

**Reading and Dictation Passages have been marked for 20 words each,  
that the same can be dictated for 80 to 160 wpm speed.**

### Exercise 1

Sir, natural calamities seemed to be now a very regular feature. This year there are several States which are seriously <sup>20</sup>affected by drought. In some States it is the second successive year of drought and in some other States it is <sup>40</sup> almost the third successive year. It means that large sums of money will have to be provided and I trust <sup>60</sup> the priorities will be respected. We cannot go on putting up with a situation in which hundreds of thousands of <sup>80</sup>villages today are without drinking water. Where from any drinking water is to be provided is not even known. The State <sup>100</sup> Governments do not know what to do with it. It is not money alone that matters though large sums of <sup>120</sup>money will have to be provided to ensure that drinking water is made available to villages.

The Finance Minister knows <sup>140</sup> that farmers must be given remunerative price. Mr. Finance Minister, I would request your attention to this particular point. You <sup>160</sup> have said that by giving remunerative prices to farmers in respect of sugar you have seen the result, immediately and <sup>180</sup> the manner in which the sugar cultivation improved, has increased and you have larger sugar production. That is exactly what we <sup>200</sup> say. If you give remunerative price to farmers for what they produce not only will you be doing justice to <sup>220</sup> them, but you also will ensure increased production. Productivity is one of your major, ought to be one of your <sup>240</sup> major thrust bears. It is the one thing in which you are not being successful whether it is on the <sup>260</sup> agricultural front or on the industrial front. I hope that this is something to which you will pay greater attention. <sup>280</sup> When the Finance Minister started his Budgetary exercise in 2008, he endeavoured to do two things. One was <sup>300</sup> to loosen the tight regulatory grip that he had on industry. Government decided to loosen it a little bit. The <sup>320</sup> second thing that they had decided to do was to a stream line the fiscal and Budgetary process so as to enhance <sup>340</sup> revenue collection and stabilise the business and trade. On both these fronts subsequent developments have been somewhat hesitant, but in <sup>360</sup> some cases very contradictory also. So far as loosening the tight grip that Government has on the industry, I think <sup>380</sup> Government has realised that by really loosening it in a judicious way, their has been tremendous improvement in the situation. <sup>400</sup>

**CALAMITIES:** Disaster: **ENEAVOURED:** made serious effort

## Exercise 2

Why that process has stopped, I don't know. But I would recommend to the Finance Minister that loosening of the <sup>20</sup> control in a selective way is a highly desirable and to continue it if you want to ensure that <sup>40</sup> productivity increases. Productivity can only increase if there is less and less restrictions and fewer restrictions. Even more than that <sup>60</sup> please note that what is not yet changed is the <sup>80</sup> delay that takes place in decision making. The delay in <sup>100</sup> decision making has a disastrous effect in many ways. I would say that unless the Finance Minister or rather the <sup>100</sup> entire Government makes a decisive and determined effort in this direction they will find that many of their good policy <sup>120</sup> decisions may also not produce the desired results. So far as streamlining of the fiscal and budgetary process is concerned <sup>140</sup> I have already said that the streamlining has been successful upto a point but it is the budgetary process where <sup>160</sup> the Finance Minister desired to have an open policy that have something in regard to say. He has been in fact <sup>180</sup> along a Budget every month in the sense that fiscal changes that are frequently being made. The way in which <sup>200</sup> Excise duties are being changed and changed in a significant way give that impression. Some of the changes that are <sup>220</sup> being made may have really disastrous effect on industry. We do not know the reasons as to why these changes <sup>240</sup> are being made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the streamlining process in regard to taxation policy is good. I understand that the Income-Tax <sup>260</sup> Bill is being revised. Considerable amount of work and time was devoted some time back also. There is a Choksi <sup>280</sup> Committee report which I hope you will look into while examining this matter. So, I will not say much on <sup>300</sup> that. There are two-three things which should be attended to. Look at the state of affairs in the construction <sup>320</sup> industry. Why is the construction industry not flourishing as much as it should be at a time when there is <sup>340</sup> tremendous housing shortage. It is entirely because of the way in which the Urban Ceiling Act is being operated. I <sup>360</sup> think it is time that the Government seriously re-examine that Act with a view not to defeat the main objective <sup>380</sup> of the Urban Ceiling Act but with a view ensuring that it does not become a throttle in the construction <sup>400</sup> activity so as to become incapable of reducing the housing shortage which is very serious. Not only there is housing <sup>420</sup> shortage in the urban areas even in rural areas there is tremendous shortage of housing which need very urgent attention. <sup>440</sup>

**FISCAL:** relating to money; **FLOURISHING:** growing

### Exercise 3

Sir, with regard to the family planning programme of the Government of India, it is true that our Government and<sup>20</sup> our country have been perhaps the pioneers in respect of taking advantage of the World Health Organisation expertise and assistance<sup>40</sup> in regard to family planning programme and that in the last several years, one cannot ignore some of the good<sup>60</sup> sides of the achievements of the family planning programme. Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government<sup>80</sup> to two aspects of the matter. One is that after having got this experience of some years, more than a<sup>100</sup> decade or two, can we not have some kind of a sustained uniform policy with regard to the various projects<sup>120</sup> and programmes of family planning, particularly with regard to two things? One is the assistance that we would like to<sup>140</sup> rope in of the country agencies. Because, by its very nature, this is not something which the Government can do<sup>160</sup>. Government can spend money, Government can give encouragement, but basically it is a question of educating the people, educating the<sup>180</sup> illiterate and educating the people in the countryside and also taking the maximum possible help from the voluntary social institutions<sup>200</sup> in which a large number of women organisations are also doing a lot of good work. In this regard, the<sup>220</sup> complaint I hear is that the policy of the Government in regard to incentives offered, is not quite free from<sup>240</sup> faults.

Every now and then, different kinds of incentives are tagged on while attracting more people. Then those incentives are<sup>260</sup> not maintained for a particular period of time so that certain incentives are withdrawn and certain new incentives are given.<sup>280</sup> The result is that the interest in the programme is for the incentives offered rather than for the ultimate objective<sup>300</sup> of controlled and healthy family planning. I would, therefore, request the Government to ensure that the family planning programme has<sup>320</sup> a certain sustained outlook that the incentives are well thought out and that there is no change every now and<sup>340</sup> then in regard to this or that incentive. Then, this should be free from one very serious error. This is<sup>360</sup> not only an error, I would say it is a criminal thing. In the name of operations, a<sup>380</sup> large number of old people, children and boys are also booked into the whole thing, because they get some extra financial incentive.<sup>400</sup>

**UNIFORM:** same; **INCENTIVES:** gains

#### Exercise 4

Now I come to Demand about the freedom fighters. I endorse very warmly many of the points which my Hon.<sup>20</sup> friend made when he talked about genuine and bogus freedom fighters. In fact, the Government of India themselves in various<sup>40</sup> replies in the past in this august House have told us about how many bogus cases were also found out.<sup>60</sup> Here we must remember that to some extent, we, the elected Members of State Legislature and Parliament, are also responsible<sup>80</sup> for giving false information or false certificates. I am not saying that this or the particular person has done it.<sup>100</sup> But when the Government say that in the absence of any proper proof, the certificate of a Member of Parliament or<sup>120</sup> Member of Legislative Assembly should be attached, surely the Member of Parliament or Member of Legislative Assembly should be 100<sup>140</sup> percent sure of his facts and he just should not do it by way of obliging any person. It is there<sup>160</sup> where the bogus cases come. I am only making an appeal through this speech to Members of Legislative Assembly in State Legislature<sup>180</sup> and Members of Parliament here that we take extraordinary care so that we do not issue certificates liberally or irresponsibly<sup>200</sup> because otherwise it becomes more difficult for the Government.

The second point is that some freedom fighters are not yet<sup>220</sup> included in this scheme. I do not know whether the Minister has ready information at hand in this regard. There<sup>240</sup> is also the project of old freedom fighters homes. I remember there is one in Delhi. But it is neglected.<sup>260</sup> Some of the old freedom fighters who are living in Delhi are staying in this House. There is no one<sup>280</sup> to look after them. They are not given proper food, proper drinking water, hot water for bath and so on.<sup>300</sup> Because they are old and infirm, naturally they need these things all the more. Therefore, I would like the Government to<sup>320</sup> take particular care of these old freedom fighters homes. Lastly, although I know that the Government of India have paid<sup>340</sup> a lot of money to these freedom fighters, I see from letters received by me not only from Gujarat but<sup>360</sup> from other parts of the country as well that the papers of freedom fighters are not disposed of, although the applications<sup>380</sup> had been properly sent through the State Administrations and more than two years have elapsed. Some of them are above<sup>400</sup> sixty-five. If they have to wait for another one or two years to get their pensions, they may not be available<sup>420</sup> to take it. We are prepared to give some additional grants if the Minister wants it that way to them.<sup>440</sup>

**GENUINE** : real

**INFIRM**: weak, shaky

### Exercise 5

Sir, this entire discussion has been initiated by the Finance Minister. He feels somewhat optimistic about the economic situation. I<sup>120</sup> confess that this is the one point on which I must disagree. The situation today is something that causes much<sup>40</sup> concern. There is rising unemployment. The prices are also rising. Finance Minister feels that there is justification for viewing the<sup>60</sup> situation hopefully because he thinks that the infrastructure are performing very well. I do not understand on what basis he<sup>80</sup> has come to this conclusion. He says that the power generation is more satisfactory than last year. But should he<sup>100</sup> be satisfied with power generation of 51 per cent? Should the efficiency not be very much greater? There is no<sup>120</sup> reason why the power stations should not be operating more efficiently and unless you insist upon it, you cannot obtain<sup>140</sup> a requisite degree of improvement in efficiency. But, in any case, to be complacent, and say that the infrastructure is<sup>160</sup> performing well, is very strange.

Similarly, in the case of coal, you put enormous sums of money in an industry<sup>180</sup> which is also the next basic industry. The results are unsatisfactory. The production remains as unsatisfactory as ever, while the<sup>200</sup> costs are increasing. When he says the price situation is under control, I do not know on what basis the<sup>220</sup> price situation is said to be under control. I am sorry that he places too much reliance upon statistics. The<sup>240</sup> interpretation of statistics is important and they are capable of being manipulated in any manner as one would like in<sup>260</sup> order to produce conclusion that one desires statistics are undoubtedly necessary. They have to be collected. But we have to<sup>280</sup> judge them we have to interpret them very carefully. I would say than when the Finance Minister forms the conclusion<sup>300</sup> in regard to price situation, he should ask the housewives and see what they have to think about the price<sup>320</sup> situation. Inflation is really increasing, rising very seriously. Every household is deeply disturbed. In such a position to say that<sup>340</sup> the price situation is under control is scarcely right. What is still more unfortunate is the fact that so many<sup>360</sup> decisions are being taken which must lead to further increased in prices. The railways freight rates have been increase<sup>380</sup> within a year and I do not know whether it is part of the next Budget exercise that is being carried on.<sup>400</sup>

**REQUISITE:** minimum requirement

**ENORMOUS:** huge

## Exercise 6

Similarly, postal charges have been raised considerably, each of them resulting in a revenue increase of Rs. 400 crores<sup>20</sup> to Rs. 500 crores of rupees. What can be the effect of all these increases? Then there are administered<sup>40</sup> prices which also continue to be administered upwards always and not downwards. What are the prices administered for? In<sup>60</sup> order to see that the public sector enterprises produce revenues, and increase budgetary revenues. It is quite clear that every<sup>80</sup> step that is being taken like this must result in increase in prices. Further, Mr. Finance Minister says that tax<sup>100</sup> revenues continue to display buoyancy. This is the one statement, in regard to which I can have no difference of<sup>120</sup> opinion. It is showing buoyancy. But there again I would like to warn the Finance Minister that the buoyancy is<sup>140</sup> not going to continue at the same rate and in the same manner that it has been in the past.<sup>160</sup> Atleast if it does so, I shall be very happy. But the chances of its being happening are small. He<sup>180</sup> says the foreign exchange reserves are at comfortable level. I am very glad, he thinks so.

He may even<sup>200</sup> say that they are comfortable. If they are at comfortable level, then there is certainly going to be greater<sup>220</sup> drain upon it because steps being taken to stimulate exports further and so on and so forth. But I think<sup>240</sup> the balance of payments position is precarious and as he himself admits is one of the issues which causes him<sup>260</sup> concern, and quite rightly so. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the imports have<sup>280</sup> been liberalised and over-liberalised as a stage when rupee is for all practical purposes devalued. Imports therefore must cost<sup>300</sup> very much more and increase the chain on limited foreign exchange reserves. Liberalisation of imports is necessary but only in<sup>320</sup> highly selective areas. That was not done. I think in their initial enthusiasm, they have over-done it. The second<sup>340</sup> point of concern was about the rise of Government expenditure. On that count, what has he done? Nothing is done.<sup>360</sup> On the other hand, Governmental expenditure has gone up and will go up now further because of the Pay Commission's<sup>380</sup> recommendations, which Government has already implemented. There are other things which are beyond his control, like the natural calamities which<sup>400</sup> must be attended to, and substantial sums of money will have to be provided. I hope that the Finance Minister<sup>420</sup> realises that. For the next year, he has provided certain amount in his anticipatory budget about Rs. 500 crores.<sup>440</sup>

MANIPUL ED: falsification; SCARCELY: hardly

BUOYANCY: enthusiasm

### Exercise 7

Since yesterday, we have had a very fruitful exchange of opinions on the issues that have been covered in the<sup>20</sup> Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. From the tenor of our discussions, I believe that<sup>40</sup> there is broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid Term Appraisal and that it can<sup>60</sup> act as a blue-print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan. It can also<sup>80</sup> act as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan. During the course of our discussions,<sup>100</sup> a number of very valuable suggestions were made by Chief Ministers which may require a review of some of our policies,<sup>120</sup> programmes and approaches. I am certain that the Planning Commission has taken note of these suggestions and will<sup>140</sup> act on them in the coming months. Today, India is at a historic point in its development trajectory.<sup>160</sup> As I said in my opening remarks yesterday, we are now at a point in time where we can deliver<sup>180</sup> growth at a rate of 7 per cent - 8 per cent. At this point in time, owing to the development over the<sup>200</sup> last two decades, there are no external constraints to the growth of our country. It is very much in the<sup>220</sup> realm of possibility for this country to become a prosperous nation, rid of the perennial problems of poverty, ignorance<sup>240</sup> and disease. The world is today looking at India with great interest as the saga of our development and<sup>260</sup> rise to prominence on the international stage unfolds. Rare are such moments in history when a nation suddenly captures the<sup>280</sup> imagination of the world.

In such circumstances, if there are any constraints, these are purely internal. Our success in living up<sup>300</sup> to our potential depends solely only on us. No external force can be blamed if we do not rise up<sup>320</sup> to everyone's expectations. Therefore, it is incumbent on all of us in this august gathering to ensure<sup>340</sup> that we realize this potential. It is this vision of a resurgent India that must guide our actions while discharging<sup>360</sup> our duties. As I had said earlier, the environment for India's development has never been as favourable as it is now.<sup>380</sup> The challenge before us is to combine the economics of growth with the economics of equity and social justice.<sup>400</sup>

**TRAJECTORY:** path;

**PERENNIAL:** growing continuously;

**SAGA:** big programme;

**INCUMBENT:** responsible person.

### Exercise 8

Another thing I want to say is that we want an ideal to be set up for the nation. It is only<sup>20</sup> the performance of this august body which can set an ideal or and example for the people to follow. I<sup>40</sup> do not say that people who have no respect for law and those who have committed any offence should be saved<sup>60</sup> or protected. But then, it can be done only by utilising the funds of the people, collected from the people<sup>80</sup> in a proper manner so that we can positively make progress. For this purpose, I would request the Hon. House<sup>100</sup> that if some amendments to the Rules of Procedure are necessary, we must think of it and we must make<sup>120</sup> the principles and the rules such that the House is not disturbed or no disturbances are created every day and<sup>140</sup> our time is not wasted. Another aspect to which I would draw the attention of the Hon. House through you<sup>160</sup> is that economy is one of the most important factors, and economy has to be effected by us also. I<sup>180</sup> was reading the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report for the year. I find that crores of rupees have not been<sup>200</sup> utilised for years together. During the period a leader of the Opposition party, was Minister of Industries, what was done<sup>220</sup> has to be looked into.

I would draw the attention of the Hon. House to the fact that if you<sup>240</sup> read the whole book, you will find no manual of accounts no statements and no documents reconciling the actual<sup>260</sup> expenditure made and nothing could be done. You will find in this a large number of such items involving crores<sup>280</sup> of rupees. This has affected the economy of this country. What has been done about it? I would make a<sup>300</sup> submission that, wherever you find such wastages of money, in those cases, a very stringent view has to be<sup>320</sup> taken and those persons who are guilty must be punished, individual responsibilities must be fixed. That is why<sup>340</sup> every time we are finding this criticism in this august House that the public enterprises are not making any profit.<sup>360</sup> They are running in loss. It is a must that the faculty must be punished, because we are wedded to<sup>380</sup> the principle of socialism and we want the poorer people of this country to come up. But with this sort of<sup>400</sup> performance, it is impossible. The high-ups or low-ups, I do not know, whoever is responsible, action must be<sup>420</sup> taken against them. Otherwise, the economy will not improve as envisaged in the Budget for the year under consideration.<sup>440</sup>

**DIGNITY:** respect; **STRINGENT:** rigorous, strict

### Exercise 9

The NDC is a political body and that is its strength. Here we are gathered in this room,<sup>20</sup> representing a diverse set of political backgrounds, views and ideologies. However, we are all, I believe, in agreement that<sup>40</sup> economic development and the prosperity of every citizen is a collective national goal. Over the last two days, I have<sup>60</sup> heard this resonate from every speaker and it is heartening that political differences will not come in the way of<sup>80</sup> achieving our common objective of building a prosperous, inclusive, equitable, humane, caring and just India. While we have noted each and every<sup>100</sup> suggestion made by the Chief Ministers and will take due note of them, I would like to dwell<sup>120</sup> of them. A number of Chief Ministers have expressed concern about issues relating to state finances, particularly<sup>140</sup> the effect of the recommendations of the XII Finance Commission, the level of permissible market borrowings, and interest cost on<sup>160</sup> borrowings. Some have raised issues related to mineral royalties and externally aided projects. The Finance Minister, in his intervention, has<sup>180</sup> touched upon these and I believe that he will work to allay any apprehensions that may exist. Healthy state finances<sup>200</sup> are as important as healthy central finances and fiscal prudence and stability must be our joint endeavour.

Agriculture and irrigation<sup>220</sup> have indeed been a common priority in all the Chief Ministers' interventions and rightly so. Rejuvenating our agricultural credit system,<sup>240</sup> providing some measure of relief to farmers, improving the quality of our extension work, attending to the specific needs and<sup>260</sup> problems of dry lands and wastelands and enhancing investments in irrigation have emerged as common concerns. Given the importance of this sector,<sup>280</sup> I believe that we could give focused attention to this subject by constituting a sub-Committee of the NDC,<sup>300</sup> which could submit its reports within the next six months for inclusion in the Approach Paper to the<sup>320</sup> Eleventh Five Year Plan. I propose, therefore, that we agree to the formation of a sub-Committee of the NDC<sup>340</sup> for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. With your approval, I will constitute this<sup>360</sup> sub-Committee immediately with the Agriculture Minister as Chairman so that the work can be in right earnest<sup>380</sup> and we can benefit from their wisdom while framing the Eleventh Plan for our growth oriented economy of the future as such.<sup>400</sup>

**RESONATE:** to give sounds; **ALLAY:** to reduce;

**PRUDENCE:** wiseness; **DWELL:** to deal with.

### Exercise 10

Another thing I want to say is that we want an ideal to be set up for the nation. It is only <sup>20</sup> the performance of this august body which can set an ideal or an example for the people to follow. I <sup>40</sup> do not say that people who have no respect for law and those who have committed any offence should be saved <sup>60</sup> or protected. But then, it can be done only by utilising the funds of the people, collected from the people <sup>80</sup> in a proper manner so that we can positively make progress. For this purpose, I would request the Hon. House <sup>100</sup> that if some amendments to the Rules of Procedure are necessary, we must think of it and we must make <sup>120</sup> the principles and the rules such that the House is not disturbed or no disturbances are created every day and <sup>140</sup> our time is not wasted.

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440 IDEAL: objective; STRINGENT: strict.

### Exercise 11

All the Hon'ble Members have been supplied with copies of this declaration and so I shall not read it over<sup>20</sup> again. I shall merely point out very briefly some salient features of this declaration. It is a short and simple<sup>40</sup> document in four paragraphs. The first paragraph, it will be noticed, deals with the present position in law. It refers<sup>60</sup> to the British Commonwealth of Nations and to the fact that the people in this Commonwealth owe a common allegiance<sup>80</sup> to the Crown. That in law is the present position. The next paragraph of this declaration states that the Government<sup>100</sup> of India have informed the Governments of the other Commonwealth countries that India is soon going to be a Sovereign<sup>120</sup> Independent Republic, further that they desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations accepting the King as<sup>140</sup> a symbol of the free association. The third paragraph says that the other Commonwealth countries accept this, and the fourth<sup>160</sup> paragraph ends by saying that all these countries remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations.<sup>180</sup> You will notice that while in the first paragraph this is referred to as the British Commonwealth of Nations, in<sup>200</sup> the subsequent paragraph it is referred to only as the Commonwealth of Nations. Further, you will notice that while in<sup>220</sup> the first paragraph there is the question of allegiance to the Crown which exists at present, this question does not<sup>240</sup> arise later, because India by becoming a Republic goes outside the Crown area completely. There is a reference, in connection<sup>260</sup> with the Commonwealth, to the King as the symbol of that association.

Observe that the reference is to the King<sup>280</sup> and not to the Crown. It is a small matter, but it has a certain significance. But the point is<sup>300</sup> this, that in so far as the Republic of India is concerned, her Constitution and her working are concerned, she<sup>320</sup> has nothing to do with any external authority, and none of her subjects owe any allegiance to the King<sup>340</sup> or any other external authority. The Republic may, agree to associate herself with certain other countries that happen to be<sup>360</sup> monarchies or whatever they choose to be. This declaration states that this new Republic of India completely sovereign and owing<sup>380</sup> no allegiance to the King, as the other Commonwealth countries do owe, will be a full member of the Commonwealth.<sup>400</sup>

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SALIENT: leading; ALLEGIANCE: loyalty; SOVEREIGN: independent; REPUBLIC: state with elected head; MONARCH: King.

### Exercise 12

I am placing the declaration before this Hon'ble House for its approval. Beyond this approval, there is no question of <sup>20</sup> any law being framed in accordance with it. There is no law behind the Commonwealth. It has not even the <sup>40</sup> formality which normally accompanies treaties. It is an agreement by free will, to be terminated by free will. Therefore <sup>60</sup> there will be no further legislation or law if the House approves of this. In this particular declaration nothing very much <sup>80</sup> is said about the position of the King, except that he will be a symbol. It has been made perfectly <sup>100</sup> clear that the King has no functions at all. He has been made perfectly <sup>100</sup> clear that the King has no functions at all. He has a certain status. The Commonwealth itself, as such, is <sup>120</sup> not a body, if I may say so, it has no organization through which to function and the King also <sup>140</sup> can have no functions. Now, some consequences flow from this. Apart from certain friendly approaches to one another, apart from <sup>160</sup> a desire to co-operate, which will always be conditioned by each party deciding on the measure of co-operation and following <sup>180</sup> its own policy, there is no obligation. There is hardly any obligation in the nature of commitments. But an attempt <sup>200</sup> has been made to produce something which is entirely novel, and I can very well understand lawyers on the one <sup>220</sup> hand feeling somewhat uncomfortable about a thing for which they can find no precedent or parallel.

There may also be <sup>240</sup> others who feel that behind this there may be something which they cannot quite understand, something risky, something dangerous, because <sup>260</sup> the thing is so simple on the face of it. That kind of difficulty may arise in people's minds. What <sup>280</sup> I have stated elsewhere I should like to repeat. There is absolutely nothing behind this except what is placed before <sup>300</sup> this House. I might clear up one or two matters which are not mentioned in his declaration. One of these <sup>320</sup> as I have said, is that the King has no functions at all. This was cleared up in the course <sup>340</sup> of our proceedings. It has, no doubt, been recorded in the minutes of the Conference in London. Another point was <sup>360</sup> that one of the objects of this kind of Commonwealth association is now to create a status which is something <sup>380</sup> between being completely foreign and being of one nationality. Obviously, the Commonwealth countries belong to different nations. They are different <sup>400</sup> nationalities. Normally either you have a common nationality or you are foreign. There is no intermediate stage. Uptill now <sup>420</sup> in this Commonwealth or the British Commonwealth of Nations, there was a binding link which was allegiance to the King. <sup>440</sup>

## Exercise 13

The House will remember that there was some talk at one stage of a Commonwealth citizenship. Now, it was difficult<sup>20</sup> to understand what the status of Commonwealth citizenship might be except that it meant that its members were not completely<sup>40</sup> foreign to one another. That un-foreignness remains, but I think it is as well that we left off talking about<sup>60</sup> something vague, which could not be surely defined. The other fact also remains, as I have just stated, the fact<sup>80</sup> that we should take the right to ourselves, if we so choose, to exercise it at any time to enter<sup>100</sup> into treaties or arrangements with Commonwealth countries assuring us of certain mutual privileges and preferences. I have briefly placed before<sup>120</sup> the House this document. It is a simple document and yet the House is fully aware that it is a<sup>140</sup> highly important document or rather what it contains is of great and historic significance. I went to this Conference some<sup>160</sup> weeks ago as the representative of India. I had, of course, consulted<sup>180</sup> my colleagues here previously, because it was a great responsibility and no man is big enough to shoulder that responsibility by himself when the future of India is<sup>200</sup> at stake. For many months past we had often consulted one another, consulted great and representative organizations, consulted many Members<sup>220</sup> of this House. Nevertheless, when I went, I carried this great responsibility and I felt the burden of it. I<sup>240</sup> had able colleagues to advise me, but I was the sole representative of India and in a sense the future<sup>260</sup> of India for the moment was in my keeping. I was alone in that sense and yet not quite alone,<sup>280</sup> because, as I travelled through the air and as I was there at the conference table, the ghosts of many<sup>300</sup> yesterdays of my life surrounded me and brought up picture after picture before me, Saints and guardians keeping watch over<sup>320</sup> me telling me perhaps not to trip and not to forget them. I remembered, as many Members might remember that<sup>340</sup> day nineteen years ago when we took a pledge for the first time on the bank of the River Ravi,<sup>360</sup> at the midnight hour on 26th January, and how we took that oft-repeated pledge year after year in spite<sup>380</sup> of difficulty and finally I remembered that day when, standing at this very place, I placed a resolution before this House.<sup>400</sup>

Let us not be led away by considering the situation in terms of events which are no longer here. You<sup>420</sup> will see that the Resolution of the Congress that I have read out says that because India becomes a Republic<sup>440</sup> the

association of India with the Commonwealth must, of course, change. Further, it says that free association may continue subject<sup>460</sup> only to our complete freedom being assured. Now, that is exactly what has been attempted, in this declaration of London.<sup>480</sup> I ask you or any Hon'ble Member to point out in what way the freedom, the independence of India, has<sup>500</sup> been limited in the slightest. I do not think it has been. In fact, the greatest stress has been laid<sup>520</sup> not only on the independence of India, but on the independence of each individual nation in the Commonwealth. I am<sup>540</sup> often asked how we can join a Commonwealth in which there is racial discrimination, in which there are other things<sup>560</sup> happening to which we object. That, I think, is a fair question and it is a matter which must necessarily<sup>580</sup> give us some trouble in our thinking. Nevertheless, it is a question which does not really arise. That is to<sup>600</sup> say, when we have entered into an alliance with a nation or a group of nations it does not mean<sup>620</sup> that we accept their policies and it does not mean that we commit ourselves in any way to something that<sup>640</sup> they may do. In fact, this House knows that we are carrying on at the present moment a struggle, or<sup>660</sup> our countrymen are carrying on a struggle, in regard to racial discrimination in various parts of the world. The House<sup>680</sup> knows that in the few years one of the major questions before the United Nations, at the instance of<sup>700</sup> India, has been the question of Indians in South Africa. May I, if the House will permit me, for a<sup>720</sup> moment refer to an event which took place yesterday, that is, the passing of the resolution at the General Assembly<sup>740</sup> of the United Nations, and express my appreciation and my Government's appreciation of the way our delegation has functioned in<sup>760</sup> this matter and our appreciation of all those nations of the United Nations, almost all, in fact all barring South<sup>780</sup> Africa, which finally supported the attitude of India?

One of the pillars of our foreign policy, repeatedly stated, as to<sup>800</sup> fight against racial discrimination, to fight for the freedom of suppressed nationalities. Are we compromising on that issue by remaining<sup>820</sup> in the Commonwealth? We have been fighting on the various issues even though we have thus far been a Dominion of the Commonwealth.<sup>840</sup>

PRIVILEGES: special rights; PLEDGE: oath; STRESS: pressure;  
RACIAL: based on race; SUPPRESSED: to crush down.

## Non-Receipt of Monthly be intimated by 10th

### Exercise 14

I am afraid that if we adopted that attitude, then there would hardly be any association for us with any <sup>20</sup> country, because we have disapproved of something or other that country does. Sometimes it so happens that the difference <sup>40</sup> is so great that either you cut off relations with that country or there is a conflict. Some years ago, <sup>60</sup> the United Nations General Assembly decided to recommend to its Member States to withdraw diplomatic representatives from Spain, because Spain <sup>80</sup> was supposed to be a Fascist country. I am not going into the merits of the question. Some think that question <sup>100</sup> comes up in that way. The question has come up again and they have reversed that decision and left it <sup>120</sup> to each Member States to do as it likes.

Take any great country or a small country and see what <sup>140</sup> this means, you do not agree with everything that the Soviet Union does, therefore, why should you have representation there <sup>160</sup> or why should you have a treaty of alliance in regard to commercial or trade matters with it? You may <sup>180</sup> not agree with some policies of the United States of America, therefore, you cannot have a treaty with them. That <sup>200</sup> is not the way nations carry on their foreign policy or any policy. The first thing to realize I think, <sup>220</sup> is that there are different ways of thinking, different ways of living and different approaches of life in different parts <sup>240</sup> of the world. Most of our troubles arise from one country imposing its will and its way of living on <sup>260</sup> other countries. It is true that no country can live in isolation, because the world as constituted today is progressively <sup>280</sup> becoming an organic whole. If one country living in isolation does something which is dangerous to the other countries, the <sup>300</sup> other countries have to intervene. To give a rather obvious example, if one country allowed itself to become the breeding <sup>320</sup> ground of all kinds of dangerous diseases, the world would have to come in and clear it up, because it <sup>340</sup> could not afford to allow disease to spread all over the world. The only safe principle to follow is that, <sup>360</sup> subject to certain limitations each country should be allowed to live its own life in its own way. There are <sup>380</sup> at present several ideologies in the world and major conflicts flow from these ideologies which we well consider later. <sup>400</sup>

We join the Commonwealth obviously because we think it is beneficial to us and to certain causes in the world <sup>420</sup> that we wish to advance. The other countries of the Commonwealth want us to remain there because they think it is <sup>440</sup> beneficial to them. It is mutually understood, that it is to the advantage of the nations in the Commonwealth

and <sup>460</sup> therefore, they join. At the same time, it is made perfectly clear that each country is completely free to go <sup>480</sup> its own way, it may be that they may sometimes go so far as to break away from the Commonwealth. <sup>500</sup> In the world today where there are so many disruptive forces at work, where we are often on the verge <sup>520</sup> of war, I think it is not a safe thing to encourage the breaking up of any association that one <sup>540</sup> has. Break up the evil part of it, break up anything that may come in way of your growth, <sup>560</sup> because nobody agrees to anything which comes in the way of a nation's growth. Otherwise, apart from breaking the evil <sup>580</sup> parts of the association, it is better to keep going a co-operative association which may do good in this world <sup>600</sup> than to break it.

Now, this declaration that is placed before you is not a new move and yet it <sup>620</sup> is a complete reorientation of something that has existed in an entirely different way. Suppose we had been cut off <sup>640</sup> from England completely and we had then desired to join the Commonwealth of Nations it would have been a new <sup>660</sup> move. Suppose a new group of nations wanted us to join them and we joined them in this way, that <sup>680</sup> would have been a new move from which various consequences would have flowed. In the present instance, what is happening <sup>700</sup> is that a certain association has been in existence for a considerable time past. A very great change came in <sup>720</sup> the way of that association about a year and eight or nine months ago, from August 15, 1947. <sup>740</sup> Now another major change is contemplated. Gradually the conception is changing. Yet that certain link remains in a different form. <sup>760</sup> Politically we are completely independent. Economically, we are as independent as independent nations can be. Nobody can be hundred per <sup>780</sup> cent independent in the sense of absolute lack of interdependence. India has to depend on the rest of the world <sup>800</sup> for her trade and for many supplies that she needs, today for her food unfortunately, and so many other things. <sup>820</sup> The House knows that inevitably during the past century and more all kinds of contacts have arisen between England and this country. <sup>840</sup>

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FASCIST: dictatorship based on one religious group; INTERVENE: to come in between; IDEOLOGIES: thinking; REORIENTATION: redirection; CONTEMPLATED: planned; CONCEPTION: an idea arise.

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### Exercise 15

I wanted the world to see that India did not lack faith in herself, and that India was prepared to <sup>20</sup> co-operate even with those with whom she had been fighting in the past, provided the basis of co-operation today was <sup>40</sup> honourable, that it was a free basis, a basis which would lead to the good not only of ourselves, but <sup>60</sup> of the world also. That is to say, we would not deny the co-operations simply because in the past we <sup>80</sup> had fought, and thus carry on the trail or our past 'karma' along with us. We have to wash out <sup>100</sup> the past with all its evil. I wanted, if I may say so in all humility, to help in letting <sup>120</sup> the world look at things in a slightly different perspective, or rather try to see how vital questions could be <sup>140</sup> approached and dealt with. We have seen too often in the arguments that go on in the assemblies of the <sup>160</sup> world this bitter approach, this cursing of each other, this desire not in the least to understand the other but <sup>180</sup> deliberately to misunderstand the other, and to make clever points.

It may be a satisfying performance for some of us <sup>200</sup> on occasions to make clever points and be applauded by our people or by some other people. But in the <sup>220</sup> state of the world today, it is a poor thing for any responsible person to do, when we live on <sup>240</sup> the verge of catastrophic wars, when national passions are roused, and when even a casually spoken word might make all <sup>260</sup> the difference. Some people have thought that by our joining or continuing to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations we <sup>280</sup> are drifting away from our neighbour in Asia, or that it has become more difficult for us to co-operate with <sup>300</sup> other great countries in the world. But I think it is easier for us to develop closer relations with other <sup>320</sup> countries while we are in the Commonwealth than it might have been otherwise. This is rather a peculiar thing to <sup>340</sup> say. I have given a great deal of thought to this matter. The Commonwealth does not come in the way <sup>360</sup> of our co-operation and friendship with other countries. Ultimately, we shall have to decide, and ultimately the decision will depend <sup>380</sup> on our own strength. If we dissociate ourselves completely from the Commonwealth, then for the moment, we are completely isolated. <sup>400</sup>

I think you will find that during this period of two years or less, India has gone up in the <sup>420</sup> scale of nations in its influence and in its prestige. It is a little difficult for me to tell you <sup>440</sup> exactly what India has done or has not done. It would be absurd for anyone to expect that India can <sup>460</sup> become the crusader for all causes in the world and bring

forth results. Even in cases that have borne fruit <sup>40</sup> it is not a thing to be proclaimed from the house-tops. But something which does not require any proclamation <sup>500</sup> is the fact of India's prestige and influence in world affairs. Considering that she came on the scene as an <sup>520</sup> independent nation only a year and a half or a little more ago, it is astonishing, the part that India <sup>540</sup> has played.

One more thing I should like to say. Obviously a declaration of this type or the Resolution that <sup>560</sup> I have planned before the House is not capable of amendment. It is either accepted or rejected. I am surprised <sup>580</sup> to see that some Hon'ble Members have sent in notices of amendments. Any treaty with any foreign power can be <sup>600</sup> accepted or rejected. It is a joint declaration of eight countries, and it cannot be amended in this House or <sup>620</sup> in any House. It can be accepted or rejected. I would, therefore, beg of you to consider this business in <sup>640</sup> all its aspects. First of all, make sure that it is in conformity with our old pledges, that it does <sup>660</sup> violence to none. If it is proved to me that it does violence to any pledge that we have undertaken, <sup>680</sup> that it limits India's freedom in any way, then I certainly shall be no party to it. Secondly, you should <sup>700</sup> see whether it does good to us and to the rest of the world. I think there can be little <sup>720</sup> doubt that it does us good, that this continuing association at the present moment is beneficial for us, and it <sup>740</sup> is beneficial, in the larger sense, to certain world causes that we represent. And lastly, if I may put it <sup>760</sup> in a negative way, not to have had this agreement would certainly have been detrimental to those world causes as <sup>780</sup> well as to ourselves. And finally, about the value I should like this House to attach to this declaration and <sup>800</sup> to the whole business of the talks leading up to this declaration. It is a method, which brings a touch <sup>820</sup> of healing with it in this world which is today sick and which has not recovered from so many wounds. <sup>840</sup>

TRAIL: track, way; PERSPECTIVE: to see in natural form;  
CATASTROPHIC: destructive; CRUSADOR: one who makes advance effort; PROCLAMATION: public declaration; DETERIMENTAL: damaging. DISSOCIATE: to separate from society.

# WORK HARD, ROME WAS NOT BUILT IN A DAY

### Exercise 16

Sir, each anniversary of Independence is sacred to the country. On each anniversary we remember our freedom fighters. On this <sup>20</sup> day we recall the builders of modern India. Today, standing on the sacred soil of Red Fort, I recall 1857 <sup>40</sup> when our first freedom fighters came to this Red Fort. I recall 1945, when soldiers of the Indian <sup>60</sup> National Army were prosecuted here. Their only crime was that they fought for the freedom of the motherland. In 1947 <sup>80</sup> at this very place, Panditji hoisted the flag of Independent India. Today, when we are assembled here, we remember the <sup>100</sup> ideals, the principles, the values, and the dreams which inspired our freedom fighters to win freedom for the country. Today, <sup>120</sup> all of us assembled here rededicate ourselves to that cause.

On this fortieth anniversary, we naturally think not only of <sup>140</sup> the events of the last one year but of the last 40 years. At the same time, we look forward <sup>160</sup> to the future as well. Our elders got us freedom and entrusted us with the responsibility of safeguarding and maintaining <sup>180</sup> that freedom. It is our responsibility to protect it. During these four decades we faced many situations, a number of <sup>200</sup> threats and also pressures. We faced conspiracies, we faced aggressions. We did not bend, we protected the unity and integrity <sup>220</sup> of India with our courage, our blood and our sacrifices. We showed to the world that India is strong, India <sup>240</sup> is one and it cannot be divided. We demonstrated to the world that no one can enslave us again. We <sup>260</sup> made it clear that nobody can weaken the unity of India. We made it evident that no sacrifice is too <sup>280</sup> big for the security of our country, the independence of our country and the unity of our country. No amount <sup>300</sup> of labour, no amount of sacrifice is too high a price to pay for this purpose. Our soldiers, our officers <sup>320</sup> give the best years of their lives to guard our frontiers and to defend us. In return we look after <sup>340</sup> them, we provide them with the best of weaponry and ammunition. We see to it that they get the best <sup>360</sup> tools. We are pledged to do so. The freedom of India means the freedom of the people. The freedom of <sup>380</sup> India means that we should strengthen the roots of democracy, and hold impartial elections in which every citizen can participate. <sup>400</sup>

We conduct Parliament in such a way that the voice of the people of India is listened to and which <sup>420</sup> looks after and builds the future of the country. The meaning of free India is that it has an independent <sup>440</sup> judiciary and rule of law. Free India means that it has a free and unfettered Press. But it is not <sup>460</sup> so easy to

protect democracy, especially when we find that there are people who endanger our freedom through irresponsibility and <sup>480</sup> indiscipline, who show disrespect to the Constitution and its institutions through their behaviour. Still we have demonstrated that the roots <sup>500</sup> of democracy in our country are deep. Our people must remain alert. It is only a Government based on democracy <sup>520</sup> that can function in a country like India. Our great economic achievements have been acclaimed all over the world. Gandhiji <sup>540</sup> had taught us that the process of development and the task of building the country should begin with the poor <sup>560</sup> people by eradicating poverty. He taught us that the moral duties should be kept in the forefront in our national <sup>580</sup> life. We have taken the country forward towards these very objectives. Eradication of poverty has been given highest priority. We <sup>600</sup> have used our entire energy in eradicating poverty. Indiraji gave a call for eradicating poverty. She brought about a new <sup>620</sup> awakening in the country as a result of which there was reduction in poverty. Because of her New Economic Programme <sup>640</sup> and other programmes for rural development, be it NREP or JRDP or any other, <sup>660</sup> there has been improvement in the lives of the poor people of the country. We see that the picture has <sup>680</sup> changed during the last 40 years. Forty years ago, 2-3rd of India's population was below the poverty line. Today <sup>700</sup> 2-3rd of the population has come above the poverty line. This achievement is due to our anti-poverty programmes. <sup>720</sup> They have also smashed the hold of feudalism. Eradication of poverty has been carried forward through the Green Revolution. As <sup>740</sup> a result in just a few years' time things have improved considerably on the fortifiers as earlier there was <sup>760</sup> drought 21 years ago, Prime Minister has to seek foodgrains from foreign countries. How small she felt when she has <sup>780</sup> to bow down to others for foodgrains. It was then that she decided that never again would India appeal to <sup>800</sup> foreign countries for foodgrains. She overruled her technocrats and her other advisers and took steps which brought about the Green <sup>820</sup> Revolution in the North-Western part of the country. Indiraji's foresight and hard work of farmers produced these desired results. <sup>840</sup>

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LACUNA: defects; PROSECUTED: to sue in courts; CONSPIRACIES: coming together for bad motives; IMPARTIAL: unbiased; FUDALISM: system of land owners; ERADICATE: complete removal.

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### Exercise 17

**A**n integrated National Education programme the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has been launched for universalising elementary education and a National Mission<sup>20</sup> constituted with the Prime Minister as Chairman. The programme aims to provide eight years of quality elementary education for all<sup>40</sup> children up to the age of 14 years in a Mission mode with a thrust of community ownership, disadvantaged group and<sup>60</sup> girls' quality education and alternative modes of education. All existing schemes on elementary education will converge with this scheme after<sup>80</sup> the Ninth Plan and it will cover all districts in the country by March, next year. We are determined to<sup>100</sup> maintain and strengthen our competitiveness in the field of technology education. A task force set up for this purpose under<sup>120</sup> the HRD Minister has made wide ranging recommendations to upgrade and expand this area of education.<sup>140</sup> The Roorkee Engineering College will be upgraded in to an IIT and funding for IIT, Guwahati has been<sup>160</sup> stepped up to ensure its early completion. The base of IIMs to be expanded, regional engineering colleges are<sup>180</sup> to be strengthened and new institutes will be set up with public private partnership. The role of the private sector will<sup>200</sup> be encouraged. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for computer literacy and studies in schools is being launched and other initiatives<sup>220</sup> planned for encouraging IT education from school/college levels. Last year, I announced the availability of 100 per cent<sup>240</sup> deduction from income tax of payments made to institutions for vocational education and training by the private sector set<sup>260</sup> up in rural areas and small towns. I propose to make the same deduction available for payments to engineering institutions<sup>280</sup> also.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have personally experienced poverty and faced problems in pursuing higher studies. I, therefore, feel that<sup>300</sup> no deserving student in the country should be deprived of higher and technical education for want of finances. I am glad<sup>320</sup> that the Indian Banks Association has formulated a new comprehensive Educational Loan Scheme, which will cover all courses in schools<sup>340</sup> and colleges in India and abroad. Loans will be available under this scheme up to Rs. 7.5 lakh<sup>360</sup> for studies in India, and Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad. No collateral or margin will be stipulated for loans up<sup>380</sup> to Rs. 4 lakh. The interest rate will not exceed PLR plus 1 per cent for loans.<sup>400</sup>

The year 2001 is being observed as Women's Empowerment year. My Colleague, the Deputy Chairman

of the Planning Commission<sup>420</sup> is heading a Task Force to review the programmes for women. Meanwhile I propose to strengthen the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh<sup>440</sup> for providing micro credit to poor assetless women through NGOs. Launch an integrated scheme for women's empowerment in<sup>460</sup> 650 blocks through women's self help groups. Start a new scheme for women in difficult circumstances like widows<sup>480</sup> of Vrindavan, Kashi and other places, destitute women and other disadvantaged women groups. In keeping with Government's commitment to improve<sup>500</sup> the Welfare of the scheduled tribes, a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation with an authorised share capital of<sup>520</sup> Rs.500 crore has been set up. The allocation for the schemes for welfare of scheduled tribes in the<sup>540</sup> Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been enhanced from Rs.786 this year to Rs.986 crore<sup>560</sup> in the coming year. Similarly, the allocation for the schemes for welfare and upliftment of scheduled castes<sup>580</sup> in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been enhanced from Rs. 709 crore this<sup>600</sup> year to Rs. 790 crore in the coming year.

Hon'ble Members may recall my announcement in the last budget<sup>620</sup> of a new Group Insurance Scheme, the "Janashree Bima Yojana" to extend Social Security cover to the poorest sections<sup>640</sup> of society. The said scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on 10 August, 2000 and has been well<sup>660</sup> received. 332 schemes have been approved so far covering people in the BPL segment.<sup>680</sup> I believe that the Social Security cover needs to be widened to minimize the miseries of our people<sup>700</sup> below the poverty line. Accordingly, I propose to introduce two more schemes during the next financial year. A special scheme<sup>720</sup> for landless agricultural labourers, the Khetihar Mazdoor Bima Yojana, which will provide benefits of insurance cover as available under<sup>740</sup> Janashree Bima Yojana and a pension of Rs.100 per month, to the beneficiary on attaining the age of 60 years.<sup>760</sup> In the case of beneficiaries who join the scheme at a young age, some periodical payments at the end<sup>780</sup> of every ten years are also envisaged. The beneficiaries will be required to make a small contribution towards the premium.<sup>800</sup> A Shiksha Sahyog Yojana, to provide an education allowance of Rs.100 per month to the children of parents<sup>820</sup> living below the poverty line, to meet the expenses of education during their studies from 9th to 12th standard now.<sup>840</sup>

FANTASY: day dream; SCRUTINIZED: closely examined.

### Exercise 18

Meanwhile, I have some good news for workers. The wage ceiling for coverage under the EPF and MP Act.<sup>20</sup> 1952 has been enhanced from Rs. 5000 to Rs.6500 to promote <sup>40</sup> the welfare of employees. I propose to enhance the ceiling for Government contribution of 1.16 per cent of <sup>60</sup> monthly wage of employees to the pension Fund from Rs.5000 to Rs.6000 per month. The extra <sup>80</sup> expenditure on this account is estimated to be Rs 77 crore per annum. Whereas the organised sector is at <sup>100</sup> present covered by various pension, provident fund and gratuity schemes, the unorganised sector does not have adequate social security coverage. <sup>120</sup> I am asking the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority to look into all these issues and provide a road map for pension <sup>140</sup> reforms by October 1, 2001. Journalists have to increasingly take greater risks in covering terrorist and other <sup>160</sup> violence prone incidents. As an acknowledgement of their services and sacrifices, and with the expectation of a better treatment at <sup>180</sup> their hands, I propose to set up a Journalists Welfare Fund with a contribution of Rs.1 crore under the grants of <sup>200</sup> Ministry of I & B. My colleague the I& B Minister will announce the details of the scheme.

Our <sup>220</sup> entertainment industry, particularly the film industry not only provides the much needed fantasy to millions of our people who live <sup>240</sup> in an otherwise harsh and cruel world, it has also emerged as an important segment of our economy and holds great <sup>260</sup> promise for the future. Two years ago, I provided for this industry the same tax exemption that was available for <sup>280</sup> merchandise exports. A few months ago, the Government issued a notification under the IDBI Act whereby entertainment industry <sup>300</sup> including films has been declared as an industrial concern. Banks are in the process of finalising guidelines for financing <sup>320</sup> such projects that are bankable. I hope that the film industry will take full advantage of these measures to bring <sup>340</sup> about a greater degree of professionalism and transparency in this operations, and will not do things *chupke chupke* and certainly not <sup>360</sup> *chori chori*. As I have already stated the most serious problem is the poor state of the fiscal health of <sup>380</sup> both the Central and State Governments. The combined fiscal deficit of the two together is around 10 per cent. <sup>400</sup>

As promised in my earlier Budget Speeches, I appointed the Expenditure Reforms Responsibility Bill <sup>420</sup> in this House in the last session. The Bill seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit to 2 per cent <sup>440</sup> and completely eliminate the revenue deficit over the next five years. A number of

initiatives have already been taken to contain<sup>460</sup> in particular, the growth of non-plan expenditure. I have not allowed any increase in non-plan expenditure this year. Consequently<sup>480</sup> for the first time in many years, the fiscal deficit target fixed in the budget has indeed been achieved, and remains<sup>500</sup> at 5.1 per cent in the RE of the current year. The target of 3.6 per cent<sup>520</sup> revenue deficit has also been achieved.

I intend to carry forward the process of bringing about structural changes<sup>540</sup> in the composition of Central Government expenditure and effect economy in non-plan revenue expenditure with<sup>560</sup> greater vigour while improving the quality of plan expenditure. For this, I propose to take the following initiatives: User charges for services provided by government and<sup>580</sup> its agencies will be revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services. A portion of this increase will be<sup>600</sup> provided to enhance the maintenance and quality of these services. Similarly, Postal rates will be revised moderately to contain the<sup>620</sup> rising postal deficit.

All requirements of recruitment will be scrutinized to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to 1 per cent<sup>640</sup> of total civilian staff strength. As about 3 per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower<sup>660</sup> by 2 per cent per annum, achieving a reduction of 10 per cent if five years as announced by<sup>680</sup> the Prime Minister. The Surplus Pool under the Department of Personnel will be streamlined and equipped to redeploy and retrain surplus staff.<sup>700</sup> Employees in the Surplus Pool will also be offered an attractive VRS package. Standard licence fee or<sup>720</sup> government accommodation will be enhanced by 50 per cent for Group A, 25 per cent for Group B<sup>740</sup> and 15 per cent for other categories of staff with effect from April 1, 2001. Facility of<sup>760</sup> LTC to Central Government employees will be suspended for 2 years for the remaining part of the four-year<sup>780</sup> block period except for employees who are entitled to last LTC before retirement. Use of Information Technology<sup>800</sup> in government activities with large public interface will be maximized to promote efficiency. For this purpose, operations like GPF,<sup>820</sup> pension, pay and accounts offices, passports, income tax, customs, central excise, will be fully computerized by March 31, 2002.<sup>840</sup>

FANTASY: day dream; SCRUTINIZED: closely examined.

**WRITE CORRECT OUTLINES ALWAYS**

### Exercise 19

The Expenditure Reforms Commission which was set up last year, has presented reports concerning downsizing in 6 Ministries and Departments.<sup>20</sup> These include Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Coal, Department of Heavy Industry, Department of <sup>40</sup> Public Enterprises and Ministry of Small Scale Industries. Reports of the Commission concerning other Departments will also be received within <sup>60</sup> the next six months. These recommendations will be implemented by July 31 2001 and identified surplus staff <sup>80</sup> transferred to the Surplus Pool.

Charity, it is said, must begin at home. I believe austerity, too, must begin <sup>100</sup> at home. To lead by example, based on the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, I propose to abolish three secretary,<sup>120</sup> special secretary level and two joint secretary level posts in the Department of Economic Affairs. This will be done in <sup>140</sup> stages by 31, July. In addition, another 44 posts of directors and below will be abolished, as <sup>160</sup> against 31 recommended by the ERC. 1675 posts are being abolished in the Currency <sup>180</sup> and Coinage Division which will be restructured and corporatised. The National Savings Organisation is to be downsized from a <sup>200</sup> level of 1191 staff to about 25. I have asked ERC to provide their <sup>220</sup> recommendations in respect of the Departments of Revenue and Expenditure also. I am confident that this will expedite the <sup>240</sup> process of right sizing the establishments in all the Ministries/Departments of Government. The Planning Commission has commenced the task <sup>260</sup> of preparing the Tenth Plan. Given the severity of resource constraints, improvement in the quality of government spending is of <sup>280</sup> the essence. It has therefore been decided to subject all existing schemes, both at the Central and State levels, to <sup>300</sup> zero based budgeting and to retain only those that are demonstrably efficient and essential. Furthermore, all schemes that are similar <sup>320</sup> in nature will be converged to eliminate duplication. Centrally sponsored schemes that can be transferred to States will be identified. Resource <sup>340</sup> flows will be linked to performance. Necessary procedural changes will also be made to speed up the decision making process <sup>360</sup> for approval of schemes. Utmost importance will be given to decentralized planning. The Central Government pension liability has reached unsustainable <sup>380</sup> proportions: as a percentage of GDP, it has risen from about 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent now.<sup>400</sup>

As such it is envisaged that those who enter Central Government Services after October 1, 2001 would receive

<sup>420</sup> pension through a new pension programme based on defined contributions. In order to review the existing pension system and to <sup>440</sup> provide a roadmap for the next steps to be taken by the Government, I propose to constitute a High Level Expert Group, <sup>460</sup> which would give its recommendation within 3 months. I have drawn your attention to the increasing share of debt <sup>480</sup> service burden in the expenditure budget caused by rising government debt and worsened by the prevalence of high real interest rates. <sup>500</sup> Most interest rates in the economy are now market determined. But, their movement downward is constrained by the rigidities <sup>520</sup> inherent in the administered interest rates governing the contractual saving sphere i.e. Provident Fund and Small Savings Schemes. I <sup>540</sup> have examined this issue very carefully. I find that the interest rates provided in all these schemes seldom exceeded consumer <sup>560</sup> price inflation by more than 3 per cent between 1980 and 1998. Since then, this difference has <sup>580</sup> risen to 6 to 8 per cent. Not only are such high real interest rates putting an unsustainable burden on <sup>600</sup> both Central and State Governments but the resulting high cost of capital is also inhibiting economic growth all round. I <sup>620</sup> am therefore reducing most administered rates by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Government guarantee <sup>640</sup> and tax incentives for these schemes will continue. For the future, I propose to explore a better system for the <sup>660</sup> determination of these rates. I propose to appoint an Expert Committee to provide recommendations on this issue.

The benefit of <sup>680</sup> reduction in interest rates on Small Savings Deposits will be fully passed on to the States. This will reduce their <sup>700</sup> borrowing cost from Small Savings by 100 to 150 basis points. In addition, I am also reducing the <sup>720</sup> interest rate on loans portion of Central assistance to State Plans by 50 basis points. Alignments of interest rates on <sup>740</sup> GPF by the State Governments along with the reduced provident funds interest rates at the Centre will <sup>760</sup> further reduce the interest burden of State Governments. Moreover, because of the anticipated increase in gross tax collection of the <sup>780</sup> Centre, devolution of Central taxes to States is expected to increase by over Rs. 9000 crore in 2001-02 <sup>800</sup> over the current year. All these measures will help in reducing the debt burden of the States and <sup>820</sup> improve their fiscal position. Along with fiscal consolidation at the Centre, it will be our endeavour to work for States.

<sup>840</sup>

ABOLISH: to end; ELIMINATE: to remove;  
DECENTRALIZE: to spread; INHIBITING: restraining;  
DEVOLUTION: distribution of finances;

### Exercise 20 (Legal)

Writ Petition No. 76 of 2016 was filed for declaring "right to sexuality", "right to sexual autonomy"<sup>20</sup> and "right to choice of a sexual partner" to be part of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21<sup>40</sup> of the Constitution of India and further to declare Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code to be<sup>60</sup> unconstitutional. When the said Writ Petition was listed before a three-Judge Bench on 08.01.2018, the Court<sup>80</sup> referred to a two-Judge Bench decision rendered in Suresh Koushal wherein this Court had overturned the decision rendered by the<sup>100</sup> Division Bench of the Delhi High Court in Naz Foundation. It was submitted by Mr. Arvind Datar, learned senior counsel<sup>120</sup> appearing for the writ petitioners, on the said occasion that the two-Judge Bench in Suresh Koushal had been<sup>140</sup> guided by social morality leaning on majoritarian perception whereas the issue, in actuality, needed to be debated upon in the backdrop<sup>160</sup> of constitutional morality.

A contention was also advanced that the interpretation placed in Suresh Kaushal upon Article 21<sup>180</sup> of the Constitution is extremely narrow and, in fact, the Court has been basically guided by Article 14 of the<sup>200</sup> Constitution. Reliance was placed on the pronouncement in NALSA case wherein this Court had emphasized on "gender identity and sexual orientation".<sup>220</sup> Attention of this Court was also invited to a nine-Judge Bench decision in K.S. Swamy and another v. Union of India and others<sup>240</sup> wherein the majority, speaking through Chandrachud, J., has opined that sexual orientation is an essential<sup>260</sup> component of rights guaranteed under the Constitution which are not formulated on majoritarian favour or acceptance. Kaul, J., in his<sup>280</sup> concurring opinion, referred to the decision in Mosley v. News Group Newspapers Ltd. to highlight that the emphasis for individual's<sup>300</sup> freedom to conduct his sex life and personal relationships as he wishes, subject to the permitted exceptions, countervails public interest.<sup>320</sup> The further submission that was advanced by Mr. Datar was that privacy of the individual having been put on<sup>340</sup> such a high pedestal and sexual orientation having been emphasized in the NALSA case, Section 377 IPC<sup>360</sup> cannot be construed as a reasonable restriction as that would have the potentiality to destroy the individual autonomy and<sup>380</sup> sexual orientation. It is an accepted principle of interpretation that a provision does not become unconstitutional merely because of abuse.<sup>400</sup>

Appreciating the said submissions, the three-Judge Bench stated that: "Certain other aspects need to be noted. Section 377<sup>420</sup> IPC uses the phraseology "carnal intercourse

against the order of nature". The determination of order of nature<sup>440</sup> is not a constant phenomenon. Social morality also changes from age to age. The law copes with life and accordingly<sup>460</sup> change takes place. The morality that public perceives, the Constitution may not conceive of. The individual autonomy and also individual<sup>480</sup> orientation cannot be changed unless the restriction is regarded as reasonable to yield to the morality of the Constitution.<sup>500</sup> What is natural to one may not be natural to the other but the said natural orientation and choice cannot be<sup>520</sup> allowed to cross the boundaries of law and as the confines of law cannot tamper or curtail the inherent right embedded in an individual under Article 21<sup>540</sup> of the Constitution. A section of people or individuals who exercise their choice should never remain in a state of fear.<sup>560</sup> When we say so, we may not be understood to have stated that there should not be fear of law<sup>580</sup> because fear of law builds civilised society. But that law must have the acceptability of the Constitutional parameters.

That is<sup>600</sup> the litmus test. It is necessary to note, in the course of hearing on a query being made and<sup>620</sup> Mr. Datar very fairly stated that he does not intend to challenge that part of Section 377 which relates<sup>640</sup> to carnal intercourse with animals and that apart, he confines to consenting acts between two adults. As far as the<sup>660</sup> first aspect is concerned, that is absolutely beyond debate. As far as the second aspect is concerned, that needs to be<sup>680</sup> debated. The consent between two adults has to be the primary pre-condition. Otherwise the children would become prey, and<sup>700</sup> protection of the children in all spheres has to be guarded and protected. Taking all the aspects in a cumulative<sup>720</sup> manner, we are of the view, the decision in Suresh Kumar Koushal's case requires re-consideration." The three-Judge Bench expressed<sup>740</sup> the opinion that the issues raised should be answered by a larger Bench and, accordingly, referred the matter to the larger Bench.<sup>760</sup> That is how the matter has been placed before us. We have heard Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, learned senior counsel<sup>780</sup> assisted by Mr. Saurabh Kirpal, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners in Writ Petition No. 76 of 2016,<sup>800</sup> Ms. Jayna Kothari, learned counsel for the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 572 of 2016<sup>820</sup> and Mr. Arvind P. Datar, learned senior counsel for the petitioner in Writ Petition No. 88 of 2018.<sup>840</sup>

**PERCEPTION:** thought; **PEDESTAL:** high level position;;

**POTENTIALLY:** inner strength;

**TAMPER:** to shatter; **CUMULATIVE:** in total.

## Exercise 21

I am glad to be here amidst you today. Punjab University had acquired a prominent place in the intellectual map of<sup>20</sup> India long before independence. Although the University had a fresh start at Chandigarh in 1947, in the wake<sup>40</sup> of partition, it is good that you have been able to keep up the traditions of this premier Institution. The<sup>60</sup> success of a University is measured not merely in terms of the number of students enrolled, or teachers employed; but<sup>80</sup> in its ceaseless endeavour to attain peaks of excellence and the quality of intellectual leadership that it offers to the<sup>100</sup> young generation. I am happy that you have been able to maintain three ideals of a university and I congratulate<sup>120</sup> the teachers and students of Punjab University for their achievements.

We are living in a dynamic age, characterised by speedy<sup>140</sup> and continuous changes, posing ever fresh questions regarding the ideals of University education. A University true to its very definition,<sup>160</sup> has always stood for universal outlook based on humanitarian reason and tolerance. The success of a university consists in its<sup>180</sup> capacity to produce independent thinkers endowed with strength of character. It is only such great thinkers that have made significant<sup>200</sup> contribution to the enrichment of human thought and progress of making. All through the history of making, we find that<sup>220</sup> societies are always in a process of continuous renewal in which all ideas, institutions and structures undergo transformation, leaving old<sup>240</sup> grabs and taking up new forms and postures. This process of constant struggle for renewal has been the chief characteristic<sup>260</sup> of the evolution of modern societies. What is essential is that we should contribute our mite to this process of<sup>280</sup> renewal, endowed with the strength of character and courage of conviction. The academic community and institutions of higher learning have<sup>300</sup> a big role to play in providing intellectual leadership to society in this unique struggle in the area of thought.<sup>320</sup> Our Universities should have the moral courage and intellectual honesty to assume this leadership. In the present day world,<sup>340</sup> Universities cannot remain isolated for ever from contemporary society and its problems. They must try to reach out to society<sup>360</sup> and help in finding solutions to the ever increasing problems of contemporary life. This active participation of Universities in the<sup>380</sup> life of the community will go long way in enriching the quality of life of the community at large.<sup>400</sup>

We are passing through a time of severe stresses and strains. Some of the social tensions around us today are<sup>420</sup> thrown up by the very process of our own social development. We are decisively moving away from the rigid traditions<sup>440</sup> of a distant past and are on the threshold of an irreversible trend towards new horizons on the

road of<sup>660</sup> modernisation. Our industry, agriculture, education, health all are fast developing. Science and technology are slowly, but surely, becoming a way<sup>480</sup> of our life. And yet emotionally we are not able to make any decisive break with the past. Our emotional<sup>500</sup> attachments are still conditioned by old traditions. Presumably, it is this conflict in the process of development that is reflected<sup>520</sup> in the current situation with occasional outbursts of fury on matters like regionalism, religion, community, caste and so on.<sup>540</sup> It is true that languages, religion, ways of life are all parts of our cultural heritage. What is needed is<sup>560</sup> to find solutions to new problems while trying to preserve all that is worthy in our heritage. This process of<sup>580</sup> growth demands that our cultural heritage should also lend itself to continuous renewal, and it is in this renewal, that<sup>600</sup> we should look forward to the necessary leadership in our intellectual community. It is this ability to provide intellectual leadership<sup>620</sup> that is expected of our Universities. India has made rapid and significant progress in the field of University education since<sup>640</sup> independence. It is a matter of pride for all of us to know that today our scientists, doctors, engineers and<sup>660</sup> technologists are serving in many parts of the world.

This is a welcome development. But it is very distressing at the<sup>680</sup> same time to see a large number of educated youth unemployed. One wonders sometimes, whether the growth in education, specially<sup>700</sup> higher level education in our country, is in the right direction and is in step with the absorbing capacity of<sup>720</sup> our economy. The primary objective of 'learning for earning' cannot be ignored in a country like ours. A job-oriented<sup>740</sup> education from elementary to the university level, has also to be planned, well in accordance with the employment outlets likely<sup>760</sup> to be generated by our economic development. The most appropriate education is that which enables the recipient to develop character,<sup>780</sup> strengthen mental faculties, expand intellectual horizons and enables one to stand on his own feet. Convocations are occasions for happiness<sup>800</sup> and satisfaction for universities, teachers and students, who have reached an important milestone in their lives, but the process of<sup>820</sup> education does not stop with these moments of joy. Every individual keeps learning throughout his life which benefits society.<sup>840</sup>

**PREMIER:** foremost;

**CONTEMPORARY:** present times;

**ENDOWED:** blessed with;

**THRESHOLD:** beginning;

**LINGUISM:** on the basis of language;

**TECHNOLOGIST:** users of technology.

## Exercise 22

**H**onourable Speaker, My government is working in mission mode to connect every part of the country with highways and expressways.<sup>20</sup> The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan has accelerated the pace of project completion. Ten years ago, the budget<sup>40</sup> for capex was around 2 lakh crore rupees, which has now increased to over 11 lakh crore rupees in the last budget.<sup>60</sup> Continuing the progress of the last decade, my government has made record investments in the past six months<sup>80</sup> in infrastructure for the future. The foundation has been laid for India's first deep-water mega port at Vadhavan.<sup>100</sup> This port, being built at a cost of 76,000 crore rupees, will rank among the top ten ports in the world.<sup>120</sup> India's aviation sector is growing rapidly. The country's airline companies have placed orders for more than<sup>140</sup> 1,700 new aircrafts. We are expanding airports to operate such a large fleet. Over the past decade, the number of airports<sup>160</sup> in the country has doubled. To accelerate the journey towards a Viksit Bharat, it is essential to make our cities future-ready.<sup>180</sup> In this direction, my government has focused on modernizing urban amenities and making them energy-efficient. Simultaneously, the foundation<sup>200</sup> is being laid for the development of new cities.

My government has decided to invest approximately 28,000 crore rupees<sup>220</sup> to establish 12 industrial nodes and build 100 industrial parks near cities across the country. Efforts to streamline urban transportation<sup>240</sup> are continuously underway. Metro projects in Delhi, Pune, Thane, and Bengaluru, along with the recently launched Namo Bharat Rapid Rail Services<sup>260</sup> on the Ahmedabad-Bhuj route, are shaping the cities of a Viksit Bharat. Just a few weeks ago,<sup>280</sup> work began on the Rithala-Narela-Kundli corridor in Delhi, which will be one of the major sections of the Delhi Metro network.<sup>300</sup> The metro routes in Delhi are expanding rapidly due to my government's continuous efforts. In 2014, the<sup>320</sup> total metro network in Delhi-NCR was less than 200 kilometres. Now, it has more than doubled.<sup>340</sup> Today, I am extremely pleased to share that India's metro network has crossed the milestone of 1,000 kilometres. India has now become<sup>360</sup> the third largest country in the world in terms of metro networks. Additionally, the decision to deploy 52,000 electric buses<sup>380</sup> in the country, at an estimated cost of 8,000 crore rupees, will provide smooth and clean urban transportation.<sup>400</sup>

My government has consistently worked on policies of multi-dimensional and inclusive development. Therefore, while emphasizing on physical infrastructure, equal efforts<sup>420</sup> have also been made by my government for a social infrastructure revolution. Providing affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare<sup>440</sup> to every section of

society is a top priority for my government. With improved hospital facilities, treatment options, and the availability<sup>460</sup> of medicines, healthcare expenses for ordinary families are steadily decreasing. To ensure that better healthcare services reach citizens, 1.75 lakh<sup>480</sup> Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established across the country. Considering the rising number of cancer patients and the<sup>500</sup> high cost of treatment, several cancer drugs have been exempted from customs duty. Nearly 9 crore women have been screened<sup>520</sup> for cervical cancer. Due to the efforts of my government, significant progress has been made in combating encephalitis, with the<sup>540</sup> mortality rate due to this disease reduced to 6%. Under the National TB Eradication Programme, the number<sup>560</sup> of TB patients has also decreased. I urge all citizens and Hon'ble MPs to contribute towards the success<sup>580</sup> of the TB-free India campaign. India has also seen substantial improvements in maternal and infant mortality rates.<sup>600</sup>

The government is boosting health infrastructure and medical equipment manufacturing. New bulk drug and medical devices parks are being developed<sup>620</sup> in the country, creating numerous employment opportunities. A modern and self-reliant agricultural system in India is our goal. My government<sup>640</sup> is working with dedication to ensure fair prices of crops to farmers and to increase their income. In 2023-24,<sup>660</sup> India achieved a record production of 332 million tons of foodgrains. Today, India is the<sup>680</sup> largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices in the world. The government has consistently increased the Minimum Support Price for both<sup>700</sup> Kharif and Rabi crops. Over the past decade, spending on the procurement of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains<sup>720</sup> has tripled. In the past six months, 100 climate-resilient, bio-fortified, and high-yielding advanced crop varieties have been<sup>740</sup> released to farmers. To strengthen agricultural infrastructure, the scope of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme has been expanded.<sup>760</sup> This initiative will boost employment opportunities in rural areas. To enhance oilseed production and achieve self-reliance in edible oils, a<sup>780</sup> National Mission on Oilseeds has been approved. A National Mission is also being implemented to promote Natural Farming. Earlier this year,<sup>800</sup> the duration of the special package for ensuring availability of DAP fertilizer at affordable rates to farmers<sup>820</sup> was extended. A few weeks ago, the India Meteorological Department completed 150 years for building a weather-ready and climate smart India.<sup>840</sup>

President: Droupadi Murmu

**ACCELERATE:** to increase gradually;

**ACCESSIBLE:** reachable;

**ENCEPHALITIS:** inflammation of the brain disease;

**PROCUREMENT:** to collect.

### Exercise 23

Sir, similarly, at the time of independence, our manufacturers were restricted to a few simple things. Today, with the development that<sup>20</sup> has taken place during the last 60 years, our industries have progressed to such an extent that India can manufacture<sup>40</sup> products comparable with those of advanced countries. We have today reached a stage from where we can leap forward with<sup>60</sup> greater energy and compete with others. Our scientists have shown to the world that they are capable of achieving the<sup>80</sup> highest in the field of science. Our technocrats have proved that they can master all types of technology successfully. The<sup>100</sup> path ahead is long none can say that we have not traversed far enough during the last sixty years.<sup>120</sup> We are building the India of our future on the foundations of development that have been soundly laid during these<sup>140</sup> sixty years. We shall see to it that our industries grow and expand rapidly. We shall see to it that<sup>160</sup> our youth get new and more opportunities of employment. We have to see that our productivity rises, prices go down<sup>180</sup> and quality improves. It should be our effort to associate our workers in the public sector units with management. We<sup>200</sup> should ensure that our science and technology are not borrowed from foreign countries but develops in a way that benefits<sup>220</sup> the country and also the poor people of the country. They should be able to meet our demands and requirements.<sup>240</sup> We also have to see that they go ahead and see the work done in other parts of the world,<sup>260</sup> meet the challenges and show the way to the world.

The most important thing, however, is that we should not<sup>280</sup> allow our attention to be diverted. Our attention must be concentrated all the time on the poorest and the weakest<sup>300</sup> person. In the field of agriculture, the production has increased a great deal, it has reached 150 crore tonnes. But<sup>320</sup> we find that it is stagnating at 150 crore tonnes for the last three years. It is true that the<sup>340</sup> monsoon has not been good during these years. Farmers in many regions and parts of the country have to face<sup>360</sup> difficulties but we are resolved to ensure that the farmers produce is not affected by the vagaries of weather in<sup>380</sup> future. We have to take steps to ensure increase in agricultural production in spite of adverse weather in our country.<sup>400</sup>

Some 70 per cent of our population reside in rural areas, and almost the same percentage of people are poor<sup>420</sup> and they earn their livelihood in the agricultural

farms. The number of agricultural labourers is much more than that of<sup>440</sup> farmers. We have to pay special attention towards them. If we want to eradicate poverty we have to begin with<sup>460</sup> the farmer's fields. We have started spreading the Green Revolution and we are happy to see that during the last<sup>480</sup> two years an improvement has been noticed for the first time in Uttar Pradesh. Improvement has also been noticed in<sup>500</sup> Bihar, Orissa and Bengal where the output of farmers is increasing. Poverty has been reduced in the rural areas. At<sup>520</sup> the same time we have to pay special attention to the production of cotton, oil seeds and pluses. In this way<sup>540</sup> we will see that with the spread of greenery poverty would be gradually reduced and would ultimately vanish. This year<sup>560</sup> we have provided more resources than ever before for programmes meant for eradication of poverty. At the same time we<sup>580</sup> have strengthened the administration as part of the poverty eradication programme. I have myself travelled far and wide, and after<sup>600</sup> seeing the work with my own eyes and discussing the matter with the officers, strengthened these programmes and intensified them.<sup>620</sup> Most important of all we have treated education as a part of the poverty eradication programme because as long as<sup>640</sup> the children of the poor people do not get good education, poverty cannot be eradicated. Today, however, we find another<sup>660</sup> problem before us, a very serious problem, that is of unemployment of the youth.

We find signs of pessimism in<sup>680</sup> our youth. Millions of our young people do not succeed in getting employment and millions remain dissatisfied even after getting<sup>700</sup> employment because they do not get what they want. We have to concentrate on the employment scene. There are some<sup>720</sup> weaknesses and deficiencies in our set-up. There is employment, there are jobs, but the education skills that are<sup>740</sup> required to fill up the vacancies are not there. Millions of boys and girls are matriculates, millions of them are<sup>760</sup> degree holders but all cannot get white-collar jobs. We have taken care of these things. In our new education<sup>780</sup> policy it has been our endeavour to make up for the deficiency in our set-up. Through this policy we will<sup>800</sup> ensure that the boys and girls coming out of schools and colleges, get such education which provides them employment. At<sup>820</sup> the same time we will have to see that the rural employment programmes are implemented to give maximum benefit to the people.<sup>840</sup>

**TRAVESED:** to cross over; **STAGNATING:** stationary;

**VAGARIES:** sudden changes; **PESSIMISM:** one who see darker side;

**DEFICIENCY:** shortage.

## Exercise 24 (Budget)

Honourable Speaker Sir, PM SVANidhi scheme has benefitted more than 68 lakh street vendors giving them respite from high-interest informal sector<sup>20</sup> loans. Building on this success, the scheme will be revamped with enhanced loans from banks, UPI linked<sup>40</sup> credit cards with Rs. 30,000 limit, and capacity building support. Gig workers of online platforms provide great dynamism to the<sup>60</sup> new-age services economy. Recognising their contribution, our government will arrange for their identity cards and registration on the<sup>80</sup> e-Shram portal. They will be provided healthcare under PM Jan Arogya Yojana. This measure is likely to assist nearly<sup>100</sup> 1 crore gig-workers. Each infrastructure-related ministry will come up with a 3-year pipeline of projects that can be<sup>120</sup> implemented in PPP mode. States will also be encouraged to do so and can seek support from the<sup>140</sup> IIPDF scheme to prepare PPP proposals.

An outlay of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore<sup>160</sup> is proposed for the 50-year interest free loans to states for capital expenditure and incentives for reforms. Building on the<sup>180</sup> success of the first Asset Monetization Plan announced in 2021, the second Plan for 2025-30<sup>200</sup> will be launched to plough back capital of Rs. 10 lakh crore in new projects. Regulatory and fiscal measures will be<sup>220</sup> fine-tuned to support the Plan. Since 2019, 15 crore households representing 80 per cent of India's rural population<sup>240</sup> have been provided access to potable tap water connections. To achieve 100 per cent coverage, I am pleased to announce<sup>260</sup> the extension of the Mission until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay. The Mission's focus will be on the<sup>280</sup> quality of infrastructure and O&M of rural piped water supply schemes through "Jan Bhagidhari". Separate MoUs will be<sup>300</sup> signed with states/UTs, to ensure sustainability and citizen-centric water service delivery. Building on the July Budget proposals,<sup>320</sup> urban sector reforms related to governance, municipal services, urban land, and planning will be incentivized. The Government will set up<sup>340</sup> an Urban Challenge Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore to implement the proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment<sup>360</sup> of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation' announced in the July Budget. This fund will finance up to 25 per cent<sup>380</sup> of the cost of bankable projects with a stipulation that at least 50 per cent of the cost is funded from bonds.<sup>400</sup>

We will incentivize electricity distribution reforms and augmentation of intra-state transmission capacity by states. This will improve financial health and<sup>420</sup> capacity of electricity companies. Additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP will be allowed to states,<sup>440</sup> contingent on these reforms. Development of at least 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 is essential<sup>460</sup> for our energy transition efforts. For an active partnership with the private sector towards this

goal, amendments to the<sup>480</sup> Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be taken up. A Nuclear Energy Mission for research<sup>500</sup> & development of Small Modular Reactors with an outlay of Rs. 20,000 crore will be set up. At least 5 indigenously developed<sup>520</sup> SMRs will be operationalized by 2033. The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy will be revamped<sup>540</sup> to address cost disadvantages. This will also include Credit Notes for shipbreaking in Indian yards to promote the circular economy.<sup>560</sup> Shipbuilding Clusters will be facilitated to increase the range, categories and capacity of ships. This will include additional infrastructure facilities,<sup>580</sup> skilling and technology to develop the entire ecosystem. For long-term financing for the maritime industry, a Maritime Development Fund<sup>600</sup> with a corpus of Rs. 25,000 crore will be set up. This will be for distributed support and promoting competition.<sup>620</sup> This will have up to 49 per cent contribution by the Government, and the balance will be mobilized from ports<sup>640</sup> and private sector.

UDAN has enabled 1.5 crore middle-class people to meet their aspirations for speedier travel.<sup>660</sup> The scheme has connected 88 airports and operationalized<sup>680</sup> routes. Inspired by that success, a modified UDAN scheme<sup>700</sup> will be launched to enhance regional connectivity to 120 new destinations and carry 4 crore passengers in the next 10 years.<sup>720</sup> The scheme will also support helipads and smaller airports in hilly, aspirational, and North East region districts. Greenfield airports<sup>740</sup> will be facilitated in Bihar to meet the future needs of the State. These will be in addition to the expansion of the<sup>760</sup> capacity of Patna airport and a brownfield airport at Bihta. Financial support will be provided for the<sup>780</sup> Western Koshi Canal Project benefitting a large number of farmers cultivating over 50,000 hectares of land in the Mithilanchal<sup>800</sup> region of Bihar. Mining sector reforms, including those for minor minerals, will be encouraged through sharing of best practices and institution<sup>820</sup> of a State Mining Index. Under the Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing fifty thousand dwelling units in<sup>840</sup> stressed housing projects have been completed, and keys handed over to home-buyers. Another forty thousand units will be completed soon.<sup>845</sup>

FM- Nirmala Sitharaman

**REVAMPED:** re.strenghtened;

**GIG WORKERS:** short duration workers;

**AUGMENTATION:** increase;

**REACTORS:** energy creators; **INDIGENOUSLY:** locally.

### Exercise 25 (Legal)

In the Full Bench decision, the High Court held as: Registration of document is a sine qua non for referring<sup>20</sup> the matter to the Collector, if the Registering Officer believes that the property is undervalued. No jurisdiction has been conferred<sup>40</sup> on the Registering Officer to refuse registration, even if the document is undervalued. Besides, there is no authority for him<sup>60</sup> to call upon the person concerned to pay additional stamp duty. Collector is the prescribed authority to determine the market value,<sup>80</sup> after affording a reasonable opportunity of hearing the parties. The Registering Officer cannot make an open enquiry to ascertain<sup>100</sup> the correct market value of the property by examining the parties. However, it is expected that he has to give<sup>120</sup> reasons for his conclusion for undervaluation, however short they may be. He can neither delay nor refuse registration of the<sup>140</sup> instrument, merely because the document does not reflect the real market value of the property. In order to<sup>160</sup> reach a conclusion, there is no bar for the Registering Officer to gather information from other sources, including official<sup>180</sup> or public record. Valuation guidelines, prepared by the revenue officials periodically, are intended with an avowed object of assisting<sup>200</sup> the Registering Officer to find out *prima facie*, whether the market value set out in the instrument has been set forth correctly.<sup>220</sup>

When the Collector exercises powers under sub-sections (2) and (3), he shall be deemed to be a quasi-judicial<sup>240</sup> authority, as the detailed procedure prescribed in the relevant rules evidently portrays that the Collector's decision is<sup>260</sup> relatable and verifiable by the materials on evidence, which he brings into record, on making an enquiry after hearing the<sup>280</sup> parties concerned. The Collector has been conferred with such powers by the statute, whereas the Registering Authority is not.<sup>300</sup> The powers of the Registering Officer are remarkably limited that is to say, he cannot at all hold any enquiry<sup>320</sup> to ascertain the quantum of Stamp Duty payable on an instrument. As adverted to supra, he shall not undertake a<sup>340</sup> detailed enquiry by examining the parties, which powers are exercisable by the Collector alone. The relevant rules would indicate<sup>360</sup> that the procedures have to be adopted for an enquiry by the Collector. A detailed procedure has been formulated in<sup>380</sup> Rule (4) for the Collector to act on receipt of reference under Section 47-A in Tamil Nadu Stamp Rules.<sup>400</sup>

It does not lay down any procedure as to what are the duties to be performed by a Registering Officer, while<sup>420</sup> ascertaining the market value of the property. The necessary upshot would be, the legislature thought it appropriate to curtail the<sup>440</sup> powers of the Registering Officer, probably for the reason

that allowing the Registering Officer to make an open enquiry would<sup>460</sup> lead to loss of time for registration, resulting in accumulation of documents for registration with him. Further, prescribing an authority<sup>480</sup> for the special purpose of conducting enquiry is very much essential, who shall not be the Registering Authority. We are<sup>500</sup> in complete agreement with the view taken by the Full Bench of the High Court. It is not permissible for the<sup>520</sup> Registering Officer to undertake an open enquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the correct market value of the property.<sup>540</sup> If the Registering Officer is bona fide of the view that the sale consideration shown in the sale deed is not<sup>560</sup> correct and the sale is undervalued, then it is obligatory on the part of the Registering Authority as well as the<sup>580</sup> Special Deputy Collector (Stamps) to assign some reason for arriving at such a conclusion. In such circumstances,<sup>600</sup> if the document in question is straightway referred to the Collector without recording any prima facie reason, the same would vitiate<sup>620</sup> the entire enquiry and the ultimate decision.

In the case on hand, it is not in dispute that the Form I<sup>640</sup> notices did not contain any reason. It also appears that the Collector (Stamps) in his order also failed to indicate<sup>660</sup> the basis on which the sale consideration shown in the two sale deeds was undervalued. There is one more aspect<sup>680</sup> of the matter which we should look into. The High Court in its impugned judgment while recording the facts stated:<sup>700</sup> The third Respondent, having refused to release the documents on the ground that it was undervalued, referred the same to the<sup>720</sup> second Respondent Special Deputy Collector (Stamps), Madras under section 47(A)(1) of the Act for determining the<sup>740</sup> correct market value of the property and also issued notice in Form I, thereby fixing the value of the property<sup>760</sup> in Doc.No. 487/2002 at Rs.45 lakhs and the other property in<sup>780</sup> Doc.No.488/2002 at Rs.13 lakhs.. Thereafter, the second Respondent also issued<sup>800</sup> Form II notice to the parties to the documents for enquiry before him. The Appellant, who is the purchaser of the property<sup>820</sup> filed his objections. After enquiry, the second Respondent Special Deputy Collector (Stamps) in his proceedings fixed the market value of the property.<sup>844</sup>

**SIN QUA NON:** equivalent;

**JURISDICTION:** legal boundaries;

**EVIDENTLY:** based on proof;

**BONA FIDE:** genuine legally;

**PRIMAFACIE:** on the face of it;

**IMPUGNED:** order panel against decision.

## Exercise 26 (Legal)

Senior Counsel on behalf of Express Newspapers have made the following submissions: Firstly, they recalled the various facts leading to the decision<sup>20</sup> of the Supreme Court. According to Senior Counsels, Express Newspapers was targeted by the then Government for its<sup>40</sup> anti-emergency stance during the years 1977 to 1979; Secondly, Once the new Government was elected, actions<sup>60</sup> were taken by the then Lieutenant Governor and the MCD etc., seeking to demolish and re-enter the property. This was<sup>80</sup> despite the fact that all the steps undertaken by Express Newspapers that is, of the initial construction of<sup>100</sup> the building on the east side due to the existence of the drain/sewer line, the shifting of the sewer line,<sup>120</sup> the construction on the west side, change of user of some portions to general commercial purpose, the use of the<sup>140</sup> basement for a Hindi newspaper, etc., were all done with the approval of the concerned authorities; Thirdly, Show Cause notice issued on<sup>160</sup> 10th March, 1980 was, thus, an act of vendetta. The same was challenged before the Supreme Court, and<sup>180</sup> in terms of the said judgment the Union of India could enforce its rights only by way of a civil suit.<sup>200</sup>

Fourthly, Express Newspapers applied for conversion in the year 2007, however, the same was not accepted. The termination<sup>220</sup> which was issued was stayed; Fifthly, According to Sr. Counsels, various allegations were raised by the Union of India, however,<sup>240</sup> the clear direction of the Supreme Court was that the Union of India could file a suit for recovery of the<sup>260</sup> conversion charges and the MCD was to compound the construction which was already made. Sr. Counsels<sup>280</sup> have relied upon the various decisions. Sixthly, The questions which have been raised by the L&DO are<sup>300</sup> breach of clause 2(5) and 2(14) of the lease deed. On each of the issues, it is his<sup>320</sup> submission that the Supreme Court's decision has already been rendered; Sevently, According to Sr. Counsel even if there is<sup>340</sup> misuse, only a recovery suit can be filed by the Union of India and no termination can be resorted to;<sup>360</sup> Eightly, The misuse is also based on non-newspaper use which is already recognized and permitted by the Government. The order<sup>380</sup> permitting the sub-letting to tenants, though, subject to the outcome of the writ petition, tenants could take possession.<sup>400</sup>

Ninthly, In view thereof, the Union of India filed a review petition which was also dismissed. Insofar as the misuse of<sup>420</sup> basement is concerned, the Supreme Court holds that the construction of double basement is not illegal. On unauthorized construction,<sup>440</sup> the Supreme Court directed that the Corporation

will compound the deviation; Tenthly, According to Sr. Counsel, the termination of the lease is in the<sup>460</sup> teeth of the restraint order passed by the Supreme Court. It is his submission that the impugned notices are nothing<sup>480</sup> but a fraud on power. Counsel, submitted that one, in paragraph 185 of the Supreme Court judgment,<sup>500</sup> the clear undertaking was recorded to the effect that Express Newspapers would approach the Government of India since the said undertaking<sup>520</sup> was made by the counsels before the Court, Express Newspapers was bound by the said undertaking; Secondly, Express Newspapers ought to have applied<sup>540</sup> to the Union of India for permission for change of user and for payment of necessary additional ground rent and<sup>560</sup> conversion charges. This obligation is of a binding nature, but they did not approach the Union of India for permission for<sup>580</sup> change of user and for payment of ground rent and conversion charges; Thirdly, the only common order in the Supreme Court<sup>600</sup> judgment was the quashing of the show cause notice.

In a subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, it is not<sup>620</sup> open to a two Judge Bench to decide as to what the three judges had said in the Express Newspapers' decision.<sup>640</sup> Fourthly, there ought to have been some morality on the part of Express Newspapers to approach the Government to seek<sup>660</sup> regularization and conversion. For a period of six months, it did not approach. Once the lease was terminated,<sup>680</sup> the building vests in the Union of India; Fifthly, in this case, there is no issue of freedom of press that is involved.<sup>700</sup> The land being public land, it is the bounden duty of the lessor to terminate the lease. The Union of India<sup>720</sup> has merely followed the law; Sixthly, the Constitutional issues relating to Article 14 would not apply once the termination<sup>740</sup> takes place. He submitted that, in fact, Express Newspapers has agreed to reimburse the costs of shifting of the sewer line.<sup>760</sup> Since the sub-letting was done as per the interim order of the Supreme Court, if no regularization is<sup>780</sup> sought, the tenants cannot remain. The officials from the L&DO had also appeared before the Court from time to time<sup>800</sup> and the computation was initially filed computing the dues at a whopping Rs.17,000 crores!<sup>820</sup> An affidavit was then sought which was filed by the L&DO. The computations from both sides were finally handed over.<sup>840</sup>

**VENDETTA:** serious dispute;

**CONVERSION:** putting to other use;

**BREACH:** breaking agreement;

**QUASHING:** to stop a decision;

**REIMBURSE:** to pay back.