

When quitting doesn't mean the end

When **Arijit Singh**, the man who **crooned** love **ballads** into millions of sleepless Indians' nights **declared**, "I'm calling it off" it first struck as a sudden 'quitting forever' announcement, which is **uncharacteristic** of someone as loved and successful as him. It took a while for his fans to realise that he wasn't **severing** his bond with them or his devotion to music had **waned**. **He was** merely choosing to leave the **trodden** path and **go** on a **pilgrimage** that would offer better opportunities to him to evolve as a musician. He was making an informed decision to give up what didn't interest him any longer and go on a **quest for** something more meaningful. And that in no way is quitting. It is walking away from what has stopped **nourishing** the spirit and going in pursuit of what will bring greater fulfillment. As a musician. As a creative. As a human. Doing it isn't easy, for it means **relinquishing** the crown and tossing away years of fame and **fandom**. It also means settling for the quieter **aspects** of **indulging** the art without craving the **excesses** that come with its loud practice. It takes **resolve** of a unique kind that only people who pay attention to a higher calling and follow it without stopping to think, "what will I be without the **adulation** and applause?" can do.

Arijit Singh's **career** as a musician may **have** taken a new turn and he may still be among the **populace** in the future, but his decision made me reflect on how bowing out and leaving is usually **labelled** as **lame** quitting. A long time ago, a student of mine had asked if 'giving up' didn't denote failure and I replied that there were different kinds of 'giving up' and they could not be **bunched** together. One is where we have fought with **persisting** problems and hurdles for so long that we are **depleted** and have no fuel to carry on. It's what we call the end of the road. What we do at that point when all efforts have failed is what will determine the future. We have a choice - to either call it the end, or to pause until we gather more breath, **pivot** and find a new road to travel. When we do the latter, **we** **have** merely taken a **detour** from our previous path and **have** set out in a new direction, meaning the journey is still on. We have only given up one thing that hasn't worked to try another. That in no way carries negative **connotations**. We fail only when we stop walking and not when we change course upon hitting the wall. Then there is the bowing out that **people** at the **pinnacle** of **acclaim** **make**, **amidst** continuing cheer. They do it out of an urge to explore a different space so they are remembered well even after their careers have ended. It is a choice made from **abundance**, not lack. From recognising that the **monotony** that comes from repetition can **usurp** the joy that years of sincere effort has brought. This kind of leaving is often **romanticised** because it carries the **assurance** of **applause** even in departure - something akin to what Arijit did. That is an opportunity that few people get and fewer still have the clarity to use well. But both **kinds** of walking away - the one that comes after success and the one that comes after struggle - **are** rooted in the same **instinct**: self-preservation. **What** happens thereafter on their journey will, for the most part, **remain** **obscure**. They may briefly go out of sight to **incubate** **grand** plans and **marshal** their inner resources, only to emerge in a different form. **Some** may simply hang up their boots and **take** up something as

unassuming as fishing, for success need not always be visible and loud. Sometimes it happens silently - away of the **spotlight** and **entirely** on one's own terms.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Croon** (verb) – hum, sing, chant, murmur, warble गुनगुनाना understanding of the situation समझदारी भरा निर्णय
2. **Ballad** (noun) – song, poem, ditty, carol, lay प्रेमगीत या लोकगीत
3. **Call off** (phrasal verb) – to decide that something that has been planned will not happen or to stop an activity समाप्त करना
4. **Uncharacteristic** (adjective) – unusual, atypical, uncommon, strange, peculiar असामान्य या स्वभाव के विपरीत
5. **Take a while** (phrase) – to require a significant or noticeable amount of time for something to happen समय लगना
6. **Sever** (verb) – disconnect, detach, separate, disunite, dissolve अलग करना या तोड़ना
7. **Wane** (verb) – decline, diminish, decrease, fade, dwindle कम होना या पतन होना
8. **Merely** (adverb) – only, simply, purely, just, solely केवल
9. **Trodden** (adjective) – beaten, walked, crushed, flattened, pressed घिसा-पिटा (रास्ता)
10. **Pilgrimage** (noun) – journey, mission, crusade, expedition, excursion तीर्थयात्रा
11. **Informed decision** (noun) – a choice made based on knowledge, facts, and a clear
12. **Give up** (phrasal verb) – to stop doing something or to stop trying to do something त्याग देना या हार मानना
13. **Quest** (for) (noun) – a long or arduous search for something किसी चीज़ की खोज में
14. **Nourishing** (adjective) – nutritious, healthy, wholesome, beneficial, sustaining पोषक या पुष्टिकर
15. **In pursuit of** (phrase) – the act of trying to achieve or find something का पीछा करते हुए या पाने की कोशिश में
16. **Relinquish** (verb) – renounce, abandon, surrender, cede, waive त्यागना
17. **Fandom** (noun) – followers, admirers, enthusiasts, devotees, supporters प्रशंसकों का समूह
18. **Aspect** (noun) – feature, facet, characteristic, side, dimension पहलू
19. **Indulge** (verb) – gratify, satisfy, yield, pamper, humour लिप्त होना या आनंद लेना
20. **Crave** (verb) – feel a powerful desire for (something). तरसना
21. **Excess** (noun) – surplus, glut, superfluity, profusion, overkill अधिकता

22. **Resolve** (noun) – determination, firmness, grit, willpower, tenacity दृढ़ निश्चय
23. **Pay attention to** (phrase) – to listen to, watch, or consider something or someone very carefully ध्यान देना
24. **Adulation** (noun) – worship, idolization, flattery, praise, veneration अति-प्रशंसा
25. **Take a new turn** (phrase) – to start developing in a different or unexpected way नया मोड़ लेना
26. **Populace** (noun) – public, masses, inhabitants, citizens, residents आम जनता
27. **Reflect on** (phrasal verb) – to think carefully and deeply about something विचार करना
28. **Bow out** (phrasal verb) – to stop taking part in an activity, especially after a long period of involvement पीछे हटना या विदा लेना
29. **Label** (verb) – categorize, classify, tag, describe, designate चिह्नित करना या नाम देना
30. **Lame** (adjective) – weak, feeble, flimsy, unconvincing, inadequate कमज़ोर या लचर
31. **Bunch** (verb) – group, cluster, bundle, collect, gather समूह बनाना या इकट्ठा करना
32. **Persisting** (adjective) – enduring, constant, lingering, continuous, abiding बना हुआ या स्थायी
33. **Depleted** (adjective) – exhausted, drained, empty, spent, consumed खाली या शक्तिहीन
34. **Carry on** (phrasal verb) – to continue doing something जारी रखना
35. **Pivot** (verb) – rotate, swivel, revolve, turn, shift अक्ष पर घूमना या दिशा बदलना
36. **Detour** (noun) – bypass, diversion, deviation, indirect-route, circuit चक्करदार रास्ता
37. **Set out** (phrasal verb) – to start a journey or to begin a task with a specific goal प्रस्थान करना या शुरू करना
38. **Connotation** (noun) – nuance, hint, suggestion, implication, undertone अर्थ या भाव
39. **Hit the wall** (phrase) – reaching a point where you are so tired or discouraged that you cannot continue आगे न बढ़ पाना
40. **Pinnacle** (noun) – peak, summit, zenith, apex, climax शिखर
41. **Acclaim** (noun) – praise, applause, commendation, approval, tribute प्रशंसा
42. **Amidst** (preposition) – among, during, between, surrounded-by, mid के बीच में

43. **Abundance** (noun) – plenty, profusion, wealth, copiousness, affluence प्रचुरता
44. **Monotony** (noun) – boredom, dullness, sameness, tedium, repetitiveness नीरसता
45. **Usurp** (verb) – seize, snatch, commandeer, appropriate, wrest हड़प लेना
46. **Romanticise** (verb) – idealize, glorify, glamorize, exalt, magnify काल्पनिक रूप से बेहतर दिखाना
47. **Assurance** (noun) – promise, guarantee, pledge, certainty, confidence आश्वासन
48. **Applause** (noun) – clapping, ovation, cheering, praise, acclaim वाहवाही
49. **Akin** (to) (adjective) – similar to or related to something के समान
50. **Root in** (phrasal verb) – to have a particular factor or event as a source or origin की जड़ों में या आधारित
51. **Instinct** (noun) – intuition, impulse, knack, aptitude, tendency सहज बुद्धि या प्रवृत्ति
52. **Obscure** (adjective) – unclear, vague, ambiguous, hidden, murky अस्पष्ट
53. **Go out of sight** (phrase) – to move to a place where you can no longer be seen नज़र से ओझल होना
54. **Incubate** (verb) – develop, nurture, hatch, produce, foster विकसित करना (योजना आदि)
55. **Grand** (adjective) – magnificent, majestic, splendid, impressive, noble भव्य (Note: Base form of "Grander")
56. **Marshal** (verb) – assemble, gather, organize, mobilize, deploy एकत्र करना या व्यवस्थित करना
57. **Hang up your boots** (idiom) – to retire from a sport or a long-term professional activity सन्यास लेना
58. **Spotlight** (noun) – attention, fame, limelight, notoriety, publicity चर्चा का केंद्र
59. **Entirely** (adverb) – completely, totally, fully, utterly, wholly पूरी तरह से

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial begins with **Arijit Singh's announcement** that sounded like he was quitting music, shocking his fans.
2. On closer understanding, it was **not a permanent farewell**, but a conscious decision to step away from a familiar path.
3. His choice reflected a **desire to evolve as a musician**, not a loss of love for music or his audience.
4. Quitting, in this context, is shown as **walking away from what no longer nourishes the spirit**.
5. It is about **seeking deeper meaning and fulfillment**, both creatively and personally.
6. Such a decision is difficult because it involves **letting go of fame, applause, and public adulation**.
7. True courage lies in choosing **quiet dedication to art over loud validation**.
8. Society often labels leaving or bowing out as **failure or weakness**, which the editorial challenges.
9. The author explains that there are **different kinds of "giving up,"** not all of which are negative.
10. One kind occurs after prolonged struggle, when a person is **emotionally and mentally exhausted**.
11. At that stage, one can either **end the journey or pause, pivot, and find a new direction**.
12. Changing direction after hitting obstacles is **not failure but resilience**.
13. Another kind of leaving happens at the peak of success, **motivated by growth rather than lack**.
14. Both success-driven and struggle-driven exits stem from **self-preservation and self-awareness**.
15. Ultimately, success does not always need to be **visible or loud**; sometimes it unfolds **quietly, away from the spotlight, on one's own terms**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which inference is most strongly supported by the author's discussion on "quitting"?

A. Quitting always results in public admiration
B. Success loses meaning without continuous applause
C. Walking away can protect inner purpose
D. Fame inevitably restricts creative freedom

[Editorial page]

2. Choose the option that best fills the blank:

"We fail only when we stop walking and not when we _____ upon hitting the wall."

A. hesitate and permanently abandon efforts
B. accept defeat and surrender future paths
C. question motives and doubt inner resolve
D. deliberately change direction with purpose

3. What is the tone of the passage?

A. Critical and condemning
B. Reflective and encouraging
C. Sarcastic and mocking
D. Pessimistic and hopeless

4. What distinguishes leaving after success from leaving after struggle in the passage?

A. Success leaving arises from abundance not depletion
B. Struggle leaving occurs after energy resources exhausted
C. Both forms share self preservation instinct choices
D. Both forms guarantee public applause lasting recognition

5. Why does the author argue that Arijit Singh's decision should not be labelled as quitting?

A. Because he rejected fame to deepen growth
B. Because he was exhausted by failure criticism
C. Because he intended permanent withdrawal from music
D. Because he followed trends to maintain popularity

6. Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.

The corrupt official acted with complete **impunity**, without fear of punishment.

A. Immunity
B. Penalty
C. Conviction
D. Punishment

7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Burn the midnight oil

A. To sleep early
B. To set things on fire
C. To work late into the night
D. To waste time

8. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

Redolent

A. Fragrant
B. Evocative
C. Odorous

- D. Unscented
9. **Change the following from active to passive:**
They will not tolerate procedural anomalies.
A. Procedural anomalies will not be tolerated by them.
B. Procedural anomalies are not being tolerated by them.
C. Procedural anomalies would not be tolerated by them.
D. Procedural anomalies have not been tolerated by them.
10. **Select the correct option for the direct speech conversion of the sentence below:**
The physicist remarked that time-reversal invariance could be violated under non-unitary evolution.
A. The physicist said, "Time-reversal invariance can be violated under non-unitary evolution."
B. He remarked, "If condition is non-unitary, time-reversal invariance will be violated."
C. The physicist said, "Time-reversal invariance could be violated under non-unitary evolution."
D. He said, "Time reversal violates when evolution non-unitary."
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
We must start now _____ it will be too late
A. until
B. unless
C. or
D. But
12. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
The Andes mountains / lay between / Chile and Argentina.
A. Chile and Argentina
B. lay between
C. No error
D. The Andes mountains
13. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
I initially thought of including both the mother and the child, but the woman was reluctant to have their pictures take.
A. both the mother and the child, but the woman
B. was reluctant to have their pictures take
C. I initially thought of including
D. No error
14. **Which sentence uses "row" to mean "a fight or noisy argument"?**
A. We had a terrible row last night.
B. He rowed the boat across the lake.
C. They sat in the front row.
D. There were ten chairs in each row.
15. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
A person who rules without consulting the opinion of others.

- A. Aristocrat
B. Arbitrator
C. Atheist
D. Autocrat
16. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Pernicious
A. Harmful
B. Innocuous
C. Virulent
D. Noxious
17. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
A. As a Supreme Court of India Bench pointed out, the question is not whether the state can use spyware, but who could be its legitimate targets.
B. The Bench, during a hearing on the alleged surveillance of politicians, judges, religious leaders, civil servants and journalists by some state entity, was evidently seeking to curtail arbitrary use of the powers and tools of surveillance.
C. The government has neither confirmed nor denied that it uses Pegasus, an Israel-made military grade spyware that is sold only to state agencies, which was used to target a wide range of people.
D. State surveillance must be subject to systemic checks and supervision and not mirror the nefarious activities of the dark underworld.
A. C, D, A, B
B. D, A, B, C
C. B, D, C, A
D. A, B, C, D
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Her parents always _____ her in her studies.
A. encouraged
B. interested
C. impressed
D. expected
19. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
There was a sudden **surge** in the demand for electric vehicles.
A. Drop
B. Fall
C. Upsurge
D. Decline
20. **Select the correct spelling of the BOLD word in the following sentence.**
She excels in the **relm** of science and technology.
A. realm
B. relm
C. relam
D. ralm

Comprehension

A decade ago, I heard a talk by an environmental activist in Chennai. This person almost always worked in (1) _____ with significant resource constraints and on activities that society had a tendency to (2) _____. Jeffrey Epstein had not been the well-known name it has become in India, and around the world, today. But the activist raised a point that later seemed very relevant when Epstein's ties to George Church, Joi Ito, and other scientists became clear. The activist said he does not think twice about taking money from people with (3) _____ reputations because, for his work, having any money at all was more important than the money being 'clean' by some (4) _____ moral standard. However, the activist was also clear he was aware that accepting donations in this way could 'whitewash' the donors' reputation and launder their money. He said the problem (5) _____ not that he was providing this "service", so to speak, but that his work and his priorities had rendered his situation only somewhat better than that of a beggar.

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

- A. settings
- B. scenarios
- C. structures
- D. restaurants

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

- A. overlook
- B. overlooks
- C. overlooking
- D. overlooked

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

- A. tarnished
- B. shining
- C. respected
- D. famous

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

- A. natural
- B. arbitrary
- C. scientific
- D. fixed

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

- A. were
- B. is
- C. was
- D. had

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. C) **Walking away can protect inner purpose**

The author repeatedly argues that leaving a path that no longer nourishes the spirit is an act of self-preservation, not failure.

A – Incorrect: The passage clearly states admiration is not guaranteed for everyone.

B – Incorrect: The author suggests fulfillment can exist without applause.

D – Incorrect: Fame is shown as optional, not inherently restrictive.

2. D) **deliberately change direction with purpose**

The sentence contrasts failure with pivoting. The correct option reflects movement, choice, and continuation of the journey.

A – Incorrect: Suggests stagnation, which the author equates with failure.

C – Incorrect: Focuses on doubt, not action or movement.

B – Incorrect: Implies finality, directly opposing the author's idea.

3. B) **Reflective and encouraging**

The writer thoughtfully reflects on the idea of quitting and encourages readers to see it as growth, self-preservation, and evolution rather than failure.

A. Critical and condemning – The passage does not criticise Arijit Singh or people who walk away; it supports their choices.

C. Sarcastic and mocking – The language is sincere and respectful, not sarcastic.

D. Pessimistic and hopeless – The passage is hopeful and positive about change and new beginnings.

4. C) **Despite different circumstances, both decisions stem from the same instinct of self-preservation.**

A: Describes only one type, not the key distinction.

B: Explains struggle-based leaving, not the contrast.

D: Public applause is not common to both forms.

5. A) **Because he rejected fame to deepen growth**

The author presents Arijit's choice as a conscious shift toward deeper fulfillment, not an escape.

B: The passage does not portray him as depleted or defeated.

C: He is not abandoning music permanently.

D: He is moving away from trends, not chasing them.

6. A) **Impunity** (noun) – immunity, exemption from punishment, free pass, indemnity, carte blanche दण्ड-मुक्ति

Synonym: **Immunity** (noun) – Freedom from harm or punishment (मुक्ति / छूट)

Penalty (noun) – Punishment for offence (दंड)

Conviction (noun) – Legal judgment of guilt (अपराध सिद्धि)

Punishment (noun) – Penalty, retribution (सजा)

7. C) **Burn the midnight oil** (idiom) – To work late into the night रात देर तक काम करना।
8. D) **Redolent** (adjective) – Fragrant, aromatic, suggestive, evocative, perfumed. सुगंधित / स्मृति जगाने वाला
Antonym: **Unscented** (adjective) – Without scent, odorless, not having any smell. बिना सुगंध का / गंधहीन
- **Fragrant** (adjective) – Sweet-smelling, aromatic, perfumed, redolent. सुगंधित
 - **Evocative** (adjective) – Reminiscent, suggestive, bringing strong images or memories. स्मृतियाँ जगाने वाला
 - **Odorous** (adjective) – Having a smell or odor, scented, redolent. सुगंधित / गंधयुक्त
9. A) **Procedural anomalies will not be tolerated by them.**
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 उसी Future tense को बनाए रखा जाता है। Active वाक्य में "They" Subject है, "will not tolerate" Verb (Simple Future) है और "procedural anomalies" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Procedural anomalies" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will not be tolerated" (Simple Future Passive) में बदला गया है और "by them" के रूप में Agent को अंत में जोड़ा गया है।
To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence while maintaining the same tense. Here, "will not tolerate" correctly changes to "will not be tolerated", making "Procedural anomalies will not be tolerated by them." the correct passive construction.
10. C) **The physicist said, "Time-reversal invariance could be violated under non-unitary evolution."**
Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, reporting verb के अनुसार tense और modal verb का सही प्रयोग किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "The physicist remarked" reporting clause है और "that time-reversal invariance could be violated under non-unitary evolution" reported speech है। यहाँ 'remarked' Past Tense में है और reported clause में modal verb 'could' प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए Direct Speech में भी वही modal verb बना रहेगा। Option C में sentence का अर्थ, tense और modal verb तीनों सही रूप में बनाए गए हैं।
- To convert Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the reporting verb and the modal verb must be preserved correctly. In the given sentence, "remarked" is in Past Tense and the reported clause uses the modal "could", which should remain unchanged in Direct Speech. Option C correctly retains the meaning, tense, and modal verb, making it the correct answer.
11. C) **Or** का use होगा क्योंकि "or" का अर्थ होता है एक विकल्प या परिणाम को प्रस्तुत करना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि हमें अभी शुरू करना चाहिए नहीं तो देर हो जाएगी, इसलिए 'or' यहाँ सही है। 'Until' का अर्थ है जब तक, 'Unless' का अर्थ है अगर नहीं, और 'But' का अर्थ है लेकिन, जो इस context में सही नहीं है
- 'Or' should be used because it means to present an alternative or consequence. The sentence implies that we must start now or it will be too late, making 'or' the correct choice here. 'Until' means up to the time, 'Unless' means if not, and 'But' means however, which don't fit in this context.

12. B) 'lay between' के बदले **'lie between'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'lay' का अर्थ 'रखना' होता है, जो कि इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Lie' का अर्थ होता है 'स्थित होना', जो कि यहाँ पर सही उपयोग है। अतः, वाक्य होगा— The Andes mountains lie between Chile and Argentina.
- 'lie between' will be used instead of 'lay between' because 'lay' means to 'put' or 'place' something, which is not appropriate in this context. 'Lie' means to 'be in a position or location', which is the correct usage here. Thus, the sentence should be— The Andes mountains lie between Chile and Argentina
13. B) 'take' के बदले **'taken'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि passive voice में verb का third form (Past Participle) आता है। यहाँ पर 'the woman was reluctant to have their pictures' के बाद verb का third form आना चाहिए; जैसे— She was happy to have her picture taken.
- 'taken' will be used instead of 'take' because in passive voice the third form (Past Participle) of the verb is used. Here, after 'the woman was reluctant to have their pictures', the third form of the verb should come; Like— She was happy to have her picture taken.
14. A) **row** (noun) – A fight or noisy argument झगड़ा / तीखी बहस
15. D) **Autocrat** (noun) – A person who rules without consulting the opinion of others. अनियन्त्रित शासक
- Aristocrat** (noun) – A member of a rich and powerful family or class. कुलीन
 - Arbitrator** (noun) – A person appointed to settle a dispute that people have been unable to resolve themselves. मध्यताकार
 - Atheist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the existence of God or gods. नास्तिक
16. B) **Pernicious** (adjective) – Highly destructive, harmful, damaging, injurious, ruinous. हानिकारक / घातक
- Antonym: **Innocuous** (adjective) – Harmless, safe, mild, inoffensive, gentle. निर्दोष / अहानिकर
- Harmful** (adjective) – Damaging, injurious, hurtful, detrimental. हानिकारक
 - Virulent** (adjective) – Highly poisonous, infectious, deadly, toxic. घातक / विषैला
 - Noxious** (adjective) – Poisonous, harmful, dangerous, injurious. हानिकारक / विषैला
17. B) **D, A, B, C.**
- D starts the paragraph by introducing the central idea—that state surveillance must be regulated and not resemble unlawful activities. This sets the thematic foundation for the discussion.
- A follows logically, as it builds on D's argument by quoting the Supreme Court's stance—that the issue is not about whether surveillance is used, but about who should be targeted legitimately.
- B comes next, as it elaborates on A by explaining the context of the Supreme Court's remarks (the Pegasus spyware case) and its intent to prevent misuse of surveillance powers.
- C concludes the paragraph by providing additional context—the government's ambiguous stance on using Pegasus, reinforcing the need for transparency and accountability (as highlighted in D, A, and B).

18. A) '**Encouraged**' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "encouraged" का अर्थ होता है किसी को समर्थन या प्रोत्साहन देना। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि उसके माता-पिता हमेशा उसकी पढ़ाई में उसे समर्थन देते हैं, इसलिए 'encouraged' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Interested' का अर्थ है रुचि रखना, 'Impressed' का अर्थ है प्रभावित करना, और 'Expected' का अर्थ है उम्मीद करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Encouraged' should be used to fill in the blank because it means to provide support or motivation. The sentence mentions that her parents always supported her in her studies, making 'encouraged' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Interested' means to have an interest, 'Impressed' means to affect deeply, and 'Expected' means to anticipate, which don't fit in this context

19. C) **Surge** (noun) – upsurge, increase, rush, escalation, growth उछाल

Synonym: **Upsurge** (noun) – sudden rise (अचानक वृद्धि)

- **Drop** (noun) – decrease (गिरावट)
- **Fall** (noun) – downward movement (पतन)
- **Decline** (noun) – gradual reduction (कमी)

20. A) The correct spelling of 'relm' is 'realm', which means "a field or domain of activity or interest" – क्षेत्र, कार्यक्षेत्र.

21. A) **Settings** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है काम करने का वातावरण या context। वाक्य में "This person almost always worked in ___ with significant resource constraints" में यह दर्शाता है कि activist किस प्रकार के work environment में काम करता है। Scenarios मतलब संभावित या कल्पित परिस्थितियाँ, जो सही नहीं हैं। Structures मतलब physical या organizational structure, जो context से मेल नहीं खाता। Restaurants पूरी तरह irrelevant है। Therefore, settings is correct because it refers to the actual environment or context in which he worked.

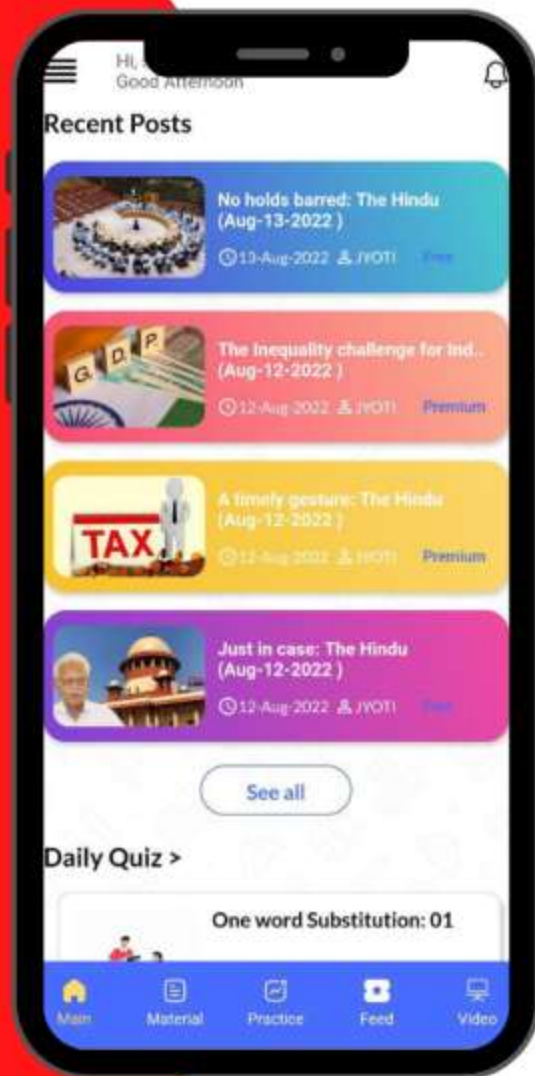
- 'Settings' is correct because it means the environment or context in which someone works. In the sentence, "This person almost always worked in ___ with significant resource constraints," it talks about the activist's work environment. Scenarios means imagined or possible situations, which is not correct here. Structures usually refers to physical buildings or organizational frameworks, which does not fit the context. Restaurants are irrelevant as it refers to eating places. Therefore, settings fits both the meaning and the grammar of the sentence.

22. A) **Overlook** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है ignore या neglect करना। वाक्य में "activities that society had a tendency to ___" में यह बताता है कि समाज उन activities को notice नहीं करता। Overlooks present tense है और "tendency to" के बाद base form verb चाहिए। Overlooking present participle है, जो grammatically fit नहीं करता। Overlooked past tense है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

- Overlook is correct because it means to ignore or neglect something. In the sentence, "activities that society had a tendency to ___," it shows that society tends to ignore or fail to notice certain important activities. Overlooks is present tense and does not fit after "tendency to," which always requires the base form of the verb. Overlooking is a present participle and is grammatically incorrect here. Overlooked is past tense, which

is also not suitable after “had a tendency to.” Therefore, overlook is the correct choice as it matches both the grammar and meaning.

23. A) **Tarnished** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है धूमिल या spoiled reputation। वाक्य में “taking money from people with ___ reputations” में उन लोगों की बात हो रही है जिनकी moral या social reputation खराब है। Shining मतलब bright, Respected मतलब सम्मानित, और Famous मतलब सिर्फ प्रसिद्ध, ये सभी context से मेल नहीं खाते।
- Tarnished is correct because it means a damaged, spoiled, or morally flawed reputation. In the sentence, “He does not think twice about taking money from people with ___ reputations,” it refers to individuals whose social or moral standing is compromised. Shining means bright or excellent, which is the opposite of the intended meaning. Respected implies a good reputation, which does not fit the context. Famous simply means well-known and does not indicate moral or ethical character. Therefore, tarnished is the only option that accurately conveys both the meaning and the context, emphasizing that the activist accepts funds even from morally questionable people.
24. B) **Arbitrary** सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है subjective, personal whim पर आधारित। वाक्य में “money being ‘clean’ by some ___ moral standard” दिखाता है कि activist rigid या personal moral standard की चिंता नहीं करता। Natural मतलब inherent, Scientific मतलब वैज्ञानिक आधार, और Fixed मतलब permanent, ये सभी context से irrelevant हैं।
- Arbitrary is correct because it means based on personal whim, choice, or subjective reasoning, rather than following a fixed or universal standard. In the sentence, “money being ‘clean’ by some ___ moral standard,” the activist highlights that he is not concerned with rigid or subjective moral rules. Natural implies something inherent or occurring in nature, which is irrelevant. Scientific refers to a rule or standard based on science, which does not apply to morality. Fixed implies something permanent or unchanging, which is the opposite of a subjective standard. Therefore, arbitrary is the correct choice as it accurately reflects the idea of a moral standard that is subjective and not absolute.
25. C) **Was** सही है क्योंकि sentence past context में है और “problem” singular है। वाक्य में “The problem ___ not that he was providing this service” बताता है कि यह समस्या उस समय मौजूद थी। Were plural past tense है, Is present tense है, और Had past tense of “have” है, ये सभी grammatically fit नहीं करते।
- Was is correct because the sentence refers to a past context and the subject “problem” is singular. The sentence reads, “The problem ___ not that he was providing this service,” which indicates a singular issue that existed in the past. Were is plural past tense and does not agree with the singular subject. Is is present tense and does not match the past context. Had is the past tense of “have” and does not fit grammatically in this structure. Therefore, was is the only correct option, as it agrees with the singular subject and maintains the past tense of the sentence.



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