

## Delhi's continuing severe air pollution challenge

On Wednesday, the temperature in Delhi **dipped** below normal for the first time this winter. The **onset** of the cold weather **was accompanied** by a **deterioration** in the city's air quality. The city's air quality index (AQI) **registered** as "severe" for the first time this season — the most delayed arrival of the extreme polluting condition in the past 10 years. **That**, however, **is no respite** for the city's residents. Analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment has shown that while the **peak particulate matter** (PM) levels have fallen this season, the city's average pollution has risen. In other words, **pollutant concentration** remains a cause for worry. The average PM 2.5 levels, this year, are the highest in five years. Also, the **fact** that Delhi continues to experience bad air **way past** the crop **residue** burning season **points to** an **imperative** long **highlighted** by experts — a policy focus beyond a seasonal approach.

In recent years, Delhi's AAP government has experimented with smog towers and water sprinklers. Smog towers are **supposed to** act as giant air purifiers. However, **by all accounts**, their **efficacy** is **restricted** to the immediate **vicinity**, leaving the broader **cityscape** unaffected. There has also been no **audit** of the **emissions** from these machines. Similarly, the **jury is out** on **cloud seeding** and the use of drones, two measures that have found **prominence** in the Delhi government's recent list of solutions. Excessive **emphasis** on such questionable responses **has detracted from** building the institutional capacities required to clean up the city's air. This task, of course, cannot be **undertaken** in an emergency mode. But in the three years since it replaced the Supreme Court-mandated EPCA as Delhi's **nodal** pollution control agency, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has invested very little in data-driven, science-based solutions.

Farm fire **incidents** in Haryana and Punjab **have** been **coming down** in the past few years. However, reports continue to indicate high pollution levels in the two states. On Tuesday, Chandigarh recorded the second-worst air quality in the country. The city municipality's response to the crisis is similar to its **counterpart's** in Delhi — sprinkling water and using fogging machines. **Joining the dots** between local and regional pollution **could** be beyond the capacities and **mandate** of municipalities. This is where an agency such as the CAQM should **step in**. **Solutions** such as **airshed** pollution management — which zeros in pollution **hotspots** in regions — **require coordination** between local and state-level agencies. The CAQM has largely been operating as a regulatory agency. The central government agency needs to step up and join the dots between local and regional pollution, beyond seasonal issues such as stubble burning.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Severe** (adjective) – Serious, intense, extreme, acute, grave गंभीर
2. **Dip** (verb) – Decrease, drop, decline, fall, reduce गिरना
3. **Onset** (noun) – Beginning, start, commencement, advent, arrival आरंभ
4. **Accompany** (verb) – Occur with, go along with, coincide with, be associated with साथ होना
5. **Deterioration** (noun) – Worsening, decline, degradation, degeneration, decay बिगड़ना
6. **Register** (verb) – Record, show, indicate, display, reflect दर्ज करना
7. **Respite** (noun) – Relief, break, pause, reprieve, interval राहत
8. **Peak** (adjective) – Maximum, highest, top, utmost, summit चरम
9. **Particulate matter (PM)** (noun) – Tiny particles suspended in the air that can be harmful when inhaled सूक्ष्म कण पदार्थ
10. **Pollutant** (noun) – Contaminant, impurity, toxin, harmful substance प्रदूषक
11. **Concentration** (noun) – Density, amount, level, accumulation सघनता
12. **Way past** (phrase) – Far beyond, well beyond, much after, long past बहुत आगे
13. **Residue** (adjective) – Remaining, leftover, remnant; in context: crop residue अवशेष
14. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, hint at, signal संकेत करना
15. **Imperative** (noun) – Necessity, requirement, essential, urgent need अनिवार्यता
16. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underline, underscore, bring attention to ज़ोर देना
17. **Supposed to** (adjective) – Meant to, intended to, expected to, supposed to be माना जाता है
18. **By all accounts** (phrase) – According to everyone, as everyone says, reportedly, from all reports सभी के अनुसार
19. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency, potency, usefulness प्रभावशीलता
20. (be) **Restricted to** (adjective) – Limited to, confined to, narrowed to, constrained to सीमित होना
21. **Vicinity** (noun) – Surrounding area, neighborhood, proximity, nearby region आसपास का इलाका
22. **Cityscape** (noun) – a city landscape. शहर के परिदृश्य
23. **Audit** (noun) – Examination, inspection, review, assessment परिक्षण

24. **Emission** (noun) – Discharge, release, outflow, emission of gases उत्सर्जन
25. **Jury is out** (phrase) – Uncertain, undecided, not yet determined, still in doubt निर्णय नहीं हुआ है
26. **Cloud seeding** (noun) – A weather modification technique to induce precipitation बादलों में बीजारोपण
27. **Prominence** (noun) – Importance, emphasis, attention, significance प्रमुखता
28. **Emphasis** (noun) – Stress, importance, weight, significance ज़ोर
29. **Detract from** (verb) – Reduce, diminish, lessen, take away from कम करना
30. **Undertake** (verb) – Begin, start, embark on, take on, engage in शुरू करना
31. **Nodal** (adjective) – Central, focal, main, key मुख्य
32. **Come down** (phrasal verb) – Decrease, reduce, decline, diminish कम होना
33. **Counterpart** (noun) – Equivalent, peer, opposite number, corresponding person समकक्ष
34. **Join the dots** (phrase) – Understand the connections, link pieces of information, see the whole picture सम्बन्ध जोड़ना
35. **Mandate** (noun) – Authority, directive, order, command आधिकारिक आदेश
36. **Step in** (phrasal verb) – Intervene, get involved, take action, enter into हस्तक्षेप करना
37. **Airshed** (adjective) – Relating to a geographic area where air quality is influenced by common sources of pollution वायु क्षेत्र संबंधित
38. **Hotspot** (noun) – High-activity area, trouble spot, problem area, focal point समस्या क्षेत्र
39. **Coordination** (noun) – Cooperation, collaboration, organization, synchronization समन्वय

### Summary of the Editorial

1. Delhi's air quality has deteriorated as the city's temperature dropped below normal, registering a "severe" AQI for the first time this season.
2. This marks the latest occurrence of severe air pollution in a decade, despite lower peak PM levels, as the city's average pollution remains alarmingly high.
3. The average PM 2.5 levels this year are the highest in the past five years, indicating worsening pollution levels.
4. Air quality issues persist beyond the crop residue burning season, highlighting the need for a year-round policy approach.
5. Measures like smog towers and water sprinklers have been implemented but have limited effectiveness in addressing city-wide pollution.
6. The efficacy of smog towers is confined to nearby areas, with no comprehensive emission audits conducted.
7. Cloud seeding and drone usage have not been proven effective, and focusing on such solutions detracts from building long-term strategies.
8. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has not made significant progress in implementing data-driven, science-based solutions.
9. Since its establishment, the CAQM has acted more as a regulatory body rather than a proactive, solution-oriented agency.
10. The decline in farm fire incidents in Haryana and Punjab has not significantly reduced pollution, as pollution remains high.
11. On Tuesday, Chandigarh experienced the second-worst air quality in the country, similar to Delhi's crisis.
12. Municipal responses, like sprinkling water and fogging, are insufficient and lack coordination with broader pollution management efforts.
13. Local and regional pollution management require coordinated efforts between municipalities and state-level agencies.
14. The CAQM should facilitate solutions like airshed pollution management, targeting specific pollution hotspots through collaborative measures.
15. The central government needs to ensure that pollution management efforts extend beyond seasonal issues like stubble burning and address systemic pollution challenges.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary cause for concern regarding Delhi's air pollution mentioned in the passage?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The delayed arrival of severe pollution
  - B. The ineffectiveness of smog towers
  - C. The rise in average pollution levels despite a fall in peak levels
  - D. The cold weather worsening the pollution
2. **According to the passage, what does the continued poor air quality in Delhi past the crop residue burning season emphasize?**
  - A. The need for stricter monitoring of crop burning
  - B. The necessity of a long-term policy approach
  - C. The ineffectiveness of seasonal measures
  - D. The requirement of better air purification technologies
3. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about Delhi's current strategy to combat air pollution?**
  - A. Reliance on short-term, emergency measures is inadequate for solving the air pollution crisis
  - B. The Delhi government's measures have successfully reduced average PM 2.5 levels.
  - C. Crop residue burning is the sole cause of Delhi's persistent air pollution.
  - D. The Commission for Air Quality Management has effectively implemented science-based solutions.
4. **Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order as mentioned in the passage:**
  1. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) replaced the EPCA.
  2. The Delhi government experimented with smog towers and water sprinklers.
  3. The temperature in Delhi dipped below normal for the first time this winter.
  4. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) registered as "severe" for the first time this season.
  - A. 1, 2, 3, 4
  - B. 2, 1, 3, 4
  - C. 1, 2, 4, 3
  - D. 2, 3, 4, 1
5. What is the antonym of "**deterioration**" as used in the passage?  
"The onset of the cold weather was accompanied by a **deterioration** in the city's air quality."
  - A. Improvement
  - B. Collapse
  - C. Regression
  - D. Decline

#### 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.**

Enlightenment comes when one \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ worked through and \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_ subhuman, human and also, some superhuman parts of being. You realise that everything that has existed,

continues to exist and will come into existence, is a \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ of the Divine. Those who have experienced this and are constantly \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ in it, choose to guide others out of compassion and a sense of duty. Many seekers surrender to such a guru in deep \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ hoping to gain salvation. People hold a deep faith that, come what may, a yogi can never go wrong.

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

- A. Were
- B. Was
- C. Have
- D. Has

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

- A. Transcended
- B. Transgressed
- C. Transfigured
- D. Unbounded

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

- A. Ramification
- B. Manipulation
- C. Manifest
- D. Manifestation

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

- A. Dwelling
- B. Unveiling
- C. Compelling
- D. Rumbling

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

- A. Negotiation
- B. Proliferation
- C. Veneration
- D. Denunciation

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

There is no way I can swallow the ghastly medicine

- A. pleasant
- B. agreeable
- C. comforting
- D. horrible

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

My sister's paintings were \_\_\_\_\_ at the national museum.

- A. upon display
- B. in display
- C. on display

- D. into display
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Stick to one's guns
- A. To shoot at
  - B. To remain faithful to
  - C. To become unfaithful to
  - D. To become a rebel
14. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Relevant
  - B. Immigrete
  - C. Combat
  - D. Professional
15. **Select the option that can substitute the bracketed word segment meaningfully.**  
The city of Hyderabad is located (**on the heart from Telangana**)
- A. of the heart in Telangana
  - B. with the heart in Telangana
  - C. in the heart of Telangana
  - D. in the heart with Telangana
16. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**  
I was looking for a barren seat in the bus but could not find one
- A. vacuous seat
  - B. hollow seat
  - C. vacant seat
  - D. deserted seat
17. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Frivolity
- A. Meaningful
  - B. Insignificance
  - C. Substantial
  - D. Consequence
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'Contaminate' from the given sentence.**  
She spent the entire night working non-stop to clean the blood stains from the rug
- A. working
  - B. spent
  - C. rug
  - D. clean
19. **Select the most appropriate option that can replace the bracketed word segment in the following sentence.**  
An (**imperfect positioning**) of the Sun, Earth and Moon results in the Moon passing through only part of Earth's umbra, resulting in a partial lunar eclipse
- A. imperfect revolution

- B. imperfect alliance  
C. imperfect alignment  
D. imperfect allegiance
20. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Have a bee in your bonnet  
A. Unable to stay at a place for long  
B. Having a cruel intention or grudge against someone  
C. Be preoccupied or obsessed with something  
D. To keep worrying about yourself
21. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
The new chief is gifted at the power of eloquence  
A. gifted among  
B. gifted of  
C. gifted with  
D. gifted for
22. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**  
Anthony Trollope was an industrious and disciplined writer  
A. Lazy  
B. Skittish  
C. Exhausting  
D. Dizzy
23. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**  
A. Miserable  
B. Litature  
C. Schedule  
D. Reformation
24. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**  
Fastidious  
A. Late  
B. Scrupulous  
C. Lax  
D. Speedy
25. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**  
The recent cloudburst completely dismantled the village and its people.  
A. took back  
B. took apart  
C. took up  
D. took after



## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. **C) The rise in average pollution levels despite a fall in peak levels**

The passage highlights that while peak particulate matter (PM) levels have decreased, the average PM 2.5 levels have increased and are the highest in five years. This sustained high average pollution poses a significant challenge.

A) While the passage mentions the delayed arrival of severe pollution, it is not identified as the primary cause for concern.

B) The inefficacy of smog towers is mentioned, but it is not stated as the main issue regarding air pollution in the city.

D) The cold weather is noted to coincide with worsening pollution, but it is not the main cause for concern.

### 2. **B) The necessity of a long-term policy approach**

The passage explicitly states that experts have long highlighted the importance of focusing on policies beyond a seasonal approach to combat the year-round air quality problem in Delhi.

A) While stricter monitoring of crop burning may help, the passage does not specifically suggest this as the focus for addressing the issue.

C) The ineffectiveness of seasonal measures is implied, but the passage underscores the need for a long-term solution rather than solely criticizing current measures.

D) Although the ineffectiveness of smog towers is discussed, the passage focuses on policy solutions over technological improvements alone.

### 3. **A) Reliance on short-term, emergency measures is inadequate for solving the air pollution crisis.**

The passage implies that Delhi's focus on temporary solutions like smog towers and water sprinklers has detracted from developing long-term, institutional capacities to address air pollution. It emphasizes the need for a policy focus beyond seasonal approaches, indicating that short-term measures are insufficient.

B) Incorrect: The passage states that "the average PM 2.5 levels this year are the highest in five years," suggesting that current measures have not reduced pollution levels.

C) Incorrect: It mentions that pollution persists "way past the crop residue burning season," indicating other significant sources of pollution.

D) Incorrect: The passage notes that the CAQM "has invested very little in data-driven, science-based solutions," contradicting the statement.

### 4. **A) 1, 2, 3, 4**

CAQM replaced EPCA three years ago.

The Delhi government experimented with smog towers and water sprinklers in recent years.

The temperature dipped below normal on Wednesday, marking the onset of cold weather.

Delhi's AQI registered as "severe" for the first time this season, following the temperature drop.

B) Incorrect: Places the experimentation before the CAQM's establishment, which is inconsistent with the passage.

C) Incorrect: Suggests the AQI worsened before the temperature dip, which contradicts the sequence in the passage.

D) Incorrect: Orders the events incorrectly, placing the CAQM's establishment last

5. A) **Improvement**

A) Improvement: Correct. The word "deterioration" means a worsening or decline. Its antonym is "improvement," which means progress or betterment.

6. D) 'Has' का use होगा क्योंकि "one" एक third-person singular pronoun के रूप में कार्य करता है, और singular subjects के साथ 'has' का उपयोग किया जाता है। Sentence में mention है कि किसी व्यक्ति ने Enlightenment प्राप्त की है और यह एक व्यक्तिगत अनुभव को दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए Present Perfect Tense का प्रयोग किया गया है। 'Were' और 'Was' past tense के रूप में हैं, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं, और 'Have' plural subjects के लिए होता है, जबकि 'one' singular है।

'Has' will be used because "one" functions as a third-person singular pronoun, and 'has' is used with singular subjects. The sentence indicates that a person has attained Enlightenment, which reflects a personal experience, so the Present Perfect Tense is appropriate here. 'Were' and 'Was' are past tense, which don't fit the context, and 'Have' is for plural subjects, while "one" is singular.

7. A) 'Transcended' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "किसी सीमा या स्थिति से ऊपर उठना या उसे पार करना," जो यहाँ subhuman और superhuman हिस्सों को पार करने के context में सटीक है। Sentence में यह बताया जा रहा है कि Enlightenment प्राप्त करने के लिए इंसान को subhuman, human, और superhuman हिस्सों से ऊपर उठना पड़ता है। 'Transgressed' का अर्थ है "उल्लंघन करना," जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Transfigured' का अर्थ है "रूपांतरित करना," और 'Unbounded' का अर्थ है "असीमित," जो यहाँ fit नहीं होते।

'Transcended' will be used because it means "to rise above or go beyond limits," which is accurate in the context of surpassing subhuman, human, and superhuman parts to attain Enlightenment. The sentence refers to the idea of moving beyond these aspects. 'Transgressed' means "to violate," which doesn't fit here. 'Transfigured' means "to transform," and 'Unbounded' means "limitless," both of which don't suit the context.

8. D) 'Manifestation' का उपयोग सही होगा क्योंकि यह noun है और इसका अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ का प्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रकट होना।" यहां sentence में 'is' verb के बाद noun की जरूरत है, जो कि 'Manifestation' है। यह बताता है कि जो कुछ भी अस्तित्व में आया है, वह दिव्यता का एक रूप है। 'Ramification' (noun) का अर्थ है "परिणाम या शाखा," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Manipulation' (noun) का अर्थ है "हेरफेर

करना," जो यहां गलत है। 'Manifest' (verb/adjective) का अर्थ है "स्पष्ट होना," लेकिन sentence में हमें noun की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए 'Manifestation' सही option है।

'Manifestation' will be used because it is a noun, meaning "the clear or visible expression of something." In this sentence, after the verb 'is,' a noun is required, and 'Manifestation' fits as it describes the existence of everything as a form of the Divine. 'Ramification' (noun) means "consequence or branch," which doesn't fit the context. 'Manipulation' (noun) means "managing or handling," which is incorrect here. 'Manifest' is a verb/adjective meaning "to become clear," but since a noun is needed in the sentence, 'Manifestation' is the correct choice.

9. A) 'Dwelling' का उपयोग सही होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ में स्थायी रूप से रहना या उसके बारे में लगातार सोचना।" यहां sentence में बताया जा रहा है कि जो लोग Enlightenment को अनुभव कर चुके हैं, वे उसमें लगातार बने रहते हैं या ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं। 'Dwelling' एक verb के रूप में सही बैठता है क्योंकि यह उन लोगों की स्थिति को दर्शाता है जो दिव्यता में स्थायी रूप से "स्थित" हैं। 'Unveiling' का अर्थ है "प्रकट करना," जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Compelling' का अर्थ है "मजबूर करना," और 'Rumbling' का अर्थ है "गड़गड़ाहट," जो यहां फिट नहीं होते।

'Dwelling' will be used because it means "to reside in or to focus continuously on something." In the sentence, it refers to those who have experienced Enlightenment and continue to remain in that state. 'Dwelling' as a verb fits perfectly here as it describes the ongoing presence of these individuals in a divine state. 'Unveiling' means "revealing," which doesn't fit the context. 'Compelling' means "forcing," and 'Rumbling' refers to a "deep, rolling sound," both of which are incorrect here.

10. C) 'Veneration' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "गहरी श्रद्धा या सम्मान।" यहां sentence में यह बताया जा रहा है कि कई साधक गहरे सम्मान और श्रद्धा के साथ गुरु के प्रति समर्पण करते हैं, जिससे वे मोक्ष प्राप्त करने की आशा रखते हैं। 'Veneration' एक noun के रूप में बिल्कुल सही बैठता है, क्योंकि यह साधकों की भावना को व्यक्त करता है। 'Negotiation' का अर्थ है "सौदा करना या बातचीत," जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Proliferation' का अर्थ है "तेजी से वृद्धि," और 'Denunciation' का अर्थ है "निंदा करना," जो इस context में फिट नहीं होते।

'Veneration' will be used because it means "deep respect or reverence." The sentence describes how many seekers surrender to a guru with deep respect, hoping to gain salvation. 'Veneration' as a noun fits perfectly here to express the seekers' feelings. 'Negotiation' means "discussion or bargaining," which doesn't fit the context. 'Proliferation' means "rapid increase," and 'Denunciation' refers to "criticism," both of which are incorrect for this sentence.

11. D) **Horrible** – Extremely unpleasant or causing horror भयानक

- **Ghastly** (adverb) – Frightening, shocking, upsetting, distressing, horrifying, भयानक रूप से

- **Pleasant** – Giving a sense of enjoyment or satisfaction सुखद
  - **Agreeable** – Enjoyable and pleasurable; pleasant सहमत या सुखद
  - **Comforting** – Serving to alleviate a person's feelings of grief or distress आराम देने वाला
12. C) 'On display' का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence किसी वस्तु को सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रदर्शित करने की बात कर रहा है। यहाँ "My sister's paintings were \_\_\_\_\_ at the national museum" के माध्यम से उस प्रदर्शनी के स्थान को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें पेंटिंग्स को दिखाया जा रहा है। इसलिए, "on display" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'On display' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the act of exhibiting something publicly. Here, through "My sister's paintings were \_\_\_\_\_ at the national museum," it portrays the location of the exhibition where the paintings are being shown. Thus, "on display" would be the most appropriate choice.
13. B) **Stick to one's guns** (idiom) – To remain faithful to वफ़ादार रहना
14. B) The correct spelling of 'Immigrete' is '**Immigrate**' which means "to come to live permanently in a foreign country" विदेश में स्थायी रूप से रहने के लिए आना.
15. C) "in the heart of Telangana" correctly indicates the city's central location within the state. "In the heart" suggests a central position, and "of Telangana" shows possession, indicating that the heart belongs to Telangana.
16. C) barren' के बदले '**vacant**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'barren' का अर्थ 'infertile' या 'unproductive' होता है, जो seat के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है; अतः 'vacant' का प्रयोग उपयुक्त है, जो 'empty' या 'available' को दर्शाता है; जैसे— I was looking for a vacant seat in the bus but could not find one.
- '**vacant**' will be used instead of 'barren' because 'barren' means 'infertile' or 'unproductive', which is not appropriate in the context of a seat; therefore, 'vacant' is suitable, which indicates 'empty' or 'available'; like— I was looking for a vacant seat in the bus but could not find one.
17. B) **Frivolity** (noun) – Lack of seriousness, light-heartedness, silliness, triviality. छिछोरापन; बिना गंभीरता के  
Synonym: **Insignificance** (noun) – Lack of importance, triviality, unimportance, worthlessness. महत्वहीनता
- **Meaningful (adjective)** – Having a serious, important, or useful quality or purpose. सार्थक
  - **Substantial (adjective)** – Of considerable importance, size, or worth, significant, sizeable. महत्वपूर्ण
- Consequence (noun)** – A result or effect, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant. परिणाम

18. D) **Contaminate** (verb) – To make something impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc. दूषित करना.  
Antonym: **Clean** (verb) – To make something free of dirt, marks, or mess, साफ करना.
- **Working** (verb) – Engaging in physical or mental activity in order to achieve a purpose or result, काम करना.
  - **Spent** (verb) – Having been used and no longer available for use, व्यय किया हुआ.
  - **Rug** (noun) – A floor covering of thick woven material or animal skin, typically not extending over the entire floor, गलीचा./ कम्बल
19. C) 'Imperfect alignment' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'alignment' का अर्थ होता है वस्तुओं का सीधी रेखा में होना। 'Revolution' का अर्थ होता है परिक्रमा करना, 'Alliance' का अर्थ होता है सहयोग या संधि, और 'Allegiance' का अर्थ होता है वफादारी या निष्ठा, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Imperfect alignment' should be used because 'alignment' means the arrangement of things in a straight line. Whereas 'Revolution' means orbiting, 'Alliance' means partnership or treaty, and 'Allegiance' means loyalty or devotion, which don't fit in this context.
20. C) **Have a bee in your bonnet** (idiom) – Be preoccupied or obsessed with something किसी चीज़ के बारे में चिंता करना या जुनून में पड़ना
21. C) 'gifted at' के बदले **'gifted with'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'gifted with' का अर्थ है 'किसी चीज से संपन्न होना'; जैसे— He is gifted with a talent for music.
- 'gifted with' will be used instead of 'gifted at' because 'gifted with' means 'to be endowed with something'; Like— He is gifted with a talent for music.
22. A) **Industrious** (adjective) – Hard-working, diligent, productive, assiduous. परिश्रमी  
**Antonym: Lazy** (adjective) – Unwilling to work or use energy, idle, indolent, sluggish. आलसी
- **Skittish** (adjective) – Easily frightened or excited, nervous, jumpy, jittery. चंचल
  - **Exhausting** (adjective) – Draining of strength or energy, tiring, fatiguing. थकावट भरा
  - **Dizzy** (adjective) – Feeling or causing a whirling sensation, lightheaded, giddy. चक्कर आना
23. B) The correct spelling of 'Litrature' is '**Literature**' which means "written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit" साहित्य.
24. C) **Fastidious** (adjective) – Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail, meticulous, scrupulous. नकचढ़ा, तुनक मिजाज

**Antonym: Lax** (adjective) – Not sufficiently strict, severe, or careful, careless, negligent. ढीला, शिथिल

- **Late** (adjective) – After the expected or usual time, delayed. देर से
- **Scrupulous** (adjective) – Diligent, thorough, and extremely attentive to details, meticulous. ईमानदार
- **Speedy** (adjective) – Done or occurring quickly, fast. तेज़

25. B) dismantled' के बदले 'took apart' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'dismantled' का अर्थ है 'to take something apart so that it is in separate pieces', अतः 'took apart' इस context में सबसे appropriate option है; जैसे— The recent cloudburst completely took apart the village and its people.

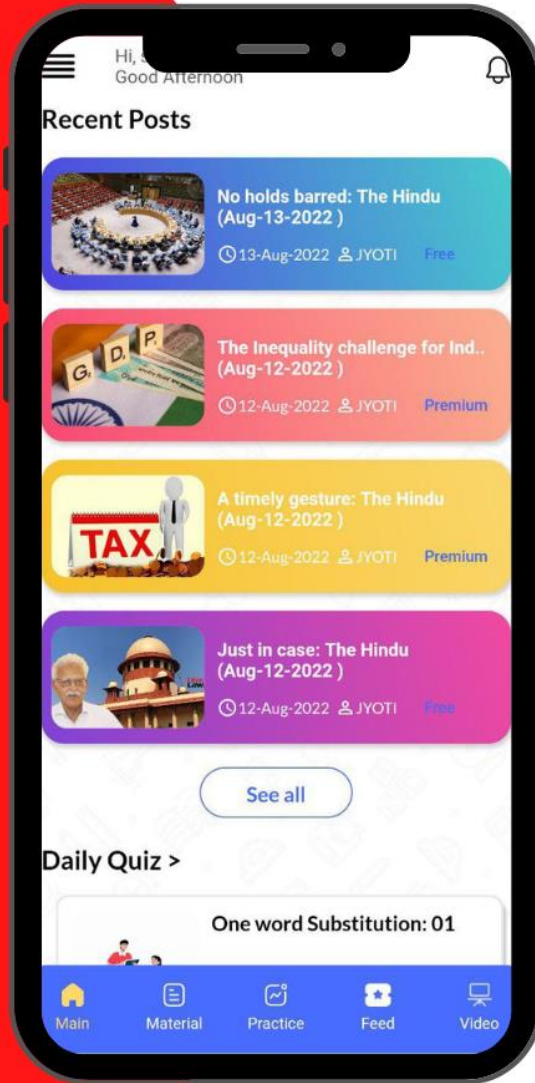
- **'took apart'** will be used instead of 'dismantled' because 'dismantled' means 'to take something apart so that it is in separate pieces', so 'took apart' is the most appropriate option in this context; Like— The recent cloudburst completely took apart the village and its people.

**Took back** (phrasal verb) – Retrieved, reclaimed, rescinded, retracted, regained वापस लेना

**Took apart** (phrasal verb) – Dismantled, disassembled, separated, deconstructed, analyzed टुकड़े-टुकड़े करना

**Took up** (phrasal verb) – Began, started, engaged in, initiated, occupied शुरू करना

**Took after** (phrasal verb) – Resembled, mirrored, imitated, followed, looked like किसी से मिलना; सदृश होना



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**English Madhyam**