

Not worth the risk: On the U.S., India and illegal emigration

India must **address** illegal emigration with **empathy** and urgency

The **deportation** of dozens of Indians, believed to be illegal immigrants in the United States, **is** neither surprising nor **unprecedented**. Over the past few years, the U.S. government has intensified its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations to identify, **detain**, and **deport** individuals without proper documentation. **For instance**, between June and October 2024, the Department of Homeland Security reported that 1,60,000 individuals had been deported on 495 international **repatriation** flights to more than 145 countries, including India. However, the manner and timing should be cause for concern for New Delhi. **To begin with**, these deportations **coincide with** a major **crackdown** by ICE, **spurred** by Donald Trump's **swearing-in** as the U.S. President in January. He has made illegal immigration his "number one priority". **India**, which has one of the largest populations of illegal immigrants in the U.S., estimated at 7,25,000 undocumented individuals, **will** need to prepare for a significant increase in the number of returning **migrants**. Second, for the first time, the use of military flights **signals** that the U.S. does not intend to be challenged. This move **drew** protests from Colombian President Gustavo Petro, particularly after reports emerged of deported migrants being **shackled**. The U.S. Embassy in Delhi has also **made it clear** that this deportation is part of a broader initiative to **tighten** immigration laws and enforcement, **reinforcing** the message that illegal migration is not worth the risk. Further, the **timing**, just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visit, **suggests** that diplomatic efforts alone may not be enough to **deter** the Trump administration from **pursuing** such measures. This has the **potential** to become a **bilateral flashpoint** in India-U.S. relations.

Accepting its citizens, **provided** they are verifiably Indian and have entered other countries illegally, **is** undoubtedly the Indian government's responsibility. However, stricter controls must be **enforced** to prevent Indians from **embarking on perilous** journeys to cross into the U.S. via Mexico and Canada. The government must ensure that **young people** in States with high deportation rates (Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana), **understand** that working illegally abroad is not a guaranteed path to success. Educational campaigns should **highlight** the dangers associated with illegal immigration. Importantly, the root causes must not be ignored. The central and State governments must address the **underlying** economic **distress**, deepening agricultural crises, social tensions, and employment shortages that push people to take such risks. **Attention must be paid** to those who **deliberately** travel to conflict zones in search of opportunities. While **altering** U.S. immigration policies may be difficult, the Indian government must address the reasons behind this **large-scale** migration with empathy and urgency.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'. **[Practice Exercise]**
- **Provided** (conjunction) – If, on condition that, only if, as long as बशर्ते कि

Vocabulary

1. **Emigration** (noun) – Migration, relocation, departure, resettlement, expatriation
प्रवासन
2. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, attend to, tackle, handle, resolve समाधान करना
3. **Empathy** (noun) – Understanding, compassion, sensitivity, kindness, concern
सहानुभूति
4. **Deportation** (noun) – Expulsion, removal, extradition, banishment, exile निर्वासन
5. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – Unheard-of, exceptional, novel, unparalleled, record-breaking अभूतपूर्व
6. **Detain** (verb) – Hold, imprison, confine, arrest, take into custody हिरासत में लेना
7. **Deport** (verb) – Expel, send back, remove, banish, extradite देश से बाहर भेजना
8. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, as an example, to illustrate, as a case in point
उदाहरण के लिए
9. **Repatriation** (noun) – Return, restoration, homecoming, deportation, re-entry स्वदेश वापसी
10. **To begin with** (phrase) – Initially, at first, in the beginning, primarily सबसे पहले
11. **Coincide** (with) (verb) – Happen at the same time, align, correspond, synchronize
एक साथ होना
12. **Crackdown** (noun) – Suppression, clampdown, repression, enforcement, strict action कार्रवाई
13. **Spur** (verb) – Stimulate, motivate, trigger, encourage, propel प्रेरित करना
14. **Swearing-in** (noun) – Oath-taking, inauguration, induction, official ceremony
शपथ ग्रहण
15. **Migrant** (noun) – Immigrant, expatriate, refugee, traveler, nomad प्रवासी
16. **Signal** (verb) – Indicate, signify, show, express, gesture संकेत देना
17. **Draw** (verb) – Attract, pull, elicit, bring in, gain खींचना
18. **Shackle** (verb) – Restrain, chain, bind, limit, confine जकड़ना
19. **Make clear** (phrase) – Clarify, explain, express, emphasize, highlight स्पष्ट करना
20. **Tighten** (verb) – Strengthen, secure, reinforce, make stricter, restrict कड़ा करना
21. **Reinforce** (verb) – Strengthen, support, bolster, enhance, solidify मजबूत करना
22. **Deter** (verb) – Prevent, discourage, hinder, restrain, obstruct रोकना

23. **Pursue** (verb) – Follow, chase, continue, strive for, go after पीछा करना
24. **Potential** (noun) – Capability, possibility, capacity, ability, power संभावना
25. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, cooperative, diplomatic द्विपक्षीय
26. **Flashpoint** (noun) – Crisis point, hotspot, sensitive issue, point of conflict संवेदनशील मुद्दा
27. **Enforce** (verb) – Implement, execute, impose, uphold, carry out लागू करना
28. **Embark** (on) (verb) – Begin, start, undertake, launch, set out शुरू करना
29. **Perilous** (adjective) – Dangerous, risky, hazardous, unsafe, treacherous खतरनाक
30. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underline, stress, bring attention to, showcase ज़ोर देना
31. **Underlying** (adjective) – Fundamental, basic, root, core, essential मूलभूत
32. **Distress** (noun) – Suffering, hardship, trouble, difficulty, adversity कष्ट
33. **Pay attention** (phrase) – Focus on, take notice, be attentive, observe carefully ध्यान देना
34. **Deliberately** (adverb) – Intentionally, purposely, knowingly, willfully, consciously जानबूझकर
35. **Alter** (verb) – Change, modify, adjust, transform, revise बदलाव करना
36. **Large-scale** (adjective) – Extensive, widespread, massive, significant, broad व्यापक

Summary of the Editorial

1. The deportation of Indian illegal immigrants from the U.S. is not new but has intensified under Donald Trump's presidency, as he prioritizes cracking down on illegal immigration.
2. Between June and October 2024, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security deported 1,60,000 individuals across 495 international repatriation flights, including many Indians.
3. India has a large undocumented population in the U.S., estimated at 7,25,000, and must prepare for more deportations in the coming months.
4. A significant development is the use of military flights for deportations, signaling that the U.S. is taking an uncompromising stance on immigration enforcement.
5. This action has sparked international protests, including from Colombia's President Gustavo Petro, due to reports of deported migrants being shackled.
6. The U.S. Embassy in Delhi has emphasized that these deportations are part of a broader crackdown, reinforcing the message that illegal migration is a serious risk.
7. The timing of these deportations, just before Prime Minister Modi's U.S. visit, suggests that diplomatic efforts may not deter the Trump administration's strict immigration policies.
8. This issue has the potential to strain India-U.S. relations, making it a bilateral flashpoint.
9. While India must accept deported citizens if they are verifiably Indian, it should also strengthen controls to prevent further illegal migration.
10. Many Indian migrants take dangerous routes through Mexico and Canada to enter the U.S., a trend that needs urgent intervention.
11. The government should educate youth, especially in Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana, about the risks and false promises of illegal work abroad.
12. Awareness campaigns should highlight the dangers of illegal immigration, including potential detention, exploitation, and deportation.
13. Root causes of migration, such as economic distress, agricultural crises, social tensions, and unemployment, must be addressed at both central and state levels.
14. Special attention is needed for those traveling to conflict zones in search of opportunities, as this adds another layer of risk.
15. While India cannot change U.S. immigration policies, it must tackle the underlying push factors driving illegal migration with urgency and empathy.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following is a key reason why the U.S. has intensified its deportation efforts?** [Editorial]
 - A. To strengthen diplomatic relations with India
 - B. Due to the economic crisis in the U.S.
 - C. Because illegal immigration has been declared a top priority by the Trump administration
 - D. To create more job opportunities for immigrants
2. **Why is the use of military flights for deportations a matter of concern?**
 - A. It indicates a stronger stance by the U.S. government that cannot be easily challenged
 - B. It makes deportation more expensive and difficult to manage
 - C. It helps deported individuals return to their home countries safely
 - D. It reduces the total number of deportations carried out by the U.S.
3. **What steps should the Indian government take to address the issue of illegal migration?**
 - A. Encourage more people to migrate through illegal routes
 - B. Reduce deportations by negotiating with the U.S. government
 - C. Address economic distress, job shortages, and social tensions that push people to migrate illegally
 - D. Ban travel to the U.S. entirely
4. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the future of India-U.S. relations regarding immigration?**
 - A. India-U.S. relations might face tensions due to the aggressive deportation policies of the U.S.
 - B. The U.S. will stop deportations if India negotiates diplomatically
 - C. The Indian government fully supports the U.S. immigration policies without concern
 - D. The U.S. government will likely increase legal immigration opportunities for Indians
5. **What can be inferred about the impact of illegal immigration on Indian society?**
 - A. Illegal immigration is encouraged by the Indian government to boost foreign remittances
 - B. Many Indians attempt illegal migration due to economic and employment challenges at home
 - C. The problem of illegal immigration is minor and does not require government intervention
 - D. Deportations will solve all migration-related issues in India
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Felicity
 - A. Function
 - B. Happiness
 - C. Anguish
 - D. Fellow being
7. **Select the word which is INCORRECTLY spelt in the given sentence.**
The opportunity cost of going with parents back to the village made Naman upset for almost the entire month
 - A. parents
 - B. opportunity
 - C. almost
 - D. Village
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
To move into or through something
 - A. Transparent

- B. Cross
C. Perpetuate
D. Penetrate
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Renewable energy is energy that is environment-friendly because it is _____ from renewable resources, that are naturally replenished
A. deduced
B. derived
C. construed
D. Found
10. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
A. Connoisseur
B. Haphazard
C. Diffusion
D. Appropriate
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Bold
A. Gallant
B. Heroic
C. Timid
D. Valiant
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
All Greek to me
A. Something that is harmful to all
B. Something that is not understandable
C. Something that is ancient and classic
D. Something that is fancy and classy
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Troublesome
A. Soulful
B. Curious
C. Planless
D. Obedient
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
The reasons or intentions that cause a particular set of beliefs or actions
A. Motive
B. Practical
C. Thinkable
D. Rationale
15. **Select the sentence that uses the given idiom correctly.**
Eat like a bird
A. The colonial powers colonised small countries by exploiting them and stealing their resources.
B. Overeating is the most obvious reason for gaining weight quickly.
C. Nobody can eat with Jerry at the same table as he is so messy.
D. Pinky is on a diet so she is too picky about the food she eats

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The internet has (1) _____ reshaped the way information is accessed and shared. With a vast array of websites and social media platforms, individuals can (2) _____ connect with others globally. However, this digital age also brings (3) _____ challenges. The spread of misinformation has become a (4) _____ issue, as false content can quickly gain traction. It is essential for users to (5) _____ assess the credibility of sources before believing and sharing information. In this era of rapid data dissemination, cultivating media literacy is of utmost importance

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. occasionally
 - B. discreetly
 - C. gradually
 - D. Significantly
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. hesitantly
 - B. periodically
 - C. seamlessly
 - D. Scarcely
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. abstract
 - B. intriguing
 - C. numerous
 - D. Irrelevant
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. dormant
 - B. pressing
 - C. soothing
 - D. Negligible
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. meticulously
 - B. impulsively
 - C. hesitantly
 - D. Reluctantly
21. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Frisky

 - A. Transient
 - B. Memorable
 - C. Playful
 - D. Loose
22. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
 - A. Unreasonable
 - B. Complimentary
 - C. Despondent
 - D. Impertinent

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

Seclusion

- A. Tactics
- B. Readiness
- C. Solitude
- D. Involvement

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

'I have been to Australia,' Amritha told me

- A. Amritha told me that she had been to Australia.
- B. Amritha told me that she had being to Australia.
- C. Amritha tell me that she has being to Australia.
- D. Amritha told me that she has be to Australia

25. **Select the option that expresses the following sentence in passive voice.**

The insect bit the little baby

- A. The little baby has bitten by the insect.
- B. The little baby was bitten by the insect.
- C. The little baby had bitten by the insect.
- D. The little baby is bitten by the insect

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanation

1. C) The passage highlights that Donald Trump, after being sworn in as the U.S. President, has prioritized cracking down on illegal immigration. This policy shift has led to increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations, making deportations more frequent.
2. A) The passage mentions that the U.S. using military flights for deportations is an unprecedented move, signifying that the country is firm in its immigration enforcement and is unwilling to be challenged on this issue. This action has even led to international protests, such as from the Colombian President.
3. C) The passage suggests that the root causes of illegal migration, such as economic distress, agricultural crises, and employment shortages, must be tackled. The government should also conduct educational campaigns to inform people about the risks of illegal immigration and enforce stricter controls to prevent unsafe migration practices.
4. A) The passage states that the U.S. deportations are happening just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, suggesting that diplomatic efforts may not be enough to change U.S. policies. This indicates that the deportation issue could become a point of conflict between the two nations.
5. B) The passage highlights economic distress, agricultural crises, and social tensions as key reasons for illegal migration. It also emphasizes that young people from Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana are particularly affected. This suggests that economic hardship is a major driving force behind illegal immigration.
6. B) **Felicity** (noun) – Intense happiness, joy, bliss, delight. खुशी
Synonym: Happiness (noun) – The state of being happy, contentment, joy, pleasure. खुशी
 - **Function** (noun) – An activity or purpose natural to or intended for a person or thing, role, task. कार्य
 - **Anguish** (noun) – Severe mental or physical pain or suffering, distress, agony. पीड़ा
 - **Fellow being** (noun) – A person regarded as sharing a common humanity or membership of a group, compatriot, peer. सह मानव
7. B) The correct spelling of '**opertunity**' is 'opportunity,' which means "a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something" अवसर.
8. D) **Penetrate** (verb) – To move into or through something प्रवेश करना
 - **Transparent** (adjective) – allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen. पारदर्शी

- **Cross** (verb) – to move across from one side to the other. पार करना
 - **Perpetuate** (verb) – to cause something to continue indefinitely. बनाए रखना
9. B) **Derived'** (from) का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और उसके स्रोतों के बारे में चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "renewable energy is energy that is environment-friendly because it is (9) _____ from renewable resources" के माध्यम से यह दिखाया जा रहा है कि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा ऐसे स्रोतों से प्राप्त होती है जो स्वाभाविक रूप से पुनःपूर्ति किए जाते हैं। इसलिए, "derived" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- **'Derived' (from)** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing renewable energy and its sources. Here, through "renewable energy is energy that is environment-friendly because it is (9) _____ from renewable resources," it shows that renewable energy is obtained from sources that are naturally replenished. Thus, "derived" would be the most appropriate choice.
10. B) The correct spelling of **'Haphazard'** is 'Haphazard' which means "lacking any obvious principle of organization" अव्यवस्थित, अनियमित.
11. C) **Bold** (adjective) – Confident, courageous, daring, fearless, brave. निर्भीक
Antonym: **Timid** (adjective) – Lacking in courage or self-confidence, shy, fearful, faint-hearted.
डरपोक
- **Gallant** (adjective) – Brave, heroic, chivalrous, courteous. वीर
 - **Heroic** (adjective) – Brave, courageous, daring, valiant. वीर
 - **Valiant** (adjective) – Possessing or showing courage, brave, heroic, bold. वीर
12. B) **All Greek to me** (idiom) – Something that is not understandable समझ में न आने वाली चीज
13. D) **Troublesome** (adjective) – Causing difficulty or annoyance, bothersome, inconvenient.
परेशानी देने वाला
Antonym: **Obedient** (adjective) – Complying or willing to comply with orders or requests, dutiful, compliant. आज्ञाकारी
- **Soulful** (adjective) – Expressing deep feelings, emotional, heartfelt. भावपूर्ण
 - **Curious** (adjective) – Eager to know or learn something, inquisitive, interested. जिज्ञासु
 - **Planless** (adjective) – Without a plan, aimless, unorganized. योजनाविहीन
14. D) **Rationale** (noun) – The reasons or intentions that cause a particular set of beliefs or actions.
तर्क
- **Motive** (noun) – a reason for doing something, especially one that is hidden or not obvious. उद्देश्य

- **Practical** (adjective) – concerned with the actual doing or use of something rather than with theory and ideas. व्यावहारिक
- **Thinkable** (adjective) – capable of being thought of or imagined; conceivable. विचारणीय

15. D) **Eat like a bird** (idiom) – Eat very little **बहुत कम खाना**

16. D) '**Significantly**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence इंटरनेट के माध्यम से जानकारी तक पहुंचने और साझा करने के तरीके में हुए बड़े बदलाव की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "The internet has (1) _____ reshaped the way information is accessed and shared" के माध्यम से उस महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन को दर्शाया जा रहा है। इसलिए, "significantly" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Significantly**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the major changes in how information is accessed and shared through the internet. Here, through "The internet has (1) _____ reshaped the way information is accessed and shared," it portrays that significant transformation. Thus, "significantly" would be the most appropriate choice.

17. C) **Seamlessly**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence डिजिटल युग में इंटरनेट की भूमिका और उसके द्वारा दी गई सुविधा की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "individuals can (2) _____ connect with others globally" के माध्यम से उस आसानी को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें लोग बिना किसी बाधा के एक दूसरे से जुड़ सकते हैं। इसलिए, "seamlessly" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Seamlessly**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the role of the internet in the digital age and the convenience it provides. Here, through "individuals can (2) _____ connect with others globally," it portrays that ease with which people can connect with each other without any hindrance. Thus, "seamlessly" would be the most appropriate choice.

18. C) **Numerous**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence डिजिटल युग में आने वाली चुनौतियों की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "this digital age also brings (3) _____ challenges" के माध्यम से उन चुनौतियों की संख्या और विविधता को दर्शाया जा रहा है। इसलिए, "numerous" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Numerous**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the challenges brought by the digital age. Here, through "this digital age also brings (3) _____ challenges", it portrays the multitude and variety of these challenges. Thus, "numerous" would be the most appropriate choice.

19. B) **Pressing**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence डिजिटल युग में जानकारी के प्रसार और उससे उत्पन्न चुनौतियों की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "The spread of misinformation has become a

(4) _____ issue" के माध्यम से उस गंभीर समस्या को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें गलत सूचना का तेज़ी से फैलना शामिल है। इसलिए, "pressing" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Pressing**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the dissemination of information in the digital age and the challenges that come with it. Here, through "The spread of misinformation has become a (4) _____ issue," it portrays that critical problem where false information can quickly spread. Thus, "pressing" would be the most appropriate choice.

20. A) '**Meticulously**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence डिजिटल युग में जानकारी की सटीकता और विश्वसनीयता की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "It is essential for users to (5) _____ assess the credibility of sources before believing and sharing information." के माध्यम से उस तात्विक संबंध को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें उपयोगकर्ता को जानकारी की विश्वसनीयता को सावधानीपूर्वक जांचने की आवश्यकता है। इसलिए, "meticulously" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- '**Meticulously**' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the accuracy and reliability of information in the digital age. Here, through "It is essential for users to (5) _____ assess the credibility of sources before believing and sharing information," it portrays the critical need for users to carefully evaluate the credibility of the information. Thus, "meticulously" would be the most appropriate choice.

21. C) **Frisky** (adjective) – Playful, lively, full of energy, high-spirited. चंचल

Synonym: **Playful** (adjective) – Fond of games and amusement, lighthearted, fun-loving, lively.

चंचल, खिलाड़ी

- **Transient** (adjective) – Lasting only for a short time, temporary, brief, short-term.
क्षणिक
- **Memorable** (adjective) – Worth remembering, notable, remarkable, unforgettable.
यादगार
- **Loose** (adjective) – Not firmly or tightly fixed in place, relaxed, slack, free. ढीला

22. B) The correct spelling of '**Complimentary**' is 'Complimentary' which means "expressing a compliment; praising or approving" तारीफ करने वाला.

23. C) **Seclusion** (noun) – The state of being private and away from other people; isolation, solitude, privacy. एकांत

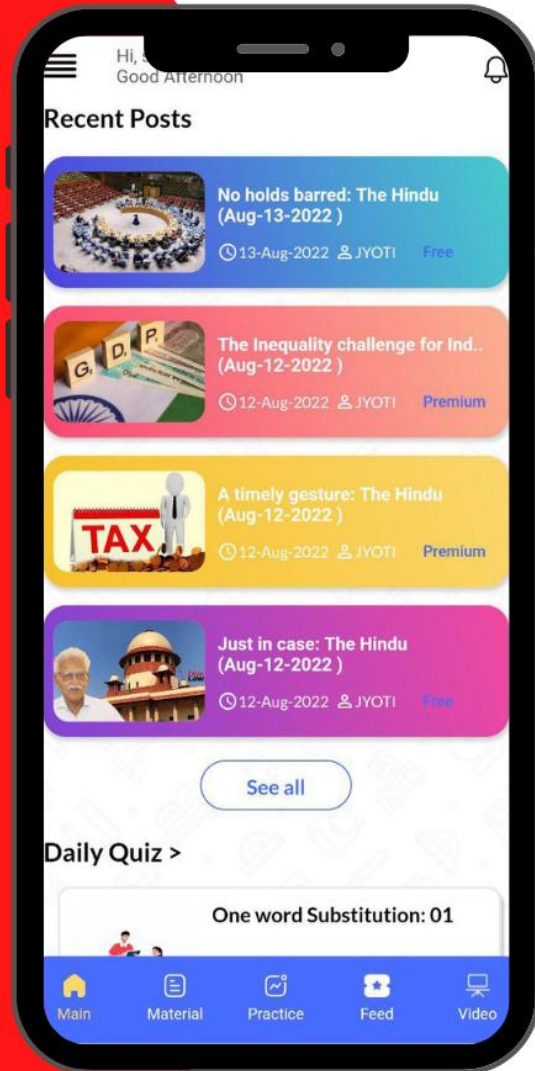
Synonym: **Solitude** (noun) – The state of being alone, often by choice; isolation, privacy, withdrawal. एकांत

- **Tactics** (noun) – The art of arranging and maneuvering forces in combat; strategies, methods, plans. रणनीति

- **Readiness** (noun) – The state of being fully prepared for something; preparedness, willingness, promptness. तत्परता
- **Involvement** (noun) – The fact or condition of being involved with or participating in something; engagement, participation, association. संलिप्तता

24. A) Amritha told me that she had been to Australia

25. B) The little baby was bitten by the insect



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