

Under fire: On Tamil Nadu and the fireworks industry blasts

The state must **enforce compliance** of regulations in the fireworks industry

An accident is, by definition, both unexpected and preventable. But the **numerous** fireworks industry blasts that **dot** the summer months with **stunning** regularity in the firecracker manufacturing **belt** of Tamil Nadu in Virudhunagar challenge this definition. A total of 26 people have died and 20 others injured in eight accidents that have occurred in the first six months of 2025. According to official data, 17 accidents were reported in fireworks units in the State in 2024 and **claimed** the lives of 52 people. Of these, 42 people died in 12 accidents in Virudhunagar, which has roughly 1,000 fireworks units and 3,000 cracker shops. In 2023, 79 workers were killed in 27 accidents in the State, including 28 workers in 15 accidents in Virudhunagar. In the latest **episode**, eight persons died and five others were injured in an **explosion** at a fireworks factory in Sattur, near Sivakasi this week. **Preliminary** reports said **friction** caused during the process of filling chemicals that are used to make special fireworks **may** have caused the explosion. Investigations are on to **pinpoint** the exact cause. But whatever the cause, there is **unlikely** to be any new learning from this kind of post mortem.

Temperatures in the rather dry, hot belt of Virudhunagar **often** **soar** **unbearably** during the day. It is also common knowledge that firecracker units store chemicals that are highly **inflammable**, and can **ignite** and burn easily when **exposed to** an **ignition** source such as a spark, flame, or high heat. And yet, **unerringly**, **the summer months**, usually, **have** **unfortunate** accidents **resulting in** the death or the **disability** of people who are already **vulnerable**, socially and **economically**. While the **laxity** of manufacturers **is** **condemnable**, there is also a big role for the state in regulating these fireworks units, since all of them require a licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization to function. **The Explosives Rules**, 2008, which **govern** fireworks units, **specify** that packages containing explosives shall not be allowed to remain in the sun or **exposed** to excessive heat, and all due precautions **ought to** be taken to prevent accidents by fire or explosion. Following the rules is **essential** to retaining the licence to operate and manufacture explosives. Clearly, here is a situation where the **heft** of the state can be utilised to ensure compliance, but a better way of handling it is to involve manufacturers in an effort to ensure there are no further accidents, no further lives lost as a result. Such cooperation has produced **results in** the past in **curbing** the employment of child labourers in the industry. It will now have to be **leveraged** to save precious lives. A preventable **tragedy** that repeats itself **makes** a **farce** of state regulation and **enforcement**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Enforce** (verb) – Implement, impose, execute, apply, uphold लागू करना
2. **Compliance** (noun) – Obedience, conformity, adherence, observance, agreement पालन
3. **Numerous** (adjective) – Many, countless, innumerable, several, abundant अनेक
4. **Dot** (verb) – Scatter, sprinkle, pepper, speckle, spread बिखरे होना
5. **Stunning** (adjective) – Striking, amazing, impressive, breathtaking, extraordinary आश्चर्यजनक
6. **Belt** (noun) – Region, area, zone, strip, stretch क्षेत्र
7. **Claim** (verb) – Take, cause, demand, exact, kill (in context of lives) जान लेना
8. **Episode** (noun) – Incident, event, occurrence, happening, case घटना
9. **Explosion** (noun) – Blast, detonation, eruption, burst, blow-up विस्फोट
10. **Preliminary** (adjective) – Initial, preparatory, introductory, first, prior प्रारंभिक
11. **Friction** (noun) – Rubbing, abrasion, scraping, resistance, clash घर्षण
12. **Pinpoint** (verb) – Identify, locate, determine, detect, specify सटीक पता लगाना
13. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, uncertain, dubious, rare असंभव सा
14. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, usually अक्सर
15. **Soar** (verb) – Rise, surge, climb, escalate, shoot up बढ़ना
16. **Unbearably** (adverb) – Intolerably, painfully, excessively, extremely, insufferably असहनीय रूप से
17. **Inflammable** (adjective) – Combustible, flammable, burnable, ignitable, explosive ज्वलनशील
18. **Ignite** (verb) – Light, set fire to, inflame, spark, kindle जलाना
19. **Expose** (to) (verb) – Reveal, uncover, subject to, show, lay open उजागर करना
20. **Ignition** (noun) – Spark, lighting, firing, kindling, combustion प्रज्वलन
21. **Unerringly** (adverb) – Faultlessly, accurately, precisely, without fail, infallibly बिना चूक

22. **Unfortunate** (adjective) – Regrettable, unlucky, sad, lamentable, woeful दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण
23. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, trigger परिणाम देना
24. **Disability** (noun) – Impairment, incapacity, handicap, infirmity, weakness विकलांगता
25. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Weak, defenseless, exposed, unprotected, susceptible कमजोर
26. **Economically** (adverb) – Financially, monetarily, in money matters, fiscally आर्थिक रूप से
27. **Laxity** (noun) – Carelessness, negligence, slackness, inattention, looseness लापरवाही
28. **Condemnable** (adjective) – Reprehensible, blameworthy, disgraceful, shameful, unacceptable निंदनीय
29. **Govern** (verb) – Regulate, control, rule, manage, oversee शासित करना
30. **Ought to** (modal verb) – Should, must, need to, have to, are supposed to करना चाहिए
31. **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, vital, crucial, indispensable, important आवश्यक
32. **Heft** (noun) – Influence, weight, power, clout, authority प्रभाव/वजन
33. **Curb** (verb) – Control, restrain, check, suppress, limit रोकना
34. **Leverage** (verb) – Utilize, exploit, harness, make use of, capitalize लाभ उठाना
35. **Farce** (noun) – Mockery, sham, pretense, absurdity, travesty तमाशा/मज़ाक
36. **Enforcement** (noun) – Implementation, execution, application, carrying out, administration प्रवर्तन

Summary of the Editorial

1. Fireworks industry accidents in Tamil Nadu, especially in Virudhunagar, recur with alarming regularity every summer.
2. In the first six months of 2025 alone, eight accidents killed 26 people and injured 20 others in fireworks units.
3. In 2024, 17 fireworks-related accidents in Tamil Nadu claimed 52 lives, 42 of them in Virudhunagar district.
4. In 2023, 27 accidents killed 79 workers statewide, including 28 deaths in Virudhunagar alone.
5. The latest explosion in Sattur, near Sivakasi, killed eight and injured five, possibly due to friction while filling chemicals.
6. These repeated tragedies show that accidents are not truly unexpected — they are preventable.
7. The region's hot, dry climate increases the risk of accidental ignition of highly inflammable chemicals.
8. Manufacturers' negligence plays a role, but the state's failure to enforce safety regulations is equally responsible.
9. Fireworks factories must obtain a licence from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) to operate.
10. The Explosives Rules, 2008, mandate that explosive materials be kept away from direct sunlight and excessive heat.
11. Strict adherence to these safety rules is a condition for maintaining a fireworks manufacturing licence.
12. Despite clear guidelines, regulatory enforcement is weak, allowing unsafe practices to persist.
13. Effective regulation requires active state intervention backed by cooperation from manufacturers.
14. Previous cooperation between the state and manufacturers helped reduce child labour in the industry.
15. A similar collaborative approach is urgently needed now to prevent repeated, avoidable tragedies and save lives, or state regulation risks becoming a meaningless formality.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the passage describe the repeated fireworks accidents as challenging the definition of an “accident”?**
 - A. Because accidents are expected events in dangerous industries
 - B. Because the accidents happen with stunning regularity, making them predictable and preventable
 - C. Because accidents are natural and cannot be controlled
 - D. Because the number of fireworks factories in Virudhunagar is very low
2. **What specific factor does the passage identify as a possible immediate cause of the latest explosion?**
 - A. Exposure of chemicals to direct sunlight
 - B. Lightning striking the factory during a storm
 - C. A deliberate act of arson by workers
 - D. Friction during the process of filling chemicals
3. **Despite existing regulations, repeated accidents in Tamil Nadu’s fireworks industry suggest a _____ in state regulation and enforcement.**
 - A. triumph
 - B. farce
 - C. reinforcement
 - D. celebration
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical and concerned
 - B. Humorous and light-hearted
 - C. Celebratory and proud
 - D. Optimistic and cheerful
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Repeated industrial accidents and failure of effective regulation
 - B. Success of Tamil Nadu’s fireworks industry in global markets
 - C. The cultural significance of fireworks during summer festivals
 - D. Innovations in fireworks manufacturing technology
6. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
 - A. perepharal
 - B. tentative
 - C. stringent
 - D. belated
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Inspire

 - A. Reach
 - B. Aspire
 - C. Stimulate
 - D. Daunt
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The student leader has _____ politics recently

 - A. jumped

- B. gathered
C. entered
D. approached
9. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error**
from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.
I am / cleaning the sofa / when she called me
A. No error
B. cleaning the sofa
C. when she called me
D. I am
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
He dropped out / at his friend's house / on his way home / the day before yesterday
A. on his way home
B. the day before yesterday
C. at his friend's house
D. He dropped out
11. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
She is / as more intelligent as / her brothers are.
A. her brothers are.
B. as more intelligent as
C. She is
D. No error
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of 'scanty' in the sentence given below.**
India has varied regions which have excess, moderate and deficient rainfall all through the year.
A. Varied
B. Moderate
C. Excess
D. Deficient
13. **You overhear someone say, "He's always on cloud nine." What does this idiom mean in the given context?**
A. Often absent
B. Always busy
C. Frequently daydreaming
D. Extremely happy
14. **Select the most appropriate expression that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**
Sonali is contemplating whether to accept the offer from Saanvi or not; she is still not in a position to be able to arrive at a decision
A. chewing the cud
B. getting her act together

- C. raising the eyebrows
- D. blowing hot and cold

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

The teacher checked / whether each of them / have a blanket / as it was a cold night.

- A. have a blanket
- B. The teacher checked
- C. whether each of them
- D. as it was a cold night

16. Select the word that has the same meaning (SYNONYM) as the underlined word in the given sentence.

The disposal of hazardous waste in hospitals and factories is a serious problem and needs to be taken care of urgently

- A. belligerent
- B. hazy
- C. dangerous
- D. Benign

17. Select the present perfect tense of the verb given in the brackets to fill in the blank.

Alex _____ (study) two programming languages

- A. has been studying
- B. has studied
- C. had studied
- D. have study

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

Please put the dishes in the _____ after you finish eating

- A. shrink
- B. sink
- C. sync
- D. cinque

19. Select the correctly spelt word to fill in the blank.

Arvind wanted to bake a cake for Riya's birthday, so he mixed the _____, eggs and butter.

- A. flower
- B. flour
- C. flover
- D. flower

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

The society / of the / our place / is good

- A. is good
- B. of the
- C. The society
- D. our place

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.

It was one January morning, very early — a pinching, frosty morning — the cove all grey ____ 1 ____ hoar-frost and the ripple lapping softly on the stones. The captain had ____ 2 ____ earlier than usual and set out down the beach. Mother was upstairs with father and I was ____ 3 ____ the breakfast table against the captain's return when the parlour door opened and a man stepped in on whom I had never set my eyes before. He was a pale, tallowy creature, wanting two fingers of the left hand, and ____ 4 ____ he wore a cutlass, he did not look much like a fighter. I had always my eye open for seafaring ____ 5 ____ with one leg or two, and I remember this one puzzled me.

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

- A. about
- B. with
- C. among
- D. amongst

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

- A. danced
- B. written
- C. risen
- D. waltzed

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

- A. throwing
- B. lying
- C. playing
- D. laying

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

- A. through
- B. threw
- C. though
- D. throw

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

- A. plants
- B. birds
- C. men
- D. flowers

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- 1. B) Because the accidents happen with stunning regularity, making them predictable and preventable**

The passage says, “the numerous fireworks industry blasts... challenge this definition” because they occur with “stunning regularity,” contradicting the idea that accidents are unexpected and unavoidable.

A is wrong because accidents are, by definition, unexpected—not expected events.

C is incorrect since the passage argues these accidents can be prevented.

D is false because Virudhunagar has many fireworks units (~1,000), not a low number.

- 2. D) Friction during the process of filling chemicals**

The passage explicitly states “Preliminary reports said friction caused during the process of filling chemicals... may have caused the explosion.”

A is incorrect; although sunlight exposure is a general risk, it was not cited as the immediate cause.

B is false since there’s no reference to a storm or lightning in the passage.

C is wrong because there’s no mention of deliberate sabotage or arson.

- 3. B) farce**

The passage concludes, “A preventable tragedy that repeats itself makes a farce of state regulation and enforcement,” directly matching the filler.

A (triumph) is opposite in meaning—triumph implies success, not failure.

C (reinforcement) incorrectly suggests regulation has been strengthened.

D (celebration) makes no sense; repeated tragedies cannot logically be described as a celebration.

- 4. A) Critical and concerned**

The passage highlights repeated tragedies in the fireworks industry due to negligence and poor regulation. The author adopts a critical tone towards both manufacturers and the state for their failure to prevent accidents and expresses concern for the vulnerable workers.

B: The passage discusses deaths, accidents, and regulatory failure; there is no humor or lightness.

C: The passage criticizes, not celebrates; there’s no pride in the situation described.

D: The tone is far from cheerful; it is serious and highlights repeated tragedies without much hopefulness.

- 5. A) Repeated industrial accidents and failure of effective regulation**

The passage focuses on recurring accidents in Tamil Nadu's fireworks industry, preventable tragedies, regulatory failures, and the need for stricter enforcement and cooperation to prevent loss of lives.

B) There is no mention of global success; the focus is on accidents and regulatory issues.

C) The passage does not explore cultural or festive aspects, but safety failures.

D) No technological innovations are discussed; instead, accidents due to negligence are highlighted.

6. A) The incorrectly spelt word is A. **perepharal**, and the correct spelling is **peripheral**, which means "related to the edge or periphery of something" परिधीय, किनारे से संबंधित।

7. C) **Inspire** (verb): To fill someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially something creative or positive; motivate, encourage, spark. प्रेरित करना

Synonym: **Stimulate** (verb): To encourage or incite someone to take action; to provoke or energize. उत्साह देना, प्रेरित करना

- **Reach** (verb): To arrive at a destination or achieve a goal. पहुँचना, प्राप्त करना
- **Daunt** (verb): To discourage or intimidate someone. हतोत्साहित करना, डराना
- **Aspire** (verb): To aim or seek ambitiously; to long or strive toward a goal. लक्ष्य बनाना, महत्वाकांक्षा रखना

8. C) '**Entered**' का use होगा क्योंकि "enter" का अर्थ है किसी गतिविधि, स्थिति या क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करना। sentence यह दर्शा रहा है कि छात्र नेता ने हाल ही में राजनीति में प्रवेश किया है, इसलिए 'entered' सही option है। 'Jumped' का अर्थ है कूदना, जो इस संदर्भ में अप्रासंगिक है। 'Gathered' का अर्थ है इकट्ठा करना, जो इस वाक्य में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Approached' का अर्थ है नजदीक जाना या संपर्क करना, लेकिन यह सही नहीं है।

Entered is correct because it means to join or start participating in a field, activity, or area. The sentence implies that the student leader has recently started engaging in politics, making 'entered' the most appropriate option. 'Jumped' means to leap, which is irrelevant here. 'Gathered' means to collect, which doesn't fit in the sentence. 'Approached' means to come near or contact, but it does not align with the context of joining politics.

9. D) I am' के बदले '**I was**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य Clause में 'when she called me' का Verb 'called' Past Tense में है। इसलिए समानांतरता बनाए रखने के लिए 'I am' को Past Tense में '**I was**' करना होगा।

I am' should be replaced with 'I was' because the verb in the clause "when she called me" is in the Past Tense ('called'). To ensure tense consistency in the sentence, the main clause must also use the Past Tense.

10. D) 'dropped out' के बदले 'dropped in' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'dropped out' का अर्थ है किसी गतिविधि या कार्यक्रम को बीच में छोड़ देना, जबकि वाक्य का तात्पर्य है कि वह अपने दोस्त के घर थोड़ी देर के लिए रुका था। अतः सही वाक्य में 'dropped in' का प्रयोग होगा। जैसे— He dropped in at his friend's house on his way home the day before yesterday.
- 'dropped in'(phrasal verb):** To visit someone informally or briefly, often without prior notice. 'dropped in' will be used instead of 'dropped out' because 'dropped out' means to quit or leave an activity, whereas the intended meaning here is that he briefly visited his friend's house. 'Dropped in' means to visit someone informally or briefly, often without prior notice.
11. B) 'as more intelligent as' के बदले 'as intelligent as' का use होगा क्योंकि 'as...as' structure में 'more' का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता। 'More' का उपयोग comparative degree में होता है, जबकि 'as...as' एक समानता (equality) को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। जैसे— She is as intelligent as her brothers are.
- 'as intelligent as' will be used instead of 'as more intelligent as' because the structure "as...as" is used to show equality, and adding 'more' makes it grammatically incorrect. 'More' is used only in comparisons (e.g., more intelligent than).
- Examples:**
- Incorrect: She is as more hardworking as her sister.
- Correct: She is as hardworking as her sister.
12. D) **Scanty** (adjective) – Small or insufficient in quantity or amount; meager, limited, sparse, inadequate. अल्प/अपर्याप्त
- Synonym: **Deficient** (adjective) – Not having enough of something; lacking, insufficient, inadequate. अपर्याप्त
- **Varied** (adjective) – Different, diverse, assorted, heterogeneous. विविधअलग-अलग/
 - **Moderate** (adjective) – Average, balanced, reasonable, mild. मध्यमसामान्य/
 - **Excess** (adjective) – More than is necessary or required; surplus, extra, excessive. अधिकअत्यधिक/
13. D) **On cloud nine** (idiom) – Extremely happy बेहद खुश
14. A) **Chewing the cud** (idiom) – Thinking deeply or reflecting on something गहन विचार करना
- B) Getting her act together – Organizing oneself to perform efficiently स्वयं को संगठित करना

C) Raising the eyebrows – Showing surprise or disapproval आश्चर्य या असहमति व्यक्त करना

D) Blowing hot and cold – Being indecisive द्विधा में होना / अनिर्णय की स्थिति में होना

Sentence में "Sonali is contemplating whether to accept the offer from Saanvi or not" यह बताता है कि सोनाली सोच-विचार में समय बिता रही है।

15. A) 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'each of them' एकवचन (singular) subject है और singular subject के साथ singular verb का प्रयोग होता है। जैसे— Each of them has a book.

'has' will be used instead of 'have' because 'each of them' is a singular subject, and singular subjects take singular verbs. Like— Each of them has a book.

16. C) **Hazardous** (adjective) – Risky, dangerous, unsafe, perilous, harmful. खतरनाक

Synonym: **Dangerous** (adjective) – Able or likely to cause harm or injury, unsafe, harmful. खतरनाक

- **Belligerent** (adjective) – Hostile, aggressive, warlike, confrontational. लड़ाकू
- **Hazy** (adjective) – Vague, unclear, misty, indistinct. धुंधला
- **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kindly, harmless, favorable. सौम्य, हानिरहित

17. B) 'have study' के बदले 'has studied' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Present Perfect Tense में है और Subject 'Alex' (Third Person Singular) के साथ Verb का Singular Form (has) और Third Form (studied) का प्रयोग होता है। जैसे— Alex has studied two programming languages.

'has studied' will be used instead of 'have study' because the sentence is in the Present Perfect Tense, and the subject 'Alex' (third-person singular) requires the auxiliary verb 'has' followed by the past participle form of the verb (studied).

Examples:

Incorrect: He have study many books.

Correct: He has studied many books.

18. B) **Sink** का use होगा क्योंकि "sink" का अर्थ है वह स्थान जहाँ आमतौर पर गंदे बर्तन धोने के लिए रखे जाते हैं। वाक्य में संदर्भ है कि खाने के बाद बर्तनों को कहाँ रखना है, और यह साफ तौर पर "sink" के लिए उपयुक्त है। Shrink का अर्थ है "सिकुड़ना," जो इस संदर्भ में अप्रासंगिक है। Sync का अर्थ है "समन्वय करना," जो बर्तन रखने के स्थान से संबंधित नहीं है। Cinque का उपयोग पाँच की संख्या के लिए होता है, जो वाक्य के अर्थ से मेल नहीं खाता।

Sink will be used because it refers to the place where dirty dishes are usually placed for washing. The sentence context asks where to put the dishes after eating, making "sink" the most appropriate choice. Shrink means "to reduce in size," which is irrelevant here. Sync refers

to "synchronization," which doesn't relate to a place for dishes. Cinque is a term for the number five, which doesn't fit the context of the sentence.

19. B) 'Flour' का use होगा क्योंकि "flour" का अर्थ है पिसा हुआ अनाज (आमतौर पर गेहूं) जिसे बेकिंग और खाना पकाने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है। अन्य विकल्प 'flower,' 'flover,' और 'flower' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं। जैसे— Arvind wanted to bake a cake for Riya's birthday, so he mixed the flour, eggs and butter.

'Flour' should be used because it refers to ground grain, commonly wheat, used in baking and cooking. The words 'flower,' 'flover,' and 'flower' have incorrect spellings or meanings that don't fit the context.

Flower: Incorrect spelling, no meaning.

Flover: Incorrect spelling, no meaning.

Flower: Refers to the reproductive structure in plants, not related to baking.

20. B) phrase "**of the our place**" गलत है क्योंकि possessive adjective 'our' के पहले 'the' का उपयोग नहीं किया जाता। सही वाक्यांश "of our place" होगा। जैसे— "The society of our place is good." the phrase "**of the our place**" is incorrect because the possessive adjective "our" cannot be preceded by the definite article "the." The correct phrase is "of our place" as possessive adjectives do not require an article. For example— "The society of our place is good."

21. B) '**With**' का use होगा क्योंकि "with" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के साथ जुड़े या ढके होने को व्यक्त करना। इस वाक्य में "the cove all grey with hoar-frost" स्पष्ट रूप से यह दर्शाता है कि खाड़ी पूरी तरह से होर-फ्रॉस्ट से ढकी हुई थी। इसलिए 'with' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। जबकि: 'About' का अर्थ होता है "आसपास" या "कई जगहों पर," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Among' और 'Amongst' का अर्थ होता है "के बीच में," लेकिन यह संदर्भ खाड़ी और होर-फ्रॉस्ट के संबंध में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'**With**' will be used because it means associated with or covered by something. In the sentence, "the cove all grey with hoar-frost" clearly indicates that the cove was entirely covered by frost, making 'with' the appropriate choice. Whereas: 'About' means "around" or "in various places," which doesn't fit the context. 'Among' and 'Amongst' mean "in the midst of," which are unsuitable here as the frost is not merely around but directly covering the cove.

22. C) '**Risen**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "rise" का past participle है, जिसका अर्थ है उठना या जागना। sentence में mention है कि कप्तान सामान्य से पहले जागा और समुद्र तट पर निकल गया। इसलिए 'risen' यहाँ सही है। 'Danced' का अर्थ है नृत्य करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Written' का अर्थ है लिखना, जो संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Waltzed' भी एक प्रकार का नृत्य है और संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठता।

'Risen' will be used because it is the past participle of "rise," meaning to wake up or get up. The sentence mentions the captain waking up earlier than usual and heading to the beach, making "risen" appropriate here. 'Danced' means to move rhythmically to music, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Written' means to compose text, which does not align with the context. 'Waltzed' also refers to a type of dance and is not suitable here.

23. D) '**Laying**' का use होगा क्योंकि "laying" का अर्थ होता है किसी वस्तु को व्यवस्थित तरीके से रखना।

Sentence में narrator नाश्ते की मेज तैयार कर रहा था, जोकि "laying" के अर्थ से मेल खाता है। 'Laying' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। 'Throwing' का अर्थ है किसी वस्तु को फेंकना, जो इस संदर्भ में अनुचित है 'Lying' का अर्थ है आराम से लेटना या झूठ बोलना, जबकि यहाँ मेज तैयार करने की बात हो रही है। 'Playing' का अर्थ है खेलना, जो इस वाक्य में फिट नहीं होता।

'**Laying**' will be used because it means to arrange or place something carefully. The sentence shows that the narrator was setting the breakfast table, making 'laying' appropriate.

'Throwing' means tossing something, which doesn't fit the context of preparing the table.

'Lying' means reclining or resting, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Playing' means engaging in recreational activity, which doesn't match the act of setting up a table.

24. C) '**Though**' का use होगा क्योंकि "though" का अर्थ होता है विरोधाभास को व्यक्त करना। sentence में यह व्यक्त किया गया है कि आदमी के पास कटलस (cutlass) होने के बावजूद वह लड़ाकू जैसा नहीं दिखता। इसलिए 'though' सही उत्तर है। जबकि: 'Through' का अर्थ होता है "एक तरफ से दूसरी तरफ जाना," जो यहाँ संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Threw' का अर्थ है "फेंकना," और यह न तो व्याकरणिक रूप से सही है और न ही संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। 'Throw' वर्तमान काल में "फेंकने" के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है, लेकिन यह sentence में गलत और अप्रासंगिक है।

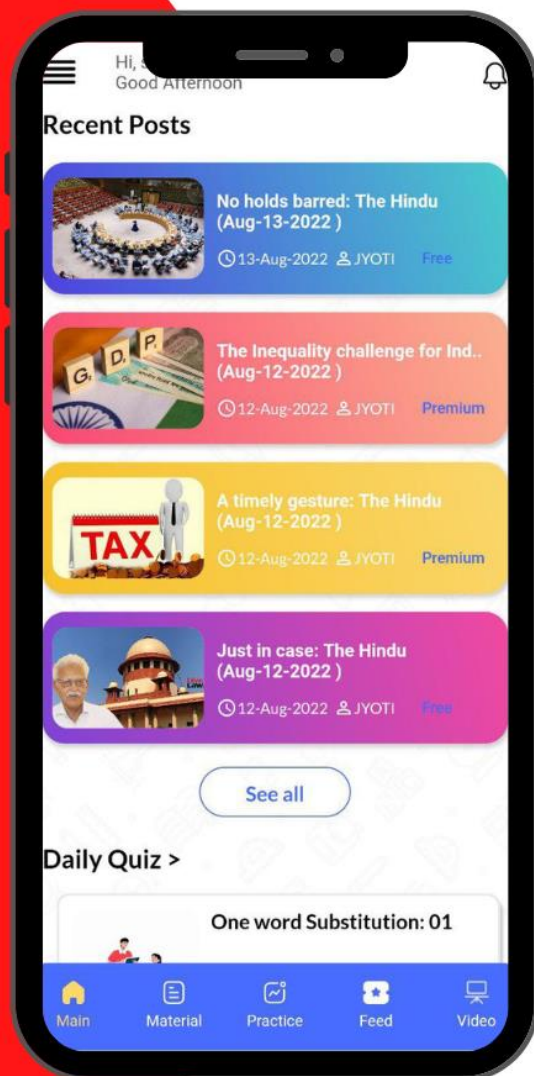
Though will be used because it expresses contrast. The sentence mentions that the man carried a cutlass but did not look like a fighter, making 'though' the appropriate choice.

Whereas: 'Through' means passing from one side to another, which does not fit the context.

'Threw' means to toss, and it is neither grammatically correct nor contextually appropriate here. 'Throw' is the present tense of tossing and is irrelevant in this sentence.

25. C) '**men**' का use होगा क्योंकि "seafaring men" का अर्थ है समुद्री यात्रा से जुड़े लोग, जैसे नाविक या समुद्री लुटेरे। sentence में narrator की यह आदत दर्शाई गई है कि वह ऐसे व्यक्तियों को देखता है जो समुद्र से जुड़े हो सकते हैं। इसलिए 'men' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। 'Plants' का अर्थ है पौधे, जो इस संदर्भ में अप्रासंगिक है। 'Birds' का अर्थ पक्षी है, हालांकि समुद्र से जुड़े पक्षी हो सकते हैं (जैसे समुद्री पक्षी), लेकिन वाक्य में इंसानों की बात हो रही है। 'Flowers' का अर्थ फूल है, जो इस संदर्भ में किसी भी तरह से फिट नहीं बैठता।

Men' will be used because "seafaring men" refers to individuals associated with the sea, such as sailors or pirates. The sentence highlights the narrator's habit of observing people potentially linked to the sea, making 'men' the correct choice. 'Plants' means vegetation, which is irrelevant to the context. 'Birds' could relate to the sea (e.g., seabirds), but the focus is on humans. 'Flowers' refers to blooms, which do not fit this context.



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