

Water body census: It is a welcome initiative

In a first-ever count **of its kind**, a census has recorded an **overwhelming disparity** between rural and urban areas in terms of water bodies. The report **highlights** that cities and towns have less than 3 per cent of these **reservoirs**. Conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry, the survey included natural and human-made water **repositories** like ponds, tanks, and lakes. With nearly 7, 50,000 water bodies, West Bengal tops the list. The country's most **populous state**, Uttar Pradesh, **is** a **distant** second with about 2,50,000 repositories. At a time when **stressed aquifers pose** difficult **ecological**, economic and policy challenges — including for the government's **flagship** scheme of providing drinking water to every household — the **significance** of this database cannot be **overstated**. With details on the size, **encroachment** status and storage capacity of the water bodies, the report could help **policymakers** arrive at **informed** decisions on matters as **diverse** as urban planning and rural employment generation schemes.

The Centre has been conducting a census of minor **irrigation** structures every five years since 1986. **Much of the data** indirectly **compiled** from the population Census by government agencies **has** also focused on minor irrigation works. The **irrigation-centred** approach was, to an **extent**, a **fallout** of the **inclination** of **successive** governments to view tanks, ponds and canals as economic utilities, rather than **critical** resources for human and ecological **well-being**. In the past two **decades**, there have been some attempts at **course correction**. **The UPA government, for instance, launched** the Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies scheme in 2005 and MGNREGA works have focussed on **reviving** traditional water bodies. But the **lack** of a **comprehensive** database **has** meant that these projects have not done sufficient justice to their objectives. The **significance** of the current study **is underscored** by the fact that it counted nearly five times the number of repositories **enumerated** by the last minor irrigation survey in 2013-14. The past studies did not have much data on urban centres. The **enumeration** of tanks, lakes and other water sources in cities and towns **was** left, largely, to civil society **outfits** and academic institutions. Such **endeavours** did provide valuable **insights** into the **depletion** of lakes in cities such as Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Srinagar and Bengaluru. The government's entry into the field is sure to make the data richer.

That said, such enumeration initiatives will not do adequate justice to their objectives if they remain **top-down affairs**. Making panchayats, municipalities and other local bodies the **nodal** points for future water body surveys as well as **roping in** civil society groups in the endeavour could help policymakers arrive at a better picture of the water crisis, and **frame** solutions.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Of one's kind** (phrase) – Unique, unparalleled, unrivaled, singular, exceptional अनोखा
2. **Overwhelming** (adjective) – Staggering, immense, enormous, tremendous, massive ज़बर्दस्त
3. **Disparity** (noun) – Inequality, imbalance, disproportion, dissimilarity, contrast असमानता
4. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underscore, accentuate, stress, spotlight प्रमुखता से दिखाना
5. **Reservoir** (noun) – Basin, storage, storehouse, container, receptacle जलाशय
6. **Repository** (noun) – Storehouse, depot, archive, storage facility, warehouse संग्रह
7. **Populous** (adjective) – Crowded, densely populated, heavily populated, teeming घनी आबादी वाला
8. **Distant** (adjective) – Remote, far-off, faraway, removed, outlying दूर
9. **Stressed** (adjective) – Strained, pressured, tense, burdened, anxious तनावग्रस्त
10. **Aquifer** (noun) – Water-bearing stratum, underground reservoir, water table जलदायी स्तर
11. **Pose** (verb) – Present, create, cause, produce, lead to खड़ा करना (चुनौती)
12. **Ecological** (adjective) – Environmental, natural, ecosystem-related पारिस्थितिकीय
13. **Flagship** (adjective) – Leading, foremost, principal, chief, primary प्रमुख
14. **Significance** (noun) – Importance, consequence, value, relevance, weight महत्व
15. **Overstated** (adjective) – Exaggerated, overemphasized, inflated, magnified, overstressed बढ़ाकर कहा हुआ
16. **Encroachment** (noun) – Intrusion, invasion, trespass, infringement, violation अतिक्रमण
17. **Policymaker** (noun) – Decision-maker, strategist, planner, administrator नीति निर्माता
18. **Informed** (adjective) – Knowledgeable, educated, well-informed, well-versed, enlightened सूचित
19. **Diverse** (adjective) – Varied, assorted, different, mixed, heterogeneous विविध
20. **Irrigation** (noun) – Watering, watering system, watering method, inundation सिंचाई
21. **Compile** (verb) – Assemble, collect, gather, accumulate, amass संग्रह करना

22. **Irrigation-Centred** (adjective) – Focused on watering, based on water supply, concentrated on water management
सिंचाई-केंद्रित
23. **Extent** (noun) – Degree, magnitude, scope, range, reach हद
24. **Fallout** (noun) – Consequence, effect, outcome, result, repercussion परिणाम
25. **Inclination** (noun) – Tendency, propensity, predisposition, leaning झुकाव
26. **Successive** (adjective) – Consecutive, sequential, following, ensuing लगातार
27. **Critical** (adjective) – Crucial, vital, essential, important महत्वपूर्ण
28. **Well-being** (noun) – Welfare, health, prosperity, happiness भलाई
29. **Decade** (noun) – Ten years, 10-year period दशक
30. **Course correction** (noun) – Adjustment, realignment, reorientation, modification सुधार
31. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, as an example, such as उदाहरण के लिए
32. **Revive** (verb) – Restore, rejuvenate, renew, revitalize पुनर्जीवित करना
33. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Thorough, complete, all-inclusive, extensive व्यापक
34. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, stress जोर देना
35. **Enumerate** (verb) – List, itemize, detail, specify गिनना
36. **Enumeration** (noun) – Listing, itemization, tally, cataloguing गणना
37. **Outfit** (noun) – Organization, group, company, establishment संगठन
38. **Endeavour** (noun) – Effort, attempt, undertaking, enterprise प्रयास
39. **Insight** (noun) – Understanding, perception, awareness, comprehension अंतर्दृष्टि
40. **Depletion** (noun) – Reduction, decrease, lessening, diminution रिक्तीकरण
41. **Top-down** (noun) – Authoritative, hierarchical, centralized ऊपर से नीचे की ओर
42. **Affair** (noun) – Matter, issue, event, situation मामला
43. **Nodal** (noun) – Central, key, focal, pivotal केंद्रीय
44. **Rope in** (phrasal verb) – Involve, engage, enlist, recruit सम्मिलित करना
45. **Frame** (verb) – formulate (a concept, plan, or system) तैयार करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. A census conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry reveals a significant disparity in water bodies between rural and urban areas.
2. Cities and towns have less than 3% of the total water reservoirs in India.
3. The survey included natural and human-made water bodies such as ponds, tanks, and lakes.
4. West Bengal has the highest number of water bodies at nearly 7,50,000, with Uttar Pradesh in second place with around 2,50,000.
5. The data is crucial for addressing ecological, economic, and policy challenges, including the government's flagship drinking water scheme.
6. The report provides details on size, encroachment status, and storage capacity, which can inform decision-making in urban planning and rural employment generation.
7. The Centre has conducted censuses of minor irrigation structures every five years since 1986, but these were primarily focused on irrigation works.
8. Past governments have viewed water bodies as economic utilities instead of critical resources for human and ecological well-being.
9. Recent efforts include the Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies scheme launched in 2005 and MGNREGA works focusing on traditional water body revival.
10. The current study is significant as it counted nearly five times the number of repositories compared to the last minor irrigation survey in 2013-14.
11. Previous studies lacked data on urban centers, leaving enumeration to civil society outfits and academic institutions.
12. The government's involvement in the enumeration process is expected to enrich the data available on urban water bodies.
13. However, a top-down approach to enumeration may not fully address the objectives of such initiatives.
14. Involving local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civil society groups in future surveys could provide a better understanding of the water crisis.
15. Collaboration with local bodies can help policymakers frame more effective solutions to address water scarcity and related issues.

Practice Exercise

1. **Based on the passage, what could be a potential benefit of the water body census conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Providing a platform for water sports competitions
 - B. Offering a recreational source for local communities
 - C. Facilitating informed decisions on urban planning and rural employment generation
 - D. Promoting tourism in areas with a high number of water bodies
2. **What is a crucial aspect to improve the effectiveness of water body census initiatives according to the passage?**
 - A. Focus solely on minor irrigation works
 - B. Limit the involvement of civil society groups
 - C. Make panchayats, municipalities, and other local bodies the nodal points for future surveys
 - D. Exclude urban centers from the census
3. **Which of the following statements about the water body census is INCORRECT?**
 - A. The Jal Shakti ministry conducted the water body census.
 - B. The census covered both natural and human-made water bodies.
 - C. The water body census has been conducted regularly every five years since 1986.
 - D. West Bengal has the highest number of water bodies among Indian states.
4. **Which idiom best describes the need for future water body surveys to involve local bodies such as panchayats, municipalities, and other local organizations?**
 - A. Barking up the wrong tree
 - B. The more, the merrier
 - C. Hitting the nail on the head
 - D. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
5. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage concerning the water body census initiative?**
 - A. Appreciative
 - B. Skeptical
 - C. Critical
 - D. Indifferent
6. **According to the passage, what is the primary benefit of the water body census?**
 - A. To assess the quality of water in various water bodies.
 - B. To identify the most suitable locations for building new water reservoirs.
 - C. To enable policymakers to make informed decisions on urban planning and rural employment generation schemes.
 - D. To study the impact of climate change on water resources.
7. **Which word is a synonym for "encroachment" as mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Encouragement
 - B. Invasion
 - C. Neglect

- D. Assistance
8. What is a synonym for the word "**endeavours**" as used in the passage?
- A. Struggles
 - B. Attempts
 - C. Failures
 - D. Withdrawals
9. Which word is an antonym for "**overwhelming**" in the context of the disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of water bodies?
- A. Insignificant
 - B. Crushing
 - C. Dominant
 - D. Enormous
10. Which word is an antonym for "**underscore**" as mentioned in the passage?
- A. Emphasize
 - B. Highlight
 - C. Diminish
 - D. Accentuate

Comprehension

The Union Finance Ministry's _____1_____ in the Rajya Sabha recently, of the legal position, i.e., the absence of any provision to allow the _____2_____ corpus of members of the National Pension System (NPS) to be "refunded and deposited back" to States, should have a _____3_____ effect on those States _____4_____ a return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The Ministry's _____5_____ reflects what the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013, the PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under the National Pension System) Regulations, 2015, and other regulations say.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
- A. Reiteration
 - B. Occasion
 - C. Introspection
 - D. Reification
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. Accumulated
 - B. Anticipated
 - C. Mandated
 - D. Considered
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. Transparent
 - B. Inherent
 - C. Coherent

D. Deterrent

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Convoluting
- B. Eliminating
- C. Evaluating
- D. Contemplating

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**

- A. Discord
- B. Laggard
- C. Stand
- D. Bid

16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. Come, 'Make in India', he invited the world. Now Modi's government must shore up his rousing call to action with the necessary reforms.
- Q. A decade ago it looked like the Indian economy could leapfrog manufacturing by taking the services expressway.
- R. But an escalating employment challenge has made it amply clear this was but a pipe dream.
- S. PM Narendra Modi got it dead right in his Independence Day speech, that providing jobs to India's youth demands promoting its manufacturing sector.

A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS

17. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. Popular culture for most part concentrates on its brighter side, creating an environment where tampering with it is sacrilegious.
- Q. Research in manipulating memory, on this occasion by neuroscientists at MIT, is an important part of medical research.
- R. However, there's an ugly side to memory which shows up in the form of psychiatric disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- S. Memory is double-edged.

A. PQRS B.PQSR C.RPSQ D.SPRQ

18. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. If there was a flaw in the original acquisition, it is the Greater Noida Authority or the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority that was responsible, not those who subsequently bought houses built on the acquired land.
- Q. It is patently unfair to make individual homeowners pay the cost of the extra compensation for land that now has to be paid.
- R. Further, in order to ensure that is not just the taxpayer who ends up paying for this mess, the officials responsible must be made to bear a portion of the extra cost.
- S. It is the, authority, therefore, that must bear the extra cost now.

- A. QRSP B.QPSR C.QSRP D.PQSR

19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P.** However, celebrations are now sought to be mandated by diktat, as schools have been directed to make arrangements for a live telecast of
- Q.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech, which includes getting students to stay back after school hours
- R.** It is with this intention that the birth anniversary of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is observed across schools in the country every year on September 5
- S.** Teachers’ Day is meant to celebrate the contribution of educators in shaping society and nurturing young minds

- B. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ

20. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P.** Quite like regular people Rihanna, Kim Kardashian, Kirsten Dunst, Jennifer Lawrence and other stars separate their data into ‘private’ and ‘public’ folders.
- Q.** Cloud computing is expanding exponentially.
- R.** The security breach just experienced by some celebrity iCloud consumers, however, raises important questions about the hazards of this brave new frontier.
- S.** Because people, companies and countries are all accumulating more data, more fast than would have seemed credible even a few years ago.

- A. RSPQ B.QPSR C.QSRP D.SPRQ

Directions (Q21– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

21. A naughty student is often taken to task (A)/ for being involved in (B)/ all types of mischiefs (C)/ No error (D)
22. At arrival in Delhi (A)/ I went straight (B)/ to the nearest hospital (C)/ No error (D)
23. I answered (A)/ the questions (B)/ as best as I could. (C)/ No error (D)
24. It took me (A)/ almost a hour (B)/ to fill the application form (C)/ No error (D)
25. He has achieved (A)/success (B)/ in life by dint of his hard work(C)/ No error (D)

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. The passage states that "with details on the size, encroachment status and storage capacity of the water bodies, the report could help policymakers arrive at informed decisions on matters as diverse as urban planning and rural employment generation schemes." This indicates that the potential benefit of the water body census is to facilitate informed decisions on urban planning and rural employment generation (Option C).

2. **Answer: C) Make panchayats, municipalities, and other local bodies the nodal points for future surveys**

Explanation: The passage highlights that enumeration initiatives will not do adequate justice to their objectives if they remain top-down affairs. It suggests making panchayats, municipalities, and other local bodies the nodal points for future water body surveys and involving civil society groups. This approach would help policymakers arrive at a better picture of the water crisis and frame solutions

3. **The correct answer is C.** The passage states that the Centre has been conducting a census of minor irrigation structures every five years since 1986, not a water body census. The water body census, which includes natural and human-made water bodies, is a more recent initiative conducted by the Jal Shakti ministry. Options A, B, and D are all accurate statements according to the passage.

4. **Answer: B) The more, the merrier**

Explanation: **The more, the merrier (phrase)** – means that something becomes more enjoyable or effective when more people are involved. (जब अधिक लोग शामिल होते हैं तो कुछ अधिक सुखद या प्रभावी हो जाता है)

In the context of the editorial, it emphasizes that future water body surveys would be more informative if local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and other local organizations are involved, helping policymakers better understand the water crisis and frame appropriate solutions.

5. **Answer: A) Appreciative**

Explanation: The passage discusses the water body census initiative and highlights its significance in understanding the disparity in water bodies between rural and urban areas. The author acknowledges the potential of the database in helping policymakers make informed decisions and mentions the government's entry in the field as a positive step. Thus, the tone of the passage is appreciative.

6. **Answer: C) To enable policymakers to make informed decisions on urban planning and rural employment generation schemes.**

Explanation: The passage emphasizes the significance of the water body census in providing a comprehensive database of water repositories. This information can help policymakers make informed decisions on various matters, including urban planning and rural employment generation schemes.

7. **Answer: B. Invasion**

Encroachment (noun) – invasion, intrusion, trespass, infringement, violation अतिक्रमण

Explanation: In the context of the passage, "encroachment" refers to the unauthorized expansion or intrusion into the water bodies. The synonym "invasion" shares a similar meaning, indicating an unwanted or forceful entry into a territory.

8. **Answer: B) Attempts**

Endeavour (noun) – Effort, attempt, try, initiative, enterprise प्रयास

Explanation: "Endeavours" in the passage refer to the efforts and initiatives taken by civil society outfits and academic institutions in enumerating tanks, lakes, and other water sources in cities and towns. The synonym for "endeavours" in this context is "attempts."

9. **Answer: A) Insignificant**

Overwhelming (adjective) – very large, significant, enormous, immense, inordinate भारी, बहुत बड़ा

Explanation: The passage states that the census recorded an "overwhelming" disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of water bodies. The word "overwhelming" here implies a significant or large difference, so an antonym would be "insignificant."

10. **Answer: C. Diminish**

Underscore (verb) – emphasize, underline, stress, highlight, accentuate जोर देना

Explanation: In the passage, the word "underscore" refers to the act of emphasizing or underlining the importance of the current study. The antonym "diminish" conveys the opposite meaning, which is to reduce or lessen the significance of something.

11. **Reiteration** (noun) – Recurrence, repetition, replication दोहराना

- **Occasion** (noun) – instance, event, occurrence, episode, moment मौका
- **Introspection** (noun) – Self-examination, self-analysis, self-scrutiny, self-observation आत्मनिरीक्षण
- **Reification** (noun) – the act of changing something abstract (= existing as a thought or idea) into something real स्वरूप ग्रहण

12. **Accumulated** (adjective) – Accrued, amassed, gathered, added, build up संचित

- **Anticipated** (adjective) – expected, predicted, forecasted, projected, foreseen पूर्वानुमानित

- **Mandated** (adjective) – required, ordered, commanded, authorized, instructed – आदेशित
 - **Considered** (adjective) – Thoughtful, deliberate, well-thought-out, planned सोचा-समझा, परिकल्पित
13. **Deterrent** (adjective) – preventive, hindering, discouraging, dissuasive निवारक
- **Transparent** (adjective) – open, honest, candid, clear पारदर्शी
 - **Inherent** (adjective) – Intrinsic, innate, built-in, essential अंतर्निहित
 - **Coherent** (adjective) – logical, consistent, clear, comprehensible सुसंगत
14. **Contemplate** (verb) – consider, ponder, study, meditate, reflect विचार करना
- **Convolute** (verb) – Complicate, confuse, muddle, entangle जटिल बनाना
 - **Eliminate** (verb) – remove, eradicate, get rid of, exclude हटाना
 - **Evaluate** (verb) – Assess, appraise, review, examine मूल्यांकन करना
15. **Stand** (noun) – Stance, Viewpoint, Standpoint View रुख
- **Discord** (noun) – Disagreement, conflict, friction, disharmony, tension असहमति
 - **Laggard** (noun) – Underachiever, slowpoke, straggler, dawdler धीमा
 - **Bid** (noun) – Attempt, effort, endeavor, undertaking प्रयास
16. **QRSP**
A decade ago it looked like the Indian economy could leapfrog manufacturing by taking the services expressway. But an escalating employment challenge has made it amply clear this was but a pipe dream. PM Narendra Modi got it dead right in his Independence Day speech, that providing jobs to India's youth demands promoting its manufacturing sector. Come, 'Make in India', he invited the world. Now Modi's government must shore up his rousing call to action with the necessary reforms.
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Memory is double-edged. Popular culture for most part concentrates on its brighter side, creating an environment where tampering with it is sacrilegious. However, there's an ugly side to memory which shows up in the form of psychiatric disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Research in manipulating memory, on this occasion by neuroscientists at MIT, is an important part of medical research.
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It is patently unfair to make individual homeowners pay the cost of the extra compensation for land that now has to be paid. If there was a flaw in the original acquisition, it is the Greater Noida Authority or the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority that was responsible, not those who subsequently bought houses built on the acquired land. It is

the, authority, therefore, that must bear the extra cost now. Further, in order to ensure that is not just the taxpayer who ends up paying for this mess, the officials responsible must be made to bear a portion of the extra cost.

19. **SRPQ**

Teachers' Day is meant to celebrate the contribution of educators in shaping society and nurturing young minds. It is with this intention that the birth anniversary of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is observed across schools in the country every year on September 5. However, celebrations are now sought to be mandated by diktat, as schools have been directed to make arrangements for a live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech, which includes getting students to stay back after school hours.

20. **QSRP**

Cloud computing is expanding exponentially. Because people, companies and countries are all accumulating more data, more fast than would have seemed credible even a few years ago. The security breach just experienced by some celebrity iCloud consumers, however, raises important questions about the hazards of this brave new frontier. Quite like regular people Rihanna, Kim Kardashian, Kirsten Dunst, Jennifer Lawrence and other stars separate their data into 'private' and 'public' folders.

21. (A) 'taken to task' के बदले 'brought to book' होना चाहिए, क्योंकि 'take somebody to task for / over something' का प्रयोग एक idiom (मुहावरा) के रूप में होता है जिसका अर्थ है 'किसी चीज के लिए किसी व्यक्ति की कठोर निंदा करना' जबकि 'bring somebody to book for something' का प्रयोग भी एक idiom (मुहावरा) के रूप में होता है जिसका अर्थ है 'कोई गलत कार्य करने के लिए किसी व्यक्ति को सजा देना'; जैसे-

- i. A thief must be brought to book.
- ii. He was brought to book for stealing money.
- iii. A leader must be taken to task for telling lies.

➤ 'taken to task' should be replaced with 'brought to book', because 'take somebody to task for / over something' is used as an idiom which means 'to harshly condemn someone for something' Whereas 'bring somebody to book for something' is also used as an idiom meaning 'to punish someone for doing something wrong'; As-

- i. A thief must be brought to book.
- ii. He was brought to book for stealing money.
- iii. A leader must be taken to task for telling lies.

22. (A) 'At' के बदले 'After' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'after one's arrival at/ in' का प्रयोग होता है। देखें-

- i. Shortly after arrival in Turkey Lisa became very ill.

➤ 'After' will be used instead of 'At' because 'after one's arrival at/in' is used. see-

- i. Shortly after arrival in Turkey Lisa became very ill.

23. (C) 'as best as' के बदले 'as good as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'as/ so /too/comparatively / relatively + Positive Degree' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- ii. She is as tall as her mother.
- iii. She weather is comparatively good today.

➤ 'as good as' shall be substituted for 'as best as' because 'as/ so /too/comparatively / relatively + Positive Degree' is used; As-

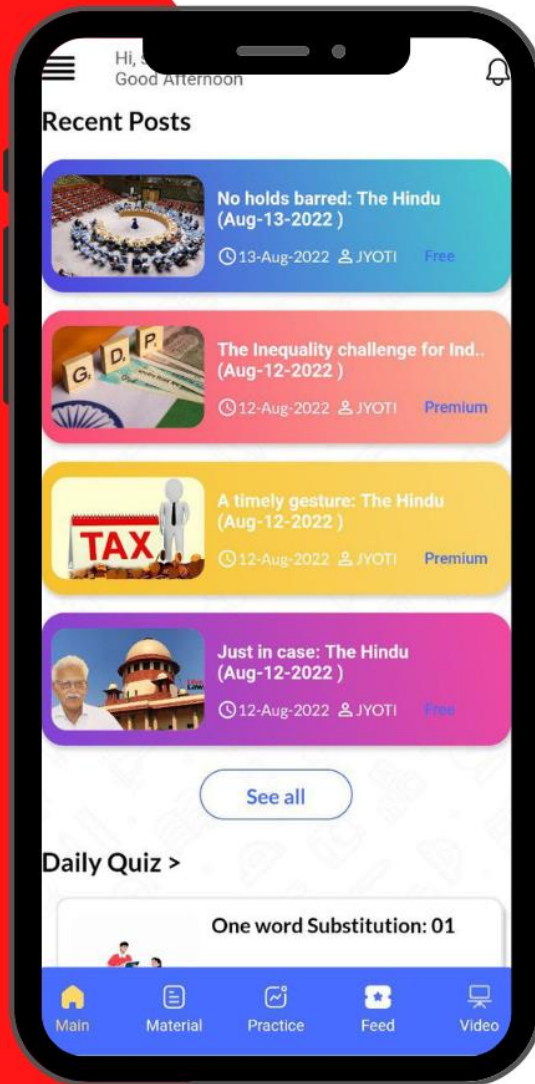
- i. She is as tall as her mother.
- ii. She weather is comparatively good today.

24. (B) 'a hour' के बदले 'an hour' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'hour' का पहला sound/ऑ/ एक Vowel है, और Vowel sound के पहले 'an' का प्रयोग होता है, जबकि Consonant sound के पहले 'a' का।

➤ 'an hour' will be used instead of 'a hour', because the first sound/o/ of 'hour' is a vowel, and 'an' is used before a vowel sound, while for before consonant sound article 'a'.

25. (C) 'his' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है।

➤ Use of 'his' is superfluous.



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