

Crime patterns: On the National Crime Records Bureau's report for 2023

The 2023 NCRB report shows a **sharp** rise in cybercrime and crimes against tribals

The National Crime Records Bureau's **annual reports** on crime and prison statistics **have** to be read with a strong **caveat** — most of the numbers cannot be compared between States because they are largely dependent upon the registration/reporting of crimes in the first place. However, certain national trends and sharp **year-on-year** changes within States can still reveal meaningful patterns that could demand policy **intervention**. The recent NCRB **report** for 2023 — delayed by a year — **points to** a **worrying** trend of postponed surveys, reports and even the **Census** under the current Union Government. But there are also three **telling** numbers: the 2.8% decrease in murder cases across the country; a **staggering** 28.8% surge in crimes against Scheduled Tribes (ST), and a 31.2% increase in cyber crimes. While **the decrease** in murder cases **will** come as a relief to law **enforcement** — most of the cases **pertain to** disputes, personal **vendetta** or **enmity** and “gain” — the other two numbers are **alarming**. The **steep rise** in crimes against STs **is** largely due to the **ethnic** violence in Manipur, with the registered numbers jumping from just one in 2022 to 3,399 in 2023 — which a more effective government could have **mitigated**. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also recorded significantly high crime rates against tribals suggesting their **vulnerability** in the central Indian States. This is not a new **phenomenon**; previous NCRB reports have **highlighted** higher crime rates in regions with significant tribal populations.

With greater **Internet penetration** across the country, there has been an increase in cybercrime, particularly related to financial fraud and **sexual exploitation**. **Anecdotally**, it is **evident** that these numbers must have gone up even further in the last two years with the greater use of digital financial instruments in daily transactions and investment. While policing has tried to keep up with the growing **menace** of cybercrime, with specialised cells, the **ubiquitousness** and deepening spread of digital crimes require more **sophistication** and dedication by the police to tackle them. **Crimes** against children **rose** by 9.2% in 2023 — with the offender known to the victim in 96% of the cases. While the increase could be a function of improved reporting across States, the high number (1,77,335 cases) suggests that States must work on a **war footing** to **sensitise** children about these crimes and inappropriate behaviour by adults. A **subset** of these crimes **could** also include the **application** of the POCSO Act in the case of **consensual adolescent** relationships and this is an area that needs to be carefully handled by the **prosecuting** and policing agencies. Reported crimes against women registered a **modest** increase of 0.4%, but this **masks** a 14.9% **spike** in dowry-related crimes, **pointing to** a **persistent** societal problem.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sharp** (adjective) – significant, steep, marked, pronounced, considerable तीव्र
2. **Caveat** (noun) – warning, caution, admonition, proviso, condition चेतावनी
3. **Year-on-year** (adjective) – compared to the same period in the previous year. साल दर साल
4. **Intervention** (noun) – action, measure, step, involvement, interference हस्तक्षेप
5. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, signal, evidence, denote इशारा करना
6. **Worrying** (adjective) – concerning, alarming, disturbing, disquieting, troubling चिंताजनक
7. **Census** (noun) – official count, population survey, national count, enumeration जनगणना
8. **Telling** (adjective) – revealing, significant, meaningful, indicative, eloquent संजीदा, गंभीर
9. **Staggering** (adjective) – astonishing, shocking, astounding, overwhelming, breathtaking चौंका देने वाला
10. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, administration, imposition प्रवर्तन
11. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – relate to, concern, be relevant to, apply to, refer to संबंधित होना
12. **Vendetta** (noun) – feud, blood feud, rivalry, conflict, animosity प्रतिशोध
13. **Enmity** (noun) – hostility, animosity, antagonism, hatred, ill-will शत्रुता
14. **Alarming** (adjective) – worrying, disturbing, frightening, distressing, shocking चिंताजनक
15. **Steep** (adjective) – sharp, sudden, rapid, dramatic, abrupt खड़ी (वृद्धि)
16. **Ethnic** (adjective) – relating to a population subgroup with a common national or cultural tradition. जातीय
17. **Mitigate** (verb) – alleviate, reduce, lessen, minimize, moderate कम करना
18. **Vulnerability** (noun) – susceptibility, defenselessness, weakness, exposure असुरक्षा
19. **Phenomenon** (noun) – occurrence, fact, situation, circumstance, trend घटना
20. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, underscore, spotlight, focus on, accentuate ज़ोर देना
21. **Internet penetration** (noun) – the extent of Internet access among the population. इंटरनेट प्रसार

22. **Sexual exploitation** (noun) – the abuse of a position of vulnerability for sexual purposes. यौन शोषण
23. **Anecdotally** (adverb) – based on personal accounts rather than systematic research. उदाहरणों के आधार पर
24. **Evident** (adjective) – obvious, clear, apparent, plain, noticeable स्पष्ट
25. **Menace** (noun) – threat, danger, peril, risk, hazard खतरा
26. **Ubiquitousness** (noun) – the state of being everywhere, omnipresence, pervasiveness सर्वव्यापकता
27. **Sophistication** (noun) – complexity, advancement, intricacy, refinement, expertise परिष्कृति
28. **War footing** (noun) – a state of maximum readiness and effort to deal with a crisis. युद्धस्तर
29. **Sensitise** (verb) – make aware, educate, inform, alert, acquaint जागरूक करना
30. **Subset** (noun) – part, portion, segment, branch, category उपसमूह
31. **Application** (noun) – use, implementation, employment, enforcement लागू करना
32. **Consensual** (adjective) – by mutual consent, agreed, voluntary, willing सहमतिपूर्ण
33. **Adolescent** (noun) – teenager, youth, minor, juvenile किशोर
34. **Prosecuting** (adjective) – related to legal proceedings against someone. अभियोजन
35. **Modest** (adjective) – slight, small, moderate, limited, humble मामूली
36. **Mask** (verb) – hide, conceal, cover, disguise, obscure छिपाना
37. **Spike** (noun) – sharp increase, surge, rise, jump, upswing अचानक वृद्धि
38. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, signal, evidence, denote इशारा करना
39. **Persistent** (adjective) – continuing, constant, enduring, unrelenting, stubborn लगातार

Summary of the Editorial

1. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) released its 2023 report, showing notable trends in various categories of crime.
2. The report's findings must be read cautiously since crime data depend heavily on reporting and registration levels across States.
3. However, national-level trends and sharp intra-State changes still provide valuable insights for policymakers.
4. The delay in the report's release reflects a broader pattern of postponed surveys and the Census under the current Union government.
5. Three key statistics stand out: a 2.8% fall in murders, a 28.8% surge in crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs), and a 31.2% rise in cybercrimes.
6. The decline in murders is reassuring, as most such cases arise from personal disputes, enmity, or gain-related motives.
7. The spike in crimes against STs is alarming, driven largely by ethnic violence in Manipur, which saw cases rise from just 1 in 2022 to 3,399 in 2023.
8. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also recorded high rates of crimes against tribals, showing their ongoing social and economic vulnerability.
9. Historically, NCRB reports have shown that tribal-dominated regions face higher crime rates, underscoring structural neglect.
10. The rapid spread of Internet usage has fuelled a sharp increase in cybercrimes, especially in financial fraud and sexual exploitation.
11. With the surge in digital financial transactions, cybercrime is expected to rise further, demanding greater technological capacity in policing.
12. Crimes against children grew by 9.2%, with offenders known to victims in 96% of cases, pointing to a grave social concern.
13. The high number of 1,77,335 cases calls for urgent awareness programmes to educate children about abuse and inappropriate adult behaviour.
14. Some of these cases also involve consensual adolescent relationships under the POCSO Act, which requires sensitive handling by authorities.
15. Crimes against women rose slightly by 0.4%, but the 14.9% increase in dowry-related crimes exposes a persistent gender-based societal problem that demands stronger action.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. The passage warns that NCRB figures “cannot be compared between States” primarily because they depend on _____ [Editorial page]
 - A. uniform policing strength across States
 - B. common Census denominators used nationwide
 - C. the registration/reporting of crimes in the first place
 - D. State-wise conviction and acquittal rates
2. Which State’s year-on-year change principally drove the sharp rise in crimes against Scheduled Tribes in 2023, and what was the numerical jump reported?
 - A. Madhya Pradesh; from 340 to 3,400
 - B. Rajasthan; from 10 to 1,000
 - C. Manipur; from 1 to 3,399
 - D. Chhattisgarh; from 100 to 1,500
3. Which specific category within crimes against women showed a notable spike despite only a modest overall increase, and by what percentage did it rise?
 - A. Workplace harassment; 31.2%
 - B. Dowry-related crimes; 14.9%
 - C. Domestic violence; 28.8%
 - D. Human trafficking; 9.2%
4. From the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following are true about the NCRB’s 2023 report EXCEPT that—
 - A. The data across States cannot always be compared due to variations in crime reporting and registration.
 - B. The significant increase in crimes against Scheduled Tribes is partly attributed to violence in Manipur.
 - C. The overall decline in murder cases has been interpreted as a positive sign by law enforcement agencies.
 - D. The rise in cybercrime is primarily caused by the negligence of the police and lack of specialised cells.
5. Which one of the following statements best summarizes the author’s position on India’s crime trends in 2023?
 - A. The NCRB data reflects both alarming and encouraging trends that call for nuanced government and police action.
 - B. The NCRB’s report for 2023 indicates significant progress in crime reduction across all major categories.
 - C. The report’s reliability is unquestionable, as it provides a uniform picture of crime trends across States.
 - D. The author believes the delay in the NCRB report is justified due to the complexity of data collection.
6. Choose the option most similar in meaning to the underlined word(s).

Very few of our batsmen have any real consistency.

 - A. constancy
 - B. competence
 - C. permanence

- D. uniformity
7. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Someone who speaks more than one language
A. Heretic
B. Fatalist
C. Polyglot
D. Insolvent
8. **Which one of the following alternatives has the correct spelling?**
A. Stretegy
B. Stretagy
C. Stratagy
D. Strategy
9. **Choose the option most similar in meaning to the underlined word(s).**
The spectators looked at the batsman in amazement when he hit sixer after sixer.
A. shock
B. wonder
C. surprise
D. suspicion
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Walking on eggshells
A. Careful not to offend or upset others
B. Walking with great care
C. Making a noisy entry
D. Undertaking an uncomfortable journey
11. **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) If I would be a millionaire,/ (b) I would not be wasting my time/(c) waiting for a bus./ (d) No error.
A. If I would be a millionaire,
B. I would not be wasting my time
C. waiting for a bus.
D. No error.
12. **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) I am not familiar with/(b) all the important places in this town,/ (c) although I have been living here since two years./ (d) No error.
A. I am not familiar with
B. all the important places in this town,
C. although I have been living here since two years.
D. No error.
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

(P) Well, that was an exhausting day.

(Q) When about to alight at my destination, my legs stumbled and even before the train entered the station, I landed on the ground.

(R) I had left from work early to cling on to my bed. As it was the peak hour, I had no option but to board an overcrowded train.

(S) It was a "pause and play" game for about half an hour as I was switching between regaining consciousness and blanking out.

A. P, R, Q, S

B. Q, P, S, R

C. S, R, Q, P

D. R, P, S, Q

14. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**

The evidence against the accused is conclusive.

A. powerful

B. indecisive

C. exclusive

D. partial

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

Tilt at windmills

A. To be young and inexperienced

B. To celebrate good news

C. To blow hot air

D. To waste time dealing with enemies and problems that do not exist

16. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**

"Dear daughter," she said caressing her cheeks, "have you come to comfort me in my time of need?"

A. Caressing her daughter's cheeks, she asked affectionately if she did come to comfort her in her time of need.

B. Caressing her daughter's cheeks, she said affectionately if she has come to comfort her in her time of need.

C. Caressing her daughter's cheeks, she said affectionately if she had been coming to comfort her in her time of need.

D. Caressing her daughter's cheeks, she asked affectionately if she had come to comfort her in her time of need.

17. **Which one of the following alternatives has the correct spelling?**

A. Continuum

B. Continuem

C. Contuneim

D. Continueiam

18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**

He asked me affectionately what he could do for me.

A. He said to me, "What should be done for you?"

B. He said to me, "What can be done for me?"

C. He said to me, "What can I do for you, dear?"

- D. He said to me, "What could he do?"
19. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**
Because of the failure of the monsoon, there was paucity of foodgrains.
A. overflow
B. inflow
C. plenty
D. glut
20. **Parts of sentences are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph. The first part 'R.' is fixed.**
R. As journalists, we have the privilege and the responsibility of witnessing and writing the first draft of history.
A. Though the passion to keep telling stories keeps us going, big tragedies leave us with scars that sometimes take years to heal.
B. Hearing the two court judgments in these cases over the last few weeks, I immediately remembered the struggles and flickering hope of some of the victims, and the resilience of the accused.
C. We rush in to locations where others desperately try to move away from — the sites of terror attacks, fires, accidents, and other disasters.
D. The Mumbai blasts of 2006 and the Malegaon blasts of 2008 are tragedies that the people of Maharashtra will never forget.
A. CADB
B. ABCD
C. BACD
D. BCAD

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.

The Narmada River, (1)_____ called the Rewa was previously known (2)_____ Nerbudda. It is a river in central India along (3)_____ the Godavari and the Krishna. It is also (4)_____ as the "Life Line of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh" for its huge (5)_____ to these states. The Narmada rises from Amarkantak Plateau near Anuppur district.

21. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 1.**
A. but
B. or
C. also
D. and
22. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 2.**
A. by
B. as
C. so
D. even
23. **Select the most appropriate option for blank No. 3.**
A. to
B. with

- C. by
- D. beside

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

- A. told
- B. said
- C. known
- D. spoken

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

- A. donation
- B. reformation
- C. irrigation
- D. contribution

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) the registration/reporting of crimes in the first place

The very first line stresses that most numbers “are largely dependent upon the registration/reporting of crimes in the first place,” so cross-State comparisons are unreliable.

- Policing strength may vary, but the passage pins comparability on reporting/registration, not manpower.
- Census delays are noted elsewhere (report was delayed; Census postponed), but the caveat is not about denominators.
- Conviction/acquittal rates aren’t cited as the reason State comparisons are invalid.

2. C) Manipur; from 1 to 3,399

The passage states the surge is “largely due to the ethnic violence in Manipur,” where cases rose from just 1 in 2022 to 3,399 in 2023.

- A: Madhya Pradesh has high rates, but no such jump is reported.
- B: Rajasthan is noted for high rates, not this specific increase.
- D: Chhattisgarh isn’t discussed; figures are invented.

3. B) Dowry-related crimes; 14.9%

The passage notes that reported crimes against women rose only 0.4%, but this masks a 14.9% spike in dowry-related crimes, revealing a persistent societal problem.

- A: 31.2% refers to cybercrimes, not workplace harassment.
- C: 28.8% is the surge in crimes against STs, not domestic violence.
- D: 9.2% is the rise in crimes against children, not human trafficking.

4. D) The rise in cybercrime is primarily caused by the negligence of the police and lack of specialised cells.

The passage does not state that police negligence or lack of specialised cells is the primary cause of rising cybercrime. It mentions that although the police have formed specialised cells, cybercrime continues to rise due to the ubiquity and sophistication of digital crimes, not because of negligence.

- A: Correct — The passage explicitly says “numbers cannot be compared between States because they are largely dependent upon the registration/reporting of crimes.”
- B: Correct — It clearly attributes the spike in crimes against STs to “ethnic violence in Manipur.”
- C: Correct — The passage says “the decrease in murder cases will come as a relief to law enforcement.”

5. A) The NCRB data reflects both alarming and encouraging trends that call for nuanced government and police action.

The author acknowledges some improvement (decline in murders) but serious concerns (rise in crimes against STs, cybercrimes, and crimes against children).

The concluding tone stresses policy intervention, sophistication in policing, and government responsibility — indicating a balanced, evaluative stance rather than complete optimism or criticism.

- B: Incorrect — The passage notes serious increases in multiple crime categories; it's not "significant progress" overall.
 - C: Incorrect — The author explicitly warns that "most of the numbers cannot be compared between States."
 - D: Incorrect — The delay is presented negatively, as part of a "worrying trend of postponed surveys and reports."
6. A) **Consistency** (noun) – Steadiness, stability, coherence, dependability, reliability स्थिरता
Synonym: Constancy (noun) – The quality of being faithful, unchanging, dependable, and reliable स्थिरता/अटलता
- **Competence** (noun) – Ability, skill, proficiency, efficiency दक्षता
 - **Permanence** (noun) – Lasting forever, durability, perpetuity स्थायित्व
 - **Uniformity** (noun) – Being the same, homogeneity, sameness समानता
7. C) **Polyglot** (noun) – Someone who speaks more than one language बहुभाषी
- **Heretic** (noun) – a person holding an opinion at odds with what is generally accepted विधर्मी
 - **Fatalist** (noun) – a person who believes that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable भाग्यवादवादी
 - **Insolvent** (noun) – a person unable to pay debts owed दिवालिया
8. D) The correct spelling is '**Strategy**' which means "a plan of action to achieve a goal" — रणनीति/कार्यनीति.
9. B) **Amazement** (noun) – Great wonder, astonishment, awe, admiration, stupefaction. आश्चर्य / विस्मय
Synonym: Wonder (noun) – A feeling of amazement and admiration caused by something beautiful, remarkable, or unfamiliar. विस्मय
- **Shock** (noun) – Sudden upsetting or disturbing experience. आघात / सदमा
 - **Surprise** (noun) – Something unexpected but not always equal to deep amazement. अचम्भा
 - **Suspicion** (noun) – A feeling that something is wrong or someone is guilty. संदेह / शक
10. A) **Walking on eggshells** (idiom) – Careful not to offend or upset others दूसरों को आहत/नाराज़ न करने के लिए बेहद सावधान रहना
11. A) 'If I would be' के बदले '**If I were**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Conditional Sentences (Type-2) में If-Clause में Simple Past Tense (Subjunctive) का प्रयोग किया जाता है, और Main Clause में 'would + base verb' आता है; जैसे— If I were rich, I would help the poor.
- '**If I were**' will be used instead of 'If I would be' because in Conditional Sentences (Type-2) the If-Clause takes Simple Past (Subjunctive) and the Main Clause takes 'would + base verb'; Like— If I were rich, I would help the poor.

12. C) 'since two years' के बदले 'for two years' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि since का प्रयोग किसी definite point of time (जैसे— since 2000, since Monday) के साथ होता है, जबकि for का प्रयोग किसी period of time (जैसे— for two years, for five days) के साथ होता है। यहाँ period दिया गया है (two years), इसलिए 'for two years' सही होगा।

- 'for two years' will be used instead of 'since two years' because since is used with a definite point of time (e.g., since 2000, since Monday), while for is used with a period of time (e.g., for two years, for five days). Here the phrase indicates a duration (two years), so 'for two years' is correct.

13. A) P, R, Q, S

P: Starts with the interjection "Well" and subject "that" (referring to the day), setting the paragraph's tone as a reflective conclusion.

R: Introduces the pronoun "I" (linking to P's context of "exhausting day") and past-perfect verbs ("had left", "had") to explain the background.

Q: Uses temporal clause "When about to alight" (directly linking to R's train journey) and pronoun "I" to describe the incident.

S: Begins with pronoun "It" (referring to Q's fall) and verb "was" to describe the aftermath, completing the sequence logically.

In Hindi:

- P: यह interjection "Well" और subject "that" के साथ शुरू होता है, जो paragraph के tone को एक reflective conclusion के रूप में set करता है।
- R: Pronoun "I", P के context ("exhausting day") से जुड़ता है, और past-perfect verbs ("had left", "had") background explain करते हैं।
- Q: Temporal clause "When about to alight", R की train journey से directly connect होता है, और pronoun "I" incident को describe करता है।
- S: Pronoun "It", Q के fall को refer करता है, और verb "was" aftermath describe करता है, जो sequence को logically complete करता है।
- B (Q, P, S, R): Starts abruptly with the incident (Q), then jumps to conclusion (P) without context.
- C (S, R, Q, P): Begins with aftermath (S) before introducing the incident, confusing the reader.
- D (R, P, S, Q): Places conclusion (P) too early, disrupting the cause-effect flow (S before Q is illogical).

14. B) **Conclusive** (adjective) – decisive, final, undeniable, irrefutable, unquestionable निर्णायक, निश्चयात्मक

Antonym: Indecisive (adjective) – hesitant, uncertain, vacillating, wavering, irresolute अनिर्णायक

- **Powerful** (adjective) – strong, influential, mighty, commanding शक्तिशाली
- **Exclusive** (adjective) – limited, restricted, select, private विशेष/निजी
- **Partial** (adjective) – biased, prejudiced, incomplete, unfair पक्षपाती/अपूर्ण

15. D) **Tilt at windmills** (idiom) – Waste time fighting imaginary/non-existent problems काल्पनिक/निरर्थक शत्रुओं या समस्याओं से लड़कर समय नष्ट करना

16. D) Caressing her daughter's cheeks, she asked affectionately if she had come to comfort her in her time of need

इस प्रश्न में Direct Speech को Indirect Speech में बदलना है। Direct Speech में प्रश्नवाचक वाक्य का प्रयोग किया गया है, जिसमें Past Tense (Past Perfect) का सही use किया जाता है। वाक्य को Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए निम्नलिखित नियमों का पालन किया गया है: Reporting Verb "said" को प्रश्नवाचक वाक्य होने के कारण "asked" में बदला गया है। Comma और inverted commas (""") को "if" से बदला गया है। "Have you come" (Present Perfect) को Indirect Speech में "had come" (Past Perfect) में बदल दिया गया है। संबोधन "Dear daughter" को Reporting Speech में शामिल नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि यह अनौपचारिक है। "Caressing her daughter's cheeks" को Reporting Clause में जस का तस रखा गया है।

- This question involves changing a sentence from Direct Speech to Indirect Speech. In Direct Speech, an interrogative sentence is used, and in Indirect Speech, proper transformation into the Past Perfect tense is required. The rules followed are: The Reporting Verb "said" is changed to "asked" because it is an interrogative sentence. The comma and inverted commas (""") are replaced with "if." "Have you come" (Present Perfect) is changed to "had come" (Past Perfect) in Indirect Speech. The salutation "Dear daughter" is omitted in the Reporting Clause as it is informal. "Caressing her daughter's cheeks" is retained as is in the Reporting Clause.

17. A) The correct spelling is 'Continuum' which means "a continuous sequence or range" — सातत्य/निरंतर क्रम.

18. C) He said to me, "What can I do for you, dear?"

यह वाक्य Indirect Speech में है। इसे Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए निम्नलिखित चरणों का पालन किया जाता है: Indirect वाक्य में "asked me affectionately" को Direct Speech में बदलते समय "said to me, '...' dear" में बदला गया। "what he could do for me" को Direct Speech में बदलते समय, "he" को "I" और "could" को "can" में बदला गया क्योंकि यह अनुरूपता और वाक्य संरचना के अनुसार है। वाक्य में affectionately (स्नेहपूर्वक) का संकेत "dear" से किया गया है।

- This sentence is in Indirect Speech and needs to be transformed into Direct Speech. The steps are as follows: The phrase "asked me affectionately" in Indirect Speech becomes "said to me, '...' dear" in Direct Speech. The clause "what he could do for me" is transformed into "What can I do for you" in Direct Speech. The pronoun "he" changes to "I," and "could" changes to "can" to maintain grammatical correctness and context. The affectionate tone is retained with the use of "dear" in the Direct Speech.

19. B) **Paucity** (noun) – Scarcity, shortage, insufficiency, dearth, lack कमी / अभाव

Antonym: **Plenty** (noun) – A large or sufficient amount, abundance, copiousness, profusion, fullness प्रचुरता / बहुतायत

- **Overflow** (noun) – Excess beyond capacity, spillage, flooding, surplus. अतिप्रवाह
- **Inflow** (noun) – The act of flowing in, influx, entry, arrival. आगमन / आवक

- **Glut** (noun) – An excessive supply or abundance, oversupply, surplus, saturation.
अधिकता / ठसाठस

20. A) CADB

R starts the paragraph by introducing the role of journalists—"we have the privilege and responsibility of witnessing and writing the first draft of history." This sets the context for the challenges journalists face.

C follows R because it logically extends the idea of responsibility by describing what journalists do—"We rush in to locations where others desperately try to move away from..." This connects with "witnessing" from R, showing the action journalists take.

A comes after C as it contrasts the passion for storytelling with the emotional toll of covering tragedies—"Though the passion to keep telling stories keeps us going, big tragedies leave us with scars..." This builds on the idea of journalists entering disaster zones (C) and the personal impact it has.

D introduces specific tragedies—"The Mumbai blasts of 2006 and the Malegaon blasts of 2008..."—which connects to "big tragedies" in A, giving real-life examples of the scars mentioned.

B concludes by reflecting on recent court judgments related to these tragedies—"Hearing the two court judgments in these cases..."—referring back to the Mumbai and Malegaon blasts (D) and showing the lasting impact on victims and accused.

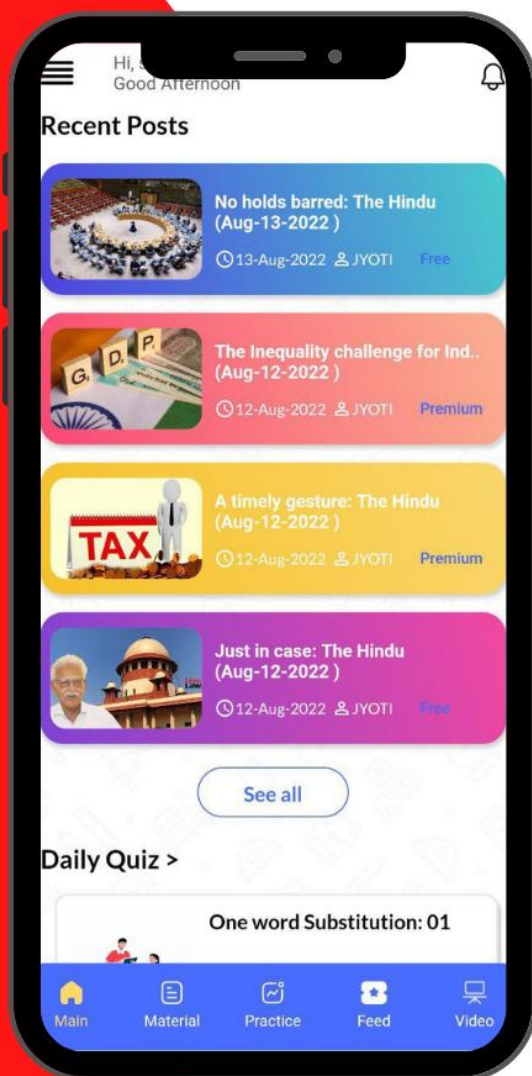
In Hindi:

- R paragraph की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह journalists की भूमिका को introduce करता है—"we have the privilege and responsibility..."
- C, R के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि journalists क्या करते हैं—"We rush in to locations..." यह R के "witnessing" से जुड़ता है।
- A, C के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह passion और emotional scars के बीच contrast देता है—"big tragedies leave us with scars..."
- D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह specific tragedies (Mumbai/Malegaon blasts) को introduce करता है, जो A के "big tragedies" से connect होता है।
- B last में आता है क्योंकि यह court judgments के बारे में बताता है, जो D में mentioned tragedies से related हैं।

21. C) 'also' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बताया गया है कि नर्मदा नदी को रेवा के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। यह शब्द एक अतिरिक्त जानकारी या समानता की जानकारी देता है 'but' का अर्थ होता है लेकिन, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि हम किसी विरोधाभास की बात नहीं कर रहे हैं। 'or' का प्रयोग विकल्पों में से चयन के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'And' का उपयोग दो वस्तुओं या विचारों को जोड़ने के लिए होता है, पर यहाँ कोई जोड़ नहीं है बल्कि एक ही नदी के दो नाम बताए गए हैं।

- 'also' should be used because it indicates that the Narmada River is additionally known as Rewa. This word provides information on an additional or similar name 'but' means 'but', which is not suitable here because we are not discussing a contradiction. 'or' is used for selecting among alternatives, which is not correct in this context. 'And' is used to connect two items or ideas, but here there is no connection but rather two names of the same river are given.

22. B) **as** का use होगा क्योंकि यह विकल्प नर्मदा नदी के एक और नाम 'Nerbudda' के रूप में पहचाने जाने की स्थिति को दर्शाता है। 'as' का प्रयोग जब हम किसी व्यक्ति, जगह या चीज़ को किसी विशेष नाम या उपाधि से जानते हैं, तब किया जाता है। इसलिए, "known as Nerbudda" सही है, जिसका मतलब है कि नर्मदा नदी को पहले 'Nerbudda' के रूप में जाना जाता था।
- '**as**' should be used because it indicates the situation where the Narmada River is recognized by another name, 'Nerbudda'. The use of 'as' applies when we refer to a person, place, or thing by a specific name or title. Therefore, "known as Nerbudda" is correct, implying that the Narmada River was previously recognized as 'Nerbudda'.
23. B) **with** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है 'साथ में' या 'के साथ', जो इंगित करता है कि Narmada River के साथ Godavari और Krishna नदियाँ भी शामिल हैं। Sentence की संरचना से पता चलता है कि यह एक समानता या सूचीबद्धता की बात कर रहा है, इसलिए 'with' यहाँ सही है। 'To', 'by', और 'Beside' इस context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि 'to' का अर्थ होता है 'की ओर', 'by' का अर्थ होता है 'द्वारा', और 'Beside' का अर्थ होता है 'के बगल में', जो यहाँ परिस्थिति के अनुरूप नहीं हैं।
- '**with**' should be used because it means 'together with' or 'including', indicating that along with the Narmada River, the Godavari and Krishna rivers are also included. The sentence structure indicates a comparison or a listing, making 'with' fitting here. 'To', 'by', and 'Beside' are incorrect in this context because 'to' suggests direction towards, 'by' implies a method or means, and 'Beside' means 'next to', which do not suit the situation described.
24. C) **Known** का use होगा क्योंकि 'known' का अर्थ है किसी विशेषता या पहचान के लिए प्रसिद्ध होना। Sentence में यह कहा गया है कि नर्मदा नदी गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश के लिए उसके महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए "Life Line" के रूप में जानी जाती है, इसलिए 'known' यहाँ सही है। 'Told' और 'Spoken' का इस्तेमाल जब किया जाता है जब किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा कुछ कहा गया हो और 'Said' का इस्तेमाल भी बोलने के सन्दर्भ में होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- '**Known**' should be used because it means being famous or recognized for a particular characteristic or identity. The sentence mentions that the Narmada River is also known as the "Life Line of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh" for its significant contribution to these states, making 'known' fitting here. 'Told' and 'Spoken' are used when something is said by someone, and 'Said' is also used in the context of speaking, which don't fit in this context.
25. D) **Contribution** का चयन होगा क्योंकि 'contribution' का अर्थ होता है कुछ में योगदान देना। Narmada River गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश के लिए अपने जल संसाधनों के माध्यम से बहुत महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देती है, जैसे कि सिंचाई, पेयजल, और ऊर्जा उत्पादन। इसलिए, 'contribution' यहाँ सबसे उपयुक्त शब्द है।
- '**Contribution**' should be used because it means to give something as a part of a whole. The Narmada River contributes significantly to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh through its water resources for irrigation, drinking water, and power generation. Hence, 'contribution' is the most appropriate word here.



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