Prison outbreak: On the health crisis in India's prisons

India's **overcrowded** jails **pose** a serious health risk to **inmates**

The public health **crisis** in India's prisons **is** **distinguished** by its poorer **infrastructure** and a general **disregard** for treating **ailments** until they become **inconvenient**. A prisoner does not lose the right to health, a point courts have repeatedly **stressed**; yet, between August 20, 2025, and March 9, 2026, around 92 **inmates** at the Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home **were** infected with herpes simplex virus (HSV) and seven of them died. HSV is common in the general population but experts have said that in immunocompromised or overcrowded populations with poor care, it can **lead to** encephalitis, which is **often fatal**. The Home's 171% occupancy rate **rendered** good hygiene and **isolation** a luxury. According to the 2023 Prison Statistics of India, district **prisons** in West Bengal **have** reported occupancy rates exceeding 160% and certain **facilities**, such as the Kandi Sub-Jail, have historically reached **staggering** levels of over 400%. While the State has many foreign national inmates, overcrowding is a **persistent** fact of India's correctional facilities. In 2023, **30%** of inmates in 10 prisons in Kerala **were** found to have skin diseases caused by humidity and a lack of personal space. A 2023 **study** in The Lancet Public Health **found** prisoners in India five times more **likely** to develop tuberculosis (TB) than the general population. In 2025, the Home Ministry ordered prison screening camps as **unventilated** environments allow TB to spread rapidly. The Nagpur and Indore central jails had major COVID-19 outbreaks.

According to the India Justice Report 2025, HIV **prevalence** among inmates **is** also significantly higher than the national average due to shared equipment and inadequate screening at entry. Mandatory, **comprehensive** medical screening could catch many of these infections before they become **injurious**, which also requires facilities to have the **requisite** personnel. But the report also **flagged** a 43% vacancy rate for medical officers, **resulting in** the number of inmates per doctor being 2.6 times higher than recommended by the Model Prison Manual. There are also only 25 psychologists for India's 5.7 lakh inmates. Filling this gap requires integrating prisons into the National Health Mission, ensuring a sufficient number of health workers trained to manage outbreaks, and **enforcing** the Manual's standards **uniformly** across States. As West Bengal's actions in 2020 **illustrate** — temporarily releasing thousands of **undertrials** to relieve overcrowding in the South 24 Parganas District Correctional Home and the Baruipur Central Jail — the solutions are not **confined to** health. The judiciary must fast-track cases involving undertrials, who **constitute** the majority of inmates, expand the use of bail and non-custodial alternatives for minor offences and **expedite** the **repatriation** of foreign nationals.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Outbreak** (noun) - flare-up, upsurge, eruption, epidemic, wave प्रकोप

2. **Overcrowded** (adjective) - congested, crammed, packed, jammed, swarming खचाखच भरा हुआ

3. **Pose** (verb) - present, constitute, create, produce, cause खड़ा करना (खतरा आदि)

4. **Inmates** (noun) - prisoner, convict, captive, detainee, jailbird कैदी

5. **Distinguished** (adjective) - characterized, differentiated, identified, marked, recognized विशिष्ट

6. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, foundation, base, groundwork, substructure बुनियादी ढांचा

7. **Disregard** (noun) - indifference, negligence, apathy, heedlessness, disdain उपेक्षा

8. **Ailment** (noun) - malady, affliction, disorder, infirmity, complaint बीमारी

9. **Inconvenient** (adjective) - troublesome, bothersome, awkward, cumbersome, vexatious असुविधाजनक

10. **Stress** (verb) - emphasize, underline, highlight, accentuate, underscore जोर देना

11. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in or cause a particular situation or event परिणाम होना

12. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, commonly अक्सर

13. **Fatal** (adjective) - lethal, deadly, mortal, terminal, killing घातक

14. **Render** (verb) - make, cause to be, leave, turn, constitute बना देना

15. **Isolation** (noun) - separation, segregation, seclusion, detachment, loneliness अलगाव

16. **Facilities** (noun) - amenities, provisions, services, installations, resources सुविधाएं

17. **Staggering** (adjective) - astonishing, astounding, shocking, overwhelming, stunning चौंका देने वाला

18. **Persistent** (adjective) - chronic, constant, relentless, unremitting, continuous निरंतर

19. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, possible, plausible, expected, anticipated संभावित

20. **Unventilated** (adjective) - stuffy, airless, stifling, suffocating, close हवादार न होना

21. **Prevalence** (noun) - commonness, frequency, ubiquity, pervasiveness, currency प्रसार

22. **Comprehensive** (adjective) - exhaustive, thorough, all-inclusive, extensive, detailed व्यापक

23. **Injurious** (adjective) - harmful, detrimental, deleterious, damaging, noxious हानिकारक

24. **Requisite** (adjective) - necessary, required, essential, vital, indispensable आवश्यक

25. **Flag** (verb) - indicate, signal, point out, identify, highlight संकेत देना

26. **Result in** (phrasal verb) - to cause a particular situation to happen फलस्वरूप होना

27. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, execute, administer, impose, apply लागू करना

28. **Uniformly** (adverb) - consistently, evenly, equally, identically, systematically समान रूप से

29. **Illustrate** (verb) - exemplify, demonstrate, show, manifest, display उदाहरण देना

30. **Undertrials** (noun) - a person who is on trial in a court of law विचाराधीन कैदी

31. **Confine** (to) (verb) - limited to or restricted to a particular area or group तक ही सीमित

32. **Constitute** (verb) - comprise, form, compose, represent, make up गठित करना

33. **Expedite** (verb) - accelerate, hasten, hurry, speed up, quicken जल्द पूरा करना

34. **Repatriation** (noun) - the return of someone to their own country स्वदेश वापसी

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's prisons face a **serious public health crisis** due to poor infrastructure and overcrowding.

2. Prisoners retain their **right to health**, but this is often neglected in practice.

3. A recent outbreak at Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home infected **92 inmates with HSV**, causing **7 deaths**.

4. Diseases like HSV become **deadly in overcrowded and immunocompromised conditions**.

5. Overcrowding (e.g., **171% occupancy**) makes hygiene and isolation nearly impossible.

6. Many prisons in India, especially in West Bengal, operate **far beyond capacity** (some over 400%).

7. Overcrowding is a **nationwide issue**, not limited to one State.

8. Poor living conditions lead to **skin diseases and infections**, as seen in Kerala prisons.

9. Prisoners are **five times more likely to contract tuberculosis (TB)** than the general population.

10. Lack of ventilation and crowding have also caused **COVID-19 outbreaks** in several jails.

11. HIV prevalence in prisons is **higher than the national average** due to poor screening and unsafe practices.

12. There is a **severe shortage of medical staff**, with a 43% vacancy in medical officer posts.

13. Mental health care is highly inadequate, with only **25 psychologists for 5.7 lakh inmates**.

14. Solutions include **mandatory health screening, better staffing, and integration with the National Health Mission**.

15. Long-term reform requires **reducing overcrowding** through faster trials, bail, non-custodial measures, and repatriation of foreign inmates.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Consider the following statements based on the passage:**　　[Editorial page]
a) The occupancy rate at the Jalpaiguri Central Correctional Home was recorded at 171%, making hygiene and isolation difficult to maintain.
b) A study in The Lancet Public Health (2023) found that prisoners in India are five times more likely to develop tuberculosis (TB) than the general population.
c) The India Justice Report 2025 noted that there are approximately 2.6 psychologists available for every doctor in the Indian prison system.
    A. Only 1 and 2 are correct
    B. Only 2 and 3 are correct
    C. Only 1 and 3 are correct
    D. All are correct

2. **What is cited as a major reason for the high prevalence of HIV among prison inmates compared to the national average?**
    A. The lack of humidity and ventilation in the district prisons of West Bengal.
    B. Shared equipment among inmates and inadequate medical screening at the time of entry.
    C. The transition of herpes simplex virus (HSV) into HIV due to overcrowded conditions.
    D. The mandatory requirement for inmates to undergo National Health Mission training.

3. **According to the passage, what non-health related measure is necessary to address the overcrowding in correctional facilities?**
    A. Increasing the vacancy rate of medical officers to 43% to reduce administrative costs.
    B. Integrating all psychologists into the National Health Mission for better rural coverage.
    C. Fast-tracking cases of undertrials and expanding the use of bail for minor offences.
    D. Enforcing the Model Prison Manual standards only in foreign national correctional homes.

4. **Evaluate the following statements based on the passage and choose the correct combination.**
   1. Herpes simplex virus (HSV) is typically fatal in the general population regardless of the patient's 2. immune system.
   The vacancy rate for medical officers in Indian prisons stands at 43%, according to the India Justice Report 2025.
    A. 1-True, 2-True
    B. 1-False, 2-True
    C. 1-True, 2-False
    D. 1-False, 2-False

5. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage?**
    A. Descriptive and Indifferent
    B. Critical and Concerned
    C. Appreciative and Optimistic
    D. Academic and Neutral

6. **Directions: In the following question, the sentences of a paragraph are jumbled up. Arrange them in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
    A. It is usually the dogs who notice the change first and begin to bark furiously, followed by the noise of aircraft and the ominous percussion of explosions.

B. A woman stands on a rooftop listening to the dull hum of traffic below, knowing full well how easily that quiet atmosphere can shatter.

C. Like so many young Iranians, she has not only endured this daily terror but also seen her broader hopes for the future devastated in recent months.

D. For Baran, a businesswoman in her thirties, this constant threat of airstrikes means she is now too scared to even go to work, viewing stepping outside as a gamble with her life.

A. ABDC
B. BADC
C. BACD
D. CBAD

7. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**

A. The group of friends B. were going on C. a hiking trip D. next weekend.

A. The group of friends
B. were going on
C. a hiking trip
D. next weekend

8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**

The treaty was signed _____ mutual understanding and cooperation.

A. by
B. over
C. under
D. with

9. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**

A. Gragarous
B. Gragarious
C. Gregarious
D. Gregareious

10. **Choose the correctly spelt word**

A. Ricieve
B. Receve
C. Receive
D. Recieve

11. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: A bun in the oven**

A. A new house
B. A new job
C. A pregnancy
D. A baking project

12. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

A place where you can buy medicines

A. Pharmacy
B. Supermarket
C. Hospital
D. Clinic

13. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Vexatious**

A. Pleasant
B. Annoying
C. Troublesome
D. Irritating

14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
    A technique creating narrative rhythm.
    A. Personification
    B. Joke
    C. Story
    D. Repetition

15. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
    The championship game was won by our team.
    A. Our team won the championship game.
    B. The championship game was winning our team.
    C. Our team wins the championship game.
    D. The championship game had been won by our team.

16. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.**
    He will tell her, "I have already finished my work."
    A. He will tell her that he had already finished his work.
    B. He will tell her that he has already finished his work.
    C. He will tell her that he already finished his work.
    D. He will tell her that he would have finished his work.

17. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
    Shyamal, the businessman and philanthropist, were starting a new business venture for farmers.
    A. are starting a new business venture
    B. were starting a new business venture
    C. is starting a new business venture
    D. starts a new business venture

18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
    It is difficult to diagnose malaria because its first symptoms are similar to any viral fever.
    A. are similar to all fevers
    B. are similar to those of any viral fever
    C. is similar to those of any other viral fever
    D. is similar to those of any viral fevers

19. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**
    The skilled programmer has written an elegant and efficient code to solve the intricate problem.
    A. An elegant and efficient code was written by the skilled programmer to solve the intricate problem.
    B. An elegant and efficient code has been written by the skilled programmer to solve the intricate problem.
    C. An elegant and efficient code has been being written by the skilled programmer to solve the intricate problem.

D. An elegant and efficient code is written by the skilled programmer to solve the intricate problem.

20. **Rearrange the following sentence parts to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:**

P. He took great care to remove the old, flaking paint from the antique table

Q. He smoothed the wood using fine sandpaper to bring out the original grain.

R. He added a final layer of varnish for protection and a new stain.

S. The table had been carefully refurbished and was no longer worn out and ancient.

A. Q, R, P, S
B. S, Q, R, P
C. P, Q, R, S
D. P, S, R, Q

Comprehension

China's leaders are trying something new to revive the country's slowing economy: encouraging people to (1) ___ more. At this year's Two Sessions in Beijing - the country's most important political meeting of the year - officials set an annual growth target of 4.5%–5%, the lowest since 1991 . Alongside the goal, policymakers unveiled measures aimed at boosting household spending - a (2) ___ admission that the old drivers of growth may no longer be (3) ___. In many ways, it marks a reversal of China's traditional approach. In the past, when growth slowed, Beijing built more apartments, motorways, factories and industrial parks - fuelling expansion through state investment, exports and a booming property market. Now policymakers are placing more emphasis (4) ____ raising household incomes and strengthening consumption. "It's a recognition by Beijing that the old growth model no longer works," said Dexter Roberts of the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub. The question now is whether China's leaders can (5) ___ households to open their wallets - and whether consumption can realistically become an engine of growth.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
A. stipple
B. spend
C. scrimshaw
D. furl

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
A. tacit
B. carvel-built
C. rusticated
D. epistolary

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
A. sustainable
B. iambic
C. clinker-built
D. corbelled

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

    C. with

    D. no preposition required

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

    A. stucco

    B. ballast

    C. persuade

    D. enjamb

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Only 1 and 2 are correct**
   Statement 1 and 2 are directly mentioned in the passage.
   Statement 3 is incorrect; the report flagged a vacancy rate for doctors (making the inmate-to-doctor ratio 2.6 times higher than recommended), and it noted there are only 25 psychologists for 5.7 lakh inmates total.

2. B) **Shared equipment among inmates and inadequate medical screening at the time of entry.**
   The passage explicitly links the higher HIV prevalence to "shared equipment and inadequate screening at entry."
   others are incorrect: (A) refers to skin diseases. (C) is medically incorrect and not in the passage. (D) is a proposed solution, not a cause of HIV.

3. C) **Fast-tracking cases of undertrials and expanding the use of bail for minor offences**.
   The author argues that solutions are "not confined to health" and calls for the judiciary to fast-track undertrial cases and use non-custodial alternatives.
   others are incorrect: (A) is a problem, not a solution. (B) and (D) are not suggested as measures to reduce overcrowding in the passage.

4. B) **1-False, 2-True**
   • Statement 1 is False: The passage states HSV is "common in the general population" but becomes fatal (leading to encephalitis) primarily in "immunocompromised or overcrowded populations."
   • Statement 2 is True: This specific percentage is cited in the passage regarding the shortage of medical personnel.

5. B) **Critical and Concerned**
   The author is critical of the "general disregard" for prisoner health and the "staggering" levels of overcrowding. The tone is concerned because it highlights fatal outbreaks (HSV, TB) and the "legal vacuum" or systemic failures (43% vacancies) that put lives at risk.
   others are incorrect: (A) and (D) suggest a lack of emotion or stance, which contradicts the author's call for judicial and health reforms. (C) is incorrect as the author is highlighting a crisis rather than celebrating the current state.

6. B) **Correct Sequence: B-A-D-C**
   Sentence B comes first because it serves as the atmospheric introduction to the narrative. It introduces an unnamed "woman" on a rooftop and sets up the tension by mentioning that the current quiet (dull hum of traffic) can easily "shatter" or change.
   Sentence A follows because "the change" directly refers back to how easily the quiet atmosphere can "shatter" in Sentence B. It provides the specific sensory details of that change: the dogs barking, the aircraft, and finally, the explosions.
   Sentence D comes next because it transitions from the general threat of the explosions (in A) to the specific impact on the character. It finally names the woman on the roof as "Baran" and

explains that "this constant threat of airstrikes" (referencing the explosions in A) has paralyzed her daily life.

Sentence C comes last because the pronoun "she" refers back to Baran in Sentence D. It acts as a concluding statement by broadening the scope, connecting her immediate physical fear of the airstrikes to a deeper, shared emotional trauma experienced by "many young Iranians."

Sentence B सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह कहानी की शुरुआत (introduction) करता है। एक "woman" छत पर खड़ी है और शांति (dull hum of traffic) महसूस कर रही है। यह paragraph का background set करता है कि वह जानती है कि यह शांति कभी भी टूट सकती है (how easily that can change)।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आता है क्योंकि "the change" सीधे तौर पर Sentence B के उस शांत माहौल के टूटने को refer करता है। यह detail में बताता है कि यह बदलाव कैसा होता है—कुत्तों का भौंकना, aircraft की आवाज़, और अंत में explosions (धमाके)।

Sentence D, Sentence A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Sentence A में बताए गए "explosions" (धमाकों) का सीधा असर (impact) बताता है। यहाँ पहली बार उस औरत का नाम "Baran" बताया गया है, जो इस लगातार खतरे (constant threat) के कारण अपने काम पर जाने से भी डरती है।

Sentence C अंत में आता है क्योंकि "she" pronoun सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में बताई गई "Baran" को refer करता है। यह paragraph को conclude करता है कि कैसे उसके जैसे कई "young Iranians" के भविष्य के सपने (hopes for the future) इन हालातों के कारण पूरी तरह टूट (devastated) गए हैं।

7. B) were' के बदले **'was'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि The group of friends में group मुख्य subject है और यह singular collective noun है, इसलिए इसके साथ singular verb लगेगा; जैसे—
The team was playing well.
   • **'was'** will be used instead of 'were' because in The group of friends the main subject is group, which is a singular collective noun, hence it takes a singular verb; Like—
   The group was celebrating their victory.

8. D) **with**
‘with’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरा वाक्य सहयोग, सहमति और साझे प्रयास की स्थिति को दिखा रहा है। "The treaty was signed with mutual understanding and cooperation" में "with" दो पक्षों के बीच सहमति के आधार पर किए गए कार्य को दर्शाता है। इसलिए, with सबसे उपयुक्त preposition है।
   • ‘**with**’ should be used because the sentence expresses a condition of agreement and joint cooperation. The phrase "signed with mutual understanding and cooperation" conveys that the treaty came into effect through shared consent and collaborative intent. Hence, with is the most appropriate choice.

9. C) The correct spelling of ‘Gragarous’ is ‘**Gregarious**’, which means "fond of company; sociable" मिलनसार, लोगों के साथ रहना पसंद करने वाला.

10. C) The correctly spelt word is Receive which means "to be given, presented, or paid something" प्राप्त करना, लेना.

11. C) **A bun in the oven** (idiom) – A bun in the oven means a pregnancy गर्भावस्था / बच्चा आने वाला है

12. A) **Pharmacy** (noun) – a place where you can buy medicines औषधि दुकान / दवा दुकान
   • **Supermarket** (noun) – a large self-service store selling food and household goods सुपरमार्केट
   • **Hospital** (noun) – an institution providing medical and surgical treatment अस्पताल

- **Clinic** (noun) – a place where patients receive medical treatment क्लिनिक / चिकित्सालय

13. A) **Vexatious** (adjective) – Causing annoyance, irritation, or trouble. कष्टदायक, झुंझलाहटपूर्ण
Antonym: **Pleasant** (adjective) – Enjoyable, agreeable, delightful, pleasing, nice. सुखद, मनभावन
- **Annoying** (adjective) – Irritating, bothersome, vexing. चिड़चिड़ा करने वाला
- **Troublesome** (adjective) – Difficult, demanding, vexatious. कष्टदायक
- **Irritating** (adjective) – Annoying, vexing, provoking. झुंझलाहट पैदा करने वाला

14. D) **Repetition** (noun) – a literary technique in which words or phrases are repeated to create rhythm पुनरावृत्ति / बार-बार प्रयोग
- **Personification** (noun) – attribution of human qualities to non-human things मानवीकरण
- **Joke** (noun) – something said or done to provoke laughter मज़ाक
- **Story** (noun) – an account of imaginary or real events कहानी

15. **A) Our team won the championship game.**
Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive वाक्य का Object Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The championship game" Subject है, "was won" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by our team" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर Agent "Our team" Subject बन गया है और Verb को Past Simple Active "won" में बदला गया है, जिसके बाद Object "the championship game" आया है।
- To change from Passive to Active Voice, the object or agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active form. In the passive version, "The championship game" is the subject, "was won" is the verb (Past Simple Passive), and "by our team" indicates the agent. In the active form, "Our team" becomes the subject, the verb is converted into the Past Simple Active form "won," and "the championship game" becomes the object.

16. **B) He will tell her that he has already finished his work.**
Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय reporting verb "will tell" Future में है, इसलिए reported speech के tense में कोई बदलाव नहीं होता। Direct Speech में "I have already finished my work." Present Perfect में है, इसलिए Indirect Speech में भी Present Perfect ही रखा जाएगा और pronoun "I" बदलकर "he" हो जाएगा।
- To change from Direct to Indirect Speech, when the reporting verb is in the future form ("will tell"), the tense inside the reported speech does not shift. Here, the direct sentence uses Present Perfect ("have already finished"), so in indirect form it remains Present Perfect, with pronouns adjusted appropriately.

17. **C) is starting a new business venture**
'were starting a new business venture' के बदले 'is starting a new business venture' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Shyamal एक singular noun है और the businessman and philanthropist उसी व्यक्ति की apposition में दिया गया है, इसलिए verb भी singular लगेगा; जैसे—
Raja, the teacher and poet, is writing a book.
- 'is starting a new business venture' will be used instead of 'were starting a new business venture' because Shyamal is a singular subject and the businessman and philanthropist describes the same person (apposition), therefore the verb must be singular; Like—

Raja, the teacher and poet, is writing a book.

18. B) **are similar to those of any viral fever**

Solution) 'are similar to any viral fever' के बदले 'are similar to those of any viral fever' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ तुलना symptoms की है, और symptoms गिनने योग्य plural होते हैं, इसलिए those of का प्रयोग करके fever के symptoms को संदर्भित किया जाता है; जैसे—

The symptoms of dengue are similar to those of malaria.

- 'are similar to those of any viral fever' will be used instead of 'are similar to any viral fever' because the comparison is between symptoms, which are plural countable nouns. Hence 'those of' is required to properly refer to the symptoms of another condition; Like—

The symptoms of dengue are similar to those of malaria.

19. B) **An elegant and efficient code has been written by the skilled programmer to solve the intricate problem.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb का Tense भी Passive रूप में बदलता है। Active वाक्य में "The skilled programmer" Subject है, "has written" (Present Perfect Active) Verb है और "an elegant and efficient code" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "An elegant and efficient code" Subject बन गया है, Verb को Present Perfect Passive "has been written" में बदला गया है और Agent "by the skilled programmer" जोड़ दिया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb changes to its passive form while keeping the correct tense. Here, "The skilled programmer" (Subject), "has written" (Present Perfect Active), and "an elegant and efficient code" (Object) change to "An elegant and efficient code" (Subject), "has been written" (Present Perfect Passive), and "by the skilled programmer" (Agent).

20. **C) P, Q, R, S**

He took great care to remove the old, flaking paint from the antique table. He smoothed the wood using fine sandpaper to bring out the original grain. He added a final layer of varnish for protection and a new stain.The table had been carefully refurbished and was no longer worn out and ancient.

sentence P shows the first step of the process. The subject "He" (pronoun) performs the action "took" (verb). "Old" and "flaking" are adjectives describing "paint" (noun). It comes first because paint must be removed before restoration can continue.

sentence Q describes the second step. "Smoothed" is the main verb, and "the wood" is the object. "Using fine sandpaper" explains the method. "Original" is an adjective for "grain." This follows paint removal.

sentence R explains the final action. "Added" is the verb, while "final" and "new" are adjectives. "For protection" shows purpose. This step happens after sanding.

sentence S gives the result of all actions. "The table" is the subject, and "had been refurbished" is a verb phrase. "Carefully" is an adverb, and "worn out" and "ancient" are adjectives. It works as the conclusion.

Sentence P सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि old, flaking paint को remove करना table restore करने का पहला step है। Took और remove verbs action की शुरुआत दिखाते हैं।

Sentence Q इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि paint हटाने के बाद wood smoothed using sandpaper किया जाता है। Smoothed verb और using fine sandpaper phrase P के बाद का next action दिखाते हैं।
Sentence R इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि sanding के बाद final layer of varnish and stain added किया जाता है। Added verb और for protection बताता है कि यह next step है।
Sentence S सबसे आख़िरी आता है क्योंकि यह final result बताता है। Had been refurbished verb phrase और worn out, ancient adjectives दिखाते हैं कि table अब fully restored है और पुरानी या damaged नहीं है।
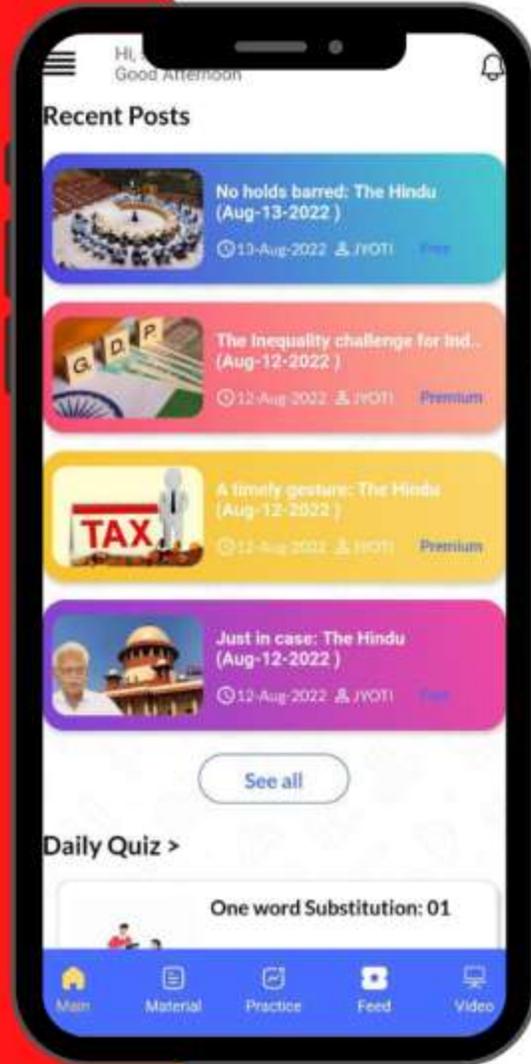
21. B) **spend** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब पैसे खर्च करना होता है। पैराग्राफ में अर्थव्यवस्था (economy) को सुधारने के लिए लोगों का "खर्च" (spending) बढ़ाने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए यह बिल्कुल सटीक है। scrimshaw का मतलब व्हेल की हड्डी या हाथीदांत पर नक्काशी करना होता है। stipple एक कला (art) है जिसमें छोटे बिंदुओं (dots) से चित्र बनाया जाता है। furl का मतलब किसी चीज़ (जैसे पाल या झंडे) को लपेटना या मोड़ना होता है।
    - spend is correct because it is a verb meaning to pay out money. The passage explicitly talks about "boosting household spending" and asking households "to open their wallets," making this the only logical economic action for the blank. scrimshaw is a noun referring to the art of carving on whalebone or ivory. stipple is an art technique of drawing or painting with small dots. furl means to roll or fold up securely (like a sail or a flag).

22. A) [**tacit**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका मतलब बिना कहे समझी जाने वाली या मौन (implied/silent) बात होता है। अपनी पुरानी रणनीति बदलकर, सरकार बिना कुछ सीधे तौर पर कहे यह मान रही है (tacit admission) कि पुराने तरीके अब काम नहीं कर रहे। epistolary का मतलब पत्रों (letters) के ज़रिए लिखा गया (जैसे कोई नॉवेल) होता है। rusticated का मतलब खुरदरी बनावट वाली वास्तुकला (architecture) होता है। carvel-built लकड़ी की नाव बनाने का एक तरीका है।
    - [tacit] is correct because it is an adjective meaning understood or implied without being openly stated. By completely shifting their economic strategy, the policymakers are silently or implicitly admitting (a tacit admission) that their old methods are failing. epistolary relates to the writing of letters (like an epistolary novel). rusticated refers to a type of architecture with a rough, textured stone surface. carvel-built is a specific method of wooden boat building.

23. A)[**sustainable**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब लंबे समय तक टिकने वाला या कायम रहने वाला (maintainable) होता है। अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ाने का पुराना तरीका (लगातार बिल्डिंग्स और फैक्ट्रियां बनाना) अब आगे लंबे समय तक नहीं चल सकता। corbelled वास्तुकला (architecture) का शब्द है जो दीवार से निकले हुए छज्जे या सहारे के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है। clinker-built नाव बनाने का एक तरीका है। iambic कविता (poetry) में इस्तेमाल होने वाली एक खास लय (rhythm) का नाम है।
    - [sustainable] is correct because it means able to be maintained at a certain rate or level. The passage explains that the old economic growth model of just building more apartments and factories can no longer be maintained over the long term. corbelled is an architectural term for a piece of stone or wood jutting out of a wall to carry weight. clinker-built is another method of boat building where the edges of hull planks overlap. iambic is a poetry term referring to a specific rhythm or meter.

24. B) **on**] सही है क्योंकि इंग्लिश ग्रामर के नियम के अनुसार "emphasis" (ज़ोर देना) के साथ हमेशा "on" preposition का इस्तेमाल होता है। यह बताता है कि किस खास बात पर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है (जैसे यहाँ

आमदनी बढ़ाने पर)। in का इस्तेमाल अंदर होने के लिए होता है। with का मतलब 'के साथ' होता है। यहाँ बिना preposition के वाक्य ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत हो जाएगा।

- [on] is correct because of a strict English grammar rule: the noun "emphasis" is always followed by the preposition "on" when indicating the specific subject or area that is being given special importance. in is used for location or inclusion. with indicates accompaniment. Omitting the preposition (no preposition required) would be grammatically incorrect because "emphasis" requires a connecting word to link it to the action "raising household incomes."

25. C) [**persuade**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक verb है जिसका मतलब किसी को मनाना या राज़ी करना (convince) होता है। नेता लोगों को अपना पैसा खर्च करने के लिए मनाने (persuade करने) की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। stucco का मतलब दीवारों पर लगाया जाने वाला एक खास तरह का प्लास्टर होता है। ballast का मतलब जहाज़ का संतुलन बनाए रखने के लिए उसमें रखा जाने वाला भारी वज़न होता है। enjamb कविता (poetry) का शब्द है जिसका मतलब बिना रुके अगली लाइन में जाना होता है।

- [persuade] is correct because it is a verb meaning to convince someone to do something through reasoning or argument. The leaders are trying to convince or "persuade" households to open their wallets and spend their money. stucco is a fine plaster used for coating wall surfaces. ballast is heavy material placed low in a vessel (like a ship) to improve its stability. enjamb is a poetry term meaning to continue a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line.