

Checkbox caste: On the counting of caste, Census 2027

An open-ended **method** of counting caste may not **yield** usable data

The **rehearsal** for the second phase of Census 2027, under way in 16 States and Union Territories since July 6, **carries** a key feature: an “open column” where **respondents** can **state** their caste, which the **enumerator** will record. **Unlike** the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), which also had this feature, this **counting** of caste in the Census itself **has statutory backing**. The pre-test ends on July 20, and the government says that it will then **finalise** the **methodology** for counting caste. The hope is that the pre-test findings will **corroborate** what is known: an open-ended response on caste yields only **unwieldy** data, as seen in the 2011 SECC, which **eventually** proved unusable. It is not difficult to understand why. The method led the 2011 SECC to return more than 46 lakh “caste names”, against the 4,147 in the 1931 Census, the last to **tabulate** caste. Respondents entered surnames, sub-castes and **clan** names as if interchangeable, **inflating** the count into **incoherence**. The Centre told the Supreme Court in 2021 that the SECC figures were too **error-ridden** to be **relied upon** for reservation. The pre-test should instead **point to** a better method — using the digital Census’s hand-held devices, pre-loaded with a **curated** list of castes and sub-castes, so that the **enumerator** selects the ‘correct’ entry after asking the respondent. Mistakes and mismatches will happen, but as the 2022-23 Bihar caste survey revealed, this method could return more usable data.

Unlike the other identities — **linguistic**, religious and gender — that the Census notes, caste is an **abstract, irrational** one that **designates** people not by biological, physical, or professed **attributes**, but by a **perceived, primordial** identity **conferred** at birth and arranged in a **hierarchy**. Even this hierarchy is not **self-evident**, with the **perceptions** of social status of different castes **often contradicting** one another. India’s **Constitution**, **committed to** social justice, **set itself against** caste by **abolishing untouchability, forbidding** caste-based discrimination and **holding out** the promise of a republic where birth would not determine a citizen’s **standing**. So why count caste when the very act of **enumeration** can **ossify** or **reify** this abstract identity? The only **rationale** is that **self-perceived** or **imposed** caste identity creates social **inequities**, and welfare and social justice measures that **address** caste-based injustice can, over time, be expected to **delegitimise** the casteism rather than **entrench** it. Through sharper targeting of welfare and **affirmative action**, **empirical** caste data can also inform questions of the creamy layer and the sub-categorisation of castes and classes already benefiting from reservation. In these, better data are **indispensable**. If caste is to be counted, it should be counted well. The open-ended way of registering it will not serve the intended purpose. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Rehearsal** (noun) - practice, trial, dry run, preparation, run-through. पूर्वाभ्यास
2. **Respondent** (noun) - interviewee, participant, answerer, reporter, subject. उत्तरदाता
3. **State** (verb) - declare, express, announce, specify, articulate. बताना
4. **Enumerator** (noun) - surveyor, counter, census-taker, official, calculator. गणनाकार
5. **Unlike** (preposition) - different from, distinct from, contrary to, dissimilar to, disparate from. से अलग
6. **Statutory** (adjective) - legal, lawful, legislative, legitimate, mandated. वैधानिक
7. **Backing** (noun) - support, assistance, endorsement, sponsorship, aid. समर्थन
8. **Finalise** (verb) - conclude, complete, settle, wrap up, clinch. अंतिम रूप देना
9. **Methodology** (noun) - procedure, system, technique, approach, framework. कार्यप्रणाली
10. **Corroborate** (verb) - confirm, verify, support, substantiate, validate. पुष्टि करना
11. **Unwieldy** (adjective) - cumbersome, awkward, bulky, unmanageable, heavy. बोझिल
12. **Eventually** (adverb) - finally, ultimately, in the end, subsequently, later. अंततः
13. **Tabulate** (verb) - categorize, arrange, list, classify, organize. सारणीबद्ध करना
14. **Clan** (noun) - tribe, family, group, lineage, kinship. कुल
15. **Inflate** (verb) - expand, enlarge, increase, swell, boost. बढ़ाना
16. **Incoherence** (noun) - inconsistency, confusion, disjointedness, illogicality, chaos. असंगति
17. **Error-ridden** (adjective) - inaccurate, flawed, faulty, defective, unreliable. त्रुटिपूर्ण
18. **Rely upon** (phrasal verb) - to depend on or trust someone or something. निर्भर होना
19. **Point to** (phrasal verb) - to indicate or suggest something. संकेत करना
20. **Curated** (adjective) - selected, organized, arranged, edited, managed. व्यवस्थित या चयनित
21. **Enumerator** (noun) - surveyor, counter, census-taker, official, calculator. गणनाकार
22. **Linguistic** (adjective) - language-related, philological, dialectal, verbal, lexical. भाषाई
23. **Abstract** (adjective) - conceptual, theoretical, intangible, non-physical, ideal. अमूर्त
24. **Irrational** (adjective) - illogical, unreasonable, unsound, absurd, nonsensical. अतार्किक

25. **Designate** (verb) - identify, label, name, specify, characterize. निर्दिष्ट करना
26. **Attribute** (noun) - quality, feature, characteristic, trait, property. विशेषता
27. **Perceived** (adjective) - observed, understood, viewed, sensed, discerned. माना हुआ या बोधगम्य
28. **Primordial** (adjective) - ancient, original, primeval, foundational, basic. मौलिक या आदिम
29. **Confer** (verb) - bestow, grant, give, award, present. प्रदान करना
30. **Hierarchy** (noun) - ranking, order, classification, grading, pecking order. पदानुक्रम
31. **Self-evident** (adjective) - obvious, clear, apparent, manifest, axiomatic. स्वतः स्पष्ट
32. **Perception** (noun) - view, impression, belief, interpretation, opinion. धारणा
33. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, commonly, recurrently. अक्सर
34. **Contradict** (verb) - oppose, conflict, deny, dispute, challenge. खंडन करना या विरोधाभासी होना
35. **Commit to** (phrase) - to dedicate or pledge oneself to a cause. प्रतिबद्ध होना
36. **Set someone against** (phrase) - to cause someone to oppose or fight someone else. के खिलाफ करना
37. **Abolish** (verb) - terminate, end, scrap, cancel, repeal. समाप्त करना
38. **Untouchability** (noun) - social exclusion, discrimination, segregation, caste-stigma, ostracization. अस्पृश्यता
39. **Forbid** (verb) - prohibit, ban, disallow, restrict, veto. मना करना
40. **Hold out** (phrasal verb) - to offer or promise something. प्रस्तुत करना या वादा करना
41. **Standing** (noun) - status, rank, position, stature, reputation. दर्जा
42. **Enumeration** (noun) - calculation, counting, survey, listing, measurement. गणना
43. **Ossify** (verb) - harden, calcify, solidify, freeze, stagnate. जड़ हो जाना
44. **Reify** (verb) - materialize, actualize, objectify, concretize, substantiate. यथार्थ रूप देना
45. **Rationale** (noun) - reason, logic, basis, justification, ground. तर्क
46. **Self-perceived** (adjective) - self-identified, subjective, self-assessed, internal, personal. स्वयं-अवधारित
47. **Impose** (verb) - enforce, inflict, force, levy, mandate. थोपना

48. **Inequity** (noun) - unfairness, injustice, disparity, bias, inequality. असमानता
49. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, deal with, confront, manage. निपटना या समाधान करना
50. **Delegitimise** (verb) - invalidate, discredit, weaken, undermine, challenge. वैधता समाप्त करना
51. **Entrench** (verb) - establish, embed, ingrain, fix, root. स्थापित करना
52. **Affirmative action** (noun phrase) - policies favoring those who suffer from discrimination. सकारात्मक कार्रवाई
53. **Empirical** (adjective) - evidence-based, factual, observable, practical, experimental. अनुभवजन्य
54. **Indispensable** (adjective) - essential, necessary, vital, crucial, fundamental. अपरिहार्य

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **second phase rehearsal of Census 2027** includes an **open-ended column** allowing respondents to state their caste.
2. Unlike the **2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)**, the caste enumeration in Census 2027 has **statutory backing**.
3. The current pre-test, being conducted in **16 States and Union Territories**, aims to finalise the methodology for caste enumeration.
4. The editorial recalls that the **2011 SECC's open-ended approach failed**, generating **over 46 lakh caste names**, making the data highly inconsistent and unusable.
5. Respondents in 2011 often entered **surnames, sub-castes, clan names, and caste names interchangeably**, creating confusion and duplication.
6. In **2021**, the Union Government informed the **Supreme Court** that the SECC caste data contained too many errors to be used for reservation-related decisions.
7. The editorial recommends replacing the open-ended method with a **pre-loaded digital list of recognised castes and sub-castes** on handheld devices used by Census enumerators.
8. Enumerators should select the **appropriate caste entry after consulting respondents**, reducing duplication and improving data quality.
9. The **Bihar Caste Survey (2022–23)** is cited as an example of a more structured approach that produced more usable caste data.
10. Unlike language, religion, or gender, **caste is a socially constructed identity**, inherited by birth and organised within a hierarchical system.
11. The **Indian Constitution** seeks to reduce caste-based inequalities by abolishing untouchability, prohibiting caste discrimination, and promoting social justice.
12. Despite the constitutional goal of creating a casteless society, **counting caste remains necessary** because caste-based inequalities continue to exist.
13. Reliable caste data can help the government design **better-targeted welfare programmes, affirmative action policies, creamy layer criteria, and sub-categorisation within reservation policies**.
14. However, inaccurate or poorly collected caste data may **reinforce social divisions instead of helping reduce them**.
15. The editorial concludes that **if caste is to be counted, it must be done through a scientifically designed and standardised methodology**, as the current open-ended approach is unlikely to produce reliable or policy-useful data.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. The main subject of the passage is :

- A. the complex socio-political hierarchy and constitutional rejection of primordial identities in India
- B. the deployment of pre-loaded digital hand-held devices to eradicate administrative errors in rural surveys
- C. a comparative analysis of the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census and the 2022-23 Bihar caste survey
- D. the methodological challenges and essential rationale for enumerating caste in the national census

2. Which of the following statements (1), (2) and/or (3) is/are true in the context of the information given in the passage?

The information in the passage is helpful to :

- (1) know why the 2011 SECC caste enumeration data became unusable
- (2) identify the specific sub-castes that will receive reservation benefits
- (3) differentiate between the biological attributes of castes

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. 1 and 2

3. Which of the following statements is definitely true in the context of the passage? The enumeration of caste is:

- A. a constitutional mandate explicitly prescribed to abolish social hierarchies
- B. an inevitable process that automatically guarantees the eradication of sub-castes
- C. a data-gathering exercise intended to improve welfare targeting and social justice measures
- D. a phenomenon unique to the newly introduced 2022-23 state-level surveys

4. The author's tone in the passage when discussing the "open column" registration method can be described as:

- A. neutral
- B. ambivalent
- C. critical
- D. optimistic

5. The word 'corroborate' can best be replaced by :

- A. contradict
- B. substantiate
- C. Segregate
- D. neutralize

6. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

- 1. That and the fact that they needed a venue bigger than Medai-The Stage, where their first edition happened a little over a year ago.
- 2. It is why they are hosting a masterclass with Rupendar Venkatesh (who goes by Ruby) and Akash Shravan, who have independently worked with the likes of AR Rahman,

Hanumankind, Anirudh Ravichander, and Santhosh Narayanan, using their own unconventional and hard-hitting approaches to the art of mixing and mastering.

3. He adds that besides the main rap showdown that is to take place, Ofro is intent on getting better producers onboard, especially since he is one himself.
4. Ofro says that the reason they picked Victoria Public Hall is because it is an unlikely venue for a rap stage.
 - A. 3412
 - B. 1342
 - C. 4132
 - D. 4312
7. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
 - A. Evanescence
 - B. Evinescence
 - C. Evanescense
 - D. Evanecesnse
8. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

A person who believes that everything in life is determined by fate

 - A. Fatalist
 - B. Realist
 - C. Idealist
 - D. Pragmatist
9. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "tire" with the same meaning as in the following sentence?**

"I am starting to tire of this long journey"

 - A. My bicycle has a flat tire.
 - B. The mechanic replaced the old tire
 - C. The baby started to tire of playing with the same toy.
 - D. We needed to put air in the car's tire.
10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiom:**

Despite numerous setbacks, she remained optimistic and continued to _____.

 - A. turn over a new leaf
 - B. keep her nose to the grindstone
 - C. throw caution to the wind
 - D. pull the plug
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Glib**
 - A. Sincere
 - B. Forthright
 - C. Articulate
 - D. Dispassionate
12. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Iconoclast**
 - A. Critic
 - B. Rebel
 - C. Conformist
 - D. Dissenter

13. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrase:

Negotiations broke down when both sides refused to meet _____.

- A. with open arms
- B. half the battle
- C. in the same breath
- D. halfway

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

The detective asked the suspect how he could have committed the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras had been recording all night.

- A. The detective asked the suspect, "How can you commit the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras have been recording all night?"
- B. The detective asked the suspect, "How could you have committed the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras had been recording all night?"
- C. The detective asked the suspect, "How could you have committed the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras were recording all night?"
- D. The detective asked the suspect, "How can you have committed the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras have been recording all night?"

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

In an act of brazen defiance and indiscipline, the armed forces publicly challenging a notification issued by the prime minister's office to deal with the leak of information, on a report in the respected Dawn newspaper.

- A. At armed forces challenging a notification issued by the
- B. The armed forces challenging a notification issue by the
- C. The armed forces publicly challenged a notification issued by the
- D. The armed forces publicly challenged a notification issuing by the

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

He said to her, "If you can solve this puzzle, I will give you the prize that I was planning to give away all along."

- A. He told her that if she could solve that puzzle, he would give her the prize that he had been planning to give away all along.
- B. He told her that if she can solve this puzzle, he will give her the prize that he was planning to give away all along.
- C. He told her that if she could solve this puzzle, he would give her the prize that he had been planning to give away all along.
- D. He told her that if she can solve that puzzle, he will give her the prize that he was planning to give away all along.

17. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Ignorance

- A. Knowledge
- B. Wisdom
- C. Awareness
- D. Understanding

18. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:

A person who is unable to pay their debts.

- A. Debtor

- B. Bankrupt
- C. Pauper
- D. Insolvent

19. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

1. It is not very easy to gain the grace of Perumal but with Thayar by one's side, one can even attain one's ultimate goal.
 2. She possesses the grace to tell Perumal to set right any faults in the devotee and grant his wishes.
 3. Thayar or Mahalakshmi is the goddess of fortune who not only grants boons but also ensures that only good things come the way of Her devotees.
 4. All one has to do is to surrender to Her, with complete sincerity and She will intercede with Perumal on behalf of the devotee; at the same time, God is pleased when a devotee prays to Mahalakshmi and readily grants Her wishes.
- A. 1423
 - B. 3142
 - C. 4321
 - D. 3412

20. Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Chalk and cheese

- A. Things that are opposites or completely different
- B. Things that are similar
- C. Things that complement each other
- D. Things that are tasteless

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Sleep is not just a period of rest; it is an active process of _____(1) during which the body repairs tissues, hormones rebalance, the immune system strengthens itself, and the brain clears toxins and consolidates memory.

Sleep is deeply intertwined _____(2) the body's circadian rhythm, an inbuilt 24-hour biological clock that aligns human biology with the cycle of day and night. This internal clock _____(3) a wide range of physiological processes including the sleep-wake cycle, hunger, body temperature, metabolism, immune function, as well as the body's ability to perceive pain sensation. It is, therefore, important to understand that it is not just the quantity of sleep that matters _____(4) the quality and timing that play a _____(5) role in overall health.

21. Select the most appropriate option for (1):

- A. reduction
- B. exhaustion
- C. restoration
- D. termination

22. Select the most appropriate option for (2):

- A. with
- B. to
- C. by
- D. into

23. Select the most appropriate option for (3):

- A. coordinate
- B. coordinates
- C. coordinating
- D. coordinated

24. Select the most appropriate option for (4):

- A. but also
- B. notwithstanding
- C. as well as
- D. provided

25. Select the most appropriate option for (5):

- A. crucial
- B. minimal
- C. partial
- D. regular

Answers

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

Explanations

1. D) **The methodological challenges and essential rationale for enumerating caste in the national census**

The passage is structured around two central pillars that perfectly match this description: The Methodological Challenges: The entire first paragraph discusses the logistical and administrative hurdles of counting caste. It details how the "open column" method in the 2011 SECC resulted in an "unwieldy" and "unusable" count of over 46 lakh caste names due to confusion over surnames and sub-castes. It then argues for a better method using pre-loaded digital devices. The Essential Rationale: The second paragraph explicitly asks, "So why count caste when the very act of enumeration can ossify or reify this abstract identity?" It then answers this by providing the core rationale: counting caste is necessary to address social inequities, ensure sharper targeting of welfare, and inform policies like reservation sub-categorisation to ultimately delegitimise casteism over time.

(a) captures a philosophical point made at the beginning of the second paragraph, but it ignores the main focus of the passage, which is the actual counting/census methodology.

(c) mentions the 2011 SECC and the Bihar survey, but these are merely used as brief historical examples/evidence to support the methodological argument; the passage is not a comparative study of the two.

(b) focuses entirely on a specific technical tool mentioned at the end of the first paragraph, which is a minor detail rather than the overarching subject of the entire passage.

2. A) **Only 1**

Statement (1) is true: Line from the passage: "The method led the 2011 SECC to return more than 46 lakh "caste names"... Respondents entered surnames, sub-castes and clan names as if interchangeable, inflating the count into incoherence." The passage explicitly explains that the open-ended collection method caused respondents to use surnames and clan names interchangeably, resulting in an inflated, error-ridden data set.

Statement (2) is false: Line from the passage: "...empirical caste data can also inform questions of the creamy layer and the sub-categorisation of castes and classes already benefiting from reservation." The passage states that better empirical data will inform policy questions regarding sub-categorization in the future; it does not list or identify any specific sub-castes that are set to receive these benefits.

Statement (3) is false: Line from the passage: "...caste is an abstract, irrational one that designates people not by biological, physical, or professed attributes, but by a perceived, primordial identity conferred at birth..." The passage explicitly denies that caste has any biological or physical foundation, stating instead that it is an abstract and irrational social construct. Thus, the passage cannot help differentiate biological attributes.

3. C) **a data-gathering exercise intended to improve welfare targeting and social justice measures**

The second paragraph explicitly states the rationale for counting caste: "welfare and social justice measures that address caste-based injustice can, over time, be expected to delegitimise the

casteism" and that it allows for "sharper targeting of welfare and affirmative action." This aligns exactly with the author's stated justification for enumeration: empirical data serves as an indispensable tool for targeted social welfare and affirmative action policies.

(a) is INCORRECT: The Constitution is committed to social justice and is set against caste (abolishing untouchability, etc.), but the passage does not state that the census enumeration of caste is an explicit constitutional mandate.

(b) is INCORRECT: The passage says counting caste can actually risk "ossifying" or "reifying" it, and that data can inform sub-categorisation—it never says it "automatically guarantees" the eradication of sub-castes.

(d) is INCORRECT: The passage mentions that caste was tabulated as far back as the 1931 Census and again in the 2011 SECC, meaning it is not a phenomenon unique to the recent 2022-23 state surveys.

4. C) **critical**

The author is openly disapproving of the "open column" (open-ended) approach. Throughout the passage, the author uses clear, negative language to describe this method and its outcomes: 1.) It yields only "unwieldy data." 2.) It previously proved "unusable." 3.) It inflates the count into "incoherence" and results in figures that are "too error-ridden to be relied upon." 4.) The author explicitly states at the end: "The open-ended way of registering it will not serve the intended purpose." Because the author explicitly points out the flaws and failures of the method without balancing it with praise, the tone is critical.

5. B) **substantiate**

The word 'corroborate' can best be replaced by (b) substantiate.

To corroborate means to confirm, support, or provide evidence to prove the truth of a statement or theory. Similarly, to substantiate means to offer evidence that sustains or backs up a claim.

- Contradict: Means to assert the exact opposite.
- Segregate - separate, isolate, divide.
- Neutralize: Means to negate or counteract the effect of something.

6. C) **4132**

Sentence 4 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह आयोजन स्थल (Victoria Public Hall) के चुनाव का मुख्य कारण introduce करता है, जिससे बातचीत का आधार तय होता है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें "That and the fact" का उपयोग हुआ है, जो सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में बताए गए कारण से जुड़ता है और एक बड़ा वेन्यू चुनने का दूसरा तार्किक कारण बताता है।

Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह विषय को वेन्यू की चर्चा से आगे बढ़ाकर (besides the main rap showdown) निर्माताओं (producers) को शामिल करने के उद्देश्य (intent) की ओर ले जाता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पैराग्राफ का conclusion है। यह "It is why" से शुरू होता है, जो स्पष्ट करता है कि Sentence 3 में बताए गए उद्देश्य को पूरा करने के लिए ही 'masterclass' का आयोजन किया जा रहा है।

Sentence 4 starts the passage because it establishes the foundational context, introducing the primary reason for selecting Victoria Public Hall as the venue.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase "That and the fact" acts as a logical bridge, directly adding a second reason (the need for a bigger space) to the rationale provided in the previous sentence.

Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 because it serves as a narrative transition, shifting the focus from the venue choice to the organizer's secondary goal of bringing better producers onboard.

Sentence 2 concludes the passage because the phrase "It is why" provides the direct action or outcome (hosting a masterclass) taken to fulfill the specific intent established in Sentence 3.

7. A) The correctly spelt word is **Evanescence** which means "the process of fading away or vanishing" क्षीण होना / विलुप्त होना।
8. A) **Fatalist** (noun) – a person who believes that events in life are predetermined by fate भाग्यवादी / नियतिवादी
- **Realist** (noun) – a person who accepts life as it is यथार्थवादी
 - **Idealist** (noun) – a person guided by ideals आदर्शवादी
 - **Pragmatist** (noun) – a person guided by practical considerations व्यवहारवादी
9. C) Highlighted वाक्य में 'tire' का अर्थ है – थक जाना / ऊब जाना (to become weary or bored)। विकल्प C में भी 'tire' का अर्थ ऊब जाना / थक जाना है – बच्चा उसी खिलौने से खेलकर ऊब गया। इसलिए यह same meaning का सही उदाहरण है।
In the highlighted sentence, 'tire' means to become bored or weary.
Option C also uses 'tire' with the same meaning – the baby became bored of the same toy.
Thus, option C matches the same meaning.
10. B) **keep her nose to the grindstone** – to continue working hard despite difficulties कठिनाइयों के बावजूद मेहनत जारी रखना
- **turn over a new leaf** – to start behaving in a better way नया सुधारात्मक आरंभ करना
 - **throw caution to the wind** – to act without worrying about risk जोखिम की परवाह न करना
 - **pull the plug** – to stop or discontinue something किसी काम को बंद कर देना
11. C) **Glib** (adjective) – Fluent but often insincere or superficial in speech चालाकी से या आसानी से बोलने वाला (कभी-कभी असत्य/ऊपरी)
- Synonym: **Articulate** (adjective) – Fluent, eloquent, clear-spoken, expressive, well-spoken स्पष्ट बोलने वाला / प्रभावशाली
- **Sincere** (adjective) – Genuine, honest, heartfelt ईमानदार, सच्चा
 - **Forthright** (adjective) – Direct, straightforward, candid स्पष्टवादी
 - **Dispassionate** (adjective) – Unemotional, impartial, unbiased निर्पेक्ष, भावनारहित
12. 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
13. D) **halfway** – when both sides compromise to reach an agreement बीच का रास्ता अपनाना / समझौता करना
- **with open arms** – to welcome warmly खुले दिल से स्वागत करना
 - **half the battle** – an important part of achieving success आधी जीत

• **in the same breath** – saying two contradictory things together एक ही सांस में विरोधाभासी बातें कहना

14. B) **The detective asked the suspect, "How could you have committed the crime without leaving any evidence when the security cameras had been recording all night?"**

Indirect से Direct speech में बदलने के लिए, Reported Speech को quotation के अंदर उसी original question form में लिखा जाता है। Reporting verb "asked" है, इसलिए interrogative structure बिना auxiliary inversion के प्रयोग होता है। Indirect वाक्य में "he could have committed" था, Direct में pronoun बदलकर "How could you have committed..." होगा। Clause "when the security cameras had been recording all night" में Past Perfect Continuous tense था, इसलिए Direct speech में भी वही tense रखा गया है।

To change a sentence from Indirect to Direct speech, the reported clause is placed within quotation marks while retaining the original interrogative form. The reporting verb "asked" does not require auxiliary inversion, and pronouns shift according to context ("he" → "you"). The tense "could have committed" remains unchanged as it reflects past speculation, and the clause "had been recording all night" remains in past perfect continuous form.

15. C) the armed forces publicly challenging a notification issued by the' के बदले 'the armed forces publicly challenged a notification issued by the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य वाक्य Past घटना को दर्शा रहा है और सही संरचना के लिए Past Simple Verb 'challenged' की आवश्यकता है; जैसे— "The committee criticized the proposal submitted by the department."

• 'publicly challenged' will be used instead of 'publicly challenging' because the sentence refers to a completed action in the Past and thus requires the Past Simple form; Like— "The committee criticized the proposal submitted by the department."

16. A) **He told her that if she could solve that puzzle, he would give her the prize that he had been planning to give away all along.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए reporting verb "said to" को "told" में बदला जाता है और tense व pronouns बदलते हैं। Direct वाक्य का conditional clause "If you can solve this puzzle" Indirect में "If she could solve that puzzle" बन जाता है क्योंकि "you" → "she", "can" → "could", और "this" → "that" में बदलता है। Main clause में "I will give you the prize" Indirect में "he would give her the prize" बनता है क्योंकि "I" → "he", "you" → "her" और "will" → "would" में बदलता है। अंतिम भाग "that I was planning to give away all along" Indirect में "that he had been planning to give away all along" बनता है क्योंकि Past Continuous → Past Perfect Continuous में बदलता है।

To change from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "said to" becomes "told" and tense backshift applies. The conditional clause shifts from "can" to "could," pronouns change to reflect speaker/listener roles ("you" → "she", "I" → "he", "you" → "her"), demonstratives shift from "this" to "that," "will" becomes "would," and the past continuous "was planning" becomes past perfect continuous "had been planning."

17. A) **Ignorance** (noun) – Lack of knowledge, unawareness, illiteracy अज्ञान, अनभिज्ञता

Antonym: **Knowledge** (noun) – Information, learning, education, understanding, awareness ज्ञान, जानकारी

- **Wisdom** (noun) – Good judgment, insight, sagacity बुद्धि, विवेक
- **Awareness** (noun) – Consciousness, realization, perception जागरूकता
- **Understanding** (noun) – Comprehension, grasp, insight समझ

18. B) **Bankrupt** (noun/adjective) – legally declared unable to pay debts कानूनी रूप से दिवालिया घोषित
Insolvent (noun/adjective) – a person who is unable to pay their debts कर्ज चुकाने में अक्षम /
 दिवालिया स्थिति में

- **Debtor** (noun) – a person who owes money धन-ऋणी
- **Pauper** (noun) – a very poor person अत्यंत गरीब व्यक्ति

19. B) **3142**

Sentence 3 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह विषय (Thayar or Mahalakshmi) को स्पष्ट रूप से introduce करता है और उनके मूल स्वरूप (goddess of fortune) को स्थापित करता है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Thayar की कृपा के महत्व को पेरुमाल (Perumal) के संदर्भ में expand करता है कि कैसे उनके होने से अंतिम लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने का तरीका (surrender) और Thayar द्वारा पेरुमाल से सिफारिश (intercede) करने की प्रक्रिया को explain करता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पैराग्राफ का conclusion है। यह सिफारिश की अंतिम शक्ति (grace to tell Perumal) को स्पष्ट करते हुए यह बताता है कि कैसे वह भक्त की इच्छाओं को पूरा करवाती हैं।

Sentence 3 starts the passage because it establishes the foundational context, clearly introducing the primary subject (Thayar or Mahalakshmi) and her role as the goddess of fortune.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it expands on her significance by contrasting it with the difficulty of gaining Perumal's grace, acting as a logical progression in defining her importance.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it provides the direct action required by the devotee (surrender) and details how Thayar actively intercedes with Perumal on their behalf.

Sentence 2 concludes the passage because it serves as the thematic synthesis, summarizing her ultimate grace and specific authority to correct a devotee's faults and ensure their wishes are granted.

20. A) **Chalk and cheese** (idioms)- Things that are opposites or completely different - एक-दूसरे से बिल्कुल अलग / विपरीत चीज़ें

21. C) Restoration is used because it means the act of returning something to a former, healthy, or undamaged state, which perfectly matches the biological actions listed right after it (tissue repair, rebalancing hormones, and strengthening the immune system). Reduction means making something smaller, which is irrelevant to biological healing. Exhaustion means extreme tiredness, which contradicts the healing purpose of sleep. Termination means bringing something to an end, completely breaking the logical structure.

यहाँ Restoration का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ किसी चीज़ को वापस उसकी स्वस्थ और पुरानी स्थिति में लाना (returning to a healthy state) होता है। यह वाक्य में आगे दी गई जैविक क्रियाओं (tissue repair और hormones rebalance) के theme से पूरी तरह मेल खाता है।

Reduction: इसका अर्थ कमी करना होता है। Exhaustion: इसका अर्थ अत्यधिक थकान होता है, जो नींद के उद्देश्य के बिल्कुल विपरीत है। Termination: इसका अर्थ किसी चीज़ को समाप्त करना होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।

22. A) With is used because it forms the exact standard grammatical collocation "intertwined with...", which is the required prepositional pairing used to show that two things are closely connected or twisted together. To is highly related in theme as a direction/connection marker but fails to form

the correct structural idiom with "intertwined". By and Into do not form a standard or meaningful phrasal structure with the adjective "intertwined" in this descriptive context.

यहाँ With का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह एक exact standard collocation "intertwined with..." बनाता है, जिसका उपयोग यह दिखाने के लिए किया जाता है कि दो चीजें आपस में बहुत गहराई से जुड़ी हुई हैं।

To: यह शब्द connection दिखाने के लिए theme से जुड़ा जरूर लगता है, लेकिन "intertwined" के साथ सही grammatical structure नहीं बनाता। By और Into: ये prepositions इस वाक्य संरचना में "intertwined" शब्द के साथ कोई सही अर्थ नहीं बनाते।

23. B) Coordinates is used because the singular subject "This internal clock" requires a singular verb ending in "s" to state a timeless, biological fact. Coordinate is a plural verb form, which violates the subject-verb agreement rules with the singular subject. Coordinating is a continuous participle form that cannot function as a main finite verb without an auxiliary verb. Coordinated is past tense, which incorrectly implies that the clock no longer performs this function today.

यहाँ Coordinates का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि singular subject "This internal clock" के साथ एक timeless biological fact बताने के लिए singular verb का आना अनिवार्य है।

Coordinate: यह क्रिया का plural form है, जो singular subject के साथ subject-verb agreement के नियमों का उल्लंघन करता है। Coordinating: यह एक participle रूप है जो बिना helping verb के मुख्य क्रिया का काम नहीं कर सकता। Coordinated: यह past tense है, जो गलत संकेत देगा कि यह clock अब शरीर में यह काम नहीं करती है।

24. A) But also is used because it completes the standard correlative conjunction pair "not just... but also" (or "not only... but also"), which is grammatically required to show that both elements (quantity and quality/timing) are equally important. Notwithstanding means in spite of, which completely alters the logical coherence. As well as is a close thematic distractor that means 'along with', but it is structurally incorrect because it does not form a grammatically valid pair with the preceding "not just" layout. Provided functions as a conditional marker meaning 'if', breaking the balanced structure of the sentence.

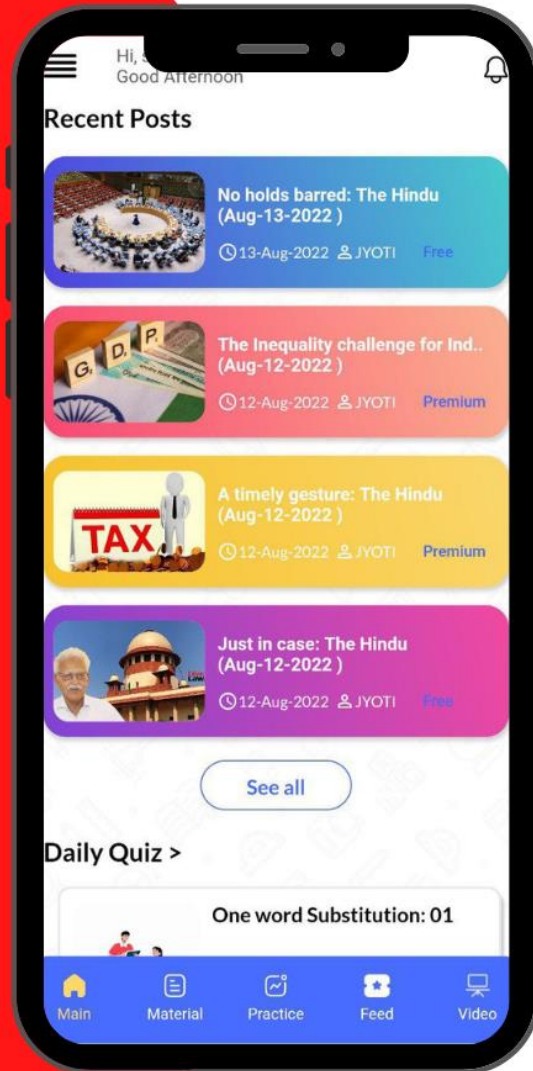
यहाँ But also का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह वाक्य में पहले आए "not just" के साथ मिलकर एक standard correlative conjunction pair "not just... but also" बनाता है। यह व्याकरण के अनुसार यह दिखाने के लिए आवश्यक है कि मात्रा (quantity) और गुणवत्ता (quality) दोनों ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

Notwithstanding: इसका अर्थ 'के बावजूद' होता है, जो वाक्य के तर्क को बदल देता है। As well as: यह अर्थ के मामले में बहुत करीबी विकल्प (close choice) लगता है, लेकिन वाक्य में पहले आए "not just" setup के साथ मिलकर कोई सही structural pair नहीं बनाता। Provided: यह एक शर्त (condition) रखने के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।

25. A) Crucial is used because it means extremely important or essential, perfectly fitting the passage's theme about how sleep quality and timing heavily impact overall health. Minimal means a very small amount, which completely downplays the importance of sleep. Partial means incomplete or affecting only a part, which is contextually weak. Regular means normal or standard, which fails to capture the high level of importance demanded by the sentence structure.

यहाँ Crucial का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण या आवश्यक (extremely important) होता है। यह नींद की गुणवत्ता और समय के महत्व को दर्शाने वाले इस theme से बिल्कुल मेल खाता है।

Minimal: इसका अर्थ बहुत कम या नगण्य होता है, जो वाक्य के अर्थ को कमजोर कर देगा। Partial: इसका अर्थ आंशिक या अधूरा होता है। Regular: इसका अर्थ सामान्य या नियमित होता है, जो यहाँ आवश्यक तीव्रता (intensity) को नहीं दर्शाता।



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