

Onerous rules: On the amended FCRA Rules, the fallout

The newly amended FCRA Rules **point to** a renewed attempt to **stifle** NGOs

Civil society organisations play a **vital** role in areas such as health, education, disaster relief, and civil liberties and rights, **stepping in** where the state **falls short**. Yet, the Indian state has treated NGOs with **suspicion**, using the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, to **impose stringent** restrictions on their **functioning**. Earlier this week, the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026 were notified, which require all NGOs registered under the FCRA, 2010, to **confine their work to** activities specified for their category and to the States and Union Territories named in their registration. **They** must also **disclose** their social media handles, websites and publications and **are barred from** carrying “political content”. The new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work and to each State or Union Territory in which they operate, replacing the earlier system of a single registration fee. These increase **compliance costs** and paperwork. While the government **argues** that such measures promote **transparency, even-handedness** and national security, the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs. The **operation** of the FCRA regime **has** been **far from transparent**. As CPI(M) MP John Brittas recently complained, parliamentary questions on FCRA cancellations and non-renewals have been disallowed as “secret”, even though more than 20,000 registrations have **reportedly** been **revoked** over the past **decade** on **opaque grounds**. Far from improving transparency, the new rules burden NGOs with greater barriers and **commitments**, raising concerns that the Centre **intends** to create a **chilling effect**.

In Noel Harper (2022), the Supreme Court **upheld** the stringent 2020 FCRA **amendments**, accepting the state’s **invocation** of **sovereignty** and national security. Yet, in in 2020, the Court had **read down** rules that would have classified the rights **activism** of civil society bodies, including protests and **demonstrations** as work “of a political nature”, drawing a **distinction** between party politics and the everyday work of social and economic **betterment**. The new Rules **seek** to treat **advocacy** and “political content” as grounds for disqualification. In March 2026, the Centre had **proposed** amendments allowing a government-appointed authority to **take over** the assets of NGOs whose registrations were cancelled, **surrendered**, or not renewed. **Following** strong protests, particularly from minority institutions, it **put** the proposal **on hold**. Now, the newly notified rules seem another way of **throttling** NGOs that utilise foreign funding for civil society work. The Centre should withdraw the **punitive** provisions, particularly those on multiple fees and political content, and adopt **fairer** 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. **Onerous** (adjective) - burdensome, taxing, heavy, demanding, difficult कठिन/बोझिल
2. **Amend** (verb) - modify, alter, revise, adjust, change संशोधन करना
3. **Fallout** (noun) - repercussions, consequences, aftermath, results, effect परिणाम/दुष्प्रभाव
4. **Point to** (phrasal verb) - to indicate संकेत करना
5. **Stifle** (verb) - suppress, smother, restrain, choke, hinder दबाना/रोकना
6. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, critical, key, fundamental अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
7. **Step in** (phrasal verb) - to intervene or become involved to help or deal with a situation हस्तक्षेप करना/मदद करना
8. **Fall short** (phrase) - fail to reach a required standard, goal, or expectation विफल होना/कमी होना
9. **Suspicion** (noun) - distrust, doubt, skepticism, wariness, mistrust संदेह
10. **Impose** (verb) - enforce, inflict, levy, dictate, mandate थोपना
11. **Stringent** (adjective) - strict, severe, rigorous, firm, rigid सख्त
12. **Functioning** (noun) - operation, working, performance, activity, practice कार्यप्रणाली
13. **Confine to** (phrasal verb) - restrict, limit, bound, enclose, constrain सीमित करना
14. **Bar** (from) (verb) - prohibit, exclude, forbid, block, prevent रोक लगाना
15. **Compliance costs** (noun) - expenses incurred to meet legal requirements अनुपालन लागत
16. **Argue** (verb) - contend, claim, assert, reason, maintain तर्क देना
17. **Transparency** (noun) - clarity, openness, honesty, candor, lucidity पारदर्शिता
18. **Even-handedness** (noun) - fairness, impartiality, justice, equity, neutrality निष्पक्षता
19. **Far from** (phrase) - not at all, nowhere near, quite the opposite से दूर (बिल्कुल विपरीत)
20. **Transparent** (adjective) - clear, open, honest, candid, see-through पारदर्शी
21. **Reportedly** (adverb) - allegedly, apparently, supposedly, purportedly, statedly कथित तौर पर
22. **Revoke** (verb) - cancel, rescind, annul, invalidate, repeal रद्द करना
23. **Decade** (noun) - ten-year period दशक
24. **Opaque** (adjective) - unclear, obscure, murky, non-transparent, cryptic अस्पष्ट
25. **Ground** (noun) - basis, reason, foundation, rationale, justification आधार
26. **Commitment** (noun) - obligation, pledge, duty, responsibility, dedication प्रतिबद्धता
27. **Intend** (verb) - aim, plan, purpose, mean, design इरादा रखना
28. **Chilling effect** (noun) - discouragement of legitimate activity through fear हतोत्साहित करने वाला प्रभाव

29. **Uphold** (verb) - support, maintain, sustain, defend, confirm बनाए रखना
30. **Amendment** (noun) - change, modification, revision, alteration, adjustment संशोधन
31. **Invocation** (noun) - appeal, application, implementation, use, calling प्रयोग/आह्वान
32. **Sovereignty** (noun) - the supreme authority of a state to govern itself without external interference संप्रभुता
33. **Read down** (phrasal verb) - to interpret a law narrowly to keep it constitutional कानून की सीमित व्याख्या करना
34. **Activism** (noun) - campaigning, advocacy, involvement, action, movement सक्रियतावाद
35. **Demonstration** (noun) - protest, march, rally, exhibition, display प्रदर्शन
36. **Distinction** (noun) - difference, contrast, separation, differentiation, demarcation भेद
37. **Betterment** (noun) - improvement, advancement, progress, development, enhancement सुधार
38. **Seek** (verb) - aim, try, attempt, strive, pursue प्रयास करना
39. **Advocacy** (noun) - support, promotion, campaigning, pleading, backing वकालत/समर्थन
40. **Propose** (verb) - suggest, submit, offer, move, recommend प्रस्ताव रखना
41. **Take over** (phrasal verb) - assume control, seize, acquire, command, dominate अधिग्रहण करना/नियंत्रण लेना
42. **Surrender** (verb) - yield, give up, relinquish, cede, resign समर्पण करना
43. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding, next to, during के बाद
44. **Put on hold** (phrase) - to pause, defer, suspend, delay, postpone स्थगित करना
45. **Throttle** (verb) - strangle, suppress, choke, stifle, restrict गला घोटना/रोकना
46. **Punitive** (adjective) - disciplinary, retaliatory, corrective, penal, punishing दंडात्मक
47. **Fairer** (adjective) - just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, reasonable अधिक निष्पक्ष

Summary of the Editorial

1. Civil society organisations (NGOs) play a crucial role in **healthcare, education, disaster relief, civil liberties, and human rights**, often filling gaps left by the government.
2. The Indian government has historically viewed NGOs with suspicion, using the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010** to regulate foreign funding.
3. The newly notified **FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026** impose stricter restrictions on NGOs receiving foreign contributions.
4. NGOs must now limit their activities only to the **categories and States/Union Territories** mentioned in their FCRA registration.
5. The rules require NGOs to disclose their **social media accounts, websites, and publications** to the government.
6. NGOs are prohibited from publishing or carrying any "**political content**", raising concerns about restrictions on advocacy and free expression.
7. The amendments impose **heavier penalties** for using foreign funds for activities outside approved purposes.
8. Instead of a single registration fee, NGOs must now pay **separate fees for every category of work and every State/UT**, significantly increasing compliance costs.
9. The government claims these measures are necessary for **transparency, accountability, and national security**.
10. The editorial argues that the amendments are intended to **discourage and restrict NGO activities** rather than improve transparency.
11. Over **20,000 NGO registrations have reportedly been cancelled or not renewed** during the last decade, often on opaque grounds.
12. In **Noel Harper (2022)**, the Supreme Court upheld the stringent provisions of the 2020 FCRA amendments, accepting the government's national security concerns.
13. However, in **2020**, the Supreme Court had protected civil society advocacy by distinguishing **public interest activism from partisan political activity**.
14. The new rules risk treating advocacy work as "political content," potentially creating a **chilling effect on NGOs and civil society organisations**.
15. The editorial concludes that the Centre should **withdraw the punitive provisions**, especially those relating to multiple fees and restrictions on political content, and adopt a fairer regulatory framework.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following measures, if adopted, according to the passage will make the Centre's regulatory framework fairer toward civil society organisations?** [Editorial page]
 1. Allowing a government-appointed authority to manage the assets of cancelled NGOs
 2. Withdrawing the punitive provisions regarding multiple operational fees
 3. Eliminating the disqualification restrictions tied to "political content"

A. All of these
B. 2 and 3
C. 1 and 3
D. Either 1, 2 and 3
2. **The phrase "chilling effect" in the first paragraph refers to:**
 1. Deterring non-governmental bodies from engaging in legitimate advocacy by creating an environment of fear and regulatory burden.
 2. Increasing the financial liquidity and operational pace of civil society organizations across multiple states.

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Either 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 and 2
3. **According to the author, which of the following factors stifles the functioning of civil society organisations?**
 - A. Prohibiting rights activism and daily welfare work
 - B. Enforcing the single registration fee system over multi-state operations
 - C. Restricting operational focus areas to designated categories
 - D. Automatically confiscating the financial assets of all active minority institutions
4. **How would you describe the author's various states of mind, as expressed in the above passage?**

a. apprehensive b. ambivalent c. disapproving

A. Both b and c
B. Only a
C. Both a and c
D. Only b
5. **Choose the correct negative interrogative form of the following sentence from the passage:**
"The new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work."
 - A. The new rules don't impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work.
 - B. Should not the new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work?
 - C. Don't the new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work?
 - D. Don't the new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and don't they require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work?
6. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**

- A. The movie B. which you recommended, C. was both interesting D. and entertain.
- A. The movie,
B. which you recommended,
C. was both interesting
D. and entertain
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Abrogate**
- A. Institute
B. Enact
C. Repeal
D. Approve
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrasal verb:**
She was so overwhelmed with tasks that she had to _____ some responsibilities to her assistant.
- A. hand out
B. hand down
C. hand over
D. hand in
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Epistemic**
- A. Physical
B. Knowledge-related
C. Symbolic
D. Spatial
10. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "close" with the same meaning as in the following sentence?**
"Please be sure to close the door when you leave"
- A. She lives very close to the library.
B. The museum is close to the park.
C. It's a good idea to close all the windows before it starts to rain.
D. He keeps his family photos close to his bed.
11. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**
- A. Fragmented accountability frameworks fail to match the speed and complexity of modern construction.
B. Corrupt political cartels frequently pressure developers into using subpar building materials.
C. Severe structural failures expose deep regulatory loopholes and jurisdictional blame-shifting.
D. Migrant laborers ultimately bear the worst consequences of these systemic failures.
- A. 2-3-4-1
B. 3-2-1-4
C. 2-1-3-4
D. 2-3-1-4
12. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Futile**
- A. Useless
B. Pointless

- C. Effective
D. vain
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Jaundice
B. Jaundise
C. Joundice
D. Jaundiece
14. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
The report is expected to be delivered by the committee next week.
A. The committee is expecting to deliver the report next week.
B. The committee is expected to deliver the report next week.
C. The committee expects to deliver the report next week.
D. The committee will deliver the report next week.
15. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Sit on the fence**
A. To be very decisive about a matter
B. To refuse to give an opinion or take a side
C. To carefully choose a position
D. To be in a neutral, relaxed position
16. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
A person who studies the stars and space
A. Astrologer
B. Astronomer
C. Meteorologist
D. Geographer
17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Garrulous**
A. Talkative
B. Loquacious
C. Quiet
D. Chatty
18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.**
The tour guide said, "We have been walking for hours, but the ruins we have been looking for are just around this corner, and we will be there in a few minutes."
A. The tour guide said that they had been walking for hours, but the ruins they had been looking for were just around that corner, and they would be there in a few minutes.
B. The tour guide said that we have been walking for hours, but the ruins we have been looking for are just around this corner, and we will be there in a few minutes.
C. The tour guide said that they had been walking for hours, but the ruins they had been looking for are just around that corner, and they will be there in a few minutes.
D. The tour guide said that they were walking for hours, but the ruins they were looking for were just around that corner, and they would be there in a few minutes.
19. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
The country has at least twenty colleges of whom only six are officially recognized.
A. of whom only six are officially recognized
B. of whom only six have been officially recognized

- C. of which only six has official recognition
- D. Of which only six are officially recognized

20. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**

1. This distressing news upset Phuphee deeply, driving her to aggressively pound a mortar outside her kitchen to channel her anger.
 2. Inside the kitchen, a household help served hot kehwe and explained what Phuphee had taken to heart so intensely.
 3. A visitor arrived on a mild afternoon expecting a warm welcome but found Phuphee furiously working a pestle instead.
 4. The helper revealed that a neighbor's mother-in-law had insensitively asked Phuphee for prospective new brides while her current daughter-in-law lay ding.
- A. 3-2-4-1
 - B. 3-1-2-4
 - C. 2-3-4-1
 - D. 3-2-1-4

Passage:

The inauguration of the newly-installed crest gates at the Tungabhadra reservoir on June 25 marks the formal end of a prolonged phase of anxiety, emergency repairs, and large-scale (1) rehabilitation triggered by the washing away of one of the dam's spillway gates in August 2024.

What began as a sudden structural failure in one (4) bay of the historic reservoir soon grew into a much wider concern over the health of the entire gate system at one of south India's most important inter-State irrigation projects. The crisis eventually led to a decision to replace all 33 crest gates of the dam, an exercise now completed at a cost of about ₹51 crore.

The Tungabhadra project, built near Mallapur village in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district in north Karnataka, is an inter-State irrigation project serving Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Work on the project began in 1945, and water was first released into the canals in 1953. The spillway gates ____ (3) installed in 1955, and had remained in operation for nearly 69 years.

The crisis came on the night of August 10, 2024, when Spillway Gate No. 19 was washed away from its groove around 10.50 p.m. when the reservoir was close to its capacity. The incident caused a sudden release of water through the damaged bay, and immediately raised fears over the safety of the ageing spillway system. With the command area looking ____ (5) a promising agricultural season after a difficult drought year, the possibility of losing a large volume of stored water triggered anxiety among farmers dependent on the reservoir for irrigation.

The immediate challenge before the authorities was not only to manage the emergency at the damaged bay, but also to save as much water as possible for irrigation. Technical teams initially faced the prospect bringing down the water level in the reservoir to the minimum possible to carry out repairs. Instead, engineers led by hydro-mechanical expert N. Kannaiah Naidu moved towards the more difficult (2) alternative of installing a temporary stop-log arrangement at the damaged gate bay, so that a substantial amount of water could be retained without excessive drawdown.

21. **The word "rehabilitation" in the passage most nearly means: (1)**

- A. destruction
 - B. restoration
 - C. abandonment
 - D. relocation
22. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "alternative" as used in the passage: (2)**
- A. preference
 - B. necessity
 - C. option
 - D. backup
23. **Choose the correct verb to fill in the blank: (3)**
- A. was
 - B. had
 - C. were
 - D. are
24. **What does the term "bay" refer to in the passage? (4)**
- A. A coastal body of water connected to the open ocean.
 - B. A heavy hydro-mechanical tool used for pulling heavy loads.
 - C. A storage facility built for agricultural inventory management.
 - D. A structured opening or compartment section of a dam through which water flows.
25. **Select the correct preposition to fill in the blank: (5)**
- A. for
 - B. on
 - C. at
 - D. into

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **2 and 3**

statement a: Line from passage: "In March 2026, the Centre had proposed amendments allowing a government-appointed authority to take over the assets of NGOs... Following strong protests... it put the proposal on hold." Incorrect. The passage notes that this proposal faced strong protests and was put on hold. It is presented as an aggressive measure that throttles NGOs, not something that would make the framework fairer.

statement b: Line from passage: "The Centre should withdraw the punitive provisions, particularly those on multiple fees and political content, and adopt fairer rules." Correct. The author explicitly states that withdrawing the provisions on multiple operational fees is required to "adopt fairer rules."

statement c: Line from passage: "The Centre should withdraw the punitive provisions, particularly those on multiple fees and political content, and adopt fairer rules." Correct. The author explicitly recommends removing the restrictions on "political content" to make the regulatory framework fairer.

2. A) **Only 1**

statement 1: Line from passage: "Far from improving transparency, the new rules burden NGOs with greater barriers and commitments, raising concerns that the Centre intends to create a chilling effect." Correct. The passage explicitly links the "chilling effect" to the new rules that "burden NGOs with greater barriers and commitments" and are "clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs." Stifling work through barriers and commitments matches the concept of deterring them via regulatory burden.

statement 2: Line from passage: "These increase compliance costs and paperwork... the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs." Incorrect. The passage directly states the rules increase costs (which reduces financial liquidity) and are meant to stifle (slow down/stop) their work across states, which completely contradicts an increase in liquidity or operational pace.

3. C) **Restricting operational focus areas to designated categories**

Line from passage: "Yet, the Indian state has treated NGOs with suspicion, using the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, to impose stringent restrictions on their functioning... [the rules] require all NGOs registered under the FCRA, 2010, to confine their work to activities specified for their category..." Correct. The passage explicitly states that these new restrictions—including forcing NGOs to confine/restrict their work to their specified categories—are the measures "clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs."

option A: Incorrect. The passage mentions that the Supreme Court protected "everyday work" by drawing a distinction, and nowhere does it state that the government has prohibited rights activism and daily welfare work

option B: Incorrect. The passage states that the new rules are replacing the single registration fee system with a multi-fee system. The multi-fee system is what causes the burden, not the single fee system.

- option D: Incorrect. The passage clearly notes that this asset takeover proposal was "put on hold" due to protests. It is not currently being enforced automatically on all active minority institutions..
4. C) **Both a and c**
- a. Apprehensive (Anxious or fearful about the future): Line from passage: "...raising concerns that the Centre intends to create a chilling effect." Correct. The author expresses a sense of worry and concern about the future impact of these rules, explicitly using the words "raising concerns" regarding a "chilling effect."
- b. Ambivalent (Having mixed, conflicting, or neutral feelings): Line from passage: "...the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs... Now, the newly notified rules seem another way of throttling NGOs..." Incorrect. The author does not have mixed feelings. The entire tone is strongly one-sided against the government's rules, viewing them entirely as a negative disruption ("stifle", "throttling", "punitive") to civil society.
- c. Disapproving (Expressing an unfavorable or critical opinion): Line from passage: "The operation of the FCRA regime has been far from transparent... The Centre should withdraw the punitive provisions... and adopt fairer rules." Correct. The author explicitly criticizes the government's lack of transparency, labels the rules as "punitive," and directly calls for their withdrawal. This indicates clear disapproval.
5. C) **Don't the new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work?**
- Correct. The original sentence uses the simple present tense with a plural subject ("The new rules"). To form a negative interrogative, the negative auxiliary "Don't" is placed at the very beginning, followed by the subject and the original base verbs ("impose... and require"), keeping the original structure perfectly intact.
6. D) entertain' के बदले '**entertaining**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ दोनों भागों में समान रूप से adjectives चाहिए — interesting और entertaining; जैसे— The book was exciting and informative.
- 'entertaining' will be used instead of 'entertain' because we need parallel adjectives in structure — interesting and entertaining; Like— The book was exciting and informative.
7. 7. C) **Abrogate** (verb) – to cancel, revoke, annul, abolish, repeal. निरस्त करना / समाप्त करना
Synonyms: **Repeal** (verb) – cancel or withdraw a law, act, or decision. रद्द करना
- Institute** (verb) – to establish or set up. स्थापित करना (≠ abrogate)
 - Enact** (verb) – to make into law. कानून बनाना (≠ abrogate)
 - Approve** (verb) – to accept officially. मंजूरी देना (≠ abrogate)
8. C) **hand over** – to give control or responsibility to someone किसी कार्य की जिम्मेदारी सौंपना
- hand out** – to distribute बाँटना
 - hand down** – to pass something to the next generation आगे पहुँचाना
 - hand in** – to submit जमा करना
9. B) **Epistemic** (adjective) – related to knowledge, understanding, or the study of knowledge. ज्ञान से सम्बंधित / ज्ञानमीमांसीय
Synonym: • **Knowledge**-related (adjective) – connected with knowledge or ways of knowing. ज्ञान आधारित
- Physical** (adjective) – related to the body or material world. भौतिक
 - Symbolic** (adjective) – serving as a symbol or representation. सांकेतिक

- **Spatial** (adjective) – related to space or location. स्थानिक
10. C)

Highlighted वाक्य में 'close' का अर्थ है — बंद करना (to shut)।
विकल्प C में भी 'close' का अर्थ बंद करना है — खिड़कियाँ बंद करना।
इसलिए यह same meaning का सही उदाहरण है।

In the highlighted sentence, 'close' means to shut.

Option C also uses 'close' with the same meaning — to shut the windows.

Thus, option C matches the same meaning.

11. D) **2-3-1-4**

Sentence 2 comes first because it introduces the primary root cause and background context of the passage. It establishes the initial thematic focus on the operational corruption and cartels driving bad building practices.

Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 because it shows the direct physical outcome of that corruption. The narrative logically moves from the use of bad materials to the resulting real-world disasters and the immediate political blame-shifting that follows.

Sentence 1 comes next as a transition into a deeper structural analysis. After presenting the failures and blame-shifting, the passage diagnoses the underlying systemic issue, pointing out that governance models are outdated.

Sentence 4 comes last because it provides the ultimate human conclusion. It shifts from institutional critiques to highlight the final tragic impact, explaining who ends up suffering the most due to these combined loopholes.

- Sentence 2 सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह passage के primary root cause और background context को पेश करता है। यह करप्शन और राजनीतिक गुटों (cartels) द्वारा खराब मटेरियल इस्तेमाल करने के शुरुआती बिंदु (starting point) को स्थापित करता है।
- Sentence 3, sentence 2 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह उस करप्शन का सीधा physical outcome दिखाता है। यह क्रम स्वाभाविक रूप से खराब मटेरियल के इस्तेमाल से सीधे वास्तविक हादसों (structural failures) और उसके बाद होने वाली राजनीति पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।
- Sentence 1 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह एक गहरा structural analysis पेश करता है। हादसों और राजनीति को बताने के बाद, यह वाक्य इसके पीछे के मुख्य सिस्टमैटिक इश्यू (systemic issue) को समझाता है कि हमारा गवर्नेंस मॉडल आउटडेटेड हो चुका है।
- Sentence 4 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह पूरे सीकेंस का फाइनल human conclusion देता है। इंस्टीट्यूशनल कमियों को बताने के बाद, यह आखिरी वाक्य सबसे बड़े मानवीय नुकसान (human cost) पर बात करता है कि कैसे इन कमियों का सबसे बुरा असर प्रवासी मजदूरों पर पड़ता है।

12. C) **Futile** (adjective) – Useless, pointless, ineffective, vain, fruitless. व्यर्थ / निष्फल

Antonym: **Effective** (adjective) – Successful in producing a desired or intended result, productive, efficient. प्रभावी / प्रभावशाली

- **Useless** (adjective) – Futile, ineffective, pointless, worthless. बेकार
- **Pointless** (adjective) – Without purpose, ineffective, trivial. निरर्थक
- **Vain** (adjective) – Ineffective, futile, unproductive, empty. व्यर्थ

13. A) **Jaundice** is the correctly spelt word. It means “a medical condition causing yellowing of the skin due to bilirbin” पीलिया।

14. C) **The committee expects to deliver the report next week.**

Option 3 सही है क्योंकि यह passive sentence को active voice में बदलते समय original meaning को बनाए रखता है। Passive sentence में “is expected” main verb है और “by the committee” real doer को दिखाता है। Active voice में change करते समय “the committee” को subject बनाया जाता है और verb “expects” active form में use किया जाता है। इससे expectation का idea बना रहता है और “next week” वाला time reference भी सही तरह से preserve होता है। इसलिए यह sentence clear, grammatically correct और meaning-wise accurate है।

- Option 3 is correct because it properly converts the passive structure into active voice while preserving the original meaning. In the passive sentence, “is expected” is the reporting verb and “by the committee” indicates the real doer. When changed to active voice, the doer “the committee” becomes the subject, and the verb “expects” is used in active form. This maintains the idea of expectation, which is central to the original sentence, and correctly keeps the time reference “next week.” The sentence is clear, grammatical, and accurately reflects the meaning of the passive construction.
15. B) **Sit on the fence** (idiom) - To refuse to give an opinion or take a side निर्णय न लेना / पक्ष न लेना / तटस्थ रहना
16. B) **Astronomer** (noun) – a person who studies stars, planets, and space खगोल-विज्ञानी
- **Astrologer** (noun) – a person who predicts events based on planets ज्योतिषी
 - **Meteorologist** (noun) – a person who studies weather मौसम-विज्ञानी
 - **Geographer** (noun) – a person who studies Earth’s surface भूगोल-विज्ञानी
17. C) **Garrulous** (adjective) – Excessively talkative, chatty, verbose, loquacious. बहुत बातूनी / शब्दबहुल
- Antonym: **Quiet** (adjective) – Silent, calm, reserved, not talkative. शांत / मौन
- **Talkative** (adjective) – Chatty, conversational, communicative, voluble. बातूनी
 - **Loquacious** (adjective) – Talkative, wordy, chatty, garrulous. बहुत बात करने वाला
 - **Chatty** (adjective) – Informal, talkative, friendly, conversational. बातचीत पसंद करने वाला
18. A) **The tour guide said that they had been walking for hours, but the ruins they had been looking for were just around that corner, and they would be there in a few minutes.**
- Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए Pronouns, Time expressions और Verb tense को Reported Speech के नियमों के अनुसार बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में The tour guide Subject है और said Reporting Verb है। Direct Speech में We have been walking, are just around, और we will be there थे। Indirect में बदलने पर we → they, this → that, are → were, will → would, तथा have been → had been में परिवर्तन हुआ ताकि कथन का अर्थ और समय-संदर्भ सही बना रहे।
- To convert from Direct to Indirect Speech, pronouns, time expressions, and verb tenses are changed according to reported speech rules. In this case, The tour guide (Subject) and said (Reporting Verb) remain the same, while We have been walking, are just around, and we will be there are transformed to they had been walking, were just around, and they would be there to correctly reflect indirect narration.
19. D) **‘Of which only six are officially recognized’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि antecedent “colleges” निर्जीव/वस्तु वर्ग में आता है, इसलिए “which” का प्रयोग होना चाहिए, न कि “whom” का। साथ ही “colleges” plural है, इसलिए verb भी plural “are” आएगा। अतः यह विकल्प व्याकरण और अर्थ दोनों दृष्टि से सही है।

- 'Of which only six are officially recognized' should be used because the noun "colleges" refers to things, not persons, so "which" is required instead of "whom." Also, the subject "colleges" is plural, making "are" the correct verb form. Thus, this option is grammatically and contextually the most appropriate choice.

20. A) 3-2-4-1

Sentence 3 comes first because it introduces the primary theme and the initial scene of the passage. It sets the baseline context by establishing the visitor's arrival and the unexpected, furious behavior of Phuphee.

Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 because it transitions from the outdoor scene to the indoor setting. It moves the narrative logically inside the kitchen where the visitor is welcomed and hears the first hint of why Phuphee is upset.

Sentence 4 comes next to reveal the explicit cause of the distress. After mentioning that an explanation was being given, this sentence provides the shocking details of the mother-in-law's insensitive request.

Sentence 1 comes last because it provides a strong thematic conclusion. It directly loops back to the opening behavior described in sentence 3, clarifying exactly how that specific news from sentence 4 triggered Phuphee's intense physical reaction outside.

- Sentence 3 सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह passage के मुख्य विषय और शुरुआती दृश्य (initial scene) को पेश करता है। यह आगंतुक (visitor) के आने और फुफी के अप्रत्याशित, गुस्से वाले व्यवहार को दिखाकर एक मजबूत baseline context सेट करता है।
- Sentence 2, sentence 3 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बाहर के दृश्य से सीधे घर के अंदरूनी हिस्से की ओर बढ़ता है। यह कहानी को स्वाभाविक रूप से रसोई के भीतर ले जाता है जहां आगंतुक का स्वागत किया जाता है और पहली बार पता चलता है कि फुफी का दिल किसी बात से दुखी है।
- Sentence 4 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह परेशानी के मुख्य कारण (root cause) का खुलासा करता है। यह बताने के बाद कि रसोई में एक कहानी सुनाई जा रही थी, यह वाक्य सास द्वारा बहू के जीवित रहते ही दूसरी दुल्हन ढूंढने की असंवेदनशील मांग की पूरी डिटेल देता है।
- Sentence 1 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह पूरे सीक्वेंस का एक बेहतरीन logical conclusion देता है। यह सीधे तौर पर sentence 4 में मिली दुखद खबर को सेंटेंस 3 में बताए गए फुफी के अजीब व्यवहार से जोड़ता है, और स्पष्ट करता है कि इसी खबर के कारण वे बाहर ओखली पर अपना गुस्सा निकाल रही थीं।

21. B) The context describes fixing and bringing the damaged dam gates back to working condition. "(restoration)" means the act of returning something to a former, better condition, which perfectly matches this meaning. "destruction" means tearing down. "abandonment" means leaving it behind. "relocation" means moving to a new place.

In Hindi:

- Passage में rehabilitation का मतलब क्षतिग्रस्त डैम को वापस पहले जैसी अच्छी हालत में लाना है। "(restoration)" का मतलब भी मरम्मत करके पुरानी स्थिति में लाना होता है। "destruction" (विनाश), "abandonment" (छोड़ देना), और "relocation" (दूसरी जगह ले जाना) यहाँ गलत हैं।

22. B) In the text, "alternative" means an option or a choice (between lowering the water or installing a temporary log). The antonym (opposite) is "(necessity)", which refers to something that is absolutely required and leaves no room for choice. "option", "preference", and "backup" are synonyms or closely related words, not antonyms.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ "alternative" का मतलब एक विकल्प (choice या option) है। इसका विलोम (antonym) "(necessity)" होगा, जिसका मतलब ज़रूरत या मजबूरी होता है जहाँ कोई और विकल्प नहीं बचता। बाकी सभी शब्द (option, preference, backup) इसके समानार्थी (synonyms) के करीब हैं।

23. C) The subject of the sentence is "gates," which is a plural noun. The sentence refers to an action completed in the past (1955), which requires the past tense passive voice. Therefore, the plural past auxiliary verb "(were)" is correct. "was" is singular past. "are" is present tense. "had" would require the past participle "been" to form a proper passive construction (had been installed).

In Hindi:

- Sentence का subject "gates" (plural) है और बात 1955 की हो रही है, यानी past tense। इसलिए plural subject के साथ past tense में "(were)" सही है। "was" singular के लिए आता है। "are" present tense है। "had" के साथ "been" लगाना ज़रूरी होता (had been installed), जो यहाँ नहीं है।

24. D) In civil engineering and dam construction, a "(bay)" refers specifically to the structured opening, compartment, or section between pillars where the gates sit and water is allowed to flow. While a bay can also mean a coastal body of water, the passage is strictly discussing the structure of a reservoir and its gates.

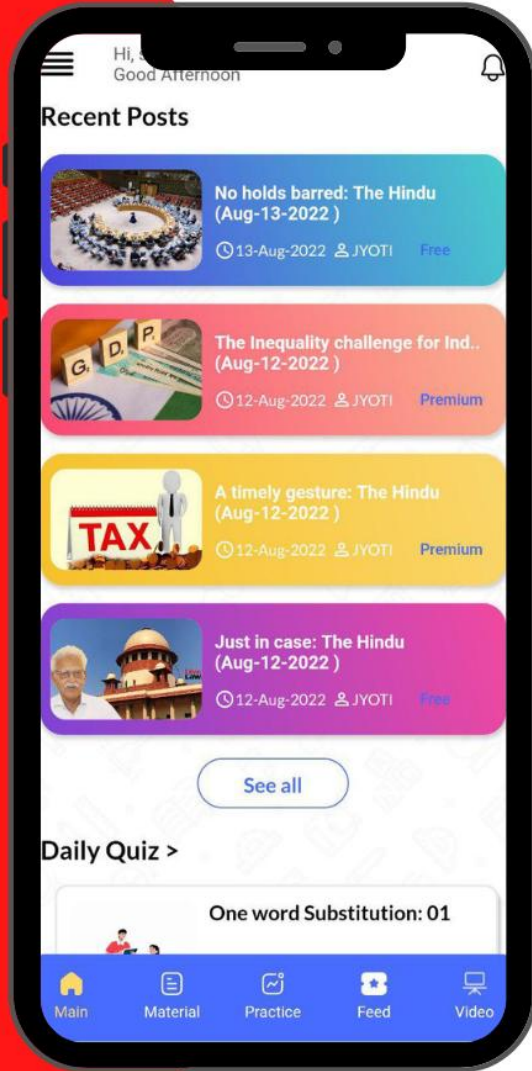
In Hindi:

- डैम या सिविल इंजीनियरिंग के संदर्भ में "(bay)" उस विशिष्ट ढांचे या डिब्बे (compartment/opening) को कहते हैं जहाँ गेट लगे होते हैं और पानी बहता है। समुद्र के किनारे वाले हिस्से को भी bay (खाड़ी) कहते हैं, लेकिन यहाँ context डैम के ढांचे का है।

25. C) The phrase "looking (at)" means anticipating, facing, or considering a particular situation or prospect (in this case, a promising agricultural season). "looking for" means searching for something. "looking into" means investigating an issue. "looking on" means observing without getting involved.

In Hindi:

- "Looking (at)" एक ऐसा phrase है जिसका इस्तेमाल तब होता है जब हम किसी आने वाली स्थिति (जैसे एक अच्छे कृषि सीज़न) का सामना कर रहे होते हैं या उसकी उम्मीद कर रहे होते हैं। "looking for" का मतलब किसी चीज़ को खोजना है। "looking into" का मतलब छानबीन करना है। "looking on" का मतलब सिर्फ़ खड़े होकर देखना है।



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