

Clearance in reverse: On top court, post facto clearances

Supreme Court of India's **nod** for **post facto** approval must not **be** read as support for **amnesty** schemes

India's **environmental impact assessment** (EIA) regime **rests on** a single sequencing rule: a project must be **appraised** before **the pickaxe pierces the ground**, not after the building is operational. The Supreme Court of India's July 29 **order**, from a **Bench** led by the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, on post facto clearances, **reaffirms** that rule even as it **hollows it out**. By **quashing** the 2021 Office **Memorandum** while **leaving the door open for** the Centre to **legalise violations** through a **statutory** notification, the Court's **distinction** between an administrative order and a notification, **is** effectively a **fig-leaf** — a procedural **nicety dressed up** as respect for environmental norms. The deeper **problem** that the judgment does not **confront** **is** the **dissonance** between the State-level appraisal **machinery** and the Centre's law. When State EIA authorities, expert committees and pollution boards routinely discover **violations** only after a highway, port or steel plant is built, post facto clearance stops being an exception and becomes the design. Large projects are now appraised as a '**fait accompli**', their **ecological** cost **weighed** only once **demolition** would cost more than **absolution**. The Court reasons that governments may frame environmental amnesty schemes much as they do for tax defaults. But the **logic** that **justifies regularising** an unauthorised colony for **electoral gain** cannot **be transposed** onto works that **carve into** forests and floodplains. Environmental science **exists** as a discipline **precisely to insist on interconnectedness** — that plant, animal, human and **microbial** systems are bound together, and that damage to one **propagates** through all. A **wetland** is not an unregistered **plot** to be regularised on payment of a fee. Even the **argument** that these are hospitals and airports meant for public good cannot automatically **justify** the environmental cost.

Worryingly, that transactional logic now has legal cover. The **existing retrospective** clearances do **exact** a fine from those who **bypassed** the norms — but the Jan Vishwas **amendments stripped away** the threat of **imprisonment** for environmental **lapses** altogether, leaving only monetary penalties thus converting compliance into a 'cost of doing business' entry, which a **well-capitalised proponent** can budget for. The latest judgment does not examine this shift, but **endorses** its **premise**, treating environmental harm as a debt that can be settled after the fact. The Court insists that reducing violations to civil penalties does not weaken the **precautionary** principle. But a principle meant to prevent **irreversible** harm cannot be **honoured** by pricing the harm and collecting the cheque. The consequences are incidents of infrastructure projects **getting flattened** by serious monsoon activity. The Centre would be well advised to read this order not as a licence to **multiply** amnesty schemes, but as a **mandate** to repair the clearance **apparatus**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Nod** (noun) - approval, assent, consent, permission, sanction स्वीकृति / मंजूरी
2. **Post facto** (adverb) - retroactive, after the fact पूर्वव्यापी / घटना के बाद का
3. **Amnesty** (noun) - pardon, forgiveness, reprieve, general pardon, immunity माफी / आम माफी
4. **Environmental Impact Assessment** (noun) - a process used to evaluate the likely environmental effects of a proposed project before it is approved. पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन
5. **Regime** (noun) - system, framework, structure, rule, order व्यवस्था / प्रणाली
6. **Rest on** (phrasal verb) - to depend on, be based on, or rely upon something. आधारित होना / टिका होना
7. **Appraise** (verb) - evaluate, assess, inspect, review, examine मूल्यांकन करना / जांचना
8. **The pickaxe pierces the ground** (phrase) - the pointed end of a pickaxe breaks through or digs into the soil or earth. खुदाई या निर्माण कार्य शुरू होना
9. **Bench** (noun) - panel of judges न्यायालयीन पीठ
10. **Reaffirm** (verb) - assert again, confirm, uphold, reiterate, restate पुनः पुष्टि करना
11. **Hollow out** (phrasal verb) - to remove the inside part of something, making it empty inside. अंदर से खोखला करना / कमजोर करना
12. **Quash** (verb) - annul, cancel, revoke, set aside, invalidate रद्द करना / खारिज करना
13. **Memorandum** (noun) - memo, note, official document, circular ज्ञा ज्ञापन / आधिकारिक पत्र
14. **Leave the door open for** (phrase) - to allow the possibility of something happening in the future. की गुंजाइश छोड़ना
15. **Legalise** (verb) - legitimize, validate, authorize, sanction, permit वैध बनाना / कानूनी मान्यता देना
16. **Statutory** (adjective) - lawful, legal, constitutional, regulated, mandated वैधानिक / कानूनी
17. **Fig-leaf** (noun) - cover, pretext, disguise, camouflage, screen पर्दा / छिपाने का बहाना
18. **Nicety** (noun) - subtlety, nuance, precision, detail सूक्ष्म अंतर या औपचारिकता
19. **Dress up** (phrasal verb) - to wear special or formal clothes, or to make something appear more attractive than it really is. सजा-धजाकर पेश करना / रूप बदलना
20. **Confront** (verb) - face, tackle, address, encounter, grapple with सामना करना / निपटना
21. **Dissonance** (noun) - discrepancy, discord, inconsistency, disagreement, clash असंगति / मतभेद
22. **Machinery** (noun) - mechanism, system, apparatus, structure, agency तंत्र / व्यवस्था

23. **Violation** (noun) - breach, infringement, transgression, infraction, contravention
उल्लंघन / अतिचार
24. **Fait accompli** (noun) - a thing that has already been done and cannot be changed, so people must accept it. किया हुआ काम जिस पर बदलाव न हो सके
25. **Ecological** (adjective) - related to ecology, the environment, and the relationships between living organisms and their surroundings. पारिस्थितिकीय / पर्यावरण संबंधी
26. **Weigh** (verb) - consider, evaluate, assess, ponder, measure विचार करना / तोलना
27. **Demolition** (noun) - destruction, tearing down, leveling, dismantling, wrecking ध्वंस / गिराना
28. **Absolution** (noun) - forgiveness, pardoning, exoneration, clearance, pardon मुक्ति / पापमुक्ति / माफी
29. **Justify** (verb) - warrant, defend, vindicate, excuse, rationalize उचित ठहराना / सही साबित करना
30. **Regularise** (verb) - normalize, legalize, legitimize, validate नियमित करना / वैध बनाना
31. **Electoral gain** (noun) - an increase in political support, votes, seats, or advantage achieved in an election. चुनावी लाभ
32. **Transpose** (verb) - transfer, shift, apply elsewhere, interchange दूसरी जगह लागू करना / बदलना
33. **Carve into** (phrasal verb) - to cut, shape, or divide something by cutting into it; also, to reduce something significantly. काटकर घुसना / चीरना
34. **Exist** (verb) - be, live, survive, prevail, occur अस्तित्व में होना / मौजूद होना
35. **Precisely** (adverb) - exactly, accurately, specifically, strictly ठीक-ठीक / विशेष रूप से
36. **Insist on** (phrasal verb) - to demand or firmly maintain that something should happen or be done. दृढ़ता से आग्रह करना / जोर देना
37. **Interconnectedness** (noun) - interrelatedness, mutual dependence, interconnection आपस में जुड़ा होना / पारस्परिक संबंध
38. **Microbial** (adjective) - microscopic, germ-related, bacterial सूक्ष्मतम जीव संबंधी / सूक्ष्मजीवी
39. **Propagate** (verb) - spread, transmit, diffuse, disseminate, reproduce फैलना / आगे बढ़ना
40. **Wetland** (noun) - an area of land that is covered with water permanently or seasonally, such as marshes, swamps, and bogs. आर्द्रभूमि / दलदली क्षेत्र
41. **Plot** (noun) - tract of land, parcel, patch, lot ज़मीन का टुकड़ा / भूखंड
42. **Existing** (adjective) - current, present, extant, active, prevailing मौजूदा / वर्तमान
43. **Retrospective** (adjective) - retroactive, past-oriented, from a past date पूर्वव्यापी / पीछे की तारीख से लागू
44. **Exact** (verb) - demand, extract, extort, levy, impose वसूल करना / जबरन लेना

45. **Bypass** (verb) - circumvent, avoid, evade, dodge, skirt नजरअंदाज करना / दरकिनार करना
46. **Amendment** (noun) - modification, change, alteration, revision, revision संशोधन
47. **Strip away** (phrasal verb) - to remove something layer by layer, or to take away something unnecessary or hidden. छीन लेना / हटा देना
48. **Imprisonment** (noun) - incarceration, confinement, detention, jail sentence कारावास / कैद
49. **Lapse** (noun) - slip, mistake, error, omission, failure चूक / गलती / अंतराल
50. **Well-capitalised** (adjective) - financially strong, rich, heavily funded, well-funded पूंजी संपन्न / आर्थिक रूप से मजबूत
51. **Proponent** (noun) - advocate, supporter, promoter, champion समर्थक / प्रस्तावक
52. **Endorse** (verb) - approve, support, back, sanction, ratify समर्थन करना / अनुमोदन करना
53. **Premise** (noun) - assumption, basis, foundation, presupposition आधार / पूर्वधारणा
54. **Precautionary** (adjective) - preventive, protective, cautionary, defensive एहतियाती / सुरक्षात्मक
55. **Irreversible** (adjective) - permanent, irrevocable, unalterable, irreparable अपरिवर्तनीय / जिसे बदला न जा सके
56. **Honour** (verb) - respect, fulfill, observe, uphold, comply with सम्मान करना / निभाना
57. **Get flattened** (phrase) - to be crushed, pressed, or made completely flat; sometimes used figuratively to mean being defeated badly. तबाह हो जाना / समतल हो जाना
58. **Multiply** (verb) - increase, proliferate, expand, escalate, augment बढ़ाना / गुणा करना / संख्या में वृद्धि करना
59. **Mandate** (noun) - directive, order, command, authorization, decree आदेश / अधिकार पत्र
60. **Apparatus** (noun) - machinery, system, structure, establishment, equipment तंत्र / उपकरण

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** system is based on the principle that environmental approval must be obtained **before a project begins**, not after its completion.
2. The **Supreme Court's July 29 order** reaffirmed this basic principle but simultaneously created room for **post facto environmental clearances**.
3. The Court **quashed the 2021 Office Memorandum** that permitted retrospective clearances for projects that had violated environmental requirements.
4. However, it allowed the **Central government to potentially regularise such violations through a statutory notification**, creating concern about future environmental amnesty schemes.
5. The editorial argues that the distinction between an **administrative order and a statutory notification** is largely procedural and does little to protect environmental safeguards.
6. A deeper problem lies in the **weakness of environmental appraisal and monitoring mechanisms** at both the State and Central levels.
7. State EIA authorities, expert committees and pollution control boards often identify violations **only after major projects such as highways, ports or steel plants have already been constructed**.
8. Consequently, post facto clearance risks becoming a **routine mechanism rather than an exceptional remedy**, encouraging developers to begin projects without prior approval.
9. Once massive infrastructure has already been constructed, authorities face a **fait accompli**, as demolishing the project may appear more costly than regularising the violation.
10. The Court compared environmental regularisation with government **amnesty schemes for tax defaults**, but the editorial considers this comparison fundamentally inappropriate.
11. Environmental damage to **forests, wetlands, floodplains and ecosystems** cannot be treated like financial or administrative violations that can simply be settled by paying a penalty.
12. Even projects serving the **public good, such as hospitals and airports**, should not automatically be exempted from proper assessment of their ecological consequences.
13. The **Jan Vishwas amendments** have further weakened deterrence by removing imprisonment for certain environmental violations and relying primarily on **monetary penalties**.
14. This risks turning environmental violations into merely a **"cost of doing business"**, particularly for wealthy companies that can afford to pay fines after causing ecological damage.
15. The editorial concludes that the Centre should **not interpret the Supreme Court judgment as permission to expand environmental amnesty schemes**. Instead, it should strengthen the clearance and monitoring system so that environmental damage is **prevented before it occurs rather than penalised after the damage is done**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best describes one of the main ideas discussed in the passage?**
A. Retrospective clearances turn compliance into a fine. [Editorial Page]
B. Public welfare infrastructure justifies ecological damage.
C. Monetary fines strengthen the precautionary principle.
D. State authorities successfully prevent post-facto work.
2. **According to the passage, why is treating environmental violations like tax defaults fundamentally flawed?**
A. Tax amnesties generate much lower government revenue than green fines.
B. Industrial projects contribute far more to national growth than housing.
C. Judicial bodies lack authority to intervene in public welfare projects.
D. Financial penalties fail to undo irreversible destruction of ecosystems.
3. **The author describes the Court's distinction between an administrative order and a notification as "effectively a fig-leaf" to point out that:**
A. formal judicial rejections of post-facto rules still allow violations.
B. executive orders carry far greater legal weight than parliamentary laws.
C. state appraisal machinery operates independently from central guidelines.
D. administrative procedures are designed to protect ecosystems.
4. **licence to multiply amnesty schemes, but as a mandate to repair the clearance apparatus.**
The term "fait accompli" as used in the passage means:
A. A completed financial audit
B. A deed already done past fix
C. A future planned investment
D. A routine court summons law
5. **Which of the following best describes the overall tone of the passage?**
A. Critical
B. Laudatory
C. Objective
D. Sarcastic
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
P. Chatus means four, sloki means hymns.
Q. Swami Alavandar, an erudite scholar, great Acharya and philosopher, is well-known as Yamunacharya.
R. That is, the four slokas in praise of Goddess Mahalakshmi, said Tirukudanthai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.
S. His most prominent work is Chatushloki.
A. Q-P-S-R
B. S-Q-R-P
C. P-R-Q-S
D. Q-S-P-R
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

1. While the pillars define the street's history, the neighbourhood is equally known today for its bustling textile shops, where trade and history coexist in a space that blends the past with the present.
2. How often do we look up while walking through a busy market?
3. For many people, the huge pillars are just a familiar landmark.
4. ThePathu Thoon(ten pillars) street, one of Madurai's lesser-known heritage places, tucked away in the heart of the city, gets its name from the huge pillars that have been there for over 300 years.
 - A. 2-4-1-3
 - B. 4-2-3-1
 - C. 2-1-4-3
 - D. 4-1-2-3
8. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**

He did not have /few hopes when he /contested the election. /No error

 - A. He did not have
 - B. few hopes when he
 - C. contested the election
 - D. No error
9. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.**

The housing problem in Mumbai becomes more serious day by day.

 - A. No Improvement
 - B. become
 - C. had become
 - D. is becoming
10. **Choose the most appropriate word that can substitute the given group of words.**

The art of creating and arranging dances

 - A. Geology
 - B. Choreography
 - C. Seismology
 - D. Calligraphy
11. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**

Current

 - A. General
 - B. Modern
 - C. Past
 - D. Present
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

I am always ____ for good books

 - A. looking out
 - B. looking down
 - C. looking after
 - D. looking into

13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

My mother is the ____ inspiration in my life.

- A. big
- B. bigger
- C. biggest
- D. most biggest

14. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Courteous

- A. Optional
- B. Arrogant
- C. Polite
- D. Meritorious

15. Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.

Sterling is only twenty four but have achieved so much in his professional football career.

- A. but have achieved so much
- B. in his professional football career
- C. No error
- D. Sterling is only twenty four

16. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To feel at home

- A. To feel comfortable
- B. To miss one's home
- C. To feel out of place
- D. To be rarely at home

17. Choose the correctly spelt word.

- A. Foreign
- B. Eddition
- C. Forrward
- D. Enfluence

18. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Infuriate

- A. Endow
- B. Enhance
- C. Enrage
- D. Engage

19. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

Familiar

- A. Usual
- B. Common
- C. Known
- D. Strange

20. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.

Not only the parents but also the children were sad at leaving the house

- A. as also
- B. so even
- C. and also
- D. No Improvement

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

As I typed in the words, “First Indian leader to visit the Prambanan temple”, in Google search for an article this week, the answer flashed Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first Indian leader to visit the historic temple. However, I felt a (2) nagging sense of doubt as India and Indonesia have collaborated since the 1940s, both militarily and culturally. To verify, I checked The Hindu’s semantic search which browses through newspaper archives spanning over a century. As reported by The Hindu, on December 14, 1958, India’s President Dr. Rajendra Prasad drove down to Prambanan temple during his official visit to Indonesia. The article titled ‘Monument of Buddha’ noted how Dr. Prasad _____(3) impressed by the sight and that he had paid tribute to the renovation work, which was underway with the help of the Archaeological Survey of India.

I asked the same question to various Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Grok, and got the same answer — that Mr. Modi was the first Indian leader to visit the shrine.

To further analyse the extent of AI’s handicap, I questioned both ChatGPT and Gemini about the “first Indian Prime Minister to visit Palestine”; it answered — Narendra Modi on February 10, 2018, when he visited Ramallah in the West Bank and held talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. However, a look into The Hindu’s archives _____(4) that Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the Gaza Strip on May 19, 1960. In an article dated May 20, 1960, The Hindu recounts how Mr. Nehru made a one-day trip _____(5) the United Nations Emergency Force and Palestinian refugee camps during his official visit to the United Arab Republic (UAR) (a short-lived union of Egypt and Syria). His visit was (1) marred by Israeli Super-Mystere fighter jets circling over the United Nations flight carrying him to Gaza — a violation of the airspace of Palestine which had then been under the UAR’s military control.

21. **The word "marred" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)**
 - A. enhanced
 - B. spoiled
 - C. celebrated
 - D. protected
22. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "nagging" as used in the passage: (2)**
 - A. persistent
 - B. reassuring
 - C. irritating
 - D. continuous
23. **Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)**
 - A. is
 - B. was
 - C. were

D. been

24. **Choose the correct form of the verb to fill in the blank: (4)**

A. show

B. showing

C. shows

D. showed

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

A. to

B. at

C. through

D. on

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Retrospective clearances turn compliance into a fine.

The passage states that new laws (Jan Vishwas amendments) have removed the threat of jail and replaced it with money. "...stripped away the threat of imprisonment for environmental lapses altogether, leaving only monetary penalties thus converting compliance into a 'cost of doing business' entry..." The passage says the Court is "treating environmental harm as a debt that can be settled after the fact. In the passage, "compliance" is no longer a strict rule to be followed; it is now just a "debt" or a "penalty" (a fine) that a company pays after they have already broken the rules. This matches Option (a) exactly.

(b) is incorrect: The author actually disputes this idea, stating that even projects like hospitals and airports "cannot automatically justify the environmental cost."

(c) is incorrect: The passage states that the precautionary principle "cannot be honoured by pricing the harm and collecting the cheque."

(d) is incorrect: The passage states that state authorities "routinely discover violations only after" a project is built, meaning they are failing to prevent post-facto work.

2. D) Financial penalties fail to undo irreversible destruction of ecosystems.

The author argues that while financial issues (like tax defaults or unauthorized colonies) can be settled with money or regularization, environmental systems are different due to their biological nature.

The passage states, "Environmental science exists as a discipline precisely to insist on interconnectedness—that plant, animal, human and microbial systems are bound together, and that damage to one propagates through all." It further explains that environmental protection (the precautionary principle) is meant to prevent "irreversible harm." The author concludes that this harm "cannot be honoured by pricing the harm and collecting the cheque." Together, these show the core flaw: a tax default is a reversible financial matter that money can fully settle — but environmental destruction is often irreversible and interconnected across ecosystems, so a fine cannot undo it, unlike unpaid tax.

Option A: The passage does not compare the amount of revenue generated by taxes versus environmental fines.

Option B: The passage does not discuss the relative contribution of industrial projects vs. housing to national growth.

Option C: The passage discusses the nature of the Court's judgments, not a lack of authority to intervene.

3. A) formal judicial rejections of post-facto rules still allow violations.

The author uses the term "fig-leaf" (a metaphor for something used to hide a larger, more shameful truth) to describe the Court's decision. The Court technically "quashed" (rejected) the 2021 Office Memorandum (an administrative order) that allowed post-facto clearances. However, the Court simultaneously "left the door open" for the government to legalise those same violations through a "statutory notification." The author is saying that although the

Court made a formal show of rejecting the rules, the end result is the same—violations can still be legalized. The distinction between an "order" and a "notification" is just a "procedural nicety" that hides the fact that environmental norms are being ignored.

(b) The passage suggests the Court views a "notification" as more legitimate than an "order," but it does not claim executive orders have "greater legal weight" than laws.

(c) While the passage mentions "dissonance" between State and Center, this is a separate point from the "fig-leaf" comment, which specifically refers to the Court's legal hairsplitting.

(d) The author argues the exact opposite—that these procedures are being used to "hollow out" the rules meant to protect ecosystems.

4. B) **A deed already done past fix**

The author uses this term to describe large projects that are only appraised after they have already been built. The passage says: "Large projects are now appraised as a 'fait accompli', their ecological cost weighed only once demolition would cost more than absolution." This implies that because the project is already finished and operational, its existence is an "accomplished fact" that cannot easily be reversed or undone. In legal and general terms, a fait accompli is something that has already happened and is settled, leaving those affected with no choice but to accept it.

"A deed already done" = something that has already been completed/finished — this matches "fait accompli" ("an accomplished fact/deed")

"past fix" = beyond fixing, i.e., can no longer be reversed or corrected — this matches the passage's point that once built, demolition is too costly, so the project effectively cannot be undone in practice

5. A) **Critical**

The author's tone is critical because the passage actively finds fault with the Supreme Court's judgment, government policy, and the current state of environmental law in India. The author says the order "reaffirms that rule even as it hollows it out" and calls the Court's legal distinction "effectively a fig-leaf" and a "procedural nicety." These are strong, evaluative terms used to show that the author believes the Court's reasoning is superficial and damaging. The author points out a "deeper problem" that the judgment ignores and argues that the system is failing because violations are discovered only after projects are built. The author uses the word "Worryingly" to describe how environmental harm is being treated as a "transactional logic" or a "debt." The author directly challenges the idea that environmental damage can be settled with money, stating that the precautionary principle "cannot be honoured by pricing the harm and collecting the cheque."

6. D) **Q-S-P-R**

Explanation:

- Sentence Q paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है, जो "Swami Alavandar" को बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे introduce करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।
- Sentence S Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "His" सीधे तौर पर Sentence Q में introduce किए गए "Swami Alavandar" को point करता है, और उनके प्रमुख कार्य (Chatushloki) के बारे में बताता है।

- Sentence P Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence S में बताए गए शब्द "Chatushloki" का शाब्दिक अर्थ (literal meaning) (Chatus means four, sloki means hymns) स्पष्ट करता है।
- Sentence R Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "That is" सीधे तौर पर Sentence P में समझाए गए अर्थ को refer करते हुए बताता है कि ये चार श्लोक देवी महालक्ष्मी की स्तुति में हैं, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।
 - Sentence Q starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook, independently establishing the main subject—Swami Alavandar—without any dangling references. (As requested, it is the exact first sentence of the source text).
 - Sentence S follows Sentence Q because the possessive pronoun "His" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to "Swami Alavandar" established in Sentence Q to introduce his prominent work.
 - Sentence P follows Sentence S because it logically provides the literal meaning of the specific term "Chatushloki" just introduced in Sentence S.
 - Sentence R concludes the sequence. The transitional phrase "That is" serves as a direct logical link, referring exactly back to the translation provided in Sentence P to expand on the context of these four hymns (praising Goddess Mahalakshmi), perfectly wrapping up the information block.

7. A) 2-4-1-3

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह एक rhetorical question ("How often do we look up...") के साथ बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे scene को introduce करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 2 में बताए गए "busy market" का एक विशिष्ट (specific) उदाहरण देते हुए मुख्य स्थान (ThePathu Thoon street) और उसकी पहचान (the huge pillars) को पहली बार introduce करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "the pillars" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence 4 में introduce किए गए "huge pillars" की ओर इशारा करता है। यह बताता है कि कैसे इन खंभों का इतिहास और आज का व्यापार (textile shops) एक साथ मौजूद हैं।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह Sentence 1 में वर्णित वर्तमान माहौल (bustling shops) को आगे बढ़ाते हुए बताता है कि आज के इस व्यस्त समय में आम लोगों ("many people") के लिए ये खंभे सिर्फ एक जाना-पहचाना "familiar landmark" बनकर रह गए हैं।

- Sentence 2 starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook, using a rhetorical question about walking through a "busy market" to set the scene independently without any dangling references. (As requested, it is the exact first sentence of the source text).
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because it logically answers the broad opening question by grounding the narrative in a specific location (ThePathu Thoon street), officially introducing its defining historical feature—the huge pillars.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase "the pillars" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "huge pillars" established in Sentence 4, while expanding on how the street's history currently coexists with its bustling modern trade.
 - Sentence 3 concludes the sequence by providing a logical shift in perspective. It reflects on how the general public ("many people") views these exact same pillars today amidst the modern environment described in Sentence 1, perfectly wrapping up this information block.
8. B) 'few' के बदले 'any' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'few' का प्रयोग गिनने योग्य संज्ञा के साथ सकारात्मक अर्थ में होता है, जबकि 'any' का प्रयोग नकारात्मक वाक्यों में होता है; जैसे— I don't have any hopes.
- 'any' will be used instead of 'few' because 'few' is used with countable nouns in a positive sense, whereas 'any' is used in negative sentences; Like — I don't have any hopes.
9. D) 'becomes' के बदले 'is becoming' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात चल रही है कि मुंबई में आवास समस्या दिन-प्रतिदिन गंभीर होती जा रही है, जो कि एक निरंतर प्रक्रिया को दर्शाता है। अतः 'is becoming' का प्रयोग सही होगा।
- 'is becoming' will be used instead of 'becomes' because here it is being discussed that the housing problem in Mumbai is becoming more serious day by day, which indicates an ongoing process. So, the use of 'is becoming' is correct
10. B) **Choreography** (noun) – The art of creating and arranging dances. नृत्य संयोजन कला
- **Geology** (noun) – The science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it. भूविज्ञान
 - **Seismology** (noun) – The branch of science concerned with earthquakes and related phenomena. भूकंप विज्ञान
 - **Calligraphy** (noun) – The art of producing decorative handwriting or lettering with a pen or brush. सुलेखन कला
11. C) **Current** (adjective) – Happening or existing at the present time, contemporary, up-to-date, modern. वर्तमान
- Antonym: **Past** (adjective) – Gone by in time and no longer existing, previous, former, earlier. अतीत
- **General** (adjective) – Widespread, common, universal, overall. सामान्य
 - **Modern** (adjective) – Relating to the present or recent times, contemporary, up-to-date, current. आधुनिक

- **Present** (adjective) – Existing or occurring now, current, contemporary, immediate. वर्तमान
12. A) **Looking out** का use होगा क्योंकि "looking out for" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की तलाश में रहना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि मैं हमेशा अच्छी किताबों की तलाश में रहता हूँ, इसलिए 'looking out' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Looking down' का अर्थ है नीचे देखना, 'Looking after' का अर्थ है देखभाल करना, और 'Looking into' का अर्थ है जांच करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Looking out' should be used because it means being in search of something. The sentence states that I am always in search of good books, making 'looking out' fitting here. Whereas, 'Looking down' means to gaze downwards, 'Looking after' means to take care of, and 'Looking into' means to investigate, which don't fit in this context.
13. C) **'Biggest'** का use होगा क्योंकि "biggest" एक superlative adjective है जो सबसे अधिक या सबसे बड़ा होने का भाव दर्शाता है। चूंकि sentence में कहा गया है कि मेरी माँ मेरे जीवन में सबसे बड़ी प्रेरणा हैं, इसलिए 'biggest' यहाँ सही है। 'Big' और 'Bigger' का अर्थ क्रमशः बड़ा और बड़ा होता है, लेकिन ये superlative form नहीं हैं। 'Most biggest' गलत है क्योंकि 'biggest' पहले से ही superlative form है और 'most' की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- 'Biggest' should be used because it is a superlative adjective indicating the highest degree or largest size. Since the sentence states that my mother is the greatest inspiration in my life, 'biggest' is correct here. 'Big' and 'Bigger' mean large and larger respectively, but they are not in the superlative form. 'Most biggest' is incorrect because 'biggest' is already in the superlative form and does not need 'most'.
14. C) **Courteous** (adjective) – Polite, respectful, considerate, well-mannered. विनम्र
Synonym: **Polite** (adjective) – Showing good manners, courteous, respectful, well-behaved. शिष्ट
- **Optional** (adjective) – Not compulsory, voluntary, discretionary. वैकल्पिक
 - **Arrogant** (adjective) – Having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities, haughty, conceited. अहंकारी
 - **Meritorious** (adjective) – Deserving reward or praise, commendable, praiseworthy. प्रशंसनीय
15. A) 'have achieved' के बदले **'has achieved'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject 'Sterling' Singular है और Singular Subject के साथ Verb 'has' का प्रयोग होता है, न कि 'have' का; जैसे— He has completed his work.
- 'has achieved' will be used instead of 'have achieved' because the subject 'Sterling' is singular and with a singular subject, the verb 'has' is used, not 'have'; Like — He has completed his work.
16. A) **To feel at home** (idiom) – To feel comfortable सहज महसूस करना
17. A) The correctly spelt word is **'Foreign'** विदेशी.
18. C) **Infuriate** (verb) – To make someone extremely angry and impatient, provoke, anger, incense. क्रोधित करना
- Antonym: **Enrage** (verb) – To make very angry, inflame, provoke, incite. क्रोधित करना
- **Endow** (verb) – To provide with a quality, ability, or asset, equip, bless, grant. प्रदान करना

- **Enhance** (verb) – To intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, value, or extent of. बढ़ाना
- **Engage** (verb) – To occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention), participate, commit, involve. जुड़ना

19. D) **Familiar** (adjective) – Well known from long or close association, well known, known, recognized. परिचित

Antonym: **Strange** (adjective) – Unusual or surprising; difficult to understand or explain, unfamiliar, unknown, alien. अजीब

- **Usual** (adjective) – Habitually or typically occurring or done; customary, standard, normal. सामान्य
- **Common** (adjective) – Occurring, found, or done often; prevalent, widespread, frequent. सामान्य
- **Known** (adjective) – Recognized, understood, or within the limits of one's knowledge. ज्ञात

20. D) **No Improvement**

21. B) **spoiled**

Spoiled means to impair or ruin the quality or enjoyment of something. The passage describes a diplomatic visit being disrupted or ruined (marred) by fighter jets violating airspace.

Enhanced (improved), Celebrated (honored), and Protected (kept safe) are all positive words that act as antonyms to the negative event described.

- यहाँ Spoiled सही है क्योंकि 'marred' का meaning किसी चीज़ (जैसे यात्रा या कार्यक्रम) को बिगाड़ना या खराब करना होता है। फाइटर जेट्स ने प्रधानमंत्री की यात्रा में बाधा डालकर उसे खराब (spoil) कर दिया था। Enhanced (बेहतर बनाना), Celebrated (जश्न मनाना), और Protected (सुरक्षित करना) सकारात्मक (positive) शब्द हैं, जो यहाँ बिल्कुल विपरीत हैं।

22. B) **reassuring**

Reassuring is the correct answer because the question asks for an antonym (opposite word).

"Nagging" refers to something persistently painful or continuously worrying (like a nagging doubt that won't go away). "Reassuring" means to restore confidence or remove doubt and fear, making it the perfect logical opposite. Persistent, Continuous, and Irritating are all synonyms of nagging.

- यहाँ Reassuring सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Nagging" का meaning लगातार परेशान करने वाला या खटकने वाला (जैसे मन में लगातार उठने वाला संदेह) होता है। "Reassuring" का meaning तसल्ली देने वाला या संदेह दूर करने वाला होता है, जो इसका सटीक विलोम है। Persistent (लगातार), Continuous (निरंतर), और Irritating (चिढ़ाने वाला) सभी nagging के synonyms हैं।

23. B) **was**

Was is used because the subject "Dr. Prasad" is a singular proper noun, and the sentence is narrating a completed past event (indicated by past tense verbs like "noted" and "had paid").

Is is present tense. Were is a plural past tense verb, which violates subject-verb agreement. Been is a past participle and strictly requires an auxiliary verb like "had" or "has" before it.

- यहाँ Was का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "Dr. Prasad" singular (एकवचन) है और पूरी घटना अतीत (past tense) की है। Singular subject के साथ past tense में 'was' आता है। Is present tense है। Were plural verb है। Been verb की third form है, जो बिना 'has/have/had' के इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकती।

24. C) shows

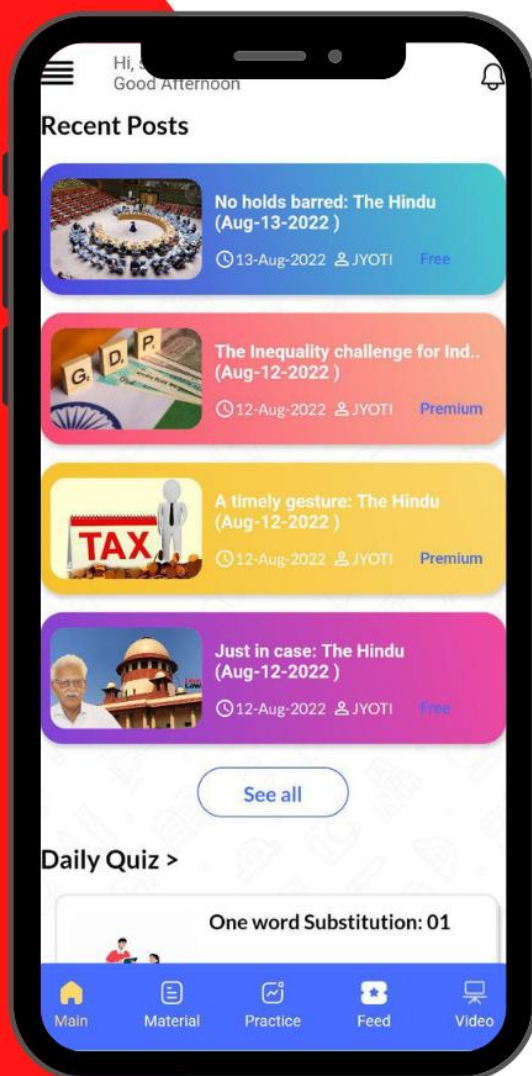
Shows is correct because the subject of the clause is "a look" (singular). When citing what a book, article, or archive currently contains or states, standard English grammar dictates using the present simple tense (hence, "shows"), which is also consistent with the present tense "recounts" used in the very next sentence. Show is plural. Showing is a continuous participle missing a helping verb. Showed is past tense, which breaks the present-tense consistency used to refer to the archive's enduring contents.

- यहाँ Shows का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "a look" singular (एकवचन) है। इसके अलावा, जब किसी दस्तावेज़ या आर्काइव में लिखी जानकारी का हवाला दिया जाता है, तो आमतौर पर present simple tense का इस्तेमाल होता है (जैसे, यह किताब दर्शाती है - the book shows)। अगले वाक्य में भी "recounts" (present tense) का इस्तेमाल हुआ है। Show plural verb है। Showing बिना helping verb के गलत है। Showed past tense है।

26. A) to

To is the correct preposition because it indicates a destination or direction of travel. In English, the fixed grammatical collocation for travel is "make a trip to [destination]" or "visit to [destination]". At, Through, and On do not correctly link the noun "trip" with the specific destination (the UN Emergency Force and refugee camps) in this context.

- यहाँ To का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यात्रा के गंतव्य (destination) को दर्शाने के लिए हमेशा 'to' preposition का इस्तेमाल होता है (जैसे - make a trip to a place)। At (पर), Through (के माध्यम से), और On (के ऊपर) का इस्तेमाल यात्रा की दिशा या मंज़िल बताने के लिए व्याकरण के अनुसार गलत है।



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