

Take the gauntlet: On safety and the Indian Railways

‘Kavach’ implementation is a priority but will not be a **silver bullet**

On October 11, a passenger train **collided** with a **stationary** goods train fast enough for 13 bogies to overturn and one to catch fire, in Kavaraipettai near Chennai. No **casualties** were reported although several people were injured. No deaths and **swift** post-event action would have **rendered** this incident less significant if not for the recent **spate** of railway accidents across zones, **spotlighting** the **oft-precarious** conditions of trains, the **infrastructure** they need to operate, and the people and goods they transport. In the Kavaraipettai incident, officials said the passenger train received a green signal to enter the main line but it passed into the loop line, rear-ending the goods train. ‘**Kavach**’, the Indian Railways’ train protection system of choice, **is** designed to avoid such incidents, and the government can install it across its entire network in a **decade** with as little as 2% of its annual **capex**. Of course the effects of its implementation will become clear in a similar **span** of time, not in a few months as some in the political class are **demanding**. This said, if the seemingly **straightforward causes** — due to which a **naive** decision to **reroute** a train can turn into the reason for a major accident — **are** a sign of the **precarity** of the railway infrastructure, ‘Kavach’ **coverage** plus **overhauling existing** signalling systems **should** be a national priority but cannot be considered a silver bullet.

The **long-standing** delay in improving safety could be **symptomatic** of shortfalls in multiple areas. For example, the staff of the Railways matter for safety, too. Recent media reports have revealed **deplorable** working conditions for East Coast, Western, and Central Railways locomotive pilots, including 12-hour shifts, unhygienic resting facilities, and absence of toilets on engines. Even with ‘Kavach’, rail safety will require constant **vigilance** yet **vigil** is threatened by access to basic **amenities competing** for pilots’ attention. Overall, the Railways’ revenue growth has slowed while its dependence on budgetary **allocation** for capex has increased; its **freight basket** is **dominated** by coal (and thus **vulnerable** to the pressure on multiple sectors to **decarbonise**); both high-density routes and high-utilisation routes often report more than 100% network utilisation; and there are signs it has still to recover market share it lost during the COVID-19 pandemic to other passenger services. The Railways cannot improve safety in a **vacuum** but must **address** all these **stressors in consonance**. Finally, the government’s **response** to recent accidents **has** included counter-terrorism investigators as well. While this is due **diligence**, their presence and involvement should neither **distract** India from the Railways’ needs nor allow the government to hide behind a **veil of secrecy**. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Stationary** (adjective) – Motionless, still, immobile, inactive, standing, एक ही स्थान में ठहरा हुआ

Vocabulary

1. **Take the gauntlet** (phrase) – Accept the challenge, confront the difficulty, face the trial, undertake the test, brave the ordeal
चुनौती स्वीकार करना
2. **A silver bullet** (phrase) – A simple solution, a magic fix, an ultimate remedy, a definitive answer, a panacea **एक सरल समाधान**
3. **Collide** (verb) – Crash, clash, impact, strike, bump **टकराना**
4. **Casualty** (noun) – a person or thing that is injured, lost, or destroyed, especially in a war or accident **हताहत**
5. **Swift** (adjective) – Fast, quick, rapid, speedy, prompt **त्वरित**
6. **Render** (verb) – Make, cause, cause to be, result in, turn into **बनाना**
7. **Spate** (noun) – Series, succession, burst, flood, wave **शृंखला**
8. **Spotlight** (verb) – Highlight, emphasize, focus on, draw attention to, illuminate **उजागर करना**
9. **Oft-precarious** (adjective) – Frequently unstable, often risky, commonly insecure, regularly uncertain, habitually dangerous **अक्सर अस्थिर**
10. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, framework, foundation, utilities, systems **बुनियादी ढांचा**
11. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years **दशक**
12. **Capex** (noun) – the money spent by the government on the development of machinery, equipment, building, health facilities, education, etc.
13. **Span** (noun) – Period, duration, stretch, interval, extent **अवधि**
14. **Demanding** (adjective) – Challenging, tough, rigorous, exacting, arduous **चुनौती-भरा**
15. **Straightforward** (adjective) – Simple, clear, uncomplicated, direct, plain **सरल**
16. **Naïve** (adjective) – Innocent, inexperienced, gullible, trusting, unsophisticated **अनुभवहीन**
17. **Reroute** (verb) – Redirect, divert, change the path, send along a different route, alter the course **पथ बदलना**
18. **Precarity** (noun) – Insecurity, instability, uncertainty, vulnerability, unpredictability **अस्थिरता**
19. **Overhaul** (verb) – Revamp, renovate, restructure, reorganize, refurbish **समग्र रूप से सुधारना**
20. **Existing** (adjective) – Current, present, extant, ongoing, prevailing **मौजूदा**

21. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Enduring, longstanding, persistent, continuous, established **दीर्घकालिक**
22. **Symptomatic** (adjective) – Indicative, showing signs of, characteristic of, revealing, representative **लक्षणात्मक**
23. **Deplorable** (adjective) – Dismal, terrible, shameful, disgraceful, unacceptable **निंदनीय**
24. **Vigilance** (noun) – Watchfulness, alertness, attentiveness, carefulness, caution **सतर्कता**
25. **Vigil** (noun) – Watch, guard, lookout, surveillance, observation **निगरानी**
26. **Amenity** (noun) – Facility, convenience, service, comfort, feature **सुविधा**
27. **Compete** (verb) – Rival, contend, vie, strive, battle **प्रतियोगिता करना**
28. **Allocation** (noun) – Distribution, assignment, allotment, apportionment, designation **आवंटन**
29. **Freight basket** (noun) – Cargo category, goods segment, shipping sector, merchandise group, transport class **माल श्रेणी**
30. **Dominate** (verb) – Control, govern, rule, oversee, influence **प्रभुत्व रखना**
31. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Susceptible, exposed, defenseless, unprotected, at risk **कमजोर**
32. **Decarbonise** (verb) – Reduce carbon emissions, lower carbon footprint, transition to low-carbon, eliminate carbon, greenify **कार्बन कम करना**
33. **Vacuum** (noun) – a situation from which something is missing or lacking **खालीपन**
34. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, handle, confront, manage **सामना करना**
35. **Stressor** (noun) – Pressure, strain, burden, challenge, demand **तनाव कारक**
36. **In consonance** (phrase) – In agreement, in harmony, in alignment, consistent with, in accordance **सामंजस्य मे**
37. **Diligence** (noun) – Carefulness, conscientiousness, persistence, industriousness, attentiveness **परिश्रम**
38. **Distract** (verb) – Divert, sidetrack, preoccupy, occupy, occupy the mind of **ध्यान भटका देना**
39. **A veil of secrecy** (phrase) – Cover of secrecy, shroud of mystery, cloak of confidentiality, layer of hiddenness, mask of concealment **गोपनीयता की परत**

Summary of the Editorial

1. On October 11, a passenger train collided with a stationary goods train in Kavaraipettai near Chennai, causing 13 bogies to overturn, though no deaths were reported.
2. This incident gained significance due to a series of recent railway accidents, highlighting the precarious state of railway infrastructure and operations.
3. The accident occurred when the passenger train mistakenly entered a loop line after receiving a green signal for the main line, causing it to rear-end the goods train.
4. 'Kavach', India's train protection system, is designed to prevent such accidents and is expected to be implemented across the entire rail network in the next decade.
5. The full impact of 'Kavach' will only be visible over time, not immediately, despite political pressure for swift results.
6. While 'Kavach' and signal upgrades are important, they are not a comprehensive solution to the issues facing Indian Railways.
7. The delay in improving railway safety reflects deeper systemic issues, including inadequate staff working conditions.
8. Locomotive pilots in various railway zones face long shifts, unsanitary resting conditions, and lack of toilets on engines, all affecting their ability to focus on safety.
9. Even with the implementation of 'Kavach', ensuring rail safety will require continuous vigilance, which is compromised by poor working conditions for staff.
10. The Railways' financial situation is strained, with slower revenue growth and increased reliance on budgetary allocations for capital expenditure.
11. Its freight operations are dominated by coal, making it vulnerable to decarbonization pressures.
12. High-density and high-utilization routes often exceed 100% network usage, adding stress to the system.
13. Indian Railways has not fully recovered market share lost to other passenger services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
14. Safety improvements cannot be achieved in isolation; the Railways must address multiple challenges simultaneously, including financial, operational, and staff welfare issues.
15. The involvement of counter-terrorism investigators in recent accident probes is necessary but should not detract from the urgent need to address the Railways' infrastructure and operational concerns.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Cautionary
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Satirical
2. **Why is the implementation of the 'Kavach' system considered crucial for Indian Railways, according to the passage?**
 - A. It will immediately prevent all future railway accidents.
 - B. It is the only way to improve the working conditions of railway pilots.
 - C. It is a necessary step but not a complete solution to improving railway safety.
 - D. It will reduce the Railways' dependency on coal freight.
3. **What is one of the key factors contributing to the precarious conditions in Indian Railways, as mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. The absence of a dedicated freight basket system.
 - B. The slow recovery of market share lost during the pandemic.
 - C. The over-reliance on counter-terrorism investigators after accidents.
 - D. The delay in installing basic safety infrastructure like 'Kavach' and updating signalling systems.
4. **Which of the following can be inferred as a primary reason for the increased attention towards the Indian Railways' safety issues, as per the passage?**
 - A. The number of passengers traveling by train has increased exponentially in recent years.
 - B. The Kavaraipeetai incident had a high number of casualties, which led to the attention on rail safety.
 - C. The recent spate of railway accidents has spotlighted the precarious conditions of trains and infrastructure.
 - D. The government has already installed the 'Kavach' system across its entire network, which has raised concerns.
5. **Which of the following is the antonym of the word "precarious" as used in the passage?**
 - A. Safe
 - B. Temporary
 - C. Dangerous
 - D. Fragile
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
 - A. We were returning after an exhilarating day trip to a stunning valley when an experience of a different kind hit us.
 - B. On our recent visit to a Himalayan hill State, we got stranded outside our property for a few hours.
 - C. A huge fallen deodar tree was blocking the path leading to the resort. The local villagers, in a commendable display of solidarity and strength, cleared the path within a few hours.

- D. It made us realise the hardship and unpredictability of life in mountain terrain.
- E. But our biggest takeaway here was the spirit of brotherhood that bound these simple hill folks into a symbiotic community.
- A. DECAB
- B. BDEAB
- C. CABED
- D. BACDE
7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- O. It is where I go when I need to disconnect from the world, reconnect with nature, and find solace in the stillness of its waters and the serenity of its surroundings
- P. In the middle of the constant barrage of social media notifications, work demands, and the mental exhaustion that modern life brings,
- Q. I found myself craving an escape
- R. Overwhelmed and in need of solitude, I left behind the noise of my phone and the stresses of daily life to visit a place that has always brought me peace — our town lake, Cheruvu
- A. PQRO
- B. PRQO
- C. OQRP
- D. OQPR

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.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that rupees with the denominations of 500/- and 1000/- would 1. _____ to be the legal tender from the 9th of November, the whole country was stunned. This decision caused a sensation in the whole country. Social media was flooded with messages and information. People started counting the cash they had 2. _____ for years legally or illegally. The main objective of this move was to curb black money, corruption and fake money menace. All the people but those who indulged in 3. _____ welcomed the move. The whole opposition shook hands against this move under one pretence or the other. They called this decision a 4. _____ law and wanted the government to roll it back. Severe criticisms were made to target the decision. The government also carried out 5. _____ attacks.

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 1.**
- A. cease
- B. unify
- C. collaborate
- D. seize
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 2.**
- A. distributed
- B. withdrawn
- C. dispersed

- D. accumulated
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 3.**
- A. amalgamation
 - B. announcement
 - C. malpractices
 - D. indecision
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 4.**
- A. draconian
 - B. like
 - C. fragile
 - D. comprehensive
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank No. 5.**
- A. example
 - B. ineffectual
 - C. revengeful
 - D. case
13. **Select the most appropriate homophones to fill in the blanks.**
Her father _____ her to opt for a chemistry _____ in her final year
- A. aloud; course
 - B. aloud; coarse
 - C. allowed; course
 - D. allowed; coarse
14. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
At his wit's end, he decided to return to his parents as he was unable to cope up with the stress of adjusting at a new place
- A. Not knowing what to do
 - B. After thinking
 - C. Taking all notes
 - D. Deciding after contemplation
15. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Vindication
 - B. Psychometric
 - C. Concentrate
 - D. Conglomirate
16. **Select the most appropriate idiom that can substitute the underlined word segment in the given sentence.**
I know Covid has made you terribly ill, but the good thing is that you have developed immunity against it for further infections.
- A. being in the quicksilver
 - B. the silver spoon
 - C. the silver lining in the cloud

- D. crossing palms with silver
17. **Select the correctly spelt word**
- A. Immediatly
 - B. Immedeatly
 - C. Immediately
 - D. Imediately
18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Out of the frying pan and into the fire
- A. Being a horrible cook
 - B. Being with someone through good times as well as bad times
 - C. Things going from bad to worse
 - D. Things getting intense by the hour
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Perilous
- A. Ugly
 - B. Dangerous
 - C. Adverse
 - D. Bad
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
My grandmother is fond of giving homilies to all my friends who visit my place.
- A. Strictures
 - B. Alternatives
 - C. Sermons
 - D. Suggestions
21. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The vendor said that the apples were of superior quality.
- A. Excellent
 - B. Distasteful
 - C. Inferior
 - D. Small
22. **Select the most appropriate homonym to fill in the blank.**
Please _____ more sugar to the juice so that it becomes sweeter
- A. aid
 - B. ad
 - C. aide
 - D. add
23. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Precarious
- A. Luminous
 - B. Reliable
 - C. Doubtful
 - D. Colossal

24. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.

He passed away in the year 1950 at 10 a.m. on 13 July.

- A. in the year 1950 at 10 a.m. on 13 July
- B. on 13 July at 10 a.m. in the year 1950
- C. at 10 a.m. on 13 July in the year 1950
- D. in the year 1950 on 13 July at 10 a.m.

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

I was in Oman around two months

- A. into
- B. for
- C. from
- D. since

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Cautionary

B: The tone is cautionary because the passage warns about the precarious conditions of the Indian Railways' infrastructure, emphasizing the need for vigilance, safety improvements, and addressing stressors such as working conditions and overutilization of routes. The author stresses the urgency of prioritizing railway safety.

A: The passage does not express optimism. Instead, it highlights the numerous challenges faced by the Indian Railways and suggests that solutions such as 'Kavach' will take time to fully implement.

C: Indifference suggests a lack of concern, whereas the author is clearly concerned about the railway infrastructure and safety.

D: There is no evidence of sarcasm or irony in the passage, which is required for a satirical tone. The passage maintains a serious and concerned tone throughout.

2. C) It is a necessary step but not a complete solution to improving railway safety.

The passage explicitly states that while the 'Kavach' system is necessary to prevent certain accidents, it should not be considered a "silver bullet" for solving all railway safety issues. It suggests that this system, along with overhauling existing infrastructure, is crucial but requires constant vigilance.

A) Incorrect: The passage does not claim that 'Kavach' will immediately prevent all accidents; it only mentions that it will help prevent some, but not all issues, will be addressed.

B) Incorrect: While working conditions for pilots are mentioned, improving these is not directly tied to the implementation of 'Kavach'; it's stated as an additional factor for railway safety.

D) Incorrect: The passage discusses the dominance of coal freight, but 'Kavach' is unrelated to this issue. It is more focused on preventing accidents.

3. D) The delay in installing basic safety infrastructure like 'Kavach' and updating signalling systems.

The passage mentions that the long-standing delay in improving safety infrastructure, such as installing 'Kavach' and updating signalling systems, is a significant contributor to the precarious conditions in Indian Railways.

A) Incorrect: The freight basket system is mentioned in the context of coal dependence, but its absence is not identified as a key safety issue.

B) Incorrect: Although the Railways' slow recovery post-pandemic is discussed, it is presented as a broader financial concern, not the primary factor for precarious conditions.

C) Incorrect: The role of counter-terrorism investigators is mentioned, but their involvement is not stated as a contributing factor to the overall safety concerns of the Railways.

4. C) The recent spate of railway accidents has spotlighted the precarious conditions of trains and infrastructure.

The passage explicitly mentions that the recent spate of railway accidents across zones has highlighted the precarious conditions of the trains, infrastructure, and safety measures. This is the primary reason for the increased attention on rail safety.

A) The passage does not discuss any exponential increase in the number of passengers, so this option is irrelevant.

B) The passage clearly states that there were no casualties in the Kavaraipettai incident, making this option incorrect.

D) The 'Kavach' system is not yet installed across the entire network; it is still in progress, hence this option is incorrect.

5. A) Safe

"precarious" in the passage refers to something that is uncertain or unstable, particularly regarding safety. The correct antonym for this would be "safe," which means secure and stable.

6. D) **BACDE**

B starts the paragraph as it introduces the context of the story: a recent visit to a Himalayan hill state where the travelers got stranded outside their property for a few hours.

A logically follows B as it continues the story by describing how the travelers were returning from a day trip when they encountered a different experience, setting the stage for what happened next.

C comes after A as it explains the specific challenge they faced, which was a fallen deodar tree blocking the path. It also highlights the response of the local villagers in clearing the path, adding to the story.

D follows C as it reflects on the experience, making the travelers realize the hardship and unpredictability of life in the mountains. This sentence ties in with the challenge described in C and adds depth to the narrative.

E concludes the paragraph by highlighting the "biggest takeaway" from the experience: the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity among the local villagers. This provides a reflective and positive ending to the story.

7. A) PQRO

P starts the paragraph as it introduces the context of modern life pressures, mentioning the "constant barrage of social media notifications, work demands, and mental exhaustion." This sets up the problem or situation the writer is dealing with.

Q follows P because it describes the writer's reaction to the situation introduced in P—they start "craving an escape." This sentence is a logical next step as it continues from the pressures mentioned in P and adds the writer's desire for relief.

R comes after Q as it expands on how the writer decided to deal with the need for escape, describing their decision to leave behind the noise and visit "a place that has always brought me peace." This adds detail and shows the action taken by the writer to seek solitude.

O concludes the paragraph by describing why the town lake is so important to the writer. It explains that the lake is where the writer "disconnects from the world, reconnects with nature, and finds solace." This provides a satisfying conclusion to the paragraph by explaining the emotional significance of the place.

8. A) '**Cease**' का use होगा क्योंकि "cease" का अर्थ होता है रोकना या समाप्त करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि 500/- और 1000/- रुपये की मुद्राएँ 9 नवंबर से कानूनी रूप से मान्य नहीं होंगी, इसलिए 'cease' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Unify' का अर्थ है एकजुट करना, 'Collaborate' का अर्थ है सहयोग करना, और 'Seize' का अर्थ है जब्त करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Cease' will be used because it means to stop or end. The sentence mentions that rupees with the denominations of 500/- and 1000/- will no longer be legal tender from the 9th of November, making 'cease' fitting here. Whereas, 'Unify' means to unite, 'Collaborate' means to work together, and 'Seize' implies to take possession of something, which don't fit in this context.

9. D) **Accumulated** का उपयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है समय के साथ इकट्ठा करना।

sentence में कहा गया है कि लोगों ने कानूनी या अवैध रूप से वर्षों से जो नकद इकट्ठा किया था, उसे गिनना शुरू कर दिया। इसलिए 'accumulated' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'distributed' का अर्थ है वितरित

करना, 'withdrawn' का अर्थ है वापस लेना, और 'dispersed' का अर्थ है फैलाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Accumulated' will be used because it means to gather or collect over time. The sentence mentions that people started counting the cash they had collected legally or illegally over the years, making 'accumulated' fitting here. Whereas, 'distributed' means to distribute, 'withdrawn' means to take back, and 'dispersed' means to scatter, which don't fit in this context.

10. C) 'Malpractices' का use होगा क्योंकि "malpractices" का अर्थ होता है गलत या अवैध गतिविधियाँ। sentence में mention है कि सभी लोगों ने इस कदम का स्वागत किया सिवाय उन लोगों के जो गलत गतिविधियों में लिप्त थे, इसलिए 'malpractices' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'amalgamation' का अर्थ है संघटन, 'announcement' का अर्थ है घोषणा, और 'indecision' का अर्थ है अनिर्णय, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Malpractices' will be used because it means wrongful or illegal activities. The sentence mentions that all people except those indulging in wrongful activities welcomed the move, making 'malpractices' fitting here. Whereas, 'amalgamation' means union, 'announcement' means declaration, and 'indecision' means inability to decide, which don't fit in this context.

11. A) 'Draconian' का use होगा क्योंकि "draconian" का अर्थ होता है अत्यंत कठोर या क्रूर। sentence में mention किया गया है कि विपक्ष ने इस निर्णय को draconian law कहा और इसे वापस लेने की मांग की, इसलिए 'draconian' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'like' का अर्थ है जैसा, 'fragile' का अर्थ है नाज़ुक, और 'comprehensive' का अर्थ है व्यापक, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Draconian' will be used because it means extremely harsh or severe. The sentence mentions that the opposition called this decision a draconian law and wanted the government to roll it back, making 'draconian' fitting here. Whereas, 'like' means similar to, 'fragile' means delicate, and 'comprehensive' means extensive, which don't fit in this context.

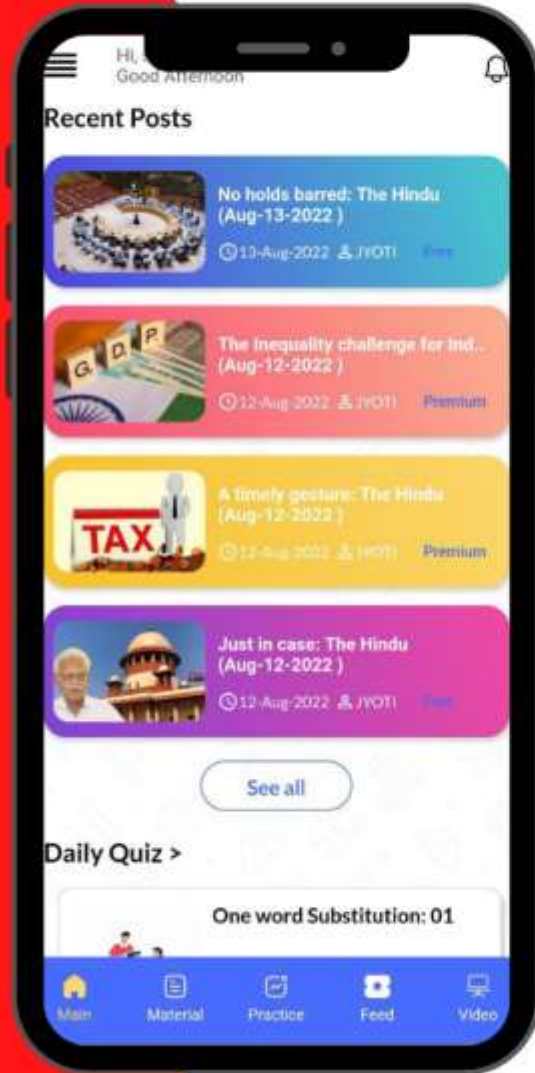
12. A) 'example' का use होगा क्योंकि "example" का अर्थ होता है उदाहरण। sentence में mention किया गया है कि सरकार ने भी विरोध के जवाब में हमले किए और यह एक उदाहरण दिया। इसलिए 'example' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'ineffectual' का अर्थ है प्रभावहीन, 'revengeful' का अर्थ है बदला लेने वाला, और 'case' का अर्थ है मामला, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'example' will be used because it means an instance or illustration. The sentence mentions that the government also retaliated against the criticism and set an example. This makes 'example' fitting here. Whereas, 'ineffectual' means not producing the desired effect, 'revengeful' means taking revenge, and 'case' means an instance of a particular situation, which don't fit in this context.

13. C) 'Allowed' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'allowed' का अर्थ है अनुमति देना। sentence में बताया गया है कि उसके पिता ने उसे अंतिम वर्ष में रसायन विज्ञान के पाठ्यक्रम को चुनने की अनुमति दी, इसलिए 'allowed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'aloud' का अर्थ है जोर से, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Course' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'course' का अर्थ है पाठ्यक्रम। sentence में बताया गया है कि उसने रसायन विज्ञान के पाठ्यक्रम को चुना, इसलिए 'course' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'coarse' का अर्थ है खुरदरा, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Allowed'** will be used because it means to give permission. The sentence mentions that her father permitted her to opt for a chemistry course in her final year, making 'allowed' fitting here. Whereas 'aloud' means loud, which doesn't fit in this context.
'Course' will be used because it means a subject or a series of classes. The sentence mentions that she chose a chemistry course, making 'course' appropriate here. Whereas 'coarse' means rough, which doesn't fit in this context.
14. A) **At his wit's end** (phrase) – Not knowing what to do भ्रमित होना
15. D) The incorrect spelling is 'Conglomerate'. The correct spelling is 'Conglomerate', which means "a large corporation formed by the merging of separate and diverse firms" एकत्रित या संयुक्त कंपनी.
16. C) **The silver lining in the cloud** (idiom) – A hopeful or positive aspect in an otherwise negative situation. नकारात्मक स्थिति में एक आशावादी या सकारात्मक पहलू।
- **Being in the quicksilver** (idiom) – This phrase is not a standard idiom and does not have a widely recognized meaning related to positivity or hope.
 - **The silver spoon** (idiom) – Born into wealth and privilege. धन और विशेषाधिकार में जन्म लेना।
 - **Crossing palms with silver** (idiom) – To bribe someone; giving money to get something done. रिश्वत देना; किसी काम के लिए पैसे देना।
17. C) The correct spelling of 'Immediately' is '**Immediately**' which means "at once; instantly" तुरंत, त्वरित.
18. C) **Out of the frying pan and into the fire** (idiom) – **Things going from bad to worse**
बुरी स्थिति से और बुरी स्थिति में जाना
19. B) **Perilous** (adjective) – Full of danger or risk, hazardous, risky, treacherous. खतरनाक
Synonym: **Dangerous** (adjective) – Able or likely to cause harm or injury, hazardous, risky. खतरनाक
- **Ugly** (adjective) – Unpleasant or repulsive, especially in appearance, unattractive, hideous. बदसूरत
 - **Adverse** (adjective) – Preventing success or development, harmful, unfavorable. प्रतिकूल
 - **Bad** (adjective) – Of poor quality or a low standard, inferior, substandard. बुरा
20. C) **Homilies** (noun) – Religious discourses intended for spiritual edification rather than doctrinal instruction, typically a sermon. प्रवचन
Synonym: **Sermons** (noun) – A talk on a religious or moral subject, especially one given during a church service and based on a passage from the Bible. उपदेश
- **Strictures** (noun) – A sternly critical or censorious remark or instruction, often implying restriction or limitation. सख्ती
 - **Alternatives** (noun) – One of two or more available possibilities. विकल्प
 - **Suggestions** (noun) – An idea or plan put forward for consideration. सुझाव
21. C) **Superior** (adjective) – Higher in rank, status, or quality, excellent, better, higher. उत्तम
Antonym: **Inferior** (adjective) – Lower in rank, status, or quality, poorer, lower, substandard. निम्न
- **Excellent** (adjective) – Extremely good, outstanding, superior. उत्कृष्ट
 - **Distasteful** (adjective) – Unpleasant, disagreeable, offensive. अप्रिय

- **Small** (adjective) – Of a size that is less than normal, little, tiny, diminutive. छोटा
22. D) **Add** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "add" का अर्थ होता है कुछ और मात्रा में शामिल करना। sentence में कहा गया है कि जूस को मीठा बनाने के लिए उसमें और शक्कर डालें, इसलिए 'add' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Aid' का अर्थ है सहायता करना, 'Ad' का अर्थ है विज्ञापन, और 'Aide' का अर्थ है सहायक, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- '**Add**' will be used because it means to include something in greater quantity. The sentence mentions adding more sugar to the juice to make it sweeter, making 'add' fitting here. Whereas, 'Aid' means to assist, 'Ad' means advertisement, and 'Aide' means an assistant, which don't fit in this context.
23. B) **Precarious** (adjective) – Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse, uncertain, insecure. अनिश्चित
Antonym: **Reliable** (adjective) – Consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted, dependable. विश्वसनीय
- **Luminous** (adjective) – Full of or shedding light; bright or shining, especially in the dark. प्रकाशमान
 - **Doubtful** (adjective) – Feeling uncertain about something; unsure. संदिग्ध
 - **Colossal** (adjective) – Extremely large or great. विशाल
24. C) 'at 10 a.m. on 13 July in the year 1950' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि समय की क्रमबद्धता के अनुसार, सबसे पहले समय (10 a.m.), फिर दिनांक (13 July), और फिर वर्ष (1950) का उल्लेख किया जाना चाहिए; जैसे— "The event occurred at 10 a.m. on 13 July in the year 1950."
- 'at 10 a.m. on 13 July in the year 1950' will be used because according to chronological order, time (10 a.m.) should be mentioned first, followed by the date (13 July), and then the year (1950); Like— "The event occurred at 10 a.m. on 13 July in the year 1950."
25. B) 'around' के बदले 'for' का use होगा क्योंकि "for" समय की अवधि को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, विशेष रूप से तब जब समय का कोई निश्चित प्रारंभ और अंत हो; जैसे— "I stayed in Oman for two months."
- 'for' will be used instead of 'around' because "for" is used to indicate a period of time, especially when the duration is specified with a clear beginning and end; Like— "I stayed in Oman for two months."



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