

Death by contamination: on Indian cities and unsafe drinking water

Governments need to ensure safety of **pip**ed supply of water while widening coverage

As **pol**icymakers prioritise universal access to **pot**able water, the **de**ath of three persons last week in Chennai due to **sus**pected consumption of **cont**aminated piped water **is** a reminder that coverage is not the only problem: even urban **cent**res with a long history of piped supply **are** still not **ass**ured of potable water that is free from dangerous contamination. The **inc**ident, which involved drinking water supplied through the State agency in suburban Pallavaram, also **sent** 34 people to hospital with complaints of diarrhoea. The laboratory test reports of local water samples are yet to be **made** public, and it may be too early to blame the agency. **Non**etheless, the **rema**rks of State Minister T.M. Anbarasan, **acc**using the affected people **of** not maintaining hygiene in their **sur**roundings, **come** **ac**ross as insensitive and irresponsible. **I**rrespective of the **ca**use, it is **con**cerning that severe contamination of water continues to occur with greater **per**iodicity in cities in India. In the past six months, **large**-scale **out**breaks of health **epi**sodes due to consumption of water containing E.coli **have** been reported in cities including Bengaluru, Kochi, Noida and Vizianagaram. This **ex**poses the challenge of **cat**ering to the basic needs of people, who are increasingly shifting to cities and living in **con**gested **envi**rons, putting the water and drainage **inf**rastructure under **str**ain.

Governments face a challenge in providing safe drinking water in a tropical country such as India. **Data** from the Jal Shakti Ministry **show** that **ars**enic has been detected in groundwater in parts of 230 districts in 25 States and fluoride in 469 districts in 27 States. In 2022, according to the World Health Organization, at least 1.7 billion people, globally, used a drinking water source contaminated with **fa**eces. Worldwide, an estimated one million people die annually from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, sanitation and hand hygiene. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly had **exp**licitly recognised the human right to water and sanitation. **Towards this end**, **add**ressing the issue of chemical pollution of groundwater **is** also **non**-negotiable. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is **cogn**isant of this. Ahead of the last Assembly elections, he had **un**veiled his 10-year vision statement for seven priority areas to **fac**ilitate development of Tamil Nadu. This included promises to increase the annual **per** capita drinking water supply from nine lakh litres to 10 lakh litres; reduce wastage of water from 50% to 15%; and increase distribution of recycled water from 5% to 20%. Now, he needs to **walk the talk**, especially **in terms of** supplying safe drinking water. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Contamination** (noun) – Pollution, impurity, adulteration, tainting, corruption प्रदूषण
2. **Piped** (adjective) – Delivered through pipes, channeled, supplied पाइपलाइन बिछा देना
3. **Policymaker** (noun) – Decision-maker, legislator, lawmaker, authority नीति निर्माता
4. **Potable** (adjective) – Drinkable, safe to drink, clean, fit for consumption पीने योग्य
5. **Suspected** (adjective) – Alleged, supposed, presumed, doubtful संदिग्ध
6. **Contaminated** (adjective) – Polluted, impure, tainted, infected, spoiled दूषित
7. **Assured** (of) (adjective) – Guaranteed, certain, secured, confirmed सुनिश्चित
8. **Make public** (phrase) – Announce, disclose, reveal, publish, declare सार्वजनिक करना
9. **Nonetheless** (adverb) – However, still, nevertheless, even so, yet फिर भी
10. **Remark** (noun) – Comment, statement, observation, opinion टिप्पणी
11. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Blame, charge, allege, indict आरोप लगाना
12. **Surrounding** (noun) – Environment, vicinity, area, setting आसपास का क्षेत्र
13. **Come across** (phrase) – Appear, seem, present oneself, be perceived प्रकट होना
14. **Irrespective of** (phrase) – Regardless of, without considering, notwithstanding के बावजूद
15. **Cause** (noun) – Reason, basis, factor, source कारण
16. **Concerning** (adjective) – Worrisome, troubling, disturbing, alarming चिंताजनक
17. **Periodicity** (noun) – Regularity, recurrence, frequency, repetitiveness आवृत्ति
18. **Large-scale** (adjective) – Widespread, extensive, massive, broad बड़े पैमाने पर
19. **Outbreak** (noun) – Epidemic, eruption, surge, sudden occurrence प्रकोप
20. **Episode** (noun) – Incident, event, occurrence, happening घटना
21. **Expose** (of) (verb) – Reveal, uncover, disclose, bring to light उजागर करना
22. **Cater** (to) (verb) – Serve, provide for, supply, accommodate पूरा करना
23. **Congested** (adjective) – Overcrowded, packed, crowded, jammed भीड़भाड़ वाला
24. **Environ** (noun) – Surroundings, environment, vicinity, locality आसपास का क्षेत्र
25. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, framework, system, network बुनियादी ढांचा

26. **Strain** (noun) – Pressure, stress, burden, load
दबाव
27. **Arsenic** (noun) – A toxic chemical element
found in water and soil आर्सेनिक (विषैला तत्व)
28. **Faeces** (noun) – Waste matter, excrement,
stool, droppings मल
29. **Explicitly** (adverb) – Clearly, directly, openly,
unequivocally स्पष्ट रूप से
30. **Towards this end** (phrase) – For this purpose,
with this goal, to achieve this aim इस उद्देश्य
के लिए
31. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, handle, manage,
resolve सुलझाना, निपटाना
32. **Non-negotiable** (adjective) – Mandatory,
compulsory, obligatory, required अपरिहार्य
33. **Cognisant** (of) (adjective) – Aware, informed,
conscious, mindful जागरूक
34. **Unveil** (verb) – Reveal, launch, present,
disclose प्रस्तुत करना
35. **Facilitate** (verb) – Make easier, enable, assist,
simplify सुगम बनाना
36. **Per capita** (adjective) – Per person, per
individual, by head प्रति व्यक्ति
37. **Walk the talk** (phrase) – Act according to
promises, follow through, take action बातों को
अमल में लाना
38. **In terms of** (phrase) – With respect to,
regarding, concerning, in relation to के संदर्भ
में

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Incident Overview:** Three people died in Chennai due to suspected consumption of contaminated piped water, highlighting water safety concerns.
2. **Health Impact:** 34 people were hospitalized with diarrhoea following the incident in suburban Pallavaram.
3. **Investigation Pending:** Laboratory test results of local water samples are awaited, delaying confirmation of the cause.
4. **Insensitive Response:** State Minister T.M. Anbarasan's remarks blaming residents for poor hygiene were criticized as insensitive.
5. **Frequent Contamination:** Water contamination incidents have increased in Indian cities like Bengaluru, Kochi, Noida, and Vizianagaram.
6. **Urban Challenges:** Rapid urban migration and congested living conditions strain water and drainage systems.
7. **Chemical Contamination:** Arsenic and fluoride contamination in groundwater have been detected in multiple districts across India.
8. **Global Water Crisis:** WHO data reveals that 1.7 billion people globally use water contaminated with faeces, causing one million deaths annually due to diarrhoea.
9. **Human Right Recognition:** The UN declared water and sanitation a human right in 2010, emphasizing governments' responsibility for safe water.
10. **National Water Safety:** India's tropical climate poses additional challenges for ensuring safe drinking water.
11. **Government Accountability:** Ensuring safe water requires urgent and sustained governmental intervention.
12. **Tamil Nadu's Vision:** Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin promised significant improvements in water supply, reduction of water wastage, and increased recycled water usage.
13. **Policy Commitments:** Key goals included increasing per capita water supply and reducing wastage from 50% to 15%.
14. **Infrastructure Overhaul:** Expanding and upgrading water infrastructure is crucial for urban centres.
15. **Call for Action:** Tamil Nadu's government must fulfil its promises to ensure safe drinking water and prevent further tragedies.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- What is the tone of the passage?**
 - Critical and concerned
 - Celebratory
 - Apathetic
 - Indifferent
- What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - The growing efficiency of healthcare systems in India
 - The increasing costs of water supply in urban areas
 - The persistent issue of unsafe, contaminated drinking water in Indian cities and the urgent need for better management and infrastructure
 - The success of current government initiatives in providing safe drinking water
- According to the passage, what percentage of water wastage does Tamil Nadu aim to reduce in its vision statement?**
 - 30%
 - 15%
 - 50%
 - 20%
- What can be inferred about the State Minister's remarks concerning water contamination in Chennai?**
 - They reflect a compassionate and understanding approach.
 - They acknowledge the State agency's failure.
 - They appear dismissive and insensitive.
 - They support strict measures against local authorities.
- Why is addressing chemical pollution of groundwater considered non-negotiable according to the passage?**
 - Because of its recognition by the World Bank.
 - Due to India's tropical climate.
 - Since it is a recognised human right.
 - Because it was promised during election campaigns.
- Rectify the sentence by selecting the correct spelling from the options.**

All the political parties of India appaer lost in the physical exercise of fighting elections

 - Apeear
 - Appear
 - Apearr
 - Apeaar
- Select the option that has an error in the use of phrasal verb.**
 - Clean up the mess in the kitchen. It is unhygienic.
 - To earn a significant profit, you are advised to deal in electronic items.
 - We look forward to seeing you during the event.
 - Why does she break out with all her near and dear ones?
- Select the most appropriate idiom that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

She is someone who always discourages our enthusiasm; therefore, we have decided to keep our distance from her.

- A. a cash cow
B. a nine days' wonder
C. a fish out of water
D. a wet blanket
9. **Select the grammatically correct sentence from the given options**
A. An unexpected power failure completely foiled the plan of the team.
B. A unexpected power failure completely foiled the plan of a team.
C. An unexpected power failure completely foiled an plan of the team.
D. An unexpected power failure completely foiled a plan of a team
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym or word for the given word.**
Reverent
A. Rushed
B. Respectful
C. Related
D. Important
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
They all felt that the movie was truly captivating and unforgettable
A. tantalising
B. relatable
C. repugnant
D. charismatic
12. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains as error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**
The bread was drier and stale.
A. more drier
B. driest
C. much drier
D. dry
13. **Select the correct spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
After their disagreement, they decided to saparate their belongings and part ways
A. seprete
B. separate
C. seperate
D. seprate
14. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
My brother trains young girls at the football academy, whereas I gets a handsome salary to teach mathematics at the same place.
A. I gets a handsome salary
B. at the football academy, whereas
C. to teach mathematics at the same place
D. My brother trains young girls
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the idiom from the options given below.**
To show the white feather

- A. To show anger
B. To act bravely
C. To act cowardly
D. To maintain peace
16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Although she is usually / rude with everyone, / she behaved nice / with all of us today
A. she behaved nice
B. Although she is usually
C. with all of us today
D. rude with everyone
17. **One of the four underlined words in the given sentence is incorrectly spelt. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
Let us appreciate, support and contribute our might to the promotional efforts of the community
A. contribute
B. comunity
C. promotional
D. appreciate
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A building where animals are butchered
A. Cemetery
B. Decanter
C. Abattoir
D. Burrow
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The scientist conducted a series of experiments to _____ his hypothesis.
A. variable
B. verify
C. vague
D. variation
20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Triumph
A. Attentiveness
B. Lapse
C. Delay
D. Failure

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.

Goddess Shailputri is the first form of Goddess Durga, who is worshipped ____ (1) ____ Navaratri. In this form, she is worshipped as the daughter of ____ (2) ____ Himalayas. She is the goddess ____ (3) ____ nature and is adorned with flowers. She ____ (4) ____ a bull and holds a trident in one hand and a lotus flower in another. During Navaratri, nine different forms of Durga are worshipped. Durga is a ____ (5) ____, ____ (6) ____, ____ (7) ____ deity who is also known as Adishakti—the energy that manifested to create the universe.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. among
 - B. during
 - C. by
 - D. to
22. **Select the most appropriate article to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. an
 - B. the
 - C. no article
 - D. a
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. with
 - B. around
 - C. of
 - D. at
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. had ridden
 - B. rides
 - C. was riding
 - D. rode
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blanks number 5.**
- A. powerful; radiant; Indian
 - B. Indian; radiant; powerful
 - C. powerful; Indian; radiant
 - D. radiant; Indian; powerful

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Critical and concerned**

The passage critically highlights the ongoing problem of contaminated drinking water in Indian cities and expresses concern over public health implications, reflecting a tone that is both critical of the current situation and concerned about the well-being of citizens.

B) Celebratory is incorrect because the passage is not praising or celebrating any achievements; it is focusing on failings and risks.

C) Apathetic is incorrect because the author clearly cares about the issue and points out the gravity of the problem.

D) Indifferent is incorrect; the passage shows that the issue matters greatly.

2. **C) The persistent issue of unsafe, contaminated drinking water in Indian cities and the urgent need for better management and infrastructure**

The passage focuses on the widespread contamination of drinking water, health hazards, and the failures in ensuring safe water supply, making the urgent need for improvements the central theme.

A) Healthcare efficiency is not the central concern; the focus is on water contamination.

B) Rising costs of water are not the main issue highlighted; the emphasis is on contamination and public health risks, not pricing.

D) It does not celebrate the success of government initiatives, rather it underlines the gaps and the need for action.

3. **B) 15%**

The passage mentions that Tamil Nadu's vision statement aims to reduce water wastage from 50% to 15%.

A. 30%: This figure is not mentioned in the passage.

C. 50%: This is the current level of water wastage, not the target reduction.

D. 20%: This refers to the goal of increasing recycled water distribution, not water wastage reduction.

4. **C) They appear dismissive and insensitive.**

The passage describes the State Minister's remarks as "insensitive and irresponsible," indicating a lack of empathy toward the affected residents.

A: This contradicts the tone described in the passage.

B: The Minister did not blame the agency but shifted responsibility to residents.

D: There is no mention of action against the water-supplying agency.

5. **C) Since it is a recognised human right.**

The passage states that the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognised the human right to water and sanitation, making chemical pollution management non-negotiable.

A: The World Bank is not mentioned in the context of groundwater pollution.

B: While India's tropical climate is a challenge, this is not the primary reason for addressing chemical pollution.

- D: Although promises were made, the primary reason remains the recognition of water as a human right.
6. B) The correct spelling of 'appaer' is '**appear**', which means "to come into sight or become visible" – प्रकट होना, दिखना।
7. D) 'break out with' के बदले '**break up with**' का प्रयोग होगा। 'Break up with' का अर्थ होता है किसी के साथ संबंध तोड़ लेना (to end a relationship), जबकि 'break out' का अर्थ होता है अचानक शुरू होना या बाहर निकलना (to begin suddenly or escape), जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
'break out with' should be replaced with '**break up with**'. The phrase 'break up with' means to end a relationship, while 'break out' means to begin suddenly or escape, which is incorrect in this context.
8. D) **A wet blanket** (Idiom)- A person who discourages others' enthusiasm or excitement। ऐसा व्यक्ति जो दूसरों के उत्साह को कम कर देता है।
9. **A) An unexpected power failure completely foiled the plan of the team.**
B: A "unexpected" is incorrect because "unexpected" begins with a vowel sound, and the correct article should be "an."
C: An "plan" is incorrect because "plan" begins with a consonant sound, and the correct article should be "a."
D: The use of "a plan of a team" which implies non-specificity
10. B) **Reverent** (adjective) – Showing deep respect or admiration for someone or something. आदरपूर्ण, श्रद्धालु।
Synonym: **Respectful** (adjective) – Feeling or showing respect or admiration, deferential, polite. आदरपूर्ण।
- **Rushed** (adjective) – Done in a hurry or under pressure, hurried, hasty. जल्दबाजी में।
 - **Related** (adjective) – Connected, associated, linked. संबंधित।
 - **Important** (adjective) – Significant, having great value or influence. महत्वपूर्ण।
11. C) **Captivating** (adjective): Fascinating, charming, enchanting, or holding attention completely. मोहक
Antonym: Repugnant (adjective) – Disgusting, offensive, or distasteful. घृणास्पद
- **Tantalising** (adjective) – Tempting, teasing, alluring. लुभाने वाला
 - **Relatable** (adjective) – Able to be related or connected to; understandable, familiar. संबंधित करने योग्य
 - **Charismatic** (adjective) – Having a compelling charm or inspiring attraction. आकर्षक और प्रेरणादायक
12. D) 'dry' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'drier' Comparative Degree है और बिना किसी तुलना के Comparative Degree का प्रयोग उचित नहीं है; जैसे—The bread was dry and stale.

'dry' will be used instead of 'drier' because 'drier' is a Comparative Degree. Using a Comparative Degree without making any comparison is not appropriate; Like—The bread was dry and stale.

13. B) The correct spelling of the word 'saparate' is 'separate', which means "to divide or cause to divide into different groups or parts" (अलग करना, विभाजित करना).

14. A) 'gets' में error है क्योंकि 'I' एक Singular Pronoun है लेकिन इसके साथ 'gets' का use गलत है। Verb 'get' का use 'I' के साथ हमेशा Plural Form में होता है। अतः 'gets' के स्थान पर 'get' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए।

The error is in 'I gets' because 'I' is a singular pronoun but using 'gets' is incorrect.

The verb 'get' must always be in the plural form when used with 'I'. Therefore, 'gets' should be replaced with 'get'

15. C) **To show the white feather** (idiom) – To act cowardly (डरपोक या कायरता का प्रदर्शन करना)

16. A) 'nice' के स्थान पर 'nicely' का use होगा क्योंकि 'behaved' एक verb है, और verb को qualify करने के लिए adverb का प्रयोग किया जाता है। 'nice' एक adjective है, जबकि यहाँ adverb की आवश्यकता है।

'nicely' will be used instead of 'nice' because 'behaved' is a verb, and to qualify a verb, we use an adverb. 'nice' is an adjective, but here we need an adverb.

17. B) The word '**comunity**' is incorrectly spelt. The correct spelling is '**community**', which means "a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common" (समुदाय, समूह).

18. C) **Abattoir** (noun) – A building where animals are butchered. वधशाला

- **Cemetery** (noun): A large burial ground for burying dead people. कब्रिस्तान
- **Decanter** (noun): A glass container used to serve wine or other drinks. शराब की सुराही
- **Burrow** (noun): A hole or tunnel dug by a small animal for habitation. बिल

19. B) 'Verify' का use होगा क्योंकि "verify" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को सत्यापित या प्रमाणित करना। वैज्ञानिक अपने परिकल्पना को सही साबित करने के लिए प्रयोग कर रहे थे। जबकि 'variable' का अर्थ है बदलने योग्य कारक, 'vague' का अर्थ है अस्पष्ट, और 'variation' का अर्थ है भिन्नता, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Verify' should be used because it means to confirm or prove the truth of something. The scientist was conducting experiments to validate or confirm his hypothesis. Whereas, 'Variable' means something that can change, 'Vague' means unclear or indefinite, and 'Variation' refers to differences or changes, none of which fit in this context.

20. D) **Triumph** (noun) – A great victory or achievement; success, conquest, or accomplishment. विजय

Antonym: **Failure** (noun) – Lack of success; defeat, fiasco, collapse, or downfall. असफलता

- **Attentiveness (noun)** – Paying close attention; alertness, carefulness. सावधानी
- **Lapse (noun)** – A temporary failure of concentration or judgment; mistake, error. चूक
- **Delay (noun)** – A postponement or slowing of progress; deferment, lag. विलंब

21. B) During का use होगा क्योंकि "during" का अर्थ है "किसी अवधि के बीच में" और यहाँ नवरात्रि की अवधि के दौरान पूजा करने की बात हो रही है। जबकि 'Among' का अर्थ है "के बीच में" जो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के समूह को दर्शाता है। 'By' का अर्थ है "के द्वारा," जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है, और 'To' का अर्थ है "की ओर" या "तक," जो संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता।

'During' should be used because it means "in the course of a period of time," and the sentence talks about worshipping during Navaratri. Whereas, 'Among' means "in the midst of," referring to a group of people or things, which doesn't fit here. 'By' means "through or via," which is not contextually correct, and 'To' indicates direction or destination, which is irrelevant in this sentence.

22. B) **The'** का use होगा क्योंकि "Himalayas" एक proper noun है जो एक विशिष्ट और अद्वितीय पर्वत श्रृंखला को संदर्भित करता है। 'The' का उपयोग ऐसे nouns के पहले होता है जो विशिष्टता (specificity) को दर्शाते हैं। यहाँ 'Himalayas' के पहले 'The' लगाना आवश्यक है ताकि यह स्पष्ट हो सके कि यह एक विशेष स्थान का उल्लेख कर रहा है। 'An' का उपयोग singular nouns के साथ होता है जो vowel sound से शुरू होते हैं, और "Himalayas" plural है, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'No article' (किसी article का उपयोग न करना) भी गलत है क्योंकि proper nouns जैसे "Himalayas" के लिए definite article ('The') की आवश्यकता होती है। 'A' का उपयोग singular और non-specific nouns के साथ होता है, जबकि "Himalayas" plural और specific है, इसलिए यह भी गलत है।

'The' will be used because "Himalayas" is a proper noun that refers to a specific and unique mountain range. 'The' is necessary before nouns that indicate specificity. 'An' is incorrect because it is used with singular nouns starting with a vowel sound, and "Himalayas" is plural.

'No article' is incorrect because proper nouns like "Himalayas" typically require a definite article ('The') when referring to a specific entity. 'A' is incorrect because it is used with singular, non-specific nouns, whereas "Himalayas" is plural and specific.

23. C) **Of'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह संबंध स्थापित करता है। Sentence "She is the goddess (3) nature" इस बात की ओर इशारा करता है कि देवी प्रकृति से संबंधित हैं। यहाँ 'of' का अर्थ होता है 'का' या 'संबंध में', जो इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। जबकि: 'With' का अर्थ होता है 'साथ में', जो यहां अर्थ नहीं बनाता।

'Around' का अर्थ होता है 'आसपास', जो इस वाक्य में फिट नहीं होता। 'At' का उपयोग स्थान को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, लेकिन यहां स्थान की बात नहीं हो रही है।

'Of' will be used because it establishes a relationship. The sentence fragment "She is the goddess (3) nature" implies that the goddess is related to nature. Here, 'of' means 'belonging to' or 'related to,'

which fits the context perfectly. Whereas: 'With' means 'along with,' which doesn't make sense here. 'Around' means 'surrounding,' which doesn't fit the sentence.

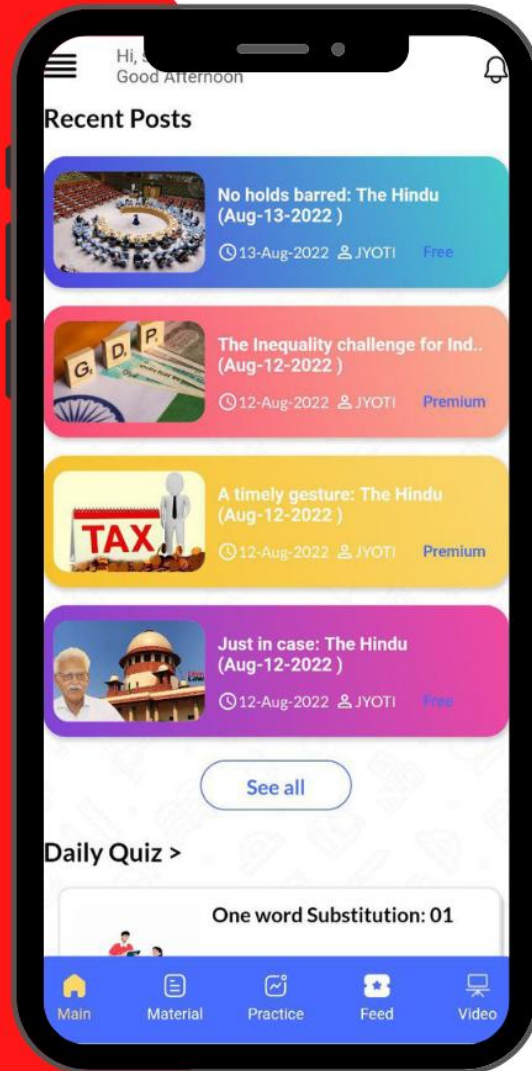
'At' is used to denote a location, but the sentence is not about a location.

24. B) '**rides**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह present tense में है। यह sentence देवी शैलपुत्री के गुणों और रूपों का वर्णन कर रहा है, जो एक स्थायी सत्य (permanent truth) है। sentence में बताया गया है कि वह एक बैल की सवारी करती हैं, इसलिए वर्तमान काल का '**rides**' सही विकल्प है। 'had ridden' भूतकाल (past perfect) दर्शाता है, जो इस स्थायी सत्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'was riding' भूतकाल में एक कार्य को दर्शाता है जो हो रहा था, यह भी गलत है। 'rode' भूतकाल (simple past) का उपयोग करता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

The use of '**rides**' is appropriate here because the sentence is in the present tense and describes a permanent truth about Goddess Shailputri. The sentence explains her qualities and how she rides a bull, making '**rides**' the correct choice. 'had ridden' indicates past perfect tense, which is not suitable for a universal truth. 'was riding' refers to a past continuous action, which doesn't fit the context of a permanent attribute 'rode' is simple past tense, which is also incorrect for describing a general truth or timeless fact.

25. A) '**Powerful; Radiant; Indian**' का use होगा क्योंकि adjectives के order के अनुसार "opinion, appearance, origin" का सही होता है। यहाँ "powerful" देवी दुर्गा की शक्ति का वर्णन करता है, "radiant" उनके आभा को, और "Indian" उनके मूल को व्यक्त करता है।

'Powerful; radiant; Indian' is used because the order of adjectives follows opinion (powerful), appearance (radiant), and origin (Indian), which is grammatically correct and contextually appropriate.



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