

Drying up: What Urban India needs to fix its water problem

Reduced river flows and falling **water tables** have made the summer **harsher** in several parts of the country. In Karnataka, the season began early, in March, when the **drought**, which carried over from last year, created and **aggravated** a water crisis in the state's capital, Bengaluru. In Delhi, the **scorching** temperatures have **led to** a similar emergency, **reigniting** an old dispute over water **allocation** to the capital. Last month, the Delhi government moved the Supreme Court, **seeking** an increased share of the Yamuna's waters. In response, on June 6, the Court asked Himachal Pradesh to release 137 **cusecs** of water. It also **directed** Haryana to **facilitate** the flow of this water to the NCR. However, Delhi government has complained that the **neighbouring** state is not **complying with the directive**, while Haryana **contends** that water is "getting **evaporated**" **in transit**. With the world warming up, the country needs a long-term policy to **obviate** such conflicts and make sure people do not suffer water shortages.

The Narendra Modi government has **accorded** importance to providing tap water connections, but the **health** of **aquifers** **continues** to be **neglected**. The country has historically tried to **address** water **deficits** by focusing on supply-side **parameters**. **In line with** such an approach, the Centre has asked states to prepare **inventories** of water bodies as a first step towards preventing the **encroachment** of these aquifers. Much more needs to be done to tackle **long-standing** shortfalls. There is very little **coordination** between departments that **deal with** surface and groundwater, **irrigation** resources and drinking water. The few water-sharing **arrangements** between **riverine** states **come apart** during shortage seasons. And **plans** to **harvest** rainwater **remain** largely on paper, despite floods and **dry spells alternating** with worrying regularity in most parts of the country.

In recent years, **programmes** such as the Sahi Fasal Campaign, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and Atal Bhujal Yojana **have** taken early steps to encourage **efficient** use of water in agriculture. **Optimal** use of **irrigation** resources is **essential**. However, demand-side **management** of water resources also **requires** analyses of practices at the household and industrial levels. Currently, **the data** on **per capita** water availability for different users **is sketchy**. **Emergencies**, such as the latest shortage in Delhi, usually **precipitate knee-jerk responses** such as **imposing** fines for wasting water, when the need is to **incentivise** water conservation, reuse, and recycling. With climate **vagaries** **imperiling** the country's **already-stressed** aquifers, the new government should **hit the ground running**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Dry up** (phrasal verb) – Become completely dry. सूख जाना
2. **Water table** (noun) – The level below which the ground is saturated with water. जल स्तर
3. **Harsh** (adjective) – Severe, stern, strict, rough, rigorous कठोर
4. **Drought** (noun) – A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall. सूखा
5. **Aggravate** (verb) – Worsen, exacerbate, intensify, heighten, inflame बढ़ाना
6. **Scorching** (adjective) – Extremely hot. बहुत गर्म
7. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Cause, result in, bring about, give rise to, generate वजह बनना
8. **Reignite** (verb) – Rekindle, revive, reignite, resuscitate, reawaken पुनर्जीवित करना
9. **Allocation** (noun) – Distribution, assignment, allotment, apportionment, dispensation आवंटन
10. **Seek** (verb) – Try to obtain, search for, pursue, strive for, look for मांगना
11. **Cusecs** (noun) – Cubic feet per second (a measure of water flow). क्यूसेक
12. **Direct** (verb) – Command, instruct, order, mandate, guide निर्देश देना
13. **Facilitate** (verb) – Aid, assist, enable, ease, expedite सुगम बनाना
14. **Neighbouring** (adjective) – Adjacent, nearby, bordering, surrounding, adjoining पड़ोसी
15. **Comply with** (phrasal verb) – Follow, obey, adhere to, conform to, observe पालन करना
16. **Directive** (noun) – Instruction, order, command, mandate, decree निर्देश
17. **Contend** (verb) – Assert, argue, claim, maintain, insist दावा करना
18. **Evaporated** (adjective) – Turned into vapor. वाष्पीकृत
19. **In transit** (phrase) – While being transported. रास्ते में
20. **Obviate** (verb) – Prevent, eliminate, remove, preclude, avoid छुटकारा पाना, टालना
21. **Accord** (verb) – Grant, bestow, give, award, provide देना
22. **Aquifer** (noun) – A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater. जलभृत
23. **Neglect** (verb) – Disregard, ignore, overlook, forget, abandon उपेक्षा करना

24. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, attend to, confront, handle निपटना
25. **Deficit** (noun) – Shortfall, deficiency, lack, shortage, insufficiency कमी
26. **Parameter** (noun) – Limit, boundary, guideline, criterion, specification मापदंड
27. **In line with** (phrase) – In accordance with, consistent with, in agreement with, in conformity with के अनुसार
28. **Inventory** (noun) – A complete list of items. सूची
29. **Encroachment** (noun) – Intrusion, invasion, trespass, infringement, appropriation अतिक्रमण
30. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Prolonged, enduring, chronic, long-term, lasting लंबे समय का
31. **Coordination** (noun) – Cooperation, collaboration, teamwork, synchronization, integration समन्वय
32. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Handle, manage, cope with, address, tackle से निपटना, सुलझाना
33. **Irrigation** (noun) – The supply of water to land or crops. सिंचाई
34. **Arrangement** (noun) – Plan, agreement, setup, system, organization व्यवस्था
35. **Riverine** (adjective) – Relating to or situated on a river. नदी संबंधी
36. **Come apart** (phrasal verb) – Disintegrate, fall apart, break down, separate, collapse टूट जाना
37. **Harvest** (verb) – collect or obtain (a resource) for future use. इकट्ठा करना
38. **Dry spell** (noun) – A period of dry weather. सूखे की अवधि
39. **Alternate** (verb) – Switch, rotate, change, interchange, vary बारी-बारी होना
40. **Efficient** (adjective) – Effective, productive, proficient, competent, economical कुशल
41. **Optimal** (adjective) – Best, most favorable, ideal, optimum, perfect सर्वोत्तम
42. **Irrigation** (noun) – The supply of water to land or crops. सिंचाई
43. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, vital, crucial, indispensable, fundamental आवश्यक
44. **Per capita** (adjective) – For each person. प्रति व्यक्ति
45. **Sketchy** (adjective) – Incomplete, vague, rough, inadequate, imprecise अधूरा
46. **Precipitate** (verb) – Cause, trigger, bring about, provoke, hasten उत्पन्न करना

47. **Knee-jerk response** (noun) – Immediate and automatic reaction. तात्कालिक प्रतिक्रिया
48. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, levy, inflict, establish, dictate थोपना
49. **Incentivise** (verb) – Motivate, encourage, stimulate, promote, spur प्रोत्साहित करना
50. **Vagaries** (noun) – Unpredictability, fluctuations, capriciousness, variations, changes अनिश्चितता
51. **Imperil** (verb) – Endanger, jeopardize, risk, threaten, expose खतरे में डालना
52. **Already-stressed** (adjective) – Already under pressure. पहले से तनावग्रस्त
53. **Hit the ground running** (phrase) – Start work immediately and effectively. तुरंत और प्रभावी ढंग से काम शुरू करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Reduced river flows and falling water tables have intensified water shortages in several parts of India.
2. Karnataka's water crisis began early in March due to an ongoing drought affecting Bengaluru.
3. Delhi faces a similar water emergency due to high temperatures, leading to disputes over water allocation.
4. The Delhi government sought an increased share of Yamuna water from the Supreme Court.
5. The Supreme Court directed Himachal Pradesh to release 137 cusecs of water to Delhi, facilitated by Haryana.
6. Delhi alleges Haryana is not complying with the water release directive, while Haryana claims evaporation losses.
7. India needs a long-term policy to prevent water conflicts and shortages amid global warming.
8. The Modi government focuses on providing tap water connections but neglects aquifer health.
9. Historically, India has addressed water deficits by focusing on supply-side measures.
10. The Centre has asked states to inventory water bodies to prevent aquifer encroachment.
11. Coordination between departments handling surface water, groundwater, irrigation, and drinking water is minimal.
12. Water-sharing agreements between riverine states often fail during shortages.
13. Rainwater harvesting plans remain mostly theoretical despite alternating floods and dry spells.
14. Programs like the Sahi Fasal Campaign and Atal Bhujal Yojana promote efficient water use in agriculture.
15. Demand-side water management requires better data on per capita water availability and practices at household and industrial levels, with a need to incentivize water conservation, reuse, and recycling.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What has been identified as the primary cause of the water crisis in Karnataka and Delhi?**
 - A. Excessive monsoon rains leading to the overflow of water bodies and flooding in urban areas. [Editorial Page]
 - B. Overuse of groundwater resources combined with insufficient rain, leading to reduced river flows and falling water tables.
 - C. The rapid industrialization and urbanization of rural areas, increasing the demand for water resources significantly.
 - D. Delays in government intervention and poor infrastructure for water distribution, worsening the existing water shortages.
2. **Why does the passage suggest that a long-term water policy is essential for India?**
 - A. To ensure equal water distribution among states and prevent conflicts over water allocation, as seen with Delhi and Haryana.
 - B. To prioritize agricultural water needs over urban requirements, ensuring the sustainability of food production.
 - C. To focus exclusively on increasing the number of water bodies and reservoirs across the country.
 - D. To address both supply-side and demand-side parameters, ensuring sustainable water management and preventing water shortages.
3. **Why have water-sharing arrangements between riverine states in India been ineffective during shortage seasons?**
 - A. States prioritize their own needs over cooperative water management.
 - B. There is no legal framework enforcing water-sharing agreements.
 - C. States have sufficient water resources and do not see the need to share.
 - D. The agreements come apart due to the lack of proper planning and coordination.
4. **What can be inferred from the passage regarding the Indian government's approach to solving water scarcity?**
 - A. The government has effectively implemented demand-side management strategies.
 - B. There is a significant focus on maintaining and protecting groundwater resources.
 - C. Coordination between various departments involved in water management is lacking.
 - D. Water-sharing arrangements are stable and effective during all seasons.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Urgent
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Complacent

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

Nelson Mandela has become South Africa's first Black President after more than three centuries of White rule. Mr Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) party won 252 of the

400 seats in the first democratic elections of South Africa's history. The inauguration ceremony _____1_____ in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria today, attended by politicians and _____2_____ from more than 140 countries around the world. "Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the _____3_____ of one by another," said Nelson Mandela in his _____4_____. _____5_____ scenes on the streets of Pretoria followed the ceremony with blacks, whites and coloureds celebrating together... More than 100,000 South African men, women and children of all races sang and danced with joy.

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

- A. Taken place
- B. Take place
- C. Taking place
- D. Took place

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

- A. Miseries
- B. Dignitaries
- C. Therapies
- D. Commodities

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

- A. Intercession
- B. Repercussion
- C. Exclusion
- D. Oppression

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

- A. Address
- B. Anthem
- C. Dispossess
- D. Concession

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

- A. Deviant
- B. Adamant
- C. Reluctant
- D. Jubilant

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

The little boy called up his best friend on his birthday.

- A. His best friend has been called up by the little boy on his birthday.
- B. His best friend was called up by the little boy on his birthday.
- C. His best friend is called up by the little boy on his birthday.
- D. His best friend was being called up by the little boy on his birthday

12. **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. Through a subtle analysis, Woolf raises certain concerns regarding discrimination against women in a male-dominated society.

- B. It's also against the need for freedom of expression in women, and the right to human dignity and equality.
- C. In 'Shakespeare's Sister', Virginia Woolf explores the plight of women in society in England during the 15th and 16th centuries.
- D. It is against the denial of education to the girl-child and violence against women.
- A. BACD
B. DCBA
C. ADBC
D. CADB
13. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who hates and avoids other people
A. Masochist
B. Pervert
C. Hermit
D. Misanthrope
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Who stole my tickets?
A. My tickets was stolen by whom?
B. My tickets got stolen by who?
C. By whom were my tickets stolen?
D. My tickets were stolen by who?
15. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.
The gradual _____ (curtail) in the expenditures made them tensed.
A. indent
B. innate
C. increase
D. insinuate
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Insidious
A. Protected
B. Secure
C. Safe
D. Harmful
17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
The thief was caught with a spurious Picasso painting.
A. Fake
B. Stolen
C. Splendid
D. Authentic
18. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.
The frog adopts itself to live both in water and on land.

- A. frog adepts itself
B. frog alters itself
C. No substitution
D. frog adapts itself
19. **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.**
Darshan wished he hadn't / went to the theme park / in the first place.
A. Darshan wished he hadn't
B. in the first place
C. went to the theme park
D. No error
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Kiran had a short _____ as a writer.
A. caress
B. career
C. carer
D. carrier
21. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A place where coins, medals, or tokens are made
A. Hutch
B. Hangar
C. Mint
D. Monastery
22. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
To bell the cat
A. To feed pets
B. To play with kids
C. To love cats
D. To face risk
23. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.**
We all should help each other.
A. help mutually
B. help one another
C. help each one
D. No substitution
24. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error**
An lion is the most ferocious of all animals.
A. ferocious of
B. all animals.

- C. An lion
- D. is the most

25. **Select the appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**

The police have not yet been able to solve the case; it seems to be _____

- A. in a nutshell
- B. turning over a new leaf
- C. a hard nut to crack
- D. in a pink

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Overuse of groundwater resources combined with insufficient rain, leading to reduced river flows and falling water tables.

A: Incorrect because the passage mentions drought and water crisis due to reduced river flows and falling water tables, not excessive rains and flooding.

B: Correct as it directly addresses the reduced river flows and falling water tables mentioned as the cause of the water crisis.

C: Incorrect as the passage does not specifically attribute the crisis to rapid industrialization and urbanization.

D: Incorrect because while government intervention and infrastructure issues are mentioned, they are not identified as the primary cause.

2. D) To address both supply-side and demand-side parameters, ensuring sustainable water management and preventing water shortages.

A: Incorrect because, while preventing conflicts over water allocation is part of the issue, the passage emphasizes the need for a broader, long-term policy.

B: Incorrect as the passage does not prioritize agricultural needs over urban requirements; it calls for an overall policy.

C: Incorrect as the passage discusses the need for addressing aquifers and not just increasing water bodies.

D: Correct as it encompasses the need for a comprehensive approach that includes both supply and demand management for sustainable water resources.

3. A) States prioritize their own needs over cooperative water management.

A is correct because it implies that states' self-interest hinders effective water-sharing, which aligns with the passage stating that "the few water-sharing arrangements between riverine states come apart during shortage seasons."

B is incorrect because the passage does not mention the absence of a legal framework as the reason.

C is incorrect because the passage clearly states there are shortages, which contradicts the idea that states have sufficient resources.

D is incorrect because while there is a lack of coordination, the primary issue during shortages is the prioritization of self-interest by states.

4. C) Coordination between various departments involved in water management is lacking.

A: Incorrect. The passage mentions the need for better demand-side management and criticizes the knee-jerk responses to emergencies.

B: Incorrect. The passage highlights the neglect of aquifers and the historical focus on supply-side parameters.

C: Correct. The passage explicitly states there is very little coordination between departments that deal with surface and groundwater, irrigation resources, and drinking water.

D: Incorrect. The passage states that water-sharing arrangements come apart during shortage seasons, indicating instability and ineffectiveness during such times.

5. B) **Urgent**

A: Incorrect. The passage discusses serious issues with water scarcity and does not express a positive outlook.

B: Correct. The passage emphasizes the immediate need for addressing water shortages and the critical nature of the situation, indicating an urgent tone.

C: Incorrect. The passage clearly shows concern and does not display a lack of interest or concern.

D: Incorrect. The passage does not show a sense of self-satisfaction or contentment but rather calls for immediate action.

6. D) 'Took place' का use होगा क्योंकि यह simple past tense में है, जो एक पूर्ण हुई घटना को दर्शाता है। passage में बताया गया है कि उद्घाटन समारोह प्रिटोरिया में यूनिन बिल्डिंग्स एम्फीथिएटर में हुआ, जो एक समाप्त हुई घटना को दर्शाता है, इसलिए 'took place' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'taken place' past perfect tense का हिस्सा होता है, जो एक घटना के पूर्ण होने का संकेत देता है, लेकिन इस context में इसका सही प्रयोग नहीं है। 'Take place' simple present tense में है और वर्तमान या भविष्य में घटना के होने को दर्शाता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Taking place' present continuous tense में है और एक चालू घटना को दर्शाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Took place' will be used because it is in the simple past tense, which indicates a completed action. The passage mentions that the inauguration ceremony happened in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria, indicating a completed event, making 'took place' fitting here. Whereas, 'taken place' is part of the past perfect tense, which indicates an action that was completed before another past action, and is not suitable here. 'Take place' is in the simple present tense and indicates an event happening in the present or future, which is not appropriate here. 'Taking place' is in the present continuous tense and indicates an ongoing event, which does not fit in this context.

7. B) 'Dignitaries' का use होगा क्योंकि "dignitaries" का अर्थ होता है उच्च पदस्थ व्यक्ति जो महत्वपूर्ण समारोहों में आमंत्रित होते हैं। passage में बताया गया है कि उद्घाटन समारोह में 140 से अधिक देशों के राजनेता और गणमान्य व्यक्ति शामिल थे, इसलिए 'dignitaries' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'miseries' का अर्थ होता है दुख, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Therapies' का अर्थ होता है उपचार, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Commodities' का अर्थ होता है वस्त्र या सामान, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

'Dignitaries' will be used because it means high-ranking people invited to important ceremonies. The passage mentions that the inauguration ceremony was attended by politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries, making 'dignitaries' fitting here. Whereas, 'miseries' means suffering, which does not fit this context. 'Therapies' means treatments, which is not appropriate here. 'Commodities' means goods or merchandise, which does not fit in this context.

8. D) 'Oppression' का use होगा क्योंकि "oppression" का अर्थ होता है एक समूह द्वारा दूसरे समूह पर अत्याचार करना। passage में नेल्सन मंडेला का कथन है कि इस सुंदर भूमि में फिर कभी एक व्यक्ति का दूसरे पर अत्याचार नहीं होगा, इसलिए 'oppression' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'intercession' का अर्थ होता है मध्यस्थता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Repercussion' का अर्थ होता है परिणाम, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Exclusion' का अर्थ होता है बहिष्कार, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

'Oppression' will be used because it means the cruel or unjust treatment of one group by another. The passage includes Nelson Mandela's statement that this beautiful land will never again experience the oppression of one by another, making 'oppression' fitting here. Whereas, 'intercession' means mediation, which does not fit this context. 'Repercussion' means consequence, which is not appropriate here. 'Exclusion' means the act of excluding, which does not fit in this context.

9. A) 'Address' का use होगा क्योंकि "address" का अर्थ होता है भाषण या संबोधन। passage में नेल्सन मंडेला का कथन शामिल है कि इस सुंदर भूमि में फिर कभी एक व्यक्ति का दूसरे पर अत्याचार नहीं होगा, जो उनके उद्घाटन भाषण का हिस्सा है, इसलिए 'address' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'anthem' का अर्थ होता है राष्ट्रगान, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Dispossess' का अर्थ होता है संपत्ति छीनना, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Concession' का अर्थ होता है रियायत, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

'Address' will be used because it means a speech or formal talk. The passage includes Nelson Mandela's statement that this beautiful land will never again experience the oppression of one by another, which is part of his inauguration speech, making 'address' fitting here. Whereas, 'anthem' means a national song, which does not fit this context. 'Dispossess' means to deprive someone of property, which is not appropriate here. 'Concession' means a compromise or allowance, which does not fit in this context.

10. D) 'Jubilant' का use होगा क्योंकि "jubilant" का अर्थ होता है बहुत खुश या उत्साहित। passage में कहा गया है कि समारोह के बाद प्रिटोरिया की सड़कों पर सभी जातियों के लोग खुशी से एक साथ जश्न मना रहे थे, इसलिए 'jubilant' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'deviant' का अर्थ होता है विचलित, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Adamant' का अर्थ होता है अडिग, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Reluctant' का अर्थ होता है अनिच्छुक, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता है।

'Jubilant' will be used because it means very happy or excited. The passage mentions that scenes on the streets of Pretoria were filled with people of all races celebrating together with joy, making 'jubilant' fitting here. Whereas, 'deviant' means straying from the norm, which does not fit this context. 'Adamant' means unyielding, which is not appropriate here.

'Reluctant' means unwilling, which does not fit in this context.

11. B) His best friend was called up by the little boy on his birthday.

12. D) CADB

In 'Shakespeare's Sister', Virginia Woolf explores the plight of women in society in England during the 15th and 16th centuries. Through a subtle analysis, Woolf raises certain concerns regarding discrimination against women in a male-dominated society. It is against the denial of education to the girl-child and violence against women. It's also against the need for freedom of expression in women, and the right to human dignity and equality.

13. D) The correct one-word substitute for "A person who hates and avoids other people" is

'Misanthrope.' - मानव द्वेषी

- **Masochist** (noun) – A person who is gratified by pain, degradation, etc., that is self-imposed or imposed by others. आत्म-पीड़ा प्रिय
- **Pervert** (noun) – A person whose behavior deviates from what is acceptable, especially in sexual behavior. व्यभिचारी
- **Hermit** (noun) – A person who lives in seclusion from society, usually for religious reasons. संयासी
- **Misanthrope** (noun) – A person who hates or mistrusts humankind. मानव द्वेषी

14. C) By whom were my tickets stolen?

15. C) "Increase" as it is the antonym of "curtail." Curtail means to reduce or cut short (घटाना), so the antonym would mean to expand or grow.

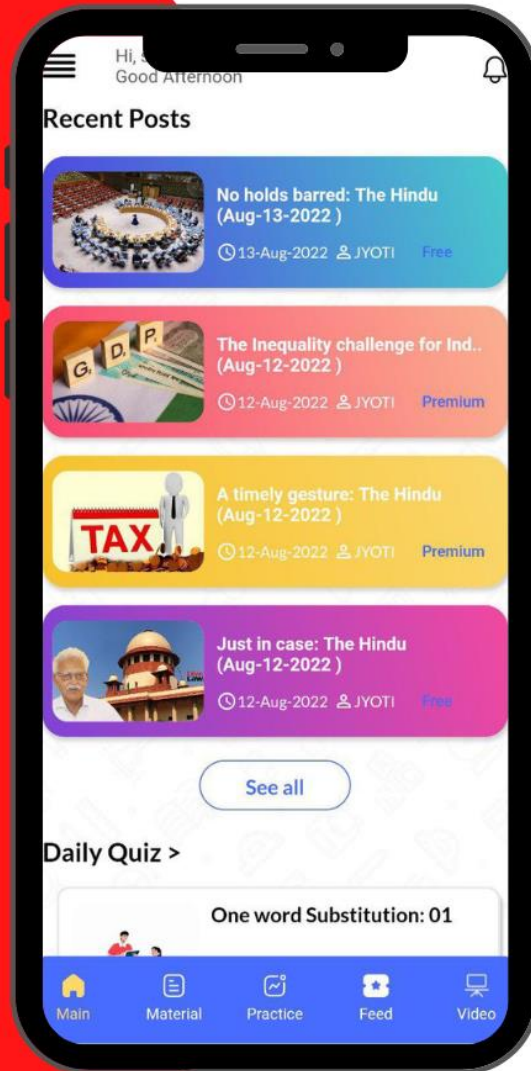
- **Indent** (verb) – To set in from the margin
- **Innate** (adjective) – Inborn, natural, inherent पैदाइशी
- **Increase** (verb) – Grow, expand, augment बढ़ाना
- **Insinuate** (verb) – Imply, suggest, hint at संकेत करना

16. D) The correct synonym for 'Insidious' – कपटी is 'Harmful.' Insidious refers to something that is crafty, treacherous, or that operates in a stealthy, harmful manner.

- **Protected** (adjective) – Guarded, shielded, defended सुरक्षित
- **Secure** (adjective) – Safe, unthreatened, stable सुरक्षित
- **Safe** (adjective) – Uninjured, unharmed, in good condition सुरक्षित
- **Harmful** (adjective) – Damaging, injurious, detrimental हानिकारक

17. D) The correct antonym of 'spurious' is 'Authentic.' The word 'spurious' जाली means something that is not genuine, true, or authentic. So the opposite would be something that is genuine or real.
- Fake** (adjective) – Not genuine, imitation, counterfeit, नकली
 - Stolen** (verb) – To take without permission, thief, pilfer, चोरी करना
 - Splendid** (adjective) – Magnificent, grand, impressive, शानदार
 - Authentic** (adjective) – Genuine, real, veritable, original, असली
18. D) 'adapts itself' के बदले 'adapts itself' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'adapts' शब्द तब उपयोग होता है जब किसी प्राणी ने खुद को विशेष परिस्थितियों में फिट करने के लिए अनुकूल बदलाव किए हों; जैसे – The frog adapts itself to live both in water and on land.
- 'adapts itself' will be used instead of 'adopts itself' because the word 'adapts' is used when an organism has made suitable changes to fit itself in specific conditions; Like – The frog adapts itself to live both in water and on land.
19. C) 'went' के बदले 'gone' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'hadn't' के साथ 'gone' इस सही रूप है; जैसे – He hadn't gone to the market.
- 'gone' will be used instead of 'went' because 'hadn't' should be followed by the past participle form of the verb 'go,' which is 'gone'; Like – He hadn't gone to the market.
20. B) The correct option to fill in the blank is 'career,' which refers to an occupation undertaken for a significant period of a person's life and with opportunities for progress.
- Career** (noun) – The pursuit of a lifelong ambition or the general course of progression toward lifelong goals. व्यवसाय, पेशा
21. C) The one-word substitute for a place where coins, medals, or tokens are made is 'Mint,' which means “a place where money is coined by authority of the government.” सिक्का बनाने की जगह
- Hutch** (noun) – A wooden box or chest for storage, typically one for storing coal, लकड़ी का संदूक
 - Hangar** (noun) – A building for storing aircraft, विमान शाला
 - Monastery** (noun) – A building occupied by a community of monks, living under religious vows, मठ
22. D) **To bell the cat** (phrase) – To face risk खतरा सामना करना
23. B) 'help each other' के बदले 'help one another' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'each other' का प्रयोग दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच में होता है, जबकि 'one another' का प्रयोग तीन या उससे अधिक व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच में होता है; जैसे – They all support one another.

- 'help one another' will be used instead of 'help each other' because 'each other' is used for two people or things, while 'one another' is used for three or more people or things; Like— They all support one another.
24. C) 'An lion' के बदले 'A lion' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lion' शब्द consonant sound से प्रारंभ होता है और 'An' का प्रयोग केवल vowel sound से प्रारंभ होने वाले शब्दों के साथ किया जाता है; जैसे— An apple, an owl, etc.
- 'A lion' will be used instead of 'An lion' because the word 'lion' begins with a consonant sound and 'An' is used only before words starting with vowel sounds; Like— An apple, an owl, etc.
25. C) The appropriate idiom to fill in the blank is '**a hard nut to crack**' which means "a problem that is very difficult to solve or a person who is very difficult to understand." कठिन समस्या
- **in a nutshell** (idiom) – In summary, briefly, in a few words संक्षेप में
 - **turning over a new leaf** (idiom) – Making a fresh start, changing one's ways or behavior नई शुरुआत करना
 - **In a pink** (idiom) – This idiom is not a common expression, and it may be a misspelled or incorrect form of the expression "in the pink," meaning in good health. स्वस्थ



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam