

Population expansion: The silent burden on India's women

With a population of 1.45 billion, India **overtook** China in 2023 to become the most **populous** country in the world.

Yet, **paradoxically**, there is a growing **clamour** in the country to have more children. The **chief** of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh **has** asked couples to have at least three children. He is not the only one. The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Tamil Nadu (TN) are also **urging** the people of their states to increase their family size.

One of the reasons given for such demands **is** the declining **fertility rate**, especially in AP and TN. The total fertility rate (TFR) is below the replacement level of two births per woman in both of these southern states.

After **decades** of pushing for two children or less, mostly through **coercive** family planning policies targeting women, now that the goal to achieve the desirable TFR has been achieved in 17 of the 29 states, why is it no longer desirable?

For AP and TN, it is fear of losing out on parliamentary seats and political **clout**.

In 1976, the parliamentary seat share of every state was frozen for 25 years based on their 1971 population.

This was to assure them that if their population decreased **as a consequence of** implementing policies to **bring down** the population, their quota of parliamentary seats would not change.

In 2001, when this seat share policy was due for review, a **decision** to continue with the same number of seats **irrespective of** the state population for another 25 years **was** taken.

Since the past year, there have been signals that this is about to change next year (2026) when it is due to be reviewed. With population-based **delimitation**, the parliamentary seats of AP and TN will fall sharply. The populous northern **states** which have not performed as well in slowing population growth **will** benefit at the cost of the southern states which have done well to bring down their TFR.

This, it has been said, would be against the spirit of **federalism**. In all these arguments, not once has there been any mention of what impact this would have on women, although they are the ones who are central to population policies.

Even when the two-child policy was introduced in 1992, allowing only those with two or less children to **contest** panchayat and local urban body polls, no thought was given to the reproductive and human rights of women. If women were candidates and had more than two children, they had to **abort** or **give up** their child. If they were spouses of contestants, they faced forced **abortion** or **abandonment**. They suffered in both situations. There are many examples and studies to show that the two-child norm benefits and **strengthens** traditional structures of **patriarchy**.

Yet, it continues in several states in the name of population 'control'. Now that some political decision-makers want an increase in population, some states are likely to follow AP, which has recently **done away with** the two-child norm. But will women benefit from this decision? Female **foeticide** and son preference remain a **grim** reality despite laws.

Last month, the Haryana Government announced the setting up of dedicated police cells in each district to deter sex-selective abortions and **violations** of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act in response to the declining sex ratio **skewed** against girls.

Worryingly, it is not just in Haryana where the female child is killed in the **womb**. Who can guarantee that encouraging the birth of more children will not **lead to** greater violations of women's reproductive and sexual health and rights?

Why should the reproductive rights of women be up for **negotiation** when it is they who have the right to decide why, when and how many children they want?

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Overtake** (verb) – surpass, exceed, outstrip, outdo, eclipse आगे निकल जाना
2. **Populous** (adjective) – densely populated, crowded, inhabited, thickly settled, teeming जनसंख्या से भरा हुआ
3. **Paradoxically** (adverb) – contradictorily, ironically, unexpectedly, oddly, counterintuitively विरोधाभासी रूप से
4. **Clamour** (noun) – outcry, demand, uproar, protest, commotion शोर / मांग
5. **Urge** (verb) – encourage, push, advise, press, recommend आग्रह करना / प्रेरित करना
6. **Fertility rate** (noun) – the average number of children that are born to a woman over her lifetime प्रजनन दर
7. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years, दस वर्ष की अवधि
8. **Coercive** (adjective) – forceful, oppressive, intimidating, compelling, authoritarian जबरदस्ती करने वाला
9. **Clout** (noun) – influence, power, sway, authority, leverage प्रभाव / दबदबा
10. **As a consequence of** (phrase) – as a result of, due to, because of, owing to, following के परिणामस्वरूप
11. **Bring down** (phrasal verb) – reduce, lower, decrease, diminish, cut कम करना
12. **Irrespective of** (phrase) – regardless of, despite, no matter, notwithstanding, even though के बावजूद
13. **Delimitation** (noun) – boundary fixing, redistricting, border setting, constituency reorganization, demarcation परिसीमन
14. **Federalism** (noun) – decentralization, division of powers, unionism, confederation, self-governance संघवाद
15. **Contest** (verb) – compete, vie, fight, challenge, run (for office) चुनाव लड़ना
16. **Abort** (verb) – terminate (a pregnancy), miscarry, cancel, end, expel गर्भपात करना
17. **Give up** (phrasal verb) – surrender, renounce, relinquish, let go, abandon त्यागना / छोड़ देना
18. **Abortion** (noun) – termination of pregnancy, miscarriage, foeticide, premature delivery, expulsion गर्भपात
19. **Abandonment** (noun) – desertion, forsaking, rejection, neglect, giving up परित्याग

20. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, bolster, support, solidify, empower मजबूत करना
21. **Patriarchy** (noun) – male dominance, male supremacy, male rule, androcracy, gender hierarchy पितृसत्ता
22. **Do away with** (phrasal verb) – eliminate, abolish, remove, discard, end समाप्त करना
23. **Foeticide** (noun) – killing of a fetus, prenatal killing, abortion, infanticide (in womb), prenatal murder भ्रूण हत्या
24. **Grim** (adjective) – bleak, harsh, severe, dreadful, gloomy गंभीर / भयानक
25. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, offense, transgression, defiance उल्लंघन
26. **Skew** (verb) – distort, misrepresent, twist, bias, tilt असंतुलित करना / विकृत करना
27. **Womb** (noun) – uterus, belly, mother's body, childbearing organ, embryo holder गर्भाशय
28. **Lead** (to) (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, give rise to, trigger कारण बनना
29. **Negotiation** (noun) – discussion, dialogue, deliberation, agreement, bargaining बातचीत / सौदेबाज़ी

Summary of the Editorial

1. **India Becomes Most Populous:** In 2023, India surpassed China with a population of 1.45 billion, becoming the world's most populous country.
2. **Call for Larger Families:** Despite the population size, political and ideological leaders—including the RSS chief and CMs of Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Tamil Nadu (TN)—are urging couples to have more children.
3. **Low Fertility Rates in South:** AP and TN are witnessing a decline in Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which is now below the replacement level of 2 births per woman.
4. **Contradictory Policy Shift:** After decades of promoting small families through coercive policies, including the two-child norm, the focus is now shifting to encouraging larger families.
5. **Delimitation Fears:** The push for population growth in southern states is driven by fear of losing parliamentary representation in the upcoming 2026 delimitation exercise.
6. **Historical Context:** Since 1976, parliamentary seat allocation has been frozen based on the 1971 population, extended again in 2001 until 2026.
7. **Southern States at Risk:** States like AP and TN, which controlled population effectively, may lose seats, while populous northern states stand to gain.
8. **Federalism at Stake:** Population-based seat reallocation is viewed as a potential violation of the federal spirit, penalizing states that implemented responsible population policies.
9. **Women's Role Ignored:** The entire population debate fails to acknowledge the central role and burden placed on women in such policies.
10. **Two-Child Norm Harms:** Introduced in 1992, the two-child norm for local body elections led to forced abortions, abandonment, and rights violations, especially for women candidates and spouses.
11. **Patriarchy Reinforced:** These policies often reinforced patriarchal structures, denying women autonomy over their reproductive choices.
12. **Policy Reversals Ongoing:** Some states, like AP, have scrapped the two-child policy, but without clear measures to protect women's interests.
13. **Son Preference and Foeticide:** Female foeticide and preference for sons continue to plague society, regardless of existing legal safeguards.
14. **Haryana's Response:** The Haryana government has created police cells in all districts to enforce the PNDT Act against sex-selective abortions, reacting to a declining child sex ratio.
15. **Reproductive Rights Must Be Protected:** The editorial emphasizes that only women should decide when, whether, and how many children to have—reproductive rights must not be dictated by political or demographic agendas.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory and approving
 - B. Alarmist and sensational
 - C. Critical and concerned
 - D. Detached and purely objective
2. **Why are the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu urging families to have more than two children?**
 - A. To curb the practice of female foeticide.
 - B. To avoid losing parliamentary seats after the 2026 population-based delimitation.
 - C. To solve an immediate industrial labour shortage in their states.
 - D. Solely to comply with the RSS chief's public appeal for larger families.
3. **When was the distribution of parliamentary seats across Indian states first frozen at its existing levels?**
 - A. 1961
 - B. 1971
 - C. 1976
 - D. 2001
4. **What can be inferred about the likely impact of future policies that encourage higher birth rates?**
 - A. They will automatically enhance women's reproductive rights.
 - B. They will be uniformly welcomed by all Indian states.
 - C. They will eliminate son preference because of balanced sex ratios.
 - D. They could intensify violations of women's reproductive health and rights.
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Political loss of parliamentary seats for southern states
 - B. Socio-economic advantages of having larger families in India
 - C. Consequences of population policies on women's reproductive rights
 - D. Statistical variations in state-wise fertility rates
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
 - A. Regulator
 - B. Machenical
 - C. Annual
 - D. Technical
7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.**

We talked over the matter for two hours; unfortunately, we could not reach a decision

 - A. Argued
 - B. Debated
 - C. Quarrelled
 - D. Discussed
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

It's important to bring up sensitive topics in a respectful manner

- A. Drowsy
- B. Considerate
- C. Strong
- D. Cordial

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

Like a dying duck in a thunderstorm

- A. Dejected or hopeless
- B. Fearful or scared of water
- C. Bad swimmer or practitioner
- D. Harmful or vigilant

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

Gold is much costly than any other metal.

- A. most
- B. many
- C. more
- D. most costlier

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

High-altitude climbing poses significant risks due to factors like altitude sickness, hypothermia and extreme weather conditions.

- A. inconsequential
- B. magnificent
- C. tempestuous
- D. plentiful

12. Select the option that correctly rectifies the underlined spelling error.

The beutiful flowers bloomed in the garden.

- A. beautifuul
- B. beautifull
- C. beautiful
- D. beautiful

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

She _____ the book to her friend

- A. lent
- B. leant
- C. lend
- D. laned

14. Select the most appropriate adjective to fill in the blank.

Jack always looks handsome, even if he is a _____ out of style.

- A. least
- B. less

C. more little

D. little

15. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Idle

A. Unsafe

B. Uneasy

C. Ungrateful

D. Unoccupied

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

The writer's _____ prose resonated with readers, evoking powerful emotions.

A. banal

B. mundane

C. sporadic

D. eloquent

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

Doves _____ in the sky above me.

A. shore

B. sour

C. sore

D. soar

18. Select the most appropriate adjective to fill in the blank.

The orator declared that the women are _____ than the men.

A. intelligent

B. more intelligent

C. most intelligent

D. intelligenter

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

The teacher emphasised the importance of _____ correct grammar and punctuation in our writing

A. using

B. used

C. uses

D. use

20. Select the grammatically correct sentence from the given options

A. The Nile is the long river in the world with a length about approximately 6650 km.

B. The Nile is the most long river in the world of a length of approximately 6650 km.

C. The Nile is the longest river in the world with a length about approximately 6650 km.

D. The Nile is the longest river in the world with a length of approximately 6650 km.

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 true that strangers meeting for the first time seem to feel ____1____ if they do not engage ____2____ small talk. Usually, this is ____3____ and even necessary if strangers are to size each other up. But, this small talk aside, what are some ____4____ rules for general conversation? In the first place, certain ____5____ should be taboo. Kitchen topics, bus time-tables and other dull or specialised things should be barred from general discussion

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

- A. uncomfortable
- B. comforts
- C. discomforts
- D. comforting

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

- A. in
- B. by
- C. on
- D. from

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

- A. remedy
- B. harmless
- C. comedy
- D. happy

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

- A. alimentary
- B. elementary
- C. illuminative
- D. eliminating

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

- A. books
- B. objects
- C. essays
- D. subjects

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Critical and concerned

The author repeatedly critiques political calls for larger families and expresses worry about how shifting population targets have historically harmed women's reproductive rights. This mix of judgement and anxiety gives the passage a critical yet concerned tone.

A: The author does not praise population-increase appeals; instead, they warn against them.

B: The language is pointed but remains evidence-based, avoiding exaggeration or panic.

D: The passage is not neutral; it clearly takes a stance in defence of women's rights.

2. B) To avoid losing parliamentary seats after the 2026 population-based delimitation.

The passage states that AP and TN fear "losing out on parliamentary seats and political clout" when seat allocation is reviewed in 2026. A larger state population would protect their share of seats.

A: The passage mentions female foeticide as a separate worry, not the reason for the CM's appeal.

C: No evidence is given about labour shortages driving the demand.

D: The CMs' motive is tied to seat count, not to following the RSS chief, whose call is mentioned earlier as a different example.

3. C) The passage notes: "In 1976, the parliamentary seat share of every state was frozen for 25 years based on their 1971 population."

A (1961): No freeze is mentioned for 1961.

B (1971): 1971 is the census base year, not the year the freeze was enacted.

D (2001): 2001 continued the freeze; it was not the start.

4. D) They could intensify violations of women's reproductive health and rights.

The author warns that urging more births may "lead to greater violations of women's reproductive and sexual health and rights," citing persistent female foeticide and son preference. Thus, the inference is a heightened risk to women's rights.

A: The passage argues the opposite—women's rights have historically been sidelined.

B: Only some political decision-makers advocate larger families; the text implies differing state stances.

C: Son preference is described as an ongoing "grim reality," not something that higher fertility will solve.

5. C) Consequences of population policies on women's reproductive rights

Throughout the article, the author shows that debates on fertility rates, delimitation, and two-child norms have consistently sidelined women's bodily autonomy and exposed them to

coercion, abortion, or abandonment. Women's rights are the unifying thread that links every paragraph.

A: Political loss of parliamentary seats for southern states: Mentioned as background, but used only to frame the larger gender issue.

B: Socio-economic advantages of larger families: The passage questions, rather than endorses, such claims.

D: Statistical variations in fertility rates: Data appear, but they serve as supporting details, not the central focus.

6. B) The incorrect spelling in the given options is '**Machenical**'. The correct spelling is '**Mechanical**', which means "relating to machines or machinery" (मशीन या यांत्रिकी से संबंधित)
7. **D) Talked over** (idiom): To discuss something in detail. चर्चा करना
8. C) **Sensitive** (adjective) – Easily affected, responsive to feelings or emotions, delicate, tender. संवेदनशील

ANTONYM: Strong (adjective) – Not easily disturbed, tough, resistant, firm, sturdy. मजबूत, कठोर।

- **Drowsy** (adjective): Sleepy, lethargic, tired, sluggish. नींद में या सुस्त
- **Considerate** (adjective): Thoughtful, kind, sensitive, caring. विचारशील, संवेदनशील।
- **Cordial** (adjective): Friendly, warm, affable, pleasant. सौहार्दपूर्ण, मैत्रीपूर्ण।

9. A) **Like a dying duck in a thunderstorm** – Dejected or hopeless अत्यधिक निराश, उदास या असहाय दिखना (व्यक्ति की पूरी निराशा और दयनीय स्थिति को दर्शाता है, जैसे एक मरता हुआ बत्तख गरज और बारिश में होता है।)
10. C) 'much costly' के बदले 'more costly' का use होगा क्योंकि 'costly' एक Adjective है, और Comparative Degree बनाने के लिए 'more' का use किया जाता है। 'much' का use केवल Adverbs और Uncountable Nouns के साथ किया जाता है; जैसे— Gold is more costly than any other metal.
'more costly' will be used instead of 'much costly' because 'costly' is an adjective, and comparative adjectives take 'more' instead of 'much'; Like— Gold is more costly than any other metal.
11. A) **Significant** (adjective) – Having meaning, importance, or a noticeable effect; important, noteworthy. महत्वपूर्ण, अर्थपूर्ण
Antonym: Inconsequential (adjective) – Not important or significant; trivial, unimportant. महत्वहीन, तुच्छ

- **Magnificent** (adjective) – Extremely beautiful, elaborate, or impressive; splendid, grand.

भव्य, शानदार

- **Tempestuous** (adjective) – Characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotions; stormy, volatile. तूफानी, उग्र

- **Plentiful** (adjective) – Existing in great quantity; abundant, copious. प्रचुर, भरपूर

12. C) The correct spelling of the underlined word '**beutiful**' is '**beautiful**', which means "pleasing the senses or mind aesthetically" (सुंदर, मनोहर).

13. A) '**Lent**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "lend" का past tense है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी वस्तु को अस्थायी रूप से किसी को देना। sentence में mention है कि उसने किताब अपने दोस्त को दी, इसलिए past tense का use किया जाएगा। 'Leant' का अर्थ है "झुकना," जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Lend' present tense है और यह वाक्य के grammar से मेल नहीं खाता।

'Lent' will be used because it is the past tense of "lend," which means to temporarily give something to someone. The sentence indicates a completed action in the past, so the past tense is appropriate. 'Leant' means "to lean," which is contextually incorrect here. 'Lend' is in the present tense and does not fit the grammatical structure of the sentence.

14. D) '**little**' का use होगा क्योंकि "a little" का अर्थ होता है "थोड़ा सा" या "कुछ हद तक" और यह आमतौर पर किसी adjective या verb की तीव्रता को कम करने के लिए USE किया जाता है। इस sentence में, "a little out of style" का अर्थ होगा "थोड़ा सा फैशन से बाहर," जो सही है। 'A least' गलत है क्योंकि "least" superlative degree का होता है और इसके साथ "a" का USE नहीं किया जाता। 'A less' गलत है क्योंकि "less" comparative degree में आता है और इससे पहले "a" का USE नहीं किया जाता। 'A more little' गलत है क्योंकि "more little" grammatically गलत है; "little" एक non-gradable adjective है, इसलिए इसके साथ "more" नहीं आता।

'little' will be used because it means "slightly" or "somewhat," which correctly conveys the idea of being "a little out of style." 'A least' is incorrect because "least" is a superlative and does not take "a" before it. 'A less' is incorrect because "less" is comparative and does not take "a" before it. 'A more little' is grammatically incorrect because "little" is a non-gradable adjective and does not take "more."

15. D) **Idle** (adjective) – Not active, not in use, or without work; lazy; inactive. निष्क्रिय, खाली, कामचोर।

Synonym: Unoccupied (adjective) – Not occupied; vacant or not engaged in any activity.

खाली, अप्रयुक्त।

- **Unsafe** (adjective) – Not safe; dangerous or risky. Meaning in Hindi: असुरक्षित।

- **Uneasy** (adjective) – Feeling anxious or uncomfortable; not at ease. Meaning in Hindi: बेचैन।
- **Ungrateful** (adjective) – Not showing gratitude; unthankful. कृतघ्न।

16. 'D) **Eloquent**' का use होगा क्योंकि "eloquent" का अर्थ होता है ऐसा व्यक्त करने की क्षमता जो प्रभावशाली और भावनात्मक हो। sentence में यह mention है कि लेखक की गद्य शैली पाठकों के साथ प्रतिध्वनित हुई और शक्तिशाली भावनाओं को प्रेरित किया, इसलिए 'eloquent' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि, 'banal' का अर्थ होता है सामान्य या उबाऊ, 'mundane' का अर्थ है सांसारिक या साधारण, और 'sporadic' का अर्थ है असंगत या अनियमित, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

'Eloquent' will be used because "eloquent" means having the ability to express something in a way that is impressive and evokes emotions. The sentence mentions that the writer's prose resonated with readers and evoked powerful emotions, making 'eloquent' the right choice here. On the other hand, 'banal' means ordinary or dull, 'mundane' means worldly or plain, and 'sporadic' means inconsistent or irregular, none of which fit this context.

17. D) '**soar**' सही answer होगा क्योंकि 'soar' का अर्थ है "तेजी से ऊपर उठना या ऊँचाई पर उड़ना।" इस sentence में, 'doves' यानी कबूतरों के आकाश में ऊँचाई पर उड़ने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए 'soar' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। 'Shore' का अर्थ है किनारा या तट, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Sour' का अर्थ है खट्टा या अप्रिय, जो यहाँ उचित नहीं है। 'Sore' का अर्थ है पीड़ा या दर्द, जो वाक्य के अर्थ से मेल नहीं खाता।

'Soar' is the correct answer because it means "to rise quickly or fly high." In this sentence, it describes the doves flying high in the sky, making 'soar' the appropriate choice. 'Shore' means the edge of a sea or lake, which doesn't fit the context. 'Sour' means unpleasant or acidic, which is irrelevant here. 'Sore' means pain or ache, which doesn't align with the sentence's meaning.

18. B) '**More intelligent**' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence में तुलना की जा रही है। "The women are _____ than the men" वाक्य में "than" शब्द दर्शाता है कि यह तुलना का वाक्य है। comparative degree में adjectives के लिए 'more' का use किया जाता है। 'Intelligent' (A) का अर्थ होता है "बुद्धिमान," लेकिन यह positive degree है, जो तुलना के लिए सही नहीं है। 'Most intelligent' (C) superlative degree है, जो तब use होती है जब तुलना एक समूह के बीच की जाती है, न कि केवल दो के बीच। 'Intelligent' (D) गलत है क्योंकि 'intelligent' के साथ comparative degree में 'more' का use होता है, न कि 'er' का।

'More intelligent' will be used because the sentence involves a comparison. The phrase "The women are _____ than the men" indicates a comparative context, and adjectives in the comparative degree are formed using 'more' with longer adjectives like 'intelligent.' 'Intelligent' (A) means "smart," but it is the positive degree, which is not suitable for comparisons.

'Most intelligent' (C) is the superlative degree, used for comparing one among many, not between two. 'Intelligenter' (D) is incorrect, as the comparative form of 'intelligent' requires 'more' instead of adding 'er.'

19. A) **Using** का use होगा क्योंकि यह sentence present participle के रूप में काम करता है, जो यहां "the importance of" के बाद आने वाली noun phrase को पूरा करता है। 'Used' (past tense) का अर्थ है 'प्रयुक्त किया गया,' जो वाक्य के अर्थ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Uses' third-person singular के लिए use होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Use' (base form) भी grammatical structure के अनुसार सही नहीं है।

'Using' is correct because it functions as a present participle here, completing the noun phrase following "the importance of." 'Used' is past tense, meaning "something that has been utilized," which doesn't align with the sentence meaning. 'Uses' is for third-person singular, which is not appropriate here. 'Use' as a base form is grammatically incorrect in this structure.

20. D) **The Nile is the longest river in the world with a length of approximately 6650 km**

'The Nile is the longest river in the world' का use यह दिखाने के लिए किया गया है कि Nile विश्व की सबसे लंबी नदी है। इसमें longest (superlative degree) का use उचित है क्योंकि तुलना सभी नदियों से की गई है। इसके बाद, "with a length of approximately 6650 km" का use सही है क्योंकि "of" दर्शाता है कि लंबाई Nile की है।

Option D is grammatically and structurally correct. The phrase "The Nile is the longest river in the world" appropriately uses longest (superlative degree) to indicate a comparison with all other rivers. The continuation, "with a length of approximately 6650 km," correctly uses "of" to indicate the length belonging to the Nile.

21. A) **'Uncomfortable'** का use होगा क्योंकि "uncomfortable" का अर्थ है असुविधाजनक या असहज महसूस करना। sentence में बताया गया है कि जब अजनबी पहली बार मिलते हैं तो यदि वे छोटी-छोटी बातें नहीं करते हैं तो उन्हें असहज महसूस होता है। इसलिए 'uncomfortable' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'comforts' का अर्थ है आराम, 'discomforts' का अर्थ है असुविधा, और 'comforting' का अर्थ है सान्त्वना देना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

Uncomfortable will be used because it means feeling uneasy or awkward. The sentence explains that strangers meeting for the first time feel uneasy if they don't engage in small talk, making 'uncomfortable' suitable here. On the other hand, 'comforts' means ease, 'discomforts' means inconvenience, and 'comforting' means providing solace, which don't fit in this context.

22. A) **in** का use होगा क्योंकि सही phrase "engage in" है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी गतिविधि में भाग लेना। sentence के संदर्भ में, इसका अर्थ है कि अजनबी जब मिलते हैं, तो वे छोटे वार्तालाप में शामिल होते हैं। 'by,'

'on,' और 'from' गलत हैं क्योंकि: 'by' किसी माध्यम का संकेत करता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'on' का "engage" के साथ इस संदर्भ में सही मेल नहीं है। 'from' का use इस sentence सही नहीं है।

in' will be used because the correct collocation is "engage in," which means to participate or involve oneself in something. In the context of the sentence, it implies strangers participate in small talk when they meet. 'by,' 'on,' and 'from' are incorrect because: 'by' implies a means or method, which does not fit the meaning of the sentence. 'on' does not pair correctly with "engage" in this context. 'from' makes no logical sense in this sentence structure.

23. B) **Harmless'** का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि 'harmless' का अर्थ होता है कि जो नुकसानदायक नहीं हो। sentence में यह mention है कि अजनबियों के बीच छोटी-मोटी बातें करना सामान्य और जरूरी है। इसलिए 'harmless' यहां सही है। जबकि 'Remedy' का अर्थ है उपचार, 'Comedy' का अर्थ है हास्य, और 'Happy' का अर्थ है खुशी, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

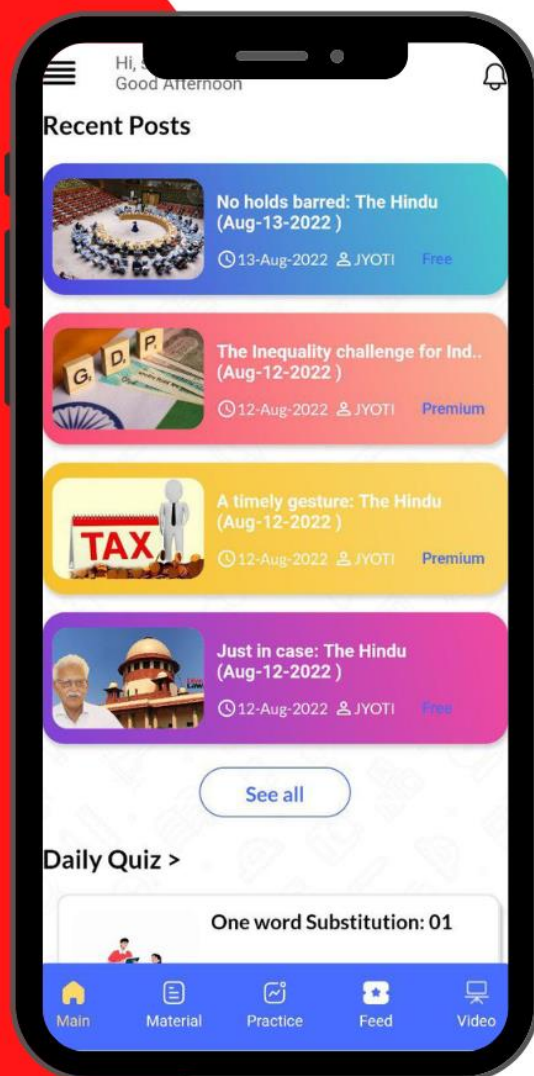
'Harmless' will be used because it means not causing harm. The sentence conveys that engaging in small talk is usual and necessary among strangers, making 'harmless' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Remedy' means cure, 'Comedy' implies humor, and 'Happy' denotes joy, which do not fit this context.

24. B) **'Elementary'** का use होगा क्योंकि "elementary" का अर्थ होता है बुनियादी या सरल, जो यहाँ सामान्य बातचीत के नियमों के संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। sentence में यह बताया गया है कि सामान्य बातचीत के लिए कुछ बुनियादी नियम होने चाहिए। 'Alimentary' का अर्थ है पोषण से संबंधित, 'Illuminative' का अर्थ है प्रकाश डालने वाला, और 'Eliminating' का अर्थ है समाप्त करना या हटाना, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

'Elementary' will be used because it means basic or simple, which fits the context of fundamental rules for general conversation. The sentence implies that some basic rules should exist for such conversations. Whereas, 'Alimentary' relates to nourishment, 'Illuminative' means enlightening, and 'Eliminating' means removing, none of which are suitable in this context.

25. D) **'Subjects'** का use होगा क्योंकि "subjects" का अर्थ है चर्चा के विषय या मुद्दे। passage में कहा गया है कि कुछ विषयों को सामान्य चर्चा से बाहर रखा जाना चाहिए, इसलिए 'subjects' यहाँ सही option है। जबकि 'books' का अर्थ है किताबें, 'objects' का अर्थ है वस्तुएँ, और 'essays' का अर्थ है निबंध, जो इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं हैं।

'Subjects' will be used because it means topics or matters for discussion. The passage mentions that certain topics should be barred from general discussion, making 'subjects' the correct option here. Whereas, 'books' means written works, 'objects' refers to physical items, and 'essays' implies written pieces, none of which fit in this context.



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam