

Reckless spree: On Joshimath sinking

Authorities must **heed science** and people living near mines, dams

The land **subsidence** in Joshimath **has** become **emblematic** of a geological **disaster** that has in fact **manifested** across India, in the **neighbourhood** of several large **resource-extraction** projects. There have been reports of subsidence from the Jharia, Bhurkunda, Kapasara, Raniganj and Talcher coal mines; from Delhi and Kolkata due to the over-extraction of groundwater; and from Mehsana for hydrocarbons. Last year, **land** in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh, **began** to **sag** shortly after a hydroelectric power project began **test runs**, **calling into question** the effects of the **Tapovan Vishnugad facility** near Joshimath in Uttarakhand. In 2010, some months after a tunnel-boring machine **nicked** an underground aquifer near Joshimath, **leading to substantial** water discharge, two researchers wrote in Current Science that the “sudden and **large scale dewatering** of the **strata** has the **potential**” to **trigger** “ground subsidence in the region”. **Determining** whether the **ongoing** incident can be **traced** directly to the 2009 **aquifer puncture is complicated** by the lack of long-term scientific investigations of the area. On January 5, the NTPC issued a statement **washing its hands of** the **unfolding** crisis after locals began **pointing fingers at** Tapovan Vishnugad, as well as the Helang-Marwari bypass as part of the Char Dham project. **Scientists** from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Geophysical Research Institute **set out** on January 10 to **examine** the circumstances of the subsidence. Both the national and the State governments must heed the team’s **findings**, even if it means **ceasing** further construction work.

Experts and civil society have **called on** the government on many **occasions** to **ease** its dam-building spree, **of late** over rivers in the north and the Northeast; to **moderate** tourism in the regions to be **sustainable**; and to not **blow off unstable** hillsides to **widen** roads. Heavy rains in Aizawl in July triggered subsidence, **exposing** poor **zoning enforcement** and **oversight** of the regional **carrying capacity**. But in Joshimath, which is particularly **prone to landslides**, **questions** about zoning, carrying capacity and **tipping points have** all been **set aside**. The subsidence in Joshimath has captured the nation’s attention because it is a destination for both **pilgrims** and tourists, but it is **far from** being the site of the first or the deadliest incident. The government must **undertake** whatever repair and **restoration** efforts it is **undertaking** at Joshimath at all the other sites as well. Finally, the national and the State governments must listen to both science and the people already living near mines and dams. There is an argument to allow **economically** developing countries to **emit** more before becoming **carbon-neutral**, but it is not a **free pass** to **plunder** natural resources **at the cost of climate justice**.

- **Geological** (adjective) – relating to the study of the earth's physical structure and substance. भूगर्भीय
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Reckless** (adjective) – Irresponsible, wild, thoughtless, inattentive, hasty, careless, rash, लापरवाह
2. **Spree** (noun) – a short period of doing something in an extreme way without control
3. **Joshimath** (noun) – Joshimath, also known as Jyotirmath, is a city and a municipal board in Chamoli District in the Indian state of Uttarakhand.
4. **Sinking** (noun) – a descent as through liquid (especially through water) डूबना
5. **Heed** (verb) – Pay close attention to; give heed to ध्यान देना
6. **Science** (noun) – the study of and knowledge about the physical world and natural laws भौतिक जगत और प्रकृति के नियमों का अध्ययन और ज्ञान; विज्ञान
7. **Subsidence** (noun) – Subsiding, sinking, settling, dropping, collapsing, falling, descending, sagging; the gradual caving in or sinking of an area of land. जमीन का धंसना
8. **Emblematic** (adjective) – Symbolic, representative, demonstrative, suggestive प्रतीकात्मक
9. **Disaster** (noun) – Catastrophe, calamity, misfortune, tragedy, fiasco आपदा
10. **Manifest** (verb) – obvious, show, evident, clear, apparent प्रकट करना
11. **Neighbourhood** (noun) – A surrounding or nearby region पड़ोस
12. **Extraction** (noun) – the process of removing a substance from the ground or from another substance निष्कर्षण
13. **Sag** (verb) – To sink lower due to weight or pressure दबाव से धंसना
14. **Test run** (noun) – Process testing whether machine or system works well. परीक्षण चलाना
15. **Call into question** (phrase) – cast doubt on something. की भूमिका पर संदेह होना
16. **Tapovan Vishnugad facility** (noun) – The Tapovan Vishnugad power plant is a 520MW run-of-river project being constructed on Dhauliganga River in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, India.
17. **Nick** (verb) – to make a very small cut in somebody/something छोटी-सी काट लगाना
18. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
19. **Substantial** (adjective) – sizeable, considerable, significant, large, ample काफी / पर्याप्त

20. **Large-scale** (adjective) – broad, major, extensive, significant बड़े पैमाने पर
21. **Dewatering** (noun) – the removal of water from a location
22. **Strata** (noun) – a layer or a series of layers of rock in the ground. परतें
23. **Potential** (noun) – Ability, capacity, possibility, capability सामर्थ्य
24. **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, start, prompt, activate, cause, spark off, set off शुरू करना
25. **Determine** (verb) – to discover the facts about something का पता लगाना
26. **Ongoing** (adjective) – continuing, continuous, current, continued जारी/ चल रही
27. **Trace** (to) (verb) – to describe a process or the development of something से पता लगता है।
28. **Aquifer** (noun) – a layer of rock, sand, or earth that contains water or allows water to pass through it.
29. **Puncture** (noun) – a small hole in something छेद करना
30. **Complicated** (adjective) – Complex, Intricate, Byzantine, Thorny, Convoluted, Problematical जटिल
31. **Wash one's hands of** (phrase) – Refuse to accept responsibility for; abandon or renounce की जिम्मेदारी लेने से इंकार करना
32. **Unfolding** (adjective) – developing, evolving, growing, progressing; becoming known सामने आने वाली
33. **Point fingers at** (phrase) – to accuse or blame दोष लगाना
34. **Set out** (phrasal verb) – start, make a start, start out, begin one's journey प्रस्थान करना
35. **Examine** (verb) – inspect, survey, scrutinize, look at, look into जांच करना
36. **Findings** (noun) – Discovery, Conclusion, Result, Verdict, Outcome खोज, निष्कर्ष
37. **Cease** (verb) – Come to an end, end, halt, stop, conclude समाप्त करना
38. **Call on** (phrasal verb) – demand that someone do something. अपील करना
39. **Occasions** (noun) – Time, case, juncture, event, instance, incident कई मौकों पर
40. **Ease** (verb) – decrease, reduce, lessen, diminish कम करना
41. **Of late** (phrase) – Recently हाल ही में
42. **Moderate** (verb) – lessen, reduce, soften, temperate कम करना

43. **Sustainable** (adjective) – Involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment
पर्यावरण को हानि पहुँचाए बिना प्राकृतिक पदार्थों और ऊर्जा का उपयोग करते हुए
44. **Blow off** (phrasal verb) – explode, detonate, blast, burst, shatter विस्फोट करना
45. **Unstable** (adjective) – Volatile, unsteady, changeable, insecure अस्थिर
46. **Widen** (verb) – increase, augment, expand, develop चौड़ा करना
47. **Expose** (verb) – Uncover, bare, show, reveal, display, open up खुलासा करना, प्रकट करना
48. **Zoning** (noun) – the process of splitting areas of land up into sections and clarifying what each of those sections can be used for.
49. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, coercion, enforce, execution, implementing अमल, प्रवर्तन
50. **Oversight** (noun) – supervision, surveillance, superintendence, inspection निगरानी
51. **Carrying capacity** (noun) – it refers to the maximum number of individuals of a species that the environment can carry and sustain.
52. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – likely to do, get, or suffer from something से प्रभावित होना
53. **Landslide** (noun) – landslip, rockfall, mudslide, earthslip, earthfall भूस्खलन
54. **Tipping points** (phrase) – the point at which a series of small changes or incidents becomes significant enough to cause a larger, more important change.
55. **Set aside** (phrasal verb) – to decide not to consider something. रद्द करना, उपेक्षा करना
56. **Pilgrim** (noun) – a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons. तीर्थयात्री
57. **Far from** (phrase) – away from, different from, not nearly, से बहुत दूर
58. **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, embark on, venture on आरंभ करना
59. **Restoration** (noun) – the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition. मरम्मत
60. **Undertaking** (noun) – a task that is taken on कार्य, काम
61. **Economically** (adverb) – Financially आर्थिक रूप से
62. **Emit** (verb) – discharge, release, give off, give out, pour out निकालना

63. **Carbon-neutral** (noun) – the balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon emissions; means removes the same amount of carbon dioxide from the environment as it releases into the environment:
64. **Free pass** (noun) – A permit to make use of something, निःशुल्क पास
65. **Plunder** (verb) – to take valuable things from a place using force, sometimes causing a lot of damage; Steal, rob, loot, pillage, raid, ransack लूटना
66. **At the cost of** (phrase) – To achieve something at the loss of something. की कीमत पर
67. **Climate justice** (noun) – Climate justice means that countries that became wealthy through unrestricted carbon emissions have the greatest responsibility to not only stop warming the planet, but also to help other countries adapt to climate change and develop economically with nonpolluting technologies.

Practice Exercise

Direction: (Q1 – Q5): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

A question like "How big is Faerie?" does not admit (1)_____ a simple answer. Faerie, after all, is not one land, one principality or (2)_____ Maps of Faerie are unreliable, and may not be (3)_____ upon. Faerie is bigger than England, as it is bigger than the world.

In the middle of a wood so thick it was very nearly a forest was a small hut, (4)_____ of thatch and grey clay. A yellow bird in a cage sat on its perch outside the house. It did not sing, and sat (5)_____ silent.

- 1. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - about
 - of
 - off
 - in accordance
- 2. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - dominion
 - organism
 - entity
 - unit
- 3. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - depended
 - wobbled
 - steady
 - stabilized
- 4. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - created
 - built
 - build
 - carved
- 5. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - blissfully
 - mournfully
 - gaily
 - chirpily

Directions (Q6–Q7): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt.

- 6. Find the correctly spelt word.**
 - Imbelmatic
 - Emblematic
 - Embelematic
 - Embalematic

7. Find the correctly spelt word.

- A. Naighbourhood
- B. Neighbourhood
- C. Neighbourhood
- D. Naighbourhood

Directions (Q8–Q9): In the following questions, the 1st and the last sentence are numbered 1 and 6. The rest of the sentences/passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four sentences/ parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences/passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

8. 1. Even the smallest insect of the living world is made up of a large number of cells.
 P. Furthermore, the cells in these small creatures widely differ in their structure and function.
 Q. An ant, or a gnat, for example is composed of hundreds of thousands of cells.
 R. Even a mite has cells making up its skeletal structure.
 S. It also has cells dedicated to digestive and reproductive functions.
 6. The cell system of small organisms is microscopic but marvellous, isn't it?
 A.SRPQ B.QRSP C.SQPR D. QPRS
9. 1. Advocates of space programme argue for spending huge amounts of money on exploring Mars.
 P. But there is no firm evidence of any valuable mineral that can be extracted from Mars and transported to Earth.
 Q. Worst, nobody has any idea what undesirable microbes or poisonous materials we will be importing from Mars.
 R. They are also unrealistic about the cost of transportation that will be involved in interplanetary movement of men and materials.
 S. These enthusiasts argue that Mars could be a perennial source of materials for us earthlings.
 6. Our race to Mars is likely to be a wild goose chase.
 A.SPRQ B.QPRS C.PRSQ D. SRQP

Directions (Q10-Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

10. Look at the poll results-do they inspire hope?
 A. Let the poll results be looked- is hope inspired by them?
 B. Let the poll results be looked at-has hope been inspired by them?
 C. Let the poll results be looked at-is hope being inspired by them?
 D. Let the poll results be looked at-is hope inspired by them?
11. It is your duty to make tea at eleven O'clock.
 A. You are asked to make tea at eleven O'clock.
 B. Your are required to make tea at eleven O'clock.
 C. You are supposed to make tea at eleven O'clock.
 D. Tea is to be made by you at eleven O'clock.
12. He was congratulated by his teacher on his brilliant success in the recent examination.
 A. His teacher congratulated him on his brilliant success in the recent examination.

- B. His teacher congratulated him for his success in the examination.
- C. His teacher congratulated him on his success.
- D. His teacher congratulated him.

Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. Stealthily done

- A. devious
- B. nefarious
- C. surreptitious
- D. villainous

14. Something no longer in use

- A. desolate
- B. absolute
- C. obsolete
- D. primitive

Directions (15 – 16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. We shouldn't ***look down upon*** the wretched of the earth.

- A. sympathise with
- B. hate intensely
- C. be indifferent to
- D. regard with contempt

16. Because of his misbehavior, he is bound to ***face the music***.

- A. get finished
- B. get reprimanded
- C. feel sorry
- D. listen to the music

Directions (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

17. SUBSTANTIAL

- A. Oblivion
- B. Prolific
- C. Small
- D. Destitute

18. MANIFEST

- A. Culinary
- B. Unclear
- C. Eminent
- D. Insular

Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. CEASE

- A. Halt

- B. Commensurate
- C. Grandiose
- D. Machination

20. **ENFORCEMENT**

- A. Covert
- B. Exhort
- C. Indignant
- D. Implementation

Directions (21 – 22): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.

21. When she regained consciousness she was stretched in the ditch out, soaked to the skin.

- A. out in the ditch stretched
- B. on the ditch outstretched
- C. outstretched in the ditch
- D. No improvement

22. Too little is known by this time about possible side-effects of the drug.

- A. presently
- B. in the end
- C. before hand
- D. No improvement

Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

23. Ajeet (A)/ is a bigger scholar (B) than his brother. (C)/ No error(D)

24. Whenever I saw (A)/ him, he (B)/ has been reading the same novel. (C)/ No error(D)

25. He is (A)/ better than any boy (B)/ in the class. (C)/ No error (D)

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- Admit** of – allow the possibility of.
- Dominion** – sovereignty or control. प्रभुत्व, अधिराज्य
- Depend** (on/upon) – be rely on पर निर्भर होना
- Past of **build** (i.e. built) should be used as sentence is in past tense.
- Mournfully** – Sadly, sorrowfully, somberly, desolately, despondently शोक में डूबा, अफसोस जताते हुए
 - Blissfully** – Supremely, wonderfully, ecstatically, happily आनंदपूर्वक
 - Gaily** – Merrily, casually, carelessly, unthinkingly, cheerily खुशी
 - Chirpily** – Cheerfully, animatedly, cheerily खुशमिजाज
- Emblematic** (adjective) – Symbolic, representative, demonstrative, suggestive प्रतीकात्मक
- Neighbourhood** (noun) – A surrounding or nearby region पड़ोस
- QPRS**
 Even the smallest insect of the living world is made up of a large number of cells. An ant, or a gnat, for example is composed of hundreds of thou-sands of cells. . Furthermore, the cells in these small creatures widely differ in their structure and function. Even a mite has cells making up its skeletal structure. It also has cells dedicated to digestive and reproductive functions. The cell system of small organisms is microscopic but marvellous, isn't it?
- SPRQ**
 Advocates of space programme argue for spending huge amounts of money on exploring Mars. These enthusiasts argue that Mars could be a perennial source of materials for us earthlings. But there is no firm evidence of any valuable mineral that can be extracted from Mars and transported to Earth. They are also unrealistic about the cost of transportation that will be involved in interplanetary movement of men and materials. Worst, nobody has any idea what undesirable microbes or poisonous materials we will be importing from Mars.
- Let the poll results be looked at-is hope inspired by them?
- You are supposed to make tea at eleven O'clock.
- His teacher congratulated him on his brilliant success in the recent examination.
- Surreptitious**- Stealthily done गुप्त
 - Devious** – stealthily done ; secretly done कुटिल

- **Nefarious** – criminal अति दुष्ट
 - **Villainous** –very evil and unpleasant उपद्रवी
14. **Obsolete**- Something no longer in use अप्रचलित
- **Desolate** – empty and without people, making you feel sad/frightened सुनसान
 - **Absolute** – total and complete संपूर्ण
 - **Primitive** – belonging to an early stage in the development of humans and animals आदिम
15. **look down upon** (Phrase) – regard with contempt हेय दृष्टि से देखना
16. **Face the music** (Phrase) – get reprimanded किये का परिणाम भुगतना
17. **Substantial** (adjective) – sizeable, considerable, significant, large, ample काफी / पर्याप्त
- **Oblivion** (noun) – Total forgetfulness; the state of being forgotten भुलक्कड़पन
 - **Prolific**(adjective) – Abundantly productive; fruitful or fertile उपजाऊ
 - **Destitute** (adjective) – Extremely poor; utterly lacking बेसहारा, दीन
18. **Manifest** (verb) – obvious, show, evident, clear, apparent प्रकट करना
- **Culinary** (adjective) – Relating to cooking or the kitchen पाक शाला संबंधी, रसोई का
 - **Eminent** (adjective) – Well known and respected; standing out from all others in quality or accomplishment; outstanding. विख्यात, प्रसिद्ध
 - **Insular** (adjective) – Like an island; isolated द्वीपीय
19. **Cease** (verb) – Come to an end, end, halt, stop, conclude समाप्त करना
- **Commensurate** (adjective) – Equal; proportionate अनुरूप, सम्मेल्य
 - **Grandiose** (adjective) – Absurdly exaggerated दिखावटी
 - **Machination** (noun) – Scheming Activity for an evil purpose चालबाज़ी
20. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, coercion, enforce, execution, implementing अमल, प्रवर्तन
- **Covert** (adjective) – Secret; hidden गुप्त, गोपनीय
 - **Exhort** (verb) – To urge strongly; to give a serious warning to समझाना
 - **Indignant** (adjective) – Angry; especially as a result of something unjust or unworthy; insulted. क्रोधित
21. outstretched in the ditch

Outstretched (Adj.): spread out as far as possible फैलाया हुआ

Stretch out (Phr. V.): to lie down in order to relax or sleep पसरना

22. presently

Presently (Adv.) : now ; currently; at the time you are speaking शीघ्र

By this time: a particular allotted time इस समय तक

23. (B) 'bigger' के बदले 'better' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'big/ bigger/ Biggest' किसी चीज का 'size' (आकार, माप, विस्तार) बताता है जबकि 'good/ better/ best' किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु का 'quality' (योग्यता, क्षमता, गुणवत्ता) बताता है; जैसे-

- a. This house is bigger than that.
- b. He is a better player than you.
- c. He is a better scholar than you.

➤ 'better' will be used instead of 'bigger' because 'big/ bigger/ Biggest' refers to the 'size' (size, measure, extent) of something whereas 'good/ better/ best' refers to a person or indicates the 'quality' (ability, capability, quality) of the commodity; As-

- i. This house is bigger than that.
- ii. He is a better player than you.
- iii. He is a better scholar than you.

24. (C) 'has been reading' के बदले 'was reading' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि past में यदि कोई घटना जारी रही हो और उसी बीच कोई घटना घटी हो तो जारी घटना के लिए Past Continuous और इस बीच घटने वाली घटना के लिए Simple Past का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- a. When I went there, he was reading a novel.
- b. He was reading a novel when I went there.
- c. Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.

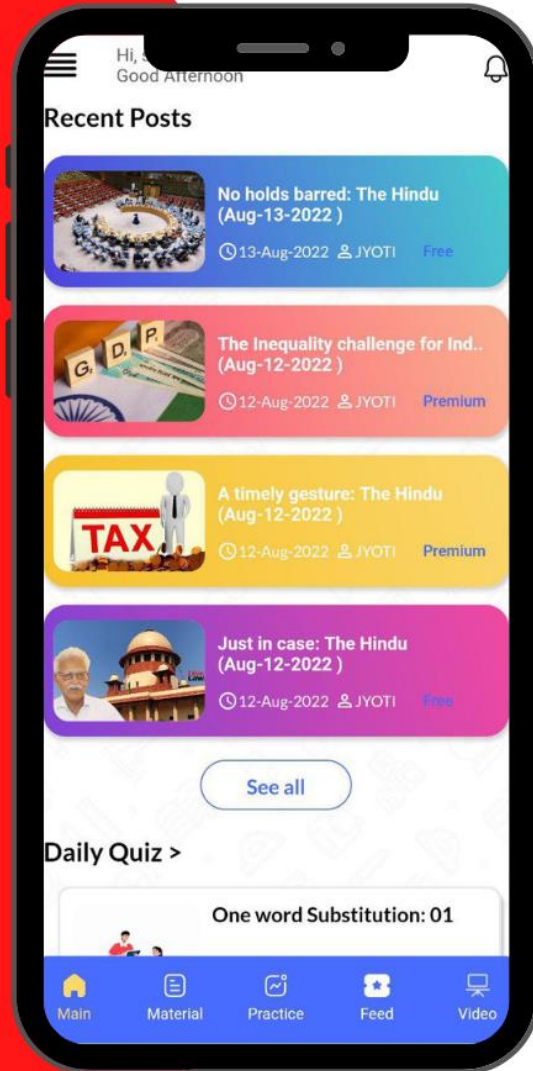
➤ 'was reading' will be used instead of 'has been reading' because if an event is continuing in the past and an event has happened in the meantime, then Past Continuous for the continuing event and Simple Past for the event occurring in the meantime is used; As-

- i. When I went there, he was reading a novel.
- ii. He was reading a novel when I went there.
- iii. Whenever I saw him, he was reading a novel.

25. (B) 'any boy' के बदले 'any other boy' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि एक group के एक सदस्य की तुलना उसी group के अन्य सदस्यों से हो, तो Comparative Degree में 'any' के बाद 'other' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- a. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.

- 'any other boy' will be used instead of 'any boy' because if a member of a group is compared with other members of the same group, then 'other' is used after 'any' in the comparative degree; As-
Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar.



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