

Festering wounds: On Manipur's elusive peace

Manipur continues to remain **on the boil** due to ineffective **governance**

More than three months since **ethnic** violence **broke out** in Manipur, there are still little or no signs of **lasting** peace. From **competing** groups **imposing blockades** of **arterial** roads to **sporadic** attacks **resulting in** deaths, the **conflict** is **rife with** incidents suggesting the **breakdown** of **law and order**. Another **indication** of the **state of affairs** **is** the difference in **perceptions** between the police and the paramilitary Assam Rifles with **unedifying** acts such as an FIR being **lodged** by the police against **the latter** for “**obstructing**” it from **discharging** its duties. **Far from** moving away from the ethnic **quagmire** and in search of a **détente**, the situation is more like a **powder keg**. That people are still in relief camps and many houses have been destroyed, and anyone seeking peace has been subjected to violence or threats also **attest to** this unfortunate fact. India's **mainstream** polity had an opportunity to use the monsoon session of Parliament to **nudge** key **stakeholders** to work towards **reconciliation**. But that opportunity was **seemingly** lost, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had **little to say** beyond **homilies** on what needs to be done even as the Opposition only **sought** to **pin down** the government for its failures as a **means** to **score** a political point in the **run-up to** the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The **events** in Manipur so far **suggest** that the ethnic conflict **festers** because of the **intractable** positions by the Meitei and Kuki-Zo leaders. The Meitei refuse to **acknowledge** the sense of **bias** in the State government's actions — especially by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh — that have **alienated** the Kuki-Zo and its representatives, **cutting across party lines**. The latter seeks to **harp on** the idea of a “separate **administration**”, complicating the **fragile co-existence** of ethnic **identities** in the State which include others such as the Naga community. The **refusal** of civil society representatives to rise above their ethnic differences **has** also **exacerbated** the conflict, which has **worsened** due to the lack of **accountability** of the State government and its refusal to change its leadership — a step that seems to be the only clear possibility of bringing forward reconciliation. Manipur is a **vital** border State and the continuing **distrust** between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo **will** have a lasting impact on future generations, severely **hampering** progress. The Union government's choices are clear: it can either continue the **narrow-minded emphasis** on not **giving into** any **critique**, even if **constructive**, and let the situation fester into an **uneasy stasis**, or **take up the gauntlet** and **bring about substantive** changes in the State leadership, **heralding** steps towards reconciliation. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Fester** (adjective) – Fuming, smouldering, brewing, simmering, रिसते
2. **Wound** (noun) – trauma, anguish, pain, suffering, distress, घाव, ज़ख्म
3. **Elusive** (adjective) – difficult to find, difficult to achieve, दुर्लभ
4. **On the boil** (phrase) – in a state of excitement or agitation, very strong or active, उत्तेजित स्थिति में; उबाल पर
5. **Governance** (noun) – administration, management, direction, superintendence, प्रशासन
6. **Ethnic** (adjective) – racial, tribal, cultural, जातीय
7. **Break out** (phrasal verb) – erupt, flare up, begin suddenly, फैल जाना
8. **Lasting** (adjective) – enduring, long-lasting, continuing, persisting, permanent स्थायी
9. **Competing** (adjective) – fighting, clashing, disputing, conflicting लड़नेवाला
10. **Impose** (verb) – levy, charge, set, apply, enforce, bring into effect थोपना
11. **Blockade** (noun) – barrier, barricade, obstruction, नाकाबंदी
12. **Arterial** (adjective) – main, major, primary, मुख्य
13. **Sporadic** (adjective) – intermittent, occasional, infrequent, छिटपुट
14. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – lead to, cause, bring about, परिणाम होना
15. **Conflict** (noun) – strife, discord, dispute, टकराव
16. **Rife** (with) (adjective) – full of, abundant, overflowing with, भरा हुआ
17. **Breakdown** (noun) – collapse, failure, malfunction, टूटना
18. **Law and order** (noun) – civil order, public order, peacekeeping, क़ानून और व्यवस्था
19. **The state of affairs** (noun) – situation, condition, scenario, हालात
20. **Perception** (noun) – viewpoint, perspective, outlook, धारणा
21. **Unedifying** (adjective) – unsavory, unpleasant, distasteful, अप्रशंसनीय
22. **Lodge** (verb) – file, submit, register, पंजीकृत करना
23. **The latter** (noun) – Here it refers to 'paramilitary Assam Rifles'
24. **Stakeholder** (noun) – interested party, participant, shareholder, हितधारक
25. **Reconciliation** (noun) – reestablishing, restoring, reunion, सुलह

26. **Seemingly** (adverb) – apparently, ostensibly, on the surface, प्रतीत होता
27. **Have little to say** (phrase) – remain silent, avoid commenting, withhold opinion, कहने के लिए कुछ नहीं
28. **Homily** (noun) – sermon, lecture, discourse, प्रवचन
29. **Seek** (verb) – Try, aim, endeavour, effort, कोशिश करना
30. **Pin down** (phrasal verb) – to force (someone) to make a decision or carry out a promise दबाना, बात पकड़ना
31. **Means** (noun) – method, way, mechanism, उपाय
32. **Score** (verb) – achieve, accomplish, earn, प्राप्त करना
33. **Run-up to** (noun) – the period of time just before an important event से ठीक पहले
34. **Fester** (verb) – deteriorate, worsen, decay, बदतर होना
35. **Intractable** (adjective) – unmanageable, uncontrollable, obstinate, अनियंत्रित/दुष्कर
36. **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit, accept, मानना/स्वीकार करना
37. **Bias** (noun) – prejudice, partiality, unfairness, पक्षपात
38. **Alienate** (verb) – estrange, distance, isolate, पराया करना, अलगाना
39. **Cut across** (phrasal verb) – transcend, override, surpass, पार करना
40. **Party line** (noun) – official stance, party policy, party doctrine, दलीय नीति
41. **Harp on** (phrasal verb) – to talk about (a subject) constantly or repeatedly in an annoying way बार-बार बात करना
42. **Administration** (noun) – management, governance, direction, प्रशासन
43. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, weak, frail, नाजुक
44. **Co-existence** (noun) – cohabitation, mutual existence, सह-अस्तित्व
45. **Identity** (noun) – individuality, selfhood, character, पहचान
46. **Exacerbate** (verb) – intensify, worsen, aggravate, बढ़ाना
47. **Worsen** (verb) – deteriorate, decline, degrade, बिगड़ना
48. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, liability, answerability, जवाबदेही
49. **Vital** (adjective) – essential, crucial, important, महत्वपूर्ण
50. **Distrust** (noun) – suspicion, doubt, disbelief, अविश्वास

51. **Hamper** (verb) – hinder, obstruct, impede, रोकना
52. **Narrow-minded** (adjective) – Biased, bigoted, prejudiced, intolerant, parochial, संकीर्ण मनोवृत्ति
53. **Emphasis** (noun) – Stress, prominence, importance, significance, प्रमुखता
54. **Give into** (phrasal verb) – admit, acknowledge, submit and accede, Succumb to, yield to, surrender to, submit to, स्वीकार करना
55. **Critique** (noun) – Evaluation, assessment, appraisal, review, समीक्षा
56. **Constructive** (adjective) – Positive, beneficial, useful, helpful, रचनात्मक
57. **Uneasy** (adjective) – Restless, uncomfortable, anxious, disturbed, असहज
58. **Stasis** (noun) – Standstill, halt, stagnation, immobilization, ठहराव (in the context of no progress or change)
59. **Take up the gauntlet** (phrase) – Accept a challenge, face the challenge, rise to the challenge, चुनौती स्वीकार करना
60. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, lead to, result in, produce, पैदा करना
61. **Substantive** (adjective) – Significant, meaningful, important, substantial, मूल
62. **Herald** (verb) – Announce, proclaim, signal, indicate, signal, foretell, point to सूचित करना

- **Obstruct** (verb) – hinder, block, barricade, impede, thwart, hamper बाधा डालना
- **Discharge** (verb) – carry out, perform, conduct निर्वाह करना
- **Far from** (phrase) – not, not at all
- **Quagmire** (noun) – unfortunate situation तंग हालत, नाजुक हालत
- **Détente** (noun) – a relaxing of tension, especially between nations अमन
- **Powder keg** (noun) – a dangerous situation खतरनाक स्थिति
- **Attest to** (verb) – bear witness to, bear testimony to, be evidence of, be proof of गवाही देना
- **Mainstream** (adjective) – accepted, established, recognized मुख्य धारा
- **Nudge** (verb) – encourage, prompt, stimulate, coax. प्रोत्साहित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Manipur is experiencing ongoing unrest due to inadequate governance.
2. Over three months have passed since ethnic conflicts began in the state, with no clear resolution in sight.
3. Incidents such as road blockades by different groups and sporadic attacks suggest a breakdown in law and order.
4. There are differences in perception between the police and the paramilitary Assam Rifles, evident in the police lodging an FIR against the latter.
5. The current situation is volatile, comparable to a "powder keg."
6. People are still in relief camps, homes have been destroyed, and those advocating for peace face violence or threats.
7. The central government missed an opportunity during the monsoon session of Parliament to push for reconciliation.
8. Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah provided little direction, while the Opposition focused on criticizing the government in the lead up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.
9. The ongoing ethnic conflict is intensified due to the firm stances of the Meitei and Kuki-Zo leaders.
10. The Meitei community does not recognize perceived bias in the State government's actions, which have isolated the Kuki-Zo group.
11. The Kuki-Zo group pushes for a "separate administration," challenging the delicate balance of ethnic identities in the state.
12. The inability of civil society representatives to surpass their ethnic differences has further worsened the situation.
13. The state government's lack of accountability and reluctance to change leadership might be the only clear path to reconciliation.
14. As a vital border state, ongoing tension between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities will adversely affect future generations and hinder progress.
15. The Union government must decide between maintaining its current stance or actively seeking changes in state leadership to pave the way for reconciliation.

Practice Exercise: Banking pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements best reflects the author's viewpoint on the situation in Manipur?** [Editorial page]
 - A. Manipur's situation is improving due to active efforts from the Indian mainstream polity.
 - B. The ethnic conflict in Manipur has been successfully managed by the police and paramilitary Assam Rifles.
 - C. Ineffective governance is contributing to the continued unrest and violence in Manipur.
 - D. The Prime Minister and Home Minister have been proactive in addressing Manipur's ethnic violence.
 - E. None of the above
2. **From the passage, it can be inferred that which of the following is/are true about the situation in Manipur:**
 - (i) Manipur is experiencing issues due to ineffective governance.
 - (ii) The conflict in Manipur has been ongoing for over three months.
 - (iii) Both the police and the paramilitary Assam Rifles have a harmonious working relationship.
 - (iv) The Prime Minister and Home Minister did not take a strong stand during the monsoon session of Parliament.
 - A. (i), (ii), (iv)
 - B. (i), (iii)
 - C. (ii)
 - D. (iv)
 - E. None of the above
3. **What tone best describes the passage "Festering wounds: On Manipur's elusive peace"?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Celebratory
 - D. Critical
 - E. Jubilant
4. **What is the primary theme of the passage?**
 - A. The rich cultural heritage of Manipur.
 - B. The significance of the monsoon session in Parliament.
 - C. The inability of the leaders of Manipur to acknowledge bias in governance.
 - D. The ongoing ethnic conflicts in Manipur and the ineffective governance exacerbating it.
 - E. The achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.
5. **Based on the second paragraph, which of the following statements is accurate regarding the ethnic conflict in Manipur?**
 - A. The Meitei and Kuki-Zo leaders are in complete agreement about the State government's actions.
 - B. The Kuki-Zo leaders support the idea of a "separate administration" which complicates ethnic co-existence.

- C. The Naga community is the main reason for the conflict between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo.
- D. The civil society representatives have managed to bridge the gap between ethnic groups, leading to peace.
- E. The State government has taken proactive steps to change its leadership and resolve the conflict.

Direction (Q6- Q9): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

Nearly 50 years ago, when computers were just being born, the world's greatest science fiction writer, the late Arthur C Clarke, created a _____(a)_____ computer called HAL (Heuristically Programmed Algorithm). HAL was sentient and could nearly behave like a human. It was the main brain of a spaceship and developed a fault. No one was able to control it after that. The book was called "2001: A Space Odyssey". It popularised the idea of artificial intelligence. Clarke even _____(b)_____ self-replicating computers that destroy Jupiter. Now, after half a century, we are at the point where what Stephen Hawking feared could come true, namely, self-replicating, sentient computers. This is what makes AI different from all new technologies of the past. But being either just sentient or just self-replicating is not sufficient. Both conditions must be met before AI becomes a danger. The worry is that when that happens, it will ____ (c) ____ for the human race. So how should humans deal with the problem? While we know what AI is, we don't know its future trajectory. We also know that all the beneficial things which humans invent can also harm them. And as always happens when a lack of knowledge _____(d)_____ insecurities, science is getting mixed up with semi-superstition.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

6. Nearly 50 years ago, when computers were just being born, the world's greatest science fiction writer, the late Arthur C Clarke, created a _____(a)_____ computer called HAL (Heuristically Programmed Algorithm).

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

- (i) Fictitious
- (ii) Ambitious
- (iii) Desirous
- (iv) Expeditious

A. Both (i) and (ii) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Only (i) E. None of the above

7. Clarke even _____(b)_____ self-replicating computers that destroy Jupiter.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

- (i) Foretell
- (ii) Foresee
- (iii) Foreknow
- (iv) Foresaw

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iv) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

8. The worry is that when that happens, it will ____ (c) ____ for the human race.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) half-myth

- (ii) quasi-folklore
- (iii) Spell doom
- (iv) Lukewarm

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

9. And as always happens when a lack of knowledge _____(d)_____ insecurities, science is getting mixed up with semi-superstition.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Signify
- (ii) Bombard
- (iii) Breeds
- (iv) Hinder

A. Only (i) B. Both (iii) and (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Only (iv) E. None of the above

Direction: In each question below, a sentence is given with a part of it printed in bold type. That part contains a phrase that may be correct or erroneous. Find out which is the correct phrase that should replace the error in bold, if there is any, and which makes the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No improvement required', mark option E 'No improvement required' as the answer.

10. During the summer, many ***students finds it difficult to focus on their studies because of the excessive heat.***

- A. students find it difficult focusing on their studies due to the excessive heat
- B. students finding it difficult to focus on their studies because of the excessive heat
- C. students found it difficulty to focus on their studies because of the excessive heat
- D. students find it difficult to focus on their studies because of the excessive heat
- E. No improvement required

Directions (Q11 – Q14): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.

- P. According to a petition being heard by the court, the Himalayan region is bearing
- Q. The brunt of 'unsustainable and hydrologically disastrous' constructions — including hotels, homestays and hydel projects — which have taken their toll on the drainage and waste management systems
- R. The Supreme Court is keen on constituting an expert committee for conducting a 'complete and comprehensive' study on the carrying or bearing capacity, which is the maximum population size that an ecosystem can sustain without getting degraded
- S. Landslides in Shimla and land subsidence in Joshimath have turned the spotlight on the carrying capacity of the mountain range spanning 13 states and union territories
- T. Ecological disasters in the hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have laid bare the fragility of the Himalayan region

11. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

- A. (P)
- B. (Q)
- C. (R)

- D. (S)
E. (T)
12. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
A. (P)
B. (Q)
C. (R)
D. (S)
E. (T)
13. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
A. (P)
B. (Q)
C. (R)
D. (S)
E. (T)
14. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?
A. (P)
B. (Q)
C. (R)
D. (S)
E. (T)
15. **Direction: In the following questions, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A),(B), (C), (D). These words may or may not be placed in their places. Four options with different arrangements of these words are given. Mark the option with the correct arrangements the answer. If no change is required, mark 'No arrangement required' as your answer.**
The ever-increasing **vulnerability(A)** of the Himalayan ecosystem is **adversely(B)** **impacting(C)** several important **sectors(D)**, such as tourism, agriculture, environment and forests.
A. ADCB
B. ACDB
C. DBCA
D. ABDC
E. No arrangement required

Directions (Q16 – Q17): In the following sentence, four words are given in bold, out of which one word is misspelled. Find the misspelled word

16. The **(A)illuson** of a **(B)convention** was disrupted by the **(C)obstructive** tactics of the **(D)predecessor**.
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)

- E. None of the above
17. His **(A)rectitude** was **(B)contiguous** to **(C)Confessedly** **(D)demeening** actions of his peers
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. None of the above

Direction: Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option E 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

18. **PALTRY**

- (i) Yet this in no way **paltry** the trend towards greater political centralization.
(ii) The savers were getting a **paltry** 0.1% interest regardless of the balance in their accounts.
(iii) The company will have to **paltry** earnings, converting reported profits to losses.
- A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (iii)
E. None of the above

Direction (Q19 – Q20): In the following questions, each sentence has 2 blanks. Choose the appropriate set of words for the blanks that best fits in the context of the sentence

19. In today's digital age, many individuals choose to work _____ (A/B) _____, using online platforms as their primary _____ (C/D) _____.
- A. remotely
B. analogously
C. weapon
D. tool
- A. A, D
B. B, D
C. A, C
D. AB, CD
E. None of the above
20. After the thunderstorm, the forest was filled with the _____ (A/B) _____ of wet earth and the sound of dripping _____ (C/D) _____
- A) color
B) aroma
C) glasses
D) leaves
- A. A, D
B. B, D
C. A, C

- D. AB, CD
- E. None of the above

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- 1. C. Ineffective governance is contributing to the continued unrest and violence in Manipur.**
 The passage highlights the prolonged ethnic violence in Manipur and points to various indicators of the breakdown of law and order, including disagreements between police and paramilitary forces and the ongoing presence of people in relief camps. The mention of "ineffective governance" in the initial statement and the lack of concrete action from the mainstream polity, including the Prime Minister and Home Minister, supports the assertion that ineffective governance is a major factor in the continuing conflict.
- 2. A) (i), (ii), (iv)**
 "Manipur continues to remain on the boil due to ineffective governance" validates option (i).
 "More than three months since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur" validates option (ii).
 "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had little to say beyond homilies" validates option (iv)
 "difference in perceptions between the police and the paramilitary Assam Rifles" indicates that option (iii) is false.
- 3. D. Critical**
 The passage describes the situation in Manipur as one riddled with ineffective governance, lack of peace, conflicts, and failed opportunities by the central government. Phrases such as "festering wounds," "ineffective governance," and "elusive peace" reflect a critical tone.
- 4. D. The ongoing ethnic conflicts in Manipur and the ineffective governance exacerbating it.**
 The passage primarily discusses the ongoing conflicts in Manipur due to ethnic tensions and how the situation is worsened by ineffective governance and lack of reconciliation. While the passage does touch on the roles of certain leaders and political dynamics, the main theme revolves around the broader issue of the conflict and its implications for the state.
- 5. B) The Kuki-Zo leaders support the idea of a "separate administration" which complicates ethnic co-existence.**
 The second paragraph mentions that the Meitei do not recognize the biases in the State government's actions that have distanced the Kuki-Zo and their representatives. It further notes that the Kuki-Zo emphasize the idea of a "separate administration", which complicates the delicate balance of ethnic identities in Manipur. The paragraph does not provide evidence supporting options A, C, D, or E.
- 6. D) 'Fictitious' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "fictitious" का अर्थ होता है कल्पनिक या अवास्तविक। यहां पर Arthur C Clarke ने HAL नामक कंप्यूटर को किसी किताब में बनाया था, जिससे पता चलता है कि यह एक कल्पनिक कंप्यूटर था। दूसरे options में दिए गए शब्द context में सही नहीं हैं।**

 - 'Fictitious' should be used because it means imaginary or not real. Here, Arthur C Clarke created the computer named HAL in a book, indicating it's a fictional computer. The other options given do not fit in this context. 'Ambitious' means having a strong desire for

success, 'Desirous' means having or characterized by desire, and 'Expeditious' means done with speed and efficiency, which are not suitable in this context.

7. C) 'Foresaw' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक past verb है जिसका अर्थ है पहले ही देखना या समझना। जैसा कि passage में दिखाया गया है, Arthur C. Clarke ने पहले ही ऐसे कंप्यूटर को देखा था जो Jupiter को destroy करते हैं। जबकि foretell का अर्थ है पहले ही बताना है, 'Foreknow' का अर्थ है पहले ही जानना और 'Foresee' वर्तमान कालीन रूप है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Foresaw' should be used because it is a past tense verb that means to have seen or understood beforehand. As indicated in the passage, Arthur C. Clarke had previously envisioned such computers that destroy Jupiter. Whereas, foretell means to predict the future, 'Foreknow' means to know beforehand, and 'Foresee' is a present form, which aren't correct in this context.
8. C) 'Spell doom' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'spell doom' का अर्थ होता है किसी समस्या या स्थिति के लिए विनाशकारी परिणाम होना। यहाँ पर संदर्भ है कि AI से मानव जाति के लिए कितना खतरा हो सकता है अगर वह self-replicating and sentient दोनों हो। 'Half-myth' और 'quasi-folklore' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे एक ऐतिहासिक या कल्पना की बात को सूचित करते हैं, जो इस संदर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है। 'Lukewarm' का अर्थ होता है उदासीन या अधिक उत्साहित नहीं होना, जो यहाँ पर सही नहीं है।
- 'Spell doom' should be used because it implies catastrophic consequences for a situation or problem. The context here is about how dangerous AI can be for the human race if it becomes both self-replicating and sentient. 'Half-myth' and 'quasi-folklore' are not appropriate because they hint at a historical or imaginary narrative which is not relevant in this context. 'Lukewarm' means not enthusiastic or indifferent, which doesn't fit here.
9. C) 'Breeds' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "breeds" का अर्थ होता है पैदा करना या उत्पन्न करना। जब ज्ञान की कमी होती है, तो यह अकेले में असुरक्षा पैदा कर सकता है। 'Signify' का अर्थ है प्रतीक के रूप में दिखाना, 'Bombard' का अर्थ है अधिक मात्रा में प्रहार करना, और 'Hinder' का अर्थ है रोकना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Breeds' should be used because it means to produce or bring about. In the context, a lack of knowledge can produce insecurities. Whereas, 'Signify' means to indicate or represent as a sign, 'Bombard' implies attacking in large amounts, and 'Hinder' means to obstruct or impede, which don't fit in this context.
10. **D) students find it difficult to focus on their studies because of the excessive heat**
Option A is incorrect because "students find it difficult focusing" is not as grammatically smooth as "students find it difficult to focus" **Option B** is incorrect because "students finding it difficult" changes the sentence's subject-verb agreement. It should be "students find"
Option C is incorrect due to the word "difficulty" which is a noun, and it should be the adjective "difficult". Also, the verb tense "found" is not appropriate for the context.
11. **E. (T)**
 It introduces the topic of the paragraph: ecological disasters in the Himalayan region.

12. D. (S)

This sentence provides specific instances (landslides in Shimla and land subsidence in Joshimath) related to the general topic introduced in Sentence T.

13. C. (R)

The introduction of the Supreme Court's involvement indicates a reaction to the situations presented in the earlier sentences.

14. A. (P)

This provides more context to the action of the Supreme Court by highlighting the content of the petition.

Q: This finishes the thought initiated in Sentence P and offers specifics about the petition's claims.

Therefore, the correct sequence is TSRPQ.

15. E) No arrangement required

16. (A) (The correct spelling is "illusion")

17. (D) (The correct spelling is "demeaning")

18. B) Paltry (adjective) – Insignificant, trifling, negligible, minor, meager, नगण्य

According to the given options only (ii) is contextually correct.

Because the (i) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

(i) Yet this in no way **undermined** the trend towards greater political centralization

(ii) The company will have to **restate** earnings, converting reported profits to losses.

19. A) A, D

- "**Remotely**" refers to working from a location outside of a traditional office, often from home, utilizing digital tools and platforms. In the context of the digital age, this makes sense.
- "**Analogously**" means in a way that is comparable or similar. It doesn't make sense in this context.
- "**Tool**" is a device or implement used to carry out a particular function. In the context of using online platforms, "tool" makes sense as platforms are used as tools to facilitate work.
- "**Weapon**" typically refers to a thing designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage. It doesn't fit the context of the sentence.

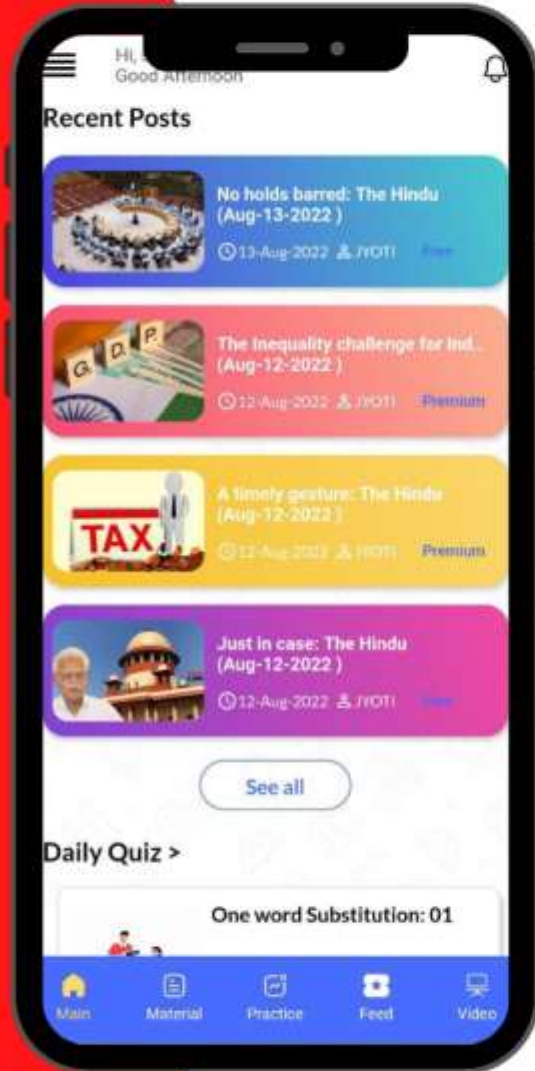
20. B) B, D

"**Aroma**" refers to a distinctive and pleasant smell. It's a fitting choice in the context of describing the scent of wet earth after a rain.

"**Color**" refers to the property possessed by an object of producing different sensations on the eye due to the way the object reflects or emits light. It doesn't fit the context since the sentence is about the smell and sound after a thunderstorm, not sight.

"**Leaves**" refers to the green foliage that can be found on trees and plants. After a rain or thunderstorm, it's common to hear the sound of water dripping from them.

"Glasses" refers typically to spectacles or drinking containers. They don't drip in a forest after a thunderstorm in this context.



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