Band aid: On the Supreme Court and the Special Intensive Revision process

The constitutionality of the flawed SIR process must be decided quickly

With the corrections and claims process coming to an end, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process has seen the **release** of final **electoral rolls** except in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh which are due soon. **The net number** of voters removed (with fresh additions) from the pre-SIR electoral rolls in States such as Tamil Nadu (nearly 11.5%), Gujarat (13.4%) and Chhattisgarh (11.8%) **remain** high. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are, after all, **net in-migrant** States unlike Bihar where **deletions** were around 6%. The high **number** of deletions, and the fact that **excisions** are higher for female than male electors, **suggests** that **the SIR process**, as **envisaged** and **implemented** by the **Election Commission of India** (ECI), **suffered** from clear **structural defects**. A **clear-cut assessment** could have only been possible with **comparison** with **Census** figures, but due to the **prolonged** delay by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led **Union Government**, only **outdated** numbers from 2011 are available. The final **figures** of the electorate in major States where the SIR was conducted **indicate** that the registered adult population in the final rolls is much below the **projected estimates**. This again raises the question of whether the ECI should have waited for the Census before **rushing** the SIR — but that is now only of **academic interest**.

The exercise's **lacunae** and **anomalies** could have been **mitigated** if the Supreme Court of India had ruled on SIR's **constitutionality** and **compelled** the ECI to adopt a more **robust** — though slower — **household-by-household count**, instead of depending on an **enumeration** that shifts the burden **onto** electors to prove their **eligibility**. This exercise has clearly, and **unduly**, affected **migrant voters** — especially those leaving their **residence** for the short term and married women who have shifted residences. By letting the process to continue despite its **frailties**, the Court **relied on** the ECI's claim that concerns with **omissions** are **overblown**, given the **relatively** few **complaints** filed by political parties. But the **fact** that political parties participate in a **zero-sum game** of competition should **alert** to the possibility of their relative lack of agency in **assisting** all electors to be part of the list. Also, unlike other identity documents such as **ration card**, passport or Aadhaar, the voter identity card is of use only during **quinquennial elections, disincentivising** citizens from trying to ensure that they are on the list. This is even more so in West Bengal, where the ECI's **shoddy implementation** has created such a **humongous mess** that the Court has sought the services of not just the State's judicial officers but those of its neighbours to aid in the "**legal verification**" process. The Court is seeking to **ease** the hurt rather than **aid** the process of **universal adult franchise**.   **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Aid** (verb) – Help or support (someone or something) in the achievement of something. सहायता देना

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

Vocabulary

1. **Band aid** (noun) - a temporary or superficial solution to a problem that does not address its root cause पट्टियाँ या ऊपरी समाधान

2. **Special intensive revision** (noun) - a thorough and comprehensive process of updating electoral rolls conducted by the election commission of India विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण

3. **Constitutionality** (noun) - legality, lawfulness, validity, permissibility, legitimacy संवैधानिकता

4. **Flawed** (adjective) - defective, faulty, imperfect, erroneous, distorted त्रुटिपूर्ण

5. **Release** (verb) - publish, issue, circulate, distribute, unveil जारी करना

6. **Electoral roll** (noun) - the official list of people who is registered and eligible to vote in an election मतदाता सूची

7. **Net in-migrant** (adjective) - referring to a state where the number of people entering to settle is higher than those leaving शुद्ध आप्रवासी

8. **Deletion** (noun) - removal, exclusion, excision, elimination, erasure विलोपन

9. **Excision** (noun) - removal, cutting out, extraction, deletion, elimination काट-छाँट

10. **Envisage** (verb) - contemplate, envision, visualize, imagine, conceive परिकल्पना करना

11. **Implement** (verb) - execute, enforce, administer, carry out, apply लागू करना

12. **Election Commission of India** (noun) - the autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

13. **Structural defect** (noun) - fundamental flaw or weakness in the organization or construction of a system संरचनात्मक दोष

14. **Clear-cut assessment** (noun) - a definitive, unambiguous, and precise evaluation or analysis स्पष्ट मूल्यांकन

15. **Comparison** (noun) - juxtaposition, correlation, analogy, contrast, appraisal तुलना

16. **Census** (noun) - survey, enumeration, poll, count, tally जनगणना

17. **Prolonged** (adjective) - extended, protracted, lengthy, lingering, sustained लंबा या विलंबित

18. **Union Government** (noun) - the central government of India acting as the governing authority of the union संघ सरकार

19. **Outdated** (adjective) - obsolete, archaic, antiquated, defunct, outmoded पुराना या अप्रचलित

20. **Projected estimates** (noun) - calculated predictions or forecasts based on current data and trends अनुमानित आंकड़े

21. **Rush** (verb) - hasten, accelerate, expedite, hurry, scramble जल्दबाजी करना

22. **Academic interest** (noun) - a subject or point that is of theoretical importance but

has no practical relevance to the current situation केवल शैक्षणिक रुचि का विषय

23. **Lacunae** (noun) - gaps, voids, omissions, pitfalls, blanks रिक्तियां या कमियां

24. **Anomalies** (noun) - irregularities, inconsistencies, abnormalities, deviations, peculiarities विसंगतियां

25. **Mitigate** (verb) - alleviate, diminish, reduce, attenuate, assuage कम करना

26. **Compel** (verb) - force, coerce, oblige, necessitate, constrain मजबूर करना

27. **Household-by-household count** (noun) - a method of enumeration where every single home is visited individually for data collection घर-घर जाकर गणना

28. **Enumeration** (noun) - counting, listing, cataloging, inventory, tallying गणना या सूची बनाना

29. **Onto** (preposition) - indicating movement into a position on a particular surface or assigning a responsibility के ऊपर

30. **Eligibility** (noun) - qualification, suitability, fitness, entitlement, rightfulness पात्रता

31. **Unduly** (adverb) - excessively, disproportionately, immoderately, unnecessarily, unfairly अनुचित रूप से

32. **Migrant voter** (noun) - elector who move from one place to another for work or residence प्रवासी मतदाता

33. **Residence** (noun) - dwelling, abode, habitation, domicile, lodging निवास

34. **Frailties** (noun) - weaknesses, shortcomings, vulnerabilities, defects, foibles कमजोरियां

35. **Rely on** (phrasal verb) - to depend on or trust someone or something to behave in a particular way भरोसा करना

36. **Omission** (noun) - exclusion, lapse, neglect, failure, skip चूक या विस्मरण

37. **Overblown** (adjective) - exaggerated, inflated, overstated, excessive, hyperbolized बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहा गया

38. **Relatively** (adverb) - comparatively, somewhat, reasonably, moderately, fairly तुलनात्मक रूप से

39. **Complaint** (noun) - grievance, protest, objection, accusation, grumble शिकायत

40. **Zero-sum game** (noun) - a situation where one person's gain is exactly equal to another's loss, resulting in no net change शून्य-योग खेल

41. **Alert** (verb) - warn, signal, caution, inform, notify सचेत करना

42. **Assist** (verb) - aid, help, support, facilitate, abet सहायता करना

43. **Ration card** (noun) - an official document entitling the holder to a ration of food or other goods issued by the government राशन कार्ड

44. **Quinquennial elections** (noun) - electoral processes that occur once every five years पंचवर्षीय चुनाव

45. **Disincentivising** (verb) - deterring, discouraging, dissuading, inhibiting, daunting निरुत्साहित करना

46. **Shoddy** (adjective) - careless, poor, inferior, sloppy, substandard घटिया या लापरवाह

47. **Implementation** (noun) - execution, application, performance, enactment, fulfillment कार्यान्वयन

48. **Humongous mess** (noun) - an extremely large, complicated, and disorganized situation or problem बहुत बड़ी गड़बड़ी

49. **Legal verification** (noun) - the process of using law or judicial oversight to confirm the accuracy or truth of something कानूनी सत्यापन

50. **Ease** (verb) - alleviate, soothe, relieve, lessen, mitigate कम करना या राहत देना

51. **Universal adult franchise** (noun) - the right of all adult citizens to vote regardless of wealth, income, gender, social status, or race सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process has concluded in most States, with final rolls pending in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

2. Several States have seen very high voter deletions — Tamil Nadu (11.5%), Gujarat (13.4%), and Chhattisgarh (11.8%).

3. These high deletions are concerning, especially in net in-migrant States like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

4. Women voters appear to have been disproportionately removed from the rolls.

5. The scale of deletions indicates structural flaws in how the Election Commission of India (ECI) designed and implemented SIR.

6. A proper assessment is difficult because updated Census data is unavailable; only the 2011 Census figures exist.

7. Final electoral numbers in several States are significantly below projected adult population estimates.

8. This raises doubts about whether the ECI should have waited for the next Census before conducting SIR.

9. The Supreme Court could have intervened earlier by examining SIR's constitutionality more thoroughly.

10. A household-by-household verification process might have prevented large-scale exclusions.

11. Instead, the SIR shifted the burden onto voters to prove their eligibility, disadvantaging migrants and married women who change residence.

12. The Court allowed the process to continue, relying on the ECI's claim that omissions were minimal.

13. Political parties filed few complaints, but their competitive interests limit their ability to ensure all citizens are registered.

14. Since voter ID is only useful during elections, many citizens lack motivation to actively verify their inclusion.

15. In States like West Bengal, flawed implementation has forced courts to deploy judicial officers for verification, suggesting the Court is merely mitigating harm rather than safeguarding universal franchise.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What structural problems of the SIR process are highlighted in the passage?**
   High voter deletions in several States
   Greater excisions among female electors than males
   Availability of updated Census data enabling proper comparison
   I)   Only I
   II)   Only II
   III)   Both I and II
   IV)   Both II and III

2. **Why was a clear assessment of the SIR process difficult according to the passage?**
   I)   Delay in Census data release
   II)   Lack of comparison with Census figures
   III)   Absence of electoral rolls
   A. Only I
   B. Both I and II
   C. Only II
   D. Both II and III

3. **What criticism is made of the Supreme Court's role regarding the SIR process?**
   I)   It allowed the process to continue despite its frailties
   II)   It compelled a household-by-household enumeration
   III)   It focused on easing harm rather than strengthening universal franchise
   A. Only I
   B. Both I and III
   C. Only II
   D. Both II and III

4. **What is the tone of the author in the above passage regarding the SIR process?**
   A. Appreciative and supportive
   B. Neutral and descriptive
   C. Critical and concerned
   D. Optimistic and hopeful

5. **Which of the following best expresses the central theme of the passage?**
   A. The logistical triumph of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in updating electoral rolls across major migrant-heavy states.
   B. The constitutional necessity of prioritizing political party feedback over individual voter claims during the Special Intensive Revision.
   C. The systemic flaws in the SIR process and the institutional failure to protect the voting rights of marginalized and migrant populations.
   D. The comparative analysis of voter deletion rates between in-migrant states like Gujarat and out-migrant states like Bihar.

6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
   IMPLACABLE
   A. Soft
   B. Unyielding

C. Flexible
D. Gentle

7. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Obsequious
A. Assertive
B. Submissive
C. Flattering
D. Servile

8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Soporific
A. Stimulating
B. Drowsy
C. Sleep-inducing
D. Sedative

9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Tooth and nail
A. With full force or vigour
B. Without planning
C. Secretly and quietly
D. Half-heartedly

10. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Steal a march on
A. Surrender unexpectedly
B. Gain an advantage by acting before others do
C. Betray one's allies
D. Escape punishment

11. **Which is the correct spelling for a word meaning 'a very large number'?**
A. Myriad
B. Myriod
C. Miriad
D. Mirriad

12. **Spot the correct spelling of an autism-linked speech echo.**
A. Echolallia
B. Echolalia
C. Echollalia
D. Echolaliah

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
'Excessive self-importance or over-confidence.'
A. Prudence
B. Humility
C. Arrogance
D. Modesty

14. **Choose the right collocation:**
The article offers a _____ critique of contemporary educational paradigms.

    A. thorough going
    B. through-going
    C. thorough-go
    D. go-through

15. **Select the correct option:**
The discovery, ___ was unexpected, altered the trajectory of the entire study.
    A. that
    B. which
    C. what
    D. whose

16. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
Not only does the report fail to address the structural gaps, (1)/ but also it overlooks the more pressing issue (2)/ of community exclusion which, according to activists, (3)/ have been systematically ignored for years. (4)
    A. (1)
    B. (2)
    C. (3)
    D. (4)

17. **Change the following from active to passive:**
Did the analysts anticipate the sudden market downturn?
    A. Was the sudden market downturn anticipated from the analysts?
    B. Had the sudden market downturn been anticipated by the analysts?
    C. Was the sudden market downturn anticipated by the analysts?
    D. Is the sudden market downturn being anticipated by the analysts?

18. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
The monk carried a carved **crosier** into the sanctuary.
    A. The florist added white crosiers to the bouquet.
    B. The bishop's crosier gleamed under the candlelight.
    C. The museum displayed a gilded 14th-century crosier.
    D. The abbot's ceremonial crosier was stolen.

19. **Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:**
The ministers were being briefed about the situation by the intelligence officers.
    A. The intelligence officers briefed the ministers about the situation.
    B. The intelligence officers had briefed the ministers.
    C. The ministers were briefed by the intelligence officers.
    D. The intelligence officers were briefing the ministers.

20. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
He **is going to abroad** for higher studies.
    A. is going abroad
    B. goes to abroad
    C. is going to the abroad
    D. is going for abroad
Comprehension

IDFC First Bank Sunday (1) _____ a Rs 590-crore fraud committed by its employees and others in accounts held by the Haryana government with the bank. The bank has reported the matter to the banking regulator RBI and also filed a police complaint. The bank said in a statement that "unauthorised and fraudulent activities have been (2) _____ by certain employees at a particular branch in Chandigarh in a specific set of Haryana state government accounts and potentially involving other individuals/entities/ counterparties". On Monday, IDFC Bank's shares (3) _____ 10% to Rs 75.21 when the market opened for trading. At 1502 IST, shares of IDFC Bank were trading 16.21% lower at Rs 69.97 on NSE. In a conference call on Monday, IDFC Bank MD and CEO V Vaidyanathan said the bank "will spare no one and will get to the bottom" of the fraud. "We will move diligently and very fast… we will scan every nook and corner to see any employees are involved," he said. In the fraud, certain "discrepancies were observed in the amount mentioned (4) _____ the balance in an account after the bank received a request from a Haryana government department for (5) _____ of its account and transfer of funds to another bank", the bank's statement said. From February 18 onwards, certain other Haryana Government entities engaged with the bank with regard to their respective accounts with the bank. During this process, differences were observed between the balances in the account and the balances as mentioned by the Haryana Government entities holding accounts with the bank," it said.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
    A. repudiated
    B. understated
    C. disclosed
    D. pratttled

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
    A. carried on
    B. carried out
    C. carry off
    D. carried away

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
    A. rallied
    B. wreak
    C. spangle
    D. tanked

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
    A. pursuant to
    B. vis-à-vis
    C. owing to
    D. in contrast to

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
    A. suspension
    B. liquidation
    C. closure
    D. interpolate

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **C) Both I and II**
   I) High voter deletions in several States: Line from passage: "The net number of voters removed… in States such as Tamil Nadu (nearly 11.5%), Gujarat (13.4%) and Chhattisgarh (11.8%) remain high." This clearly shows high deletions in several States. Hence correct
   II) Greater excisions among female electors than males: Line from passage: "Excisions are higher for female than male electors." This directly states female deletions are higher. Hence correct
   III) Availability of updated Census data enabling proper comparison: Line from passage: "Only outdated numbers from 2011 are available." This shows updated Census data is NOT available. Hence incorrect

2. **B) Both I and II)**
   I) Delay in Census data release- Line from passage: "Due to the prolonged delay… only outdated numbers from 2011 are available."This shows delay in Census data release. Hence correct
   II) Lack of comparison with Census figures- Line from passage: "A clear-cut assessment could have only been possible with comparison with Census figures." This shows assessment was difficult without Census comparison. Hence correct
   III) Absence of electoral rolls-Line from passage:"The release of final electoral rolls…"Electoral rolls were released, so they were not absent. Hence incorrect

3. **B) (Both I and III)**
   I) It allowed the process to continue despite its frailties- Line from passage: "By letting the process continue despite its frailties, the Court relied on the ECI's claim…" This shows the Supreme Court of India allowed continuation despite weaknesses.Hence correct
   II) It compelled a household-by-household enumeration-Line from passage: "…could have been mitigated if the Supreme Court… compelled the ECI to adopt a more robust — though slower — household-by-household count…" Passage says the Court did not compel this; it was only a suggestion. Hence incorrect
   III) It focused on easing harm rather than strengthening universal franchise- Line from passage: "The Court is seeking to ease the hurt rather than aid the process of universal adult franchise." This directly states the criticism. Hence correct

4. **C) (Critical and concerned)**
   Critical words from the passage: "structural defects", "lacunae and anomalies", "shoddy implementation", "humongous mess"
   Concerned words: "affected migrant voters", "shifts the burden onto electors", "ease the hurt rather than aid universal adult franchise"
   Negative judgement + worry about voters' exclusion → critical and concerned tone.

5. **C) The systemic flaws in the SIR process and the institutional failure to protect the voting rights of marginalized and migrant populations.**

What the passage says: The author highlights "clear structural defects" in the SIR process, noting that high deletion rates unduly affect "migrant voters" and "married women." It further criticizes the Supreme Court and the ECI for shifting the burden of proof onto citizens and relying on outdated 2011 Census data

Option A is incorrect because the passage describes the process as a "humongous mess" rather than a triumph.

Option B is incorrect as the author argues that political parties lack the agency to assist all electors, suggesting their feedback is insufficient.

Option D is a supporting detail (a specific data point), not the overarching central theme of the entire text.

6. B) **Implacable** (adjective) – Unforgiving, relentless, merciless, unappeasable, inexorable अडिग / कठोर

    Synonym: **Unyielding** (adjective) – Not giving way to pressure, firm, determined, resolute दृढ़ / अटल

    - **Soft** (adjective) – Gentle, mild, tender, delicate कोमल
    - **Flexible** (adjective) – Bendable, adaptable, adjustable लचीला
    - **Gentle** (adjective) – Kind, mild, tender, compassionate नम्र

7. A) **Obsequious** (adjective) – Overly obedient, servile, fawning, flattering, submissive चापलूस

    Antonym: **Assertive** (adjective) – Confident and self-assured, showing firm belief in one's opinions, forceful, bold दृढ़निश्चयी

    - **Submissive** (adjective) – Meek, compliant, yielding, obedient आज्ञाकारी
    - **Flattering** (adjective) – Complimentary, praising, sycophantic चापलूसी करने वाला
    - **Servile** (adjective) – Slavish, humble, subservient, deferential दासभाव वाला

8. A) **Soporific** (adjective) – Sleep-inducing, sedative, drowsy, hypnotic, tranquilizing निद्राजनक

    Antonym: **Stimulating** (adjective) – Encouraging interest or activity, energizing, invigorating, inspiring. उत्तेजक

    - **Drowsy** (adjective) – Sleepy, lethargic, sluggish, somnolent. उनींदा
    - **Sleep-inducing** (adjective) – Causing sleep, soporific, sedative. नींद लाने वाला
    - **Sedative** (adjective) – Calming, tranquilizing, soothing, narcotic. शांत करने वाला

9. A) **Tooth and nail** (idiom) – With full force or vigour पूरी ताक़त और जोश के साथ

10. B) **Steal a march on** (idiom) – Gain an advantage by acting before others do बढ़त हासिल करना / दूसरों से पहले कदम उठाना

11. A) The correct spelling of 'a very large number' is 'Myriad' which means "a countless or extremely great number" असंख्य, बहुत बड़ी संख्या.

12. B) The correct spelling of 'Echolalia' is '**Echolalia**' which means "meaningless repetition of another person's spoken words, often associated with autism" दूसरे व्यक्ति के बोले हुए शब्दों की बिना अर्थ दोहराव (अक्सर ऑटिज़्म से जुड़ा होता है)।

13. C) **Arrogance** (noun) – Excessive self-importance or over-confidence घमंड, अहंकार

    - **Prudence** (noun) – the quality of being cautious and showing good judgment. सावधानी, विवेक
    - **Humility** (noun) – the quality of having a modest or low view of one's importance. विनम्रता

- **Modesty** (noun) – the quality of being unassuming or moderate in the estimation of one's abilities. सादगी, नम्रता

14. A) 'thorough going' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक established collocation है, जिसका अर्थ होता है completely thorough, exhaustive, and detailed.

"The article offers a thorough-going critique…" का अर्थ है कि लेख में समकालीन शैक्षिक प्रतिमानों की गहराई से और पूरी तरह जाँच-परख की गई है, जो अकादमिक संदर्भ में बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है।

- 'Thorough-going' should be used because it is a standard adjective meaning extremely thorough or comprehensive. The collocation "a thorough-going critique" is widely accepted in formal and academic English.

15. B) 'which' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ एक non-defining relative clause बनाया जा रहा है जो "The discovery" के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी दे रहा है। "which was unexpected" वाक्यांश यह स्पष्ट करता है कि खोज अप्रत्याशित थी। इसलिए "which" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

- 'which' should be used because the sentence forms a non-defining relative clause giving extra information about "The discovery." The phrase "which was unexpected" clarifies that the discovery was unforeseen. Hence, "which" is the most appropriate choice.

16. D) have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'community exclusion' एक Singular Subject है। इसलिए Singular Subject के साथ Singular Verb 'has' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा।

- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject 'community exclusion' is singular. Hence, a singular subject takes the singular verb 'has'

17. C) **Was the sudden market downturn anticipated by the analysts**?

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Active वाक्य में "the analysts" Subject है, "did anticipate" Verb (Past Indefinite) है और "the sudden market downturn" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "the sudden market downturn" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was anticipated" (Past Indefinite Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the analysts" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed from active to passive while maintaining the same tense. Here, "the analysts" (Subject), "did anticipate" (Verb in Past Indefinite), and "the sudden market downturn" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The sudden market downturn" (Subject), "was anticipated" (Passive Verb in Past Indefinite), and "by the analysts".

18. A)**The florist added white crosiers to the bouquet**.

वाक्य में 'crosier' का अर्थ है — एक बिशप या एबॉट द्वारा धारण की जाने वाली छड़ी या राजदंड (a bishop's pastoral staff or rod)।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य ढूँढना है जिसमें 'crosier' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प A में 'crosiers' का अर्थ है फर्न (fern) पौधे की कुंडलीदार नई पत्तियाँ (coiled fern fronds), जो पुष्प सज्जा (floral arrangement) में प्रयुक्त होती हैं।

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

- In the highlighted sentence, crosier means a bishop's staff or pastoral rod, symbolizing ecclesiastical authority.

In option A, crosiers refers to the curled fronds of ferns, often used in floral decorations.

Though spelled and pronounced the same, their meanings differ — making them homonyms.

19. D) **The intelligence officers were briefing the ministers**.

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। यहाँ वाक्य Passive Voice में है — "The ministers were being briefed about the situation by the intelligence officers." इस वाक्य में "The ministers" Subject है (जो वास्तव में Object था), "were being briefed" Verb है (Past Continuous Passive) और "by the intelligence officers" Agent है।

Active में बदलने पर "The intelligence officers" Subject बन जाएगा, Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते हुए "were briefing" (Past Continuous Active) का प्रयोग होगा, और Object "the ministers" रहेगा। अतः Active वाक्य होगा — "The intelligence officers were briefing the ministers about the situation."

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence (original object) becomes the object of the active sentence, and the agent (introduced by "by") becomes the new subject. Here, "The ministers" is the subject, "were being briefed" is the verb in Past Continuous Passive, and "by the intelligence officers" is the agent.
  When converted to Active, "The intelligence officers" becomes the subject, the verb changes to "were briefing" (Past Continuous Active), and "the ministers" becomes the object. Hence, the active voice sentence is — "The intelligence officers were briefing the ministers about the situation."

20. A) to abroad' के बदले **'abroad'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'abroad' एक adverb है, जिसके पहले 'to' या किसी भी preposition का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता; जैसे— He went abroad last year.
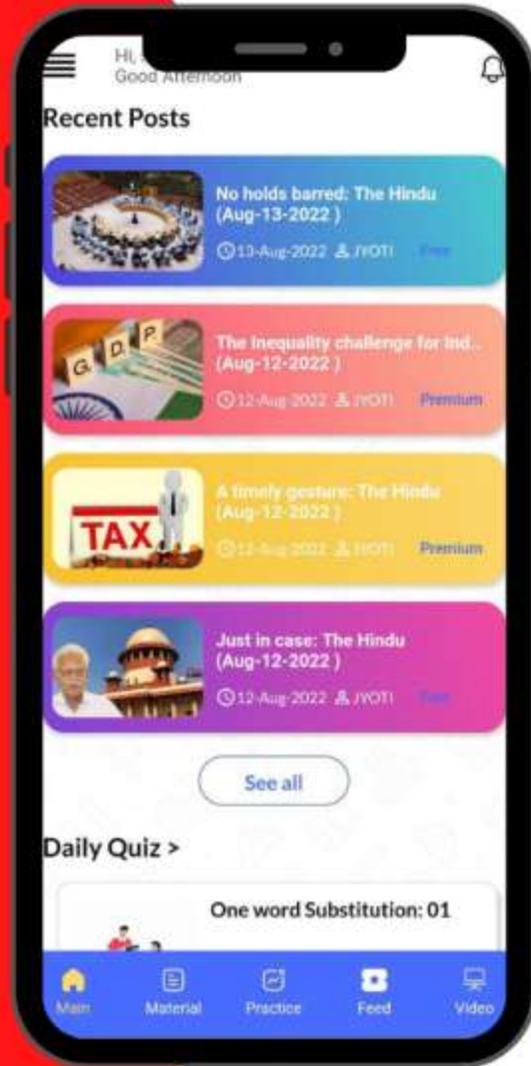
- 'abroad' will be used instead of 'to abroad' because 'abroad' is an adverb and prepositions like 'to' are not used before adverbs of place; for example— He went abroad last year.

21. C) **Disclosed** सही है, Sentence में बताया गया है कि bank ने Rs 590-crore fraud की जानकारी public और stock exchange को दी। ऐसे situation में standard reporting word "disclosed" होता है, जिसका मतलब है officially revealed या public को जानकारी देना। 'Repudiated' का मतलब होता है मना करना, 'Understated' का मतलब कम दिखाना, और 'Prattled' का मतलब बेकार बातें करना। यहाँ bank ने fraud बताया है, न कि उसे deny किया या हल्का दिखाया।

- Disclosed' will be used because the sentence states that the bank officially informed the public and stock exchanges about the fraud. When a company reveals financial information, the standard reporting word is "disclosed." It means revealed or made known formally. 'Repudiated' means rejected or denied responsibility. 'Understated' means presented as less serious. 'Prattled' means talked foolishly or meaninglessly.

22. B) **Carried out is right** यहाँ sentence कह रहा है कि fraudulent activities employees द्वारा की गईं। "Carried out" का मतलब होता है executed या perform किया। Fraud को execute किया जाता है, इसलिए "carried out" सही structure है। 'Carried on' का मतलब continue करना, 'Carry off' का मतलब सफलतापूर्वक कर लेना या उठा ले जाना, और 'Carried away' का मतलब emotions में बह जाना है।

- Carried out' will be used because the sentence explains that fraudulent activities were executed or performed by certain employees. The phrasal verb "carried out" means executed or implemented. 'Carried on' means continued. 'Carry off' means to succeed in doing something or to kidnap. 'Carried away' means emotionally overwhelmed.

23. D) इस sentence में बताया गया है कि market खुलते ही shares 10% गिर गए। यहाँ ऐसा verb चाहिए जो तेज़ गिरावट या sharp fall को दिखाए। "Tanked" का मतलब होता है suddenly fell sharply, खासकर shares, prices या market value के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। Rallied' का अर्थ होता है recover करना या बढ़ना, जो गिरावट के बिल्कुल opposite है। 'Wreak' का मतलब होता है नुकसान पहुँचाना, और इसके बाद एक object चाहिए होता है, जैसे "wreak havoc", इसलिए यह grammar में भी fit नहीं होता। 'Spangle' का अर्थ है सजाना या चमकाना, जो यहाँ अर्थ के हिसाब से बिल्कुल गलत है।

  - In this sentence, it is stated that the bank's shares fell by 10% when the market opened. Therefore, the blank requires a verb that clearly expresses a sharp decline in value. The word "tanked" means fell suddenly and significantly, and it is commonly used in financial contexts to describe a steep drop in share prices or market value. The other options do not suit the context. "Rallied" means recovered or increased, which is the opposite of a fall. "Wreak" means to cause damage, and it usually requires an object (for example, "wreak havoc"), so it does not fit grammatically here. "Spangle" means to decorate or sparkle, which is completely unrelated to financial decline.

24. B) **Vis-à-vis** सही हैं क्योंकि यहाँ sentence में amount की तुलना account balance से की जा रही है। "Vis-à-vis" का मतलब है in relation to या in comparison with। इसलिए यह comparison दिखाने के लिए सही word है। 'Pursuant to' का मतलब according to, 'Owing to' का मतलब because of, और 'In contrast to' का मतलब opposite में होता है। यहाँ comparison चाहिए, cause या opposition नहीं

  - Vis-à-vis' will be used because the sentence compares the mentioned amount with the actual balance in the account. 'Vis-à-vis' means in relation to or in comparison with. 'Pursuant to' means in accordance with. 'Owing to' means because of. 'In contrast to' means opposite to. The sentence requires comparison, not cause or opposition.

25. C) **closure** सही है क्योंकि Sentence में department ने account बंद करने की request की। "Closure" का मतलब है closing या shutting down। Bank account को close किया जाता है, इसलिए 'closure' सही है। 'Suspension' temporary रोकना होता है, 'Liquidation' company के assets बेचकर बंद करना होता है, और 'Interpolate' का मतलब बीच में शब्द जोड़ना है।

  - Closure' will be used because the sentence mentions a request to close the account and transfer funds. 'Closure' means shutting down or formally ending something. 'Suspension' means temporary stopping. 'Liquidation' means selling assets to pay debts, usually when a company is closing permanently. 'Interpolate' means to insert words into a text.