

Social scourge: On India and child marriages

Child marriages lead to poor outcomes in health, education, poverty alleviation

India has **committed to** end child marriage by 2030 through the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDG), and while it has **made comprehensive strides**, there are still **miles to go** to achieve the target. The Union government recently **marked** the first anniversary of its Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Abhiyan with a 100-day awareness campaign for a country free of child marriage. It is a fact that child marriages have been **consistently** dropping, from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 23.3% in 2019-21, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data. But in a **diverse** country of a population of 146 crore, the ground reality is that progress is **varied** and **uneven** across States and socio-economic **demographics**. While the highest child marriage rates among women aged 18 to 29 years are **prevalent** in West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura, **States** such as Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan **are** not far behind. There is a direct **co-relation** between child marriage, **poverty** and education, as the UN Population Fund's **analysis** of NFHS data **shows**. While **40% of girls** from the lowest **quintile** of the household wealth index **married** before they became adults, in comparison to just 8% of those from the highest quintile, **48% of girls** with no education **were** married below 18 years in comparison to only 4% among those with higher education.

The Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006, is the **flagship** law to end the practice, but **figures** from National Crime Bureau Records **indicate infrequent application** of the law and a low **conviction** rate. Also, **the use** of laws such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, which are **stringent** and provide no **leeway** for **consenting** sexual **adolescents**, **has** led to other concerns. Afraid of **triggering harsh** punishments from the criminal justice system, many underage girls are turning to unregistered, unprofessional help, **endangering** their health further. Already, it is **established** that child marriages can lead to poor **maternal** and child health. **In this backdrop**, it is **imperative** to study why States such as **West Bengal**, which **incentivises** girls to study with a cash scheme, still **has** a high **incidence** of child marriage. The Centre's 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign has to do much more to reach the most **vulnerable** communities, and ensure that **infrastructure**, including clean toilets and safe public transport, **are in place** to keep girls at school. According to Girls Not Brides, a global partnership, at least nine of the 17 SDGs will not be achieved without ending child marriage. In India, unless **the several factors** driving child marriage — poverty, and education, health and gender inequality — **are addressed**, it will be impossible to **bridge the gap** between policy and practice.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Scourge** (noun) – affliction, bane, menace, plague, curse अभिशाप
2. **Lead** (to) (verb) – to result in a particular situation or event के कारण होना
3. **Poverty** (noun) – penury, indigence, destitution, privation, pauperism गरीबी
4. **Alleviation** (noun) – mitigation, reduction, palliation, relief, assuagement न्यूनीकरण
5. **Committed** (to) (adjective) – dedicated, devoted, pledged, bound, obligated प्रतिबद्ध
6. **Sustainable development goals** (noun) – a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" सतत विकास लक्ष्य
7. **Made stride** (phrase) – to make progress in a particular field प्रगति करना
8. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Thorough, all-inclusive, extensive, complete, exhaustive व्यापक
9. **Miles to go** (idiom) – a long way to go before a task or goal is accomplished लंबी दूरी तय करना बाकी है
10. **Mark** (verb) – celebrate, observe, commemorate, recognize, signal चिह्नित करना
11. **Consistently** (adverb) – constantly, uniformly, steadily, persistently, invariably निरंतर
12. **Diverse** (adjective) – varied, heterogeneous, multifarious, manifold, disparate विविध
13. **Varied** (adjective) – diverse, assorted, miscellaneous, heterogeneous, different भिन्न/विविध
14. **Uneven** (adjective) – irregular, inconsistent, patchy, variable, lopsided असमान
15. **Demographics** (noun) – the statistical study of a population, focusing on characteristics such as age, gender, education, income, and population distribution जनसांख्यिकी
16. **Prevalent** (adjective) – widespread, rampant, ubiquitous, pervasive, common प्रचलित/व्याप्त
17. **Co-relation** (noun) – connection, association, link, correspondence, parallel सह-संबंध
18. **Quintile** (noun) – any of five equal groups into which a population can be divided according to the distribution of values of a particular variable पंचक/पांचवा हिस्सा
19. **Flagship** (adjective) – premier, lead, main, chief, principal प्रमुख

20. **Infrequent** (adjective) – Uncommon, rare, occasional, sporadic, scarce दुर्लभ
21. **Application** (noun) – implementation, use, exercise, employment, administration प्रयोग
22. **Conviction** (noun) – sentence, judgment, pronouncement of guilt, verdict, condemnation दोषसिद्धि
23. **Stringent** (adjective) – rigorous, strict, firm, rigid, draconian कठोर
24. **Leeway** (noun) – latitude, freedom, scope, room, flexibility गुंजाइश
25. **Consenting** (adjective) – agreeing, assenting, concurring, complying, willing सहमत
26. **Adolescents** (noun) – teenagers, youths, juveniles, minors, young adults किशोर
27. **Trigger** (verb) – precipitate, provoke, spark, incite, activate प्रेरित करना
28. **Harsh** (adjective) – severe, stringent, cruel, austere, relentless कठोर
29. **Endanger** (verb) – imperil, jeopardize, risk, threaten, hazard खतरे में डालना
30. **Established** (adjective) – proven, demonstrated, confirmed, settled, recognized पुष्ट
31. **Maternal** (adjective) – motherly, parental, maternalistic, protective, uterine माता संबंधी
32. **In this backdrop** (phrase) – in this specific context or situation इस पृष्ठभूमि में
33. **Imperative** (adjective) – vital, crucial, essential, mandatory, indispensable अति आवश्यक
34. **Incentivise** (verb) – encourage, motivate, stimulate, inspire, promote प्रोत्साहित करना
35. **Incidence** (noun) – occurrence, frequency, prevalence, rate, extent घटना
36. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – susceptible, defenseless, exposed, endangered, weak असुरक्षित
37. **Infrastructure** (noun) – framework, foundation, groundwork, base, substructure बुनियादी ढांचा
38. **In place** (phrase) – ready for use or established in the correct position तैयार
39. **Address** (verb) – tackle, handle, confront, attend to, deal with समाधान करना
40. **Bridge the gap** (idiom) – to reduce the differences between two things or groups अंतर कम करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India has pledged to end child marriage by 2030 under the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The government has launched awareness initiatives like the *Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Abhiyan* to address the issue.
3. Data shows a steady decline in child marriage, from 47.4% in 2005–06 to 23.3% in 2019–21.
4. Despite progress, child marriage remains widespread due to India's large and diverse population.
5. The incidence of child marriage varies sharply across States and social groups.
6. States such as West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura record the highest rates among young women.
7. Several other States, including Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, also show worrying trends.
8. There is a strong link between child marriage, poverty and lack of education.
9. Girls from poorer households are far more likely to be married before 18 than those from wealthy families.
10. Education plays a key role, as girls with no schooling face much higher risks of early marriage.
11. The Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006, exists but is weakly enforced with low conviction rates.
12. The use of strict laws like POCSO has sometimes created fear and unintended negative consequences.
13. Due to fear of legal action, some underage girls seek unsafe and unregulated medical help, harming their health.
14. Child marriage is closely linked to poor maternal health, child health, and long-term poverty.
15. Ending child marriage requires addressing root causes such as poverty, education gaps, health issues, and gender inequality, not just policy declarations.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. India's success in achieving Sustainable Development Goals
 - B. Legal reforms related to adolescent consent and marriage
 - C. The persistent challenge of child marriage despite policy measures
 - D. State-wise comparison of women's education levels in India
2. **Why does the passage argue that India may fail to meet its 2030 target of ending child marriage despite a national decline in rates?**
 - A. Because awareness campaigns have been discontinued at the State level not district level
 - B. Because progress remains uneven across States and socio-economic groups
 - C. Because international agencies have withdrawn financial support
 - D. Because legal provisions against child marriage are insufficient
3. **What does the passage identify as a key unintended consequence of using stringent criminal laws like the POCSO Act in cases involving adolescents ?**
 - A. Increased conviction rates for child marriage cases
 - B. Decline in adolescent relationships
 - C. Girls seeking unsafe, unregistered medical or social assistance
 - D. Greater reporting of child marriage cases
4. **Which inference best explains why cash-incentive education schemes alone have failed to reduce child marriage in States like West Bengal?**
 - A. Cash transfers are frequently misused by families in india
 - B. Educational incentives do not address structural vulnerabilities
 - C. Cultural traditions outweigh all policy interventions
 - D. Child marriage laws override welfare-based approaches
5. **From the data cited in the passage, what broader conclusion can be drawn about the relationship between child marriage and social development?**
 - A. Child marriage is primarily a legal enforcement issue
 - B. Economic growth alone can eliminate child marriage
 - C. Health outcomes improve independently of marriage age
 - D. Ending child marriage is integral to achieving multiple development goals
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
INTRANSIGENT
 - A. Willing
 - B. Compliant
 - C. Stubborn
 - D. Submissive
7. **Change the following from active to passive:**
The university may confer honorary degrees upon exceptional scholars.
 - A. Honorary degrees might have been conferred upon exceptional scholars by the university.
 - B. Honorary degrees may be conferred upon exceptional scholars by the university.
 - C. Honorary degrees may have conferred upon exceptional scholars by the university.
 - D. Honorary degrees must be being conferred upon exceptional scholars by the university.

8. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who completely abstains from alcoholic drinks.'**
- A. Foreigner
 - B. Teetotaler
 - C. Customer
 - D. Offender
9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
in the doldrums
- A. Sailing in high winds
 - B. In a state of depression or inactivity
 - C. On the verge of success
 - D. Working with great energy
10. **Select the correctly spelled word.**
- A. Ruthles
 - B. Ruthless
 - C. Rutheless
 - D. Ruthlese
11. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:**
1. This is particularly challenging in industries such as steel and cement production, where emissions are an integral part of the manufacturing process.
 2. As a result, carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies have emerged as a crucial component of strategies aimed at reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
 3. Achieving carbon neutrality requires a significant reduction in emissions across all economic sectors.
 4. These technologies capture carbon dioxide at the source, preventing its release into the atmosphere and either utilizing it or storing it permanently underground.
- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
 - B. 3, 1, 2, 4
 - C. 2, 1, 3, 4
 - D. 4, 3, 1, 2
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Integrity."**
- A. Rectitude
 - B. Venality
 - C. Candor
 - D. Veracity
13. **Find the incorrect part of the sentence:**
She arrived to the office early this morning.
- A. the office early
 - B. She arrived to
 - C. this morning.
 - D. No error
14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
ILLUMINATE

- A. Explain
B. Darken
C. Destroy
D. Hide
15. **Find out which pair of words can be filled up in the blanks in the sentence in the same sequence to make the sentence meaningfully complete:**
Even after facing repeated failures, the young entrepreneur remained and continued to work with remarkable toward his vision.
A. indifferent, apathy
B. determined, perseverance
C. exhausted, hesitation
D. careless, confidence
16. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
She **levered** the lid open with a spoon.
A. The financial leverage helped the startup.
B. The lever broke off from the old machine.
C. They learned to leave early.
D. He lifted it with a metal rod.
17. **Find the incorrect part of the sentence:**
She is junior than me.
A. junior than
B. me.
C. She is
D. No error
18. **Select the most appropriate article to fill in the blank. Select 'no article' if no article is required.**
The doctor asked the patient to have _____ MRI scan of his brain.
A. a
B. no article
C. an
D. The
19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Lukewarm."**
A. Fervid
B. Apathetic
C. Dilatory
D. Insipid
20. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
He walked slowly **lest he should fall**.
A. In order to not fall
B. so that he may not fall
C. lest he fall
D. for fear of falling

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.

As both a trans woman and a woman, I have come to understand that policy is not an _____(1)_____ document drafted _____(2)_____ bureaucratic chambers; it is the scaffolding of our lives. For gender minorities, whose existence is often questioned or ridiculed, the absence of inclusive, enforceable, and humane policy is not just a governance gap; it is a denial of _____(3)_____. Families may _____(4)_____ us, schools may shut their doors, and workplaces may feign diversity while keeping us at the margins. Gender transition is expensive and requires resources most cannot access. The cost of abandonment, coupled with hunger, often leaves little choice but to walk into situations that endanger dignity and safety. A hungry body rarely waits for laws to catch up; it _____(5)_____ to survival.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
 - A. incorrigible
 - B. ebullient
 - C. abstract
 - D. onerous
22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
 - A. in
 - B. at
 - C. on
 - D. to
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
 - A. opprobrium
 - B. dignity
 - C. stigma
 - D. sublime
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**
 - A. abandons
 - B. abandoned
 - C. abandoning
 - D. abandon
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
 - A. accuses
 - B. approves
 - C. succumbs
 - D. consists

Answers

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

[Practice Page]

Explanations

- C) The persistent challenge of child marriage despite policy measures**
 The passage primarily focuses on how child marriage remains a serious social problem in India despite laws, campaigns, and declining statistics, emphasizing structural causes like poverty, education gaps, health risks, and weak enforcement.

A) India's success in achieving SDGs – Incorrect because the passage stresses that SDGs will not be achieved unless child marriage ends.
 B) Legal reforms related to adolescent consent and marriage – Incorrect as laws are discussed only as part of the broader problem, not the central focus.
 D) State-wise comparison of women's education levels – Incorrect because education data supports the argument but is not the core theme.
- B) Because progress remains uneven across States and socio-economic groups**
 The passage clearly states that although rates have declined nationally, progress is uneven across States and socio-economic demographics, hindering the 2030 goal.

A (Incorrect): Awareness campaigns are ongoing, including a recent 100-day campaign.
 C (Incorrect): There is no mention of withdrawal of international support.
 D (Incorrect): Laws exist (e.g., the 2006 Act); the issue is poor enforcement, not absence.
- C) Girls seeking unsafe, unregistered medical or social assistance**
 The passage notes that fear of harsh punishment pushes underage girls toward unregistered and unsafe help, worsening health risks.

A (Incorrect): Conviction rates are described as low, not increased.
 B (Incorrect): The passage does not discuss changes in adolescent relationships.
 D (Incorrect): Fear of punishment discourages reporting rather than encouraging it.
- B) Educational incentives do not address structural vulnerabilities**
 The passage implies that poverty, safety, infrastructure, and gender inequality must also be addressed; education incentives alone are insufficient.

A (Incorrect): Misuse of funds is not mentioned.
 C (Incorrect): Culture is not presented as the sole or overriding factor.
 D (Incorrect): Laws and welfare schemes are meant to complement, not override, each other.
- D) Ending child marriage is integral to achieving multiple development goals**
 Citing Girls Not Brides, the passage states that at least nine of the 17 SDGs cannot be achieved without ending child marriage.

A (Incorrect): Legal enforcement is only one aspect; social factors are central.
 B (Incorrect): The passage stresses education, health, and gender equality alongside poverty reduction.
 C (Incorrect): The passage explicitly links child marriage to poor maternal and child health.
- C) Intransigent (adjective) – Uncompromising, inflexible, unyielding, obstinate, stubborn अडिग / हठी**

Synonym: **Stubborn** (adjective) – Determined not to change one's attitude or position, headstrong, obstinate. ज़िद्दी / हठी

- **Willing** (adjective) – Ready, prepared, eager to do something. इच्छुक
- **Compliant** (adjective) – Inclined to agree with others or obey rules; submissive. आज्ञाकारी
- **Submissive** (adjective) – Ready to conform to the authority or will of others; meekly obedient. विनम्र / अधीन

7. B) **Honorary degrees may be conferred upon exceptional scholars by the university.**

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 "The university" Subject है, "may confer" Verb (Modal + Base form) है और "honorary degrees" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Honorary degrees" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "may be conferred" (Modal + be + Past Participle) में बदला गया है और "by the university" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

In English

The active sentence uses the modal "may", so the passive must also retain "may."

"Confer" in passive form becomes "be conferred."

Structure followed:

Object → Subject: honorary degrees

Modal + be + past participle: may be conferred

Agent: by the university

Other Option Analysis

Option 1 → Changes tense and meaning to may have been, which is not in the original sentence.

Option 3 → Grammatically incorrect; missing "be" before conferred.

Option 4 → Unnecessarily complex and incorrect modal-tense construction.

8. B) **Teetotaler** – A person who never consumes alcohol मद्यत्यागी

- **Foreigner** – A person from another country विदेशी
- **Customer** – A person who buys goods ग्राहक
- **Offender** – A person who commits a crime अपराधी

9. B) **In the doldrums** (idiom) – In a state of depression or inactivity निराशा या निष्क्रियता की अवस्था में होना

10. B) **Ruthless** (adjective) – Merciless, harsh, cruel, relentless, pitiless. निर्दयी

- **Ruthles** – Incorrect spelling
- **Rutheless** – Incorrect spelling
- **Ruthlese** – Incorrect spelling

11. B) **3, 1, 2, 4**

Achieving carbon neutrality requires a significant reduction in emissions across all economic sectors This is particularly challenging in industries such as steel and cement production, where emissions are an integral part of the manufacturing process. As a result, carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies have emerged as a crucial component of strategies aimed at

reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions These technologies capture carbon dioxide at the source, preventing its release into the atmosphere and either utilizing it or storing it permanently underground.

Sentence 3 - This sentence introduces the overall goal of reducing carbon emissions. It is general, so it should come first in the paragraph.

Sentence 1 - This explains why achieving carbon neutrality is difficult, especially in certain industries. Logical after the goal because first we say “what we want”, then “what the challenges are.”

Sentence 2 - This shows the solution to the challenge — CCS technologies. “As a result” links challenge → solution, making it coherent.

Sentence 4 - This explains the mechanism of CCS — what it actually does. Logical as the concluding sentence because it completes the paragraph.

Sentence 3 - यह मुख्य उद्देश्य बताता है — हर क्षेत्र में उत्सर्जन कम करना। यह सामान्य जानकारी है, इसलिए यह पहले आता है।

Sentence 1 - यह बताता है कि कुछ उद्योगों में उत्सर्जन कम करना क्यों कठिन है। पहले उद्देश्य बताया, अब challenges समझाना तार्किक है।

Sentence 2 - यह समाधान बताता है — CCS तकनीकें उद्योगों के उत्सर्जन को कम करने में मदद करती हैं। “इसके परिणामस्वरूप” यह दर्शाता है कि challenges → solutions

Sentence 4 यह बताता है कि CCS तकनीक वास्तव में कैसे कार्बन को रोकती है और संग्रहित करती है।

12. B) **Integrity** (noun) – honesty, morality, probity, uprightness. ईमानदारी

Antonym: **Venality** – the quality of being open to bribery or corruption. भ्रष्टाचार/बिकाऊपन

- **Rectitude** – morally correct behavior or thinking. नैतिकता
- **Candor** – the quality of being open and honest. स्पष्टवादिता
- **Veracity** – conformity to facts; accuracy. सत्यता

13. B) ‘to’ के बदले ‘at’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘arrive’ के साथ small places के लिए ‘at’ और big places के लिए ‘in’ आता है; जैसे— They arrived at the station.

- ‘at’ will be used instead of ‘to’ because standard English uses ‘arrive at’ for specific locations; like— He arrived at the airport.

14. A) **Illuminate** (verb) – Light up, brighten, clarify, elucidate, enlighten प्रकाश करना, स्पष्ट करना

Synonym: **Explain** (verb) – Make clear, describe, clarify, interpret. स्पष्ट करना

- **Darken** (verb) – Make or become dark. अंधकारमय करना
- **Destroy** (verb) – Ruin, demolish, annihilate. नष्ट करना
- **Hide** (verb) – Conceal, cover, secrete, veil. छिपाना

15. B) **Even after facing repeated failures, the young entrepreneur remained determined and continued to work with remarkable perseverance toward his vision.**

Word Meanings:

Determined (adjective) – Firm in purpose; resolute. दृढ़निश्चयी / संकल्पित

Perseverance (noun) – Steady persistence in effort despite difficulties. लगन / धैर्यपूर्वक

प्रयास

Other Options Explanation:

Indifferent, apathy ☑ – Shows lack of interest, opposite to the intended sense.

Exhausted, hesitation ☑ – Would indicate giving up, not continuing.

Careless, confidence ☑ – Carelessness and confidence do not logically go together in this context.

16. B) **The lever broke off from the old machine.**

वाक्य में 'levered' का अर्थ है – किसी वस्तु को उठाने या खोलने के लिए किसी डंडी जैसे उपकरण का उपयोग करना (to pry or move using a lever-like action)।

अब हमें वह वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'lever' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला रूप (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प B में 'lever' एक यांत्रिक उपकरण (a mechanical bar/device) के अर्थ में प्रयोग हुआ है, जबकि मुख्य वाक्य में यह क्रिया (levered = used leverage to open) है।

दोनों शब्दों का उच्चारण समान है, लेकिन एक noun है और दूसरा verb उपयोग; अर्थ भी भिन्न हैं – इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, levered means to pry or open something using a lever-like force.

In option B, lever is used as a mechanical tool—a rigid bar used for lifting or moving things. They share the same pronunciation root, but one is a verb meaning to pry, and the other is a noun referring to a tool — thus forming a homonym pair.

17. A) 'than' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि junior, senior, inferior, superior जैसे adjectives के बाद 'to' आता है; जैसे— He is senior to me.

- 'to' will be used instead of 'than' because these relational adjectives always take 'to' and never 'than'; like— She is superior to others.

18. C) 'An' का use होगा क्योंकि 'MRI' शब्द का उच्चारण vowel sound से शुरू होता है। 'M' को जब उच्चारित किया जाता है तो यह 'em' की तरह सुनाई देता है, जो एक vowel sound है। इसलिए 'an' सही article है। जबकि: 'A' का use consonant sound से शुरू होने वाले शब्दों के लिए होता है, इसलिए यह यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'No article' का use तभी होता है जब noun indefinite या general context में हो और article की आवश्यकता न हो। 'The' का use specific या definite noun के लिए होता है। चूंकि यहाँ MRI scan का जिक्र पहली बार किया जा रहा है, इसलिए 'the' का use गलत है।

- 'An' is the correct article because the pronunciation of 'MRI' starts with a vowel sound ('em'), making 'an' appropriate. Whereas: 'A' is used before words that start with a consonant sound, which doesn't apply here. 'No article' is used when the noun is indefinite or general, but that's not the case here as 'MRI scan' refers to a specific test. 'The' is used for definite nouns. Since 'MRI scan' is mentioned for the first time here, 'the' is inappropriate.

19. A) **Lukewarm** (adjective) – Tepid, indifferent, half-hearted. औसत/उदासीन

Antonym: **Fervid** (adjective) – Intensely enthusiastic or passionate. उत्साही

- **Apathetic** – Showing no interest. उदासीन
- **Dilatory** – Slow to act. विलंबी
- **Insipid** – Lacking flavor or interest. बेस्वाद

20. C) 'lest he should fall' के बदले 'lest he fall' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "lest" के बाद modal verb 'should' या उसके base form का प्रयोग किया जा सकता है, लेकिन सामान्यतः औपचारिक वाक्यों में 'should' हटाकर bare infinitive (fall) प्रयोग किया जाता है। जैसे— Walk carefully lest you fall. In English

"Lest" is used to express fear or precaution and is followed by the base form of the verb (without "should" in modern usage).

Hence, "He walked slowly lest he fall" is concise, grammatically correct, and preserves the original meaning.

Other Option Analysis:

Option 1 → Wordy and changes the formal tone.

Option 2 → Grammatically correct but less idiomatic; "so that" changes emphasis.

Option 4 → Slightly changes structure and is less formal; not the standard replacement for "lest."

21. C) '**Abstract**' का use होगा क्योंकि "abstract" का अर्थ है कुछ ऐसा जो ठोस या वास्तविक नहीं है बल्कि केवल विचार या कल्पना में है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि policy कोई "abstract document" नहीं है जो केवल कागजों में हो, बल्कि यह हमारी जिंदगी की संरचना (scaffolding) है, इसलिए 'abstract' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Incorrigible' का अर्थ है जिसे सुधारा न जा सके, 'Ebullient' का अर्थ है अत्यधिक उत्साही, और 'Onerous' का अर्थ है बोझिल या कठिन, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Abstract' will be used because it means something that is theoretical or not concrete. The sentence says policy is not merely an "abstract document" but the scaffolding of our lives, so 'abstract' fits here. Whereas 'Incorrigible' means incapable of being corrected, 'Ebullient' means very enthusiastic, and 'Onerous' means burdensome, none of which suit this context.

22. A) '**In**' का use होगा क्योंकि "in" का अर्थ है किसी स्थान या क्षेत्र के भीतर। sentence में कहा गया है कि policy drafted in bureaucratic chambers यानी "ब्यूरोक्रेटिक कमरों के अंदर तैयार की जाती है।" इसलिए 'in' यहाँ सही preposition है। जबकि 'at' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान पर पहुँचना (जैसे at the station), 'on' का अर्थ है ऊपर होना (जैसे on the table), और 'to' का अर्थ है दिशा या गंतव्य (जैसे go to school), जो इस context में fit नहीं होते।

- 'In' will be used because it indicates being inside a place or area. The sentence mentions policy being drafted in bureaucratic chambers, meaning inside those chambers. Whereas, 'at' shows a point or location (at the bus stop), 'on' means on the surface of something (on the desk), and 'to' shows direction or destination (go to college), none of which fit the meaning here.

23. B) '**Dignity**' का use होगा क्योंकि "dignity" का अर्थ है सम्मान और मानवीय मूल्य। sentence में कहा गया है कि inclusive policy की अनुपस्थिति केवल governance gap नहीं है बल्कि "denial of dignity" है यानी सम्मान और अस्तित्व का इंकार। इसलिए यहाँ dignity बिल्कुल सही बैठता है। जबकि 'Opprobrium' का अर्थ है निंदा या शर्मिंदगी, 'Stigma' का अर्थ है कलंक, और 'Sublime' का अर्थ है अत्यंत उच्च या महान—ये इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Dignity' will be used because it means respect and human worth. The sentence mentions that the absence of inclusive policy is not just a governance gap but a denial of dignity, which perfectly fits the context.

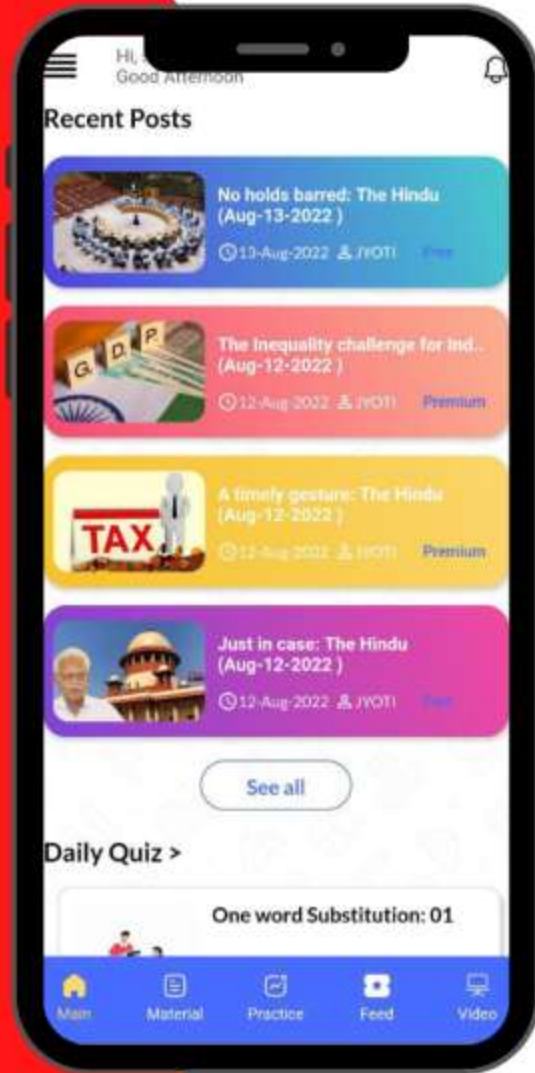
Whereas, 'Opprobrium' means public disgrace, 'Stigma' means mark of shame, and 'Sublime' means supreme or lofty—all of which do not fit this context.

24. D) '**Abandon**' का use होगा क्योंकि "Families" plural subject है और इसके साथ verb की first form का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Sentence में कहा गया है कि परिवार हमें त्याग सकते हैं, इसलिए 'abandon' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'abandons' singular subject (he/she/it) के साथ आता है, 'abandoned' past tense है और passage general truth present tense में है, और 'abandoning' continuous form है जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Abandon' will be used because "Families" is a plural subject and requires the base form of the verb. The sentence states that families may abandon us, so 'abandon' is correct here. Whereas 'abandons' is used with singular subjects, 'abandoned' is past tense while the passage conveys general truth in present tense, and 'abandoning' is a continuous form which does not fit the context.

25. C) '**Succumbs**' का use होगा क्योंकि "succumb" का अर्थ होता है किसी दबाव, कठिनाई या स्थिति के आगे झुक जाना या हार मान लेना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि भूखा शरीर कानूनों का इंतजार नहीं करता बल्कि survival के आगे झुक जाता है, इसलिए 'succumbs' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Accuses' का अर्थ है आरोप लगाना, 'Approves' का अर्थ है स्वीकृति देना, और 'Consists' का अर्थ है शामिल होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Succumbs' will be used because it means to yield or give in to pressure, difficulty, or a stronger force. The sentence mentions that a hungry body does not wait for laws but succumbs to survival, which makes 'succumbs' correct here. Whereas, 'Accuses' means to blame, 'Approves' means to accept/authorize, and 'Consists' means to be made up of, none of which fit the context.



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