

Himalayan tragedy: On avalanches in the Himalayan States

Natural **disasters** are not very predictable, but their impact can be controlled

Earlier this week, Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams rescued 23 workers who were stuck in a **rumble** of snow and ice, **following** an avalanche at Mana village, Uttarakhand. Eight workers died in the disaster, which **occurred** at a Border Roads Organisation construction site that had **housed** 54 labourers in eight containers. **To say** that the rescue operation was **arduous would** be an **understatement**. The rescue teams worked in a near-continuous 60-hour shift **amidst** heavy snowfall at an **elevation** of 10,500 feet above mean sea level. With the roads blocked by the snow, helicopters were used to **evacuate** those **rescued** to the Joshimath Army Hospital — five helicopters from the Indian Army, two from the Indian Air Force and one civilian copter. Along with the **sheer** physical effort **expended** in the **extraction**, the rescue operation employed a drone-based detection system to detect the containers that were **buried** under several feet of snow, ice and rock.

Avalanches in the Himalayan States, like the one in Mana, which is among the last **outposts** in Indian territory and close to the border with China, **are** not **uncommon**. Villagers here have historically been ‘winter-migrants’, which means that during the winter months the village is **deserted**. **Coinciding with** the ritual closing of the Badrinath temple in November, there is **migration** to villages lower down, such as Gopeshwar and Jyotirmath, for the winter, with residents returning only when the temple reopens in April or May. This is part of traditional **wisdom** and has a lot to do with the historical experience of the upper Himalayan stretches being **prone to disasters**. While these practices may have saved the resident villagers, it still raises the question as to whether the **workers** — several of them migrants — **were** adequately aware of the risks of their **enterprise**. **Given** the strategic location of the village and the need to develop improved roads for civilian and military access, there will always be a **sizeable** number of people engaged in activity in regions that are **inherently inhospitable** and risk-prone. Once disaster strikes, efforts focus on the rescue operation, and once they **conclude**, there is little **reflection on** whether **preventive** measures could have been taken. Avalanches cannot be predicted with **precision**, but steps can be taken to design containers that are safer to live in and can improve **the odds** of survival. There is much to learn from the way **bomb shelters** are imagined or how research stations at Antarctica are designed. **All** of this **requires** a greater **sensitivity** to workers who **toil** amidst **hazards** and not **merely label** these tragedies as **inevitable** consequences of natural disasters.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Avalanche** (noun) – Snowslide, Landslide, Snowslip, Icefall, Rockfall हिमस्खलन
2. **Disaster** (noun) – Catastrophe, Tragedy, Calamity, Mishap, Cataclysm आपदा
3. **Rubble** (noun) – Debris, Wreckage, Ruins, Fragments, Remains मलबा
4. **Following** (preposition) – After, Subsequent to, In the wake of, Post, Behind के बाद
5. **Occur** (verb) – Happen, Take place, Arise, Transpire, Materialize घटित होना
6. **House** (verb) – Accommodate, Shelter, Lodge, Host, Quarter रखना
7. **Arduous** (adjective) – Difficult, Strenuous, Tough, Challenging, Laborious कठिन
8. **Understatement** (noun) – Minimization, Downplay, Underestimation, Restraint, Moderation कम करके कहना
9. **Amidst** (preposition) – Among, In the middle of, Surrounded by, During, Within के बीच
10. **Elevation** (noun) – Altitude, Height, Rise, Lift, Ascent ऊंचाई
11. **Evacuate** (verb) – Remove, Clear, Empty, Relocate, Withdraw खाली करना
12. **Rescue** (verb) – Save, Recover, Retrieve, Liberate, बचाव करना
13. **Sheer** (adjective) – Absolute, Utter, Complete, Total, Pure वास्तविक
14. **Expend** (verb) – Spend, Use, Consume, Utilize, Exhaust खर्च करना
15. **Extraction** (noun) – Removal, Withdrawal, Retrieval, Pulling out, Drawing out निकालना
16. **Bury** (verb) – Inter, Entomb, Embed, Submerge, Conceal दफनाना
17. **Outpost** (noun) – Frontier, Border, Remote area, Settlement, Post चौकी
18. **Uncommon** (adjective) – Rare, Unusual, Unique, Exceptional, Scarce असामान्य
19. **Deserted** (adjective) – Abandoned, Empty, Vacant, Uninhabited, Lonely सुनसान
20. **Coincide** (with) (verb) – Align, Match, Correspond, Concur, Synchronize मेल खाना
21. **Migration** (noun) – Relocation, Movement, Exodus, Shift, Displacement प्रवास
22. **Wisdom** (noun) – Knowledge, Insight, Prudence, Judgement, Understanding बुद्धिमत्ता
23. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – Susceptible, Vulnerable, Liable, Inclined, Subject अतिसंवेदनशील
24. **Disaster** (noun) – Catastrophe, Tragedy, Calamity, Mishap, Cataclysm आपदा

25. **Enterprise** (noun) – a project or undertaking, especially a bold or complex one. जोखिम का काम
26. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, Granted, Provided, Acknowledging, Assumed देखते हुए
27. **Sizeable** (adjective) – Large, Considerable, Substantial, Significant, Ample काफी बड़ा
28. **Inherently** (adverb) – Naturally, Intrinsically, Essentially, Fundamentally, Innately स्वाभाविक रूप से
29. **Inhospitable** (adjective) – Unfriendly, Hostile, Barren, Unwelcoming, Harsh प्रतिकूल
30. **Conclude** (verb) – End, Finish, Complete, Terminate, Wrap up समाप्त करना
31. **Reflection** (on) (noun) – Thought, Consideration, Contemplation, Meditation, Deliberation विचार
32. **Preventive** (adjective) – Precautionary, Protective, Prophylactic, Defensive, Safeguarding निवारक
33. **Precision** (noun) – Accuracy, Exactness, Correctness, Clarity, Definiteness सटीकता
34. **The odds** (noun) – Chances, Probability, Likelihood, Possibility, Prospects संभावना
35. **Bomb shelter** (noun) – an enclosed space or structure designed to protect people from explosive weapons such as bombs or missiles. बम आश्रय
36. **Sensitivity** (noun) – Awareness, Understanding, Responsiveness, Consideration, Empathy संवेदनशीलता
37. **Toil** (verb) – Labor, Work hard, Struggle, Strive, Exert मेहनत करना
38. **Hazard** (noun) – Danger, Risk, Peril, Threat, Jeopardy खतरा
39. **Merely** (adverb) – Only, Simply, Just, Solely, Purely केवल
40. **Label** (verb) – Tag, Classify, Categorize, Identify, Name लेबल लगाना
41. **Inevitable** (adjective) – Unavoidable, Certain, Inescapable, Unpreventable, Predetermined अपरिहार्य

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Avalanche in Mana Village:** An avalanche in Mana village, Uttarakhand, trapped 54 workers, resulting in 8 deaths and a challenging rescue operation.
2. **Rescue Efforts:** Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams worked for 60 hours in heavy snowfall at 10,500 feet to rescue 23 workers.
3. **Use of Technology:** Drones were employed to locate containers buried under snow, ice, and rock, aiding the rescue operation.
4. **Helicopter Evacuation:** Five Army helicopters, two Air Force helicopters, and one civilian helicopter evacuated the rescued workers to Joshimath Army Hospital.
5. **Himalayan Vulnerability:** Avalanches are common in Himalayan states like Uttarakhand, which are prone to natural disasters due to their geography.
6. **Winter Migration:** Local villagers traditionally migrate to lower-altitude villages during winter, a practice rooted in historical experience and disaster avoidance.
7. **Risk to Migrant Workers:** The tragedy raises questions about whether migrant workers were adequately informed about the risks of working in such hazardous conditions.
8. **Strategic Importance:** Mana village's proximity to the China border necessitates infrastructure development, despite the inherent risks.
9. **Lack of Preventive Measures:** Post-disaster focus is often on rescue operations, with little reflection on preventive measures or safer infrastructure.
10. **Need for Safer Designs:** Containers and shelters in disaster-prone areas should be redesigned to improve survival odds, drawing inspiration from bomb shelters or Antarctic research stations.
11. **Worker Safety:** Greater sensitivity and proactive measures are needed to protect workers in high-risk environments.
12. **Unpredictability of Disasters:** While natural disasters like avalanches cannot be precisely predicted, their impact can be mitigated through better planning and infrastructure.
13. **Call for Reflection:** The tragedy highlights the need for systemic changes to prioritize worker safety and disaster preparedness in vulnerable regions.
14. **Human Cost:** The incident underscores the human cost of development in inhospitable and risk-prone areas.
15. **Learning from Global Practices:** Adopting global best practices in disaster-prone infrastructure design can help reduce casualties in future incidents.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Cautionary
 - B. Celebratory
 - C. Humorous
 - D. Sentimental
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Promoting tourism in the Himalayas
 - B. Highlighting the need for better safety measures in high-risk Himalayan areas
 - C. Discussing the history of border disputes
 - D. Emphasizing religious practices in mountain villages
3. **What can be inferred from the passage regarding the treatment of workers in disaster-prone areas?**
 - A. The workers were fully aware of the risks and had sufficient safety measures in place.
 - B. The workers were adequately trained to handle avalanches.
 - C. The government has successfully minimized all risks associated with avalanches.
 - D. The workers were unaware of the risks, and better preventive measures could have been taken
4. **Choose the most appropriate option to fill in the blank meaningfully**

The passage suggests that instead of merely labelling tragedies as inevitable, authorities should focus on _____ to improve survival chances in high-risk areas.

 - A. increasing rescue operations
 - B. enhancing preventive measures
 - C. reducing road construction projects
 - D. relocating all workers permanently
5. **Why is the seasonal migration of villagers from Mana village considered a wise practice?**
 - A. Because it helps prevent overpopulation in high-altitude areas.
 - B. Because the government mandates evacuation every winter.
 - C. Because the harsh winter conditions and history of disasters make it unsafe to stay.
 - D. Because it allows for better military operations near the border.
6. **Select the correct spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The miracle of resurrection is not medically proven.

 - A. resurrection
 - B. ressurection
 - C. resurrecsion
 - D. ressurection
7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The mellow tune of the flute soothes me.

 - A. lyrical

- B. harsh
C. golden
D. quiet
8. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
The team with a high motivation level succeeded in its project despite of the challenges it faced.
A. despite of the challenges it faced.
B. a high motivation level
C. the team with
D. succeeded in its project
9. **The given sentence has an error. Select the option that correctly rectifies the error.**
India is not on war with Pakistan.
A. at Pakistan
B. not of
C. not at
D. for Pakistan
10. **The following sentence has been divided into four segments. Identify the segment that has a grammatical error.**
He will have to / knuckle up really seriously, / if he wants to / crack the upcoming deal.
A. crack the upcoming deal.
B. knuckle up really seriously
C. if he wants to
D. he will have to
11. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
A. Anxious
B. Affliction
C. Apraisal
D. Affiliate
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Hold someone's feet to the fire
A. Take big risks without knowing the consequences
B. Insist that someone fulfil their promises or obligations
C. Think over a new proposal
D. Agree upon a shared venture with full conviction
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Disposed
A. Minded
B. Retained
C. Detained
D. Pretended

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

Some types of _____ suck blood.

- A. leach
- B. leak
- C. leech
- D. latch

15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM for the underlined word in the given sentence.**

Such specifications have revived our designers and manufacturers, whereas this new arrangement will **free** them.

- A. senior
- B. swatted
- C. restrain
- D. productive

16. **Select the option that rectifies the spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

A hospital's **hygine** is the standard against which cleanliness is measured.

- A. higenie
- B. hygeine
- C. hygiene
- D. hygene

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

Nagamani, a brave student, lodged a F.I.R. against the criminal

- A. against the criminal
- B. student, lodged
- C. a F.I.R.
- D. nagamani, a brave

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

Active community involvement _____ a sense of belonging and contributes to the overall well-being of society.

- A. fosters
- B. collects
- C. forgets
- D. fails

19. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**

It is **easiest** to stay calm than to protest

- A. more easier
- B. the easier
- C. easy
- D. easier

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

This boy performed / extremely good / in the / dance competition.

- A. extremely good
- B. this boy performed
- C. in the
- D. dance competition

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.

Throughout human history, there have been numerous, strange and unexplainable events that have occurred on our (1) _____. From mysterious disappearances to bizarre natural phenomena, these (2) _____ continue to captivate our imagination and spark curiosity.

On 30 June 1908, a massive explosion (3) _____ in the remote Tunguska region of Siberia. The (4) _____ of the explosion is still debated, but it is believed to have been caused by a meteor or comet. Another fascinating phenomenon, the Bermuda Triangle is a region in the western part of the North Atlantic Ocean where ships and planes have mysteriously (5) _____.

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

- A. home
- B. planet
- C. country
- D. neighbourhood

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

- A. changes
- B. adventures
- C. advent
- D. events

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

- A. appeared
- B. took place
- C. came about
- D. conspired

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

- A. cause
- B. beginning
- C. commencement
- D. stages

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

- A. invisible
- B. disappeared
- C. besotted
- D. concealed

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. A) Cautionary

The passage highlights the dangers of working in avalanche-prone Himalayan regions and urges the need for preventive measures and safety awareness. It warns about the potential risks and advocates caution in planning and operations, reflecting a cautionary tone.

B. The passage discusses a tragedy and its rescue efforts, so it is not celebrating any event.

C. The passage deals with a serious disaster and its aftermath, offering no comedic elements.

D. While it is serious, it does not dwell on personal emotions or nostalgia but rather on the pragmatic dangers and solutions.

2. B) Highlighting the need for better safety measures in high-risk Himalayan areas

The passage focuses on the avalanche tragedy, the rescue operation, and the importance of preventive strategies (such as designing safer living containers and maintaining greater sensitivity to workers' safety) in avalanche-prone regions. It stresses the necessity of planning, awareness, and robust infrastructure to protect lives.

A. The article does not encourage tourism; it addresses a disaster and rescue efforts.

C. Though the region is near the border, the passage does not center on territorial conflicts.

D. The closing and opening of the Badrinath temple is mentioned only to explain winter migration; religious practice is not the main focus.

3. D) The workers were unaware of the risks, and better preventive measures could have been taken

The passage highlights that while local villagers migrate in winter due to traditional wisdom, many migrant workers may not have been fully aware of the risks. It suggests that better preventive measures, such as safer containers, could have been implemented to protect them.

A: Incorrect because the passage implies that workers were likely unaware of the dangers and lacked sufficient preventive measures.

C: Incorrect as the passage criticizes the lack of preventive measures and does not claim that all risks have been minimized.

B: Incorrect since there is no mention in the passage that workers were trained to handle avalanches. Instead, the focus is on their vulnerability.

4. B) enhancing preventive measures

The passage emphasizes the need for preventive measures such as safer containers and better preparedness for workers in disaster-prone areas.

A: Incorrect because while rescue operations are crucial, the passage stresses the importance of prevention rather than reaction.

C: Incorrect as the passage acknowledges the necessity of road construction but suggests improving safety rather than stopping projects.

D: Incorrect because permanent relocation of all workers is not a practical solution mentioned in the passage.

5. C) Because the harsh winter conditions and history of disasters make it unsafe to stay.

The passage mentions that traditional wisdom has led villagers to migrate during winter due to the high risk of disasters, making this a practical and wise decision.

A: Incorrect because the migration is not related to overpopulation but rather to safety concerns.

B: Incorrect since there is no mention of a government-mandated evacuation. It is a voluntary and historical practice.

D: Incorrect as there is no indication that military operations are the reason for this migration; it is driven by safety concerns.

6. A) The correct spelling of the underlined word '**resurection**' is '**resurrection**' which means "the act of rising from the dead or bringing something back to life". पुनरुत्थान

7. B) **Mellow (phrase)** – Pleasantly smooth or soft; free from harshness मधुर, कोमल

Antonym: Harsh (adjective) – Rough, unpleasant, or jarring to the senses, grating, discordant. (कठोर, कर्कश)

○ **Lyrical** (adjective) – Expressing deep emotions in a poetic or musical way, melodious. (गीतात्मक)

○ **Golden** (adjective) – Having a bright, yellowish color like gold; excellent or valuable. (सुनहरा)

○ **Quiet** (adjective) – Making little or no noise; silent, calm. (शांत)

8. A) despite of" के बदले केवल "**despite**" का use होगा क्योंकि "despite" का अर्थ होता है "के बावजूद" और यह Preposition के रूप में काम करता है। "of" का use "despite" के साथ नहीं होता है। सही वाक्य होगा: The team with a high motivation level succeeded in its project despite the challenges it faced. despite of" should be replaced with "**despite**" because "despite" itself is a preposition meaning "in spite of." Adding "of" after "despite" is grammatically incorrect.

9. C) sentence में "India is not on war with Pakistan" में '**on**' का use गलत है क्योंकि 'on war' का सही use "on the brink of war" जैसे वाक्यों में किया जाता है। सही preposition 'at' होगा। 'at war' का अर्थ है "युद्ध की स्थिति में होना" और यह सही grammatical structure है।

Example: *India is not **at war** with Pakistan.*

The error in the sentence "India is not on war with Pakistan" lies in the incorrect use of the preposition 'on'. The correct preposition to be used is 'at'. The phrase "at war" means being in a state of war, which is the correct expression in English.

Example: Correct: India is not at war with Pakistan.

10. B) 'knuckle up' के बदले '**knuckle down**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'knuckle down' का अर्थ होता है 'कड़ी मेहनत करना या किसी काम के लिए गंभीरता से लग जाना'। 'Knuckle up' का use गलत है।

Correct Sentence: He will have to knuckle down really seriously, if he wants to crack the upcoming deal. 'knuckle up' should be replaced with '**knuckle down**' because 'knuckle down' means "to work hard or seriously commit to a task." The usage of 'knuckle up' here is incorrect as it does not convey the intended meaning.

Correct Sentence: He will have to knuckle down really seriously, if he wants to crack the upcoming deal

11. C) The correct spelling of 'Apraisal' is 'Appraisal', which means "an act of assessing someone or something" or "a formal assessment of value, quality, or performance." मूल्यांकन, आकलन
12. B) **Hold someone's feet to the fire** – Insist that someone fulfil their promises or obligations किसी को उनके वादों या जिम्मेदारियों को पूरा करने के लिए मजबूर करना।
13. B) **Disposed** (adjective) - Inclined or willing towards a specific attitude or action; also can mean gotten rid of something. निपटाया हुआ

Antonym: Retained (adjective) - To keep or continue to have something; not disposed of or discarded बनाए रखना.

- **Minded** (verb/adjective) - To be bothered by or to care for something; ध्यान रखना
 - **Detained** (verb) - To be held back or delayed, especially in terms of keeping someone in official custody; रोका हुआ.
 - **Pretended** (verb/adjective) - To make believe with the intent to deceive, not genuine; नकली/ढोंग.
14. C) **Leech**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द एक प्रकार के परजीवी कीड़ा को संदर्भित करता है जो खून चूसता है। वाक्य में स्पष्ट रूप से बताया गया है कि कुछ प्रकार के जीव खून चूसते हैं, इसलिए 'Leech' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। Leach का अर्थ होता है "घुल जाना या बह जाना" (to drain or filter a substance), जो इस संदर्भ में गलत है। Leak का अर्थ है "रिसाव" (to escape or flow out of a hole), जो इस संदर्भ में गलत है। Latch का अर्थ है "बंद करना या पकड़ना" (to fasten or secure), जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है

'Leech' will be used because it refers to a parasitic worm that sucks blood. The sentence clearly states that "some types of _____ suck blood," so the word must directly relate to bloodsucking organisms. Leach means "to drain or filter a substance," which is unrelated to the context. Leak means "to escape or flow out of a hole," which does not fit here. Latch means "to fasten or secure," which is also irrelevant in this context.

15. C) **Free** (verb) – To liberate, release, or make free from confinement, obligation, or restriction. मुक्त करना

Antonym: Restrain (verb) – To hold back from action, limit, or control someone or something's freedom of movement or action. रोकना

- **Senior** (adjective) – Older or higher in rank or status; it doesn't relate to the concept of freedom or restraint. वरिष्ठ
- **Swatted** (verb) – To hit or crush something (especially an insect) with a sharp blow. It is unrelated to freeing or restraining. मारना
- **Productive** (adjective) – Yielding results, benefits, or profits, effectively producing or capable of producing. It does not imply the opposite of freeing. उत्पादक

16. C) The correct spelling of 'hygine' is 'hygiene', which means "the conditions or practices of maintaining cleanliness to preserve health." स्वच्छता, स्वास्थ्य-रक्षा संबंधी स्वच्छ आदतें।
17. C) यहाँ 'a F.I.R.' के बदले 'an F.I.R.' का use होगा क्योंकि 'F' का उच्चारण vowel sound (eff) से होता है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण के अनुसार जब किसी शब्द की ध्वनि vowel (a, e, i, o, u) से शुरू होती है, तो उसके पहले 'an' का use किया जाता है।
The article 'a' should be replaced with 'an' because the abbreviation "F.I.R." starts with the vowel sound 'eff'. According to grammar rules, 'an' is used before words that begin with a vowel sound, even if the letter itself is a consonant.
18. A) **Fosters'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के विकास या वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित करना। Sentence में यह कहा गया है कि "सक्रिय सामुदायिक भागीदारी" एक sense of belonging (अपनत्व की भावना) को बढ़ावा देती है और समाज की भलाई में योगदान करती है। इसलिए 'fosters' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। **Collects** (इकट्ठा करना): यह गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ भावना को बढ़ावा देने की बात हो रही है, न कि किसी चीज़ को इकट्ठा करने की। **Forgets** (भूल जाना): यह गलत है क्योंकि यह अर्थ के विपरीत है। "sense of belonging" को भूलना इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। **Fails** (असफल होना): यह गलत है क्योंकि sentence का संदर्भ सकारात्मक है। यहाँ अपनत्व की भावना को बढ़ाने की बात हो रही है, असफल होने की नहीं।
Fosters' is correct because the sentence discusses how active community involvement promotes a "sense of belonging" and contributes to the well-being of society. The word foster perfectly fits this context as it refers to encouraging or nurturing positive outcomes. Collects (to gather or bring together): This does not fit because the sentence does not imply gathering or collecting a sense of belonging; it is about promoting it. Forgets (to fail to remember): This is opposite to the intended meaning of the sentence, which is about enhancing a sense of connection and well-being, not neglecting it. Fails (to not succeed): This is incorrect because the sentence has a positive connotation, focusing on the benefits of community involvement, not failure
19. D) 'easiest' के बदले 'easier' का use होगा क्योंकि यह sentence comparative degree में है। जब दो चीज़ों की तुलना की जाती है तो comparative degree का use किया जाता है, और comparative degree के साथ 'than' का use होता है। जैसे— She is taller than her brother.
'easiest' will be replaced by 'easier' because the sentence involves a comparison. When comparing two actions or things, we use the comparative degree of the adjective and pair it with 'than'. For example: She is taller than her brother.
20. A) "**Extremely**" एक adverb है और इसका use adjective के साथ होता है। लेकिन sentence में "good" adjective के रूप में प्रयुक्त है, जबकि यहाँ "well" (adverb) का use होना चाहिए। इसलिए "extremely good" की जगह "extremely well" सही होगा। सही वाक्य: "This boy performed extremely well in the dance competition."

The word "extremely" is an adverb that is used to modify an adjective or another adverb. In this sentence, it incorrectly modifies "good", which is an adjective. However, to describe how the boy performed, an adverb should be used. The correct word here is "well", not "good".

21. B) **Planet'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में मानव इतिहास की बात हो रही है और संदर्भ पूरी पृथ्वी (planet) का है, जहां अनगिनत घटनाएँ घटी हैं। 'Planet' का अर्थ है ग्रह, और यह context में बिल्कुल सटीक है क्योंकि यह पूरी मानवता और उनके अनुभवों का उल्लेख करता है। 'Home' का अर्थ है घर, जो इस बड़े संदर्भ के लिए बहुत ही सीमित है। 'Country' का अर्थ है देश, लेकिन sentence में किसी विशेष देश की बात नहीं हो रही है। 'Neighbourhood' का अर्थ है पड़ोस, जो बहुत ही छोटा और अप्रासंगिक है।

The word '**Planet**' is appropriate because the sentence refers to human history and strange events occurring across the entire Earth. 'Planet' perfectly fits the global context. 'Home' means a house, which is too narrow for this context. 'Country' means a nation, but the sentence is not discussing events limited to one nation. 'Neighbourhood' means a local area or vicinity, which is irrelevant in this large-scale context.

22. D) **Events'** का use होगा क्योंकि context में रहस्यमय गायब होने और अजीब प्राकृतिक घटनाओं का mention है। 'Events' का अर्थ घटनाएं या वाक्ये होता है, जो इतिहास में घटित अनसुलझे रहस्यों के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है। 'Changes' का अर्थ है बदलाव, जो इन रहस्यमय घटनाओं के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Adventures' का अर्थ है रोमांचक या जोखिमपूर्ण गतिविधियां, जो इस वाक्य के लिए सही नहीं है। 'Advent' का अर्थ है किसी महत्वपूर्ण चीज का आगमन, लेकिन यहाँ घटनाओं की बात हो रही है, न कि आगमन की।

Events' is the correct word to use here because the context refers to occurrences such as mysterious disappearances and bizarre natural phenomena. 'Events' means occurrences or incidents, which fits perfectly with the subject of unexplained historical happenings. 'Changes' refers to alterations or modifications, which doesn't align with the context of mysterious happenings. 'Adventures' refers to exciting or risky activities, which doesn't describe the strange phenomena mentioned. 'Advent' means the arrival of something important, but it is inappropriate here as the sentence discusses occurrences, not arrivals.

23. B) **'Took place'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है किसी घटना का घटित होना। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि 30 जून 1908 को साइबेरिया के टुंगुस्का क्षेत्र में एक बड़ा विस्फोट हुआ। इस संदर्भ में, 'took place' पूरी तरह से फिट बैठता है क्योंकि यह किसी घटना या घटना के होने का सही संदर्भ देता है। 'Appeared' (दिखाई देना) का मतलब है कुछ दिखना, जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में गलत है क्योंकि यह विस्फोट का वर्णन नहीं करता। 'Came about' (घटित होना) का अर्थ भी घटना के होने से जुड़ा है, लेकिन यह अनौपचारिक संदर्भ में अधिक उपयुक्त होता है। 'Conspired' (षड्यंत्र रचना) का अर्थ है किसी योजना या साजिश के तहत कुछ होना, जो यहाँ संदर्भित घटना के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

Took place is the correct option because it means "to happen or occur." The sentence describes a significant explosion that occurred on 30 June 1908 in the Tunguska region of Siberia. In this context, 'took place' is the most appropriate phrase to indicate that the event happened.

'Appeared' means "to become visible or come into sight," which does not describe the occurrence of an explosion. 'Came about' also means "to happen," but it is more informal and does not fit the formal tone of the passage. 'Conspired' means "to plan or act together secretly," often with a negative intent, which is irrelevant in this context.

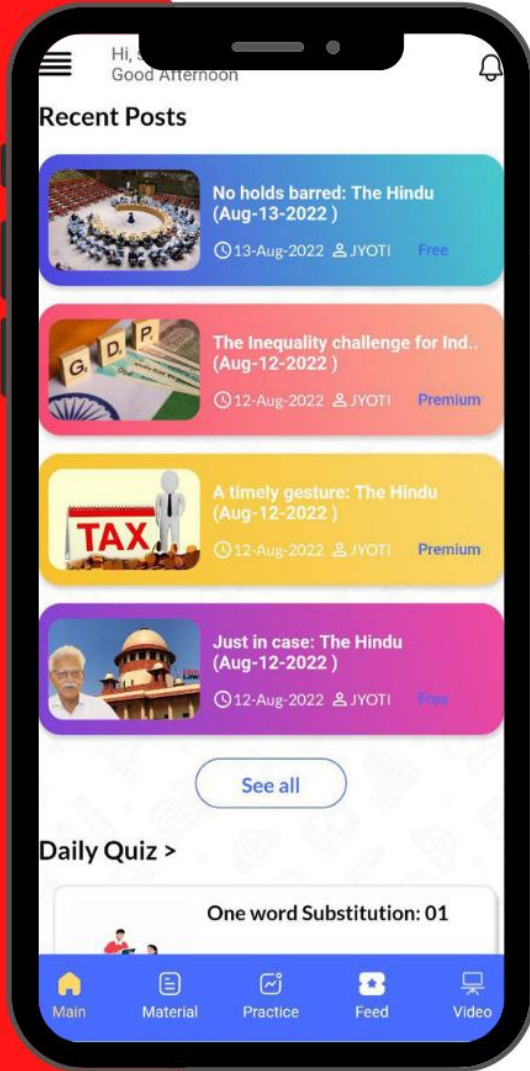
24. A) **'Cause'** का use होगा क्योंकि "cause" का अर्थ है किसी घटना या क्रिया के पीछे का कारण। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि विस्फोट का कारण अभी भी चर्चा का विषय है, इसलिए 'cause' यहाँ सही है। 'Beginning' का अर्थ है शुरुआत, जो संदर्भ के अनुसार उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ घटना के कारण की बात हो रही है, न कि उसकी शुरुआत की। 'Commencement' का अर्थ भी आरंभ करना है, जो यहाँ irrelevant है। 'Stages' का अर्थ चरण है, लेकिन यह विस्फोट के पीछे के कारण को व्यक्त नहीं करता है।

Cause is correct because it refers to the reason or origin of an event or action. The sentence discusses the debated reason behind the explosion, making 'cause' the most fitting choice. 'Beginning' refers to the start, which doesn't fit the context since the focus is on the reason, not the start of the explosion. 'Commencement' also means the start, making it irrelevant here.

'Stages' implies phases, which doesn't describe the debated reason for the explosion.

25. B) **'Disappeared'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "गायब होना" या "अचानक अदृश्य हो जाना"। sentence में mention है कि Bermuda Triangle एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जहाँ जहाज और हवाई जहाज रहस्यमय तरीके से गायब हो गए हैं। यह शब्द संदर्भ के अनुसार पूरी तरह उपयुक्त है। Invisible: 'Invisible' का अर्थ है "अदृश्य", लेकिन यह चीजों के स्वाभाविक रूप से दिखाई न देने को दर्शाता है। यहाँ संदर्भ गायब होने (sudden disappearance) का है, न कि प्राकृतिक अदृश्यता का। Besotted: 'Besotted' का अर्थ होता है "दीवाना" या "पूरी तरह मोहित", जो इस संदर्भ में irrelevant है। Concealed: 'Concealed' का अर्थ है "छिपाया गया", जो जानबूझकर छिपाने की स्थिति को दर्शाता है। यहाँ जहाजों का स्वाभाविक रूप से गायब होना बताया गया है, इसलिए यह गलत है।

'Disappeared' is used because it means "to vanish" or "to suddenly become unseen." The sentence mentions that ships and planes have mysteriously disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle, making this word the most appropriate choice in context. Invisible: 'Invisible' means "not visible" or "unable to be seen," which implies something that is naturally unseen. However, the context here is about sudden disappearance, not natural invisibility. Besotted: 'Besotted' means "infatuated" or "completely in love," which is irrelevant in this context. Concealed: 'Concealed' means "hidden intentionally," which does not match the context of mysterious and sudden disappearances.



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