

A national crisis

INDIA is **grappling with** a **harrowing surge** in student suicides, with recent data indicating that these tragic deaths have now **surpassed** those of farmers. While comparing the loss of lives is **inherently odious** and difficult, the **urgency** to **address** this crisis **is undeniable**. The IC3 Institute's report titled 'Student Suicides: An Epidemic Sweeping India' **highlights** that 13,089 students took their lives in 2021, **reflecting a disturbing** 57 per cent increase over the previous **decade**. **Factors** such as **relentless** academic pressure, forced career choices, mental health struggles and financial burden **are pushing young lives to the edge**. The crisis is further **underscored** by the **grim** statistics from **prestigious** institutions like IITs, where 69 students ended their lives between 2019 and 2023, as also Kota, the educational hub in Rajasthan that has **witnessed** a rising graph of young students ending their lives.

A significant contributor to this crisis is the **acute** lack of job opportunities in the country, creating a **suffocating do-or-die scenario** for students. The **intense competition** for limited positions and the **fear** of unemployment **are driving** many to **despair**. The government's role in creating more jobs is not just **essential**—it is urgent. Without this, the pressure on students will only **escalate, leading to** more tragic **outcomes**.



Families also **bear** a crucial responsibility in guiding their children toward careers that **align** with their interests rather than imposing choices that may prove **unbearable**. Schools must step up by implementing programmes that can identify and support **vulnerable** students, with educators acting as both academic guides and emotional mentors. Yet, the most critical **intervention lies** in job creation. In a nation where young lives are at a **grave** risk, **systemic** reform, mental health support and job creation must be prioritised to prevent further **tragedies** and ensure a brighter future for the youth.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- Grim (adjective) – dreadful, dire, ghastly, horrible विकट

Vocabulary

1. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) – Struggle with, wrestle with, deal with, contend with, tackle से जूझना
2. **Harrowing** (adjective) – Distressing, painful, agonizing, heartbreaking, traumatic हृदयविदारक/ दुःखद
3. **Surge** (noun) – Increase, rise, growth, escalation, swell वृद्धि
4. **Surpass** (verb) – Exceed, outdo, go beyond, eclipse, outstrip पार करना
5. **Inherently** (adverb) – Naturally, intrinsically, fundamentally, essentially, innately स्वाभाविक रूप से
6. **Odious** (adjective) – Hateful, repugnant, detestable, loathsome, abhorrent घृणित
7. **Urgency** (noun) – Importance, necessity, immediacy, pressing need, exigency तात्कालिकता
8. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, handle, manage, confront निपटना
9. **Undeniable** (adjective) – Indisputable, unquestionable, irrefutable, unarguable, certain निर्विवाद
10. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underline, stress, spotlight, point out जोर देना
11. **Reflect** (verb) – Show, demonstrate, indicate, mirror, reveal प्रकट करना
12. **Disturbing** (adjective) – Troubling, unsettling, alarming, worrying, distressing परेशान करने वाला
13. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
14. **Relentless** (adjective) – Unyielding, persistent, continuous, incessant, unremitting लगातार
15. **Push to the edge** (phrase) – Drive to desperation, force to the limit, bring to breaking point, press hard to extremity किनारे पर धकेलना
16. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, stress, accentuate जोर देना
17. **Prestigious** (adjective) – Respected, esteemed, reputable, distinguished, honored प्रतिष्ठित
18. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, experience, watch, notice देखना
19. **Acute** (adjective) – Severe, intense, sharp, critical, serious तीव्र
20. **Suffocating** (adjective) – Stifling, oppressive, smothering, constricting, asphyxiating दम घुटने वाला
21. **Do-or-die** (adjective) – Crucial, desperate, make-or-break, all-or-nothing, high-stakes करो या मरो

22. **Scenario** (noun) – Situation, context, circumstance, setting, condition परिदृश्य
23. **Intense** (adjective) – Strong, powerful, severe, extreme, forceful तीव्र
24. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, push, urge, motivate, force प्रेरित करना
25. **Despair** (noun) – Hopelessness, desperation, despondency, gloom, discouragement निराशा
26. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, vital, crucial, indispensable, fundamental आवश्यक
27. **Escalate** (verb) – Intensify, increase, heighten, amplify, aggravate बढ़ाना
28. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, contribute to, produce कारण बनना
29. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, end result, aftermath परिणाम
30. **Bear** (verb) – Carry, shoulder, endure, take on, support उठाना
31. **Align** (with) (verb) – Match, harmonize, integrate, coordinate, correspond मेल खाना
32. **Unbearable** (adjective) – Intolerable, insufferable, unendurable, impossible to bear, excruciating असहनीय
33. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Susceptible, at risk, defenseless, exposed, weak असुरक्षित
34. **Intervention** (noun) – Mediation, involvement, interference, action taken, intercession हस्तक्षेप
35. **Lie** (verb) – Reside, exist, be situated, be found, be located निहित होना
36. **Grave** (adjective) – Serious, severe, critical, dangerous, somber गंभीर
37. **Systemic** (adjective) – Structural, comprehensive, holistic, pertaining to a system, inherent प्रणालीगत
38. **Tragedy** (noun) – Disaster, calamity, catastrophe, misfortune, heartbreak त्रासदी

Summary of the Editorial

1. India is facing a severe crisis with a significant rise in student suicides, which have now exceeded the number of farmer suicides.
2. The IC3 Institute's report, "Student Suicides: An Epidemic Sweeping India," reveals that 13,089 students took their lives in 2021, marking a 57% increase over the past decade.
3. The primary factors contributing to this crisis include relentless academic pressure, forced career choices, mental health struggles, and financial burdens.
4. Prestigious institutions like IITs have reported 69 student suicides between 2019 and 2023, highlighting the severity of the issue.
5. Kota, a well-known educational hub in Rajasthan, has also seen a rising trend in student suicides.
6. A major contributor to the crisis is the acute lack of job opportunities in the country, creating immense pressure on students.
7. The intense competition for limited job positions and the fear of unemployment are driving many students to despair.
8. The government needs to urgently focus on job creation to alleviate the pressure on students and prevent further tragedies.
9. Families have a crucial role in guiding their children toward careers that align with their interests rather than imposing unsuitable choices.
10. Schools must implement programs to identify and support vulnerable students, with teachers acting as both academic and emotional mentors.
11. Mental health support in educational institutions is essential to help students cope with the pressures they face.
12. Systemic reforms are necessary to address the underlying causes of the student suicide crisis.
13. Job creation must be a priority to ensure that students do not feel trapped in a do-or-die situation.
14. The crisis underscores the need for a comprehensive approach, including mental health support, educational reform, and employment opportunities.
15. Addressing these issues is vital to prevent further tragedies and secure a brighter future for India's youth.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- What is the tone of the passage?**
 - Optimistic
 - Urgent
 - Neutral
 - Satirical
- What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - The increase in student suicides in India
 - The role of families in guiding student career choices
 - The importance of mental health support for students
 - The need for job creation to prevent student suicides
- What can be inferred from the passage about the relationship between job opportunities and student suicides in India?**
 - Lack of job opportunities is a minor factor contributing to student suicides.
 - The increase in student suicides is primarily due to academic pressure alone.
 - The scarcity of job opportunities significantly exacerbates the student suicide crisis.
 - Student suicides have no connection with job opportunities.
- According to the passage, which of the following is a major factor contributing to the rise in student suicides?**
 - Financial stability
 - Forced career choices
 - Decreasing academic pressure
 - Increase in job opportunities
- According to the IC3 Institute's report mentioned in the passage, how many students took their lives in 2021?**
 - 10,089
 - 13,089
 - 12,500
 - 15,000

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 tragic accident at an IAS coaching centre in New Delhi, where flooding _____ 1 _____ three IAS aspirants dying, was a largely man-made, hence avoidable, disaster. Such incidents are an increasing feature of localised urban flooding in which human failures play a major role. Basements in buildings have limited access and often limited ventilation. Getting in and out can be a challenge and being _____ 2 _____ is a real possibility as the water will find its way there first. Special pumping arrangements would be required to _____ 3 _____ flooding. In general, rules do not permit basements in buildings across the country to have habitation, while allowing storage, parking and utilities such as electric equipment and generators. Habitation would include offices and residents. Shops are sanctioned especially in malls or

mixed-use buildings as they _____ 4 _____ seen as temporary habitation. A classroom or a study centre may well be considered habitation in such _____ 5 _____ interpretation of rules, which could mean classes or long hours of study should not be allowed in the basement.

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

- A. led to
- B. lead to
- C. leading to
- D. leads to

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

- A. Trapped
- B. Unimpeded
- C. Indicted
- D. Establish

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

- A. Assorted
- B. Diverse
- C. Appear
- D. Mitigate

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

- A. Is
- B. Was
- C. Are
- D. Were

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

- A. No article required
- B. The
- C. A
- D. An

11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Embezzlement

- A. Misappropriation
- B. Confusion
- C. Disposition
- D. Management

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

Drug addiction is fatal _____ of therapy, which includes therapies, counselling, medications, and rehab facilities.

- A. nonetheless
- B. careless
- C. regardless
- D. Instead

13. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined word.**

Ms Marry is a barbarous lady.

- A. dull
- B. brutal
- C. matured
- D. Calm

14. **Choose the sentence that contains correct spellings**

- A. Esha resembles her mother very much.
- B. Esha resimbles her mother very much.
- C. Esha risembles her mother very much.
- D. Esha risimbles her mother very much

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

You have hurt so many people. Now, it is time to get a taste of your own medicine.

- A. to be treated the way you have treated others
- B. to be in a risky situation
- C. to lose control in a situation
- D. to benefit from two different opportunities

16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Enormous

- A. Tiny
- B. Large
- C. Small
- D. Little

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

A judgement or verdict that a person is not guilty of the crime with which he has been charged

- A. Writ
- B. Appellant
- C. Acquittal
- D. Petition

18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Occupied

- A. Filled
- B. Overflowed
- C. Closed
- D. Vacant

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

She is preparing the presentation for the meeting.

- A. The presentation is preparing by her for the meeting.
- B. The presentation by her is being prepared for the meeting.
- C. She is being prepared the presentation for the meeting.
- D. The presentation is being prepared by her for the meeting.

20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**

Sudha said, 'Vivek arrived on Friday.'

- A. Sudha said that Vivek had arrived on Friday.
- B. Sudha said that Vivek was being arrived on Friday.
- C. Sudha said that Vivek arrives on Friday.
- D. Sudha said that Vivek had been arrived on Friday.

21. **Select the correctly spelt word and fill the blank.**

The Amish community believes in _____

- A. auasterity
- B. austarity
- C. auisterity
- D. Austerity

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

Apple of discord

- A. Matter of dispute
- B. Disruption of communication
- C. Cause of happiness
- D. Solution of dispute

23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Insolent

- A. Dignified
- B. Dutiful
- C. Disrespectful
- D. Humble

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

She was engaged to be married to him

- A. bestowed
- B. betrothed
- C. betrayed
- D. Baptised

25. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the options given below**

- A. Ambitious
- B. Instantaneous
- C. Nesessity
- D. Successfully

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Urgent

A: This option is incorrect because the passage does not express hopefulness or positivity. Instead, it emphasizes the severity of the crisis and the need for immediate action.

B: This option is correct because the passage conveys a sense of urgency about addressing the student suicide crisis, highlighting the need for immediate government and societal intervention.

C: This option is incorrect because the passage is not neutral; it is emotionally charged and calls for urgent action.

D: This option is incorrect because the passage does not use irony or sarcasm. Instead, it is serious and concerned about the issue at hand.

2. D) The need for job creation to prevent student suicides

A: This option is incorrect because it describes part of the issue but does not capture the central argument of the passage, which focuses on the underlying causes, particularly the lack of job opportunities.

B: This option is incorrect because, while the passage mentions the role of families, it is not the main theme. The focus is more on systemic issues, especially job creation.

C: This option is incorrect because, although mental health support is discussed, the passage ultimately prioritizes job creation as the key solution.

D: This option is correct because the passage argues that job creation is the most critical intervention needed to address the crisis of student suicides in India.

3. C) The scarcity of job opportunities significantly exacerbates the student suicide crisis.

C is correct because the passage explicitly mentions that a significant contributor to student suicides is the lack of job opportunities, which creates intense competition and fear of unemployment among students.

A is incorrect because the passage highlights job scarcity as a major, not minor, factor.

B is incorrect because while academic pressure is a factor, the passage states that job scarcity is also a significant issue.

D is incorrect as the passage clearly connects student suicides to the lack of job opportunities.

4. B) Forced career choices

B is correct because the passage lists forced career choices as one of the major factors leading to the rise in student suicides.

A is incorrect because financial stability is not mentioned as a contributing factor; rather, financial burden is noted.

C is incorrect because the passage refers to relentless academic pressure, not a decrease.

D is incorrect because the passage states that job scarcity, not an increase in job opportunities, is contributing to the crisis

5. B) 13,089

B is correct because the passage clearly states that 13,089 students took their lives in 2021, according to the IC3 Institute's report.

A is incorrect because the number provided (10,089) is lower than the actual figure mentioned in the passage.

C is incorrect because 12,500 is a fabricated figure and does not match the data given.

D is incorrect because 15,000 is higher than the actual number mentioned in the passage.

6. A) 'Led to' का use होगा क्योंकि 'led to' का अर्थ है "किसी परिणाम के रूप में कुछ होना," और यहां यह बताने के लिए प्रयोग किया गया है कि बाढ़ का परिणाम तीन आईएएस अभ्यर्थियों की मौत के रूप में हुआ। 'led to' एक past tense phrase है, जो इस context में सही है क्योंकि दुर्घटना पहले ही घट चुकी है। जबकि 'lead to' का use present tense में होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है। 'leading to' का use continuous action को दर्शाता है, जो यहां फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यह एक समर्पित घटना का वर्णन कर रहा है। 'leads to' भी present tense में है और इसलिए इस वाक्य में सही नहीं है।

'Led to' will be used because 'led to' means "something happening as a result of something," and here it is used to indicate that the flooding resulted in the death of three IAS aspirants.

'Led to' is a past tense phrase, which is appropriate in this context because the accident has already occurred. On the other hand, 'lead to' is present tense, which is incorrect here.

'Leading to' indicates a continuous action, which doesn't fit here as it is describing a specific past event. 'Leads to' is also in present tense and therefore not suitable in this sentence.

7. A) 'Trapped' का use होगा क्योंकि 'trapped' का अर्थ है "फंस जाना," और यहाँ यह संदर्भित करता है कि पानी पहले तहखाने में भर जाता है, जिससे वहाँ मौजूद लोग फंस सकते हैं। यह शब्द इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है क्योंकि वाक्य का अर्थ यही बताता है कि तहखाने में जाने और बाहर निकलने में कठिनाई होती है और पानी के भरने पर लोग फंस सकते हैं। 'Unimpeded' का अर्थ है "बिना किसी बाधा के," जो इस संदर्भ में गलत है क्योंकि यह वाक्य में बताई गई समस्या का वर्णन नहीं करता है। 'Indicted' का अर्थ है "अभियुक्त करना," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Establish' का अर्थ है "स्थापित करना," जो यहां अर्थहीन है।

'Trapped' will be used because 'trapped' means "caught or stuck," and here it refers to the situation where water fills the basement first, potentially trapping those inside. This word is appropriate in this context as the sentence implies that it is difficult to get in and out of the basement, and people can become trapped if water fills the area. 'Unimpeded' means "without any obstruction," which is incorrect in this context as it does not describe the problem mentioned in the sentence. 'Indicted' means "formally charged with a crime," which does not fit the context. 'Establish' means "to set up or create," which is irrelevant here.

8. D) 'Mitigate' का use होगा क्योंकि "mitigate" का अर्थ होता है किसी समस्या या स्थिति के प्रभाव को कम करना। Sentence में mention है कि बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए विशेष पंपिंग व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता

होगी, इसलिए 'mitigate' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Assorted' का अर्थ है विविधता में होना, 'Diverse' का अर्थ है विभिन्न प्रकार का, और 'Appear' का अर्थ है दिखना या प्रकट होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Mitigate' will be used because it means to reduce the severity or impact of a problem or situation. The sentence mentions that special pumping arrangements would be required to prevent or reduce flooding, making 'mitigate' fitting here. Whereas, 'Assorted' means having various types, 'Diverse' means different or varied, and 'Appear' means to become visible or to come into sight, which do not fit in this context.

9. C) 'Are' का use होगा क्योंकि "are" present tense में plural nouns के साथ प्रयोग होता है। Sentence में "shops" (दुकानों) का जिक्र किया गया है, जो एक plural noun है, और वर्तमान काल में है। इसलिए 'are' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Is' present tense के लिए use होता है, 'Was' और 'Were' past के लिए use होते हैं, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Are' will be used because "are" is used with plural nouns in the present tense. The sentence mentions "shops," which is a plural noun and is being referred to in the present tense, making 'are' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Is' is used for singular nouns, and 'Was' and 'Were' are used for the past tense, which do not fit in this context.

10. D) 'An' का use होगा क्योंकि "interpretation" एक स्वर (vowel) ध्वनि 'i' से शुरू होता है। इस प्रकार के शब्दों से पहले 'an' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। इसलिए, 'an interpretation of rules' सही है। जबकि 'The' और 'A' का प्रयोग इस context में सही नहीं है

'An' will be used because the word "interpretation" begins with a vowel sound ('i'). The correct usage before such words is 'an,' making 'an interpretation of rules' the correct choice. 'The' and 'A' do not fit this context.

11. **A) Embezzlement** (noun) – The act of fraudulently appropriating money or property entrusted to one's care but actually owned by someone else. **गबन**

Synonym: Misappropriation (noun) – The action of misappropriating something; embezzlement. **दुरुपयोग**

- **Confusion** (noun) – Lack of understanding; uncertainty. **भ्रम**
- **Disposition** (noun) – A person's inherent qualities of mind and character. **स्वभाव**
- **Management** (noun) – The process of dealing with or controlling things or people. **प्रबंधन**

12. C) 'Regardless' का use होगा क्योंकि "regardless" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की परवाह किए बिना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि ड्रग्स की लत घातक होती है, चाहे उपचार में थैरेपी, काउंसलिंग, दवाएं, और पुनर्वास सुविधाएं शामिल हों या न हों, इसलिए 'regardless' सही है। जबकि 'Nonetheless' का अर्थ है फिर भी, 'Careless' का अर्थ है लापरवाह, और 'Instead' का अर्थ है बजाय इसके, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Regardless' will be used because it means without paying attention to the current situation or conditions. The sentence is stating that drug addiction is fatal, no matter if therapy, counseling, medications, and rehab facilities are included, making 'regardless' the correct choice. 'Nonetheless' means despite that, 'Careless' means lacking attention or care, and 'Instead' means in place of, which do not fit in this context.

13. B) **Brutal** (adjective) – Savagely violent, cruel, or harsh बर्बर

- **Barbarous** (adjective) – Cruel, brutal, vicious, ferocious, fierce, barbaric अशिष्ट
- **Dull** (adjective) – Lacking interest or excitement नीरस
- **Matured** (adjective) – Fully developed physically; full-grown परिपक्व
- **Calm** (adjective) – Not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other strong emotions शांत

14. A) Esha resembles her mother very much.

15. A) **to get a taste of your own medicine** (phrase) – to be treated the way you have treated others किसी के साथ उतना ही बुरा व्यवहार करें जितना उन्होंने आपके साथ किया है

16. B) **Enormous** (adjective) – Extremely large in size or amount, vast, immense. विशाल

Synonym: **Large** (adjective) – Of considerable or relatively great size, extent, or capacity. बड़ा

- **Tiny** (adjective) – Very small, minute. छोटा
- **Small** (adjective) – Of a size that is less than normal or usual. छोटा
- **Little** (adjective) – Small in size, amount, or degree. थोड़ा

17. C) **Acquittal** (noun) – A judgement or verdict that a person is not guilty of the crime with which he has been charged निर्दोषता प्रमाणपत्र/ रिहाई

- **Writ** (noun) – a form of written command in the name of a court or other legal authority. रिट
- **Appellant** (noun) – a person who applies to a higher court for a reversal of the decision of a lower court. अपीलकर्ता
- **Petition** (noun) – a formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority with respect to a particular cause. याचिका

18. D) **Occupied** (adjective) – Being used or filled, inhabited, busy. व्यस्त

Antonym: **Vacant** (adjective) – Not filled, empty, unoccupied. खाली

- **Filled** (adjective) – Containing as much or as many as possible, full, occupied. भरा हुआ
- **Overflowed** (adjective) – Flow over the brim or overflow, spill, run over. उफना हुआ
- **Closed** (adjective) – Not open, shut, sealed. बंद

19. D) The presentation is being prepared by her for the meeting.

20. A) Sudha said that Vivek had arrived on Friday.

21. D) The correctly spelt word is 'Austerity' which means 'sternness or severity of manner or attitude.' संयम, कठोरता, आडंबरहीनता

22. A) **Apple of discord** (idiom) – Matter of dispute विवाद का विषय

23. C) **Insolent** (adjective) – Showing a rude and arrogant lack of respect, impudent, disrespectful. अशिष्ट

Synonym: **Disrespectful** (adjective) – Showing a lack of respect or courtesy, rude, impolite.

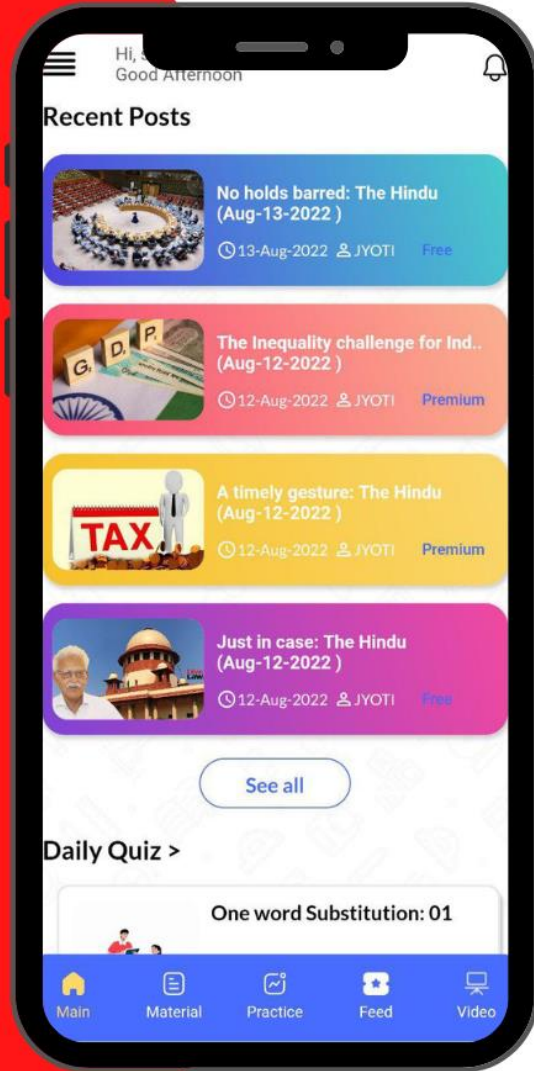
अपमानजनक

- **Dignified** (adjective) – Having or showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect, noble, stately. गरिमामय
- **Dutiful** (adjective) – Conscientiously or obediently fulfilling one's duty, responsible, devoted. कर्तव्यपरायण
- **Humble** (adjective) – Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance, modest, unassuming. विनम्र

24. B) **Betrothed** (verb) – Engaged to be married to someone. सगाई की हुई

- **Bestowed** (verb) – confer or present (an honor, right, or gift). प्रदान किया
- **Betrayed** (verb) – be disloyal to. धोखा दिया
- **Baptised** (verb) – administer baptism to (someone); christen. बपतिस्मा दिया

25. C) The correct spelling of '**Nesessity**' is '**Necessity**' which means "the fact of being required or indispensable" आवश्यकता



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