

Policy missteps: On the government's handling of India's fuel crisis

India has allowed panic over fuel availability to spread

The **events unfolding** in West Asia **have shone a spotlight** not only **on** India's energy security, but also on its policy **preparedness** and communication strategy in times of crisis. With India importing close to 90% of its oil needs, it is natural that any **disruption** to supply chains **would** hit it hard. The Strait of Hormuz is particularly **vital** in the supply chain. **To the** government's **credit**, it has been **gradually** trying to reduce India's oil import dependence. The **push** for ethanol and biofuels **is** a step in this direction. **Smoothing** their **adoption** should continue to be a policy priority in the near term. That said, India's **dependence** on imported oil **remains vast** and growing, with the economy expanding by 6%-8% every year. Therefore, **measures** such as ethanol or biofuel-blending **are** only **likely** to be of **marginal** strategic **significance**. The policies on importing oil need to become more long-term **oriented** and **robust in the face of** external pressure. The crisis in West Asia has shown India just how important supplies from Russia are, at a time when New Delhi had been cutting Russian oil imports due to American pressure. In the past, the government had **given in** to U.S. pressure over Iranian and Venezuelan oil. The U.S. is now encouraging India to import Russian oil again to **steady** global markets. The U.S.'s 50% tariffs were hard to **bear**, but India knew that the U.S. Supreme Court was **deliberating** on the issue, and, so, could have waited a month for its order. **As things stand**, India may no longer receive a discount for Russian oil, it has **squandered** Moscow's trust, respect from the U.S. is **diminishing**, and a trade deal with it remains **distant**.

Government officials have made **anonymous** statements saying that fuel prices will not be hiked in response to higher oil prices. This is as much a political **necessity** as a moral one. After all, fuel prices were not cut over the last two and a half years even when oil prices were comfortably low. **The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** (PMUY), providing LPG connections to households, **has** also **laid bare** how policy does not **anticipate** crises. Households have benefited from the PMUY, but the **resultant increase** in LPG demand — without a **commensurate** increase in **stable** supplies and reserves — **has** meant that restaurants and hotels are now suffering **amid** shortages. Finally, the **policy** of the government to **so far** communicate only through off-record briefings and occasional tweets **has** meant panic over fuel availability has spread faster than **warranted**. Tuesday's inter-ministerial press conference came days late and no questions were taken. Clear, **accountable** communication was needed, yet missing. The government's crisis communication needs more work. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Misstep** (noun) - blunder, oversight, slip, error, gaffe गलती
2. **Unfold** (verb) - happen, occur, transpire, evolve, develop घटित होना
3. **Shine a spotlight on** (phrase) - to draw attention to or illuminate a particular issue or subject किसी चीज़ पर प्रकाश डालना
4. **Preparedness** (noun) - readiness, alertness, equipment, state, maturity तत्परता
5. **Disruption** (noun) - disturbance, interruption, disorder, interference, upheaval बाधा
6. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, critical, pivotal, indispensable महत्वपूर्ण
7. **To someone's credit** (phrase) - used to mention a quality or action that deserves praise or respect किसी के श्रेय में
8. **Gradually** (adverb) - slowly, progressively, steadily, piecemeal, bit by bit धीरे-धीरे
9. **Smoothen** (verb) - facilitate, ease, expedite, clear, level आसान बनाना
10. **Adoption** (noun) - acceptance, embrace, approval, implementation, assumption अपनाना
11. **Vast** (adjective) - immense, massive, huge, colossal, enormous विशाल
12. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, plausible, expected, anticipated, possible संभावित
13. **Marginal** (adjective) - slight, small, insignificant, minimal, minor मामूली
14. **Significance** (noun) - importance, consequence, weight, substance, gravity महत्व
15. **Oriented** (adjective) - aligned, directed, focused, positioned, inclined उन्मुख
16. **Robust** (adjective) - strong, resilient, sturdy, tough, vigorous मजबूत
17. **In the face of** (phrase) - when confronted with or despite something challenging किसी चुनौती का सामना करते हुए
18. **Give in** (phrasal verb) - to cease fighting or arguing; admit defeat; yield झुक जाना
19. **Steady** (verb) - stabilize, balance, secure, settle, support स्थिर करना
20. **Bear** (verb) - endure, tolerate, withstand, suffer, undergo सहना

21. **Deliberate** (verb) - ponder, contemplate, consider, meditate, ruminate विचार-विमर्श करना
22. **As things stand** (phrase) - in the present circumstances or the current situation वर्तमान स्थिति में
23. **Squander** (verb) - waste, dissipate, lavish, misuse, fritter गंवा देना
24. **Diminish** (verb) - decrease, decline, reduce, wane, ebb कम होना
25. **Distant** (adjective) - remote, far, aloof, detached, removed दूर
26. **Anonymous** (adjective) - nameless, unidentified, incognito, faceless, unknown गुमनाम
27. **Necessity** (noun) - requirement, prerequisite, compulsion, obligation, need आवश्यकता
28. **Lay bare something** (idiom) - to reveal or uncover something that was previously hidden खुलासा करना
29. **Anticipate** (verb) - foresee, predict, expect, forecast, divine पूर्वानुमान करना
30. **Resultant** (adjective) - ensuing, consequent, following, subsequent, resulting परिणामी
31. **Commensurate** (adjective) - proportionate, equivalent, equal, corresponding, comparable अनुरूप
32. **Stable** (adjective) - steady, firm, secure, constant, fixed स्थिर
33. **Amid** (preposition) - among, during, amidst, throughout, between के बीच
34. **So far** (phrase) - until now or up to this point अब तक
35. **Warranted** (adjective) - justified, sanctioned, authorized, deserved, merited उचित
36. **Accountable** (adjective) - responsible, liable, answerable, amenable, obligated जवाबदेह

Summary of the Editorial

1. The crisis in West Asia has exposed weaknesses in India's **energy security, policy preparedness, and crisis communication**.
2. India is **highly dependent on imported oil**, importing nearly **90% of its total requirement**, making it vulnerable to global disruptions.
3. The **Strait of Hormuz** is a crucial route for oil supply to India, so instability in the region directly affects the country.
4. The government has attempted to **reduce oil dependence** by promoting **ethanol blending and biofuels**.
5. However, these alternatives currently have **limited strategic impact** because India's energy demand is rapidly increasing with economic growth.
6. India's **oil import policies need long-term planning and resilience** against geopolitical pressures.
7. The crisis has highlighted the **importance of Russian oil supplies** for India's energy security.
8. India had previously **reduced Russian oil imports due to pressure from the United States**, which weakened its supply options.
9. In earlier situations, India had also **yielded to U.S. pressure regarding oil imports from Iran and Venezuela**.
10. Ironically, the U.S. is now **encouraging India to import Russian oil again** to stabilize global oil markets.
11. India's earlier policy decisions may lead to **loss of discounted Russian oil, reduced trust from Moscow, and limited gains in relations with the U.S.**
12. Government officials have informally stated that **fuel prices will not be increased**, partly due to political pressure.
13. Critics note that **fuel prices were not reduced earlier** when global oil prices were low.
14. The **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** increased LPG connections and demand, but **supply planning and reserves did not keep pace**, causing shortages for restaurants and hotels.
15. The government's **weak and delayed communication—through anonymous briefings and tweets—created unnecessary panic**, showing the need for **transparent and accountable crisis communication**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the author describe the government's decision not to hike fuel prices as a "moral necessity"?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Because the government had already transitioned the entire country to biofuels.
 - B. Because fuel prices were not reduced for consumers even when global oil prices were low.
 - C. Because the U.S. Supreme Court ordered India to keep domestic prices stable for a month.
 - D. Because the national oil companies have reached a state of total financial self-sufficiency.
2. **According to the passage, what has been the consequence of India's recent shifting policy on Russian oil imports?**
 - A. India has secured a permanent 50% discount on all future Russian crude shipments.
 - B. India has gained significant respect from the U.S. for its independent trade decisions.
 - C. India has squandered Moscow's trust and may no longer receive oil at a discount.
 - D. A comprehensive and lucrative trade deal with the United States has been finalized.
3. **What is the author's primary criticism of the government's crisis communication strategy?**
 - A. The government relied too heavily on international press conferences and took too many questions.
 - B. Officials used occasional tweets and off-record briefings, which allowed panic to spread.
 - C. The government communicated too early, causing unnecessary fluctuations in the stock market.
 - D. The inter-ministerial press conference held on Tuesday was too detailed and technically complex.
4. **Which of the following best reflects the author's view on the PMUY (Ujjwala Yojana) and its impact on the commercial sector?**
 - A. It has successfully eliminated the need for oil imports from the Strait of Hormuz.
 - B. It has provided a stable reserve of gas that now supports the entire restaurant industry.
 - C. The resulting increase in domestic demand has left hotels and restaurants suffering amid shortages.
 - D. It serves as a blueprint for how policy can perfectly anticipate and prepare for global energy crises.
5. **Which of the following best describes the overall tone of the passage?**
 - A. Laudatory and Optimistic
 - B. Critical and Apprehensive
 - C. Indifferent and Statistical
 - D. Aggressive and Hostile
6. **Given below are six sentences taken from a paragraph. The first and the last sentences are numbered S1 and S2 and are placed in the first and last positions respectively. The other four sentences between the first and last sentences are jumbled up and are numbered A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a logical sequence keeping the unity and coherence of the paragraph intact. Choose the correct alternative that best describes the sequence.**

S1. During Britain's industrial revolution, new factories faced a need for strict timekeeping – including far more specific start times for workers.

These "human alarm clocks" would work their way down streets tapping on windows or shooting peas at them, refusing to move until they got a sleepy response from their clients.

Factories initially tried using whistles and bells to summon them, but when these proved unreliable, an entire profession dedicated to awakening people sprouted up: the "knocker uppers."

A worker arriving even five minutes late could hold up an entire assembly line, yet early mechanical alarm clocks were far too expensive for a typical employee to own.

While jobs akin to knocker uppers existed in other societies, people throughout history also relied on different inventive methods, from keeping roosters to using clever candle clocks.

S2. Learning how these past societies slept and woke up could even help us improve our own sleep – and awakenings – today

- A. CABD
 - B. CBAD
 - C. BACD
 - D. CADB
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: AWRY**
- A. Straight
 - B. Correct
 - C. Askew
 - D. Proper
8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word. Lugubrious**
- A. Joyous
 - B. Mournful
 - C. Gloomy
 - D. Sorrowful
9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom: Break one's duck**
- A. Abandon a hobby
 - B. Spoil a good start
 - C. Achieve a first success after previous failures
 - D. Undergo bankruptcy
10. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom: Cut me dead**
- A. Ignored me deliberately
 - B. Insulted me openly
 - C. Misunderstood me accidentally
 - D. Praised me sarcastically
11. **Which of these is the correct spelling of a critique of metaphysical assumptions?**
- A. Phenomenological
 - B. Phenomenological
 - C. Phenomenollogical
 - D. Phenomenonlogical
12. **Spot the correct spelling of verbose roundabout speech.**
- A. Circumlocution
 - B. Circumloction
 - C. Cirumlocution
 - D. Circumlocation

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'An inoffensive word used in place of a blunt one'.**
- A. Allusion
 - B. Euphemism
 - C. Analogy
 - D. Allegory
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A short-lived or fleeting phenomenon**
- A. Ephemeral
 - B. Eternal
 - C. Archetype
 - D. Chronicle
15. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
He wore a **ring** with a family crest.
- A. The phone started to ring during the meeting.
 - B. She showed him her engagement ring.
 - C. A ring of fire surrounded the camp.
 - D. They danced in a circle, forming a ring.
16. **Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article.**
In _____ absence of comprehensive data and _____ presence of conflicting anecdotal evidence, policy decisions often rest on precarious assumptions.
- A. an, a
 - B. the, the
 - C. an, the
 - D. a, a
17. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
Most of the feedbacks received from senior scholars (1)/ were overwhelmingly in favour (2)/ of increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research (3)/ as opposed to segmented evaluation models. (4)
- A. (1)
 - B. (2)
 - C. (3)
 - D. (4)
18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
The officer **ordered to the soldiers to march ahead.**
- A. ordered the soldiers for marching
 - B. ordered the soldiers to march ahead
 - C. gave order the soldiers to march
 - D. ordered to soldiers to march
19. **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.**
The teacher said to the students, "Work hard to pass the exam."
- A. The teacher said the students work hard.
 - B. The teacher told the students to worked hard.
 - C. The teacher advised the students to work hard to pass the exam.

D. The teacher asked the students that they must work hard.

20. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**

The professor emphasized the _____ nature of literary interpretation.

- A. subjectif
- B. subjective
- C. subjective
- D. subjective

Comprehension

Picture a school in rural India. It is (1) ____ time, and the atmosphere echoes with collective chatter and excited shrieks. Some girls, mostly aged around nine or 10, are playing hopscotch. A few others are running, playing tag. Fast forward 20 years. The girls are now in their late 20s or early 30s, married, and with families to care for. The excited chatter and games played have been (2) ____ to memory. They wake up early, cook, and attend to other household chores, sleep and repeat. Looking after their families have become their priority. India's Time Use Survey 2024 recorded that children aged six to 14 spent between 1 hour and 23 minutes a day in physical activity. The survey further found that females aged 15 to 59 spent 5 hours and 5 minutes a day on unpaid domestic work. Their male counterparts (3) ____ 86 minutes for the same chores. The study pointed to a reality that has been hiding in plain sight. As a girl grows up, time and societal norms close around her, similar to a door shutting forever in a sudden gust. Among women aged 15 to 29, only 3.9% were engaged in sports or exercise. Among those who exercised, an average session lasted 46 minutes. In the case of men, 14.8% — nearly four times — participated in some sports or exercise, each session lasting 64 minutes on average. The Time Use Survey stopped tracking women's sports participation as a (4) ____ category after the age of 29. The sample became too small to count. It was not a data failure, but a statement: by the time a woman crossed 30, very few exercised. The related data (5) ____ to register as a statistical phenomenon worth measuring separately.

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

- A. adjourn
- B. cessation
- C. suspend
- D. recess

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

- A. abandoned
- B. relegated
- C. expunged
- D. discard

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

- A. partook
- B. sympathize
- C. spared
- D. refrained

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

- A. distinct
- B. taxonomy

- C. ostensibly
- D. segregate

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

- A. prevented
- B. halt
- C. abstains
- D. ceased

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) Because fuel prices were not reduced for consumers even when global oil prices were low.**

The passage explains this necessity by noting, "After all, fuel prices were not cut over the last two and a half years even when oil prices were comfortably low."
 others are incorrect: (A), (C), and (D) are either not mentioned or contradict the facts provided in the passage regarding dependence and legal deliberations.

2. **C) India has squandered Moscow's trust and may no longer receive oil at a discount.**

The passage explicitly states that as things stand, India "has squandered Moscow's trust" and "may no longer receive a discount for Russian oil."
 others are incorrect: The passage notes that respect from the U.S. is "diminishing" and a trade deal remains "distant," contradicting options (B) and (D).

3. **B) Officials used occasional tweets and off-record briefings, which allowed panic to spread.**

The passage mentions that communicating only through "off-record briefings and occasional tweets has meant panic... has spread faster than warranted."
 others are incorrect: (A) and (D) are the opposite of what happened; the conference was "days late" and "no questions were taken."

4. **C) The resulting increase in domestic demand has left hotels and restaurants suffering amid shortages.**

The passage points out that because the supply did not increase with the demand, "restaurants and hotels are now suffering amid shortages."
 others are incorrect: (A) is factually wrong based on the 90% import figure. (B) and (D) contradict the author's point that the policy "does not anticipate crises."

5. **B) Critical and Apprehensive**

Critical means expressing an analysis of faults or failures, while Apprehensive means feeling anxious or fearful that something bad will happen.
 The author is critical of the government's communication strategy (calling it "missing" and "needs more work"), its handling of diplomatic pressure ("squandered Moscow's trust"), and the lack of foresight in LPG supply planning. The tone is apprehensive because it highlights India's "vast and growing" dependence on imports and the "marginal strategic significance" of current relief measures amid a deepening crisis.

6. **B) CBAD**

Correct Sequence: S1-C-B-A-D-S2

Sentence C, S1 के तुरंत बाद आता है क्योंकि यह S1 में बताए गए "strict timekeeping" की आवश्यकता का मुख्य कारण बताता है। यह समझाता है कि एक worker के late होने से पूरी "assembly line" कैसे रुक सकती थी, और यह भी बताता है कि workers के पास खुद के alarm clocks क्यों नहीं थे (वे बहुत महंगे थे)। यह problem को introduce करता है।

Sentence B, Sentence C के बाद आता है क्योंकि alarm clocks न होने की समस्या (Sentence C) का शुरुआती समाधान factories ने "whistles and bells" से करने की कोशिश की। जब वह तरीका फेल हो गया, तो "knocker uppers" नाम का एक नया profession शुरू हुआ।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आता है क्योंकि "These 'human alarm clocks'" सीधे तौर पर Sentence B में introduce किए गए "knocker uppers" को refer करता है। यह detail में बताता है कि वे अपना काम कैसे करते थे (खिड़कियों पर टैप करना या मटर मारना)।

Sentence D, Sentence A के बाद आता है और S2 से पहले एक मजबूत link बनाता है। यह "knocker uppers" के विषय को Britain से हटाकर "other societies" और इतिहास के अन्य तरीकों (जैसे roosters और candle clocks) तक ले जाता है। यही कारण है कि S2 में "past societies" से सीखने की बात कही गई है।

Sentence C follows S1 immediately because it elaborates on the reason for the "strict timekeeping" mentioned in S1 (a late worker holds up the assembly line). It also introduces the core problem: regular employees could not afford mechanical alarm clocks.

Sentence B follows because it provides the historical solution to the problem stated in C. It explains that factories first tried whistles, and when those failed, the specific profession of "knocker uppers" was born to wake workers up.

Sentence A comes next because the phrase "These 'human alarm clocks'" directly describes the "knocker uppers" introduced in Sentence B. It provides a vivid description of their methods, such as shooting peas at windows.

Sentence D comes last because it broadens the context from Britain's specific industrial solution to how "other societies" and people "throughout history" handled waking up. This serves as a perfect transition to S2, which concludes by suggesting we can learn from these "past societies."

7. C) **Awry** (adverb/adjective) – Crooked, twisted, askance, amiss, off-center टेढ़ा / बिगड़ा हुआ
Synonym: **Askew** (adverb/adjective) – Not straight, tilted to one side, uneven, lopsided तिरछा / एक ओर झुका हुआ
- **Straight** (adjective) – Not curved, direct, aligned सीधा
 - **Correct** (adjective) – Accurate, right, true सही
 - **Proper** (adjective) – Suitable, appropriate, fitting उचित
8. A) **Lugubrious** (adjective) – Sad, gloomy, mournful, dismal, depressed उदास, शोकपूर्ण
Antonym: **Joyous** (adjective) – Very happy, cheerful, delighted, glad. हर्षित, प्रसन्न
- **Mournful** (adjective) – Sad, sorrowful, grieving. शोकाकुल
 - **Gloomy** (adjective) – Dark, depressing, sad. निराशाजनक
 - **Sorrowful** (adjective) – Full of sorrow, unhappy, distressed. दुःखी
9. C) **Break one's duck** (idiom) – Achieve a first success after previous failures पहली सफलता हासिल करना, खासकर कई बार असफल होने के बाद

10. A) **Cut me dead** (idiom) – Ignored me deliberately जानबूझकर नज़रअंदाज़ करना / अनदेखा कर दे
11. B) The correct spelling of “a critique of metaphysical assumptions” is Phenomenological which means “related to the philosophical study of structures of experience and consciousness”
अनुभव और चेतना की संरचनाओं के दार्शनिक अध्ययन से संबंधित।
12. A) The correct spelling of “**verbose** roundabout speech” is “Circumlocution” which means “the use of many words where few would do; indirect or roundabout expression” घुमा-फिराकर बात करना, अधिक शब्दों का उपयोग करके बात कहना
13. B) **Euphemism** (noun) – An indirect or mild expression used in place of one considered harsh or blunt, शिष्टोक्ति / विनम्र शब्द
- **Allusion** (noun) – An indirect reference to something, संकेत
 - **Analogy** (noun) – A comparison between two things for explanation, उपमा
 - **Allegory** (noun) – A story with a hidden moral or political meaning, रूपक कथा
14. A) **Ephemeral** (adjective) – Short-lived, lasting for a very brief time अल्पकालिक, क्षणिक
- **Eternal** (adjective) – Lasting forever, without end शाश्वत
 - **Archetype** (noun) – An original model or perfect example आदिरूप, मूल प्रतिरूप
 - **Chronicle** (noun) – A factual written account of events विवरण-लेख
15. A) **The phone started to ring during the meeting.**
यहाँ ‘ring’ का अर्थ है – अंगूठी / उंगली में पहनने वाला गहना।
हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें ‘ring’ का उच्चारण समान हो लेकिन अर्थ अलग हो (homonym)।
विकल्प A में ‘ring’ का अर्थ है – घंटी बजना / फोन बजना।
यह अर्थ अंगूठी वाले अर्थ से पूरी तरह भिन्न है।
दोनों का उच्चारण समान है, लेकिन अर्थ अलग – इसलिए यह homonym है।
- In the highlighted sentence, ring means a piece of jewelry worn on a finger.
In option A, ring means to make a ringing sound / for a phone to ring.
Same pronunciation, different meanings → homonym.
16. C) **an, the** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि absence vowel sound से शुरू होता है इसलिए उसके पहले an आएगा, और presence एक specific स्थिति को दर्शा रहा है इसलिए उसके पहले the का प्रयोग सही है।
वाक्य नीति-निर्माण की उस विशेष परिस्थिति की बात कर रहा है जहाँ डेटा की कमी और एक खास तरह के विरोधाभासी साक्ष्यों की मौजूदगी है, इसलिए article का चयन संदर्भ आधारित है।
- “an” will be used before absence because it begins with a vowel sound, and “the” will be used before presence because it refers to a specific, context-defined situation. The sentence discusses a particular condition in policy-making where there is lack of comprehensive data and the existence of conflicting anecdotal evidence; hence these articles are contextually appropriate.
17. A) (1) में feedbacks के बदले feedback का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि feedback एक uncountable noun है और इसका plural रूप नहीं बनाया जाता। सही प्रयोग: Most of the feedback received...

“Feedback” is an uncountable noun in standard English.

Uncountable nouns do not take plural forms (no -s / -es).

Therefore, “feedbacks” is grammatically incorrect.

Correct Sentence: Most of the feedback received from senior scholars were overwhelmingly in favour of increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research as opposed to segmented evaluation models.

18. B) ordered to the soldiers to march ahead’ के बदले ‘**ordered the soldiers to march ahead**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'order' verb के बाद indirect object (the soldiers) बिना preposition 'to' के सीधे आता है, और इसके बाद to + verb (to march) प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए सही संरचना है: ordered + object + to + V1।

Incorrect part: “ordered to the soldiers to march ahead”

The verb “order” does not take the preposition “to” before its object.

Correct structure:

order + object + to + base verb

ordered the soldiers to march

ordered him to leave

“the soldiers” is the direct object.

“to march” is the infinitive showing the commanded action.

The structure is grammatically correct and natural.

Other Options Analysis:

ordered the soldiers for marching — wrong preposition and verb form.

gave order the soldiers to march — missing article (gave an order).

ordered to soldiers to march — incorrect placement of “to”.

19. C) The teacher advised the students to work hard to pass the exam.

Active से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting verb और Reported speech दोनों में आवश्यक परिवर्तन किए जाते हैं। यहां Reporting verb said to है, जिसे Indirect Speech में advised में बदला जाता है क्योंकि वाक्य में सलाह (advice) दी जा रही है। Reported speech में दिया गया आदेश/सलाह "Work hard to pass the exam." है, जिसे Indirect Speech में बदलते समय to + verb (infinitive) का प्रयोग किया जाता है। इसलिए "to work hard to pass the exam" सही संरचना बनती है। इस तरह वाक्य का भाव और अर्थ दोनों सुरक्षित रहते हैं।

To convert Direct to Indirect Speech:

Remove the quotation marks.

Change the imperative sentence into to + base verb.

Use an appropriate reporting verb according to the sense (advise / tell / order).

Add the object (the students).

Keep the base form of the verb after to.

In this sentence:

Reporting clause: The teacher said to the students

Direct speech (imperative): "Work hard to pass the exam."

This sentence expresses advice, not a question or statement.

Imperative sentences are converted using advised / told + object + to + verb.

Changes made:

"said to" → advised (best suited to the meaning).

"Work hard" → to work hard.

Purpose phrase to pass the exam remains unchanged.

Correct indirect speech:

Option 3:

The teacher advised the students to work hard to pass the exam.

20. C) '**Subjective**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य साहित्यिक व्याख्या की उस प्रकृति की बात कर रहा है जो व्यक्ति-विशेष की सोच, अनुभव और दृष्टिकोण पर निर्भर करती है। "the _____ nature of literary interpretation" के संदर्भ में, यह गुण subjectivity को दर्शाता है, इसलिए सही वर्तनी वाला शब्द subjective ही उपयुक्त है।
- 'Subjective' should be used because the sentence refers to the nature of literary interpretation that depends on an individual's perspective, experience, and perception. In the context of "the _____ nature of literary interpretation," it indicates subjectivity, hence the correctly spelt word subjective is the most appropriate choice.
21. D) '[**recess**]' सही है क्योंकि यह एक noun है जिसका इस्तेमाल खासतौर पर स्कूल में मिलने वाले ब्रेक (break) के लिए किया जाता है, इसलिए "recess time" बिल्कुल सही है। 'adjourn' एक verb है जिसका मतलब किसी मीटिंग या कोर्ट केस को अगली तारीख तक रोकना होता है। 'cessation' एक formal noun है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ का पूरी तरह खत्म होना होता है, जो स्कूल के छोटे ब्रेक के लिए गलत है। 'suspend' एक verb है जिसका मतलब अस्थायी रूप से (temporarily) किसी चीज़ को रोकना या निलंबित करना होता है।
- '[recess]' is used because it is a noun that specifically refers to a scheduled break period in a school day, perfectly fitting the standard phrase "recess time". 'adjourn' is a verb meaning to break off a meeting or legal case until another time. 'cessation' is a formal noun meaning the fact or process of ending or being brought to an end, which doesn't fit the context of a short, daily school break. 'suspend' is a verb meaning to temporarily prevent from continuing or being in force.
22. B) '[**relegated**]' सही है क्योंकि "relegated to" का मतलब किसी चीज़ को निचले दर्जे पर या पीछे धकेल देना होता है। बड़े होने पर बचपन के खेल अब सिर्फ "यादों में धकेल दिए गए हैं" (relegated to memory)। 'abandoned' का मतलब पूरी तरह छोड़ देना होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ 'to' preposition सही नहीं बैठता। 'expunged' का मतलब पूरी तरह मिटा देना होता है, जो यादों में रहने (memory) के विचार के खिलाफ है। 'discard' का मतलब फेंक देना होता है, जो "to memory" के साथ फिट नहीं होता।
- '[relegated]' is used because the phrase "relegated to" means to dismiss or consign something to an inferior rank, position, or place, such as putting old childhood games into the back of one's memory as adult duties take over. 'abandoned' means left completely, but it does not naturally take the preposition "to" in this context. 'expunged' means erased or removed completely, which contradicts the idea of

keeping them in memory. 'discard' means thrown away or rejected, which also doesn't grammatically or logically fit the phrase "to memory".

23. C) '[spared]' सही है क्योंकि यहाँ इसका मतलब समय निकालना (give time) होता है। महिलाओं के 5 घंटे के मुकाबले पुरुषों ने घर के कामों के लिए सिर्फ 86 मिनट निकाले (spared)। 'partook' का मतलब हिस्सा लेना होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ 'in' preposition का आना ज़रूरी है। 'refrained' का मतलब खुद को किसी काम से रोकना होता है, जो 86 मिनट काम करने के तथ्य के विपरीत (opposite) है। 'sympathize' एक present tense का verb है जिसका मतलब सहानुभूति जताना होता है, जो यहाँ ग्रामर और अर्थ दोनों के हिसाब से गलत है।

- '[spared]' is used because in this context, it means to give or afford time to do a specific task. While women spent over 5 hours, men "spared" only 86 minutes for domestic chores. 'partook' means to participate, but it strictly requires the preposition "in" (partook in). 'refrained' means stopped oneself from doing something, which completely contradicts the fact that they spent 86 minutes doing the work. 'sympathize' is a present-tense verb meaning to feel pity or sorrow for someone, which makes no grammatical or contextual sense here.

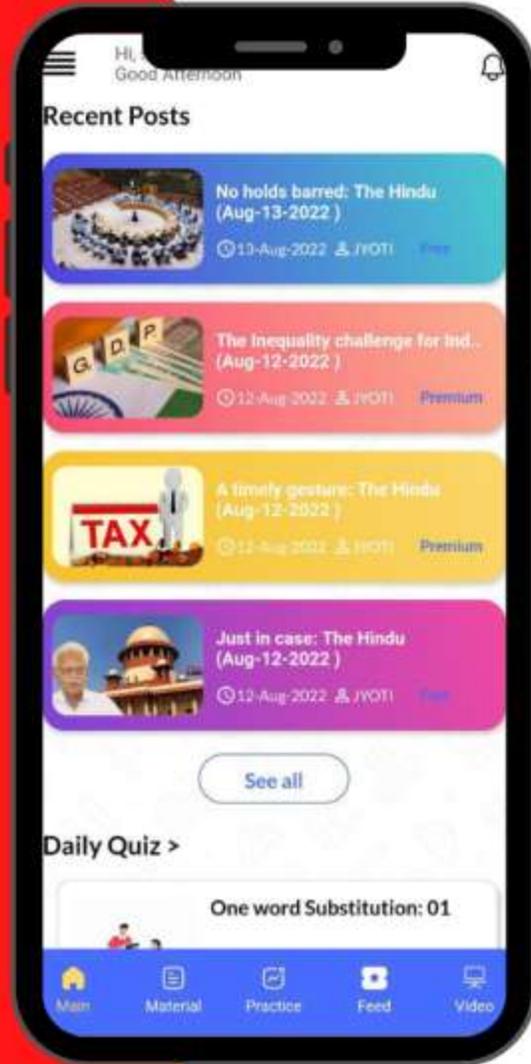
24. A) '[distinct]' सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका मतलब अलग या स्पष्ट (separate) होता है। "category" (noun) से पहले आकर यह एक अलग सांख्यिकीय समूह (distinct category) को बिल्कुल सही से दर्शाता है। 'taxonomy' एक noun है जिसका मतलब वर्गीकरण विज्ञान होता है, इसलिए यह ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। 'ostensibly' एक adverb है जिसका मतलब 'ज़ाहिर तौर पर' होता है, जो सीधे किसी noun की विशेषता नहीं बता सकता। 'segregate' एक verb है जिसका मतलब अलग करना होता है, जबकि यहाँ adjective चाहिए।

- '[distinct]' is used because it is an adjective meaning recognizably different or separate, fitting perfectly before the noun "category" to describe a separate statistical group for measuring women's sports participation. 'taxonomy' is a noun meaning the science of classification, so it fails grammatically where an adjective is needed. 'ostensibly' is an adverb meaning apparently or seemingly, which cannot modify a noun directly. 'segregate' is a verb meaning to separate or divide, so it is grammatically incorrect in this adjective slot.

25. D) '[ceased]' सही है क्योंकि यह past tense का verb है जिसका मतलब रुक जाना या खत्म होना (stop happening) होता है। "ceased to register" का मतलब है कि डेटा इतना कम था कि वह रिकॉर्ड होना ही बंद हो गया। 'prevented' का मतलब रोकना होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ object या 'from' का आना ज़रूरी है। 'halt' का मतलब रुकना होता है, लेकिन यह present tense या noun है, इसलिए ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। 'abstains' present tense है और इसका इस्तेमाल इंसानों के लिए होता है जब वे अपनी मर्जी से कुछ नहीं करते (जैसे वोट न देना), यह डेटा (data) के लिए इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकता।

- '[ceased]' is used because it is a past-tense verb meaning to come to an end or stop happening. The data "ceased to register" means it stopped being recorded on the survey because the numbers fell too low. 'prevented' requires a direct object or the

preposition "from" (prevented them from registering) to be grammatically correct. 'halt' means to stop, but it is either a present-tense verb or a noun, failing the past-tense grammatical requirement of the sentence. 'abstains' is present tense and refers to a person consciously choosing not to do something (like voting), which doesn't apply to inanimate data.



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