

Beginning and end: On the right to die with dignity

The state must allow its citizens the right to die with dignity

The **incontrovertible nature** of both life and death **makes** them **fiendishly** difficult to **legislate** or **adjudicate**. Interfering with the very elemental beginning and end points of life must seem **daunting**. Nothing else can explain the long **dalliance** that laws have had with **euthanasia** to **facilitate** the intentional ending of a life, globally. In India, last week, **the Supreme Court**, in a **landmark** decision, **approved** the withdrawal of life support, including artificial nutrition and hydration, for Harish Rana, who went into a **persistent** vegetative state (PVS) **following** a head injury over 12 years ago. **Invoking** the constitutional idea of dignity, the Court observed that it would not be **compatible** with temporarily keeping alive a terminally ill patient who is brain dead or in a PVS, only because it is possible to **leverage** technological advancements to do so. This forces a life of indignity: patients **endure** a slow, **agonising** death. As the end of life **approaches**, **a loss** of control over human faculties **denudes** life of its meaning, it added. The Court went on to expand the right to live with dignity under Article 21 to **encompass** the right to die with dignity. In India, in the absence of legislation on the subject, the courts have consistently had to engage with the euthanasia question over the years. The Smt. Gian Kaur vs The State Of Punjab (1996) case might have **set off** the trend, but the debate entered the public **realm** with the Aruna Shanbaug petition in 2011. **The Court**, in this **instance**, **did** not allow for euthanasia as the nurses caring for her **demurred**, but went on to **lay down** guidelines for withdrawing or the **withholding** of medical treatment or medical support to allow for natural death. In 2018, a Supreme Court Constitution Bench held that the right to die with dignity is a fundamental right.

Besides benefitting Harish Rana in the instant case, the judgment will undoubtedly make it easy for terminally ill patients and their families 'to let go'. As technology advances **in leaps and bounds**, more life-preserving hacks will become available to all who are able to pay for them but could **erode** the patient's dignity. The judgment is intended to introduce compassion into end-of-life care for patients with **unalterable** medical conditions. The **concept** of a living **will**, a legal document **empowering** individuals to **state** their preferences for medical treatment in situations where they become **incapacitated**, **vegetative** or are unable to communicate, again **endorsed** by the Court, must also be **popularised**. In the **grey** zones, it is the law that can give people the courage to **take** the right **call**.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'. [Practice Exercise]
- **State** (verb) – declare, assert कहना, प्रकट करना

Vocabulary

1. **Dignity** (noun) - self-respect, pride, stature, nobility, worthiness गरिमा
2. **Incontrovertible** (adjective) - indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, unquestionable, certain निर्विवाद
3. **Fiendishly** (adverb) - extremely, excessively, terribly, wickedly, severely बहुत अधिक
4. **Legislate** (verb) - enact, ordain, codify, constitute, authorize कानून बनाना
5. **Adjudicate** (verb) - judge, arbitrate, settle, decide, determine निर्णय देना
6. **Daunting** (adjective) - intimidating, formidable, discouraging, frightening, unnerving चुनौतीपूर्ण
7. **Dalliance** (noun) - delay, dawdling, lingering, trifling, procrastination विलंब
8. **Euthanasia** (noun) - mercy killing, assisted suicide, painless death, quietus, assisted dying इच्छामृत्यु
9. **Facilitate** (verb) - expedite, ease, assist, promote, further सुगम बनाना
10. **Landmark** (adjective) - milestone, historic, significant, groundbreaking, quintessential सीमाचिह्न
11. **Persistent** (adjective) - constant, continuous, chronic, relentless, unending निरंतर
12. **Follow** (verb) - pursue, succeed, ensue, trail, result पीछा करना
13. **Invoke** (verb) - appeal, cite, summon, resort, petition आह्वान करना
14. **Compatible** (adjective) - consistent, harmonious, reconcilable, congruous, accordant अनुकूल
15. **Leverage** (verb) - utilize, exploit, harness, exercise, influence लाभ उठाना
16. **Endure** (verb) - undergo, tolerate, suffer, bear, withstand सहन करना
17. **Agonising** (adjective) - painful, harrowing, excruciating, torturous, racking कष्टदायक
18. **Approach** (verb) - near, advance, approximate, reach, access पहुंचना
19. **Denude** (verb) - strip, deprive, bare, divest, expose वंचित करना
20. **Encompass** (verb) - include, incorporate, involve, embrace, cover शामिल करना
21. **Set off** (phrasal verb) - to start or initiate a process or event शुरुआत करना
22. **Realm** (noun) - domain, field, sphere, area, territory क्षेत्र
23. **Instance** (noun) - example, case, illustration, occasion, occurrence उदाहरण
24. **Demur** (verb) - object, protest, dissent, hesitate, pause आपत्ति करना
25. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) - to officially establish a rule or guideline नियम बनाना
26. **Withholding** (noun) - retention, reservation, deduction, refusal, non-disclosure रोकना
27. **In leaps and bounds** (phrase) - rapidly or in fast progress बहुत तेजी से
28. **Erode** (verb) - wear, corrode, abrade, diminish, undermine धीरे-धीरे नष्ट करना

29. **Unalterable** (adjective) - irreversible, fixed, immutable, permanent, rigid अपरिवर्तनीय
30. **Will** (noun) - testament, decree, mandate, command, legacy वसीयत
31. **Empower** (verb) - authorize, enable, permit, entitle, commission सशक्त बनाना
32. **Incapacitated** (adjective) - disabled, debilitated, helpless, crippled, unfit अक्षम
33. **Vegetative** (adjective) - unconscious, comatose, inactive, inert, dormant अचेतन
34. **Endorsed** (adjective) - approved, supported, sanctioned, ratified, advocated समर्थित
35. **Popularised** (adjective) - generalized, simplified, spread, universalized, streamlined लोकप्रिय बनाया गया
36. **Grey** (adjective) - ambiguous, unclear, uncertain, vague, indeterminate अस्पष्ट
37. **Take someone's call** (phrase) - to make a decision about something निर्णय लेना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Life and death are complex and sensitive issues, making them difficult to regulate through law.
2. Laws related to euthanasia have evolved slowly due to ethical and moral concerns.
3. The Supreme Court of India recently gave a landmark judgment allowing withdrawal of life support.
4. The case involved Harish Rana, who had been in a persistent vegetative state for over 12 years.
5. The Court permitted withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration in such conditions.
6. The judgment is based on the principle of human dignity under Article 21.
7. The Court stated that artificially prolonging life using technology can lead to indignity and suffering.
8. It emphasized that a life without control over basic faculties loses its meaning.
9. The Court expanded the right to life to include the right to die with dignity.
10. In India, the judiciary has played a key role due to the absence of specific legislation on euthanasia.
11. Earlier cases like Gian Kaur (1996) and Aruna Shanbaug (2011) shaped the legal framework.
12. In 2018, the Supreme Court had already recognized right to die with dignity as a fundamental right.
13. The present judgment will help families of terminally ill patients make compassionate decisions.
14. The Court also supported the use of a living will, allowing individuals to decide their future medical care.
15. Overall, the judgment promotes compassion, dignity, and autonomy in end-of-life care.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Consider the following statements based on the passage:

[Editorial page]

- 1) The Supreme Court invoked the constitutional idea of dignity to approve the withdrawal of life support for Harish Rana.
 - 2) In the Smt. Gian Kaur vs The State Of Punjab (1996) case, the Court officially legalized the concept of a living will for all citizens.
 - 3) The Aruna Shanbaug petition in 2011 resulted in the immediate approval of euthanasia due to the support of her nursing staff.
- A. Only 1 is correct
B. Only 1 and 2 are correct
C. Only 2 and 3 are correct
D. All are correct
2. **Why did the Supreme Court observe that leveraging technological advancements to keep a PVS patient alive could be incompatible with the Constitution?**
- A. Because the cost of such technology is too high for the government to subsidize under Article 21.
B. Because it forces a life of indignity and subjects the patient to a slow, agonizing death without meaning.
C. Because the technology used in 2026 is considered outdated compared to the methods used in the 1996 case.
D. Because the Court intends to ban all life-preserving hacks to ensure that only natural medicine is practiced.
3. **What is the primary purpose of a "Living Will" as endorsed by the Court in the passage?**
- A. To allow family members to claim the property of a terminally ill patient before they pass away.
B. To provide a medical history of the patient's past injuries to facilitate faster insurance claims.
C. To empower individuals to state their medical treatment preferences in case they become incapacitated.
D. To mandate that doctors must use every available technological advancement regardless of the patient's state.
4. **Which of the following options best provides a comprehensive summary of the passage?**
- A. The historical evolution of Indian healthcare technology from the 1990s to the landmark Harish Rana case of 2026.
B. The legal struggle of nurses in the Aruna Shanbaug case and their role in defining the right to live under Article 21.
C. The Supreme Court's judicial expansion of Article 21 to include the right to die with dignity through the approval of passive euthanasia.
D. A critical analysis of why India lacks formal legislation on euthanasia despite repeated directives from the Supreme Court Bench.
5. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage?**
- A. Skeptical and Dismissive
B. Compassionate and Judicious
C. Aggressive and Revolutionary

- D. Indifferent and Technical
6. **Directions: Given below are six sentences taken from an editorial. The first and the last sentences are numbered S1 and S6 and are placed in the first and last positions respectively. The other four sentences between them are jumbled up and are numbered A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a logical sequence.**
- S1. In the third week of the joint military campaign against Iran, the President faces decisions that could define the remainder of his term in office.
- A. However, if the commander-in-chief is grappling with a conflict that seems in danger of spiraling out of control, those concerns are certainly not playing out in public.
- B. While he may be eager to focus on such unrelated matters, he is confronting a harsh historical lesson that a war will inevitably consume a presidency.
- C. For instance, during a recent hour of public remarks, he spent almost as much time discussing ballroom construction plans as he did the actual war effort.
- D. Proof that the conflict is indeed already dominating his schedule emerged when he announced that a planned diplomatic trip to China would be delayed by a month.
- S6. Justifying this sudden postponement, the White House Press Secretary stated that his utmost responsibility right now is to ensure the continued success of the operation.
- A. ABCD
B. CABD
C. ACBD
D. DABC
7. **What is the best meaning of the idiom "Birds of a feather flock together"?**
- A. People with similar interests or characteristics tend to associate with each other.
B. Birds always fly in groups.
C. Different people can never be friends.
D. Only rich people make friends with other rich people.
8. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
The patient's _____ behavior indicated a severe disorder of thought processes
- A. Ideosyncratic
B. Idiosyncrasic
C. Idiosyncratic
D. Idiosyncrotic
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: ASSIDUOUS**
- A. Diligent
B. Careless
C. Negligent
D. Lazy
10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word: Voluble**
- A. Talkative
B. Garrulous
C. Reticent
D. Chatty
11. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: To send to Coventry**

- A. To exile with state honours
B. To subject someone to deliberate social ostracism
C. To forgive after public disgrace
D. To appoint to ceremonial duties
12. **Choose the correct spelling of a word meaning 'abundant in growth, especially vegetation'**
A. Luxuriant
B. Luxuirant
C. Luxurient
D. Luxureant
13. **Spot the correct spelling of the ear-nose-throat specialty**
A. Otorhinolarynglogy
B. Otorhinolaryngology
C. Otorhinolaryyngology
D. Otorhinolarygology
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'The invention or use of new words or expressions.'**
A. Neology
B. Neologism
C. Coinage
D. Jargon
15. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
The manuscript bore a colophon detailing the scribe's name.
A. The typesetter inserted a printer's colophon on the final page.
B. The insect's antenna ended in a segmented colophon.
C. The medieval colophon praised the patron.
D. The librarian studied the Syriac colophon.
16. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
It was not until much later (1) / that the inconsistencies in the financial reports (2) / were brought to light by the whistleblower, (3) / whose testimony proved more reliable than anyone else. (4)
A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)
17. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
I asked him what was he doing there.
A. what he was doing there
B. what he had been doing there
C. what did he doing there
D. what he has done there
18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence:**
He asked me that where was the office.
A. that where the office was
B. where was the office

- C. where the office was
D. where office is
19. **A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.**
She asked him if he had ever been to the Taj Mahal.
A. She asked him, "Did you ever go to the Taj Mahal?"
B. She asked him, "Were you at the Taj Mahal?"
C. She asked him, "Have you ever been to the Taj Mahal?"
D. She asked him, "Do you ever go to the Taj Mahal?"
20. **Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage:**
A. Its vibrant ecosystems support unique flora and fauna.
B. The Amazon rainforest is a global treasure.
C. Deforestation, however, poses a significant threat to its survival.
D. Protecting it is vital for global biodiversity.
A. 2-4-1-3
B. 3-1-2-4
C. 2-1-3-4
D. 4-3-2-1

Comprehension

The shockwaves of a war being fought nearly 3,000km away are now reaching India's kitchens. As the US-Israeli strikes on Iran disrupt energy shipments (1) ___ the Strait of Hormuz , supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) are tightening across India, forcing restaurants to cut menus, shorten hours and in some cases shut down altogether. Social media is (2) ___ with video clips showing queues outside cooking-gas dealers across Indian cities and towns as worries over fuel supplies spread. Commercial LPG users appear the worst hit: the sharpest (3) ___ is in restaurant kitchens. "The situation is (4) ___. Cooking gas simply isn't available," says Manpreet Singh of the National Restaurant Association of India, which represents about 500,000 restaurants. Most eateries run either on commercial LPG cylinders or piped gas, he says, and the shortages are now being felt across the country. "A lot of restaurants have closed - some in Delhi, many in the south [of the country]. People are (5) ___ to coal and wood and electric cookers to keep kitchens going." In Mumbai, media reports say up to a fifth of hotels and restaurants are already fully or partly shut as commercial LPG supplies tighten.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
A. through
B. from
C. by
D. with
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
A. wainscote
B. crenellates
C. bedizened
D. awash
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
A. squeeze

- B. bight
- C. cenotaph
- D. oubliette

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

- A. dire
- B. lugubrious
- C. halcyon
- D. clerestory

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

- A. switching
- B. careening
- C. genuflection
- D. cantilever

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Only 1 is correct**

Statement 1 is directly supported by the passage regarding the Harish Rana case.

Statement 2 is incorrect; while the case is mentioned as setting off a trend, the "living will" endorsement is linked to a 2018 Bench and the recent judgment.

Statement 3 is incorrect; the Court did not allow euthanasia in the Shanbaug case because the nurses "demurred" (objected).

2. **B) Because it forces a life of indignity and subjects the patient to a slow, agonizing death without meaning.**

The passage states that keeping such patients alive only because technology allows it "forces a life of indignity" and that the loss of control "denudes life of its meaning."

(A) is wrong: The passage focuses on human dignity, not the financial cost to the government. (C) & (D) are wrong: The Court isn't criticizing the age of the technology or trying to "ban" it; it is arguing against using it blindly to prolong a life that has lost its meaning and dignity.

3. **C) To empower individuals to state their medical treatment preferences in case they become incapacitated.**

The passage defines a living will as a "legal document empowering individuals to state their preferences for medical treatment in situations where they become incapacitated, vegetative or are unable to communicate."

(A) is wrong: A living will is a medical directive, not a property or inheritance document (which would be a standard "Last Will and Testament"). (B) is wrong: While it involves medical history, its primary legal function is to state future preferences for end-of-life care, not to speed up insurance. (D) is wrong: This is the exact opposite of a living will; it is meant to give you the right to refuse certain technological interventions.

4. **C) The Supreme Court's judicial expansion of Article 21 to include the right to die with dignity through the approval of passive euthanasia.**

This captures the central theme: the transition from past cases to the current judgment, the expansion of Article 21, and the focus on dignity in end-of-life care.

(A) is wrong: The passage is a legal and ethical analysis, not a historical timeline of healthcare technology. (B) is wrong: The nurses are a small detail in one specific case (Shanbaug), not the central theme of the entire passage.

(D) is wrong: While the passage mentions the "absence of legislation," its main focus is on the judicial solution and the landmark nature of the new ruling.

5. **B) Compassionate and Judicious**

The tone is judicious as it balances legal history (citing various cases) with the "fiendishly difficult" nature of the subject. It is compassionate because it emphasizes the "right to die with dignity," the removal of "agony," and the introduction of "compassion into end-of-life care."

(A) is wrong: The author supports the Court's decision, calling it "landmark" and "compassionate," so they are not skeptical. (C) is wrong: The writing is measured and references legal precedents, which is the opposite of "aggressive."

(D) is wrong: The author uses strong, emotive words like "agonizing," "dignity," and "courage," showing they are far from indifferent.

6. **C) Correct Sequence: S1-A-C-B-D-S6**

Sentence A, S1 के तुरंत बाद आता है क्योंकि यह एक मजबूत contrast (तुलना) पेश करता है। S1 कहता है कि President के सामने बड़े decisions हैं, और A "However" से शुरू होकर बताता है कि भले ही वह इन फैसलों से जूझ रहे हों, लेकिन public के सामने उनकी यह चिंता (concerns) दिखाई नहीं दे रही है।

Sentence C, Sentence A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Sentence A की बात (कि चिंता public में नहीं दिख रही) का एक example (उदाहरण) देता है। "For instance" का उपयोग करके यह बताता है कि कैसे उन्होंने युद्ध के बजाय "ballroom construction plans" पर बात करने में अपना समय बिताया।

Sentence B, Sentence C के बाद आता है क्योंकि "such unrelated matters" (ऐसे असंबद्ध विषय) सीधे तौर पर Sentence C में बताए गए "ballroom construction plans" को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि भले ही वह इन विषयों पर बात करना चाहें, लेकिन युद्ध अंततः उनकी presidency को "consume" (पूरी तरह घेर) लेगा।

Sentence D, Sentence B के बाद आता है और S6 से पहले एक link बनाता है। "dominating his schedule" Sentence B में बताए गए "consume a presidency" का proof (सबूत) देता है। यह बताता है कि युद्ध ने कैसे उनके schedule को प्रभावित किया है, जिसके कारण China का trip "delayed" (टाल) दिया गया।

S6 अंत में आता है क्योंकि "this sudden postponement" सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में बताए गए China trip के "delayed" होने को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि Press Secretary ने इस देरी को कैसे justify किया, जिससे paragraph logical रूप से conclude हो जाता है।

Sentence A follows S1 immediately because it introduces a sharp contrast to the gravity of the situation presented in S1. While S1 states the President faces defining decisions, A uses "However" to point out that he is not showing the weight of these concerns in public.

Sentence C comes next because it provides a direct, concrete example of the claim made in Sentence A. By using "For instance," it illustrates exactly how he is not showing concern in public—by spending his time discussing trivial things like "ballroom construction plans."

Sentence B follows because the phrase "such unrelated matters" undeniably refers back to the "ballroom construction plans" mentioned in Sentence C. It shifts the narrative by stating that despite his interest in these other topics, the reality of the war will inevitably "consume" his presidency.

Sentence D comes next because it provides tangible "Proof" of the claim made in Sentence B (that the war is consuming his presidency). It explains how the conflict is already "dominating his schedule" by forcing him to announce that his trip to China would be "delayed."

S6 concludes the passage perfectly because the phrase "this sudden postponement" is a direct and undeniable reference to the "delayed" trip mentioned in Sentence D. It wraps up the thought by providing the official justification for that specific delay.

7. **A) Birds of a feather flock together** (idiom) – People with similar interests or characteristics tend to associate with each other समान स्वभाव, रुचि या विचार वाले लोग आमतौर पर एक-दूसरे के साथ रहते हैं / दोस्ती करते हैं

8. C) **Idiosyncratic** – The correct spelling is “Idiosyncratic”, which means peculiar or characteristic of an individual; unusual behavior अजीब / विशिष्ट व्यवहार.
9. A) **Assiduous** (adjective) – Diligent, industrious, painstaking, persevering, attentive परिश्रमी
Synonym: **Diligent** (adjective) – Showing careful and persistent effort in work or duties, hardworking, devoted, conscientious मेहनती
- **Careless** (adjective) – Not giving sufficient attention or thought, negligent, inattentive लापरवाह
 - **Negligent** (adjective) – Failing to take proper care, careless, inattentive, irresponsible लापरवाही करने वाला
 - **Lazy** (adjective) – Unwilling to work or use energy, idle, indolent, sluggish आलसी
10. C) **Voluble** (adjective) – Talkative, loquacious, garrulous, fluent, expansive बातूनी
Antonym: **Reticent** (adjective) – Reserved, quiet, restrained, uncommunicative अल्पभाषी
- **Talkative** (adjective) – Fond of talking, chatty, loquacious बातूनी
 - **Garrulous** (adjective) – Excessively talkative, long-winded बहुत अधिक बोलने वाला
 - **Chatty** (adjective) – Informally talkative, friendly बातचीत-प्रिय
11. B) **To send to Coventry** (idiom) – To subject someone to deliberate social ostracism सामाजिक बहिष्कार करना / जानबूझकर किसी से बातचीत बंद कर देना
12. B) The correct spelling is ‘**Luxuriant**’, which means “abundant in growth, especially vegetation” घनी, सघन, भरपूर वृद्धि वाली
13. B) The correct spelling of ‘Otorhinolaryngology’ is **Otorhinolaryngology**, which refers to the medical specialty dealing with diseases of the ear, nose, and throat (ENT). कान-नाक-गला रोगों का चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञता क्षेत्र
14. B) **Neologism** (noun) – The invention or use of new words or expressions नवशब्द-निर्माण
- **Neology** (noun) – The study or practice of forming new words; the process, not the word itself नवशब्द-विज्ञान
 - **Coinage** (noun) – The act of inventing a new word or phrase, often informal नया शब्द गढ़ना
 - **Jargon** (noun) – Special words or expressions used by a particular profession or group विशेष तकनीकी भाषा
15. B) **The insect’s antenna ended in a segmented colophon.**
वाक्य में ‘colophon’ का अर्थ है – किसी पांडुलिपि या पुस्तक के अंत में दिया गया विवरण, जिसमें लेखक, नकलकर्ता, स्थान या तिथि की जानकारी होती है (a note at the end of a manuscript or book giving details about its production)।
अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें ‘colophon’ का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।
विकल्प B में ‘colophon’ का प्रयोग कीट-विज्ञान (entomology) के संदर्भ में एक शारीरिक भाग के रूप में किया गया है, जो पुस्तक संबंधी अर्थ से पूरी तरह भिन्न है।
दोनों का उच्चारण समान है, लेकिन अर्थ अलग-अलग हैं – इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।
In the highlighted sentence, colophon refers to a note at the end of a manuscript giving information about the scribe or publication.

In option B, colophon is used with a completely different meaning related to anatomy rather than books.

They have the same pronunciation and spelling but different meanings, making them homonyms.

16. D) (4) 'anyone else' के बदले 'anyone else's' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ comparison 'testimony' (वस्तु) के साथ हो रहा है, न कि व्यक्ति के साथ। सही तुलना के लिए possessive form आवश्यक है; जैसे— Her argument was stronger than anyone else's.

- 'anyone else's' will be used instead of 'anyone else' because the comparison is between testimonies, not persons. Therefore, a possessive form is required for correct grammatical comparison; like— Her argument was stronger than anyone else's.

17. A) 'what he was doing there' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Indirect Speech में question form का inversion नहीं होता। Direct question में verb-subject order होता है, लेकिन Indirect Speech में subject पहले और verb बाद में आता है। इसलिए "what was he doing" को बदलकर "what he was doing" किया जाता है।

- 'what he was doing there' will be used because in Indirect Speech, the interrogative sentence changes into a statement, so subject-verb inversion is removed. Hence, "what was he doing" correctly becomes "what he was doing"

18. C) 'that where was the office' के बदले '**where the office was**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Indirect Speech में question word (where) के बाद statement order (Subject + Verb) आता है, question order (Verb + Subject) नहीं। इसलिए was the office की जगह the office was सही है।

- 'where the office was' will be used because in indirect questions, the sentence follows statement structure (Subject + Verb), not interrogative structure. Hence, the office was is grammatically correct..

19. C) **She asked him, "Have you ever been to the Taj Mahal?"**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb और tense shift को ध्यान में रखा जाता है। Indirect sentence में "She asked him if" yes/no question को दर्शाता है, इसलिए Direct Speech में auxiliary verb के साथ question form आएगा। Indirect में "had ever been" (Past Perfect) का प्रयोग हुआ है, जिसका Direct रूप Present Perfect होता है — "have you ever been"। इसलिए सही Direct Speech होगा: "Have you ever been to the Taj Mahal?"

- Indirect to Direct Speech conversion requires attention to the reporting verb and tense change. The phrase "asked him if" indicates a yes/no question, so the direct form must be interrogative. The indirect verb "had ever been" (Past Perfect) changes back to Present Perfect in direct speech — "have you ever been". Hence, the most accurate direct form is "Have you ever been to the Taj Mahal?"

20. C) **2-1-3-4**

The Amazon rainforest is a global treasure Its vibrant ecosystems support unique flora and fauna Deforestation, however, poses a significant threat to its survival Protecting it is vital for global biodiversity.

Sentence 2 सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह Amazon rainforest को introduce करता है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के बाद आता है क्योंकि "Its" pronoun Amazon को refer करता है और उसकी importance बताता है।

Sentence 3 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि “however” contrast दिखाता है और threat introduce करता है।

Sentence 4 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह conclusion देता है — उसे protect करना जरूरी है।

- Sentence 2 comes first because it introduces the main subject of the passage. “The Amazon rainforest” is the subject and “is” is the verb. This sentence sets the theme by describing the Amazon as a global treasure.
- Sentence 1 follows because the pronoun “Its” refers directly to “The Amazon rainforest.” The verb “support” explains what makes it valuable — its vibrant ecosystems and unique species. This sentence adds descriptive detail.
- Sentence 3 comes next because it introduces contrast using the word “however.” After describing the importance of the Amazon, the passage shifts to a threat. “Deforestation” is the subject and “poses” is the verb, showing danger to its survival.
- Sentence 4 comes last because it provides the conclusion. “Protecting it” refers back to the Amazon rainforest. The verb “is” shows necessity. This sentence gives a final message about why preservation is important.

21. A) [through] सही है क्योंकि इसका इस्तेमाल किसी संकरे रास्ते (जैसे जलडमरूमध्य या strait) के एक सिरे से दूसरे सिरे तक जाने (movement) को दर्शाने के लिए होता है। जहाज़ strait के 'ज़रिए' या 'से होकर' गुज़रते हैं। from का मतलब शुरुआत का बिंदु (starting point) होता है। by का मतलब 'के द्वारा' या 'के पास' होता है। with का मतलब 'के साथ' होता है।

- [through] is correct because it specifically denotes movement from one side of a narrow passage of water (a strait) to the other. Ships travel through a strait. from indicates a starting point, but a strait is a passage to be crossed. by indicates agency or proximity (meaning 'next to'). with indicates accompaniment.

22. D) [awash] सही है क्योंकि "awash with" का मतलब किसी चीज़ से पूरी तरह भरा होना या बाढ़ आना (flooded) होता है। सोशल मीडिया इन वीडियो क्लिप्स से पूरी तरह भरा हुआ है। wainscote का मतलब कमरों की दीवारों के निचले हिस्से पर लकड़ी का पैनल (paneling) लगाना होता है। crenellates का मतलब दीवार पर किले जैसी बनावट (कंगूरे) बनाना होता है। bedizened का मतलब भड़कीले कपड़े पहनना या सजाना होता है।

- [awash] is correct because when followed by the preposition "with", it means containing large numbers or amounts of something. Social media is completely flooded or filled with these video clips. wainscote is a noun or verb related to wooden paneling covering the lower part of interior walls. crenellates is a verb meaning to provide a wall with battlements (like the top of a castle). bedizened means dressed up or decorated gaudily.

23. A) [squeeze] सही है क्योंकि व्यापार या सप्लाई के संदर्भ में इसका मतलब संसाधनों की भारी कमी (shortage) या दबाव होता है। रेस्टोरेंट्स को गैस की सबसे बड़ी कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। oubliette का मतलब एक खुफिया तहखाना (dungeon) होता है जिसका दरवाज़ा सिर्फ छत पर होता है। cenotaph का मतलब ऐसा स्मारक (monument) होता है जो किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति की याद में बना हो जिसे कहीं और दफनाया गया हो। bight का मतलब समुद्र तट या नदी का घुमाव (curve) होता है।

- [squeeze] is correct because in an economic or supply context, a "squeeze" refers to a severe restriction or shortage of resources. The restaurants are feeling the sharpest shortage of gas supplies. oubliette is a secret dungeon with access only through a

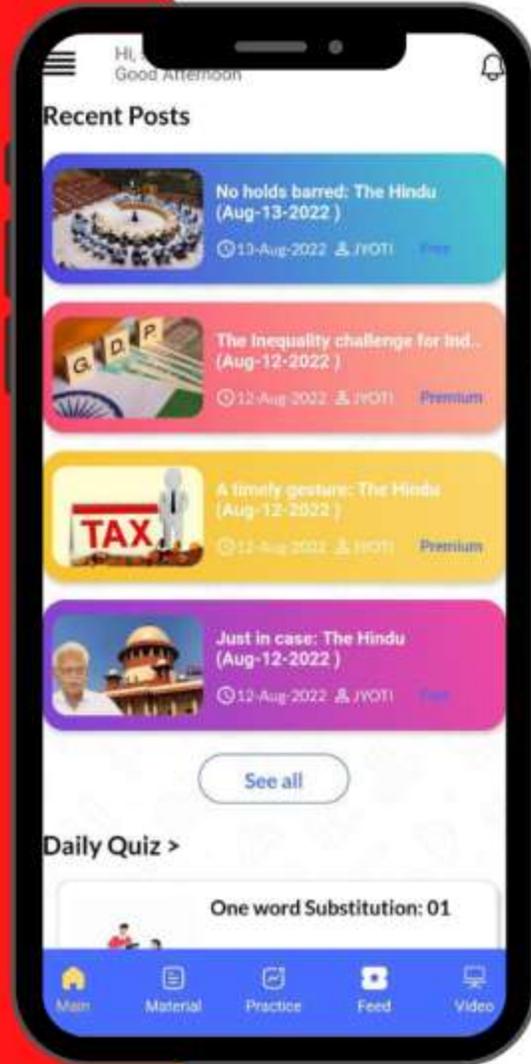
trapdoor in its ceiling. cenotaph is a monument erected in honor of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere. bight is a curve or recess in a coastline, river, or other geographical feature.

24. A) [**dire**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका मतलब बेहद गंभीर, भयानक या आपातकालीन (extremely serious) होता है। गैस बिल्कुल न मिलने की वजह से स्थिति बहुत गंभीर हो गई है। clerestory एक noun है जो किसी बड़े चर्च की दीवार के ऊपरी हिस्से की खिड़कियों के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है। halcyon का मतलब अतीत का एक बहुत ही शांतिपूर्ण और खुशहाल समय (peaceful time) होता है। lugubrious का मतलब बहुत उदास या निराशाजनक दिखने वाला (sad) होता है।

- [dire] is correct because it is an adjective meaning extremely serious, urgent, or terrible. The absolute lack of cooking gas creates a highly critical situation for the restaurant industry. clerestory is a noun referring to the upper part of a large church wall containing a series of windows. halcyon is an adjective denoting a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful. lugubrious means looking or sounding extremely sad and dismal.

25. A) [**switching**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब एक तरीका या विकल्प छोड़कर दूसरा अपनाना (changing/replacing) होता है। गैस न होने की वजह से लोग अपना तरीका बदलकर कोयले और लकड़ी का इस्तेमाल करने लगे हैं। cantilever एक इंजीनियरिंग शब्द है जिसका मतलब पुल बनाने में इस्तेमाल होने वाला एक ऐसा बीम (beam) होता है जो सिर्फ एक सिरे पर टिका हो। genuflection का मतलब सम्मान या पूजा में घुटने टेकना होता है। careening का मतलब बहुत तेज़ी से और अनियंत्रित (uncontrolled) तरीके से किसी दिशा में भागना होता है।

- [switching] is correct because it means changing or adopting a different method or replacement. Since LPG is completely unavailable, restaurants are abandoning gas and adopting (switching to) coal and wood instead. cantilever is an engineering term for a long projecting beam or girder fixed at only one end. genuflection is the act of bending the knee in worship or deep respect. careening means moving swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a specified direction.



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