

## Lopsided solution: On syrup-based medicines, doctor's prescription

Regulatory **oversight** for pharmaceuticals **needs** to improve in India

As part of an **overarching** attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines. However, while it seems like a **credible** measure, it is also defensive rather than **reformist**. The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, a change it had **signalled** when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies. These products were **singled out** after ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG) **contamination** in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022. The WHO's **warnings** in 2022 and 2023 also **undermined** assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and **functioning** independently. But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used. Many over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups are '**cocktails**' of bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants, which can cause **tremors** and heart **palpitations**, extreme **sedation** or **paradoxical** agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that cough **suppressants** are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can **mask underlying** conditions such as pneumonia or asthma. Yet, India's **entrenched** OTC culture makes pharmacists **de facto** primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.

Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access. Even now, **requiring** a prescription may **reduce inappropriate** use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent **contaminated** products from reaching the market in the first place. The **fundamental** issue is that the government continues to **tolerate** the pharmaceutical lobby's **argument** that high-end testing requirements — for stronger quality control and **ultimately** better drugs — **will bankrupt** smaller manufacturers. Second, while the Indian Pharmacopoeia and the Pharmacopoeia Internationalis updated their analytical methods to detect EG/DEG **following** the deaths, failures in batch testing and enforcement **persist**. As a result, while India has around three dozen State drug controllers, they are **chronically** understaffed — so without a large increase in the **inspectorate**, the notification is likely to be ignored **sans** consequence in rural areas. In a globalised economy, **subpar enforcement** for medicines in even one country **is** dangerous; that is **infinitely more so** in a country **aspiring** to remain the world's pharmacy. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Lopsided** (adjective) - unbalanced, uneven, skewed, disproportionate, asymmetrical.  
एकतरफा
2. **Oversight** (noun) - supervision, surveillance, inspection, management, control. निगरानी
3. **Overarching** (adjective) - comprehensive, all-encompassing, inclusive, broad, blanket. व्यापक
4. **Credible** (adjective) - reliable, believable, trustworthy, plausible, dependable.  
विश्वसनीय
5. **Reformist** (adjective) - progressive, revisionist, ameliorative, transformative, radical. सुधारवादी
6. **Signal** (verb) - indicate, hint, suggest, show, gesture. संकेत देना
7. **Single out** (phrasal verb) - to choose one person or thing from a group for special attention. अलग से चुनना
8. **Contamination** (noun) - pollution, impurity, tainting, adulteration, infection.  
संदूषण
9. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, subvert, sabotage, erode, compromise. कमजोर करना
10. **Functioning** (adjective) - working, operational, active, running, effective.  
कार्यरत
11. **Cocktails** (noun) - mixtures, blends, combinations, compounds, concoctions.  
मिश्रण
12. **Tremor** (noun) - shaking, vibration, quivering, shivering, tremor. कंपन
13. **Palpitation** (noun) - heartbeat, thumping, flutter, pulse, rhythm. धड़कन
14. **Sedation** (noun) - calmness, tranquility, sleepiness, drowsiness, lull. बेहोशी
15. **Paradoxical** (adjective) - contradictory, inconsistent, ironic, baffling, puzzling.  
विरोधाभासी
16. **Suppressant** (noun) - restrainer, inhibitor, pacifier, depressant, stabilizer. दमनकारी
17. **Mask** (verb) - hide, conceal, disguise, cover, camouflage. छिपाना
18. **Underlying** (adjective) - fundamental, basic, hidden, latent, intrinsic. अंतर्निहित
19. **Entrenched** (adjective) - ingrained, deep-rooted, established, fixed, set. गहराई से जमा हुआ
20. **De facto** (noun) - existing in reality, even if not officially recognized. वस्तुतः
21. **Inappropriate** (adjective) - unsuitable, improper, unfitting, wrong, incorrect.  
अनुचित
22. **Contaminated** (adjective) - polluted, tainted, impure, infected, dirty. दूषित
23. **Fundamental** (adjective) - basic, essential, primary, core, central. मौलिक
24. **Tolerate** (verb) - allow, permit, endure, stand, bear. सहन करना
25. **Ultimately** (adverb) - eventually, finally, in the end, lastly, at last. अंततः

26. **Bankrupt** (verb) - impoverish, ruin, break, insolvent, collapse. दिवालिया करना
27. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, post, behind, next to. के बाद
28. **Persist** (verb) - continue, endure, remain, last, linger. बने रहना
29. **Chronically** (adverb) - persistently, constantly, habitually, perpetually, deep-seatedly. दीर्घकालिक रूप से
30. **Inspectorate** (noun) - oversight body, inspection department, regulators, auditors, monitors. निरीक्षण विभाग
31. **Sans** (preposition) - without, minus, lacking, excluding, devoid of. के बिना
32. **Subpar** (adjective) - substandard, inferior, deficient, inadequate, below-average. औसत से कम
33. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, application, imposition, carrying out. प्रवर्तन
34. **Infinitely** (adverb) - endlessly, immeasurably, vastly, boundlessly, exceedingly. अत्यधिक
35. **More so** (phrase) - to a greater degree or extent. और भी अधिक
36. **Aspiring** (adjective) - ambitious, hopeful, striving, eager, goal-oriented. आकांक्षी

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial examines the government's decision to make **doctor's prescriptions mandatory for purchasing syrup-based medicines**, especially cough syrups.
2. The move aims to rebuild trust in India's pharmaceutical system after contamination incidents damaged India's global reputation.
3. The government removed the term "**syrup**" from **Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945**, ending easier over-the-counter access for these medicines.
4. This policy change follows deaths of **more than 300 children globally since 2022** linked to contaminated India-manufactured cough syrups.
5. Contamination involved toxic chemicals such as **ethylene glycol (EG)** and **diethylene glycol (DEG)**.
6. Warnings issued by World Health Organization raised concerns about the effectiveness of India's drug quality monitoring systems.
7. The editorial acknowledges that prescription-only access may reduce **self-medication and inappropriate consumption**.
8. Doctors have also expressed concern that many cough syrups contain **multiple drug combinations**, creating unnecessary health risks.
9. Such formulations may cause side effects including **sedation, tremors, heart-related symptoms, and harmful reactions in children**.
10. The editorial notes that medical experts question the usefulness of cough suppressants for **young children**, particularly under six years of age.
11. However, restricting sales alone cannot stop contaminated medicines from entering the market.
12. The real causes of the crisis lie in **weak manufacturing standards, inadequate raw-material testing, and poor regulatory enforcement**.
13. The article criticises resistance from sections of the pharmaceutical industry against stricter testing requirements due to cost concerns.
14. It also points to chronic shortages of staff among India's **State drug regulatory authorities**, limiting effective inspections and enforcement.
15. The editorial concludes that India must prioritise **stronger quality control, better regulatory capacity, and stricter batch testing** if it wants to maintain its position as the world's pharmacy.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following option(s) is/are TRUE according to the passage?** Editorial Page
- A. Deleting "syrup" from Schedule K means these items now require a valid medical prescription at licensed outlets.
  - B. The American Academy of Pediatrics proved that oral cough suppressants are useless for patients of all ages.
  - C. The primary cause of the lethal contamination cases was the unrestricted access consumers had to retail drugs.
  - D. All a, b and c
2. **Which of the following option(s) is/are NOT TRUE according to the passage?**
- A. Regional drug control departments are currently fully staffed to enforce the new mandates across rural zones.
  - B. Periodic warnings by the World Health Organization confirmed that India's export quality controls were perfect.
  - C. both option a and b are not true
  - D. both option a and b are true
3. **Why does the author characterize the government's mandate of requiring a prescription for syrup-based medicines as "defensive rather than reformist"?**
- A. Because the policy acts as a reputational damage-control measure instead of correcting deep industrial flaws.
  - B. Because forcing a prescription will prevent contaminated batches from entering the retail market.
  - C. Because the state completely exempted small factories from safety guidelines due to heavy industry lobbying.
  - D. All a, b and c
4. **What can be inferred about the role of pharmacists in India's rural and semi-urban landscapes based on the passage?**
- A. They are officially designated by the health ministry to serve as primary clinical practitioners under Schedule K.
  - B. Due to widespread self-medication habits, they act as the practical, first point of medical care for locals.
  - C. They are expected to boycott the new rules because high-end laboratory testing costs will bankrupt them.
  - D. All a, b and c
5. **What part of speech is the word "it" in the sentence from the passage:**  
"However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist."?
- A. Relative pronoun
  - B. Personal pronoun
  - C. Demonstrative pronoun
  - D. Reflexive pronoun
6. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**  
He wondered how such an obvious error had escaped everyone's notice.
- A. He wondered, "How did such an obvious error had escaped everyone's notice?"

- B. He wondered, "How such an obvious error had escaped everyone's notice?"  
C. He wondered, "How could such an obvious error escape everyone's notice?"  
D. He wondered, "How has such an obvious error escaped everyone's notice?"
7. **Choose the option with the correct spelling.**  
A. Indespansable  
B. Indispansible  
C. Indespensable  
D. Indispensable
8. **Choose the most suitable preposition from the given options to fill in the blank in the following sentence:**  
The lecture was relevant \_\_\_\_\_ the topic of climate change.  
A. in  
B. to  
C. on  
D. with
9. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.**  
The director is expected to approve the new proposal soon.  
A. It is expected the director approve the new proposal soon.  
B. They expect the director to approve the new proposal soon.  
C. The director expects to approve the new proposal soon.  
D. The new proposal expects the director's approval.
10. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Defiance."**  
A. Allegiance  
B. Contumacy  
C. Resignation  
D. Magnanimity
11. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**  
1. Consequently, standard medical frameworks fail to record this hidden suffering within official statistics.  
2. Instead, these marginalized adolescents express their severe emotional distress through everyday stories and metaphors.  
3. Formal psychiatric systems falsely assume that human suffering always presents itself in clinically recognizable labels.  
4. This rigid clinical assumption directly misinterprets the distinct cultural communication methods of Adivasi youth.  
A. 3-4-2-1  
B. 3-1-4-2  
C. 4-2-1-3  
D. 2-4-1-3
12. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "By fits and starts"?**  
A. Continuously  
B. Regularly

- C. Irregularly  
D. Quickly
13. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the noun “Thucydides Trap.”**  
A. a situation where a person is forced to choose between two unpleasant things  
B. a financial arrangement where the debt is paid back over a long period of time  
C. a severe structural stress when a rising power challenges an established power  
D. a psychological condition where one feels constant fear of social interactions
14. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Iconoclast**  
A. Critic  
B. Rebel  
C. Conformist  
D. Dissenter
15. **Fill in the blanks:**  
The profound psychological trauma of past failures continued to \_\_\_\_\_ the ambitious scholar during his research.  
A. Stand fast  
B. Weigh down  
C. Break even  
D. Gloss over
16. **Choose the correct option to give a one-word substitution for the sentence given.**  
A person who is always talking about himself or herself.  
A. Philanthropist  
B. Legalise  
C. Conversational narcissist  
D. Eccentric
17. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.**  
He (A) / bought some (B) / stationeries. (C) / No error (D)  
A. He  
B. bought some  
C. stationeries.  
D. No error
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Ratify.”**  
A. Resonate  
B. Resuscitate  
C. Rescind  
D. Resplend
19. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**  
1. Such deep core tracking eventually mapped a continuous mineralization line spanning one kilometre.  
2. Geologic teams initially intercepted a promising gold ore shoot during deep exploration.  
3. Consequently, commercial longevity prospects for the entire depleting asset suddenly escalated.

4. This regional breakthrough prompted a sister corporation to investigate an identical adjacent sector.
- A. 2-4-1-3  
B. 2-1-3-4  
C. 2-1-4-3  
D. 1-2-3-4
20. **The following sentence has three blanks. Choose the most suitable set of prepositions from the given options to fill in the blanks and complete the sentence meaningfully.**

She jumped \_\_\_\_\_ the lake \_\_\_\_\_ rescue the dog \_\_\_\_\_ any hesitation.

- A. in, to, without  
B. into, to, without  
C. over, to, for  
D. onto, for, from

**Comprehension:**

“The Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) team was expected to win the IPL 2026 championship, and they have won it.” Is this sentence grammatically correct?

The query above comes from a student reader based in Delhi. It is a question well worth discussing. Yes, the sentence is grammatically (1) \_\_\_\_\_. I did not ask the reader what prompted the question, but I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that the shift from the singular noun team to the plural pronoun they may have caused some confusion. This raises an interesting question: Do collective nouns such as team, committee, family, government, audience, class, staff, and crowd take singular or plural verbs? The answer depends on the variety of English being used. In American English (AmE), collective nouns are generally treated as singular and therefore take singular verbs. In British English (BrE), however, collective nouns are often treated as plural when the focus is on the individual members of the group.

Consider the following examples from American English:

Is the school basketball team capable of winning the title?

I think the finance committee has reached a decision about sponsoring the event.

These collective nouns take singular verbs because each noun refers to a group acting as a single unit. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, even when the verb is singular, the pronoun may sometimes be plural if the writer is thinking about the individual members of the group rather than the group as a whole. Consider these examples:

The Indian cricket team is playing well, and they (the players) are confident.

Our school staff is organizing the programme, and they (the teachers) are known for their organizational skills.

The important point to remember is that whether a collective noun takes a singular or plural verb depends on the variety of English (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and on whether the writer (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the group as a single unit or as a collection of individuals. Collective nouns can be grammatically singular but notionally (meaning wise) plural.

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

- A. accurateness  
B. incorrect  
C. correct  
D. incongruous

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. ascertain
  - B. corroborate
  - C. repudiate
  - D. suspect
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. since
  - B. Moreover
  - C. However
  - D. Henceforth
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. having been used
  - B. being used
  - C. to be used
  - D. been using
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. views
  - B. conflates
  - C. obfuscate
  - D. segregated

## Answers

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

**Practice Exercise**

## Explanations

- 1. A) Deleting "syrup" from Schedule K means these items now require a valid medical prescription at licensed outlets.**

Line from passage: "The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945... thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies." Correct. The passage explicitly links the removal of the term from Schedule K to the new requirement for a prescription at licensed pharmacies.

**option B:** Line from passage: "The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous..." Incorrect. The passage specifies that this applies to children under six years, not to patients of all ages.

**option C:** Line from passage: "Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access." Incorrect. The passage directly states that the contamination was due to manufacturing, testing, and regulatory failures, rather than consumer access.

- 2. C) both option a and b are not true**

**option A:** Line from passage: "...while India has around three dozen State drug controllers, they are chronically understaffed — so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas." Not True (False). The passage explicitly states that they are chronically understaffed, not fully staffed, meaning this statement is incorrect according to the passage.

**option B:** Line from passage: "The WHO's warnings in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently." Not True (False). The WHO's warnings undermined (weakened) the idea that India's controls were effective; they did not confirm that they were perfect.

- 3. A) Because the policy acts as a reputational damage-control measure instead of correcting deep industrial flaws.**

Line from passage: "As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter..." and "Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use... but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place." Correct. The author frames the move as defensive because it focuses on blocking consumer access to patch up a damaged reputation, rather than reforming the root manufacturing and regulatory flaws that allow contamination to happen.

**option B:** Incorrect. The passage explicitly states that a prescription mandate will never prevent contaminated products from entering the market, making this statement the opposite of what the author argues.

**option C:** Incorrect. The passage states that the government tolerates the lobby's argument against high-end testing, but it does not state that the government has completely exempted small factories from all safety guidelines altogether.

**4. B) Due to widespread self-medication habits, they act as the practical, first point of medical care for locals.**

Line from passage: "Yet, India's entrenched OTC culture makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas." and "...push patients away from self-medication..." Correct. The combination of an over-the-counter (OTC) culture and self-medication habits means that, in practice, people go to pharmacists first for their medical needs rather than a doctor.

option A: Incorrect. The passage states they are de facto (in practice/informally) primary care providers due to an "entrenched OTC culture," not because they are officially or legally designated by the health ministry.

option C: Incorrect. The passage associates the bankruptcy argument with smaller manufacturers (the factories making the drugs) facing high-end testing costs, not the pharmacists running retail shops.

**5. B) Personal pronoun**

Line: "However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist." In this context, the word "it" is a third-person singular personal pronoun used as a neuter pronoun to replace a non-human noun phrase—specifically acting as the subject referring back to the "government requirement of a doctor's prescription."

**6. D) He wondered, "How has such an obvious error escaped everyone's notice?"**

Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय tense को उसके मूल रूप में वापस लाया जाता है। यहाँ Indirect Speech में "had escaped" Past Perfect tense में है, इसलिए Direct Speech में यह "has escaped" (Present Perfect) बन सकता है। साथ ही "wondered" के भाव को प्रश्नात्मक रूप में व्यक्त किया जाता है। इसलिए सही Direct Speech होगा — "How has such an obvious error escaped everyone's notice?"

To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the tense is restored to its original form. Here, "had escaped" in the Past Perfect tense changes back into "has escaped" in the Present Perfect tense. The sense of wonder is expressed through an interrogative structure. Therefore, the correct Direct Speech form is — "How has such an obvious error escaped everyone's notice?"

**7. D) The correct spelling is 'Indispensable' which means "absolutely necessary; essential" अनिवार्य, अत्यावश्यक।**

**8. B) To' का use होगा क्योंकि "relevant to" एक निश्चित (fixed) prepositional combination है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी विषय से संबंधित या उपयुक्त होना। Sentence में व्याख्यान (lecture) का संबंध climate change के विषय से बताया गया है, इसलिए "relevant to" सबसे उपयुक्त होगा।**

• 'To' should be used because "relevant to" is the standard prepositional combination meaning related to or connected with a particular subject or matter. In this sentence, the lecture is connected with the topic of climate change. Therefore, "to" is the most appropriate preposition.

**9. B) They expect the director to approve the new proposal soon.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive sentence का Subject, Active sentence का Object बन जाता है। यहाँ "The director" Passive sentence का Subject है। Structure "is expected to approve" एक reporting passive structure है। इसका Active Voice सामान्यतः "They expect the director to

approve..." बनता है, जहाँ "they" एक general subject के रूप में use किया जाता है। इसलिए सही Active form होगा — "They expect the director to approve the new proposal soon."

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the passive reporting structure must be converted into its active reporting form. Here, "The director is expected to approve..." changes into "They expect the director to approve..." where "they" acts as a general subject. Therefore, the correct active form is — "They expect the director to approve the new proposal soon."

**10. B) Defiance (noun) – resistance, disobedience, rebellion, non-compliance, opposition. (अवज्ञा या चुनौती)**

**Synonym: Contumacy (noun) – Stubborn refusal to obey or comply with authority. (अवज्ञा / हठ)**

- **Allegiance (noun):** Loyalty or commitment of a subordinate to a superior. (निष्ठा)
- **Resignation (noun):** The acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable. (आत्मसमर्पण)
- **Magnanimity (noun):** Generosity in forgiving an insult or injury. (उदारता)

**11. A) 3-4-2-1**

Sentence 3 paragraph start करेगा क्योंकि यह पूरी तरह Independent है। इसमें कोई Pronoun या Conjunction नहीं है। यह direct main theme को introduce करता है—कि formal psychiatric systems यह गलत मान लेते हैं कि suffering हमेशा 'clinically recognizable labels' में ही दिखेगी।

Sentence 4, Sentence 3 के ठीक बाद आएगा। 4 का Keyword "This rigid clinical assumption" सीधा Sentence 3 के "falsely assume" वाले विचार से connect होता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह धारणा Adivasi youth के बात करने के तरीकों को गलत समझती है। (3-4 एक Mandatory Pair है)।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा। 4 में बताया गया है कि सिस्टम उनके तरीकों को गलत समझता है, और Sentence 2 "Instead" से शुरू होकर बताता है कि इसके बजाय (instead), ये युवा अपनी परेशानी 'stories and metaphors' के जरिए व्यक्त करते हैं।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के बाद Conclusion के रूप में आएगा। 1 की शुरुआत Conjunction "Consequently" से होती है। यह 2 में बताए गए अलग तरीकों का direct result है—चूंकि वे युवा अपनी बात क्लिनिकल शब्दों के बजाय कहानियों में कहते हैं (Sentence 2), इसलिए standard medical frameworks इस छिपे हुए दर्द को official statistics में दर्ज करने में फेल हो जाते हैं (Sentence 1)।

**In English:**

Sentence 3 starts the paragraph because it is completely Independent. It has no Pronouns or Conjunctions and directly introduces the main theme: psychiatric systems falsely assuming that suffering always shows up in "clinically recognizable labels".

Sentence 4 follows 3. The Keyword "This rigid clinical assumption" connects directly back to the "falsely assume" concept established in Sentence 3. (3-4 is a Mandatory Pair).

Sentence 2 follows 4. The transition word "Instead" creates an unbreakable link with Sentence 4, clarifying how these adolescents communicate via "stories and metaphors" rather than the expected clinical terms.

Sentence 1 concludes the paragraph. The Conjunction "Consequently" signals the direct result: because youth use cultural metaphors instead of clinical terms (Sentence 2), standard medical frameworks fail to capture this suffering within official statistics (Sentence 1).

12. C) "By fits and starts" means irregularly – कभी-कभी.
13. C) **Thucydides Trap** (noun) – a severe structural stress when a rising power challenges an established power. (बढ़ते और स्थापित देश के बीच अपरिहार्य युद्ध की स्थिति)
14. C) **Iconoclast** (noun) – One who attacks or opposes established beliefs, traditions, or institutions; non-conformist, rebel, dissenter, skeptic. मूर्तिभंजक / परम्पराविरोधी  
**Antonym: Conformist** (noun) – A person who accepts, follows, or complies with established norms, customs, or beliefs; traditional, conventional. परम्परानुसार चलने वाला / अनुरूप चलने वाला
- **Critic** (noun) – One who judges or evaluates; evaluator, reviewer. आलोचक
  - **Rebel** (noun) – One who resists authority; insurgent, revolutionary. विद्रोही
  - **Dissenter** (noun) – One who disagrees with prevailing views. असहमत रहने वाला
15. B) **Weigh down** (phrasal verb) – to make someone feel worried or burdened by problems. (बोझ डालना)  
 It fits the blank because the sentence describes the mental burden and worry caused by past trauma on a scholar.  
**Stand fast** (phrase): To refuse to abandon one's opinion or belief. (टढ़ रहना)  
**Break even** (phrase): To reach a point in a business venture where profits are equal to costs. (बराबर रहना)  
**Gloss over** (phrase): To treat or describe a mistake as if it were not important. (अनदेखा करना)
16. C) **Conversational narcissist** (noun) – a person who constantly talks about himself or herself and keeps shifting conversations back to themselves स्वयं के बारे में ही लगातार बात करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Philanthropist** (noun) – a person who helps others by donating money or resources परोपकारी व्यक्ति
  - **Legalise** (verb) – to make something lawful वैध बनाना
  - **Eccentric** (noun/adjective) – a person with unusual behaviour or habits सनकी / विचित्र व्यक्ति
17. C) 'stationeries' के बदले 'stationery' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'stationery' एक uncountable noun है और इसका कोई plural form नहीं होता। यह writing और office materials के पूरे collection को collectively refer करता है और हमेशा singular form में use होता है।
- 'stationery' will be used instead of 'stationeries' because 'stationery' is an uncountable noun with no plural form. It collectively refers to writing and office materials as a whole and is always used in the singular form. Correct sentence: He bought some stationery.

18. C) **Ratify** (verb) – To sign or give formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid. (पुष्टि करना)

**Antonym: Rescind** (verb) – To revoke, cancel, or repeal a law, order, or agreement. (रद्द करना)

- **Resonate** (verb): To produce or be filled with a deep, full, reverberating sound; or to evoke images/memories. (गूँजना)
- **Resuscitate** (verb): To revive someone from unconsciousness or apparent death; to bring something back into use. (पुनर्जीवित करना)
- **Resplend** (verb - rare): To shine brightly. (चमकना)

### 19. B) 2-1-3-4

2 paragraph start करेगा क्योंकि यह पूरी तरह Independent है। यह बिना किसी pronoun के primary event को introduce करता है—कि teams को deep exploration में एक 'ore shoot' मिला।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आएगा। 1 का Keyword "Such deep core tracking" सीधा Sentence 2 के "deep exploration" वाले action से connect होता है। यह बताता है कि उस खोज के बाद जब tracking की गई, तो 1 km लंबी रेखा मिली। (2-1 एक पक्का Mandatory Pair है)।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा। 3 की शुरुआत Conjunction "Consequently" से होती है। यह 1 में मिली 1 km लंबी continuous line का direct result है—क्योंकि इतनी बड़ी सोने की लाइन मिल गई (Sentence 1), इसलिए माइंस की 'commercial longevity' (काम की अवधि) की उम्मीदें बढ़ गई (Sentence 3)। (1-3 एक perfect cause-and-effect link है)।

Sentence 4, Sentence 3 के बाद अंतिम Conclusion के रूप में आएगा। 4 का Keyword "This regional breakthrough" सीधा Sentence 3 में मिली बड़ी कामयाबी (बढ़ी हुई उम्मीदों और 1km की खोज) को sum-up करता है। इसी बड़ी सफलता के बाद ही कोई sister corporation पास के इलाके (adjacent sector) में कदम बढ़ाएगी।

#### In English:

Sentence 2 starts the paragraph because it is completely Independent. It directly introduces the primary event: teams intercepting an ore shoot during deep exploration.

Sentence 1 follows 2. The Keyword "Such deep core tracking" connects directly back to the "deep exploration" process established in Sentence 2. (2-1 is an unbreakable Mandatory Pair).

Sentence 3 follows 1. The Conjunction "Consequently" signals the direct cause-and-effect result of mapping a 1 km continuous line (Sentence 1), which naturally causes the commercial longevity prospects of the asset to escalate.

Sentence 4 concludes the paragraph. The Keyword "This regional breakthrough" acts as a final pointer summarizing the entire deep-mining success story, which logically motivates a sister corporation to target an identical adjacent sector.

20. B) 'Into, to, without' should be used because "jumped into the lake" correctly expresses movement inside the lake. "To rescue the dog" shows the purpose of the action, and "without any

hesitation" is the proper expression meaning "with no delay or doubt." Thus, "into, to, without" would be the most appropriate set of prepositions.

- 'Into, to, without' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "jumped into the lake" सही phrase है, जो झील के अंदर कूदने को दर्शाता है। "To rescue the dog" उद्देश्य (purpose) बताता है, इसलिए "to" उपयुक्त है। "Without any hesitation" एक सामान्य expression है, जिसका अर्थ है "बिना किसी हिचकिचाहट के।" इसलिए, "She jumped into the lake to rescue the dog without any hesitation." सबसे उपयुक्त sentence होगा।

21. C) The passage answers the reader's question affirmatively with "Yes," indicating the sentence is grammatically accurate. "(correct)" is the right adjective meaning free from error. Option (A) "accurateness" is a noun and grammatically incorrect after the adverb "grammatically." Option (B) "incorrect" contradicts the "Yes." Option (D) "incongruous" means not in harmony or out of place.

- Passage reader के question का answer "Yes" में देता है, जिसका मतलब है कि sentence grammatically accurate है। "(correct)" सही adjective है जिसका मतलब error-free है। Option (A) "accurateness" एक noun है और adverb "grammatically" के बाद गलत है। Option (B) "incorrect" passage के "Yes" को contradict करता है। Option (D) "incongruous" का मतलब out of place या बेमेल है।

22. D) The writer states they "did not ask the reader," which implies they do not have confirmed facts and are making a guess. "(suspect)" means to have an idea or feeling about something without certain proof. Option (A) "ascertain" means to find something out for certain. Option (B) "repudiate" means to reject or deny. Option (D) "corroborate" means to confirm or give support to a statement.

- Writer कहता है कि उसने reader से "पूछा नहीं", जिसका मतलब है कि उसके पास confirmed facts नहीं हैं और वह सिर्फ guess कर रहा है। "(suspect)" का मतलब बिना किसी solid proof के कोई idea या feeling होना है। Option (A) "ascertain" का मतलब पक्के तौर पर पता लगाना है। Option (B) "repudiate" का मतलब reject करना या मना करना है। Option (D) "corroborate" का मतलब proof देकर confirm करना है।

23. C) The previous sentence states that collective nouns take singular verbs. The blank introduces a contrast: despite the singular verb, the pronoun can be plural. "(However)" is used to introduce a statement that contrasts with what has just been said. Option (A) "since" is used to show a reason or time. Option (B) "Moreover" is used to add extra, similar information. Option (D) "Henceforth" means from this time onward.

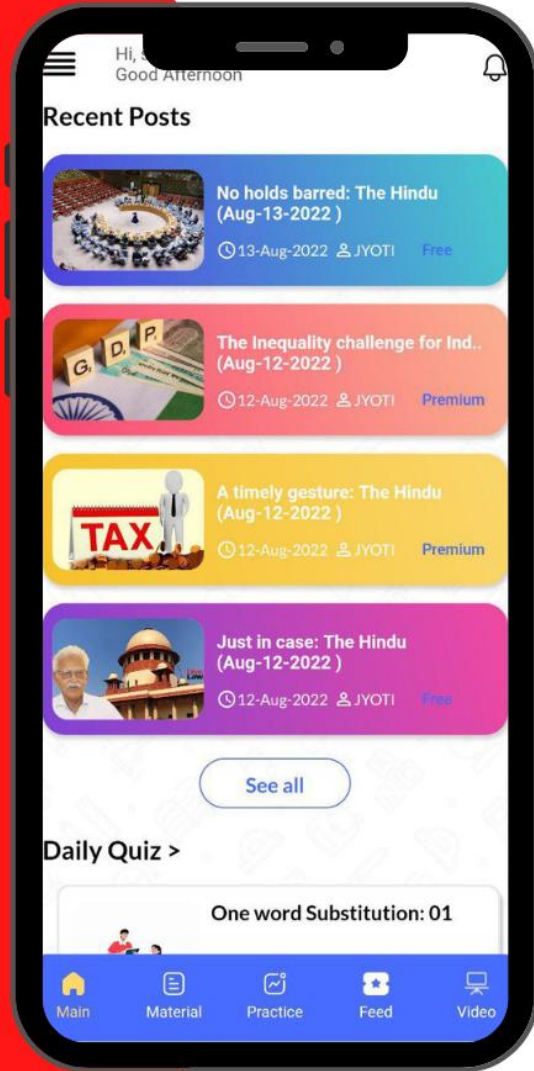
- Previous sentence कहता है कि collective nouns singular verbs लेते हैं। Blank एक contrast दिखाता है: singular verb होने के बाद भी pronoun plural हो सकता है। "(However)" का use contrast दिखाने के लिए होता है। Option (A) "since" का use reason या time बताने के लिए होता है। Option (B) "Moreover" का use extra information add करने के लिए होता है। Option (D) "Henceforth" का मतलब 'अब से आगे' (from now on) है।

24. B) The phrase requires a continuous passive participle to modify "the variety of English" (meaning the English that is currently in use). "(being used)" correctly forms this present continuous passive structure. Option (A) "having been used" refers to an action completed in the past. Option (C) "to be used" refers to a future action. Option (D) "been using" is an active perfect continuous form, which is grammatically invalid here because English doesn't "use" itself.

- Phrase को "the variety of English" को modify करने के लिए continuous passive participle की ज़रूरत है (मतलब वह English जो currently use हो रही है)। "(being used)" सही present continuous passive structure है। Option (A) "having been used" past में complete हो चुके action को दिखाता है। Option (C) "to be used" future action को दिखाता है। Option (D) "been using" active form है, जो grammar के हिसाब से गलत है क्योंकि English खुद को "use" नहीं करती।

25. A) The blank requires a singular present-tense verb to agree with the singular subject "the writer," meaning to consider or regard something in a particular way. "(views)" perfectly fits, meaning the writer considers the group as a single unit. Option (A) "conflates" means to combine two or more different things into one, often confusing them. Option (B) "obfuscate" is a plural base verb and doesn't agree with the singular subject. Option (D) "segregated" is past tense and means to separate, which doesn't fit the present-tense structure and meaning here.

- Blank को singular subject "the writer" के साथ agree करने के लिए एक singular present-tense verb की ज़रूरत है। "(views)" एकदम perfect fit है, जिसका मतलब है कि writer group को एक single unit की तरह देखता (consider करता) है। Option (A) "conflates" का मतलब दो अलग-अलग चीज़ों को मिलाकर confuse करना है। Option (B) "obfuscate" एक plural base verb है जो singular subject के साथ agree नहीं करता। Option (D) "segregated" past tense है और इसका मतलब अलग करना है, जो यहाँ के present-tense structure और meaning में fit नहीं बैठता।



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