

## Stay invested: On Chabahar and India-Iran ties

India should not **tailor** its ties with Iran to U.S. foreign policy changes

By signing a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port, India has taken its **infrastructure** and trade partnership with the Islamic Republic to the next level despite tensions in West Asia. India will invest \$120 million and offer a **credit** facility of \$250 million to further develop the terminal it operates in Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port and related projects. However, after the deal was signed, the U.S. State Department said **entities considering** business deals with Iran "need to be aware that they are opening themselves up to and the potential risk of **sanctions**". In the past, American **sanctions** on Iran **had** delayed the project. **Conceived** in 2003, the project did not **take off** for years after the U.S. and the UN **imposed** sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear programme. India signed a **memorandum of understanding** in 2015 after Washington **eased** sanctions on Iran **following** that year's nuclear agreement, and in 2016, the contract was **executed** during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Iran visit. The U.S.'s **unilateral withdrawal** from the nuclear deal in 2018 and **reimposition** of sanctions on Iran **raised** questions on India's continued cooperation with Tehran. But India **managed** to win a **carve-out** from U.S. sanctions that allowed it to operate the port through **ad hoc** measures.

The Chabahar port is **critical** for India's connectivity plans. First, it offers an alternative route to Afghanistan and Central Asia by **bypassing** Pakistan, allowing better trade with Central Asia. And, Chabahar is expected to be connected to the International North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC), bringing India closer to Europe through Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia. An **alternative** to the Suez route, a fully operational NSTC **would** reduce the time and money spent on intercontinental trade. The **port**, roughly 200 km from Pakistan's Gwadar, where China is developing a port as part of its BRI, **would** also help India expand its **geopolitical** influence in Central Asia. But the U.S. seems to have taken a **narrow** view of the project over its **hostility** with Iran. America's interests in the region have also changed. In 2018, when U.S. forces were **backing** the Islamic Republic government in Afghanistan, it gave a sanctions **waiver** to India as Kabul also **stood to benefit from** the port project. Today, U.S. **troops** are out of Afghanistan, the Taliban has replaced the Islamic Republic, and the U.S.'s focus is on **containing** Iran. **India**, in the past, **had taken U-turns** in its Iran engagement depending on the policy changes in Washington DC. It should not do that any more. It should stay invested in Chabahar and seek to improve its trade and connectivity projects with Central Asia, which is **essential** for India's continued rise. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Ties** (noun) – Connections, relations, associations, affiliations, bonds संबंध
2. **Tailor** (verb) – Adjust, adapt, modify, customize, shape अनुकूल बनाना
3. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, foundation, base, system, structure अवसंरचना
4. **Credit** (noun) – Loan, financing, funding, advance, capital ऋण
5. **Entity** (noun) – Organization, body, institution, establishment, corporation संस्था/ संगठन
6. **Consider** (verb) – Contemplate, ponder, deliberate, assess, evaluate विचार करना
7. **Sanction** (noun) – Penalty, restriction, embargo, punishment, deterrent प्रतिबंध
8. **Conceive** (verb) – Devise, imagine, formulate, envision, plan कल्पना करना
9. **Take off** (phrasal verb) – Start, begin, launch, initiate, commence प्रारंभ होना
10. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, inflict, levy, apply, implement थोपना
11. **Memorandum of understanding (MoU)** (noun) – a document describing the broad outlines of an agreement that two or more parties have reached. समझौता ज्ञापन
12. **Ease** (verb) – Relieve, alleviate, lessen, mitigate, soften कम करना
13. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing, succeeding, next बाद में
14. **Execute** (verb) – Implement, carry out, perform, accomplish, effectuate क्रियान्वित करना
15. **Unilateral** (adjective) – One-sided, independent, solo, autocratic, dictatorial एकतरफा
16. **Reimposition** (noun) – Reinstatement, reapplication, reenforcement, renewal, reestablishment पुनःलागू करना
17. **Manage** (to) (verb) – Achieve, accomplish, succeed, attain, navigate सफल होना
18. **Carve-out** (noun) – Exemption, exception, exclusion, waiver, special provision विशेष प्रावधान/ छूट
19. **Ad hoc** (adjective) – Temporary, provisional, improvised, makeshift, spontaneous अस्थायी
20. **Critical** (adjective) – Crucial, essential, vital, key, important महत्वपूर्ण
21. **Bypass** (verb) – Avoid, circumvent, dodge, sidestep, evade बचाव करना

22. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Political, strategic, global, international, diplomatic  
भू-राजनीतिक
23. **Narrow** (adjective) – Limited, restricted, confined, small, tight सीमित
24. **Hostility** (noun) – Antagonism, animosity, enmity, opposition, conflict शत्रुता
25. **Backing** (noun) – Support, endorsement, sponsorship, aid, assistance समर्थन
26. **Waiver** (noun) – Exemption, dispensation, release, relinquishment, forgoing छूट
27. **Stand to benefit from** (phrase) – Gain from, profit from, be advantaged by, reap benefits from, be favored by लाभ प्राप्त करना
28. **Troop** (noun) – Soldiers, forces, military, contingent, battalion सैनिक
29. **Contain** (verb) – Restrain, control, limit, curb, restrict नियंत्रित करना
30. **Take U-turn** (noun) – Reversal, turnaround, shift, change, volte-face यू-टर्न लेना
31. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, indispensable, crucial, vital, fundamental आवश्यक

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port.
2. The agreement includes an investment of \$120 million and a credit facility of \$250 million from India.
3. The deal aims to advance infrastructure and trade partnerships with Iran despite regional tensions.
4. The U.S. State Department warned entities about potential risks of sanctions when dealing with Iran.
5. American sanctions previously delayed the Chabahar project, which was conceived in 2003.
6. The project saw progress in 2015 after the U.S. eased sanctions following the nuclear agreement.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran in 2016 furthered the project execution.
8. The U.S.'s 2018 withdrawal from the nuclear deal and reimposition of sanctions raised cooperation questions.
9. India secured a carve-out from U.S. sanctions to continue operating the port.
10. Chabahar port is crucial for India's connectivity plans, providing an alternative route to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
11. The port helps bypass Pakistan, facilitating better trade with Central Asia.
12. Chabahar is expected to connect to the International North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC), enhancing trade routes to Europe.
13. The port's proximity to Pakistan's Gwadar port, developed by China, expands India's geopolitical influence in Central Asia.
14. The U.S. has shown hostility toward the project due to its stance on Iran.
15. India should avoid tailoring its Iran ties to U.S. policy changes and remain invested in Chabahar for improved trade and connectivity with Central Asia.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Cautious
  - C. Critical
  - D. Indifferent
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The economic benefits of the Chabahar port for India
  - B. The impact of U.S. foreign policy on India's international relations
  - C. India's strategic interest in developing connectivity with Central Asia
  - D. The historical context of India's involvement with Iran
3. **What is the primary reason India decided to sign a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar port?**
  - A. India seeks to bolster its trade and infrastructure partnership with Iran despite the tensions in West Asia, ensuring a strategic foothold in the region.
  - B. India aims to align its foreign policy more closely with the U.S., taking advantage of the temporary easing of sanctions on Iran.
  - C. India wants to support the U.S. policy in the Middle East by investing in Iran and mitigating the effects of American sanctions.
  - D. India is driven by its commitment to support Iran's nuclear program, counteracting the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the UN.
4. **What were the main challenges faced by the Chabahar port project before the recent agreement?**
  - A. The project faced delays due to American and UN sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme and the U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018.
  - B. The project was primarily hindered by financial constraints and a lack of interest from both India and Iran, leading to prolonged delays.
  - C. There were significant environmental concerns and local opposition in Iran, which delayed the commencement of the project.
  - D. The U.S. State Department's consistent opposition to any business deals with Iran resulted in the project's postponement.
5. **Why should India not tailor its ties with Iran based on U.S. foreign policy changes, according to the passage?**
  - A. India has historically had strong and stable relations with Iran that should not be influenced by external factors.
  - B. U.S. foreign policy changes have consistently favored India's interests in the region, making independent action unnecessary.
  - C. The changing U.S. interests and hostile stance towards Iran could jeopardize India's strategic and economic benefits from the Chabahar port and regional connectivity projects.
  - D. Aligning with U.S. foreign policy would allow India to focus more on its relations with Pakistan and China rather than Iran.

**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.**

Many years ago, at the foothills of the Kaatskill (Kat-skill) mountains, was a little village. In the village lived a simple, good-natured \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ named Rip Van Winkle. He was a kind neighbour, ready to help anyone.

Everyone in the village liked him. The children of the village \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ with joy whenever they saw him because he played with them, he taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories. The only problem with Rip was that he was very lazy. He did no work on his own farm and just \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ his time. His \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ were falling to pieces. His cow was going astray. Weeds grew on his farm. Rip's constant companion was his dog, named Wolf. To avoid work, he would walk away into the forest with his dog. One day, Rip just walked on and on and reached the highest part of the mountains.

It was late in the afternoon when he reached there. Tired after his long climb, he \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ and began daydreaming. It was soon evening and he realised it would be night by the time he reached his village.

**6. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. Follow
- B. Plow
- C. Glow
- D. Fellow

**7. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. Shouted
- B. Expected
- C. Fabricated
- D. Desiccated

**8. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

- A. Far away
- B. idled away
- C. wearing away
- D. keep away

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

- A. Forces
- B. Substances
- C. Fences
- D. Encourages

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

- A. lay down
- B. clamp down
- C. track down
- D. crack down

**11. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

- Government governed by wealth
- A. Theocracy
  - B. Autocracy
  - C. Democracy
  - D. Plutocracy
12. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.  
Theirs is a clandestine affair.
- A. Known
  - B. Private
  - C. Sneaky
  - D. Illicit
13. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** for the underlined word in the following sentence.  
That is a picture worth seeing but this is an absurd piece of art.
- A. ordinary
  - B. odd
  - C. eerie
  - D. Realistic
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**  
Most of Earth's surface is covered by water.
- A. Water is covering most of Earth's surface.
  - B. Water has been covering most of Earth's surface.
  - C. Water covers most of Earth's surface.
  - D. Water has covered most of Earth's surface.
15. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
Pritha will been cooking / the meal of your choice / before you / reach home.
- A. reach home
  - B. Pritha will been cooking
  - C. the meal of your choice
  - D. before you
16. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
Either you and he will have to pay for this damage.
- A. or he
  - B. with he
  - C. but he
  - D. nor he
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
The perfume she uses has a strong \_\_\_\_\_
- A. sent
  - B. scend
  - C. scent

- D. Cent
18. 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. Symptoms like nervousness, increased heart rate and feeling weak are some of the starting signs of anxiety.
- B. Whereas anxiety attacks, sweating, trembling and having a feeling of impending danger might suggest advanced anxiety levels.
- C. Most people don't even realise they have anxiety or take corrective measures until it amplifies and gets out of control.
- D. Anxiety is a sad reality of today's time that has plagued a number of us in a variety of different ways.
- A. CDAB
- B. DCAB
- C. DACB
- D. CDBA
19. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Mischievous
- B. Miniature
- C. Metamorphic
- D. Mispell
20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.
- To go to the dogs
- A. To win a race
- B. To become worse
- C. To stand on guard
- D. To win support
21. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
- Adamant
- A. Flexible
- B. Soft
- C. Stubborn
- D. Adaptable
22. The following sentence has been divided into parts. 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.
- She rarely approached nobody / to talk about the problems / that she was facing.
- A. No error
- B. that she was facing
- C. She rarely approached nobody
- D. to talk about the problems
23. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
- The panel picked the candidates randomly. for the interview.



- A. Casually
- B. Unwillingly
- C. Systematically
- D. Incidentally

24. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

The Mesopotamians invented the decimal system.

- A. The decimal system was invented by the Mesopotamians.
- B. The decimal system is invented by the Mesopotamians.
- C. The decimal system is an invention of the Mesopotamians.
- D. The decimal system has been invented by the Mesopotamians

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Don't take the wind out of my \_\_\_\_\_ and tell me I'm going nowhere with my life.

- A. boat
- B. wings
- C. sails
- D. Sales

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. **B) Cautious**

A. This option is incorrect because the passage does not express a high level of hope or confidence. Instead, it highlights challenges and uncertainties.

B. This is the correct answer. The passage discusses the potential benefits of the Chabahar port deal while acknowledging the risks and complications, especially concerning U.S. sanctions, indicating a cautious approach.

C. While the passage does critique U.S. policies, it does not primarily adopt a critical tone overall. The focus is more on India's strategic considerations.

D. This option is incorrect because the passage shows a clear concern for the geopolitical and economic implications of the Chabahar port deal.

2. **C) India's strategic interest in developing connectivity with Central Asia**

A. This option is partially correct but too narrow. The passage discusses not only economic benefits but also strategic and geopolitical aspects.

B. While this is an important aspect discussed, it is not the primary theme. The passage centers more on India's strategy regarding the Chabahar port and its connectivity projects.

C. This is the correct answer. The passage primarily focuses on how the Chabahar port is a strategic asset for India to enhance its connectivity and influence in Central Asia.

D. This option is incorrect because the historical context is mentioned but not the main focus. The passage is more forward-looking, emphasizing current and future strategic interests.

3. **A) India seeks to bolster its trade and infrastructure partnership with Iran despite the tensions in West Asia, ensuring a strategic foothold in the region.**

A: Correct. The passage states that India has taken its partnership with Iran to the next level despite tensions in West Asia, indicating a strategic move to strengthen its trade and infrastructure ties.

B: Incorrect. The passage mentions India's signing of the agreement despite U.S. foreign policy changes, suggesting that India is not aligning more closely with the U.S.

C: Incorrect. India's investment in Iran is independent of supporting U.S. policy and is rather a move despite potential U.S. sanctions.

D: Incorrect. There is no mention in the passage of India supporting Iran's nuclear program; the focus is on trade and infrastructure development.

4. **A) The project faced delays due to American and UN sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear programme and the U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018.**

A: Correct. The passage explicitly mentions that American and UN sanctions delayed the project and the U.S.'s withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018 raised further questions on cooperation.

B: Incorrect. The passage does not mention financial constraints or lack of interest from India and Iran as primary challenges.

C: Incorrect. Environmental concerns and local opposition are not discussed in the passage as reasons for delays.

D: Incorrect. While U.S. opposition is mentioned, it is part of a broader context of sanctions rather than a consistent standalone cause of delay.

5. **C) The changing U.S. interests and hostile stance towards Iran could jeopardize India's strategic and economic benefits from the Chabahar port and regional connectivity projects.**

A is incorrect because the passage indicates that India's past relations with Iran have fluctuated based on U.S. policy, not that they have been consistently strong and stable.

B is incorrect because the passage notes that U.S. interests have changed and are now focused on containing Iran, which does not favor India's interests.

C is correct because the passage explains that India should not tailor its ties with Iran based on U.S. policy changes, as the changing U.S. interests and hostility towards Iran could harm India's strategic and economic benefits from the Chabahar port and regional connectivity projects.

D is incorrect because the passage emphasizes the importance of maintaining independent relations with Iran for connectivity and geopolitical influence, not shifting focus to Pakistan and China.

6. D) 'Fellow' का use होगा क्योंकि "fellow" का अर्थ होता है किसी समूह या समाज का सदस्य। इस sentence में, Rip Van Winkle को एक अच्छे-स्वभाव वाले व्यक्ति के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है जो गांव का हिस्सा है, इसलिए 'fellow' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Follow' का अर्थ है पीछा करना, 'Plow' का अर्थ है हल चलाना, और 'Glow' का अर्थ है चमकना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Fellow' will be used because it means a member of a group or community. In the sentence, Rip Van Winkle is described as a good-natured person who is part of the village, making 'fellow' fitting here. Whereas, 'Follow' means to come after, 'Plow' means to till the soil, and 'Glow' means to shine, which don't fit in this context.

7. A) 'Shouted' का use होगा क्योंकि "shouted" का अर्थ होता है जोर से चिल्लाना। इस sentence में, mention है कि बच्चे खुशी से चिल्लाते थे जब वे Rip Van Winkle को देखते थे, इसलिए 'shouted' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Expected' का अर्थ है उम्मीद करना, 'Fabricated' का अर्थ है बनाना या गढ़ना, और 'Desiccated' का अर्थ है सूखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Shouted' will be used because it means to cry out loudly. In the sentence, it describes how the children cried out with joy whenever they saw Rip Van Winkle, making 'shouted' fitting here. Whereas, 'Expected' means to anticipate, 'Fabricated' means to make up or create, and 'Desiccated' means dried up, which don't fit in this context.

8. B) 'Idled away' का use होगा क्योंकि "idled away" का अर्थ होता है बिना किसी उद्देश्य के समय बिताना। इस sentence में, mention है कि Rip Van Winkle अपना समय बेकार में बिताता था,

इसलिए 'idled away' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Far away' का अर्थ है बहुत दूर, 'Wearing away' का अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे क्षीण होना, और 'Keep away' का अर्थ है दूर रहना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Idled away' will be used because it means to spend time doing nothing in particular. In the sentence, it describes how Rip Van Winkle spent his time without any purpose, making 'idled away' fitting here. Whereas, 'Far away' means at a great distance, 'Wearing away' means to erode or diminish gradually, and 'Keep away' means to stay distant, which don't fit in this context.

9. C) 'Fences' का use होगा क्योंकि "fences" का अर्थ होता है बाड़ या घेराबंदी। इस sentence में, यह mention है कि Rip Van Winkle की बाड़ टूट रही थी, इसलिए 'fences' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Forces' का अर्थ है बल या शक्तियाँ, 'Substances' का अर्थ है पदार्थ, और 'Encourages' का अर्थ है प्रोत्साहित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Fences' will be used because it means barriers or enclosures. In the sentence, it describes how Rip Van Winkle's fences were falling to pieces, making 'fences' fitting here. Whereas, 'Forces' means powers or strengths, 'Substances' means materials, and 'Encourages' means to motivate or support, which don't fit in this context.

10. A) 'Lay down' का use होगा क्योंकि "lay down" का अर्थ होता है लेटना या आराम करना। इस sentence में, mention है कि Rip Van Winkle अपनी लंबी चढ़ाई के बाद थक गया था और लेट गया, इसलिए 'lay down' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Clamp down' का अर्थ है सख्ती से रोकना, 'Track down' का अर्थ है खोज निकालना, और 'Crack down' का अर्थ है सख्त कार्रवाई करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Lay down' will be used because it means to lie down or rest. In the sentence, it describes how Rip Van Winkle was tired after his long climb and lay down, making 'lay down' fitting here. Whereas, 'Clamp down' means to impose restrictions, 'Track down' means to find or locate, and 'Crack down' means to take severe measures, which don't fit in this context.

11. D) **Plutocracy** (noun) – Government governed by the wealthy. धनसत्ता

- **Theocracy** (noun) – a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god. धर्मतंत्र
- **Autocracy** (noun) – a system of government by one person with absolute power. एकतंत्र
- **Democracy** (noun) – a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible प्रजातंत्र

12. A) **Clandestine** (adjective) – Kept secret or done secretly, especially because illicit. गुप्त

**Antonym: Known** (adjective) – Recognized, familiar, or within the knowledge of people. ज्ञात

- **Private** (adjective) – Belonging to or for the use of one particular person or group of people only; not public. निजी
  - **Sneaky** (adjective) – Behaving in a deceitful or underhanded way; secretive. चोरी छिपे
  - **Illicit** (adjective) – Forbidden by law, rules, or custom. अवैध
13. D) **Absurd** (adjective) – Ridiculous, illogical, irrational, nonsensical. अतर्किक
- Antonym: Realistic** (adjective) – Logical, sensible, reasonable, rational. यथार्थवादी
- **Ordinary** (adjective) – Normal, usual, common, standard. सामान्य
  - **Odd** (adjective) – Strange, unusual, peculiar, weird. अजीब
  - **Eerie** (adjective) – Strange, frightening, unsettling, spooky. भयानक
14. C) Water covers most of Earth's surface.
15. B) 'been' के बदले 'be' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि modal verb (i.e. Might, may, would, will, must, could, shall etc.) के साथ verb की base form (i.e. V<sup>1</sup>) का प्रयोग होता है!
16. A) 'Or he' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'either' का प्रयोग हुआ है, और 'either' के साथ हमेशा 'or' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— Either Ram or Shyam will go to the market.
- **or he'** will be used instead of 'and he' because 'either' is used in the sentence, and 'either' is always paired with 'or'; Like— Either Ram or Shyam will go to the market.
17. C) 'Scent' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में, वाक्य उस महिला द्वारा प्रयुक्त परफ्यूम की गंध की चर्चा कर रहा है। 'Scent' शब्द का अर्थ होता है गंध, जो कि परफ्यूम से संबंधित होता है। इसलिए, 'scent' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- **'Scent'** should be used because, in this context, the sentence is discussing the smell of the perfume used by the woman. 'Scent' means a smell, which is related to perfume. Thus, 'scent' would be the most appropriate choice.
18. B) **DCAB**  
Anxiety is a sad reality of today's time that has plagued a number of us in a variety of different ways. Most people don't even realise they have anxiety or take corrective measures until it amplifies and gets out of control. Symptoms like nervousness, increased heart rate and feeling weak are some of the starting signs of anxiety. Whereas anxiety attacks, sweating, trembling and having a feeling of impending danger might suggest advanced anxiety levels.
19. D) The incorrectly spelt word is 'Mispell'. The correct spelling is 'Misspell', which means “to spell a word in the wrong way” गलत तरीके से शब्द की वर्तनी करना.
20. B) **To go to the dogs** (idiom) – To become worse बुरा हाल होना
21. C) **Adamant** (adjective) – Unyielding, inflexible, resolute, steadfast. अटल
- Synonym: Stubborn** (adjective) – Unwilling to change one's view or to agree about something, obstinate, unyielding. हठी

- **Flexible** (adjective) – Capable of bending easily without breaking, pliable, adaptable.  
लचीला
- **Soft** (adjective) – Easy to mould, cut, compress, or fold; not hard or firm to the touch.  
मुलायम
- **Adaptable** (adjective) – Able to adjust to new conditions, flexible, accommodating.  
अनुकूलनशील

22. C) 'She rarely approached nobody' में error है, क्योंकि 'rarely' और 'nobody' दोनों negative words हैं और इन्हें एक साथ नहीं इस्तेमाल किया जाता। 'nobody' की जगह 'anybody' या 'someone' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए। जैसे— She rarely approached anybody to talk about the problems that she was facing.

- The error is in 'She rarely approached nobody' because 'rarely' and 'nobody' are both negative words and they should not be used together. 'nobody' should be replaced with 'anybody' or 'someone'. Like— She rarely approached anybody to talk about the problems that she was facing.

23. C) **Randomly** (adverb) – Without method or conscious decision; haphazardly. अनियमित रूप से

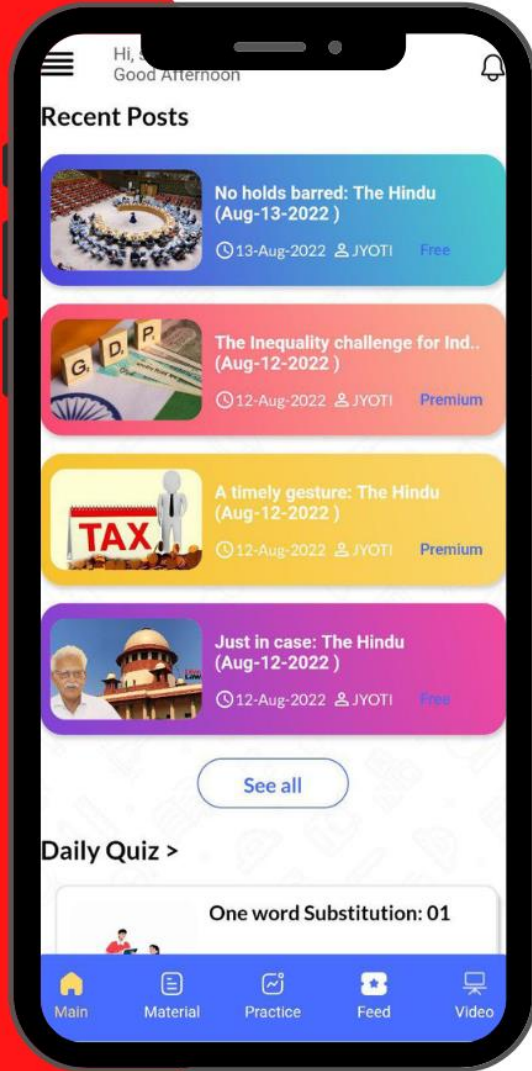
**Antonym: Systematically** (adverb) – In a methodical, organized manner. व्यवस्थित रूप से

- **Casually** (adverb) – In a relaxed, informal manner; without much concern or care.  
लापरवाही से
- **Unwillingly** (adverb) – Without a desire or willingness; reluctantly. अनिच्छापूर्वक
- **Incidentally** (adverb) – By the way; apart from the main subject of attention. इत्तेफाकन

24. A) The decimal system was invented by the Mesopotamians.

25. C) 'sails' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "take the wind out of someone's sails" idiom है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी की उत्साहभरी ऊर्जा को कमजोर कर देना या किसी के आत्मविश्वास को तोड़ देना। इस sentence में, यह इस बात को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयुक्त हुआ है कि व्यक्ति अपने जीवन में कहीं नहीं जा रहा है, और इसे सुनकर उसकी उत्साहभरी ऊर्जा कमजोर हो जाएगी। इसलिए, "sails" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'sails' should be used because the idiom in play here is "take the wind out of someone's sails," which means to deflate someone's confidence or enthusiasm. In this sentence, it is used to illustrate that hearing he/she is going nowhere with life will deflate his/her enthusiastic energy. Thus, "sails" would be the most appropriate choice.



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