

The power of words: On the assault on Salman Rushdie

The **assault** on Rushdie is an attack on those who **speak out** against all forms of **extremism**

Salman Rushdie has lived in the **shadow** of a death threat since 1989, after his fourth novel, *The Satanic Verses* (1988), **led** Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini **to** issue a fatwa against the writer for **offending** Islam, the **Prophet** and the Koran. The **extraterritorial edict multiplied** the danger to the writer, and though the motive is still unknown, last Friday, Rushdie, 75, was **stabbed** multiple times at a literary function in New York. He is **off** the ventilator, but, according to his son, remains in critical condition. Through the years, others have faced violence over the novel too. People have died in **riots**, blasts, firing to protest against the book; his Japanese, Norwegian and Italian translators were targeted; a bomb killed the person who was trying to **set it off**. Rushdie went into hiding for nine years, where he **burnished** his **weapon of choice** — words. He has talked the language of truth, **upheld** freedoms of art and the **intellect** and pushed for ideals of democracy such as the right to **dissent** in his 14 novels, and in several **incisive** essays. In fact, **under cover**, assuming the nom de guerre Joseph Anton (inspired by the **wanderer** in Conrad, and the **melancholy** of Chekov; also the title of his 2012 memoir), he **penned** *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, a book he had promised to write for his nine-year-old son.

For his Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children* (1981), which reimagined India's independence, he had **dispensed** with **safety nets**, just like his literary inspirations, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Gunter Grass and Nadine Gordimer. Rushdie found a new language to write about "hot and **overcrowded** and **vulgar** and loud" India, **shining** a light for future writers such as Arundhati Roy. **The assault** on Rushdie **is** also an attack against voices who speak out against extremism. Far too many **writers**, from M.M. Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh to Anna Politkovskaya, **have** faced violence, some paying with their lives, for **agitating** people in a "culture of easy **offendedness**". **On the frontline**, Rushdie has been **acutely alive** to the **expanding** threat. "This new idea," he writes in an essay titled 'Courage' (Languages of Truth), "that writers, scholars and artists who stand against **orthodoxy** or **bigotry** are to blame for **upsetting** people is spreading fast, even to countries like India that once **prided** themselves on their freedoms." **Speak up**, he says, every little bit **counts**. Rushdie's next novel, *Victory City*, a translation of an epic, and a book about the "power and the hubris of those in power", is out next February. But before the long recovery, a spot of cheer from the hospital: his son says Rushdie is being his usual **feisty** and **defiant** self, and that his sense of humour is **intact**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Set off** (phrasal verb) – detonate, explode, blow up, touch off, trigger विस्फोट करना

Vocabulary

1. **Assault** (noun) – attack, strike, onslaught, offensive, storming हमला
2. **Speak out** (phrasal verb) – speak publicly, speak openly, speak boldly, साफ़ तौर पर बोलना
3. **Extremism** (noun) – fanaticism, radicalism, zealotry, zeal, fundamentalism, उग्रवाद/अतिवाद
4. **Shadow** (noun) – threat, gloom, gloominess, blight साया
5. **Lead** (to) (verb) – give rise to, lead to, result in, bring about, cause वजह बनना
6. **Offend** (verb) – affront, upset, displease, distress, hurt, wound अपमान करना
7. **The Prophet** (noun) – (among Muslims) Muhammad.
8. **Extraterritorial** (adjective) – Situated outside a country's territory. अतिरिक्त देशीय
9. **Edict** (noun) – decree, order, command, commandment, mandate फर्मान
10. **Multiply** (verb) – increase, increase exponentially, grow, become more numerous बढ़ाना
11. **Stab** (verb) – (of a person) thrust a knife or other pointed weapon into (someone) so as to wound or kill. छुरा भोंकना
12. **Off** (adverb) – away from से बाहर
13. **Riot** (noun) – uproar, rampage, furore, tumult, commotion दंगा
14. **Burnish** (verb) – Enhance or perfect (skills) बढ़ाना/ सुधारना
15. **Weapon of choice** (phrase) – A tool, tactic, method, etc., considered the most effective or ideal in a given situation.
16. **Uphold** (verb) – maintain, sustain, continue, preserve, protect बनाए रखना
17. **Intellect** (noun) – scholar, sage बुद्धिजीवी
18. **Dissent** (noun) – disagreement, lack of agreement, difference of opinion, argument मतभेद
19. **Incisive** (adjective) – acute, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, keen, rapier-like तीखा, चुभनेवाला
20. **Under cover** (phrase) – With one's true identity being kept a secret
21. **Wanderer** (noun) – A person who travels aimlessly. पथिक/भटकैया
22. **Melancholy** (noun) – sadness, pensiveness, woe, sorrow, desolation उदासी
23. **Pen** (verb) – Write or compose (Story) लिखना

24. **Dispense** (with) (verb) – get rid of, waive, drop, leave out, forgo, do away with, discard छोड़ देना
25. **Safety net** (noun) – A safeguard against possible difficulty or adversity.
26. **Overcrowded** (adjective) – overpopulated, congested, overpeopled भीड़भाड़ वाला
27. **Vulgar** (adjective) – Bad-mannered, rude, rough, indecent अशिष्ट, असभ्य
28. **Shine** (verb) – to point a light in a particular direction दिखाना (रोशनी)
29. **Agitate** (verb) – upset, perturb, fluster, ruffle, disconcert, unnerve, disquiet उत्तेजित करना
30. **Offendedness** (noun) – The state or quality of being offended
31. **On the frontline** (phrase) – In the leading position of some effort or movement.
32. **Acutely** (adverb) – In a way that shows a perceptive understanding or insight.
33. **Alive** (to) (adjective) – alert to, awake to, aware of, sensitive to, conscious of, mindful of सतर्क
34. **Expanding** (adjective) – increasing, mounting, intensifying बढ़ते
35. **Orthodoxy** (noun) – convention, traditionalism, custom, conservatism, unoriginality रूढ़िवाद
36. **Bigotry** (noun) – prejudice, racism, bias, sectarianism, discrimination, unfairness कट्टरता
37. **Upset** (verb) – distress, trouble, perturb, disturb, discompose, unsettle परेशान करना
38. **Pride** (verb) – be proud of, be proud of oneself for, flatter oneself on गर्व करना
39. **Speak up** (phrasal verb) – Express one's opinions frankly and openly. साफ़ तौर पर बोलना
40. **Count** (verb) – matter, enter into consideration, be of consequence, be of account महत्वपूर्ण होना
41. **Feisty** (adjective) – (of a person, typically one who is relatively small) lively, determined, and courageous
42. **Defiant** (adjective) – Showing defiance. निडर
43. **Intact** (adjective) – Not damaged or impaired in any way; complete. अखंड

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. EDICT

- A. Decree
- B. Adherent
- C. Assiduous
- D. Avarice

2. INCISIVE

- A. Portent
- B. Archaic
- C. Concurrent
- D. Acute

3. BURNISH

- A. Inane
- B. Enhance
- C. Amorous
- D. Platitude

4. Idioms & Phrase

Beijing and Washington, meanwhile, are left picking up the pieces of an already strained relationship that is now ***teetering on the edge of*** an abyss.

- A. Be very close to a difficult or dangerous situation
- B. Used to convey that an action, process, or situation is the result or product of a previous one.
- C. To remove the inside of something
- D. A result that can be predicted with certainty

5. Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.

The first round of France's presidential election on Sunday has shown how the country's political landscape, once dominated by the traditional social democratic and conservative parties, has shifted to a more polarised direction.

P. While resentment over inflation and the rising cost of living remains high, Ms. Le Pen is offering a cocktail of hard nationalism and anti-establishment politics to win over disaffected voters without losing her far-right base.

Q. If in 2017, Mr. Macron defeated Ms. Le Pen in the run-off with a whopping 32 percentage point margin, his lead now, say polls, is between two to six points.

R. Opinion polls suggest that the race will not be easy for Mr. Macron as Ms. Le Pen, whose popularity was at 16% in February, has gained a lot of ground.

S. The run-off, on April 24, will determine who is to lead the European Union's second largest economy.

T. The conservative and socialist parties crumbled — with a combined 6.7% vote — while the far-right and leftist candidates won more than half of the polled votes.

U. While Emmanuel Macron, the sitting President, came top with 27.8% of the votes, Marine Le Pen, a far-right, anti-immigrant leader, finished second with 23.1%.

Which among the following will be the **Fourth** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

A. P

B. T

C. U

D. Q

E. R

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. I should do the same if I were in your place.
B. He has been suffering from fever for the last six weeks.
C. He has lost all what I gave him.
D. In spite of all efforts to eradicate malaria it is still prevalent in many parts of India.
E. All are correct
7. A. I have had no news from him for a long time.
B. Mahatma Gandhi's entire life was one unrelenting experiment on truth.
C. I am not sure why she wants to see him.
D. When the thieves ran out of the hank they got into the getaway car which was waiting with its engine running.
E. All are correct
8. He denied that he had not stolen my purse (A)/ though I was quite sure (B)/ that he had(C)/ No Error(D)
9. The media of films has been accepted by all (A)/ as the most powerful force (B)/ that influences the younger generation (C)/ No Error(D)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Perseverance
- B. Trailblezing
- C. Questionnaire
- D. Connoisseur

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Language as barrier – 02 Aug, 2022)

The call by Home Minister Amit Shah last week for engineering, (A)/ law and medicine to be taught in Indian languages are (B)/ a well-intentioned one. His stand is in sync with one of the focal points of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, (C)/ i.e., the promotion of Indian languages in higher education. (D)

Effective 2021-22, the AICTE granted approval to 19 engineering colleges in 10 States for having engineering courses in six Indian languages. (1)/ The rationale behind Mr. Shah's call is that 95% of students, who receive primary education in their mother tongue, should not be left out in their pursuit of higher studies. (2)/ The NEP provides for more higher educational institutions and

programmes in higher education to use the mother tongue or local language as a medium of instruction, besides offering programmes bilingually. (3)/ In recent years, substantive measures have been taken to make engineering courses available in Indian languages, if the statement by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 is an indication.(4)/ The Council has also developed an “AICTE Translation Automation AI Tool” that translates English online courses in 11 Indian languages. SWAYAM, an open online courses platform of the Central government, has been offering some popular courses in Indian languages too. The **import** of this is that the **goal (A)** of covering all sections as far as higher education is **concerned (B)** should become a reality. But, at the same time, one should not **gloss (C)** over the exercise not having **yielded (D)** results. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, the bid to _____11_____ engineering education through the Tamil medium has not created any impact despite the principal political players using language as a political tool. In the field of law — before the subject is taught in the Indian languages — the Central government should try to impress upon the judiciary to allow the use of Indian languages in court proceedings. While there is no need for haste in making educational materials available in Indian languages, the approach and methodology should be discussed _____12_____ by policymakers and educationists, without political pressure or interference. What should be made obvious is that the use of English, wherever desirable, should be retained, with no _____13_____ shown on the ground that it is a “foreign” language. It would not be out of place to highlight issues about standards and the quality of teaching of Indian languages in schools. Be it Gujarati or Hindi or even Tamil, students have been found to fail in their public examinations in language papers. There is also the point of _____14_____ employability outside the region of the language. If the Government is serious in taking forward its stated position of creating higher education access to certain sections, it should dispassionately study the advantages and the disadvantages.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, the bid to _____11_____ engineering education through the Tamil medium has not created any impact despite the principal political players using language as a political tool.
- A. Stringent
B. Impart
C. Epigram
D. Sentient
12. While there is no need for haste in making educational materials available in Indian languages, the approach and methodology should be discussed _____12_____ by policymakers and educationists, without political pressure or interference.
- A. Unconscionable
B. Impetuous
C. Aesthetic
D. Threadbare
13. What should be made obvious is that the use of English, wherever desirable, should be retained, with no _____13_____ shown on the ground that it is a “foreign” language.
- A. Idyllic

- B. Palpable
C. Aversion
D. Exonerate
14. There is also the point of _____ 14 _____ employability outside the region of the language.
A. Itinerant
B. Belying
C. Fatuous
D. Diminished
15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.
The call by Home Minister Amit Shah last week for engineering, (A)/ law and medicine to be taught in Indian languages are (B)/ a well-intentioned one. His stand is in sync with one of the focal points of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, (C)/ i.e., the promotion of Indian languages in higher education. (D)
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.
Effective 2021-22, the AICTE granted approval to 19 engineering colleges in 10 States for having engineering courses in six Indian languages. (1)/ The rationale behind Mr. Shah's call is that 95% of students, who receive primary education in their mother tongue, should not be left out in their pursuit of higher studies. (2)/ The NEP provides for more higher educational institutions and programmes in higher education to use the mother tongue or local language as a medium of instruction, besides offering programmes bilingually. (3)/ In recent years, substantive measures have been taken to make engineering courses available in Indian languages, if the statement by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 is an indication.(4)/
A. 1234
B. 3241
C. 4321
D. 3214
E. 2143
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

IMPORT

- (i) I hope the answers to these questions can at least provide a basic understanding of the **import** of the message.

- (ii) A nearby fisherman heard their **import** for help.
- (iii) They were yelling, their **imports** reverberating down the hall.
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

The import of this is that the **goal (A)** of covering all sections as far as higher education is **concerned (B)** should become a reality. But, at the same time, one should not **gloss (C)** over the exercise not having **yielded (D)** results

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement

19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.

- (i) There were technical glitches on AJIO's website and app.
- (ii) AJIO kicked off its big Prime Day sales extravaganza.
- A. Whereas
- B. Although
- C. Due to
- D. Despite
- E. As opposed to

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

- Don't intrude _____ the privacy of anyone.
- A. Of
 - B. On
 - C. With
 - D. To

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Teeter on the edge of**(phrase) – be very close to a difficult or dangerous situation.

5. **UTSRQP**

The first round of France's presidential election on Sunday has shown how the country's political landscape, once dominated by the traditional social democratic and conservative parties, has shifted to a more polarised direction. While Emmanuel Macron, the sitting President, came top with 27.8% of the votes, Marine Le Pen, a far-right, anti-immigrant leader, finished second with 23.1%. The conservative and socialist parties crumbled — with a combined 6.7% vote — while the far-right and leftist candidates won more than half of the polled votes. The run-off, on April 24, will determine who is to lead the European Union's second largest economy. Opinion polls suggest that the race will not be easy for Mr. Macron as Ms. Le Pen, whose popularity was at 16% in February, has gained a lot of ground. If in 2017, Mr. Macron defeated Ms. Le Pen in the run-off with a whopping 32 percentage point margin, his lead now, say polls, is between two to six points. While resentment over inflation and the rising cost of living remains high, Ms. Le Pen is offering a cocktail of hard nationalism and anti-establishment politics to win over disaffected voters without losing her far-right base

6. 'all what' के बदले या तो 'all that' का प्रयोग होगा या तो 'what' का क्योंकि 'all' (=everything) के साथ Relative Pronoun 'that' का प्रयोग होता है और 'what' किसी Antecedent के लिए प्रयुक्त नहीं होता है क्योंकि 'what' का प्रयोग यदि Relative Pronoun के रूप में होता है तो इसका अर्थ 'the thing/ the things which' होता है, अर्थात् इसमें 'Antecedent + Relative Pronoun' मौजूद होता है; जैसे-

- i. I will give her all that I have.
- ii. I will give her what I have.

➤ Instead of 'all what', either 'all that' or 'what' because 'all' (=everything) is used with the Relative Pronoun 'that' and 'what' is not used for any Antecedent because 'what' if used as Relative Pronoun means 'the thing/ the things which', i.e. it contains 'Antecedent + Relative Pronoun'; As-

- i. I will give her all that I have.
- ii. I will give her what I have.

7. 'one' के बदले Article 'an' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'experiment' एक Singular Countable Noun है और यह Indefinite Noun है, अतः इसके पहले प्रयुक्त Adjective के पहले Indefinite Article का प्रयोग होगा।

➤ Article 'an' will be used instead of 'one' because 'experiment' is a Singular Countable Noun and it is Indefinite Noun, hence Indefinite Article will be used before Adjective used before it.

8. 'not' का प्रयोग Superfluous है क्योंकि 'deny' का अर्थ 'इनकार करना, न स्वीकार करना' अर्थात् 'deny' में 'not' का भाव मौजूद होता है, अतः 'deny' के बाद 'not' का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता है। देखे-

- i. He denied the charge.
- ii. He denied the existence of God.
- iii. He denied his word, signature, faith, leader, etc

➤ The use of 'not' is superfluous because 'deny' means 'to refuse, not to accept' i.e. 'deny' has the meaning of 'not', hence 'not' after 'deny' is not used. see-

- i. He denied the charge.
- ii. He denied the existence of God.
- iii. He denied his word, signature, faith, leader, etc.

9. 'has' के बदले 'have' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'media' एक Plural Noun है जिसके लिए Plural Verb का प्रयोग होता है।

➤ 'have' will be used instead of 'has' because 'media' is a Plural Noun for which Plural Verb is used.

10. **Trailblazing** (adjective) – Introducing new ideas; innovative or pioneering. पथप्रदर्शक
11. **Impart** (verb) – communicate, pass on, convey, transmit; give, bestow, confer, grant, lend, प्रदान करना, शिक्षा देना
12. **Threadbare** (adjective) – (of an argument, excuse, idea, etc.) used so often that it is no longer effective. घिसा, पुराना, रगड़ा हुआ
13. **Aversion** (noun) – dislike of, distaste for, disinclination, abhorrence घृणा
14. **Diminished** (adjective) – Made smaller or less. कम, कम किया हुआ
15. Replace 'is' with 'are' as the subject is singular (i.e. The call)
16. (B) **3241**

The NEP provides for more higher educational institutions and programmes in higher education to use the mother tongue or local language as a medium of instruction, besides offering programmes bilingually. The rationale behind Mr. Shah's call is that 95% of students, who receive primary education in their mother tongue, should not be left out in their pursuit of higher studies. In recent years, substantive measures have been taken to make engineering courses available in Indian languages, if the statement by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 is an indication. Effective 2021-22, the AICTE granted approval to 19 engineering colleges in 10 States for having engineering courses in six Indian languages.

17. **Import** (noun) – importance, significance, consequence, moment महत्त्व
According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.
19. **Despite** technical glitches on its website and app, Amazon kicked off its big Prime Day sales extravaganza.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Adherent	noun	Follower; supporter; believer	अनुयायी, समर्थक
	Assiduous	adjective	Hardworking; busy; quite intelligent/diligent	परिश्रमी
	Avarice	noun	Greed; excessive love of riches	लोभ, लालच
Q2	Portent	noun	An omen; a sign of something coming in the future	लक्षण
	Archaic	adjective	Extremely old; Ancient; outdated	प्राचीन
	concurrent	adjective	Happening at the same time; parallel	समवर्ती
Q3	Inane	adjective	Silly; senseless	बेहूदा
	Amorous	adjective	Feeling loving; especially in sexual sense in love; relating to love	कामुक, प्रणयशील
	Platitude	noun	A dull or trite remark; a cliché	गंभीर टिप्पणी
Q11	Stringent	adjective	Strict; restrictive	कठोर
	Epigram	noun	A brief and usually witty or satirical saying	चुटकुला, सूक्ति
	Sentient	adjective	Able to perceive by the sense; conscious	संवेदनशील
Q12	Unconscionable	adjective	Not controlled by conscience; unscrupulous	बेशरम
	Impetuous	adjective	Impulsive; extremely impatient	अविवेकी
	Aesthetic	adjective	Aesthetic, having to do with artistic beauty; artistic	सौंदर्यात्मक
Q13	Idyllic	adjective	Charming in a rustic way; naturally peaceful	सुखद जीवन का
	Palpable	adjective	Capable of being touched; obvious; tangible	स्पर्शनीय
	Exonerate	verb	To free completely from blame; to exculpate	दोषमुक्त करना
Q14	Itinerant	adjective	Moving from place to place	चलनेवाला
	Belie	verb	To give a false impression of; to contradict	झुठलाना
	Fatuous	adjective	Foolish; silly; idiotic	बुद्धिहीन, मूर्ख

