

Wake-up call: On Manipur landslides

Landslides in Manipur are related to avoidable, man-made actions

The landslide that occurred last week in the Tupul area in Manipur's Noney district **will go down** as one of the **severest** natural disasters in the State, with the death **toll** reaching 38 and more than 25 people remaining **trapped** below the **debris** even as rescue efforts were **on**. The tragic disaster has been **compounded** by the debris of the landslide blocking the Ijei river, creating a significant **welling up** of water which could **inundate low-lying** areas if the "dam"-like structure is **breached**. While the administration has **sought** to ease the water **outflow** from the stored water, **inclement** weather has **hampered** the **pace** of the efforts and the government and disaster management officials must now take precautions to ensure that the consequences of the disaster do not **snowball** even further. **The fact** that such a disaster occurred in a railway construction site in a **landslide-prone** area **should give** development planners and government officials in the State **pause**. While **the Himalayan States** in northern India and **other States** with hill/ghat **terrain** such as Kerala **have registered** the **bulk** of landslides in the last **decade** or so according to government data, **the number** of such incidents in Manipur (20 between 2014 and 2020) **is** not **insignificant**. The relatively **high number** of **casualties accompanying** these landslides and **the fact** that the Environment Ministry has itself **acknowledged** that the disasters were "**anthropogenically**" **induced are a matter of** serious concern for the State. The Ministry identified the causes of landslides in Manipur as "a result of modification of **slopes** for construction, widening of road, **quarrying** for construction materials, **fragile lithography**, complex geological structures and heavy rainfall".

As a **post-facto exercise**, the State government must look at whether sufficient soil and **stability** tests were done before choosing the site for railway construction work in the Tupul area. Researchers have **corroborated** the fact that **the areas** in western Manipur **abutting** the national highways **fall under** very high, high or moderate **hazard** zones. The severe landslide occurred in the Tupul area despite the government identifying **susceptible** areas in the State through the National Landslide **Susceptibility** Mapping project. The uncertain **nature** of rains, with the monsoon being more intense this year compared to **predictions**, **has added to** the problem. An early warning system for landslides is still being developed and **refined** by the Geological Survey of India and this could help reduce the **scale** of such disasters, once **deployed** across **vulnerable** States. While it is understandable that States in the Northeast are **keen on accelerating** connectivity projects to **uplift** a relatively economically backward region, **disasters** such as the landslide in Tupul **point to** the dangers of not taking ecological challenges related to **deforestation** seriously enough. This is a wake-up call for governments in States that are **prone to** landslides regularly.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, point out, show, direct इंगित करना
- **Ecological** (adjective) – Environmental, biological, natural पर्यावरणीय

Vocabulary

1. **Wake-up call** (noun) – an event that shocks people into taking action about a difficult or dangerous situation
2. **Landslide** (noun) – landslip, rockfall, mudslide, earthslip, earthfall भूस्खलन
3. **Go down** (phrasal verb) – be remembered or recorded in a particular way. याद किया जाएगा
4. **Severe** (adjective) – Dangerous, acute, dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful भीषण
5. **Toll** (noun) – The number of deaths
6. **Trap** (verb) – get stuck, catch, get caught, block, entrap, lock in फँसना/ दबना
7. **Debris** (noun) – detritus, refuse, lumber, rubble, wreckage, remains मलबा
8. **On** (adverb) – Happening, taking place, going on चल रहा
9. **Compound** (verb) – aggravate, worsen, augment, intensify, heighten, increase बढ़तर होना
10. **Welling up** (noun) – Upsurge, overflowing, overflowing, चढ़ाव
11. **Inundate** (verb) – flood, deluge, overflow, overrun, swamp, submerge, engulf बाढ़ लाना
12. **Low-lying** (adjective) – At low altitude above sea level; ground-level, sea-level, flat निचला स्तर
13. **Seek** (verb) – try, effort, endeavor, strive प्रयास करना
14. **Breach** (verb) – break, burst, rupture, force itself through, split टूटना
15. **Outflow** (noun) – discharge, outflowing, outpouring, outrush, rush, flood, deluge बहिर्वाह
16. **Inclement** (adjective) – unpleasant, bad, foul, nasty, filthy, severe, extreme, adverse खराब
17. **Hamper** (verb) – hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit, foil, curb, delay, restrict, block बाधा डालना
18. **Pace** (noun) – speed, rate, quickness rapidity, velocity गति
19. **Snowball** (verb) – Increase rapidly in size, intensity, or importance. बढ़ना
20. **Landslide-prone** (adjective) – getting affected by landslide
21. **Give (someone) pause** (phrase) – to cause (someone) to stop and think about something carefully
22. **Terrain** (noun) – land, ground, territory इलाका, भूखंड

23. **Register** (verb) – record, put on record, enter, file, lodge, list, log दर्ज करना
24. **Bulk** (noun) – majority, larger number, larger part, major part भारी मात्रा में
25. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years. दशक
26. **Insignificant** (adjective) – unimportant, trivial, trifling, negligible, inconsequential, निरर्थक, महत्त्वहीन
27. **Casualty** (noun) – A person killed or injured in a war or accident. हताहत
28. **Accompany** (verb) – occur with, co-occur with, coincide with, coexist with, साथ होना
29. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, grant, allow, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
30. **Anthropogenically** (adverb) – caused or produced by humans मानवजनित रूप से
31. **Induce** (verb) – cause, create, give rise to, generate, originate, प्रेरित करना
32. **A matter of something** (phrase) – A thing that involves or depends on. _____ की बात है
33. **Slope** (noun) – incline, angle, slant, inclination, ढलान
34. **Quarrying** (noun) – Mining, extracting, excavating उत्खनन
35. **Fragile** (adjective) – tenuous, weak, frail, insubstantial, delicate नाजुक
36. **Lithography** (noun) – Structure or pattern of stones.
37. **Post-facto** (adjective) – Occurring, made, or enacted after the event कार्योत्तर
38. **Exercise** (noun) – task, piece of work, problem, assignment
39. **Stability** (noun) – steadiness, firmness, sureness, secureness, solidity स्थिरता
40. **Corroborate** (verb) – confirm, verify, endorse, ratify पुष्ट करना
41. **Abutting** (adjective) – adjoining, neighboring, adjacent to लगा हुआ
42. **Fall under** (phrasal verb) – Come under
43. **Hazard** (noun) – danger, risk, peril, threat खतरा
44. **Susceptible** (adjective) – defenceless, vulnerable अतिसंवेदनशील
45. **Susceptibility** (noun) – vulnerability, sensitivity, openness, defencelessness, संवेदनशीलता
46. **Prediction** (noun) – forecast, prophecy, divination, prognosis भविष्यवाणी
47. **Add to** (phrasal verb) – increase, magnify, amplify, augment बढ़ाना

48. **Refine** (verb) – improve, perfect, polish, polish up, hone परिष्कृत करना
49. **Scale** (noun) – extent, size, scope, magnitude पैमाना
50. **Deploy** (verb) – use, utilize, employ, make use of, उपयोग में लाना
51. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – unsafe, unprotected, ill-protected, unguarded अरक्षित
52. **Keen** (adjective) – enthusiastic about, interested in, passionate about, उत्सुक
53. **Accelerate** (verb) – speed up, hurry up, तेज़ करना
54. **Uplift** (verb) – boost, raise, buoy up, elevate, edify, inspire, उठाना
55. **Deforestation** (noun) – The action of clearing a wide area of trees. वनों की कटाई
56. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – susceptible, vulnerable, liable; have a tendency to be affected by प्रवृत्त

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. The tragic disaster has been compounded by the debris of the landslide blocking the Ijei river, creating a significant **welling up** of water.
 - A. Clandestine
 - B. Overflowing
 - C. Covert
 - D. Perennial
2. While the administration has sought to ease the water outflow from the stored water, **inclement** weather has hampered the pace of the efforts.
 - A. Languish
 - B. Unpleasant
 - C. Compelling
 - D. Convivial
3. So according to government data, the number of such incidents in Manipur (20 between 2014 and 2020) is not **insignificant**.
 - A. Negligible
 - B. Profane
 - C. Insipid
 - D. Adamant

Direction (Q4 – Q5): select the appropriate antonym of the given words

4. This is a wake-up call for governments in States that are **prone to** landslides regularly.
 - A. Circuitous
 - B. Disinclined
 - C. Address
 - D. Mitigate
5. Researchers have corroborated the fact that the areas in western Manipur **abutting** the national highways fall under very high, high or moderate hazard zones.
 - A. Egocentric
 - B. Zealous
 - C. Supercilious
 - D. Separate

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6.
 - A. Dressed in black several students from the university took part in a protest march in the city on Thursday as part of a campaign against female infanticide.
 - B. On the second day of the workshop, participants do a situational analysis of the state and speak about their plan of action for implementing the Act.
 - C. The court has asked the authorities to take appropriate steps to restore natural water resources so that the problem of water shortage may be solved.

- D. The poor experience in neighbouring countries which have implemented food stamp programmes should serve as a deterrent on our country.
- E. All are correct
7. A. A young sales manager who is about to resign his job despite his success in the organisation.
B. The difference between successful person and others is not a lack of knowledge but a lack of will.
C. The government has warned that air pollution from vehicles and power stations is reducing life expectancy in the country in an average of six months.
D. Both A & B are incorrect
E. All are correct
8. Initially, shop owners tried to (A)/ offer some resistance to the demolition but (B)/ seeing the heavy presence of the police force, (C)/ their resistance faded off. (D)/ No error.(E)
9. Cleanliness drives will be (A)/ conducted in various localities (B)/ to opening the drains blocked (C)/ with polythene bags. (D)/ No error (E)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Bizarre
B. Chauffuer
C. Caribbean
D. Fahrenheit
11. **Direction:** Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.
- The compensation formula is flawed and there is a risk of making States too dependent on this committed revenue **(GST compensation – Business line: 25 June, 2022)**
- P.** While the June GST Council meeting is scheduled in Chandigarh, the initial choice of Srinagar was more apt.
- Q.** The verdant settings and cool climate could have mellowed the mood of the Council members getting ready for
- R.** a fiery battle over extension of the GST compensation payments beyond the June 30 deadline.
- S.** It's not difficult to see why many States want extension of these payments.
- T.** The promise made by the Centre to compensate States for shortfall in GST revenue (if it did not grow at compounded rate of 14 per cent annually)
- U.** in the first five years after transition to the GST regime, has so far worked well in States' favour.
- Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P B.T C.U D.Q E.R

Direction (Q12 – Q15): Cloze test based on Editorial (GST compensation – Business line: 25 June, 2022)

It's clear that the GST system is well on the recovery path and the pandemic related _____**12**_____ seem to be behind, at least as far as GST is concerned. States which produce more than they consume have also recorded high growth in collections. As the economy recovers further, there would no longer be any need to _____**13**_____ the States.

Two, States need to be weaned away from the dependence on the compensation payments to meet their fiscal shortfall. Many States have continued to _____**14**_____ freebies and unnecessary subsidies even during the pandemic, taking their finances to a dire state. Clearly, the committed payments are giving them room to continue in this manner.

Three, States should in fact be _____**15**_____ to increase collections through plugging of leakages and improved compliance rather than continuing to depend on these payments.

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 12. A. Stringent | B. Engendering | C. Travails | D. Ambiences |
| 13. A. Vehement | B. Ubiquitous | C. Hand-hold | D. Neologism |
| 14. A. Expedient | B. Fastidious | C. Abortive | D. Dole out |
| 15. A. Taciturn | B. Extolled | C. Clemency | D. Nudged |

Answers

1. B 2.B 3.A 4. B 5. D 6. E 7. D 8. D 9. C 10.B 11.E 12.C
13. C 14.D 15.D

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

7. A) 'who' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है क्योंकि वाक्य में एक ही clause है जिसका subject 'A young sales manager' है तथा इसका verb 'is' है।

➤ The use of 'who' is unnecessary because there is only one clause in the sentence whose subject is 'A young sales manager' and its verb is 'is'.

- B) 'successful' के पहले 'article 'A' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'successful' एक adjective है और इसके बाद 'person' एक singular countable noun है। अतः सही प्रयोग ' a successful person' होगा। noun 'person' को यदि plural बना दिया जाए तब भी वाक्य शुद्ध हो जाएगा। अर्थात् 'a successful person' के बदले 'successful persons' का प्रयोग भी किया जा सकता है।

➤ The article 'A' will be used before 'successful' because 'successful' is an adjective and after 'person' is a singular countable noun. Hence the correct usage would be 'a successful person'. If the noun 'person' is made plural, then the sentence will be correct. That is, 'successful persons' can also be used instead of 'a successful person'.

8. (D) 'off' के बदले 'out' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'fade' के साथ 'off' का प्रयोग कभी नहीं होता है 'disappear slowly or become quieter'; (धीमी गति से विलुप्त होना या ज्यादा खामोश या शांत होना); जैसे-

i. The music faded out.

(D) 'out' will be used instead of 'off' because 'off' is never used with 'fade' 'disappear slowly or become quieter' ; (slow extinction or more silence or calm);

Like:- The music faded out.

9. (C) 'opening' के बदले 'open' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि infinitive particle 'to' के साथ v^1 का प्रयोग होता है जिसे हम full infinitive/to-infinitive या सामान्यतः Infinitive कहते हैं।

(C) 'open' will be used instead of 'opening' because v^1 is used with the infinitive particle 'to', which we call full infinitive / to-infinitive or generally Infinitive.

10. **Chauffeur** (noun) – A person employed to drive a private or hired car. चालक

11. **PQRSTU**

The compensation formula is flawed and there is a risk of making States too dependent on this committed revenue

While the June GST Council meeting is scheduled in Chandigarh, the initial choice of Srinagar was more apt. The verdant settings and cool climate could have mellowed the mood of the Council members getting ready for a fiery battle over extension of the GST compensation payments beyond the June 30 deadline.

It's not difficult to see why many States want extension of these payments. The promise made by the Centre to compensate States for shortfall in GST revenue (if it did not grow at compounded rate of 14 per cent annually) in the first five years after transition to the GST regime, has so far worked well in States' favour.

12. **Travail (noun)** – trouble, hardship, privation, stress कष्टपूर्ण
13. **Hand-hold (verb)** – Support सहारा देना
14. **Dole out (phrasal verb)** – allocate, allot, apportion, assign, distribute बांटना
15. **Nudge (verb)** – prompt, encourage, coax, stimulate, prod प्रोत्साहित करना

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Clandestine	adjective	Secret; sneaky; concealed and usually, up to no good	गुप्त
	Covert	adjective	Secret; hidden	गुप्त, गोपनीय
	Perennial	adjective	Continual; happening again and again or year after year	चिरस्थायी
Q2	Languish	verb	To become weak, listless, or depressed	दुर्बल
	Compelling	adjective	Forceful; causing to yield	सम्मोहक, प्रभावी
	Convivial	adjective	Fond of Partying; Festive	खुशनुमा; उत्सव का
Q3	Profane	adjective	Not having to do with religion; irreverent; blasphemous	अपवित्र
	Inspid	adjective	Dull; bland; banal	फीका
	Adamant	adjective	Stubborn; unyielding; completely inflexible	अटल, हठी
Q4	Circuitous	adjective	Roundabout; not following a direct path	घुमावदार
	Address	verb	To speak to; to direct one's attention to	बोलना; संबोधित करना
	Mitigate	verb	To moderate the effect of something	कम करना
Q5	Egocentric	adjective	Selfish; believing that one is the center of everything	अहंकारपूर्ण
	Zealous	adjective	Enthusiastically devoted to something fervent.	उत्साही
	Supercilious	adjective	Haughty; patronizing	घमंडी, अधीन होना
Q12	Stringent	adjective	Strict; restrictive	कठोर
	Engender	verb	To bring into existence; to create; to cause	उत्पन्न होना, पैदा करना
	Ambience	noun	Atmosphere; mood; feeling	माहौल
Q13	Vehement	adjective	intense; forceful; violent	जोशीला
	Ubiquitous	adjective	Being everywhere at the same time	देशव्यापी

	Neologism	noun	A new word or phrase; a new usage of a word	किसी शब्द का नया उपयोग
Q14	Expedient	adjective	Providing an immediate advantage; serving one's immediate self-interest; practical.	उपाय, ढंग, प्रणाली
	Fastidious	adjective	Meticulous; demanding; finicky	नकचढ़ा, तुनक मिजाज
	Abortive	adjective	Unsuccessful	निष्फल
Q15	Taciturn	adjective	Untalkative by nature	अल्पभाषी
	Extol	verb	To praise highly; to laud	सराहना, बड़ाई करना
	Clemency	noun	Mercy; forgiveness; mildness	दया, कोमलता

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