

Express View on Teesta dam: Safety first

On October 2023, a **glacial** flood **ravaged** four districts of Sikkim, killing more than 40 people and washing away a 60-metre-high dam of the Teesta III **hydel** power project. Less than 15 months later, the environment ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) has cleared a proposal to construct a 118-metre high dam in its place. The panel's decision raises questions because the **design** of the new structure **has** not been cleared by the Central Water Commission, the Geological Survey and Central Soil and Materials Research Station. A public **hearing** has not been held to **make sure** the project **addresses** the concerns of local people. It's particularly **disquieting** that the EAC has allowed the dam's construction before its own safety-related questions were addressed. As reported by this newspaper, the EAC was not **convinced** of the structure's ability to **withstand** the force of flood waters. The project does not seem to have adequately **factored in** threats from overflowing glacial lakes.

Teesta III is part of a mega hydel power push in the Eastern Himalayas that was **envisaged** more than two **decades** ago. The project has been **dogged** by ecological and safety-related concerns. **Hydrologists** and other experts have **questioned** the **infrastructure** push in a region **prone** to earthquakes, landslides and climate change-related disasters. A **section** of the local population **has** opposed the project because its construction involves **alteration** and destruction of parts of mountains, forests and a flowing river. However, **authorities** in charge of the projects **do** not appear to have always **paid heed to** these issues. In 2014, **for instance**, the National Hydropower Corporation told the National Green Tribunal that Teesta III faced no threats from glacial lake overflows. The project took more than 12 years to construct, exceeding its budget more than two-and-a-half times. It **came apart** in October 2023, proving the power corporation wrong. A year later, a **landslide** caused a loss of more than Rs 300-crore to another project on the Teesta River — thankfully no lives were lost.

Infrastructure **projects** in the mountains — dams, bridges, buildings, highways — **must** be **subjected to stringent** safety measures. The **bar** must be set particularly high for structures close to rivers or other water bodies. As the 2023 flood **underlined**, dams are the first to be hit when glacial lakes overflow. A growing body of scholarship shows that climate change-driven ice mass loss is **exacerbating** the threat of glacial lake floods. The environment ministry must, therefore, not be **hasty** in going ahead with its committee's latest recommendation on Teesta III. **No effort** must be **spared** to ensure that the disaster of 2023 is not repeated.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Glacial** (adjective) – icy, frozen, relating to glaciers, extremely cold, gelid हिमनद संबंधी
2. **Ravage** (verb) – devastate, destroy, wreck, ruin, lay waste तबाह करना
3. **Hydel** (adjective) – Relating to hydroelectric power or electricity generated from flowing water. जलविद्युत संबंधी
4. **Hearing** (noun) – session, public meeting, inquiry, consultation, discussion जनसुनवाई
5. **Make sure** (phrase) – ensure, confirm, verify, ascertain, guarantee यह सुनिश्चित करना
6. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to, handle, resolve समाधान करना
7. **Disquieting** (adjective) – disturbing, unsettling, troubling, worrying, concerning चिंताजनक
8. **Convinced** (adjective) – certain, persuaded, assured, confident, sure आश्वस्त
9. **Withstand** (verb) – endure, resist, stand up to, weather, hold out against सामना करना
10. **Factor in** (phrasal verb) – take into account, consider, include, incorporate, figure in शामिल करना
11. **Envisage** (verb) – imagine, foresee, anticipate, conceive, visualize कल्पना करना
12. **Decade** (noun) – ten-year period, a span of ten years दशक
13. **Dog** (verb) – plague, trouble, follow persistently, haunt, afflict परेशान करना
14. **Hydrologist** (noun) – A scientist or expert who studies the distribution, movement, and quality of water on Earth. जल विज्ञानी
15. **Question** (verb) – challenge, doubt, dispute, cast doubt on, query प्रश्न करना
16. **Infrastructure** (noun) – basic facilities, physical framework, public works, foundation, base बुनियादी ढांचा
17. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – liable to, susceptible to, vulnerable to, inclined to, likely to प्रभावित होने की संभावना रखने वाला
18. **Alteration** (noun) – change, modification, adjustment, variation, revision परिवर्तन
19. **Pay heed to** (phrase) – take notice of, attend to, listen to, heed, consider carefully ध्यान देना
20. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, as an example, such as, e.g., to illustrate उदाहरण के लिए

21. **Come apart** (phrase) – break down, collapse, fall apart, disintegrate, split टूटना
22. **Landslide** (noun) – mass movement of earth, mudslide, rockslide, land slip, slope collapse भूस्खलन
23. **Subject** (to) (verb) – expose to, put through, make liable to, cause to undergo, place under के प्रभाव में लाना
24. **Stringent** (adjective) – strict, rigorous, severe, demanding, tight कठोर
25. **Bar** (noun) – standard, benchmark, level, criterion, limit स्तर
26. **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, draw attention to ज़ोर देना
27. **Exacerbate** (verb) – worsen, intensify, aggravate, compound, inflame और अधिक बिगाड़ना
28. **Hasty** (adjective) – rash, hurried, rushed, impulsive, quick जल्दीबाजी
29. **Spare no efforts** (phrase) – make every effort, do one's utmost, leave no stone unturned, try hard, go all out कोई कसर न छोड़ना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Teesta III Dam Disaster:** The October 2023 glacial flood in Sikkim, which destroyed the Teesta III dam, highlighted the catastrophic risks posed by inadequate safety measures, killing more than 40 people and causing massive destruction.
2. **EAC Approval Amid Concerns:** Less than 15 months after the disaster, the environment ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has controversially approved a 118-meter high replacement dam without addressing critical safety-related concerns.
3. **Lack of Clearances:** The proposed dam design has not been cleared by key agencies such as the **Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India, or the Central Soil and Materials Research Station**, raising significant red flags.
4. **Public Consultation Ignored:** The decision bypassed public hearings, ignoring the voices and concerns of local communities who are directly affected by the project.
5. **Safety Questions Unanswered:** The EAC itself expressed doubts about the dam's ability to withstand floods, especially in light of the 2023 disaster, making the approval process questionable.
6. **Glacial Lake Flood Threats:** The project has not adequately addressed the growing risk of glacial lake overflows, which are exacerbated by climate change and threaten the safety of infrastructure in the region.
7. **Long-standing Concerns:** The Teesta III project, part of a larger hydel power push, has faced criticism for its ecological impact, safety risks, and unsuitability for a geologically fragile region prone to earthquakes and landslides.
8. **Costly Misjudgments:** The Teesta III project took over 12 years to complete, exceeding its budget by 2.5 times, only to fail catastrophically. Similar risks persist in the region, as seen with another Rs 300-crore landslide damage to a Teesta project.
9. **Climate Change Implications:** Climate change-driven ice mass loss increases the likelihood of glacial lake floods, making it imperative to adopt stringent safety and ecological measures for infrastructure in the Himalayas.
10. **Call for Stringent Safety Norms:** Infrastructure projects in mountainous regions, especially those near rivers, must adhere to the highest safety standards to mitigate risks from natural disasters.
11. **Dams as Vulnerable Structures:** The 2023 flood demonstrated that dams are the most vulnerable during glacial lake overflows, emphasizing the need for robust designs and comprehensive risk assessments.
12. **Environmental and Social Costs:** Beyond safety, the destruction of mountains, forests, and rivers for such projects poses significant ecological and social challenges, sparking opposition from local populations.
13. **Need for Caution:** Hasty approvals without thorough assessments could lead to repeated disasters, undermining trust in authorities and jeopardizing human lives and resources.

14. **Climate Resilience Focus:** Future projects must incorporate climate resilience, prioritize local ecological conditions, and use advanced modeling to predict and mitigate risks from natural disasters.
15. **Rethinking Development Priorities:** The government must prioritize long-term safety, sustainability, and inclusivity over short-term developmental gains to ensure disasters like the Teesta III failure are not repeated.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial page]**

1. **Which of the following options best describes the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Encouraging
 - B. Critical
 - C. Apathetic
 - D. Celebratory
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Ensuring ecological protection and safety in hydropower projects
 - B. The urgent need for expanding hydropower in mountainous areas
 - C. The local population's unwavering support for large dam constructions
 - D. The absence of environmental concerns in dam-building in the Himalayas
3. **What can be inferred as the primary concern regarding the new dam construction on Teesta III?**
 - A. It lacks support from local authorities.
 - B. It ignores the potential ecological benefits of the dam.
 - C. It prioritizes rapid construction over ensuring safety and addressing local concerns.
 - D. It has exceeded its budget, making it economically unfeasible.
4. **According to the passage, what major disaster occurred in October 2023 related to the Teesta III project?**
 - A. An earthquake destroyed the dam.
 - B. A landslide caused significant financial losses.
 - C. A glacial flood destroyed the dam and caused loss of lives.
 - D. The Central Water Commission rejected the dam's design.
5. **Why is the new dam project's safety being questioned?**
 - A. The design has not been cleared by key regulatory bodies.
 - B. The local population has unanimously approved the project.
 - C. The National Hydropower Corporation found no issues with the dam.
 - D. The project has already been completed.
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.**

The restaurant's atmosphere was pleasant and inviting

 - A. atmosphere
 - B. pleasant
 - C. inviting
 - D. restaurant's
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Fast

 - A. Tardy
 - B. Barely

- C. Quick
- D. Languid

8. **Identify the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the following sentence and select its correct spelling from the given options.**

The teacher assessed the student's flyer for writing

- A. flair
- B. flare
- C. friar
- D. fire

9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

A famous economist / says that / the government should do more / for create enough jobs

- A. a famous economist
- B. the government should do more
- C. says that
- D. for create enough jobs

10. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A short stay at a place

- A. Topiary
- B. Xenophobe
- C. Sojourn
- D. Embargo

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

The athlete's performance was _____, earning him a standing ovation

- A. exceptional
- B. moderate
- C. mediocre
- D. average

12. **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'.**

Suman will be fired if she did not complete the delegated target set by her boss.

- A. if she do not complete the delegated target
- B. if she had not complete the delegated target
- C. if she does not complete the delegated target
- D. no substitution

13. **Select the correct spelling from the given options to fill in the blank.**

I hope you will excuse me for doing what is only my duty, although it may appear _____.

- A. impertinent
- B. impertiant
- C. impertaint
- D. impertinant

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

Vacant

- A. Empty
- B. Brutal
- C. Popular
- D. Full

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word 'Flash' from the given sentence.**

My cousin Zara, who loves to explore outer space in her free time, once noticed or observed a disc-shaped object blinking in the sky.

- A. blinking
- B. explore
- C. observed
- D. noticed

16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical/spelling error.**

Jack along with / his family visited / his aunt living / at America

- A. at America
- B. Jack along with
- C. his family visited
- D. his aunt living

17. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

His skills in programming / are more superior than / most developers / in the company

- A. his skills in programming
- B. in the company
- C. are more superior than
- D. most developers

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

Sycophant

- A. Uppity
- B. Independent
- C. Fawner
- D. Arrogant

19. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

(1) Malini's family (2) doesn't know (3) how she bears out (4) the work pressure.

- A. the work pressure.
- B. how she bears out
- C. malini's family
- D. doesn't know

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

Mithya's remarkable generosity extended to everyone she knew

- A. Perfection
- B. Awkwardness
- C. Cowardice
- D. Selfishness

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.

One day we saw Kala Nag. The monsoons had burst with all their fury, and it had rained in the night. The earth, which had lain parched and dry under the withering heat of the summer sun, was teeming ____1____ life. In little pools, frogs croaked. The muddy ground was littered with ____2____ worms, centipedes and velvety lady-birds. Grass ____3____ begun to show and the banana leaves glistened bright and glossy green. The ____4____ had flooded Kala Nag's hole. He sat in an open patch on the lawn. His shiny black hood glistened in the sunlight. He was big, almost six feet in ____5____ and rounded and fleshy, as my wrist. "Looks like a King Cobra. Let's get him."

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

- A. at
- B. before
- C. with
- D. In

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

- A. crawling
- B. singing
- C. talking
- D. reading

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

- A. had
- B. is
- C. was
- D. will

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.

- A. snow
- B. clouds
- C. rain
- D. heat

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5

- A. length
- B. weight

- C. looks
- D. circles

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Critical

The passage adopts a critical tone by highlighting serious safety and environmental concerns surrounding the Teesta III hydel project. It questions the environment ministry's expert committee for clearing a new dam design without adequate review and emphasizes the risks involved.

A: The passage does not support or applaud the project's current approach; instead, it warns against hasty decisions.

C: Far from being indifferent, the passage expresses worry and disapproval about safety oversight.

D: The passage is not celebrating any achievement; it underscores the dangers and possible repeated disasters.

2. A) Ensuring ecological protection and safety in hydropower projects

The passage emphasizes the importance of stringent safety measures and environmental caution when constructing dams in ecologically sensitive and disaster-prone areas like the Eastern Himalayas.

B. Though hydropower is discussed, the passage does not advocate an urgent expansion; instead, it calls for caution.

C. A section of the local community opposes the project, so there is no "unwavering support."

D. The passage clearly discusses multiple environmental and safety concerns, so it does not suggest their absence.

3. C) It prioritizes rapid construction over ensuring safety and addressing local concerns.

The passage highlights that the new dam was approved without addressing safety-related questions or consulting local people, emphasizing the haste over proper evaluation.

A: Incorrect, as the passage does not mention a lack of support from local authorities.

B: Incorrect, because ecological benefits are not a focus; rather, ecological and safety concerns are emphasized.

D: Incorrect, while exceeding the budget is mentioned for the earlier project, the new dam's economic feasibility is not discussed.

4. C) A glacial flood destroyed the dam and caused loss of lives.

The passage explicitly states that a glacial flood in October 2023 ravaged four districts of Sikkim, killing more than 40 people and destroying the dam.

A: Incorrect, as an earthquake is mentioned as a potential concern but not as the disaster that occurred.

B: Incorrect, as the landslide happened a year later and caused financial losses but no deaths.

D: Incorrect, the rejection of the dam's design by the Central Water Commission is not stated as an event.

5. **A) The design has not been cleared by key regulatory bodies.**

The passage mentions that the Central Water Commission, Geological Survey, and Central Soil and Materials Research Station have not cleared the new dam's design, raising safety concerns.

B: Incorrect, the passage mentions local opposition, not unanimous approval.

C: Incorrect, while the National Hydropower Corporation claimed safety in the past, the disaster of 2023 proved otherwise.

D: Incorrect, the project is still under consideration and has not been completed.

6. D) The **incorrectly spelt** word in the sentence is '**restaurent's**', and the correct spelling is '**restaurant's**'. भोजनालय

7. C) **Fast** (adjective) – Moving or capable of moving at high speed, swift, rapid, brisk. तेज़, शीघ्र, जल्दी।

Synonym: Quick (adjective) – Moving fast or doing something in a short time, swift, rapid, speedy. शीघ्र, फुर्तीला, तेज।

- **Tardy** (adjective) – Delaying or delayed beyond the expected time, slow, late. सुस्त, विलंबित।
- **Barely** (adverb) – Only just, scarcely, hardly. मुश्किल से, थोड़ा।
- **Languid** (adjective) – Lacking energy, slow, weak, sluggish. थका हुआ, सुस्त

8. A) The incorrectly spelt word in the given sentence is '**flyer**'. The correct spelling of the intended word is '**flair**', which means "a natural ability to do something well" or "a distinctive elegance or style" (प्राकृतिक क्षमता या अनोखी शैली)।

9. D) '**for creating enough jobs**' का use सही होगा क्योंकि "for" के बाद आने वाले क्रिया (verb) को gerund (verb + ing) में होना चाहिए। यह एक व्याकरणिक नियम है कि preposition "for" के बाद हमेशा verb का gerund रूप (creating) आता है। इसलिए 'for create enough jobs' में त्रुटि है।

'for creating enough jobs' should be used because after "for," the verb should be in its gerund form (verb + ing). According to grammatical rules, a preposition like "for" must always be followed by a gerund. Hence, the error lies in "for create enough jobs."

10. C) **Sojourn** (noun) – A temporary stay at a place अस्थायी निवास

- **Topiary** (noun) – The practice or art of clipping shrubs or trees into ornamental shapes पेड़-पौधों की कटाई-छटाई की कला

- **Xenophobe** (noun) – A person who has an intense or irrational dislike of people from other countries विदेशी लोगों से घृणा करने वाला
- **Embargo** (noun) – An official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country व्यापार या वाणिज्य पर प्रतिबंध

11. A) **Exceptional** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "असाधारण" या "सर्वश्रेष्ठ।" sentence में mention है कि एथलीट का प्रदर्शन इतना अच्छा था कि उसे दर्शकों से standing ovation मिली। यह दर्शाता है कि प्रदर्शन असाधारण स्तर का था। 'Moderate' का अर्थ है "सामान्य" या "औसत से थोड़ा बेहतर," जो standing ovation जैसे असाधारण प्रतिक्रिया के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Mediocre' का अर्थ है "सामान्य से भी कमजोर" या "औसत से नीचे," जो इस संदर्भ में बिल्कुल उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यह अच्छे प्रदर्शन का संकेत नहीं देता। 'Average' का अर्थ है "औसत," और यह भी standing ovation जैसे प्रतिक्रिया को सही ठहराने के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'**Exceptional**' will be used because it means "extraordinary" or "outstanding." The sentence indicates that the athlete's performance was so remarkable that it earned a standing ovation from the audience, signifying an exceptional level of achievement. 'Moderate' means "average" or "slightly better than average," which does not justify the extraordinary reaction of a standing ovation. 'Mediocre' implies "below average" or "of poor quality," which is inappropriate as it contradicts the positive tone of the sentence. 'Average' simply means "ordinary" and cannot justify a standing ovation, which is reserved for exceptional performances.

12. C) 'did not complete' के बदले '**does not complete**' का use होगा क्योंकि Conditional Sentences में, जब Main Clause Future Tense में हो तो 'if' Clause में Present Tense का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— She will fail if she does not work hard.

'**does not complete**' will be used instead of 'did not complete' because in Conditional Sentences, when the main clause is in Future Tense, the verb in the 'if' clause should be in Present Tense; Like— She will fail if she does not work hard.

13. A) **Impertinent** का use होगा क्योंकि "impertinent" का अर्थ होता है "बेबाक या अनादरपूर्ण"। Sentence में mention है कि वक्ता ने केवल अपना कर्तव्य निभाया है, भले ही यह असभ्य प्रतीत हो। यह adjective है, जो context के अनुसार वाक्य को सही रूप से पूरा करता है।

'**Impertinent**' will be used because it means "rude or not showing proper respect." The sentence suggests the speaker acknowledges that their action might seem rude, but it was their duty. This adjective fits perfectly with the sentence's context.

14. A) **Vacant** (adjective) – Not occupied, empty, unfilled, uninhabited. खाली

Synonym: Empty (adjective) – Containing nothing, unoccupied, hollow. रिक्त

- **Brutal** (adjective) – Cruel, savage, harsh, barbarous. क्रूर
- **Popular** (adjective) – Well-liked, admired, famous, widely known. लोकप्रिय
- **Full** (adjective) – Containing all it can hold, complete, crowded. भरा हुआ

15. A) **Flash** (verb) – To shine brightly and suddenly for a short time, sparkle, blink, glimmer. झपकना/चमकना

Synonym: Blinking (verb) – Shine intermittently or quickly, flicker, twinkle. झपकना/टिमटिमाना

- **Explore** (verb) – To travel through or search for the purpose of discovery, investigate. खोज/अन्वेषण करना
- **Observed** (verb) – To notice or perceive something and register it as being significant, see, watch. देखना/पर्यवेक्षण करना
- **Noticed** (verb) – To become aware of, perceive, or acknowledge. ध्यान देना /नोट करना

16. A) 'at America' के बदले 'in America' का use होगा क्योंकि 'at' Preposition का प्रयोग छोटे स्थानों के लिए होता है जबकि देश या बड़े स्थानों के लिए 'in' Preposition का प्रयोग किया जाता है

The phrase 'at America' is incorrect because the preposition "at" is used for specific locations, while for a country or large geographical area, the preposition 'in' is appropriate.

17. C) 'are more superior than' में error है क्योंकि 'superior' अपने आप में Comparative Degree का adjective है और उसके पहले 'more' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है। साथ ही, 'superior' के साथ 'than' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। अतः इसे सुधारकर 'are superior to' किया जाएगा।

'are more superior than' is incorrect because 'superior' is already a comparative adjective, and using 'more' is redundant. Additionally, 'superior' is followed by 'to,' not 'than.' Therefore, it should be corrected to 'are superior to.'

18. C) **Sycophant** (noun) – A person who acts obsequiously toward someone important to gain advantage; flatterer, toady, bootlicker, hanger-on. चापलूस

Synonym: Fawner (noun) – Someone who seeks favor by excessive flattery or submissive behavior. चापलूस, खुशामदी

- **Uppity** (adjective) – Self-important, arrogant, behaving as if you are superior. घमंडी
- **Independent** (adjective) – Self-reliant, not influenced or controlled by others. स्वतंत्र
- **Arrogant** (adjective) – Having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's own importance. घमंडी

19. B) "bears out" का use गलत है। सही phrasal verb "bears up" होना चाहिए क्योंकि "bears out" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ की पुष्टि करना या समर्थन करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। इसके विपरीत, "bears up" का अर्थ है दबाव या कठिनाई को सहन करना, जो यहां सही है।

The phrase "bears out" is incorrect in this context. The correct phrase should be "bears up" because "bears out" means to confirm or validate something, which does not fit the context of enduring work pressure. Instead, "bears up" is the correct phrasal verb to describe handling or

20. D) **Generosity** (noun) – The quality of being kind, giving, and selfless. उदारता

Antonym: Selfishness (noun) – The quality of prioritizing one's own needs or desires over others. स्वार्थीपन

- **Perfection** (noun) – The state of being flawless, ideal, or without any fault. पूर्णता
- **Awkwardness** (noun) – Lack of grace, skill, or ease; clumsiness. बेढंगापन
- **Cowardice** (noun) – Lack of bravery or courage. कायरता

21. 'C) **With**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'with' का अर्थ है "साथ में" या "के साथ," जो यहां धरती और जीवन की प्रचुरता के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है। sentence में mention है कि बारिश के बाद धरती जीवन से भरी हुई थी। 'With' यहां सही preposition है क्योंकि यह दिखाता है कि जीवन प्रचुर मात्रा में था। 'At' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान या समय को व्यक्त करना, जो यहां सही नहीं है। 'Before' समय से संबंधित है, जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में गलत है। 'In' का प्रयोग किसी चीज़ के भीतर होने को दिखाता है, जो यहां "life teeming on earth" के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

With will be used because it means "together with" or "accompanied by," which is appropriate in the context of the earth teeming with life. The sentence highlights how life flourished after the rains, and 'with' fits perfectly. 'At': Indicates location or time, which is incorrect here. 'Before': Relates to time and doesn't suit the context. 'In': Suggests containment, which doesn't align with the meaning here.

22. A) '**Crawling**' का use होगा क्योंकि "crawling" का अर्थ है रेंगने वाला। sentence में mention है कि कीचड़ भरी जमीन पर कीड़े-मकोड़े जैसे केंचुए और सेंटिपीड हैं, जो आमतौर पर रेंगते हैं। इसलिए 'crawling' सही उत्तर है। 'Crawling' यहाँ एक adjective के रूप में use हुआ है, जो "worms" का वर्णन करता है। यह वाक्य के संदर्भ में पूरी तरह उपयुक्त है। 'Singing' का अर्थ है गाना। कीड़े या मकोड़े गाना नहीं गा सकते। 'Talking' का अर्थ है बात करना। यह कीड़े-मकोड़ों के संदर्भ में गलत है। 'Reading' का अर्थ है पढ़ना। यह जीव-जंतुओं के लिए अप्रासंगिक है।

will be used because it means "moving slowly on the ground." The sentence describes the muddy ground filled with worms and centipedes, which naturally "crawl." Thus, 'crawling' fits

perfectly. 'Crawling' acts as an adjective modifying "worms," describing their movement, making it contextually correct. 'Singing' means producing musical sounds, which is irrelevant in the context of worms and centipedes. 'Talking' means communicating with words, which is not applicable to these creatures. 'Reading' means interpreting text, which is illogical for worms and centipedes.

23. A) यहाँ 'Had' का use सही है क्योंकि वाक्य एक ऐसी घटना का वर्णन कर रहा है जो अतीत में हुई थी। 'Begun' शब्द 'begin' का past participle है और यह past perfect tense बनाने के लिए 'Had' की आवश्यकता करता है। sentence यह बता रहा है कि बारिश के बाद घास उगना शुरू हो चुकी थी, जो अतीत में पूरी हुई क्रिया है। पूरा वाक्य: "Grass had begun to show" grammatically सही है क्योंकि यह पहले पूरी हुई घटना को दर्शाता है। 'Is' present tense है और वाक्य के past context से मेल नहीं खाता है। 'Was' से past continuous का बोध होता है, जबकि यहाँ एक पूरी हुई क्रिया का वर्णन है। 'Will' future tense है और वाक्य के अतीत संदर्भ के लिए बिल्कुल अनुपयुक्त है।

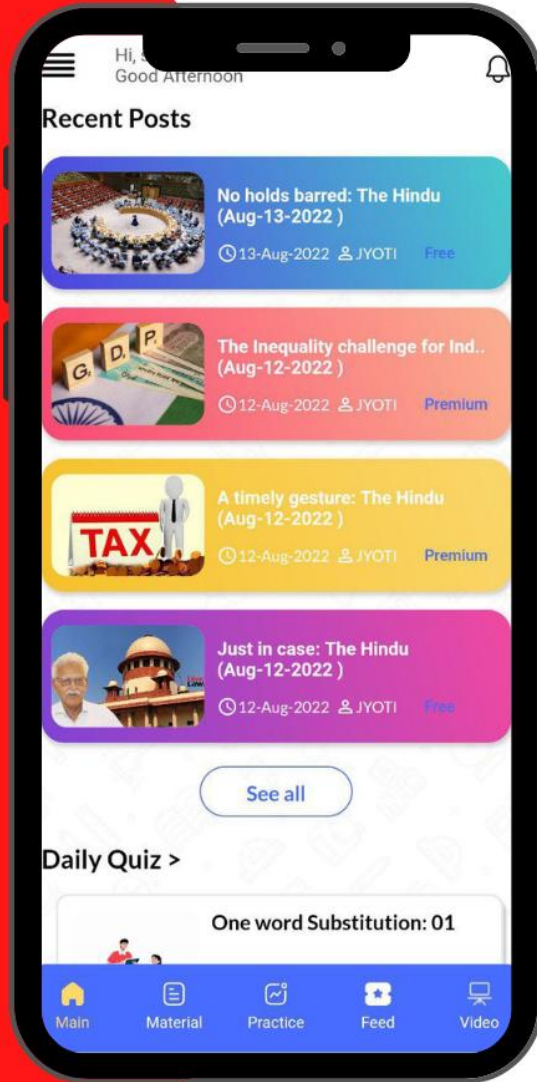
"Had" is correct because the sentence describes an event that occurred in the past. The word "begun" is the past participle form of "begin," and it requires the auxiliary verb "had" to form the past perfect tense. The sentence talks about the grass starting to grow after the rains, indicating a completed action in the past. "Grass had begun to show" makes grammatical sense because the action of grass beginning to grow happened before the narrative's present "Is" is present tense and does not match the past context of the passage. "Was" indicates a **past continuous** state, not a completed action, which doesn't fit here. "Begun" requires a helping verb for the past perfect tense. "Will" is future tense and is completely irrelevant in the past context of the passage.

24. C) 'Rain' का use होगा क्योंकि passage में पहले से ही 'monsoons' और 'rained in the night' का ज़िक्र है। यह संदर्भ देता है कि बारिश ने Kala Nag के hole को भर दिया। बारिश (rain) की वजह से उसका छेद पानी से भर गया, इसलिए 'rain' इस context में सही है। 'Snow' का अर्थ है बर्फ, जो monsoon और बारिश के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। यहाँ बर्फ के गिरने का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है। 'Clouds' का अर्थ है बादल, लेकिन बादल hole को भर नहीं सकते। यहाँ context में rain की बात हो रही है। 'Heat' का मतलब गर्मी है, जो पहले की सूखी ज़मीन के लिए सही हो सकता है, लेकिन hole को भरने के लिए rain का ज़िक्र किया गया है।

'Rain' will be used because the passage already mentions "monsoons" and "rained in the night." This sets the context that rain caused Kala Nag's hole to flood. Hence, 'rain' is contextually correct. 'Snow' means ice or snowfall, which does not fit the monsoon and rain context of the passage. There is no mention of snowfall. 'Clouds' mean clouds in the sky, but clouds cannot fill a hole. The context clearly refers to rain. 'Heat' means warmth or high temperature, which could describe the previously parched earth but does not fit the context of flooding the hole.

25. A) '**Length**' का use होगा क्योंकि "six feet" स्पष्ट रूप से एक माप का संकेत देता है। यहां काले नाग (सांप) के शारीरिक माप का वर्णन किया जा रहा है। "six feet in length" सांप की लंबाई का सही विवरण है। '**Weight**' का अर्थ है "वजन"। हालांकि यहां सांप के वजन का उल्लेख नहीं है, इसलिए यह गलत है। '**Looks**' का अर्थ है "दिखावट," लेकिन sentence में सांप के दिखावे का संदर्भ नहीं है, इसलिए यह भी गलत है। '**Circles**' का अर्थ है "घेराव या घेरे," जो यहां फिट नहीं होता क्योंकि यह सांप के आकार का वर्णन नहीं करता।

'Length' is correct because "six feet" clearly refers to a measurement. The sentence describes the snake's physical dimensions, and "six feet in length" is appropriate for indicating the size of the snake. 'Weight' means the measure of heaviness, but the sentence does not discuss the snake's weight, making it incorrect. 'Looks' refers to appearance, but the context is not about how the snake looks. Hence, it is also incorrect. 'Circles' refers to rounds or loops, which does not fit the description of the snake's size.



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