Overcoming resistance: On the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2025–29)

Version 2 of the National Action Plan on **Antimicrobial Resistance requires** fresh **commitment**

The **introduction** of the second **iteration** of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance **is** an **acknowledgement** that, but for some **marginal** gains, implementation of version 1 was, at best, **sluggish**. In a welcome move, the Centre has released a further version of the policy, though the details are not yet available **in the public realm**, to give the nation a booster shot at trying to fix the rather **humongous** AMR problem that the country has had to **contend with**, increasing volumes to **boot**. In October, WHO released its Global antibiotic resistance surveillance report, which recorded that in 2023, approximately one in three bacterial infections in India were **resistant to** commonly-used antibiotics. Globally, it was one in six confirmed infections. It **spelt out** why India was **disproportionately** affected — factors included a high **infectious** disease burden, overuse and misuse of antibiotics and gaps in the surveillance and healthcare infrastructure. E.coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae have **exhibited** high resistance to **critical** antibiotics, making the very last line of drugs ineffective. But human health is not the **sole footprint** AMR **possesses**; there is **scarcely** a field in the food chain where its **cold arms** have not touched — from **veterinary** practices to **contaminating** soil and water health and, **thereby**, agriculture and **aquaculture**. This **ubiquitous spread** of AMR **has spurred** scientists to push the One Health technique — it **integrates** the **prisms** of human health, animal health and environmental health — to handle growing resistance in communities.

The time is, no doubt, **ripe for** India to take AMR seriously and push for an enhanced, **committed** antibiotics **stewardship** programme. While the first National Action Plan **played a key role** in raising the profile of AMR, the actual implementation suffered. It is true that the country expanded its national **surveillance** programme by adding a **solid** laboratory network (thanks, **in part**, to the COVID-19 pandemic), it also **scored** a win with the ban on Colistin as a growth factor in the **animal husbandry** sector. However, the programme **flailed** as it failed to secure **potent** collaborations with States. A few States **drew up** their own policies, but only Kerala implemented it well enough to see a **slight** drop in AMR levels in the community, recently. This policy will have to tackle every **aspect** of AMR's **causative** factors, including the **rampant** overuse and misuse of antibiotics. The One Health approach will have to be **strengthened**, and better **co-ordination** with States ensured. This time around, the policy will have to be **the real deal** and deliver, against resistance. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Overcome** (verb) – conquer, defeat, master, surmount, prevail over काबू पाना

2. **Antimicrobial resistance** (noun) – the ability of microbes to resist the effects of drugs. रोगाणुरोधी प्रतिरोध

3. **Commitment** (noun) – dedication, devotion, pledge, promise, obligation प्रतिबद्धता

4. **Iteration** (noun) – version, edition, round, stage, phase पुनरावृत्ति

5. **Acknowledgement** (noun) – admission, acceptance, recognition, concession स्वीकृति

6. **Marginal** (adjective) – slight, small, minimal, negligible, limited मामूली

7. **Sluggish** (adjective) – slow, lethargic, inactive, stagnant, slack सुस्त

8. **In the public realm** (phrase) – in the public domain; publicly available. सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में

9. **Humongous** (adjective) – enormous, huge, massive, gigantic, immense विशाल

10. **Contend** (with) (verb) – deal with, face, grapple with, tackle, cope with सामना करना

11. **Boot** (noun) – in addition, as well, also, furthermore इसके अलावा

12. **Resistant** (to) (adjective) – immune, impervious, unaffected, unsusceptible प्रतिरोधी

13. **Spell out** (phrasal verb) – explain clearly, specify, detail, elucidate, clarify स्पष्ट करना

14. **Disproportionately** (adverb) – unevenly, excessively, unreasonably, out of proportion असमान रूप से

15. **Infectious** (adjective) – contagious, communicable, transmissible, spreading संक्रामक

16. **Exhibit** (verb) – show, display, demonstrate, reveal, manifest प्रदर्शित करना

17. **Critical** (adjective) – crucial, vital, essential, key, decisive महत्वपूर्ण

18. **Sole** (adjective) – only, single, one, exclusive, solitary एकमात्र

19. **Footprint** (noun) – presence, impact, influence, effect, mark प्रभाव

20. **Possess** (verb) – have, own, hold, bear, contain धारण करना

21. **Scarcely** (adverb) – hardly, barely, only just, almost not मुश्किल से

22. **Cold arms** (phrase) – far-reaching influence; pervasive effect. दूरगामी प्रभाव

23. **Veterinary** (adjective) – relating to the medical care of animals. पशु चिकित्सा

24. **Contaminate** (verb) – pollute, taint, infect, dirty, poison दूषित करना

25. **Thereby** (adverb) – as a result, consequently, thus, therefore, hence जिससे

26. **Aquaculture** (noun) – fish farming, aquafarming, mariculture जल कृषि

27. **Ubiquitous** (adjective) – omnipresent, ever-present, widespread, everywhere सर्वव्यापी

28. **Spur** (verb) – encourage, stimulate, prompt, urge, motivate प्रेरित करना

29. **Integrate** (verb) – combine, unify, merge, incorporate, blend एकीकृत करना

30. **Prism** (noun) – perspective, viewpoint, lens, framework, angle नज़रिया

31. **Ripe** (for) (adjective) – ready, suitable, opportune, timely, prepared तैयार

32. **Committed** (adjective) – dedicated, devoted, steadfast, resolute, earnest वचनबद्ध

33. **Stewardship** (noun) – management, administration, supervision, control, care संरक्षण

34. **Play a role** (phrase) – contribute, be involved, have a part, participate. भूमिका निभाना

35. **Surveillance** (noun) – monitoring, observation, watch, scrutiny, supervision निगरानी

36. **Solid** (adjective) – strong, robust, reliable, well-established, sturdy मजबूत

37. **In part** (phrase) – partly, partially, to some extent, somewhat. आंशिक रूप से

38. **Score** (verb) – achieve, gain, attain, secure, accomplish हासिल करना

39. **Animal husbandry** (noun) – livestock farming, animal rearing, stockbreeding पशुपालन

40. **Flail** (verb) – struggle, falter, fail, underperform, be ineffective असफल होना

41. **Potent** (adjective) – strong, powerful, effective, forceful, vigorous प्रभावशाली

42. **Draw up** (phrasal verb) – prepare, formulate, draft, devise, compose तैयार करना

43. **Slight** (adjective) – small, minor, modest, tiny, insignificant मामूली

44. **Aspect** (noun) – feature, facet, element, part, component पहलू

45. **Causative** (adjective) – causing, responsible, leading to, contributing कारणात्मक

46. **Rampant** (adjective) – uncontrolled, widespread, pervasive, ubiquitous, rife अनियंत्रित

47. **Strengthen** (verb) – fortify, reinforce, bolster, enhance, build up मजबूत करना

48. **Co-ordination** (noun) – collaboration, cooperation, teamwork, synergy, liaison समन्वय

49. **The real deal** (phrase) – something genuine and effective; not a false promise. असली चीज़

Summary of the Editorial

1. India has released Version 2 of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR 2025–29), acknowledging that the first version was poorly implemented.

2. Version 1 achieved only marginal progress, prompting the need for a stronger renewed commitment.

3. Details of the new plan are not yet public, but it aims to give the country a fresh push against rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

4. WHO's 2023 Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report shows India faces one in three antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

5. Globally, the rate is one in six, highlighting India's disproportionately high burden.

6. Major reasons include high infectious disease load, overuse/misuse of antibiotics, and weak healthcare and surveillance systems.

7. Critical bacteria such as E.coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae show high resistance, weakening even last-line antibiotics.

8. AMR impacts not just human health but also animal health, soil, water, agriculture, and aquaculture, making it a multi-sectoral threat.

9. This widespread impact has strengthened calls for the One Health approach, integrating human–animal–environment health perspectives.

10. India urgently needs a strong antibiotic stewardship programme to control misuse and promote responsible usage.

11. The first NAP helped raise awareness but struggled in actual on-ground implementation.

12. India did expand its surveillance capacity by adding new laboratory networks, partly due to COVID-19 infrastructure.

13. A notable success of NAP-1 was the ban on Colistin as a growth promoter in livestock.

14. However, the plan failed to build effective State-level partnerships; only Kerala implemented a strong AMR policy that showed measurable improvement.

15. The new NAP must address all causative factors, ensure strong State coordination, reinforce One Health, and deliver meaningful, measurable results against AMR.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is the primary reason for introducing a second National Action Plan on AMR?** **[Editorial Page]**
   A. The first plan was a complete failure and increased AMR levels nationwide.
   B. The World Health Organization mandated an update after its 2023 report.
   C. The implementation of the first plan was slow and achieved only marginal gains.
   D. New scientific evidence on the "One Health" technique required a policy revision.

2. **The World Health Organization's 2023 report highlighted which of the following critical findings about India?**
   A. India's AMR levels are lower than the global average due to its robust surveillance.
   B. Approximately one in three bacterial infections in India were resistant to common antibiotics.
   C. India successfully implemented a ban on all antibiotics in animal husbandry.
   D. The "One Health" technique was first pioneered and proven effective in India.

3. **The passage suggests that the first National Action Plan faced implementation challenges primarily due to:**
   A. A lack of scientific understanding of the AMR problem.
   B. Inadequate funding from the central government.
   C. A failure to secure effective collaborations with States.
   D. Strong opposition from the pharmaceutical and agricultural industries.

4. **According to the passage, which of the following is cited as a positive outcome of India's initial efforts to combat AMR?**
   A. A ban on the use of Colistin as a growth factor in animal husbandry.
   B. A significant nationwide drop in AMR levels due to the first action plan.
   C. The successful implementation of the One Health technique across all states.
   D. The complete eradication of antibiotic misuse in human medicine.

5. **The "One Health" technique, as described in the passage, is an approach that integrates which of the following fields?**
   A. Human health, animal health, and environmental health.
   B. Medical research, pharmaceutical development, and public policy.
   C. Urban planning, sanitation, and infectious disease control.
   D. Veterinary practices, agriculture, and aquaculture.

6. **Select the correct use of the phrase "rule of thumb."**
   A. As a rule of thumb, stir the solution until the device overheats.
   B. As a rule of thumb, he memorized every page verbatim.
   C. As a rule of thumb, you should save a portion of your income.
   D. As a rule of thumb, they counted stars to navigate GPS.

7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
   A. The government is also revising the definitions of gig and migrant workers to make them more inclusive and reflective of current employment realities
   B. offering benefits such as health insurance and retirement savings
   C. The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is drafting a national law to incorporate gig workers into social security schemes,

D. which would provide health insurance and other benefits

E. The government is expected to require aggregators to contribute 1%-2% of their revenue to establish a social security fund,

A. DECAB

B. ADBEC

C. EDBCA

D. CBEDA

8. **Choose the correct ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION for:**

"A group of people belonging to the same category or generation."

A. Reservoir

B. Epilogue

C. Cohort

D. Catalyst

9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the phrase "Double-edged sword."**

A. A tool used for precise cutting

B. A strategy based on deception

C. A decision made in ignorance

D. Something that has both benefits and harms

10. **Identify the correctly spelled word.**

A. Impichment

B. Impechmant

C. Impeachment

D. Empichment

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Filibuster."**

A. Acceleration

B. Reverence

C. Manuscript

D. Dictum

12. **Select the correct meaning of the phrase "Give some quarter."**

A. To delay a journey

B. To divide something into equal parts

C. To show mercy or concession

D. To predict an outcome

13. **Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:**

The company has launched a new smartphone model in 2018 / which received positive reviews / for its innovative design / and user-friendly interface.

A. The company has launched a new smartphone model in 2018

B. which received positive reviews

C. for its innovative design

D. and user-friendly interface

14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Echelon."**

A. Pinnacle

B. Hierarchy

C. Abyss

D. Cataclysm

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

The money or other means needed for a particular purpose.

A. Wherewithal

B. Threshold

C. Observatory

D. Euphemism

16. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**

India is a **mosiac** of many cultures and religions.

A. mosayic

B. mosic

C. mosaic

D. mozaic

17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Leverage."**

A. Squander

B. Chronicle

C. Mediate

D. Embolden

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.**

P. Despite the absence of any reference to a formal mutual defence declaration, it was obvious that the "four maritime democracies" had a single objective, viz., to checkmate China.

Q. In September this year, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United States to attend yet another meeting of the Quad nations (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.).

R. This turned out to be possibly the most significant meeting of the Quad to date, during which the quartet seemed to firm up what may be viewed as a security alliance.

S. The 'Wilmington Declaration' did not mention any country, least of all China by name, but left nothing to the imagination that it was aimed at the containment of China across the entire Indo-Pacific.

A. QRSP

B. QPRS

C. RPSQ

D. RQPS

19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Massacre."**

A. Celebration

B. Carnage

C. Assembly

D. Congregation

20. **Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:**

The pilot handled the emergency landing situation very skillful / ensuring that all passengers remained calm / and that the aircraft touched down safely / despite adverse weather conditions.

A. The pilot handled the emergency landing situation very skillful

B. ensuring that all passengers remained calm

C. and that the aircraft touched down safely

D. despite adverse weather conditions

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Recently, the Union government _____(1)_____in Parliament the provision of 30 days of leave under the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, that could be utilised for the care of elderly family members. Highlighting this provision in response to a written question in the Rajya Sabha assumes importance as the elderly population — defined as individuals above the age of 60 — is _____(2)_____increasing. It is projected that in India, by 2050, one in five individuals will be over the age of 60. This demographic shift towards elderly population calls _____(3)_____urgent, sustained attention and action to protect their rights and well-being. Between 2011 and 2050, India's elderly population is projected to rise from 104 million to 347 million. Three important demographic changes are _____(4)_____this shift in age structures: falling fertility rates, declining mortality, and an increasing life expectancy. In this context, a report titled "Ageing in India: challenges and opportunities" prepared by the Sankala Foundation, a research organisation based in Delhi, provides crucial _____(5)_____into the status of the elderly in India while highlighting the emerging challenges and offering key recommendations for the future.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

A. reiterate

B. reiterated

C. reiterating

D. reiterates

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

A. steadily

B. perfunctorily

C. incessantly

D. brusquely

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

A. at

B. with

C. from

D. for

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

A. lead

B. leading to

C. led to

D. leads

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

A. oversights

B. foresight

C. hindsight

D. insights

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) **The implementation of the first plan was slow and achieved only marginal gains.**
   - The passage explicitly states that the introduction of the second iteration is an acknowledgment that the implementation of the first version was "at best, sluggish" and resulted in only "marginal gains." While the WHO report and the One Health concept are mentioned as important context, they are not cited as the primary reason for the new plan, which is directly linked to the inadequate execution of the first one. Option A is incorrect because the passage notes some wins, like the expanded lab network and the Colistin ban.

2. B) **Approximately one in three bacterial infections in India were resistant to common antibiotics.**
   - The passage directly quotes the WHO report, stating that "in 2023, approximately one in three bacterial infections in India were resistant to commonly-used antibiotics." Option A is false, as the global rate was one in six, making India's rate disproportionately higher. Option C is incorrect because the ban was specific to Colistin as a growth promoter, not all antibiotics. Option D is not supported by the passage.

3. C) **A failure to secure effective collaborations with States.**
   - The text clearly identifies the failure to secure "potent collaborations with States" as a key reason the programme "flailed." It contrasts this with Kerala, which implemented its own policy effectively and saw positive results. The passage does not cite a lack of funding, scientific understanding, or industrial opposition as the primary hurdles for the first plan's implementation.

4. A) **A ban on the use of Colistin as a growth factor in animal husbandry.**
   - The passage explicitly lists the "ban on Colistin as a growth factor in the animal husbandry sector" as one of the wins or positive outcomes from the period of the first National Action Plan. Option B is incorrect because only Kerala saw a slight drop, not the entire nation. Option C is false, as the passage calls for the One Health approach to be strengthened, implying it is not yet fully realized. Option D is not claimed in the text.

5. A) **Human health, animal health, and environmental health.**
   - The passage provides a direct definition in parentheses, stating that One Health "integrates the prisms of human health, animal health and environmental health." While options B, C, and D mention related areas (like veterinary practices and aquaculture are mentioned elsewhere in the passage as being affected by AMR), they do not represent the core, integrated prisms of the officially defined "One Health" technique.

6. C) **Rule of thumb** – A general guideline based on experience. सामान्य अनुमानित नियम

7. D) **CBEDA**
   C context सेट करता है कि सरकार एक नया कानून बना रही है, जिसमें gig workers को social security schemes में शामिल किया जाएगा। यह paragraph का foundation है।

B में बताया गया है कि यह कानून gig workers को health insurance और retirement benefits जैसे फायदे देगा, जो कि C में बताई गई social security schemes को explain करता है।

E में यह बताया गया है कि कंपनियां (aggregators) अपने revenue का एक हिस्सा social security fund में डालेंगी। यह sentence B में बताए गए benefits को finance करने का तरीका बताता है।

D का "which" शब्द directly E में दी गई funding strategy और B में दिए गए benefits की बात को refer कर रहा है।

A broader policy initiative की बात करता है, जो gig और migrant workers की definitions को update करने की है, जिससे C में बताए गए कानून को और comprehensive बनाया जा सके।

Explanation in English:

- C: sets the context of the paragraph, explaining that the government is working on a law to bring gig workers into the social security system.
- B directly follows C because it specifies the benefits that gig workers will receive under the law mentioned in C. Both sentences are in the present continuous tense, maintaining the same timeline.
- E logically follows B because it explains how the benefits mentioned in B will be financed. The "revenue contribution" by aggregators is connected to the "benefits" offered in B.
- D builds on E by giving more details about what the social security schemes will offer, such as health insurance and other benefits. The use of "which" in D refers to the benefits mentioned in E and B.
- A wraps up the paragraph by shifting focus to the government's efforts to revise the definitions of gig and migrant workers.

8. C) **Cohort** (noun) – Group, segment, band, generation, contingent. समूह
   - **Epilogue** – Ending section. उपसंहार
   - **Reservoir** – Storage space. जलाशय
   - **Catalyst** – Agent of change. उत्प्रेरक

9. D) **Something that has both benefits and harms**
   - **Double-edged sword** – Something with both positive and negative consequences. दोधारी तलवार

10. C) **Impeachment**

    Correct spelling: Impeachment – accusation/charge against a public official. महाभियोग

11. A) **Filibuster** (noun) – Obstruction; delaying legislative action. अवरोध / टालमटोल

    Antonym: **Acceleration** (noun) – Speeding up; quickening. तेजी / शीघ्रता

    - **Reverence** – Deep respect. सम्मान
    - **Manuscript** – Written document. पांडुलिपि
    - **Dictum** – Formal statement. कथन

12. C) **Give some quarter** – To show mercy, compassion, or compromise. रियायत देना

13. A) **has launched… in 2018'** गलत है क्योंकि Present Perfect Tense (has/have + V3) का प्रयोग past time adverbs (in 2018, yesterday, last year) के साथ नहीं होता। इसके स्थान पर Past Indefinite (V2) का प्रयोग होना चाहिए।

    ✔ The company launched a new smartphone model in 2018.

"Has launched… in 2018" is incorrect because the Present Perfect Tense is not used with adverbs of past time (like in 2018, yesterday, last year). We use the Past Indefinite Tense instead.

✔ The company launched a new smartphone model in 2018.

14. B) **Echelon** (noun) – A level or rank in an organization, profession, or society. स्तर / श्रेणी

Synonym: **Hierarchy** (noun) – A system in which people or groups are ranked according to status or authority. पदानुक्रम / श्रेणीबद्ध व्यवस्था

- **Pinnacle** (noun) – The highest point of development or achievement. शिखर / सर्वोच्च बिंदु
- **Abyss** (noun) – A deep or seemingly bottomless chasm. अथाह खाई
- **Cataclysm** (noun) – A sudden violent event causing great change or destruction. विनाशकारी घटना

15. A) **Wherewithal** (noun) – The money or other means needed for a particular purpose. साधन
- **Threshold** (noun) – the level of strength, intensity, or the like required to produce a response or result; the point or level at which something begins or changes. दहलीज
- **Observatory** (noun) – a building or place given over to or equipped for observation of natural phenomena, especially the stars, weather, etc. वेधशाला
- **Euphemism** (noun) – a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing मृदुभाषित

16. C) The correct spelling of 'mosiac' is '**mosaic**' which means "a mixture or blend of different things" — मिश्रण, विविधता.

17. A) **Squander**

Leverage (verb) – Utilize, employ effectively. उपयोग करना

Antonym: **Squander** – Waste something recklessly; fail to use. बर्बाद करना
- **Chronicle** – Record events. विवरण लिखना
- **Mediate** – Intervene to resolve. मध्यस्थता करना
- **Embolden** – Encourage. साहस बढ़ाना

18. A) **QRSP**

Q: यह sentence context सेट करता है और Quad nations (Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S.) की meeting का जिक्र करता है

R: R में "This" directly connects back to the Quad meeting mentioned in Q, और यह बताता है कि यह meeting क्यों महत्वपूर्ण थी।

S: S में Wilmington Declaration की बात की गई है, जो R में बताई गई महत्वपूर्ण meeting का नतीजा था। यहां Declaration में China का नाम न लेकर भी उसका इशारा दिया गया है।

P: P इस बात को summarise करता है कि Quad की असल योजना China को checkmate करना थी। P का "Despite the absence of any reference" सीधे S के content से जुड़ता है, जहां कहा गया था कि China का नाम नहीं लिया गया।

Explanation in English:

- Q: Q starts the paragraph by introducing the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States for a Quad meeting in September.
- R: R elaborates on Q by adding details about the significance of the Quad meeting. The subject remains consistent (the Quad meeting), and "This" connects back to the meeting mentioned in Q.
- S: S explains the outcome of the meeting, introducing the Wilmington Declaration that was issued at the end of the meeting. The Declaration not naming China, but implying it, ties into R's mention of security alliances.
- P: The phrase "Despite the absence of any reference" refers back to S, where the Declaration didn't explicitly mention China.

19. B) **Massacre** (noun) – Slaughter, mass murder, carnage, butchery, holocaust. नरसंहार / जनसंहार

   Synonym: **Carnage** (noun) – The killing of a large number of people; slaughter. वध / रक्तपात

   - **Celebration** (noun) – The action of marking a special event. उत्सव
   - **Assembly** (noun) – A group gathered together for a purpose. सभा
   - **Congregation** (noun) – A gathering of people for religious worship. समारोह / जमाव

20. A) **very skillful'** गलत है क्योंकि यहां verb handled को modify करने के लिए adverb चाहिए, न कि adjective। सही रूप very skillfully होगा।
   ✔ She drove very carefully. (✘ very careful)
   "Very skillful" is wrong because here the verb handled needs to be modified by an adverb, not an adjective. The correct form is very skillfully.
   ✔ She drove very carefully. (✘ very careful)

21. B) **Reiterated'** का use होगा क्योंकि "Recently" के साथ simple past का प्रयोग स्वाभाविक है, और 'reiterate' का अर्थ किसी बात/प्रावधान को दोबारा कहना या पुष्ट करना है; वाक्य में सरकार ने संसद में 30-दिन अवकाश प्रावधान को फिर से दोहराया है, इसलिए 'reiterated' सही है। जबकि 'reiterate' (base form) बिना सहायक क्रिया के मुख्य क्रिया नहीं बन सकता, 'reiterating' (V-ing) को सहायक/उपवाक्य चाहिए, और 'reiterates' simple present है जो 'Recently' जैसे past-time संकेतक से मेल नहीं खाता।
   - **'Reiterated'** will be used because "Recently" cues the simple past, and 'reiterate' means to state/affirm again; the sentence reports the government repeated this provision in Parliament, so 'reiterated' fits. Whereas, 'reiterate' (base) needs an auxiliary/to, 'reiterating' (V-ing) requires an auxiliary or subordinate role, and 'reiterates' is simple present (habitual/general), clashing with the past-time marker "Recently."

22. A) **'Steadily'** का use होगा क्योंकि "is ___ increasing" में जनसंख्या बढ़ने की गति को क्रमिक, निरंतर और अनुमानित रूप से दर्शाना है। "steadily increasing" एक मानक कोलोकेशन है जो डेमोग्राफ़िक ट्रेंड के लिए उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'perfunctorily' (औपचारिक/ऊपरी तौर पर) किसी कार्य-व्यवहार की गुणवत्ता बताएगा, 'incessantly' (लगातार बिना रुके) नकारात्मक/अस्वाभाविक=

⊐आंस देता है, और 'brusquely' (रुखाई/अकड़ से) बोलचाल के लहजे के लिए आता है—ये सब 'increasing' के साथ अर्थगत रूप से मेल नहीं खाते।

- **'Steadily'** will be used because it naturally collocates with "increasing" to show a gradual, consistent trend ("steadily increasing"), which fits demographic growth. 'Perfunctorily' describes doing something superficially (wrong semantic domain), 'incessantly' implies an unceasing/annoying pace (stylistically off for formal demographics), and 'brusquely' modifies tone/manner of speech, not numerical trends, so they are incorrect here.

23. D) '**For'** का use होगा क्योंकि "call for" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की माँग करना/आवश्यक होना। वाक्य में "calls ___ urgent, sustained attention and action" से अधिकारों की रक्षा हेतु तात्कालिक व निरंतर ध्यान/कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता बताई गई है, इसलिए 'for' सही है। जबकि 'at' सामान्यतः स्थान/समय के साथ आता है, 'with' साधन/संगति या तरीके को दिखाता है, और 'from' स्रोत/उत्पत्ति बताता है—ये सब यहाँ के verb–preposition collocation में फिट नहीं होते। व्याकरण की दृष्टि से मानक संरचना "call for + noun phrase" होती है।

- **'For'** will be used because "call for" means to demand or require something. The sentence signals a need for "urgent, sustained attention and action," so 'for' fits. Whereas 'at' is used for time/place, 'with' for accompaniment/manner, and 'from' for source/origin—none match the required verb–preposition collocation here. Grammatically, the correct pattern is "call for + noun phrase."
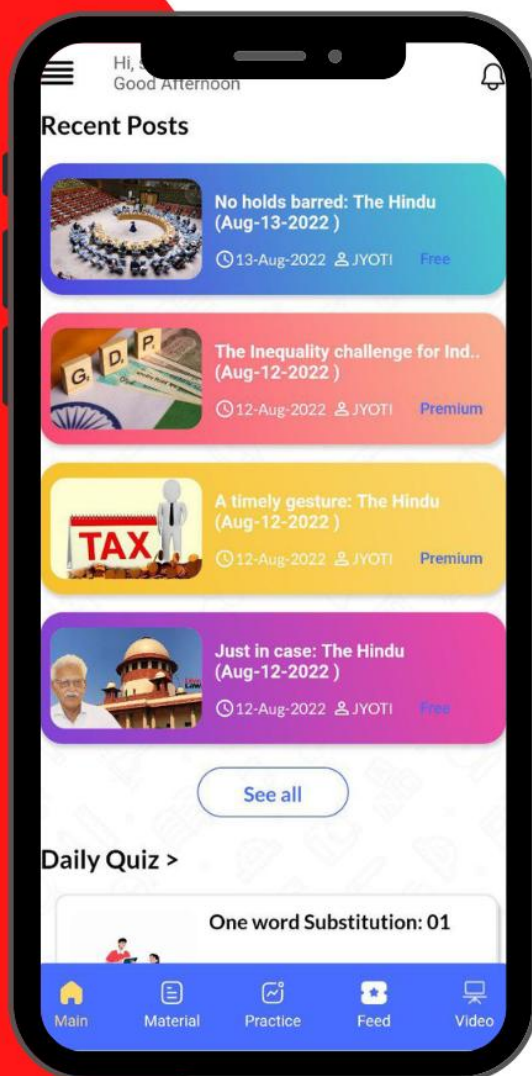
24. B) **'leading to'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ संरचना "are + V-ing" चल रहे/निरंतर कारण-परिणाम संबंध को दिखाती है: "Three important demographic changes are leading to this shift…". जबकि 'lead' base form है—इस फ्रेम में सही वाक्य "changes lead to …" होता, 'are lead' गलत है; 'led to' past form है—यहाँ "have led to/led to" चाहिए, 'are led to' अर्थ/व्याकरण दोनों से गलत है; और 'leads' singular verb है, plural subject "changes" के साथ subject-verb mismatch पैदा करता है।

- **'leading to'** will be used because "are + V-ing" fits an ongoing causal idea: "Three important demographic changes are leading to this shift…". Whereas 'lead' is the base form (the frame would be "changes lead to …", not "are lead"), 'led to' is past (would need "have led to/led to," not "are …"), and 'leads' is singular, clashing with the plural subject "changes."

25. D) '**Insights'** का use होगा क्योंकि "insights" का अर्थ होता है गहरी समझ या विश्लेषण से प्राप्त निष्कर्ष। वाक्य में रिपोर्ट "provides crucial ___ into the status of the elderly" कह रही है—यहाँ "provides crucial insights into" एक स्वाभाविक कोलोकेशन है और बहुवचन संज्ञा "insights" क्रिया "provides" के साथ अर्थपूर्ण बैठती है। जबकि 'oversights' का अर्थ चूक/लापरवाही से हुई गलती है, 'foresight' दूरदर्शिता (आम तौर पर अगणनीय; "status into" के साथ अप्राकृतिक), और 'hindsight' बाद में समझ आना (पश्चदृष्टि) है—ये इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- **'Insights'** will be used because it means deep understanding/findings. The sentence needs a noun that collocates with "provides crucial ___ into," and "provides crucial insights into the status…" is idiomatic and grammatically sound (plural count noun

matching the sense of multiple findings). In contrast, 'oversights' means mistakes due to carelessness, 'foresight' (usually uncountable) refers to predicting the future and sounds unnatural with "into the status," and 'hindsight' is understanding after events—none fit the report's analytical context.