

Cost to access: On health check-up for workers

The opportunity cost of accessing medical care **remains** high

The Union Labour Ministry has announced that it will provide a free annual health check-up to workers aged 40 years or more, **following** an **existing** provision in the new Labour Codes. The programme will be implemented through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). For **workers** in **hazardous** conditions, such as handling **toxic** chemicals or operating heavy machinery, check-ups **are** mandatory; if illness is detected, ESIC hospitals and **dispensaries** will provide free treatment. India already has a few workers' health **obligations** on paper, including under the Factories Act 1948 (only within factories), the ESI Act 1948, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code 2020. The new programme will be **financed** through the **well-endowed** ESI fund, although the government is still **shoring up** the number of beds and doctors available via PMJAY-**empanelled** facilities. At this time, operational evidence suggests that insured workers will be the main **beneficiaries**.

Commendable though the initiative is, its success is not guaranteed. At present, only around 31 crore of 94 crore workers are on the e-Shram portal, whose integration with ESIC is still in its early stages in many States. Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also failed to **address** how a woman working in a garment home unit or as a domestic worker could access the longer **maternity** leave if she has no 'employer'. Annual **check-ups** for women also **warrant** specific medical staff needs whereas many ESIC camps are **crowded** and dominated by men. As with many of its **predecessors**, the programme does not address the opportunity costs of accessing health care, forcing workers to continue **contending** with lost wages. An ESIC facility may also refer a worker to another centre if it lacks the resources for specific tests, **leading to** repeat visits and added time and cost. The new programme focuses **predominantly** on **non-communicable diseases** such as diabetes and **hypertension**. Heat-related illnesses are not **explicitly** recognised as occupational diseases under the ESI Act **whereas** construction and agriculture workers are most **at risk** of them. **Waste-pickers** and **sanitation workers** on the other hand **face** greater risk of **infectious** diseases such as hepatitis and leptospirosis. The scheme offers screening but does not mandate **proactive** vaccination. The government must meet workers where they are, through mobile occupational health units and — as the OSH Code 2020 **stipulates** for organised workers — at their places of work, and provide **tokens** to **compensate** them for time spent on check-ups. Otherwise, any scheme of this nature will not improve upon the already **deficient** system.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **The opportunity cost** (noun) - the loss of other alternatives when one alternative is chosen (here: lost wages while visiting a doctor) किसी विकल्प को चुनने पर होने वाला अन्य लाभ का नुकसान
2. **Access** (verb) - reach, enter, obtain, gain, acquire प्राप्त करना/पहुँचना
3. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding के बाद/के अनुसरण में
4. **Existing** (adjective) - current, present, prevailing, extant, immediate वर्तमान/मौजूदा
5. **Hazardous** (adjective) - dangerous, perilous, risky, precarious, treacherous खतरनाक/जोखिमपूर्ण
6. **Toxic** (adjective) - poisonous, lethal, venomous, noxious, deadly विषैला/जहरीला
7. **Dispensary** (noun) - clinic, pharmacy, health center दवाखाना/औषधालय
8. **Obligation** (noun) - duty, responsibility, commitment, liability, burden कर्तव्य/दायित्व
9. **Finance** (verb) - fund, subsidize वित्तपोषित करना
10. **Well-endowed** (adjective) - wealthy, rich, affluent, well-funded, prosperous साधन-संपन्न/समृद्ध
11. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) - to support or improve an organization or system that is not working effectively मजबूती प्रदान करना/सहारा देना
12. **Empanelled** (adjective) - enrolled, listed, registered, entered, cataloged सूचीबद्ध (पैनल में शामिल)
13. **Beneficiary** (noun) - a person who receives benefits, money, or advantages from something such as a scheme, insurance policy, or will लाभार्थी
14. **Commendable** (adjective) - praiseworthy, admirable, laudable, estimable, creditable सराहनीय
15. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, confront, resolve, attend निपटना/सुलझाना
16. **Maternity** (noun) - motherhood or the condition of being a mother मातृत्व
17. **Warrant** (verb) - justify, necessitate, sanction, authorize, merit अधिकार देना/उचित ठहराना
18. **Crowded** (adjective) - packed, congested, cramped, swarming, overflowing भीड़भाड़ वाला
19. **Predecessor** (noun) - forerunner, antecedent, precursor, ancestor, antecedent पूर्ववर्ती
20. **Contend** (verb) - struggle, cope, deal, grapple, face मुकाबला करना/जूझना
21. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in a particular situation or condition कारण बनना/परिणाम होना
22. **Predominantly** (adverb) - mainly, mostly, chiefly, principally, primarily मुख्य रूप से
23. **Non-communicable diseases** (noun) - chronic diseases that are not passed from

- person to person (e.g., heart disease) गैर-संचारी रोग
24. **Hypertension** (noun) - high blood pressure
उच्च रक्तचाप
25. **Explicitly** (adverb) - clearly, specifically, overtly, plainly, definitively स्पष्ट रूप से
26. **Whereas** (conjunction) - while, although जबकि
27. **At risk** (phrase) - in a dangerous situation or status; vulnerable खतरे में/जोखिम पर
28. **Infectious** (adjective) - contagious, communicable, transmissible, spreading, virulent संक्रामक
29. **Proactive** (adjective) - energetic, enterprising, take-charge, anticipatory, driven सक्रिय/अग्रसक्रिय
30. **Stipulate** (verb) - specify, demand, prescribe, require, condition शर्त रखना/निर्धारित करना
31. **Token** (noun) - voucher, coupon, symbol, mark, badge प्रतीक/कूपन (मुआवजे के रूप में)
32. **Compensate** (verb) - reimburse, repay, recompense, satisfy, remunerate क्षतिपूर्ति करना/भरपाई करना
33. **Deficient** (adjective) - lacking, inadequate, insufficient, flawed, scanty दोषपूर्ण/अपूर्ण

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial discusses the Union Labour Ministry's decision to provide free annual health check-ups for workers aged 40 years and above.
2. The programme will be implemented through Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
3. Workers employed in hazardous occupations, such as handling chemicals or operating heavy machinery, will undergo mandatory health check-ups.
4. If illnesses are detected during these screenings, ESIC hospitals and dispensaries will provide free treatment.
5. India already has several laws related to workers' health, including the Factories Act 1948, the ESI Act 1948, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020.
6. The programme will be funded through the financially strong ESI fund, while the government is also expanding healthcare infrastructure through PMJAY-linked facilities.
7. However, the editorial notes that the main beneficiaries are likely to be insured workers already connected to the ESIC system.
8. A major challenge is that only about 31 crore out of India's 94 crore workers are registered on the e-Shram portal.
9. Integration between the e-Shram portal and ESIC remains incomplete in many States.
10. The editorial highlights concerns about informal workers, especially women working from home or as domestic workers, who often lack formal employers and may not access benefits like maternity leave.
11. Women's health check-ups also require specialised medical staff, but many ESIC camps are overcrowded and male-dominated.
12. Another important issue is the "opportunity cost" of healthcare, as workers often lose wages and time while visiting medical centres.
13. Workers may also face repeated visits if ESIC facilities lack equipment and refer them elsewhere for tests.
14. The programme mainly focuses on non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension, while neglecting occupational risks such as heat-related illnesses and infectious diseases affecting construction workers, waste-pickers and sanitation workers.
15. The editorial concludes that the government should provide mobile occupational health units, workplace-based check-ups and compensation for lost work time; otherwise, the scheme may fail to significantly improve workers' healthcare access.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best explains the paradox highlighted in the passage regarding the implementation of the new health check-up programme?**
 - A. The programme is designed to be a comprehensive welfare measure for all labourers, yet it primarily benefits only those who are already insured and have formal documentation.
 - B. While the government offers the health check-ups free of cost to provide relief, the actual process often imposes a financial burden on workers due to the lack of compensation for lost wages.
 - C. The initiative aims to reduce the burden on the public healthcare system, but it inadvertently increases it by referring all minor cases to high-end ESIC hospitals.
 - D. The Union Labour Ministry has secured vast funding for the project through the ESI fund, but the passage suggests that this money is being diverted to other industrial sectors.
2. **What is the primary concern raised by the author regarding the accessibility of the scheme for women and informal workers?**
 - A. Women are generally excluded from the e-Shram portal because they do not meet the minimum age requirement of 40 years as specified in the new Labour Codes
 - B. The scheme lacks a structural framework for women in the unorganized sector who lack a formal employer, and the physical environment of ESIC camps is often unsuitable for them.
 - C. The programme focuses on infectious diseases, which the author argues are less prevalent among female garment workers than non-communicable diseases.
 - D. The government has prioritized the construction and agricultural sectors, leaving women in the domestic and garment industries with no access to any medical facilities.
3. **Why is the reference to the "OSH Code 2020" used in the concluding part of the passage?**
 - A. To emphasize that the government should adopt the existing provision of providing medical services at the workplace.
 - B. To serve as a legal warning that the current health check-up programme might be in violation of the constitutional rights of workers in the organized sector.
 - C. To highlight a comparison between the successful implementation of health policies in 2020 and the failures of the current Labour Ministry in 2025.
 - D. To argue that the OSH Code 2020 is the primary reason why heat-related illnesses and infectious diseases are now being treated for free in all states.
4. **Which of the following statements is FALSE according to the passage?**
 - A. The integration of the e-Shram portal with the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is still in its nascent stages across various Indian states.
 - B. While the new programme provides screening for various conditions, it does not currently mandate the provision of proactive vaccinations for workers.
 - C. Heat-related illnesses are explicitly listed and recognized as occupational diseases under the existing provisions of the ESI Act to protect outdoor workers.
 - D. The success of the initiative is partially hindered by resource limitations, which may force workers to make multiple visits to different medical centres.
5. **Which of the following best captures the author's tone throughout the passage?**
 - A. Enthusiastic and celebratory regarding the government's proactive approach toward labour reforms.

- B. Neutral and statistical, focusing on the number of workers registered on the e-Shram portal.
- C. Cautiously appreciative of the initiative while remaining concerned about its practical execution and gaps.
- D. critical and dismissive, suggesting that the entire health check-up programme is a political gimmick.
- 6. Directions: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**

S1: Before AQI became a widely used term, my informal tool for measuring air quality was visibility.

P: Specifically, I would check whether my friend Anjali's apartment across the street had disappeared in the smog for the day.

Q: If I couldn't see her apartment properly, I would declare that we couldn't go out for a walk.

R: However, constantly avoiding these walks posed a serious problem for my overall health.

S: The issue was that my Vitamin D levels were low and the doctor had explicitly advised sun exposure.

S6: Yet, I wasn't ready to risk my lung health for sunlight, so my final compromise was taking a walk with an N95 mask.

- A. P R S Q
B. S Q P R
C. R P Q S
D. P Q R S
- 7. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
- A. The team's success was largely B. a result of it's coach's dedication, C. a fact which they would all D. attest to.
- A. The team's success was largely
B. a result of it's coach's dedication,
C. a fact which they would all
D. attest to.
- 8. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
- A. He has been B. to Italy, C. but he D. didn't went to Rome.
- A. He has been
B. to Italy
C. but he
D. didn't went to Rome

- 9. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
- The report was submitted _____ the deadline, ensuring full compliance.
- A. beyond
B. under
C. before
D. between

10. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:

The software update enhanced performance; _____, it introduced several compatibility issues.

- A. nevertheless
- B. consequently
- C. likewise
- D. whereas

11. Choose the correctly spelt word:

- A. Arrain
- B. Arragin
- C. Arraign
- D. Arrign

12. Change the following sentence into the Active form.

The old castle was believed to have been built by a legendary king.

- A. A legendary king built the old castle, it was believed.
- B. People believed that a legendary king had built the old castle.
- C. The old castle had been built by a legendary king, it was believed.
- D. A legendary king was believed to have built the old castle.

13. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.

"Who is singing so beautifully?" the judge asked.

- A. The judge asked who was singing so beautifully.
- B. The judge asked who is singing so beautifully.
- C. The judge asked who had been singing so beautifully.
- D. The judge asked who singing so beautifully was.

14. Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:

The dedicated researchers have already published the groundbreaking findings in a prestigious scientific journal.

- A. The groundbreaking findings were already published in a prestigious scientific journal by the dedicated researchers.
- B. The groundbreaking findings have already been published in a prestigious scientific journal by the dedicated researchers.
- C. The groundbreaking findings have already published in a prestigious scientific journal by the dedicated researchers.
- D. The groundbreaking findings are already published in a prestigious scientific journal by the dedicated researchers.

15. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct voice.

The historian asserted that the ruins were much older than previously thought and that new research had been continually proving it for years.

- A. The historian said, "The ruins were much older than previously thought, and new research has been continually proving it for years."
- B. The historian said, "The ruins are much older than previously thought, and new research has been continually proving it for years."
- C. The historian said, "The ruins were much older than previously thought, and new research had been continually proving it for years."

D. The historian said, "The ruins are much older than previously thought, and new research had been continually proving it for years."

16. Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:

P. He spent his days in the lab, carefully scanning samples under a microscope.

Q. Dr. Alistair Finch was an accomplished biologist who specialized in the discovery of new species.

R. His peers would tease him that he looked more upon the microbial world than on the actual one.

S. His greatest find was from a small, ordinary pond deep in the Amazon rainforest.

A. QPRS

B. PQRS

C. PRQS

D. RPSQ

17. Change the following sentence into the Active form.

The city council's decision is thought to be influenced by powerful lobbying groups.

A. Powerful lobbying groups think that the city council's decision is influenced.

B. Powerful lobbying groups are thought to influence the city council's decision.

C. People think that powerful lobbying groups influence the city council's decision.

D. The city council thinks that powerful lobbying groups influence the decision.

18. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:

Except for you and me, no one knew Radha.

A. Except for you and I, no one knew Radha

B. Except for you and me, no one knew Radha

C. Except you and I, no one knew Radha

D. Except for I and you, no one knew Radha

19. Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:

P: As a result, the software significantly improved operational efficiency across departments

Q: The team worked tirelessly, refining the code and testing each feature for compatibility.

R: It was designed to simplify daily tasks and provide real-time data analysis.

S: A groundbreaking new software was developed to streamline workflow and increase

A. S, R, Q, P

B. P, R, Q, S

C. R, S, Q, P

D. S, P, Q, R

20. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Fastidious

A. Meticulous

B. Sloppy

C. fussy

D. perceptive

Comprehension

You must have seen butterflies on top of flowers and leaves, but have you ever wondered what they are up to? Or more specifically, have you wondered how they eat and taste? This

might either disgust you or (1)_____ you to know more. Feet are the answer. Yes, you heard it right! Butterflies get different tastes (2)_____ their feet. Confused? Here's what actually happens... A butterfly's mouth is basically like a built-in straw. The long, coiled (3)_____, perfect for sucking (4)_____, is not, however, great for judging flavour on the spot. So evolution gave butterflies an alternative — specialised chemoreceptors on their feet, called sensilla, which act like tiny taste sensors. When a butterfly lands on a surface, tiny droplets of moisture containing plant juices or nectar enter the pores of sensilla. These structures have receptors that (5)_____ sweet, bitter, salty, and other chemical signals, helping the butterfly decide if the surface is worth drinking from. If it detects "nectar-rich food", the butterfly's proboscis uncoils to sip, and if it receives "wrong plant" signals, it lifts off and searches for another source. Thus, for a butterfly, landing and tasting are the same action, saving time and energy. Imagine having to bite and chew every leaf before you know if it's edible! Instead, butterflies can instantly know if it's the right host plant for their future caterpillars through their feet. This system is especially crucial for females, who must choose the perfect nursery for their eggs or risk their babies starving the moment they hatch.

21. What should come in the place of blank number (1)?

- A. intrigue
- B. appall
- C. provoke
- D. exhaust

22. What should come in the place of blank number (2)?

- A. upon
- B. through
- C. beside
- D. beyond

23. What should come in the place of blank number (3)?

- A. antenna
- B. proboscis
- C. mandible
- D. tentacle

24. What should come in the place of blank number (4)?

- A. pollen
- B. sap
- C. venom
- D. nectar

25. What should come in the place of blank number (5)?

- A. ignore
- B. detect
- C. produce
- D. conceal

Answers

1. B 2.B 3.A 4.C 5. C 6.D 7. B 8. D 9. C 10.A 11.C 12.B

13. A 14.B 15.B 16.A 17.C 18.A 19.A 20.B 21.A 22.B 23.B 24.D
25. B

Explanations

1. B) **While the government offers the health check-ups free of cost to provide relief, the actual process often imposes a financial burden on workers due to the lack of compensation for lost wages.**

This captures the paradox. The passage states the scheme is "free," yet it "does not address the opportunity costs... forcing workers to continue contending with lost wages," meaning the visit actually costs them money.

Option A : While the passage mentions "insured workers will be the main beneficiaries," this focuses on eligibility rather than the paradox of the cost. It does not explain how the "free" aspect is contradicted by other factors.

Option C : There is no evidence in the passage suggesting that minor cases are being referred to high-end hospitals to increase the burden; the passage only mentions referrals happen when a facility "lacks the resources for specific tests."

Option D : The passage confirms the fund is "well-endowed," but it never suggests that funds are being "diverted to other industrial sectors." This is an external assumption not supported by any line in the passage.

2. B) **The scheme lacks a structural framework for women in the unorganized sector who lack a formal employer, and the physical environment of ESIC camps is often unsuitable for them.**

This is correct as the passage asks how a woman can access benefits "if she has no 'employer'" and notes that ESIC camps are often "crowded and dominated by men," making them physically and structurally inaccessible.

Option A : The 40-year age limit is for the health check-up, not for portal registration. The passage says "31 crore of 94 crore workers are on the e-Shram portal," but it doesn't link registration failure to age.

Option C : This is factually reversed. The passage states the programme "focuses predominantly on non-communicable diseases" (like diabetes), whereas the author suggests that infectious diseases are the ones being overlooked for certain workers.

Option D : The author actually points out that construction and agriculture workers are "most at risk" of heat-related illnesses but are not covered for them, rather than saying they are being "prioritized" over women.

3. A) **To emphasize that the government should adopt the existing provision of providing medical services at the workplace.**

This is correct because the author suggests the government should meet workers "at their places of work," a strategy that the passage specifically says the "OSH Code 2020 stipulates for organised workers."

Option B : The author uses the OSH Code as a positive example to follow, not as a legal warning. There is no mention of the code being in "violation of constitutional rights" in the passage.

Option C : The passage mentions the OSH Code 2020 to suggest a future implementation strategy; it does not provide a historical comparison between the success of 2020 and the year 2025.

Option D : The passage explicitly states that heat-related illnesses are "not explicitly recognised" under the ESI Act, so the OSH Code is not being cited as the reason for their treatment.

4. C) **Heat-related illnesses are explicitly listed and recognized as occupational diseases under the existing provisions of the ESI Act to protect outdoor workers.**

This is the false statement. The passage explicitly says: "Heat-related illnesses are not explicitly recognised as occupational diseases under the ESI Act," which contradicts this option.

Option A: This is a true statement from the passage which says the integration of the portal with ESIC is "still in its early stages in many States."

Option B: This is also true. The passage states the scheme "offers screening but does not mandate proactive vaccination," confirming the statement.

Option D: This is true because the passage mentions that if a facility lacks resources, it leads to "referring a worker to another centre... leading to repeat visits and added time and cost."

5. C) **Cautiously appreciative of the initiative while remaining concerned about its practical execution and gaps.**

The author begins the evaluation by acknowledging the positive intent of the policy, using the line: "Commendable though the initiative is..." This shows the author recognizes the value of the government's effort to provide free health check-ups.

Immediately after the praise, the author adds a warning: "...its success is not guaranteed." This line indicates a skeptical and cautious outlook regarding whether the policy will actually work in reality.

The author points out several failures using lines like: "Labour Minister... failed to address how a woman... could access the longer maternity leave" and "the programme does not address the opportunity costs... forcing workers to continue contending with lost wages." These lines highlight specific gaps in the system that the policy ignores.

6. D) **PQRS**

Sentence P, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि यह S1 में पेश किए गए "visibility" (दृश्यता) मापने के तरीके को 'specifically' शब्द के साथ स्पष्ट करता है। यह Anjali के apartment का उदाहरण देकर "factual ground" तैयार करता है।

Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "her apartment" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में दिए गए Anjali के 'apartment' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह P में बताई गई स्थिति का सीधा परिणाम (walk पर न जाना) देकर एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है।

Sentence R, Sentence Q के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these walks" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में दिए गए "walk" पर न जाने के फैसले से जुड़ा है। यह चर्चा को दैनिक दिनचर्या से हटाकर स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्या (health problem) की ओर ले जाता है।

Sentence S, Sentence R के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। यह R में उल्लिखित 'problem' के बारे में specific detail (Vitamin D levels) जोड़ता है, जो तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence P comes at the beginning (after S1) because it identifies the factual ground by elaborating on the method of measuring "visibility" introduced in S1 using the word 'specifically'. It establishes the primary example of Anjali's apartment.

Sentence Q follows P because of the phrase "her apartment," which creates a mandatory link to Anjali's specific 'apartment' mentioned in P. It provides an elaboration by stating the direct consequence (not going for a walk) of the situation described in P.

Sentence R follows Q as it uses the phrase "these walks" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the decision of avoiding the "walk" mentioned in Q. It transitions the topic from a daily routine to a resulting health problem.

Sentence S follows R as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the connection to the health 'problem' mentioned in R to provide the specific detail necessary to understand the issue—identifying the low Vitamin D levels—thereby completing the logical flow.

7. B) it's के बदले **its** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि it's = it is / it has होता है, जबकि यहाँ possessive (coach का) अर्थ में प्रयोग हुआ है इसलिए its सही होगा; जैसे— The dog wagged its tail.
 - 'its' will be used instead of 'it's' because it's = it is / it has, while here possessive meaning (belonging to the coach) is required, so its is correct; Like— The dog wagged its tail.
8. D) went' के बदले 'go' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि did पहले से ही Past का Sense दे रहा है; अतः Main Verb V1 (Base Form) में रहेगा; जैसे— He did not go there yesterday.
 - 'go' will be used instead of 'went' because did already carries the Past sense, so the Main Verb must remain in Base Form (V1); Like— He did not go there yesterday.
9. C) '**before**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में यह बताया जा रहा है कि report समय सीमा (deadline) से पहले जमा कर दी गई थी और इसलिए पूरी compliance सुनिश्चित हुई। 'Before the deadline' समय के पूर्व होने की स्थिति को सही और स्वाभाविक रूप से व्यक्त करता है।
 - 'before' should be used because the sentence indicates that the report was submitted prior to the given deadline, which aligns with the idea of timely compliance. Therefore, 'before the deadline' is the most appropriate prepositional phrase here.
10. A) '**nevertheless**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में दो विपरीत परिणामों को जोड़ा जा रहा है—एक तरफ software update ने performance सुधारी, परंतु दूसरी तरफ उसने compatibility issues भी पैदा किए। ऐसे contrasting relationship को व्यक्त करने के लिए 'nevertheless' सबसे उपयुक्त conjunction है।
 - 'Nevertheless' should be used because the sentence contrasts a positive outcome (enhanced performance) with a negative one (compatibility issues). The conjunction signals an unexpected contrast between improvement and problem, making it the best choice here.
11. C) The correctly spelt word is **Arraign** which means "to call or bring before a court to answer a charge" अभियोग लगाना / अदालत में पेश करना।
12. B) People believed that a legendary king had built the old castle.
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Impersonal Passive संरचना was believed को Active में बदलते समय एक सामान्य Subject People का उपयोग किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Passive clause to have been built by a legendary king को Active में a legendary king had built the old castle में बदला गया और मुख्य Passive भाग was believed को Active में People believed में परिवर्तित किया गया।
To change from Impersonal Passive to Active Voice, the passive introductory structure was believed is rendered actively with a generic subject People, and the embedded passive clause to have been built by a legendary king becomes the active a legendary king had built the old castle, preserving the original meaning.
13. A) **The judge asked who was singing so beautifully.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए प्रश्नवाचक वाक्य में Subject-Verb क्रम को सामान्य कथन क्रम में किया जाता है और Question Mark हटाया जाता है। दिए हुए वाक्य में the judge Subject है, asked Reporting Verb है और Reported Clause में Who is singing so beautifully? था। Indirect में बदलने पर is singing → was singing परिवर्तन हुआ और वाक्य बिना प्रश्नचिह्न के पूरा हुआ।
To change from Direct to Indirect Speech, interrogative structure is converted to statement order and the question mark is removed. In this case, the judge (Subject) and asked (Reporting Verb) stay the same, while Who is singing so beautifully? becomes who was singing so beautifully to reflect proper tense shift in indirect narration.

14. B) **The groundbreaking findings have already been published in a prestigious scientific journal by the dedicated researchers.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb phrase को Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में the dedicated researchers Subject है, have already published (Present Perfect) Verb phrase है और the groundbreaking findings Object है। Passive में बदलने पर the groundbreaking findings Subject बना और Verb phrase have already been published (Present Perfect Passive) में बदल गई तथा by the dedicated researchers Agent रूप में प्रयुक्त हुआ।

To change from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject in the passive sentence and the verb phrase is changed to its passive form. In this case, the dedicated researchers (Subject), have already published (Present Perfect Verb phrase), and the groundbreaking findings (Object) convert to the groundbreaking findings (Subject), have already been published (Present Perfect Passive Verb phrase), and by the dedicated researchers (Agent).

15. B) **The historian said, "The ruins are much older than previously thought, and new research has been continually proving it for years."**

Original sentence indirect speech में है, जहाँ reporting verb "asserted" past tense में होने की वजह से tenses backshifted हैं। Direct speech में convert करते समय यह backshifting हटा दी जाती है ताकि historian के original words सामने आँ।

यहाँ "the ruins were much older than previously thought" एक fact को बताता है जो अभी भी true है, इसलिए direct speech में यह "the ruins are much older than previously thought" बन जाता है। इसी तरह "new research had been continually proving it for years" को "new research has been continually proving it for years" किया जाता है क्योंकि research past में शुरू हुई थी और अभी तक continue हो रही है।

बाकी options या तो past tense को ही रखते हैं, जो indirect speech के लिए सही है, या फिर present और past tenses को गलत तरीके से mix करते हैं। इसलिए option 2 direct speech में सबसे सही answer है।

- The given sentence is in indirect speech, where the tenses have been backshifted because the reporting verb "asserted" is in the past. When converting it into direct speech, this backshifting is removed to reflect the historian's original words. The clause "the ruins were much older than previously thought" refers to a fact that is still true, so it correctly changes to "the ruins are much older than previously thought." Similarly, "new research had been continually proving it for years" becomes "new research has been continually proving it for years," because the research began in the past and

continues up to the present. The other options either keep the backshifted past forms or mix present and past tenses incorrectly. Therefore, option 2 correctly expresses the sentence in direct voice.

16. A) QPRS

Dr. Alistair Finch was an accomplished biologist who specialized in the discovery of new species. He spent his days in the lab, carefully scanning samples under a microscope. His peers would tease him that he looked more upon the microbial world than on the actual one. His greatest find was from a small, ordinary pond deep in the Amazon rainforest.

Sentence Q comes first because it introduces the main subject of the paragraph. "Dr. Alistair Finch" is a proper noun and acts as the subject, while "was an accomplished biologist" is the verb phrase that gives his identity and specialization. This sentence sets the context and tells us who the paragraph is about.

Sentence P comes after Q because it describes Dr. Finch's daily work and routine. The pronoun "He" clearly refers back to "Dr. Alistair Finch." The verbs "spent" and "scanning" show his actions in the laboratory, logically expanding on his profession as a biologist.

Sentence R follows P because it adds a personal and descriptive detail about how others perceived him. The pronoun "His" again refers to Dr. Finch, maintaining continuity. This sentence builds on his deep involvement with microscopic work by showing how his peers teased him for it.

Sentence S comes last because it serves as the conclusion of the paragraph. It highlights the outcome of his dedication—his greatest discovery. "His greatest find" summarizes his achievements and gives a strong ending to the paragraph.

- Sentence Q सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह paragraph का main subject introduce करता है। यहाँ "Dr. Alistair Finch" एक proper noun है और subject की तरह काम करता है, जबकि "was an accomplished biologist" verb phrase है जो उसकी identity और specialization बताता है। यह sentence पूरा context set करता है कि paragraph किसके बारे में है।
- Sentence P, Q के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Dr. Finch की daily routine और work describe करता है। यहाँ "He" pronoun सीधे "Dr. Alistair Finch" को refer करता है। Verbs "spent" और "scanning" उसके lab work और dedication दिखाते हैं, जो उसके profession से logically जुड़ा है।
- Sentence R, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह उसकी personality और दूसरों की reaction दिखाता है। यहाँ "His peers" और "him" Dr. Finch को ही refer करते हैं। यह sentence बताता है कि लोग उसे कैसे tease करते थे, जो उसके microscopic focus से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- Sentence S paragraph का last sentence है क्योंकि यह conclusion देता है और उसकी achievement highlight करता है। "His greatest find" phrase उसके पूरे काम का result दिखाता है और paragraph को strong ending देता है।

17. C) **People think that powerful lobbying groups influence the city council's decision.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Impersonal Passive संरचना is thought को Active में बदलते समय एक सामान्य Subject People का प्रयोग किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Passive clause to be influenced by powerful lobbying groups को Active में बदलते समय Verb phrase influence और

Object the city council's decision का प्रयोग हुआ तथा Agent powerful lobbying groups Subject के रूप में प्रयुक्त हुए।

To change from Impersonal Passive to Active Voice, the passive structure is thought becomes People think, and the embedded passive clause to be influenced by powerful lobbying groups becomes the active powerful lobbying groups influence the city council's decision, preserving the original meaning.

18. A) इस sentence में Option A – “Except for you and I, no one knew Radha” को सही माना जाता है क्योंकि “you and I” को एक compound subject expression के रूप में लिया जाता है। English में जब दो pronouns “and” से जुड़े होते हैं, तो उन्हें अक्सर subject position में रखा जाता है, और इसी कारण “I” का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Sentence का focus इस बात पर है कि कौन लोग Radha को जानते थे, और इस idea को express करने के लिए “you and I” एक collective reference की तरह काम करता है। हालाँकि everyday spoken English में लोग “you and me” भी इस्तेमाल करते हैं, लेकिन formal sentence structure में “you and I” को अधिक acceptable माना जाता है क्योंकि यह grammatical symmetry बनाए रखता है और sentence को अधिक formal और structured बनाता है। इसलिए Option A को most suitable replacement माना जाता है।

In this sentence, Option A – “Except for you and I, no one knew Radha” is considered correct because “you and I” functions as a compound pronoun unit. When two pronouns are joined by “and,” they are commonly treated as a collective subject form, which leads to the use of “I” rather than “me.” The sentence emphasizes who knew Radha, and “you and I” presents that group in a unified and formal way.

Although “you and me” is frequently used in everyday speech, “you and I” is often preferred in more formal sentence constructions because it maintains grammatical balance and a consistent pronoun form. Therefore, Option A is regarded as the most suitable replacement in this context.

19. A) **S, R, Q, P**

A groundbreaking new software was developed to streamline workflow and increase productivity. It was designed to simplify daily tasks and provide real-time data analysis. The team worked tirelessly, refining the code and testing each feature for compatibility. As a result, the software significantly improved operational efficiency across departments. Sentence S सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह paragraph का main topic introduce करता है। यहाँ “A groundbreaking new software” बताया गया है, जो पूरे passage का subject है। यह sentence context set करता है कि किस चीज़ की बात हो रही है।

Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आता है क्योंकि इसमें “It” pronoun use हुआ है, जो सीधे “new software” को refer करता है। यह sentence software का purpose और design explain करता है – daily tasks को simplify करना और real-time data analysis देना।

Sentence Q, Sentence R के बाद आता है क्योंकि purpose बताने के बाद next logical step होता है development process। यहाँ “The team worked tirelessly” बताया गया है, जो coding, refining और testing को show करता है। यह बताता है कि software कैसे तैयार किया गया।

Sentence P आखिर में आता है क्योंकि इसकी शुरुआत “As a result” से होती है, जो साफ बताता है कि यह final outcome है। यह sentence software के effect को describe करता है – operational efficiency improve होना। इसलिए यह paragraph का conclusion बनता है।

- Sentence S comes first because it introduces the main topic of the paragraph. It talks about “a groundbreaking new software” and its purpose, which sets the context for everything that follows. This sentence acts as the introduction and tells us what is being discussed.
- Sentence R comes after Sentence S because it explains the design and intention of the software. The pronoun “It” directly refers back to “a groundbreaking new software”. This sentence adds detail about what the software was meant to do, making the paragraph flow logically.
- Sentence Q follows Sentence R because once the purpose is clear, the paragraph moves to the development process. Here, “The team worked tirelessly” explains how the software was refined and tested. This is a natural next step after describing the design.
- Sentence P comes last because it starts with “As a result”, which clearly signals an outcome or conclusion. It shows the final impact of all the previous efforts—improved operational efficiency—making it the perfect ending to the paragraph.

20. B) **Fastidious** (adjective) – picky, fussy, meticulous, demanding, choosy बहुत चुनिंदा / बेहद सूक्ष्मतापूर्ण

Antonym: **Sloppy** (adjective) – careless, untidy, negligent, messy, lax लापरवाह / अस्त-व्यस्त

- **Meticulous** (adjective) – very careful, precise, thorough, exacting बेहद सावधान
- **Fussy** (adjective) – overly selective, hard to please, finicky चुस्त-चुनिंदा / नुक्ताचीनी करने वाला
- **Perceptive** (adjective) – observant, insightful, discerning सूझ-बूझ वाला

21. A) **intrigue** (curiosity जगाना) सही है क्योंकि पैसेज में "either disgust you or..." लिखा है। इसका मतलब है कि पैरों से स्वाद लेने की बात या तो आपको बुरी लगेगी (disgust) या फिर आपके अंदर और जानने की curiosity (intrigue) पैदा करेगी। appall का मतलब डराना या बुरा लगाना है, जो 'disgust' जैसा ही है, इसलिए यह सही opposite चॉइस नहीं हो सकता। provoke का मतलब उकसाना या गुस्सा दिलाना होता है, जो यहाँ logical नहीं है। exhaust का मतलब थका देना होता है, जिसका इस टॉपिक से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।

- The correct answer is "intrigue" because the sentence uses the structure "either disgust you or...", suggesting a contrasting positive or curious reaction. To intrigue means to arouse curiosity or fascinate. "Appall" means to horrify or disgust, which is redundant here. "Provoke" means to incite anger or a reaction, which doesn't fit the context of learning a fun fact. "Exhaust" means to tire out, which is completely irrelevant.

22. B) **through** सही है क्योंकि यह एक preposition है जो यह दिखाता है कि कोई काम किस medium (माध्यम) से हो रहा है। तितलियाँ अपने पैरों के माध्यम से (through their feet) स्वाद लेती हैं। upon का मतलब किसी चीज़ के ऊपर होना है, जो स्वाद लेने के तरीके (method) को नहीं दिखाता। beside का मतलब 'बगल में' और beyond का मतलब 'के पार' होता है, जो यहाँ grammatically और logically पूरी तरह गलत हैं।

- The correct answer is "through" because it is a preposition indicating the medium or means by which an action is performed. The butterflies get their taste through the

medium of their feet. "Upon" indicates physical placement on top of something, not a method or medium. "Beside" means next to, and "Beyond" means further away, both of which are contextually and grammatically incorrect here.

23. B) **proboscis** सही है क्योंकि यह एक biological term है जो तितली के उस लंबे, मुड़े हुए मुँह वाले हिस्से (tube) के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है जो स्ट्रॉ (straw) की तरह काम करता है। antenna कीड़ों के सिर पर होता है जो छूने और सूँघने के काम आता है, रस चूसने के लिए नहीं। mandible का मतलब चबाने वाला जबड़ा (jaw) होता है, जबकि यहाँ "sucking" (चूसने) की बात हो रही है। tentacle आमतौर पर ऑक्टोपस जैसे समुद्री जीवों में होता है, तितलियों में नहीं।

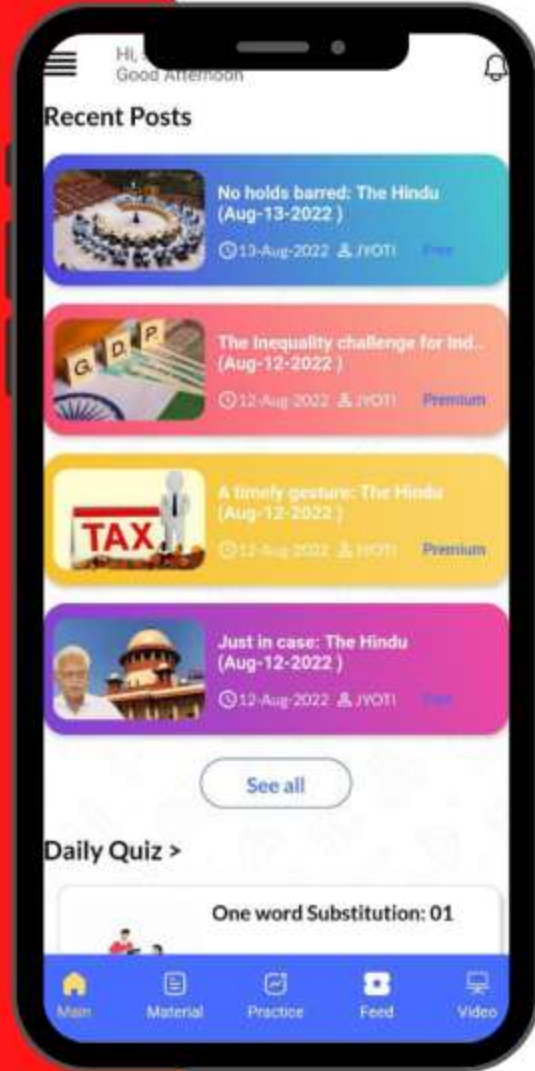
- The correct answer is "proboscis" because it is the exact scientific term for the elongated, coiled, tubular mouthpart of a butterfly used like a straw for feeding. "Antenna" refers to the sensory appendages on an insect's head, not used for drinking. "Mandible" refers to mouthparts used for chewing or biting, contradicting the "sucking" action described. "Tentacle" is a flexible limb typically found in aquatic animals, not insects.

24. D) **nectar** (फूलों का मीठा रस) सही है क्योंकि पैसेज में तितली के स्ट्रॉ (proboscis) से कुछ चूसने की बात हो रही है, और तितलियाँ फूलों से nectar ही पीती हैं। pollen (पराग कण) फूलों में पाया जाने वाला पाउडर होता है, इसे चूसा (suck) नहीं जा सकता। venom का मतलब ज़हर होता है, जो तितलियाँ नहीं पीतीं। sap पौधों के तने का रस होता है, लेकिन तितलियों का मुख्य target फूलों का nectar होता है।

- The correct answer is "nectar" because it is the sweet liquid produced by flowers specifically to attract pollinators like butterflies, who suck it through their proboscis. "Pollen" is a dry powder transferred for reproduction; it is not sucked like a liquid. "Venom" is a poisonous substance produced by animals, completely illogical here. "Sap" is the fluid inside a plant's stems or leaves, but nectar is the specific target for a butterfly's feeding tube.

25. B) **detect** सही है क्योंकि receptors (सेंसर) का काम किसी सिग्नल या केमिकल को पहचानना (detect करना) होता है। पैरों के सेंसर मीठे, कड़वे या नमकीन सिग्नलों को detect करते हैं। ignore का मतलब अनदेखा करना है, जो सेंसर के मुख्य काम के बिल्कुल उल्टा है। produce का मतलब बनाना (create) होता है, जबकि तितली केमिकल बनाती नहीं बल्कि उसे पहचानती है। conceal का मतलब छिपाना होता है, जो यहाँ पूरी तरह से बेतुका है।

- The correct answer is "detect" because the function of biological receptors is to identify or discover the presence of stimuli (like chemical signals). The sensilla detect the sweet or bitter tastes. "Ignore" is the exact opposite of what a sensory receptor does. "Produce" means to create or make, but the butterfly is sensing the chemicals from the plant, not making them. "Conceal" means to hide, which makes no logical sense in this context.



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