

Cripple and scuttle: On vacancies in Information Commissions

Governments are **discouraging** the exercise of the right to information

Nearly two **decades** after the passage of the Right to Information Act, it is quite **apparent** that **governments**, at least sections of it, **are** uncomfortable with the idea of **transparency** and **empowerment** associated with it. **Amendments** to **dilute** its **efficacy** and **attempts** to defeat it by delaying or denying information **have** been quite common for years. Another way to scuttle the law is to cripple the **functioning** of information commissions at the central and State levels. The issue has **surfaced** again, with the Supreme Court of India **questioning** the large number of vacancies in the central and some State Information Commissions. These commissions hear appeals from members of the public who have been denied access to information or have failed to **elicit** a response from designated information officers in various departments and institutions. A Division Bench has **taken note of** the fact that there are eight vacancies in the posts of Information Commissioners in the Central Information Commission (CIC), while 23,000 appeals are pending before it. In fact, some State-level Information Commissions are almost **defunct for want of** members to hear the public. Any court is **bound** to ask, as the Court has now done, how an institution can be of any use if it does not have persons to perform the required duties under the law.

The Court has **sought to impart** some urgency to the matter by **directing** the Department of Personnel and Training to **spell out** in two weeks the timelines for completing the selection process and notifying the appointments of the eight Information Commissioners in the CIC. It has also asked for details about the search committee and the list of applicants for the posts. Similarly, **States** that have initiated the appointment process but without any **definite** timeline **have** been asked to complete the process within a specified time. However, this may not be enough to **bring about** a revival in the fulfilment of the original purpose of the Act. Besides filling up vacancies, not all governments have complied with a Court **verdict** of 2019 that **called for proactive** efforts to fill up vacancies in time by advertising them early. The CIC's post was **stripped of** its **autonomy** some years ago when the government removed the fixed five-year tenure and made it open-ended. Not much has been done to appoint candidates **from various walks of life**, as retired civil servants continue to be chosen, a point noted by the Bench in the latest **hearing**. It is **inevitable** that a large number of vacancies will **result in** a huge **backlog** and ultimately discourage the people from seeking information. It is difficult not to **conclude** that this is what those in power want. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Cripple** (verb) – Weaken, disable, impair, undermine, harm अक्षम करना
2. **Scuttle** (verb) – Thwart, sabotage, wreck, subvert, ruin विफल करना
3. **Discourage** (verb) – Deter, dissuade, prevent, dishearten, hamper हतोत्साहित करना
4. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
5. **Apparent** (adjective) – Clear, obvious, evident, noticeable, manifest स्पष्ट
6. **Transparency** (noun) – Openness, clarity, accountability, straightforwardness पारदर्शिता
7. **Empowerment** (noun) – Authorization, enablement, liberation, giving power सशक्तिकरण
8. **Amendment** (noun) – Revision, alteration, change, modification संशोधन
9. **Dilute** (verb) – Weaken, lessen, reduce, decrease, mitigate कमज़ोर करना
10. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency, potency, power, capability प्रभावशीलता
11. **Functioning** (noun) – Operation, working, performance, running कार्यप्रणाली
12. **Surface** (verb) – Emerge, come to light, arise, appear प्रकट होना
13. **Question** (verb) – Challenge, query, raise doubts, inquire प्रश्न उठाना
14. **Elicit** (verb) – Draw out, evoke, obtain, extract प्राप्त करना
15. **Take note of** (phrase) – Pay attention to, acknowledge, notice, observe ध्यान देना
16. **Defunct** (adjective) – Non-functioning, obsolete, no longer existing, inoperative निष्क्रिय
17. **For want of** (phrase) – Due to lack of, owing to the absence of, because of missing की कमी के कारण
18. **Bound** (to) (adjective) – Certain, sure, likely, guaranteed बाध्य करना
19. **Seek** (verb) – Attempt, try, aim for, pursue, look for माँग करना/खोजना
20. **Impart** (verb) – Convey, give, provide, bestow प्रदान करना
21. **Direct** (verb) – Order, instruct, command, mandate निर्देश देना
22. **Spell out** (phrasal verb) – Clarify, specify, explain in detail विस्तार से बताना
23. **Definite** (adjective) – Certain, fixed, specific, established निश्चित
24. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, lead to, result in, produce उत्पन्न करना

25. **Verdict** (noun) – Judgment, decision, ruling, pronouncement फैसला
26. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, require, necessitate, ask for आवश्यकता होना/माँग करना
27. **Proactive** (adjective) – Anticipatory, preemptive, forward-looking, taking initiative अग्रसक्रिय
28. **Strip** (of) (verb) – Deprive, remove, divest, take away छीन लेना
29. **Autonomy** (noun) – Independence, self-governance, freedom, self-rule स्वायत्तता
30. **From various walks of life** (phrase) – From different backgrounds or fields, covering diverse sections of society विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से
31. **Hearing** (noun) – Session, trial, meeting for legal or official discussion सुनवाई
32. **Inevitable** (adjective) – Unavoidable, inescapable, certain, destined अनिवार्य
33. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce कारण बनना
34. **Backlog** (noun) – Accumulation, pile-up, unfinished business, arrears लंबित कार्य
35. **Conclude** (verb) – End, finish, infer, derive, close निष्कर्ष निकालना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Right to Information Act (RTI):** Nearly two decades after its enactment, the RTI Act faces resistance from governments uncomfortable with its transparency and empowerment.
2. **Dilution Attempts:** Efforts to weaken the Act include amendments, delays, denials of information, and undermining its implementation.
3. **Information Commission Vacancies:** A major issue is the large number of vacancies in Central and State Information Commissions, crippling their functioning.
4. **Supreme Court Concern:** The Supreme Court has raised concerns about eight vacant posts in the Central Information Commission (CIC), where 23,000 appeals are pending.
5. **State Commissions Dysfunctional:** Some State-level Information Commissions are almost non-functional due to insufficient members.
6. **Role of Information Commissions:** These bodies handle appeals from citizens denied information or responses by designated officers.
7. **Court Directive:** The Supreme Court has directed the Department of Personnel and Training to provide timelines for appointing the eight Information Commissioners in the CIC.
8. **Search Committee Oversight:** The Court has demanded details about the search committee and the list of applicants for the vacant posts.
9. **State-Level Deadlines:** States have been asked to complete the appointment process within specified timelines.
10. **Proactive Vacancies Management:** Governments have not complied with a 2019 Supreme Court directive to advertise and fill vacancies proactively.
11. **Autonomy Erosion:** The CIC's autonomy was diminished when the fixed five-year tenure was replaced with an open-ended term.
12. **Limited Diversity in Appointments:** Most appointees are retired civil servants, with little effort to select candidates from diverse backgrounds.
13. **Backlog Consequences:** High vacancy rates lead to significant backlogs, discouraging people from seeking information.
14. **Deliberate Neglect:** The editorial suggests this neglect may be intentional, as it dissuades citizens from exercising their right to information.
15. **Urgency Required:** Filling vacancies and restoring the CIC and State Commissions' functionality is critical to upholding the RTI Act's purpose.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Joyful
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Critical
 - D. Humorous
- 2. What can be inferred as the primary reason behind the government's discomfort with the Right to Information (RTI) Act?**
 - A. The government lacks resources to support the RTI framework effectively.
 - B. The government perceives transparency as a threat to its functioning.
 - C. Citizens are not utilizing the RTI Act sufficiently.
 - D. The judiciary has failed to address RTI-related issues promptly.
- 3. According to the passage, how many vacancies currently exist in the Central Information Commission (CIC)?**
 - A. 5
 - B. 8
 - C. 10
 - D. 23
- 4. What has the Court directed the Department of Personnel and Training to do regarding the Information Commissioners' appointments?**
 - A. Complete the selection process in two months
 - B. Spell out timelines for completing the selection process in two weeks
 - C. Remove the open-ended tenure for Information Commissioners
 - D. Abolish the appointment process for Information Commissioners
- 5. What is the antonym of "proactive" as used in the passage?**
 - A. Passive
 - B. Active
 - C. Reactive
 - D. Efficient
- 6. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Radhika stood by Monica's side **through thick and thin**.

 - A. Under easy situations wherein she could ensure Monica's safety and security
 - B. In all the happy moments, personally spending most of her time
 - C. In the moments when Monica couldn't complete some simple tasks
 - D. Under all conditions, no matter how challenging or difficult
- 7. In the following sentence, four words are underlined out of which one word is misspelt. Identify the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

I felt **absolutely** (A) fit at the summit. My mind was absolutely **clear**. (B) I didn't feel tired, I felt **exhelarated**. (C) It was a very clear **sensation**. (D)

- A. C
B. A
C. B
D. D
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Martha made pancakes yesterday.
A. Pancakes had been made by Martha yesterday.
B. Pancakes were made by Martha yesterday.
C. Pancakes were being made by Martha yesterday.
D. Pancakes was made by Martha yesterday.
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word in the brackets to fill in the blank.**
Akash went to _____ his school uniform. [sell]
A. make
B. rent
C. loan
D. Buy
10. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined word segment in the given sentence.**
Carnatic music is usually performed by a small troupe of actors, consisting of a principal performer, a melodic accompaniment, and a rhythm accompaniment
A. ensemble of musicians
B. panel of judges
C. band of singers
D. board of directors
11. **Choose the most appropriate ANTONYM for the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The war was followed by a long period of prosperity
A. Affluence
B. Security
C. Secure
D. Failure
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
His approach was filled with such perseverance that it was difficult to overlook his merit
A. Reluctance
B. Ignorance
C. Doggedness
D. Monotonous
13. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence and forms a meaningful sentence.**
In November, Lakshman fell (P) / with fever (Q) / seriously ill (R) and pneumonia (S).
A. P, Q, R, S
B. P, R, Q, S

- C. R, Q, S, P
D. P, Q, S, R
14. **The following sentence has been divided into five segments. The first segment has no error. Select the option that has the segment with the grammatical error.**
Due to the pandemic, / the prices of / medicines increased / every day since / last December.
A. every day since
B. last December.
C. medicines increased
D. the prices of
15. **In the given question, a statement divided into different segments is given. Rearrange all the segments to form a coherent statement.**
O: also benefit from knowing
P: there are several reasons
Q: why even parents would
R: more about how and why
S: children do the things that they do
A. RQOPS
B. OPQSR
C. PQORS
D. PQROS
16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Affirmative
A. Accession
B. Sanction
C. Negative
D. Acquiescence
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
One who speaks less in a forum.
A. Eccentric
B. Loquacious
C. Gabby
D. Reticent
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.**
An important person who represents his/her country in a foreign country
A. Ambassador
B. Amateur
C. Anonymous
D. Altruist
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
I will be gifted a fancy doll by them the next day.
A. They will gift me a fancy doll tomorrow.

- B. They gift me a fancy doll the previous day.
C. They gifted me a fancy doll yesterday.
D. They are gifting me a fancy doll the next day.
20. **Parts of the given sentence have been underlined. Identify the part that has an error. Select 'No error' if there is no error.**

Although the team had trained diligently for months, they had still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics.

- A. for months
B. trained diligently
C. had still overwhelmed
D. No error

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

(1) _____ a letter came to inform them that Raka's mother Tara had another breakdown and was in a nursing home in Geneva and that Raka's grandmother Asha, (2) _____ seen another grandchild safely into the world, was flying to Switzerland to be with her, Nanda Kaul (3) _____ her lips, (4) _____ the blue sheets of paper with that distasteful sprawl (5) _____ them, and hid them in her desk.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. Sooner
B. When
C. For
D. Unless
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. have
B. has
C. having
D. had
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. stuck
B. dusted
C. pursed
D. dirt
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. tucked away
B. cleared up
C. folded up
D. hid away
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. by

- B. in
- C. across
- D. at

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. C) Critical

The passage strongly criticizes the government for delaying appointments, diluting the autonomy of Information Commissions, and thereby undermining the Right to Information Act. The language and presentation are focused on highlighting these failings, which indicates a critical tone.

A: The passage is not celebratory or happy; it points out serious issues.

B: The author is not neutral; they clearly express concern and criticism.

D: There is no lighthearted or comedic element in the passage.

2. B) The government perceives transparency as a threat to its functioning.

The passage highlights that governments are uncomfortable with the transparency and empowerment associated with the RTI Act. This discomfort stems from their attempts to dilute, delay, or deny information, as well as cripple Information Commissions.

A: The passage does not mention a lack of resources; it focuses on intentional delays and vacancies.

C: There is no mention of citizens not utilizing the RTI Act; the issue is with denied or delayed responses.

D: The judiciary is addressing the issue by questioning vacancies and inefficiency in the commissions.

3. A) 8

The passage explicitly states there are eight vacancies in the posts of Information Commissioners in the CIC.

B: The number 5 is not mentioned in the context of CIC vacancies.

C: While some State Commissions are mentioned as defunct, the number 10 is not related to CIC vacancies.

D: The number 23,000 refers to pending appeals in the CIC, not vacancies.

4. B) Spell out timelines for completing the selection process in two weeks

A: Incorrect, as the Court directed the Department to specify timelines within two weeks, not complete the process in two months.

B: Correct, this aligns with the directive from the Court as mentioned in the passage.

C: Incorrect, as the passage mentions the tenure was already made open-ended, but no directive was given to remove this provision.

D: Incorrect, as there is no mention of abolishing the process in the passage.

5. A) Passive

"proactive" means taking initiative and acting in advance, while "passive" refers to not taking action or waiting for things to happen.

B: Incorrect, as "active" is a synonym of "proactive," not an antonym.

C. Reactive: Incorrect, as "reactive" refers to responding after something happens, which is not the exact opposite of "proactive."

D. Efficient: Incorrect, as "efficient" refers to achieving maximum productivity, which is unrelated to the context of proactive behavior.

6. D) **Through thick and thin** (idiom) – Under all conditions, no matter how challenging or difficult किसी भी स्थिति में, चाहे परिस्थिति कितनी भी कठिन या चुनौतीपूर्ण क्यों न हो डटे रहना है

7. A) The incorrectly spelt word is '**exhelarated**' which should be corrected to '**exhilarated**', meaning "feeling very happy and excited" (बेहद प्रसन्न और उत्साहित).

8. B) **Pancakes were made by Martha yesterday**

Active Voice को Passive Voice में बदलते समय, object वाक्य की शुरुआत में आता है और क्रिया (verb) को Passive Voice के रूप में बदल दिया जाता है। यहाँ "made" को Passive Voice में "were made" में बदल दिया जाता है। जैसे— To Be → wereV³ → made

Note: "Pancakes" को object के रूप में शुरुआत में रखा गया और "were made" का प्रयोग Passive Voice में किया गया। "by Martha" को अंत में जोड़ा गया और "yesterday" समयसूचक शब्द के रूप में वाक्य के अंत में रहा।

Explanation in English:

When converting Active Voice into Passive Voice, the object is placed at the beginning of the sentence, and the verb is changed into its Passive Voice form. In this case, "made" is changed to "were made." For example: → To Be → were → V³ → made

Note: "Pancakes" is placed as the object, and "were made" is used in Passive Voice. "by Martha" is added at the end, and "yesterday" remains as the time indicator.

9. D) **Sell** (verb) – To exchange something for money. बेचना

Antonym: Buy (verb) – To acquire something by paying for it; purchase. खरीदना

- **Make** (verb) – To create or produce something. बनाना
- **Rent** (verb) – To pay for the use of something for a period of time. किराए पर लेना
- **Loan** (verb) – To lend something to someone for a temporary period. उधार देना

10. A) '**small troupe of actors**' के बदले '**ensemble of musicians**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Carnatic music' के संदर्भ में 'ensemble of musicians' सही है। 'troupe of actors' शब्द समूह 'acting' या

'theatre' के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है, जबकि 'Carnatic music' संगीत से संबंधित है। इसलिए 'ensemble' का अर्थ है 'group of musicians performing together,' जो यहाँ सही है।

ensemble of musicians will be used instead of **small troupe of actors** because in the context of 'Carnatic music', the term 'ensemble of musicians' is more appropriate. The phrase 'troupe of actors' is used for 'acting' or 'theatre,' while 'Carnatic music' is related to musical performance. Thus, 'ensemble' means 'a group of musicians performing together,' which is correct here.

11. D) **Prosperity** (noun) – The state of being successful, thriving, or flourishing, especially in financial or material terms. समृद्धि

Antonym: **Failure** (noun) – Lack of success, collapse, or downfall. असफलता

- **Affluence** (noun) – Abundance of wealth or material goods. समृद्धि
- **Security** (noun) – The state of being free from danger or threat. सुरक्षा
- **Secure** (adjective) – Fixed or fastened so as not to give way; protected against threats. सुरक्षित

12. C) **Perseverance** (noun) – Persistence, determination, tenacity, steadfastness. दृढ़ता

Synonym: **Doggedness** (noun) – Determination, persistence, tenacity, obstinacy. हठ

- **Reluctance** (noun) – Unwillingness, hesitation, resistance. अनिच्छा
- **Ignorance** (noun) – Lack of knowledge or awareness. अज्ञानता
- **Monotonous** (adjective) – Dull, repetitive, boring, unvaried. निरस

13. B) **P, R, Q, S**

In November, Lakshman fell seriously ill with fever and pneumonia

14. C) 'increased' के बदले **'have been increasing'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग Present

Perfect या Present Perfect Continuous Tense के साथ होता है, जब कोई कार्य पिछले समय से वर्तमान तक लगातार हो रहा हो। जैसे— The prices of medicines have been increasing every day since last December.

'have been increasing' will be used instead of 'medicines increased' because 'since' is used with Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous Tense when an action has been happening continuously from a point in the past up to the present. Like— The prices of medicines have been increasing every day since last December.

15. C) **PQORS**

P starts the sentence with "there are several reasons," which introduces the idea that multiple reasons exist.

Q follows **P** because it introduces the subject: "why even parents would." This connects to the idea of "several reasons" and starts explaining who the reasons are for — in this case, parents.

O comes after **Q** because it logically continues the idea with "also benefit from knowing." It explains what parents would benefit from, linking directly to **Q** and expanding on the importance of knowledge for parents.

R follows **O** because it specifies "more about how and why," explaining what parents would benefit from knowing.

S concludes the sentence with "children do the things that they do," which completes the thought by explaining what parents would gain insight into — their children's behavior. This directly ties back to the reasons mentioned in **P**.

16. C) **Affirmative** (adjective) – Agreeing or consenting, positive, approving, favorable. सकारात्मक
Antonym: **Negative** (adjective) – Opposing or refusing, not positive, disapproving, unfavorable.
नकारात्मक

- **Accession** (noun) – The act of attaining a position or right, induction, elevation. सिंहासन पर बैठना
- **Sanction** (noun) – A threatened penalty for disobeying a law or rule, approval, ratification. प्रतिबंध/अनुमोदन
- **Acquiescence** (noun) – The reluctant acceptance of something without protest, compliance, submission. स्वीकृति

17. D) **Reticent** (noun) – One who speaks less, reserved, or reluctant to express oneself. मितभाषी

- **Eccentric** (noun) – A person who is unconventional and slightly strange. असामान्य व्यक्ति
- **Loquacious** (noun) – A person who tends to talk a great deal; talkative. बहुत बोलने वाला
- **Gabby** (noun) – Excessively or annoyingly talkative. बातूनी

18. A) **Ambassador** (noun) – An important person who represents his/her country in a foreign country. राजदूत

- **Amateur** (noun) – A person who engages in a pursuit, especially a sport, on an unpaid rather than a professional basis. शौकीन व्यक्ति
- **Anonymous** (noun) – A person who is not identified by name; of unknown name. गुमनाम व्यक्ति
- **Altruist** (noun) – A person who shows a selfless concern for the well-being of others. परमार्थी

19. A) They will gift me a fancy doll tomorrow

Passive Voice को Active Voice में बदलते समय, subject वाक्य की शुरुआत में आता है और क्रिया (verb) को Active Voice के रूप में बदल दिया जाता है। Passive Voice में "will be gifted" को Active Voice में "will gift" में बदल दिया जाता है, और समयसूचक शब्द "the next day" को "tomorrow" में बदल दिया जाता है। जैसे— To Be → will gift Object → me

Note: "They" को subject के रूप में starting में रखा गया और "will gift" का प्रयोग Active Voice में किया गया। "me" को object के रूप में और "tomorrow" को समयसूचक शब्द के रूप में रखा गया।

Explanation in English:

When converting Passive Voice into Active Voice, the subject appears at the beginning of the sentence, and the verb is changed into its Active Voice form. In this case, "will be gifted" is changed to "will gift," and the time indicator "the next day" is changed to "tomorrow." For example:→ To Be → will gift → Object → me

Note: "They" is placed as the subject, "will gift" is used as the verb, "me" is the object, and "tomorrow" is used as the time indicator.

20. C) 'had still overwhelmed' के बदले 'were still overwhelmed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि

'overwhelmed' एक ऐसा क्रिया विशेषण है जो Passive Voice में है, और इसके लिए 'were' का प्रयोग करना उचित है। Past Perfect Tense ('had') केवल तब प्रयोग होता है जब दोनों क्रियाएँ स्पष्ट रूप से Past में हों और एक क्रिया दूसरी से पहले पूरी हुई हो। इस वाक्य में यह स्थिति नहीं है, इसलिए 'were still overwhelmed' सही होगा। उदाहरण— Although the team had trained diligently for months, they were still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics.

'were still overwhelmed' will be used instead of 'had still overwhelmed' because 'overwhelmed' is in the Passive Voice, and it requires 'were' to be correct. The Past Perfect Tense ('had') is only used when two actions are clearly in the past, and one precedes the other. In this sentence, that is not the case, so 'were still overwhelmed' is appropriate. Example— Although the team had trained diligently for months, they were still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics

21. 'B) **When**' का use होगा क्योंकि "when" का अर्थ होता है किसी घटना या समय के घटित होने पर।

sentence में यह दर्शाता है कि पत्र के आने के समय कुछ विशेष घटनाएँ घटित हुईं, इसलिए 'when' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Sooner' का अर्थ है "जल्द ही", जो एक अपेक्षाकृत समय को दर्शाता है, लेकिन इस sentence में समय की तुलना नहीं की जा रही है। 'For' का अर्थ है "किसी उद्देश्य के लिए", जो किसी कारण या उद्देश्य को संदर्भित करता है, लेकिन यह यहाँ संदर्भित नहीं हो रहा है। 'Unless' का अर्थ है "जब तक कि नहीं", जो एक नकारात्मक स्थिति को दर्शाता है और यहाँ सही नहीं बैठता है।

When' will be used because it indicates the occurrence of a specific event or time. The sentence specifies that something happened at the time the letter arrived, making 'when' the correct option. Whereas, 'Sooner' means "soon", which is used for comparing times but doesn't fit here.

'For' means "for a purpose", which refers to a reason or purpose, but isn't applicable in this context. 'Unless' means "except if", indicating a negative condition, which doesn't fit in this context.

22. C) **Having** का use होगा क्योंकि यह present participle का रूप है, जो sentence में action के कारण को दर्शाता है। इसका अर्थ है "किसी कार्य को पूरा कर लेने के बाद," जो दर्शाता है कि Asha ने पहले ही अपने एक और पोते के जन्म को देखा और उसके बाद वह स्विट्जरलैंड जा रही है। जबकि 'Have' और 'Has' का प्रयोग present tense के लिए होता है, और 'Had' का प्रयोग past perfect tense के लिए होता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

'Having' will be used because it is the present participle form, which shows the reason or cause of the action in the sentence. It means "after completing an action," indicating that Asha had already seen another grandchild safely into the world and then decided to fly to Switzerland. Whereas, 'Have' and 'Has' are used for present tense, and 'Had' is used for past perfect tense, which are not suitable here.

23. C) **Pursed** का use होगा क्योंकि "pursed" का अर्थ होता है होठों को एक साथ दबाना या कसना, जो अक्सर चिंता, नापसंदगी, या असहमति को व्यक्त करता है। इस sentence में Nanda Kaul की प्रतिक्रिया को दर्शाया गया है जब उन्होंने पत्र पढ़ा, जिससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि उन्होंने अपने होठों को कस लिया। जबकि 'Stuck' का अर्थ है चिपकाना या फंसना, 'Dusted' का अर्थ है धूल हटाना, और 'Dirt' का अर्थ है गंदगी, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं। इसलिए 'pursed' यहाँ सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

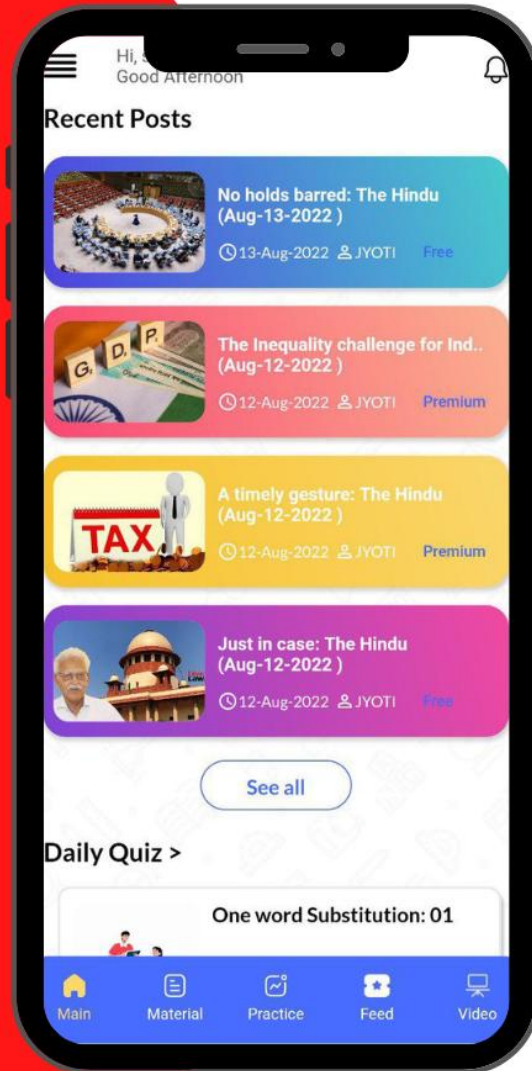
Pursed will be used because it means to press or pucker lips together, often to show concern, dislike, or disapproval. In the sentence, Nanda Kaul's reaction after reading the letter indicates that she pressed her lips together, showing her emotional response. Whereas, 'Stuck' means to attach or be caught, 'Dusted' means to remove dust, and 'Dirt' means filth, which do not fit in this context. Therefore, 'pursed' is the most appropriate choice here.

24. C) **Folded up** का use होगा क्योंकि "folded up" का अर्थ होता है किसी वस्तु को तह करना। sentence में mention है कि Nanda Kaul ने नीले कागजों को उस अनाकर्षक लिखावट के साथ तह कर दिया और उन्हें अपनी डेस्क में छिपा दिया, इसलिए 'folded up' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Tucked away' का अर्थ है किसी वस्तु को सावधानीपूर्वक रखना या छिपाना, 'Cleared up' का अर्थ है चीजों को साफ या स्पष्ट करना, और 'Hid away' का अर्थ है छिपाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

Folded up will be used because it means to fold something. The sentence mentions that Nanda Kaul folded the blue sheets of paper with the distasteful sprawl and hid them in her desk, making 'folded up' fitting here. Whereas, 'Tucked away' means to carefully put or hide something, 'Cleared up' means to make things clean or clear, and 'Hid away' means to hide, which don't fit in this context.

25. 'C) **Across**' का use होगा क्योंकि "across" का अर्थ है एक सतह पर फैल जाना। इस sentence में mention है कि कागजों पर एक "distasteful sprawl" (अप्रिय फैलाव) था, जो कागज की पूरी सतह पर फैला हुआ था, इसलिए 'across' यहाँ सही option है। जबकि 'by' का अर्थ है पास में, 'in' का अर्थ है अंदर, और 'at' का अर्थ है किसी विशिष्ट स्थान या बिंदु पर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

Across will be used because it means spreading over a surface. In this sentence, it mentions that there was a "distasteful sprawl" on the blue sheets of paper, indicating that it spread across the entire surface of the paper. Therefore, 'across' is the correct option. Whereas, 'by' means near, 'in' means inside, and 'at' refers to a specific point or location, which don't fit in this context.



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