

Drinking to death: On illicit liquor cases

Illicit liquor tragedies expose systemic corruption and regulatory failure

Often described in media reports as “hooch tragedies” or “spurious liquor cases”, the recurring incidents of illicit alcohol poisoning across India — most recently near Amritsar, Punjab, which claimed at least 23 lives — follow a grimly familiar pattern of poverty, greed, and regulatory failure. Each tragedy is eerily similar to the previous one, be it in terms of the socio-economic profile of the victims or the motivation of the perpetrators. The victims are typically poor, daily wage earners, seeking respite from the harsh realities of everyday drudgery. They are drawn by the lure of cheap alcohol, a vulnerability exploited by bootleggers, who are at the fag end of a long supply chain. These illicit brews often involve dangerous shortcuts, from incorporating toxic substances such as dead scorpions to diluting industrial methanol, a poisonous chemical that is deceptively similar to consumable ethanol. Methanol, easily pilfered and inexpensive, becomes a deadly profit source for bootleggers who may misjudge dilution ratios, leading to fatal consequences. The nexus among bootleggers, the police, and lower-level politicians is often apparent. While police negligence in Punjab has led to suspensions, these events are more about organised methanol theft in which the bootlegger is only the last mile operator. Methanol is not a drink; it is industrial alcohol, an intermediary in the petrochemical industry with extensive downstream use, and is, therefore, not illicit, except as an ingredient in hooch. It is categorised as a Class B poison in many States, but is cheaper than the liquor made biologically, mostly from molasses. After paying for the pilferage from authorised methanol dealers, bootleggers can still make a handsome profit.

Legal proceedings in illicit liquor cases often involve murder and attempted murder charges, besides those under prohibition laws. Yet convictions, as seen in the 2015 Malvani case, can be elusive. A court acquitted 10 of the 14 accused after nine years. None was found guilty of violating the Poison Act. Since methanol production and delivery are inter-State affairs, there is a case for a central framework on methanol transport for preventing such pilferage as well as stringent State regulation. The Poison Act may add teeth to the prosecution’s case. But what is more important is to ensure that the lawmaker-enforcer dyad is incorruptible so that illegal methanol distribution is impossible. Eventually though, it is the sorry economic, social and educational situation of victims that creates a market for unscrupulous agents to make money. This can only be eradicated by tackling poverty, social inequality, and the lack of access to education alongside systemic corruption within law enforcement.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Illicit** (adjective) – illegal, unlawful, forbidden, prohibited, unauthorized अवैध
2. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, usually अक्सर
3. **Hooch** (noun) – moonshine, bootleg, illicit alcohol, homemade liquor, rotgut देशी/नकली शराब
4. **Spurious** (adjective) – fake, false, counterfeit, sham, deceptive नकली
5. **Recurring** (adjective) – repeating, reappearing, frequent, continual, persistent बार-बार होने वाला
6. **Claim** (verb) – cause the loss of (someone's life). जान लेना
7. **Grimly** (adverb) – bleakly, sternly, seriously, gloomily, somberly गंभीरता से
8. **Poverty** (noun) – destitution, penury, neediness, indigence, deprivation गरीबी
9. **Greed** (noun) – avarice, selfishness, gluttony, covetousness, acquisitiveness लालच
10. **Eerily** (adverb) – strangely, creepily, weirdly, mysteriously, unsettlingly रहस्यमय ढंग से
11. **In terms of** (phrase) – regarding, concerning, with respect to, related to, in relation to के संदर्भ में
12. **Perpetrator** (noun) – offender, criminal, wrongdoer, culprit, assailant अपराधी
13. **Seek** (verb) – look for, try to find, pursue, strive for, ask for तलाशना / मांगना
14. **Respite** (noun) – relief, break, pause, rest, reprieve राहत
15. **Harsh** (adjective) – severe, cruel, tough, unpleasant, brutal कठोर
16. **Drudgery** (noun) – hard work, toil, grind, labour, slog कठिन/थकाऊ काम
17. **Lure** (noun) – attraction, temptation, bait, enticement, appeal आकर्षण / प्रलोभन
18. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, susceptibility, exposure, sensitivity, fragility कमजोरी
19. **Exploit** (verb) – misuse, manipulate, take advantage of, abuse, capitalize on शोषण करना
20. **Bootlegger** (noun) – smuggler, illicit seller, moonshiner, trafficker, alcohol peddler शराब तस्कर
21. **At the fag end** (phrase) – at the very end, final stage, last part, closing phase अंतिम छोर पर
22. **Brew** (noun) – a kind of beer. शराब

23. **Incorporate** (verb) – include, integrate, blend, combine, mix सम्मिलित करना
24. **Toxic** (adjective) – poisonous, harmful, lethal, noxious, dangerous विषैला
25. **Scorpion** (noun) – A small creature similar to an insect that lives in hot, dry areas of the world बिच्छू
26. **Dilute** (verb) – water down, weaken, thin, lessen, reduce पतला करना
27. **Deceptively** (adverb) – misleadingly, falsely, trickily, wrongly, illusively धोखे से
28. **Pilfered** (adjective) – stolen, robbed, snatched, misappropriated, embezzled चुराया हुआ
29. **Misjudge** (verb) – underestimate, miscalculate, misconstrue, misunderstand, err गलत अंदाज़ा लगाना
30. **Dilution** (noun) – weakening, thinning, watering down, reduction, attenuation पतलापन / कमी
31. **Lead** (to) (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, prompt, give rise to कारण बनना
32. **Fatal** (adjective) – deadly, lethal, mortal, dangerous, terminal जानलेवा
33. **Nexus** (noun) – link, connection, network, bond, association संबंध / गठजोड़
34. **Apparent** (adjective) – obvious, clear, evident, visible, noticeable स्पष्ट
35. **Negligence** (noun) – carelessness, inattention, disregard, oversight, laxity लापरवाही
36. **The last mile** (noun) – final stage, end point, last part, completion step, delivery link अंतिम चरण
37. **Intermediary** (noun) – mediator, middleman, agent, broker, go-between मध्यस्थ
38. **Molasses** (noun) – thick, dark brown juice obtained from raw sugar during the refining process. शीरा
39. **Pilferage** (noun) – theft, stealing, misappropriation, looting, embezzlement चोरी
40. **Handsome** (adjective) – substantial, considerable, generous, significant, large अच्छा-खासा
41. **Proceeding** (noun) – legal action, lawsuit, case, hearing, litigation कानूनी प्रक्रिया
42. **Conviction** (noun) – verdict, judgment, guilty ruling, sentence, decision दोषसिद्धि
43. **Elusive** (adjective) – hard to catch, evasive, slippery, vague, intangible कठिन पकड़ में आने वाला
44. **Acquit** (verb) – clear, absolve, exonerate, release, discharge बरी करना

45. **Accuse** (verb) – blame, charge, allege, indict, implicate आरोप लगाना
46. **Violate** (verb) – break, breach, disobey, contravene, infringe उल्लंघन करना
47. **Stringent** (adjective) – strict, severe, harsh, rigorous, tough सख्त
48. **Add teeth to** (phrase) – strengthen, empower, give force, reinforce, enhance मजबूती देना
49. **Prosecution** (noun) – legal proceedings, trial, judicial process, lawsuit, action अभियोजन
50. **Dyad** (noun) – something that consists of two elements or parts.
51. **Incorruptible** (adjective) – honest, ethical, upright, trustworthy, moral भ्रष्ट न होने वाला
52. **Unscrupulous** (adjective) – immoral, unprincipled, unethical, deceitful, dishonest बेईमान
53. **Eradicate** (verb) – eliminate, remove, destroy, abolish, wipe out समाप्त करना
54. **Alongside** (adverb) – together with, along with, next to, in addition to, simultaneously के साथ-साथ
55. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, imposition, application, administration प्रवर्तन / क्रियान्वयन

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Recurring Tragedies** – Incidents of illicit liquor poisoning are frequent across India, the latest being in Amritsar, Punjab, where at least 23 people died.
2. **Common Pattern** – These cases follow a repetitive pattern involving poverty, greed, and systemic regulatory failure.
3. **Victim Profile** – Most victims are poor, daily wage laborers seeking relief from hardship through cheap alcohol.
4. **Role of Bootleggers** – Bootleggers exploit the poor by supplying cheap, illicit liquor through unsafe and toxic means.
5. **Toxic Ingredients** – Dangerous substances like dead scorpions and industrial methanol are used to make these drinks.
6. **Methanol Danger** – Methanol, often mistaken for ethanol, is highly toxic and a major cause of fatalities in such cases.
7. **Corruption Nexus** – There is often collusion between bootleggers, local politicians, and the police, enabling these operations.
8. **Police Negligence** – Police failures are common; in Punjab, some officers were suspended for negligence.
9. **Organised Theft** – The issue is not isolated bootlegging but part of a larger, organized theft and misuse of industrial methanol.
10. **Methanol Legality** – While legal for industrial use, methanol becomes dangerous when diverted for human consumption.
11. **Profit Motive** – Methanol is cheaper than legally produced alcohol, allowing bootleggers to profit even after bribes and theft costs.
12. **Weak Legal Outcomes** – Despite serious charges like murder, convictions are rare; for instance, in the 2015 Malvani case, most accused were acquitted.
13. **Regulatory Gaps** – Inter-State nature of methanol production and transport demands a strong central regulatory framework.
14. **Need for Stronger Laws** – The Poison Act could be better leveraged, but real change requires an honest, uncorrupted enforcement system.
15. **Root Causes** – The demand for illicit liquor stems from poverty, social inequality, and lack of education, which must be addressed to end these tragedies.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Sarcastic and mocking
 - B. Analytical and critical
 - C. Emotional and sentimental
 - D. Optimistic and hopeful
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Highlighting the socio-economic and systemic causes of illicit liquor deaths
 - B. Celebrating government efforts to curb illicit liquor
 - C. Promoting the benefits of methanol in industries
 - D. Criticizing the victims for consuming cheap alcohol
3. **What can be inferred as the most fundamental cause behind the recurring illicit liquor tragedies in India?**
 - A. Lack of law enforcement coordination
 - B. Inadequate regulations around methanol trade
 - C. Socio-economic vulnerability of the victims
 - D. Unchecked inter-State methanol transport
4. **What role does methanol play in the hooch tragedies described in the passage?**
 - A. It is a legal form of ethanol used in making safe liquor
 - B. It is a substitute used to reduce production costs in illicit liquor
 - C. It is the main ingredient in government-regulated liquor
 - D. It is a non-alcoholic additive used to extend shelf life
5. **Why do bootleggers continue to use methanol in their illegal brews despite its known dangers?**
 - A. They are unaware of its chemical toxicity
 - B. It is more effective than ethanol in fermentation
 - C. It is cheaper and yields high profit margins
 - D. It is the only alcohol legally available in rural areas
6. **Select the appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

At the drop of a hat

 - A. Reveal a secret carelessly
 - B. Become easily frightened
 - C. Crying without any reason
 - D. Willingness to do something instantly
7. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**

Yesterday was the worse day of my life.

 - A. most bad
 - B. worst
 - C. ill
 - D. bad
8. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Excellent
- B. Abandoned
- C. Celibrate
- D. Dangerous

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

He possesses one of the slimmer handsets in the world

- A. most slimmest
- B. slim
- C. slimmest
- D. most slim

10. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The teacher asked the students to stay _____ during the exam

- A. quit
- B. quiet
- C. quote
- D. quite

11. Select the word that has the same meaning (SYNONYM) as the underlined word in the given sentence.

The teacher made judicious use of technology to explain a sensitive topic

- A. difficult
- B. prudent
- C. prominent
- D. Judgmental

12. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.

He received the best employee award because he was the more hardworking

- A. the hardworking
- B. no improvement required
- C. hardworking
- D. most hardworking

13. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word provided in the brackets to fill in the blank.

The painting exhibited a _____ blend of colours. (harmonious)

- A. thrilling
- B. discordant
- C. polyphonic
- D. quavering

14. Read the following sentence and select its future tense form from the options given below:

Ramya finished her dissertation early.

- A. Ramya will finish her dissertation early.
- B. Ramya had finished her dissertation early.

- C. Ramya is finishing her dissertation early.
- D. Ramya has finished her dissertation early.

15. Select the correct option of the given sentence.

Smt. Savithri is wisest than all others in the group

- A. Smt. Savithri is wise than all others in the group.
- B. Smt. Savithri is the wise than all others in the group.
- C. Smt. Savithri is the wiser than all others in the group.
- D. Smt. Savithri is wiser than all others in the group.

16. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

- A. tendancy
- B. resistance
- C. weather
- D. separate

17. Select the most appropriate synonym of the word in bold in the given sentence.

It is universally acknowledged that trees are **indispensable** to us.

- A. Fierce
- B. Rational
- C. Unusual
- D. Essential

18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank to complete the idiom and make the sentence meaningful.

During the interview, the candidate was challenged to provide chapter and _____ on his proposed plan.

- A. lines
- B. page
- C. cover
- D. verse

19. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

The place where soldiers live

- A. Barracks
- B. Unit
- C. Regiment
- D. Brigade

20. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The Chinese government has accepted slower economic development as the 'new normal', recognising the need for China to adopt a new growth model that depends less on fixed investment and exports and more on private consumption, services, and innovation to _____ economic growth.

- A. bridle
- B. drive
- C. exhale

D. success

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.

It is the mad (1) _____ for speed that is responsible for many motor accidents. Only last year, (2) _____ what might have been a (3) _____ accident on Kashmir Road. I was motoring down (4) _____ Srinagar; and as I was nearing Kohala, I came upon the (5) _____ of two cars on the road.

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

- A. craze
- B. block
- C. luck
- D. boredom

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

- A. checked
- B. witnessed
- C. argued
- D. anticipated

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

- A. fatal
- B. wonderful
- C. happening
- D. harmless

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

- A. since
- B. from
- C. on
- D. besides

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

- A. pile
- B. clatter
- C. collision
- D. cluster

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Analytical and critical

The passage critically examines the systemic issues (poverty, corruption, regulatory failure) behind illicit liquor deaths while analyzing the supply chain and legal failures.

A: The passage does not ridicule but seriously addresses the problem.

C: While tragic, the tone is more fact-based than emotionally charged.

D: The passage highlights failures and does not focus on solutions or positive outcomes.

2. A) Highlighting the socio-economic and systemic causes of illicit liquor deaths

The passage focuses on poverty, corruption, regulatory gaps, and the methanol supply chain as root causes of these tragedies.

B: The passage criticizes systemic failures, not government success.

C: Methanol's dangers, not its uses, are discussed.

D: The passage sympathizes with victims' socio-economic plight rather than blaming them.

3. C) Socio-economic vulnerability of the victims

The passage states that victims are mostly poor, daily wage earners who are lured by cheap alcohol due to their harsh living conditions. This indicates that poverty, inequality, and lack of education form the underlying base of this crisis, which is then exploited by illegal networks.

A is incorrect: While lack of enforcement is discussed, it's a consequence of deeper issues, not the root cause.

B is incorrect: Methanol regulation is a suggested solution, but not stated as the primary reason behind the incidents.

D is incorrect: Like B, it highlights a logistical loophole, not the core driver of the problem.

4. B) It is a substitute used to reduce production costs in illicit liquor

The passage clearly mentions that methanol is an industrial chemical, used illegally by bootleggers to increase profits as it is cheaper than consumable ethanol. They use it despite its toxic nature, which often leads to deaths.

A is incorrect: Methanol is not a legal form of ethanol; it's a toxic industrial alcohol.

C is incorrect: Government-regulated liquor does not use methanol.

D is incorrect: Methanol is not used as an additive for shelf-life but as an alcohol substitute, which is dangerous.

5. C) It is cheaper and yields high profit margins

The passage highlights that bootleggers can still make a handsome profit even after paying for stolen methanol, as it is cheaper than ethanol-based liquor.

A is incorrect: The passage indicates misjudgment of dilution, not total ignorance of its toxicity.

B is incorrect: Methanol is not used in fermentation; it's a dangerous shortcut.

D is incorrect: Methanol is not for drinking and is not legally available for alcohol use.

6. D) At the drop of a hat (idiom) – Willingness to do something instantly (तुरंत कुछ करने की इच्छा)

7. B) 'worse' के बदले '**worst**' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में तुलना का कोई संदर्भ नहीं है और 'yesterday' का वर्णन 'सबसे बुरा दिन' (superlative degree) के रूप में किया गया है। Superlative degree के लिए 'worst' का use होता है। उदाहरण—Yesterday was the worst day of my life.
'**worst**' will replace 'worse' because there is no comparison in the sentence, and 'yesterday' is described as 'the worst day' (superlative degree). The superlative degree of 'bad' is 'worst'. Example—Yesterday was the worst day of my life.
8. C) The correct spelling of '**Celibrate**' is **Celebrate**, which means "to acknowledge a significant or happy day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity" (हिंदी में: "किसी महत्वपूर्ण या खुशी के दिन या घटना को सामाजिक समारोह या आनंददायक गतिविधि के साथ मनाना।")
9. C) '**Slimmer**' के बदले '**slimmest**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ sentence में "one of the" का use हुआ है। "One of the" के बाद Noun या Adjective के Superlative Degree का use होता है। उदाहरण के लिए— He possesses one of the slimmest handsets in the world.
'**Slimmer**' will be replaced by '**slimmest**' because the phrase "one of the" requires the use of a Superlative Degree of the adjective. For example— The correct sentence is: He possesses one of the slimmest handsets in the world.
10. B) '**Quiet**' का use होगा क्योंकि "quiet" का अर्थ है शांत या बिना आवाज़ के। sentence में यह बताया गया है कि शिक्षक ने छात्रों से परीक्षा के दौरान शांत रहने को कहा, इसलिए 'quiet' यहाँ सही option है। जबकि अन्य option context में फिट नहीं होते हैं। 'Quit' का अर्थ है छोड़ना या त्यागना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Quote' का अर्थ है उद्धरण देना, जो यहाँ आवश्यक नहीं है। 'Quite' का अर्थ है पूरी तरह या कुछ हद तक, जो sentence के अनुसार उपयुक्त नहीं है।
Quiet' will be used because it means calm or without noise. The sentence states that the teacher asked the students to stay calm during the exam, making 'quiet' the correct choice here.
'Quit' means to leave or give up, which does not fit this context. 'Quote' means to repeat or cite, which is not relevant here. 'Quite' means completely or to some extent, which does not align with the intended meaning of the sentence.
11. B) **Judicious** (adjective) – Having, showing, or done with good judgment or sense. Synonyms: Prudent, wise, sensible, careful. विवेकपूर्ण, समझदारी से भरा हुआ
SYNONYM: Prudent (adjective) – Acting with or showing care and thought for the future. Synonyms: Sensible, wise, cautious. विवेकी, बुद्धिमान
- **Difficult (adjective)** – Hard to do, deal with, or understand. Synonyms: Challenging, tough, arduous. कठिन, मुश्किल
 - **Prominent (adjective)** – Important, famous, noticeable. Synonyms: Eminent, notable, distinguished. प्रमुख, विख्यात

- **Judgmental (adjective)** – Having or displaying an excessively critical point of view.
Synonyms: Critical, overcritical. आलोचनात्मक

12. D) 'more hardworking' के बदले '**most hardworking**' का use होगा क्योंकि Superlative Degree का use तब होता है जब तुलना तीन या अधिक व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच की जा रही हो। यहाँ, "the best employee award" दर्शाता है कि यह तुलना सभी कर्मचारियों के बीच हो रही है, इसलिए 'most hardworking' सही answer होगा। जैसे—He is the most intelligent student in the class.

'most hardworking' will be used instead of 'more hardworking' because the Superlative Degree is used when comparing three or more people or things. Here, "the best employee award" indicates a comparison among all employees, so 'most hardworking' is the correct option. Like—He is the most intelligent student in the class.

13. B) **Harmonious** (adjective) – Tuneful, pleasant, melodious, in agreement, compatible. (सामंजस्यपूर्ण)

Antonym: Discordant (adjective) – Harsh, jarring, lacking harmony, incongruous. (बेसुरा, असंगत)

- **Thrilling (adjective)** – Exciting, electrifying, exhilarating, stimulating. रोमांचक
- **Polyphonic (adjective)** – Producing or involving many sounds, especially in music. बहु-स्वरीय
- **Quavering (adjective)** – Trembling, shaking, or quivering, especially in sound. कंपकंपी, काँपता हुआ

14. A) '**will finish**' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence को Future Tense में बदलने की आवश्यकता है। Future Tense में helping verb 'will' और क्रिया के मूल रूप (finish) का use किया जाता है। मूल sentence "Ramya finished her dissertation early" Past Tense में है और इसे Future Tense में बदलने के लिए 'will finish' सही option है।

The sentence "Ramya finished her dissertation early" is in the Past Tense, indicated by the verb "finished." To convert this sentence into the Future Tense, the helping verb "will" is added, followed by the base form of the verb "finish."

15. D) '**wisest**' के बदले 'wiser' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में 'than' का use किया गया है, जो Comparative Degree की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है। अतः Positive Degree 'wise' और Superlative Degree 'wisest' यहां उपयुक्त नहीं हैं। साथ ही, Article 'the' का use नहीं होगा क्योंकि Comparative Degree के साथ यह आवश्यक नहीं है।

wisest will be replaced by **wiser** because "than" in the sentence requires the use of the Comparative Degree. The Superlative Degree "wisest" is incorrect in this context. Article 'the' is unnecessary with the Comparative Degree "wiser" here.

16. A) The incorrectly spelt word is **'tendancy'**. The correct spelling is **'tendency'**, which means "an inclination towards a particular characteristic or type of behavior" (प्रवृत्ति, झुकाव).
17. D) **Indispensable** (adjective): Something that is absolutely necessary, essential, or crucial. अपरिहार्य, ज़रूरी।

Synonym: Essential (adjective): Absolutely necessary, vital, or required. अत्यावश्यक।

- **Fierce (adjective)**: Intense, strong, or aggressive. उग्र
- **Rational (adjective)**: Logical, sensible, or reasonable. तार्किक
- **Unusual (adjective)**: Not common or ordinary, rare. असामान्य।

18. D) **Verse** (noun) – A line of poetry or a passage from a literary work. कविता या गद्यांश का भाग
- **Lines** (noun) – Words forming a single row in a poem, song, or text. This does not fit the idiom's structure. लाइनें (पंक्ति).
 - **Page** (noun) – One side of a sheet of paper in a book, magazine, or other written material. This does not complete the idiom meaningfully. पृष्ठ.
 - **Cover** (noun) – The outside surface of a book or magazine. It does not match the idiom's sense of providing detail. कवर (आवरण).
19. A) **Barracks** (noun) – Buildings used to house soldiers सैनिकों के रहने का स्थान
- **Unit** (noun) – A small group of military personnel इकाई
 - **Regiment** (noun) – A military unit of ground forces consisting of two or more battalions रेजिमेंट
 - **Brigade** (noun) – A military unit consisting of several regiments or battalions ब्रिगेड
20. B) **Drive** का use होगा क्योंकि "drive" का अर्थ होता है आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ाने या प्रेरित करने के लिए प्रयास करना। sentence में यह बताया गया है कि चीन की नई विकास रणनीति सेवाओं, निजी खपत, और नवाचार पर अधिक निर्भर करती है ताकि आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। इसलिए 'drive' यहाँ सही है। जबकि अन्य option इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं: Bridle का अर्थ है नियंत्रण या लगाम लगाना, जो विकास को बढ़ाने के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। Exhale का अर्थ है सांस छोड़ना, जो sentence के संदर्भ से असंबंधित है। Success एक noun है, जबकि यहाँ एक verb की आवश्यकता है जो sentence को पूर्ण और grammatically सही हो।

Drive' will be used because it means to stimulate or promote economic activities. The sentence mentions that China's new growth strategy depends on services, private consumption, and innovation to stimulate economic growth, making 'drive' the correct choice. 'Bridle' means to control or restrain, which is not suitable in the context of promoting growth. 'Exhale' means to breathe out, which is irrelevant to the context. 'Success' is a noun, whereas the blank requires a verb to complete the sentence grammatically and contextually.

21. 'A) **Craze**' का use होगा क्योंकि "craze" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के प्रति अत्यधिक उत्साह या पागलपन। sentence में यह बताया गया है कि तेज़ी के प्रति यह पागलपन (mad craze) कई मोटर दुर्घटनाओं का कारण बनता है। इसलिए 'craze' यहाँ सही है। जबकि: 'Block' का अर्थ है बाधा या रुकावट, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Luck' का अर्थ है भाग्य, जो दुर्घटनाओं के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Boredom' का अर्थ है उबाऊपन या नीरसता, जो sentence से मेल नहीं खाता।

'Craze' will be used because it means an excessive enthusiasm or madness for something. The sentence mentions the madness (mad craze) for speed being responsible for motor accidents, making 'craze' appropriate here. Whereas: 'Block' means obstruction, which doesn't fit the context. 'Luck' refers to fortune, which doesn't align with the context of accidents. 'Boredom' means dullness, which doesn't match the idea conveyed in the sentence.

22. B) **Witnessed**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है किसी घटना को अपनी आँखों से देखना। sentence में यह बताया गया है कि लेखक ने सड़क पर एक संभावित दुर्घटना देखी थी, इसलिए 'witnessed' सही है। 'Checked' का अर्थ है जांचना, जो यहाँ संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Argued' का अर्थ है बहस करना, और यह sentence के अर्थ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Anticipated' का अर्थ है अनुमान लगाना या उम्मीद करना, लेकिन लेखक ने केवल देखा था, इसलिए यह सही option नहीं है।

Witnessed will be used because it means to see an event happen with one's own eyes. The sentence mentions that the author came across a potential accident on the road, making 'witnessed' the appropriate choice. 'Checked' means to inspect, which does not fit in this context. 'Argued' means to engage in a debate or disagreement, which is irrelevant to the situation. 'Anticipated' means to expect or predict, but the author simply saw the event, so it is not suitable here.

23. A) **Fatal**' का use होगा क्योंकि "fatal" का अर्थ है घातक या जानलेवा। sentence में लिखा है कि "मैंने जो देखा वह एक गंभीर दुर्घटना हो सकती थी," जो इंगित करता है कि यह दुर्घटना घातक हो सकती थी। इसलिए 'fatal' सही answer है। Wonderful का अर्थ है अद्भुत, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि दुर्घटना के संदर्भ में सकारात्मक शब्द का use नहीं किया जाएगा। Happening का अर्थ है घटना, लेकिन यह संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यह दुर्घटना की गंभीरता को नहीं दर्शाता। Harmless का अर्थ है हानिरहित, जो यहाँ सही नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि sentence में संभावित गंभीर दुर्घटना का संकेत है।

'Fatal' will be used because it means causing death or being deadly. The sentence mentions "what might have been a serious accident," implying that the accident could have been life-threatening. Hence, 'fatal' is the correct choice. Wonderful means amazing, which is inappropriate in the context of an accident as it conveys a positive tone. Happening means an event, but it does not fit here as it fails to convey the seriousness of the accident.

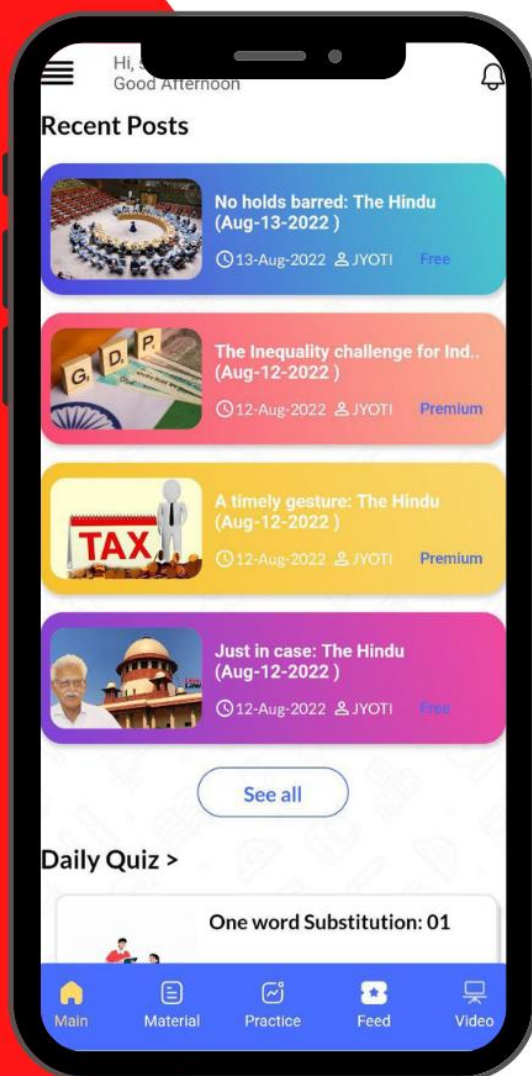
Harmless means without harm, which contradicts the severity implied in the sentence

24. B) 'From' का use होगा क्योंकि 'from' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान या स्थिति की शुरुआत को दिखाना। इस sentence में लेखक बता रहा है कि वह श्रीनगर की ओर यात्रा कर रहा था। इसलिए "motoring down from Srinagar" का use सही है, जो यह दर्शाता है कि यात्रा श्रीनगर से शुरू हुई थी। 'Since' का अर्थ है "के बाद से" और इसका use समय को दर्शाने के लिए किया जाता है, न कि स्थान को। यह यहाँ अनुचित है। 'On' का अर्थ है "पर" और इसका use स्थान या स्थिति के लिए किया जाता है, लेकिन यहाँ यात्रा के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Besides' का अर्थ है "के अतिरिक्त," जो इस संदर्भ में बिल्कुल गलत है।

From is the correct option because it indicates the starting point of a journey or position. In the sentence, the author mentions traveling towards Srinagar. Hence, "motoring down from Srinagar" is appropriate, as it shows the journey began in Srinagar. 'Since' refers to a time point and is not suitable for indicating a place in this context. 'On' refers to a position or location but does not fit in the context of traveling. 'Besides' means "in addition to" and is completely irrelevant here.

25. C) **Collision** का use होगा क्योंकि "collision" का अर्थ है दो वस्तुओं का आपस में टकराना। Passage में mention है कि "I came upon the ____ of two cars on the road," यानी लेखक ने सड़क पर दो कारों के टकराने का दृश्य देखा। इसलिए, 'collision' यहाँ सबसे उपयुक्त शब्द है। 'Pile' का अर्थ होता है ढेर, जो context में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यह कारों के टकराने की घटना का वर्णन नहीं करता। 'Clatter' का अर्थ है शोर-शराबा, जो यहाँ अप्रासंगिक है क्योंकि यह कार दुर्घटना को सही ढंग से व्यक्त नहीं करता। 'Cluster' का अर्थ है समूह, जो घटना के परिप्रेक्ष्य में सही नहीं है।

'Collision' will be used because it means the act of two objects crashing into each other. The passage mentions, "I came upon the ____ of two cars on the road," which indicates that the author witnessed a car crash. Hence, 'collision' is the most appropriate word here. 'Pile' means a heap, which does not fit the context as it does not describe the incident of cars crashing. 'Clatter' refers to a noise or rattle, which is irrelevant to the situation described. 'Cluster' means a group, which does not accurately describe the scene of a crash.



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