

Labour of care: On the Anshakalin Stri Parichars, women community health workers

Women who **facilitate** rural health care **should** get better wages

For **decades**, **the women** who serve as Anshakalin Stri Parichars (ASPs) in Maharashtra **have** been performing some of the hardest, yet least **acknowledged**, labour in the rural health system. For a wide breadth of responsibility, their monthly wage has **stagnated** at ₹3,000 since 2016, decades behind **inflation**. They also lack job security, pensions, **safety gear** and travel allowance. In 2023, a labour court in Nagpur **acknowledged** that they deserved at least the protection of the Minimum Wages Act but left the decision to the State. **In keeping with** its verbal-only **assurances**, the State has even now only promised them ₹6,000 a month by December 2025 — much less than what multi-purpose health workers receive. The **indifference** is not **accidental**: **ASPs**, who **predate** Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and anganwadi workers, **have** been easy to ignore because they are poor, rural women. Their **neglect reveals** a **gendered** and **caste-inflected hierarchy** of labour within public health, where skilled work is low status and **devalued** because of who performs it. Their ongoing protests are part of an **arc** of **agitation following** similar **sit-ins** in Kolhapur, Nagpur, Ratnagiri and Yavatmal. **In this regard**, their **plight resonates** with that of ASHAs in other States. **ASHAs**, created under the National Rural Health Mission in 2005, **are** the community's first link to the health system and are also officially classified as "volunteers" rather than employees, **compensated** only through **oft-delayed incentives**, **amounting to** less than **subsistence**. Across States, ASHAs have repeatedly **agitated** for fixed **honoraria**, **recognition** as government staff and social security, and, like the ASPs' protests, have **borne** the same **refrain**: States cannot continue to build their health systems on the underpaid labour of women.

These struggles **highlight** a structural **contradiction**. While India **relies** heavily **on** women community health workers and attendants to deliver **maternal** and child health care, **immunisation** and disease **surveillance**, especially in rural areas, it **refuses** to recognise them as workers **entitled to** minimum benefits and **dignity**. The **reliance** is often framed as offering rural women "opportunities" for public service. Yet, in practice, it is **exploitation**. These women risk snakebite while clearing hospital grounds and death in accidents **en route to** vaccination duty without insurance or compensation. **A health system** that does not value the people who keep it functional and link its **margins** to formal care **is bound to sabotage** itself. To secure rural health is to secure the rights of those women through living wages, safe working conditions and **stable** employment.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Labour** (noun) – work, toil, effort, exertion, drudgery श्रम
2. **Facilitate** (verb) – enable, assist, ease, simplify, promote सुविधा प्रदान करना
3. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
4. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, recognize, concede, grant स्वीकार करना
5. **Stagnate** (verb) – remain unchanged, stand still, languish, vegetate, idle स्थिर होना
6. **Inflation** (noun) – rise in prices, decrease in purchasing power, economic decline मुद्रास्फीति
7. **Safety gear** (noun) – protective equipment, safety equipment, protective gear, safety apparatus सुरक्षा उपकरण
8. **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit, accept, concede, allow स्वीकार करना
9. **In keeping with** (phrase) – consistent with, in accordance with, conforming to, compatible with के अनुरूप
10. **Assurance** (noun) – promise, guarantee, pledge, commitment, vow आश्वासन
11. **Indifference** (noun) – apathy, lack of concern, unconcern, disinterest, detachment उदासीनता
12. **Accidental** (adjective) – unintentional, unplanned, inadvertent, chance, fortuitous आकस्मिक
13. **Predate** (verb) – precede, come before, antecede, forerun पूर्ववर्ती होना
14. **Neglect** (noun) – disregard, negligence, inattention, indifference, oversight उपेक्षा
15. **Gendered** (adjective) – related to gender, sex-based, gender-specific लैंगिक
16. **Caste-inflected** (adjective) – influenced or shaped by the social hierarchies and prejudices of the caste system. जातिगत रंग से युक्त
17. **Hierarchy** (noun) – ranking, order, pecking order, ladder, stratification पदानुक्रम
18. **Devalue** (verb) – belittle, diminish, depreciate, cheapen, trivialize अवमूल्यन करना
19. **Arc** (noun) – progression, trajectory, course, curve, span क्रम
20. **Agitation** (noun) – protest, campaigning, demonstration, unrest, upheaval आंदोलन
21. **Following** (preposition) – after, subsequent to, in the wake of, post के बाद
22. **Sit-ins** (noun) – protests, demonstrations, occupations, strikes, dharnas धरना

23. **In this regard** (phrase) – in this context, on this subject, with respect to this, concerning this इस संबंध में
24. **Plight** (noun) – predicament, difficult situation, dilemma, hardship, trouble दुर्दशा
25. **Resonate** (verb) – connect, strike a chord, relate, harmonize, echo गूँजना
26. **Compensate** (verb) – pay, reimburse, remunerate, recompense, reward मुआवजा देना
27. **Oft-delayed** (adjective) – frequently postponed, regularly late, repeatedly deferred, habitually behind schedule अक्सर विलंबित
28. **Incentive** (noun) – inducement, motivation, stimulus, encouragement, spur प्रोत्साहन
29. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – add up to, total, constitute, be equivalent to, count as के बराबर होना
30. **Subsistence** (noun) – survival, existence, livelihood, sustenance, maintenance गुज़र-बसर
31. **Agitate** (verb) – protest, campaign, demonstrate, fight, push for आंदोलन करना
32. **Honoraria** (noun) – a payment given for professional services that are rendered nominally without charge. मानदेय
33. **Recognition** (noun) – acknowledgment, acceptance, official status, credit, appreciation मान्यता
34. **Bear** (verb) – carry, support, sustain, uphold, maintain वहन करना
35. **Refrain** (noun) – a comment or complaint that is often repeated.
36. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, underscore, spotlight, accentuate, focus on प्रमुखता देना
37. **Contradiction** (noun) – inconsistency, conflict, paradox, incongruity, discrepancy विरोधाभास
38. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend on, count on, bank on, trust in, lean on निर्भर करना
39. **Maternal** (adjective) – motherly, related to motherhood, prenatal, obstetric मातृ
40. **Immunisation** (noun) – vaccination, inoculation, injection, shot, jab टीकाकरण
41. **Surveillance** (noun) – observation, monitoring, watch, supervision, scrutiny निगरानी
42. **Refuse** (verb) – decline, reject, turn down, deny, withhold इनकार करना
43. **Entitle** (to) (verb) – qualify, authorize, permit, allow, empower अधिकार दिलाना
44. **Dignity** (noun) – self-respect, pride, self-worth, honour, integrity गरिमा

45. **Reliance** (noun) – dependence, trust, confidence, faith, leaning निर्भरता
46. **Exploitation** (noun) – misuse, unfair treatment, taking advantage, manipulation, oppression शोषण
47. **En route to** (phrase) – on the way to, in transit to, while traveling to के रास्ते में
48. **Margins** (noun) – periphery, edges, fringes, borders, outskirts सीमांत (क्षेत्र)
49. **Bound** (to) (adjective) – certain, sure, very likely, destined, fated के लिए बाध्य होना
50. **Sabotage** (verb) – undermine, disrupt, damage, wreck, subvert तोड़-फोड़ करना
51. **Stable** (adjective) – steady, secure, permanent, firm, durable स्थिर

Summary of the Editorial

1. Anshakalin Stri Parichars (ASPs) in Maharashtra have been essential to rural healthcare for decades.
2. Despite wide-ranging responsibilities, their wages have stagnated at ₹3,000 per month since 2016.
3. They lack job security, pensions, safety gear, and travel allowances, making their work precarious.
4. In 2023, a labour court in Nagpur recognized their right to at least minimum wage protection.
5. However, the court left the decision to the State government, which has delayed concrete action.
6. The government only promised ₹6,000 per month by December 2025, still far below fair wages.
7. ASPs are neglected because they are poor, rural women, exposing gender and caste-based hierarchies in health labour.
8. Their neglect highlights how skilled women's work is undervalued within public health.
9. ASPs' protests mirror those of ASHAs and anganwadi workers across India.
10. ASHAs, created under the National Rural Health Mission (2005), are similarly classified as "volunteers" with low, delayed incentives.
11. Both ASPs and ASHAs have demanded fixed honoraria, staff status, and social security benefits.
12. India's health system relies heavily on underpaid women workers for maternal care, immunisation, and disease surveillance.
13. The work is framed as "opportunity" for women, but in practice, it amounts to exploitation.
14. These women face serious occupational risks — snakebites, unsafe travel, accidents — without insurance or compensation.
15. A sustainable rural health system requires fair wages, safe working conditions, and stable employment for women workers.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Women's contribution to cultural preservation
 - B. Challenges of women community health workers and their exploitation
 - C. Development of the Indian rural economy
 - D. Advances in rural healthcare technology
2. **From the passage, what can be reasonably inferred about the government's treatment of women community health workers like ASPs and ASHAs?**
 - A. The government fully acknowledges their contribution and ensures fair wages.
 - B. The government relies on their work but systematically undervalues it.
 - C. The government provides them with job security, pensions, and insurance.
 - D. The government is planning to replace them with multi-purpose health workers.
3. **According to the passage, why have Anshakalin Stri Parichars (ASPs) been easy to ignore in the health system?**
 - A. Because they are highly paid compared to ASHAs.
 - B. Because they were created under the National Rural Health Mission in 2005.
 - C. Because they are poor, rural women belonging to marginalized groups.
 - D. Because they refused to participate in health protests.
4. **Identify the grammatically correct sentence from the options below:**
 - A. The women ASPs has been demanding fair wages since decades.
 - B. The ASPs, who predates ASHA workers, is being ignored by the State.
 - C. The ASPs have demanding higher wages since 2016.
 - D. The ASPs, who predate ASHA workers, have been ignored by the State.
5. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word from the passage context:**

"A health system that does not value the people who keep it functional and link its margins to formal care is bound to _____ itself."

 - A. sabotage
 - B. celebrate
 - C. preserve
 - D. strengthen
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

The police was investigating the matter / when fresh evidence came to light / that suggested a wider conspiracy / involving several local officials.

 - A. The police was investigating the matter
 - B. when fresh evidence came to light
 - C. that suggested a wider conspiracy
 - D. involving several local officials
7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. At length the olive tree's branches broke with the snow's weight, at once despoiling it of its beauty and killing the tree.
 - B. A shower of snow fell upon them and, finding the olive full of foliage, it settled upon its branches.

- C. Finding the fig tree without leaves, the snow fell through the branches to the ground and did not injure it at all.
D. The olive tree ridiculed the fig tree because, while she was green all the year round, the fig tree changed its leaves with the seasons.
- A. ABCD
B. DBAC
C. ACBD
D. DACB
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
PAMPER
A. Cosset
B. Mollycoddle
C. Neglect
D. Titivate
9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
There is many reports / indicating that climate change has already started affecting crop yields / across several states in the northern region, / leading to rising concerns among farmers.
A. There is many reports
B. indicating that climate change has already started affecting crop yields
C. across several states in the northern region
D. leading to rising concerns among farmers
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Straight and narrow
A. Be excessively careful
B. Honest and morally acceptable way of being
C. Follow the straight path defined by society
D. To not deviate from one's goal
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
VIA MEDIA
A. Middle course
B. Hard line
C. Zero-sum
D. Extremity
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
VERACITY
A. Mendacity
B. Rapacity
C. Verity
D. Voracity
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
A) There are many secondary reasons as well along with increasing levels of carbon.
B) The term is used to describe the unnatural rise in earth's average temperature.

- C) Increased carbon dioxide is the primary driver of global warming.
D) Global warming is the single biggest threat to life on earth today.
A. DABC
B. DBCA
C. ACBD
D. ABCD
14. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
After his doctor's warning, he finally **stopped to smoke completely**, realizing the harm it was causing.
A. stopped to be smoking completely
B. stopped smoking completely
C. stopped for smoking completely
D. No improvement
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Fight fire with fire
A. Use the same force or strategy of one's opponent to counter them
B. Use incendiary tactics to destroy by fire
C. Use incendiary tactics to destroy by fire
D. Scorch one's opponent with a barrage of firing
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
_____ intake of sugar can cause health problems.
A. Access
B. Excess of
C. Excessive
D. Excessively
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
CASUAL
A. Meticulous
B. Adventitious
C. Offhand
D. Rakish
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
She suffered _____ pain because of the leg injury.
A. hurting
B. excruciating
C. consuming
D. protracting
19. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
Many professionals in the city **prefer coffee than tea when working late at night in their offices.**
A. prefer coffee to tea when working late at night in their offices
B. would rather coffee than tea when working late at night in their offices

- C. prefer coffee instead of tea when working late at night in their offices
- D. No improvement

20. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**

To swim every day is good for health.

- A. Participle
- B. Infinitive verb
- C. Gerund
- D. Adjective

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.

Many hundreds of years ago, a Brahmin lived in a town in Northern India. He spent many years (1)_____ the ancient books and talking to the learned priests (2)_____ came to visit the city. After much effort, he (3) _____ the knowledge of a certain spell. He was (4)_____ proud of this and guarded his secret (5)_____

21. **Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 1.**

- A. to study
- B. studying
- C. studied
- D. study

22. **Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 2.**

- A. whom
- B. which
- C. that
- D. who

23. **Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 3.**

- A. found
- B. took
- C. used
- D. obtained

24. **Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 4.**

- A. a lot
- B. much
- C. very
- D. many

25. **Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 5**

- A. deeply
- B. excitedly
- C. gradually
- D. carefully

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. **B) Challenges of women community health workers and their exploitation**
 The central theme is the plight of women health workers (ASPs and ASHAs) — underpaid, undervalued, and exploited — and how their protests reflect a structural failure of India's rural health system.
 A (Cultural preservation) – Irrelevant; the passage is about health workers, not cultural roles.
 C (Rural economy) – Too broad; while rural health connects to the economy, the passage specifically focuses on labour exploitation in health care, not economy-building.
 D (Healthcare technology) – Wrong; no mention of new medical technologies, only the labour conditions of women workers.
2. **B) The government relies on their work but systematically undervalues it.**
 The passage highlights that ASPs and ASHAs form the backbone of rural healthcare but are underpaid, lack job security, and are treated as "volunteers" rather than workers. This clearly shows systematic undervaluation despite reliance on their work.
 A) Incorrect because the passage says their wages are stagnant, benefits are denied, and recognition is absent.
 C) Incorrect because they explicitly lack pensions, insurance, safety gear, and allowances.
 D) Incorrect because there is no mention of replacing them with multi-purpose health workers; rather, they are compared unfavourably in terms of pay.
3. **C) Because they are poor, rural women belonging to marginalized groups.**
 The passage clearly states that ASPs' neglect reveals a gendered and caste-inflected hierarchy of labour in public health, meaning their social background (poor, rural, women) has contributed to their being overlooked.
 A) Incorrect, because they are not highly paid; they have extremely low wages.
 B) Incorrect, because ASPs predate ASHAs; it was ASHAs who were created under the 2005 National Rural Health Mission.
 D) Incorrect, because the passage states they have been actively protesting in Kolhapur, Nagpur, Ratnagiri, and Yavatmal.
4. **D) The ASPs, who predate ASHA workers, have been ignored by the State.**
 D is correct because the subject ASPs is plural, so "have been ignored" is grammatically correct, and the relative clause "who predate" correctly matches plural subject.
 A is wrong: "has been" should be "have been" because ASPs is plural; also "since decades" is incorrect, it should be "for decades".
 B is wrong: "predates" is singular verb, but subject ASPs is plural; also "is being ignored" suggests only present continuous, but the context requires present perfect continuous/passive.
 C is wrong: "have demanding" is incorrect; it should be "have been demanding".
5. **A) Sabotage**

sabotage is correct because the passage clearly states that a system ignoring its workers will "sabotage itself." It matches the critical tone of neglect and exploitation.

B (celebrate) is incorrect because the context is about exploitation, not celebration.

C (preserve) is incorrect because exploitation cannot preserve the system.

D (strengthen) is wrong because neglecting and underpaying workers would weaken, not strengthen, the system.

6. A) 'police was' के बदले 'police were' होना चाहिए क्योंकि police हमेशा plural मानी जाती है। Rule: Police/people/cattle → plural verb; Family/Team → can be singular (as a unit) or plural (as individuals).

✓ The police were present at the rally.

Correct sentence:

The police were investigating the matter...

7. B) DBAC

D starts the paragraph by introducing the subject "The olive tree" and its action of ridiculing the fig tree. This sets the context for the comparison between the two trees.

B follows D as it introduces the next event—a shower of snow falling on them. The pronoun "them" refers back to the olive and fig trees mentioned in D, maintaining coherence.

A comes after B because it describes the consequence of the snow settling on the olive tree's branches, leading to its destruction. The phrase "At length" indicates a progression of events after the snow has fallen.

C logically concludes the paragraph by showing the contrasting fate of the fig tree, which remained unharmed because it had no leaves. This completes the comparison introduced in D. In Hindi:

D paragraph की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "The olive tree" को introduce करता है और उसके द्वारा fig tree का मज़ाक उड़ाने की घटना बताता है। यह दोनों पेड़ों के बीच तुलना का संदर्भ देता है।

B, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह अगली घटना—बर्फ़बारी को introduce करता है। Pronoun "them" पिछले sentence (D) में mentioned olive और fig trees को refer करता है, जिससे coherence बनी रहती है।

A, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह olive tree की शाखाओं पर बर्फ़ के जमने के परिणाम को दर्शाता है, जिससे वह नष्ट हो जाता है। "At length" से पता चलता है कि यह घटना बर्फ़बारी के बाद घटित हुई।

C paragraph को logically समाप्त करता है, क्योंकि यह fig tree के साथ अलग परिणाम दिखाता है, जो बिना पत्तियों होने के कारण सुरक्षित रहता है। यह D में शुरू हुई तुलना को पूरा करता है।

8. C) **Pamper** (verb) – To indulge with excessive care; spoil, cosset, coddle. लाड़-प्यार करना/बिगाड़ना

Antonym: **Neglect** (noun/verb) – To fail to care for; disregard, overlook. उपेक्षा करना/ध्यान न देना

Cosset – To treat as a pet; overindulge. दुलारना/लाड़ करना

Mollycoddle – To overprotect; spoil by indulgence. अतिदुलार कर बिगाड़ना

Titivate – To spruce up; adorn smartly. सजा-सँवार करना

9. A) 'There is many reports' के बदले '**There are many reports**' होना चाहिए क्योंकि real subject reports plural है।

Rule: In "Here/There + be" sentences, the verb agrees with the real subject that comes after it.

✓ There are many books on the table.

Correct sentence:

There are many reports indicating that climate change...

10. B) **Straight and narrow** (idiom) – Honest, morally upright conduct ईमानदार और नैतिक आचरण

11. A) **Via media** (noun/phrase) – A middle way between extremes; compromise path. मध्यम मार्ग/समन्वयी रास्ता।

Synonym: **Middle course** (noun) – A moderate or compromise approach. मध्यम/समन्वयात्मक राह।

Hard line (noun) – Rigid, uncompromising policy. कठोर/असमन्वयी नीति।

Zero-sum (adj.) – One party's gain equals another's loss. शून्य-योग/एक का लाभ, दूसरे का हानि।

Extremity (noun) – The farthest point/most severe stage. चरम स्थिति/अंतिम सीमा।

12. C) **Veracity** (noun) – Truthfulness; accuracy; adherence to fact. सत्यता/सच्चाई; शुद्धता।

Synonym: **Verity** (noun) – Truth; a true statement or principle. सत्य/सत् तथ्य।

Mendacity (noun) – Lying; deceit. झूठ/कपट।

Rapacity (noun) – Greed; predatory extortion. लोलुपता/लूटखसोट।

Voracity (noun) – Great eagerness or appetite; gluttony. पेटूपन/अत्यधिक भूख।

13. B) **DBCA**

D starts the paragraph by introducing the main subject, "Global warming," and states its significance as the "single biggest threat to life on earth today." This establishes the central topic.

B follows D because it defines the term "global warming" (introduced in D) by explaining what it means: "The term is used to describe the unnatural rise in earth's average temperature." This provides clarity on the subject.

C comes next as it introduces the primary cause of global warming ("Increased carbon dioxide"), logically following the definition. It establishes a cause-effect relationship: "Increased carbon dioxide is the primary driver of global warming."

A concludes the paragraph by adding secondary reasons alongside carbon dioxide, expanding on the causes mentioned in C. It acts as a supporting detail: "There are many secondary reasons as well along with increasing levels of carbon."

In Hindi:

D paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह मुख्य subject "Global warming" को introduce करता है और इसे "पृथ्वी पर जीवन के लिए सबसे बड़ा खतरा" बताता है। यह central topic स्थापित करता है।

B, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "global warming" (जिसे D में introduce किया गया) की परिभाषा देता है: "यह शब्द पृथ्वी के औसत तापमान में अप्राकृतिक वृद्धि को describe करता है।" इससे subject की clarity मिलती है।

C, B के बाद logically fit होता है क्योंकि यह global warming का primary cause ("Increased carbon dioxide") बताता है। यह एक cause-effect relationship बनाता है: "कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड में वृद्धि global warming का मुख्य कारण है।"

A paragraph को conclude करता है क्योंकि यह C में बताए गए कारणों को expand करते हुए secondary reasons जोड़ता है: "कार्बन के बढ़ते स्तर के साथ-साथ कई secondary कारण भी हैं।"

14. B) यहाँ sense है कि उसने smoking habit छोड़ दी। → stop doing = quit an activity altogether. 'Stopped to smoke' का अर्थ होता pause किसी काम को ताकि smoke करे, जो context से गलत है। जैसे— He stopped smoking last year.

Rule Clarification:

Stop to do = pause one action in order to do another (temporary purpose)

Example: He stopped working to answer the phone.

Stop doing = quit the activity completely (permanent or habitual cessation)

Example: He stopped smoking.

15. A) **Fight fire with fire** (idiom) – Counter using the opponent's own methods/strength प्रतिद्वंद्वी की ही रणनीति/ताकत से जवाब देना

16. C) '**Excessive**'

'Excessive' (adjective) सही है क्योंकि यह 'intake' (noun) को विशेषित करता है। 'Excess of' अलग संरचना मांगता है: "An excess of sugar...". 'Excessively' adverb है और 'Access' का अर्थ प्रवेश/पहुंच है, जो संदर्भ से असंगत है।

'Excessive' modifies the noun 'intake'. 'Excess of' would require a different structure ("An excess of sugar..."). 'Excessively' is an adverb; 'Access' means entry/availability.

17. A) **Casual** (adjective) – Careless or nonchalant; informal; happening without much thought. अनौपचारिक/लापरवाह

Antonym: **Meticulous** (adjective) – Extremely careful and precise; painstaking, fastidious. अत्यंत सावधान/सूक्ष्म-निरखी

Adventitious – Occurring by chance; extrinsic. आकस्मिक/बाह्य

Offhand – Without forethought; brusquely casual. बिना सोचे-समझे/उद्दंड-सा

Rakish – Dashing yet slightly disreputable. अलहड़/अय्याश-सा

18. B) '**excruciating**'

'excruciating' उपयुक्त है क्योंकि यह प्रबल/अत्यधिक पीड़ा के लिए स्थापित कोलोकेशन है:

"excruciating pain." 'Hurting' participle है, 'consuming/protracting' का ऐसा प्रयोग 'pain' के साथ मान्य/प्रचलित नहीं है।

'Excruciating pain' is the standard collocation. 'Hurting' is a participle, and 'consuming/protracting' don't collocate naturally with 'pain' here.

19. A) 'prefer coffee than tea' के बदले **'prefer coffee to tea'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Prefer के साथ सही संरचना है: prefer A to B।

जैसे— I prefer tea to coffee.

'prefer coffee to tea' will be used instead of 'prefer coffee than tea' because the correct idiomatic usage is prefer A to B, not 'than.'

Like— She prefers novels to short stories.

20. B) **Infinitive verb**

"to + V1" = infinitive functioning as a noun (subject of the sentence). यहाँ "to swim" वाक्य का कर्ता है—infinitive (verbal noun).

21. B) **Studying** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'spend years' के साथ 'ing' form का verb आता है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी कार्य को लम्बे समय तक करना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि ब्राह्मण ने कई वर्षों तक प्राचीन पुस्तकों का अध्ययन किया, इसलिए 'studying' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'to study' infinitive form है, 'studied' past tense है, और 'study' base form है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

Studying should be used because it is the gerund form used with 'spend years,' indicating a prolonged activity. The sentence states that the Brahmin spent many years studying the ancient books, making 'studying' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'to study' is the infinitive form, 'studied' is the past tense, and 'study' is the base form, which don't fit in this context.

22. D) **'Who'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'who' का अर्थ होता है जो, और यहाँ पर learned priests के बारे में बताया गया है जो शहर का दौरा करते हैं। 'Who' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह व्यक्तियों के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है, और यहाँ 'who' learned priests के बारे में बता रहा है। जबकि 'Whom' का इस्तेमाल तब होता है जब व्यक्ति object के रूप में हो, 'Which' और 'That' non-human objects या concepts के लिए इस्तेमाल होते हैं।

Who should be used because it refers to 'learned priests' who visit the city. 'Who' is correct here as it is used for individuals, and here it is talking about the priests. Whereas 'Whom' is used when the person is in the object position, and 'Which' and 'That' are used for non-human objects or concepts.

23. D) **Obtained** का use होगा क्योंकि "obtained" का अर्थ होता है कुछ प्राप्त करना, खासकर मेहनत या प्रयास के बाद। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि ब्राह्मण ने कई सालों की मेहनत के बाद एक विशेष मंत्र का ज्ञान प्राप्त किया, इसलिए 'Obtained' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Found' का अर्थ है खोजना, 'Took' का अर्थ है लेना, और 'Used' का अर्थ है इस्तेमाल करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

Obtained should be used because it means to acquire something, especially after an effort. The sentence mentions that the Brahmin gained the knowledge of a certain spell after much effort, making 'Obtained' fitting here. Whereas, 'Found' means to discover, 'Took' means to take, and 'Used' implies utilization, which don't fit in this context.

24. C) **Very** का use होगा क्योंकि "very" का अर्थ होता है बहुत या अत्यधिक, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वह व्यक्ति अपनी प्राप्त ज्ञान के लिए बहुत गर्व महसूस

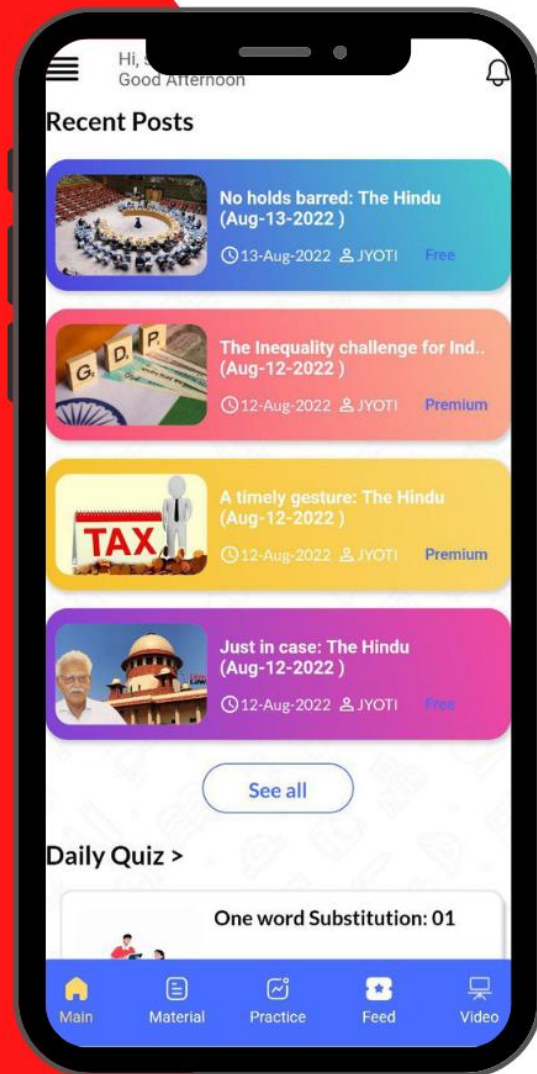
करता है, इसलिए 'very' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'A lot' और 'Much' का अर्थ होता है बहुत सारा, और 'Many' का अर्थ होता है कई, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Very' should be used because it means extremely or highly, which is appropriate here. The sentence mentions that he was very proud of his acquired knowledge, making 'very' the right choice. Whereas, 'A lot' and 'Much' imply a large amount, and 'Many' means several, which don't fit in this context

25. D) **Carefully** का use होगा क्योंकि "carefully" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज को ध्यानपूर्वक और सावधानी से संभालना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि ब्राह्मण अपने ज्ञान को गर्व से संभाल रहा है और अपने रहस्य की रक्षा कर रहा है, इसलिए 'carefully' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Deeply' का अर्थ है गहराई से, 'Excitedly' का अर्थ है उत्साह से, और 'Gradually' का अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे, जो इस context में सही नहीं है

Carefully should be used because it means to handle something with attention and caution.

The sentence mentions that the Brahmin is proudly guarding his knowledge and protecting his secret, making 'carefully' fitting here. Whereas, 'Deeply' means in a deep manner, 'Excitedly' means with excitement, and 'Gradually' means slowly, which don't fit in this context.



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