Nicobar triangle: on the ₹72,000-crore project on Great Nicobar Island

Without **wide** consultations, Centre should not **embark on** the **infrastructure** project

The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry will be looking into the forest clearance paperwork of the ₹72,000-crore infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island, a major initiative of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram told this newspaper. This is a significant step for the government, in its third term, as it **brings to the surface** the **contentious** and difficult choices that governments face while **addressing** the **trilemma** of infrastructure development, **preserving pristine biodiversity** respect and, being sensitive to the rights of the **indigenous inhabitants**, and tribals. The Great Nicobar Project involves developing a **trans-shipment port**, an international airport, township development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant on the island. The project area is expected to cover over 130 sq. km. of pristine forest, and has been **accorded** a stage-1 environmental clearance — one of the mandatory **prerequisites** — by an expert committee. The government told Parliament in August 2023 that 9.6 lakh trees could be **felled** and '**compensatory afforestation**,' for the loss of this unique rainforest **ecosystem**, **had** been planned, thousands of kilometres away, in the **vastly** different **ecological** zone of Haryana. **The Galathea Bay** in the Nicobar islands **hosts** multiple rare species including the leatherback turtle, and the project **imperils** their future.

The government **contends** that its motive is to **leverage** the strategic location with the Great Nicobar Island located only 90 km away from the western tip of the Malacca Strait, an important shipping route between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. However, **critics** and some of the government's policy advisers suggest that tourism is a key **imperative** for the **exercise**. The **Environment Ministry**, which is a **regulator** of environmental policy, **has** opted to be **secretive** about the project. **Details** on the environmental clearance process and the **appraisal** process, usually a public document, **have** been **kept under wraps**. There also seems to be **haste** on the part of the island administration to **proceed** while ignoring the rights of the local tribes — the Shompen **in particular** — regarding **consent**. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, a constitutional body, has demanded an explanation from the district administration on these **grounds**. The National Green Tribunal had **tasked** a committee, headed by the Secretary of the Environment Ministry, to submit a report on the approval of forest clearances. This too is not public. Without **transparency**, it would be **foolhardy** for the government to attempt such a massive **upheaval** of the islands and it should, with its new **mandate**, immediately **correct course**.   **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Imperil** (verb) – Endanger, risk, jeopardise, hazard, जोखिम में डालना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Wide** (adjective) – Broad, extensive, vast, large, comprehensive विस्तृत

2. **Embark** (on) (verb) – Begin, start, initiate, undertake, commence शुरू करना

3. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, foundation, support system, facilities, basic structures बुनियादी ढांचा

4. **Bring to the surface** (phrase) – Reveal, expose, uncover, highlight, bring to light उजागर करना

5. **Contentious** (adjective) – Controversial, disputed, debatable, arguable, divisive विवादास्पद

6. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, handle, confront, manage सुलझाना, निपटाना

7. **Trilemma** (noun) – A situation involving three difficult choices, three-way dilemma त्रिसंकट

8. **Preserve** (verb) – Protect, conserve, maintain, safeguard, uphold संरक्षण करना

9. **Pristine** (adjective) – Unspoiled, untouched, pure, natural, unpolluted अछूता

10. **Biodiversity** (noun) – Variety of life, ecosystem diversity, species richness, ecological variety जैव विविधता

11. **Indigenous** (adjective) – Native, original, aboriginal, local, endemic स्वदेशी

12. **Inhabitant** (noun) – Resident, dweller, occupant, native, local निवासी

13. **Trans-shipment port** (noun) – A port where goods are transferred from one ship to another, transit port स्थानांतरण बंदरगाह

14. **Accord** (verb) – Grant, give, bestow, confer, provide देना

15. **Prerequisite** (noun) – Requirement, precondition, essential, necessity, qualification शर्त

16. **Fell** (verb) – Cut down, chop down, bring down, clear, hew काटना

17. **Compensatory** (adjective) – Reimbursing, making up for, offsetting, rectifying, balancing क्षतिपूरक

18. **Afforestation** (noun) – Tree planting, reforestation, forestation, green belt development वनरोपण

19. **Ecosystem** (noun) – Biological community, environment, habitat, ecological system पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

20. **Vastly** (adverb) – Greatly, significantly, immensely, enormously, extensively अत्यधिक

21. **Ecological** (adjective) – Environmental, natural, biological, green, eco-friendly पारिस्थितिकीय

22. **Host** (verb) – Accommodate, house, shelter, provide for, contain रखना, होना

23. **Contend** (verb) – Argue, assert, claim, maintain, state दावा करना

24. **Leverage** (verb) – Utilize, exploit, use, harness, take advantage of लाभ उठाना

25. **Critic** (noun) – Opponent, detractor, faultfinder, commentator, reviewer आलोचक

26. **Imperative** (noun) – Essential, necessity, requirement, urgent need अनिवार्यता

27. **Exercise** (noun) – Activity, task, operation, effort, undertaking अभ्यास

28. **Regulator** (noun) – Controller, supervisor, overseer, authority, administrator नियामक

29. **Secretive** (adjective) – Concealed, hidden, private, covert, undisclosed गुप्त

30. **Appraisal** (noun) – Evaluation, assessment, review, analysis, examination मूल्यांकन

31. **Keep under wraps** (phrase) – Keep secret, conceal, hide, cover up, withhold गुप्त रखना

32. **Haste** (adjective) – Urgency, rush, hurry, speed, rapidity जल्दी

33. **Proceed** (verb) – Continue, go ahead, move forward, advance, progress आगे बढ़ना

34. **In particular** (phrase) – Specifically, especially, notably, particularly, distinctly विशेष रूप से

35. **Consent** (noun) – Permission, agreement, approval, authorization, assent सहमति

36. **Ground** (noun) – Reason, basis, cause, justification, foundation आधार

37. **Task** (verb) – Assign, delegate, charge, appoint, commission कार्य सौंपना

38. **Transparency** (noun) – Openness, clarity, accountability, visibility, honesty पारदर्शिता

39. **Foolhardy** (adjective) – Reckless, rash, imprudent, incautious, hasty मूर्खतापूर्ण

40. **Upheaval** (noun) – Disruption, turmoil, disturbance, revolution, disorder उथल-पुथल

41. **Mandate** (noun) – Authority, directive, instruction, order, command आदेश

42. **Correct course** (phrase) – Adjust direction, set right, make corrections, steer properly, rectify सुधारना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The ₹72,000-crore infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island is a significant initiative by the NDA government.
2. The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry is reviewing the forest clearance documentation for the project.
3. The project involves developing a trans-shipment port, an international airport, township development, and a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant.
4. It covers over 130 sq. km. of pristine forest, receiving stage-1 environmental clearance from an expert committee.
5. The government plans to fell 9.6 lakh trees, with compensatory afforestation planned far away in Haryana.
6. The project threatens rare species in Galathea Bay, including the leatherback turtle.
7. The government aims to leverage the island's strategic location near the Malacca Strait for shipping routes.
8. Critics argue that tourism is a key motive behind the project.
9. The Environment Ministry has been secretive about the environmental clearance and appraisal processes.
10. There is urgency from the island administration to proceed, potentially ignoring local tribal rights.
11. The Shompen tribe's consent appears to be overlooked in the project's progression.
12. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has demanded explanations from the district administration.
13. The National Green Tribunal assigned a committee to report on forest clearances, but the report is not public.
14. Lack of transparency raises concerns about the project's execution and impact.
15. The editorial urges the government to correct its course and ensure wide consultations before proceeding.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What role does the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry play in the Great Nicobar infrastructure project?**   **[Editorial page]**
   A. Approval of the final project design
   B. Supervision of compensatory afforestation
   C. Reviewing the forest clearance paperwork
   D. Coordinating with the National Democratic Alliance government

2. **What is the primary purpose of the proposed trans-shipment port in the Great Nicobar Project?**
   A. To increase the biodiversity of the area
   B. To serve as a base for military operations
   C. To boost the island's tourism
   D. To develop trade and shipping capabilities

3. **What significant environmental impact is associated with the Great Nicobar Project according to the government?**
   A. Relocation of the indigenous population
   B. The felling of approximately 9.6 lakh trees
   C. Introduction of invasive species to the island
   D. Significant increase in local employment

4. **What is the primary reason given by the government for embarking on the infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island?**
   A. To protect the local tribes like the Shompen
   B. To improve environmental policies
   C. To leverage the strategic location near the Malacca Strait
   D. To expedite the environmental clearance process

5. **What concern has been raised by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes regarding the project on Great Nicobar Island?**
   A. The project's lack of financial transparency
   B. The non-disclosure of the environmental clearance process
   C. The haste of the project and ignoring the consent of local tribes
   D. The strategic irrelevance of the project location

   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 _____1_____ death by suicide of at least seven students, six of them girls, in different parts of Telangana after the declaration of intermediate (equivalent of Classes XI and XII) results is another _____2_____ reminder that despite several progressive interventions in recent years, much work needs to be done to _____3_____ the anxieties of the country's youth. The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education had arranged for counsellors for students in junior colleges to _____4_____ exam-related stress. State government representatives had also asked students to not be _____5_____ by adverse results and make use of the supplementary examinations. However, the loss of young lives speaks of serious

systemic shortcomings that cannot be mitigated by reaching out to students just before the examinations

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
   A. Abjured
   B. Denied
   C. Prolonged
   D. Alleged

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
   A. Proclaim
   B. Claim
   C. Grim
   D. Generous

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
   A. Alleviate
   B. Initiate
   C. Associate
   D. Depreciate

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
   A. deal with
   B. pace with
   C. firm up
   D. carry out

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
    A. Dejected
    B. Unprotected
    C. Attached
    D. Approach

11. **Select the option that expresses the following sentence in passive voice.**
    Daddy baked the cookies on the weekend.
    A. Daddy, on the weekend, baked cookies.
    B. The cookies were baked on the weekend by Daddy.
    C. On the weekend Daddy baked cookies.
    D. No change required

12. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
    The injury was so **severe** that he could not play again.
    A. implacable
    B. tolerant
    C. furious
    D. Pungent

13. **The following sentence has been divided into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
    He finally / recalled that / the thieves have leave / from the front door.

A. the thieves have leave
B. recalled that
C. He finally
D. from the front door

14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
   Science has been trying innumerable methods to prove the existence of the universe, but the biggest **pleasure** of science is its inability to produce a single theory that explains the whole universe.
   A. Inadequacy
   B. Joy
   C. Fear
   D. Blandness

15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the underlined group of words.
   Due to the official visit to a company, Rajiv has **a mental or emotional strain caused by demanding circumstances.**
   A. reluctance
   B. stress
   C. penalty
   D. Depression

16. **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) Benefits of reading have been underlined since ages together.
   B) Once they understand the sensibleness behind reading, they would pass it on to others as well.
   C) It brings knowledge and wisdom both to the readers.
   D) By virtue of a practice at home, this can be suggested to the young ones.
   A. ABCD
   B. CDBA
   C. CDAB
   D. ACDB

17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
   The flames caught so **quick** that I had no time to think.
   A. quickly
   B. quickest
   C. as quick as
   D. Quicker

18. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**
   We will go to Spain this summer, **will we**?
   A. should we?

B. won't we?

C. can't we?

D. don't we?

19. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the following sentence.**

The government arrested the opposition leader, making the situation worse.

A. To cast pearls before swine

B. To be on the last leg

C. To add fuel to the fire

D. To bite the dust

20. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the given word.

Compel

A. Allow

B. Stop

C. Give

D. Obligate

21. **Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

The chef prepares the food in the kitchen.

A. The food will be prepared by the chef in the kitchen.

B. The food prepares by the chef in the kitchen.

C. The food is preparing by the chef in the kitchen.

D. The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.

22. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Bharath is a skilful achiever, so he **hits the nail on the leg**.

A. hits the nail on the head

B. hits the nail on the shoulder

C. put the nail in the hole

D. hits the screw on the top

23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**

Although the new fashion trend was quite popular, some critics were quick to **deride** it as a passing fad.

A. Ridicule

B. Hail

C. Detest

D. Applaud

24. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

P. the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished

Q. in the minds of the Tamils

R. under the patronage of successive Pandian kings

S. The name 'Madurai' evokes

A. SPQR
B. SQPR
C. SRPQ
D. SQRP

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

A book where names and addresses of people living in an area is kept

A. Diary
B. Encyclopaedia
C. Directory
D. Library

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **C) Reviewing the forest clearance paperwork**

   The Union Tribal Affairs Ministry is tasked with reviewing the forest clearance paperwork for the infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island. This is highlighted by Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram's statement regarding the Ministry's involvement in scrutinizing the clearance documents.

   A. Incorrect because the passage does not indicate that the Ministry approves the final design of the project.

   B. Incorrect as there is no mention of the Ministry supervising the compensatory afforestation, which is planned to take place in Haryana.

   D. Incorrect because the Ministry's role is specific to reviewing paperwork, not coordinating directly with the NDA government on this project.

2. **D) To develop trade and shipping capabilities**

   The primary purpose of developing a trans-shipment port in the Great Nicobar Project is to enhance trade and shipping capabilities, aligning with the overall aim of infrastructure development on the island.

   A. Incorrect as the port development is likely to affect the biodiversity negatively, not increase it.

   B. Incorrect because there is no mention of military operations in the context of this project in the passage.

   C. Incorrect as the passage does not discuss boosting tourism through the port; it is more focused on trade and infrastructure.

3. **B) The felling of approximately 9.6 lakh trees**

   The government disclosed to Parliament that about 9.6 lakh trees could be felled as part of the Great Nicobar Project, which is a significant environmental impact associated with this development initiative.

   A. Incorrect because there is no mention of relocating indigenous populations in the given passage.

   C. Incorrect as the passage does not discuss the introduction of invasive species due to the project.

   D. Incorrect because while local employment may increase, the passage specifically highlights the negative environmental impact, which is the felling of trees.

4. **C) To leverage the strategic location near the Malacca Strait**

   A) The passage indicates that the local tribes' rights and consent are being ignored, not protected.

   B) The Environment Ministry has been secretive, not aimed at improving environmental policies.

C) The passage clearly states that the government's motive is to leverage the strategic location of Great Nicobar Island due to its proximity to the Malacca Strait, an important shipping route.
D) The passage suggests that the environmental clearance process is secretive and rushed, not being expedited in a transparent or proper manner.

5. **C) The haste of the project and ignoring the consent of local tribes**
   A) The passage does not mention financial transparency concerns related to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.
   B) While the environmental clearance process's non-disclosure is a concern, it's not specifically tied to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes in the passage.
   C) The passage specifically states that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has demanded an explanation due to the haste of the administration and the ignoring of the rights and consent of the local tribes, particularly the Shompen.
   D) There is no mention of concerns about the strategic relevance of the location; rather, the government views the location as strategically important.

6. D) 'Alleged' का use होगा क्योंकि "alleged" का अर्थ होता है कुछ ऐसा जो कहा जाता है परन्तु इसकी पुष्टि नहीं हुई हो। यहाँ पर, छात्रों की मौत की वजह से समस्या की गंभीरता और अनिश्चितता को दर्शाने के लिए 'alleged' शब्द का प्रयोग हुआ है। 'Abjured' का अर्थ है त्यागना या इनकार करना, 'Denied' का अर्थ है अस्वीकार करना, और 'Prolonged' का अर्थ है दीर्घकालिक, जो कि इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

   'Alleged' will be used because it means something claimed but not proven. In this context, the word 'alleged' is used to indicate the gravity and uncertainty of the problem regarding the students' deaths. Whereas, 'Abjured' means to renounce or reject, 'Denied' means to refuse acknowledgment, and 'Prolonged' means extended in time, which are not appropriate here.

7. C) 'Grim' का use होगा क्योंकि "grim" का अर्थ होता है कुछ गंभीर या दुखद। यहाँ पर, छात्रों की मौत को एक गंभीर याद दिलाने के रूप में दर्शाया गया है, जो कि समस्या की गंभीरता को उजागर करता है। 'Proclaim' का अर्थ है घोषणा करना, 'Claim' का अर्थ है दावा करना, और 'Generous' का अर्थ है उदार, जो कि इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

   'Grim' will be used because it means something serious or sorrowful. Here, the students' deaths are described as a grim reminder, highlighting the severity of the issue. Whereas, 'Proclaim' means to declare officially, 'Claim' means to state as a fact, and 'Generous' means showing a readiness to give more of something, none of which fit in this context

8. A) 'Alleviate' का use होगा क्योंकि "alleviate" का अर्थ होता है किसी पीड़ा या बोझ को कम करना। यहाँ पर, छात्रों की चिंताओं को कम करने की बात की गई है, इसलिए 'alleviate' यहाँ सही है। 'Initiate' का अर्थ है शुरू करना, 'Associate' का अर्थ है जोड़ना या संबंधित करना, और 'Depreciate' का अर्थ है मूल्यह्रास, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

   'Alleviate' will be used because it means to make suffering or a burden less severe. Here, the context discusses reducing the anxieties of the youth, making 'alleviate' the appropriate

choice. Whereas, 'Initiate' means to begin, 'Associate' means to connect or relate, and 'Depreciate' means to decrease in value, which do not fit in this context

9. A) deal with' का use होगा क्योंकि "deal with" का अर्थ होता है किसी समस्या या मुद्दे का सामना करना और उसे हल करना। यहाँ पर, छात्रों की परीक्षा संबंधी तनाव को संभालने की बात की गई है, इसलिए 'deal with' यहाँ सही है। 'Pace with' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के साथ बराबरी करना, 'firm up' का अर्थ है मजबूत या स्थिर करना, और 'carry out' का अर्थ है किसी कार्य को अंजाम देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'deal with' will be used because it means to handle and address a problem or issue. In this context, it refers to managing exam-related stress among students, making 'deal with' the appropriate choice. Whereas, 'pace with' means to keep up with something, 'firm up' means to make something more secure or definite, and 'carry out' means to execute a task, which do not fit in this context.

10. A) 'Dejected' का use होगा क्योंकि "dejected" का अर्थ होता है निराश या हताश होना। यहाँ पर, सरकारी प्रतिनिधियों ने छात्रों से खराब परिणामों से निराश न होने की अपील की है, इसलिए 'dejected' यहाँ सही है। 'Unprotected' का अर्थ है सुरक्षा के बिना, 'Attached' का अर्थ है जुड़ा हुआ, और 'Approach' का अर्थ है तरीका या दृष्टिकोण, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Dejected' will be used because it means feeling sad or disheartened. Here, the government representatives urged students not to be disheartened by adverse results, making 'dejected' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Unprotected' means without protection, 'Attached' means connected or joined, and 'Approach' means a way or method, none of which are suitable for this context.

11. B) The cookies were baked on the weekend by Daddy.

12. B) **Severe** (adjective) – Very great; intense, harsh, extreme. कठोर

Antonym: **Tolerant** (adjective) – Showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behaviors that one does not necessarily agree with, patient, understanding. सहनशील

- **Implacable** (adjective) – Relentless; unstoppable, not able to be placated or appeased. कठोर

- **Furious** (adjective) – Extremely angry, raging, wild. उग्र

- **Pungent** (adjective) – Having a sharply strong taste or smell, biting, spicy. तीखा

13. A) **'the thieves have leave' में error** है। 'have leave' के बदले 'had left' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि main verb 'recalled' past tense में है, इसलिए उससे संबंधित 'that' Clause में भी क्रिया past tense में होनी चाहिए।

- The error is in 'the thieves have leave'. The correct usage should be 'had left' because the main verb 'recalled' is in Past Tense, therefore the verb in the related 'that' Clause should also be in Past Tense.

14. D) **Pleasure** (noun) – A feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment, delight, joy, glee. प्रसन्नता
Antonym: **Blandness** (noun) – Lack of strong features or characteristics and therefore uninteresting, tedious, uninspiring, insipid. फीकापन; नीरस

- **Inadequacy** (noun) – The state of being unsatisfactory or insufficient, lack, deficiency, insufficiency. अपर्याप्तता
- **Joy** (noun) – A feeling of great pleasure and happiness, delight, jubilation, happiness. ख़ुशी
- **Fear** (noun) – An unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat. डर

15. B) **Stress** (noun) – a mental or emotional strain caused by demanding circumstances. तनाव

- **Reluctance** (noun) – unwillingness or disinclination to do something. अनिच्छा
- **Penalty** (noun) – a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract. दंड
- **Depression** (noun) – feelings of severe despondency and dejection, often accompanied by feelings of hopelessness and inadequacy. उदासी

16. D) **ACDB**
Benefits of reading have been underlined since ages together. It brings knowledge and wisdom both to the readers. By virtue of a practice at home, this can be suggested to the young ones. Once they understand the sensibleness behind reading, they would pass it on to others as well.

17. A) '**quick**' के बदले 'quickly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि हमें यहाँ एक क्रिया (verb) की विशेषता adverb बताता है।

- 'quickly' will be used instead of 'quick' because we need to describe a verb with an adverb here.

18. B) '**will we**?' के बदले 'won't we?' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Positive Statement के लिए Negative Question Tag प्रयुक्त होता है; जैसे— You are coming, aren't you?

- 'won't we?' will be used instead of 'will we?' because for a Positive Statement, a Negative Question Tag is used; Like— You are coming, aren't you?

19. C) **To add fuel to the fire** (idiom) – Making a situation worse **स्थिति को और बुरा बनाना**

- **To cast pearls before swine** (idiom) – To offer something valuable to someone who does not understand its value. **भैंस के आगे बीन बजाना**
- **To be on the last leg** (idiom) – To be near the end of life, usefulness, or existence. **अन्तिम घड़ियाँ गिनना**
- **To bite the dust** (idiom) - To fail or be defeated or to die. **दम तोड़ देना**

20. D) **Compel** (verb) – Force or oblige (someone) to do something, necessitate, make mandatory. मजबूर करना

Synonym: **Obligate** (verb) – Bind or compel (someone), especially legally or morally. बाध्य करना

- **Allow** (verb) – Give (someone) permission to do something, permit, authorize. अनुमति देना
- **Stop** (verb) – Come to an end, cease to happen, halt, terminate. रोकना
- **Give** (verb) – Present or hand over to, grant, bestow, provide. देना

21. D) The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.

22. A) **'hits the nail on the leg'** के बदले 'hits the nail on the head' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही मुहावरा है जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी बात को बिल्कुल सही तरीके से कहना।

- 'hits the nail on the head' will be used instead of 'hits the nail on the leg' because it is the correct idiom that means to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.

23. A) **Deride** (verb) – Mock, ridicule, jeer at, scoff at. हंसी उड़ाना

Synonym: **Ridicule** (verb) – Mock, jeer at, scoff at, make fun of. **हंसी उड़ाना**
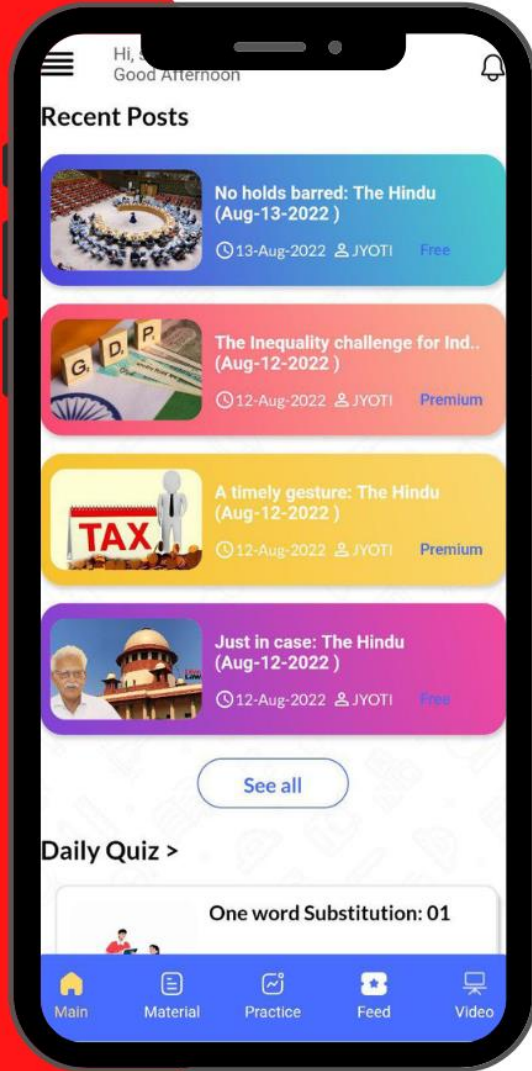
- **Hail** (verb) – Acclaim, commend, applaud, praise. स्तुति करना
- **Detest** (verb) – Dislike intensely, abhor, loathe, hate. घृणा करना
- **Applaud** (verb) – Show approval or praise by clapping, commend, acclaim. **सराहना**

24. B) **SQPR**
The name 'Madurai' evokes in the minds of the Tamils the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished under the patronage of successive Pandian kings

25. C) **Directory** (noun) – A book or electronic resource listing names, addresses, and other details of individuals or businesses in a particular district or area. नामावली

- **Diary** (noun) – A daily record, typically a book, in which one keeps a regular record of events, appointments, or observations. **डायरी**
- **Encyclopaedia** (noun) – A book or set of books containing information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject, usually arranged alphabetically. **विश्वकोश**
- **Library** (noun) – A building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution. **पुस्तकालय**