

Language of harmony: On the Malayalam Language Bill

The **rights** of linguistic minorities must **be** protected in every State

The **Malayalam Language Bill**, 2025, which **seeks** to promote the language and **passed** by the Kerala Assembly, **is** being opposed by leaders in Karnataka. The **concern** that minority languages in the State, particularly Tamil and Kannada, would be **adversely** affected **is** **misplaced** and **arises** out of misunderstanding of the provisions. The Bill **proposes** the adoption of Malayalam as the first language for schoolchildren and measures to promote the language in various sectors, from the judiciary to IT. The Bill **states** that Tamil and Kannada linguistic **minorities** in notified areas may **correspond** with the State Secretariat, Heads of Departments, and local State offices in their respective languages, and replies shall be issued in those languages; and that students whose mother tongue is not Malayalam may **pursue** education in other available languages in State schools, **in accordance with** the National Education Curriculum. Additionally, **students** from other States or foreign countries studying in Kerala whose mother tongue is not Malayalam **are exempt** from writing Malayalam examinations at the classes IX, X, and higher secondary levels.

An earlier **version** of the Bill, passed in 2015, **was languishing** for the Centre's clearance for 10 years. After the Centre returned the Bill **following** a Supreme Court of India decision that Bills cannot be indefinitely delayed, the State passed the current version. The **Centre**, **ostensibly**, **has** a policy of promoting all Indian languages, as do several States. As long as such measures are **undertaken alongside** those for the protection of the rights of linguistic minorities, no other State or the Centre should have any **objection**. Most States, including Kerala and Karnataka, have multiple linguistic communities. The linguistic division of States was only an approximation, and language borders have **weakened** due to **migration**. **Language policies** at the national and regional levels must **account for** these realities rather than pursuing a blind cultural **agenda** of Hindi or any single language promotion. To be clear, all these languages must have their rightful places in administration and the public **sphere**. To achieve that objective without allowing **hostilities** between communities is a challenge of nation-building. **Mechanisms** such as the Inter-State Council, which has been **dormant**, must **be** invested with more authority, and wider, **good-faith** conversations across linguistic groups promoted.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Linguistic** (adjective) – lingual, grammatical, rhetorical, dialectal, philological भाषाई
2. **Seek** (verb) – endeavour, strive, attempt, aspire, desire प्रयास करना
3. **Pass** (verb) – approve, enact, sanction, authorize, ratify पारित करना
4. **Adversely** (adverb) – unfavourably, negatively, poorly, detrimentally, hostilely प्रतिकूल रूप से
5. **Misplaced** (adjective) – misguided, unwise, ill-advised, inappropriate, mistaken गलत
6. **Propose** (verb) – suggest, submit, tender, advance, recommend प्रस्ताव देना
7. **State** (verb) – declare, assert, announce, affirm, articulate कहना
8. **Pursue** (verb) – follow, conduct, practice, engage in, prosecute जारी रखना/अनुसरण करना
9. **In accordance with** (phrase) – in a way that agrees with or follows a particular rule, law, or wish के अनुसार
10. **Exempt** (verb) – excuse, release, relieve, spare, absolve छोट देना
11. **Languish** (verb) – stagnate, deteriorate, wither, fade, suffer शिथिल होना
12. **Follow** (verb) – succeed, ensue, result, develop, supervene के बाद आना/अनुसरण करना
13. **Ostensibly** (adverb) – apparently, seemingly, allegedly, superficially, purportedly प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
14. **Undertake** (verb) – shoulder, assume, execute, perform, engage in आरंभ करना
15. **Alongside** (preposition) – beside, together with, along with, next to, coupled with के साथ-साथ
16. **Objection** (noun) – protest, challenge, complaint, opposition, dissent आपत्ति
17. **Weaken** (verb) – undermine, enervate, dilute, impair, sap कमज़ोर करना
18. **Migration** (noun) – relocation, movement, displacement, exodus, resettlement प्रवास
19. **Account for** (phrasal verb) – to explain the reason for something or to take something into consideration कारण बताना/हिसाब देना
20. **Agenda** (noun) – motive, plan, program, scheme, schedule कार्यसूची
21. **Sphere** (noun) – domain, field, area, realm, department क्षेत्र/दायरा
22. **Hostility** (noun) – enmity, animosity, bitterness, rancour, antagonism शत्रुत/विरोध

23. **Mechanism** (noun) – procedure, process, system, method, apparatus तंत्र

25. **Good-faith** (adjective) – sincere, honest, genuine, authentic, bonafide नेकनीयत

24. **Dormant** (adjective) – inactive, latent, passive, inert, quiescent निष्क्रिय

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 was passed by the Kerala Assembly to promote Malayalam as the official language of Kerala.
2. Leaders in Karnataka have opposed the Bill, fearing it may harm linguistic minorities like Tamil and Kannada speakers.
3. The editorial says these fears are misplaced and based on misunderstanding of the Bill's provisions.
4. The Bill aims to adopt Malayalam as the official language for all State government work, in line with the Constitution of India.
5. Its broader goal is the overall growth, enrichment, and wider use of the Malayalam language.
6. The Bill proposes Malayalam as the first language for schoolchildren in Kerala.
7. It also promotes Malayalam in many sectors such as education, judiciary, administration, and information technology.
8. Importantly, the Bill protects the rights of Tamil and Kannada linguistic minorities in notified areas.
9. These minorities can communicate with government offices in their own languages and receive replies in the same languages.
10. Students whose mother tongue is not Malayalam can continue their education in other available languages in State schools.
11. Students from other States or foreign countries are exempted from Malayalam exams in Classes IX, X, and higher secondary levels.
12. An earlier version of the Bill passed in 2015 was delayed for 10 years by the Centre.
13. The Bill was cleared after the Supreme Court of India ruled that Bills cannot be kept pending indefinitely.
14. The editorial stresses that language promotion must always go hand in hand with protecting linguistic minorities.
15. To avoid linguistic conflicts, stronger dialogue through bodies like the Inter-State Council and sincere cooperation among language groups are essential for nation-building.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which inference can be reasonably drawn about the Malayalam Language Bill based on the passage?
 A. It aims to replace all linguistic minorities' rights in Kerala.
 B. Its provisions attempt to promote Malayalam while safeguarding minority languages.
 C. It was passed mainly to counter linguistic policies of Karnataka.
 D. It forces all non-Malayalam students to learn Malayalam compulsorily.
2. Which inference reflects the author's view about language demarcation in India?
 A. Linguistic borders are rigid and must be protected more strictly.
 B. Migration has made linguistic identities more mixed across states.
 C. States should use language policy to promote cultural uniformity.
 D. Only national-level language bodies should regulate linguistic rights.
3. What can be inferred about the delay of the earlier version of the Bill?
 A. The Centre delayed it indefinitely until judicial intervention forced action.
 B. Kerala withdrew the Bill voluntarily due to criticism from linguistic minorities.
 C. The Bill was rejected twice by the Supreme Court.
 D. The Centre amended the Bill before it was resubmitted.
4. What can be inferred about the objections raised by Karnataka leaders regarding the Bill?
 A. The objections stem from a misunderstanding rather than an actual threat to linguistic minorities.
 B. The objections are based on official reports showing Tamil and Kannada will lose language rights.
 C. The objections arise because Karnataka intends to pass a similar Bill.
 D. The objections are supported by the Centre's explicit opposition to the Bill.
5. Which inference about India's language policy challenges is most consistent with the passage?
 A. The complexity of multilingual communities makes uniform language policies difficult to implement.
 B. A national uniform language is already widely accepted and requires only minor adjustments.
 C. Most Indian States have single-language identities that rarely overlap.
 D. Language issues can be resolved only through court interventions.
6. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word. Transitory
 A. Fleeting
 B. Eternal
 C. Momentary
 D. Temporary
7. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: GRUMPY
 A. Irritable
 B. Friendly
 C. Polite
 D. Calm
8. Choose the correct meaning of idiom: Eat crow
 A. Enjoy luxurious food

- B. Give lavish charity
- C. Suffer physical punishment
- D. Admit one's error and endure humiliation

9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom: To draw the long bow**

- A. To romanticize historical events
- B. To fabricate or exaggerate with little credibility
- C. To delay justice deliberately
- D. To conflate myth with realism

10. **Which spelling is correct for a word meaning 'a formal agreement between nations'?**

- A. Treaty
- B. Trety
- C. Treety
- D. Tretye

11. **Find the word that is spelled correctly and refers to complex and obscure knowledge.**

- A. Esoterica
- B. Esoterrica
- C. Esotirica
- D. Esotorica

12. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A record of one's own life written by oneself'.**

- A. Biography
- B. Memorandum
- C. Memoir
- D. Autobiography

13. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
 The philosopher's **tenure** at the institution was legendary.

- A. He lost tenure due to academic misconduct.
- B. The lease agreement defines tenure by clause.
- C. The sculptor captured the tenure of pain in marble.
- D. Colonial tenure laws were challenged by activists.

14. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
 Despite overwhelming evidence, he remained _____ in his beliefs.

- A. obstinatte
- B. obstinate
- C. obstenate
- D. obbstinate

15. **Select the correct option:**
 _____ the enormity of the challenge, the volunteers pressed on resolutely.

- A. Given
- B. For
- C. Because
- D. Granted

16. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error**

It is the uncertainty of how the council intends to proceed (1)/ that seem to have created (2)/ the most unrest among those (3)/ waiting for regulatory clearance. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

17. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

The protest, though peaceful in nature, (1)/ were portrayed by official channels (2)/ as instigated by external forces (3)/ and ideologically driven groups. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

18. Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:

The evidence was presumed to have been fabricated before being presented in court.

- A. It is presumed that someone had fabricated the evidence before presenting it in court.
- B. The court presumed the evidence to be fabricated.
- C. The evidence had been fabricated, the court presumed.
- D. Fabrication of evidence was presumed to occur.

19. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:

She is good **in** dancing.

- A. at dance
- B. with dancing
- C. at dancing
- D. on dancing

20. A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.

The mentor noted that the fellow had persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified.

- A. The mentor said, "The fellow persevered even after your hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."
- B. The mentor said, "The fellow persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."
- C. The mentor said, "The fellow preserve though hypotheses are falsified."
- D. The mentor remarked, "The fellow had persevered though his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."

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.

Over the last few months, migrant workers from West Bengal have been _____ (1) _____ in large numbers _____ (2) _____ India and asked to provide proof of their citizenship. From Odisha and Chhattisgarh in the east, to Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west, and to Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan in the north, thousands of migrant workers have been detained by

security agencies, sometimes in hundreds, and for days. _____ (3) _____ of them have been pushed into Bangladesh. These _____ (4) _____ have not only caused physical and emotional trauma to the migrant workers, _____ (5) _____ disrupted their work cycles, forcing many of them to return to West Bengal.

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

- A. detains
- B. detain
- C. detained
- D. detaining

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

- A. through
- B. across
- C. onto
- D. within

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

- A. A few
- B. few
- C. the few
- D. many

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

- A. detentions
- B. acquittals
- C. emancipation
- D. absolution

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

- A. than that
- B. So that
- C. but
- D. but also

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B. Its provisions attempt to promote Malayalam while safeguarding minority languages.
 The passage states that Malayalam will be promoted in official and educational domains, while also ensuring Tamil and Kannada minorities can correspond in their languages and students can study in non-Malayalam languages. Hence, promotion + safeguards is the correct inference.
2. A. The Centre delayed it indefinitely until judicial intervention forced action.
 The passage mentions a 10-year delay, the Centre returning it only after the Supreme Court held that Bills cannot be indefinitely delayed. This supports the inference that the Centre's inaction contributed to the delay.
3. B. Migration has made linguistic identities more mixed across states.
 The passage states that linguistic borders were approximations and have weakened due to migration. This implies mixed linguistic populations requiring nuanced policies.
4. A. The objections stem from a misunderstanding rather than an actual threat to linguistic minorities.
 The passage states that concerns about minority languages being adversely affected are misplaced and arise out of misunderstanding of the provisions. Therefore, the opposition is not based on genuine evidence of harm.
5. A. The complexity of multilingual communities makes uniform language policies difficult to implement.
 The passage notes that States such as Kerala and Karnataka have multiple linguistic communities, borders are approximate, and migration has weakened language borders, suggesting that linguistic diversity complicates centralized or uniform policies.
6. B) **Transitory** (adjective) – Short-lived, brief, fleeting, momentary, temporary क्षणिक
 Antonym: **Eternal** (adjective) – Everlasting, perpetual, timeless, unending, immortal शाश्वत
 - **Fleeting** (adjective) – Brief, passing, short-lived, fading, momentary क्षणभंगुर
 - **Momentary** (adjective) – Very short, brief, instantaneous, passing, quick अल्पकालिक
 - **Temporary** (adjective) – Not permanent, provisional, short-term, interim, impermanent अस्थायी
7. A) **Grumpy** (adjective) – Irritable, bad-tempered, cross, cranky, cantankerous चिड़चिड़ा
 Synonym: **Irritable** (adjective) – Easily annoyed, short-tempered, touchy, testy, peevish चिड़चिड़ा
 - **Friendly** (adjective) – Kind, warm, pleasant, affable, genial मित्रतापूर्ण
 - **Polite** (adjective) – Courteous, respectful, civil, well-mannered, gracious विनम्र
 - **Calm** (adjective) – Peaceful, tranquil, composed, relaxed, serene शांत
8. D) Eat crow (idiom) – Admit one's error and endure humiliation अपनी गलती मानकर अपमान सहना

9. B) **To draw the long bow** (idiom) – To fabricate or exaggerate with little credibility अतिशयोक्ति करना / बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहना

10. A) The correct spelling of 'a formal agreement between nations' is 'Treaty' which means "a written and officially approved agreement between two or more countries" संधि, समझौता.

11. A) The correct spelling is 'Esoterica' which means "knowledge intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people; obscure or specialized knowledge" गूढ़ ज्ञान, रहस्यमयी ज्ञान.

12. D) **Autobiography** (noun) – A record of one's own life written by oneself आत्मकथा

- **Biography** (noun) – Life story of a person written by someone else किसी अन्य द्वारा लिखी गई जीवन-कथा
- **Memorandum** (noun) – A written message for internal communication within an organization ज्ञापन
- **Memoir** (noun) – A written account of past experiences स्मृतिलेख

13. C). **The sculptor captured the tenure of pain in marble.**
 वाक्य में 'tenure' का अर्थ है – किसी पद, संस्था या नौकरी में कार्यकाल (period of holding a position)।
 अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'tenure' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।
 विकल्प C में 'tenure' का प्रयोग किसी अनुभव, भावना या स्थिति की अवधि (duration or span) के रूप में रूपक (metaphorical) अर्थ में हुआ है – यहाँ "pain की tenure" का अर्थ है पीड़ा की अवधि/काल।
 पहले अर्थ में यह नौकरी/पद का कार्यकाल है, और दूसरे में भावना/दुःख की समय-सीमा। दोनों का उच्चारण समान लेकिन अर्थ भिन्न होने के कारण यह homonym है।
 In the highlighted sentence, tenure means the period during which someone holds a job or academic position.
 In option C, tenure is used figuratively to mean the duration or span of an emotional state – here, the period of pain.
 The words are spelled and pronounced the same, but used with different meanings, making them homonyms.

14. B) 'Obstinate' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य यह बता रहा है कि भारी सबूत होने के बावजूद भी वह अपने विश्वासों में अड़िग, हठी और जिद्दी बना रहा। ऐसे संदर्भ में "obstinate" (हठी, जिद्दी) सबसे उपयुक्त और सही स्पेलिंग वाला शब्द है।

- 'Obstinate' should be used because the sentence indicates that despite strong evidence, he continued to remain firm, stubborn, and unmoving in his beliefs. In this context, "obstinate" (correct spelling) is the most accurate and appropriate choice.

15. A)'Given' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में वाक्य एक ऐसी स्थिति दिखा रहा है जहाँ बड़े चुनौतीपूर्ण हालात के बावजूद भी स्वयंसेवक दृढ़ता से आगे बढ़ते रहे। यहाँ 'Given the enormity of the challenge' का अर्थ है "चुनौती की विशालता को देखते हुए"। इसलिए 'Given' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

In English

“Given” is used as a prepositional participle meaning “considering” or “in view of.”

The sentence expresses a contrastive situation:

Despite the huge challenge, the volunteers continued with determination.

“Given the enormity of the challenge” clearly sets the background condition under which the action occurred.

Other Options Analysis:

For — generally introduces a reason, but does not fit well with this participial structure.

Because — requires a full clause (because the challenge was enormous), not a noun phrase.

Granted — can be used similarly to given, but it is less natural and less common in this specific construction.

16. B) seem' के बदले 'seems' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Subject the uncertainty (singular) है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular Form में होगा।

In English:

The main subject of the sentence is “the uncertainty”, which is singular.

The clause “of how the council intends to proceed” is only descriptive and does not affect subject–verb agreement.

The relative pronoun “that” refers back to “the uncertainty”, not to council or those.

Since the subject is singular, the verb must also be singular → “seems.”

Correct Sentence: It is the uncertainty of how the council intends to proceed that seems to have created the most unrest among those waiting for regulatory clearance.

17. B) 'were portrayed' के बदले 'was portrayed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Subject The protest Singular है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular (was) होना चाहिए।

In English:

The main subject of the sentence is “The protest”, which is singular.

The phrase “though peaceful in nature” is a parenthetical/interrupting clause and does not affect subject–verb agreement.

The verb must agree with the true subject, not with nearby plural nouns like channels or forces.

Therefore, a singular verb (was) is required.

Correct Sentence: The protest, though peaceful in nature, was portrayed by official channels as instigated by external forces and ideologically driven groups.

18. A) It is presumed that someone had fabricated the evidence before presenting it in court.

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent (doer) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Passive संरचना “was presumed to have been fabricated” यह दर्शाती है कि किसी अनजान व्यक्ति द्वारा सबूत पहले ही गढ़ा जा चुका था और बाद में अदालत में प्रस्तुत किया गया। इसलिए Active बनाने के लिए एक impersonal structure (It is presumed...) का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

Passive वाक्य में “The evidence” Subject है, “was presumed to have been fabricated” Verb (Passive Perfect Infinitive) है।

Active में इसे बदलते समय “It is presumed that someone had fabricated the evidence before presenting it in court” सही Active संरचना बनाता है, क्योंकि यहाँ क्रिया करने वाला स्पष्ट नहीं है, इसलिए “someone” का प्रयोग किया गया है।

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice:

The agent (doer) of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence.

The verb is changed from its passive form to the active form, while keeping the same tense and meaning.

In impersonal passive structures (“was presumed to...”), the active form usually becomes “It is/was presumed that...” or introduces an indefinite subject like someone/people. In this sentence:

“The evidence” → Subject (Passive)

“was presumed” → Verb (Simple Past Passive)

“to have been fabricated” → Perfect Infinitive Passive

“before being presented in court” → Adverbial phrase

After conversion:

“someone” → Subject (indefinite agent)

“had fabricated” → Active verb (Past Perfect)

“the evidence” → Object

“before presenting it in court” → Adverbial phrase

Hence, the correct active sentence is:

It is presumed that someone had fabricated the evidence before presenting it in court.

Correct option: (1)

Other Option Analysis:

Option (2): Meaning incomplete; removes the time reference before being presented in court.

Option (3): Awkward and non-standard structure; not preferred in SSC grammar.

Option (4): Still passive in sense and does not form an active sentence.

19. C) ‘in dancing’ के बदले ‘at dancing’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘good at’ एक फिक्स्ड प्रीपोज़िशनल कॉम्बिनेशन है, जिसका प्रयोग किसी कौशल (skill) या क्षमता (ability) को व्यक्त करने के लिए किया जाता है; जैसे— She is good at singing.

In English:

Error in the sentence: “She is good in dancing.”

The adjective “good” is followed by the preposition “at” when referring to skill or ability.

“Good at” is a fixed prepositional combination (collocation) in English.

The verb after “at” must be in the -ing form

good at + noun / verb-ing

She is good at dancing.

He is good at mathematics.

good in / good with / good on (for skills)

Other Option Analysis:

at dance — “dance” as a noun does not fit here; the activity dancing is required.
with dancing — “good with” is used for handling people or things (good with children).

on dancing — grammatically incorrect after “good”.

20. B) **The mentor said, "The fellow persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Indirect वाक्य में प्रयुक्त reporting verb (noted) को Simple Past में रखते हुए, reported clause के tense को Past Perfect से Simple Past में बदल दिया जाता है। Indirect वाक्य में "the fellow had persevered" Past Perfect Tense है, जिसे Direct Speech में "persevered" (Simple Past) में परिवर्तित किया गया है। सर्वनाम (his) को ज्यों-का-त्यों रखा गया है क्योंकि संदर्भ वही व्यक्ति दर्शा रहा है। इसलिए सही Direct Speech होगा: "The fellow persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."

To convert Indirect to Direct Speech:

- Remove the conjunction "that".
- Change pronouns appropriately.
- Reverse the tense shift if required (past perfect → simple past).
- Keep the meaning and sequence of events unchanged.
- Use quotation marks with a suitable reporting verb.

In this sentence:

Reporting clause: The mentor noted that

Indirect speech: the fellow had persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified

Past perfect had persevered is used in indirect speech because the reporting verb is in the past.

In direct speech, past perfect generally changes back to simple past (persevered).

Pronoun his remains unchanged.

Changes made:

- Remove "that".
- Change had persevered → persevered.
- Keep pronoun his correct.
- Maintain correct verb forms and sentence structure.

Correct direct speech:

Option 2:

The mentor said, "The fellow persevered even after his hypotheses were repeatedly falsified."

21. C) **detained**

'Detained' का use होगा क्योंकि यह past participle form है और passive voice में "have been" के साथ correct है। sentence में बताया गया है कि migrant workers को पकड़ा गया है, इसलिए 'detained' सही है। जबकि 'detains' (present tense, singular), 'detain' (base form), और 'detaining' (present participle) इस context में grammatically incorrect हैं क्योंकि वे passive structure के साथ match नहीं करते।

- '**Detained**' will be used because it is the past participle form and fits correctly with "have been" in passive voice. The sentence states that migrant workers have been held, making 'detained' appropriate. Whereas, 'detains' (present tense, singular), 'detain' (base form), and 'detaining' (present participle) are grammatically incorrect here as they don't match the passive structure.

22. B) across

'Across' का use होगा क्योंकि "across" का अर्थ होता है पूरे क्षेत्र या देश में फैला हुआ। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि migrant workers को भारत के विभिन्न हिस्सों (पूर्व, पश्चिम, उत्तर) में पकड़ा गया है, इसलिए 'across' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'through' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के अंदर से गुजरना, 'onto' का अर्थ है किसी सतह पर चढ़ना, और 'within' का अर्थ है किसी सीमा के अंदर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Across**' will be used because it means spread over an entire area or country. The sentence mentions that migrant workers have been detained in various parts of India (east, west, north), making 'across' the correct choice. Whereas, 'through' means moving inside something, 'onto' means moving to a surface, and 'within' means inside a boundary, which do not fit in this context.'Across' is a preposition used to indicate movement or presence over a wide area, which matches the context of workers being detained in multiple states.

23. A) A few

'A few' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है 'कुछ' (थोड़ी संख्या में)। passage में mention किया गया है कि कुछ migrant workers को Bangladesh भेज दिया गया है, जो एक छोटी संख्या को दर्शाता है। 'A few' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह एक indefinite quantity को बताता है और context के अनुसार सही बैठता है। जबकि 'Few' का अर्थ है 'बहुत कम' (नकारात्मक अर्थ में), 'the few' specific group को refer करता है, और 'many' (बहुत से) context के अनुसार गलत है क्योंकि यह बड़ी संख्या को दर्शाता है।

- '**A few**' will be used because it means 'some' (a small number). The passage mentions that some migrant workers have been pushed into Bangladesh, indicating a small number. 'A few' is correct here as it denotes an indefinite quantity and fits the context. Whereas, 'Few' means 'very little' (with a negative sense), 'the few' refers to a specific group, and 'many' (a large number) is incorrect here as it contradicts the context.'A few' is grammatically correct because it is used with countable nouns (workers) to indicate a small but unspecified number, which matches the context of the sentence.

24. A) detentions

'Detentions' का use होगा क्योंकि "detentions" का अर्थ होता है हिरासत में लेना। passage में mention किया गया है कि migrant workers को security agencies द्वारा रोका गया और उन्हें citizenship का proof दिखाने को कहा गया, इसलिए 'detentions' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'acquittals' का अर्थ है दोषमुक्त करना, 'emancipation' का अर्थ है मुक्ति दिलाना, और 'absolution' का अर्थ है पापमुक्ति, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

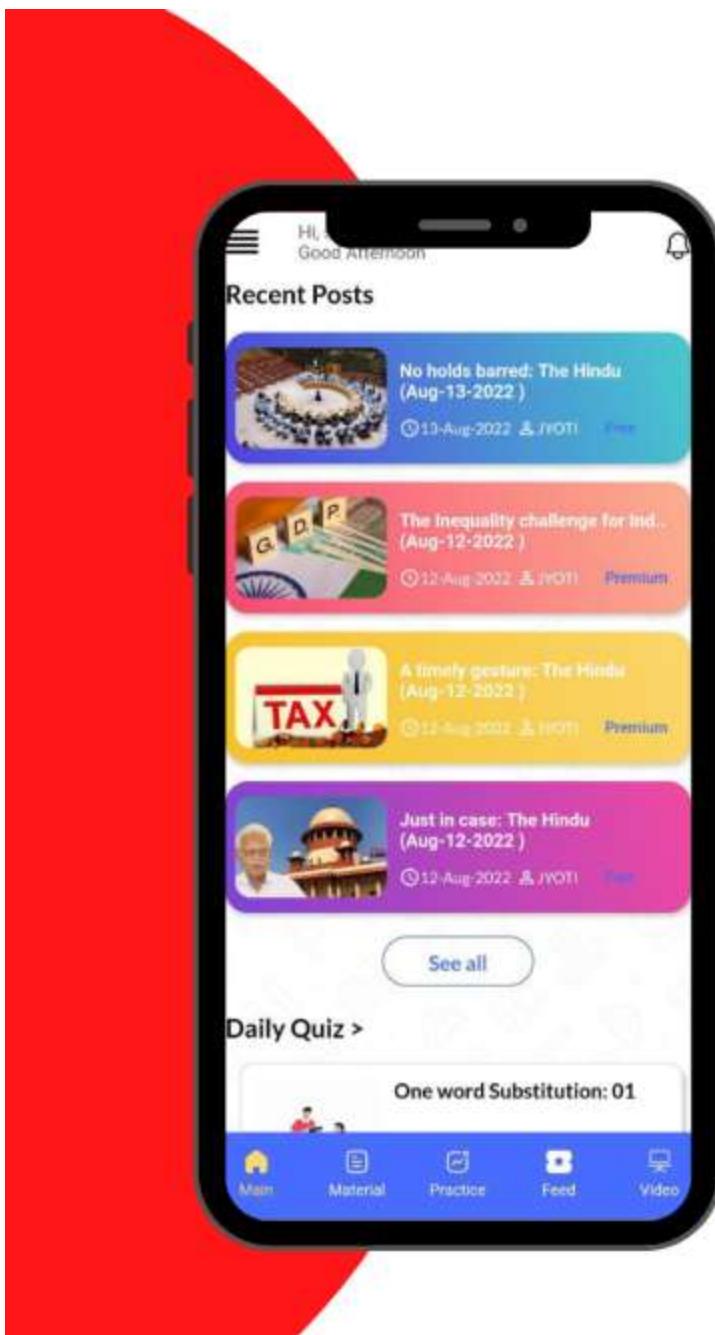
- '**Detentions**' will be used because it means the act of holding someone in custody. The passage mentions that migrant workers were stopped by security agencies and asked to provide proof of citizenship, making 'detentions' the correct choice here. Whereas,

'acquittals' means being declared not guilty, 'emancipation' means liberation, and 'absolution' means forgiveness, which do not fit in this context.

25. D) **but also**

'but also' का use होगा क्योंकि यह 'not only' के साथ paired conjunction के रूप में आता है। sentence में 'not only' का प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए 'but also' का प्रयोग करना grammatically correct है। यहाँ पर दोनों भागों (physical trauma और disrupted work cycles) को जोड़ने के लिए 'not only...but also' structure का use होता है। जबकि 'than that' और 'so that' इस context में fit नहीं होते, और 'but' अकेला incomplete है क्योंकि 'but also' pair बनाता है।

- 'but also' will be used because it pairs with 'not only' as a correlative conjunction. The sentence uses 'not only', so 'but also' is grammatically correct to complete the structure. It connects both parts (physical trauma and disrupted work cycles) properly. Whereas, 'than that' and 'so that' don't fit here, and 'but' alone is incomplete as it requires 'also' to form the pair.



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