

Cyber crackdown: On the investigation into cyber-crime

Tackling digital arrest scams also needs global action

The Supreme Court's **direction** to the CBI to conduct a **pan-India** investigation into cyber-crimes, and "digital arrest" scams **in particular**, **might** seem extraordinary, as such directions normally require State government **consent**. But by doing so, the Court has **acknowledged** the **severity** of the **menace** that **transcends** State **jurisdictions** and boundaries. The Court's **prioritisation** of the "digital arrest" scam — fraudsters **impersonate** police or government officials in a video call, falsely **accuse** victims of crimes, and pressure them to transfer money to avoid arrest — **is** fully **warranted**. The government has estimated that **this scam**, which **often** targets senior citizens, **has resulted in** losses exceeding ₹3,000 crore. The Court has asked the CBI to target not just the scammers but also banking officials who **facilitate** the creation of "mule" **accounts**. This is necessary as these scams depend on a **malleable** financial **architecture** and therefore require the intervention of agencies such as the RBI, which has also been instructed by the Court to **employ Artificial Intelligence** and Machine Learning to trace the "layering" of proceeds through multiple accounts. The Court has also asked online **intermediaries** to cooperate with the CBI, **invoking** the IT Rules 2021. The Court is also right in asking the CBI to investigate other scams such as investment schemes and part-time job scams, **subsequently**.

The **severity** of cyber frauds, as National Crime Records Bureau data indicate, **has** risen significantly. However, while the judiciary and domestic policing can **address** the symptoms within India, the problem has another **dimension** — it is also **transnational**. The **burgeoning** of "scam centres" — **compounds** where **trafficked** workers, unable to escape due to violence, **confiscated** documents or debt bondage, are forced to run online fraud operations — in **conflict-ridden** zones of Southeast Asia **suggests** that the solution requires **robust** international diplomacy. The U.S., **for instance**, has **established** a Scam Center Strike Force to tackle the issue. **Furthermore**, Myanmar remains a **hotbed** for these operations, primarily because the illegally **ruling junta** benefits from **taxing** the **proceeds** of such crimes. Tackling this requires moving beyond **bilateral** requests. New Delhi must **act in cohesion** with ASEAN and the UN to **sanction** the illegal **regime** and cut off the financial lifelines of these modern-day **slavery sweatshops**. Domestically, the battle must also be fought on the **grounds** of digital literacy and capacity. As daily life and **governance** become increasingly **digitised**, there remains a **glaring deficit** in cyber awareness among the population. States, local administrations, and the RBI must launch **widespread** awareness campaigns. **Simultaneously**, there is an urgent need to upgrade the digital capabilities of State police. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Crackdown** (noun) – a severe set of measures to stop an activity. कड़ी कार्रवाई
2. **Digital arrest** (noun) – a scam where fraudsters threaten arrest via video call.
3. **Direction** (noun) – order, instruction, command, mandate, directive निर्देश
4. **Pan-India** (adjective) – nationwide, all-India, countrywide, across India देशव्यापी
5. **In particular** (phrase) – especially, specifically, particularly, notably, chiefly. विशेष रूप से
6. **Consent** (noun) – permission, agreement, approval, authorization, assent सहमति
7. **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit, accept, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
8. **Severity** (noun) – seriousness, gravity, intensity, acuteness, harshness गंभीरता
9. **Menace** (noun) – threat, danger, hazard, risk, peril खतरा
10. **Transcend** (verb) – go beyond, surpass, exceed, rise above, cut across अतिक्रमण करना
11. **Jurisdiction** (noun) – authority, control, dominion, area, province अधिकार क्षेत्र
12. **Impersonate** (verb) – pretend to be, imitate, mimic, pose as, masquerade as प्रतिरूपण करना
13. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – blame, charge, allege, indict, impeach आरोप लगाना
14. **Warranted** (adjective) – justified, justified, necessary, appropriate, deserved उचित
15. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, repeatedly, regularly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
16. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – lead to, cause, bring about, give rise to, produce परिणाम देना
17. **Facilitate** (verb) – enable, assist, aid, make easier, help सुविधा प्रदान करना
18. **Mule account** (noun) – a bank account used to transfer illegal money.
19. **Malleable** (adjective) – flexible, adaptable, pliable, easily influenced, changeable लचीला
20. **Architecture** (noun) – structure, framework, design, system, setup ढांचा
21. **Employ** (verb) – use, utilize, apply, deploy, harness प्रयोग करना
22. **Artificial intelligence** (noun) – AI, machine intelligence, computational intelligence.
23. **Intermediary** (noun) – middleman, mediator, go-between, platform, channel मध्यस्थ
24. **Invoke** (verb) – cite, refer to, appeal to, call upon, use आह्वान करना
25. **Subsequently** (adverb) – afterwards, later, thereafter, after that, consequently बाद में
26. **Severity** (noun) – seriousness, gravity, intensity, acuteness, harshness गंभीरता

27. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, handle, attend to, confront सुलझाना, निपटाना
28. **Dimension** (noun) – aspect, feature, element, part, component पहलू
29. **Transnational** (adjective) – cross-border, international, global, multinational अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
30. **Burgeoning** (adjective) – growing rapidly, expanding, flourishing, booming, mushrooming तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ
31. **Compound** (noun) – a fenced area with buildings. परिसर
32. **Trafficked** (adjective) – smuggled, traded illegally, exploited तस्करी किया हुआ
33. **Confiscate** (verb) – seize, impound, take away, appropriate, commandeer जब्त करना
34. **Conflict-ridden** (adjective) – full of conflict, war-torn, troubled, strife-torn संघर्षग्रस्त
35. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, healthy, sturdy, resilient मजबूत
36. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, such as, to illustrate, as an example. उदाहरण के लिए
37. **Establish** (verb) – set up, create, found, institute, launch स्थापित करना
38. **Furthermore** (adverb) – moreover, additionally, besides, also, further इसके अलावा
39. **Hotbed** (noun) – breeding ground, center, hub, nest, den अड्डा
40. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, controlling, in power, dominant, commanding शासक
41. **Junta** (noun) – military government, regime, clique, faction, cabal जून्टा
42. **Tax** (verb) – impose a tax on, levy, charge, burden, strain कर लगाना
43. **Proceeds** (noun) – profits, gains, revenue, income, earnings आय
44. **Bilateral** (adjective) – two-party, mutual, joint, reciprocal, between two द्विपक्षीय
45. **Act in cohesion** (phrase) – to work together in a united way. एकजुट होकर कार्य करना
46. **Sanction** (verb) – penalize, punish, impose penalties on, condemn प्रतिबंध लगाना
47. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration, rule, leadership, system शासन
48. **Slavery** (noun) – bondage, servitude, enslavement, forced labor गुलामी
49. **Sweatshops** (noun) – exploitative workplaces, labor camps, factories शोषणकारी कारखाने
50. **Grounds** (noun) – basis, foundation, reason, rationale, justification आधार
51. **Governance** (noun) – administration, government, management, rule, leadership शासन
52. **Digitise** (verb) – convert to digital form, computerize, automate डिजिटल बनाना

53. **Glaring** (adjective) – obvious, blatant, conspicuous, flagrant, evident स्पष्ट

54. **Deficit** (noun) – shortfall, lack, deficiency, insufficiency, dearth कमी

55. **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, pervasive, ubiquitous, common, prevalent व्यापक

56. **Simultaneously** (adverb) – at the same time, concurrently, together, in parallel एक साथ

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court has directed the CBI to conduct a nationwide investigation into cyber-crimes, especially “digital arrest” scams.
2. Such directions usually require State consent, but the Court moved ahead due to the seriousness of the crime.
3. “Digital arrest” scams involve fraudsters impersonating police or officials over video calls and threatening victims with arrest.
4. Victims, often senior citizens, are pressured to transfer money to avoid false charges.
5. The government estimates that losses from this scam have crossed ₹3,000 crore.
6. The Court has asked the CBI to investigate not only scammers but also bank officials involved in creating “mule accounts.”
7. A flexible and loophole-ridden financial system enables these scams, requiring RBI intervention.
8. The Supreme Court has instructed the RBI to use AI and ML tools to trace layered money transfers through multiple accounts.
9. The Court has also directed online intermediaries to cooperate under the IT Rules 2021.
10. The CBI has been asked to extend its probe to other frauds, including fake investment and part-time job scams.
11. NCRB data shows a sharp rise in cyber fraud across India.
12. Cyber-crime is not just domestic but also transnational, involving networks operating from Southeast Asia.
13. Scam centres run through trafficked workers in controlled “compounds,” especially in conflict-prone regions like Myanmar.
14. Global cooperation is essential; India should work with ASEAN, UN, and follow examples like the U.S. “Scam Center Strike Force.”
15. Domestic solutions must include digital literacy campaigns, RBI awareness initiatives, and improved cyber capabilities within State police forces.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary reason cited in the passage for the Supreme Court's extraordinary direction to the CBI to investigate digital arrest scams nationwide?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The scams primarily involve foreign nationals operating within India.
 - B. The severity of the menace transcends state jurisdictions and boundaries.
 - C. State governments had formally requested central intervention.
 - D. The scams exclusively target wealthy business executives and politicians.
2. **According to the passage, which of the following is a key transnational measure required to effectively combat scam centres?**
 - A. Unilateral military action against countries hosting scam centres.
 - B. Cohesion with ASEAN and the UN to sanction the illegal regime in Myanmar.
 - C. Privatising cybersecurity to international corporate entities.
 - D. Encouraging voluntary shutdown of operations by the scammers.
3. **Besides investigating scammers, what other domestic action does the passage mention as necessary to fight digital fraud?**
 - A. Launching widespread digital literacy and cyber awareness campaigns.
 - B. Banning all video calling applications used by fraudsters.
 - C. Reducing internet speed across the country to prevent scams.
 - D. Mandating daily police verification for all bank accounts.
4. **Beyond the CBI's investigation of scammers, who else has the Supreme Court specifically asked the agency to target in the "digital arrest" scam cases?**
 - A. Foreign diplomats who may be providing logistical support.
 - B. Social media influencers promoting digital payment apps.
 - C. Banking officials who facilitate the creation of "mule" accounts.
 - D. Telecommunications companies providing internet services.
5. **What specific technological approach has the Supreme Court instructed the RBI to employ in tracing the proceeds of cybercrimes?**
 - A. Implement widespread blockchain technology for all transactions.
 - B. Use satellite imagery to locate physical scam centres.
 - C. Employ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools.
 - D. Develop a new digital currency to replace current systems.
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A) Reeve, who had lost the use of his limbs in an accident had become an ardent supporter of the relatively new field of study, which he believed had the potential to cure his condition. He died in 2004, too early to see the advances in stem cell research.
 - B) Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz, who holds professorial chairs at the University of Cambridge and Caltech in the US, announced that her team has succeeded in creating synthetic human embryos using stem cells, sidestepping the need for egg and sperm.
 - C) One groundbreaking leap was announced at the International Society of Stem Cell Research's annual meeting in Boston on Wednesday.
 - D) Twenty years ago, actor Christopher Reeve gave a talk at the Yale School of Medicine, where he made an impassioned plea to those opposing embryonic stem cell research on ethical grounds

- A. ADBC
B. DACB
C. DCAB
D. DBAC
7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
You promised not to interfere.
A. INTERCEDE
B. ADVANCE
C. HAMPER
D. JAM
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The exorbitant cost of land in urban areas only _____ the problem
A. Augmented
B. Exacerbated
C. Increased
D. Amplified
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Ravish likes chocolate.
A. Chocolate was liked by Ravish.
B. Chocolate is liked by Ravish.
C. Chocolate were liked by Ravish.
D. Chocolate is being liked by Ravish
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
He was brutally cynical and hardened to every sob story under the sun
A. Scoffing
B. Incredulous
C. Credulous
D. Sceptical
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom.**
Workers tend to slack off on Mondays and Fridays
A. To understand a hidden meaning
B. To work less hard or to be less than is usual or necessary
C. To make most effort
D. To be very rude
12. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
A) Suspended on the eve of abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into UTs in August 2019, access was allowed in two of the 20 districts, Ganderbal and Udhampur, on August 16 last year on a 'trial basis'.
B) The decision, as expected, has evoked a sense of relief; much delayed, but welcome nevertheless.
C) National Conference leader Omar Abdullah's observation — 'better late than never' — sums up the sentiment as the high-speed 4G mobile Internet services have been restored across Jammu and Kashmir after almost 18 months.

- D) Elsewhere, only 2G Internet services were available on mobile.
- A. CDAB
B. CADB
C. DBCA
D. ACDB
13. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Practical
B. Glowing
C. Released
D. Frighter
14. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A) More worryingly, Dorsey has said that there were threats of shutting down Twitter in India, raiding the homes of its employees, and closing the company's offices in the country in case it failed to comply with the government's demands.
- B) Fresh revelations have come to light in the confrontation between Big Tech and the Indian state.
- C) Considering the influence these platforms wield in shaping public opinion in polarising times, these are serious allegations. The government has denied the allegations outright, but that may not be enough.
- D) In an interview on Monday night, Jack Dorsey, Twitter's co-founder and former CEO, said that the social media platform had received several requests from the Indian government around the time of the farmers' protest to take down accounts critical of it.
- A. ABCD
B. BCAD
C. DABC
D. BDAC
15. **Identify the option that arranges the given parts in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph.**
- A) It's primarily the Union government's high-handedness that has led to the turn of events
- B) the Centre is apparently going all out to weaken the over two-month-old stir by keeping the Internet suspended, installing concertina wires and cement barriers, and hammering nails into roads in areas on Delhi's outskirts
- C) Barely a fortnight after offering to put on hold the three contentious farm laws for 18 months,
- D) The farmers' agitation, which had suffered a major setback in the wake of the violence and chaos witnessed on Republic Day, has not only made a strong recovery in recent days but also gained international traction from unexpected quarters
- A. ACDB
B. ACBD
C. DABC
D. DACB
16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom**
The unwary were apt to buy a **pig in the poke**

- A. To bring something to an end
B. A brave man amongst all the cowards
C. Something that is bought without examining properly
D. To obstruct someone's work
17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice**
My father cooks breakfast every day.
A. Breakfast was being cooked every day by my father.
B. Breakfast was cooked every day by my father.
C. Breakfast is cooked every day by my father.
D. Breakfast was cook every day by my father.
18. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.**
Some people believe such art is _____ (blasphemous)
A. COSTLY
B. DISRESPECTFUL
C. REALITY
D. AUTHENTIC
19. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
No book gives / the description of human anatomy / in so much detail / as this book.
A. No book gives
B. as this book
C. in so much detail
D. the description of human anatomy
20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
The programme emphasizes / with mentoring people / to take risks and to act / in a more entrepreneurial way.
A. to take risks and to act
B. with mentoring people
C. The programme emphasizes
D. in a more entrepreneurial way.

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.

In a manner ____ (1) ____ a stealth operation, the Government of India pushed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025 in Parliament as the monsoon session drew to a close. This Bill ____ (2) ____ online real money games while aiming to ____ (3) ____ the growth of e-sports and online social games. The Bill was ____ (4) ____ through both Houses without any debate and was not ____ (5) ____ by any consultations with the affected industry or with States, which have jurisdiction over key aspects of the topic.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
A. capable of
B. akin to

- C. think about
D. conform to
22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
A. endorsed
B. legitimized
C. frozen
D. outlawed
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
A. promote
B. promoted
C. promoting
D. promotes
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**
A. deliberate
B. measured
C. rushed
D. relaxed
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
A. followed
B. preceded
C. ensued
D. primitive

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. B) The severity of the menace transcends state jurisdictions and boundaries.
 The passage states that the Supreme Court's direction, though extraordinary, acknowledges the severity of a menace that "transcends State jurisdictions and boundaries." This justifies the need for a pan-India investigation by a central agency like the CBI, overriding the normal requirement for state consent.
2. B) Cohesion with ASEAN and the UN to sanction the illegal regime in Myanmar.
 The passage argues that tackling transnational scam centres, especially in places like Myanmar, requires moving beyond bilateral requests. It explicitly states that New Delhi must "act in cohesion with ASEAN and the UN to sanction the illegal regime and cut off the financial lifelines."
3. A) Launching widespread digital literacy and cyber awareness campaigns.
 The passage highlights that domestically, the battle "must also be fought on the grounds of digital literacy and capacity." It specifically calls for States, local administrations, and the RBI to "launch widespread awareness campaigns" to address the deficit in cyber awareness.
4. C) Banking officials who facilitate the creation of "mule" accounts.
 The passage explicitly mentions that the Court has asked the CBI to target "not just the scammers but also banking officials who facilitate the creation of 'mule' accounts." This highlights the focus on enablers within the financial system.
5. C) Employ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning tools.
 The passage states that the RBI has been instructed by the Court to "employ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to trace the 'layering' of proceeds through multiple accounts," emphasizing a tech-driven solution to track complex financial trails.
6. B) DACB
 D: "Twenty years ago, actor Christopher Reeve gave a talk at the Yale School of Medicine, where he made an impassioned plea to those opposing embryonic stem cell research on ethical grounds."
 This sentence introduces the context and main characters. It introduces us to Christopher Reeve and his support for embryonic stem cell research, setting the stage for what comes next.
 A: "Reeve, who had lost the use of his limbs in an accident had become an ardent supporter of the relatively new field of study, which he believed had the potential to cure his condition. He died in 2004, too early to see the advances in stem cell research."
 The sentence continues from the first sentence by providing additional information about Christopher Reeve, his situation, and his perspective on stem cell research.
 C: "One groundbreaking leap was announced at the International Society of Stem Cell Research's annual meeting in Boston on Wednesday."

This sentence connects with the end of the sentence A ("too early to see the advances in stem cell research") and transitions into the current events in stem cell research, providing a bridge between the historical context and the present situation.

B: "Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz, who holds professorial chairs at the University of Cambridge and Caltech in the US, announced that her team has succeeded in creating synthetic human embryos using stem cells, sidestepping the need for egg and sperm."

This sentence provides the specific recent advancement in stem cell research mentioned in sentence C.

7. B) **interfere** (verb) – Inhibit, restrict, hinder, obstruct बाधा डालना

Antonym: Advance (verb) – Proceed, progress, go forward आगे बढ़ाना

- **INTERCEDE** (verb) – Intervene, mediate, plead, negotiate बीच-बचाव करना
- **HAMPER** (verb) – Hinder, obstruct, impeded बाधा डालना
- **JAM** (verb) – Stop, seize, block अटकाना

8. B) **Exacerbate** (verb) – make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse. खराब करना

- **Augment** (verb) – make (something) greater by adding to it; increase. बढ़ाना
- **Amplify** (verb) – enlarge upon or add detail to (a story or statement). विस्तार से व्याख्या करना; बढ़ाना

9. B) **Chocolate is liked by Ravish.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Ravish" (Subject), "likes" (Verb in Present Simple) और "chocolate" (Object) है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Chocolate" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "is liked" (Present Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by Ravish" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice: The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from active to passive form while maintaining the correct tense. In this case, "Ravish" (Subject), "likes" (Verb in Present Simple), and "chocolate" (Object) have been transformed into "Chocolate" (Subject), "is liked" (Passive Verb in Present Simple), and "by Ravish".

10. C) **Cynical** (adjective) – Distrustful, suspicious, disparaging, derisive निंदक

Antonym - Credulous (adjective) – Gullible, naïve, trusting, imprudent, unsuspecting विश्वासप्रवणता

- **Scoffing** (adjective) – Jeering, sneering, mocking, ridiculing, मजाक
- **Incredulous** (adjective) – Disbelieving, doubtful, dubious, unconvinced अविश्वासी
- **Sceptical** (adjective) – Cynical, doubtful, unconvinced, incredulous अविश्वासपूर्ण

11. B) **Slack off** (phrase) – to work less hard or to be less than is usual or necessary सुस्त पडना/होना

12. B) CADB

C: This sentence introduces the topic - the restoration of high-speed 4G mobile Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir. It gives an overall summary of the scenario, giving the context for the following sentences.

A: This sentence provides a historical context, describing when and why the Internet services were suspended and when it was partially restored on a trial basis

D: This sentence further explains the situation before the complete restoration, indicating that other than the two districts mentioned in Sentence A, only 2G services were available in the remaining areas

B: Finally, this sentence concludes the paragraph by reflecting on the overall impact of the decision to restore Internet services, indicating a general feeling of relief. This serves as an effective conclusion as it brings the narrative back to the overall sentiment towards the restoration of the service

13. D) The correct spelling of 'Frighter' is 'Freighter' which means 'a large ship or aircraft designed to carry goods in bulk' लदानेवाला जहाज़

14. D) BDAC

B. "Fresh revelations have come to light in the confrontation between Big Tech and the Indian state."

This sentence serves as an introduction. It sets the stage and context for the forthcoming information about the conflict between tech companies and the Indian state.

D. "In an interview on Monday night, Jack Dorsey, Twitter's co-founder and former CEO, said that the social media platform had received several requests from the Indian government around the time of the farmers' protest to take down accounts critical of it."

This sentence introduces the primary source of the conflict. It provides specific details about what these "fresh revelations" from sentence B are. Jack Dorsey's statement about the Indian government's demands to Twitter offers the reader a deeper insight into the situation.

A. "More worryingly, Dorsey has said that there were threats of shutting down Twitter in India, raiding the homes of its employees, and closing the company's offices in the country in case it failed to comply with the government's demands."

This sentence builds on the information provided in sentence D by escalating the severity of the situation. It explains the consequences Twitter faced if it didn't comply with the government's requests.

C. "Considering the influence these platforms wield in shaping public opinion in polarising times, these are serious allegations. The government has denied the allegations outright, but that may not be enough."

This sentence acts as a conclusion, it discusses the potential implications of the situation given the significant role social media platforms play in society. It also gives an update on the government's response to the allegations.

15. D) DACB

D: The sentence D starts the paragraph as it sets the stage for the current situation of the farmers' agitation: "The farmers' agitation, which had suffered a major setback in the wake of the violence and chaos witnessed on Republic Day, has not only made a strong recovery in recent days but also gained international traction from unexpected quarters." It establishes a background to the scenario.

A: Then, sentence A follows as it provides a cause for the present situation: "It's primarily the Union government's high-handedness that has led to the turn of events." It attributes the escalation of the agitation to the government's approach.

C: After establishing the cause of the situation in sentence A, sentence C adds a more specific incident that exemplifies the government's behavior: "Barely a fortnight after offering to put on hold the three contentious farm laws for 18 months,". It further substantiates the 'high-handedness' mentioned in sentence A

B: Lastly, sentence B details the measures taken by the government to counteract the protests, thus supporting the claims made in sentence A and providing further evidence for the "high-handedness": "the Centre is apparently going all out to weaken the over two-month-old stir by keeping the Internet suspended, installing concertina wires and cement barriers, and hammering nails into roads in areas on Delhi's outskirts."

16. C) **Pig in a poke** (phrase) – Something that is bought without examining properly आंख मूंदकर सौदा करना

17. C) **Breakfast is cooked every day by my father.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "My father" (Subject) है, "cooks" (Verb in Present Simple) है और "breakfast" (Object) है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Breakfast" (Subject) बन गया है, Verb को "is cooked" (Present Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by my father" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "My father" (Subject), "cooks" (Verb in Present Simple), and "breakfast" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "Breakfast" (Subject), "is cooked" (Passive Verb in Present Simple), and "by my father".

18. B) Blasphemous (adjective) – Disrespectful; sacrilegious against God or sacred things; profane. निंदा

19. A) 'No book' के बदले 'No other book' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब एक ही group (वर्ग) के एक व्यक्ति या वस्तु की तुलना उसी group के अन्य सारे व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं से Positive Degree में हो तो बनावट में 'No' के बाद 'other' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे

- No other cricket player of India is as popular as Tendulkar.
 - The usage of 'No other book' will be instead of 'No book' because when a comparison in the positive degree is made between one individual or object and all other individuals or objects within the same group, 'other' is used after 'No' in the construction. For example, "No other cricket player of India is as popular as Tendulkar."

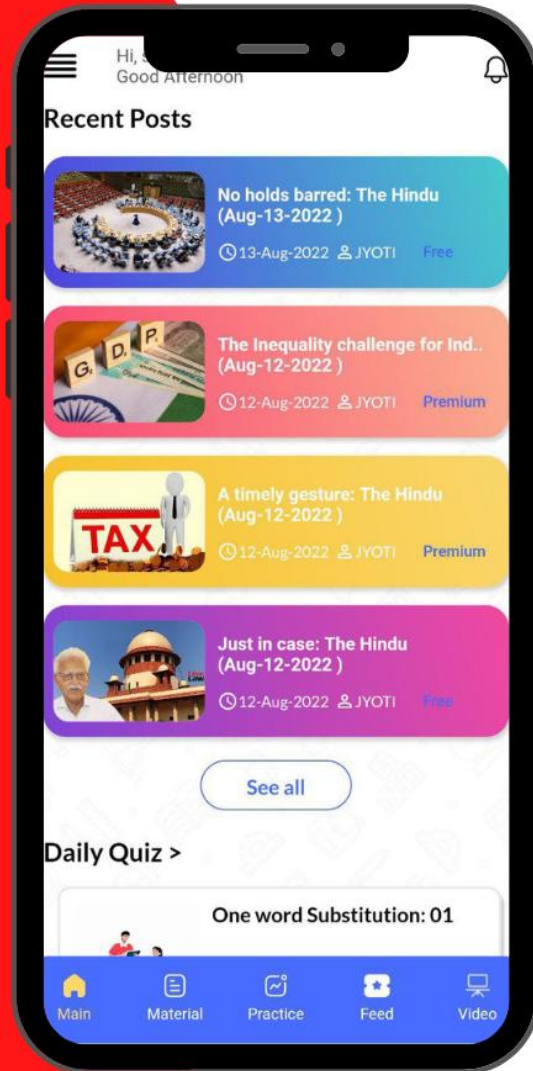
20. B) 'with' को हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'emphasize' एक Transitive Verb का काम करता है। अतः

'emphasize' के बाद 'with' या 'on' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है बल्कि सीधा object का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
He emphasized the importance of education.

- The word 'with' has to be removed because 'emphasize' functions as a transitive verb. Therefore, after 'emphasize', the use of 'with' or 'on' is not correct; instead, a direct object is used; for example:
He emphasized the importance of education.
21. B) 'Akin to' का use होगा क्योंकि "akin to" का अर्थ होता है 'के समान/ similar to'। वाक्य "In a manner ___ a stealth operation" में तुलना की जा रही है, इसलिए 'akin to' सही prepositional phrase है। जबकि 'capable of' का अर्थ 'सक्षम' होता है और "in a manner capable of a stealth operation" अर्थहीन/गलत अर्थ देता है; 'think about' एक phrasal verb है, 'in a manner' के बाद संरचनात्मक रूप से फिट नहीं होता; 'conform to' के साथ यहाँ gerund चाहिए—"in a manner conforming to...", अतः "conform to" व्याकरणतः गलत है।
- 'Akin to' will be used because it means 'similar to'. The sentence compares the manner to a stealth operation, so 'akin to' is the correct prepositional phrase. Whereas 'capable of' expresses ability (not similarity) and makes the meaning odd; 'think about' is a verb phrase that cannot follow 'in a manner' here; 'conform to' would need the gerund form—"in a manner conforming to...", so 'conform to' is grammatically incorrect in this slot.
22. D) 'Outlawed' का use होगा क्योंकि "outlawed" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को क़ानूनन प्रतिबंधित करना। वाक्य में आगे e-sports और social games की वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने की बात है, इसलिए real-money games पर रोक लगाकर दूसरे सुरक्षित/कौशल-आधारित खेलों को प्रोत्साहित करने का विरोधाभासी संतुलन बनता है—इसलिए 'outlawed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'endorsed' का अर्थ समर्थन करना है (जो अर्थ के विरुद्ध है), 'legitimized' का अर्थ वैध बनाना है (रोक के बजाय अनुमति), और 'frozen' past participle है—यहाँ simple past verb चाहिए; सही रूप 'froze' होता, इसलिए विकल्प (C) व्याकरण की दृष्टि से भी गलत है।
- 'Outlawed' will be used because it means to ban something by law. The sentence then aims to promote e-sports/social games, so banning real-money games while encouraging other game types creates the intended contrast—making 'outlawed' the best fit. 'Endorsed' means to support (opposite meaning), 'legitimized' means to make lawful (not a ban), and 'frozen' is a past participle—here a simple past verb is needed; the correct form would be 'froze', so option (C) is grammatically incorrect.
23. A) 'Promote' का use होगा क्योंकि "promote" का अर्थ होता है वृद्धि/विकास को बढ़ावा देना। sentence में "aiming to ___ the growth" दिया है, और "to" के बाद क्रिया का base form (V1) आता है, इसलिए 'promote' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'promoted' past form (V2) है, 'promoting' gerund/participle (V-ing) रूप है, और 'promotes' third person singular (V5) है—ये "to" के बाद नहीं आते, इसलिए इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Promote' will be used because it means to encourage or further growth. The phrase "aiming to ___ the growth" requires the base verb after "to," so 'promote' (V1) is grammatically correct. Whereas, 'promoted' is past form (V2), 'promoting' is a

gerund/participle (V-ing), and 'promotes' is third-person singular (V5); none of these fit after "to," so they are incorrect in this context.

24. C) 'Rushed' का use होगा क्योंकि "rushed" का अर्थ होता है जल्दीबाज़ी या बिना पूरी तैयारी के काम करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Bill बिना किसी बहस और consultation के जल्दी से पास कर दिया गया, इसलिए 'rushed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'deliberate' का अर्थ है सोच-समझकर किया गया, 'measured' का अर्थ है संतुलित और सावधानीपूर्वक किया गया, और 'relaxed' का अर्थ है आराम से या धीमे तरीके से, जो इस context में बिल्कुल फिट नहीं बैठते।
- 'Rushed' will be used because it means done hastily or without thorough preparation. The sentence states that the Bill was passed quickly without debate or consultation, making 'rushed' the correct choice. Whereas 'deliberate' means done carefully and intentionally, 'measured' means balanced and cautious, and 'relaxed' means done in an easy-going or slow manner, none of which fit the context here.
25. B) 'Preceded' का use होगा क्योंकि "precede" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के पहले होना। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि बिल बिना बहस के पास हुआ और उससे पहले कोई परामर्श नहीं हुआ, इसलिए passive संरचना 'was not preceded by any consultations' (be + past participle + by) सही है। जबकि 'followed' का अर्थ बाद में आना है (यह गलत तरह से बाद में परामर्श होने का संकेत देगा), 'ensued' का अर्थ परिणामस्वरूप होना है और 'by' के साथ इस passive पैटर्न में नहीं आता, और 'primitive' एक adjective है, जो यहाँ व्याकरणिक रूप से फिट नहीं होता।
- 'Preceded' will be used because it means to occur before something. The sentence states there were no consultations before the Bill; hence the passive collocation 'was not preceded by any consultations' (be + past participle + by) is correct. Whereas, 'followed' means came after (wrongly implying post-passage consultations), 'ensued' means resulted and does not take 'by' in this passive pattern, and 'primitive' is an adjective, so it cannot grammatically fit here.



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