

## The Pioneer: Man-made tragedy

Amid the **ongoing** monsoon season, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana are **grappling** with a **dire catastrophe** that has **cost** these states a **fortune**. The **relentless downpour** has transformed **serene** rivers into **roaring torrents**, causing **widespread devastation** and loss of life and property. This situation, however, is not **solely** the result of nature's **fury**; it is the consequence of **unchecked** human actions that have **disrupted** the **delicate** balance between progress and environmental responsibility. The disturbing **trend** of constructing hotels and resorts on riverbeds, **oblivious** to the **potential** consequences, **has** emerged as a **prominent** contributor to the ongoing tragedy. The **allure** of **scenic** waterfront properties **has driven** a **reckless pursuit** of profit, **often overshadowing prudent considerations** for the environment and local communities. As these structures **sprawl** across the riverbanks, they **impair** the natural flow of water, causing **disastrous** consequences during heavy rainfall. The **repercussions** of this **short-sighted** development approach **are** now **on full display**. Thousands of residents have been forced to **abandon** their homes, a direct result of the man-made **encroachments** that **obstructed** the rivers' natural paths. The scale of destruction is **staggering**, with homes reduced to **rubble** and **livelihoods swept away**. **Moreover**, the human **toll** extends beyond material losses, with health issues **exacerbating** the already dire situation. More than 100 lives have been lost in Himachal alone, while thousands of crores have been **washed away**. This **indeed** is a direct consequence of **greed** and **unbridled** desire to **choke** nature to the maximum. The **nexus** among the builders, politicians and bureaucrats **has played havoc** in the state. The illegal construction goes **full steam** while the administration looks the other way.

**Incessant** rain has **triggered** flash floods, landslides and other **calamities**, **compounding** the crisis. The **toll** on lives and agriculture **is heart-wrenching**, with both states **witnessing substantial** financial losses. Haryana and Punjab have suffered estimated losses of hundreds of crores, while Himachal Pradesh's losses are estimated at a staggering Rs 8000 crores. The unchecked **expansion** of human **settlements** onto riverbeds **must be met** with strict regulations and responsible land use practices. The **consequences** of prioritising short-term financial gains over long-term environmental **sustainability** **have** become painfully clear. The lessons from this disaster should serve as a **stern** reminder that our actions have **profound** repercussions on the environment and the local population we share it with. It is **imperative** that **accountability** is **assigned** not just for immediate relief efforts, but also for the regulatory **oversights** that allowed such reckless construction to **thrive**. These floods must become a turning point in our approach to development. Only through responsible planning and a renewed **commitment** to environmental **stewardship** can we hope to prevent such disasters from recurring.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Amid** (preposition) – Among, within, during, amidst, in the middle of के बीच
2. **Ongoing** (adjective) – Continuing, constant, current, enduring, in progress जारी
3. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) – Wrestle with, deal with, confront, struggle with, come to grips with से जूझना
4. **Dire** (adjective) – Desperate, extreme, critical, drastic, grave भयानक
5. **Catastrophe** (noun) – Disaster, calamity, tragedy, devastation, mishap प्राकृतिक आपदा
6. **Cost someone a fortune** (phrase) – To be very expensive, cost a lot, break the bank बहुत महंगा पड़ना
7. **Relentless** (adjective) – Unyielding, unceasing, persistent, continuous, nonstop लगातार
8. **Downpour** (noun) – Deluge, rainstorm, cloudburst, torrent, monsoon मूसलाधार वर्षा
9. **Serene** (adjective) – Tranquil, calm, peaceful, still, quiet शांत
10. **Roaring** (adjective) – Noisy, loud, boisterous, thunderous गरजती
11. **Torrent** (noun) – Inundation, surge, deluge, stream, downpour, rainstorm बौछार
12. **Widespread** (adjective) – Extensive, prevalent, general, common, pervasive व्यापक
13. **Devastation** (noun) – Destruction, ruin, damage, desolation तबाही
14. **Solely** (adverb) – Only, purely, entirely, exclusively केवल
15. **Fury** (noun) – Wrath, anger, rage, outrage, indignation प्रकोप
16. **Unchecked** (adjective) – Uncontrolled, unrestricted, unconstrained, unbridled अनियंत्रित/ बेरोक
17. **Disrupt** (verb) – Interrupt, disturb, interfere with, unsettle बाधित करना
18. **Delicate** (adjective) – Fragile, dainty, tender, sensitive नाजुक
19. **Oblivious** (adjective) – Unaware, unconscious, heedless, ignorant अनजान
20. **Potential** (adjective) – Possible, likely, prospective, latent संभावित
21. **Prominent** (adjective) – Notable, outstanding, conspicuous, pronounced प्रमुख

22. **Allure** (noun) – Attraction, charm, appeal, magnetism आकर्षण
23. **Scenic** (adjective) – Picturesque, beautiful, lovely, panoramic मनोहार/ प्राकृतिक
24. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, push, press, prompt प्रेरित करना
25. **Reckless** (adjective) – Careless, rash, heedless, thoughtless अविचारी/ दुःसाहसी
26. **Pursuit** (noun) – Endeavor, effort, quest, chase: an attempt to achieve something
27. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, habitually, repeatedly अक्सर
28. **Overshadow** (verb) – to cause someone or something to seem less important कम महत्वपूर्ण लगना
29. **Prudent** (adjective) – Wise, judicious, sensible, thoughtful बुद्धिमान
30. **Consideration** (noun) – Thought, reflection, deliberation, attention विचार
31. **Sprawl** (verb) – Spread out, stretch, expand, extend, sprawled out फैल जाना
32. **Impair** (verb) – Weaken, harm, damage, reduce, deteriorate बिगाड़ना/ खराब करना
33. **Disastrous** (adjective) – Catastrophic, devastating, ruinous, destructive, calamitous विनाशकारी
34. **Repercussion** (noun) – Consequence, result, aftermath, outcome, fallout प्रतिप्रभाव/ प्रतिघात
35. **Short-sighted** (adjective) – Myopic, narrow-minded, lacking foresight, shortsightedness, blinkered अदूरदर्शी
36. **On full display** (phrase) – Fully visible, prominently shown, fully exposed, in full view पूरी तरह दिखाई देना
37. **Abandon** (verb) – Forsake, desert, leave behind, give up, discard छोड़ देना
38. **Encroachment** (noun) – Invasion, intrusion, trespass, violation, infringement अतिक्रमण
39. **Obstruct** (verb) – Block, hinder, impede, inhibit, hamper रोकना
40. **Staggering** (adjective) – Astonishing, amazing, astounding, remarkable, overwhelming चौंका देने वाला
41. **Rubble** (noun) – Debris, wreckage, remains, ruins, fragments मलबा
42. **Livelihood** (noun) – Means of living, sustenance, source of income, living, bread and butter जीविका
43. **Sweep away** (phrase) – remove, dispel, or abolish something in a swift and sudden way. नष्ट करना

44. **Moreover** (adverb) – Additionally, furthermore, besides, also, further इसके अलावा
45. **Toll** (noun) – the number of deaths or casualties arising from a natural disaster, conflict, accident, etc. मौतों
46. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, amplify, magnify बढ़ाना/ बिगाड़ देना
47. **Wash away** (phrasal verb) – Sweep away, flush away, remove, erode, cleanse away बहकर ले जाना
48. **Indeed** (adverb) – Truly, certainly, actually, really, undoubtedly वास्तव में
49. **Greed** (noun) – Avarice, covetousness, rapacity, acquisitiveness, desire for wealth लालच
50. **Unbridled** (adjective) – Unrestrained, unchecked, uncontrolled, rampant, wild अनियंत्रित/ निरंकुश
51. **Choke** (verb) – Obstruct, clog, block, congest, gag अवस्द्ध करना
52. **Nexus** (noun) – Connection, link, bond, tie, relationship सांठगांठ
53. **Play havoc** (phrase) – Cause destruction, devastate, wreck, ruin, destroy परेशानी पैदा करना
54. **Full stream** (phrase) – At full speed, rapidly, full tilt, at full blast, all out पूरी रफ्तार में
55. **Incessant** (adjective) – Unending, continuous, non-stop, unceasing, endless लगातार
56. **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, spark, provoke, stimulate, set off पैदा करना
57. **Calamity** (noun) – Disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, mishap, adversity कठोर विपत्ति
58. **Compound** (verb) – Exacerbate, intensify, worsen, magnify, augment बढ़ाना
59. **Heart-wrenching** (adjective) – Heartbreaking, distressing, agonizing, harrowing, sorrowful दिल दहला देने वाला
60. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, behold, experience, undergo देखना
61. **Substantial** (adjective) – Significant, considerable, marked, notable, sizable महत्वपूर्ण
62. **Expansion** (noun) – Extension, enlargement, increase, growth, development विस्तार
63. **Settlement** (noun) – Colony, establishment, habitation, community बस्ती
64. **Meet** (with) (verb) – Encounter, face, experience, undergo सामना करना

65. **Sustainability** (noun) – Durability, viability, endurance, survivability सततता/ स्थिरता
66. **Stern** (adjective) – Severe, strict, stringent, harsh, rigorous कठोर
67. **Profound** (adjective) – Deep, intense, far-reaching, thoroughgoing, heartfelt गहरा
68. **Imperative** (adjective) – Essential, crucial, vital, necessary, obligatory अनिवार्य/ अत्यावश्यक
69. **Accountability** (noun) – Responsibility, liability, answerability, obligation जवाबदेही
70. **Assign** (verb) – Allocate, designate, appoint, entrust, delegate सौंपना
71. **Oversight** (noun) – Negligence, inadvertence, omission, lapse लापरवाही
72. **Thrive** (verb) – Flourish, prosper, succeed, advance, burgeon फलना-फूलना
73. **Commitment** (noun) – Dedication, devotion, loyalty, obligation, pledge प्रतिबद्धता
74. **Stewardship** (noun) – Guardianship, custodianship, care, management, oversight प्रबंधन/ नेतृत्व

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana are facing severe destruction due to monsoons.
2. Rivers have turned into torrents, leading to loss of life and property.
3. The catastrophe is not just nature's doing but a result of unchecked human interference.
4. There's a concerning trend of building hotels and resorts on riverbeds without considering potential hazards.
5. These constructions are driven by the appeal of waterfront properties and profit motives, often sidelining environmental concerns.
6. The structures on riverbanks hinder the natural flow of water, escalating the damages during heavy rainfall.
7. Thousands have had to leave their homes due to man-made obstructions that deviated rivers from their natural paths.
8. The extent of destruction is immense, affecting both homes and livelihoods.
9. Over 100 lives have been lost in Himachal Pradesh alone, with financial losses amounting to thousands of crores.
10. Corruption involving builders, politicians, and bureaucrats has exacerbated the problem, allowing illegal construction to flourish.
11. The situation has been intensified with flash floods, landslides, and other natural disasters.
12. Financial losses are staggering; Haryana and Punjab have lost hundreds of crores, and Himachal Pradesh's losses reach Rs 8000 crores.
13. The events highlight the urgent need for stricter regulations and responsible land use practices.
14. The disaster underscores the importance of considering long-term environmental sustainability over short-term financial gains.
15. For future protection, there must be accountability, responsible planning, and a strong emphasis on environmental stewardship.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is identified as a primary factor contributing to the catastrophic floods in Himachal Pradesh?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Excessive monsoon rainfall
  - B. Construction of hotels and resorts on riverbeds
  - C. Rapid melting of snow from the mountains
  - D. Sudden release of dam water
2. **Which statement best describes the attitude of those responsible for the constructions on riverbeds?**
  - A. They prioritize environmental responsibility over progress.
  - B. They build on riverbeds with awareness of the possible consequences.
  - C. They construct on riverbeds driven by the beauty of the location and potential profit.
  - D. They ensure that constructions do not disrupt the natural flow of rivers.
3. **Based on the passage, which statement best captures the author's viewpoint regarding construction on riverbeds and its implications?**
  - A. The construction on riverbeds has minor influence on the floods in Himachal Pradesh.
  - B. Flash floods are primarily caused by incessant rains only.
  - C. The unchecked expansion of human settlements onto riverbeds has contributed significantly to the floods, with disastrous consequences for financial and environmental sustainability.
  - D. Haryana and Punjab have suffered more significant financial losses than Himachal Pradesh due to the floods.
4. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?**
  - A. Unchecked human actions disrupted the balance between progress and environmental responsibility.
  - B. The construction of waterfront properties obstructs the natural flow of rivers leading to devastating consequences.
  - C. The floods in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana were solely the result of natural occurrences like heavy rainfall.
  - D. The unchecked expansion onto riverbeds should be addressed with stricter regulations and responsible land use.
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The beauty of waterfront properties in Himachal Pradesh.
  - B. The financial profits of builders in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana.
  - C. The dangers of unchecked construction on riverbeds and its environmental consequences.
  - D. The monsoon season in India.
6. Identify the word in the given sentence that is the **ANTONYM** of the word '**frugal**'. At present, people are paying extravagant prices for houses because they have to have accommodation.
  - A. prices
  - B. accommodation
  - C. present

- D. Extravagant
7. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Horticulture
  - B. Ignision
  - C. Copulate
  - D. Portion
8. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
- I will not go out if is raining.
- A. raining
  - B. it rains
  - C. will rain
  - D. Rained
9. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.**
- Please ask the dog to get of my couch.
- A. get of mine
  - B. get off my
  - C. get off mine
  - D. No substitution
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- I fell / asleep while/ I read / the book.
- A. the book
  - B. I read
  - C. asleep while
  - D. I fell
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
- Those streets are very lonely.
- A. Crowded
  - B. Isolated
  - C. Empty
  - D. Remote
12. **Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (S1 and S5) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**
- S1. It is a warm July morning.
- A. Even when it is bright outside, only half of her room is lit up, the rest sits softly in half light.
  - B. Phuphee's room has two sets of windows, both on the same side.
  - C. We have a few days off school, and I have been sent to Phuphee's house.



D. When I stay with her, she always lets me sleep next to her because she knows I am terrified of sleeping on my own.

S6. The glass on the windows is made up of different hues of yellows, greens, reds, and blues.

A. CABD    B. CDBA    C. ABCD    D. BCDA

**13. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. As I had the fortune of having lived for more than a decade in a village, closer to nature,

Q. Watching birds is a pastime so dear to my heart

R. I treasure many pleasant memories of watching birds of varied species

S. I am no ornithologist, but I have a great love of birds

A. PSQR    B. PSRQ    C. SQPR    D. PRQS

**14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. It is considered a leadership trait when a leader knows how to pick his or her battle.

Q. A trait that, often, comes with age for a common man who fights several battles every day in personal and professional lives.

R. Some battles are not only worth fighting but also imperative.

S. This seems to apply only to individuals though.

A. RPQS    B. RSPQ    C. SRQP    D. SPRQ

**15. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. After retirement, when we moved into our own apartment in a newly built residential complex in a busy suburb of the city, with the surrounding land devoid of any constructions,

Q. The landscape of the building complex encompassed ornamental plants which would provide, when they grow, magnificent shade below them and turn into a green curtain to guard from inquisitive eyes

R. But we knew that the land was in a development zone and that sooner than later, we will be dwarfed by new tall buildings

S. we were thrilled that we had an unhindered view of the skyline and a free flow of air which would cool our interiors, figuratively

A. QSPR    B. PSRQ    C. QSRP    D. PQSR

**16. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. Driving across a railway level crossing during peak hours cures your low blood pressure.

Q. For instance, you are the first at a closed level crossing on a narrow two-lane road.

R. The right lane remains free to allow vehicles from the opposite side to come through when the crossing opens. So far, so good.

S. More vehicles arrive and queue up behind you on the left lane.

A. QSPR    B. PSRQ    C. QSRP    D. PQSR

**Comprehension**

AFSPA was revoked in Tripura in 2015 and in Meghalaya in 2018. It is not \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub>\_\_\_\_\_ that other States will also be excluded from its purview at some point of time. It is convenient to link the exclusion of an area from AFSPA's purview with reduction in violence by armed groups, improvement in the security situation and an increase in

development activity, but what is important is the recognition that the law created an atmosphere of impunity and led to the commission of excesses and \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_. It was hardly four months ago that 15 civilians were killed in Mon district in Nagaland in a \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ military operation. Therefore, alongside the gradual reduction in the areas under the Act, there should be serious efforts to procure justice for victims of past excesses too. On the political side, it is indeed true that much \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ has been made in moving towards a political solution to some of the multifarious disputes in the region, in the form of peace accords, ceasefire and creation of sub-regional administrative arrangements

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

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

- A. Durable
- B. Unforeseeable
- C. Dependable
- D. Predictable

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. Woes
- B. Atrocities
- C. Impetus
- D. Rejuvenate

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Associated
- B. Botched
- C. Produced
- D. Obligated

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Priority
- B. Strategy
- C. Headway
- D. Forcibly

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. B) The passage mentions that "The disturbing trend of constructing hotels and resorts on riverbeds, oblivious to the potential consequences, has emerged as a prominent contributor to the ongoing tragedy." This indicates that the construction of hotels and resorts on riverbeds is a major factor contributing to the floods.
2. C) The passage states, "The allure of scenic waterfront properties has driven a reckless pursuit of profit, often overshadowing prudent considerations for the environment and local communities." This suggests that those responsible for the constructions are driven by the appeal of the location and the potential for profit, often at the expense of environmental considerations.

3. **C) The unchecked expansion of human settlements onto riverbeds has contributed significantly to the floods, with disastrous consequences for financial and environmental sustainability.**

The passage states that "Unbridled construction on riverbeds is behind the catastrophic floods in Himachal Pradesh" and emphasizes the need for "strict regulations and responsible land use practices." It further highlights the consequences of prioritizing short-term gains over environmental sustainability. Option C correctly captures this sentiment and aligns with the overall theme of the passage.

4. **C. The floods in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana were solely the result of natural occurrences like heavy rainfall.**

The passage clearly states that while natural occurrences like rainfall did play a role, the devastating impact of the floods was also a consequence of unchecked human actions, notably the construction on riverbeds. Therefore, statement C is not supported by the passage as it claims the floods were solely due to natural causes.

5. **C) The dangers of unchecked construction on riverbeds and its environmental consequences.**

The passage primarily focuses on the environmental hazards and destruction brought about by unchecked and irresponsible construction activities on riverbeds. The author discusses how these actions have disrupted the balance between progress and environmental responsibility, leading to catastrophic floods. The emphasis is on the devastating consequences of prioritizing short-term gains over long-term sustainability.

6. D) **Extravagant** (adjective) – Excessive, lavish, spendthrift, wasteful. अत्यधिक

Antonym: **Frugal** (adjective) – Economical, sparing, thrifty, careful with resources. मितव्ययी

- **Prices** (noun) – The amount of money expected or required in payment for something. मूल्य

- **Accommodation** (noun) – Lodging; a place to live or stay, typically temporarily. आवास
  - **Present** (adjective) – Existing or happening now; current. वर्तमान
7. B) 'Ignision' की जगह सही spelling 'Ignition' होती है। इसलिए 'Ignision' गलत spelling वाला शब्द है।
8. B) 'is raining' के स्थान पर 'it rains' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'if' के बाद Present Simple Tense का प्रयोग होता है जब वाक्य में किसी संभावित स्थिति का उल्लेख हो; जैसे— If it rains, I will stay home.
- 'it rains' will be used instead of 'is raining' because in a conditional sentence with 'if', the Present Simple Tense is used when referring to a possible situation; Like— If it rains, I will stay home.
9. B) 'get of' के बदले 'get off my' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'get off' सही phrasal verb है जो 'किसी चीज़ पर से हटना' को दर्शाता है।
- 'get off my' will be used instead of 'get of' because 'get off' is the correct phrase that represents 'to move away from something'.
10. B) इस वाक्य में 'I read' के बदले 'I was reading' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'while' के साथ continuous tense का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— I fell asleep while I was reading the book.
- 'I was reading' will be used instead of 'I read' because with 'while', the continuous tense is used; Like— I fell asleep while I was reading the book.
11. A) **Lonely** (adjective) – Without companions, solitary, deserted, isolated. सुनसान  
Antonym: **Crowded** (adjective) – Filled with many people, bustling, packed, busy. भीड़-भाड़ वाला
- **Isolated** (adjective) – Alone, separated, secluded, lonely. अलग
  - **Empty** (adjective) – Unoccupied, vacant, barren, devoid. खाली
  - **Remote** (adjective) – Distant, far-off, outlying, secluded. दूरस्थ
12. B) **S1CDBAS6**
- S1: This sentence sets the scene and provides a time reference. It's a starting point and serves as an introduction to the setting
- C: This sentence logically follows S1. S1 sets the time (a July morning), and sentence C explains the situation at this time: the narrator has a few days off school and is sent to Phuphee's house.
- D: This sentence builds on the information in C. The pronoun "her" in D refers to "Phuphee" mentioned in C. It shows the relationship between the narrator and Phuphee and provides additional details about what happens when the narrator stays with Phuphee.

B: After explaining the emotional connection and arrangement between the narrator and Phuphee in D, sentence B begins to describe the physical environment of Phuphee's room. "Phuphee's room" is the subject here, and it's directly related to what we learned in the previous sentences, where Phuphee is an important character.

A: Sentence A further describes Phuphee's room, which is introduced in B. The pronoun "her" in A refers back to "Phuphee" in B, and it builds on the detail about the windows in Phuphee's room. It explains the lighting in the room in relation to the windows described in B.

S6: This sentence concludes the description of Phuphee's room. It specifies details about the windows mentioned in B and A, describing the color of the glass, which ties in with the lighting description in A. It is a natural concluding sentence after the detailed description of the room's environment

### 13. C) SQPR

**S comes before Q:** Sentence S introduces the narrator's love for birds, which is then elaborated upon in sentence Q.

**Q comes after S and before P:** After introducing the love for birds in sentence S and elaborating with watching birds in sentence Q, sentence P logically follows to explain why watching birds is so dear to the narrator's heart (because of living in a village closer to nature).

**P comes after Q and before R:** After establishing the love for watching birds and explaining the reason (living in a village) in sentence P, sentence R naturally follows to describe the pleasant memories that stem from this experience.

### 14. A) RPQS

**R:** Sentence 'R' seems to be a good starting point because it makes a general statement about battles: "Some battles are not only worth fighting but also imperative." It sets the context for the reader

**P:** Sentence 'P' logically follows 'R' as it builds upon the idea introduced in 'R' about the importance of picking battles. The phrase "It is considered a leadership trait" logically refers to what was discussed in 'R' – the importance of choosing certain battles.

**Q:** After 'P', 'Q' seems to be the logical continuation. It further elaborates on the trait discussed in 'P'. The word "A trait" in 'Q' connects back to "a leadership trait" in 'P', showing that 'Q' is expanding on the idea introduced in 'P'.

**S:** Finally, sentence 'S' seems to act as a logical conclusion or remark on the trait mentioned in the previous sentences: "This seems to apply only to individuals though." The pronoun "This" in 'S' refers to the idea that knowing how to pick battles is a trait, which was discussed in 'P' and 'Q'.

### 15. B) PSRQ

**P-S:** In Sentence P, the speakers are introduced as having moved into an apartment in a newly built residential complex. Sentence S continues their narrative by using the pronoun 'we', indicating their emotional response to moving into this new place. This establishes a direct connection between P and S, where S logically follows P.

**S-R:** Sentence S expresses the initial excitement of the speakers about their new home and the unhindered view they have. Sentence R, however, begins with the conjunction 'But', indicating a contrast or complication that will develop in the future ("sooner than later"). This suggests that after the initial excitement (expressed in S), there is a realization about the future development of the area (expressed in R). Thus, R logically follows S

**R-Q:** Sentence R talks about the awareness that the land is in a development zone and the anticipation of future tall buildings. Sentence Q describes a future scenario where the ornamental plants in the complex will grow to provide shade and privacy.

16. **D) PQSR**

**P:** Sentence P provides a broad, introductory statement regarding the experience of driving across a railway level crossing during peak hours, suggesting it can be a stressful or intense experience

**Q:** Sentence Q follows this introduction by providing a specific scenario that exemplifies this experience: "For instance, you are the first at a closed level crossing on a narrow two-lane road." The phrase "For instance" is a strong hint that what follows is an example or illustration of the general statement made in sentence P.

**S:** After Q sets up the scene of being the first at a closed level crossing, sentence S logically continues by describing what happens next in this scenario: "More vehicles arrive and queue up behind you on the left lane."

**R:** The mention of the "right lane" in R is directly related to the setup of the "left lane" in S, and it seems to be a continuation of that explanation.

17. B) 'Unforeseeable' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "unforeseeable" का अर्थ होता है ऐसा जो पहले से अनुमान नहीं लगाया जा सकता है। इस संदर्भ में, अन्य राज्यों में AFSPA को रद्द करने का निर्णय कब लिया जाएगा यह पहले से नहीं कहा जा सकता। 'Durable' का अर्थ है स्थायी, 'Dependable' का अर्थ है विश्वसनीय, और 'Predictable' का अर्थ है पूर्वानुमानित, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Unforeseeable' should be used because it means something that cannot be anticipated or predicted in advance. In this context, it is being said that it cannot be foreseen when other states will also be excluded from AFSPA. 'Durable' means long-lasting, 'Dependable' means reliable, and 'Predictable' means expected or anticipated, which don't fit in this context.

18. B) 'Atrocities' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "atrocities" का अर्थ होता है अत्याचार या अत्यधिक निंदनीय कार्य। संदर्भ में, इस कानूनी प्रावधान के द्वारा अधिकाधिक अन्याय की चर्चा की गई है, इसलिए 'Atrocities' सही शब्द है। 'Woes' का अर्थ होता है समस्याएँ या चिंताएँ, 'Impetus' का अर्थ है प्रेरणा, और 'Rejuvenate' का अर्थ है पुनर्जीवन या नवीकरण, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Atrocities' should be used because it refers to acts of extreme cruelty or heinous actions. In the context, there is a mention of excessive injustices because of the legal provision, hence 'Atrocities' is the right word. Whereas, 'Woes' means problems or worries, 'Impetus'

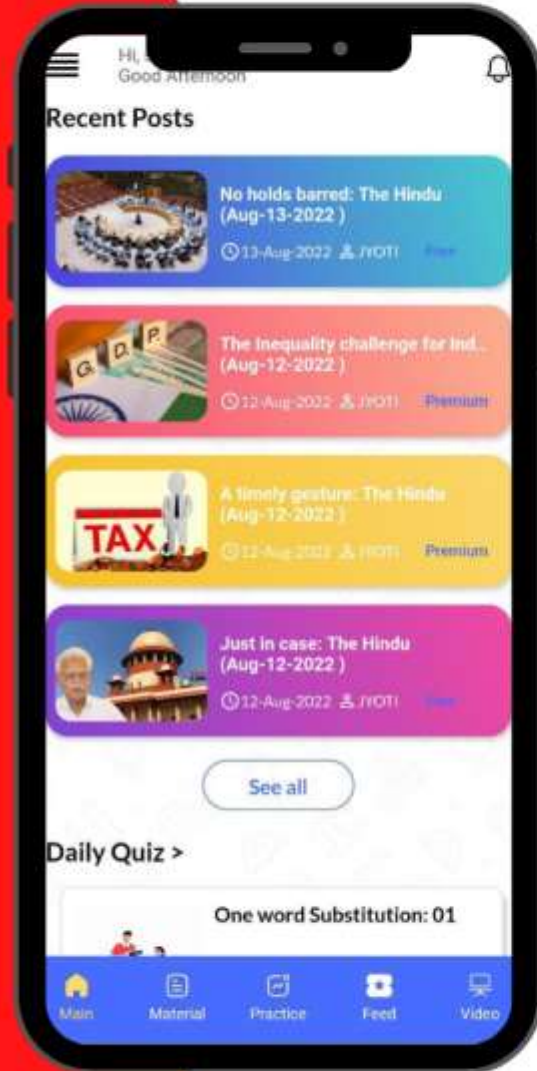
means a motivating force, and 'Rejuvenate' means to revive or renew, which don't fit in this context.

19. B) 'Botched' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "botched" का अर्थ होता है असफलतापूर्वक या गलत तरीके से किया गया कार्य। यहां पर उल्लेख है कि 15 नागरिक मौन जिले में मरे गए, जो एक गलत मिलिट्री ऑपरेशन की वजह से हुआ। जबकि 'Associated' का अर्थ है संबंधित, 'Produced' का अर्थ है निर्मित करना, और 'Obligated' का अर्थ है आभारी होना या मजबूरी में काम करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Botched' should be used because it means something done unsuccessfully or in a mistaken manner. In the context, it is mentioned that 15 civilians were killed due to an erroneous military operation. Whereas, 'Associated' means related, 'Produced' means to bring about, and 'Obligated' means to be indebted or feel bound, which don't fit in this context.

20. C) 'Headway' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "headway" का अर्थ होता है प्रगति करना या सुधार करना। जबकि 'Priority' का अर्थ है प्राथमिकता, 'Strategy' का अर्थ है रणनीति, और 'Forcibly' का अर्थ है जबरदस्ती, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Headway' should be used because it means making progress or improvement. Whereas, 'Priority' means precedence, 'Strategy' means a plan, and 'Forcibly' means with force or compulsion, which don't fit in this context.



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