Embracing silence in the age of social media

As we reminisce about a time when joy was safeguarded within the confines of our homes, we ponder the evolution of modern communication

I recently came across this famous quote by Khalil Gibran, "Travel and tell no one, Live a true love story and tell no one, Live happily and tell no one, People ruin beautiful things."

In older times when we were children, we were told by our elders not to display our good fortune, lest we catch the evil eye. That meant we had to keep the happiness, the good fortune, or anything good in our life, within the four walls of our house. It was not a successful pearl passed on to us by our forefathers. There were avenues where we could still boast, like in school or during the mandatory evenings out to play with other children in the locality.

Those were different times. A visit to our grandparents' during the holidays, or the new toy that we had received from our parents for our birthday, or any other such possession, was valuable - to be cherished and talked about. Even laughter and happiness were something to value and to pass on to our near and dear ones.

Things started changing. My letter-writing stopped. Emails were the new order. However, Government departments and corporations have yet to discover the paperless office. A hard copy of the communication, with a physical signature, was still required to be sent through post for it to be accepted.

People said that any document without a physical signature was not legally enforceable; however, I believed that the reason was far simpler — the postal mindset doubted the receipt of email communication by the recipient. This was not baseless — the mail still finds ways to reach the spam box. But more likely, it had more to do with the sender's capability, or lack of it, in operating the computer.

I started writing after my relative withdrawal a few years back from professional life. In the olden days, the only recourse that I had for an outreach, was to send my manuscript with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the limited number of magazines and journals available at the time — to eventually receive a rejection. But I had the satisfaction of waiting in anticipation for a few weeks if not months. Now times have changed. I recently sent my article to the editor of a reputed daily by email and within hours I received a **cryptic** reply, "Regret."

There is a popular serial currently airing on the TV. Two celebrities have a conversation over coffee with a k, with another celebrity and talk about mundane subjects. A recent episode captured the changing times perfectly. A star from the 90s was asked about the one thing that she missed not having during her heydays. Her reply was spontaneous, without missing a beat, emphatic and crisp -"Social Media." I cannot even imagine the plight of the corporates who continue to prosper because

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we are **obsessed with** social media if people start following Mr Gibran's advice! Not to talk of the withdrawal symptoms for a generation brought up posting all their happiness and even **sorrow**, on social media!

[Practice exercise]

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

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Vocabulary

- Embrace (verb) Accept, adopt, welcome, espouse, include अपनाना
- 2. **Reminisce** (about) (verb) Recall, recollect, remember, reflect, think back स्मरण करना
- Safeguard (verb) Protect, defend, secure, shield, guard स्रक्षा करना
- 4. **Confine** (noun) Boundary, limit, restriction, border, edge सीमा
- Ponder (verb) Consider, contemplate, reflect, deliberate, muse विचार करना
- Evolution (noun) Development, progression, growth, transformation, advancement विकास
- 7. **Come across** (phrasal verb) to find something by chance संयोग से मिल जाना
- Ruin (verb) Destroy, devastate, wreck, spoil, damage नष्ट करना
- 9. **Display** (verb) Show, exhibit, present, reveal, demonstrate प्रदर्शित करना
- 10. **Fortune** (noun) Luck, destiny, fate, prosperity, wealth भाग्य
- 11. **Lest** (conjunction) To avoid the risk, for fear that, so that ... not, in case, in order to prevent इस डर से कि
- 12. **Evil** (adjective) Wicked, malicious, malevolent, sinister, immoral ब्रा

- 13. **Pearl** (noun) Gem, jewel, treasure, ornament, prize मोती
- 14. **Forefather** (noun) Ancestor, predecessor, progenitor, antecedent, precursor पूर्वज
- 15. **Avenue** (noun) Path, way, means, channel, course मार्ग
- 16. **Boast** (verb) Brag, vaunt, flaunt, show off, crow डींग मारना
- 17. **Possession** (noun) Ownership, property, holding, asset, tenure संपत्ति
- 18. **Cherished** (adjective) Valued, treasured, beloved, precious, esteemed प्रिय
- 19. **Dear one** (noun) Loved one, beloved, sweetheart, darling, precious प्रियजन
- 20. **Enforceable** (adjective) Applicable, executable, binding, mandatory, obligatory लागू करने योग्य
- 21. **Mindset** (noun) Attitude, outlook, mentality, disposition, frame of mind मानसिकता
- 22. **Baseless** (adjective) Groundless, unfounded, unsubstantiated, unsupported, unwarranted आधारहीन
- 23. **Spam box** (noun) Junk mail folder, unsolicited mail, email trash, bulk mail folder, email clutter स्पैम बॉक्स

- 24. **Likely** (adjective) Probable, possible, plausible, credible, feasible संभावित
- 25. **Withdrawal** (noun) Retreat, pullout, departure, removal, retraction वापसी
- 26. **Recourse** (noun) Option, resort, remedy, alternative, possibility सहारा
- 27. **Outreach** (noun) Reach, expansion, extension, influence, engagement पहंच
- 28. **Manuscript** (noun) Document, script, text, draft, typescript पांडुलिपि
- 29. **Eventually** (adverb) Finally, ultimately, in the end, at last, in due course ਤਂਜ਼ਰ:
- 30. **Anticipation** (noun) Expectation, foresight, prediction, forethought, outlook प्रत्याशा
- 31. **Cryptic** (adjective) Mysterious, obscure, puzzling, enigmatic, ambiguous गुप्त
- 32. **Air** (on) (verb) Broadcast, transmit, show, display, telecast प्रसारित करना
- 33. **Mundane** (adjective) Ordinary, routine, banal, everyday, commonplace साधारण

- 34. **Heyday** (noun) Prime, peak, pinnacle, zenith, flourishing period सुनहरे दिन
- 35. **Spontaneous** (adjective) Unplanned, impromptu, instinctive, natural, unprompted स्वाभाविक
- 36. Without missing a beat (phrase) to not pause or show any uncertainty, usually when this is surprising बिना रुके
- 37. **Emphatic** (adjective) Forceful, assertive, decisive, insistent, vigorous जोरदार
- 38. **Crisp** (adjective) Clear, concise, sharp, succinct, brisk साफ़
- 39. **Plight** (noun) Predicament, dilemma, difficulty, trouble, hardship स्थिति
- 40. **Prosper** (verb) Thrive, flourish, succeed, grow, boom फलना-फूलना
- 41. (be) **obsessed** (with) (adjective) Fixated, preoccupied, consumed, engrossed, infatuated के साथ जुनूनी होना
- 42. **Sorrow** (noun) Grief, sadness, melancholy, anguish, misery दुख

Summary of the Editorial

- 1. The editorial reflects on a past era when personal joys were kept private within the home, contrasting it with the open sharing culture of today's social media.
- 2. The author references a quote by Khalil Gibran that advises keeping personal experiences private to preserve their beauty, suggesting that public sharing can ruin these moments.
- 3. Historically, cultural norms encouraged keeping good fortune private to avoid the "evil eye," a belief in negative effects from envy or ill-will.
- 4. In childhood, the author recalls limited opportunities for boasting, like school or neighborhood play, despite the general trend of privacy.
- 5. Special moments and possessions from childhood, like visits to grandparents or new toys, were treasured and shared selectively with close family and friends.
- 6. The transition from handwritten letters to emails marked a shift in communication, yet some traditional practices like requiring physical signatures persisted.
- 7. The author notes skepticism about the enforceability of digital documents without physical signatures, attributed to a "postal mindset" doubting email reliability.
- 8. The author's personal transition from a professional career to writing highlights the changes in publishing and feedback, contrasting the long waits for magazine responses with instant email rejections.
- 9. The author observes the influence of social media through a TV show where celebrities discuss everyday topics, noting a star from the 90s expressing relief at not having social media in her early career.
- 10. The editorial questions the impact on companies thriving on social media engagement if people were to adopt Gibran's advice and keep their lives private.
- 11. It considers the potential withdrawal symptoms for a generation accustomed to sharing everything online if they were to suddenly embrace privacy.
- 12. The editorial criticizes the superficial interactions and fleeting attention spans fostered by modern communication tools like social media.
- 13. It laments the loss of deeper, more meaningful connections that were more common in an era of private, personal sharing.
- 14. The editorial encourages readers to reflect on how the constant exposure and sharing on social media might be affecting their personal lives and relationships.
- 15. It calls for a balance between embracing modern communication tools and preserving the personal sanctity of life's beautiful moments.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Nostalgic
- B. Humorous
- C. Critical
- D. Indifferent

2. What is the main theme of the passage?

- A. The evolution of communication methods
- B. The importance of maintaining privacy
- C. The negative impact of social media on personal happiness
- D. The legal aspects of digital communication

3. Based on the passage, how has modern communication affected the way we share personal joy and achievements?

- A. Modern communication has encouraged people to keep their personal joys and achievements private, similar to older times.
- B. Modern communication has made it easier for people to share their personal joys and achievements publicly, contrasting the previous practice of keeping them private.
- C. Modern communication has not significantly changed the way people share personal joys and achievements; the practice remains the same as in older times.
- D. Modern communication has led to people only sharing their personal joys and achievements with their immediate family members.

4. What was the primary reason government departments and corporations continued to require hard copies of communication with physical signatures?

- A. Hard copies were considered more aesthetically pleasing than digital communication.
- B. There was a legal requirement for physical signatures to make documents enforceable.
- C. The postal mindset doubted the reliability of email communication and the sender's capability with technology.
- D. Physical copies were easier to archive and store for long-term use

5. What can be inferred about the author's view on the evolution of communication from the passage?

- A. The author believes the evolution of communication has led to a loss of personal satisfaction and meaningful interaction.
- B. The author appreciates the swift communication available today but finds it lacks the anticipation and excitement of the past.
- C. The author prefers the modern methods of communication due to their efficiency and instant feedback.
- D. The author is indifferent to the changes in communication methods and focuses on other aspects of

6. Based on the passage, what can be deduced about the sequence of events that led to the author's withdrawal from professional life?

- A. The author experienced rejection from magazines and journals, leading to a gradual withdrawal from professional life, followed by embracing modern communication methods.
- B. The author withdrew from professional life, started writing, and then experienced the differences between past and present communication methods.
- C. The author embraced social media, experienced rejection in professional life, and then withdrew to focus on writing.
- D. The author first saw a TV serial about changing times, withdrew from professional life, and then reflected on past and present communication methods
- 7. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Raciness

- A. Filth
- B. Perfection
- C. Lewdness
- D. Obscenity
- 8. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct logical sequence to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
 - A. I once met a gentleman who told me about a game he plays with his grandchildren.
 - B. He shares a titbit or two and it starts off a conversation.
 - C. He then asks his teenage grandchildren if they know who those people are.
 - D. He picks some names of politicians, rock stars or even criminals from his generation.
 - A. A, B, C, D
 - B. A, C, B, D
 - C. B, A, C, D
 - D. A, D, C, B
- The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a spelling error.

You cannot / compensate for the / wrongdoings you have / comitted in the past.

- A. You cannot
- B. comitted in the past.
- C. wrongdoings you have
- D. compensate for the
- 10. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

The snake was killed by Shyam.

- A. Shyam killed the snake.
- B. Shyam kills the snake.
- C. Shyam has killed the snake.
- D. Shyam had killed the snake
- 11. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.

I brought / an apple from / a place you recommended / me earlier.

- A. I brought
- B. me earlier
- C. a place you recommended
- D. an apple from
- 12. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.
 - P. and allows them to come out of their imaginary world
 - Q. which helps in illuminating and enlightening the dark world
 - R. of two blind or visually impaired persons
 - S. eye donation is a very generous act towards society
 - A. SQPR
 - B. SRQP
 - C. SPQR
 - D. SQRP
- 13. What Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

Let the door be shut.

A. You are requested to shut the door.

- B. The door should be shut.
- C. Let you shut the door.
- D. Shut the door.

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

The **loyal** nature of the princess was one of the reasons that the king trusted her very much.

- A. infamous
- B. treacherous
- C. livid
- D. Unyielding

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

Amar is very good in mathematics.

- A. good at
- B. good about
- C. good on
- D. good with

16. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.

The company is planning to **cut back few** employees

- A. reduce some
- B. lay off some
- C. refuse some
- D. lay down some

17. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Have a narrow escape

- A. Only just succeed in doing something
- B. Likely to fall in the near future
- C. Do something very risky
- D. Just manage to avoid danger or trouble

18. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.

The city had a hundred thousand inhabitents—some think double as many.

- A. Hundred
- B. Inhabitents
- C. Double
- D. Thousand

19. Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined words in the given sentence.

The childhood days are **peaceful days** of our life.

- A. halcyon days
- B. live wire days
- C. all years
- D. hard and fast days

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

- P. the news of her husband's death
- Q. to break to her as gently as possible
- R. great care was taken
- S. knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble
- A. SPRQ
- B. SPQR
- C. SQPR

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	D. SRQP
	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.
	Tea prices in the domestic market continue to rule high in the (1) year despite the expectation of a higher production as compared to the previous year. According to a preliminary assessment
	(2) on the weather (3) in recent months, tea output in the next year may reach to 800
	tonnes as (4) 780 tonnes last year. During the past three months, tea prices have shown an
	(5) Unlike last year, when tea prices were dramatically low, this year, prices seem to have
	stabilised at rather high levels.
21.	Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
	A. first
	B. current
	C. second
	D. Last
22.	Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2
	A. shared
	B. based
	C. flown
	D. Carried
23.	Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.
	A. outbreak
	B. forecast
	C. condition
	D. Pattern
24.	Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
	A. about
	B. compared
	C. against
	D. Abovo

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

A. declineB. inclineC. upgradeD. uptrend

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) Nostalgic

- A. The passage reminisces about the past, reflecting on the simplicity and cherished moments of earlier times compared to the present age of social media.
- B. This option is incorrect because the passage does not aim to amuse or entertain the reader with humor.
- C. This option is incorrect because, although there is some critique of modern communication methods, the overall tone is more reflective and nostalgic rather than purely critical.
- D. This option is incorrect because the passage clearly conveys emotions and reflections, indicating a strong engagement with the subject matter rather than indifference
- 2. A) The evolution of communication methods
 - A. The passage traces the changes in how we communicate, from letter-writing and face-to-face interactions to emails and social media, highlighting the shift over time.
 - B. This option is incorrect because, while privacy is mentioned (as in the quote by Khalil Gibran), it is not the central focus of the passage.
 - C. This option is incorrect because the passage does not focus solely on the negative impacts of social media but rather on the overall changes in communication practices.
 - D. This option is incorrect because, although legal enforceability of email communication is briefly mentioned, it is not the primary theme of the passage.
- 3. B) Modern communication has made it easier for people to share their personal joys and achievements publicly, contrasting the previous practice of keeping them private.

A is incorrect because the passage indicates a shift from privacy to more public sharing due to modern communication methods.

B is correct because the passage describes how the practice of sharing personal joys has evolved from being private to more public with the advent of modern communication.

C is incorrect because the passage clearly outlines a change in the practice of sharing personal joys.

D is incorrect because the passage suggests a broader public sharing rather than limiting it to immediate family members

4. C) The postal mindset doubted the reliability of email communication and the sender's capability with technology.

A is incorrect because the passage does not mention aesthetic preferences as a reason for continuing with hard copies.

B is incorrect because, although mentioned, the passage suggests that the legal enforceability reason is less significant than the postal mindset's doubts.

C is correct because the passage clearly states that the primary reason was the postal mindset's doubts about email reliability and sender capability.

D is incorrect because the passage does not discuss archiving and storage as reasons for requiring hard copies.

5. B) The author appreciates the swift communication available today but finds it lacks the anticipation and excitement of the past.

B is correct because the author mentions the quick reply received from the editor but contrasts it with the satisfaction of waiting for a response in the past, indicating a sense of nostalgia and loss of excitement. A is incorrect because while the author misses the anticipation, there is no explicit mention of a loss of meaningful interaction.

C is incorrect as the author does not express a preference for modern communication methods; rather, they highlight the differences.

D is incorrect because the passage shows the author's engagement with and reflections on the changes in communication.

6. B) The author appreciates the swift communication available today but finds it lacks the anticipation and excitement of the past.

B is correct because the author mentions the quick reply received from the editor but contrasts it with the satisfaction of waiting for a response in the past, indicating a sense of nostalgia and loss of excitement. A is incorrect because while the author misses the anticipation, there is no explicit mention of a loss of meaningful interaction.

C is incorrect as the author does not express a preference for modern communication methods; rather, they highlight the differences.

D is incorrect because the passage shows the author's engagement with and reflections on the changes in communication.

7. B) **Raciness** (noun) – the quality of being exciting and slightly shocking, especially because of relating to or suggesting sex

Antonym: **Perfection** (noun) – The state or quality of being perfect, flawlessness, excellence. संपूर्णता

- Filth (noun) Dirt, muck, grime, squalor. गंदगी
- Lewdness (noun) Obscene, salacious, lascivious behavior or talk. अश्लीलता
- Obscenity (noun) The state or quality of being obscene; indecency, impropriety. अश्लीलता

8. D) A, D, C, B

I once met a gentleman who told me about a game he plays with his grandchildren. He picks some names of politicians, rock stars or even criminals from his generation. . He then asks his teenage grandchildren if they know who those people are. He shares a titbit or two and it starts off a conversation

9. B) sentence में 'comitted' की जगह 'committed' होना चाहिए, क्योंकि सही spelling 'committed' है। इसलिए, वाक्य का भाग B में spelling की त्रिट है।

The word 'comitted' should be 'committed' because the correct spelling is 'committed'. Therefore, segment B has a spelling error

10. A) Shyam killed the snake

11. C) 'you recommended to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही संरचना में 'recommend' verb के बाद 'to' का प्रयोग होता है जब किसी व्यक्ति की सिफारिश की जाती है। जैसे— He recommended this book to me.

you recommended to me earlier' will be used instead of 'me earlier' because the correct structure uses 'to' after the verb 'recommend' when suggesting something to someone. Like— He recommended this book to me

12. D) **SQRP**

Eye donation is a very generous act towards society which helps in illuminating and enlightening the dark world of two blind or visually impaired persons and allows them to come out of their imaginary world

- 13. D) Shut the door
- 14. B) Loyal (adjective) Faithful, true, devoted, steadfast, staunch. वफ़ादार

Antonym: **Treacherous** (adjective) — Betraying trust, deceptive, untrustworthy, duplicitous. विश्वासघाती **Infamous** (adjective) — Having a bad reputation, notorious, disgraceful, scandalous. कुख्यात **Livid** (adjective) — Furiously angry; also refers to a bluish discoloration. परितापित **Unyielding** (adjective) — Not giving way to pressure, hard, firm, inflexible. अडिग

- 15. A) 'in' के बदले 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि विषयों या कौशलों में प्रवीणता के लिए 'good at' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— He is good at singing.
 - 'at' will be used instead of 'in' because for proficiency in subjects or skills, 'good at' is used; Like— He is good at singing.
- 16. B) 'cut back few employees' के बदले 'lay off some' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'cut back' का अर्थ है घटाना या कमी करना, लेकिन जब यह किसी कर्मचारी के संदर्भ में प्रयुक्त होता है, तो 'lay off' उपयुक्त होता है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी को नौकरी से निकाल देना।
 - lay off some' will be used instead of 'cut back few employees' because 'cut back' means to reduce or decrease, but when used in context of employees, 'lay off' is appropriate, which means to dismiss from employment.
- 17. D) Have a narrow escape (idiom) Just manage to avoid danger or trouble बाल-बाल बचना
- 18. B) The incorrectly spelt word in the sentence is 'Inhabitents'. The correct spelling is 'Inhabitants निवासियों
- 19. D) A, D, C, B
 - I once met a gentleman who told me about a game he plays with his grandchildren. He picks some names of politicians, rock stars or even criminals from his generation. He then asks his teenage grandchildren if they know who those people are. He shares a titbit or two and it starts off a conversation
- 20. D) SRQP
 - Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death
- 21. B) 'Current' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "current" का अर्थ होता है वर्तमान, जिसका संदर्भ से तात्कालिक समय की सूचना देना। 'First' का अर्थ होता है पहला, 'Second' का अर्थ है दूसरा, और 'Last' का अर्थ है पिछला, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

 Current' should be used because it refers to the present time, indicating the ongoing period. Whereas,
 - 'First' means the initial, 'Second' means next after the first, and 'Last' refers to the previous, which don't fit in this context
- 22. B) 'Based' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "based" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय या जानकारी पर आधारित होना। जबकि 'Shared' का अर्थ है साझा करना, 'Flown' का अर्थ है उड़ना, और 'Carried' का अर्थ है ले जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Based' should be used because it means to be founded or grounded on a particular topic or information. Whereas, 'Shared' means to divide, 'Flown' means to fly, and 'Carried' implies taking or moving something, which don't fit in this context.
- 23. B) **Forecast'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "forecast" का अर्थ होता है मौसम की पूर्वानुमान लगाना। जबकि 'Outbreak' का अर्थ है आकस्मिक रूप से प्रकट होना, 'Condition' का अर्थ है स्थिति या अवस्था, और 'Pattern' का अर्थ है एक निरंतर ढंग या तरीका, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Forecast' should be used because it means a prediction or estimation of future events, especially in relation to weather. Whereas, 'Outbreak' means a sudden occurrence, 'Condition' refers to a state or situation, and 'Pattern' implies a consistent way or method, which don't fit in this context
- 24. C) 'Against' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "against" का अर्थ होता है "के मुकाबले में". जब हम पिछले साल के उत्पादन की तुलना में इस साल के उत्पादन की बात करते हैं, तो "against" उपयुक्त शब्द है। 'About' का अर्थ होता है लगभग, 'Compared' अकेले उपयुक्त नहीं होता है जब तक कि इसे "to" के साथ नहीं जोड़ा जाता है, और 'Above' का अर्थ होता है के ऊपर, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है Against' should be used because it means "in comparison to". When referencing production from one year in relation to another, "against" is the appropriate word. 'About' means approximately, 'Compared' isn't apt on its own unless paired with "to", and 'Above' means over, which don't fit in this context.

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25. D) 'Uptrend' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "uptrend" का अर्थ होता है उच्च दिशा में वृद्धि। जबिक 'Decline' का अर्थ है घटना, 'Incline' का अर्थ होता है झुकाव या झुकना, और 'Upgrade' का अर्थ है बेहतर बनाना या सुधारना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

Uptrend' should be used because it indicates a rise or improvement in direction. Whereas, 'Decline' means a decrease, 'Incline' implies a slope or tilt, and 'Upgrade' means to make better or improve, which don't fit in this context

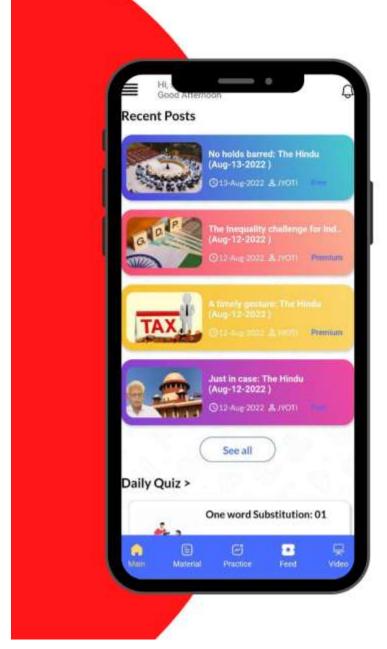
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