



THE HINDU EDITORIAL ✓

ANALYSIS ✓

7:30

- VOCAB
- GRAMMAR
- SPOKEN ENGLISH

5 MAR 2021 | 7:30 AM



Success is the sum
of small efforts,
repeated ^{Every day} day in
and day out.

TOPICS WE WOULD COVER



- Discussion of an article ✓ — (2) briefly + (1) in detail. ✓
- ✓ Vocabulary ✓
- ✓ Phrasal verb ✓ or Phrases ✓
- ✓ Grammar → Spelling Errors
- ✓ Check your progress — (daily) — from previous lessons
- ✓ One word substitution ✓
- ✓ Idioms and phrases ✓

Reading
Comprehension

One stop
solution for
all our
doubts

Not so stellar in protecting personal liberty

The outcomes from the judiciary in the defence of liberty, free thought and speech seem to be far from routine



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

A pair of recent rulings gave us a glimmer of hope that the judiciary might yet serve as a tribune of people's rights. The first was the acquittal of the journalist, Priya Ramani, on charges of criminal defamation. A Delhi court, in discharging her of the accusations, recognised that a woman's right to dignity superseded any claims over reputation. The court also held that a survivor of sexual harassment had the freedom to place her grievance at any point of time after the occurrence of the event and on any platform of her choice.

The second was the grant of bail to Disha Ravi, a 22-year-old woman who was arrested in Bengaluru and taken to New Delhi on charges of sedition. Her alleged crime: helping edit, and sharing, a "toolkit" that was meant to lend support to protests against the Union government's new farm laws. In the order granting bail, the court of the additional sessions judge noted that the prosecution had failed to produce even an iota of evidence linking Ms. Ravi to an act of violence. It found the toolkit to be innocuous and the actions of the Delhi police, in restraining her liberty, to be based on "propitious anticipations". The judge was also constrained to state the obvious: that, in a democracy, the right to dissent is fundamental.

Now for another ruling

In a free republic, verdicts such as these will be seen as unexceptionable. If anything, they are at-

tempts at undoing, at least in part, injustices wrought by the processes of the criminal justice system. Ms. Ramani spent months on end participating in a trial, not for being a perpetrator of any crime but for speaking out about sexual harassment at the workplace. Ms. Ravi spent 10 days in custody on the basis of evidence that the court found, at best, "scanty and sketchy". But these rulings are now far from routine. Indeed, on February 25, the Allahabad High Court, in *Aparna Purohit v. State of U.P.*, gave us a scantling of the disdain with which the higher judiciary views issues of personal liberty.

In denying anticipatory bail to Ms. Purohit, who is the head of Amazon Prime Video's India Originals, which ran the web series *Tandav*, the High Court was effectively telling the applicant that she deserved to be interrogated in custody for running a show that was "bound to hurt the sentiments of the majority community". Not that *Tandav* necessarily does this, but it mattered little to the court that deriding a person's belief is not an offence, not even under India's draconian blasphemy laws.

Unconstitutional, but upheld

Free speech, we all recognise, is a condition of legitimate government. We also recognise that there are limits to this right. The Constitution permits reasonable restrictions on speech on a variety of stated grounds. Determining what is reasonable and what falls within the bounds of those permitted limitations can sometimes be an exercise fraught with difficulty. But India's Parliament has never grappled, with genuine seriousness, over these questions. It has either chosen to allow colonial-era laws to do the government's bidding or it has legislated new rules



GETTY IMAGES

that do not merely err on the side of restraint as much as they treat the restriction as their chief goal and purpose. The cases concerning Ms. Ramani, Ms. Ravi and Ms. Purohit each emanate out a law that is categorically unconstitutional, but that has nonetheless been upheld by the Supreme Court.

Tools of defamation, sedition

Consider first criminal defamation. It ought to be self-evident that the punishment, even the very idea of prosecution, for libellous speech is disproportionate to the offence. Criminal law does not exist to make prosecutable acts that are essentially private in nature. By making ostensibly slanderous talk a punishable offence, the state imposes a chilling effect on all manners of legitimate speech. It is for this reason that almost every democratic nation of the world has revoked laws criminalising defamation. But in India, it remains a tool for the powerful and is routinely invoked not just by individuals and governments in positions of authority but also by corporations looking to protect their commercial interests.

In the case of sedition, its colonial remnants are, again, plainly apparent. Although it was not a part of Macaulay's original draft, it was incorporated by the British government into the Indian Penal

Code with the explicit aim of repressing all forms of dissent against the regime.

The offence – which carries with it the prospect of life imprisonment – is defined as any act which "brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India". The clause also contains an ominous explanation: the word "disaffection" includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.

In saving the provision from the Constitution's demands, the Supreme Court, in 1962, read down the offence and held that it was only seditious action that had the "tendency to disrupt public order" that was prosecutable. Since then, in other cases, the Court has held that speech can be criminalised only when it bears a proximate connection to disorder. But despite the imposition of these confines, the offence of sedition continues to be weaponised to restrict even the most inoffensive forms of dissent.

India's blasphemy laws, Section 153A, which deals with speech that seeks to promote enmity between different communities, and Section 295A, which criminalises speech that outrages religious feelings, are also vestiges of colonialism. Rather than aiding in dealing with genuine cases of hate speech, the laws permit governments to target acts that so much as offend a person's belief, dislodging, in the process, the very foundation of free expression.

Signals from the judiciary

That the Supreme Court has allowed these provisions to remain on India's books ought to tell us that its record in protecting personal liberty is acclaimed without reason. Every now and then, the

Court does bewail the state of affairs. In *Arnab Manoranjan Goswami vs State of Maharashtra*, decided in November last year, the Court warned against the use of the criminal law as "a ruse for targeted harassment". The judgment noted: "Our courts must ensure that they continue to remain the first line of defence against the deprivation of the liberty of citizens. Deprivation of liberty even for a single day is one day too many." But any hope that the verdict would augur well for the many thousands who continue to languish in jail without trial was quickly quelled.

When those involved with the making of *Tandav* first approached the Supreme Court, weeks after the verdict in *Arnab Manoranjan Goswami*, the Court not only refused to quash the criminal charges against them but also offered them no interim protection against arrest.

What is more, when one of the show's actors pleaded that he had simply been contracted to play a part, he was told, "You cannot play the role of a character which hurts the religious sentiments of others."

To be sure, as the lawyer Abhinav Sekhri has repeatedly highlighted, India's bail jurisprudence suffers from a systemic malaise, where the manner in which offences are classified and the manner in which judicial discretion is vested invariably leads to arbitrary outcomes. But when this uncertainty is coupled with the prevailing distrust – which flows from the Supreme Court – in the values of personal liberty, of free thought and expression, what we get is a complete erasure of the rule of law.

Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

* Hitash - Panacea
 ↓
 remedy of all disease.
 * "Not so" - not to that extend.
 * Stellar → having the quality of a star performer
 * Liberty - freedom harsh bitter
 We are consuming
 → Tone - Acebic ↓ rage

2

With Biden, India may need a new template

Despite accumulated goodwill, New Delhi needs imaginative engagement to deal with the Democrat-controlled House



K.V. PRASAD

The new administration in the United States, of Joseph R. Biden, and the 117th U.S. Congress, two separate branches in the American system of governance, hit the road running with a sense of purpose to 'heal' the country and restore its leadership role in the world.

Now, with the Congress settling down to find its rhythm, it would turn attention to issues the Members are committed to and their constituents push for. While pursuing their agenda on The Hill, members tend to work together building support among colleagues as they move towards legislative action.

Early conversations between the leaderships in both countries offer an insight into the priorities of the Biden administration in furtherance of strategic bilateral ties amid early signs that the mood on Capitol Hill could be less favourable.

Message by the India Caucus

India does enjoy bipartisan support in the Congress but the first signal of a possible direction can be interpreted from the recent formal interaction that members of the India Caucus in the House of Representatives had with the Indian

dian envoy in Washington DC. Founded in the early 1990s, it is the largest country-specific caucus on The Hill.

Caucus co-chair Brad Sherman (Democrat) and Steve Chabot (Republican), along with Vice Chair Rohit 'Ro' Khanna (Democrat), organised a meet with the Indian Ambassador to the United States, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, with particular reference to the farmers' protest in India. Irrespective of who took the initiative for the meeting, the message delivered by the Caucus underscored its priority.

A formal statement by Mr. Sherman said the group urged the Government of India to make sure that the norms of democracy are maintained and that protesters are allowed to protest in a peaceful manner with access to the Internet and journalists. "All friends of India hope that the parties can reach an agreement," was the message as a few other Congressmen took to social media on the farmers' issue separately.

Rohit 'Ro' Khanna is one of the youngest among the four Indian-Americans in the current House of Representatives, the others being Dr. Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, and Raja Krishnamoorthi. He identifies with the progressives group that has more members in the current Democratic Party set-up and is a powerful voice. Mr. Khanna was associated with the campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders considered Left and keeping him company in the group is Ms. Jayapal (Democrat). It was her possible



presence in a meeting with members in the Congress, that led to India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar cancelling the engagement in December 2019 when he was in the U.S. This made then Senator Kamala Harris join issue.

Indian community is a force

While interaction between government officials is a regular exercise, there is another significant dimension to the growth of bilateral relations. It is the immense contribution of the Indian-Americans, the second largest immigrant community with a strength of four million plus people.

The massive effort by this highly educated and economically strong community makes it count as one of the most influential groups in the U.S. From the time when India came under sanctions following the Pokhran explosions, to the time the U.S. Congress voted on the civil nuclear deal, Indian-Americans have played a key role in transforming the relations.

Yet, over the past few years, there has been a divergence in the preferences of the community. A recent survey on attitudes of Indian Americans by Carnegie, Johns Hopkins and University of

Pennsylvania (<https://bit.ly/3kLfmHh>) offers an understanding into many facets.

The community today may be less willing to engage with lawmakers and their aides with the same sense of purpose it did earlier on account of differing perceptions of events in India. In addition, over the past decade-and-a-half, a number of Indian-Americans have found their way into various branches of the administration and the Congress.

Assessments and response

These second-generation members of Indian-Americans have their own individual assessment of developments in India, making it tougher for New Delhi to put forward a convincing argument from its perspective to counter perceptions. In America's way of working, the standpoint of aides go in as valuable inputs for hard-nosed policy drafters while preparing documents for the administration and the Congress.

The farmers' protests in India attracted attention across the world and found resonance in the U.S. too. The sharp reaction in India to comments on social media by Rihanna and Meena Harris came around the time when racial justice and the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement remains strong in the current American political discourse.

India, of course, has stepped up its outreach on the Hill and New Delhi enjoys an advantage to the extent that both Mr. Jaishankar and the current Foreign Secretary,

Harsh Vardhan Shringla, served as Indian envoys in Washington DC. Both are well-versed with the way the city functions inside the Beltway.

Adding sinews to this effort is the pace of engagement by Indian missions. A leading Indian think-tank too opened its U.S. arm to supplement efforts in a city where the hiring of a professional lobby firm in Washington DC is well-accepted practice.

A direction pointer

A challenge in the current scenario would also be to translate the intent expressed at the last India-U.S. 2+2 meeting, in October 2019, of establishing an India-U.S.-Parliamentary Exchange for formal and reciprocal visits by parliamentarians (<https://bit.ly/3ecqFHB>). This is because opinion articulated by lawmakers has an amplifier effect and at times determines the path for the administration.

The accumulated reservoir of goodwill by Indians should help in defining the future course of bilateral ties; but it would require imaginative engagement to deal with the Democrat-controlled House, making it easier for the new administration to work on its India-centric plans. A test case waits in the form of CAATSA, or Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, as India moves ahead to procure the Russian S-400 missile defence system.

K.V. Prasad was a Fulbright-American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow

Starting point
(Idiom) -> Start over a fresh page / leaf. (to restart)



*1) Semi-Modals
+ need } (+) Main Verb
+ dare } (-) Modal.

1) I don't want this.

2) I don't need this

3) I needn't do this

Rule
need/dare
(+) Infinitive after it
(-) takes bare-Infinitive after it.

too Efficacious

Efficacious too

The restricted emergency use approval of Covaxin should now be revised

Vaccine efficacy of 80.6% for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin at the first interim analysis of phase-3 trials in India is indeed promising, though it took two months for the data to become available after the vaccine was approved for 'restricted emergency use' by the Indian drug regulator. The vaccine efficacy was measured based on symptomatic COVID-19 disease – mild, moderate or severe – two weeks after the second dose. The interim analysis undertaken at the first endpoint of 43 COVID-19 cases in the phase-3 trial carried out across 26 sites in India found 36 cases in the placebo group while only seven COVID-19 cases in the arm that received two doses of the vaccine given 28 days apart. The phase-3 trial that began last November recruited 25,800 participants, with one half receiving the vaccine and the other, a placebo. While the phase-3 trial will continue till 130 participants in both groups put together develop COVID-19 disease, another interim analysis will be carried out when there are 87 cases. Covaxin's efficacy of 80.6% at first interim analysis is higher than AstraZeneca/Covishield vaccine efficacy of 55.1% when the second dose is administered less than six weeks after the first; in India, the second dose of Covishield is approved for four-six weeks after the first. Also, the phase-3 trial recruited 2,433 participants over the age of 60 and included 4,500 people with comorbidities. However, those with severe and/or uncontrolled comorbidities were not recruited.

As per the phase-1 data published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* and a preprint of the phase-2 trial, Covaxin appears to be safe and highly immunogenic, and has also been found to be effective against the B.1.1.7 variant first found in Britain. While Covaxin accounts for less than 10% of all COVID-19 vaccinations in India, the absolute number of vaccinations as on March 3 stands at over 1.6 crore. No deaths associated with this vaccine have been reported so far. Though the first interim analysis is based on 43 cases, which is smaller when compared with other vaccines that have been approved by other regulators, the vaccine appears safe and efficacious in phase-3 and early stages of human trials and animal studies. The Indian regulator should therefore revise the restricted emergency use approval such that Covaxin is treated on a par with Covishield and should no longer seek additional precautions in the form of signed consent before vaccination and also remove the label "clinical trial mode" from the approval; their continuation would send a wrong signal about its safety and efficacy. With a narrow window of opportunity available to vaccinate people before a second wave probably sets in or dangerous variants get established, India can ill afford to have roadblocks in the uptake of either vaccine.

* Efficacy
Efectiveness



*2) too ✓ Sense of "also"
+ positive —
+ negative —
too - - - - to + V₁
either just after the sub or at the end of the sentence

(IBPS + RRB + SSC)

10th
12th
Graduation



Mahendra's



~~Our~~ **CET EXAM**
~~You~~ **Tube Channel**

Today And Make Your
Dream Come True.

Future Reader





ARTICLE TO BE ✓
DISCUSSED



Clearing a low bar

reconsiders/rethink

Idiom → A hurdle that can be easily overcome.

The govt. must revisit spectrum auction formats, unrealistic pricing, regulatory norms

Suggestive Tone ✓

It qualified itself for this.

Question 2

India's latest auction of telecommunications spectrum is a qualified success from the Centre's perspective, mainly because the winning bids cumulatively exceeded the government's own low expectations for receipts from the sale of airwaves

Question 1

Remove "the" and use: India's latest

*3

Superlative — est/most
↳ takes "the" before it.

Never put "the" before any superlative degree if it is related to any possessive case

9:30
trick = Pronoun

9:30
Pronoun
Remove pronoun after it.

*4 — keep, gather, concentrate, qualify, meet, hide, stop, make, complain etc — will never take any

Lesson

A total of 855.6 megahertz was successfully bid for —
 out of the 2,308.8 MHz that was on offer — (as the
three largest telecom services providers sought for
optimise their purchases of radio spectrum by
seeking to acquire only what they deemed essential
airwaves, either as renewal or for strengthening their
network, while entirely avoiding costlier bandwidth
offerings. The newest entrant to the industry,
Reliance Jio, was also the most acquisitive,
accounting for close to 60% of the spectrum bought
at 488.35 MHz and contributed almost three-fourth
of the ₹77,815 crore that the Department of
Telecommunications garnered from the sale.

bid for — auctioned



Question 3

Sought = look for / search for

Proposition = to

bettered

to be greater than before.

Question 4

Rule — fractions

In case of fractions always use the denominator in plural form if the numerator is more than one.

*4) → Fractions

$\frac{N}{D}$ — plural

$= \frac{3}{4} = \text{three-fourths}$



That Jio's ₹57,123 crore by itself surpassed the government's estimate of ₹45,000-₹50,000 crore for takings from the auction where the reserve price for the entire spectrum on offer across seven bands amounted to about ₹3.92-lakh crore, "tells its own tale". Clearly cognizant of the prevailing overall economic circumstances amid the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the high level of indebtedness in the industry is leading the government to have tempered its expectations to a more realistic level.

add up

✓ (ar)

Idiom

→ clearly indicates the truth.

Questions

#6

S₁ as well as S₂

Will actually decide the nature of verbs & pron

Plural

✓ are

alter

✓ above conscious
✓ collection from the Auction



Still, the Centre can hardly be sanguine about an outcome where a mere 37% of the airwaves on offer found takers. In a repeat of the 2016 auction's outcome, the significantly more efficient 700 MHz was yet again shunned by all bidders given its prohibitive reserve price. It is a little hard to fathom the government's approach to pricing this nationally valuable resource, especially given its avowed intention of accelerating the digitisation of the economy including the broadening and deepening of the digital delivery of the multitude of public services to India's farthest reaches.



The relatively low frequency 700 MHz, for instance, is considered as ideal for enhancing network availability and reach in the highly urbanised settings of large, densely built-up cities where the issue of poor signal penetration inside buildings is a perpetual bugbear for users and providers alike. For all the brave talk on the auction's outcome providing assurance, the nation's telecom authorities need to take a hard look at the entire policy framework that has contributed a fair share to the current precarity in the industry.



From auction formats that may no longer be relevant given the sharply reduced number of players, to grossly unrealistic pricing of spectrum, and regulatory norms and tax practices that threaten to tip the sector into a fractious duopoly, the government has its task cut out. It must now act quickly to ensure it does not end up hurting the very sector that has become a key multiplier of economic empowerment and progress.

VOCABULARY



1. Spectrum (noun)- ✓

the distance or extent between possible extremes

synonyms- diapason/gamut/range/scale/spread/stretch

antonyms- incapability/leave/stand still/periapsis

2. Sought (verb)- ✓

to go in search of

synonyms- hunted/looked up/pursued/quested

antonyms- hid/lost/ignored/neglected

VOCABULARY



3. **Acquisitive** (adj)-

having or marked by an eager and often selfish desire especially for material possessions.

synonyms- covetous/grabby/grasping/mercenary

antonyms- altruistic/bounteous/bountiful/charitable

4. **Surpassed** (verb)-

to be greater, better, or stronger than.

synonyms- beat/bettered/eclipsed/exceeded

antonyms- keep quiet/unify/respect

Verb

VOCABULARY



5. Cognizant (adj)-

having specified facts or feelings actively impressed on the mind.

synonyms- alive/apprehensive/aware/conscious

antonyms- insensible/oblivious/unaware



Check your progress

VOCABULARY



1) Parents who have **amenable** children are blessed.

1:00

Meaning: compliant (adjective)

Synonyms: acquiescent, biddable / *to adjust*.

Antonyms: uncooperative ✓

2) Both tried to behave as if nothing **untoward** had happened.

Meaning: unexpected ✓ (adj)

Synonyms: unanticipated, unforeseen

Antonyms: expected

VOCABULARY

Hw



3) The breach is not so serious as to amount to a **repudiation** of the whole contract.

1:00

Meaning: rejection (noun)

Synonyms: renunciation, abandonment

Antonyms: confirmation

4) They spent a **furtive** day together.

Meaning: secret (adj)

Synonyms: secretive, surreptitious

Antonyms: open

ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

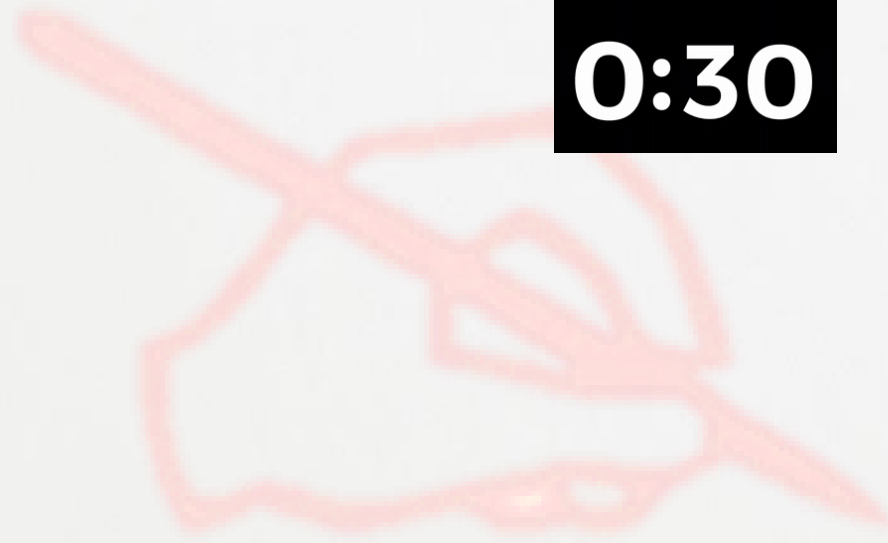


1) Anything written in a letter after it is signed

Hw

0:30

- a) posterity
- b) postdiction
- c) postscript
- d) corrigendum



IDIOMS AND PHRASES



0:30

1) To cross swords

HW

- a) To be agile and active
- b) To keep calm
- c) To think coherently
- d) None of these



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IBPS पीओ / क्लर्क SERIES



ENGLISH

Poa

Grammar

Basic To Advance

Conjunction (Day - 3)



LIVE 
9:30 AM



9:30

Conj Day 3

