

At long last: On Kalpakkam reactor **criticality**, India's regulatory regime

India must now **revamp** its nuclear regulatory regime

The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieving first criticality **is** a genuine cause for satisfaction, **albeit** a measured one. A Parliamentary Standing Committee reported this year that the project's final cost is ₹8,181 crore, more than twice the **sanctioned** amount. Criticality itself is at least 16 years behind schedule; the fast reactor fuel cycle facility is expected to be **commissioned** by 2029, over a **decade** late. **Poor planning and flawed procurement**, **abetted** by political **insulation**, **are** the causes of the delay. The PFBR is the first commercial-scale component of the second stage of India's nuclear power programme. Its purpose is to use spent fuel, after reprocessing, from the first stage, and **depleted** uranium to produce more plutonium. In the final stage, reactors will use plutonium and thorium as fuel. The programme's design is based on India's **abundant** thorium deposits, but this sword **cuts both ways**. The nuclear **establishment** must also be **scrupulous** about the PFBR's performance as it is prepared for commercial operation, and admit mistakes or under-performance **plainly**. The goal is not to use thorium at any cost but to achieve energy security and **self-sufficiency**. If the **economics** of solar and wind power **render** the current nuclear power **paradigm** a poor **allocation** of **scarce** public capital, that finding should honestly determine policy.

Nuclear power contributes around 3% of India's electricity from 8.78 GW of installed capacity. The country has **committed to** becoming a **net-zero economy** by 2070 amid an energy demand growth that will be among the largest of any major economy over the next two **decades**. Nuclear power facilities are expected to consume 6% of the land area required for **equivalent** solar power generation per unit of electricity produced. **Considering** that India's **biodiversity commitments** depend on not converting green cover, nuclear power offers a **non-trivial** path forward. Breeder reactors are more fuel-efficient, and will also extend the fuel cycle and reduce dependence on uranium imports. The challenge is to realise these **merits** without **squandering** time and public money. This means fixing the problems that the PFBR **throws up** during commissioning, and proceeding with the planned FBR1 and FBR2 units at Kalpakkam based on lessons learned, without the **opacity** that has **prevailed so far**. The PFBR also comes online alongside the SHANTI Act, private nuclear power operations, the **advent** of small modular reactors, and a new liability regime. Now is an **opportune** time for India to **revamp** its regulatory regime. So far, the AERB and the DAE have reported to the Atomic Energy Commission, which is thus both the **promoter** and the regulator of nuclear energy. The government must resolve this administrative **short-circuit** before any new **complexities** arise. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **At long last** (phrase) - after a long time or a series of delays अंततः
2. **Criticality** (noun) - peak, climax, milestone, turning point, juncture निर्णायक अवस्था
3. **Revamp** (verb) - overhaul, renovate, reconstruct, remodel, refurbish सुधारना
4. **Regime** (noun) - a system or government in power, especially one that exercises control व्यवस्था
5. **Albeit** (conjunction) - although, even though, notwithstanding, yet, though यद्यपि
6. **Sanction** (verb) - authorize, approve, warrant, accredit, permit मंजूरी देना
7. **Commission** (verb) - activate, launch, order, authorize, install काम शुरू करना
8. **Decade** (noun) - ten-year period दशक
9. **Flawed** (adjective) - defective, faulty, imperfect, distorted, erroneous त्रुटिपूर्ण
10. **Procurement** (noun) - acquisition, attainment, sourcing, provision, purchase खरीद/प्राप्ति
11. **Abet** (verb) - incite, instigate, provoke, foment, encourage उकसाना (गलत काम के लिए)
12. **Insulation** (noun) - isolation, protection, shielding, detachment, separation अलगाव
13. **Deplete** (verb) - exhaust, drain, diminish, sap, reduce कम करना/रिक्त करना
14. **Abundant** (adjective) - plentiful, copious, ample, profuse, lavish प्रचुर
15. **Cut both ways** (phrase) - to have both advantages and disadvantages दोधारी तलवार होना
16. **Establishment** (noun) - organization, institution, system, foundation, bureaucracy संस्थान/प्रतिष्ठान
17. **Scrupulous** (adjective) - meticulous, diligent, thorough, precise, conscientious अति सावधान/ईमानदार
18. **Plainly** (adverb) - clearly, overtly, explicitly, distinctly, manifestly स्पष्ट रूप से
19. **Self-sufficiency** (noun) - independence, autonomy, self-reliance, self-sustenance, self-support आत्मनिर्भरता
20. **Economics** (noun) - finance, fiscality, profitability, viability, commerce अर्थशास्त्र/आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता
21. **Render** (verb) - make, cause, leave, deliver, provide बना देना
22. **Paradigm** (noun) - pattern, model, prototype, standard, archetype प्रतिमान/उदाहरण
23. **Allocation** (noun) - allotment, distribution, assignment, issuance, quota आवंटन
24. **Scarce** (adjective) - meager, sparse, insufficient, deficient, limited दुर्लभ/कम
25. **Commit (someone) to (something)** (phrase) - to pledge or promise to follow a certain course of action प्रतिबद्ध होना
26. **Net-zero economy** (noun) - an economy that balances the amount of greenhouse gas produced and removed from the atmosphere नेट-जीरो अर्थव्यवस्था

27. **Equivalent** (adjective) - comparable, analogous, parallel, identical, corresponding बराबर/समतुल्य
28. **Consider** (verb) - contemplate, ponder, weigh, examine, deliberate विचार करना
29. **Biodiversity** (noun) - variety, biological diversity, ecology, nature, ecosystem जैव विविधता
30. **Commitment** (noun) - pledge, obligation, assurance, vow, undertaking प्रतिबद्धता
31. **Non-trivial** (adjective) - significant, substantial, important, considerable, weighty महत्वपूर्ण
32. **Merit** (noun) - advantage, virtue, benefit, asset, excellence योग्यता/गुण
33. **Squander** (verb) - waste, fritter, dissipate, misuse, lavish गँवाना/अपव्यय करना
34. **Throw up** (phrasal verb) - to produce something unexpected or to surface a problem प्रकट करना/सामने लाना
35. **Opacity** (noun) - obscurity, ambiguity, unclearness, denseness, cloudiness अपारदर्शिता
36. **Prevail** (verb) - predominate, persist, abound, exist, obtain व्याप्त होना/प्रचलित होना
37. **So far** (phrase) - until now or up to this point अब तक
38. **Advent** (noun) - arrival, dawn, inception, emergence, appearance आगमन
39. **Opportune** (adjective) - timely, favorable, auspicious, convenient, propitious उपयुक्त/समयोचित
40. **Promoter** (noun) - advocate, supporter, sponsor, backer, proponent समर्थक/प्रवर्तक
41. **Short-circuit** (verb) - bypass, circumvent, sidestep, avoid, dodge सीधा रास्ता अपनाकर प्रक्रिया की अनदेखी करना
42. **Complexity** (noun) - complication, intricacy, convolution, sophistication, difficulty जटिलता

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at Kalpakkam has finally achieved *first criticality*, which is a significant milestone.
2. However, this achievement is **delayed by about 16 years**, showing serious execution issues.
3. The project cost has risen to **₹8,181 crore**, more than double the original estimate.
4. The delay is mainly due to **poor planning, flawed procurement, and lack of accountability**.
5. The PFBR is part of the **second stage of India's nuclear programme**, designed to reuse spent fuel.
6. It aims to produce **plutonium using depleted uranium**, improving fuel efficiency.
7. In the final stage, India plans to use **thorium-based reactors**, leveraging its large thorium reserves.
8. However, the editorial warns that **thorium use should not be pursued blindly**, but based on practical outcomes.
9. Authorities must be **transparent about performance, failures, and inefficiencies** of the PFBR.
10. If **renewable energy (solar and wind)** proves more economical, policy should adapt accordingly.
11. Currently, nuclear power contributes only about **3% of India's electricity**.
12. But it has advantages like **low land use and support for climate goals**, especially for net-zero by 2070.
13. **Breeder reactors** can improve fuel use and reduce dependence on imported uranium.
14. The key challenge is to **avoid wasting time and public money** while expanding nuclear capacity.
15. India must urgently **reform its nuclear regulatory system**, as the same body currently acts as both promoter and regulator, creating a conflict of interest.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following is INCORRECT regarding the future of the FBR1 and FBR2 units?**
 - A. They are planned to be constructed at the Kalpakkam site in Tamil Nadu. [Editorial page]
 - B. Their development should be based on the "lessons learned" from the PFBR.
 - C. They should proceed with the same level of opacity that prevailed in the PFBR project.
 - D. Their success is vital for India's goal of achieving energy self-sufficiency.
2. **Which of the following is CORRECT regarding the current financial and temporal status of the PFBR project?**
 - A. The project was completed within its original sanctioned budget of ₹8,181 crore.
 - B. Criticality was achieved exactly on the schedule originally set by the DAE
 - C. The fast reactor fuel cycle facility was commissioned a decade ahead of its 2029 target.
 - D. The final cost of the project is more than double the amount initially sanctioned.
3. **What is the primary functional purpose of the PFBR in India's three-stage nuclear programme?**
 - A. What is the primary functional purpose of the PFBR in India's three-stage nuclear programme?
 - B. To use spent fuel from the first stage and depleted uranium to produce more plutonium.
 - C. To act as a commercial-scale facility for the final stage of thorium-based power.
 - D. To act as a commercial-scale facility for the final stage of thorium-based power.
4. **According to the passage, why is nuclear power considered a "non-trivial path forward" for India's biodiversity?**
 - A. It provides 100% of India's current electricity, replacing all fossil fuels.
 - B. It consumes significantly more land than solar power, creating green buffer zones.
 - C. It requires only 6% of the land area needed for equivalent solar power generation.
 - D. It eliminates the need for any administrative or regulatory revamping in the future.
5. **What "administrative short-circuit" does the author identify in India's nuclear establishment?**
 - A. The lack of any political insulation for the Atomic Energy Commission.
 - B. The Atomic Energy Commission acting as both the promoter and the regulator.
 - C. The refusal of the AERB to report to the government regarding spent fuel.
 - D. The decision to allow solar and wind power to take over the nuclear budget
6. **Direction: The following sentences (A, B, C, D) when properly sequenced form a coherent paragraph. Select the most logical order from the given options.**
 - A. A: While the BJP currently holds power in Assam, it is struggling to form its first-ever governments in West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
 - B. B: These elections are being viewed as a significant test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party as it attempts to expand into regions where it has historically lacked a foothold.
 - C. C: According to the Election Commission, these five regions represent a massive 174 million voters, accounting for nearly 18% of India's total electorate.
 - D. D: Voting has officially commenced in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry, with West Bengal and Tamil Nadu scheduled to go to the polls later this month.
 - A. BDAC
 - B. DBAC

- C. DABC
D. BADC
7. **Choose the option which is similar in meaning to the underlined word.**
Columbus was convinced that the earth was round.
A. Assured
B. Cynical
C. Skeptical
D. Doubtful
8. **Choose the correct option to give a one-word substitution for the sentence given.**
A person who can talk non-stop or can speak continuously.
A. Garrulous
B. Precipitous
C. Circumvent
D. Sparkling
9. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**
Neha approached her new hobby with enthusiasm, eager to grasp the basics as a beginner.
A. Veteran
B. Mentor
C. Apprentice
D. Expert
10. **Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.**
If you had spoken to my mother, she would tell you where I was.
A. had spoken
B. tell you
C. where I was
D. If you had
11. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Aggregate
B. Aggergate
C. Agregate
D. Aggegate
12. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.**
I don't understand why the puppy keeps running over that tree.
A. on that tree
B. across that tree
C. around that tree
D. No substitution
13. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.**
She is good in painting but weak in studies.
A. Good at painting
B. Good with painting
C. Good for painting

- D. No substitution
14. **The following sentence has two blanks. Choose the most suitable set of prepositions from the given options to fill in the blanks and complete the sentence meaningfully.**
My cousin lives ____ carter road ____ the bank.
- A. at, near
B. on, next to
C. at, besides
D. in, beside
15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Exacerbate**
- A. Alleviate
B. Intensify
C. Improve
D. Aggravate
16. **One of these words is spelled incorrectly. Which one is it?**
- A. Government
B. Embellish
C. Conciuous
D. Perceive
17. **One of these words is spelled incorrectly. Which one is it?**
- A. Magnanimous
B. Vehement
C. Perserverance
D. Recalcitrant
18. **What is the antonym of "Misanthropic"?**
- A. Sociable
B. Reclusive
C. Cynical
D. Pessimistic
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.**
She said to him, "You were sleeping."
- A. She told him that he was sleeping.
B. She told him that he had been sleeping.
C. She told him that you had been sleeping.
D. She told him that she had been sleeping.
20. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Hit the nail on the head"?**
- A. Miss the point
B. Say exactly the right thing
C. Speak loudly
D. Avoid topic

Comprehension

British novelist Gwendoline Riley is among eight writers set to receive \$175,000 (£130,000) each in (1) ____ of their life's work.

Australian playwright S Shakhidharan, known as Shakthi, is also among those selected for this year's Windham-Campbell prizes, which award \$1.4m annually to writers of fiction, nonfiction,

poetry and drama, with the aim of enabling them to focus on their work free from financial pressures.

Riley is celebrated for her (2) ___ of short novels that explore fractured relationships, family tensions and the interior lives of women, including *First Love*, which was shortlisted for the Women's prize for fiction, and *My Phantoms*. "This is very hard for me to (3)___," Riley said. "I am more grateful than I can say. This unimagined vote of confidence will not go wasted on me."

"Riley's work recasts our relationship with the familiar, transforming ordinary, unremarkable lives of her characters into something startling and new," wrote Clare Clark in a review of Riley's latest novel, *The Palm House*. "She is the (4) ___ of disconnection, her bone-dry humour edged with the (5) ___ lurch of despair."

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

- A. cognizance
- B. veneration
- C. recognition
- D. remuneration

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

- A. compendium
- B. oeuvre
- C. repertoire
- D. archives

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

- A. take after
- B. take down
- C. take to
- D. take in

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

- A. doyen
- B. virtuoso
- C. connoisseur
- D. laureate

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

- A. precarious
- B. tumultuous
- C. calamitous
- D. vertiginous

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- C) They should proceed with the same level of opacity that prevailed in the PFBR project.**
 The author demands they proceed "without the opacity that has prevailed so far." Option (C) incorrectly suggests continuing the opacity.

 - & (B) Correct: The passage explicitly mentions proceeding with "FBR1 and FBR2 units at Kalpakkam based on lessons learned."
 - (D) Correct: The passage states the ultimate goal of the programme is "to achieve energy security and self-sufficiency."
- D) The final cost of the project is more than double the amount initially sanctioned.**
 The passage states the final cost is "₹8,181 crore, more than twice the sanctioned amount."

 - Incorrect: ₹8,181 crore is the final cost, which the passage says is twice the original sanction.
 - Incorrect: The passage explicitly says criticality is "at least 16 years behind schedule."
 - Incorrect: The passage says the facility is expected by 2029, which is "over a decade late," not ahead of schedule.
- B) To use spent fuel from the first stage and depleted uranium to produce more plutonium.**
 The passage specifies its purpose is "to use spent fuel... from the first stage, and depleted uranium to produce more plutonium."

(A) Incorrect: Thorium is intended for the final stage, and the passage says we shouldn't use it "at any cost."

C) Incorrect: The PFBR is the "first commercial-scale component of the second stage," not the final stage.

(D) Incorrect: While the SHANTI Act is mentioned as a context, it is not the purpose of the PFBR reactor itself.
- C) It requires only 6% of the land area needed for equivalent solar power generation.**
 The text notes nuclear facilities "consume 6% of the land area required for equivalent solar power generation," helping preserve green cover.

(A) Incorrect: The passage states nuclear power currently contributes only "around 3% of India's electricity."

(B) Incorrect: Nuclear uses less land (6% of solar's requirement), not more.

(D) Incorrect: The author actually calls for a "revamp" of the regulatory regime, not its elimination.
- B) The Atomic Energy Commission acting as both the promoter and the regulator.**
 The passage states the AEC "is thus both the promoter and the regulator... The government must resolve this administrative short-circuit."

(A) Incorrect: The passage says the delays were "abetted by political insulation," meaning there was too much, not a lack of it.

(C) Incorrect: The problem is that they do report to the AEC, creating a conflict of interest.

(D) Incorrect: This was a policy suggestion for "finding" the best allocation of capital, not an existing administrative short-circuit.

6. B) (D-B-A-C)

Sentence D, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह उन विशिष्ट राज्यों और क्षेत्रों की सूची देता है जहाँ मतदान शुरू हो चुका है या होने वाला है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक ठोस आधार (factual ground) प्रदान करता है कि खबर किस बारे में है।

Sentence B, Sentence D के बाद आया क्योंकि यह "These elections" (ये चुनाव) वाक्यांश का उपयोग करके पिछले वाक्य (D) में वर्णित मतदान प्रक्रिया को सीधे उसके राजनीतिक महत्व से जोड़ता है। यह बताता है कि यह प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की पार्टी के विस्तार के लिए एक बड़ा परीक्षण (test) है।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि यह उस "परीक्षण" का विस्तार से वर्णन करता है। जहाँ B में नए क्षेत्रों में पैठ बनाने (foothold) की बात की गई है, वहीं A विशिष्ट विवरण देता है कि भाजपा असम में तो सत्ता में है, लेकिन बंगाल और दक्षिण के राज्यों में पहली बार सरकार बनाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रही है।

Sentence C, Sentence A के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक सांख्यिकीय निष्कर्ष (statistical conclusion) देता है। राजनीतिक दांव-पेंच समझाने के बाद, C चुनाव आयोग के आंकड़ों के जरिए यह बताता है कि इस पूरी प्रक्रिया में कितने करोड़ मतदाता (174 मिलियन) शामिल हैं।

- Sentence D comes at the beginning because it identifies the specific states and regions where voting is taking place or is scheduled. It provides the essential "Who and Where" needed to establish the context of the news.
- Sentence B follows Sentence D because it introduces the "Why." By using the demonstrative phrase "These elections," it directly links the voting activity in D to the broader political significance—the critical test for the ruling party's expansion.
- Sentence A follows Sentence B because it elaborates on the nature of that "test." While B mentions the effort to gain a foothold, A provides concrete examples of the party's current status: holding power in Assam while fighting to form its first-ever governments in the eastern and southern states.
- Sentence C follows Sentence A because it serves as the factual wrap-up. After detailing the political stakes, it provides the sheer scale of the event by citing the Election Commission's data regarding the 174 million voters, which represents a massive portion of the electorate.

7. A) **Convinced** (adjective) – Certain, sure, fully persuaded; confident आश्वस्त

Similar in meaning: Assured (adjective) – Confident, certain, guaranteed; sure आश्वस्त

- **Cynical** (adjective) – Distrustful of human motives; pessimistic निंदक
- **Skeptical** (adjective) – Doubting or questioning; not easily convinced संदेहशील
- **Doubtful** (adjective) – Uncertain, unsure; full of doubt संदिग्ध

8. A) **Garrulous** (adjective) – A person who talks excessively or continuously बहुत ज़्यादा बोलने वाला

- **Precipitous** (adjective) – done suddenly and without careful consideration; very steep अचानक या खड़ी
- **Circumvent** (verb) – to find a way around an obstacle or rule चालाकी से बच निकलना
- **Sparkling** (adjective) – shining brightly; lively or vivacious चमकदार / जीवंत

9. C) **Apprentice** (noun) – A beginner who is learning a skill or activity, often under guidance
प्रशिक्षु / सीखने वाला
- **Veteran** (noun) – A person with long experience in a particular field अनुभवी
 - **Mentor** (noun) – An experienced adviser or guide मार्गदर्शक
 - **Expert** (noun) – A person with extensive knowledge or skill in a subject विशेषज्ञ
10. B) 'tell you' के बदले '**have told you**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह Third Conditional Sentence है।
If + Past Perfect (had spoken) के साथ Result Clause में would have + Past Participle आता है;
जैसे—
If you had worked hard, you would have succeeded.
- 'have told you' will be used instead of 'tell you' because the sentence follows the third conditional pattern (If + Past Perfect → would have + V³); Like—
If she had called me, I would have helped her.
11. A) The correct spelling is '**Aggregate**', which means a whole formed by combining several elements; total — समूह, कुल, समष्टि.
12. C) '**around that tree**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'run around' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के चारों ओर चक्कर लगाना। यहाँ puppy पेड़ के ऊपर या उसके पार नहीं, बल्कि पेड़ के चारों ओर दौड़ रहा है।
- 'around that tree' will be used because 'run around' correctly expresses moving in a circular path around an object; Like— The children were running around the playground.
13. A) '**Good at painting**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'good at' का प्रयोग किसी skill / ability के लिए किया जाता है। Painting एक skill है, इसलिए यहाँ 'at' सही preposition है।
- 'good at painting' will be used instead of 'good in painting' because 'good at' is used to show proficiency in an activity or skill; Like— She is good at dancing but weak in mathematics.
14. B) **On**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी सड़क या road के नाम के साथ रहने (address) के लिए on का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— live on Carter Road।
- 'Next to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह पास-पास / बिल्कुल बगल में होने का भाव देता है; यहाँ cousin का घर bank के ठीक पास स्थित है। इसलिए "next to the bank" उपयुक्त है।
 - 'On' is used with the names of roads or streets to indicate location, hence lives on Carter Road is correct.
 - 'Next to' is used to show immediate proximity, meaning very close or beside. Therefore, next to the bank fits the context best.
15. A) **Exacerbate** (verb) – To make a problem, situation, or feeling worse; aggravate, intensify
बिगाड़ना
- Antonym: **Alleviate** (verb) – To make something less severe; relieve, ease कम करना
- **Intensify** (verb) – To make stronger or more extreme; increase तीव्र करना
 - **Improve** (verb) – To make better or enhance; develop सुधारना
 - **Aggravate** (verb) – To make worse; exacerbate itself बिगाड़ना
16. C) The word 'Concious' is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is '**Conscious**', which means aware of one's surroundings or thoughts — सचेत, जागरूक.

17. C) The word '**Perserverance**' is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is 'Perseverance', which means steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success — धैर्यपूर्वक प्रयास, निरंतरता.
18. A) **Misanthropic** (adjective) – Hating or distrusting humankind; antisocial, cynical मानव-द्वेषी
Antonym: **Sociable** (adjective) – Friendly, outgoing, enjoying the company of others; gregarious मिलनसार
- **Reclusive** (adjective) – Avoiding the company of others; withdrawn एकांतप्रिय
 - **Cynical** (adjective) – Distrustful of human motives; skeptical निंदक
 - **Pessimistic** (adjective) – Expecting the worst; negative outlook निराशावादी

19. B) **She told him that he had been sleeping.**

सही उत्तर Option 2 — "She told him that he had been sleeping." है। Direct sentence है: She said to him, "You were sleeping." Indirect speech में बदलते समय सबसे पहले "said to" को "told" में बदला जाता है क्योंकि object "him" दिया हुआ है। फिर pronoun change होता है। Direct speech में "you" जिस व्यक्ति के लिए बोला गया है, वह "him" है, इसलिए indirect speech में "you" बदलकर "he" बन जाएगा। अब tense पर ध्यान दें। Direct speech में verb "were sleeping" past continuous tense में है। Reporting verb "said" भी past tense में है, इसलिए indirect speech के नियम के अनुसार tense एक step पीछे जाता है। Past continuous बदलकर past perfect continuous बनता है, यानी "had been sleeping।" इसलिए पूरा वाक्य बनेगा — "She told him that he had been sleeping." Option 1 में tense backshift नहीं किया गया है, इसलिए वह rule के अनुसार पूरी तरह सही नहीं है। Option 3 में pronoun change नहीं हुआ है, और Option 4 में subject बदल गया है जिससे अर्थ बदल जाता है।

- The correct answer is Option 2 — "She told him that he had been sleeping." The original direct sentence is: She said to him, "You were sleeping." When changing to indirect speech, "said to" becomes "told" because the object "him" is mentioned. Then the pronoun must change according to the listener. The word "you" refers to "him," so it changes to "he." Now consider the tense. The verb in direct speech is "were sleeping," which is in the past continuous tense. Since the reporting verb "said" is in the past tense, the rule of tense backshift applies. According to this rule, past continuous changes into past perfect continuous. Therefore, "were sleeping" becomes "had been sleeping." Option 1 does not apply this backshift, so it does not fully follow the rule. Option 3 fails to change the pronoun, and Option 4 changes the subject, which alters the meaning.

20. B) "**Hit the nail on the head**" means exact statement – बिल्कुल सही कहना

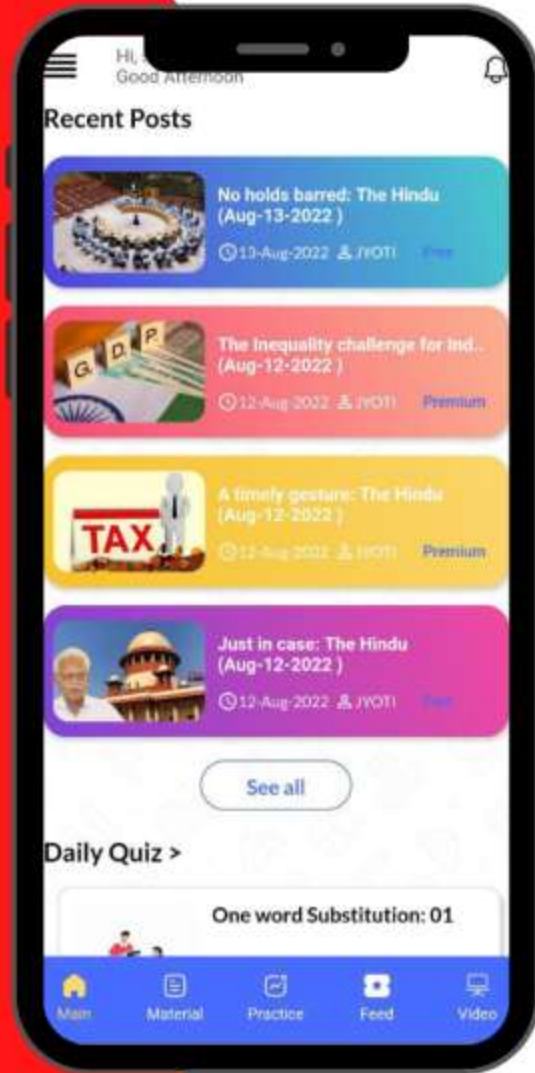
21. C) [**recognition**] सही है क्योंकि "in recognition of" अवार्ड या सम्मान देने के लिए एक एकदम तय (fixed) phrase है। Cognizance का मतलब संज्ञान या आधिकारिक जानकारी लेना होता है (जैसे पुलिस या अदालत के मामलों में)। Veneration का मतलब गहरी श्रद्धा या सम्मान है, लेकिन ग्रामर के अनुसार यह "out of veneration for" होता है। Remuneration का मतलब काम के बदले मिलने वाला वेतन (salary) होता है, जो किसी पुरस्कार के लिए गलत शब्द है।

- [recognition] is correct because "in recognition of" is the standard, fixed collocation for presenting an award to acknowledge someone's achievements. Cognizance means formal knowledge or awareness (e.g., a court takes cognizance of a crime). Veneration means deep respect, but grammatically we say "out of veneration for", not "in

eneration of". Remuneration is payment or salary for work done, which doesn't apply to a literary prize or award.

22. B) [**oeuvre**] सही है क्योंकि इसका सटीक मतलब किसी लेखक या कलाकार के जीवन भर की संपूर्ण रचनाओं (body of work) से होता है। Compendium का मतलब किसी विषय की विस्तृत लेकिन संक्षिप्त जानकारी (सार-संग्रह) होता है। Repertoire का इस्तेमाल कलाकारों (performer/musician) के उन नाटकों या गानों की लिस्ट के लिए होता है जो उन्हें स्टेज पर करने के लिए याद होते हैं। Archives का मतलब ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज़ (पुरालेख) होता है।
- [**oeuvre**] is correct because it specifically denotes the entire body of work produced by a writer or artist over their lifetime. Compendium is a concise collection of detailed information (like a summary or a manual), not novels. Repertoire refers to the stock of plays or songs a performer is prepared to perform. Archives are collections of historical documents or public records, not published fiction.
23. D) [**take in**] सही है क्योंकि इस phrasal verb का मतलब किसी बड़ी या चौंकाने वाली बात को पूरी तरह से समझना या 'हज़म करना' होता है। Take after का मतलब शक्ल या स्वभाव में अपने माता-पिता या बड़ों जैसा होना होता है। Take down का मतलब कुछ लिखना (notes बनाना) या किसी चीज़ को गिराना होता है। Take to का मतलब किसी चीज़ की आदत डालना या किसी को पसंद करने लगना होता है।
- [**take in**] is correct because as a phrasal verb, it means to fully comprehend or absorb a shocking reality. Take after means to resemble an older family member in appearance or character. Take down means to write something down or dismantle a structure. Take to means to begin a habit or form a liking for someone or something.
24. D) [**laureate**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब वह व्यक्ति होता है जिसे किसी उत्कृष्ट रचनात्मक काम के लिए बड़ा पुरस्कार मिला हो (जैसे Nobel laureate)। Doyen का मतलब किसी समूह या पेशे का सबसे वरिष्ठ और सम्मानित व्यक्ति होता है। Virtuoso का मतलब संगीत या कला में अत्यधिक निपुण व्यक्ति (उस्ताद) होता है। Connoisseur का मतलब कला, वाइन या भोजन का पारखी (expert judge) होता है, यानी वो जो कला को परखता है, बनाता नहीं है।
- [**laureate**] is correct because it refers to a person honored with a prestigious award for outstanding creative achievement, directly fitting the context of her winning the prize. Doyen refers to the oldest, most respected, or most prominent member of a group or profession. Virtuoso is a person highly skilled in music or another fine art (not typically used for literature). Connoisseur is an expert judge in matters of taste (like art or food), meaning they judge the art, they do not create it.
25. D) [**vertiginous**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब 'चक्कर लाने वाला' या ऊंचाई से गिरने का अहसास होता है, जो "lurch" (अचानक नीचे की ओर गिरने वाला शारीरिक झटका) के साथ बिल्कुल सटीक बैठता है। Precarious का मतलब अस्थिर या खतरनाक स्थिति में होना होता है (जिसके गिरने का डर हो), यह स्थिति दिखाता है, झटका नहीं। Tumultuous का मतलब शोरगुल से भरा या भारी उथल-पुथल वाला होता है। Calamitous का मतलब विनाशकारी या अनर्थकारी होता है।
- [**vertiginous**] is correct because it means causing dizziness or a feeling of falling, which logically pairs with the noun "lurch" (a sudden physical drop or sway). Precarious means dangerously likely to fall or collapse, but it describes a state of position, not a dizzying movement. Tumultuous means making a loud, confused noise or full of

disorder. Calamitous means involving calamity or disaster. Only vertiginous matches the physical sensation of dizziness caused by a lurch.



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