Childhood needs protection, not platitudes

India has improved child health and education, but **malnutrition**, abuse and rising crimes reveal **deep gaps**. Protecting childhood demands **sustained** effort

The world celebrates Children's Day once but India does it twice, one on the Nehru's birthday on November 14 and a week later with the world on November 20. This year's World Children's Day theme is "My day. My rights. My future." **Indeed**, a nation that does not care about its children risks **going down**. The United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. So India has a week to think about its children. **To be fair**, a lot has changed since independence, but there is **a long way to go.** The two major challenges that the country and the world need to **address** as a priority are health, education and **exploitation** in all forms. There is genuine progress **at home**.

The National Family Health Survey-6, released in May, shows **stunting** among children under five falling from 35.5 to 29.3 per cent, **severe wasting** from 7.7 to 5.2 per cent, and full **immunisation** rising to 87.1 per cent. Secondary-school **dropout** fell from 11.5 to 9.5 per cent in 2025-26. Yet nearly three in ten Indian children remain stunted. The 2026 Global Hunger Index ranks India 100th of 122 countries, with child wasting at 19 per cent, the region's highest. ASER 2024 found only 23.4 per cent of rural Class 3 pupils could read a Class 2 text. NFHS-6 quietly dropped child **anaemia**, which **afflicted** 67 per cent of young children in 2019-21. There is another growing **menace** which is now becoming a **worldwide** problem the exploitation of children and their use in war as child soldier, child labourers, drug **peddlers**.

Add to this sexual **exploitation**, and a very **gory** image **emerges** of the **state** of children today. In India, the NCRB recorded 1,87,702 crimes against children in 2024, up 46 per cent since 2020, even as overall crime fell in 96.6 per cent of **penetrative** sexual assault cases under POCSO. The global picture is even **darker**. UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2025 found 417 million children in low- and middle-income countries severely **deprived** in at least two essentials such as nutrition, health or **sanitation**.

Some 138 million children were in child labour in 2024, 54 million in **hazardous** work; the 2025 **elimination** target was missed. The UN verified a record 24,174 children suffering 38,558 **grave** violations in conflict last year, with government forces the leading **perpetrators** for the first time. As donors **slash** aid, The Lancet warns of 4.5 million additional under-five deaths by 2030.

The way forward demands more than ceremony. First, treat nutrition in the first 1,000 days as compulsory. Child protection needs functioning fast-track POCSO courts, school-based safety education and a **crackdown** on online exploitation. There is a strong **case to make** foundational **literacy** and **numeracy** the **yardstick** for judging every school. Globally, governments must protect **aid** budgets and enforce international **humanitarian** law against every **violator**, states included. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Malnutrition** (noun) - undernourishment, undernutrition, starvation, malnourishment, deficiency कुपोषण
2. **Deep gaps** (noun) - serious deficiencies or major shortcomings in a system गहरी कमियाँ
3. **Sustained** (adjective) - continuous, prolonged, persistent, steady, ongoing निरंतर
4. **Indeed** (adverb) - truly, certainly, undeniably, verily, actually वास्तव में
5. **Go down** (phrasal verb) - to decline, fail, or fall into ruin पतन होना
6. **To be fair** (phrase) - used to acknowledge a reasonable point or give credit where it is due निष्पक्ष रूप से कहें तो
7. **A long way to go** (phrase) - much more work or progress is still needed before achieving a goal अभी लंबा रास्ता तय करना है
8. **Address** (verb) - tackle, resolve, handle, confront, rectify समाधान करना
9. **Exploitation** (noun) - abuse, mistreatment, misuse, oppression, victimization शोषण
10. **At home** (phrase) - within one's own country or domestically देश में
11. **Stunting** (noun) - impaired growth and development in children due to poor nutrition, resulting in low height for age बौनापन
12. **Severe** (adjective) - acute, intense, grave, extreme, harsh गंभीर
13. **Wasting** (noun) - a form of acute malnutrition characterized by dangerously low weight for height दुबलापन
14. **Immunisation** (noun) - vaccination, inoculation, prophylaxis, immunization, protection टीकाकरण
15. **Dropout** (noun) - withdrawal, attrition, abandonment, discontinuation, departure बीच में पढ़ाई छोड़ना
16. **Anaemia** (noun) - a medical condition marked by a deficiency of red blood cells or haemoglobin in the blood रक्ताल्पता
17. **Afflict** (verb) - trouble, distress, burden, torment, plague पीड़ित करना
18. **Menace** (noun) - threat, peril, hazard, danger, scourge खतरा
19. **Worldwide** (adjective) - global, universal, international, planetary, ubiquitous विश्वव्यापी
20. **Peddlers** (noun) - dealers, traffickers, pushers, sellers, vendors तस्कर
21. **Add to** (phrasal verb) - to increase or compound an existing situation or problem और बढ़ाना
22. **Exploitation** (noun) - abuse, mistreatment, misuse, oppression, victimization शोषण
23. **Gory** (adjective) - gruesome, horrific, grim, appalling, dreadful भयावह
24. **Emerge** (verb) - appear, surface, arise, materialize, unfold उभरना
25. **State** (noun) - condition, situation, plight, status, circumstance स्थिति

26. **Penetrative** (adjective) - invasive, intrusive, piercing, penetrating, deep-seated भेदी
27. **Darker** (adjective) - bleaker, grimmer, gloomier, dismal, graver अधिक निराशाजनक
28. **Deprived** (adjective) - disadvantaged, underprivileged, impoverished, destitute, needy वंचित
29. **Sanitation** (noun) - hygiene, cleanliness, salubrity, public health, cleanliness-system स्वच्छता
30. **Hazardous** (adjective) - dangerous, perilous, risky, unsafe, treacherous खतरनाक
31. **Elimination** (noun) - eradication, removal, abolition, termination, obliteration उन्मूलन
32. **Grave** (adjective) - serious, severe, critical, solemn, grievous गंभीर
33. **Perpetrators** (noun) - offenders, culprits, wrongdoers, criminals, violators अपराधी
34. **Slash** (verb) - cut, reduce, curtail, trim, axe भारी कटौती करना
35. **The way forward** (phrase) - a practical course of action to achieve progress or a solution आगे का रास्ता
36. **Crackdown** (noun) - clampdown, suppression, repression, blitz, enforcement कड़ी कार्रवाई
37. **Case to make** (idiom) - a strong argument or justification for taking a particular action मजबूत तर्क होना
38. **Literacy** (noun) - education, learning, scholarship, erudition, enlightenment साक्षरता
39. **Numeracy** (noun) - the ability to understand and work with basic numbers and mathematics संख्यात्मक ज्ञान
40. **Yardstick** (noun) - benchmark, standard, criterion, gauge, measure मानदंड
41. **Aid** (noun) - assistance, support, relief, funding, backing सहायता
42. **Humanitarian** (adjective) - compassionate, philanthropic, charitable, benevolent, altruistic मानवीय
43. **Violator** (noun) - offender, transgressor, lawbreaker, infringer, culprit उल्लंघनकर्ता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Children's Rights:** World Children's Day, celebrated on November 20, highlights children's rights, protection and future.
2. **International Framework:** The UN adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.
3. **India's Progress:** India has made improvements in child health, education and immunisation since independence, but significant challenges remain.
4. **Declining Stunting:** According to NFHS-6, stunting among children under five declined from 35.5% to 29.3%.
5. **Improved Nutrition:** Severe wasting decreased from 7.7% to 5.2%, while full immunisation increased to 87.1%.
6. **Educational Improvement:** Secondary-school dropout rates declined from 11.5% to 9.5% in 2025-26.
7. **Persistent Malnutrition:** Nearly 30% of Indian children remain stunted, while India ranks 100th among 122 countries in the 2026 Global Hunger Index.
8. **Poor Learning Outcomes:** ASER 2024 found that only 23.4% of rural Class 3 students could read a Class 2-level text.
9. **Child Anaemia:** NFHS-6 dropped child anaemia from its reporting, despite 67% of young children being affected in 2019-21.
10. **Growing Child Exploitation:** Children worldwide face serious threats, including child labour, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and recruitment as child soldiers.
11. **Rising Crimes in India:** NCRB recorded 1,87,702 crimes against children in 2024, representing a 46% increase since 2020.
12. **Global Child Deprivation:** UNICEF reported that 417 million children in low- and middle-income countries were severely deprived in at least two essential areas.
13. **Child Labour and Conflict:** Around 138 million children were engaged in child labour in 2024, while the UN recorded 24,174 children suffering grave violations in armed conflicts.
14. **Urgent Protection Measures:** Governments must strengthen POCSO courts, promote school-based safety education, prevent online exploitation and ensure proper nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life.
15. **Global Responsibility:** Governments must protect humanitarian aid budgets, enforce international humanitarian law and prioritise foundational literacy and numeracy in schools.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the author emphasize that India's 46 per cent jump in crimes against children since 2020 occurred "even as overall crime fell"?** [Editorial page]
   A. To highlight that children face worsening vulnerability and targeted abuse even during a period of broader general crime reduction.
   B. To prove that functioning fast-track POCSO courts have eliminated penetrative sexual assault cases across rural Indian districts.
   C. To show that higher secondary-school enrolment directly increases reporting of online exploitation and child labour to police stations.
   D. To argue that India's ranking on the 2026 Global Hunger Index reflects rising domestic crime rates rather than child wasting.
2. **Which phrase best captures the central subject of the passage?**
   A. Record conflict violations against children verified by the United Nations and projected child mortality from donor aid cuts
   B. Domestic health and schooling gains under NFHS-6 alongside India's ranking on the 2026 Global Hunger Index
   C. Rising domestic crimes against children recorded by the NCRB and global deprivation data from UNICEF's 2025 report
   D. Persistent gaps in Indian and global child welfare and the urgent policy reforms required to protect childhood
3. **Why does the author emphasize that India's 46 per cent jump in crimes against children since 2020 occurred "even as overall crime fell"?**
   A. To show that UNICEF's 2025 report found 417 million children severely deprived in nutrition, health, or sanitation globally.
   B. To highlight that children face worsening vulnerability and targeted abuse even during a period of broader general crime reduction.
   C. To note that the United Nations verified a record 38,558 grave violations against 24,174 children in conflict last year.
   D. To point out that NFHS-6 showed full immunisation rising to 87.1 per cent while severe wasting fell to 5.2 per cent.
4. **In the sentence, "UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2025 found 417 million children in low- and middle-income countries severely deprived in at least two essentials," the prepositional phrase "in low- and middle-income countries" functions as:**
   A. Adverbial phrase
   B. Participle phrase
   C. Adjectival phrase
   D. Absolute phrase
5. **In the passage, the word "YARDSTICK" is used. Which of the following is the most appropriate SYNONYM for "YARDSTICK" in this context?**
   "There is a strong case to make foundational literacy and numeracy the yardstick for judging every school."
   A. Ceremony
   B. Menace
   C. Benchmark

D. Target

6. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into five parts and named A, B, C, D, and E. Rearrange these five parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   A. This phenomenon is no longer confined to urban households.
   B. Its findings revealed that half of all the children surveyed exceeded the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended screen time limit of an hour per day for children between 2 to 4 years.
   C. As toddlers swiping through smartphone screens before holding a pencil has become a common sight, paediatricians are worried about an alarming trend: smartphones being increasingly used as "digital pacifiers" to appease toddlers during mealtime, soothe them when they throw a tantrum and keep them engaged while managing household chores.
   D. The research underlines a pervasive reliance on smartphones to keep children engaged, across all socio-economic layers.
   E. A study conducted by AIIMS Delhi, and published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research in April 2026, surveyed 282 children aged 2 to 4 years in rural Haryana.
   A. E-B-C-A-D
   B. C-E-A-B-D
   C. C-A-E-B-D
   D. A-C-E-B-D
7. **Direction: In the following question, 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 paragraph.**
   A. Having worked for 12 years in Keralam as a chapathi maker, her father aspired to give his children a good education.
   B. She was finally admitted on the condition that she would repeat Class IX as the school thought she could adversely impact the Class X pass percentage.
   C. Last April, young Arunima Mandal, along with her mother and siblings, travelled to Keralam from Jharkhand to join her father.
   D. The private aided school, however, initially refused to admit Arunima despite admitting her siblings, all of whom did not have transfer certificates.
   A. A-C-D-B
   B. C-A-D-B
   C. C-D-A-B
   D. D-C-A-B
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
   Audacious
   A. Lively
   B. Brave
   C. Horrendous
   D. Stifling
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
   Curb
   A. Retain
   B. Dispirit
   C. Restrain

D. Neutralise

10. **Directions: Choose the correct meaning of idiom**
    Give someone the slip
    A. To insult someone subtly
    B. To evade or escape from someone unnoticed
    C. To forgive after insult
    D. To follow and copy someone
11. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb.**
    Live up to
    A. To spend more money than one earns
    B. To fulfil expectations or standards
    C. To survive a difficult period of hardship
    D. To depend on someone or something for one's income
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
    Preceding
    A. Foregoing
    B. Subsequent
    C. Utopian
    D. Heinous
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
    Legitimate
    A. Illicit
    B. Unorthodox
    C. Obsolete
    D. Contentious
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for:**
    "A speech delivered without preparation"
    A. impromptu
    B. rebuttal
    C. monologue
    D. soliloquy
15. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
    A disease which spreads over a large area
    A. Epidemic
    B. Endemic
    C. Pandemic
    D. Hysteria
16. **Directions: Spot the correct spelling of a philosophical term meaning 'lifelessness or indifference'.**
    A. Apathy
    B. Appathy
    C. Apathie
    D. Apithy
17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

What information was shared with the school authority by the inspection team?

A. What information has the inspection team shared with the school authority?
B. What information did the inspection team share by the school authority?
C. What information did the inspection team share with the school authority?
D. What information the inspection team shared with the school authority?

18. **Directions: Complete the sentence in indirect speech.**
"Have you submitted the assignment yet?" the teacher asked. The teacher asked me ____ the assignment yet.
A. if I submit
B. whether I had submitted
C. if I have submitted
D. whether had I submitted

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
He was deprived ____ his rights.
A. with
B. from
C. of
D. by

20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
I don't think / I can go throughout / the process of raising / two children on my own.
A. The process of raising
B. Two children on my own
C. I can go throughout
D. I don't think

Directions: Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.

At 13, Robert Pattinson joined an amateur theatre group in south-west London. It was his father who encouraged him to try the Barnes Theatre Company, hoping it would help with his shyness. A schoolteacher, (A)___, had advised him against joining the school drama club, apparently convinced that the creative arts were not for him. After spending two years working backstage, Pattinson finally auditioned for Guys and Dolls. He had his (B)___ set on Frank Sinatra's character but ended up playing a Cuban dancer with no lines. "A lot of people there took it extraordinarily seriously, and I was not really accepted into that group," he told Time Out in 2017. "I'm an outsider!" At 40, that outsider is about to take on one of cinema's most recognisable roles. On November 16, Amazon MGM Studios announced that Pattinson would succeed Daniel Craig as the seventh actor to play James Bond, the British Secret Service agent. "To say this role is a dream come true is an (C)___," Pattinson said. Acting was not his plan. Born in London in 1986, he initially wanted to pursue a career in music. He played the guitar and sang at open mic nights in Soho. Then, in 2005, he was Cedric Diggory in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, and three years later Twilight made him a global heartthrob, a fame he would spend years (D)___ to escape. He found his way out (E)___ a series of unconventional films. In David Cronenberg's Cosmopolis (2012), he was an emotionally detached billionaire. In Josh and Benny Safdie's Good Time (2017), he played a small-time

criminal stumbling his way through New York to save his brother. Then came Robert Eggers's The Lighthouse, where he starred with Willem Dafoe, as an isolated lighthouse keeper. Before takes, he would spin in circles, punch himself and force himself to gag. The idea, he said in an interview, was to "shake up" his physical state and enter a scene feeling different. Eventually, Pattinson returned to big-budget films, in Christopher Nolan's Tenet and Matt Reeves's The Batman, where he played a withdrawn, grieving Bruce Wayne.

21. **Fill in the blank (A) with the correct linking word to fit the context.**
    A. consequently
    B. meanwhile
    C. furthermore
    D. likewise
22. **Fill in the blank (B) with the correct word to complete the idiom.**
    A. back
    B. nose
    C. feet
    D. eyes
23. **Fill in the blank (C) with the word that means "a statement that makes something seem smaller or less important than it really is."**
    A. understatement
    B. oxymoron
    C. exaggeration
    D. irony
24. **Choose the grammatically correct option to fill in the blank (D).**
    A. try
    B. tried
    C. trying
    D. to try
25. **Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank (E).**
    A. despite
    B. through
    C. against
    D. beyond

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) To highlight that children face worsening vulnerability and targeted abuse even during a period of broader general crime reduction.**
   passage: "In India, the NCRB recorded 1,87,702 crimes against children in 2024, up 46 per cent since 2020, even as overall crime fell in 96.6 per cent of penetrative sexual assault cases under POCSO."----The passage says crimes against children rose by 46 per cent since 2020, while overall crime was falling. The author uses this contrast to show that children are becoming more vulnerable even when the general crime picture is improving. So the rise is not part of a general trend. It points to a specific and growing danger for children. This supports the author's main message that progress in health and education still hides deep gaps in protecting childhood. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says fast-track POCSO courts have eliminated penetrative sexual assault cases in rural districts, but the passage only lists fast-track POCSO courts as something that is needed in the way forward. It never says they have removed any cases, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says higher secondary-school enrolment increases reporting of online exploitation and child labour, but the passage links school dropout to progress in education, not to crime reporting. It draws no such link, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the Global Hunger Index ranking reflects rising crime rates, but the passage uses the ranking to show child wasting and hunger (100th of 122 countries). Hunger and crime are separate points, hence incorrect.
2. **D) Persistent gaps in Indian and global child welfare and the urgent policy reforms required to protect childhood.**
   passage: "India has improved child health and education, but malnutrition, abuse and rising crimes reveal deep gaps. Protecting childhood demands sustained effort." Also: "The way forward demands more than ceremony. First, treat nutrition in the first 1,000 days as compulsory. Child protection needs functioning fast-track POCSO courts..."----The passage first admits that India has made real progress in child health and education. It then shows that deep gaps remain, such as stunting, hunger, poor learning levels, and a rise in crimes against children. It also gives a darker global picture of child labour, conflict violations and aid cuts. It ends with clear steps for the way forward. So the central subject is the gaps in child welfare, in India and across the world, and the reforms needed to fix them. Option D covers all of this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the subject is UN-verified conflict violations and child deaths from aid cuts. The passage mentions these only in one paragraph about the global picture. They are supporting points, and the option leaves out India and the way forward, hence incorrect.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the subject is the NFHS-6 gains and India's Global Hunger Index rank. These are only part of the second paragraph. The option also leaves out exploitation, crime and the reforms, hence incorrect.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the subject is NCRB crime data and UNICEF's deprivation data. These are facts used as evidence. The option misses the health and education progress and the way forward, hence incorrect.

3. **B) To highlight that children face worsening vulnerability and targeted abuse even during a period of broader general crime reduction.**
   passage: "In India, the NCRB recorded 1,87,702 crimes against children in 2024, up 46 per cent since 2020, even as overall crime fell in 96.6 per cent of penetrative sexual assault cases under POCSO."----The passage says crimes against children rose by 46 per cent since 2020, while overall crime was falling. The author uses this contrast to show that children are becoming more at risk even when the general crime picture is improving. So the rise is not part of a wider trend. It points to a special and growing danger for children. This supports the author's main message that progress in health and education still hides deep gaps in protecting childhood. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the purpose is to show that UNICEF found 417 million children severely deprived. The passage gives this fact in a separate sentence about the global picture. It is not linked to the contrast between rising child crime and falling overall crime, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says the purpose is to note the UN's record of grave violations in conflict. This is also a separate global point about children in war. It has nothing to do with India's crime figures, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the purpose is to point out the rise in immunisation and fall in severe wasting. These are examples of progress from NFHS-6, while the crime rise is given as a gap that remains. The two points work in opposite directions, hence incorrect.
4. **C) Adjectival phrase**
   passage: "UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2025 found 417 million children in low- and middle-income countries severely deprived in at least two essentials."----The phrase "in low- and middle-income countries" begins with the preposition "in" and comes right after the noun "children." It tells us which children are meant: the ones living in low- and middle-income countries. A phrase that describes or gives more information about a noun is an adjectival phrase. It answers the question "which children?" and not "how?" or "when?" about the verb "found." So it is adjectival. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. An adverbial phrase adds information about a verb, such as how, when or where the action happened. "In low- and middle-income countries" does not describe the action of "found." It describes the children, hence incorrect.
   - Option B: Incorrect. A participle phrase is built around a participle. This phrase has no participle in it. It is a plain prepositional phrase, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. An absolute phrase has a noun and a participle and stands apart from the rest of the sentence. "In low- and middle-income countries" is joined to the noun "children" and is not separate, hence incorrect.
5. **C) Benchmark**
   "Yardstick" means a standard or measure used to judge or compare something. In the passage, the author wants foundational literacy and numeracy to be the standard by which every school is judged. "Benchmark" means a standard or reference point used to measure quality or

performance. This is almost the same meaning as “yardstick,” so it is the best synonym. Option C is correct.

- Option A: Incorrect. “Ceremony” means a formal event or ritual.
- Option B: Incorrect. “Menace” means a threat or danger.
- Option D: Incorrect. “Target” means a goal or aim to be reached.

6. **C) C-A-E-B-D**

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence C पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (C), जो मुख्य चिंता का परिचय देता है कि बच्चों द्वारा पेंसिल पकड़ने से पहले स्मार्टफोन स्क्रीन स्वाइप करना एक आम दृश्य बन गया है और बाल रोग विशेषज्ञ (paediatricians) स्मार्टफोन के “digital pacifiers” के रूप में बढ़ते उपयोग को लेकर चिंतित हैं।

Sentence A Sentence C के तुरंत बाद आएगा (C-A), क्योंकि यह "This phenomenon" के माध्यम से इस प्रवृत्ति के विस्तार को जोड़ता है कि यह समस्या अब केवल शहरी घरों (urban households) तक ही सीमित नहीं रह गई है।

Sentence E Sentence A को follow करेगा (A-E), जो शहरी क्षेत्रों से बाहर इस समस्या के विस्तार की पुष्टि करने के लिए ग्रामीण हरियाणा (rural Haryana) में 2 से 4 वर्ष की आयु के 282 बच्चों पर किए गए AIIMS Delhi के अध्ययन (April 2026) का ठोस प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence B Sentence E के ठीक बाद आएगा (E-B), क्योंकि यह pronoun "Its" ("Its findings") के माध्यम से AIIMS Delhi के अध्ययन के निष्कर्षों को उजागर करता है कि सर्वेक्षण में शामिल आधे बच्चों ने 2 से 4 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों के लिए World Health Organisation (WHO) द्वारा अनुशंसित एक घंटे की screen time limit को पार कर लिया।

Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (B-D), जो "The research" के माध्यम से पूरे अध्ययन का निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत करता है कि यह शोध सभी सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्तरों (socio-economic layers) पर बच्चों को व्यस्त रखने के लिए स्मार्टफोन पर व्यापक निर्भरता को रेखांकित करता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence C serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the main concern: toddlers swiping screens before holding a pencil has become common, worrying paediatricians about smartphones being used as “digital pacifiers.”

Sentence A directly follows Sentence C (C-A), referring back to this trend via "This phenomenon" to note that it is no longer confined to urban households.

Sentence E follows Sentence A (A-E), substantiating the spread beyond urban areas by introducing the AIIMS Delhi study (published in April 2026) that surveyed 282 children aged 2 to 4 years in rural Haryana.

Sentence B directly follows Sentence E (E-B), linking via "Its findings" to present the study's key data—half of the surveyed children exceeded the WHO’s recommended one-hour daily screen time limit.

Sentence D concludes the sequence (B-D), summarizing the broader takeaway via "The research" to underline a pervasive reliance on smartphones across all socio-economic layers.

7. **B) C-A-D-B**

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence C पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (C), जो मुख्य पात्र Arunima Mandal और उनके परिवार (माता और भाई-बहनों) की पिछले अप्रैल में झारखंड से केरलम (Keralam) जाकर अपने पिता के साथ रहने की यात्रा का परिचय देता है।

Sentence A Sentence C के तुरंत बाद आएगा (C-A), क्योंकि यह "her father" के माध्यम से उनके पिता की पृष्ठभूमि—कि वे 12 वर्षों से केरलम में चपाती बनाने वाले (chapathi maker) के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं—और अपने बच्चों को अच्छी शिक्षा देने की उनकी आकांक्षा को जोड़ता है।

Sentence D Sentence A को follow करेगा (A-D), जो अच्छी शिक्षा दिलाने की इच्छा के विपरीत contrastive conjunction "however" के साथ स्कूल में आने वाली बाधा को दर्शाता है कि एक private aided school ने शुरुआत में उनके भाई-बहनों को दाखिला देने के बावजूद अरुणिमा को दाखिला देने से इनकार कर दिया, जबकि उन सभी के पास transfer certificates नहीं थे।

Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (D-B), जो शुरुआती इनकार के बाद "finally admitted" के माध्यम से समाधान को स्पष्ट करता है कि उन्हें इस शर्त पर दाखिला दिया गया कि वह Class IX दोहराएंगी, क्योंकि स्कूल को लगा कि वह Class X pass percentage पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डाल सकती हैं।

English Explanation:

Sentence C serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing Arunima Mandal, her mother, and her siblings travelling from Jharkhand to Keralam last April to join her father.

Sentence A directly follows Sentence C (C-A), expanding on "her father" by detailing his 12 years of work as a chapathi maker in Keralam and his aspiration to provide his children with a good education.

Sentence D follows Sentence A (A-D), pivoting via the contrastive conjunction "however" from his educational aspirations to the immediate hurdle: a private aided school initially refused to admit Arunima even though it admitted her siblings, none of whom had transfer certificates.

Sentence B concludes the sequence (D-B), resolving the initial refusal via "finally admitted" to explain that she was admitted on the condition of repeating Class IX so as not to adversely affect the school's Class X pass percentage.

8. B) **Audacious** (adjective) – Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks, daring, fearless, intrepid. साहसी

   Synonym: **Brave** (adjective) – Having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty; courageous. बहादुर

   - **Lively** (adjective) – Full of life and energy; active and outgoing. जीवंत
   - **Horrendous** (adjective) – Extremely unpleasant, horrifying, or terrible.भयानक
   - **Stifling** (adjective) – Making one feel constrained or oppressed; suffocating. दम घुटने वाला

9. C) **Curb** (verb) – control, restrain, check, limit, contain. (नियंत्रित करना)

   Synonym: **Restrain** (verb) – to keep under control or within limits. (नियंत्रित करना / रोकना)

   - **Retain** (verb) – to keep possession of; maintain. (बनाए रखना)
   - **Dispirit** (verb) – to cause someone to lose enthusiasm or hope. (निराश करना)
   - **Neutralise** (verb) – to render something ineffective or harmless. (निष्प्रभावी करना)

10. B) **Give someone the slip** (idiom) – To evade or escape from someone unnoticed. किसी को चकमा देना

11. B) **Live up to** (phrasal verb) – to be as good as expected or promised; to meet a standard or fulfil expectations. (उम्मीदों पर खरा उतरना)

    - To fulfil expectations or standards. (अपेक्षाओं या मानकों को पूरा करना)

12. B) **Preceding** (adjective) – coming before something in order, position, or time; previous, prior, earlier, foregoing, antecedent. (पिछले / पूर्ववर्ती)

Antonym: **Subsequent** (adjective) – coming after something in time; following, succeeding, ensuing, later. (आगामी / बाद का / उत्तरवर्ती)

- **Foregoing** (adjective) – just mentioned or stated; preceding, previous. (पूर्वगामी / उपर्युक्त)
- **Utopian** (adjective) – modeled on or aiming for a state in which everything is perfect; idealistic, visionary, unrealistic. (आदर्शवादी / अवास्तविक)
- **Heinous** (adjective) – utterly odious or wicked; atrocious, monstrous, abominable. (घृणित / जघन्य)

13. A) **Legitimate** (adjective) – conforming to the law or to rules; valid, lawful, legal, authentic, justified. (वैध)
Antonym: **Illicit** (adjective) – forbidden by law, rules, or custom; unlawful, illegal, unauthorized, prohibited. (अवैध / निषिद्ध)
    - **Unorthodox** (adjective) – contrary to what is usual, traditional, or widely accepted; unconventional, non-traditional. (अपरंपरागत)
    - **Obsolete** (adjective) – no longer produced or used; out of date, outmoded, antiquated. (अप्रचलित / पुराना पड़ चुका)
    - **Contentious** (adjective) – causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial, disputed, quarrelsome. (विवादास्पद)
14. A) **Impromptu** (adjective) – Done or said without any preparation, spontaneous बिना तैयारी का
    - **Rebuttal** (noun) – A refutation or contradiction, especially in a debate या विवाद में खंडन
    - **Monologue** (noun) – A long speech by one person, often in a play एकल भाषण
    - **Soliloquy** (noun) – An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when alone, especially in a play अंतर्वाचन
15. A) **Epidemic** (noun) – A disease which spreads over a large area (affecting many people at the same time). महामारी
    - **Endemic** (noun) – A disease regularly found in a particular area. स्थानिक रोग
    - **Pandemic** (noun) – A disease prevalent over a whole country or the world. विश्वव्यापी महामारी
    - **Hysteria** (noun) – Exaggerated or uncontrollable emotion. उन्माद
16. A) The correct spelling is 'Apathy', which means "lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern". उदासीनता
17. **C) What information did the inspection team share with the school authority?**
Active वाक्य में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Passive वाक्य का Subject Object बन जाता है। Wh-question वाले Passive वाक्य को Active में बदलते समय प्रश्न का order बनाए रखा जाता है और Past Simple के लिए "did + V1" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "What information" Subject है, "was shared" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by the inspection team" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर "the inspection team" Subject बन गया, Verb "did ... share" (Past Simple Active) हो गया और "What information" Object के रूप में प्रश्न के शुरू में रहा। "has ... shared" Present Perfect है, "share by the school authority" में Agent गलत है और "the inspection team shared" में प्रश्न का order गलत है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object. While changing a Wh-question from passive to active, the question order is maintained and "did + V1" is used for the Past Simple. In this case, "What information" (Subject), "was shared" (Verb in Past Simple Passive) and "by the inspection team" (Agent) from the passive voice have been transformed into "the inspection team" (Subject), "did ... share" (Verb in Past Simple Active), with "What information" remaining at the start of the question as the Object. "Has ... shared" is Present Perfect, "share by the school authority" has a wrong agent, and "the inspection team shared" has wrong question order, so these options are incorrect.

18. **B) whether I had submitted**
Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb के Tense के अनुसार Reported Speech का Tense बदला जाता है। यहाँ Reporting Verb "asked" Past Tense में है, इसलिए Present Perfect "Have you submitted" बदलकर Past Perfect "had submitted" हो गया है। Yes/No question होने के कारण "whether" का प्रयोग हुआ है, वाक्य Statement order (subject + verb) में आया है और question mark हट गया है। Pronoun "you" बदलकर "I" हो गया है क्योंकि शिक्षक ने मुझसे पूछा था।
To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the tense of the reported speech changes according to the tense of the reporting verb. In this case, the reporting verb "asked" is in the Past Tense, so Present Perfect "Have you submitted" has been changed to Past Perfect "had submitted". As it is a Yes/No question, "whether" is used, the sentence takes the statement order (subject + verb) and the question mark is dropped. The pronoun "you" changes to "I" as the teacher asked me.
19. C) **Of'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "deprived of" एक fixed prepositional combination है, जिसका अर्थ होता है "किसी चीज़ से वंचित करना"। यहाँ व्यक्ति को उसके अधिकारों से वंचित किया गया है, इसलिए "deprived of his rights" सही प्रयोग है।
    - 'Of' should be used because "deprived of" is a fixed expression meaning "to be denied or stripped of something." Here, the person was denied his rights, so "deprived of his rights" is the correct usage.
20. C) 'throughout' के बदले 'through' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'process' से गुजरने की बात हो रही है, न कि पूरे समय तक; जैसे— I went through a tough time.
    - 'through' will be used instead of 'throughout' because it's about going through a process, not for the entire duration; Like— I went through a tough time.
21. **B) meanwhile**
Blank (A) needs a linking word that sets a contrasting development beside the previous one: his father "encouraged him" to try acting, while a schoolteacher "advised him against" it. a) consequently: introduces a result, violating the requirement since the teacher's advice did not follow from the father's encouragement. b) meanwhile: introduces a different, contrasting development from the same period, matching a teacher who discouraged what the father encouraged. c) furthermore: adds a point in the same direction, violating the requirement since the teacher's discouragement runs against the father's support instead of adding to it. d) likewise: signals similarity, violating the requirement since the teacher did the opposite of what the father did.
Hindi:

- Blank (A) में ऐसा linking word चाहिए जो पिछली बात के साथ एक विपरीत बात रखे: पिता ने उन्हें acting try करने के लिए "encouraged" किया, जबकि एक schoolteacher ने "advised him against" किया। a) consequently: यह result बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि teacher की advice पिता के प्रोत्साहन का परिणाम नहीं थी। b) meanwhile: यह उसी समय की एक अलग, विपरीत बात बताता है, जो उस teacher से match करता है जिसने उसी बात से रोका जिसके लिए पिता ने प्रोत्साहित किया। c) furthermore: यह उसी direction में एक और point जोड़ता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि teacher का रोकना पिता के समर्थन के विरुद्ध है, उसमें जुड़ता नहीं। d) likewise: यह समानता बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि teacher ने पिता के ठीक उल्टा किया।

22. **D) eyes**

Blank (B) needs the word that completes the idiom "have one's eyes set on," meaning to want something very much and aim for it, since Pattinson hoped for Frank Sinatra's role "but ended up playing a Cuban dancer with no lines." a) back: recalls "turn one's back on," meaning to reject, violating the requirement since rejection is the opposite of wanting the part. b) nose: recalls "turn up one's nose at," meaning to scorn something, violating the requirement since he wanted the role rather than scorned it, and "had his nose set on" is not an idiom. c) feet: recalls "set foot on," meaning to step onto a place, violating the requirement since "had his feet set on" is not an idiom and says nothing about wanting a role. d) eyes: completes "had his eyes set on," matching a boy who wanted the lead role but got a minor one.

Hindi:

- Blank (B) में वो word चाहिए जो idiom "have one's eyes set on" पूरा करे, जिसका meaning है किसी वस्तु को बहुत चाहना और उसे पाने का लक्ष्य रखना, क्योंकि Pattinson Frank Sinatra वाला role चाहते थे "but ended up playing a Cuban dancer with no lines।" a) back: यह "turn one's back on" जैसा लगता है, जिसका meaning है अस्वीकार करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि अस्वीकार role चाहने का उल्टा है। b) nose: यह "turn up one's nose at" जैसा लगता है, जिसका meaning है किसी बात को तुच्छ समझना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि वे role चाहते थे, उसे तुच्छ नहीं समझते थे, और "had his nose set on" कोई idiom नहीं है। c) feet: यह "set foot on" जैसा लगता है, जिसका meaning है किसी स्थान पर पैर रखना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "had his feet set on" कोई idiom नहीं है और role चाहने की बात नहीं करता। d) eyes: यह "had his eyes set on" पूरा करता है, जो उस लड़के से match करता है जो मुख्य role चाहता था पर उसे छोटा role मिला।

23. **A) understatement**

Blank (C) needs a noun meaning "a statement that makes something seem smaller or less important than it really is," since Pattinson says that calling the Bond role "a dream come true" does not go far enough. a) understatement: is the word with this meaning, matching Pattinson's point that "a dream come true" undersells how he feels. b) oxymoron: means a phrase that joins contradictory words, as in "deafening silence," violating the requirement since nothing here combines opposite terms. c) exaggeration: means making something seem larger than it is, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of the meaning given. d) irony: means saying the opposite of what one means, or an outcome contrary to expectation, violating the requirement since the meaning given is about playing something down, not reversing it.

Hindi:

- Blank (C) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "a statement that makes something seem smaller or less important than it really is," क्योंकि Pattinson कहते हैं कि Bond role को "a dream come true" कहना भी पर्याप्त नहीं है। a) understatement: इसी शब्द का यह meaning है, जो Pattinson की इस बात से match करता है कि "a dream come true" उनकी भावना को पूरा नहीं बताता। b) oxymoron: इसका meaning है विरोधी शब्दों को जोड़ने वाला phrase, जैसे "deafening silence," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ विरोधी शब्द नहीं जोड़े गए। c) exaggeration: इसका meaning है किसी बात को वास्तविकता से बड़ा बताना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह दिए गए meaning का उल्टा है। d) irony: इसका meaning है जो कहना हो उसका उल्टा कहना, या अपेक्षा के विपरीत परिणाम, जो violate करता है क्योंकि दिया गया meaning किसी बात को घटाकर बताने का है, उलटने का नहीं।

24. **C) trying**

Blank (D) needs the -ing form, since "spend" followed by a period of time takes a gerund: "spend years trying." a) try: is the base form, violating the requirement since a bare verb cannot follow "spend years." b) tried: is a past form, violating the requirement since a past form cannot follow "spend + time." c) trying: is the -ing form, matching the pattern "spend years doing something." d) to try: is the classic error, violating the requirement since "spend + time" is followed by an -ing form, not a to-infinitive.

Hindi:

- Blank (D) में -ing form चाहिए, क्योंकि "spend" के बाद समय की अवधि आए तो gerund आता है: "spend years trying।" a) try: यह base form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "spend years" के बाद bare verb नहीं आ सकता। b) tried: यह past form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "spend + time" के बाद past form नहीं आता। c) trying: यह -ing form है, जो "spend years doing something" वाले pattern से match करता है। d) to try: यह classic error है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "spend + time" के बाद -ing form आता है, to-infinitive नहीं।

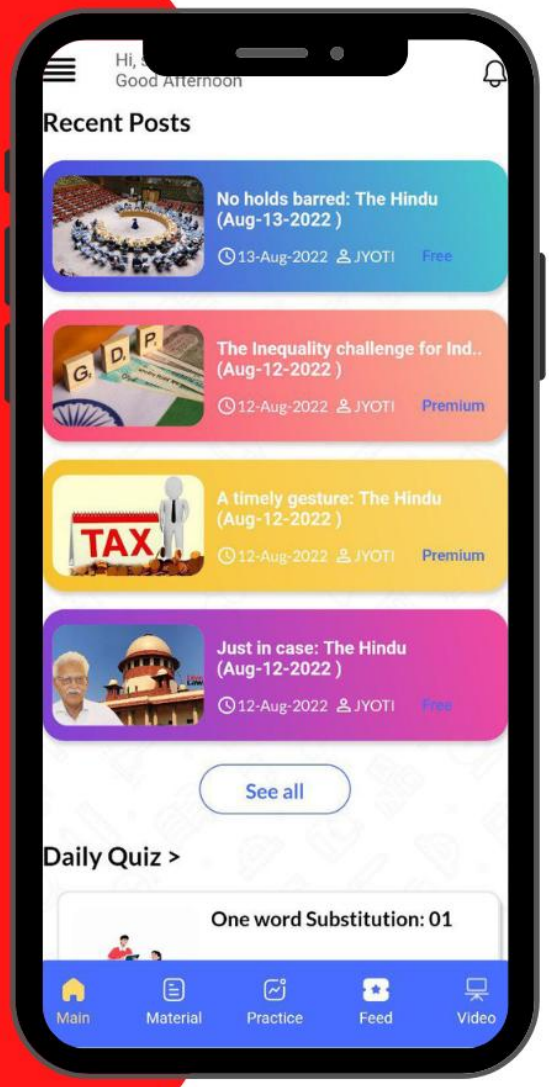
25. **B) through**

Blank (E) needs a preposition meaning "by means of," since the unconventional films that follow (Cosmopolis, Good Time, The Lighthouse) were his route away from Twilight fame. a) despite: means in spite of, violating the requirement since it would turn the films into an obstacle, while the passage shows they were his escape route. b) through: means by means of, matching films that became his way out. c) against: means in opposition to, violating the requirement since the films helped him rather than stood in his way. d) beyond: means on the far side of, violating the requirement since the films were his path, not a point past which he found an exit.

Hindi:

- Blank (E) में "by means of" के meaning वाला preposition चाहिए, क्योंकि आगे बताई गई unconventional films (Cosmopolis, Good Time, The Lighthouse) Twilight वाली प्रसिद्धि से निकलने का उनका मार्ग थीं। a) despite: इसका meaning है "के होते हुए भी," जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे films बाधा बन जातीं, जबकि passage दिखाता है कि वे उनके बच निकलने का मार्ग थीं। b) through: इसका meaning है "के माध्यम से," जो उन films से match करता है जो उनका बाहर निकलने का मार्ग बनीं। c) against: इसका meaning है "के विरुद्ध," जो violate करता है क्योंकि films

ने उनकी सहायता की, बाधा नहीं बनीं। d) beyond: इसका meaning है "के पार," जो violate करता है क्योंकि films उनका मार्ग थीं, ऐसा बिंदु नहीं जिसके पार उन्हें मार्ग मिला।



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