Rocky reminder: On the Silkyara tunnel rescue

The Silkyara tunnel rescue is **laudable**, but the accident was **preventable**

The 41 workers who were **trapped** for 17 days in the **collapsed** tunnel in Silkyara, Uttarakhand, **were** rescued after extensive efforts led by the National Disaster Management Authority. On November 28 evening, rescue personnel **managed** to breach the rocks that had **collapsed** around the workers, and **evacuated** them. **In and of itself**, the rescue was **remarkable** because of the resources **mobilised** to achieve it. Just a day after a part of the tunnel **caved in**, officials were able to supply the trapped workers with oxygen and food. By November 16, an **auger** drill had been flown in from Delhi, assembled, and **pressed into service**. In the following week, **efforts** to reach and release the workers progressed **in fits and starts**, as officials at the site **dealt with** obstacles in the drill's path, its own health, the **stability** of its platform, and the effects of its motion on the surrounding rock; **in particular**, they had to ensure the workers were not **endangered** by rocks loosened by vibrations. But work was forced to a **halt** by November 25 when the drill's blades **lodged in** the **debris**. The next day, a new phase of the operation **commenced**: vertical drilling, with **assistance** from experts of **rat-hole mining** to help clear the **rubble**. Finally, on November 28, the rescuers finally **pierced** the **cavern** and brought the workers out. The operation involved the National and State Disaster Response Forces, the Border Roads Organisation, the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, among others.

In a post on X, President Draupadi Murmu called the rescue "one of the greatest" in history. It may well be, but the scale and the **fervour** with which it was **undertaken** also **casts** an unfavourable **spotlight on** the Char Dham highway project and on the unsafe working environments of those expected to build such **infrastructure**. In both this incident and one in July, when a crane collapsed on and killed 20 workers working on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway, in Thane, the contractor was Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd. The government must investigate the specific **causes** of both incidents, take steps to prevent **recurrence** of similar situations and ensure on-site working conditions include safety features. Then again, if unsafe environments are the issue, ongoing **work** on the Char Dham highway itself **may** need to be reconsidered, since experts have repeatedly raised concerns about the carrying capacity of the local **terrain** and slope-cutting activities **defying** geological **wisdom**. The rescue was **certainly** laudable, but if adequate **attention** is **paid** to workers' — and the highway's future users' — safety, such operations may not be needed altogether. **[Practice]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Rocky** (adjective) – difficult and full of problems. कठिन

2. **Laudable** (adjective) – Praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, respectable, honorable प्रशंसनीय

3. **Preventable** (adjective) – Avoidable, avertable, stoppable, deterrable, thwartable रोकने योग्य

4. **Trap** (verb) – Ensnare, capture, entrap, snare, catch फंसाना

5. **Collapsed** (adjective) – Fallen, crumbled, tumbled down, broken down, disintegrated ढह गया

6. **Manage** (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, especially with difficulty सफल होना

7. **Collapse** (verb) – Fall down, crumble, cave in, tumble down, disintegrate ढहना

8. **Evacuate** (verb) – Clear, vacate, empty, depopulate, remove खाली करना

9. **In and of itself** (phrase) – By itself, on its own, alone, solely, exclusively अपने आप में

10. **Remarkable** (adjective) – Extraordinary, outstanding, noteworthy, impressive, significant उल्लेखनीय

11. **Mobilise** (verb) – Deploy, marshal, muster, organize, rally जुटाना

12. **Cave in** (phrasal verb) – Collapse, fall in, give way, crumble, subside धंसना

13. **Auger** (noun) – a hand tool with a long blade that looks sort of like a screw, which drills holes when turned

14. **Press into service** (phrase) – Employ, use, utilize, engage, enlist सेवा में लगाना

15. **In fits and starts** (phrase) – Erratically, intermittently, sporadically, irregularly, discontinuously अनियमित रूप से

16. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Handle, manage, tackle, confront, attend to निपटाना

17. **Stability** (noun) – Steadiness, firmness, solidity, durability, constancy स्थिरता

18. **In particular** (phrase) – Specifically, especially, particularly, notably, expressly विशेष रूप से

19. **Endanger** (verb) – Risk, jeopardize, threaten, imperil, put at risk खतरे में डालना

20. **Halt** (noun) – Stop, pause, break, cessation, standstill ठहराव

21. **Lodge in** (phrasal verb) – Embed, stick, become stuck, become fixed, become lodged अटक जाना

22. **Debris** (noun) – Rubble, wreckage, remains, ruins, detritus मलबा

23. **Commence** (verb) – Begin, start, initiate, embark on, launch आरंभ करना

24. **Assistance** (noun) – Help, aid, support, assistance, collaboration सहायता

25. **Rat-Hole mining** (noun) – a method of extracting coal from narrow, horizontal seams, prevalent in Meghalaya

26. **Rubble** (noun) – Debris, wreckage, remains, ruins, detritus मलबे

27. **Pierce** (verb) – Penetrate, perforate, puncture, bore through, stab छेदना

28. **Cavern** (noun) – Cave, grotto, den, chamber, hollow गुफा

29. **Fervour** (noun) – Passion, intensity, zeal, ardor, fervency उत्साह

30. **Undertake** (verb) – Embark on, take on, engage in, start, commence आरंभ करना

31. **Cast a spotlight on** (phrase) – Highlight, focus on, bring attention to, emphasize, spotlight प्रकाश डालना

32. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, structure, framework, basic systems, installations बुनियादी ढांचा

33. **Cause** (noun) – Reason, motive, basis, justification, grounds कारण

34. **Recurrence** (noun) – Repetition, return, reoccurrence, comeback, reappearance पुनरावृति

35. **Terrain** (noun) – Land, landscape, territory, ground, topography इलाका

36. **Defy** (verb) – Resist, oppose, challenge, confront, stand up to चुनौती देना

37. **Wisdom** (noun) – Knowledge, insight, understanding, prudence, sagacity बुद्धिमत्ता

38. **Certainly** (adverb) – Definitely, surely, unquestionably, undoubtedly, positively निश्चित रूप से

39. **Pay attention to** (phrase) – Heed, observe, consider, take note of, be attentive to ध्यान देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Rescue Effort**: 41 workers were trapped for 17 days in a collapsed tunnel in Silkyara, Uttarakhand, and were rescued by the National Disaster Management Authority.

2. **Rescue Operation**: The operation commenced immediately after the tunnel collapse, providing oxygen and food to the trapped workers.

3. **Equipment and Challenges**: An auger drill was brought from Delhi to aid in the rescue, facing challenges like debris, drill health, and the safety of the trapped workers.

4. **Drilling Obstacles**: The rescue efforts encountered significant obstacles, including lodged drill blades and unstable rock formations.

5. **Vertical Drilling Phase**: A new phase of vertical drilling began, aided by rat-hole mining experts to clear the rubble.

6. **Successful Rescue**: On November 28, rescuers pierced the cavern, successfully evacuating the workers.

7. **Collaborative Effort**: The operation involved various agencies, including the National and State Disaster Response Forces, Border Roads Organisation, and others.

8. **President's Acknowledgment**: President Draupadi Murmu praised the rescue as one of the greatest in history.

9. **Highlighting Safety Issues**: The rescue effort brought attention to safety concerns in infrastructure projects like the Char Dham highway.

10. **Contractor's Past Incidents**: Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd, involved in this and a previous accident, needs investigation for safety practices.

11. **Government Action Needed**: The government is urged to investigate causes, prevent future incidents, and ensure on-site safety.

12. **Char Dham Highway Concerns**: Experts have raised concerns about the Char Dham highway's impact on local terrain and safety.

13. **Importance of Safety**: Emphasis on the need for safety measures to prevent such accidents.

14. **Laudable Rescue, Preventable Accident**: While the rescue was commendable, the accident itself could have been prevented with proper safety measures.

15. **Future Safety Considerations**: Ensuring safety of workers and future highway users could eliminate the need for such large-scale rescue operations.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What inference can be made about the efficiency and readiness of the rescue operation in the Silkyara tunnel incident?**   **[Editorial Page]**
    A. The rescue operation lacked proper planning and resources.
    B. The efforts were delayed due to unforeseen technical difficulties.
    C. The rescue operation was highly efficient, demonstrated by the quick provision of oxygen and food to the trapped workers.
    D. The operation was solely dependent on external assistance.

2. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the challenges faced during the Silkyara tunnel rescue operation?**
    A. There were no significant challenges; the operation was straightforward.
    B. The primary challenge was the lack of skilled personnel.
    C. The operation faced multiple challenges, including managing the drill's path, its maintenance, and ensuring the safety of the workers from loosened rocks.
    D. The only challenge was the mechanical failure of the drill.

3. **What is the underlying message of the passage regarding the Char Dham highway project?**
    A. It is an exemplar of excellent engineering and safety practices.
    B. There is a need to reconsider the project due to ongoing safety concerns.
    C. The project has no environmental or safety issues.
    D. The project is solely beneficial for the local economy without any drawbacks.

4. **The Silkyara tunnel rescue was notable for its scale and fervour. In light of this incident and a similar one in July involving the collapse of a crane, what was the common contractor for both projects?**
    A. Char Dham Highway Corporation
    B. Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd.
    C. Thane Infrastructure Ltd.
    D. Samruddhi Expressway Authority

5. **Arrange the following events in the order they are mentioned in the passage:**
    A. President Draupadi Murmu's post on X.
    B. Concerns about the Char Dham highway's terrain capacity and slope-cutting activities.
    C. The crane collapse on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway.
    D. Government's need to investigate and ensure safety in working conditions.
        A. A, B, C, D
        B. A, C, D, B
        C. C, A, D, B
        D. D, C, A, B

6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
    A. The efficiency of rescue operations in India
    B. The importance of national unity in crisis
    C. The necessity of safety in infrastructure projects
    D. The role of technology in disaster management

7. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

   S1: It is well known that collaborations between industry and academia can be mutually beneficial.

   S4: Determining and managing impediments to collaborations between industry and academia requires a multi-pronged approach.

   P: Merely possessing expertise in a particular field is not enough to be an intellectual.

   Q: However, most Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) have not focused on such collaborations or on intellectual property (IP) and technology transfers.

   R: Chinese leader Xi Jinping orders greater protection for foreign companies' rights and intellectual property (IP).

   S: While universities conduct and encourage basic research, many of them do not capitalise on the same research by commercialising their IP; they miss out on likely gains from patents, licensing, or start-up companies.

   A. P and Q
   B. P and R
   C. P and S
   D. Q and S

8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
   A. It was revealed that nearly 70 lakh mobile phone connections involved in cybercrime and financial fraud have been disconnected so far. A sum of Rs 900 crore lost by 3.5 lakh victims has been recovered.
   B. Widespread user awareness about cyber fraud and improved multi-agency coordination emerged as the core elements of the strategy to tackle the menace.
   C. The discussions at a meeting convened recently by the Centre on issues related to financial cybersecurity and digital payment fraud left no one in doubt about the enormity of the challenge at hand.
   D. Improving response time in handling alerts on online fraud and enhanced information sharing, it was stressed, could provide the decisive edge in dealing with scamsters.
      A. BDAC
      B. CABD
      C. BCAD
      D. ABCD

9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
   P. an unparalleled popularity
   Q. the lotus Temple has always enjoyed
   R. as shown by its pre-dominance in literature and art
   S. throughout the length and breadth of India from the earliest times down to the present day,
      A. QPSR

   B. PSQR
   C. QRSP
   D. QPRS

10. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.**

   After hours of persistent pursuit and percecution, the little prince was at last deserted by the rabble and left to himself.

   A. Persistent
   B. Rabble
   C. Percecution
   D. Deserted

11. **Select the most appropriate homophone to fill in the blank.**

   The doctors gave him more powerful drugs in the _____ hope that he might recover

   A. when
   B. vein
   C. wane
   D. Vain

12. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word in the given sentence.

   In order to protect his identity, the spy had to **efface** all evidence of his true name and occupation from his personal documents

   A. reveal
   B. clarify
   C. maintain
   D. Destroy

13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

   Comprehend

   A. Distort
   B. Deter
   C. Assimilate
   D. Complex

14. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

   Suman has bought a black and a white shawl to wear with her new dress.

   A. to wear with
   B. her new dress.
   C. a black and a white shawl
   D. Suman has bought

15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

   Like a cat on a hot tin roof

   A. Studying very hard
   B. Being lazy
   C. Being in a state of agitation
   D. Urging somebody not to worry about something

16. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined segment in the sentence given below.**
Most of the people say that **some people fight for the cause but most of them don't support it.**
   A. Are out of frying pan onto the fire
   B. Spare the rod and spoil the child
   C. Pay only lip service
   D. Mind their P's and Q's

17. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
The Greeks are considered to be a courageous race valuing the knowledge, beauty and wisidiom.
   A. Wisidiom
   B. Knowledge
   C. Valuing
   D. Courageous

18. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
The theory or philosophy of law
   A. Jurisprudence
   B. Pacifism
   C. Cosmology
   D. Philia

19. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
Animals especially on a farm, regarded as an asset.
   A. Livid
   B. Livery stable
   C. Livelihood
   D. Livestock

20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
Tall promises were being made by each candidate
   A. Each candidate made tall promises.
   B. Each candidate can make tall promises.
   C. Each candidate has made tall promises.
   D. Each candidate was making tall promises.

Comprehension:
In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.
As I (1)_____ the stream and began climbing the hill, the grunting and chattering increased, as though the langurs were trying to warn me of some hidden danger. I looked up and saw a great orange-gold leopard, sleek and spotted, (2) _____ on a rock about twenty feet away from me. The leopard looked at me once, briefly and with an air of disdain, and then sprang into a dense thicket, making (3) _____ no sound as it melted into the shadows. I had (4) _____ the leopard in his quest for food. But a little later I heard the quickening cry

of a barking deer as it fled through the forest. After that (5) _____, I did not see the leopard again.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
    A. crossed
    B. entered
    C. drowned
    D. Passed

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
    A. swinging
    B. dancing
    C. poised
    D. Playing

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
    A. hardly
    B. silently
    C. loudly
    D. Absolutely

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
    A. disturbed
    B. facilitated
    C. helped
    D. Prevented

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
    A. encounter
    B. quarrel
    C. meeting
    D. exchange

Answers

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

25. A   **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

1. **C) The rescue operation was highly efficient, demonstrated by the quick provision of oxygen and food to the trapped workers.**
    The passage highlights the prompt action taken by officials, such as supplying oxygen and food to the trapped workers just a day after the incident and swiftly bringing in and utilizing an auger drill. These actions demonstrate efficiency and readiness in the rescue operation

2. **C) The operation faced multiple challenges, including managing the drill's path, its maintenance, and ensuring the safety of the workers from loosened rocks.**
    The passage describes various obstacles encountered during the rescue operation, such as difficulties with the drill's path, maintaining its health, stabilizing its platform, and dealing with the impact of its motion on the surrounding rock, especially in terms of the safety of the trapped workers. These aspects indicate the multifaceted challenges faced during the operation.

3. **B) There is a need to reconsider the project due to ongoing safety concerns.**
    The passage suggests that while the rescue efforts at the Silkyara tunnel were commendable, there are significant safety and environmental concerns associated with the Char Dham highway project, especially regarding the carrying capacity of the local terrain and unsafe working conditions.

4. **B) Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd.**
    The passage explicitly mentions that Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd was the contractor involved in both the Silkyara tunnel incident and the crane collapse on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway in Thane.

5. **B) A, C, D, B.**
    A. President Draupadi Murmu's post on X.
    The passage first mentions President Draupadi Murmu's post on X, where she called the rescue "one of the greatest" in history.

    C. The crane collapse on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway.
    Next, the passage refers to a separate incident involving the same contractor, Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd, where a crane collapsed on the Nagpur-Mumbai Samruddhi Expressway in Thane, killing 20 workers.

    D. Government's need to investigate and ensure safety in working conditions.
    Following the mention of the crane collapse, the passage discusses the need for the government to investigate both incidents and ensure safe working conditions on such sites.

B. Concerns about the Char Dham highway's terrain capacity and slope-cutting activities. Finally, the passage mentions concerns regarding the Char Dham highway project, specifically about the carrying capacity of the local terrain and slope-cutting activities.

6. **C) The necessity of safety in infrastructure projects**
The main theme of the passage revolves around the necessity of safety in infrastructure projects. While it details the successful rescue operation at the Silkyara tunnel, the passage focuses more on the preventable nature of the accident and the broader implications for safety in such large-scale infrastructure projects. It critiques the current safety standards and calls for more stringent measures to ensure the safety of workers and future users of the infrastructure.

7. **D) Q and S**
The correct answers for S2 and S3 in the given paragraph are Q and S, respectively
P: "Merely possessing expertise in a particular field is not enough to be an intellectual."

This sentence, while insightful, does not directly relate to the specific theme of industry-academia collaboration and its challenges.
R: "Chinese leader Xi Jinping orders greater protection for foreign companies' rights and intellectual property(IP)."
This sentence is out of context as it shifts focus to a specific political action in China, which is not directly relevant to the general theme of industry-academia collaboration.

8. **B) CABD**
C: This is a starting sentence as it sets the stage for what follows, talking about the "discussions at a meeting."
A: Sentence A follows C logically as it provides specific details ("nearly 70 lakh mobile phone connections...") related to the "challenge" mentioned in C
B: Sentence B talks about "Widespread user awareness about cyber fraud and improved multi-agency coordination..." as a response or strategy, which seems to be a logical step after identifying the problem and its scale (as mentioned in A).
D: Sentence D provides more detailed strategies ("Improving response time in handling alerts on online fraud and enhanced information sharing..."), which builds upon the general strategy mentioned in B.

9. **A) QPSR**
The lotus Temple has always enjoyed an unparalleled popularity throughout the length and breadth of India from the earliest times down to the present day, as shown by its pre-dominance in literature and art

10. C) **'percecution'** के बदले 'persecution' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'percecution' गलत वर्तनी है।
सही spelling 'persecution' है।

- **persecution'** will be used instead of 'percecution' because 'percecution' is spelt incorrectly. The correct spelling is 'persecution'.

11. D) **Vain'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में, sentence उम्मीद के विषय में बात कर रहा है, जिसे पूरी तरह से प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सकता। "Vain" शब्द का अर्थ है बिना किसी प्राप्ति या सफलता के। इसलिए, 'Vain' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

    Vain (adjective) – producing no result; useless बेकार/ व्यर्थ

    - **Vain'** should be used because in this context, the sentence is speaking about a hope that cannot be fully realized. The word "vain" means without any achievement or success. Thus, "vain" would be the most appropriate choice.

12. D) **Efface** (verb) – Erase (a mark) from a surface; to eliminate or make indistinct. मिटाना

    Synonym: **Destroy** (verb) – Put an end to the existence of something by damaging or attacking it. नष्ट करना

    - **Reveal** (verb) – Make (previously unknown or secret information) known to others. प्रकट करना
    - **Clarify** (verb) – Make (a statement or situation) less confused and more comprehensible. स्पष्ट करना
    - **Maintain** (verb) – Cause or enable (a condition or situation) to continue. बनाए रखना

13. C) **Comprehend (**verb) – Understand, grasp, make sense of, catch. समझना

    Synonym: **Assimilate** (verb) – Absorb, take in, understand, internalize. समझ लेना; आत्मसात् करना

    - **Distort** (verb) – Twist out of shape, misrepresent, pervert, warp. विकृत करना
    - **Deter** (verb) – Discourage, prevent, dissuade, inhibit. रोकना
    - **Complex** (adjective) – Complicated, intricate, involved, convoluted. जटिल

14. C) 'a black and a white shawl' के बदले 'black and white shawls' का प्रयोग होगा यदि दो अलग अलग शॉल्स की बात हो रही है। या 'a black and white shawl' अगर एक ही शॉल की बात हो जिसमें काला और सफेद दोनों रंग हों।

    - 'black and white shawls' will be used instead of 'a black and a white shawl' if referring to two separate shawls. Or 'a black and white shawl' if referring to a single shawl that is both black and white.

15. C) **Like a cat on a hot tin roof** (idiom) – Being in a state of agitation व्याकुलता की स्थिति में होना!

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16. C) **pay only lip service to** (phrase) – to say that you agree with something but do nothing to support it **के प्रति बनावटी हमदर्दी दिखाना**

- **Out of frying pan onto the fire** (phrase) – move from one bad situation to another **आसमान से गिरा खजूर पर अटका**

- **Spare the rod and spoil the child** (phrase) –if you don't punish your child, they will become spoiled **बच्चे को दुलार में बिगाड़ देना**

- **Mind their P's and Q's** (phrase) –be careful and attentive**सावधान और चौकस रहना**

17. A) The correct spelling of 'Wisidiom' is 'Wisdom' which means "the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise" ज्ञान, समझदारी**.**

18. A) **Jurisprudence** (noun) – The theory or philosophy of law विधिशास्त्र

- **Pacifism** (noun) – the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable. अहिंसावाद

- **Cosmology** (noun) – the science of the origin and development of the universe. ब्रह्माण्ड शास्त्र

- **Philia** (noun) – affectionate regard or friendship in social contexts. मित्रता/स्नेह

19. D) **Livestock** (noun) – Animals, especially on a farm, regarded as an asset. पशुधन

- **Livid** (adjective) – Furiously angry. बहुत नाराज

- **Livery stable** (noun) – A place where horses and vehicles are kept for hire. अश्वशाला

- **Livelihood** (noun) – A means of securing the necessities of life. आजीविका

20. D) Each candidate was making tall promises.

21. A) **'Crossed'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "crossed" का अर्थ होता है किसी नदी या धारा को पार करना। जबकि 'Entered' का अर्थ है प्रवेश करना, 'Drowned' का अर्थ है डूबना, और 'Passed' का अर्थ है गुजर जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **Crossed'** should be used because it means to go over a river or stream. Whereas, 'Entered' means to go inside, 'Drowned' means to submerge in water, and 'Passed' implies moving past something, which don't fit in this context.

22. C) **Poised'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "poised" का अर्थ होता है संतुलित या तैयार रहना। जबकि 'Swinging' का अर्थ है झूलना, 'Dancing' का अर्थ है नाचना, और 'Playing' का अर्थ है खेलना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **'Poised'** should be used because it means balanced or ready. Whereas, 'Swinging' implies moving back and forth, 'Dancing' means to move in a rhythmic way, and 'Playing' means engaging in an activity for enjoyment, which don't fit in this context.

23. D) **'Absolutely'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह बताता है कि तेंदुआ छिपकर जाता है और इस प्रक्रिया में उसका कोई शोर नहीं होता। जबकि 'Silently' और 'Hardly' दोनों इस संदर्भ में अधिक निश्चित नहीं होते, और 'Loudly' का अर्थ है जोर से, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
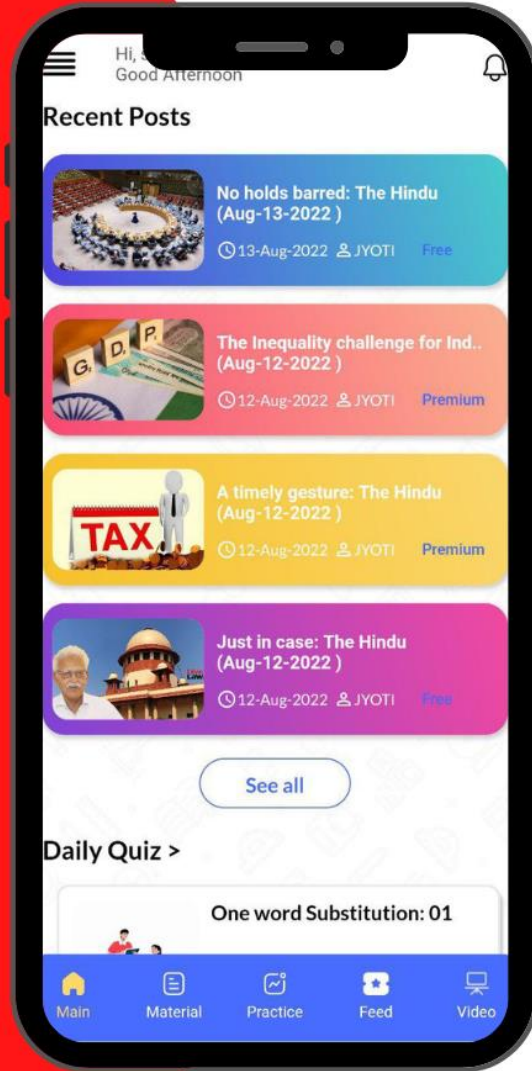
- **'Absolutely'** should be used because it emphasizes that there was no sound at all when the leopard disappeared into the shadows. Whereas, 'Silently' and 'Hardly' don't provide that definitive emphasis, and 'Loudly' implies making a lot of noise, which doesn't fit in this context.

24. A) **'Disturbed'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "disturbed" का अर्थ होता है परेशान करना या विघटित करना। संदर्भ से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि व्यक्ति ने चीता को उसके खाने की खोज में विघटित किया। जबकि 'Facilitated' का अर्थ है सुविधा पहुंचाना, 'Helped' का अर्थ है मदद करना, और 'Prevented' का अर्थ है रोकना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **'Disturbed'** should be used because it means to perturb or interrupt. In context, it is clear that the individual had interrupted the leopard in its quest for food. Whereas, 'Facilitated' means to make easier, 'Helped' means to assist, and 'Prevented' means to stop, which don't fit in this context.

25. A) **'Encounter'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "encounter" का अर्थ होता है अचानक मुलाकात होना। जबकि 'Quarrel' का अर्थ है झगड़ा, 'Meeting' का अर्थ है मुलाकात या सम्मेलन, और 'Exchange' का अर्थ है आदान-प्रदान, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **Encounter'** should be used because it means a sudden or unexpected meeting. Whereas, 'Quarrel' means a disagreement or fight, 'Meeting' means an arranged gathering or assembly, and 'Exchange' implies a mutual giving and receiving, which don't fit in this context.