10. D) **Commence** (verb) – to begin or start something. आरम्भ करना, शुरू करना।

Synonym: **Begin** (verb) – to start; to come into existence. शुरू करना, आरम्भ होना।

- **Cancel** (verb) – to decide that a planned event will not take place. रद्द करना।
- **Pause** (verb) – to stop temporarily before continuing. रुकना, विराम लेना।
- **Restart** (verb) – to start again after stopping. फिर से शुरू करना।

11. B) **Reckless** (adjective) – acting without thinking about the consequences; heedlessly dangerous. लापरवाह, बेपरवाह।  
Synonym: **Rash** (adjective) – acting or done without careful consideration; impulsive. उतावला, बिना सोचे-समझे कार्य करने वाला।
- **Careful** (adjective) – making sure to avoid potential danger or mistakes. सावधान, सतर्क।
  - **Thoughtful** (adjective) – showing consideration for others; reflective. विचारशील, सोच-समझकर काम करने वाला।
  - **Wise** (adjective) – having experience, knowledge, and good judgement. बुद्धिमान, समझदार।
12. A) The correct spelling of 'Supersede' is '**Supersede**', which means "to take the place of something previously used or held" – प्रतिस्थापित करना, हटाकर स्वयं ले लेना।
13. B) **Admire** (verb) – to regard with respect, pleasure, or approval. प्रशंसा करना, सराहना करना।  
Antonym: **Despise** (verb) – to feel contempt or deep dislike for. तिरस्कार करना, घृणा करना।
- **Respect** (verb) – to have a high opinion of someone; to admire. सम्मान करना, आदर करना।
  - **Appreciate** (verb) – to recognise and enjoy the quality of someone or something. सराहना करना, महत्त्व देना।
  - **Praise** (verb) – to express warm approval or admiration. प्रशंसा करना, तारीफ करना।
14. B) **Fairly** (adverb) – in a just and reasonable manner; impartially. न्यायपूर्वक, उचित रूप से।  
Antonym: **Unjustly** (adverb) – in an unfair or unreasonable manner. अन्यायपूर्वक, अनुचित रूप से।
- **Justly** (adverb) – in a fair and just manner; a synonym of Fairly. न्यायपूर्वक, सही तरीके से।
  - **Rightfully** (adverb) – in a morally right or legally correct manner; a synonym of Fairly. उचित रूप से, न्यायोचित तरीके से।
  - **Honestly** (adverb) – in a truthful and sincere manner; a synonym of Fairly. ईमानदारी से, सच्चाई से।
15. B) In the sentence "The carpenter hammered a nail into the wood.", the word 'nail' means a metal fastener – धातु की कील।
- "She polished her nail with red paint." – Here 'nail' means a fingernail or toenail. नाखून।
  - "He tried to nail the thief with evidence." – Here 'nail' means catch, expose, or trap someone, especially in the act of doing something wrong.
  - "The cat injured me with its sharp nail." – Here 'nail' means a claw of an animal. नाखून, पंजा।
16. B) **Biography** – the story of a person's life written by someone else. किसी दूसरे व्यक्ति द्वारा लिखी गई जीवनी।
- **Essay** – a short piece of writing on a particular subject. निबंध।
  - **Eulogy** – a speech or piece of writing that praises someone, typically given at a funeral. श्रद्धांजलि भाषण, प्रशंसा-पत्र।
  - **Lecture** – an educational talk delivered to an audience. व्याख्यान, भाषण।
17. A) 'If you asked for directions' के बदले '**If you had asked for directions**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक Mixed Conditional sentence है जिसमें if-clause भूतकाल की अपूर्ण स्थिति को दर्शाता है; अतः

Past Perfect (had + V3) का प्रयोग अनिवार्य है। Main clause में "would not be lost now" वर्तमान परिणाम को दर्शाता है।

- 'If you had asked for directions' should be used because in a Mixed Conditional (unreal past condition with present result), the if-clause requires Past Perfect (had + V3), and the main clause uses would + V1.

18. C) 'has broken into' का passive voice '**has been broken into**' होगा क्योंकि Present Perfect Tense में passive संरचना has/have + been + V3 होती है। साथ ही break into एक phrasal verb है, इसलिए 'into' बना रहेगा।

- 'Our warehouse has been broken into' is correct because in Present Perfect Passive, the structure is has been + past participle (broken), and the phrasal verb "break into" retains "into".

19. D) '**Won't the prize money be shared by you with your siblings?**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Negative interrogative sentence में helping verb और "not" का सही प्रयोग किया जाता है और tense वही रखा जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "you" Subject है, "won't share" Verb (Simple Future Negative Interrogative) है और "the prize money" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "the prize money" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "won't be shared" (Simple Future Passive) में बदला गया है और "by you" agent के रूप में प्रयोग हुआ है। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा — "Won't the prize money be shared by you with your siblings?"

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object becomes the subject, and in negative interrogative sentences, the helping verb and "not" are properly used while maintaining the same tense. Here, "you" (Subject), "won't share" (Verb in Simple Future Negative Interrogative), and "the prize money" (Object) are transformed into "the prize money" (Subject), "won't be shared" (Passive Verb in Simple Future), and "by you" (agent). Therefore, the correct sentence is — "Won't the prize money be shared by you with your siblings?"

20. A) **Please do not enter.**

You are requested not to enter' का active voice request/imperative form में 'Please do not enter' होगा, जो विनम्र निषेध (polite prohibition) को दर्शाता है।

- 'Please do not enter' is correct because passive request sentences are converted into imperative form in active voice, and adding "Please" maintains the polite tone.

21. B) **taken aside** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी से अकेले में बात करने के लिए उसे भीड़ या दूसरों से दूर ले जाना है (जैसे शिक्षक ने छात्र के साथ किया)। taking in ग्रासर के हिसाब से गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ past participle (taken) की ज़रूरत है। taken aback (अचानक हैरान होना) और taken over (कब्ज़ा करना) वाक्य के अर्थ में फिट नहीं बैठते।

taken aside is correct. It means to physically move someone away from a group to speak to them privately. taking in is grammatically invalid here because a past participle is required. taken aback (deeply surprised) and taken over (assumed control) do not fit the context of the teacher's physical action.

22. D) **clowned** सही है क्योंकि यह past tense में है और "clowned around" एक मुहावरा (phrasal verb) है जिसका मतलब कक्षा में बिना फोकस के मूर्खतापूर्ण व्यवहार करना है। trifle और jest ग्रासर के हिसाब

से गलत हैं क्योंकि ये present/base form में हैं, जबकि पूरी घटना past tense ("stared") में है। tampered (छेड़छाड़ करना) के साथ 'around' का इस्तेमाल नहीं होता।

- clowned is correct because it is in the past tense, matching the parallel structure ("stared"), and "clowned around" is a standard phrase meaning to behave foolishly. trifle and jest are grammatically invalid as they are present tense verbs. tampered means to illegally interfere with something and does not pair with the preposition "around".

23. C) **akin** सही है क्योंकि "akin to" का मतलब स्वभाव या भावना में 'समान' (similar) होना है, जो यहाँ दो सामाजिक स्थितियों के गहरे अहसास की तुलना के लिए सबसे सटीक शब्द है। identical का मतलब 'बिल्कुल एक जैसा' (exact copy) होना है, लेकिन एक स्कूल की क्लास और बीमारी की घंटी भौतिक रूप से बिल्कुल एक जैसी नहीं हो सकतीं, सिर्फ उनकी भावना समान है। proportionate का मतलब मात्रा या आकार के हिसाब से 'अनुपातिक' (ratio-based) होना है, जो कि गणित का शब्द है। adjacent का मतलब शारीरिक रूप से 'बगल में' होना है।

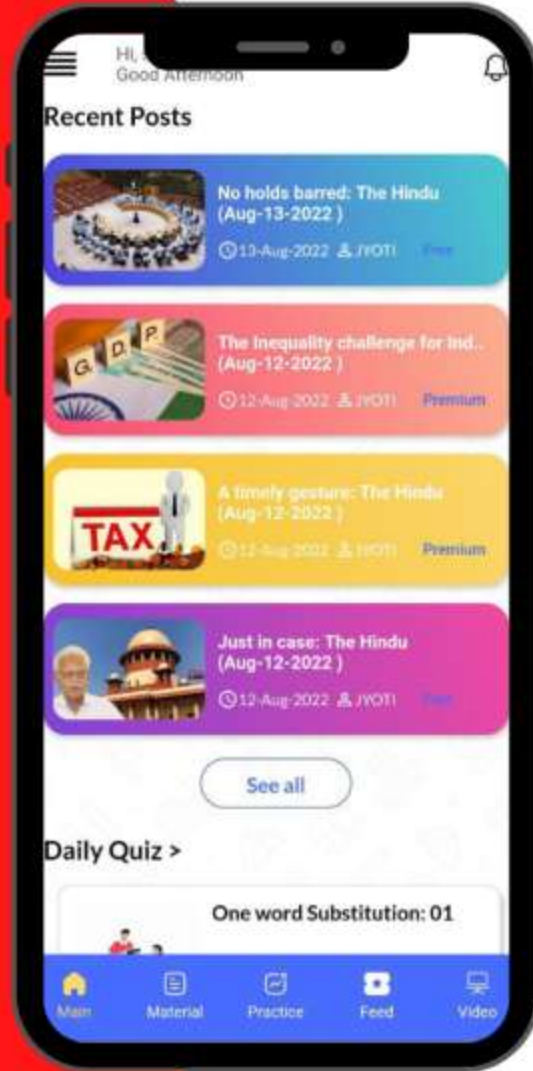
- akin is correct because "akin to" means similar in nature, character, or feeling, which perfectly captures the emotional comparison between the two social situations. identical means exactly the same in every detail, which is too literal here; being in a special needs class is not an exact physical copy of holding a plague bell, only the feeling is similar. proportionate means corresponding in size or amount, which is a mathematical or physical comparison, not an emotional one. adjacent means physically next to.

24. D) **assessment** सही है क्योंकि यह एक शिक्षक द्वारा छात्र की ज़रूरत या स्थिति के 'मूल्यांकन' या राय को दर्शाता है। diagnosis पूरी तरह से एक मेडिकल शब्द है (यहाँ बात सिर्फ शिक्षक की राय की हो रही है)। verdict एक अंतिम कानूनी फैसला होता है। appraisal का इस्तेमाल आमतौर पर किसी संपत्ति की कीमत आंकने या कर्मचारी के प्रदर्शन के लिए होता है।

- assessment is correct. It refers to a considered evaluation or opinion about a student's needs, which fits a teacher's role perfectly. diagnosis is strictly a medical term. verdict is a final legal decision in a court. appraisal is generally used for evaluating financial value or formal job performance.

25. D) **stigmatised** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब खुद को सामाजिक रूप से कलंकित या शर्मिंदा महसूस करना है (past tense)। disgrace (base verb) और alienates (present tense) ग्रांमर के हिसाब से पूरी तरह गलत हैं। marginalized का मतलब समाज के किनारे कर दिया जाना है, लेकिन 'stigmatise' मानसिक रूप से खुद पर एक शर्मनाक ठप्पा (label) लगाने को ज़्यादा सटीकता से दिखाता है।

- stigmatised is correct. It is in the past tense and means to apply a label of social disgrace or shame to oneself. disgrace (base verb) and alienates (present tense) are grammatically invalid for a past tense narrative. marginalized means pushed to the edges of society, but "stigmatised" better captures the internal feeling of carrying a shameful label.



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