Keeping children safe online

At a time when technology is **integrated** into all **aspects** of life, how can society's most **vulnerable** members be better protected from its harms? A question like this one **lay behind** the observations on May 6, by a single-judge **bench** of Delhi High Court, which said that efforts to protect **minors** should go beyond teaching them about "good touch" and "bad touch" in the physical world. **Invoking** the concept of "virtual touch", Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said, "Minors must be **equipped** with the knowledge and tools to **navigate** online interactions safely and recognise **potential** risks **lurking** in **cyberspace**."

More than three **decades** since the internet entered the **public domain**, the **understanding** of how the world wide web impacts society, especially children and young adults, **struggles** to **keep pace with** the **evolution** of the technology itself. **Complicating** this is the fact that the **generations** of **so-called** "digital **natives**" that have emerged since the late 1990s, **have** limited or no experience of a world without the internet, even as those responsible for **putting safeguards in place** continue to frame the unique challenges of the digital world in **analog** terms.

There is little doubt that the **pervasiveness** of the internet has made it easier for children and young people to be exposed to dangers, including child sexual **abuse**, online harassment, **cyberbullying** and blackmail.

Existing laws such the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, which **mandates** that parental **consent** be taken for processing of a child's data, **go** some way towards **addressing** these concerns. But **legislation** can only play a limited role, **thanks to** the **dynamic** nature of the internet and its threats.

For any effort to protect children to be effective, it must begin from the home and classroom, with frank conversations between children and adults that also **take into account** the former's concerns and experiences. As Justice Sharma said, this would involve teaching children about "appropriate online behaviour, recognising warning signs of **predatory** behaviour, and understanding the importance of privacy settings and online boundaries."

The internet is a resource, not just for adults, but also for children who **rely on** it for education, entertainment, **socialising** and self-realisation, and a fear-based approach would only be **counterproductive**. **Considering** that **a majority of children** in India still either **have** no or restricted access to the internet, what is **called for** is a balanced approach that keeps the child safe online, while recognising her right to access the internet.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Integrate** (into) (verb) – Combine, merge, incorporate, amalgamate, blend एकीकृत करना

2. **Aspect** (noun) – Facet, feature, dimension, element, angle पहलू

3. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Susceptible, exposed, sensitive, defenseless, at risk संवेदनशील

4. **Lay behind** (phrasal verb) – Be the cause of, underpin, form the basis of, be the reason for, account for कारण बनना

5. **Observation** (noun) – Remark, comment, opinion, thought, reflection टिप्पणी

6. **Bench** (noun) – In a legal context, it refers to the judge or judges collectively in a courtroom. न्यायिक पीठ

7. **Minor** (noun) – Juvenile, youngster, adolescent, child, youth नाबालिग

8. **Invoke** (verb) – to use a law in order to achieve something नियम, क़ानून आदि प्रयोग करना

9. (be) **Equipped** (with) (adjective) – Furnished, provided, supplied, outfitted, armed से सुसज्जित होना

10. **Navigate** (verb) – Maneuver, steer, pilot, direct, guide मार्गदर्शन करना

11. **Potential** (adjective) – Possible, latent, prospective, likely, imminent संभावित

12. **Lurk** (in) (verb) – Hide, skulk, lie in wait, prowl, sneak छिपना

13. **Cyberspace** (noun) – Digital space, virtual environment, internet, online world डिजिटल जगत

14. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten year दशक

15. **Public domain** (noun) – an area of interest where information, products, etc. are available to everyone to see or use सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र

16. **Keep pace with** (phrase) – Match, keep up with, stay aligned with, stay on par with, synchronize with के साथ तालमेल रखना

17. **Evolution** (noun) – Development, progression, growth, advancement, unfolding विकास

18. **Complicate** (verb) – Make difficult, confuse, entangle, convolute, complexify जटिल करना

19. **So-called** (adjective) – Supposedly, named as, claimed to be, purportedly, allegedly कथित

20. **Native** (noun) – Local, indigenous person, original inhabitant, native person स्थानीय

21. **Safeguard** (noun) – Protection, defense, security, precaution, shield सुरक्षा

22. **Put something in place** (phrase) – Establish, set up, implement, install, arrange स्थापित करना

23. **Analog** (adjective) – not involving or relating to the use of computer technology, as a contrast to a digital counterpart

24. **Pervasiveness** (noun) – Ubiquity, omnipresence, widespread nature, prevalence सर्वव्यापकता

25. **Abuse** (noun) – Maltreatment, mistreatment, harm, exploitation, cruelty दुर्व्यवहार

26. **Cyberbullying** (noun) – Online harassment, internet bullying, digital abuse, cyber harassment ऑनलाइन धमकी

27. **Existing** (adjective) – Current, present, established, existing, extant मौजूदा

28. **Mandate** (verb) – Make mandatory अनिवार्य करना

29. **Consent** (noun) – Permission, agreement, approval, assent, acquiescence सहमति

30. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, attend to, handle, manage सुलझाना, निपटाना

31. **Legislation** (noun) – Lawmaking, laws, statutes, regulations, acts कानून

32. **Thanks to** (phrase) – Because of, owing to, due to, as a result of के कारण

33. **Dynamic** (adjective) – Changing, active, energetic, forceful, vigorous गतिशील

34. **Take into account** (phrase) – Consider, include, factor in, regard, account for ध्यान में रखना

35. **Predatory** (adjective) – Exploitative, predacious, rapacious, aggressive, hunting शिकारी

36. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, trust in, count on, bank on, lean on निर्भर करना

37. **Socialise** (verb) – Interact, mingle, mix, associate, fraternize सामाजिकरण करना

38. **Counterproductive** (adjective) – Hindering, detrimental, harmful, obstructive, adverse प्रतिकूल

39. **Considering** (preposition) – Taking into account, in view of, given, with regard to ध्यान में रखते हुए

40. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, require, need, necessitate, entail मांग करना

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Summary of the Editorial

1. **Court's Insight**: Delhi High Court recognized the need to protect minors online, introducing the concept of "virtual touch".

2. **Protection Beyond Physical**: Emphasized the importance of extending child protection measures to the online environment.

3. **Technology and Vulnerability**: Acknowledged that technological evolution outpaces societal understanding, especially concerning children's safety.

4. **Digital Native Challenge**: Highlighted the disconnect between digital natives and those crafting safeguards who may not fully grasp digital challenges.

5. **Online Risks**: Noted the ease with which children can encounter dangers like cyberbullying and online abuse.

6. **Legal Frameworks**: Mentioned laws like POCSO and DPDP Act that require parental consent for processing children's data.

7. **Limitations of Legislation**: Recognized that laws alone are insufficient due to the dynamic nature of the internet and its threats.

8. **Role of Home and School**: Stressed the importance of starting protection efforts at home and in schools through open discussions.

9. **Educational Focus**: Advocated for education on appropriate online behavior and recognizing signs of predatory behavior.

10. **Internet as a Resource**: Pointed out the internet's role as a beneficial resource for education and social interaction for children.

11. **Counterproductive Fear**: Warned against a fear-based approach to internet safety, which could hinder beneficial uses.

12. **Balanced Approach Needed**: Called for a balanced strategy that ensures safety while respecting children's rights to internet access.

13. **Privacy and Boundaries**: Underlined teaching children the importance of privacy settings and online boundaries.

14. **Justice Sharma's Advocacy**: Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma advocated for enhanced online safety education for minors.

15. **Access Inequities**: Noted that many children in India still lack or have restricted access to the internet, requiring nuanced safety approaches.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**   **[Editorial page]**
   A. Factual
   B. Cynical
   C. Pessimistic
   D. Humorous

2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
   A. Evolution of technology and its historical context
   B. Challenges in balancing internet access and safety for children
   C. Legal frameworks governing internet use among adults
   D. Judicial overreach in digital matters

3. **According to the passage, what is one of the primary reasons why a fear-based approach to internet safety for children is considered counterproductive?**
   A. Because it restricts children's ability to use the internet solely for entertainment, neglecting its educational and social value.
   B. Because it can limit children's access to the internet which is crucial for education, entertainment, socialising, and self-realisation.
   C. Because it could lead to increased regulation and monitoring of internet content, which could stifle free expression and innovation.
   D. Because it may alienate children and prevent them from reporting incidents or seeking help when faced with online risks.

4. **What does Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma suggest as a necessary measure to protect minors in the digital world according to the passage?**
   A. Minors should be taught to completely avoid any form of digital or online interaction to ensure their safety.
   B. Minors need to be provided with the knowledge and tools to safely navigate online interactions and recognize potential risks.
   C. The government should implement stricter laws and regulations to control what minors can access online.
   D. Education about online safety should be optional for minors, focusing instead on enhancing physical safety measures.

5. **What does Justice Sharma imply about the role of education in protecting children online according to the passage?**
   A. Education about online safety should be fear-based to ensure children fully understand the dangers of the internet and behave cautiously.
   B. Education should discourage children from using the internet, emphasizing the risks and dangers rather than the benefits.
   C. Online safety education should primarily focus on technical aspects such as cybersecurity measures and the use of complex passwords.
   D. Children should be educated about appropriate online behaviour and warning signs of predatory behaviour to effectively manage their own safety.

6. **Based on the passage, which of the following best infers the significance of parental consent in the digital protection of children?**
   A. Parental consent is primarily focused on ensuring that children's activities are closely monitored to prevent them from accessing inappropriate content online.
   B. Requiring parental consent is a form of legal overreach that unnecessarily complicates the online experience for children and young people.
   C. Parental consent for processing a child's data, as mandated by the DPDP Act, is essential for enhancing digital safety, though it does not address all aspects of online threats
   D. The emphasis on parental consent distracts from the more effective measures such as improving cybersecurity infrastructure and legislation.

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The new financial year has begun with the government finally bringing into effect a policy that will _____1_____ solar power project developers from _____2_____ imported panels. The Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019, requires module makers to ____3_____ an inspection of their manufacturing facilities by the National Institute of Solar Energy. Being on the list as an 'approved' manufacturing facility certifies a company as legitimately manufacturing solar panels within its _____4_____ and not importing modules. The major advantage is eligibility to _____5_____ for the government's tenders for its flagship solar energy programmes. This includes the recently announced PM solar rooftop scheme.

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
   A. Patronage
   B. Encourage
   C. Advantage
   D. Discourage

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
   A. covering up
   B. leading to
   C. stumble upon
   D. relying on

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
   A. submit to
   B. due to
   C. begin to
   D. add to

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
    A. reassess
    B. premises
    C. repossession
    D. appeals

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
    A. constant
    B. abode
    C. complete
    D. compete

Direction: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Given below each sentence has four sequences, namely (A), (B), (C) and (D). You are required to re-arrange the Jumbled parts of the sentence and mark your response accordingly.

12. where they are being forced to commit (P)/ thousands of Indians find themselves (Q)/ stranded in Myanmar and Cambodia, (R)/ online fraud and deception (S)
    A. PQRS
    B. RQPS
    C. QPSR
    D. QRPS

13. ahead of its merger (P)/ as it grapples with challenges (Q)/ Vistara Airlines is facing a tough time (R)/ with Air India (S)

    A. PQRS
    B. RQPS
    C. RSPQ
    D. QRPS

14. the joint efforts made by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and (P)/ the Indian Navy to free the merchant vessel MV Ruen from pirates in the Arabian Sea (Q)/ maritime security measures and inter-service collaboration (R)/ recently are a shining example of effective (S)

    A. QPRS
    B. RSPQ
    C. QRSP-------
    D. PQSR

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
    Meenakshi sweeps the ball excellently when she _____ an off-spin delivery.
    A. will get
    B. has got
    C. got
    D. Gets

16. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
    Her mother always **encouraged** the idea of early marriage.
    A. Motivated
    B. Supported
    C. Cheered
    D. Discouraged

17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Apathy
   A. Empathy
   B. Indifference
   C. Aversion
   D. Hostility

18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**.
   To face the music
   A. Not knowing the real chords in music
   B. Barring the entire audiences view at a concert
   C. Being challenged to a music competition
   D. To bear the negative consequences of wrongful actions

19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
   The new building was being constructed by the construction workers.
   A. The construction workers were constructing the new building.
   B. The construction workers had been constructing the new building.
   C. The new building has being constructed by the construction workers?
   D. The new building is being constructed by the construction workers

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
   'Rapid' may be replaced by ' _____
   A. Gradual
   B. Legitimate
   C. Artistic
   D. Speedy

21. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
   A. He used to commit one theft a year on average. The stolen money lasted for the year.
   B. He chose the house at Shotover Grange to commit his next burglary. He studied the design of the house carefully for a fortnight.
   C. He found that the family had gone to London and the servants to the movie. He broke into the house one afternoon.
   D. He hoped to get fifteen thousand pounds worth of jewels from the safe.
      A. BCDA
      B. DCBA
      C. BDAC
      D. ABCD

22. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
   A. Chronic infections such as typhoid, chickenpox and others, for example, are no longer feared.
   B. A factor contributing to the rapid rise of the population in recent years has been the drop in the death rate.
   C. Because of medical breakthroughs, the death rate has decreased.

D. In 2001, the death rate in India was approximately 8.5 per thousand people
   A. BDCA
   B. DBCA
   C. CDAB
   D. ADBC

23. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence.**
   Manisha is **a believer of fate.**
   A. Minimalist
   B. Socialist
   C. Fatalist
   D. Catalyst

24. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
   Dr. Joyce is studying an experiment in his laboratory.
   A. An experiment is studied by Dr. Joyce in his laboratory.
   B. An experiment was being studied by Dr. Joyce in his laboratory.
   C. An experiment is being studied by Dr. Joyce in his laboratory.
   D. An experiment has been studied by Dr. Joyce in his laboratory.

25. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
   You can fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all the people all the time.
   A. No error
   B. You can fool some of the people all the time
   C. and all the people some of the time
   D. but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Factual**
    B) Incorrect because the passage does not exhibit a distrustful or scornful view towards the internet or efforts to protect children online. Instead, it acknowledges the challenges and the necessary steps.
    A) Correct as the passage provides a straightforward presentation of the situation concerning children's safety online, referencing laws, technological impacts, and judicial comments without expressing negative or overly emotional sentiments.
    C) Incorrect because the passage, while acknowledging the dangers and challenges, also discusses proactive measures and legal frameworks in place, indicating a balanced rather than a bleak outlook.
    D) Incorrect as the passage discusses a serious issue regarding children's safety online and does not contain elements of humor or lightheartedness.

2. **B) Challenges in balancing internet access and safety for children**
    A) Incorrect because although the passage mentions the impact of the internet and references "digital natives," the main focus is not on the technological evolution itself but on the implications for child safety.
    B) Correct as the passage centers around the complexities of protecting children online while ensuring their rights to access the internet, discussing both challenges and suggested approaches.
    C) Incorrect because the focus of the legal discussions in the passage is specifically on children, not adults.
    D) Incorrect as the passage does not critique or discuss the judiciary's role beyond its contribution to protecting children online, nor does it suggest that the judiciary is overreaching its authority.

3. B) B is correct as the passage emphasizes that the internet is vital for children not only for entertainment but also for education, socialising, and self-realisation. A fear-based approach could undermine these beneficial uses.
    A is incorrect because it suggests that the approach only impacts entertainment, whereas the passage indicates the approach could affect multiple aspects including education and socialisation.
    C is incorrect as there is no mention in the passage of increased regulation and monitoring as a direct consequence of a fear-based approach.
    D is incorrect because it discusses children's alienation and reluctance to report issues, which isn't addressed directly in the passage regarding the effects of a fear-based approach.

4. B) B is correct as it directly reflects Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma's view in the passage that minors must be equipped with knowledge and tools to navigate online interactions safely and recognize potential risks.

   A is incorrect because the passage advocates for educating minors to navigate online safely rather than avoiding online interactions altogether.

   C is incorrect as the passage does not mention new laws or regulations but focuses on education and self-awareness for minors.

   D is incorrect because the passage argues that online safety education is necessary, not optional, and should go beyond traditional physical safety measures like "good touch" and "bad touch."

5. D) Correct. Justice Sharma emphasizes the importance of teaching children about appropriate online behavior, recognizing predatory warning signs, and the importance of privacy settings, aligning with the passage's call for education starting in the home and classroom.

   A: Incorrect because the passage mentions that a fear-based approach would be counterproductive, instead advocating for balanced education about safety.

   C: Incorrect as there is no specific mention of focusing solely on technical aspects such as cybersecurity and passwords; the educational focus is broader, including behavioral guidance.

   B: Incorrect because the passage argues against a fear-based approach and acknowledges the internet's benefits for children, indicating that education should not deter internet use but make it safer.

6. C) The passage highlights the DPDP Act's requirement for parental consent to process a child's data, suggesting it is a crucial step towards ensuring online safety, albeit with limitations given the dynamic nature of internet threats.

   A: Incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the primary focus of parental consent is monitoring children's access to inappropriate content, but rather it is one of the measures to protect children's personal data.

   B: Incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that parental consent is considered legal overreach or that it complicates online experiences for children.

   D: Incorrect because the passage does not argue that parental consent distracts from cybersecurity or legislative improvements; instead, it is presented as part of a broader set of protective measures.

7. D) 'Discourage' का use होगा क्योंकि 'discourage' का अर्थ होता है किसी कार्य या व्यवहार को हतोत्साहित करना। passage में mention है कि सरकार ने आयातित पैनलों के उपयोग को हतोत्साहित करने के लिए नीति लागू की है, इसलिए 'discourage' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Patronage' का अर्थ होता है समर्थन देना, 'Encourage' का अर्थ होता है प्रोत्साहित करना, और 'Advantage' का अर्थ होता है लाभ उठाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

   'Discourage' will be used because it means to deter a particular action or behavior. The passage indicates that the government has implemented a policy to discourage the use of

imported panels, making 'discourage' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Patronage' means giving support, 'Encourage' means to promote, and 'Advantage' implies benefiting, which do not align with this context.

8. D) 'Relying on' का use होगा क्योंकि 'relying on' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ पर निर्भर रहना। passage के अनुसार, सरकार आयातित पैनलों पर निर्भरता को हतोत्साहित करना चाहती है, इसलिए 'relying on' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'covering up' का अर्थ होता है छिपाना, 'leading to' का अर्थ होता है किसी परिणाम की ओर जाना, और 'stumble upon' का अर्थ होता है अचानक मिल जाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

   'Relying on' will be used because it means to depend on something. According to the passage, the government wants to discourage reliance on imported panels, making 'relying on' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'covering up' means to conceal, 'leading to' implies causing or resulting in, and 'stumble upon' means to find by accident, which do not fit this context.

9. A) 'Submit to' का use होगा क्योंकि 'submit to' का अर्थ होता है किसी अधिकारी या प्रक्रिया के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करना। passage में कहा गया है कि मॉड्यूल निर्माताओं को अपनी निर्माण सुविधाओं का निरीक्षण करवाना होता है, इसलिए 'submit to' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'due to' का अर्थ होता है किसी कारण से, 'begin to' का अर्थ होता है शुरू करना, और 'add to' का अर्थ होता है कुछ जोड़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

   'Submit to' will be used because it means to present oneself or something to an authority or process. The passage states that module makers need to have their manufacturing facilities inspected, making 'submit to' the appropriate choice here. Whereas, 'due to' implies because of, 'begin to' means to start, and 'add to' means to increase or contribute, which do not align with this context.

10. B) 'Premises' का use होगा क्योंकि 'premises' का अर्थ होता है भौतिक स्थल या इमारत का क्षेत्र। passage में कहा गया है कि निर्माण सुविधाओं को 'approved' माना जाता है यदि वे वैध रूप से अपनी सुविधाओं में सोलर पैनल बना रहे हैं, इसलिए 'premises' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'reassess' का अर्थ होता है पुनः मूल्यांकन करना, 'repossession' का अर्थ होता है पुनः अधिकार में लेना, और 'appeals' का अर्थ होता है अपील करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

    'Premises' will be used because it refers to a physical location or area of a building. The passage indicates that manufacturing facilities are certified as 'approved' if they legitimately manufacture solar panels within their facilities, making 'premises' the correct term here. Whereas, 'reassess' means to evaluate again, 'repossession' implies taking back ownership, and 'appeals' means making a formal request, which do not fit in this context.

11. D) 'Compete' का use होगा क्योंकि 'compete' का अर्थ होता है प्रतिस्पर्धा में भाग लेना। Passage में बताया गया है कि जो कंपनियाँ 'approved' मानी जाती हैं, उन्हें सरकार की सोलर एनर्जी प्रोग्राम्स के लिए टेंडर्स में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने का अवसर मिलता है, इसलिए 'compete' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'constant' का अर्थ होता है निरंतर, 'abode' का अर्थ होता है निवास, और 'complete' का अर्थ होता है पूरा करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Compete' will be used because it means to participate in a contest or competition. The passage explains that companies listed as 'approved' are eligible to compete for government tenders in solar energy programs, making 'compete' the appropriate choice here. Whereas, 'constant' means unchanging, 'abode' refers to a dwelling, and 'complete' means to finish, which do not align with this context.

12. D) **QRPS**
    Q: "thousands of Indians find themselves" is the subject of the sentence and should come first to introduce the main topic.
    R: "stranded in Myanmar and Cambodia," follows Q, as it provides additional information about the situation of the Indians mentioned in Q.
    P: "where they are being forced to commit" is a relative clause that describes the condition in which the Indians find themselves, as mentioned in R. It logically follows R to explain the circumstances in the specific locations.
    S: "online fraud and deception" is the object of the verb "to commit" in P, completing the idea of what the Indians are being forced to do.

13. B) **RQPS**

    R: The sentence begins with "Vistara Airlines is facing a tough time," which is an independent clause that sets the context for the rest of the sentence. It introduces the subject and the situation, making it a natural starting point.
    Q: The phrase "as it grapples with challenges" provides additional information about the tough time mentioned in the first part. The word "as" is a conjunction that connects this part to the previous one, explaining the nature of the tough time.
    P: The phrase "ahead of its merger" introduces a specific event or circumstance that is related to the challenges mentioned earlier. It serves as a transition from the general challenges to a more specific scenario.
    S : The phrase "with Air India" completes the information about the merger mentioned in the previous part. It specifies the entity with which Vistara Airlines is merging, thus completing the sentence logically.

14. D) **PQSR**

    P: is first because it introduces the subject of the sentence, "the joint efforts made by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and."
    Q: comes after P because it continues the description of the joint efforts, specifying what they were aimed at, "the Indian Navy to free the merchant vessel MV Ruen from pirates in the Arabian Sea."

S: comes after Q because it provides the result or outcome of the efforts mentioned in P and Q, "recently are a shining example of effective."

R: is last because it concludes the sentence with the broader context or category under which the example falls, "maritime security measures and inter-service collaboration."

15. D) **'Gets'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence present tense में है। "Meenakshi sweeps the ball excellently" यह वाक्य present tense में है और इससे संबंधित घटना को दर्शाता है। इसलिए, "gets" यहाँ present tense की घटना को दर्शाने के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

- **Gets'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is indicating an action that happens in the present. "Meenakshi sweeps the ball excellently" is in the present tense and depicts an event related to it. Thus, "gets" would be the most appropriate choice to represent an event happening in the present tense.

16. D) **Encouraged** (verb) – To give support, confidence, or hope to someone; to urge, inspire, or promote. प्रोत्साहित करना

Antonym: **Discouraged** (verb) – To deter, dissuade, or prevent from doing something; to cause someone to lose confidence or enthusiasm. निराश करना

- **Motivated** (verb) – To provide with a reason to do something; to inspire or stimulate**.** प्रेरित करना
- **Supported** (verb) – To agree with and give encouragement to; to back up, uphold, or help. समर्थन करना
- **Cheered** (verb) – To shout for joy or in praise or encouragement; to give comfort or support to. उत्साहित करना

17. B) **Apathy** (noun) – Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. **उदासीनता**

Synonym: **Indifference** (noun) – Lack of interest or concern, unimportance. **उदासीनता**

- **Empathy** (noun) – The ability to understand and share the feelings of another. सहानुभूति
- **Aversion** (noun) – A strong dislike or disinclination. घृणा
- **Hostility** (noun) – Unfriendliness or opposition. वैर

18. D) **To face the music** (idiom) – To bear the negative consequences of wrongful actions **अपनी गलती की सजा भुगतना।**

19. A) The construction workers were constructing the new building.

20. D) **'Speedy'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह 'Rapid' का synonym है। 'Rapid' और 'Speedy' दोनों ही तेजी को दर्शाने वाले शब्द हैं। बाकी विकल्पों में से किसी का भी 'Rapid' के साथ synonymous संबंध नहीं है। इसलिए, "Speedy" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा

- **'Speedy'** should be used because it is synonymous with 'Rapid'. Both 'Rapid' and 'Speedy' indicate quickness. None of the other options have a synonymous relationship with 'Rapid'. Thus, "Speedy" would be the most appropriate choice.

21. D) **ABCD**

He used to commit one theft a year on average. The stolen money lasted for the year. He chose the house at Shotover Grange to commit his next burglary. He studied the design of the house carefully for a fortnight. He found that the family had gone to London and the servants to the movie. He broke into the house one afternoon. He hoped to get fifteen thousand pounds worth of jewels from the safe.
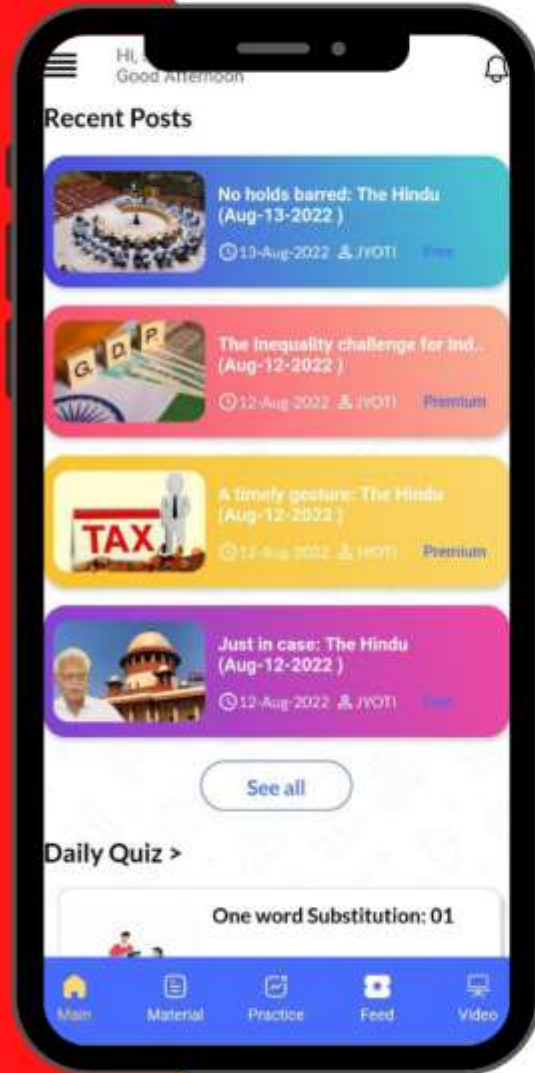
22. A) **BDCA**

A factor contributing to the rapid rise of the population in recent years has been the drop in the death rate. In 2001, the death rate in India was approximately 8.5 per thousand people Because of medical breakthroughs, the death rate has decreased Chronic infections such as typhoid, chickenpox and others, for example, are no longer feared.

23. C) **Fatalist** (noun) – a believer of fate दैववादी

- **Minimalist** (noun) – A person who holds or follows a philosophy that values simplicity and rejects unnecessary possessions. अल्पवादी

- **Socialist** (noun) – A person who advocates for the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. समाजवादी

- **Catalyst** (noun) – A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. उत्प्रेरक

24. C) An experiment is being studied by Dr. Joyce in his laboratory.
25. A) No error