

Shrill reactions: India's cricketing ties with its subcontinental neighbours

India's cricket is being **held hostage** to political **compulsions**

Caught in a crossfire, India's cricketing ties with its **subcontinental** neighbours are **in a free fall**. If **border tensions** with Pakistan and the **scourge** of terrorism affected sporting links across the Wagah, **turbulence** within Bangladesh and extreme reactions to it within India, **have turned out to be** another **stumbling block**. The **ghastly lynching** of members of the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh **drew** rightful **condemnation** across the Indian **landscape**, and yet the reflexive sporting **churn** should have been avoided. In a social media age **wherein** violence and insults **tend to get amplified**, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) responded **prematurely** in forcing Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release its Bangladeshi left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman. **That** the Indian Premier League (IPL) **is** only **commencing** on March 26 and much water would have flowed down by then in the Ganges and the Padma, was lost on the officials. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was quick in its **rejoinder**. A **security threat** to its **squad** **was propped up** as an excuse and a missive was sent to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to relocate Bangladesh's games in the **forthcoming** ICC T20 World Cup, away from host India. Bangladesh also **proposed** a ban on the **telecast** of the IPL in the country.

With the T20 World Cup launching on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, a last minute **scrambling** for venues will be difficult. Incidentally, Pakistan's games are slotted in Sri Lanka and even its big contest against India will be **staged** at Colombo on February 15. With Bangladesh **set to** play four preliminary league games in India, a **reallocation** will affect hosting logistics. This is a **conundrum** that could have been avoided had the BCCI waited for the **hostile tide to turn**. The **ties** that **bind** India and Bangladesh, a nation **birthed** through the **assistance** of the former in 1971, now **stand frayed**. Diplomacy is a complex **interplay** of adjustment and **pragmatism**. The **deposed** former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina **sought refuge** and was granted one in Delhi, while the Indian government also **paid its last respects** to her arch-rival and former Prime Minister, the late Khaleda Zia. The ICC chairman, Jay Shah, has an **unenviable** task of maintaining **neutrality** while **dealing with** the present crisis. The shrill **reactions** on either side of the border **need** to be **tempered**; sport should not be **handcuffed** by political compulsions.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Shrill** (adjective) – piercing, high-pitched, screeching, strident, sharp तीखा/कर्कश
2. **Hold hostage** (phrase) – to control or influence someone or something by using threats or pressure बंधक बनाना या दबाव में रखना
3. **Compulsion** (noun) – obligation, pressure, constraint, coercion, necessity मजबूरी/बाध्यता
4. **Catch in the crossfire** (phrase) – trapped between two opposing parties or conflicting interests दो पक्षों की लड़ाई के बीच फंसना
5. **Subcontinental** (adjective) – relating to a large landmass that forms part of a continent उपमहाद्वीपीय
6. **In a free fall** (phrase) – declining or deteriorating rapidly and uncontrollably तेजी से गिरावट आना
7. **Scourge** (noun) – affliction, menace, bane, curse, plague अभिशाप/कष्ट
8. **Turbulence** (noun) – instability, upheaval, unrest, commotion, turmoil अशांति/उथल–पुथल
9. **Turn out to be** (idiom) – to prove to be or to be discovered to be in the end साबित होना
10. **Stumbling block** (noun) – obstacle, hurdle, impediment, barrier, snag बाधा/रोड़ा
11. **Ghastly lynching** (noun) – the horrific or gruesome killing of a person by a mob without legal trial भयानक भीड़ द्वारा हत्या
12. **Draw** (verb) – attract, elicit, provoke, induce, evoke आकर्षित करना/खोंचना
13. **Condemnation** (noun) – censure, criticism, denunciation, reproof, vituperation निंदा
14. **Landscape** (noun) – scenario, situation, perspective, context, terrain परिदृश्य
15. **Churn** (noun) – agitation, disturbance, upheaval, instability, turbulence मंथन/उथल–पुथल
16. **Wherein** (adverb) – in which, where, in what, during which, in which place जिसमें
17. **Tend to** (phrasal verb) – to be likely to behave in a particular way or have a certain characteristic की प्रवृत्ति होना
18. **Amplify** (verb) – magnify, intensify, augment, escalate, boost बढ़ाना
19. **Prematurely** (adverb) – untimely, early, precipitately, hastily, ahead of time समय से पहले/असमय
20. **Commence** (verb) – start, begin, initiate, launch, inaugurate शुरू करना

21. **Rejoinder** (noun) – retort, reply, response, counter, comeback उत्तर/जवाब

22. **Squad** (noun) – team, group, unit, contingent, crew दस्ता/दल

23. **Prop up** (phrasal verb) – to support something that would otherwise fail or to use something as an excuse सहारा देना या बहाना बनाना

24. **Forthcoming** (adjective) – upcoming, imminent, approaching, impending, future आगामी

25. **Propose** (verb) – suggest, submit, offer, recommend, tender प्रस्ताव रखना

26. **Telecast** (noun) – broadcast, transmission, screening, airing, program प्रसारण

27. **Scramble** (verb) – struggle, muddle, hustle, rush, strive कठिन संघर्ष/हाथापाई करना

28. **Stage** (verb) – organize, conduct, perform, exhibit, present आयोजित करना

29. **Set to** (phrasal verb) – ready to or about to start doing something शुरू करने के लिए तैयार

30. **Reallocation** (noun) – redistribution, reassignment, rearrangement, relocation, reallocation पुनरावंटन

31. **Conundrum** (noun) – enigma, puzzle, riddle, predicament, quandary पहेली/समस्या

32. **Hostile** (adjective) – antagonistic, aggressive, bellicose, unfriendly, malevolent शत्रुतापूर्ण

33. **The tide turns** (phrase) – a change in a situation, typically from one state to its opposite वक्त या स्थिति का बदलना

34. **Bind** (verb) – unite, connect, join, link, attach जोड़ना/बाध्य करना

35. **Birth** (verb) – originate, create, produce, generate, bear जन्म देना/उत्पन्न करना

36. **Assistance** (noun) – aid, support, help, succour, cooperation सहायता

37. **Frayed** (adjective) – strained, tattered, worn, stressed, ragged तनावपूर्ण/घिसा हुआ

38. **Interplay** (noun) – interaction, exchange, reciprocity, correlation, teamwork परस्पर क्रिया

39. **Pragmatism** (noun) – practicality, realism, expediency, common sense, matter-of-factness यथार्थवाद/व्यावहारिकता

40. **Deposed** (adjective) – ousted, overthrown, unseated, dethroned, displaced अपदस्थ

41. **Seek** (verb) – search, request, pursue, solicit, ask माँगना/खोजना

42. **Refuge** (noun) – asylum, sanctuary, shelter, retreat, haven शरण/आश्रय

43. **Pay one's last respects** (phrase) – to show honor or respect to a person who has died,

often by attending their funeral अंतिम

श्रद्धांजलि देना

44. **Arch-rival** (noun) – chief opponent, main adversary, prime enemy, nemesis, competitor मुख्य प्रतिद्वंद्वी

45. **Unenviable** (adjective) – difficult, unpleasant, undesirable, awkward, disagreeable अवांछनीय/कठिन

46. **Neutrality** (noun) – impartiality, objectivity, detachment, fairness, disinterest निष्पक्षता

47. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – taking action to solve a problem or handling a situation निपटना/संबोधित करना

48. **Temper** (verb) – moderate, mitigate, soften, modulate, alleviate नरम करना/शांत करना

49. **Handcuff** (verb) – restrain, shackle, fetter, hamper, restrict बेड़ियाँ डालना/बाधित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's cricket relations with neighbouring countries are worsening due to political pressures.
2. Border tensions with Pakistan and terrorism had already strained sporting contacts.
3. Fresh turmoil in Bangladesh added another layer of complication to sports diplomacy.
4. The lynching of minority Hindus in Bangladesh was widely condemned in India.
5. The response in cricketing circles was swift and reactionary, rather than measured.
6. The BCCI compelled Kolkata Knight Riders to release Bangladesh bowler Mustafizur Rahman.
7. This decision was premature, considering the IPL begins only on March 26.
8. The Bangladesh Cricket Board retaliated with its own countermeasures.
9. It cited a security threat and asked the ICC to shift Bangladesh's T20 World Cup matches out of India.
10. Bangladesh also proposed banning IPL telecast within its borders.
11. Reshuffling venues at this stage would create logistical chaos for the T20 World Cup.
12. Pakistan's fixtures are already scheduled in Sri Lanka, including its match against India.
13. India-Bangladesh relations, rooted in 1971 history and mutual assistance, now appear strained.
14. The ICC Chairman faces the difficult task of remaining neutral amid geopolitical sensitivities.
15. The editorial calls for restraint, arguing that sport should not be dictated by political compulsions.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**

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 - A. Political tensions harming cricket ties
 - B. Financial issues hurting cricket events
 - C. Declining popularity of cricket matches
 - D. Cricket victories boosting nationalism
2. **From the passage, what can be logically inferred about the BCCI's action toward Mustafizur Rahman?**
 - A. It was taken in haste without wider strategic thought
 - B. It was demanded publicly by multiple cricket boards
 - C. It was based on verified long-term security reports
 - D. It was coordinated jointly with international bodies
3. **The phrase that best completes the line:**
 "The crisis involving India and Bangladesh shows that sporting decisions require diplomatic _____."
 - A. restraint to balance competing interests
 - B. aggression to dominate external rivals
 - C. isolation to minimize regional contact
 - D. rigidity to enforce uncompromising rules
4. **According to the passage, why would reallocating Bangladesh's T20 World Cup matches be difficult?**
 - A. Because India refused to negotiate broadcasting
 - B. Because Sri Lanka controls international scheduling
 - C. Because ICC has already cancelled multiple fixtures
 - D. Because venues require complex hosting logistics
5. **In the sentence "Bangladesh Cricket Board was quick in its rejoinder," what part of speech is the word "quick"?**
 - A. It functions as a time adverb
 - B. Adjective
 - C. Noun
 - D. Linking adverb
6. **Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage.**
 1. The first step is to recognize unhealthy patterns.
 2. Breaking bad habits requires discipline and self-awareness.
 3. Seeking support from friends or professionals can be helpful.
 4. Consistency in applying new behaviors is key to lasting change.
 - A. 2-1-3-4
 - B. 2-4-1-3
 - C. 3-4-2-1
 - D. 2-3-1-4
7. **Select the appropriate word form:**
 The policy's lack of clarity led to widespread _____.
 - A. confuse
 - B. confusing

C. confusion
D. confused

8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:**
Opprobrium
A. Disgrace
B. Contempt
C. Honor
D. Censure

9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Keeps a good table
A. Serves generous and high-quality meals
B. Maintains a disciplined home
C. Follows religious rules strictly
D. Provides food to the poor regularly

10. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for:**
'One who lives entirely for pleasure'.
A. Hermit
B. Reveler
C. Glutton
D. Epicure

11. **Select the correct option:**
She arrived at the interview ten minutes early, ___ showed professionalism.
A. what
B. which
C. that
D. this

12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
COMPLAISANT
A. Insecure
B. Anxious
C. Alert
D. submissive

13. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
No sooner had the proposal been circulated (1)/ that objections were raised (2)/ regarding its feasibility and financial implications (3)/ across all departments. (4)
A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)

14. **Change the following from active to passive:**
They feed the animals twice a day.
A. The animals are fed twice a day.
B. The animals were fed twice a day.
C. The animals are being fed twice a day.

D. The animals have been fed twice a day.

15. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
 He is **having a car** for five years
 A. has
 B. had
 C. has had
 D. is having

16. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
 The cleric wore a silk **amice** over his alb during the liturgy.
 A. The altar server retrieved the amice from the vestry.
 B. The novelist described her protagonist's scarf as an amice.
 C. The bishop adjusted the amice before the blessing.
 D. The amice was embroidered with gold thread.

17. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
 The CEO demanded that the report is submitted (1)/ to the board (2)/ not later than Wednesday afternoon (3)/ for immediate evaluation. (4)/
 A. (1)
 B. (2)
 C. (3)
 D. (4)

18. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
 The sword of Damocles
 A. A pleasant illusion
 B. A constant threat hanging over someone
 C. A royal invitation
 D. A wise judgment

19. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
 He worked very hard **lest he may fail**.
 A. in order that he does not fail
 B. for not failing
 C. lest he should fail
 D. so that he did not fail

20. **Which is the correct spelling of a word meaning 'clever or skillful'?**
 A. Adept
 B. Adapt
 C. Addept
 D. Adeptt

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.

In the ever-evolving world of healthcare, timely and accurate diagnosis is the first and most crucial step in ____ (1) ____ serious diseases. Over the past few years, India has ____ (2) ____ a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases like heart ailments, cancer, stroke, and liver and kidney disorders. In this scenario, the role of modern diagnostic technologies has shifted

from being merely supportive to ____ (3) ____ critical. At a time when technology is transforming every aspect of medical care, institutions like City X-Ray & Scan Clinic are ____ (4)____ the forefront of this transformation. Our guiding belief is that every individual, regardless ____ (5)____ economic background, deserves access to timely, accurate, and reliable diagnostic services.

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

- A. combat
- B. combating
- C. combatted
- D. combats

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

- A. repudiated
- B. dilapidated
- C. jaded
- D. witnessed

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

- A. partially
- B. absolutely
- C. desperately
- D. acutely

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

- A. for
- B. at
- C. with
- D. on

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

- A. to
- B. upon
- C. for
- D. of

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Political tensions harming cricket ties

The passage consistently shows how political unrest, diplomatic tensions, and reactionary policies between India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan undermine cricket tournaments and bilateral engagements.

B) Finances are not discussed as a reason.
 C) Popularity is never mentioned.
 D) No victories or nationalism boosts are described.

2. A) It was taken in haste without wider strategic thought

The passage states the BCCI “responded prematurely”, implying the decision lacked adequate wait-and-watch strategy, hence taken in haste.

B: No mention of demand from “multiple cricket boards”.
 C: No evidence of “verified long-term security reports”.
 D: No indication of joint coordination with “international bodies”.

3. A) restraint to balance competing interests

The passage emphasizes adjustment, pragmatism, neutrality and tempering reactions — all aligned with restraint to balance competing interests, making it the suitable contextual filler.

B: “aggression” contradicts the passage’s stress on calming tensions.
 C: “isolation” opposes the idea that cross-border sporting ties should continue.
 D: “rigidity” conflicts with diplomacy being a “complex interplay of adjustment”.

4. D) Because venues require complex hosting logistics

The passage states that moving matches would be difficult because Bangladesh is scheduled to play four preliminary league games in India, and “a reallocation will affect hosting logistics”, making venue changes difficult.

B incorrect: Sri Lanka is mentioned only as co-host; no control over all scheduling.
 C incorrect: No cancellations are stated; fixtures remain intact.
 A incorrect: Broadcast negotiations are mentioned only as a proposal, not a barrier to venue changes.

5. B) In the sentence “Bangladesh Cricket Board was quick in its rejoinder,” the word quick is functioning as an adjective, not an adverb.

The verb here is “was” (a linking verb). After a linking verb, we typically place an adjective to describe the noun (subject).

Here, quick describes Bangladesh Cricket Board, so it is an adjective.
 the adverb form:

✗ “Bangladesh Cricket Board was quickly in its rejoinder” → incorrect
 ✓ “Bangladesh Cricket Board replied quickly” → here quickly is an adverb modifying replied

6. A) 2-1-3-4

Breaking bad habits requires discipline and self-awareness. The first step is to recognize unhealthy patterns. Seeking support from friends or professionals can be helpful. Consistency in applying new behaviors is key to lasting change.

sentence 2 comes first as it broadly states that breaking bad habits requires discipline and self-awareness. After introducing the idea, sentence 1 logically follows by explaining the first concrete step in this process, which is recognizing unhealthy patterns. Once awareness is established, sentence 3 fits next, as seeking support from friends or professionals can help individuals overcome these habits more effectively. Finally, sentence 4 concludes the passage by emphasizing that consistency in applying new behaviors is essential for achieving lasting change. Therefore, the correct order is 2-1-3-4.

- Sentence 2 पहले आता है, जो बताता है कि बुरी आदतों को तोड़ने के लिए अनुशासन और आत्म-जागरूकता आवश्यक होती है। इसके बाद sentence 1 आता है, क्योंकि यह इस प्रक्रिया का पहला कदम बताता है—अस्वस्थ आदतों की पहचान करना। जब व्यक्ति अपनी आदतों को समझ लेता है, तब sentence 3 उपयुक्त होता है, जिसमें मित्रों या विशेषज्ञों से सहायता लेने की बात कही गई है। अंत में sentence 4 निष्कर्ष के रूप में आता है, जो यह स्पष्ट करता है कि नए व्यवहारों को लगातार अपनाना ही स्थायी परिवर्तन की कुंजी है। इसलिए सही क्रम 2-1-3-4 है।

7. C) 'Confusion' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ वाक्य में "The policy's lack of clarity" (नीति की अस्पष्टता) के कारण उत्पन्न परिणाम या अवस्था की बात की जा रही है। "Confusion" (noun) उस स्थिति को दर्शाता है जिसमें लोग उलझन या असमंजस में होते हैं।

- 'Confusion' should be used because the sentence refers to the result or state caused by "the policy's lack of clarity." The word "confusion" (noun) appropriately expresses the condition of being puzzled or uncertain. Hence, "confusion" is the most suitable option.

8. C) **Opprobrium** (noun) – Disgrace, shame, dishonor, ignominy, humiliation अपमान, बदनामी

Antonym: **Honour** (noun) – High respect, esteem, admiration, recognition, dignity सम्मान, आदर

- **Disgrace** (noun) – Loss of reputation or respect as a result of a dishonorable action. अपमान
- **Contempt** (noun) – The feeling that someone or something is worthless or beneath consideration. घृणा
- **Censure** (noun) – Strong disapproval or formal criticism. निंदा

9. A) **Keeps a good table** (idiom) – Serves generous and high-quality meals शानदार और उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाले भोजन परोसना

10. D) **Epicure** (noun) – One who lives entirely for pleasure सुखवादि व्यक्ति

- **Hermit** (noun) – a person living in solitude as a religious discipline संन्यासी, एकांतवासी
- **Reveler** (noun) – a person who enjoys lively and noisy festivities मौज करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Glutton** (noun) – a person who eats and drinks excessively पेटू, बहुत खाने वाला व्यक्ति

11. B) 'Which' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक relative pronoun है जो पूरे पहले clause "She arrived at the interview ten minutes early" को refer करता है और उसके परिणामस्वरूप professionalism दिखाने की बात बताता है।

- 'Which' should be used because it is a relative pronoun referring to the entire preceding clause "She arrived at the interview ten minutes early" and shows the resulting idea of displaying professionalism. इसलिए, सही उत्तर "which" है।

12. D) **Complacent** (adjective) – Willing to please others or to agree with their wishes; polite, obliging, courteous, accommodating, agreeable. विनम्र / सहमत होने वाला

Synonym: **Submissive** (adjective) – Ready to conform to the authority or will of others; meekly obedient or passive. आज्ञाकारी / विनीत

- **Insecure** (adjective) – Uncertain, anxious, lacking confidence. असुरक्षित / आत्मविश्वासहीन
- **Anxious** (adjective) – Worried, concerned, uneasy, nervous. चिंतित
- **Alert** (adjective) – Watchful, attentive, vigilant, observant. सतर्क

13. B) 'that' के बदले 'than' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'No sooner' के साथ हमेशा 'than' का प्रयोग किया जाता है, न कि 'that' का। जैसे— No sooner had he reached the station than the train left.

- 'than' will be used instead of 'that' because 'No sooner' is always followed by 'than', not 'that'. Like— No sooner had he reached the station than the train left.

14. A) **The animals are fed twice a day**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "They" Subject है, "feed" Verb (Simple Present) है और "the animals" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The animals" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "are fed" (Simple Present Passive) में बदला गया है और "by them" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "They" (Subject), "feed" (Verb in Simple Present), and "the animals" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The animals" (Subject), "are fed" (Passive Verb in Simple Present), and "by them".

15. C) 'is having' के बदले 'has had' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "for five years" समयावधि दर्शा रहा है, जो Present Perfect Tense की पहचान है। अतः "has had" सही रूप है।

- 'has had' will be used instead of 'is having' because the phrase "for five years" indicates a time duration, which requires the Present Perfect Tense. Hence, "has had" is the correct form.

16. B). **The novelist described her protagonist's scarf as an amice.**

वाक्य में 'amice' शब्द का अर्थ है — एक धार्मिक परिधान, जिसे पुरोहित या पादरी अपने वस्त्र (alb) के नीचे कंधों पर पहनते हैं (a liturgical linen cloth worn around the neck and shoulders by priests)। अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'amice' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन भिन्न अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प B में 'amice' का प्रयोग सामान्य स्कार्फ या गले के कपड़े (a decorative scarf or wrap) के अर्थ में हुआ है, जो धार्मिक वस्त्र नहीं है।

दोनों का उच्चारण समान है, पर अर्थ अलग — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, amice refers to a liturgical linen cloth worn around the shoulders by clergy during Mass.
- In option B, amice is used to mean a scarf or garment worn around the neck, in a non-religious or literary sense.
- Both words are spelled and pronounced the same, but their meanings differ, making them homonyms.

17. A) 'is submitted' के बदले 'be submitted' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'demanded that' के बाद Subjunctive Mood का प्रयोग किया जाता है, जिसमें Verb का base form (V1) प्रयोग होता है, न कि Present Tense का। जैसे— The teacher insisted that he study harder.

- 'be submitted' will be used instead of 'is submitted' because after 'demanded that', the Subjunctive Mood is used, where the base form of the verb (V1) is applied, not the Present Tense. Like— The teacher insisted that he study harder.

18. B) **The sword of Damocles** (idiom) – A constant threat hanging over someone लगातार मंडराता हुआ खतरा

19. C) 'may fail' के बदले 'should fail' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lest' के साथ हमेशा 'should' का प्रयोग किया जाता है, न कि 'may' या किसी और modal verb का; जैसे— He ran fast lest he should miss the train.

- 'should fail' will be used instead of 'may fail' because 'lest' is always followed by 'should' and never by 'may' or any other modal verb; Like— He ran fast lest he should miss the train.

20. A) The correct spelling of 'Adept' is 'Adept' which means "clever or skillful" निपुण, कुशल

21. B) **'Combating'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है "the first and most crucial step in _____ serious diseases!" यहाँ "step in" के बाद action बताना है जो लगातार हो रहा है, इसलिए gerund form 'combating' सही है। जबकि 'combat' (base form) grammatical structure के साथ fit नहीं बैठता, 'combatted' past tense है जो सही नहीं, और 'combats' third person singular form है जो यहाँ सही sense नहीं देता।

- 'Combating' will be used because the sentence says "the first and most crucial step in _____ serious diseases," and after "step in" a gerund is required to indicate the ongoing action of fighting diseases. Whereas 'combat' (base form) does not fit grammatically, 'combatted' is past tense, and 'combats' (third person singular) does not suit the sentence structure.

22. D) **Witnessed**' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है "India has _____ a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases..."। यहाँ 'has witnessed' का अर्थ है कि India ने देखा/अनुभव किया एक तेज़ वृद्धि। इसलिए यह grammatical और context दोनों के हिसाब से सही है। जबकि 'Repudiated' (अस्वीकार किया) अर्थ में गलत है, 'Dilapidated' (खराब/जर्जर) गलत है और 'Jaded' (थक चुके/उब चुके) भी संदर्भ के अनुसार असंगत है।

- 'Witnessed' will be used because the sentence says "India has _____ a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases," indicating that India has observed or experienced this increase. Whereas 'Repudiated' (rejected) is semantically incorrect, 'Dilapidated' (run-down) is irrelevant, and 'Jaded' (weary) does not fit the context.

23. B) **'Absolutely'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है "role of modern diagnostic technologies has shifted from being merely supportive to _____ critical!" यहाँ emphasis यह दिखाना है कि diagnostic technologies का role अब पूर्णतः/बिलकुल महत्वपूर्ण हो गया है। इसलिए 'absolutely' सही है। जबकि 'Partially' (आंशिक रूप से) अर्थ के अनुसार उल्टा है, 'Desperately' (बेहद जरूरत से) context में गलत है, और 'Acutely' (तीव्रता से) सही grammatical fit नहीं बैठता।

- 'Absolutely' will be used because the sentence says "role of modern diagnostic technologies has shifted from being merely supportive to _____ critical," emphasizing that their role has become completely essential. Whereas 'Partially' (partly) conveys

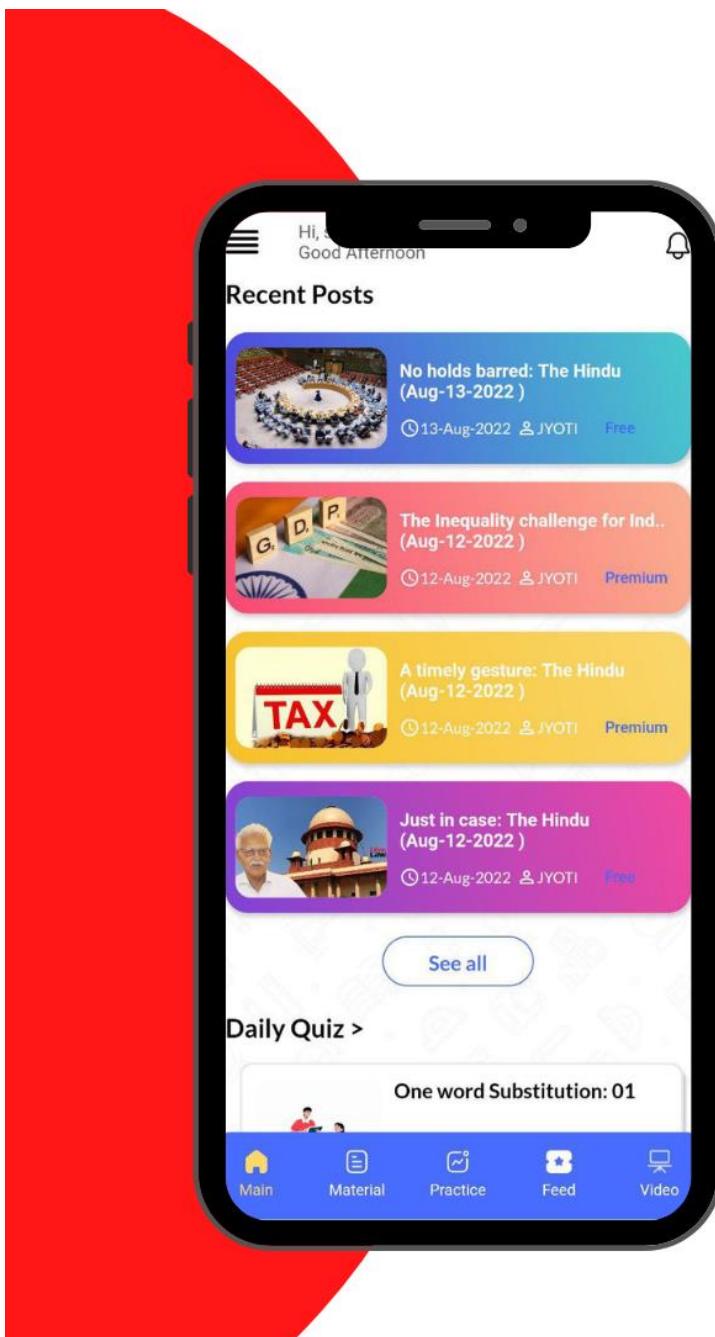
the opposite meaning, 'Desperately' (urgently) is contextually incorrect, and 'Acutely' (sharply) does not fit grammatically here.

24. B) **at'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है “institutions like City X-Ray & Scan Clinic are _____ the forefront of this transformation!” English में phrase “at the forefront” का मतलब होता है किसी क्षेत्र या प्रक्रिया में अग्रणी/प्रमुख स्थान पर होना। इसलिए 'at' सही है। जबकि 'for' (के लिए) गलत है, 'with' (के साथ) अर्थ बदल देता है, और 'on' (पर) यहाँ idiomatic expression में fit नहीं बैठता।

- 'At' will be used because the sentence says “institutions like City X-Ray & Scan Clinic are _____ the forefront of this transformation,” and the idiomatic expression “at the forefront” means to be a leader or prominent in a field. Whereas 'for' (for), 'with' (with), and 'on' (on) do not fit this idiomatic usage and would change the meaning.

25. D) **Of'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है “regardless _____ economic background,” और English में expression “regardless of” का अर्थ होता है “के बावजूद/चाहे कोई भी हो”। इसलिए 'of' सही है। जबकि 'to' (को) grammatical रूप से गलत है, 'upon' (पर) अर्थ बदल देता है और idiomatic expression में फिट नहीं है, और 'for' (के लिए) भी यहाँ सही नहीं है।

- 'Of' will be used because the sentence says “regardless _____ economic background,” and the idiomatic expression “regardless of” means despite or without considering. Whereas 'to' is grammatically incorrect, 'upon' changes the meaning, and 'for' does not fit this context.



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