

A healthy tax: On taxing foods high in fat, sugar and salt

The government must act to **tax** foods high in fat, sugar, and salt

India, which has a long history of **addressing** the challenges of **undernutrition**, **has** to **pivot** to attack the **curious phenomenon** of **overnutrition** that **evolving** lifestyles have now **laid at its door**. The recent National Family Health Survey data showed that in India, while **stunting** and undernutrition continue to be **cause** for concern, despite some gains, the **sharp rise** in adult overweight and **obesity**, **besides** diet-related metabolic conditions, cannot **be** ignored any more. Two unrelated **developments** have advanced the question of unhealthy diets in very **pointed** suggestions that would **nudge** consumers to make the right choices. First, a Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended mandatory **front-of-pack** nutrition labelling indicating whether packaged food products are high in sugar, and second, a national **consortium** has advised the government to **levy** a health tax **on** high fat, salt and sugar foods, and **enforce** stricter regulations on their advertisements. The Standing **Committee** on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution also **made** a recommendation to include the sugar content in baby foods, attacking the excess sugar consumption issue right where it begins. The **consortium** on **adolescent** nutrition, which **goes by** the practical name Let's Fix Our Food, **is** led by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), and comprising several other **prominent institutions** in India and abroad, **has** recommended that the government ensure a healthier school food environment, stricter regulation of marketing of unhealthy food, and front-of-pack nutrition labelling. These efforts will be among the steps to tackle the rising burden of obesity and diet-related **non communicable diseases** that require a **comprehensive** strategy **helmed** by the government.

According to the World Health Organization, since 2017, at least 133 countries have increased or introduced a new health tax. A "junk food law" **came into force** in Colombia in 2023, to tackle the high consumption of packaged foods. An additional **tax** on such foods **began** at 10%, rose to 15% the next year and touched 20% the **subsequent** year. Norway, Hungary, Denmark, Bermuda, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Navajo Nation (U.S.), have also specifically implemented taxes on unprocessed sugar and sugar-added foods. With the ICMR-NIN report indicating that over 17 million children and adolescents are affected by obesity, and that this number can cross 27 million by 2030, there cannot be a better time to act on these suggestions that will **go a long way** in educating the consumer to make healthy food choices.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Tax** (verb) - levy, duty, charge, toll; impose a tax कर लगाना
2. **Address** (verb) - tackle, deal with, handle, confront, attend to हल करना
3. **Undernutrition** (noun) - malnourishment, nutritional deficiency कुपोषण
4. **Pivot** (verb) - shift, turn, change direction, revolve मुड़ना / रुख बदलना
5. **Curious** (adjective) - strange, odd, peculiar, unusual अजीब / विचित्र
6. **Phenomenon** (noun) - occurrence, event, marvel, happening घटना
7. **Overnutrition** (noun) - excessive nutrition, caloric excess अतिपोषण / जरूरत से ज्यादा खान-पान से उपजी स्थिति
8. **Evolving** (adjective) - developing, changing, growing, emerging विकसित हो रहा
9. **Lay at one's door** (phrase) - to blame someone for something के जिम्मे मढ़ना
10. **Stunting** (noun) - a condition in which a child has low height for their age due to long-term malnutrition, poor health, or inadequate care. ठिगनापन
11. **Cause** (noun) - reason, ground, basis, source कारण / वजह
12. **Sharp** (adjective) - sudden, steep, marked, pronounced तेज
13. **Obesity** (noun) - corpulence, overweight, fatness मोटापा
14. **Besides** (preposition) - in addition to, apart from, aside from के अलावा
15. **Development** (noun) - event, occurrence, progress, unfolding घटनाक्रम
16. **Pointed** (adjective) - direct, sharp, explicit, clear सटीक
17. **Nudge** (verb) - prompt, push gently, encourage, coax सही दिशा में प्रेरित करना
18. **Front-of-pack** (adjective) - front-labeled, package-face सामने की पैकेजिंग पर दिया जाने वाला (लेवल)
19. **Consortium** (noun) - alliance, coalition, syndicate, partnership संघ
20. **Levy on** (phrase) - to impose or charge a tax, fee, fine, or other payment on someone or something. पर कर या शुल्क लगाना
21. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, apply, execute, administer लागू करना
22. **Adolescent** (adjective) - teenager, youth, juvenile किशोरावस्था से संबंधित
23. **Go by** (phrasal verb) - be known as, be called के नाम से जाना जाना
24. **Prominent** (adjective) - notable, eminent, prominent, conspicuous, leading प्रमुख
25. **Non-communicable diseases** (noun) - diseases that do not spread from one person to another and are usually long-lasting. गैर-संक्रामक रोग (जीवनशैली से जुड़े रोग)
26. **Comprehensive** (adjective) - thorough, exhaustive, complete, all-inclusive व्यापक
27. **Helm** (verb) - lead, guide, direct, steer, command कमान संभालना
28. **Come into force** (phrase) - to become effective लागू होना

29. **Subsequent** (adjective) - following, succeeding, later, ensuing बाद का

30. **Go a long way** (phrase) - have a strong positive effect or contribute greatly to a result बहुत मददगार साबित होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. India has traditionally focused on combating **undernutrition**, but it must now also address the growing problem of **overnutrition** caused by changing lifestyles.
2. The latest **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** shows that while stunting and undernutrition remain concerns, **overweight, obesity, and diet-related metabolic diseases** are rising rapidly among adults.
3. The editorial argues that the government should take **strong policy measures** to reduce the consumption of foods high in **fat, sugar, and salt (HFSS foods)**.
4. A **Parliamentary Standing Committee** has recommended **mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling** to clearly identify packaged foods that contain high levels of sugar.
5. The committee has also recommended **displaying sugar content in baby foods**, aiming to curb unhealthy eating habits from an early age.
6. A national consortium named "**Let's Fix Our Food**," led by the **Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN)**, has proposed imposing a **health tax on HFSS foods**.
7. The consortium has also called for **stricter regulations on advertisements** promoting unhealthy foods, especially those targeting children and adolescents.
8. It recommends creating a **healthier school food environment** by encouraging nutritious food options and discouraging junk food consumption.
9. The editorial emphasizes that **front-of-pack nutrition labels** can help consumers make informed and healthier purchasing decisions.
10. Rising obesity and **diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** require a **comprehensive government-led strategy** rather than isolated interventions.
11. According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, since **2017**, at least **133 countries** have introduced or increased **health taxes** on unhealthy food or beverages.
12. **Colombia's "junk food law" (2023)** introduced a phased tax on unhealthy packaged foods—**10% initially, 15% the following year, and 20% thereafter**—to discourage consumption.
13. Several countries and regions, including **Norway, Hungary, Denmark, Bermuda, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Navajo Nation (U.S.)**, have implemented taxes on sugary or unhealthy foods.
14. The **ICMR-NIN** estimates that **more than 17 million Indian children and adolescents are obese**, and this figure could exceed **27 million by 2030** if preventive measures are not taken.
15. The editorial concludes that **health taxes, clear nutrition labelling, stricter advertising rules, and healthier school food policies** are timely and necessary steps to encourage healthier food choices and reduce India's growing obesity burden.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which phrase best summarizes the core theme of the passage?** [Editorial Page]
- A. replacement of stunting with obesity in India
 - B. Global tax precedents as primary public health strategies
 - C. Comprehensive state policy action on India's overnutrition
 - D. Front-of-pack labelling as remedy for sugar intake
2. **Which of the following best explains the purpose of the word "curious" as used by the author?**
- A. Overnutrition has replaced undernutrition after national progress on dietary health.
 - B. Overnutrition emerges alongside undernutrition in a country historically fighting deficiency.
 - C. Overnutrition stems from regulatory measures intended to curb packaged food intake.
 - D. Overnutrition impacts infant demographics following reductions in early sugar exposure.
3. **Which driver lies at the root of India's newly emerging nutritional challenge?**
- A. Widespread adoption of sedentary daily routines
 - B. Unrestricted access to commercial processed foods
 - C. Early exposure to sweetened pediatric dietary habits
 - D. Inadequate state control over educational meal environments
4. **The phrase "attacking the excess sugar consumption issue right where it begins" in the passage most nearly refers to:**
- A. Restricting the commercial promotion of processed goods in school environments.
 - B. Enforcing statutory disclosures on infant dietary products to curb early sugar exposure.
 - C. Eliminating high-calorie items from the standard nutrition assistance programs.
 - D. Applying fiscal surcharges to sweet foods consumed by adolescent demographics.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
- A. Dismissive
 - B. Prescriptive
 - C. Alarmist
 - D. Objective
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- A. The Guru Ghar, as it is known among followers, is dedicated to the 15th-century saint-poet Guru Ravidass.
 - B. The religious complex, spread across 11.5 acres, marks the skyline along the Grand Trunk Road in Chak Hakim village, Phagwara, in Punjab's Kapurthala district.
 - C. It serves as a place of worship but has also become a symbol of the Dalit community's rising economic, religious and political assertiveness, reflecting its gradual shift from historical marginalisation.
 - D. Grey monsoon clouds hang low, almost touching the white domes and arched gateways of the Shiromani Shri Guru Ravidass Mandir.
- A. B-A-D-C
 - B. D-C-B-A
 - C. D-B-A-C
 - D. A-D-C-B

7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. Despite partners, families and friends, many adults feel nobody truly knows them.
 2. While technology, urbanisation and changing social structures all play a role, growing evidence suggests that its roots may begin much earlier — in childhood.
 3. How does someone feel lonely while being deeply loved? How does someone feel unsupported while living in a joint family?
 4. As loneliness draws growing global concern, this paradox deserves attention.
- A. 3-4-1-2
B. 1-3-4-2
C. 4-1-2-3
D. 3-1-4-2
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
INVECTIVE
- A. Eulogy
B. Compliment
C. Praise
D. Tirade
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
EBULLIENT
- A. Depressed
B. Depressed
C. Enthusiastic
D. Calm
10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:**
Sagacious
- A. Insightful
B. Wise
C. Foolish
D. Prudent
11. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Gall and wormwood
- A. Lingering curiosity
B. Harmless envy
C. Sudden realization or enlightenment
D. Deep frustration or resentment
12. **Choose the correct spelling of a word meaning 'a person of high rank or title'.**
- A. Nobile
B. Nobale
C. Noble
D. Nobel
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word for Expression of mild disapproval**
- A. Expostulation
B. Exposstulation

- C. Expostelation
D. Expostullation
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
"To leave suddenly and hurriedly".
A. Abscond
B. Perambulate
C. Circumambulate
D. Loiter
15. **Change the following from active to passive:**
The storm damaged many houses.
A. Many houses are damaged by the storm.
B. Many houses had been damaged by the storm.
C. Many houses were damaged by the storm.
D. Many houses have been damaged by the storm.
16. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
I am liking this movie a lot.
A. have liked
B. like
C. liked
D. am enjoy this movie
17. **A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.**
Rita said, "I haven't eaten anything."
A. Rita said that she didn't eat anything.
B. Rita said that she hasn't eaten anything.
C. Rita said that she hadn't eaten anything.
D. Rita said that she wasn't eating anything.
18. **A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.**
The lawyer said that had the evidence not been tampered with, the verdict could have been different.
A. "If the evidence had not tampered with, the verdict could change," said the lawyer.
B. "If the evidence were not tampered with, the verdict could have changed," the lawyer
C. "Had the evidence not been tampered with, the verdict could have been different," said the lawyer.
D. "Had not the evidence tampered, the verdict may differ," said he.
19. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Mythical
A. Imaginary
B. Verifiable
C. Supernatural
D. Symbolic
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.**

Cybersecurity experts warned that any delay in updating the system could expose the company's financial records to severe ____.

- A. Vulnerability
- B. Implementation
- C. Execution
- D. Recognition

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

August marks the start of the countdown to the Northeast monsoon, the season that poses Chennai's major annual challenge. Even as the city ____ (3) dealing with the impact of a weak Southwest monsoon, the focus has shifted to ensuring Chennai is ready for the (1) ensuing monsoon, presenting the new government with its first major monsoon test.

The stakes are higher this year as meteorologists continue to monitor the evolving El Nino conditions. While the Northeast monsoon is known for its (2) volatile nature, and often springs surprises, El Nino, a complex climate phenomenon that influences extreme weather, has added another layer of uncertainty this year. In its outlook for the second half of the Southwest monsoon, the India Meteorological Department has observed that the currently moderate El Nino conditions ____ (4) expected to strengthen through the remaining part of the Southwest monsoon.

The outlook also presents a mixed picture on the global weather factors. While forecasts indicate that neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are likely to persist, some international forecasting centres suggest that a positive IOD may develop in September, raising expectations of countering the impact of El Nino.

Officials of the Regional Meteorological Centre note that El Nino is usually favourable for enhanced rainfall ____ (5) Northeast monsoon. Recalling that 2015 was a strong El Nino year when Chennai experienced a deluge, officials say Northeast monsoon behaviour is shaped by a complex interplay of atmospheric and oceanic conditions and cannot be associated with a single weather phenomenon.

21. The word "ensuing" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. preceding
- B. upcoming
- C. receding
- D. historical

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "volatile" as used in the passage: (2)

- A. stable
- B. unpredictable
- C. turbulent
- D. erratic

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. is
- B. are
- C. were
- D. being

24. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to complete the sentence: (4)

- A. is
- B. was
- C. are
- D. have

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

- A. through
- B. during
- C. along
- D. between

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **Comprehensive state policy action on India's overnutrition**

The passage outlines the dual challenge of undernutrition and the rising "phenomenon of overnutrition" in India. It discusses various proposed government actions, including mandatory front-of-pack labeling, health taxes on HFSS (high fat, salt, and sugar) foods, stricter advertisement regulations, and improvements to school food environments. The passage concludes by stating that these issues "require a comprehensive strategy helmed by the government," making (b) the best summary of the theme.

Option A is incorrect because the passage says stunting and undernutrition "continue to be cause for concern"; they haven't been replaced, but rather a new problem has been added to the existing ones.

Option B focuses only on the international examples mentioned in the second paragraph, which serve as supporting evidence rather than the core theme.

Option D only focuses on one of several proposed solutions mentioned in the passage.

2. B) **Overnutrition emerges alongside undernutrition in a country historically fighting deficiency.**

The author uses the word "curious" to highlight the paradoxical situation India finds itself in. Historically, India's primary nutritional struggle has been undernutrition (deficiency and stunting). It is "curious" (meaning strange or unexpected) that a nation still struggling with a lack of adequate nutrition is now simultaneously facing a crisis of overnutrition (obesity and lifestyle diseases). The passage notes that while "stunting and undernutrition continue to be cause for concern," there is a "sharp rise in adult overweight and obesity." The coexistence of these two opposite problems is what makes the situation "curious."

Option A is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that undernutrition still exists ("continue to be cause for concern"); it has not been replaced.

Option C is incorrect because overnutrition is attributed to "evolving lifestyles," not regulatory measures. Regulatory measures are the proposed solutions.

Option D is incorrect because the passage suggests that obesity is linked to excess sugar in baby foods, not to a "reduction" in sugar exposure.

3. A) **Widespread adoption of sedentary daily routines**

The very first sentence of the passage states: "India... has to pivot to attack the curious phenomenon of overnutrition that evolving lifestyles have now laid at its door." "Evolving lifestyles" is a broad term that encompasses changes in physical activity and consumption patterns. In the context of "overnutrition" (obesity and metabolic diseases), this refers to the shift toward sedentary routines and the consumption of high-calorie foods. While the passage mentions specific interventions (like taxing processed foods or labeling baby food), it identifies the overarching cause of the "newly emerging" challenge as the fundamental change in how Indians live and move (their lifestyles).

Option B: "Unrestricted access" is a consequence of market availability and lack of regulation, but the passage points to the lifestyle (the choice/habit of the consumer) as the primary reason the phenomenon has arrived.

Option C: The passage says sugar in baby foods is where the issue "begins" in a chronological or habit-forming sense for an individual. However, the driver of the national "newly emerging challenge" (the pivot the country must make) is the broader shift in adult and adolescent lifestyles.

Option D: This is a recommendation for a solution (improving school environments), not the root cause of the problem itself.

4. B) **Enforcing statutory disclosures on infant dietary products to curb early sugar exposure.**

The phrase directly follows the sentence about the Standing Committee's recommendation "to include the sugar content in baby foods" — meaning that by mandating sugar-content disclosure on infant food products, excess sugar consumption is being tackled at its earliest point, i.e., in infancy/babyhood, "right where it begins."

Option A: While the passage mentions school environments, this relates to adolescents, not the literal "beginning" of sugar consumption mentioned in the specific sentence about baby food.

Option C: The passage does not discuss "nutrition assistance programs" (like food subsidies or welfare programs).

Option D: Fiscal surcharges (taxes) are discussed for high fat, salt, and sugar foods in general, but the specific phrase "where it begins" is tied to the labeling of baby foods, not the taxation of adolescent snacks.

5. B) **Prescriptive**

A prescriptive tone is one that offers advice, makes recommendations, or suggests how things should be done to solve a problem. The passage is built around specific solutions to the problem of overnutrition. It highlights recommendations for mandatory labeling, health taxes, and stricter advertising regulations. The author concludes with a clear stance: "there cannot be a better time to act on these suggestions." By advocating for a "comprehensive strategy helmed by the government," the author is prescribing a course of action for the Indian state.

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

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence D paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। एक सटीक प्रश्न निर्माण के लिए, यह वाक्य किसी भी अस्पष्ट सर्वनाम (ambiguous pronoun) के बिना सीधे "Shiromani Shri Guru Ravidass Mandir" के दृश्य को स्पष्ट रूप से introduce करता है, जिससे पाठक को तुरंत पता चल जाता है कि विषय क्या है।
- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The religious complex" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence D में बताए गए "Mandir" को point करता है और उसकी location (Kapurthala district) बताता है।
- Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इसी मंदिर के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी देता है कि अनुयायियों (followers) के बीच इसे बोलचाल की भाषा में "The Guru Ghar" कहा जाता है।
- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आएगा। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "It" सीधे तौर पर Sentence A में बताए गए "The Guru Ghar" को स्पष्ट रूप से refer करता है (ताकि कोई ambiguity

न रहे)। यह बताता है कि यह सिर्फ पूजा का स्थान नहीं बल्कि समुदाय के उत्थान का प्रतीक है, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence D starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook. To ensure flawless question design, this sentence establishes the main subject ("Shiromani Shri Guru Ravidass Mandir") independently, completely avoiding any dangling or ambiguous pronouns at the start of the sequence.
- Sentence B follows Sentence D because the descriptive phrase "The religious complex" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "Mandir" introduced in D, detailing its exact geographic scale and location.
- Sentence A follows Sentence B by expanding on the identity of the complex, introducing its colloquial name among followers, "The Guru Ghar," and identifying the specific saint it is dedicated to.
- Sentence C concludes the sequence. The pronoun "It" serves as a direct logical link, referring explicitly back to "The Guru Ghar" in Sentence A. It expands the focus from a simple place of worship to a broader symbol of sociopolitical assertiveness, perfectly wrapping up the paragraph.

7. C) 3-1-4-2

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory hook है। बिना किसी अस्पष्ट सर्वनाम (ambiguous pronoun) के, यह दो सीधे और गहरे सवाल पूछकर मुख्य विषय (अकेलेपन) को बिल्कुल स्पष्ट रूप से introduce करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में पूछे गए सवालों (deeply loved, joint family) का विस्तार (expansion) करता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इतने सारे रिश्तों (partners, families and friends) के बावजूद लोग अंदर से क्यों महसूस करते हैं कि कोई उन्हें सच में नहीं जानता।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "this paradox" (यह विरोधाभास) एक सीधा grammatical link है। यह Sentence 3 और 1 में स्थापित की गई विरोधाभासी स्थिति (भीड़ में भी अकेलापन) की ओर इशारा करता है और बताता है कि इस पर ध्यान देने की ज़रूरत है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह Sentence 4 में उठाए गए विषय (loneliness) के कारणों की गहराई में जाता है और बताता है कि बाहरी कारणों (technology, urbanisation) के अलावा इसकी जड़ें बचपन (childhood) में हो सकती हैं, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook, posing two thought-provoking rhetorical questions independently, completely avoiding any dangling or ambiguous pronouns at the start of the sequence.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it provides a logical expansion of the questions just asked. It groups the concepts of "deeply loved" and "joint family" into having "partners, families and friends," elaborating on the core feeling of isolation.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because the demonstrative phrase "this paradox" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the contradictory situation

- established in Sentences 3 and 1 (being surrounded by love yet feeling completely unknown).
- Sentence 2 concludes the sequence by logically investigating the causes of the issue raised. It lists modern factors (technology, urbanisation) before pivoting to the ultimate conclusion: the true roots of this paradox may begin in "childhood," perfectly wrapping up the information block.
8. D) **Invective** (noun) – Abusive or highly critical language, denunciation, vituperation, abuse, criticism. अपशब्द / निंदा
 Synonym: **Tirade** (noun) – A long, angry speech of criticism or accusation. लंबा क्रोधपूर्ण भाषण / आक्षेप
- **Eulogy** (noun) – A speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly. प्रशंसा भाषण
 - **Compliment** (noun) – A polite expression of praise or admiration. प्रशंसा
 - **Praise** (noun) – Expression of approval or admiration. स्तुति / सराहना
9. C) **Ebullient** (adjective) – Cheerful, lively, exuberant, high-spirited, enthusiastic उत्साही
 Synonym: **Enthusiastic** (adjective) – Showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval. जोशीला, उत्साही
- **Depressed** (adjective) – Sad, gloomy, miserable, downhearted. उदास
 - **Dull** (adjective) – Boring, uninteresting, tedious, lifeless. नीरस
 - **Calm** (adjective) – Peaceful, tranquil, quiet, composed. शांत
10. C) **Sagacious** (adjective) – Wise, intelligent, insightful, prudent, judicious बुद्धिमान
 Antonym: **Foolish** (adjective) – Lacking good sense or judgment, unwise, silly, imprudent मूर्ख
- **Insightful** (adjective) – Showing deep understanding, perceptive, astute, discerning सूझबूझ वाला
 - **Wise** (adjective) – Having experience and knowledge, sensible, sagacious, intelligent बुद्धिमान
 - **Prudent** (adjective) – Acting with care and thought for the future, cautious, sensible, judicious समझदार
11. D) **Gall and wormwood** (idiom) – Deep frustration or resentment गहरी झुंझलाहट या कटुता
12. C) The correct spelling of 'a person of high rank or title' is '**Noble**' which means "having or showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles" उच्च कुलीन, महान.
13. A) The correct spelling of 'Expostulation' is '**Expostulation**' which means "an expression of mild disapproval or protest" हल्का विरोध या असहमति का अभिव्यक्ति.
14. A) **Abscond** (verb) – To leave suddenly and hurriedly, especially to avoid arrest or detection. जल्दबाज़ी में भाग जाना, फरार होना
- **Perambulate** (verb) – To walk or travel through or around a place for pleasure or inspection. टहलना, भ्रमण करना
 - **Circumambulate** (verb) – To walk all the way around something, especially as part of a ritual. परिक्रमा करना
 - **Loiter** (verb) – To stand or wait around without apparent purpose. आवारागर्दी करना, बिना उद्देश्य घूमना
15. C) **Many houses were damaged by the storm**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "The storm" Subject है, "damaged" Verb (Past Tense) है और "many houses" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Many houses" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "were damaged" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the storm" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The storm" (Subject), "damaged" (Verb in Past Tense), and "many houses" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "Many houses" (Subject), "were damaged" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by the storm".

16. B) 'am liking' के बदले 'like' का प्रयोग गलत है क्योंकि 'like' एक stative verb है जो भावना या स्थिति को दर्शाता है, और ऐसे verbs को सामान्यतः Continuous Tense में प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता; अतः सही वाक्य होगा— I like this movie a lot.

'like' will be used instead of 'am liking' because 'like' is a stative verb expressing a state or feeling, and such verbs are generally not used in Continuous Tense; hence, the correct sentence will be— I like this movie a lot.

17. C) **Rita said that she hadn't eaten anything.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb "said" Past Tense में है, इसलिए Reported Speech का Tense एक कदम पीछे चला जाएगा (Present Perfect → Past Perfect)। Direct Speech में "I haven't eaten anything" Present Perfect Tense में है, जिसे Indirect में "she hadn't eaten anything" (Past Perfect) में बदला गया है। सर्वनाम "I" को "she" में बदला गया है क्योंकि Speaker Rita है। अतः सही उत्तर है — "Rita said that she hadn't eaten anything."

- To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, when the reporting verb "said" is in the past tense, the tense of the reported speech moves one step back (Present Perfect → Past Perfect). In the direct speech, "I haven't eaten anything" (Present Perfect) is changed to "she hadn't eaten anything" (Past Perfect) in indirect speech. The pronoun "I" changes to "she" because the speaker is Rita. Therefore, the correct answer is "Rita said that she hadn't eaten anything."

18. C) "Had the evidence not been tampered with, the verdict could have been different," said the lawyer.

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb ("said that") को उसी रूप में रखते हुए, Reported Clause को उसके मूल स्वरूप (Direct Speech) में लिखा जाता है। वाक्य में शर्तीय (Conditional) संरचना "had the evidence not been tampered with" पहले से ही Subjunctive रूप में है, जो Direct Speech में भी यथावत रहता है। इसलिए सही रूप होगा — "Had the evidence not been tampered with, the verdict could have been different," said the lawyer. अन्य विकल्पों में व्याकरणिक त्रुटियाँ हैं जैसे— "had not the evidence tampered" (गलत संरचना), "were not tampered" (गलत काल), तथा "could change" (गलत Modal form)।

- To change from Indirect to Direct Speech, the reporting verb ("said that") remains while the reported clause is restored to its original (Direct) structure. The conditional form "had the evidence not been tampered with" already expresses the subjunctive condition, so it stays unchanged in direct speech. Thus, the correct form is "Had the evidence not been

tampered with, the verdict could have been different,” said the lawyer. Other options contain grammatical errors such as “had not the evidence tampered” (incorrect structure), “were not tampered” (wrong tense), and “could change” (wrong modal usage).

19. B) **Mythical** (adjective) – Existing only in myth; imaginary, not real. पौराणिक / काल्पनिक।

Antonym: **Verifiable** (adjective) – Able to be confirmed or proven true; real and factual.

सत्यापन योग्य।

- **Imaginary** (adjective) – Existing only in the mind; not real. काल्पनिक (similar in meaning to mythical, not an antonym).
- **Supernatural** (adjective) – Beyond natural explanation; magical. अलौकिक (related concept, not an antonym).
- **Symbolic** (adjective) – Serving as a symbol; representing something. प्रतीकात्मक (unrelated to mythical).

20. A) **Vulnerability**

Vulnerability should be used because 'Vulnerability' means susceptibility to attack, harm, or weakness. The sentence states that delay in updating the system could expose financial records to risk and weakness, making 'Vulnerability' appropriate here. 'Implementation' refers to execution, 'Recognition' refers to identifying someone or something, and 'Execution' refers to performance or administration, none of which fit the context of the sentence.

Vulnerability का use होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'Vulnerability' का meaning attack, harm, या weakness के प्रति susceptibility है। Sentence state करता है कि system को update करने में delay, financial records को risk और weakness के प्रति expose कर सकता है, जिससे यहाँ 'Vulnerability' appropriate है। 'Implementation' execution को refer करता है, 'Recognition' किसी को या किसी चीज़ को identify करने को refer करता है, और 'Execution'

performance या administration को refer करता है, जिनमें से कोई भी sentence के context में fit नहीं बैठता।

21. B) **upcoming**

Upcoming means happening or appearing in the near future, which perfectly matches "ensuing" (occurring afterward or as a result). The passage talks about preparing for the monsoon that is about to arrive. Preceding means coming before (the past). Receding means moving back or fading away. Historical refers to something belonging to the past.

- यहाँ Upcoming का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning 'आने वाला' (भविष्य में होने वाला) होता है, जो "ensuing" का सही synonym है। शहर आने वाले मानसून की तैयारी कर रहा है। Preceding का मतलब 'पहले का' होता है। Receding का मतलब 'पीछे हटने वाला' या 'कम होने वाला' होता है। Historical का मतलब 'ऐतिहासिक' (अतीत से जुड़ा) होता है।

22. A) **stable**

Stable is the correct answer because the question asks for an antonym (opposite word).

"Volatile" means liable to change rapidly and unpredictably (unstable). Therefore, "stable" (firm and unlikely to change) is the exact opposite. Unpredictable, Turbulent (unsteady/stormy), and Erratic (irregular) are all synonyms of volatile.

- यहाँ Stable सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Volatile" का meaning 'अस्थिर' या 'जो तेज़ी से बदले' होता है। "Stable" का meaning 'स्थिर' होता है, जो इसका सही

विलोम है। Unpredictable (जिसका अनुमान न लगाया जा सके), Turbulent (अशांत), और Erratic (अनियमित) सभी volatile के synonyms हैं।

23. A) is

Is is used because the subject of the clause is "the city," which is a singular noun, and the sentence describes an ongoing present situation ("focus has shifted"). Therefore, the present continuous singular auxiliary verb is required. Are and Were are plural verbs. Being is a participle that requires another auxiliary verb (like is/are/was/were) before it to function grammatically in this structure.

- यहाँ Is का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "the city" singular (एकवचन) है, और वाक्य वर्तमान समय (present tense) की स्थिति को दर्शा रहा है। Singular subject के साथ 'is' आता है। Are (present) और Were (past) plural verbs हैं। Being का इस्तेमाल बिना helping verb के सीधे subject के बाद नहीं किया जा सकता।

24. C) **Are** is used because the subject is "El Nino conditions," which is a plural noun. The sentence states a current forecast about the future, requiring the present tense passive construction "are expected." Is and Was are singular verbs. Have would create an active perfect tense ("have expected"), which logically means the weather conditions themselves are expecting something, rather than being expected by meteorologists.

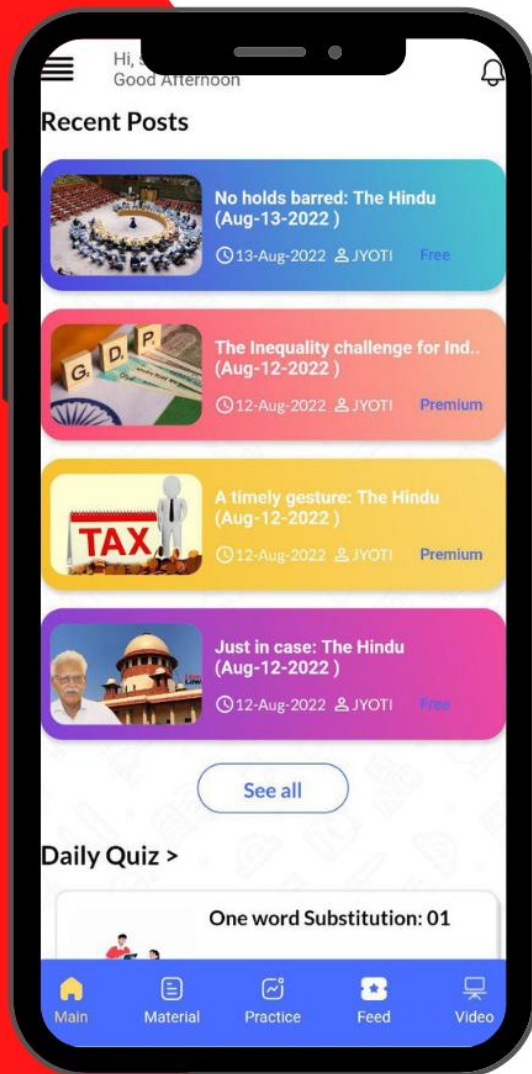
In Hindi:

- यहाँ Are का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "El Nino conditions" plural (बहुवचन) है। वाक्य passive voice में है (स्थितियों के मज़बूत होने की 'उम्मीद की जाती है' - are expected)। Is और Was singular verbs हैं। Have का प्रयोग करने से वाक्य active voice ("have expected") बन जाएगा, जिसका अर्थ होगा कि मौसम की स्थितियां खुद कुछ उम्मीद कर रही हैं, जो logically गलत है।

25. B) during

During is the correct preposition because it specifies that an event (enhanced rainfall) occurs within a particular period of time (the Northeast monsoon season). Through implies moving into one side and out of the other of a physical space or overcoming an obstacle. Along implies moving in a constant direction on a line or boundary. Between is strictly used when comparing or placing something amidst two distinct points.

- यहाँ During का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning 'के दौरान' होता है। यह दर्शाता है कि अधिक बारिश मानसून के 'समय काल' (period) के भीतर होती है। Through का मतलब 'के आर-पार' या 'के माध्यम से' होता है। Along का मतलब 'के साथ-साथ' (जैसे सड़क या किनारे के साथ) होता है। Between का मतलब 'दो चीज़ों के बीच' होता है, जो समय अवधि (season) दर्शाने के लिए व्याकरण के अनुसार गलत है।



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