

Basic structure: On the Mysuru Dasara festival

There can be no restriction in a public event on the basis of religion

The Supreme Court of India recently **reaffirmed** that **secularism** is a fundamental principle and part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India. While this is a welcome **restatement**, it is **concerning** that the Court has to **periodically reiterate** this foundational **aspect** of Indian **nationhood**. The need arose from a **misguided petition** that **sought to communalise** a moment of celebration for all Indians. The Karnataka government had invited International Booker Prize-winning Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq, who is Muslim, to **inaugurate** the Mysuru Dasara festival at the Chamundeshwari Temple — which she did on Monday. **This festival**, a State-sponsored cultural event that is not purely religious, **serves** as an **occasion** for all communities to come together and share in the joy of the festival. The petition filed in the Court **alleged** that Ms. Mushtaq's participation **violated** Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, which guarantee freedom of religion. A **Bench** of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta rightly **dismissed** the petition, clarifying that the Dasara festival is a State event, not a private religious ceremony. The Court **emphasised** that the State cannot **discriminate** based on religion when organising public events and **questioned** whether the petitioner had even read the Constitution's **Preamble**, which **unambiguously** promotes equality and secularism. The Karnataka High Court had previously **upheld** the government's decision, **stating** that **a person** of one faith participating in the **events of** another **does** not **violate** anyone's constitutional right.

The constitutional right to **practise** and **profess** religion **cannot** be **interpreted** as a right to restrict others from participating in a faith's practices. **Restricting** participation in any public gathering based on religion **is indefensible** in a **pluralistic** society. Although some places of worship still limit access to certain groups, such practices remain a source of legal and **ethical debate**. **Those** who **perceive** a threat to their religion from someone who is voluntarily and happily joining its festivities **are** either **cynical** or **cunning**. In fact, over many centuries and across different geographies, festivals and **pilgrimages** have united India's **diverse** population, **often transcending** social barriers. The **acceptance** of this shared, mixed cultural heritage **is** a common **thread** among all Indian political parties, even **amid** their **disagreements**. However, **a new group** of political **opportunists** **is exploiting** this **harmony** by creating **communal rifts**, **turning the logic of coexistence on its head**. As the Supreme Court has **demonstrated**, these individuals need to be **held accountable**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Reaffirm** (verb) – confirm again, assert, restate, reassert, repeat पुनः पुष्टि करना
2. **Secularism** (noun) – separation of religion from state, non-religious governance, neutrality, pluralism, laicism धर्मनिरपेक्षता
3. **Restatement** (noun) – repetition, rephrasing, reiteration, reformulation, renewal पुनः कथन / दोहराव
4. **Concerning** (adjective) – troubling, worrying, alarming, unsettling, disturbing चिंताजनक
5. **Periodically** (adverb) – occasionally, at intervals, from time to time, repeatedly, cyclically समय-समय पर
6. **Reiterate** (verb) – repeat, restate, echo, reaffirm, recapitulate दोहराना / पुनः कहना
7. **Aspect** (noun) – feature, element, side, component, characteristic पहलू
8. **Nationhood** (noun) – statehood, independence, sovereignty, national identity, nation-state राष्ट्रत्व / राष्ट्रीय अस्तित्व
9. **Misguided** (adjective) – mistaken, ill-advised, erroneous, flawed, misinformed गलत राह पर / भ्रमित
10. **Petition** (noun) – request, plea, appeal, application, entreaty याचिका
11. **Seek** (verb) – look for, request, ask for, pursue, strive खोजना / माँगना
12. **Communalise** (verb) – to make religious, polarise, divide along community lines, sectarianize साम्प्रदायिक बनाना
13. **Inaugurate** (verb) – launch, open, commence, initiate, dedicate उद्घाटन करना
14. **Occasion** (noun) – event, happening, incident, circumstance, affair अवसर / घटना
15. **Allege** (verb) – claim, assert, contend, accuse, affirm आरोप लगाना
16. **Violate** (verb) – break, transgress, infringe, contravene, disobey उल्लंघन करना
17. **Bench** (noun) – panel of judges, tribunal, court, judiciary न्यायपीठ
18. **Emphasise** (verb) – stress, underline, highlight, accentuate, reiterate ज़ोर देना
19. **Discriminate** (verb) – differentiate unfairly, segregate, bias, favour, treat unequally भेदभाव करना
20. **Question** (verb) – challenge, interrogate, doubt, dispute, examine संदेह करना
21. **Preamble** (noun) – introduction, preface, prologue, opening statement, prelude प्रस्तावना

22. **Unambiguously** (adverb) – clearly, plainly, explicitly, definitely, distinctly स्पष्ट रूप से
23. **Uphold** (verb) – support, maintain, affirm, defend, sustain समर्थन करना
24. **State** (verb) – declare, announce, assert, proclaim, express कहना
25. **In the event of** (phrase) – in case of, if it happens, should it occur, in occurrence of की स्थिति में
26. **Practise** (verb) – perform, observe, carry out, exercise, follow पालन करना / अभ्यास करना
27. **Profess** (verb) – declare, affirm, claim, avow, assert घोषित करना
28. **Interpret** (verb) – explain, clarify, analyse, understand, elucidate व्याख्या करना
29. **Indefensible** (adjective) – unjustifiable, untenable, unreasonable, groundless, inexcusable असमर्थनीय / अनुचित
30. **Pluralistic** (adjective) – diverse, multicultural, inclusive, tolerant, broad-based बहुलतावादी
31. **Ethical** (adjective) – moral, principled, righteous, virtuous, upright नैतिक
32. **Debate** (noun) – discussion, argument, controversy, dialogue, deliberation बहस
33. **Perceive** (verb) – notice, recognise, discern, realise, observe समझना
34. **Cynical** (adjective) – distrustful, scornful, mocking, pessimistic, sarcastic निंदक
35. **Cunning** (adjective) – sly, crafty, clever, deceitful, shrewd धूर्त
36. **Pilgrimage** (noun) – religious journey, spiritual trip, holy expedition, devotional travel तीर्थयात्रा
37. **Diverse** (adjective) – varied, different, heterogeneous, assorted, multiple विविध
38. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, usually अक्सर
39. **Transcend** (verb) – go beyond, surpass, rise above, exceed, outdo पार करना
40. **Thread** (noun) – connection, link, strand, theme, string सूत्र
41. **Amid** (preposition) – among, amidst, surrounded by, in the middle of के बीच
42. **Disagreement** (noun) – conflict, difference, discord, quarrel, dissent असहमति
43. **Opportunist** (noun) – exploiter, self-seeker, manipulator, time-server, schemer अवसरवादी
44. **Exploit** (verb) – misuse, take advantage of, manipulate, abuse, harness फायदा उठाना

45. **Harmony** (noun) – peace, accord, unity, concord, amity सद्भाव
46. **Communal** (adjective) – sectarian, religious, denominational, group-based साम्प्रदायिक
47. **Rift** (noun) – division, split, break, quarrel, separation दरार / फूट
48. **Turn something on one's head** (phrase) – to completely reverse or upset a situation पूरी तरह उलट देना
49. **Demonstrate** (verb) – show, exhibit, express, illustrate, prove प्रदर्शित करना
50. **Hold accountable** (phrase) – to make responsible, answerable, liable ज़िम्मेदार ठहराना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court reaffirmed that secularism is part of the Constitution's basic structure.
2. It is concerning that the Court has to reiterate this principle repeatedly due to misguided petitions.
3. The case arose when Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq, a Muslim, was invited to inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara festival.
4. The festival is a State-sponsored cultural event, not a private religious ritual.
5. A petition claimed her participation violated Articles 25 and 26, which guarantee religious freedom.
6. The Supreme Court dismissed the petition, clarifying that no rights were infringed.
7. The Court stressed that the State cannot discriminate based on religion in public events.
8. Justices questioned whether the petitioner had read the Constitution's Preamble, which upholds equality and secularism.
9. The Karnataka High Court had already upheld the government's decision earlier.
10. A person of one faith participating in another faith's event does not violate constitutional rights.
11. Restricting participation in public events based on religion is indefensible in a pluralistic society.
12. Though some temples still restrict entry, such practices remain contested and debatable.
13. Indian festivals historically unite diverse communities and transcend social barriers.
14. Political opportunists are trying to exploit communal divisions for personal gain.
15. The Supreme Court's stand shows the need to hold divisive forces accountable and protect India's shared cultural heritage.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **The Supreme Court's rejection of the petition about Banu Mushtaq's participation in Mysuru Dasara most directly rests on which constitutional principle?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Unrestricted freedom to practise religion for every individual
 - B. Secularism as part of the Constitution's basic structure
 - C. Exclusive right of religious communities to control temple events
 - D. State power to manage festivals without judicial review
2. **The petitioners' legal mistake, as criticised in the passage, was to treat the right to practise religion as which of the following?**
 - A. A right to prevent others from participating in religiously framed public events
 - B. A right guaranteeing state funding for private rituals
 - C. A right to convert state institutions into private religious bodies
 - D. A right to limit freedom of speech at public festivals
3. **Which claim about India's festivals is best supported by the passage?**
 - A. Festivals and pilgrimages have historically reinforced strict religious boundaries.
 - B. State sponsorship of festivals necessarily makes them secular and nonreligious.
 - C. Festivals often function as shared cultural practices that bring people across social barriers.
 - D. Public festivals are the primary cause of contemporary communal tensions.
4. **The passage's reference to "a new group of political opportunists" most plausibly means that these actors:**
 - A. Are sincere defenders of religious purity who object to cross-faith participation.
 - B. Manufacture communal differences to gain short-term political advantage.
 - C. Advocate for increased judicial control over cultural events.
 - D. Promote universally accepted secular principles across party lines.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Humorous
 - D. Alarmed and critical
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Pull someone's leg
 - A. To avert a great danger
 - B. To tease or play a joke on someone
 - C. To take a situation seriously or earnestly
 - D. To physically pull the legs of a person
7. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
(a) The student could not answer the teacher/(b) when he was asked to explain/(c) why he was so late that day./ (d) No error.
 - A. The student could not answer the teacher
 - B. when he was asked to explain
 - C. why he was so late that day.
 - D. No error.

8. **Select the alternative from the given options that best expresses the same sentence inactive/passive voice.**

Who built this colossal architectural structure?

- A. By whom was this colossal architectural structure built?
- B. Who had this colossal architectural structure built?
- C. By whom has this colossal architectural structure been built?
- D. By whom is this colossal architectural structure built?

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

On the back foot

- A. At a disadvantage
- B. Situated farther away
- C. In a hurry
- D. In a relaxed state

10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

She was laughed at by all her friends

- A. All her friends had been laughing at her.
- B. All her friends had laughed at her.
- C. All her friends laugh at her.
- D. All her friends laughed at her

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

Full of shared pleasure and friendliness

- A. Premonition
- B. Explicable
- C. Convivial
- D. Meditation

12. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**

The teacher's bonhomie made the students feel comfortable.

- A. Hostility
- B. Amiability
- C. Cordiality
- D. Geniality

13. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

S1) Wiser by the experience of previous summits, India took a nuanced stand in Johannesburg last week on the expansion of the BRICS group.

P) The strategic partnership between France and India is built on a strong foundation of people-to-people ties and a genuine friendship between the French and Indian peoples.

Q) "India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS membership. And welcomes moving forward with consensus on this," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the organisation's 15th summit before the expansion was agreed on.

R) Never was this connection more evident than on July 14, when French crowds cheered the Indian armed forces' contingent marching on the Champs Elysées, and France celebrated India as the Guest of Honour of our National Day.

S) Enlargement was the biggest challenge at the Johannesburg summit.

- S4) It can be a game-changer for the international order, which is seeing convulsions that were unimagined at the dawn of this decade.
- A. P and Q
B. P and R
C. P and S
D. Q and S
14. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
The priest emphasized the sanctity of the temple rituals.
- A. Impurity
B. Profanity
C. Corruption
D. Sacredness
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Mr. Prakash writes short stories
- A. Short stories have been written by Mr. Prakash.
B. Short stories were written by Mr. Prakash.
C. Short stories are written by Mr. Prakash.
D. Short stories are being written by Mr. Prakash
16. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A) The second is negotiating bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that protect the interests of India's farmers and workers, for which coordination is required amongst the Ministries of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture.
B) The third one is linked with the other two: it has become a principal cause of social tensions and political conflicts in the country.
C) The third problem that is affecting all citizens is secure employment with adequate incomes, which involves all Ministries and all State governments.
D) The Indian government is grappling with three economic challenges at the same time.
E) One is management of inflation, interest rates, and exchange rates, for which the Reserve Bank of India is expected to find a solution.
- A. DECAB
B. DEABC
C. DCBAE
D. DECBA
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who deliberately sets fire to a building
- A. Vulpine
B. Famine
C. Arsonist
D. Quadrupe
18. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A) The seemingly innocuous act of consuming salt can have dangerous repercussions when taken in excess.

- B) The dangers often lurk undetected, warranting urgent attention and a revaluation of our dietary choices.
- C) Excessive sodium intake contributes to the rise of hypertension, heart disease, and stroke.
- D) An average Indian's sodium consumption is more than double the physiological need and dramatically exceeds the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended daily intake of <5 g of salt for adults.
- A. d, b, a, c
- B. d, a, b, c
- C. a, b, c, d
- D. a, c, b, d

19. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**

Both countries agreed to a truce after years of fighting.

- A. War
- B. Ceasefire
- C. Clash
- D. Battle

20. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error.**

Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

If the scheme would have been implemented effectively, (A)/ all affected (B)/ would have benefitted. (C)/ No error (D)

- A. If the scheme would have been implemented effectively, (A)
- B. all affected (B)
- C. would have benefitted. (C)
- D. No error (D)

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

Milton Hershey returned to the village where he had been born, in the heart of dairy country. He opened his chocolate manufacturing plant (1) _____ 1905. With access to all the fresh milk he (2) _____, he began producing the finest milk chocolate. The plant (3) _____ opened in a small Pennsylvania village is today the (4) _____ chocolate factory in the world. The confections created here are (5) _____ around the world.

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

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

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

- A. considered
- B. kneaded
- C. distributed
- D. needed

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

- A. that
- B. when
- C. who
- D. what

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

- A. large
- B. most largest
- C. largest
- D. larger

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

- A. choices
- B. favourites
- C. collections
- D. selections

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

- B) Secularism as part of the Constitution's basic structure
 The Court emphasised that secularism — and non-discrimination by the State in public events — is a fundamental constitutional principle. It treated Dasara as a State-sponsored event where religion-based exclusion would violate secular equality.
 A: Freedom to practise exists but does not justify excluding others; the Court used secularism, not an absolute personal freedom, as the core rationale.
 C: That claim is contrary to the Court's finding; it rejected the idea that a religious community has exclusive control over a State event.
 D: The Court reviewed the issue and enforced constitutional limits; it did not claim State decisions are beyond judicial scrutiny
- A) A right to prevent others from participating in religiously framed public events
 The passage states the constitutional right to practise religion cannot be read as a right to restrict others' participation; the petition wrongly sought to exclude someone from a public/State event on religious grounds.
 B: The petition wasn't about funding; the issue was participation and exclusion.
 C: Petitioners didn't claim to privatise State institutions; they sought exclusion in a State event, not formal conversion.
 D: The passage doesn't discuss limiting speech; it focuses on exclusion from participation.
- C) Festivals often function as shared cultural practices that bring people across social barriers.
 The passage argues that, across centuries and geographies, festivals and pilgrimages have united diverse populations and often transcended social barriers — supporting (C).
 A: Opposite of the passage's point; it emphasises unity, not reinforcement of boundaries.
 B: The passage says State events are not purely religious, but it does not claim that State sponsorship automatically removes all religious character.
 D: The passage blames opportunists for exploiting festivals to create tensions, not festivals themselves.
- B) Manufacture communal differences to gain short-term political advantage.
 The passage characterises them as exploiting harmony to create communal rifts — i.e., manufacturing tensions for political gains — which matches (B).
 A: The passage implies opportunism and exploitation, not sincere religious concern.
 C: The line criticises those causing rifts, not calling for more judicial control.
 D: They do the opposite of promoting secular harmony; they create divisions.
- D) Alarmed and critical
 The passage repeatedly expresses worry and reproach — e.g., "it is concerning that the Court has to periodically reiterate...", calls the petition "misguided", and condemns "political opportunists" who "exploit this harmony." Those words show a concerned, critical tone aimed at defending secularism and criticizing attempts to communalise public events.

A (Celebratory): The piece acknowledges the festival's inclusive nature, but the overall voice is corrective and critical rather than simply celebratory.

B (Indifferent): The author is clearly engaged and concerned, not detached—phrases like “it is concerning” and calls for accountability show active concern.

C (Humorous): There is no irony, joke, or lightness; language is serious and argumentative.

6. B) **Pull someone's leg** (Idiom) – To tease or play a joke on someone किसी का मजाक बनाना या छेड़ना।

7. D) No error

8. A) By whom was this colossal architectural structure built?

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, प्रश्नवाचक वाक्य में भी वही प्रक्रिया लागू होती है। Active वाक्य में "Who" Subject है, "built" Verb (Past Simple) है और "this colossal architectural structure" Object है। Passive में बदलते समय, Object "this colossal architectural structure" को Subject बनाया गया है, Verb को "was built" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है, और "By whom" प्रश्नवाचक वाक्य की संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change the sentence from Active to Passive Voice in an interrogative sentence, the same process is applied. In the active voice, "Who" is the subject, "built" is the verb in the Past Simple tense, and "this colossal architectural structure" is the object. In the passive transformation, the object "this colossal architectural structure" becomes the subject, the verb is converted to "was built" (Past Simple Passive), and "By whom" is used to maintain the interrogative structure.

9. A) **On the back foot** (idiom) – At a disadvantage पीछे हटने की स्थिति में या नुकसान की स्थिति में

10. D) All her friends laughed at her

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बनता है। Passive वाक्य में "She" Subject है, "was laughed at" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by all her friends" Agent है। इसे Active में बदलने पर "All her friends" Subject बनता है, "laughed at" (Past Simple Active) Verb बनता है, और "her" Object बनता है।

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. In the passive sentence, "She" (Subject), "was laughed at" (Verb in Past Simple Passive), and "by all her friends" (Agent) are transformed into "All her friends" (Subject), "laughed at" (Verb in Past Simple Active), and "her" (Object).

11. C) **Convivial** – Full of shared pleasure and friendliness मिलनसार

- **Premonition** – Forewarning of an impending danger पूर्वसंकेत
- **Explicable** – Capable of being explicated समझाने
- **Meditation** – Deep in thought ध्यान

12. A) **Bonhomie** (noun) – Friendliness, geniality, cordiality, camaraderie, goodwill. सौहार्द

Antonym: Hostility (noun) – Enmity, hatred, antagonism, unfriendliness, animosity. शत्रुता

- **Amiability** (noun) – Good-naturedness, friendliness, affability. मिलनसारिता
- **Cordiality** (noun) – Warmth, sincerity, geniality, friendliness. सौहार्दता
- **Geniality** (noun) – Cheerfulness, warmth, amiability, friendliness. मिलनसारिता

13. D) Q and S

The correct order is S1, Q, S, and S4

S2 should provide more specifics or insights about India's stance on the expansion. Q fits this perfectly as it specifies what the Indian Prime Minister stated about the BRICS expansion.

S3 should delve deeper into the challenges or significance of the expansion, thereby bridging to S4's indication of its potential impact on the international order. S fits this context as it talks about the enlargement being a major challenge.

Other options:

P is about the strategic partnership between France and India. It doesn't specifically relate to the BRICS summit or its expansion.

Q directly relates to India's stance on BRICS expansion and quotes Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

R talks about a moment in France where the Indian armed forces were honored, which is unrelated to the BRICS summit.

S directly mentions that enlargement or expansion was a major challenge at the Johannesburg summit, which aligns with the context of S1.

14. D) **Sanctity** (noun) – holiness, purity, divinity, inviolability, sacredness (पवित्रता)

Synonym: Sacredness (noun) – holiness, reverence (पवित्रता)

- **Impurity** (noun) – contamination, pollution (अशुद्धि)
- **Profanity** (noun) – irreverence, blasphemy (अपवित्रता)
- **Corruption** (noun) – dishonesty, moral decay (भ्रष्टाचार)

15. C) Short stories are written by Mr. Prakash.

Active वाक्य "Mr. Prakash writes short stories" में Subject "Mr. Prakash," Verb "writes" (Present Simple Tense), और Object "short stories" है। Passive वाक्य में Object "short stories" को Subject बनाया जाता है। Verb "writes" को Passive Voice में "are written" में बदला गया है क्योंकि "short stories" Plural है और वाक्य Present Simple Tense में है। "by Mr. Prakash" वाक्य के अंत में Subject को व्यक्त करने के लिए जोड़ा गया है। इस प्रकार, Passive Voice वाक्य होगा: "Short stories are written by Mr. Prakash"

- In the active sentence "Mr. Prakash writes short stories," the subject is "Mr. Prakash," the verb is "writes" (Present Simple Tense), and the object is "short stories." In the passive sentence, the object "short stories" becomes the subject. The verb "writes" is changed to "are written" in the Passive Voice because "short stories" is plural, and the sentence is in the Present Simple Tense. The phrase "by Mr. Prakash" is added to indicate the doer of the action. Thus, the Passive Voice sentence is: "Short stories are written by Mr. Prakash."

16. B) DEABC

D: This sentence introduces the topic: "three economic challenges" faced by the Indian government. It naturally serves as the opening sentence because it provides context for the reader

E: The use of the term "One" in sentence E signifies that it is discussing the first of the three challenges mentioned in sentence D. Hence, E follows D

A: The use of the term "The second" clearly indicates that this sentence is describing the second challenge, following the first challenge mentioned in E.

B: Though this sentence starts with "The third one," it is not directly describing the third challenge. Instead, it tells us that the third one is causing social tensions and conflicts. So, it gives the effect of the third problem rather than its definition.

C: This sentence describes what the third challenge is. Thus, C provides more detail about the challenge before B elaborates on its impact.

17. C) **Arsonist** – A person who deliberately sets fire to a building आगजनी करने वाला

- **Vulpine** – That which looks like a fox लोमड़ी का
- **Famine** – A dreadful shortage of food. अकाल
- **Quadruped** – An animal with four feet चौपाया

18. D) a, c, b, d

a: This sentence introduces the topic which is about the dangers of consuming too much salt.

c: This sentence elaborates on the dangerous repercussions mentioned in sentence a. It provides specific details on how excessive salt (sodium) intake can be harmful.

b: c should come before b because after elaborating on the specifics of how salt is dangerous (in c), b talks about how these dangers often go unnoticed and need attention.

d: d is specific to Indians' consumption of salt and how it compares to the WHO's recommendation. It makes sense to introduce this after discussing the dangers in general (in a, c, and b) as it provides a specific context or case study.

19. B) **Truce** (noun) – ceasefire, armistice, pause in hostilities, cessation, stand-down (युद्धविराम)

Synonym: Ceasefire (noun) – suspension of fighting (युद्धविराम)

- **War** (noun) – state of armed conflict (युद्ध)
- **Clash** (noun) – violent confrontation (टकराव)
- **Battle** (noun) – combat between forces (युद्ध)

20. A) (a) "If the scheme would have been implemented effectively"

Solution) 'would have been implemented' के बदले if-clause में 'had been implemented' होगा

क्योंकि past-unreal conditional में if-clause Past Perfect लेती है; 'would have' मुख्य clause में रहता है।

- In past-unreal conditionals, the if-clause takes Past Perfect. Use "had been implemented" in the if-clause; keep "would have" in the main clause.
Like— If the scheme had been implemented effectively, all affected would have benefited.

21. C) 'In' का use होगा क्योंकि यह विशेष तारीख या समय को दर्शाता है। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Milton Hershey ने 1905 में अपनी चॉकलेट मेन्युफैक्चरिंग प्लांट खोली थी, इसलिए 'in' यहाँ सही है। 'To', 'At', और 'On' इस context में ठीक नहीं होंगे क्योंकि 'To' का इस्तेमाल दिशा या स्थल के लिए होता है, 'At' किसी विशिष्ट स्थान या समय के लिए और 'On' किसी विशेष दिन या तारीख को दर्शाने के लिए होता है।

- 'In' should be used because it indicates a specific period or point in time. The sentence states that Milton Hershey opened his chocolate manufacturing plant in 1905, making 'in' the correct choice here. 'To' would be incorrect as it's typically used for direction or place, 'At' is used for a specific location or time, and 'On' is used to indicate specific days or dates, which don't fit this context.

22. D) 'Needed' का use होगा क्योंकि "needed" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की आवश्यकता होना।

Sentence में यह दिखाया गया है कि Milton Hershey को उसके चॉकलेट बनाने के लिए ताज़ा दूध की आवश्यकता थी, इसलिए 'Needed' यहाँ पर सही है। 'Considered' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को सोचना या मानना, 'Kneaded' का अर्थ है गुंदना, और 'Distributed' का अर्थ है वितरित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Needed' should be used because it means requiring something. In the sentence, it is shown that Milton Hershey required fresh milk to produce his finest milk chocolate, making 'needed' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Considered' means to think about or regard something, 'Kneaded' means to mix and work into a uniform mass, and 'Distributed' means to give out or disperse, which are not fitting in this context.

23. A) 'That' का use होगा क्योंकि "that" यहाँ एक relative pronoun के रूप में काम कर रहा है जो 'plant' को refer कर रहा है। Sentence में कहा गया है कि plant जो एक छोटे Pennsylvania गाँव में खोला गया था, वह आज दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी चॉकलेट फैक्ट्री है। जबकि 'When', 'Who', और 'What' इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

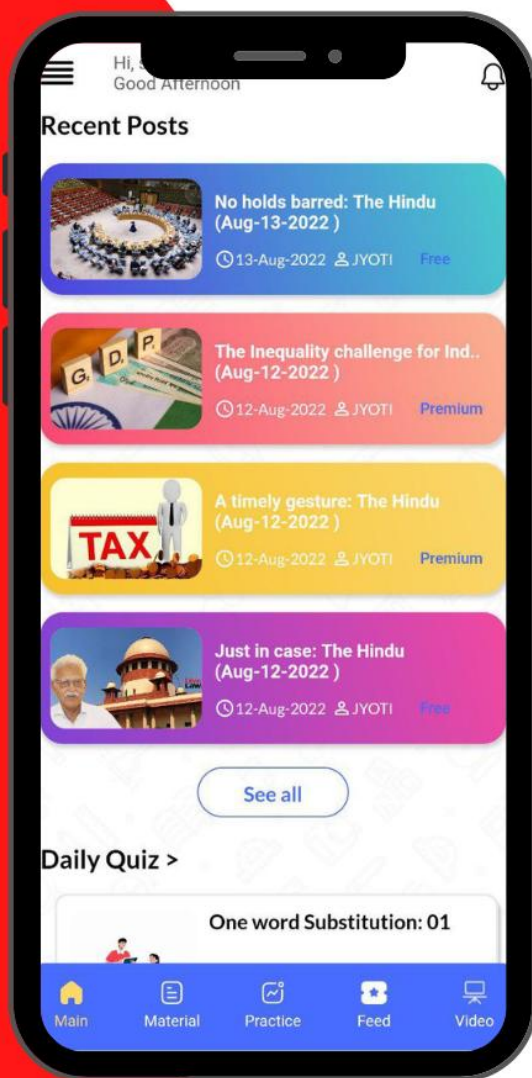
- 'That' should be used because it is acting as a relative pronoun referring to the 'plant' in the sentence. The sentence states that the plant opened in a small Pennsylvania village is today the largest chocolate factory in the world. Whereas, 'When', 'Who', and 'What' are not correct in this context.

24. C) 'largest' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर बात हो रही है दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी चॉकलेट फैक्ट्री की। 'Most largest' गलत है क्योंकि 'most' और 'largest' दोनों superlative degree में हैं और एक ही sentence में इनका उपयोग नहीं हो सकता। 'Large' और 'Larger' comparative degree में हैं और इस context में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- 'largest' should be used because it is referring to the biggest chocolate factory in the world. 'Most largest' is incorrect because 'most' and 'largest' are both in the superlative degree and cannot be used together in a sentence. 'Large' and 'Larger' are in the comparative degree and don't fit in this context.

25. B) favourites' का use होगा क्योंकि "favourites" का अर्थ होता है पसंदीदा या लोकप्रिय। Sentence में बताया गया है कि वहां बनाई गई मिठाइयां पूरी दुनिया में पसंद की जाती हैं, इसलिए 'favourites' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'choices' का अर्थ होता है विकल्प, 'collections' का अर्थ होता है संग्रह, और 'Selections' का अर्थ होता है चयन, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'favourites' should be used because it means something that is preferred or popular. The sentence mentions that the confections created at the plant are popular around the world, making 'favourites' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'choices' means options, 'collections' means a group of things, and 'Selections' means the act of choosing or something that is chosen, which don't fit in this context.



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