

Inspiring the young: Most urgent national mission

With over 65 per cent of its population below the age of 35, India **possesses** one of the largest and youngest workforces in the world. A UN report titled The Power of 1.8 Billion **notes** that **countries** with significant youth populations **can accelerate** development — but only if they invest deeply in education, health, and the protection of young people’s rights. This promise, however, **stands in stark contrast to** how youth energy has historically been channelled.

For more than two **millennia**, **societies** across the world **have drawn upon** the courage and stamina of the young largely to **strengthen** military might. **Millions** of bright, **spirited** young people **have** been used as fuel for wars. Outside the battlefield, too, institutions have **often** failed to use youth power **constructively**. Political parties **deploy** their youth **wings** not for nation-building but for electoral muscle-breaking up **rival** meetings, **intimidating** opponents, and **showcasing** strength. In the world of business and industry, labour unions frequently **rely on** young workers to raise **fiery** slogans, pressure management, or threaten loyal employees to **extract concessions**.

Even campuses are not **immune**. Student unions often **mobilise** large groups to force administrative decisions, and when negotiations fail, **vandalism** follows **ransacking** offices, smashing windowpanes, burning buses, and publicly **torching effigies** of authorities. These repeated **cycles** of **impulsive**, unfocused **aggression demand** serious **introspection**. Youthful **dissent** is **essential** to a democracy, but when passion is misdirected, it becomes a tool of destruction rather than a **catalyst** for progress.

This raises uncomfortable yet important questions: Are we giving our youth a purpose worth **striving for**? Are we guiding their energy towards nation-building rather than **chaos**? Is there truly no alternative to the misuse of youth power? Mahatma Gandhi **envisioned** young people as **catalysts** of moral and social transformation—individuals shaped by courage, **conviction**, discipline, and service. His belief remains **profoundly** relevant. In today’s digital **era**, the youth are not just foot soldiers; they are innovators, entrepreneurs, coders, creators, climate warriors, and social reformers. Across India, young people are building start-ups that solve real-world problems, leading movements on mental health, gender equality, and environmental protection, and reshaping the civic landscape through creativity and activism. What they require is not **suspicion** or **surveillance**, but support, trust, and principled guidance. History shows that when a nation allows its youth to **wander down** a path **marked** by indiscipline, violence, and disrespect, it invites **social decay**. Youth are like a **double-edged sword**: capable of dismantling enemies—but equally capable of **destabilising** their own homeland if provoked, misguided, or misused. If we continue to encourage strikes, vandalism, aggression, and **hostility** towards teachers and institutions, we risk **nurturing** a generation that may, unintentionally, help **erode** the very foundations of the nation they are meant to uplift.

Today, India **stands at** a critical **intersection** of opportunity and responsibility. Parents, educators, leaders, and communities must work together to cultivate not just ambition but character; not just skills but compassion; not just energy but ethical purpose. The task is **immense**, but the reward is

immeasurable: strengthening the nation's soul. Let us recognise that our youth are partners of today and builders of a more **resilient** India.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Possess** (verb) – have, own, hold, bear, be endowed with रखना/युक्त होना
2. **Note** (verb) – observe, mention, state, remark, point out उल्लेख करना
3. **Accelerate** (verb) – speed up, hasten, expedite, quicken, stimulate गति बढ़ाना
4. **Stand** (verb) – be, remain, exist, endure, hold स्थित होना
5. **In contrast to** (phrase) – as opposed to, unlike, differing from, against, counter to. के विपरीत
6. **Stark** (adjective) – sharp, clear, distinct, obvious, glaring स्पष्ट
7. **Millennia** (noun) – a period of a thousand years. सहस्राब्दि
8. **Draw upon** (phrasal verb) – utilize, use, employ, rely on, exploit उपयोग करना
9. **Strengthen** (verb) – fortify, reinforce, bolster, enhance, build up मजबूत करना
10. **Spirited** (adjective) – lively, energetic, vigorous, passionate, animated जोशीला
11. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, repeatedly, regularly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
12. **Constructively** (adverb) – productively, usefully, helpfully, positively, creatively रचनात्मक ढंग से
13. **Deploy** (verb) – utilize, employ, use, mobilize, station उपयोग में लाना
14. **Wing** (noun) – section, faction, arm, branch, division विंग / शाखा
15. **Rival** (adjective) – competing, opposing, contesting, challenging, adversary प्रतिद्वंद्वी
16. **Intimidate** (verb) – frighten, threaten, bully, coerce, terrorize डराना
17. **Showcase** (verb) – display, exhibit, present, demonstrate, highlight प्रदर्शित करना
18. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend, count, bank, trust, lean on निर्भर होना
19. **Fiery** (adjective) – passionate, ardent, fervent, intense, vehement उग्र
20. **Extract** (verb) – obtain, force, exact, wrest, derive निकालना
21. **Concession** (noun) – compromise, allowance, sop, grant, indulgence रियायत
22. **Immune** (adjective) – exempt, unaffected, resistant, invulnerable, free अछूता
23. **Mobilise** (verb) – rally, organize, assemble, marshal, gather जुटाना

24. **Vandalism** (noun) – destruction, defacement, wrecking, ruin, sabotage
उपद्रव
25. **Ransacking** (noun) – plundering, looting, pillaging, wrecking, ravaging लूट-पाट
26. **Torch** (verb) – set fire to, burn, ignite, incinerate, kindle जलाना
27. **Effigy** (noun) – dummy, figure, likeness, image, model पुतला
28. **Impulsive** (adjective) – rash, hasty, reckless, spontaneous, unthinking आवेगशील
29. **Aggression** (noun) – hostility, belligerence, combativeness, violence, force आक्रामकता
30. **Introspection** (noun) – self-examination, soul-searching, reflection, contemplation आत्मविश्लेषण
31. **Dissent** (noun) – disagreement, opposition, protest, objection, discord असहमति
32. **Essential** (adjective) – crucial, vital, necessary, indispensable, key आवश्यक
33. **Catalyst** (noun) – stimulus, spark, impetus, trigger, motivator उत्प्रेरक
34. **Strive** (for) (verb) – try, endeavour, struggle, aim, attempt प्रयास करना
35. **Chaos** (noun) – disorder, confusion, turmoil, mayhem, anarchy अराजकता
36. **Envision** (verb) – imagine, visualize, foresee, picture, conceive कल्पना करना
37. **Catalyst** (noun) – agent, spur, stimulus, promoter, facilitator उत्प्रेरक
38. **Conviction** (noun) – belief, principle, certainty, faith, opinion दृढ़ विश्वास
39. **Profoundly** (adverb) – deeply, intensely, extremely, greatly, seriously गहराई से
40. **Era** (noun) – age, period, time, epoch, generation युग
41. **Suspicion** (noun) – distrust, doubt, mistrust, skepticism, wariness संदेह
42. **Surveillance** (noun) – observation, monitoring, watch, scrutiny, supervision निगरानी
43. **Wander down** (phrasal verb) – to move aimlessly along a path or course. भटकना
44. **Mark** (verb) – characterize, distinguish, brand, label, typify चिह्नित करना
45. **Social decay** (noun) – the breakdown of social structures and values. सामाजिक अवनति
46. **Double-edged sword** (phrase) – something that has both positive and negative consequences. दोधारी तलवार
47. **Destabilise** (verb) – undermine, weaken, unsettle, disrupt, subvert अस्थिर करना

48. **Hostility** (noun) – antagonism, enmity, animosity, ill will, hatred शत्रुता
49. **Nurture** (verb) – foster, encourage, promote, cultivate, support पोषण करना
50. **Erode** (verb) – destroy, undermine, wear away, diminish, weaken क्षय करना
51. **Stand** (at) (verb) – be situated, be located, be positioned, be placed खड़ा होना
52. **Intersection** (noun) – junction, crossroad, meeting point, confluence चौराहा
53. **Immense** (adjective) – huge, enormous, vast, massive, tremendous विशाल
54. **Immeasurable** (adjective) – limitless, boundless, infinite, incalculable, vast अतुल्य
55. **Strengthen** (verb) – fortify, reinforce, bolster, enhance, build up मजबूत करना
56. **Resilient** (adjective) – tough, hardy, robust, adaptable, flexible मजबूत

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Demographic Potential:** India has a massive advantage with over 65% of its population below the age of 35, representing one of the world's largest young workforces.
2. **Conditional Promise:** This demographic can accelerate national development, but only with deep investments in education, health, and the protection of youth rights.
3. **Historical Misuse:** Throughout history, the energy of the young has been largely misdirected, primarily as fuel for military conflicts and wars.
4. **Political Exploitation:** In modern times, political parties often misuse their youth wings for destructive purposes like intimidating opponents and disrupting rival meetings, rather than for constructive nation-building.
5. **Industrial Misguidance:** In business and industry, young workers are frequently mobilized by unions for aggressive tactics like raising fiery slogans and making threats, rather than for productive dialogue.
6. **Campus Unrest:** Even educational institutions see misdirected youth energy, where student unions sometimes resort to vandalism, ransacking offices, and burning effigies when negotiations fail.
7. **Need for Introspection:** This cycle of impulsive and unfocused aggression demands serious national introspection.
8. **Dissent vs. Destruction:** While youthful dissent is essential for a democracy, misdirected passion becomes a tool of destruction, not a catalyst for progress.
9. **Gandhian Vision:** Mahatma Gandhi envisioned youth as catalysts for moral and social transformation, shaped by courage, conviction, discipline, and service.
10. **Modern Youth Potential:** Today's youth are innovators, entrepreneurs, coders, climate warriors, and social reformers, building startups and leading movements on critical issues.
11. **Need for Support:** They require support, trust, and principled guidance from society, not suspicion or surveillance.
12. **Risk of Social Decay:** If a nation allows its youth to wander down a path of indiscipline and violence, it invites social decay.
13. **Double-Edged Sword:** Youth energy is potent; it can dismantle enemies but is equally capable of destabilizing their own homeland if misused.

14. **Urgent Collective Responsibility:** Parents, educators, and leaders must collectively cultivate character, compassion, and ethical purpose in the young, not just ambition and skills.
15. **National Mission:** The most urgent national mission is to guide this energy constructively to strengthen the nation's soul and build a more resilient India.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. Youth participation in election campaigns and traditional education
 - B. The dangers of modern digital technology
 - C. The need to direct youth energy towards constructive nation-building
 - D. The superiority of traditional education systems
2. **In the sentence “This promise, however, stands in stark contrast to how youth energy has historically been channelled,” what type of pronoun is the word “This”?**
 - A. Personal Pronoun
 - B. Demonstrative pronoun
 - C. Relative Pronoun
 - D. Reflexive Pronoun
3. **Identify the sentence from the passage that uses correct subject–verb agreement.**
 - A. Youthful dissent are essential to a democracy.
 - B. Political parties deploy their youth wings that focuses on aggression
 - C. History show that when a nation allows misuse, decay follows.
 - D. India possesses one of the largest and youngest workforces in the world.
4. **Why does the author argue that youth power has often failed to achieve constructive national progress?**
 - A. Because institutions repeatedly channel youth energy towards conflict
 - B. Because societies routinely promote physical strength over academic skill
 - C. Because governments generally ignore all youth-related concerns
 - D. Because organisations consistently prioritise profits over public welfare
5. **What does the author identify as the essential requirement for transforming youth from a destructive force into a constructive one?**
 - A. Increasing reliance on young workers in labour unions
 - B. Offering strict surveillance and stronger disciplinary action
 - C. Expanding youth wings for political participation
 - D. Providing support, trust, and principled guidance
6. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word “Forthwith.”**
 - A. Instantly
 - B. Subsequently
 - C. Directly
 - D. Promptly
7. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**

The company’s financial projection indicated strong growth for the next year.

 - A. Ignorance
 - B. Confusion
 - C. Doubt
 - D. Prediction
8. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Far cry from

 - A. To be very different from
 - B. To be sad about past things

- C. To be away from dear ones
D. To cry over small things
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
The teacher asked the student if he had prepared his lesson. He replied politely that he had not
- A. The teacher said to the student, "Had you prepared your lesson?" The boy said, "I do not."
B. The teacher asked the student, "You prepared your lesson?" The boy replied, "No, I hadn't."
C. The teacher said to student, "Have you prepared your lesson." The boy said, "Excuse me sir I have not"
D. The teacher said to the student, "Have you prepared your lesson?" The boy said, "Excuse me sir, I have not."
10. **Select the most appropriate option of the given word to fill in the blank.**
The new construction sites have _____ attack by the environmentalists.
- A. come off
B. come under
C. come upon
D. come out
11. **Choose the sentence that uses a homonym of the underlined word:**
He accidentally stepped on the box and tried to squash it.
- A. I like to eat squash.
B. The child tried to squash the toy.
C. She quickly squash the bug under her shoe.
D. Don't squash the flowers while walking.
12. **In the given question, a pair of sentences are given in which the keywords have been underlined. Identify the sentence in which the underlined words have been used correctly in the context.**
How long do you think Mr. Kamal knew John ?
- A. will know
B. knows
C. has known
D. No improvement
13. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
The news regarding / the earthquake survivors / are very disturbing. / No error
- A. The news regarding
B. the earthquake survivors
C. are very disturbing
D. No error
14. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No improvement.**
The teacher expected the students had finishing the project on time
- A. finishing
B. No improvement
C. to finish

- D. Finish
15. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A. In December 2019, Typhoon Kammuri came to the Philippines.
B. They closed schools and evacuated hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.
C. Officials closed the international airport in the capital city of Manila for 12 hours.
D. It flooded streets and damaged many houses and power lines
- A. CBDA
B. CBAD
C. ADCB
D. ABCD
16. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
- Each new word / in this book / have a different meaning./ No error
- A. Each new word
B. in this book
C. have a different meaning
D. No error
17. **Select the correct spelling of the bold word in the following sentence.**
- The **thrustt** of the argument was on justice.
- A. thrust
B. thrusst
C. thrast
D. thrusth
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
- A professional rider in horse races
- A. Jockey
B. Stuntman
C. Southpaw
D. Batsman
19. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
- Water is a vital resource for the survival of all living beings.
- A. Unimportant
B. Crucial
C. Negligible
D. Minor
20. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Redundant."**
- A. Excessive
B. Superfluous
C. Necessary
D. Obsolete

Comprehension:

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

On June 18, 2025, the Calcutta High Court ordered the resumption of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in West Bengal from August 1, in a case filed by Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS). The order offered hope. However, according to reports in regional media, the Union government has since _____(1)_____ to the Supreme Court, where the matter is yet to be _____(2)_____. Reporting on the High Court's order, The Hindu noted that the court observed the scheme "cannot be kept in cold storage for eternity" and directed the Centre to resume implementation while allowing it to _____(3)_____ "special conditions" in West Bengal. Yet, after three years of silence, the resumption risks being a _____(4)_____ gesture unless urgent groundwork is _____(5)_____ restore the scheme to function.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. appealed
 - B. appeal
 - C. appeals
 - D. appealing
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. omitted
 - B. resisted
 - C. listed
 - D. upright
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. exempt
 - B. impose
 - C. proscribe
 - D. exclude
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. pervasive
 - B. bountiful
 - C. fussy
 - D. hollow
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. to lay
 - B. laid to
 - C. lay to
 - D. laying

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **The need to direct youth energy towards constructive nation-building**

The passage repeatedly stresses that although India has a massive youth population, their energy is often misdirected—towards aggression, vandalism, and political misuse. It argues that guidance, character-building, ethical purpose, and support are essential to turn youth into nation-builders rather than instruments of chaos.

- Incorrect: Election activities are mentioned only as one example of misuse, not the central theme.
- Incorrect: Technology is referenced positively (innovators, coders), not as a danger.
- Incorrect :The passage does not discuss or compare education systems.

2. B) **Demonstrative Pronoun**

The word “This” points to the previously mentioned idea (the potential of youth if invested in properly). Pronouns that point to specific things (this, that, these, those) are demonstrative pronouns.

- Personal Pronoun → refers to people/objects as I, we, you, he, etc. “This” does not do that.
- Relative Pronoun → introduces a clause (who, which, that). “This” does not introduce a clause.
- Reflexive Pronoun → ends in –self/–selves. “This” is not reflexive.

3. D) **India possesses one of the largest and youngest workforces in the world.**

The singular subject “India” correctly takes the singular verb “possesses.”

- Subject “dissent” is singular; it should be “is,” not “are.”
- “Youth wings” is plural, so the verb should be “focus,” not “focuses.”
- “History” is singular; it should be “shows,” not “show.”

4. A) **Because institutions repeatedly channel youth energy towards conflict**

- A is correct because the passage states that political parties, labour unions, and student unions have historically directed youth energy toward violence, intimidation, vandalism, and aggression, preventing constructive nation-building.
- B is incorrect because the passage does not claim societies promote physical strength over academic skill; it focuses on misdirection of youth energy, not this contrast.
- C is incorrect because the passage does not say governments ignore all youth issues; it argues that youth energy is misused, not that every concern is ignored.
- D is incorrect because the passage does not emphasise organisational profit as the main cause; it highlights misuse of youth in political and institutional settings.

5. D) **Providing support, trust, and principled guidance**

- A is incorrect because labour unions’ reliance on young workers for aggressive tactics is portrayed as part of the problem, not the solution.
- D is correct because the passage explicitly states that youth need support, trust, and principled guidance to become catalysts for positive national transformation.

- B is incorrect because the passage criticises suspicion and surveillance, stating they are not what the youth need.
 - C is incorrect because political youth wings are described as misusing youth for electoral muscle, not for transformation.
6. B) **Forthwith** (adverb) – Immediately; without delay. तुरंत / तत्काल
Antonym: **Subsequently** – Later; afterward in time. बाद में / पश्चात्
- **Instantly** – At once. फौरन
 - **Directly** – Without deviation. सीधे / तुरंत
 - **Promptly** – Quickly and without delay. शीघ्रता से
7. D) **Projection** (noun) – forecast, estimate, prediction, outlook, prognosis अनुमान
Synonym: **Prediction** (noun) – forecast, prophecy (भविष्यवाणी)
- **Ignorance** (noun) – lack of knowledge (अज्ञान)
 - **Confusion** (noun) – disorder, chaos (अराजकता)
 - **Doubt** (noun) – uncertainty, suspicion (संदेह)
8. A) **Far cry from** (idiom) – To be very different from बहुत अलग होना
9. D) The teacher said to the student, “Have you prepared your lesson?” The boy said, “Excuse me sir, I have not.”
- Direct question should be present perfect: “Have you prepared your lesson?” (which backshifts to “had prepared” in indirect).
 - Polite reply matches: “Excuse me, sir, I have not.”
 - A uses “Had you...?” and wrong reply tense; B lacks auxiliary; C has punctuation/errors.
10. B) **Come under attack** (phrasal verb) – to be subjected to something, especially criticism or attack. आलोचना या हमले का शिकार होना
- **Come off** (phrasal verb) – to happen as planned or to succeed. सफल होना
 - **Come upon** (phrasal verb) – to find or discover something by chance. संयोग से मिलना
 - **Come out** (phrasal verb) – to become known or to be published. प्रकट होना, प्रकाशित होना
11. A) I like to eat squash.
In the original sentence, squash = to crush/flatten (verb).
Options 2, 3, and 4 use the same meaning as the underlined word (verb: crush).
12. C) (**knew**) के बदले 'has known' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पूछा जा रहा है कि “कितने समय से Mr. Kamal John को जानते हैं।” इस प्रकार के प्रश्न Present Perfect Tense में बनाए जाते हैं; जैसे— How long have you known him?
- 'has known' will be used instead of 'knew' because the sense of the question is “for how much time Mr. Kamal has been knowing John.” Such questions are framed in Present Perfect Tense; Like— How long have you known him?
13. C) '**are**' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि news uncountable noun है और singular verb लेता है; जैसे— The news regarding the earthquake survivors is very disturbing.
- Use 'is' instead of 'are' because news is an uncountable singular noun and takes a singular verb; Like— The news regarding the earthquake survivors is very disturbing.

14. C) 'had finishing' के बदले 'to finish' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'expected' के बाद अनंत (Infinitive) का प्रयोग होता है जैसे— He expected me to do the work.

- 'to finish' will be used instead of 'had finishing' because after 'expected', an infinitive is used; Like— He expected me to do the work.

15. C) **ADCB**

A starts the sentence with the subject "Typhoon Kammuri" and the time phrase "In December 2019," introducing the main event.

D follows A because it uses the pronoun "It," which refers back to the subject "Typhoon Kammuri" from sentence A. The verb "flooded" describes the typhoon's immediate action.

C comes after D as it shifts focus to the officials' response, using the subject "Officials" and their action "closed the international airport," which is a logical consequence of the typhoon's impact described in D.

B concludes the sequence by using the pronoun "They," which refers back to "Officials" from sentence C, and adds further details of their actions ("closed schools and evacuated people"), maintaining the subject-verb connection.

In Hindi:

- A sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "Typhoon Kammuri" और time phrase "In December 2019" introduce करता है, जो main event को बताता है।
 - D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह pronoun "It" का use करता है, जो A के subject "Typhoon Kammuri" को refer करता है। Verb "flooded" typhoon के immediate action को describe करता है।
 - C, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह focus को officials के response पर shift करता है, subject "Officials" और उनके action "closed the international airport" को introduce करता है, जो typhoon के impact का logical result है।
 - B sequence को complete करता है, क्योंकि यह pronoun "They" use करता है, जो C के subject "Officials" को refer करता है, और उनके further actions ("closed schools and evacuated people") को जोड़ता है, subject-verb connection को maintain करते हुए।
16. C) 'have' के बदले '**has**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Each + singular noun (Each new word) singular subject है, इसलिए singular verb 'has' लगेगी; जैसे— Each new word in this book has a different meaning.
- Use 'has' instead of 'have' because Each + singular noun takes a singular verb; Like— Each new word in this book has a different meaning.

17. A) The correct spelling of 'thrustt' is '**thrust**' which means "main point or push" — जोर / प्रयास.

18. A) **Jockey** (noun) – A professional rider in horse races. घुड़दौड़ का सवार

- **Stuntman** (noun) – A person who performs daring acts, often for movies or shows. स्टंटमैन
- **Southpaw** (noun) – A left-handed person, especially a boxer. लेफ्टी
- **Batsman** (noun) – A player who bats in cricket. बल्लेबाज

19. B) **Vital** (adjective) – essential, crucial, critical, indispensable, key अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
Synonym: **Crucial** (adjective) – decisive, critical (निर्णायक / आवश्यक)

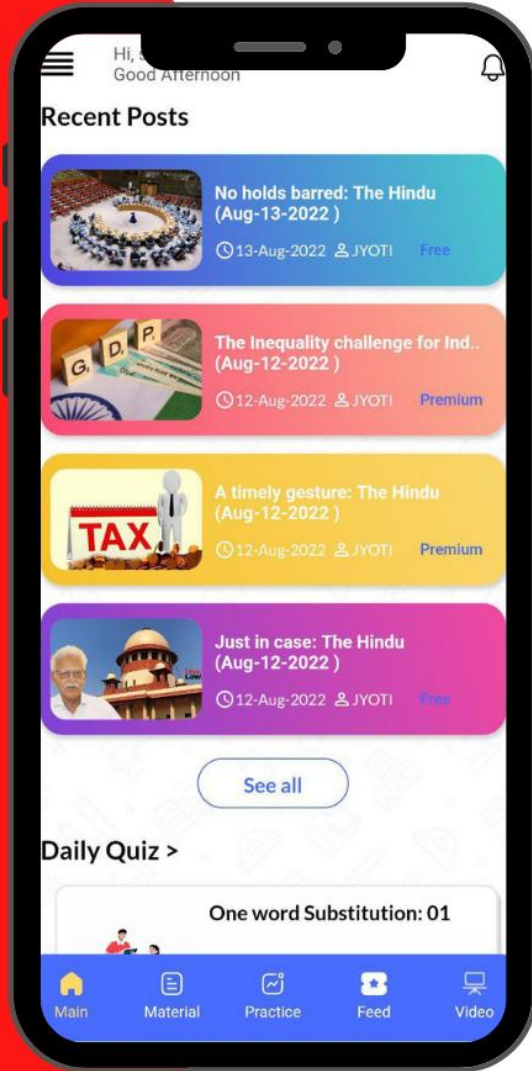
- **Unimportant** (adjective) – trivial, insignificant (गौर-महत्वपूर्ण)
 - **Negligible** (adjective) – so small as to be unimportant (नगण्य)
 - **Minor** (adjective) – lesser in importance (छोटा / गौण)
20. C) **Redundant** (adjective) – Unnecessary, more than needed, excessive. अनावश्यक / अतिरिक्त
Antonym: **Necessary** – Essential, required, or needed. आवश्यक / जरूरी
- **Excessive** – Too much. अत्यधिक
 - **Obsolete** – Out of date. अप्रचलित
 - **Superfluous** – Unnecessary. व्यर्थ
21. A) **Appealed'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ वाक्य past tense में है – “the Union government has since appealed to the Supreme Court”। 'Has appealed' present perfect tense है, जो बताता है कि सरकार पहले से ही Supreme Court में अपील कर चुकी है। जबकि 'Appeal' (verb base form) अकेले फिट नहीं होता, 'Appeals' (present simple) tense mismatch करता है, और 'Appealing' (present participle/gerund) भी auxiliary verb के बिना गलत है।
- 'Appealed' will be used because the sentence is in the present perfect tense — “the Union government has since appealed to the Supreme Court”. This construction shows that the action has already been taken. Whereas 'Appeal' (base form) does not fit grammatically here, 'Appeals' (present simple) mismatches the tense, and 'Appealing' (participle/gerund) without an auxiliary verb is incorrect in this context.
22. C) **Listed'** का use होगा क्योंकि "listed" का अर्थ है किसी विषय को औपचारिक रूप से दर्ज करना या विचार हेतु शामिल करना। sentence में लिखा है “the matter is yet to be listed” यानी Supreme Court में केस अब तक सुनवाई के लिए सूचीबद्ध नहीं हुआ है। जबकि 'Omitted' का अर्थ है हटाना/छोड़ना, 'Resisted' का अर्थ है विरोध करना, और 'Upright' का अर्थ है सीधा या ईमानदार, जो इस legal context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Listed' will be used because it means “formally entered or scheduled for consideration.” The sentence says “the matter is yet to be listed” i.e., the case has not yet been scheduled for hearing in the Supreme Court. Whereas 'Omitted' means left out, 'Resisted' means opposed, and 'Upright' means honest or straight, which do not fit in this legal context.
23. B) **Impose'** का use होगा क्योंकि "impose" का अर्थ है किसी नियम या शर्त को लागू करना। sentence में कहा गया है कि Centre को अनुमति दी गई कि वह West Bengal में “special conditions” लागू कर सके, इसलिए 'impose' सही बैठता है। जबकि 'Exempt' का अर्थ है छूट देना, 'Proscribe' का अर्थ है निषेध करना, और 'Exclude' का अर्थ है बाहर करना – ये तीनों “conditions लागू करने” के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- 'Impose' will be used because it means to apply or enforce rules/conditions. The sentence says the Centre was allowed to impose “special conditions” in West Bengal, which makes perfect sense. Whereas 'Exempt' means to free from obligation, 'Proscribe' means to forbid, and 'Exclude' means to leave out — none of these convey the intended meaning of applying conditions here.

24. D) '**Hollow**' का use होगा क्योंकि "hollow" का अर्थ है खोखला या बिना वास्तविक मूल्य/सार्थकता के। sentence में कहा गया है कि अगर ज़मीनी तैयारी नहीं की गई तो योजना का पुनःआरंभ केवल एक खोखला gesture रहेगा, यानी सिर्फ औपचारिकता होगी। जबकि 'Pervasive' (व्यापक) context से मेल नहीं खाता, 'Bountiful' (प्रचुर/उदार) सकारात्मक अर्थ देता है जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है, और 'Fussy' (चिड़चिड़ा/नखरे वाला) बिल्कुल असंगत है।

- 'Hollow' will be used because it means empty or meaningless. The sentence indicates that without groundwork, the resumption would be a hollow gesture, i.e., just symbolic without substance. Whereas 'Pervasive' means widespread, 'Bountiful' means plentiful or generous, and 'Fussy' means overly concerned with details — none of which fit this context.

25. B) '**Laid to**' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence है — “urgent groundwork is laid to restore the scheme”। यहाँ passive voice structure है, जिसमें 'groundwork' (subject) अपने आप कुछ नहीं करता बल्कि किया जाता है। इसलिए 'laid to' (past participle in passive form) सही है। जबकि 'To lay' infinitive है जो active sense देता, 'Lay to' grammatically गलत है, और 'Laying' continuous/gerund form है जो इस context में fit नहीं होती।

- 'Laid to' will be used because the sentence takes a passive voice form — “urgent groundwork is laid to restore the scheme”. Here, 'groundwork' is something that is done, not something doing the action. Whereas 'To lay' is an infinitive (active use), 'Lay to' is grammatically incorrect, and 'Laying' is a gerund/participle that does not fit this construction.



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