Shock-proof state: On an outage and a democratic digital infrastructure

India must ensure its democratic digital **infrastructure** is **shock-proof**

A bright light fell on the **extent** of the world's dependence on information technologies when on July 19, supermarkets, banks, hospitals, airports, and many other services **in between** suffered a simultaneous **blackout** after a common software solution they used **glitched**. Between then and the time at which the solution's developers **rolled out** a fix, news of the problem and the resulting **downtime** spread around the world through the same networks that have been **erected** to **facilitate** communications between these systems. Technological **advancements** are **inevitable** and desirable, but the **concurrent responsibility** to **set up failsafes** and emergency **protocols is** often less **glamorous**. These gaps are **exacerbated** in societies where the adoption of new technologies is concentrated in sectors **competing** in the global market and **in piecemeal fashion vis-à-vis** services provided in local markets. Thus, for example, the glitch may have caused an airline operator to suffer greater **monetary** losses but it would have been more **debilitating** for **cardiac** facilities at a **tertiary care** centre, or a computer trying to access a thermal power facility during **peak** demand.

Such glitches are more common than people realise **thanks to** otherwise **trivial** process- or business-level failures. The focus must instead be on the network interconnections that allow these technologies to be useful and the implementation of life-saving **redundancies**. Unfortunately, **unlike** most other technological enterprises, information technologies are yet to develop a mature self-awareness of their **pansocial** character and the **impetus** to adjust for this **rudiment lies** with the state. This requires a 'Digital India' **push** that is **cognisant** of software solutions' relationship with digital privacy and data **sovereignty**, **layered over** the challenges that income inequality and political **marginalisation impose** on communities **navigating** more socially interconnected **settings**. For example, public **distrust** in electronic voting machines, **stoked** by an incomplete understanding of software security among the political class, the judiciary, and civil society, **could** have been **restored** with open-source software and modes of integrity testing that **violate** neither physical nor digital property rights. The July 19 outage offers a similar opportunity: to **rejig** the software that public sector institutions need to provide their essential services and to **incorporate** redundancies, including moving away from single-vendor policies, that **preserve** the links between these institutions and people engaged in informal **economies in the event of** a network-level outage. The state was previously **duty-bound** to develop democratic digital infrastructure. Now, cognisant of more powerful interlinks among social, economic, and cultural realities, it is also duty-bound to ensure that this infrastructure is shock-proof.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **State** (noun) – Government, nation, country, administration, authority राष्ट्र

2. **Outage** (noun) – Interruption, power cut, blackout, breakdown, disruption कटौती का समय

3. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, foundation, system, structure, organization आधारभूत संरचना

4. **Shock-proof** (adjective) – Resilient, durable, sturdy, robust, shock-resistant झटके-प्रतिरोधी

5. **A bright light fell** (phrase) – Became evident, was highlighted, became clear, was revealed, was exposed स्पष्ट हो गया

6. **Extent** (noun) – Degree, scope, range, magnitude, level सीमा

7. **In between** (phrase) – Among, amidst, in the middle of, in the midst of, between के बीच

8. **Blackout** (noun) – Power failure, power outage, darkness, shutdown, blackout बिजली गुल

9. **Glitch** (verb) – Malfunction, fail, error, crash, break down खराबी होना

10. **Roll out** (phrasal verb) – Implement, introduce, launch, deploy, bring out लागू करना

11. **Downtime** (noun) – Inactivity, non-operational period, downtime, stoppage, outage निष्क्रियता

12. **Erect** (verb) – Build, construct, establish, set up, put up निर्माण करना

13. **Facilitate** (verb) – Assist, help, ease, enable, make possible सुगम बनाना

14. **Advancement** (noun) – Progress, development, improvement, growth, enhancement प्रगति

15. **Inevitable** (adjective) – Unavoidable, certain, bound to happen, inescapable, destined अपरिहार्य

16. **Concurrent** (adjective) – Simultaneous, coinciding, synchronous, parallel, happening together समवर्ती

17. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, organize, initiate, arrange स्थापित करना

18. **Failsafe** (noun) – Backup, safety measure, safeguard, contingency, security सुरक्षित उपाय

19. **Protocol** (noun) – Procedure, rule, guideline, system, code प्रोटोकॉल

20. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, commonly, usually, many times अक्सर

21. **Glamorous** (adjective) – Attractive, charming, enchanting, alluring, captivating आकर्षक

22. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, heighten, increase बिगाड़ना

23. **Compete** (verb) – Vie, contend, challenge, strive, fight प्रतिस्पर्धा करना

24. **Piecemeal** (adjective) – Fragmented, incremental, step-by-step, gradual, incomplete टुकड़ों में

25. **In fashion** (phrase) – In a manner, in a way, in the style, in the mode तरीके से

26. **Vis-à-vis** (preposition) – In relation to, regarding, concerning, with respect to, compared to के संबंध में

27. **Monetary** (adjective) – Financial, fiscal, economic, budgetary, capital मौद्रिक

28. **Debilitating** (adjective) – Weakening, crippling, exhausting, incapacitating, draining दुर्बल

29. **Cardiac** (adjective) – Heart-related, cardiovascular, pertaining to the heart हृदय संबंधी

30. **Tertiary care centre** (noun) – a hospital that provides tertiary care, which is a level of health care obtained from specialists in a large hospital after referral from the providers of primary care and secondary care.

31. **Peak** (adjective) – Maximum, highest, top, optimal, prime चरम

32. **Thanks to** (phrase) – Due to, because of, owing to, as a result of की वजह से

33. **Trivial** (adjective) – Minor, insignificant, petty, unimportant, negligible तुच्छ

34. **Redundancy** (noun) – Backup system, extra capacity, duplication, surplus, spare विकल्प

35. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, in contrast to, not like, dissimilar to, distinct from के विपरीत

36. **Pansocial** (adjective) – Across society, societal-wide, affecting all social classes सामाजिक

37. **Impetus** (noun) – Stimulus, motivation, drive, incentive, push प्रोत्साहन

38. **Rudiment** (noun) – Basic principle, fundamental, foundational element, core concept आधारभूत

39. **Lies** (verb) – Resides, exists, is situated, is found, is located स्थित है

40. **Push** (noun) – Drive, initiative, effort, campaign, move प्रोत्साहन

41. **Cognisant** (of) (adjective) – Aware, conscious, knowledgeable, mindful, informed परिचित

42. **Sovereignty** (noun) – Independence, self-governance, autonomy, self-rule, supremacy संप्रभुता

43. **Layer over** (phrasal verb) – Cover with, overlay, superimpose, add on top, apply over ऊपर रखना

44. **Marginalisation** (noun) – Exclusion, sidelining, neglect, discrimination, disenfranchisement हाशिए पर डालना

45. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, apply, levy, mandate, enact थोपना

46. **Navigate** (verb) – Manage, handle, steer, direct, find a way संचालित करना

47. **Setting** (noun) – Environment, context, situation, background, scene परिप्रेक्ष्य

48. **Distrust** (noun) – Suspicion, doubt, lack of trust, skepticism, mistrust अविश्वास

49. **Stoke** (verb) – Incite, fuel, provoke, stimulate, stir up भड़काना

50. **Restore** (verb) – Re-establish, bring back, reinstate, return, recover बहाल करना

51. **Violate** (verb) – Breach, infringe, transgress, break, disobey उल्लंघन करना

52. **Rejig** (verb) – Reorganize, rearrange, restructure, reconfigure, revamp पुनर्गठित करना

53. **Incorporate** (verb) – Include, integrate, combine, assimilate, merge सम्मिलित करना

54. **Preserve** (verb) – Maintain, protect, safeguard, keep, conserve संरक्षित करना

55. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ

56. **In the event of** (phrase) – In case of, in the situation of, if, should it happen, in the instance of की स्थिति में

57. **Duty-bound** (adjective) – Obligated, compelled, required, committed, responsible कर्तव्यबद्ध

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Global Outage Impact**: On July 19, a software glitch caused a worldwide blackout affecting supermarkets, banks, hospitals, airports, and more.

2. **Dependency Highlighted**: The outage highlighted the global dependence on information technologies.

3. **Rapid Spread of News**: News of the glitch and downtime spread quickly through the same networks designed to facilitate communication.

4. **Need for Failsafes**: Technological advancements require the concurrent setup of failsafes and emergency protocols.

5. **Sectoral Vulnerability**: The adoption of new technologies varies by sector, with global market competitors often more resilient than local service providers.

6. **Varying Impact**: The glitch's impact ranged from financial losses for airline operators to potential life-threatening situations in hospitals and power facilities.

7. **Common Occurrence**: Such glitches are more common than realized, often due to minor process or business failures.

8. **Network Focus**: Emphasis should be on network interconnections and life-saving redundancies.

9. **State Responsibility**: The state must address the pansocial character of information technologies and their impact on society.

10. **Digital India Initiative**: A push for 'Digital India' must consider digital privacy, data sovereignty, and social challenges.

11. **Trust in Technology**: Public trust in technologies like electronic voting machines can be restored with open-source software and integrity testing.

12. **Opportunity for Improvement**: The July 19 outage presents an opportunity to improve software for public sector institutions and incorporate redundancies.

13. **Avoiding Single-Vendor Policies**: Moving away from single-vendor policies can preserve connections in the event of network outages.

14. **Democratic Digital Infrastructure**: The state must develop and maintain a democratic digital infrastructure.

15. **Ensuring Shock-Proof Systems**: The infrastructure must be robust and shock-proof to handle social, economic, and cultural interlinks.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred about the consequences of technological advancements from the passage?**   **[Editorial page]**
   A. The responsibility to establish failsafes and emergency protocols is less emphasized
   B. Technological advancements always lead to significant monetary losses.
   C. Technological advancements are only desirable in global markets.
   D. All sectors suffer equally from technological glitches.

2. **Based on the passage, which of the following is a primary concern regarding the adoption of new technologies in local markets?**
   A. Local markets do not compete in the global market.
   B. The adoption is often piecemeal and lacks comprehensive integration.
   C. Local markets face fewer technological glitches compared to global markets.
   D. New technologies are more advanced in local markets

3. **According to the passage, what is the primary responsibility of the state concerning democratic digital infrastructure?**
   A. To provide free digital services to all citizens
   B. To ensure the infrastructure is shock-proof
   C. To eliminate income inequality and political marginalization
   D. To promote the use of single-vendor policies

4. **Public distrust in electronic voting machines could have been restored with open-source software and modes of integrity testing that violate neither _____.**
   A. personal data nor privacy
   B. national security nor public trust
   C. physical nor digital property rights
   D. software development nor data sharing

5. **What is one of the reasons that glitches in digital infrastructure are more common than people realize, as mentioned in the passage?**
   A. Lack of funding for technological enterprises
   B. Failure to develop mature self-awareness of their pansocial character
   C. Overreliance on single-vendor policies
   D. Public distrust in electronic voting machines

   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 benefits of an undefiled environment are _____1____; for instance, a healthy tree purifies the air and supplies oxygen for living beings to breathe. It harmonises the elements and increases life expectancy. Its shade provides a refreshing place to rest. It brings rain at the right time. It ____2____crops and livestock, and balances the temperature. It contributes to _____3_____ attractive landscape and continually _____4_____ surroundings. It brings about natural development in the spheres of education, economics and so forth. The drawbacks of a polluted environment include a decline in the pure, cool qualities of the oceans and lakes, so

that the creatures _____5_____in those places are disturbed. The loss of vegetation and forests causes degeneration in the earth's nourishment.

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
   A. Much
   B. More
   C. Must
   D. Many

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
   A. Nourishes
   B. Damages
   C. Values
   D. Troubles

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
   A. An
   B. A
   C. The
   D. No article required

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
   A. Preserve
   B. Premises
   C. Regardless
   D. Replenishes

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
    A. Unwilling
    B. Expelling
    C. Compelling
    D. Dwelling

11. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
    It is a **misconception** that the more you learn, the more likely you are to succeed.
    A. Illusion
    B. Hallucination
    C. Fallacy
    D. Certainty

12. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
    Colleague
    A. Co-worker
    B. Consult
    C. Distend
    D. Exempt

13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word.
    All the employees feel that continuing working there is **perilous** to their careers.
    A. Convenient

B. Dangerous

C. Helpful

D. Suitable

14. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. One of them may contain an error. Select the option that contains the error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

Nobody from the gathering of odd people could guess the accident occurring blast.

A. the accident occurring blast

B. Nobody from the gathering

C. No error

D. of odd people could guess

15. **Select the most appropriate homonym in the context of the following sentence to fill in the blank.**

The key was hanging on a _____ by the door.

A. nail: to catch someone, especially when they are doing something wrong, or guilty

B. nail: a small metal spike, driven into wood to join things together or to serve as a hook

C. nail: a thin, hard area that covers the upper side of the end of each finger and each toe

D. nail: to do something successfully

16. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

A. Obdurate

B. Cryptic

C. Surrugocy

D. Drastic

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

(**P**) and the impact of their

(**Q**) the authors' journey of self-discovery

(**R**) the memoir explores

(**S**) upbringing on their identity

A. RQPS

B. RQSP

C. QPSR

D. SPRQ

18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

I have read that / a Leaning Tower of Pisa is a / popular tourist attraction / in the world.

A. I have read that

B. a Leaning Tower of Pisa is a

C. popular tourist attraction

D. in the world

19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Devil's advocate

A. One who takes an opposing position for the sake of argument
B. One who presents very logical arguments
C. One who is very precise and accurate
D. One who never argues

20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the following sentence.
    The doctor assured the patient that the tumour was **benign** and could be easily removed
    A. Favourable
    B. Malignant
    C. Sterile
    D. Kind

21. **Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
    The director hired the new employee after the interview.
    A. The new employee will be hired by the director after the interview.
    B. The new employee was hired by the director after the interview.
    C. The new employee is being hired by the director after the interview.
    D. The new employee hired by the director after the interview

22. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
    A. That the only true individual
    B.Is the holy man
    C. It has frequently been claimed
    D. Which the traditional society of India tolerates
    A. D, C, A, B
    B. C, A, D, B
    C. A, B, D, C
    D. C, D, A, B

23. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.**
    Drunkeness, riot and brawling were the order, there, every night
    A. Riot
    B. Drunkeness
    C. Order
    D. Brawling

24. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**
    Can you please make sure that all the **guest are gathered on** the stage before the performance begins?
    A. guest is gathered on
    B. guests are gathered in
    C. guests are gathered on
    D. guests is gathered by

25. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
    Spill the beans

A. Open the flow of the stopped water
B. Liberate the controlled emotions
C. Distribute food grains freely
D. Disclose the secrets accidentally

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **A) The responsibility to establish failsafes and emergency protocols is less emphasized.**

   B is incorrect because the passage mentions that technological advancements are inevitable and desirable but does not state that they always lead to significant monetary losses.
   A is correct as the passage highlights that while technological advancements are inevitable and desirable, the concurrent responsibility to set up failsafes and emergency protocols is often less glamorous and therefore less emphasized.
   C is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that technological advancements are only desirable in global markets; it mentions advancements are desirable in general.
   D is incorrect because the passage specifically mentions that the impacts of technological glitches can vary, with some sectors, such as cardiac facilities or thermal power facilities, being more affected than others.

2. **B) The adoption is often piecemeal and lacks comprehensive integration.**

   A is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the competitive nature of local markets in relation to the global market.
   B is correct as the passage points out that the adoption of new technologies in local markets is often in a piecemeal fashion, which exacerbates the gaps in failsafes and emergency protocols.
   C is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that local markets face fewer technological glitches; rather, it implies that local markets may suffer more due to lack of comprehensive integration.
   D is incorrect because the passage does not claim that new technologies are more advanced in local markets; it mentions that adoption is more comprehensive in sectors competing in the global market.

3. **B) To ensure the infrastructure is shock-proof**

   The passage explicitly states that the state must ensure its democratic digital infrastructure is shock-proof. This responsibility includes implementing life-saving redundancies and addressing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and cultural realities.
   A is incorrect because the passage does not mention providing free digital services to all citizens.
   C is incorrect as eliminating income inequality and political marginalization are broader social issues mentioned but not the primary focus.
   D is incorrect because the passage suggests moving away from single-vendor policies, not promoting them.

4. **C) physical nor digital property rights**

   The passage mentions that public distrust in electronic voting machines could have been restored with open-source software and modes of integrity testing that do not violate physical nor digital property rights.

A is incorrect because the passage does not specifically discuss personal data or privacy in this context.
B is incorrect as national security and public trust are not the focus in this context.
D is incorrect because software development and data sharing are not the relevant factors mentioned in the passage.

5. **B) Failure to develop mature self-awareness of their pansocial character**
The passage indicates that glitches are more common due to a failure of information technologies to develop a mature self-awareness of their pansocial character.
A is incorrect because lack of funding is not discussed as a reason for these glitches.
C is partially addressed but not as the primary reason for common glitches.
D is incorrect as public distrust in electronic voting machines is an issue mentioned but not the cause of frequent glitches.

6. D) 'Many' का use होगा क्योंकि 'many' का अर्थ होता है बहुत सारे या अधिक संख्या में, जो इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है क्योंकि यहाँ बात हो रही है पर्यावरण के लाभों की बड़ी संख्या की। जबकि 'Much' का अर्थ होता है काफी, जिसे गिनती योग्य संज्ञाओं के साथ नहीं इस्तेमाल किया जाता, 'More' का अर्थ होता है अधिक लेकिन इसे तुलनात्मक रूप से इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, और 'Must' एक modal verb है जिसका इस्तेमाल अनिवार्यता या ज़रूरत को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।
'Many' will be used because it refers to a large number or a multitude, which fits here as the sentence discusses the numerous benefits of an undefiled environment. 'Much' is generally used with uncountable nouns, hence not appropriate here, 'More' implies a comparative degree and is not suitable without a specific comparison, and 'Must' is a modal verb indicating necessity, which does not fit this context.

7. A) Nourishes' का use होगा क्योंकि "nourishes" का अर्थ होता है पोषण देना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि एक स्वस्थ पेड़ वातावरण को बेहतर बनाता है, और यहाँ पर 'nourishes' इस बात को दर्शाता है कि पेड़ फसलों और मवेशियों को पोषण देता है, जो कि संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। जबकि 'Damages' का अर्थ है नुकसान पहुँचाना, 'Values' का अर्थ है महत्व देना, और 'Troubles' का अर्थ है परेशान करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
'Nourishes' will be used because it means to provide sustenance. The sentence indicates that a healthy tree benefits the environment, and here 'nourishes' implies that trees provide sustenance to crops and livestock, aligning correctly with the context. Whereas, 'Damages' means to cause harm, 'Values' means to regard highly, and 'Troubles' means to cause distress, none of which are appropriate in this context.

8. A) "An" will be used because it is used before words that start with a vowel sound, making it grammatically appropriate here. The phrase "an attractive landscape" flows smoothly because "attractive" begins with a vowel sound, and using "an" helps in pronunciation. On the other

hand, "A" is used before consonant sounds, which is not the case here. "The" specifies a particular landscape, which is not implied in this general statement.

'An' का use होगा क्योंकि यह vowel sound वाले शब्दों से पहले इस्तेमाल होता है, जो यहाँ grammatically सही है। "an attractive landscape" में "an" का प्रयोग इसलिए उपयुक्त है क्योंकि "attractive" vowel sound से शुरू होता है, और "an" का उपयोग pronunciation को आसान बनाता है। दूसरी ओर, 'A' consonant sounds के पहले उपयोग होता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'The' का प्रयोग किसी विशेष landscape की ओर इशारा करता है, जो इस में सही नहीं है।

9. D) 'Replenishes' का use होगा क्योंकि "replenishes" का अर्थ होता है कुछ को फिर से भरना या नवीनीकृत करना। Sentence में यह कहा गया है कि पर्यावरण अपने आस-पास के परिवेश को लगातार नवीनीकृत करता है, इसलिए 'replenishes' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Preserve' का अर्थ है संरक्षण करना, 'Premises' का अर्थ है परिसर, और 'Regardless' का अर्थ है किसी चीज की परवाह किए बिना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

    'Replenishes' will be used because it means to refill or renew something. The sentence states that the environment continually replenishes its surroundings, making 'replenishes' fitting here. Whereas, 'Preserve' means to maintain in its original or existing state, 'Premises' refers to a building or property, and 'Regardless' means without concern for detractions or conditions, which don't fit in this context.

10. D) 'Dwelling' का use होगा क्योंकि 'dwelling' का अर्थ होता है किसी जगह पर रहना या निवास करना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि प्रदूषित पर्यावरण की वजह से झीलों और समुद्रों में रहने वाले जीवों की स्थिति प्रभावित होती है, इसलिए 'dwelling' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। वहीं, 'Unwilling' का अर्थ होता है अनिच्छुक होना, 'Expelling' का अर्थ होता है निकालना, और 'Compelling' का अर्थ होता है मजबूर करना या बाध्य करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

    'Dwelling' will be used because it means living or residing in a place. The sentence states that the creatures living in the oceans and lakes are disturbed due to a polluted environment, thus 'dwelling' is appropriate here. On the other hand, 'Unwilling' means not ready, eager, or prepared to do something, 'Expelling' means to force out, and 'Compelling' means forcing or driving, which do not align correctly with the context.

11. D) **Misconception** (noun) – A view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding. भ्रांति/ ग़लतफ़हमी

    Antonym: **Certainty** (noun) – A firm conviction that something is the case; complete confidence in or assurance of something. निश्चितता

    •   **Illusion** (noun) – A thing that is or is likely to be wrongly perceived or interpreted by the senses. भ्रम

- **Hallucination** (noun) – A perception in the absence of external stimulus that has qualities of real perception; often occurring in psychiatric conditions. मतिभ्रम
- **Fallacy** (noun) – A mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound arguments. **भ्रांति**

12. A) **Colleague** (noun) – A person with whom one works in a professional context, associate, counterpart, peer. **सहकर्मी**

    Synonym: **Co-worker (**noun) – Someone who works with another; a fellow worker. सहकर्मी
    - **Consult** (verb) – Seek information or advice from (someone, especially an expert or professional). **सलाह लेना**
    - **Distend** (verb) – Cause (something) to swell by stretching it from inside. **सूजना**
    - **Exempt** (adjective) – Free from an obligation or liability imposed on others. **मुक्त**

13. B) **Perilous** (adjective) – Full of danger or risk, hazardous, unsafe, treacherous. **खतरनाक**

    Synonym: **Dangerous** (adjective) – Likely to cause harm or injury, not safe, risky, perilous. खतरनाक
    - **Convenient** (adjective) – Fitting in well with a person's needs, activities, and plans; easy to use. **सुविधाजनक**
    - **Helpful** (adjective) – Giving or ready to give help, useful, beneficial, assisting. **सहायक**
    - **Suitable** (adjective) – Right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation. **उपयुक्त**

14. A) इस वाक्य में **'the accident occurring blast'** भाग में error है। सही रूप में इसे "the blast that occurred accidentally" के रूप में लिखा जा सकता है।
    - The error is in "the accident occurring blast." It would be more grammatically accurate to phrase it as "the blast that occurred accidentally."

15. B) nail: a small metal spike, driven into wood to join things together or to serve as a hook

16. C) The incorrect spelling among the given options is **'Surrugocy'**. The correct spelling is 'Surrogacy', which refers to the practice where a woman (the surrogate mother) becomes pregnant and gives birth to a baby in order to give it to someone who cannot have children. बच्चा पैदा करने के लिए किसी और महिला को गर्भवती बनाने का अभ्यास
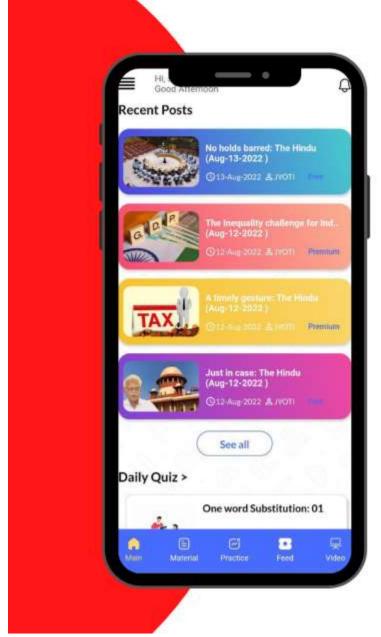
17. A) **RQPS**

    The memoir explores the authors' journey of self-discovery and the impact of their upbringing on their identity

18. B) **'a Leaning Tower of Pisa'** के बदले 'the Leaning Tower of Pisa' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' विशेष और विशिष्ट है, इसलिए यहां निर्दिष्ट अर्थ में 'the' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— The Taj Mahal is a popular monument in India.

- 'the Leaning Tower of Pisa' will be used instead of 'a Leaning Tower of Pisa' because 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' is specific and unique, so 'the' will be used in a definite sense here; Like— The Taj Mahal is a popular monument in India.

19. A) **Devil's advocate** (idiom) – One who takes an opposing position for the sake of argument विवाद के लिए विपरीत स्थिति लेने वाला

20. B) **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kind, not harmful, mild, non-threatening. **सजीव**

    Antonym: **Malignant** (adjective) – Harmful, dangerous, aggressive, typically relating to a cancer that is likely to spread. **दुष्ट**

    - **Favourable** (adjective) – Supporting, approving, beneficial, positive. **अनुकूल**
    - **Sterile** (adjective) – Free from bacteria or other living microorganisms; barren, not fertile. बाँझ
    - **Kind** (adjective) – Considerate, generous, gentle, caring. **दयालु**

21. B) The new employee was hired by the director after the interview.

22. B) **C, A, D, B**

    It has frequently been claimed That the only true individual Which the traditional society of India tolerates Is the holy man

23. B) **'Drunkeness'** को 'Drunkenness' में बदलना होगा क्योंकि सही spelling 'Drunkenness' है।

    - 'Drunkeness' will be changed to 'Drunkenness' because the correct spelling is 'Drunkenness'.

24. C) 'all the guest' **के बदले** 'guests are gathered on' **का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि** 'guest' **संख्या में** plural **होना चाहिए और** 'on the stage' **सही** preposition **है।**

    - 'guests are gathered on' will be used instead of 'all the guest' because 'guest' should be in plural form and 'on the stage' is the correct preposition.

25. D) **Spill the beans** (idiom) – Disclose the secrets accidentally रहस्य अनजाने में प्रकट कर देना।