The heart is priceless yet increasingly unaffordable

The heart is an amazing organ in the human body. It would probably not be an **exaggeration** to say that the heart has no match — both physically and **metaphorically**. It has always been considered precious, to be treated with the **utmost** care and **reverence**. It is not something to be casually given away.

Yet, **in the flush of youth**, and for a few even later in life, hearts are exchanged at the **fluttering** of **eyelids** - **often** with **unforeseen** and **disastrous** consequences. Lovers **pine** for their **beloved** because they chose to give it on a **whim**. Poets grow lyrical and reflective when they talk about the heart. The heart is at the centre of everything that may go right in someone's life, and go wrong without warning. It breaks **at the hint of** a **disagreement**. It heals itself as the two **reconcile** their **differences**. The heart is **fragile**, yet **resilient**; it **bears** the weight of joy and **sorrow** alike, often silently **enduring** trials that the mind cannot **comprehend**.

The life of a heart **is** not always easy. Wars have been fought, princesses kidnapped, emperors and queens have **pronounced** death sentences to gain the heart of someone who had already lost theirs to another. Wordsmiths have made a **fortune** writing dramas around the heart across cultures and centuries. Romeo and Juliet, Laila Majnu, Shirin Farhad, Sohni Mahiwal are only a few unfortunates who had the good fortune of being **immortalised** by **playwrights** or storytellers. There are many stories around us where the hand did not **tremble** or the heart did not **quail** at the thought of **striking down** a sister, a daughter, or another's son only because they **dared** to lose their hearts against **rigid** social norms and unforgiving traditions. The heart continues to inspire passion, rebellion, and courage, silently **witnessing** human **triumphs** and tragedies that may never be recorded in books.

As society evolves and civilisation **advances** through technology, the human heart has been reduced to an expensive accessory in modern healthcare systems. I discovered this recently as my **nonagenarian** father suffered a sudden **cardiac** event at the hospital. The doctors advised him to have an upgraded device connected to his heart to regulate the pumping of blood. Even the government-approved **amount** - half the actual cost - **would** remain beyond the reach of probably 95% of our population. It struck me then that despite technical advances in medical sciences and the improved **longevity** they bring, the majority of us remain unable to access even basic interventions for our own hearts. According to national health estimates, **nearly 60% of healthcare expenditure** in India **is** still borne **out-of-pocket** by individuals, pushing millions into financial **distress** each year. For many families, a medical emergency is not merely a health crisis but an economic **catastrophe**. The heart may be priceless in poetry, but in reality it comes with a price few can **sustain**.

Watching my father's heart **steady** on the monitor, I realised how **miraculous** yet **vulnerable** it remains - both as an organ and as a symbol of life, love, and **resilience** in fragile human existence. **Perhaps** the greatest lesson is that the heart, in every sense, deserves our care, respect, and attention

— not only when it can be repaired, but always. It is our responsibility to keep our bodies fit, live with discipline and awareness, and not **take health for granted**. Yet, individual effort alone is not enough. A heart may be priceless in **metaphor**, but it must never become unaffordable in reality.

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

Vocabulary

1. **Exaggeration** (noun) – hyperbole, overstatement, embellishment, amplification, inflation अतिशयोक्ति

2. **Metaphorically** (adverb) – figuratively, symbolically, allegorically, emblematically, imaginatively लाक्षणिक रूप से

3. **Utmost** (adjective) – extreme, maximum, paramount, superlative, terminal अत्यधिक

4. **Reverence** (noun) – veneration, adoration, devotion, profound respect, homage श्रद्धा

5. **In the flush of youth** (phrase) – a period of time when someone is young, healthy, and full of energy जवानी के जोश में

6. **Fluttering** (noun) – vibration, quivering, flickering, agitation, pulsation फड़फड़ाहट

7. **Eyelid** (noun) – the folds of skin that cover the eyes पलकें

8. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, repeatedly, habitually, recurrently, oftentimes अक्सर

9. **Unforeseen** (adjective) – unexpected, unanticipated, abrupt, sudden, unintended अप्रत्याशित

10. **Disastrous** (adjective) – catastrophic, calamitous, ruinous, cataclysmic, devastating विनाशकारी

11. **Pine** (verb) – languish, yearn, crave, hanker, hunger तड़पना

12. **Beloved** (noun) – darling, dear, sweetheart, adored, favorite प्रिय

13. **Whim** (noun) – impulse, caprice, vagary, notion, fancy लहर/सनक

14. **At the hint of** (phrase) – at the slightest sign or suggestion of something ज़रा सी आहट पर

15. **Disagreement** (noun) – discord, dissent, friction, strife, variance असहमति

16. **Reconcile** (verb) – harmonize, accommodate, conciliate, settle, resolve मेल–मिलाप करना

17. **Difference** (noun) – disparity, variation, divergence, discrepancy, distinction अंतर

18. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, brittle, frail, flimsy, vulnerable नाजुक

19. **Resilient** (adjective) – hardy, tough, flexible, buoyant, adaptable लचीला/पुनः संभलने वाला

20. **Bear** (verb) – endure, tolerate, suffer, withstand, sustain सहना

21. **Sorrow** (noun) – misery, grief, woe, anguish, distress शोक/दुख

22. **Endure** (verb) – undergo, abide, tolerate, brook, sustain झेलना

23. **Comprehend** (verb) – understand, fathom, grasp, perceive, discern समझना

24. **Pronounce** (verb) – declare, assert, proclaim, announce, decree घोषित करना

25. **Fortune** (noun) – wealth, riches, opulence, prosperity, lucre भाग्य/संपत्ति

26. **Immortalise** (verb) – eternalize, commemorate, perpetuate, deify, exalt अमर करना

27. **Playwright** (noun) – dramatist, scriptwriter, tragedian, author, scrivener नाटककार

28. **Tremble** (verb) – quiver, shudder, shake, vibrate, quake कांपना

29. **Quail** (verb) – cower, recoil, flinch, blench, falter हिम्मत हारना/डरना

30. **Strike down** (phrasal verb) – to kill or severely incapacitate someone मार गिराना

31. **Dare** (verb) – venture, challenge, defy, hazard, risk साहस करना

32. **Rigid** (adjective) – inflexible, stringent, stiff, unyielding, austere कठोर

33. **Witness** (verb) – observe, behold, perceive, notice, view गवाही देना/देखना

34. **Triumph** (noun) – victory, conquest, achievement, feat, success विजय

35. **Advance** (noun) – progress, breakthrough, evolution, development, enhancement प्रगति

36. **Nonagenarian** (noun) – a person who is between 90 and 99 years old नब्बे साल का बूढ़ा

37. **Cardiac** (adjective) – pulmonary, vascular, arterial, coronary, heart–related हृदय संबंधी

38. **Longevity** (noun) – durability, endurance, permanence, long life, seniority दीर्घायु

39. **Out-of-pocket** (phrase) – expenses paid with one's own money rather than being reimbursed by insurance/employer अपनी जेब से

40. **Distress** (noun) – agony, suffering, adversity, hardship, tribulation संकट

41. **Catastrophe** (noun) – disaster, debacle, tragedy, mishap, adversity तबाही

42. **Sustain** (verb) – maintain, uphold, nourish, bolster, support बनाए रखना

43. **Steady** (verb) – stabilize, balance, secure, settle, fix स्थिर करना

44. **Miraculous** (adjective) – extraordinary, phenomenal, supernatural, marvelous, wondrous चमत्कारिक

45. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – susceptible, defenseless, exposed, sensitive, endangered असुरक्षित

46. **Resilience** (noun) – fortitude, elasticity, toughness, adaptability, grit लचीलापन

47. **Perhaps** (adverb) – possibly, feasibly, conceivably, maybe, perchance शायद

48. **Take something for granted** (phrase) – fail to properly appreciate (someone or something), especially as a result of overfamiliarity. हल्के में लेना

49. **Metaphor** (noun) – analogy, emblem, trope, symbol, figure of speech रूपक

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial begins by describing the heart as a unique and precious organ, both physically and symbolically.
2. It highlights how the heart has long been associated with love, emotions, and human vulnerability.
3. Literature and history across cultures have centred many stories on matters of the heart.
4. Famous tragic romances show how deeply human life is shaped by emotional bonds.
5. Social norms and traditions have sometimes led to violence when people followed their hearts.
6. Thus, the heart represents passion, courage, suffering, and resilience in human life.
7. The article then shifts from symbolism to the medical reality of the human heart.
8. Modern healthcare has made life-saving cardiac treatments possible through technological advances.
9. However, these treatments are extremely expensive and beyond the reach of most Indians.
10. The author illustrates this through a personal experience of a parent needing a costly cardiac device.
11. Even subsidised treatment costs remain unaffordable for a large majority of citizens.
12. With about 60% of healthcare spending coming from individuals' pockets, medical crises often become financial disasters.
13. This gap shows that medical progress has not translated into equal healthcare access.
14. The editorial stresses that both preventive health habits and stronger public healthcare systems are necessary.
15. It concludes that while the heart is priceless in poetry, society must ensure it does not become unaffordable in reality.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Examine these four statements about the heart and determine which combination of True (T) or False (F) is correct:**   **[Editorial Page]**
   1. The author believes that individual efforts toward fitness and discipline are sufficient to solve the cardiac health crisis.
   2. The passage suggests that the heart is physically matchless and serves as the central point for life's successes and failures.
   3. According to the passage, the cost of advanced cardiac devices is affordable for at least half of the Indian population today.
   4. Historical and literary figures like Romeo and Juliet are mentioned to show how the heart has been immortalized by writers.
   A. 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T
   B. 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F
   C. 1-F, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T
   D. 1-T, 2-T, 3-F, 4-F

2. **What does the author imply about the relationship between medical science progress and the average citizen's reality?**
   A. Technical advances in medical science have successfully increased longevity and made heart interventions accessible to everyone regardless of their income.
   B. The evolution of healthcare technology has prioritized the poetic value of the heart over the practical need for affordable surgical interventions.
   C. Improved longevity through medical science is a hollow victory if the majority of the population remains unable to afford basic heart interventions.
   D. Modern healthcare systems have effectively eliminated the financial distress caused by sudden cardiac events through government-approved subsidy amounts.

3. **Which statement best summarizes the author's critique of the current healthcare expenditure landscape in India?**
   A. Private insurance coverage has significantly reduced the out-of-pocket burden for most families facing a sudden and unexpected medical emergency.
   B. Nearly sixty percent of healthcare costs are paid directly by individuals, often transforming a medical crisis into a long-term economic catastrophe.
   C. The government-approved funding for cardiac devices is currently sufficient to cover the full cost of heart surgeries for the entire population.
   D. National health estimates show that medical emergencies no longer pose a threat to the financial stability of families due to modern technology.

4. **Based on the passage, fill in the blanks to accurately reflect the author's narrative:**
   "While the heart is seen as a (1)_____ organ that heals itself, modern advancements have turned it into an (2)_____ in healthcare; meanwhile, the heavy burden of (3)_____ expenses often transforms a medical event into an (4)_____ for many families."
   A. (1) whimsical; (2) intervention; (3) government; (4) awareness
   B. (1) resilient; (2) accessory; (3) out-of-pocket; (4) economic catastrophe
   C. (1) lyrical; (2) upgraded; (3) technological; (4) unexpected tragedy
   D. (1) vulnerable; (2) exaggerated; (3) national; (4) unforeseen consequence

5. **In the context of the passage, find the pair that correctly provides a synonym for "Resilient" and an antonym for "Priceless."**
   A. The word "reflective" serves as a synonym while "disastrous" serves as the most appropriate antonym for the terms used.
   B. The word "tough" serves as a synonym while "worthless" serves as the most appropriate antonym for the terms used.
   C. The word "quail" serves as a synonym while "reverence" serves as the most appropriate antonym for the terms used.
   D. The word "accessory" serves as a synonym while "catastrophe" serves as the most appropriate antonym for the terms used.

6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Recourse."**
   A. Resort
   B. Retort
   C. Remiss
   D. Repose

7. **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 anyerror, select 'No error' as your answer.**
   (a) The more it rains, / (b) worse/ (c) the roads become/ (d) No error
   A. d
   B. a
   C. c
   D. b

8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
   Study of the earth and its structure and processes
   A. Philosophy
   B. Philanthropy
   C. Geology
   D. Psychology

9. **Choose the right meaning of the idiom 'go the extra mile' in the sentence:**
   The team went the extra mile to meet the client's needs.
   A. Took a long route
   B. Made additional effort
   C. Spent more money
   D. Traveled abroad

10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
    Ostentatious
    A. Modest
    B. Showy
    C. Flashy
    D. Pretentious

11. **Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage**
    This creates a sense of belonging and support.
    Community engagement is vital for social cohesion.

It involves active participation in local initiatives and events.

Strong communities lead to improved quality of life for all residents.

A. 2-4-3-1

B. 2-1-3-4

C. 3-4-2-1

D. 2-3-1-4

12. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Divergent."**

A. Dissimilar

B. Dissolute

C. Dissident

D. Diaphanous

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

He is very **stuborn** about his decisions.

A. stubbern

B. stuborn

C. stubborn

D. stuburne

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The teacher asked the students to _____ electricity by switching off lights when they left the room

A. retain

B. rescue

C. deposit

D. save

15. **Select the option that expresses the following sentence in active voice.**

The cake was baked by the chef in the kitchen.

A. The chef baked the cake in the kitchen.

B. The cake was being baked by the chef in the kitchen.

C. The cake is being baked by the chef in the kitchen.

D. The kitchen was baking the cake by the chef.

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

He said, "I am not feeling well today."

A. He said he is not feeling well today.

B. He said he was not feeling well that day.

C. He said that I was not feeling well today.

D. He told that he not feeling well.

17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**

Nugatory

A. Worthless

B. Futile

C. Significant

D. Trivial

18. **Improve the sentence using the correct phrasal verb of the underlined words.**

The thieves managed to **get off** the police during the chase.

A. get away from

B. get along with

C. get over

D. get through

19. **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 anyerror, select 'No error' as your answer.**

(a) This is book/ (b) you are/ (c) searching for./ (d) No error

A. c

B. a

C. b

D. d

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

It took 4 hours straight to _____ the deal with the regional company

A. stop

B. get

C. perform

D. close

Comprehension

Railways has integrated artificial intelligence (AI) into a bouquet of seven mobile applications, including grievance redressal system RailMadad, onboard housekeeping services Coach Mitra and RailOne app — which (1) _____ confirmation percentage of waiting tickets – in its (2) _____ to provide efficient services to the passengers. Centre For Railway Information Systems (CRIS)– the technological arm of Indian Railways– is also working to (3) _____ AI into another bunch of 15 applications to improve security, increase freight loading and for better operations of trains. Among the other seven operationalised AI-embedded apps are Generation of Optimised and Automated Loco Links (GOAL), Coaching Crew Link Management System (CCLMS) and Track management system. Coach Mitra, meanwhile, (4) _____ operational in 74 trains. We recently implemented an AI system in the RailOne app. It gives much more accurate information in the percentage on chances of getting a waiting ticket confirmed. Similarly, AI is already working in RailMadad, the grievance redressal system of Railways. It classifies and prioritises the complaints based on urgency and type," said G V L Satya Kumar, Managing Director, CRIS on the sidelines of AI India Summit 2026 in Bharat Mandapam. Kumar said that CRIS is also working on AI solutions for predicting railway traffic congestion and accelerating the road to rail shift of freight using GST data. "We are trying to build a system where Railways would be able to decide which new commodity to add to its freight basket. With the help of GST data, we have been able to map the movement of commodities from specific locations. (5) _____ it, we have created a total of 300 freight clusters. These are the potential freight areas where Railways can move in," said Kumar. Another AI system in the pipeline is the development of an incident prediction model for the Railways assets using historical incidents and failure data. For the safe operation of trains, assets such as tracks, rails, locomotives, coaches, wagons and signalling systems have to function properly.

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

    A. obelus

    B. denigrates

    C. carouse

    D. predicts

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

    A. auction

    B. sell

    C. bid

    D. exhibition

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

    A. impinge

    B. obstreperous

    C. imbed

    D. belie

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

    A. are

    B. is

    C. has

    D. being

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

    A. In consequence of

    B. On the premise of

    C. On the basis of

    D. In lieu of

Answers

1. A   2. C   3.B   4. B   5. B   6.A   7.D   8. C   9. B   10. A   11.B   12.A

13. C   14.D   15.A   16.B   17.C   18.A   19.B   20.D   21.D   22.C   23.C   24.B

25. C   [Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Option A: 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T.**
   Statement 1: It says individual effort is sufficient; however, the passage explicitly states that "individual effort alone is not enough" to solve the crisis. Hence incorrect.
   Statement 2: It says the heart is matchless and central to life; the passage confirms it has "no match" and is at the "centre of everything." Hence correct.
   Statement 3: It says devices are affordable for half the population; the passage states costs remain "beyond the reach of probably 95% of our population." Hence incorrect.
   Statement 4: It says figures like Romeo and Juliet show the heart is immortalized; the passage lists them as "unfortunates who had the good fortune of being immortalised." Hence correct.

2. C) **Improved longevity through medical science is a hollow victory if the majority of the population remains unable to afford basic heart interventions**.
   The statement calls it a hollow victory if unaffordable; the passage notes that despite technical advances and longevity, the "majority of us remain unable to access" them. Hence correct.
   Option A: The statement says interventions are accessible to everyone; the passage says they remain "beyond the reach of probably 95% of our population." Hence incorrect.
   Option B: The statement says technology prioritizes poetic value; the passage says technology has actually "reduced [the heart] to an expensive accessory" in modern systems. Hence incorrect.
   Option D: The statement says financial distress is eliminated; the passage states that out-of-pocket costs are "pushing millions into financial distress each year." Hence incorrect.

3. B**) Nearly sixty percent of healthcare costs are paid directly by individuals, often transforming a medical crisis into a long-term economic catastrophe**.
   The statement says 60% is paid by individuals, leading to catastrophe; the passage confirms this percentage and calls it an "economic catastrophe." Hence correct.
   Option A: The statement claims insurance has significantly reduced the burden; however, the passage notes that "nearly 60% of healthcare expenditure in India is still borne out-of-pocket." Hence incorrect.
   Option C: The statement says government funding is sufficient; however, the passage states that even with the approved amount, the cost remains "beyond the reach of probably 95% of our population." Hence incorrect.
   Option D: The statement says emergencies no longer threat financial stability; the passage explicitly states they are "pushing millions into financial distress each year." Hence incorrect.

4. B) (**1) resilient; (2) accessory; (3) out-of-pocket; (4) economic catastrophe**
   (1) Resilient: The passage describes the heart as being "fragile, yet resilient" and explicitly mentions that it "heals itself" as people reconcile. Hence correct.
   (2) Accessory: The author critiques the modern medical system by stating that the heart has been "reduced to an expensive accessory" due to the high cost of technology. Hence correct.

(3) Out-of-pocket: To explain the financial burden, the passage cites national estimates that "nearly 60% of healthcare expenditure in India is still borne out-of-pocket." Hence correct.

(4) Economic Catastrophe: The author concludes that for many families, a medical emergency is not just a health issue but an "economic catastrophe" because the price is too high to sustain. Hence correct.

5. B) **The word "tough" serves as a synonym while "worthless" serves as the most appropriate antonym for the terms used.**

Based on the standard definitions and common usage of the words, the pair that correctly provides a synonym for "Resilient" (meaning tough, strong, or able to recover) and an antonym for "Priceless" (meaning invaluable or too expensive)

Synonym for Resilient: Tough

Antonym for Priceless: worthless/cheap

6. A) **Recourse** (noun) – A source of help in a difficult situation. (सहारा/विकल्प)

Synonym: **Resort** (noun) – The action of turning to and adopting a strategy or object for help. (आश्रय/सहारा)

- **Retort** (verb/noun): To say something in answer to a remark or accusation, typically in a sharp or witty manner. (मुंहतोड़ जवाब)
- **Remiss** (adjective): Lacking care or attention to duty; negligent. (बेपरवाह)
- **Repose** (noun/verb): A state of rest, sleep, or tranquility. (विश्राम)

7. D) worse' के स्थान पर **'the worse'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'The more... the worse' एक सही comparative structure है जो दो चीजों के बीच तुलना दिखाने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। जैसे—The more you practice, the better you become.

The error lies in part (b) of the sentence. The word "worse" should be replaced with "the worse" because the structure "The more..., the worse..." is the correct comparative structure used to compare two situations or things. For example: "The more you study, the better your results will be."

8. C) **Geology** (noun) – Study of the earth and its structure and processes भूविज्ञान
- **Philosophy** (noun) – the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. दर्शनशास्त्र
- **Philanthropy** (noun) – the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes. परोपकार
- **Psychology** (noun) – the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior in a given context. मनोविज्ञान

9. B) **go the extra mile** (idiom) – Made additional effort अतिरिक्त प्रयास करना

10. A) **Ostentatious** (adjective) – Showy, flamboyant, extravagant, gaudy, pretentious दिखावटी

Antonym: **Modest** (adjective) – Simple, humble, unassuming, restrained, decent विनम्र / सादा
- **Showy** (adjective) – Attractive, flashy, bright, eye-catching. चमकदार
- **Flashy** (adjective) – Gaudy, glittery, loud, attention-seeking. भड़कीला
- **Pretentious** (adjective) – Aiming to impress, showy, affected, exaggerated. दिखावा करने वाला

11. B) (2) **2-1-3-4**

2 starts the paragraph by stating the importance of community engagement for social cohesion.

1 follows by explaining that community engagement creates a sense of belonging and support.

3 comes next, describing that it involves active participation in local initiatives and events.

4 concludes the paragraph by showing the positive outcome—strong communities improve the quality of life for all residents.

In Hindi:

- 1 paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि सामाजिक एकता के लिए समुदाय की भागीदारी कितनी आवश्यक है।
- 1 इसके बाद आता है जो समझाता है कि यह भागीदारी लोगों में जुड़ाव और समर्थन की भावना उत्पन्न करती है।
- 3 फिर आता है जो बताता है कि इसमें स्थानीय पहलों और कार्यक्रमों में सक्रिय सहभागिता शामिल है।
- 4 end में आता है जो दर्शाता है कि मजबूत समुदाय सभी निवासियों के जीवन स्तर को बेहतर बनाते हैं।

12. A) **Divergent** (adjective) – Tending to be different or develop in different directions. (भिन्न/अलग)

    Synonym: **Dissimilar** (adjective) – Not alike; different. (असमान)
    - **Dissolute** (adjective): Lax in morals; licentious. (चरित्रहीन)
    - **Dissident** (noun/adjective): A person who opposes official policy; in opposition. (विद्रोही)

    - **Diaphanous** (adjective): (Especially of fabric) light, delicate, and translucent. (पारभासी)

13. C) The correct spelling of 'stuborn' is 'stubborn' which means "obstinate, rigid, unwilling to change" जिद्दी, हठी.

14. D) **Save'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence छात्रों को बिजली बचाने के लिए प्रेरित करने की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "The teacher asked the students to _____ electricity by switching off lights when they left the room" के माध्यम से उस तात्विक आवश्यकता को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें छात्रों को बिजली बचाने के लिए कहा जा रहा है। इसलिए, "save" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
    - 'Save' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing encouraging students to conserve electricity. Here, through "The teacher asked the students to _____ electricity by switching off lights when they left the room", it portrays the essential need to conserve electricity. Thus, "save" would be the most appropriate choice.

15. A) **The chef baked the cake in the kitchen**.

    Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए: Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बनता है। Passive वाक्य में "The cake" Subject है, "was baked" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है, और "by the chef in the kitchen" Agent और Place को दर्शाता है। Active में बदलने पर "The chef" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "baked" (Past Simple Active) में बदल दिया गया है, और "the cake in the kitchen" Object और Place के रूप में रखा गया है।
    - To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice: The subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. In the passive voice, "The cake" (Subject), "was baked" (Verb in Past Simple Passive), and "by the chef in the kitchen" (Agent and

Place) are transformed into "The chef" (Subject), "baked" (Active Verb in Past Simple), and "the cake in the kitchen" (Object and Place).

16. B) He said he was not feeling well that day.

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय, Reporting Verb "said" होने के कारण tense backshift किया जाता है और Time Expression को भी बदला जाता है। Direct sentence में "I am not feeling" (Present Continuous) है, जो Indirect Speech में "was not feeling" (Past Continuous) बन जाता है। साथ ही "today" को "that day" में बदला जाता है और Pronoun "I" को "he" में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

In English

To convert Direct to Indirect Speech:

   Reporting verb: "said" is in the past, so tense backshifts.
   Tense: Present Continuous "am not feeling" → Past Continuous "was not feeling".

   Pronoun change: "I" → "he".
   Time expression: "today" → "that day".
   Remove quotation marks and add "that".

Breakdown:

   Direct Speech: I am not feeling well today
   Reporting verb: He said
   Subject: I → he
   Verb: am not feeling → was not feeling
   Time word: today → that day

Other Option Analysis:

   Option 1: No tense backshift; incorrect with past reporting verb.
   Option 3: Changes aspect unnecessarily to past perfect continuous.
   Option 4: Changes tense to simple past and keeps "today"; meaning altered.

Correct Indirect Speech:

He said that he was not feeling well that day.

17. C) **Nugatory** (adjective) – Useless, worthless, futile, trivial, insignificant नगण्य, तुच्छ

Antonym: **Significant** (adjective) – Important, meaningful, substantial, notable. महत्त्वपूर्ण

   • **Worthless** (adjective) – Valueless, useless, insignificant. बेकार
   • **Futile** (adjective) – Pointless, ineffective, useless. निष्फल
   • **Trivial** (adjective) – Minor, insignificant, unimportant. मामूली

18. A) **get away from**

'get off' के स्थान पर 'get away from' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में अर्थ है कि चोर पुलिस से बचकर निकल गए / escape कर गए। 'get away from' का अर्थ होता है किसी से बच निकलना, जो इस context में बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है।

   • 'get away from' should be used instead of 'get off' because it means to escape from someone, especially during a chase. The other options do not convey the idea of escaping from the police in this context.

19. B) 'This is book' में error है। 'This is book' के स्थान पर 'This is the book' होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'book' countable noun है और singular noun से पहले article ('a', 'an', 'the') का प्रयोग आवश्यक है।
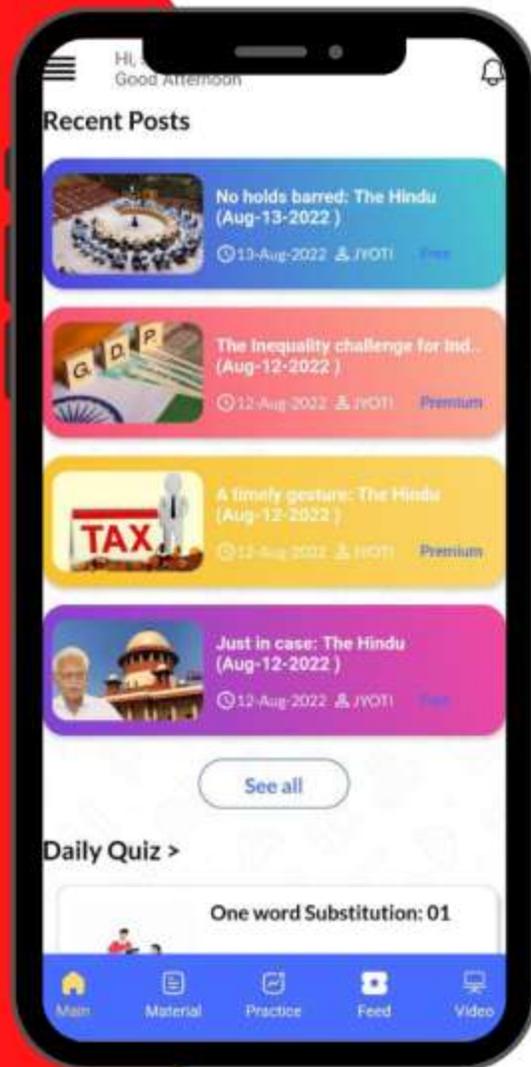
उदाहरण: This is the book you are searching for.

- There is an error in 'This is book'. It should be 'This is the book' because 'book' is a countable noun, and singular countable nouns require an article ('a', 'an', or 'the') before them.

Like: This is the book you are searching for.

20. D) **'Close'** का use होगा क्योंकि "close the deal" का अर्थ होता है एक समझौते को अंतिम रूप देना या समाप्त करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'stop' का अर्थ रोकना है, 'get' का अर्थ प्राप्त करना है, और 'perform' का अर्थ प्रदर्शन या क्रियान्वित करना है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

   - 'Close' should be used because "close the deal" means to finalize or complete a business agreement, which is most appropriate in this context. Whereas, 'stop' means to halt, 'get' means to obtain, and 'perform' means to execute, which don't fit in this context.

21. D) **Predicts'** सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में बताया गया है कि RailOne app waiting tickets के confirmation की संभावना का प्रतिशत बताता है। यहाँ भविष्य की स्थिति का अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है। जब कोई system future result का अंदाज़ा लगाता है, तो "predict" शब्द का उपयोग किया जाता है। Grammatically RailOne app" singular है, और "which" उसी को refer कर रहा है, इसलिए verb भी singular होगी — "predicts"। बाकी विकल्प जैसे 'denigrates' (बुरा कहना), 'carouse' (मौज करना), और 'obelus' (एक चिन्ह) (÷) न तो अर्थ में सही हैं और न ही वाक्य की संरचना में फिट बैठते हैं।

   - **Predicts**" is correct because the sentence describes the function of the RailOne app, which estimates the probability of ticket confirmation. Prediction means making an informed estimate about a future outcome based on available data. The app analyses patterns and gives a percentage likelihood, which is clearly a predictive activity. Grammatically, "RailOne app" is singular, and the relative pronoun "which" refers back to it, so the verb must also be singular — hence "predicts." The other options fail completely in context. "Denigrates" means to criticize unfairly, which has no logical relation to calculating ticket probability. "Carouse" means to celebrate noisily or drink heavily, which is irrelevant and absurd in this technological context. "Obelus" is a noun referring to a typographical mark (÷) and cannot function as a verb here.

22. C) **Bid'** सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में Railways के प्रयास की बात हो रही है। "In its bid to provide better services" का मतलब है कि वह बेहतर सेवा देने की कोशिश कर रहा है। यहाँ "its" के बाद एक noun चाहिए, और 'bid' एक noun है जिसका अर्थ है प्रयास या कोशिश। बाकी विकल्प जैसे 'auction' (नीलामी), 'sell' (बेचना), और 'exhibition' (प्रदर्शनी) प्रयास का अर्थ नहीं देते, इसलिए वे गलत हैं।

   - "bid" is correct because it expresses an attempt or effort made to achieve a particular objective. The phrase "in its bid to provide better services" clearly indicates an initiative or purposeful effort by the Railways. Grammatically, the possessive pronoun "its" must be followed by a noun, and "bid" satisfies that requirement. The other options do not express the idea of an effort. "Auction" refers to a public sale process, "sell" is a verb and does not fit grammatically after "its," and "exhibition" refers to display or presentation. None of them logically convey the idea of making an effort.

23. C) **Imbed'** सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में AI को applications के अंदर शामिल करने की बात हो रही है। "To imbed AI into systems" का मतलब है AI को system का हिस्सा बनाना। यहाँ "to" के बाद base form verb चाहिए, और 'imbed' verb है। बाकी विकल्प जैसे 'impinge' (प्रभाव डालना), 'obstreperous' (शोर मचाने वाला), और 'belie' (गलत साबित करना) अर्थ में बिल्कुल अलग हैं और यहाँ फिट नहीं होते।

- "imbed" is correct because the sentence refers to incorporating AI into applications so that it becomes an integrated part of the system. The verb "imbed" (or embed) means to fix something firmly into a surrounding structure. Grammatically, after "to," we require the base form of a verb, which "imbed" provides. The other options are unsuitable. "Impinge" means to have an effect or encroach, which does not convey the idea of integration. "Obstreperous" is an adjective describing noisy behavior and cannot function as a verb here. "Belie" means to contradict or misrepresent, which is unrelated to technological incorporation.

24. B) **is'** सही है क्योंकि "Coach Mitra" singular subject है। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि यह 74 trains में operational है। Subject singular है, इसलिए verb भी singular होगी — "is operational।" "Are" plural के लिए होता है, इसलिए गलत है। "Has" यहाँ पूरा structure नहीं बना रहा, और "being" continuous sense देगा जो यहाँ नहीं चाहिए।

- "is" is correct because "Coach Mitra" functions as a singular subject in the sentence. The statement describes its present operational status. According to subject–verb agreement rules, a singular subject requires a singular verb. The structure "is operational" expresses a present state of being. "Are" would incorrectly suggest a plural subject. "Has" would require a complement such as "been operational" to make sense, and "being" would imply a continuous process, which does not fit the intended meaning.

25. C) **On the basis of'** सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में कहा गया है कि GST data को आधार बनाकर freight clusters बनाए गए। इसका मतलब है कि वही data foundation के रूप में उपयोग हुआ। "On the basis of it" का अर्थ है उसी के आधार पर निर्णय लिया गया। बाकी विकल्प जैसे 'In consequence of' (परिणामस्वरूप), 'On the premise of' (किसी मान्यता पर आधारित), और 'In lieu of' (के स्थान पर) सही अर्थ नहीं देते। यहाँ परिणाम या स्थानापन्न की बात नहीं है, बल्कि आधार की बात है।

- "on the basis of" is correct because the sentence states that freight clusters were created using GST data as the foundation. The phrase clearly indicates reliance on factual data as a structural base for classification. "In consequence of" would indicate a result or effect, not a foundation. "On the premise of" suggests assumption rather than actual data-based grounding. "In lieu of" means in place of something else, which does not match the meaning here.