

Caste away: On the Court and caste count

People must have the option to state that they are casteless in the Census

The Supreme Court was not wrong to dismiss a **petition** that **sought to stall** the caste census, which is part of the ongoing Census 2027. The Chief Justice of India **remarked**, in support of the caste count, that “any government of the day must know how many people are backward and how many need welfare”. In April 2025, the Narendra Modi government had made a **turnaround** to announce caste **enumeration alongside** the fresh census, the first such exercise since 1931. Mr. Modi had earlier **derided** the idea as a sign of “urban Naxal” thinking, and the RSS had warned that such surveys were attempts to **fracture** Hindu society. The **Congress**, too, **had** made a dramatic turnaround in its historical position to demand a caste census. Early **governments** of independent India **decided** not to **enumerate** caste with the census. The dominant thinking then was that counting caste communities would only **reinforce** the institution of caste that the state wanted to **dismantle**. On the one hand, state policies sought to create a casteless society, while on the other, they also **accounted for** caste identities for positive **discrimination** in legislative representation and employment. This dual **approach** to caste that **was baked** into the nation’s founding principles has created a **paradox** that continues to this day. The **clamour for** a caste census **is** the latest **manifestation** of it.

The Census itself has been long **overdue**. The **decennial** population survey was originally due in 2021 but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical hurdles. The caste enumeration will **take place** in the second phase and will involve asking every individual their caste, rather than merely recording whether they belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, as in previous Censuses. The **delay** in the Census **has a bearing on** planning **of all sorts**. In India, a **considerable portion** of state policy **is** directly or indirectly linked to the caste profile of the target group. The one **attempt** at a post-Independence national caste count **came** in 2011. The open-ended caste identification **process** of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census **produced** over 46 lakh distinct caste names and 8 crore data errors, **rendering** the dataset unusable. Most of its **findings** remain unpublished. The Modi government is still **grappling with** the challenge of finding the appropriate methodology for an accurate enumeration of caste communities. A caste census **detracts** from the effort to **eradicate** caste as it **ossifies** identities, but is helpful if viewed alongside other socioeconomic indices to better target welfare measures and ensure representation. The **annihilation** of caste must **remain** a goal, and people must be allowed to classify themselves as casteless if they so wish. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Caste away** (phrase) - to reject, discard, or cast aside completely दूर करना / त्याग देना
2. **Petition** (noun) - appeal, plea, suit, entreaty, application याचिका
3. **Seek** (to) (verb) - to try to achieve or attain something, to attempt प्रयास करना
4. **Stall** (verb) - delay, obstruct, hinder, impede, postpone रोकना / टालना
5. **Remark** (verb) - comment, observe, state, declare, mention टिप्पणी करना
6. **Turnaround** (noun) - reversal, about-turn, shift, u-turn, flip-flop रुख में बदलाव
7. **Enumeration** (noun) - counting, census, calculation, computation, listing जनगणना / गणना
8. **Alongside** (preposition) - with, together with, beside, next to के साथ-साथ
9. **Deride** (verb) - mock, ridicule, sneer, taunt, disparage उपहास उड़ाना
10. **Fracture** (verb) - break, split, divide, rupture, fragment विभाजित करना / तोड़ना
11. **Enumerate** (verb) - count, list, calculate, itemize, number गिनना
12. **Reinforce** (verb) - strengthen, bolster, support, fortify, consolidate सुदृढ़ करना
13. **Dismantle** (verb) - demolish, deconstruct, tear down, destroy, dismantle समाप्त करना / नष्ट करना
14. **Account for** (phrasal verb) to consider, explain, justify, include, or give a reason for शामिल करना / हिसाब देना
15. **Discrimination** (noun) - bias, prejudice, bigotry, unfairness, partisanship भेदभाव
16. **Bake** (verb) - establish, embed, entrench, incorporate, root अंतर्निहित होना
17. **Paradox** (noun) - contradiction, anomaly, puzzle, riddle, oxymoron विरोधाभास
18. **Clamour for** (phrase) - to demand something loudly and insistently जोरदार माँग करना
19. **Manifestation** (noun) - expression, indication, exhibition, demonstration, reflection अभिव्यक्ति
20. **Overdue** (adjective) - delayed, late, belated, tardy, unpunctual बकाया / विलंबित
21. **Decennial** (adjective) – Period of ten years. दस-वार्षिक
22. **Take place** (phrase) - to happen, occur, transpire, unfold, come about आयोजित होना / घटित होना
23. **Have a bearing on** (phrase) - to have an effect or influence on something, to be relevant to प्रभाव डालना
24. **Of all sorts** (phrase) - of various kinds, of different types, miscellaneous तरह-तरह के
25. **Considerable** (adjective) - substantial, significant, sizeable, appreciable, ample महत्वपूर्ण / काफी
26. **Render** (verb) - make, leave, cause to become, turn, drive बना देना
27. **Finding** (noun) - conclusion, discovery, result, outcome, verdict निष्कर्ष / परिणाम

28. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) to struggle to deal with or overcome a difficult problem

जूझना

29. **Detract** (verb) - divert, distract, diminish, lessen, reduce कम करना / ध्यान भटकाना

30. **Eradicate** (verb) - eliminate, abolish, uproot, exterminate, annihilate जड़ से

मिटाना

31. **Ossify** (verb) - harden, rigidify, freeze, stagnate, petrify रुढ़िबद्ध करना / कड़ा करना

32. **Annihilation** (noun) - destruction, eradication, elimination, wiping out, extirpation विनाश / उन्मूलन

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Supreme Court rejected a petition that tried to stop the caste census planned under Census 2027.
2. The Chief Justice of India supported the caste count, stating that governments need accurate data about backward communities for welfare policies.
3. In April 2025, the Narendra Modi government announced caste enumeration along with the national census.
4. This announcement marked a major shift because Mr. Modi had earlier criticised caste census demands as “urban Naxal” thinking.
5. The RSS had also opposed caste surveys, arguing that they could divide Hindu society.
6. The Congress party similarly changed its earlier stand and began demanding a caste census.
7. After Independence, Indian governments avoided caste enumeration in the Census because they believed it would strengthen caste identities.
8. At the same time, the state continued to use caste categories for reservations and welfare policies, creating a contradiction.
9. This contradiction reflects the paradox between promoting a casteless society and recognising caste for social justice measures.
10. The Census itself has been delayed since 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical difficulties.
11. In Census 2027, every individual will be asked to state their caste instead of only identifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
12. Census data is important because many government welfare and development policies depend on caste-related information.
13. The 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census failed because it generated millions of caste names and huge data errors, making the information unreliable.
14. The government now faces the challenge of creating a proper methodology for accurate caste enumeration.
15. The editorial concludes that while caste census may reinforce caste identities, it can still help improve welfare targeting and representation, but the ultimate goal should remain the annihilation of caste, including allowing people to identify themselves as casteless if they wish.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements is TRUE as per the passage?** [Editorial Page]
- A. The initial decision of early independent Indian governments to avoid counting castes dismantled the caste system.
 - B. The 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census provides the reliable and extensive published dataset on Indian caste profiles.
 - C. The current ruling government has supported the idea of conducting a comprehensive national caste enumeration.
 - D. The delayed decennial population survey will capture detailed individual caste identities beyond just the SC and ST categories.
2. **What does the passage suggest about India's dual approach to caste?**
- A. It has managed to eradicate caste-based discrimination through effective legislative representation.
 - B. It represents a paradox where the state aims for a casteless society while utilizing caste for welfare.
 - C. It proves that accounting for individual caste identities is unnecessary for designing welfare schemes.
 - D. It has resolved historical conflicts between different religious and regional communities over time.
3. **What is the central idea of the passage?**
- A. The recurring technical anomalies in demographic collection highlight the impossibility of conducting accurate counts.
 - B. The historical reversal of major political parties demonstrates that electoral motives dictate all state census operations.
 - C. While counting sub-identities cements social divisions, it remains an indispensable mechanism for equitable public administration.
 - D. The definitive ruling of the judiciary ensures that the upcoming enumeration will be free from execution errors.
4. **Which of the following can be inferred about the impact of delaying the decennial census?**
- A. It has minimal impact on national planning because public policies are independent of target group composition.
 - B. It impairs the precision of state welfare allocation by depriving administrators of updated community demographic metrics.
 - C. It gives state machinery sufficient opportunities to successfully redesign operational methods for accurate data tracking.
 - D. It directly assists social organizations in neutralizing the political polarization caused by explicit identity counting.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
- A. adversarial and confrontational
 - B. cynical and dismissive
 - C. Objective and evaluative
 - D. idealization-driven
6. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences from a passage. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**

- A. This sinking and warming effect directly suppresses the natural process that forms clouds, allowing uninterrupted sunlight to keep beating down.
- B. Ultimately, when all of these extreme atmospheric conditions persist together for a few days, a severe heatwave can occur.
- C. In April and May, the sun is almost directly overhead over most of peninsular India, intensely heating the ground for several weeks.
- D. During this period, if a stable, high-pressure weather system settles over the region, air slowly sinks down from higher in the atmosphere and warms up.
- a. 3 4 1 2
- b. 3 1 4 2
- c. 4 1 3 2
- d. 1 4 2 3
7. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**
He had to ____ his brains trying to remember how he came to be on the shore strewn with ____ and driftwood.
- A. wrack, rack
- B. rack, rack
- C. wrack, wrack
- D. rack, wrack
8. **Which of the following words refers to a strong and deep hatred of something?**
- A. Envy
- B. Antipathy
- C. Empathy
- D. Sympathy
9. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**
She quickly climbed onto her upper ____ to give a wide ____ to the unruly family creating a scene below.
- A. birth, berth
- B. birth, birth
- C. berth, berth
- D. berth, birth
10. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**
The CEO is expected to have brought about significant changes in the department by the end of the year.
- A. Significant changes are expected to have been brought about in the department by the new CEO by the end of the year.
- B. It is expected that significant changes will have been brought about by the new CEO by the end of the year.
- C. Significant changes will have been brought about in the department by the new CEO by the end of the year.
- D. The new CEO is expected that significant changes will be brought about by them.
11. **Change the following sentence into the Active form:**
Has the groundbreaking research been funded by a private consortium for the past two years?
- A. Has a private consortium funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?

- B. The private consortium has funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
C. Did a private consortium fund the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
D. A private consortium has been funding the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
12. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelled word:**
“The student received a _____ for her excellent research paper.”
A. sitation
B. citasion
C. citattion
D. citation
13. **Which word can best replace sarcasm?**
The stranger's eyes sparkled with a mixture of challenge and sarcasm.
A. Kindness
B. Mockery
C. Encouragement
D. Compliment
14. **Which word refers to graceful and balanced behavior?**
A. Clumsy
B. Poise
C. Grit
D. Frenzy
15. **Which of the following terms refers to the absence of government?**
A. Anarchy
B. Democracy
C. Monarchy
D. Oligarchy
16. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Ebullient**
A. Depressed
B. Cheerful
C. Joyful
D. Enthusiastic
17. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
Paresh eats hardly only food.
A. hardly any food
B. any hardly food
C. food hardly any
D. food not hardly
18. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: QUIXOTIC**
A. Practical
B. Idealistic
C. Realistic
D. Sensible
19. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:**
You can take the early train, _____ you'll have to wait for the afternoon one.

- A. and
- B. unless
- C. otherwise
- D. although

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

She is proficient _____ several programming languages, including Python and Java.

- A. at
- B. on
- C. in
- D. with

Comprehension

I'm 21, and all my life I've been (1) _____ about the future. It's not getting better. There are a lot of things that worry me – no job prospects even with a degree under my (2) _____; I won't be able to find a partner who will respect me; I'll never own a house. And outside these, of course, I'm worried about climate change and global politics.

The advice I have been offered is to "not think about it" or "focus on what I personally can control". But I have dreams and aspirations; I want to be a writer and an artist and I am working harder than ever to make those things happen, even if AI might make those fields even more competitive. So my question is: How do I balance my dreams and aspirations practically, and take care of myself, without living in a (3) _____?

Eleanor says: There's a widespread idea that taking care of ourselves means retreating from these problems, and the task is to work out how much (4) _____ is too much. I think this is a lie sold by people who want us to consider epsom salts a form of resistance. I think a lot of us could afford to stop looking for ways to feel better and start looking for ways to fight, in part because fighting can be the best way to feel better. The struggle is the route to the comfort. Think about a similar phenomenon, when facing a massive to-do list. It's so overwhelming that I feel bad; I feel so bad I can't start; I need to do something comforting now so I can feel OK enough to start later. As you'll know, though, there is no (5) _____ like actually facing the problem. Any form of relief that involves turning away is so brittle by comparison. Your body knows it's only hiding.

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

- A. depressed
- B. fearful
- C. stress
- D. anxious

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

- A. resume
- B. control
- C. belt
- D. sleeve

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

- A. fantasy
- B. denial
- C. bubble

D. vacuum

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

- A. escape
- B. retreat
- C. avoidance
- D. isolation

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

- A. therapy
- B. medicine
- C. healing
- D. analgesic

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. D) **The delayed decennial population survey will capture detailed individual caste identities beyond just the SC and ST categories.**

Line from passage: "The caste enumeration will take place in the second phase and will involve asking every individual their caste, rather than merely recording whether they belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe..." This matches the passage exactly; it will capture detailed individual identities beyond just SC/ST.

Option A (Incorrect): Line from passage: "The dominant thinking then was that counting caste communities would only reinforce the institution of caste that the state wanted to dismantle." The passage states this was the thinking behind the decision, but it never states that it dismantled the system.

Option B (Incorrect): Line from passage: "...producing over 46 lakh distinct caste names and 8 crore data errors, rendering the dataset unusable. Most of its findings remain unpublished." The passage explicitly notes the 2011 data was unusable and mostly unpublished, making "reliable" incorrect.

Option C (Incorrect): Line from passage: "Mr. Modi had earlier derided the idea as a sign of "urban Naxal" thinking..." The government made a "turnaround" in 2025, meaning they have not supported it.

2. B) It represents a paradox where the state aims for a casteless society while utilizing caste for welfare.

Line from passage: "On the one hand, state policies sought to create a casteless society, while on the other, they also accounted for caste identities for positive discrimination... This dual approach to caste... has created a paradox that continues to this day." It accurately synthesizes the core paradox of wanting a casteless society while utilizing caste for affirmative action.

Option A (Incorrect): Line from passage: "The annihilation of caste must remain a goal..." The passage states annihilation is still a goal, meaning discrimination has not been eradicated.

Option C (Incorrect): Line from passage: "...is helpful if viewed alongside other socioeconomic indices to better target welfare measures and ensure representation." The passage explicitly argues that it is helpful for targeting welfare measures, contradicting this option.

Option D (Incorrect): Line from passage: "...the RSS had warned that such surveys were attempts to fracture Hindu society." The passage points out lingering anxieties and societal frictions, rather than saying conflicts are resolved.

3. C) **While counting sub-identities cements social divisions, it remains an indispensable mechanism for equitable public administration.**

Line from passage: "A caste census detracts from the effort to eradicate caste as it ossifies identities, but is helpful if viewed alongside other socioeconomic indices to better target welfare measures and ensure representation." This option accurately synthesizes the main thesis: the tension between identity ossification (cementing divisions) and governance utility (indispensable administration tool).

Option A (Incorrect): Line from passage: "The Supreme Court was not wrong to dismiss a petition... The Modi government is still grappling with the challenge..." The passage treats the 2011 technical defects as a hurdle to be solved, not as definitive proof that census collection is impossible.

Option B (Incorrect): Line from passage: "Mr. Modi had earlier derided... The Congress, too, had made a dramatic turnaround..." While political shifts are mentioned to set the context, the core focus of the passage is on policy, governance, and the philosophical paradox of caste.

Option D (Incorrect): Line from passage: "The Supreme Court was not wrong to dismiss a petition... The Modi government is still grappling with the challenge..." The judiciary merely cleared the legal pathway by dismissing the petition; it cannot guarantee that executive implementation will be free from errors.

4. B) **It impairs the precision of state welfare allocation by depriving administrators of updated community demographic metrics.**

Line from passage: "The delay in the Census has a bearing on planning of all sorts. In India, a considerable portion of state policy is directly or indirectly linked to the caste profile of the target group."

Option B says the same: The delay hurts the accuracy (impairs precision) of how welfare is given out because it starves officials of fresh, updated population data (demographic metrics).

A is wrong: Option A says the delay has "minimal impact." The passage explicitly says it has a big impact on "planning of all sorts." It directly contradicts the passage.

C is wrong: Option C says the delay gave the government a great opportunity to "successfully redesign" their methods. But the passage says the government is "still grappling" (still struggling) with the method. They haven't fixed it yet.

D is wrong: Option D talks about helping social organizations "neutralize political polarization." The passage never says the delay fixed political tension. It only mentions that the RSS was worried about society fracturing. The delay didn't solve that worry.

5. C) Objective and evaluative

The author sums up the structural duality perfectly: "A caste census detracts from the effort to eradicate caste as it ossifies identities, but is helpful if viewed alongside other socioeconomic indices..." The phrase proves the author is looking at both sides of the coin objectively. They evaluate the structural flaw ("ossifies identities") right next to the structural benefit ("better target welfare").

6. A) 3 4 1 2

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "factual ground" को तैयार करता है जो भारत के प्रायद्वीपीय हिस्से में अप्रैल और मई की भीषण गर्मी (intense heating) को introduce करता है। यह पूरे विषय का मुख्य आधार पेश करता है।

Sentence 4, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "During this period" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 3 में दिए गए 'April and May' के समय की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इस दौरान हवा कैसे नीचे आकर गर्म होती है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This sinking and warming effect" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताई गई 'air slowly sinks down... and warms up' की प्रक्रिया की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस प्रभाव के कारण बादल नहीं बन पाते।

Sentence 2, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "these extreme atmospheric conditions" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 3, 4 और 1 में बताई गई सभी स्थितियों से जुड़ा है, और इन सबके एक साथ बने रहने से 'heatwave' के आने की बात कहकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it identifies the factual ground by introducing the primary subject: the intense heating of the ground in peninsular India during April and May. Sentence 4 follows 3 because the phrase "During this period" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the specific timeframe of 'April and May' mentioned in 3. It introduces the next step in the weather pattern (air sinking and warming up).

Sentence 1 follows 4 as it uses the phrase "This sinking and warming effect" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the action where 'air slowly sinks down... and warms up' described in 4. It explains the immediate consequence of this effect (suppressing cloud formation).

Sentence 2 follows 1 as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "these extreme atmospheric conditions" to create a mandatory link directly back to all the preceding weather phenomena described in 3, 4, and 1, concluding with the ultimate result of a heatwave occurring, thereby completing the logical flow.

7. D) 'rack, wrack' का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence में पहले भाग में "rack his brains" एक fixed idiomatic expression है जिसका अर्थ है बहुत जोर डालकर सोचना। दूसरे भाग में "shore strewn with wrack" में "wrack" का अर्थ समुद्र किनारे पड़ी समुद्री घास, अवशेष या drift material होता है। इसलिए पहला blank "rack" और दूसरा "wrack" सबसे उपयुक्त हैं।
- 'rack, wrack' should be used because in the entire context, the first part uses the fixed idiom "rack his brains", meaning to think intensely or strain one's mind. In the second part, "shore strewn with wrack" uses "wrack" meaning seaweed or debris washed ashore. Thus, "rack" fits the first blank and "wrack" fits the second most appropriately.
8. B) **Antipathy** (noun) – Strong and deep dislike or hatred toward someone or something गहरी और प्रबल घृणा / अरुचि
- **Envy** (noun) – Feeling of wanting what someone else has ईर्ष्या / जलन
 - **Empathy** (noun) – Ability to understand and share others' feelings सहानुभूति (दूसरों की भावना समझना)
 - **Sympathy** (noun) – Feeling of pity or sorrow for someone's misfortune दया / करुणा
9. C) 'berth, berth' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence रेलवे कोच की स्थिति को दर्शा रहा है। "upper berth" का अर्थ होता है ट्रेन में ऊपरी सोने की सीट, और "give a wide berth" का अर्थ होता है दूरी बनाए रखना या जगह देना। इसलिए दोनों स्थानों पर "berth" ही सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

- ‘berth, berth’ should be used because in the entire context, the sentence indicates a railway coach setting. “upper berth” refers to the upper sleeping bunk in a train, and “give a wide berth” means to maintain distance or give space. Hence, “berth” fits correctly in both blanks.

10. A) Significant changes are expected to have been brought about in the department by the new CEO by the end of the year.

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb-structure को उसी अर्थ और Tense में रखा जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में “is expected to have brought about...” संरचना Prediction/Expectation + Perfect Infinitive को दर्शाती है।

Passive में बदलते समय Object “significant changes” Subject बन गया है और Verb को “to have been brought about” में बदला गया है तथा Agent “by the new CEO” जोड़ा गया है। अंत में Phrase “by the end of the year” यथावत रखा गया है।

To change from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb structure must be transformed while keeping the same tense and meaning. In this sentence, “significant changes” becomes the subject, and the expectation structure “is expected to have brought about” changes to “are expected to have been brought about.” The agent “by the new CEO” is added, and the phrase “by the end of the year” remains unchanged.

11. A) Has a private consortium funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Passive वाक्य का Object हटकर Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है, और Passive Verb-form को उसी Tense के Active रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में “Has ... been funded” Present Perfect Passive interrogative संरचना है। Active में बदलते समय Verb “has funded” (Present Perfect Active) बन जाता है तथा Agent “a private consortium” Subject बन जाता है। बाकी जानकारी “for the past two years” यथावत रखी जाती है और Interrogative संरचना भी रहती है।

To change from Passive to Active Voice, the passive verb structure “has ... been funded” (Present Perfect Passive interrogative) becomes “has funded” (Present Perfect Active), the agent “a private consortium” becomes the subject, and the object “the groundbreaking research” remains the object. The phrase “for the past two years” remains unchanged, and the question form is maintained.

12. D) The correctly spelled word is “citation” which means a formal reference or acknowledgement प्रशंसा / उद्धरण / उल्लेख।

13. B) ‘Mockery’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में “sarcasm” उस भाव को दर्शा रहा है जिसमें किसी बात को चुटकी, तंज या व्यंग्य के रूप में कहा या व्यक्त किया जाता है। इस संदर्भ में “sarcasm” का अर्थ तंज होता है, जो “mockery” के सबसे निकट है।

- ‘Mockery’ should be used because in the sentence “sarcasm” indicates a tone of teasing or ridiculing rather than praise or encouragement. Hence, “mockery” is the most appropriate replacement in meaning.

14. B) **Poise** (noun) – Graceful, balanced and confident behavior संतुलित, सुसंयमित और गरिमापूर्ण व्यवहार
- **Clumsy** (adj.) – Awkward or lacking grace अनाड़ी / भद्दा
 - **Grit** (noun) – Courage and determination साहस और दृढ़ता
 - **Frenzy** (noun) – Wild or uncontrolled excitement उन्माद / उत्तेजना
15. A) **Anarchy** (noun) – Absence of government or authority शासन-व्यवस्था का अभाव / अव्यवस्था
- **Democracy** (noun) – Government by the people प्रजातंत्र / लोकतंत्र
 - **Monarchy** (noun) – Government by a king or queen राजतंत्र
 - **Oligarchy** (noun) – Government by a small group of people अल्पतंत्र
16. A) **Ebullient** (adjective) – full of energy, cheerful, enthusiastic, high-spirited उत्साही / जोशीला
Antonym: **Depressed** (adjective) – sad, low-spirited, lacking energy उदास / निरुत्साहित
- **Cheerful** (adjective) – happy and bright प्रसन्न
 - **Joyful** (adjective) – full of joy or delight आनंदित
 - **Enthusiastic** (adjective) – showing intense interest or excitement उत्साही
17. A) **hardly any food** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'hardly' का अर्थ 'बहुत कम' के रूप में प्रयुक्त है और इसके बाद 'any + noun' की संरचना आती है; जैसे— He ate hardly any rice.
- hardly any food will be used because here 'hardly' means 'very little' and it follows the structure 'hardly + any + noun'; Like— He ate hardly any rice.
18. B) **Quixotic** (adjective) – idealistic, unrealistic, guided by lofty but impractical ideas अव्यावहारिक रूप से आदर्शवादी
- Synonym: **Idealistic** (adjective) – guided by noble ideals rather than practicality आदर्शवादी
- **Practical** (adjective) – realistic, workable व्यावहारिक
 - **Realistic** (adjective) – based on facts, sensible यथार्थवादी
 - **Sensible** (adjective) – showing good judgment समझदार
19. C) '**otherwise**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में दो विकल्प दिए गए हैं — या तो तुम early ट्रेन ले लो, वरना afternoon वाली का इंतज़ार करना पड़ेगा। यहाँ परिणाम/परिणाम-स्वरूप वाला contrast दिखाया गया है, जिसके लिए otherwise सबसे उचित conjunction होता है।
- 'otherwise' should be used because the sentence presents a conditional alternative — take the early train, or else you must wait for the afternoon one. This consequence-based contrast fits naturally with otherwise, making it the most appropriate choice.
20. C) '**in**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि proficiency के साथ सामान्यतः preposition in प्रयोग होता है जब किसी कौशल, विषय या भाषा की बात हो रही हो। Sentence में कहा गया है कि वह कई programming languages में proficient है, इसलिए in सबसे सही और standard usage है।

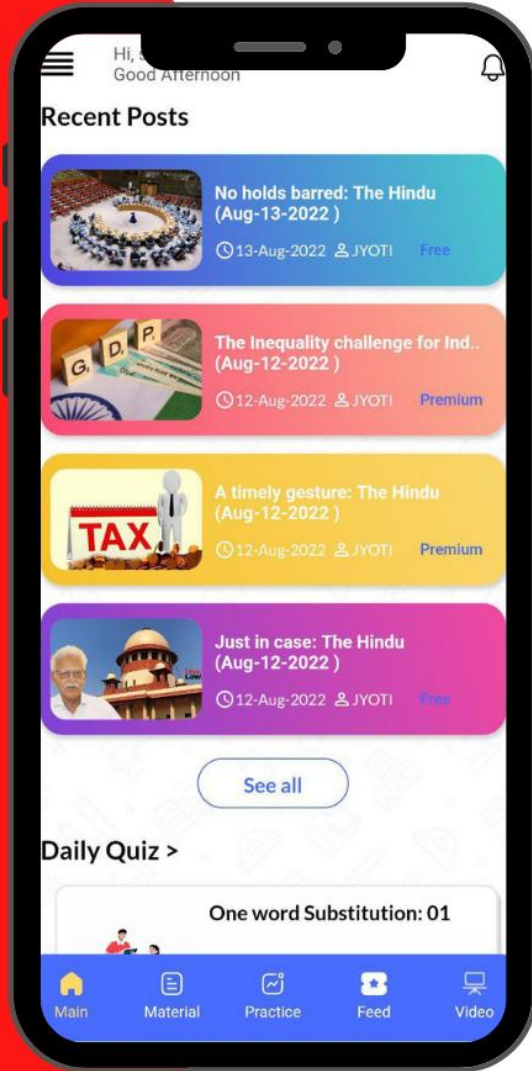
- 'in' should be used because the adjective proficient normally takes the preposition in when referring to a skill, subject, or language. Here, the sentence states she is skilled in multiple programming languages, making in the most appropriate choice.
21. D) **anxious** (चिंतित / घबराया हुआ) सही है। मनोविज्ञान और English के आम उपयोग (standard usage) में, भविष्य (future) को लेकर होने वाली चिंता या घबराहट को हमेशा 'anxious' कहा जाता है। depressed (उदास) आम तौर पर बीती हुई बातों (past) या वर्तमान स्थिति के लिए होता है। fearful (डरा हुआ) एक बड़ा grammar का trap है क्योंकि इसके साथ हमेशा 'of' आता है (fearful of the future), 'about' नहीं। stress (तनाव) एक noun है, जबकि वाक्यों की बनावट के अनुसार हमें यहाँ अवस्था बताने के लिए adjective (विशेषण) की ज़रूरत है।
- The correct answer is "anxious" because in standard psychological and English usage, unease specifically directed toward the future is termed anxiety. "Depressed" typically refers to feelings about the past or present state. "Fearful" is a major grammatical trap; it strictly requires the preposition "of" (fearful of), not "about." "Stress" is a noun, whereas the sentence structure requires an adjective.
22. C) **belt** (बेल्ट / पट्टा) सही है। अंग्रेज़ी के आम उपयोग (standard usage) में, जब कोई इंसान कोई डिग्री, कौशल या अनुभव हासिल कर लेता है, तो idiom के तौर पर हमेशा "under one's belt" कहा जाता है। resume (बायोडाटा) अर्थ के हिसाब से (meaning trap) है; आप डिग्री 'resume' पर लिखते हैं, उसके 'नीचे' (under) नहीं। control (नियंत्रण) का डिग्री से कोई सीधा संबंध नहीं है। sleeve (आस्तीन) का इस्तेमाल छिपे हुए राज़ या तरकीबों के लिए होता है (up my sleeve), हासिल की गई डिग्री के लिए नहीं।
- The correct answer is "belt" because in standard English usage, the specific idiom for having achieved a degree, qualification, or experience is "under one's belt." "Resume" is a strong meaning trap; while logically related to a degree, you put a degree "on" a resume, not "under" it. "Control" doesn't collocate with a degree. "Sleeve" is used for hidden tricks (up one's sleeve), not earned qualifications.
23. C) **bubble** (बुलबुला / अपनी ही सुरक्षित दुनिया) सही है। बाहरी दुनिया की समस्याओं से पूरी तरह कटकर अपनी एक सुरक्षित दुनिया में जीने को "living in a bubble" कहा जाता है। denial (सच्चाई से मुंह मोड़ना) एक (grammar trap) है; अंग्रेज़ी में "in denial" कहा जाता है, "in a denial" नहीं। fantasy (कल्पना) का मतलब कोई जादुई या अवास्तविक दुनिया है, जबकि यहाँ सिर्फ दुनिया की बुरी खबरों से बचने की बात हो रही है। vacuum (खालीपन) का मतलब एक ऐसी जगह है जहाँ कुछ न हो, यह 'सुरक्षा' या 'बचाव' का अर्थ नहीं देता।
- The correct answer is "bubble" because in standard English usage, isolating oneself in a sheltered, safe environment away from harsh realities is termed "living in a bubble." "Denial" is a massive grammatical trap; the standard phrase is "in denial" without the article "a". "Fantasy" implies magical or positive delusions, not just shielding oneself. "Vacuum" simply implies emptiness, lacking the nuanced meaning of a protective shield.
24. B) **retreat** (पीछे हटना / बचाव में छिपना) सही है। वाक्य के पहले हिस्से में "retreating" (पीछे हटना) शब्द का इस्तेमाल हुआ है, और लेखक उसी बात को पूरा करने के लिए इसका noun रूप (retreat)

इस्तेमाल कर रहा है। escape (बचना), isolation (अकेलापन), और avoidance (नज़रअंदाज़ करना) तीनों पैसेज के विषय (theme) से बहुत गहराई से जुड़े हुए शब्द हैं, लेकिन वे वाक्यों की बनावट में पहले इस्तेमाल हुए शब्द "retreating" से सीधा और (logical) जुड़ाव नहीं बना पाते।

- The correct answer is "retreat" because it acts as the direct noun counterpart to the verb "retreating" used in the exact same sentence, maintaining perfect lexical cohesion. "Escape," "isolation," and "avoidance" are excellent thematic distractors, but they break the direct, logical link established by the author in the first half of the sentence.

25. D) **analgesic** (दर्द निवारक / दर्द सुन्न करने वाली चीज़) सही है। पैसेज में समस्याओं का सामना न करने को एक 'फौरी राहत' (relief) बताया गया है, जो सिर्फ दर्द को सुन्न करता है। therapy (थेरेपी) और healing (इलाज / भरना) दोनों बहुत लंबी और सकारात्मक प्रक्रियाएं (positive processes) हैं, जबकि पैसेज 'epsom salts' जैसी फौरी और सुन्न करने वाली चीज़ों की बात कर रहा है। medicine (दवा) बहुत ही सामान्य शब्द है, जबकि 'analgesic' सटीक रूप से सिर्फ दर्द मिटाने या राहत देने के विचार (metaphor) को दर्शाता है।

- The correct answer is "analgesic" because the passage compares avoiding problems to temporary pain relief (numbing), which is exactly what an analgesic does. "Therapy" and "healing" are long-term, positive processes that actually solve problems, which contradicts the metaphor of quick, avoidant relief (like epsom salts). "Medicine" is too broad; an analgesic specifically targets the "relief" mentioned in the next sentence.



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