



LIVE



THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

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- GRAMMAR
- SPOKEN ENGLISH
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14 APRIL 2021 | 7:30 AM



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AND MAKE
IT HAPPEN**



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TOPICS WE WOULD COVER

- Discussion of articles (daily) ✓ (short)
- Check your progress ✓ Sy + And
- ✓ • Today's special – tones of the passage



1) **Radcliffe Line** - the boundary demarcation **line** between the Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces of British India.

ARTICLE 1

Bengal needs no Radcliffe Line of hatred

In the elections, much violence is being done to the mind of Bengal, to its thinking wires, its feeling nerves, its very soul

Election time in West Bengal has, for decades now, meant violent time. There is violence during the campaigning, violence during the polling, violence during and after the counting of votes. The level of election-related violence and its duration vary but it is there.....



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GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

Election time in West Bengal has, for decades now, meant violent time.

There is violence during the campaigning, violence during the polling, violence during and after the counting of votes. The level of election-related violence and its duration vary but it is there.

So what does that fact show? What does it establish?

That Bengal is a violent state and Bengalis are a violent people? Certainly not.

Not just Bengal-centric

They are no more violent than any other part of India or section of Indian society when provoked, instigated, manipulated to think, speak and act violently. One has to only refer to the speeches made on the eve of Direct Action Day in 1946 at the Maidan, in Calcutta, to understand what I mean. Within hours of those incendiary speeches the city was bleeding. An estimated 4,000 people were killed. Very shortly thereafter, incitement and instigation doing their worst, the Noakhali region of East Pakistan saw appalling violence perpetrated on the Hindu minority there, with an estimated 5,000 killed. Bihar responded with matching fury, killing, according to information given to the British Parliament an equal number of its Muslim minority and, according to *The Statesman*, twice as many. A peace-cherishing province was leveraged thus into peace-shattering violence.

Battered as it was, Bengal was 'bettered' by other areas. The worst instance of Partition-time violence among all regions, took place in Punjab. "Virtually," says Wikipedia, "no Muslim survived in East Punjab (except in Malerkotla) and virtually no Hindu or Sikh survived in West Punjab." All this was around the partitioning of India. Much later, in the anti-Sikh riots in 1984 an estimated 2,800 were killed in Delhi, and another 3,350 nationwide. These are official figures, the actual numbers are likely to have been much bigger. In the Gujarat riots of 2002, official estimates put the toll at 1,044. The actual numbers, again, are perhaps much bigger.

So, let no one tar Bengal and Bengalis with the sweeping description of 'violent'. They are only as violent or non-violent as any other part of India or its people, not a whit more. Maoist violence, the other ogre that has menaced life in Bengal, is not by any means confined to the State where Naxalbari lies, but is spread across over 200 districts across nine States.

Spreading hate

The violence that marred phase four of the eight phase elections now being held in the State is most unfortunate and to be bemoaned. But our distress over it misses another far more important, much more serious and infinitely more dangerous form of violence that is accompanying the elections in West Bengal.

That violence is being done to the mind of Bengal, to its thinking wires, its feeling nerves, to its very soul. It is being done by the unrelenting spread of the virus of communal hate, of sectarian animosity of the 'line' that Hindus and Muslims are different breeds of human species. Whichever side of the



communal divide it comes from, hatred as an idea and a strategy is no less violent than 'plain' violence. Once planted, it incubates in the minds and hearts of people, like a virus, and then erupts with an uncontrollable febrile frenzy.

The Partition years

The then Muslim League Premier of undivided Bengal, H.S. Suhrawardy, had much to explain for the violence that disfigured Bengal in 1946 and 1947. On Suhrawardy's last day in that office, August 14, 1947, he had on his hands a challenging 'guest' - Gandhi, who was staying in Hydari Manzil, at the Muslim quarter of Beliaghata in Calcutta. At his prayer meeting that evening, over 10,000 people gathered in the grounds around that house to hear him. It was the month of Ramzan. Pyarelal records in his iconic biography (*Mahatma Gandhi - The Last Phase, Navajivan*, pp. 368-9), that some in the congregation shouted, "Where is Suhrawardy?" Suhrawardy was inside that house at the time, engaged in *namaz*. Gandhi told them that. After the prayer meeting gave over and Gandhi returned to the house, there was an uproar. Many had surrounded the house, which at Gandhi's behest was un-policed, and demanded that Suhrawardy

appear. Gandhi opened a window and got Suhrawardy to stand beside him, resting one hand on the outgoing Premier's shoulder.

One of the crowd to the Premier: "Are you not responsible for the Great Calcutta Killing?"

Suhrawardy: "Yes, we all are."

"Will you answer my question, please?"

"Yes, it was my responsibility."

Pyarelal writes: "This unequivocal, straight and candid answer by one who had made arrogance and haughtiness his badge and never known humility had a profound effect on the crowd." But the incubating virus was working still. Riots broke out within days in Calcutta, viciously. Two young men, Sachindranath Mitra, 37, and Smritish Banerjee, 38, interposing between rioting mobs, were killed on the spot. On hearing that a truck carrying Muslim labourers had a bomb thrown on it in the same area - Beliaghata - killing two of them, Gandhi went to the scene. A four *anna* piece was lying near one of them that had rolled out of the daily wage's waist band. Gandhi started a defining fast. It was in complete and exact harmony with the mind and soul of Ramakrishna's, Vivekananda's and Tagore's Bengal. And equally, with the stoic Bengal of the two simple, humble but absolutely true Bengalis, Sachindranath and Smritish.

"There should no longer be any more Hindu-Muslim riots in Calcutta..." the fasting Gandhi told Bengal's leaders who implored him not to fast. "I shall terminate my fast if all of you accept this responsibility." Seventy or so hours after his fast had begun, a group of leaders came to him to report that the innate good sense of the majority of the people of the city had prevailed over the furies let loose

by the rioters. The mob that killed and burnt was not Bengal. The majority that stilled the mayhem, was.

"We the undersigned," the leaders said in a paper they gave to him, "promise to Gandhiji that peace and quiet have been restored in Calcutta once again. We shall never again allow communal strife in the city. And shall strive unto death to prevent it." Among the signatories were Suhrawardy and N.C. Chatterjee, the Hindu Mahasabha leader. Netaji's elder brother, Sarat Chandra Bose, was a third.

Bengal then and now

That was and is Bengal. Its antibodies against the virus are strong. Its immune system is active. But if the load of the viral inoculum is huge, the balance can get affected. It can collapse.

Beliaghata 1947, representing Bengal's immune system, checked the virus. It has, by and large, remained in check. In 1971, 50 years ago, the virus all but disappeared, with the State hailing the return of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman to Dhaka and the birth of Bangladesh, even as another Tagore composition - "Amar Sonar Bangla" - became the national anthem of the new nation.

Bengal's immune system should be spared the challenge of an overload of the communal virus. It is one thing to go through an election that seeks to win its favour; quite another to have a Radcliffe Line of hatred cut through its mind and torment its soul.

Beliaghata 1947, Bangladesh 1971 and the ballot for Bengal 2021 bear witness to its covenants with life unto death.

Gopal Krishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

Tone - Acerbic



2) net-zero – balance
between the amount of
greenhouse gas produced
and the amount removed
from the atmosphere.

Go Green

3) envoy – representative

ARTICLE 2

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In climate change noise, India's
role as conductor ✓

equality

New Delhi needs to introduce equity,
differentiation and justice in the 'net-zero'
debate

Individual attention

The recent visit to India by United States Special
Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry gave an
opportunity for both sides to discuss cooperation
on climate change and the balance between
near-term priorities and long-term targets.....

In climate change noise, India's role as conductor

New Delhi needs to introduce equity, differentiation and justice in the 'net-zero' debate



VAIBHAV CHATURVEDI &
ARUNABHA GHOSH

The recent visit to India by United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry gave an opportunity for both sides to discuss cooperation on climate change and the balance between near-term priorities and long-term targets. U.S. President Joe Biden's 'Leaders' Summit on Climate' scheduled for April 22-23 will also set the stage for major countries to outline their plans. One thing is clear: Climate action and climate leadership are being increasingly measured against a planetary imperative of emissions reducing to net-zero by 2050. This presents a conundrum for fast-growing developing countries such as India. They need the carbon space to develop but they are also among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Is there an equitable way to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions for the planet?

Recent debates on whether India should declare a net-zero year or withstand mounting pressure have centred around two alternative strategies. The first is to delegitimise long-term targets. This

view proposes focusing on measurable near-term progress, and paints the long-term (the year 2050 and beyond) as too far to be meaningful in terms of progress towards a deeply decarbonised world. The alternative approach argues that without long-term targets, the path to decarbonisation has little certainty.

Fine points

This polarised debate needs some nuance. Consider the analogy of a retirement plan. It is a must for everyone. However young, we need to start saving now to meet the goals of a financially secure retirement. It would be foolish to not have a retirement plan on the grounds that it is in the distant future, that medical sciences might advance, or that we could consider retirement properly when we are richer in middle age. To only focus on smaller savings in our youth would ignore the compounding effect that actions today have in the long run. Planning for emissions mitigation is similar: The short- and the long-term cannot be delinked.

Ambitious renewable energy targets, improvements in energy efficiency and fast penetration of electric vehicles are among India's critical low-carbon objectives in the next decade. Yet, rapid advances in these do not substitute for the need to set a clear direction for the need to reduce emissions to net-zero. Avoiding



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

this choice makes India look like a climate laggard when its actions actually speak louder than the words of many developed countries.

India needs to replan

India should, instead, reframe the net-zero debate from the perspective of the planet and for the prosperity of its people. India had ensured that "climate justice" was inserted in the preamble to the Paris Agreement. As the climate crisis unfolds, climate justice should imply that humanity respects the planetary boundary of permissible greenhouse gases but also ensures that countries assume equitable responsibility based on their past and future emissions. This approach would be different from merely blaming developed countries for historical emissions and, instead, would establish the criteria by which economic advancement and climate responsibility could go hand-in-hand.

We propose a formulation that combines per capita income and aggregate emissions. The World Bank classifies a high-income economy as one with gross national per capita income of \$12,536 or more in 2019 prices. Any high-income country should not get more than 15-20 years to achieve net-zero emissions from 2020 onwards. This would imply that the European Union or the United States reach net-zero no later than 2035-40, rather than 2050 as they currently propose. China will enter this income category after 2025, so it should achieve net-zero by 2045, rather than 2060 as it proposes. India is expected to become a high-income economy around 2050, and it should target net-zero close to 2070. As a recent Council on Energy, Environment and Water report (<https://bit.ly/2Qm7scN>) shows, today's high-income countries would still have a much longer transition period between peaking emissions and net-zero than India would get.

Issue of aggregate emissions

However, per capita income cannot be an excuse for inaction in correcting emissions-intensive development pathways. Aggregate emissions also matter. The historical (past century) and future (this century) aggregate emissions of each country not yet in the high-income category should aim to be progressively smaller than those which have achieved high-income

status. This approach acknowledges the potential to tap into technological advances and cost reductions and reinforces the need to give a long-term net-zero signal. (This is how India benefited from falling solar costs over the past decade and was able to aim higher for its renewable energy ambitions.) This approach would trigger a rethink about each country's sustainable development priorities and sectoral pathways – and create the conditions for further innovation and investment in climate-friendly infrastructure, technologies, business models, and lifestyle and behavioural changes. As the suite of mitigation technologies becomes more widely available and cheaper, all countries could achieve net-zero much earlier.

The debate between prioritising only near-term actions versus announcing long-term net-zero goals presents a false binary. Both are needed to establish certainty of action, credibility of promises and create incentives for markets to respond. The real debate should be about climate justice for people and the planet. India would do well to propose alternative formulations that establish equity, differentiate the pace of desired action, and yet be progressive in its ambitions.

Vaibhav Chaturvedi is Fellow and Arunabha Ghosh is CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water



— (must / should need to)

Tone — Suggestive



4) **Pharmacovigilance** –
the practice of monitoring
the effects of medical
drugs after they have
been licensed for use

Med

ARTICLE 3

Another beginning

(fresh start)

Important

Pharmacovigilance is vital as more vaccines
become available and new side-effects seen

5) **grapples** – struggle

As India grapples with a vaccine shortage, the
Drug Controller General of India has formally
approved another vaccine candidate – Sputnik V
– under emergency use authorisation.



Tone → Informative

Another beginning

Pharmacovigilance is vital as more vaccines become available and new side-effects seen

As India grapples with a vaccine shortage, the Drug Controller General of India has formally approved another vaccine candidate – Sputnik V – under emergency use authorisation. Since January, India's vaccination strategy has hinged almost entirely on Covishield – the AstraZeneca vaccine – and to a very limited extent, Covaxin. Another significant move by the government is in allowing foreign-made vaccines approved by regulatory agencies in the U.S., the U.K., Europe, Japan or those that find mention in the World Health Organization's list of approved emergency use vaccines which can avoid conducting a local clinical trial but opt for a parallel bridging trial post-approval. Last year, Pfizer had approached Indian regulators for permission but a sticking point was over this question of the conduct of local trials. It is important to note that bridging trials are critical. A vaccine that is approved in a different country may have untoward effects in another population. Past learnings from the history of drug and vaccine effects across geographies were what necessitated such rules in the first place.

However, India is in a crisis. When it had the opportunity to conduct clinical trials in the right way, in the case of Covaxin and even Covishield, India rushed through its regulatory process. This contributed to the hesitancy surrounding these vaccines. It is still a mystery why India did not plan for enough stocks like the U.K. and the U.S. did. Now, it seems India is taking a cue from these countries by conceding that no country can be entirely 'atmanirbhar' in vaccinating its population. While there are several vaccine candidates at various stages of approval that India can choose from, it must not repeat the same mistake of assuming that choice translates into immediate availability. All of the Indian companies that have tied up with foreign vaccine companies are private players. That is, while they may promise vaccines in the millions, it will always be the case that priority will be accorded to the highest global bidders. India must compete to ensure that these doses are available to a large fraction of its adult population in quick time. The pandemic wave seems to have ebbed in the U.S., to some extent, because at least 30% of its adults have got one dose. For India, this job of scaling up was always going to be uphill. Scenes from last year – paucity of hospital beds, ventilators, black marketing of drugs – are now being replayed in worrying proportions. With more vaccines come inevitably more complications associated with adverse events and rare side-effects. This is where India's pharmacovigilance programme must step up. The easing up on conditions for facilitating more vaccines must be seen as a new beginning.



6) **Emancipation** – to free
from restraint

7) **Entrenched** – established

ARTICLE 4

A small step

Medical termination of pregnancy laws should recognise the primacy of (women's agency)

Emancipation is ^{rarely} seldom a linear progression to the finish; the hurdles are many, some entrenched in the mind. The passing of amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India recently is a step forward in recognising the rights of women, but is no giant leap.

A small step

Medical termination of pregnancy laws should recognise the primacy of women's agency

E mancipation is seldom a linear progression to the finish; the hurdles are many, some entrenched in the mind. The passing of amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India recently is a step forward in recognising the rights of women, but is no giant leap. It does push the envelope way past how far the now antediluvian MTP Act of 1971 went, primarily by allowing the termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks if there are foetal anomalies. However, it also sets the decision on the shoulders of a medical board formed by State governments for this specific purpose. The amended Act also allows the termination of pregnancy until 20 weeks based on the opinion of one qualified doctor, an improvement from the consensus between the two doctors clause that was previously required. As per the amendment, unmarried women can also terminate their pregnancy, and by replacing the word 'husband' with the word 'partner', it, for the first time, takes the dialogue outside the confines of marital relationships that it was trapped in, legally. In a country where statistics put the number of unsafe and illegal abortions done every year at about 800,000, any extension of legal and safe provisions for termination of pregnancy is clearly welcome. Admittedly, in India where sex-selective abortions are performed, the state needs to keep a watchful eye on anything that might allow the sex ratio to nosedive further.

But this law stops short of reimagining an issue at the heart of any debate on abortions – a woman's agency over reproduction. The key dramatis personae in a decision to keep or abort a foetus are essentially the woman and her gynaecologist; instead, the law envisages the decision to be made by a board of specialists if an abortion is required after 24 weeks. Among the reasons why the amendments were pushed was the laborious process a woman had to undergo in order to get an abortion, sometimes resolved by courts, but often frustrating and leading them to seek solutions surreptitiously, risking their life. This is retrograde, even positioned against a global trend – the laws in over 60 countries allow women to get an abortion on request at any point in the gestation. While old laws sought to protect the life of a woman on the grounds that medical procedures would be unsafe for the mother after a certain gestational limit – usually 12 weeks – medical capability is no longer a limit. Experts swear medical technology has advanced sufficiently to allow safe abortions in secure health-care settings at very advanced stages of the pregnancy too. The amended Act, then, scarcely recognises women's agency at the centre of it all, and until it does so, through a fundamental change in mindset, measures such as these will count as but small progress on a jagged line.

Tone → Analytical

Suggestive



Check your progress ✓



VOCABULARY

1:00

1) He swore a solemn oath to keep faith.

Meaning: sincere (adj)

Synonyms: earnest, honest

Antonyms: insincere

2) The present building, in florid rococo style, dates from 1744-1767.

Meaning: ornate (adj)

Synonyms: fancy, curlicued

Antonyms: plain / simple



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VOCABULARY

1:00

3) He was floundering about in the shallow offshore waters.

Meaning: struggle (verb)

Synonyms: thrash, thresh

Antonyms: prosper

4) I can't believe we're getting involved in something so bizarre.

Meaning: strange (adj) (→)

Synonyms: peculiar, odd

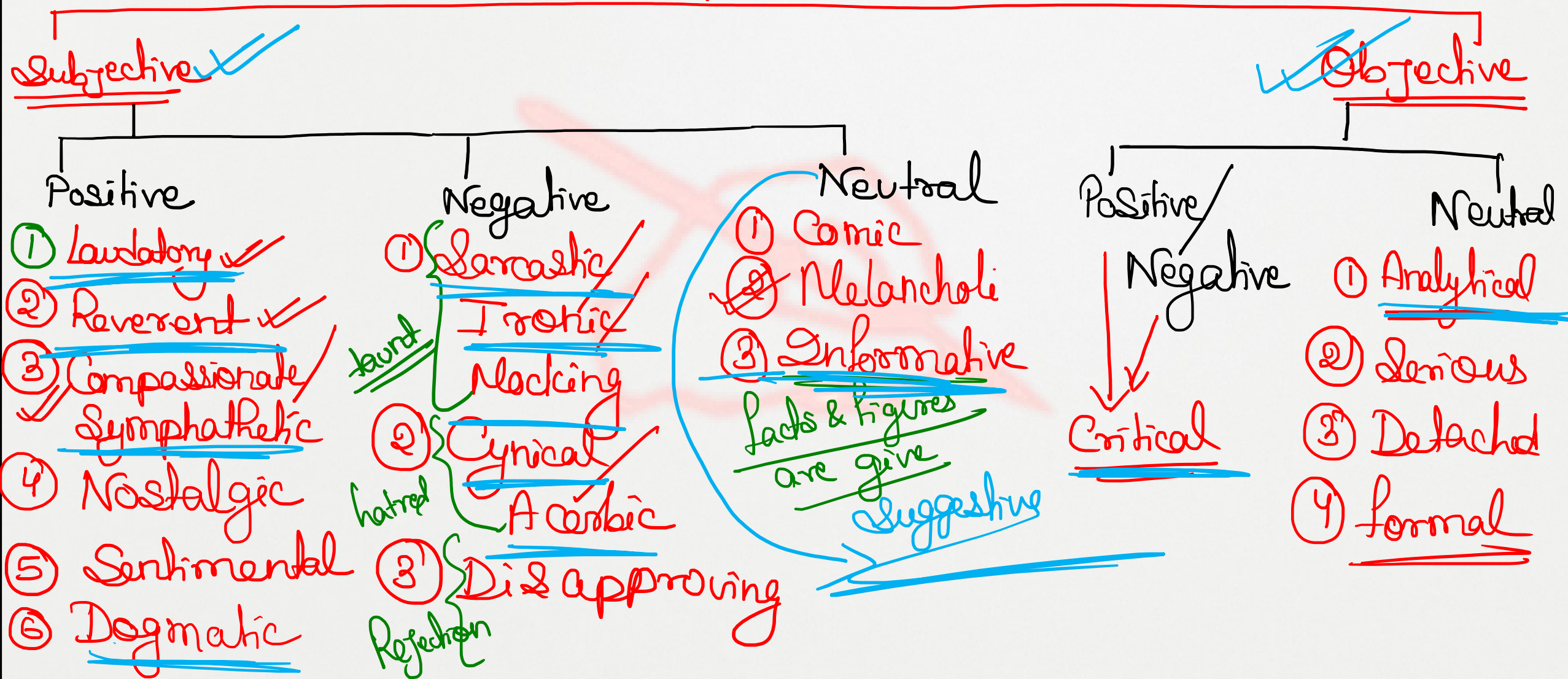
Antonyms: ordinary / simple / plain / common



✓ 14th April SPECIAL ✓ TONES of passage



TONES ✓✓





Passage 1 ✓

laudatory ✓

→ praise heartily
admire

✓
Newspaper reading enhances our ability to look deeply into the matters of social concern and makes us more bold and confident as we know all current issues and become more presentable. Reading newspaper is a very advantageous hobby both for the children, adults as well as the elderly.



Tone

Informative

Passage 2

National Flag of India is tricolor with three horizontal stripes of saffron representing courage and sacrifice, white being the symbol of peace and green representing represents fertility and prosperity, from top to bottom respectively. In the middle of the white stripe there is an impression of Ashoka Wheel of Ashoka Chakra printed in blue.



it evokes the feeling
of kindness.

Compassionate

Passage 3

Beggars are known to be one of the most miserable people on earth. They depend on others for the fulfillment of their needs. They are treated badly and are deprived of the basic necessities. Beggars roam around from street to street or sit at a particular place each day begging people to offer them food and money. They are looked down upon. We must ask beggars to work instead of giving them money and encouraging them to beg.



Harsh / bitterness

Cynical
Acerbic

Passage 4



The lie of natural, innate and eternal backwardness of the Negro and other dark-skinned peoples is the theoretical foundation upon which rests the whole noxious system of Negro segregation and its corollary, "white supremacy."



Fact & Figures

→ Conclusion

Analytical

Passage 5

A report jointly published by the United Nations Environment Programme, the WHO, the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions states that in the year 2012 alone, approximately 12.6 million people lost their lives due to conditions brought on by environmental pollution. UNEP also estimates that environmental degradation is behind 25 percent of all human diseases.



Passage 6

Dog make ✓
laying down
principles as
undeniable
truth.

India is a democratic country. Thus, people have the right to express their opinion and question the authority in a lawful manner; however, they need to abide by the set constitutional law until the case is closed in their favour.



Passage 7

Reverent

Durga Puja is one of the major Hindu festivals celebrated in the Indian sub-continent. It is celebrated with reverence to Goddess Durga, one of the most revered Hindu Deities. Hindus worship Durga as the Goddess of power and slayer of evil forces. The festival is observed in the Gregorian calendar months of September or October.

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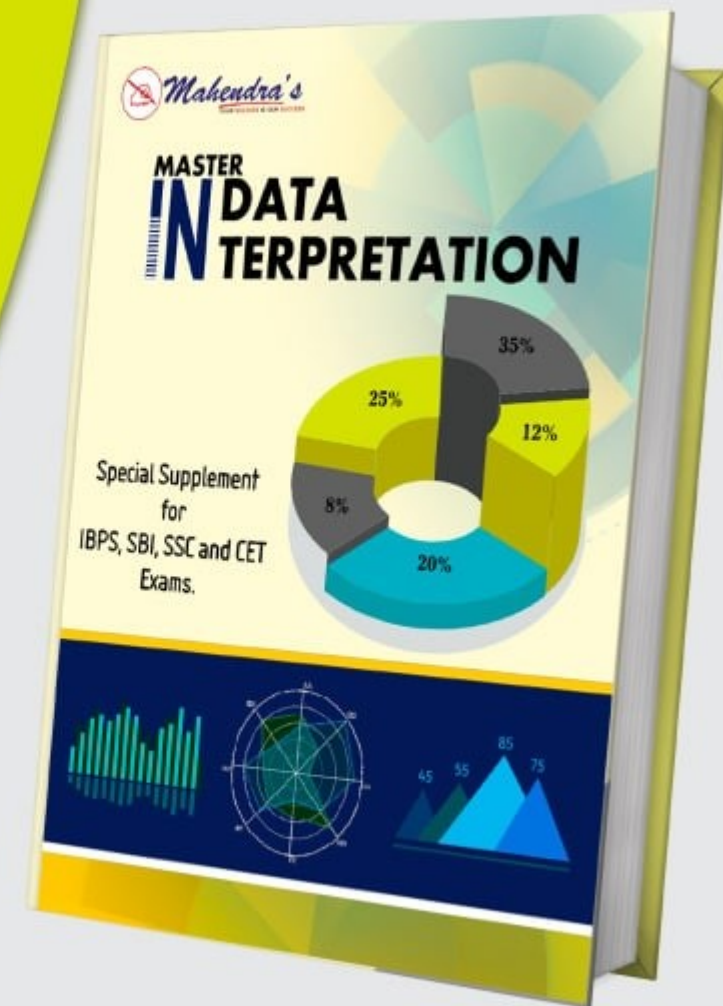
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