

## Sheer negligence: On the Puri stampede

India's shameful VIP culture has no place in public events

There have been nine stampedes in India in the past 12 months, with six of them at religious **gatherings**. This includes the most recent one, at the **storied** Jagannath temple's annual **chariot procession** in Puri, Odisha, early on June 29, 2025. Three people were killed and more than 50 injured. **Acknowledging** "negligence" and "security lapses", the State government was **swift** to order a **probe**. The centuries-old chariot procession is an annual and month-long event between June and July. But the heart of the festival is the nine-day chariot procession, or Rath Yatra, when Lord Jagannath travels with his two **siblings**, Balabhadra and Subhadra, to their aunt Gundicha's home. About half a million **devotees** visit the three-kilometre radius around the temple. While a full investigation is pending, initial reports suggest that **tell-tale signs** of a stampede **were overlooked**.

On the first day of the yatra, officials **paused** the **drawing** of Lord Jagannath's chariot around 7.45 p.m. because of an '**unprecedented rush**', allowing only Balabhadra's and Subhadra's chariots to move. The Jagannath chariot was moved **symbolically** and **deferred** till early on Saturday. In the **intervening hours**, about 750 devotees were **hospitalised** due to heat, **dehydration**, and **crowd stress**. **Eyewitnesses** reported that a common exit gate was closed to create a separate "VIP entry," forcing everyday **pilgrims** to exit through the same entrance path that was already **congested**. A single **corridor** that was being used for the flow in both directions **resulted in** more **congestion**, **amplifying** crowd pressure. The delayed arrival of the chariot also caused a **bottleneck** outside the Gundicha temple just before **dawn**. With **exhausted** pilgrims, **merged** traffic flows and no exit access, **the stage was set for** a tragedy. Further, trucks with ritual materials entered this zone at 4.20 a.m. This unexpected movement **shattered stalls**, **toppled** devotees and **triggered** panic. This **daily** has **highlighted** India's **tawdry** record in crowd management, at religious gatherings, **celebrity-studded** events, political rallies or post sporting festivities. **Given** that the climate **discourse** is at front and centre globally, providing **thermal comfort**, **hydration** facilities and taking precautions to **shield** women, children and the elderly from the heat especially during peak summer should have been **woven** into the conduct of the rath yatra years ago. As for VIPs, one way is to restrict any **privileged** entry and to provide access at the beginning or at the end of festivities, allowing other visitors **predictable** and barrier-free access. But the best way is to end India's **entrenched** VIP culture.

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Sheer** (adjective) – Absolute, pure, utter, complete, total पूरी तरह से
2. **Stampede** (noun) – Rush, crush, panic, mass flight, crowd surge भगदड़
3. **Gathering** (noun) – Assembly, meeting, congregation, crowd, group सभा
4. **Storied** (adjective) – Legendary, famous, celebrated, renowned, illustrious प्रसिद्ध
5. **Chariot** (noun) – Carriage, wagon, cart, coach, vehicle रथ
6. **Procession** (noun) – Parade, march, cortege, caravan, line जुलूस
7. **Acknowledge** (verb) – Admit, accept, recognize, confess, concede स्वीकार करना
8. **Negligence** (noun) – Carelessness, disregard, inattention, oversight, neglect लापरवाही
9. **Lapse** (noun) – Failure, slip, mistake, error, omission चूक
10. **Swift** (adjective) – Quick, rapid, fast, prompt, speedy तेज
11. **Probe** (noun) – Investigation, inquiry, examination, scrutiny, check जांच
12. **Sibling** (noun) – Brother or sister, kin, family member, relative, blood relation भाई-बहन
13. **Devotee** (noun) – Follower, worshipper, adherent, believer, disciple भक्त
14. **Tell-tale** (adjective) – Revealing, indicative, unmistakable, clear, obvious स्पष्ट संकेत देने वाला
15. **Overlooked** (adjective) – Ignored, neglected, missed, unnoticed, disregarded नजरअंदाज किया हुआ
16. **Pause** (verb) – Stop, halt, break, interrupt, delay रोकना
17. **Drawing** (noun) – Pulling, hauling, moving, dragging, towing खींचना (यहाँ रथ को खींचना)
18. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – Never before seen, unparalleled, extraordinary, exceptional, unheard of अभूतपूर्व
19. **Rush** (noun) – Surge, flood, stampede, hurry, scramble भीड़
20. **Symbolically** (adverb) – Figuratively, representatively, metaphorically, emblematically, signifying प्रतीकात्मक रूप से
21. **Defer** (verb) – Postpone, delay, put off, suspend, adjourn स्थगित करना
22. **Intervening hour** (noun) – the hour that falls between two specific points in time or events बीच का समय

23. **Hospitalise** (verb) – Admit to hospital, send for treatment, confine for care, medicalize, intern अस्पताल में भर्ती करना
24. **Dehydration** (noun) – Dryness, lack of fluids, desiccation, fluid loss, parching निर्जलीकरण
25. **Crowd stress** (noun) – Pressure from crowd, mental strain, anxiety in crowd, panic, agitation भीड़ में तनाव
26. **Eyewitness** (noun) – Observer, onlooker, bystander, witness, spectator प्रत्यक्षदर्शी
27. **Pilgrim** (noun) – Worshipper, devotee, traveler, religious visitor, seeker तीर्थयात्री
28. **Congest** (verb) – Block, clog, jam, overcrowd, choke भीड़भाड़ करना
29. **Corridor** (noun) – Passage, hallway, walkway, aisle, path गलियारा
30. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, give rise to, produce कारण बनना
31. **Congestion** (noun) – Overcrowding, blockage, jam, clogging, crowding भीड़भाड़
32. **Amplify** (verb) – Increase, intensify, heighten, magnify, escalate बढ़ाना
33. **Bottleneck** (noun) – Obstruction, choke point, blockage, jam, hold-up बाधा
34. **Dawn** (noun) – Daybreak, sunrise, morning, first light, early hours सुबह
35. **Exhausted** (adjective) – Tired, fatigued, worn out, drained, weary थका हुआ
36. **Merge** (verb) – Combine, blend, unite, join, mix मिल जाना
37. **Set the stage for** (phrase) – Prepare for, pave the way, make ready, lead up to, create conditions for स्थिति तैयार करना
38. **Shatter** (verb) – Break, smash, destroy, demolish, crush तोड़ना
39. **Stall** (noun) – Booth, kiosk, stand, shop, counter दुकान/स्टॉल
40. **Topple** (verb) – Fall, tumble, overturn, collapse, unseat गिरा देना
41. **Trigger** (verb) – Cause, spark, initiate, provoke, start शुरू करना
42. **Daily** (noun) – Newspaper, publication, journal, periodical, press paper समाचार पत्र
43. **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, underline, stress, point out, showcase उजागर करना
44. **Tawdry** (adjective) – Cheap, gaudy, showy, flashy, vulgar घटिया
45. **Celebrity-studded** (adjective) – Star-studded, famous-person filled, glittering, high-profile, glamorous सितारों से भरा

46. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, in view of, bearing in mind, because of को देखते हुए
47. **Discourse** (noun) – Discussion, conversation, debate, dialogue, talk चर्चा
48. **Thermal comfort** (noun) – the condition where a person feels neither too hot nor too cold in their surrounding environment.
49. **Hydration facility** (noun) – the availability of water
50. **Shield** (verb) – Protect, guard, defend, cover, shelter बचाना
51. **Weave** (verb) – Integrate, incorporate, include, blend, entwine शामिल करना
52. **Privileged** (adjective) – Favored, advantaged, special, entitled, elite विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त
53. **Predictable** (adjective) – Expected, foreseeable, reliable, consistent, certain पूर्वानुमानित
54. **Entrenched** (adjective) – Deep-rooted, established, ingrained, fixed, embedded जड़ जमाए हुए

### Summary of the Editorial

1. **Frequent Stampedes** – India has seen nine stampedes in the past year, six of them at religious gatherings.
2. **Recent Tragedy in Puri** – The latest incident occurred during the Jagannath temple's Rath Yatra on June 29, 2025, killing three and injuring over 50.
3. **Government Acknowledgement** – Odisha's government admitted negligence and security lapses, and ordered a probe.
4. **Significance of Rath Yatra** – The Rath Yatra is a centuries-old festival, drawing around half a million devotees over nine key days.
5. **Overlooked Warning Signs** – Initial reports suggest early signs of potential stampede were ignored.
6. **Chariot Movement Halted** – Due to an unprecedented rush, Lord Jagannath's chariot movement was paused on the first day, causing delays.
7. **Mass Hospitalisations** – About 750 devotees were hospitalized overnight with heat, dehydration, and crowd stress.
8. **VIP Entry Disruption** – Closure of a common exit gate to create a VIP entry forced pilgrims into already congested paths.
9. **Two-way Flow Mismanagement** – A single corridor carried pilgrims in both directions, worsening crowd congestion.
10. **Chariot Delay Bottleneck** – The postponed chariot movement created a bottleneck outside the Gundicha temple near dawn.
11. **Trucks Trigger Chaos** – Arrival of trucks carrying ritual materials at 4:20 a.m. shattered stalls and panicked the crowd, triggering the stampede.
12. **Chronic Poor Crowd Management** – India's long history of crowd mismanagement at religious and public events is highlighted.
13. **Climate Risks Ignored** – Organizers failed to plan for heat protection, hydration, and special care for vulnerable groups despite summer conditions.
14. **VIP Privilege Criticized** – The editorial criticizes VIP culture for compromising safety, suggesting VIPs should enter before or after the main crowd.
15. **Call to End VIP Culture** – Ultimately, the piece argues India must dismantle entrenched VIP privileges to ensure safe, equitable access at public events.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be reasonably inferred about the role of VIP arrangements in the Puri stampede?**
  - A. VIP arrangements improved safety by separating important visitors from the general crowd.
  - B. VIP arrangements contributed to the congestion and increased the risk of a stampede.
  - C. VIP arrangements had no effect on crowd movement during the Rath Yatra.
  - D. VIP arrangements were canceled before the start of the festival for safety reasons.
2. **What action did the State government take after acknowledging negligence and security lapses?**
  - A. Ordered an immediate evacuation of the area
  - B. Announced compensation for victims
  - C. Ordered a probe into the incident
  - D. Cancelled the rest of the Rath Yatra festival
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Celebratory
  - B. Critical
  - C. Humorous
  - D. Indifferent
4. **Which of the following words is the best synonym for the word “tawdry” as used in the passage?**
  - A. Impressive
  - B. Luxurious
  - C. Transparent
  - D. Shameful
5. **Which of the following statements about the Puri stampede, according to the passage, is TRUE?**
  - A. VIP entry arrangements contributed to the congestion.
  - B. The Jagannath chariot was moved on schedule without any delay.
  - C. The stampede was caused solely by heat and dehydration.
  - D. About 100,000 devotees attended the festival.
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
  - A. Surrender
  - B. Disgust
  - C. Trifle
  - D. Consicstent
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Ecstatic

  - A. Interested
  - B. Happy
  - C. Angry
  - D. Shocked
8. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a phrasal verb error.**

Mrs. Premlatha asked / Malini to hand down / all the / payment slips

  - A. payment slips

- B. Mrs. Premlatha asked  
C. Malini to hand down  
D. all the
9. **Select the option that correctly rectifies the underlined spelling error.**  
The accideent on the highway caused a long traffic jam.  
A. acident  
B. accidnt  
C. accident  
D. acident
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
Cultural heritage is the lifeblood of any \_\_\_\_\_ and serves as a link between generations  
A. birthright  
B. lethargy  
C. believe  
D. civilisation
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**  
The project's tight deadline and complex requirements made it a grueling task for the team.  
A. Inclusive  
B. Accessible  
C. Empowering  
D. Challenging
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Energy  
A. Speed  
B. Power  
C. Strife  
D. Frailty
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**  
The detective's job was to discern the truth from the web of lies.  
A. Confuse  
B. Fabricate  
C. Perceive  
D. Ignore
14. **Select the sentence that has a grammatical error**  
A. We watches movies every Friday night.  
B. The sun rises in the east.  
C. She always eats healthy meals.  
D. He works as a software developer
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
Accepting how wonderful you truly are and incorporating this \_\_\_\_\_ into your attitude and personality is perhaps one of the most difficult things to do in life.

- A. folly
- B. craziness
- C. insight
- D. glitch

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

Please listen to all announcements \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hungrily
- B. easily
- C. generally
- D. attentively

**17. Select the most appropriate verb form to fill in the blank.**

Arun \_\_\_\_\_ his bicycle to school every day.

- A. riding
- B. ride
- C. rode
- D. rides

**18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

He is \_\_\_\_\_ tired to finish his homework.

- A. to
- B. more
- C. too
- D. Most

**19. What does it imply when people say to 'read between the lines'?**

- A. To read something fast
- B. To skip initial and final lines in a paragraph
- C. To avoid detailed information
- D. To read with an ability to infer the meaning

**20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

A piece of cake

- A. A cake which is sold as a piece
- B. A slice of cake for eating
- C. A cake that broke into pieces
- D. Easy to do or achieve

**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.**

My next pet, Ari, was a pigeon. He became convinced that he was not a bird at all and refused to \_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_. If he wanted to get on a table or a chair, he stood below it, cooing until someone picked him up. He would even try to come \_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ walks with us. This, however, we had to stop for, \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ you carried him on your shoulder or else you let him walk behind. If you let him walk, you had to slow down your own \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ to suit his, for



should you get too far ahead, you would find him running after you, cooing frantically, his chest pouted out with \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_.

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

- A. fly
- B. file
- C. flea
- D. read

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

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

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

- A. either
- B. ever
- C. neither
- D. never

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

- A. piece
- B. pace
- C. peace
- D. space

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

- A. intimation
- B. inclination
- C. indignation
- D. ignition

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

**1. B) VIP arrangements contributed to the congestion and increased the risk of a stampede.**

B is correct because the passage states that a common exit gate was closed for a “VIP entry,” which forced regular pilgrims to exit through an already congested entrance, worsening crowd pressure.

A is incorrect because the arrangement did not improve safety; it made the situation worse.

C is incorrect because the passage clearly links VIP arrangements to the congestion.

D is incorrect because the VIP arrangements were not canceled; they were implemented, causing problems.

**2. C) Ordered a probe into the incident**

C is correct because the passage explicitly says the State government “was swift to order a probe” after acknowledging negligence.

A is incorrect because there is no mention of evacuation in the passage.

B is incorrect because the passage does not mention any announcement of compensation.

D is incorrect because it says the Rath Yatra continued; only the Jagannath chariot was deferred temporarily.

**3. B) Critical**

A. Incorrect. The passage mourns the tragedy and criticizes negligence; there is no praise or celebration.

B. Correct. The passage clearly points out failures in planning, negligence, VIP culture, and poor crowd management.

C. Incorrect. The tone is serious and somber; there are no jokes or lighthearted elements.

D. Incorrect. The passage shows deep concern and condemnation, not apathy.

**4. D) Shameful**

A (Impressive) is incorrect because tawdry refers to something cheap or morally low, the opposite of impressive.

D (Shameful) is correct because tawdry means cheap, showy, or disreputable — suggesting something dishonorable or shameful.

B (Luxurious) is incorrect as tawdry means cheap and gaudy, not rich or luxurious.

C (Transparent) is unrelated; transparent means see-through or clear, which has no connection to tawdry.

**5. A) VIP entry arrangements contributed to the congestion.**

B is false because the Jagannath chariot movement was deferred till early Saturday due to the rush, as stated in the passage.

A is correct because the passage specifically mentions that the creation of a “VIP entry” led to closing a common gate, forcing pilgrims through a congested path.

C is false since the stampede was a result of multiple factors including merged traffic flows, blocked exits, and unexpected truck movements, not just heat or dehydration.

D is false because the passage says about half a million (i.e., 500,000) devotees attended, not 100,000.

6. D) The incorrect spelling is **Consicstent**, The correct spelling is **Consistent**, which means "acting or done in the same way over time, especially so as to be fair or accurate" (संगत, एकरूप).
7. B) **Ecstatic (adjective)** – Extremely happy, overjoyed, elated, jubilant, thrilled. **बेहद खुश, अत्यधिक प्रसन्न**  
**Synonym: Happy (adjective)** – Feeling or showing pleasure or contentment, cheerful, joyful, delighted. **खुश, प्रसन्न**
- **Angry (adjective)** – Feeling or showing strong annoyance or hostility, enraged, furious. **गुस्से में**
  - **Shocked (adjective)** – Surprised or upset by something unexpected, astounded, horrified. **हैरान, स्तब्ध**
  - **Interested (adjective)** – Curious, attentive, fascinated. **रुचि रखने वाला**
8. C) 'hand down' के बदले 'hand over' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'hand down' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को विरासत में देना, जबकि यहाँ संदर्भ है 'payment slips' को सौंपने का। सही phrasal verb 'hand over' है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को किसी के पास सौंपना; जैसे— The manager asked him to hand over the documents.  
**'hand over'** will be used instead of 'hand down' because 'hand down' means to pass something as an inheritance, but here the context is to deliver or give the 'payment slips.' Therefore, the correct phrasal verb is 'hand over,' which means to deliver something to someone; Like— The manager asked him to hand over the documents.
9. C) The correct spelling of '**accideent**' is '**accident**', which means "an unexpected and unplanned event or circumstance, especially one resulting in damage or injury." **हादसा, दुर्घटना।**
10. D) '**Civilisation**' का use होगा क्योंकि "civilisation" का अर्थ है सभ्यता या समाज जो सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक धरोहर से प्रभावित होता है। sentence में mention है कि सांस्कृतिक धरोहर किसी भी समुदाय के लिए जीवनधारा है और पीढ़ियों के बीच एक सेतु के रूप में कार्य करती है। इस प्रकार, 'civilisation' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। 'Birthright' का अर्थ है जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य सांस्कृतिक धरोहर की बात कर रहा है, न कि किसी व्यक्तिगत अधिकार की। 'Lethargy' का अर्थ है आलस्य, जो संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Believe' एक verb है जिसका अर्थ है विश्वास करना। यह sentence में noun के स्थान पर प्रयोग नहीं किया जा सकता।

'Civilisation' is the correct choice because it refers to a society or culture influenced by shared cultural and historical heritage. The sentence states that cultural heritage is the lifeblood of any group and serves as a bridge between generations, making 'civilisation' the most appropriate option. 'Birthright' means an inherent right or privilege by birth, which does not align with the sentence discussing cultural heritage. 'Lethargy' means laziness or lack of energy, which is unrelated to the context. 'Believe' is a verb meaning to trust or have faith, and a noun is required in this sentence.

11. **D) Grueling** (adjective): Extremely tiring and demanding, requiring great effort and perseverance. अत्यधिक थकाने वाला

**Synonym: Challenging** (adjective): Testing one's abilities, demanding effort and skill, difficult yet stimulating. किसी की क्षमताओं की परीक्षा लेने वाला

- **Inclusive** (adjective): Including all types of people or things, comprehensive. सभी प्रकार के लोगों या चीज़ों को शामिल करने वाला।
- **Accessible** (adjective) Easy to approach or use, available. आसानी से उपयोग या पहुंचने योग्य।
- **Empowering** (adjective): Giving someone the authority, confidence, or ability to do something. किसी को शक्ति, आत्मविश्वास, या क्षमता प्रदान करना।

12. **B) Energy** (noun) – The strength and vitality required for sustained physical or mental activity; forcefulness, vigor, dynamism. शक्ति, ऊर्जा, बल

**Synonym: Power** (noun) – The capacity or ability to do something; force, strength, authority. सामर्थ्य, बल, शक्ति

- **Speed** – The rate at which someone or something moves; quickness, swiftness, velocity. गति, तेजी
- **Strife** – Angry or bitter disagreement; conflict, discord, struggle. झगड़ा, विवाद
- **Frailty** – The condition of being weak or delicate; fragility, weakness, infirmity. दुर्बलता, कमजोरी

13. **C) Discern** (verb): To recognize or identify something clearly, distinguish, detect, notice. पहचानना, भांपना, अंतर करना

**SYNONYM: Perceive** (verb): To become aware or conscious of something, to recognize or realize.

समझना, महसूस करना

- **Confuse** (verb): To make something unclear, to mix up or perplex. भ्रमित करना

- **Fabricate (verb):** To invent or make up something, often deceitfully. झूठ गढ़ना, बनावट करना
- **Ignore (verb):** To pay no attention to, disregard. अनदेखा करना

14. A) watches' के बदले **'watch'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'We' Subject है जो Plural है और Present

Indefinite Tense में Plural Subject के साथ Verb की Base Form का प्रयोग होता है। जैसे— They play cricket every evening.

**'watch'** will be used instead of 'watches' because 'We' is a plural subject, and in Present Indefinite Tense, the base form of the verb is used with plural subjects. For example— They play cricket every evening.

15. C) **'Insight'** का use होगा क्योंकि "insight" का अर्थ होता है गहरी समझ या दृष्टिकोण। इस वाक्य में कहा गया है कि यह समझना और उसे अपने स्वभाव और व्यक्तित्व में शामिल करना मुश्किल है। यह संदर्भ "insight" को उपयुक्त बनाता है। जबकि: Folly का अर्थ है मूर्खता, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। Craziiness का अर्थ है पागलपन, जो संदर्भ के साथ मेल नहीं खाता। Glitch का अर्थ है तकनीकी खामी, जो वाक्य में बेमेल है।

**'Insight'** will be used because it means deep understanding or perspective. The sentence discusses accepting a wonderful realization about oneself and incorporating it into personality and attitude, which aligns well with 'insight.' Whereas: Folly means foolishness, which is irrelevant here. Craziiness implies madness, which doesn't fit the context. Glitch means a technical error, which is mismatched in this scenario.

16. D) **"attentively"** का use होगा क्योंकि "attentively" का अर्थ होता है ध्यानपूर्वक। यह वाक्य संदर्भ में कह रहा है कि सभी घोषणाओं को ध्यानपूर्वक सुनें। यहां "attentively" एक adverb के रूप में कार्य कर रहा है जो "listen" verb को modify करता है। Hungrily का अर्थ है भूख के साथ, जो इस संदर्भ में अप्रासंगिक है क्योंकि यह भोजन से संबंधित होता है। Easily का अर्थ है आसानी से, लेकिन यह verb "listen" को modify करने के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि सुनने का संदर्भ 'ध्यान' की मांग करता है। Generally का अर्थ है आमतौर पर, लेकिन यहां specific रूप से ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए यह फिट नहीं होता।

In this sentence, "attentively" will be used because it means to listen with focus or concentration. The context of the sentence suggests that announcements should be listened to carefully. Here, "attentively" acts as an adverb modifying the verb "listen." Hungrily means with hunger, which is irrelevant here as it pertains to food. Easily means without difficulty, but it doesn't suit the verb "listen" in this context, which requires focus. Generally means in a general way, but the context demands specific attention, making it unsuitable.

17. D) **Rides** का use होगा क्योंकि यह एक सामान्य आदत (habit) को व्यक्त करता है। Present Indefinite Tense में, जब subject singular (Arun) होता है, तो verb में '-s' या '-es' जोड़ा जाता है। यहाँ, 'Arun' daily basis पर स्कूल जाता है, जो Present Indefinite का संकेत देता है।

**Rides** is correct because it expresses a habitual action. In the Present Indefinite Tense, when the subject is singular (Arun), the verb takes an '-s' or '-es' ending. Here, 'Arun' going to school daily indicates a habitual action fitting the Present Indefinite.

18. C) **'Too'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'too' का अर्थ है "इतना अधिक कि यह कुछ करने में बाधा बन जाए।" यहाँ sentence में mention है कि वह इतना थका हुआ है कि अपना होमवर्क पूरा नहीं कर सकता। यह संदर्भ में बिल्कुल सही बैठता है 'To' का अर्थ "की ओर" होता है और यह infinitive के रूप में भी प्रयोग होता है, लेकिन यह यहाँ वाक्य का अर्थ नहीं बनाता। 'More' का अर्थ "अधिक" होता है, लेकिन यह तुलना करने के लिए उपयोग होता है और यहाँ इसका कोई स्थान नहीं है। 'Most' का अर्थ "सबसे अधिक" होता है, लेकिन यह superlative डिग्री में उपयोग होता है और वाक्य में इसका प्रयोग अनुचित है।

**Too** will be used because it means "to such an extent that it prevents something from happening." In this sentence, it conveys that he is so tired that he cannot finish his homework, which perfectly fits the context. 'To' means "towards" or is used as part of an infinitive, but it doesn't make sense in this sentence. 'More' means "greater in amount or degree" and is used for comparisons, which is not applicable here. 'Most' means "the greatest in amount or degree," used in the superlative form, and is irrelevant in this context.

19. D) **read between the lines (Idiom)**- To read with an ability to infer the meaning To understand the hidden or implied meaning behind words or actions. शब्दों या कार्यों के पीछे छिपे हुए या अप्रत्यक्ष अर्थ को समझना।
20. D) **A piece of cake (idiom)**-Easy to do or achieve – आसान काम
21. A) **'Fly'** का use होगा क्योंकि "fly" का अर्थ है उड़ना, और संदर्भ के अनुसार, कबूतर होने के बावजूद, उसने उड़ने से इनकार कर दिया। जबकि 'File' का अर्थ है क्रमबद्ध करना या दर्ज करना, 'Flea' एक परजीवी है, और 'Read' का अर्थ पढ़ना है, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Fly' should be used because it means to soar or glide in the air, and in the context, the pigeon, despite being a bird, refused to fly. Whereas, 'File' means to arrange or record, 'Flea' refers to a parasite, and 'Read' means to interpret written text, none of which fit here.

22. 'D) **On**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह किसी चीज़ पर या किसी चीज़ के साथ जुड़ने को दर्शाता है। sentence में कहा गया है कि कबूतर हमारे साथ "walks" पर आने की कोशिश करता था। यह बताता है कि वह हमारे साथ चलते समय हमारे कंधे पर बैठने का प्रयास करता था। इसलिए, 'on walks' सही विकल्प है। 'In':

"In" का उपयोग आमतौर पर किसी वस्तु या स्थान के अंदर होने के लिए किया जाता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।

"By" का अर्थ है "पास में" या "द्वारा," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'At': "At" स्थान या समय को इंगित करता है, जो "walks" के साथ सही नहीं है।

**On'** is the correct choice because it denotes being atop or associated with something. The sentence mentions that the pigeon tried to accompany them on walks. This implies that the pigeon either wanted to ride "on" their shoulder or physically participate in their walks, making "on walks" appropriate. 'In': Refers to being inside something, which does not fit the context here. 'By': Suggests proximity or means, which is not contextually relevant. 'At': Indicates a location or point in time, which does not align with the idea of walking with them.

23. A) **Either'** का use यहाँ सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में विकल्प दिए जा रहे हैं: "या तो आप उसे अपने कंधे पर ले जाएँ या उसे पीछे चलने दें।" 'Either' का उपयोग जब दो विकल्प प्रस्तुत करने के लिए होता है, जैसे कि यहाँ।

'Ever' का अर्थ है "कभी," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Neither' का उपयोग तब होता है जब दोनों विकल्पों को नकारा जाता है, जो इस वाक्य में सही नहीं है। 'Never' का अर्थ है "कभी नहीं," जो इस संदर्भ में अनुचित है।

**Either'** is the correct choice because the sentence provides two options: "either you carried him on your shoulder, or you let him walk behind." 'Either' is used to present two choices, as it does here. 'Ever' means "at any time," which does not fit in this context. 'Neither' is used to negate both options, which is not the case in this sentence. 'Never' means "not at any time," which is inappropriate in this context.

24. B) **Pace'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है गति या चाल। sentence में कहा गया है कि यदि आप कबूतर को चलने देते हैं, तो आपको अपनी गति उसकी चाल के अनुसार धीमी करनी होगी। इसलिए, 'pace' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। 'Piece' का अर्थ है टुकड़ा। यह इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यहां गति की बात हो रही है, न कि किसी टुकड़े की। 'Peace' का अर्थ है शांति। यह वाक्य के भाव से मेल नहीं खाता क्योंकि यहां शांति का उल्लेख नहीं है। 'Space' का अर्थ है स्थान। यह संदर्भ से भटक जाता है क्योंकि वाक्य में गति या चाल की बात हो रही है, स्थान की नहीं।

**'Pace'** will be used because it means speed or rate of movement. The sentence mentions slowing down your speed to match the pigeon's movement. Hence, 'pace' is the correct choice.

'Piece' means a part or portion of something. It is inappropriate here as the context is about speed, not parts. 'Peace' means calmness or tranquility. It does not fit because the sentence is

not referring to a peaceful state. 'Space' refers to an area or gap. It is irrelevant here as the focus is on speed, not physical space.

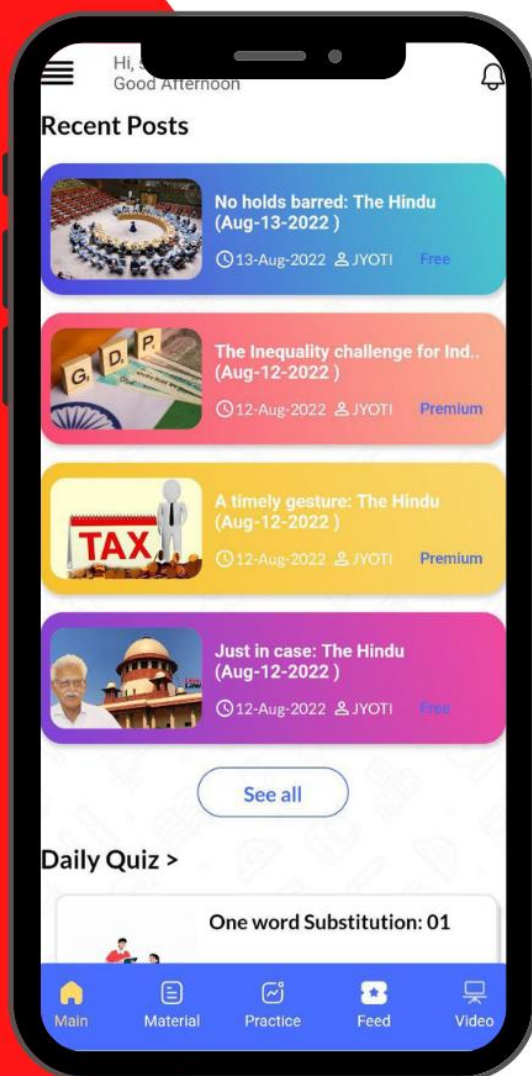
25. C) **Indignation**" का अर्थ होता है नाराजगी या गुस्सा, विशेषकर जब किसी को लगता है कि उनके साथ गलत व्यवहार किया गया है। sentence में बताया गया है कि कबूतर (pigeon) नाराज होकर दौड़ रहा है और उसका सीना फूला हुआ है। इससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि यहाँ 'indignation' का सही उपयोग होगा। 'Inclination' का अर्थ है झुकाव या प्रवृत्ति, जो यहाँ फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Intimation' का अर्थ है सूचना देना, जो वाक्य के भाव के अनुसार सही नहीं है। 'Ignition' का अर्थ है आग लगाना या चालू करना, जो यहाँ अनुचित है।

'**Indignation**' means anger or annoyance, particularly due to perceived unfair treatment. The sentence describes the pigeon running frantically with puffed-out chest, implying indignation.

'Inclination' (a tendency) doesn't fit the context. 'Intimation' (notification) is irrelevant here.

'Ignition' (starting a fire) is contextually inappropriate





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