

Drop shot in Sydney: On Indian badminton

Lakshya Sen's win also **draws attention** to the gaps in India's supply line of stars

For Indian badminton, 2025 has been a tough year. Successes have been **fleeting**, top players' form has **undulated** and serious questions have been asked of not just **the established** but also the young and upcoming. But for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's doubles bronze at the World Championships in Paris in August, there has been precious little. **Against this backdrop**, Lakshya Sen's **triumph** at the Australian Open on Sunday **has** come like **a breath of fresh air**. It was not the toughest of fields and the tournament — a BWF Super 500, third in the sport's **hierarchy** after Super 1000 and 750 — is not **pedigreed**. But it was no **low-hanging fruit** either, for Lakshya had to spend long hours on **court**, including in the come-from-behind semi-final victory over World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen. The title was the 24-year-old's first since the Syed Modi International Super 300 last December, and the first outside India since the Canada Open Super 500 in July 2023. Ever since the **disappointment** of losing the 2024 Paris Olympics bronze medal match from a **dominant** position, Lakshya has **endured** difficult times. **Injuries and a spate** of early exits — 11 in the first round this year alone — **had** sent him **tumbling down**. But a **trophy** in his last act of 2025 **should** give him the required **fillip**.

Whether this acts as a **springboard** for other Indians in 2026 remains to be seen. Apart from Satwiksairaj and Chirag, no other Indian is ranked in the top 10 of any badminton discipline. Since July 2022, P.V. Sindhu has just one Tour title to show — the Syed Modi International last December. **H.S. Prannoy**, who **bagged** a men's singles bronze at the 2023 Worlds and **soared** to No. 6, **is** now down to 35. Worryingly, the supply line of stars appears to have **undergone** a **rupture**. **Ayush Shetty**, 20, winning the U.S. Open Super 300, and **Tanvi Sharma**, 16, finishing with a silver medal in girls' singles at the World Junior Championships, **are noteworthy** achievements **indeed**. But no junior has **stormed** the scene and **plugged the gap seamlessly** like how Sindhu once did after Saina Nehwal. The Badminton Association of India appears to be **mindful** of this, as seen from the setting up of the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati to train the next generation. India is also **betting big on hosting** international competitions of **repute** to **burnish** its **credentials** as an **elite** badminton nation. After the 2025 World Juniors in Guwahati, the 2026 World Championships is scheduled to be held in Delhi. If India can **assemble a battery of** medal challengers, it would be **akin to a resurrection**.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Drop shot** (noun) – a delicate shot in badminton that just clears the net.
2. **Draw attention to** (phrase) – to make people aware of something; to highlight.
ध्यान आकर्षित करना
3. **Fleeting** (adjective) – brief, short-lived, transient, momentary, passing क्षणभंगुर
4. **Undulated** (adjective) – fluctuated, varied, rose and fell, was inconsistent अस्थिर
5. **The established** (noun) – the well-known, the proven, the senior, the veterans
स्थापित खिलाड़ी
6. **Against this backdrop** (phrase) – in this context or situation. इस पृष्ठभूमि में
7. **Triumph** (noun) – victory, win, success, achievement, conquest जीत
8. **A breath of fresh air** (phrase) – a welcome and refreshing change. एक सुखद परिवर्तन
9. **Hierarchy** (noun) – ranking, order, grading, ladder, scale पदानुक्रम
10. **Pedigreed** (adjective) – prestigious, high-status, elite, renowned, distinguished
प्रतिष्ठित
11. **Low-hanging fruit** (phrase) – an easy target or something easily achieved.
आसान लक्ष्य
12. **Court** (noun) – the playing area for badminton, tennis, etc.
13. **Disappointment** (noun) – letdown, setback, failure, disillusionment, dismay
निराशा
14. **Dominant** (adjective) – commanding, controlling, superior, prevailing, authoritative प्रभावशाली
15. **Endure** (verb) – suffer, undergo, experience, bear, tolerate सहना
16. **Spate** (noun) – series, succession, string, rash, wave झड़ी
17. **Tumble down** (phrasal verb) – fall sharply, drop, plummet, decline, crash गिरना
18. **Fillip** (noun) – boost, stimulus, incentive, spur, impetus प्रोत्साहन
19. **Springboard** (noun) – launchpad, starting point, catalyst, jumping-off point आधार
20. **Bag** (verb) – win, secure, get, obtain, acquire हासिल करना
21. **Soar** (verb) – rise sharply, climb, rocket, escalate, surge ऊपर उठना
22. **Undergo** (verb) – experience, go through, endure, be subjected to गुजरना
23. **Rupture** (noun) – break, fracture, split, breakdown, disruption टूटना

24. **Noteworthy** (adjective) – notable, remarkable, significant, outstanding, impressive उल्लेखनीय
25. **Indeed** (adverb) – in fact, certainly, truly, undoubtedly, definitely वास्तव में
26. **Storm** (verb) – burst onto, take by storm, make a big impact, surge तेजी से उभरना
27. **Plug the gap** (phrase) – to fill a vacancy or deficiency. कमी को दूर करना
28. **Seamlessly** (adverb) – smoothly, effortlessly, fluently, perfectly, naturally निर्बाध रूप से
29. **Mindful** (of) (adjective) – aware, conscious, cognizant, heedful, attentive सचेत
30. **Bet big on something** (phrase) – to invest heavily or rely heavily on something. बड़ी उम्मीद रखना
31. **Host** (verb) – hold, organize, stage, present, be the venue for आयोजित करना
32. **Repute** (noun) – reputation, standing, stature, fame, name प्रतिष्ठा
33. **Burnish** (verb) – polish, enhance, improve, shine, refine निखारना
34. **Credential** (noun) – qualification, reputation, capability, achievement प्रत्यय पत्र
35. **Elite** (adjective) – top, best, first-class, superior, choice अभिजात
36. **Assemble** (verb) – gather, bring together, collect, amass, muster इकट्ठा करना
37. **A battery of something** (phrase) – a series or array of similar things. ढेर सारे
38. (be) **Akin** (to) (adjective) – similar to, like, comparable to, analogous to के समान
39. **Resurrection** (noun) – revival, resurgence, rebirth, comeback, renewal पुनरुत्थान

Summary of the Editorial

1. Indian badminton has had a difficult and largely unsuccessful year in 2025.
2. The form of top Indian players has been inconsistent and unreliable.
3. The sole significant success before Lakshya Sen's win was Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's doubles bronze at the World Championships.
4. Lakshya Sen's Australian Open victory is a welcome and positive development.
5. The tournament, a BWF Super 500, was not the most prestigious, but the field was not weak.
6. Sen's path to the title was challenging, requiring long matches and a comeback victory against a top-10 player.
7. This is his first title since December 2024 and his first international title outside India since mid-2023.
8. The win is crucial for Sen's morale after a period of struggle following his loss in the Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medal match.
9. His recent struggles included injuries and numerous early-round exits, which caused his ranking to fall.
10. Beyond the top doubles pair, no other Indian player is currently ranked in the top 10 in any badminton discipline.
11. Established stars like P.V. Sindhu and H.S. Prannoy have seen a significant decline in their form and rankings.
12. A major concern is the broken "supply line" of new badminton stars to replace the current generation.
13. While there are some promising junior players, none have made a seamless and impactful transition to the senior level like Saina Nehwal or P.V. Sindhu did.
14. The Badminton Association of India is attempting to address this through initiatives like the National Centre of Excellence and by hosting major events like the 2026 World Championships.
15. India needs to develop a large group of medal contenders to achieve a true resurgence in the sport.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. Lakshya Sen's win proves India has already achieved badminton dominance
 - B. India's current badminton scenario highlights both achievements and worrying gaps in talent development
 - C. Indian badminton players lack effort and commitment
 - D. International badminton tournaments lack credibility
2. **Which conclusion is best supported by the passage about Indian badminton in 2025?**
 - A. Indian badminton relied on isolated successes rather than consistent depth.
 - B. Indian badminton dominated international events consistently throughout 2025.
 - C. India had many top-10 players across all badminton disciplines in 2025.
 - D. India's junior players had already replaced the senior stars seamlessly.
3. **What does the author imply about Lakshya Sen's Australian Open triumph?**
 - A. The win may restore his confidence and could help future performance.
 - B. The win proves India will immediately produce many top-10 players.
 - C. The win demonstrates that Lakshya's career is effectively over despite the title.
 - D. The win is entirely irrelevant because the tournament field was weak.
4. **Where was the National Centre of Excellence set up to train the next generation?**
 - A. Bengaluru
 - B. Delhi
 - C. Hyderabad
 - D. Guwahati
5. **When is the World Championships scheduled to be held in Delhi?**
 - A. 2025
 - B. 2026
 - C. 2024
 - D. 2023
6. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**

The new law comes with a strict **mandate** to reduce emissions.

 - A. Suggestion
 - B. Option
 - C. Proposal
 - D. Requirement
7. **Select the correct use of the phrase "rule of thumb."**
 - A. As a rule of thumb, stir the solution until the device overheats.
 - B. As a rule of thumb, he memorized every page verbatim.
 - C. As a rule of thumb, you should save a portion of your income.
 - D. As a rule of thumb, they counted stars to navigate GPS.
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

Of or relating to the moon

 - A. Solar
 - B. Platonic
 - C. Fatal
 - D. Lunar

9. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the given word.

Vain

- A. Productive
- B. Harmony
- C. Unpredictable
- D. Calculable

10. Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.

He will **ensist** on attending the meeting.

- A. ensist
- B. inest
- C. insiest
- D. insist

11. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.

“‘Why aren’t you wearing chappals?’ I ask one boy. ‘My mother did not bring them down from the shelf,’ he answered simply.”

- A. I ask one boy why he is not wearing chappals. He answered simply that his mother had not brought them down from the shelf.
- B. I asked one boy why he wasn’t wearing chappals. He answered simply that his mother didn’t bring them down from the shelf.
- C. I asked a boy why he didn’t wear chappals. He simply answered his mother hadn’t brought them down from the shelf.
- D. I ask one boy why he is not wearing chappals. He simply answered that his mother has not brought them down from the shelf.

12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Problems often _____ when you least expect them

- A. raise
- B. arise
- C. rise
- D. arouse

13. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

Deepak is studying B.tech. at IIT Delhi to become the engineer.

- A. b.tech. at IIT Delhi
- B. to become
- C. the engineer
- D. deepak is studying

14. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error

I have (A) / made the cupcakes so (B) / please hand out them (C) / to me (D)

- A. C
- B. D
- C. A
- D. B

15. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A) When a calf is born under water, the mother must get it to the surface before it drowns.
 - B) The young ones remain with their parents for up to fifteen years or more.
 - C) Often another whale assists the mother nudging the baby gently and encouraging it to swim.
 - D) Whales have highly developed maternal instincts.
- A. DBCA
B. CBDA
C. BCAD
D. DACB
16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- This is not something that (A) / India would be able to forgo, (B) / however much the US might oppose it. (C) / No error (D)
- A. This is not something that
 - B. India would be able to forgo,
 - C. however much the US might oppose it.
 - D. No error
17. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**
- After many years of _____ the world's first test tube baby was born in 1978
- A. success
 - B. experience
 - C. service
 - D. research
18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- Parties were counselled (A) / to advice new (B) / entrants to (C) / refrain from heckling. (D)
- A. Parties were counselled
 - B. to advice new
 - C. entrants to
 - D. refrain from heckling.
19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
- ENIGMA
- A. Mystery
 - B. Charade
 - C. Make-believe
 - D. Clarity
20. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
- Her positive **outlook** on life made her popular among friends.
- A. View
 - B. Confusion
 - C. Uncertainty
 - D. Ambiguity

Comprehension:

In the following passage some of the words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the correct answer for the given blank out of the four alternatives.

I am proud to (1) ___ to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance (2) ___ universal acceptance he declared (3) ___ September 11, 1893 we believe not only in universal toleration, (4) ___ we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the (5) ___ of all religions and all nations of the earth."

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. belong
 - B. live
 - C. behest
 - D. gain
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. and
 - B. as well as
 - C. or
 - D. also
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. upon
 - B. in
 - C. on
 - D. at
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. yet
 - B. though
 - C. and
 - D. but
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. toilers
 - B. refugees
 - C. workers
 - D. peons

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **India's current badminton scenario highlights both achievements and worrying gaps in talent development**

The passage discusses Lakshya Sen's victory but stresses India's inconsistent performance, lack of depth, and concerns about the supply line of upcoming stars — making this theme the most accurate.

- India has already achieved dominance — Incorrect because the passage stresses struggles, declines in ranking, and talent gaps.
- Players lack effort/commitment — Incorrect; the passage points to injuries, form, and structural issues, not lack of effort.
- Tournaments lack credibility — Incorrect; the passage never questions international tournament credibility.

2. A) **Indian badminton relied on isolated successes rather than consistent depth.**

The passage describes few notable results (Rankireddy/Shetty bronze, Lakshya's win) and notes gaps in the supply line and few top-10 Indians, supporting A.

- B — Contradicted by statements that 2025 "has been a tough year" with fleeting successes.
- C — Passage explicitly says apart from Satwik/Chirag no other Indian is top-10.
- D — Juniors have some achievements but "no junior has stormed the scene and plugged the gap seamlessly," so D is false.

3. A) **The win may restore his confidence and could help future performance.**

The passage calls the title "a breath of fresh air," notes it should give him the "required fillip," implying a confidence/ momentum boost.

- B — The author explicitly says whether this acts as a springboard for others "remains to be seen," so it does not prove immediate widespread success.
- C — Contradicted by passage which frames the win positively after a slump.
- D — While the field wasn't the strongest, the passage still treats the win as meaningful (hard long matches and comeback in semis), so calling it entirely irrelevant is incorrect.

4. D) **Guwahati.**

The passage states the Badminton Association of India set up the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.

- A — Bengaluru is not mentioned in the passage.
- B — Delhi is the planned host of the 2026 World Championships, not the Centre location.
- C — Hyderabad is not mentioned in the passage.

5. B) **2026.**

The passage says the 2026 World Championships are scheduled to be held in Delhi.

- A — 2025 was when the World Juniors were held in Guwahati, not the senior World Championships in Delhi.
 - C — 2024 is not the scheduled year for the Delhi World Championships per the passage.
 - D — 2023 is incorrect; the passage references earlier 2023 events but not Delhi Worlds that year.
6. D) **Mandate** (noun) – requirement, directive, order, command, instruction अनिवार्य आदेश
Synonym: Requirement (noun) – Necessary obligation (ज़रूरी आदेश)
- **Suggestion** (noun) – Recommendation (सुझाव)
 - **Option** (noun) – Choice (विकल्प)
 - **Proposal** (noun) – Plan or offer (प्रस्ताव)
7. C) **Rule of thumb** – A general guideline based on experience. सामान्य अनुमानित नियम
8. D) **Lunar** (adjective) – Of or relating to the moon चंद्रमा से संबंधित
- **Solar** (adjective) – Of or relating to the sun सूर्य से संबंधित
 - **Platonic** (adjective) – Of or relating to the philosophical views of Plato, especially his theory of Forms; often used to describe a relationship that is strictly friendly, without romantic or sexual intimacy प्लेटो से संबंधित; एक ऐसा संबंध जिसमें रोमांटिक या यौन आकर्षण न हो
 - **Fatal** (adjective) – Resulting in death; disastrous घातक, मृत्यु का कारण बनने वाला
9. A) **Vain** (adjective) – Lacking substance or worth, ineffective, futile, unsuccessful, fruitless. व्यर्थ
 Antonym: **Productive** (adjective) – Yielding good or useful results; effective, fruitful, profitable. उत्पादक
- **Harmony** (noun) – The quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole, agreement, accord. सामंजस्य
 - **Unpredictable** (adjective) – Not able to be predicted; changeable, variable, uncertain. अप्रत्याशित
 - **Calculable** (adjective) – Able to be calculated or estimated, measurable, assessable. गणनीय
10. D) The correct spelling of 'ensist' is **insist** which means “to demand, maintain, assert, stress, emphasize” ज़ोर देना.
11. A) **I ask one boy why he is not wearing chappals. He answered simply that his mother had not brought them down from the shelf.**
- First clause: Direct “Why aren’t you wearing...?” I ask... → Indirect keeps present (no backshift because ask is in the present):
 - I ask one boy why he is not wearing chappals.
 - (Wh-question → statement order; you → he; aren’t ... wearing → is not ... wearing.)
 - Second clause: he answered (past) + “My mother did not bring ...” → backshifts to past perfect:
 - He answered simply that his mother had not brought them down from the shelf.
 - Why the others are wrong

- B: Changes ask → asked (past) and keeps didn't bring (should be hadn't brought after a past reporting verb). Also question form "What you are doing?"-type error appears in spirit (here: "why he wasn't wearing" is fine, but the tense consistency is off overall).
 - C: "why he didn't wear chappals" changes the meaning to habitual (simple past) instead of the present continuous situation asked about.
 - D: Keeps present in the first clause (fine), but uses has not brought in the second; with answered (past), it should be had not brought.
12. B) **arise**' का use होगा क्योंकि "arise" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थिति या समस्या का उत्पन्न होना अप्रत्याशित रूप से। Sentence में कहा गया है कि समस्याएँ अक्सर तब आती हैं जब आप उन्हें सबसे कम उम्मीद करते हैं, इसलिए 'arise' यहाँ सही शब्द है। वहीं, 'Raise' का अर्थ है उठाना या बढ़ाना, 'Rise' का अर्थ है खड़ा होना या ऊपर उठना, और 'Arouse' का अर्थ है जगाना या प्रेरित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है
- 'arise' should be used because it means for a situation or problem to occur unexpectedly. The sentence suggests that problems often come up when you least expect them, making 'arise' the correct choice here. In contrast, 'Raise' means to lift or increase, 'Rise' means to get up or go up, and 'Arouse' implies to awaken or stimulate, which don't fit in this context
13. C) the engineer" के स्थान पर "**an engineer**" का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Deepak कई इंजीनियरों में से एक बनने की कोशिश कर रहा है। "an" का प्रयोग उन singular countable nouns के साथ होता है जो किसी समूह में से एक होते हैं। यहाँ 'engineer' एक सामान्य पेशे का जिक्र कर रहा है, न कि किसी विशेष व्यक्ति का, इसलिए "an engineer" सही है।
- "an engineer" will be used instead of "the engineer" because Deepak is trying to become one of many engineers. "An" is used with singular, countable nouns that are unspecified or one among a group. Here, "engineer" refers to the profession in general, not a specific person, so "an engineer" is correct.
14. A) 'hand out them' के बदले '**hand them out**' का use होगा क्योंकि जब Verb के साथ Preposition (out, in, up, down, etc.) जुड़ा हो और Object Pronoun (them, me, him, her, it, us, you) हो, तो Pronoun, Verb और Preposition के बीच में आता है; जैसे—
- Pick the books up → Pick them up (✓)
 - Turn the light off → Turn it off (✓)
- 'hand them out' will be used instead of 'hand out them' because when a preposition (out, in, up, down, etc.) is attached to a verb and the object is a pronoun (them, me, him, her, it, us, you), the pronoun comes between the verb and the preposition; Like—
- Pick the books up → Pick them up (✓)
 - Turn the light off → Turn it off (✓)
15. D) **DACB**
- D starts the sentence with the subject "Whales," introducing the main topic and their "highly developed maternal instincts," which sets the stage for the following sentences. A follows D as it provides a specific example of these maternal instincts, explaining how a mother whale must act when "a calf is born under water." This establishes a clear connection between the general statement (D) and the specific scenario (A).

C comes next as it introduces additional information about "another whale assisting the mother," which logically follows the description of the mother's actions in A. The word "Often" connects it naturally to the previous sentence.

B concludes the sequence by explaining how long "The young ones remain with their parents," which provides a broader context after discussing the immediate care of the newborn calf.

In Hindi:

- D sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "Whales" को introduce करता है और उनके "highly developed maternal instincts" के बारे में बताता है, जो आगे के sentences के लिए base तैयार करता है।
- A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह maternal instincts का एक specific example देता है—जब "a calf is born under water," तो माँ व्हेल को क्या करना पड़ता है। यह D के general statement को A के specific scenario से जोड़ता है।
- C, A के बाद logically fit होता है, क्योंकि यह बताता है कि "Often another whale assists the mother," जो पिछले sentence में बताई गई situation को expand करता है।
- B sentence को complete करता है, क्योंकि यह बताता है कि "The young ones remain with their parents for up to fifteen years," जो पूरे discussion को एक broader context में ले जाता है।

16. D) No error

17. D) 'Research' का use होगा क्योंकि "research" का अर्थ होता है विस्तृत अध्ययन या जांच करना विशेष विषय पर। 1978 में विश्व के पहले टेस्ट ट्यूब बेबी का जन्म वर्षों के वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और प्रयोगों के बाद हुआ था, इसलिए 'Research' यहाँ सही है। 'Success' का अर्थ है सफलता, 'Experience' का अर्थ है अनुभव, और 'Service' का अर्थ है सेवा, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है

- 'Research' should be used because it means to conduct a detailed study or investigation on a specific subject. The world's first test tube baby was born in 1978 after years of scientific research and experiments, making 'Research' fitting here. Whereas, 'Success' means the achievement of an aim or goal, 'Experience' means practical contact with and observation of facts or events, and 'Service' means the action of helping or doing work for someone, which don't fit in this context

18. B) 'advice' के बदले 'advise' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'advice' Noun है और यहाँ Verb की आवश्यकता है। 'Advise' एक Verb है जो सुझाव देने के अर्थ में प्रयुक्त होता है; जैसे— The teacher advised the students to study regularly.

- 'advise' will be used instead of 'advice' because 'advice' is a noun and here a verb is required. 'Advise' is a verb that means to give suggestions; Like— The teacher advised the students to study regularly.

19. D) **ENIGMA** (noun) – Something that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand. रहस्य

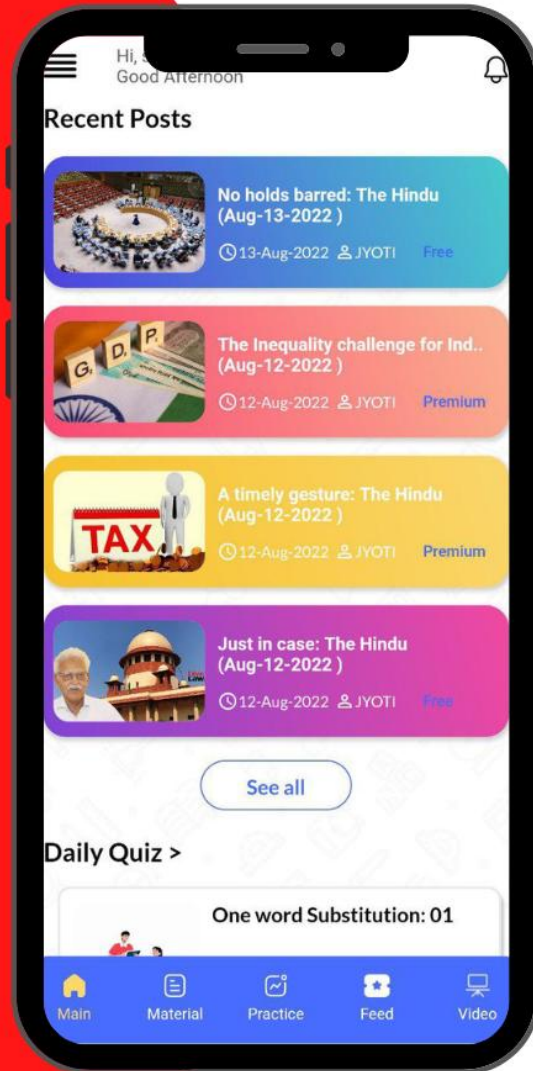
Antonym: **Clarity** (noun) – The quality of being clear, especially in terms of thought, understanding, or style; easy to understand. स्पष्टता

- **Mystery** (noun) – Something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain; synonymous with enigma. रहस्य

- **Charade** (noun) – An act or event that is clearly false; often used to describe something that is pretending to be something it is not. ढोंग
 - **Make-believe** (noun) – Pretending that what is not real is real; fantasy or imaginary. काल्पनिक
20. A) **Outlook** (noun) – perspective, view, forecast, prospect दृष्टिकोण
Synonym: **View** (noun) – opinion, standpoint (दृष्टिकोण)
- **Confusion** (noun) – disorder, perplexity (उलझन)
 - **Uncertainty** (noun) – unpredictability, doubt (अनिश्चितता)
 - **Ambiguity** (noun) – vagueness, obscurity (अस्पष्टता)
21. A) **Belong'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "belong" का अर्थ होता है किसी समुदाय, संगठन, या समूह से जुड़ा होना। जबकि 'Live' का अर्थ है जीवन जीना या रहना, 'Behest' का अर्थ है आज्ञा या निर्देश, और 'Gain' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Belong'** should be used because it means to be a member or part of a particular group, organization, or class. Whereas, 'Live' means to have life or to reside, 'Behest' means a command or directive, and 'Gain' implies acquire or obtain, which don't fit in this context.
22. A) **'And'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "and" का अर्थ होता है "तथा" या "और", जो यहाँ पर दो विचारों, "tolerance" और "universal acceptance", को जोड़ने के लिए सही है। जबकि 'As well as' में थोड़ी अधिक विस्तार की भावना होती है, 'Or' का अर्थ है "या", और 'Also' का अर्थ है "भी", जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'And'** should be used because it serves to connect two related ideas, "tolerance" and "universal acceptance", in this context. Whereas 'As well as' implies a more extensive inclusion, 'Or' suggests a choice, and 'Also' means "too", which don't fit in this context.
23. C) **'on'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिनांक के संदर्भ में "on" का अर्थ होता है उस विशिष्ट दिन पर। जैसे "on 15th August" का मतलब होता है "15 अगस्त को"। 'Upon' का अर्थ है 'पर', 'In' का अर्थ होता है 'में', और 'At' का अर्थ है 'पर', जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'on' should be used because it signifies a specific date, as in "on 15th August" which translates to "on a specific day". Whereas, 'Upon' means 'on', 'In' signifies 'inside', and 'At' also means 'on', but they don't fit in this context for a date.
24. D) **but'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में दो विचार या विचारधारा को मुकाबला करते हुए प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है। "विश्व में सामाजिक सहिष्णुता के अलावा" और "हम सभी धर्मों को सच्चा मानते हैं।" इसलिए, 'but' इस संदर्भ में सही लगता है क्योंकि यह दो विचारों के बीच का विरोधाभास दिखाता है। जबकि 'yet' और 'though' इस संदर्भ में पूरी तरह से सही नहीं लगते, और 'and' यहां विरोधाभास नहीं दिखाता है।
- **but'** should be used because the sentence is contrasting two ideas or philosophies, "tolerance to the world" and "we accept all religions as true." Therefore, 'but' seems appropriate in this context as it shows the contrast between the two ideas. Whereas, 'yet' and 'though' don't seem entirely right in this context, and 'and' doesn't show a contrast.
25. B) **'Refugees'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "refugees" का अर्थ होता है उन लोगों को जो अपने देश या स्थल से पलायन करते हैं, अक्सर संघर्ष, संकट या प्रकृतिक आपदा के कारण। जबकि 'Toilers' का

अर्थ है मेहनतकश, 'Workers' का अर्थ है कामकाजी लोग, और 'Peons' का अर्थ है चपरासी या निम्न स्तर के कर्मचारी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **'Refugees'** should be used because it refers to people who flee their country or place, often due to conflict, persecution, or natural disaster. Whereas, 'Toilers' means laborers, 'Workers' means employed people, and 'Peons' refers to subordinate staff, which don't fit in this context.



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