

Avoidable tragedy: On the Hathras stampede

Mass **gatherings** should be tightly regulated to prevent Hathras-type stampedes

The **stampede** at a religious **congregation** at Hathras in western Uttar Pradesh, **claiming** over 120 lives, **is** only the latest in a series of such tragedies in the country. There have been at least half-a-dozen such incidents in the last **20-odd years**. In this **instance**, at least a lakh of people **flocked** to Fulrai village to listen to an **address** by a **preacher** Suraj Pal, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari or “Bhole Baba”. There are reports that there were over 2.5 lakh participants at the venue, which could **accommodate** no more than 80,000. The preacher is said to have followers in States such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana too. **Most** of the **deceased**, mainly women and children, **were** from the economically **vulnerable** sections of society, and were in search of **spiritual solace**. While only a fair investigation can find out the cause for the stampede, the **reasons** being **cited include overcrowding**, and the **bid** by some to collect soil from around the feet of the preacher. Not surprisingly, the **responses**, particularly from the field-level public health system, **have exposed** how **ill-prepared** the Uttar Pradesh **administration** is. **Visuals** of bodies lying outside the place of **post mortem** and of the **kin desperate** for help, as well as an inadequate number of ambulances and medical staff **have** become the common features of such tragedies. What has made it worse is the preacher and his aides **reportedly** leaving the site even as **panic-stricken** people were dying.

The most tragic **aspect**, as seen in the past, **is** that it was all avoidable had there been **proactive** steps taken by a **vigilant** administration. Unfortunately, the authorities in many States do not appear to have **learnt lessons** or made use of the availability of better technology and communication. Apart from **stringent** action against those responsible, the U.P. administration should ensure a just **compensation** package, the **cost** of which has to be **borne** by the organisers. The tragedy is a classic study in the management of large crowds. The officials **concerned** should ensure that the organisers have the **wherewithal** to handle large gatherings of any size. The local authorities and organisers should also conduct a **drill** ahead of such events. What is more important is that the political executive, the **bureaucracy** and organisers of any public event should be **conscious** of the fact that the loss of a life is a tragedy for the person’s family. The **arrangements** for mass functions **should** be **governed** by this fact.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Aide** (noun) – Assistant, adviser, helper, supporter, सहायक

Vocabulary

1. **Stampede** (noun) – a sudden rapid movement or reaction of a mass of people in response to a particular circumstance or stimulus. भगदड़
2. **Gathering** (noun) – Assembly, meeting, crowd, congregation, collection सभा
3. **Congregation** (noun) – Gathering, assembly, group, meeting, flock जमावड़ा
4. **Claim** (verb) – Take the lives लेना (ज़िंदगियाँ)
5. **20-odd year** (noun) – Approximately twenty years बीस साल के आसपास
6. **Instance** (noun) – Example, case, occurrence, event उदाहरण
7. **Flock** (verb) – Gather, assemble, come together, crowd, converge इकट्ठा होना
8. **Address** (noun) – Speech, talk, presentation, lecture, discourse भाषण
9. **Preacher** (noun) – Cleric, minister, pastor, religious leader, spiritual guide उपदेशक
10. **Accommodate** (verb) – House, contain, hold, seat, provide space for समायोजित करना
11. **The Deceased** (noun) – The dead person, the departed, the late, those who have passed away मृतक व्यक्ति
12. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Exposed, at risk, susceptible, defenseless, fragile असुरक्षित
13. **Spiritual** (adjective) – Religious, sacred, metaphysical, divine, transcendental आध्यात्मिक
14. **Solace** (noun) – Comfort, consolation, relief, support, succor सांत्वना
15. **Cite** (verb) – Mention, refer to, quote, bring up, point out हवाला देना
16. **Overcrowding** (noun) – Congestion, overfilling, overloading, overcapacity, overpopulation भीड़
17. **Bid** (noun) – Attempt, effort, try, endeavor, proposal प्रयास
18. **Expose** (verb) – Reveal, uncover, show, disclose, unmask उजागर करना
19. **Ill-prepared** (adjective) – Unprepared, unready, underprepared, not ready, inadequately prepared खराब तरीके से तैयार
20. **Administration** (noun) – Management, government, authority, leadership, governance प्रशासन
21. **Post mortem** (noun) – Autopsy, examination, necropsy, analysis, dissection शव परीक्षा/ पोस्टमार्टम
22. **Kin** (noun) – Relatives, family, relations, kindred, kinfolk परिजन

23. **Desperate** (adjective) – Eager, dying, raring, impatient, determined, in urgent need मरने पर उतारू
24. **Reportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, apparently, according to reports, purportedly कथित तौर पर
25. **Panic-stricken** (adjective) – Frightened, terrified, alarmed, scared, shocked आतंक से त्रस्त
26. **Aspect** (noun) – Element, facet, feature, component, part पहलू
27. **Proactive** (adjective) – Preventive, preemptive, anticipatory, forward-thinking, precautionary सक्रिय
28. **Vigilant** (adjective) – Watchful, alert, attentive, observant, cautious चौकस
29. **Learn the lesson** (phrase) – Understand from experience, take a warning, be taught by events, heed the message, gain wisdom from experience सबक सीखना
30. **Stringent** (adjective) – Strict, severe, rigorous, harsh, tough कड़ा
31. **Compensation** (noun) – Reimbursement, reparation, restitution, payment, indemnity मुआवजा
32. **Bear the cost** (phrase) – Pay for, cover the expenses, take on the financial burden, shoulder the expense, finance the cost खर्च उठाना
33. **Concerned** (adjective) – Involved, affected, worried, interested, attentive संबंधित
34. **Wherewithal** (noun) – Resources, means, capability, tools, capacity साधन
35. **Drill** (noun) – Practice, exercise, training, rehearsal, routine अभ्यास
36. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – Administration, government, civil service, officialdom, management नौकरशाही
37. **Conscious** (adjective) – Aware, mindful, alert, cognizant, attentive जागरूक
38. **Govern** (verb) – Regulate, control, manage, oversee, direct नियंत्रण करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The stampede at Hathras in western Uttar Pradesh claimed over 120 lives.
2. This incident is part of a series of similar tragedies in India over the past 20 years.
3. At least a lakh of people gathered in Fulrai village to hear preacher Suraj Pal, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari or "Bhole Baba".
4. Reports indicate there were over 2.5 lakh participants at a venue that could only accommodate 80,000.
5. The preacher has followers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana.
6. Most of the deceased were women and children from economically vulnerable sections of society seeking spiritual solace.
7. Overcrowding and attempts to collect soil from around the preacher's feet are cited as potential causes for the stampede.
8. The Uttar Pradesh administration's response, particularly from the public health system, has been inadequate.
9. Visuals showed bodies lying outside the post-mortem site and desperate kin seeking help.
10. The incident revealed a shortage of ambulances and medical staff.
11. The preacher and his aides reportedly left the site while panic-stricken people were dying.
12. The tragedy was avoidable with proactive steps from a vigilant administration.
13. Authorities in many states have not learned lessons or utilized better technology and communication.
14. The U.P. administration should take stringent action against those responsible and ensure a just compensation package.
15. The incident highlights the importance of managing large crowds effectively, with necessary preparations and drills by local authorities and organizers.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage discussing the Hathras stampede?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Joyful
2. **Based on the Hathras stampede incident, what primary factor contributed to the tragic outcome of the religious congregation?**
 - A. Overcrowding at the venue beyond its capacity.
 - B. Inadequate response from the field-level public health system.
 - C. The participation of economically vulnerable people.
 - D. The presence of the preacher known as "Bhole Baba."
3. **What does the passage suggest about the effectiveness of the Uttar Pradesh administration's preparedness in handling large-scale emergencies like the Hathras stampede?**
 - A. The administration was well-prepared but overwhelmed by unforeseeable events.
 - B. The administration showed an effective crisis response despite past incidents.
 - C. The administration was ill-prepared, as indicated by the exposed weaknesses in the public health system.
 - D. The administration had no prior experience with handling such incidents.
4. **According to the passage, what is one of the primary reasons the tragedy in Hathras was deemed avoidable?**
 - A. The organizers and local authorities had already conducted sufficient drills to handle large crowds.
 - B. There were proactive steps that could have been taken by a vigilant administration to prevent such incidents.
 - C. The preacher and his aides remained at the site to assist and manage the crowd during the panic.
 - D. Advanced technology and communication tools were effectively utilized during the event.
5. **What does the passage suggest should be part of the aftermath of the tragedy in terms of responsibility and accountability?**
 - A. The political executive should be solely responsible for compensating the victims' families without involving the organizers.
 - B. There should be no need for compensation as the tragedy was unforeseeable and thus no one is at fault.
 - C. Only the local authorities should be held accountable, and they should handle the compensation without involving the state administration.
 - D. Stringent action should be taken against those responsible and a just compensation package should be ensured by the U.P. administration.

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.

A commonly quoted aphorism says, "New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings." We ____1____ and often resent the changes. But change is the ____2____ to life, because, ____3____ change being seemingly painful, it's ever necessary. We tend to get used to the rut and routine and begin to love that as the sole option available to us. A sort of mental ____4____ sets in and we don't want to alter that. The human mind doesn't like to break a set pattern. But until that set and fixed pattern is broken, how can something new and even more exciting be welcomed?

What's perceived as painful and undesirable, often paves the way for something better – and if not better, at least different. In difference, lies life's momentum and progress. Once a man came to J Krishnamurti. He looked ____5____ because he had broken up with his beloved of many years.

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

- A. Assist
- B. Exist
- C. Insist
- D. Resist

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

- A. Key
- B. Query
- C. Likely
- D. Signify

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

- A. In spite
- B. Spite
- C. Despite
- D. Similar to

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

- A. Complacency
- B. Insufficiency
- C. Potency
- D. Lucidity

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

- A. Disconsolate
- B. Isolate
- C. Violate
- D. Disintegrate

11. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.

Everyone feels that he is pompous, but I know the underlying truth that he is a man of great understanding and love.

- A. Modest
- B. Lofty
- C. Grandiose

- D. Haughty
12. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Souvenir
 - B. Symbolise
 - C. Suseptible
 - D. Sympathetic
13. Select the **grammatically correct version of the following sentence.**
He was youngest than his brother.
- A. He was younger than his brother.
 - B. He was youngest to his brother.
 - C. He was too young than his brother.
 - D. He was young to his brother
14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
We were very much enthusiastic about our tour to Agra
- A. obsessed
 - B. anxious
 - C. casual
 - D. Inclined
15. Select the option that correctly expresses the following sentence in active voice.
This was talked about in the meeting by the officers.
- A. The officers were talking about in the meeting.
 - B. The officers talked about this in the meeting.
 - C. The officers in the meeting had talked about it.
 - D. The officers talk about this in the meeting
16. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.
From a recent research, evident is it that a lot more women have been opting for professional courses.
- A. it is evident that more a lot women
 - B. it is evidently that a lot more women
 - C. it is evident that a lot more women
 - D. it is evidence that a lot more women
17. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the word 'Bleak' from the given sentence.
He looked gloomy, frail, broken and slow after the sudden demise of his brother.
- A. slow
 - B. gloomy
 - C. frail
 - D. Sudden
18. Select the correct spelling from the given options to fill in the blank.
Mihika was one of the _____ in the Master Chef competition held in our society last year.
- A. contextants

- B. contestants
C. contestants
D. Kontestants
19. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Elusive
A. Explosive
B. Affordable
C. Definite
D. Rigid
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
The students must complete the assignment by Friday
A. The assignment must be completed by the students by Friday.
B. The assignment will be completed by the students by Friday.
C. The students will have completed the assignment by Friday.
D. The assignment must be complete by Friday by the students
21. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the underlined group of words.
Kidney beans were boiled quickly when Nisha added a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction without being consumed by the reaction itself.
A. reactant
B. catalyst
C. enzyme
D. Solute
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Sarah just gave _____ to a baby boy.
A. birth
B. breath
C. broth
D. Berth
23. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
My mother asked my father to increase her personal use allowance.
A. pell mell
B. rank and file
C. pins and needles
D. pin money
24. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Repeal
A. Approval
B. Expense
C. Separation
D. Adversity

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

(O) on a regular basis can improve

(P) engaging in physical activity

(Q) the risk of chronic diseases, and boost mental health

(R) cardiovascular health, reduce

A. RPOQ

B. PROQ

C. PORQ

D. OQRP

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Critical

The tone of the passage is critical, evident from the critique of the handling of the mass gathering and the consequences of inadequate preparations and response by the authorities. The author highlights the preventable nature of the tragedy and criticizes the lack of proactive steps from the administration.

A) Optimistic: Incorrect because there is no positive outlook or hopeful sentiment expressed in the passage regarding the events or the response from authorities.

C) Indifferent: Incorrect as the passage clearly expresses concern and criticism over the incident and the authorities' handling of it, indicating engagement rather than indifference.

D) Joyful: Incorrect because the passage discusses a grave and tragic event, and the tone is solemn and critical rather than joyful.

2. A) Overcrowding at the venue beyond its capacity.

The passage explicitly states that the venue, which could accommodate only 80,000 people, was overwhelmed by the presence of up to 2.5 lakh participants. This massive discrepancy between the venue's capacity and the number of attendees is cited as a primary reason for the stampede.

B is incorrect because while the passage criticizes the public health system's response, it does not suggest that this was a primary factor in causing the stampede; rather, it pertains to the aftermath.

C is incorrect because although economically vulnerable people were present, their socioeconomic status did not directly contribute to the stampede; their presence was more about the context of the crowd.

D is incorrect as the preacher's presence is not directly linked to the cause of the stampede; it was the overcrowding, not merely the presence of a specific individual, that led to the tragedy.

3. C) The administration was ill-prepared, as indicated by the exposed weaknesses in the public health system.

The passage indicates that the responses, particularly from the field-level public health system, demonstrated how ill-prepared the Uttar Pradesh administration was for such a massive emergency. This lack of preparedness contributed to the ineffective handling of the crisis following the stampede.

A is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the administration was overwhelmed by unforeseeable events; rather, it suggests a lack of preparation.

B is incorrect because the passage explicitly criticizes the administration's crisis response, highlighting its ineffectiveness.

D is incorrect because it falsely implies that the administration had no prior experience, which is not supported by the passage. Previous experiences are not mentioned, and the focus is on the current incident's mishandling.

4. **B) There were proactive steps that could have been taken by a vigilant administration to prevent such incidents.**

A is incorrect because the passage indicates that drills should have been conducted but were not, highlighting a lack of preparation.

B is correct as the passage states that the tragedy was avoidable if proactive steps had been taken by a vigilant administration.

C is incorrect because, contrary to assisting, the preacher and his aides reportedly left the site, exacerbating the situation.

D is incorrect as the passage criticizes the failure to use better technology and communication, suggesting these were not effectively utilized.

5. **D) Stringent action should be taken against those responsible and a just compensation package should be ensured by the U.P. administration.**

A is incorrect because the passage suggests that both the political executive and organizers share responsibility.

B is incorrect as the passage clearly states the tragedy was avoidable, implying fault and the necessity for compensation.

D is correct because it aligns with the passage's emphasis on accountability and compensation for the tragedy.

C is incorrect as it isolates responsibility to local authorities only, whereas the passage calls for broader accountability involving both local authorities and the state administration.

6. D) 'Resist' का use होगा क्योंकि "resist" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज का विरोध करना या उससे बचने की कोशिश करना। passage में mention है कि हम परिवर्तनों का विरोध करते हैं और अक्सर उन्हें नापसंद करते हैं, इसलिए 'resist' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Assist' का अर्थ होता है मदद करना, 'Exist' का अर्थ होता है अस्तित्व में होना, और 'Insist' का अर्थ होता है किसी बात पर जोर देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Resist' will be used because it means to oppose or try to avoid something. The passage states that we oppose and often dislike the changes, making 'resist' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Assist' means to help, 'Exist' means to be, and 'Insist' means to assert something emphatically, which don't fit in this context.

7. A) 'Key' का use होगा क्योंकि "key" का अर्थ होता है मुख्य या सबसे महत्वपूर्ण। passage में mention है कि परिवर्तन जीवन के लिए मुख्य है, इसलिए 'key' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Query' का अर्थ होता है प्रश्न या सवाल, 'Likely' का अर्थ होता है संभावित रूप में, और 'Signify' का अर्थ होता है कुछ का प्रतीक होना या दर्शाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Key' will be used because it means principal or most important. The passage states that change is essential to life, hence 'key' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Query' means a question,

'Likely' implies probability, and 'Signify' means to symbolize or indicate, which don't fit in this context.

8. C) 'Despite' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "despite" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के बावजूद। sentence में mention है कि परिवर्तन दर्दनाक होने के बावजूद यह आवश्यक है, इसलिए 'despite' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। 'Despite' यहाँ एक preposition है जो किसी विरोधी स्थिति के बावजूद अनुक्रम को दर्शाता है। जबकि 'Inspite' misspelt 'in spite of' है, 'Spite' का अर्थ है द्वेष जो यहाँ सही नहीं है, और 'Similar to' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के समान होना, जो इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ विरोधाभास का संकेत नहीं है।

'Despite' will be used because "despite" means in spite of. The sentence mentions that although change is seemingly painful, it's necessary, making 'despite' fitting here. 'Despite' is used here as a preposition that indicates continuity in the face of a contrasting condition. Whereas, 'Inspite' is a misspelling of 'in spite of', 'Spite' means malice which is not applicable here, and 'Similar to' means being akin to something, which doesn't fit in this context as there is no indication of similarity.

9. A) Complacency का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "complacency" का अर्थ होता है आत्मसंतोष या संतुष्टि। वाक्य में उल्लेख किया गया है कि हम दिनचर्या में इतने अधिक आदी हो जाते हैं कि हम उसे ही एकमात्र विकल्प मान लेते हैं, जिससे आत्मसंतोष की स्थिति बन जाती है। इसलिए 'complacency' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Insufficiency' का अर्थ है अपर्याप्तता, 'Potency' का अर्थ है शक्ति या प्रभावशीलता, और 'Lucidity' का अर्थ है स्पष्टता, जो इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं हैं।

'A' will be used because "complacency" means self-satisfaction or contentment. The sentence indicates that we become so accustomed to the routine that we begin to see it as the only option, leading to a state of complacency. Therefore, 'complacency' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Insufficiency' means lack, 'Potency' means strength or effectiveness, and 'Lucidity' means clarity, which are not appropriate in this context.

10. A) disconsolate का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "disconsolate" का अर्थ होता है बेहद दुखी या सांत्वना न पा सकने वाला। वाक्य में उल्लेख किया गया है कि एक व्यक्ति ने J Krishnamurti से मिलने आया था, जो अपनी प्रियतमा से ब्रेकअप के बाद बेहद दुखी दिखाई दे रहा था, इसलिए 'disconsolate' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Isolate' का अर्थ है अलग करना या अकेला करना, 'Violate' का अर्थ है उल्लंघन करना, और 'Disintegrate' का अर्थ है टूटना या बिखरना, जो इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं हैं।

disconsolate will be used because "disconsolate" means extremely sad or unable to be comforted. The sentence mentions that a man came to J Krishnamurti, appearing very sad because he had broken up with his beloved of many years, making 'disconsolate' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Isolate' means to set apart or alone, 'Violate' means to breach, and 'Disintegrate' means to fall apart or crumble, which are not appropriate in this context.

11. A) **Pompous** (adjective) – Affectedly and irritatingly grand, solemn, or self-important.
अभिमानपूर्वक
- Antonym: Modest** (adjective) – Unassuming or moderate in the estimation of one's abilities or achievements. विनम्र
- **Lofty** (adjective) – Of imposing height; or of a noble or exalted nature. उच्च
 - **Grandiose** (adjective) – Impressive or magnificent in appearance or style, especially pretentiously so. भव्य
 - **Haughty** (adjective) – Arrogantly superior and disdainful. अभिमानी
12. C) The incorrectly spelled word is 'Suseptible'. The correct spelling is 'Susceptible' which means "likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing" संवेदनशील, प्रवृत्त.
13. A) '**was youngest**' के बदले '**was younger**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दो व्यक्तियों की तुलना करते समय comparative degree of adjective '**younger**' का प्रयोग होता है।
- '**was younger**' will be used instead of '**was youngest**' because when comparing two people, we use '**younger than**'
14. C) **Enthusiastic** (adjective) – Having or showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval. उत्साही
- Antonym: Casual** (adjective) – Relaxed, unconcerned, not showing strong interest or effort.
- **Obsessed** (adjective) – Preoccupy or fill the mind of (someone) to a troubling extent.
 - **Anxious** (adjective) – Feeling or showing worry, nervousness, or unease. चिंतित
 - **Inclined** (adjective) – Having a tendency to do something, disposed, prone. प्रवृत्त
15. B) The officers talked about this in the meeting
16. C) it is evident that a lot more women' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही वाक्य संरचना और अर्थ को ध्यान में रखते हुए 'it is evident that' सही phrase है।
- 'it is evident that a lot more women' will be used because, considering the correct sentence structure and meaning, 'it is evident that' is the correct phrase.
17. B) **Bleak** (adjective) – Lacking warmth, life, or kindness; grim, cold, cheerless, desolate.
सुनसान/ उजाड़
- Synonym: Gloomy** (adjective) – Dark, dim, drearily dull, dismal, despondent. उदास
- **Slow** (adjective) – Moving or operating, or designed to do so, only at a low speed; not quick or fast. धीमा
 - **Frail** (adjective) – Weak and delicate; easily damaged or broken. दुर्बल
 - **Sudden** (adjective) – Occurring or done quickly and without warning; unexpected.
अचानक

18. C) '**Contestants**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है। "Master Chef competition" में भाग लेने वाले लोगों को 'contestants' कहा जाता है।

- '**Contestants**' should be used because it is the correct spelling. People participating in the "Master Chef competition" are referred to as 'contestants'. The other options are incorrect spellings.

19. C) **Elusive** (adjective) – Hard to pin down, evasive, difficult to find, catch, or achieve. टाल-मटोल वाला

Antonym: Definite (adjective) – Clearly stated or decided, unambiguous, specific. स्पष्ट

- **Explosive** (adjective) – Prone to explode, volatile, combustible. विस्फोटक
- **Affordable** (adjective) – Reasonably priced, within one's budget, economical. सस्ता
- **Rigid** (adjective) – Unable to bend or be forced out of shape; stiff, inflexible. कठोर

20. A) The assignment must be completed by the students by Friday

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

- **Reactant** (noun) – A substance that takes part in and undergoes change during a reaction. प्रतिक्रियाशील पदार्थ
- **Enzyme** (noun) – A protein produced by living organisms that acts as a catalyst to bring about specific biochemical reactions. एंजाइम
- **Solute** (noun) – A substance that is dissolved in a solution. विलीय पदार्थ

22. A) '**birth**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सारा के एक बच्चे को जन्म देने की चर्चा कर रहा है। "Sarah just gave _____ to a baby boy" इस sentence में, एक महिला के बच्चे को जन्म देने की सूचना दी जा रही है। इसलिए, "birth" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**birth**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing Sarah giving birth to a child. In the sentence "Sarah just gave _____ to a baby boy", it's informing about a woman giving birth to a child. Thus, "birth" would be the most appropriate choice.

23. D) **Pin money** (noun) – a small amount of money for incidental expenses, originally referring to an allowance given by a husband to his wife for her personal expenses. जेब खर्च के लिए पैसा

- **Pell mell** (adverb) – in a confused, rushed, or disorderly manner; haphazardly. अव्यवस्थित रूप से
- **Rank and file** (noun) – the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to its leaders. सामान्य सदस्य
- **Pins and needles** (noun) – a tingling sensation felt in a part of the body, often due to a temporary loss of blood flow. सुजन या झुनझुनी अनुभूति

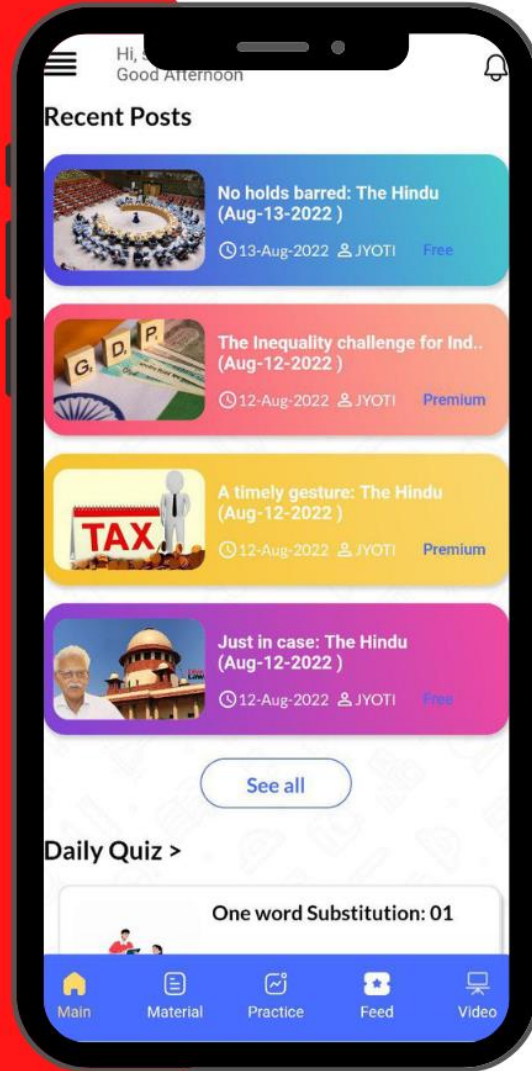
24. A) **Repeal** (verb) – Cancel, annul, revoke, rescind, abrogate. निरस्त करना

Antonym: Approval (noun) – Agreement, endorsement, sanction, ratification. स्वीकृति

- **Expense** (noun) – Cost, expenditure, outlay. व्यय
- **Separation** (noun) – Detachment, disjunction, parting. अलगाव
- **Adversity** (noun) – Hardship, distress, misfortune, trouble. विपत्ति

25. C) **PORQ**

Engaging in physical activity on a regular basis can improve cardiovascular health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and boost mental health.



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