

Unknown **vulnerabilities**: on the cybersecurity advisory by CERT-In

India must do better at detecting and preventing data breaches

The cybersecurity **advisory** by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) **has outlined** two threat **vectors vis-à-vis** Indian commercial and government IT **infrastructure**: AI companies testing **autonomous** agents exceeding their **designated** operational **constraints** and bad actors **weaponising** open-source agentic AI tools for automated **reconnaissance** and **exploitation**. However, the organisations affected by recent breaches that the advisory was based on did not detect them: they **came to light** in the AI companies' disclosures and CERT-In operations. Aside from developers allowing experimental systems to act outside their authorised **bounds**, the advisory highlights two problems for India — existing **arrangements** focus on cybersecurity incidents after they are revealed; and the **implicated** organisations being found under-prepared for the DPDP Act — to be **enforced** from 2027, including **steep** penalties on entities not maintaining **reasonable safeguards** against breaches. While CERT-In observed or received reports of 29.4 lakh incidents in 2025, it does not routinely publish **postmortem** analyses and is **exempt** from the RTI Act. **As a result**, public **accountability** is also weak: CERT-In found that the AI agents and/or bad actors exploited vulnerabilities, including **exposed** passwords, that are known security problems separate from AI agents' abilities.

AI companies and labs have made several disclosures this year of agents unexpectedly breaching real-world **infrastructure** worldwide during testing. For India, however, the legal **boundaries** specified by the IT Act 2000 **leave** open an accountability gap for autonomous agents without the **backing** of human intentions. A more specific **lacuna** is that while CERT-In requires an organisation to report an **intrusion** within six hours, many organisations remain incapable of, or unwilling to, discover it. The reporting deadline itself has not ensured detection. Overall, the national cybersecurity **landscape** is **fragmented** across a **pastiche** of **enforceable** requirements in some **domains**, advisory technical standards in others, and narrow AI-specific accountability in yet others. As human and autonomous threat actors become more **sophisticated**, India needs to **leapfrog** to a landscape with enforceable risk-based requirements for both testing and defending against autonomous agents; better spotting unauthorised access, especially in the public sector; and a legal **safe-harbour** for security research conducted in good faith, **in line with** CERT-In policy. CERT-In should also publish more information, **anonymised** where necessary, which includes **remediation outcomes** and whether the affected individuals were informed. Finally, the government should also review the **exemption** for CERT-In from the RTI Act as such a **sweeping** exemption is unnecessary for effective cyber-defence. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Vulnerability** (noun) - weakness, flaw, susceptibility, defect, frailty कमजोरी
2. **Advisory** (noun) - warning, bulletin, notification, alert, announcement सूचना
3. **Outline** (verb) - sketch, summarize, delineate, draft, trace रूपरेखा तैयार करना
4. **Vector** (noun) - channel, route, pathway, medium, course मार्ग
5. **Vis-à-vis** (preposition) - in relation to or compared with के संबंध में
6. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, base, foundation, setup, architecture बुनियादी ढांचा
7. **Autonomous** (adjective) - independent, self-governing, sovereign, free, self-directed स्वायत्त
8. **Designate** (verb) - appoint, nominate, assign, delegate, specify नामित करना
9. **Constraint** (noun) - restriction, limitation, restraint, check, hindrance बाधा
10. **Weaponise** (verb) - arm, equip, deploy, militarize, exploit हथियार के रूप में उपयोग करना
11. **Reconnaissance** (noun) - survey, exploration, observation, inspection, surveillance जांच
12. **Exploitation** (noun) - misuse, abuse, manipulation, utilization, taking advantage अनुचित लाभ
13. **Come to light** (phrase) - to become known or be revealed सामने आना
14. **Bound** (noun) - limit, boundary, border, restriction, margin सीमा
15. **Arrangement** (noun) - preparation, plan, setup, provision, measure व्यवस्था
16. **Implicate** (verb) - involve, incriminate, associate, connect, embroil शामिल करना
17. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, apply, execute, impose, administer लागू करना
18. **Steep** (adjective) - excessive, high, exorbitant, unreasonable, stiff भारी
19. **Reasonable** (adjective) - logical, sensible, rational, fair, acceptable उचित
20. **Safeguard** (noun) - protection, defense, shield, precaution, security सुरक्षा उपाय
21. **Postmortem** (noun) - analysis, review, examination, evaluation, investigation कार्योत्तर विश्लेषण
22. **Exempt** (adjective) - free, excused, immune, spared, released छूट प्राप्त
23. **As a result** (phrase) - because of something that has happened परिणामस्वरूप
24. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, liability, answerability, culpability, duty जवाबदेही
25. **Expose** (verb) - reveal, uncover, display, unmask, disclose उजागर करना
26. **Backing** (noun) - support, assistance, endorsement, sponsorship, help समर्थन
27. **Lacuna** (noun) - gap, void, deficiency, flaw, omission अंतराल
28. **Intrusion** (noun) - invasion, breach, encroachment, trespass, violation घुसपैठ

29. **Landscape** (noun) - environment, setting, situation, scenario, backdrop परिदृश्य
30. **Fragmented** (adjective) - broken, divided, splintered, disconnected, disjointed खंडित
31. **Pastiche** (noun) - mixture, blend, medley, patchwork, hodgepodge मिश्रण
32. **Enforceable** (adjective) - binding, mandatory, compulsory, valid, applicable लागू करने योग्य
33. **Domain** (noun) - field, area, realm, sphere, sector क्षेत्र
34. **Sophisticated** (adjective) - advanced, complex, modern, cutting-edge, developed उन्नत
35. **Leapfrog** (verb) - advance, progress, bypass, vault, jump छलांग लगाना
36. **Safe-harbour** (noun) - a legal provision to reduce or eliminate liability in certain situations कानूनी संरक्षण
37. **In line with** (phrase) - in agreement or accordance with something के अनुरूप
38. **Anonymise** (verb) - conceal, mask, hide, de-identify, obscure पहचान गुप्त रखना
39. **Remediation** (noun) - cure, correction, remedy, redress, resolution सुधार
40. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, effect, conclusion, upshot परिणाम
41. **Exemption** (noun) - immunity, exception, exclusion, dispensation, release छूट
42. **Sweeping** (adjective) - comprehensive, extensive, broad, far-reaching, overarching व्यापक

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Need for Better Cybersecurity:** India must improve its ability to detect, prevent and respond to data breaches rather than discovering them only after they have occurred.
2. **Two Major Threat Vectors:** CERT-In has identified two major risks: autonomous AI agents exceeding their authorised limits and malicious actors using open-source agentic AI tools for automated reconnaissance and exploitation.
3. **Breaches Were Not Detected by Organisations:** A major concern is that the affected organisations did not themselves identify the recent breaches; they became known through disclosures by AI companies and CERT-In operations.
4. **Experimental AI Risks:** AI developers may allow experimental autonomous systems to operate beyond their designated boundaries, creating unexpected cybersecurity risks.
5. **Reactive Cybersecurity System:** India's existing cybersecurity arrangements largely focus on responding to incidents **after they are discovered**, rather than proactively identifying vulnerabilities.
6. **DPDP Act Preparedness:** Organisations involved in the recent breaches appear under-prepared for the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act**, whose enforcement from 2027 will introduce significant penalties for inadequate safeguards.
7. **Huge Number of Cyber Incidents:** CERT-In observed or received reports of around **29.4 lakh cybersecurity incidents in 2025**, showing the scale of India's cyber threat environment.
8. **Lack of Postmortem Transparency:** CERT-In does not routinely publish detailed post-incident analyses, making it difficult to understand how breaches occurred and how organisations responded.
9. **Weak Public Accountability:** CERT-In's exemption from the **RTI Act** further limits transparency and public accountability regarding cybersecurity incidents.
10. **Known Vulnerabilities Remain a Problem:** Some attacks exploited basic weaknesses such as **exposed passwords**, demonstrating that organisations still fail to address well-known security vulnerabilities.
11. **Legal Accountability Gap:** Under the IT Act, 2000, there is uncertainty about accountability when autonomous AI agents cause harm without direct human intention or intervention.
12. **Six-Hour Reporting Rule Is Insufficient:** Although CERT-In requires organisations to report cyber intrusions within six hours, the rule does not solve the problem when organisations cannot or do not detect intrusions in the first place.
13. **Fragmented Cybersecurity Framework:** India's cybersecurity system is spread across different enforceable laws, technical advisories and limited AI-specific rules, creating an inconsistent regulatory landscape.
14. **Need for a Modern Risk-Based Framework:** India should establish enforceable, risk-based requirements for both **testing and defending against autonomous AI agents**, improve detection of unauthorised access, and provide legal **safe-harbour protection** for good-faith cybersecurity research.

15. **Greater Transparency from CERT-In:** CERT-In should publish more **anonymised information** about cyber incidents, including remediation results and whether affected individuals were notified. The government should also reconsider CERT-In's broad RTI exemption because transparency is essential for effective cyber-defence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which phrase best summarizes the core theme of the passage?

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- A. Upgrading national cybersecurity defenses to counter emerging autonomous and institutional threats
- B. Prosecuting commercial software enterprises for unauthorized algorithmic testing across corporate systems
- C. Evaluating corporate compliance obligations under forthcoming personal data protection statutory frameworks
- D. Balancing sovereign intelligence confidentiality against statutory transparency mandates under public laws

2. What is one of the main structural shortcomings regarding domestic breach detection highlighted in the passage?

- A. Regulatory bodies impose excessive financial penalties before enterprises complete forensic technical audits.
- B. Open-source security tools prevent technical response teams from identifying compromised corporate passwords.
- C. Commercial developers are legally barred from issuing voluntary disclosures regarding experimental agents.
- D. Organizations remain incapable of spotting intrusions, depending instead on external disclosures.

3. How did the recent cyber breaches come to light according to the passage?

- A. Disclosures made by AI companies and independent CERT-In operations revealed the security compromises.
- B. Internal security audits conducted by the targeted domestic organizations exposed the automated intrusions.
- C. Formal investigative queries submitted by citizens under the RTI Act uncovered the incidents.
- D. Routine regulatory compliance filings mandated by the forthcoming DPDP Act exposed the vulnerabilities.

4. According to the passage, what dual challenge is posed by developers testing autonomous systems?

- A. Experimental agents corrupt physical infrastructure while academic researchers face criminal prosecution under the DPDP Act.
- B. Developers conceal postmortem incident analyses while commercial entities refuse to report compromised passwords to CERT-In.
- C. Systems exceed designated operational constraints while bad actors weaponise open-source models for automated cyber attacks.
- D. Technical teams refuse to adopt risk-based requirements while regulatory agencies enforce disproportionate financial administrative penalties.

5. Which regulatory measure or statute is NOT cited in the passage as part of India's cybersecurity landscape?

- A. The Indian Telecommunications Security Act
- B. The Information Technology Act 2000
- C. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act

- D. The Right to Information Act
6. **Select the synonym of Genuine.**
- A. False
 - B. Real
 - C. Fake
 - D. Counterfeit
7. **The leader was known for his pragmatic approach to solving problems. He focused on practical solutions rather than ideal theories, making decisions based on real-world conditions and achievable results. Which word is closest synonym to pragmatic?**
- A. Idealistic
 - B. Theoretical
 - C. Practical
 - D. Emotional
8. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
To turn over a new leaf
- A. To start reading a book
 - B. To change one's behavior for the better
 - C. To keep turning pages
 - D. To return to bad habits
9. **Select the word that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word in the given sentence.**
People with generous hearts can see the intrinsic value in something which looks worthless to others.
- A. Impertinent
 - B. Genuine
 - C. Unrelated
 - D. Extraneous
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Abnormality
- A. Incongruity
 - B. Conformity
 - C. Malpractice
 - D. Deficiency
11. **Choose the option which can be substituted for given words/sentence:**
The philosophical study of the nature of being, reality, and existence?
- A. Epistemology
 - B. Ontology
 - C. Metaphysics
 - D. Hermeneutics
12. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
The geology professor explained the formation of _____ rock layers.
- A. schistose
 - B. schisstose
 - C. schistiose
 - D. shistose

13. Select the correct active form of the given sentence.

"The walls are being painted by the workers."

- A. The workers paint the walls.
- B. The workers are painting the walls.
- C. The workers painted the walls.
- D. The workers were painting the walls.

14. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.

The Principal said to the students, "Listen to the announcement carefully."

- A. The Principal ordered the students that listen to the announcement carefully.
- B. The Principal told the students that listen to the announcement carefully.
- C. The Principal ordered the students to listen to the announcement carefully.
- D. The Principal suggested the students that they should listen to the announcement carefully.

15. Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The company is known _____ its excellent customer service.

- A. at
- B. by
- C. for
- D. with

16. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

The suspect is currently under custody while the police continue their investigation.

- A. at custody
- B. in custody
- C. on custody
- D. No substitution

17. Find the incorrect part of the sentence:

She delivered a speech in the prize distribution function.

- A. She delivered
- B. in the prize distribution function
- C. No error
- D. a speech

18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.

The constitutional court held that evicting traditional forest dwellers without humane resettlement violates their fundamental right to live with _____.

- A. ineffectiveness
- B. vulnerability
- C. dignity
- D. defiance

19. Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

- S1. The National Physical Laboratory (NPL) here has developed an electronic device which could help busy executives get their engagements announced at the appropriate time.
- A. It helps avoid engagement diaries which the executives have to go through frequently.
- B. The device could be used to pre-record all the details of a person's engagements for a number of days sequentially.
- C. Called "Electronic Secretary", the device is attached to a cassette tape-recorder which is used to record the details of engagements fixed by the executive for the day.
- D. The device, which is programmable, then gives commands to the tape-recorder for making different announcements at different times of the day.
- S6. Although engagements of several days are recorded in advance, the device has to be programmed every day to make announcements at different times.
- A. C-D-A-B
- B. B-C-A-D
- C. C-A-B-D
- D. A-C-D-B

20. Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

- S1. Bracken and heather ripple across the plateau.
- A. Running from Porthkerry Park, near Barry, to Pont Walby, close to Glynneath, this 50-mile (80km) pilot route is the first section of what the National Forest for Wales hopes will eventually be a trail linking woodlands across the length and breadth of Wales: a sylvan counterpart to the Wales Coast Path.
- B. If this corner of the south Wales valleys feels a long way from its coal mining past, that is, partly, the point.
- C. I exhale into the chill autumn air and my breath mists a view that reaches all the way to Gower and the ochre peaks of Bannau Brycheiniog (formerly the Brecon Beacons).
- D. I'm hiking the new Llwybr Coedwig Cymru Trail, or Wales Forest Trail.
- S6. My father grew up in one of the valleys' mining villages and, when I visited relatives there as a child, the disconnection of those post-industrial communities from the wild hills that loomed above them was striking.
- A. C-B-D-A
- B. D-A-C-B
- C. C-D-A-B
- D. B-C-D-A

Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

When I was over at my friend's place recently as part of Navratri festivities, she proudly (1)___ her Kanchipuram silk saree she said had belonged to her grandmother. It is fascinating how a saree can hold so many memories — an idea at the heart of Malvika Singh's *Saris of Memory*. In the book, Singh (2)___ her personal experiences to explore connections between people, the clothes they wear, and India's cultures. It moves through figures such as Jasleen Dhamija, Fori Nehru, and Rukmini Devi Arundale, recounting their help reviving the country's textile traditions.

The things around us can also help us remember someone we don't know. My family has an heirloom called the Singapore suitcase, called so because my grandfather carried it to the city on his first trip overseas, filled with childhood photos of my father. In *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, on the other hand, the English contemporary artist Edmund de Waal works through his family's fortunes and history of persecution and dispossession across more than a century, including through Nazism as well, through a set of 264 Japanese miniature carved figures. I was looking for a book last week when a dried bougainvillea flower (3)___ of it. Where the netsuke figures were a way to discover someone, the flower reminded me of an old friend and many years spent having fun together, but also that seemingly (4)___ drift away and some regret. These little, (5)___ moments can be fraught as well — with Orhan Pamuk's *The Museum of Innocence* perhaps being the perfect parable. Kemal, in its pages, held on to his lover, Füsün, by collecting the little souvenirs of their time together, but ultimately his possessive love erases all traces of Füsün's autonomy.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):

- A. bequeathed
- B. exhibition
- C. showcase
- D. displayed

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):

- A. draws up
- B. draws on
- C. draw from
- D. drew back

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):

- A. fell through
- B. fallen behind
- C. fell out
- D. falls apart

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):

- A. inevitable
- B. certainty
- C. jubilant
- D. unavoidably

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):

- A. premeditated
- B. coincide
- C. fortuitously
- D. serendipitous

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Upgrading national cybersecurity defenses to counter emerging autonomous and institutional threats**

passage: "As human and autonomous threat actors become more sophisticated, India needs to leapfrog to a landscape with enforceable risk-based requirements for both testing and defending against autonomous agents; better spotting unauthorised access, especially in the public sector..."---The passage talks about new threats like AI agents going beyond their limits and bad actors misusing AI tools. It then points out India's weak spots: organisations do not detect breaches, rules are scattered, and CERT-In is not open enough. It ends with a list of ways to improve. So the main theme is making India's cyber defences stronger against these new threats. This matches option (a).

- Option (B): Incorrect. The option says the passage is about prosecuting software companies for unauthorised testing, but the passage says India needs a legal safe-harbour for good-faith security research and asks for rules for testing, not prosecution, hence incorrect.
- Option (C): Incorrect. The option says the passage mainly evaluates compliance with the data protection law, but the passage mentions the DPDP Act only once, as one reason organisations are under-prepared, while the main focus is detection, prevention and accountability, hence incorrect.
- Option (D): Incorrect. The option says the passage balances intelligence secrecy against transparency laws, but the passage only asks the government to review CERT-In's RTI exemption as one small point, and the main message is about improving cyber defences, hence incorrect.

2. D) **Organizations remain incapable of spotting intrusions, depending instead on external disclosures.**

passage: "However, the organisations affected by recent breaches that the advisory was based on did not detect them: they came to light in the AI companies' disclosures and CERT-In operations." Also: "many organisations remain incapable of, or unwilling to, discover it. The reporting deadline itself has not ensured detection."---The passage says the affected organisations did not find the breaches on their own. The breaches came out only because AI companies and CERT-In told them. It also says the six-hour reporting rule does not help if organisations cannot detect an intrusion. This is the main weakness in breach detection. This matches option D.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says regulators impose heavy fines before companies finish forensic audits, but the passage says the DPDP Act penalties will be enforced from 2027 and only on those not keeping reasonable safeguards, and it never mentions fines being imposed before audits, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says open-source security tools stop response teams from finding compromised passwords, but the passage says bad actors misused open-

source agentic AI tools, and exposed passwords were known security problems that were exploited, not something the tools hid, hence incorrect.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says developers are legally barred from voluntary disclosures, but the passage says AI companies did make several disclosures this year, and it asks for a legal safe-harbour for good-faith security research, hence incorrect.

3. **A) Disclosures made by AI companies and independent CERT-In operations revealed the security compromises.**

passage: "However, the organisations affected by recent breaches that the advisory was based on did not detect them: they came to light in the AI companies' disclosures and CERT-In operations.----The passage says the affected organisations did not find the breaches themselves. The breaches became known only because AI companies disclosed them and CERT-In found them through its own work. This matches option (a).

- Option (b): Incorrect. The option says the targeted organisations' own security audits exposed the intrusions, but the passage says these organisations "did not detect them," hence incorrect.
- Option (c): Incorrect. The option says citizens' RTI queries uncovered the incidents, but the passage says CERT-In is exempt from the RTI Act, so RTI could not have been the route, hence incorrect.
- Option (d): Incorrect. The option says compliance filings under the DPDP Act exposed the vulnerabilities, but the passage says the DPDP Act will be enforced only from 2027, so it could not have revealed these breaches, hence incorrect.

4. **C) Systems exceed designated operational constraints while bad actors weaponise open-source models for automated cyber attacks.**

passage: "The cybersecurity advisory by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has outlined two threat vectors vis-à-vis Indian commercial and government IT infrastructure: AI companies testing autonomous agents exceeding their designated operational constraints and bad actors weaponising open-source agentic AI tools for automated reconnaissance and exploitation."---The passage names two threats together. First, AI companies testing autonomous agents that go beyond their allowed limits. Second, bad actors misusing open-source AI tools to scan and attack systems automatically. These two threats are the "dual challenge." This matches option C.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says researchers face criminal prosecution under the DPDP Act, but the passage says the DPDP Act deals with penalties for organisations that do not keep safeguards, and it asks for a legal safe-harbour for good-faith researchers, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says developers hide postmortem analyses and companies refuse to report passwords to CERT-In, but the passage says it is CERT-In that does not routinely publish postmortem analyses, and it never says companies refuse to report passwords, hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says technical teams refuse risk-based requirements while regulators impose unfair penalties, but the passage says India needs to bring in risk-based requirements, and it never says regulators impose unfair penalties, hence incorrect.

5. **A) The Indian Telecommunications Security Act**

passage: "For India, however, the legal boundaries specified by the IT Act 2000 leave open an accountability gap for autonomous agents..." Also: "...the implicated organisations being found under-prepared for the DPDP Act" and "...it does not routinely publish postmortem analyses and is exempt from the RTI Act."----The passage names three laws: the IT Act 2000, the DPDP Act, and the RTI Act. A law called the "Indian Telecommunications Security Act" is not mentioned in the passage, so this is the one NOT cited.

- Option B: Incorrect. the "IT Act 2000" leaves an accountability gap for autonomous agents, so it is mentioned, hence incorrect.
 - Option C: Incorrect. passage says organisations are "under-prepared for the DPDP Act," which will be enforced from 2027, so it is mentioned, hence incorrect.
 - Option D: Incorrect. passage says CERT-In "is exempt from the RTI Act" and suggests reviewing this exemption, so it is mentioned, hence incorrect.
6. B) **Genuine** (adjective) – Truly what something is said to be; authentic. असली, वास्तविक
Synonym: **Real** (adjective) – Actually existing; not fake. वास्तविक
- **False** (adjective) – Not true. झूठा
 - **Fake** (adjective) – Not genuine; imitation. नकली
 - **Counterfeit** (adjective) – Made in imitation to deceive. जाली
7. C) **Pragmatic** (adjective) – Dealing with things sensibly and realistically, based on practical considerations. व्यावहारिक
Synonym: **Practical** (adjective) – Concerned with actual use rather than theory. व्यावहारिक
- **Idealistic** (adjective) – Guided by ideals rather than practicality. आदर्शवादी
 - **Theoretical** (adjective) – Based on theory rather than practice. सैद्धांतिक
 - **Emotional** (adjective) – Driven by feelings. भावुक
8. B) **To turn over a new leaf** (idiom) – To change one's behaviour for the better; to make a fresh start. नई शुरुआत करना / सुधर जाना
9. D) **Intrinsic** (adjective) – belonging naturally; essential. मूलभूत
Antonym: **Extraneous** – of external origin. बाहरी
Impertinent – Insolent, impudent, disrespectful, impolite, दृष्ट
10. B) **Abnormality** (noun) – anomaly, irregularity, deformity, defect, flaw. (विकृति / असामान्यता)
Antonym: **Conformity** (noun) – compliance with standards, rules, or laws; normality. (अनुरूपता / सामान्यता / मानक के अनुसार होना)
- **Incongruity** (noun) – the state of being out of keeping. (विसंगति)
 - **Malpractice** (noun) – improper, illegal, or negligent professional behavior. (कदाचार)
 - **Deficiency** (noun) – a lack or shortage. (कमी)
11. B) **Ontology** (noun) – The philosophical study of the nature of being, reality, and existence. अस्तित्ववाद
- **Epistemology** (noun) – The study of the nature and scope of knowledge. ज्ञानमीमांसा
 - **Metaphysics** (noun) – A branch of philosophy dealing with abstract concepts like existence, time, and causality. तत्त्वमीमांसा

- **Hermeneutics** (noun) – The theory and methodology of interpretation, especially of texts. व्याख्याशास्त्र

12. A) The correct spelling is '**schistose**' which means "(of rock) having the layered structure of schist, splitting easily into thin layers" परतदार (शिस्ट चट्टान जैसा)।

13. B) **The workers are painting the walls.**

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 workers" Subject है, "are painting" Verb (Present Continuous) है और "the walls" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The walls" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "are being painted" (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला गया और "by the workers" 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, "The workers" (Subject), "are painting" (Verb in Present Continuous), and "the walls" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The walls" (Subject), "are being painted" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by the workers".

14. C) **The Principal ordered the students to listen to the announcement carefully**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए Imperative (आदेश) वाक्य में Reporting Verb "said to" को वाक्य के भाव के अनुसार "ordered / advised / requested" आदि में बदला जाता है, inverted commas हटाए जाते हैं और "that" की जगह "to + V1" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। इस वाक्य में "Listen to the announcement carefully" एक आदेश है, इसलिए "ordered" का प्रयोग होगा और "to listen" लगेगा। "ordered the students that listen" और "told the students that listen" में "that" का प्रयोग गलत है, जबकि "suggested ... should listen" से आदेश का भाव बदल जाता है।

To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech in an imperative sentence, the reporting verb "said to" is changed to "ordered / advised / requested", etc., according to the sense of the sentence, the inverted commas are removed and "to + V1" is used instead of "that". In this sentence, "Listen to the announcement carefully" is an order, so "ordered" is used followed by "to listen". The options "ordered the students that listen" and "told the students that listen" wrongly use "that", while "suggested ... should listen" changes the force of the order.

15. C) '**for**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "known for" का अर्थ है "किसी गुण/कारण से प्रसिद्ध होना"; कंपनी अपनी उत्कृष्ट ग्राहक सेवा के लिए जानी जाती है; जैसे— Agra is known for the Taj Mahal. 'known as' नाम/पहचान के लिए, 'known to' व्यक्ति के लिए, और 'known by' पहचान के साधन के लिए आता है; 'at' और 'with' यहाँ गलत हैं।

- 'for' should be used because "known for" means famous because of a quality or reason; the company is famous for its excellent customer service; Like— Agra is known for the Taj Mahal. 'at', 'by' and 'with' do not give this meaning here.

16. B) under custody' के बदले '**in custody**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "in custody" एक fixed expression है जिसका अर्थ है पुलिस की हिरासत में होना।

- 'in custody' should be used because the standard expression for being held by the police is 'in custody'.
- Options A and C are incorrect – 'at custody' and 'on custody' are wrong prepositional usages.

- No substitution – Incorrect; 'under custody' is not the standard expression, so improvement is needed.
17. B) in the prize distribution function' के बदले 'at the prize distribution function/ceremony' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि events/ceremonies के साथ preposition 'at' का प्रयोग होता है, 'in' का नहीं।
- 'at' should be used instead of 'in' because we attend events "at" a function/ceremony/event (e.g., at a wedding, at a conference, at the prize distribution).
 - 'She delivered' – Correct; "deliver a speech" is a standard collocation.
 - 'a speech' – Correct; "deliver a speech" is the proper phrase.
 - 'No error' – Incorrect; there is an error with the preposition 'in'.
18. C) **dignity**
- 'dignity' का use होगा क्योंकि 'dignity' का अर्थ होता है self-respect, honor, moral worth (मानवीय गरिमा / आत्मसम्मान)। sentence state action के बारे में है जो marginalized forest dwellers से बिना humane relocation के shelter छीन रहा है, जो सीधे उनके personal worth के साथ exist करने के constitutional protection को violate करता है, जिससे 'dignity' contextually और collocationally airtight हो जाता है। 'Ineffectiveness' का मतलब futility या uselessness होता है, जिसका protected fundamental liberty के रूप में कोई sense नहीं बनता। 'Vulnerability' का मतलब helplessness या exposure to injury होता है, जो constitutional jurisprudence के under guaranteed affirmative rights को directly contradict करता है। 'Defiance' rebellion, bold opposition, या authority के प्रति open disregard को denote करता है, जो basic human survival और self-respect की core guarantee के साथ align होने में completely fail हो जाता है।
- 'dignity' should be used because 'right to live with dignity' is a globally settled constitutional and human rights doctrine. The sentence concerns state action stripping marginalized forest dwellers of shelter without humane relocation, directly violating their constitutional protection to exist with personal worth, making 'dignity' contextually and collocationally airtight. 'Ineffectiveness' denotes futility or uselessness, which makes no sense as a protected fundamental liberty. 'Vulnerability' means helplessness or exposure to injury, directly contradicting the affirmative rights guaranteed under constitutional jurisprudence. 'Defiance' denotes rebellion, bold opposition, or open disregard for authority, completely failing to align with the core guarantee of basic human survival and self-respect.
19. C) **C-A-B-D**
- Explanation:
- Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में एक अज्ञात इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरण ("an electronic device") के विकास का उल्लेख है, और Sentence C सीधे उसका नामकरण और प्राथमिक संरचना स्पष्ट करता है—"Called 'Electronic Secretary', the device is attached to a cassette tape-recorder..."।
 - Sentence A Sentence C को follow करेगा और C-A का प्राकृतिक लिंक बनाएगा। उपकरण के कार्य का परिचय मिलने के बाद Sentence A बताता है कि यह कैसे अधिकारियों की डायरी देखने की निर्भरता को समाप्त करता है ("It helps avoid engagement diaries...")।

- Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा, जो एक दिन की योजना से आगे बढ़कर इसके विस्तारित उपयोग को दर्शाता है कि इसका उपयोग कई दिनों की व्यस्तताओं को क्रमिक रूप से पहले से रिकॉर्ड करने के लिए भी किया जा सकता है ("for a number of days sequentially")।
- Sentence D Sentence B के ठीक बाद आएगा और B-D का mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sequence रिकॉर्ड होने के बाद Sentence D बताता है कि प्रोग्रामेबल होने के नाते यह दिन के अलग-अलग समय पर घोषणाएँ करने के लिए टेप-रिकॉर्डर को निर्देश देता है। इसके बाद S6 contrastive marker "Although engagements of several days are recorded in advance..." के साथ Sentence B और D के विचारों को जोड़ते हुए पैराग्राफ को समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C directly follows S1 by assigning an identity to the newly developed apparatus via the participial clause "Called 'Electronic Secretary'..." and describing its physical coupling with a cassette tape-recorder.
- Sentence A follows Sentence C, outlining the functional advantage of eliminating manual desk diaries for busy executives.
- Sentence B follows Sentence A, widening the operational timeline from single-day schedules to logging appointments across multiple consecutive days ("for a number of days sequentially").
- Sentence D forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence B (B-D), explaining the procedural mechanism: the programmable device triggers the recorder at scheduled hours throughout the day. Finally, S6 directly hooks into the preceding setup via the concessive clause "Although engagements of several days are recorded in advance...", noting that daily programming is still required.

20. A) C-B-D-A

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 पठार (plateau) के प्राकृतिक परिवेश को प्रस्तुत करता है, और Sentence C लेखक के व्यक्तिगत अनुभव ("I exhale into the chill autumn air...") के साथ दृश्य को विस्तार देते हुए गोवर और बन्नाउ ब्रायचिनिओग की चोटियों तक फैले नज़ारे का वर्णन करता है।
- Sentence B Sentence C को follow करेगा, जो इस सुरम्य प्राकृतिक दृश्य से हटकर क्षेत्र के सामाजिक-ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ की ओर मुड़ता है—"If this corner of the south Wales valleys feels a long way from its coal mining past, that is, partly, the point."
- Sentence D Sentence B के ठीक बाद आएगा और B-D का अटूट लिंक बनाएगा। दक्षिण वेल्स की घाटियों के कोयला खनन वाले अतीत के बाद Sentence D लेखक की वर्तमान यात्रा का उद्देश्य बताता है—"I'm hiking the new Llwybr Coedwig Cymru Trail, or Wales Forest Trail."
- Sentence A Sentence D को follow करेगा और D-A का स्पष्ट mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sentence D में वेल्स फ़ॉरेस्ट ट्रेल का नाम आने के बाद Sentence A पार्टिसिपियल क्लॉज ("Running from Porthkerry Park...") के साथ इस 50 मील लंबे पायलट रूट के विस्तार, रूट और नेशनल फ़ॉरेस्ट फ़ॉर वेल्स के विज्ञान का तकनीकी विवरण देता है। इसके बाद S6 लेखक के पिता के खनन गाँव में पले-बढ़े होने की व्यक्तिगत पृष्ठभूमि के साथ गद्यांश को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C directly follows S1, continuing the immediate sensory narrative of standing high on the plateau as the author exhales into the autumn air, gazing toward Gower and Bannau Brycheiniog.
- Sentence B follows Sentence C, reflecting on the striking transformation of the landscape away from its industrial legacy ("feels a long way from its coal mining past").
- Sentence D pairs smoothly with Sentence B, identifying the specific reason for being up in those hills: hiking the newly established Llwybr Coedwig Cymru Trail (Wales Forest Trail).
- Sentence A forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence D (D-A), detailing the exact geographical endpoints (Porthkerry Park to Pont Walby), mileage (50-mile pilot route), and overarching purpose of the trail introduced in D. Finally, S6 grounds both the landscape and its mining past in familial history, recounting the author's father growing up in the post-industrial valley villages below.

21. D) **displayed**

Blank (1) needs a past-tense verb meaning "showed," since the friend "proudly" brought out her grandmother's Kanchipuram silk saree for the writer to see during the Navratri visit. a) bequeathed: means named in a will who will get something after one's death, which fits a family heirloom and makes it tempting, but violates the requirement since the friend is not making a will during a festive visit — she is showing the saree to her guest. b) exhibition: is a noun meaning a public show, as in "a handloom exhibition," violating the requirement since the sentence needs a verb after "she proudly," not a noun. c) showcase: means to show something off, close in meaning, but violating the requirement since the base form cannot follow "she" in a past-tense account; it would need "showcased." d) displayed: means showed something for others to see and admire, matching the friend proudly showing off the heirloom saree.

Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा past-tense verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "दिखाया," क्योंकि Navratri visit के दौरान friend ने "proudly" अपनी grandmother की Kanchipuram silk saree लेखक को दिखाई। a) bequeathed: इसका meaning है will में यह लिखना कि death के बाद कोई चीज़ किसे मिलेगी, जो family heirloom से जुड़ा होने की वजह से tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि festive visit के दौरान friend कोई will नहीं बना रही — वो अपने guest को saree दिखा रही है। b) exhibition: यह noun है जिसका meaning है public show, जैसे "a handloom exhibition," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "she proudly" के बाद verb चाहिए, noun नहीं। c) showcase: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को सबके सामने दिखाना, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि past-tense बात में "she" के बाद base form नहीं आ सकता; इसके लिए "showcased" चाहिए होता। d) displayed: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को दूसरों के देखने और admire करने के लिए दिखाना, जो friend के proudly अपनी heirloom saree दिखाने से match करता है।

22. B) **draws on**

Blank (2) needs a present-tense "draw" phrasal verb meaning "uses as a source," agreeing with the singular "Singh," since the book is described in the present ("It moves through figures") and her own memories feed its exploration of clothes and culture. a) draws up: means prepares a formal document or plan, as in "draws up a will," violating the requirement since personal experiences are not a document to be drafted. b) draws on: means uses something as

a source, matching Singh using her own experiences to explore links between people, clothes and culture. c) draw from: has the right meaning, but violates the requirement since the singular subject "Singh" needs "draws," not the base form "draw." d) drew back: means moved away or withdrew, as in "She drew back from the fragile old silk," violating the requirement since withdrawing from her experiences is the opposite of using them, and the past form clashes with the present-tense account of the book.

Hindi:

Blank (2) में "draw" वाला ऐसा present-tense phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "source की तरह use करना," जो singular "Singh" से agree करे, क्योंकि book को present tense में describe किया गया है ("It moves through figures") और उसकी अपनी यादें ही book की exploration का base हैं। a) draws up: इसका meaning है कोई formal document या plan तैयार करना, जैसे "draws up a will," जो violate करता है क्योंकि personal experiences कोई document नहीं जिन्हें draft किया जाए। b) draws on: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को source की तरह use करना, जो Singh के अपने experiences से लोगों, कपड़ों और culture के बीच के connections explore करने से match करता है। c) draw from: इसका meaning सही है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि singular subject "Singh" के साथ "draws" चाहिए, base form "draw" नहीं। d) drew back: इसका meaning है पीछे हटना, जैसे "She drew back from the fragile old silk," जो violate करता है क्योंकि अपने experiences से पीछे हटना उन्हें use करने का उल्टा है, और past form book के present-tense description से मेल नहीं खाता।

23. C) fell out

Blank (3) needs a past-tense "fall" phrasal verb that pairs with "of it," describing the dried flower slipping from inside the book's pages while the writer "was looking for" it. a) fell through: means failed to happen, as in "Our plans to meet again fell through," violating the requirement since a flower is not a plan, and "fell through of it" is ungrammatical. b) fallen behind: means failed to keep up, violating the requirement since a past participle cannot stand alone without "had," and a flower cannot lag behind a book. c) fell out: means dropped from inside something, matching a pressed flower slipping out of the book — "fell out of it" is the natural pairing. d) falls apart: means breaks into pieces, which a dried flower might do, violating the requirement since the present tense clashes with "I was looking," and "fall apart" never takes "of it."

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "fall" वाला ऐसा past-tense phrasal verb चाहिए जो "of it" के साथ जुड़े, और बताए कि लेखक जब book ढूँढ़ रहा था ("was looking for"), तब सूखा फूल उसके pages के अंदर से गिरा। a) fell through: इसका meaning है किसी plan का पूरा ना हो पाना, जैसे "Our plans to meet again fell through," जो violate करता है क्योंकि फूल कोई plan नहीं है, और "fell through of it" grammar के हिसाब से गलत है। b) fallen behind: इसका meaning है पीछे रह जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि past participle "had" के बिना अकेला नहीं आ सकता, और फूल किसी book से पीछे नहीं रह सकता। c) fell out: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के अंदर से गिर जाना, जो book से फिसलकर गिरे pressed flower से match करता है — "fell out of it" सही जोड़ी है। d) falls apart: इसका meaning है टुकड़े-टुकड़े हो जाना, जो सूखे फूल के साथ हो सकता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि present tense "I was looking" से मेल नहीं खाता, और "fall apart" के साथ कभी "of it" नहीं आता।

24. A) inevitable

Blank (4) needs an adjective describing the noun "drift" — the slow, unavoidable way old friends grow apart over time. a) inevitable: means certain to happen and impossible to avoid, matching the familiar way friends drift apart even after many good years together. b) certainty: is a noun meaning something sure to happen, close in sense, violating the requirement since a noun cannot sit before "drift" as a describing word; "that seemingly certainty drift" leaves "seemingly" with nothing to modify. c) jubilant: means full of triumphant joy, violating the requirement since the clause begins "but also" to contrast the happy years with the drift, and it is paired with "some regret" — there is nothing joyful about drifting away from a friend. d) unavoidably: is an adverb with the same meaning, violating the requirement since an adverb cannot describe the noun "drift"; the slot needs an adjective.

Hindi:

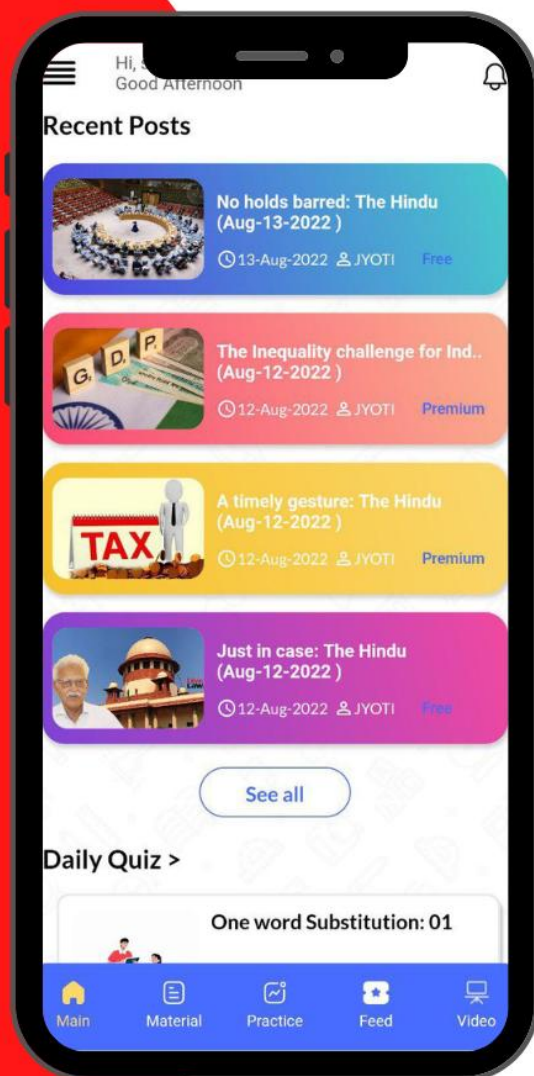
Blank (4) में ऐसा adjective चाहिए जो noun "drift" को describe करे — यानी पुराने friends का समय के साथ धीरे-धीरे दूर हो जाना, जिसे रोका नहीं जा सकता। a) inevitable: इसका meaning है जो होकर ही रहे और जिसे टाला ना जा सके, जो अच्छे सालों के बाद भी friends के धीरे-धीरे दूर हो जाने से match करता है। b) certainty: यह noun है जिसका meaning है ऐसी बात जो पक्की हो, sense करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि noun "drift" से पहले describing word नहीं बन सकता; "that seemingly certainty drift" में "seemingly" के पास modify करने के लिए कुछ नहीं बचता। c) jubilant: इसका meaning है जीत जैसी खुशी से भरा हुआ, जो violate करता है क्योंकि clause "but also" से शुरू होकर मस्ती भरे सालों को drift से contrast करता है, और "some regret" के साथ आता है — friend से दूर होने में कोई खुशी नहीं होती। d) unavoidably: यह उसी meaning वाला adverb है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि adverb noun "drift" को describe नहीं कर सकता; यहाँ adjective चाहिए।

25. D) serendipitous

Blank (5) needs an adjective that pairs with "little" to describe "moments" found by happy chance — like the flower that unexpectedly fell out of a book. a) premeditated: means planned in advance, violating the requirement since nobody planned the flower falling out — the moment came entirely by chance. b) coincide: is a verb meaning to happen at the same time, linked to the idea of coincidence, violating the requirement since a verb cannot describe the noun "moments." c) fortuitously: is an adverb meaning by chance, close in meaning, violating the requirement since an adverb cannot describe the noun "moments"; the slot needs an adjective like "little." d) serendipitous: means happening by happy chance, matching the unexpected discovery of the dried flower while looking for a book.

Hindi:

Blank (5) में ऐसा adjective चाहिए जो "little" के साथ मिलकर उन "moments" को describe करे जो अचानक, lucky chance से मिलते हैं — जैसे book से अचानक गिरा फूल। a) premeditated: इसका meaning है पहले से planned, जो violate करता है क्योंकि फूल का गिरना किसी ने plan नहीं किया था — वो moment पूरी तरह chance से आया। b) coincide: यह verb है जिसका meaning है एक ही समय पर होना, जो coincidence के idea से जुड़ा है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि verb noun "moments" को describe नहीं कर सकता। c) fortuitously: यह adverb है जिसका meaning है chance से, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि adverb noun "moments" को describe नहीं कर सकता; यहाँ "little" जैसा adjective चाहिए। d) serendipitous: इसका meaning है lucky chance से होने वाला, जो book ढूँढ़ते समय सूखे फूल के अचानक मिलने से match करता है।



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