

## Burrow tragedy: On the coal mining tragedy in Assam's Dima Hasao

India must learn from its mining disasters and **enforce** regulations

With four deaths **so far**, the coal mining **tragedy** in Assam's Dima Hasao district **has revived** a **long-standing** debate on the **hazardous** nature of **rat-hole coal mining** in India. **As opposed to** modern coal mining, which is mechanised, the 'rat-hole' **points to** the crude and **antiquated** technique of employing people, and even children, to burrow into the ground to **scoop out** the underground coal. Depending on the depths that they **plumb**, the **odds** are high that their **pickaxes** will often **unleash a torrent** of water from a hidden aquifer that can suddenly **inundate** the **excavated** tunnel — as it is suspected to have happened at Dima Hasao. Because such accidents have **recurred** over the **decades**, along with the attendant health and environmental **hazards**, this **mode** of mining **was** banned by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2014. The **use** of proper geological surveys and appropriate machinery **would** have made the mine economically **unviable**. The Assam Chief Minister has **stated** that the mine appeared to be "**prime facie... illegal**" and one **abandoned** by the State's Mines and Minerals Department. If that is the case, it **reflects poorly on** the State administration that such mines can be **exploited** by **unscrupulous** elements with such ease, despite the ban. Surely, this is only a fraction of the unregulated mining that actually goes on.

The Supreme Court of India, in 2019, had asked whether it was possible for such mining to continue without the "**connivance**" of officials, when it was **examining** the rescue of 15 miners **trapped** in a rat-hole mine in the East Jaintia Hills in December 2018. A **report** submitted by a monitoring committee **set up** by the NGT **observed** that despite the ban, the **demand** for coal to power cement manufacturing and thermal power plants in the northeast **had sustained** and supported rat-hole coal mining. On the other hand, when **convenient**, State authorities have **sought out** and even **felicited** rat-hole miners, some from Assam, as in 2023, when they were called in as **a last resort** after advanced machinery and the **expertise** of professional geologists and earth scientists **had** failed to rescue 41 construction workers trapped in the large, over-ground Silkiyara tunnel in Uttarkashi. The Dima Hasao operation too, like others, will end and the net success or failure of saving those trapped will induce a familiar **amnesia** that will be broken only by the next accident. Until **decisive** action to **puncture** the economics of rat-hole mining is taken, India is only burrowing the way to another tragedy.

[Practice exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Felicitate** (verb) – congratulate. सम्मानित करना

## Vocabulary

1. **Burrow** (noun) – Tunnel, hole, lair, warren, den सुरंग/बिल
2. **Enforce** (verb) – Implement, impose, uphold, administer, apply लागू करना
3. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, thus far, as yet, hitherto अब तक
4. **Revive** (verb) – Resuscitate, rejuvenate, renew, reawaken, restore पुनर्जीवित करना
5. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Long-established, time-honored, enduring, well-established, deep-rooted दीर्घकालिक
6. **Hazardous** (adjective) – Dangerous, perilous, risky, treacherous, unsafe खतरनाक
7. **Rat-hole coal mining** (noun) – A traditional, often illegal form of coal extraction involving narrow tunnels, exposing miners to extreme risk. खतरनाक पारंपरिक कोयला खनन विधि
8. **As opposed to** (phrase) – In contrast to, unlike, contrary to, different from, rather than इसके विपरीत
9. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, hint at, imply, show संकेत करना
10. **Antiquated** (adjective) – Outdated, obsolete, old-fashioned, archaic, ancient पुराना/प्राचीन
11. **Scoop out** (phrasal verb) – Dig out, hollow out, remove, carve out, extract निकालना
12. **Plumb** (verb) – Measure depth, probe, explore, delve, examine गहराई मापना/जांचना
13. **The odds** (noun) – The chances, the probability, the likelihood, the possibility, the prospects संभावना
14. **Pickaxes** (noun) – Picks, mattocks, pick-hammers, chisel-pointed axes, pick-mattocks कुदालीनुमा औजार
15. **Unleash** (verb) – Release, let loose, set free, trigger, unchain मुक्त करना/शुरू करना
16. **Torrent** (noun) – Outpour, flood, surge, deluge, gush प्रचंड धारा
17. **Inundate** (verb) – Flood, overwhelm, swamp, submerge, engulf डुबो देना/भर देना
18. **Excavated** (adjective) – Dug-out, unearthed, hollowed, quarried, uncovered खुदाई किया हुआ
19. **Recur** (verb) – Happen again, repeat, reappear, occur again, return दोबारा होना
20. **Decade** (noun) – a span of ten years, दशक
21. **Hazard** (noun) – Danger, risk, threat, peril, menace खतरा

22. **Unviable** (adjective) – Impractical, infeasible, unworkable, non-viable, impossible अमल में न लाने योग्य
23. **State** (verb) – Declare, express, pronounce, articulate, specify बताना/बयान करना
24. **Prima facie** (noun) – At first glance, on the face of it, apparent, seemingly, ostensibly प्रथम दृष्टया
25. **Abandon** (verb) – Desert, leave behind, forsake, give up, relinquish त्याग देना/छोड़ देना
26. **Reflect poorly on** (phrase) – Cause a bad impression, tarnish reputation, cast a negative light, show in a bad way, demean the image नकारात्मक छवि पेश करना
27. **Exploit** (verb) – Take advantage of, misuse, utilize selfishly, capitalize on, abuse शोषण करना/फायदा उठाना
28. **Unscrupulous** (adjective) – Dishonest, unethical, immoral, corrupt, deceitful बेईमान/अनैतिक
29. **Connivance** (noun) – Collusion, conspiracy, tacit agreement, secret cooperation, complicity मिलीभगत
30. **Examine** (verb) – Investigate, inspect, scrutinize, study, probe जांचना/परीक्षण करना
31. **Trapped** (adjective) – Stuck, caught, imprisoned, ensnared, confined फंसा हुआ
32. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, organize, institute, form स्थापित करना
33. **Sustained** (adjective) – Continuous, ongoing, prolonged, consistent, enduring सतत/लगातार
34. **Convenient** (adjective) – Suitable, fitting, handy, practical, opportune सुविधाजनक
35. **Seek** (verb) – Search for, look for, pursue, aim for, endeavor to find खोज करना/ढूंढना
36. **A last resort** (phrase) – Final option, final recourse, fallback, ultimate choice, last option अंतिम उपाय/आखिरी सहारा
37. **Expertise** (noun) – Skill, proficiency, competence, knowledge, mastery विशेषज्ञता
38. **Amnesia** (noun) – Memory loss, forgetfulness, partial or total loss of memory, blankness, oblivion स्मृतिलोप
39. **Decisive** (adjective) – Conclusive, resolute, determined, definitive, pivotal निर्णायक
40. **Puncture** (verb) – Pierce, penetrate, prick, deflate, breach छेद करना/छेदना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. **Coal Mining Tragedy in Assam:** Four deaths in the Dima Hasao district of Assam have reignited concerns about the dangers of rat-hole coal mining.
2. **Rat-Hole Mining Defined:** Rat-hole mining involves crude techniques, employing people, often children, to burrow into the ground to extract coal, as opposed to mechanized methods.
3. **Inherent Dangers:** The practice is prone to sudden flooding from hidden aquifers, believed to be the cause of the Dima Hasao tragedy.
4. **Ban by NGT in 2014:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 due to its health, environmental, and safety risks.
5. **Economic Unviability:** Proper geological surveys and machinery make such mines economically unviable, deterring their legal operation.
6. **Illegality and Exploitation:** The Assam Chief Minister stated the mine was likely illegal, reflecting poor enforcement by the State administration.
7. **Unregulated Mining Prevalence:** The incident represents only a fraction of the unregulated mining that persists despite legal prohibitions.
8. **Supreme Court Observations:** In 2019, the Supreme Court questioned whether illegal mining could occur without the collusion of officials.
9. **Sustained Demand for Coal:** Despite the ban, demand for coal to power industries in the northeast continues to sustain rat-hole mining.
10. **State Hypocrisy:** State authorities sometimes exploit rat-hole miners, such as in 2023, when Assam miners were called to rescue workers in Uttarkashi.
11. **Recurring Tragedies:** Mining disasters like Dima Hasao follow a pattern of amnesia and inaction until the next tragedy strikes.
12. **Lack of Accountability:** The continued operation of illegal mines highlights gaps in monitoring and enforcement.
13. **Economic Drivers:** The persistence of rat-hole mining stems from its low-cost operations and high demand for coal, despite the associated risks.
14. **Urgent Need for Action:** India must take decisive steps to dismantle the economic incentives sustaining rat-hole mining.
15. **Long-Term Solutions Required:** Without effective regulation, modernization, and oversight, India remains vulnerable to recurring mining disasters.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred as the primary reason for the continuation of rat-hole mining despite its ban?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The absence of a proper geological survey and machinery.
  - B. The demand for coal to power industries and thermal plants.
  - C. A lack of strict enforcement of laws and connivance of officials.
  - D. The necessity to use rat-hole miners for other rescue operations.
2. **The use of rat-hole miners for rescue operations, despite its dangers, highlights the \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - A. outdated methods in coal mining.
  - B. failure of modern technology in emergencies.
  - C. reliance on illegal practices for economic survival.
  - D. disregard for environmental safety standards.
3. **When was the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ban on rat-hole mining implemented?**
  - A. 2014
  - B. 2018
  - C. 2019
  - D. 2023
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Celebratory and optimistic
  - B. Complacent and indifferent
  - C. Cautionary and critical
  - D. Overly emotional and dramatic
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. Technological advancements in modern mining
  - B. Emphasis on human resource management in coal mines
  - C. Call for stricter enforcement of bans and regulations on rat-hole mining
  - D. Comparison between different kinds of geological surveys
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
  - A. etiquette
  - B. rationalisation
  - C. elopement
  - D. occasion
7. **The following sentence has been divided into four segments. One of them contains an error. Select the segment that contains the error from the given options.**

I am understanding; / you like her/ because she has /a generous nature

  - A. you like her
  - B. I am understanding;
  - C. a generous nature

- D. because she has
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**  
The repetitive and monotonous task of data entry made the work seem incredibly long and tedious
- A. Pious  
B. Interesting  
C. Precarious  
D. Threatening
9. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.**  
Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand
- A. he could  
B. so tired that  
C. scarcely stand.  
D. Joe was
10. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
A woman having more than one husband at the same time
- A. Endogamy  
B. Polymathy  
C. Polyandry  
D. Monogamy
11. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined part in the given sentence:**  
Sohan was very much perplexed to find that his younger brother Mohan had taken poison
- A. At any rate  
B. At his wit's end  
C. At logger heads  
D. At his disposal
12. **Select the most suitable expression that can substitute the underlined part of the sentence without any change in meaning.**  
Planning to go for a movie just before the final-year examination is nothing but Skating on thin ice
- A. doing hard work  
B. being in a risky situation  
C. enjoying the moment  
D. going to hill stations
13. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**  
A society or company provides these convenient features
- A. Equipment  
B. Facilitate  
C. System  
D. Amenities

14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The speaker delivered a profound speech that left the audience deeply moved.

- A. Deep
- B. Inventive
- C. Shallow
- D. Occult

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**

He behaved ruthlessly with his junior, to say the least

- A. Unexpectedly
- B. Inhumanly
- C. Weirdly
- D. Politely

16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the highlighted word**

The worker is known to exert himself a lot.

- A. crouch
- B. emerge
- C. relax
- D. stress

17. **Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**

The referee declared that the participant who will score the highest points in the tally will take away the cash prize of ₹50 lakh.

- A. who can score the highest point
- B. who scores the highest point
- C. who could score the highest point
- D. who settles scores the highest point

18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

My friends are on a trip to the world

- A. in the world
- B. by the world
- C. within the world
- D. around the world

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

Yeoman's service

- A. Excellent work done
- B. A thankless and tedious job
- C. Working under a cruel master
- D. Fraudulent service

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

The Government must strive to provide a/an fair and square deal to the citizen of its country.

- A. exclusive and unreal
- B. honest and straightforward
- C. violent and immoral
- D. forward and backward

21. **The following sentence has been divided into four segments. Identify the segment that has a grammatical error.**

When he resigned, / the company offered him / a huge sum of money but / he refused to agree to it.

- A. a huge sum of money but
- B. When he resigned,
- C. he refused to agree to it.
- D. the company offered him

**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.**

Renunciation has been misunderstood as giving up the good things of life \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ adopt a life of deprivation and misery. Hence, people shun spirituality and do not benefit from the power of renunciation. Renunciation is not giving up things you enjoy. It is moving up to far more fulfilling \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Renunciation is not dispossession. It is all possession. Renunciation is not giving up action. It is performing dynamic action in a spirit of renunciation. Action and renunciation go together. They are not mutually exclusive. Renunciation is \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ weakness for strength. It is asserting oneness and rising above differences. Exuding warmth and shunning bitterness. Creating goodwill and giving up ill will. Renunciation is giving up the residue of grudges, prejudices and hatred to live a life of freedom and happiness. Renunciation is growth. When a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, its \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_ life of darkness and limitation vanishes. Similarly you experience freedom, joy and cheer and live a life of effortless excellence with renunciation.

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

- A. With
- B. By
- C. For
- D. To

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

- A. Requests
- B. Bequest
- C. Questions
- D. Avenues

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

- A. Spanking



- B. Shedding
  - C. Leading
  - D. Arising
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
- A. Erstwhile
  - B. While
  - C. Current
  - D. Recent

## Answers

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

**[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

1. **C) A lack of strict enforcement of laws and connivance of officials.**

A: While the lack of proper geological surveys and machinery makes mining economically unviable, the question asks for the primary reason why mining continues, which is enforcement failure.

B: While demand for coal sustains illegal mining, it is not the root cause but a contributing factor.

C: The passage mentions that unregulated mining persists due to ease of exploitation and connivance of officials, indicating poor enforcement.

D: The use of rat-hole miners for rescue operations is an isolated instance and not directly related to the continuation of illegal mining.

2. **B) failure of modern technology in emergencies.**

A: The outdated methods of mining are mentioned but do not explain the use of rat-hole miners in emergencies.

B: The passage specifically mentions that rat-hole miners were called upon when modern machinery and professional expertise failed during the Uttarkashi rescue operation.

C: This does not apply to the specific context of emergency rescues, which is the focus here.

D: While environmental concerns are important, they are unrelated to the context of using rat-hole miners in emergencies.

3. **A) 2014**

A: The passage clearly states that the NGT banned rat-hole mining in 2014.

B: The year 2018 refers to a mining tragedy in East Jaintia Hills, not the ban.

C: The year 2019 is when the Supreme Court questioned the connivance of officials but is not related to the ban.

D: The year 2023 is when rat-hole miners were used for a rescue operation, unrelated to the ban.

4. **C) Cautionary and critical**

The passage highlights repeated tragedies in coal mining, criticizes the lack of enforcement of regulations, and warns about future disasters if urgent actions are not taken. This indicates a cautionary and critical tone.

A: The passage is not celebrating anything nor expressing optimism; it discusses a tragic situation.

B: The passage is not indifferent; it is actively critical of the situation and calls for enforcement of rules.

D: While the passage is concerned, it presents its points in a factual, critical manner rather than being excessively emotional or dramatic

5. **C) Call for stricter enforcement of bans and regulations on rat-hole mining**

The passage repeatedly stresses the hazards of illegal rat-hole mining, points out the failures in oversight, and underscores the need for decisive action to prevent future tragedies.

A: Though the passage mentions modern machinery, this is not the central focus.

B: The passage focuses on the dangers and illegal nature of rat-hole mining rather than HR issues.

D: While it notes that proper surveys make certain mines economically unviable, comparing surveys is not the main theme.

6. A) The correct spelling of '**ettiquete**' is 'etiquette' which means "the customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group" शिष्टाचार, सदाचार.

7. B) '**am understanding**' के बदले 'understand' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'understand' एक Stative Verb है जो कि Present Continuous Tense में प्रयुक्त नहीं होता है; जैसे— I understand you like her because she has a generous nature.

**Note:** Stative verbs often relate to: thoughts and opinions: **agree, believe, doubt, guess, imagine, know, mean, recognise, remember, suspect, think, understand.**

- 'understand' will be used instead of 'am understanding' because 'understand' is a Stative Verb which is not used in Present Continuous Tense; Like— I understand you like her because she has a generous nature.

8. **B) Monotonous** (adjective) – Dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest. नीरस

**Antonym: Interesting** (adjective) – Arousing curiosity or interest; holding or catching the attention. दिलचस्प

- **Pious** (adjective) – Devoutly religious. धार्मिक
- **Precaious** (adjective) – Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. अस्थिर
- **Threatening** (adjective) – Having a hostile or deliberately frightening quality or manner. धमकी भरा

9. C) '**scarely**' के बदले 'scarcely' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'scarely' का spelling गलत है; जैसे— Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand.

- 'scarcely' will be used instead of 'scarely' because 'scarely' is a spelling error; Like— Joe was so tired that he could scarcely stand.

10. C) **Polyandry** (noun) – A woman having more than one husband at the same time. बहुपतित्व

- **Endogamy** (noun) – The custom of marrying within one's own community or tribe. अंतर्विवाह
  - **Polymathy** (noun) – Knowledge of many subjects. बहुज्ञता
  - **Monogamy** (noun) – The practice of being married to one person at a time. एकपत्नी प्रथा
11. B) **At his wit's end** (idiom) – Very much perplexed अत्यधिक उलझन में
- **At any rate** (phrase) – Regardless of circumstances, anyway, in any case, nevertheless, anyhow किसी भी हाल में
  - **At loggerheads** (phrase) – In conflict, in disagreement, at odds, quarrelling, in opposition मतभेद में
  - **At his disposal** (phrase) – Available for use, accessible, ready to use, on hand, at one's command उपलब्ध होना
12. B) **Skating on thin ice** – being in a risky situation जोखिम भरी स्थिति में होना
13. D) **Amenities** (noun) – A society or company provides these convenient features सुविधाएं
- **Equipment** (noun) – the necessary items for a particular purpose उपकरण
  - **Facilitate** (verb) – to make an action or process easy or easier सुगम बनाना
  - **System** (noun) – a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network प्रणाली
14. C) **Profound** (adjective) – Having deep insight or understanding; intense, thorough, meaningful. गहन
- Antonym: **Shallow** (adjective) – Lacking depth of intellect or knowledge; superficial, trivial, simple. उथला
- **Deep** (adjective) – Extending far down from the top or surface; profound, intense. गहरा
  - **Inventive** (adjective) – Having the ability to create or design new things; creative, imaginative. आविष्कारशील
  - **Occult** (adjective) – Relating to mystical, supernatural, or magical powers or phenomena; hidden, mysterious. गुप्त
15. B) **Ruthlessly** (adverb) – Without pity or compassion for others; cruelly, mercilessly, brutally. निर्मम ढंग से

Synonym: **Inhumanly** (adverb) – In a manner lacking human qualities of compassion and mercy; cruelly, mercilessly. अमानवीय ढंग से

- **Unexpectedly** (adverb) – In a way that is not expected; suddenly, surprisingly. अप्रत्याशित ढंग से
- **Weirdly** (adverb) – In a strange or unusual way; bizarrely. विचित्र ढंग से
- **Politely** (adverb) – In a respectful and considerate manner; courteously, kindly. विनम्र ढंग से

16. C) **Exert** (verb) – To make a strenuous physical or mental effort. प्रयास करना

Antonym: **Relax** (verb) – To make or become less tense or anxious, to rest, to take it easy. आराम करना

- **Crouch** (verb) – To bend down low with the limbs close to the body. झुकना
- **Emerge** (verb) – To come into view or become apparent. उभरना
- **Stress** (verb) – To experience mental or emotional strain. तनाव देना

17. B) 'will score' के बदले 'scores' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक conditional statement है जो भविष्य की घटना को संदर्भित करता है। मुख्य Clause 'will take away' का उपयोग करता है, इसलिए Relative Clause में Simple Present Tense 'scores' का उपयोग उचित है; जैसे— The referee declared that the participant who scores the highest points in the tally will take away the cash prize of ₹50 lakh.

- 'scores' will be used instead of 'will score' because it is a conditional statement referring to a future event. The main clause uses a future form 'will take away', so the Simple Present Tense 'scores' is appropriate in the Relative Clause; Like— The referee declared that the participant who scores the highest points in the tally will take away the cash prize of ₹50 lakh.

18. D) **Around the world** (phrase) – Throughout the world; all over the world. विश्व भर में

19. A) **Yeoman's service** (idiom) – Excellent work done उत्कृष्ट कार्य किया

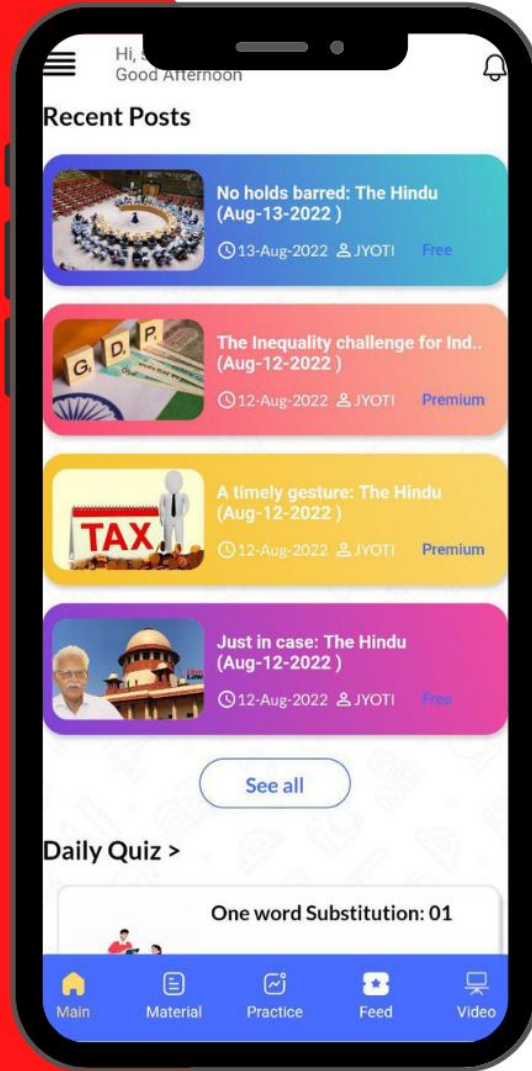
20. B) **fair and square** (idiom) – **honest and straightforward** ईमानदार और सीधा

21. C) refused to agree to it' के बदले 'refused it' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'refuse' का अर्थ ही 'to agree' के साथ convey हो जाता है। अतः 'agree to it' अनावश्यक हो जाता है; जैसे— He refused the offer. 'refused it' will be used instead of 'refused to agree to it' because the meaning of 'refuse' already conveys the sense of 'to agree'. Hence, 'agree to it' is redundant; Like— He refused the offer.

22. D) 'To' का use होगा क्योंकि "to" का use sentence में किसी क्रिया के उद्देश्य या अभिप्राय को दिखाने के लिए होता है। यह एक preposition है जो कि sentence में 'adopt a life of deprivation and misery' के साथ मिलकर उसके कारण को बताता है। Sentence में बताया गया है कि लोग अच्छी चीजों को त्यागते हैं ताकि वे एक कष्टदायक और दुखी जीवन को अपना सकें, जिसमें 'to' उद्देश्य को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयुक्त हुआ है। यहाँ 'to' का उपयोग "infinitive" के साथ क्रिया की क्रिया के उद्देश्य को बताने के लिए हुआ है। 'To' will be used because it serves as a preposition that indicates the purpose or intention of an action in a sentence, used here with the phrase 'adopt a life of deprivation and misery' to denote its purpose. The sentence expresses that people give up good things in life to adopt a life of hardship, with 'to' correctly marking the intended action. 'To' is used here to indicate the purpose of an action in conjunction with an "infinitive."
23. D) 'Avenues' का use होगा क्योंकि "avenues" का अर्थ होता है विकल्प या संभावनाओं की राहें। Sentence में कहा गया है कि रिन्युएशन का उद्देश्य चीजों को त्यागना नहीं बल्कि अधिक संतोषजनक संभावनाओं की ओर बढ़ना है, इसलिए 'avenues' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह अधिक संतोषजनक और पूर्ण संभावनाओं की दिशा को दर्शाता है। 'Requests' का अर्थ होता है अनुरोध, 'Bequest' का अर्थ होता है वसीयत द्वारा छोड़ी गई संपत्ति, और 'Questions' का अर्थ होता है प्रश्न, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं। 'Avenues' will be used because it refers to paths of opportunities or possibilities. The sentence discusses renunciation not as giving up enjoyment but moving towards more fulfilling alternatives, thus 'avenues' is appropriate here as it suggests moving towards more fulfilling and complete possibilities. In contrast, 'Requests' means solicitations, 'Bequest' refers to property left by a will, and 'Questions' means inquiries, none of which fit in this context.
24. B) 'Shedding' का use होगा क्योंकि "shedding" का अर्थ होता है छोड़ना या त्यागना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि रिन्युएशन कमजोरी को ताकत में बदलने की प्रक्रिया है, जो कि विभिन्न नकारात्मक गुणों को छोड़ने का संकेत देता है, इसलिए 'shedding' यहाँ सही है। 'Spanking' का अर्थ होता है मारना या पीटना, जो कि यहां irrelevant है। 'Leading' का अर्थ होता है अगुवाई करना, जो कि इस संदर्भ में नहीं बैठता। 'Arising' का अर्थ होता है उत्पन्न होना, जो कि यहाँ छोड़ने के अर्थ को नहीं दर्शाता। 'Shedding' will be used because it means to cast off or let go. The sentence explains that renunciation involves exchanging weakness for strength, suggesting the letting go of negative qualities, thus 'shedding' is suitable here. 'Spanking' means hitting, which is irrelevant here. 'Leading' means to guide or lead, not fitting this context. 'Arising' means to originate or come about, which doesn't convey the sense of letting go required here.
25. A) 'Erstwhile' का use होगा क्योंकि "erstwhile" का अर्थ होता है पूर्व या भूतपूर्व। Sentence में कहा गया है कि जब एक इल्ली तितली में बदलती है, तो उसका पूर्व जीवन अंधकार और सीमाओं से भरा होता है जो खत्म हो जाता है। यहाँ 'erstwhile' उस पूर्व स्थिति को दर्शाता है जो अब नहीं रही, इसलिए यह सही है।

'While' का अर्थ होता है उसी समय में, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Current' और 'Recent' का अर्थ होता है present और हाल का, जो कि past के संदर्भ को सही नहीं दर्शाते।

'Erstwhile' will be used because it means former or previous. The sentence describes how a caterpillar's previous life filled with darkness and limitations ends as it transforms into a butterfly. Here, 'erstwhile' indicates the past condition that no longer exists, making it the correct choice. 'While' means during the same time, which isn't suitable here. 'Current' and 'Recent' imply present and near past, which do not accurately reflect the past context needed here.



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