## Sleeping disasters: On the Uttarakhand disaster, the Himalayas

Governments must **monitor silt accumulation** at **vulnerable** points

The **disaster** in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand **serves** as a **reminder** of the permanent risk of **destabilisation** in the Himalayas. At least four persons were killed and at least 60 people are feared **washed away** after a mass of water, **debris** and muck **triggered** by **torrential** rain hit the Kheer Ganga river on Tuesday afternoon. The flood hit hotels and residential buildings in Dharali town, situated 8,600 feet above sea level, where video footage recorded by residents showed giant waves of water **gushing** through the area, **engulfing** people and homes. Several Indian Army personnel are also feared dead, according to preliminary reports.

The **proximate** **cause** of the disaster **is** the extremely heavy rainfall from August 3 to 5, with some parts of the district reporting nearly 30 cm of rainfall over a single day due to the monsoon and its active phase over North India. The **fury** and the volume of the water that gushed through the town **seemed** to suggest that this was a sudden event, **prompting** State officials to **categorise** it as a '**cloudburst'**. However, this has a very specific meaning in how the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the official **forecaster**, defines it. **A large volume** of rain, of at least 10 centimetres in an hour over 10 square kilometres, **is** what usually qualifies as a cloudburst. The **lack** of weather **radars** at those altitudes **means** that the IMD is incapable of such a **computation**. Therefore, it could very well be that continuous heavy **rain** over the past 48 hours **may** have **loosened** the soil and combined with the **craggy**, **undulating terrain**, **unleashed** large volumes of silt along with **copious** amounts of water. Whether it was a sudden event or the result of a **gradual** build-up might seem only of academic interest, **given** the loss of life, **livelihood** and property. The **knee-jerk categorisation** as a 'cloudburst' allows state authorities to **claim helplessness**. Once it is **projected** as a **freak phenomenon**, the event only **elicits** social media **commiseration** from public authorities in the form of 'prayers' and 'deep sadness' and a pre-defined **token sum** as **disbursement**. The recent past shows that these are anything but **outliers**. Climate change has increased the **probability** of extreme rainfall events and, therefore, the **numerous infrastructure** projects **undertaken** in the hills and the resulting debris act as **latent** explosives that are **triggered** from such rainfall. **Following** relief operations, the State government must — as soon as conditions are **conducive** — review debris and silt accumulation at **critical** points in the State to **buffer** the **inevitable** damage from climate change.    **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Monitor** (verb) – observe, watch, track, oversee, supervise निगरानी रखना

2. **Silt** (noun) – mud, sludge, sediment, alluvium, loam गाद

3. **Accumulation** (noun) – collection, gathering, build-up, amassing, hoarding संचय

4. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – defenseless, exposed, susceptible, unprotected, weak असुरक्षित

5. **Reminder** (noun) – prompt, memo, cue, alert, notification स्मरण

6. **Destabilisation** (noun) – disruption, turmoil, unsettlement, imbalance, unsteadiness अस्थिरता

7. **Wash away** (phrasal verb) – erode, sweep away, carry off, displace, remove बहा ले जाना

8. **Debris** (noun) – rubble, wreckage, fragments, remains, litter मलबा

9. **Trigger** (verb) – cause, initiate, spark, activate, provoke उत्पन्न करना

10. **Torrential** (adjective) – heavy, intense, pouring, deluging, relentless मूसलधार

11. **Gush through** (phrasal verb) – to flow out forcefully and abundantly, often with a sense of urgency or excess बह जाना

12. **Engulf** (verb) – swallow, immerse, submerge, overrun, inundate निगल लेना

13. **Proximate** (adjective) – nearby, close, immediate, adjacent, near निकटस्थ

14. **Cause** (noun) – reason, basis, motive, trigger, source कारण

15. **Fury** (noun) – rage, wrath, anger, violence, intensity प्रचंडता

16. **Seem** (verb) – appear, look, resemble, sound, suggest प्रतीत होना

17. **Prompt** (verb) – provoke, incite, trigger, cause, arouse प्रेरित करना

18. **Categorise** (verb) – classify, group, label, sort, arrange वर्गीकृत करना

19. **Cloudburst** (noun) – downpour, deluge, rainstorm, torrent, shower भारी वर्षा

20. **Forecaster** (noun) – predictor, meteorologist, analyst, soothsayer, observer मौसम विज्ञानी

21. **Radar** (noun) – scanner, detector, tracker, sensor, locator रडार

22. **Computation** (noun) – calculation, estimation, processing, reckoning, figuring गणना

23. **Loosen** (verb) – relax, release, slacken, unfasten, detach ढीला करना

24. **The Craggy** (noun) – rugged, rocky, jagged, uneven, rough पथरीला

25. **Undulating** (adjective) – rolling, wavy, rippling, fluctuating, meandering लहरदार

26. **Terrain** (noun) – land, landscape, ground, topography, region भू-भाग

27. **Unleash** (verb) – release, let loose, discharge, vent, emit मुक्त करना

28. **Copious** (adjective) – abundant, ample, profuse, plentiful, bountiful प्रचुर

29. **Gradual** (adjective) – slow, steady, progressive, incremental, measured धीरे-धीरे

30. **Given** (preposition) – considering, in view of, based on, owing to, taking into account को देखते हुए

31. **Livelihood** (noun) – income, sustenance, employment, job, earnings आजीविका

32. **Knee-jerk categorisation** (noun) – a quick, automatic, and often unthinking way of classifying something, based on a pre-conceived notion or stereotype rather than careful consideration  बिना सोचे-समझे वर्गीकरण

33. **Claim** (verb) – assert, allege, declare, state, maintain दावा करना

34. **Helplessness** (noun) – vulnerability, powerlessness, weakness, inability, incapacity असहायता

35. **Project** (verb) – predict, estimate, forecast, plan, envision पूर्वानुमान लगाना

36. **Freak** (adjective) – abnormal, unusual, odd, bizarre, exceptional असामान्य

37. **Phenomenon** (noun) – event, occurrence, happening, incident, situation घटना

38. **Elicit** (verb) – draw out, extract, evoke, provoke, bring forth बाहर निकालना

39. **Commiseration** (noun) – sympathy, condolence, compassion, pity, solace सहानुभूति

40. **Token Sum** (noun) – nominal amount, small payment, symbolic figure, gesture amount, minimal fee प्रतीकात्मक राशि

41. **Disbursement** (noun) – payment, expenditure, outlay, spending, distribution भुगतान

42. **Outlier** (noun) – anomaly, exception, deviation, irregularity, rarity अपवाद

43. **Probability** (noun) – likelihood, chance, possibility, odds, prospect संभावना

44. **Numerous** (adjective) – many, countless, myriad, abundant, several अनेक

45. **Infrastructure** (noun) – framework, foundation, facilities, system, base आधारभूत संरचना

46. **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, commence, embark on, assume शुरू करना

47. **Latent** (adjective) – hidden, dormant, concealed, suppressed, undeveloped छिपा हुआ

48. **Trigger** (verb) – activate, initiate, spark, provoke, set off शुरू करना

49. **Following** (preposition) – after, subsequent to, post, in the wake of, next to के बाद

50. **Conducive** (adjective) – favourable, beneficial, helpful, suitable, enabling अनुकूल

51. **Critical** (adjective) – crucial, vital, essential, key, decisive महत्वपूर्ण

52. **Buffer** (verb) – shield, protect, cushion, absorb, guard रक्षा करना

53. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, certain, destined, inescapable, bound to happen अनिवार्य

# Summary of the Editorial

1. Disaster in Uttarkashi: A devastating flood struck Dharali town in Uttarkashi district, killing at least four and leaving over 60 feared washed away.

2. Cause of the disaster: Triggered by torrential rains between August 3–5, the flood brought down water, debris, and muck from the mountains.

3. Severe rainfall: Some areas in the district recorded up to 30 cm of rain in a day, due to an active monsoon phase over North India.

4. Cloudburst categorisation: Authorities termed it a 'cloudburst', but the IMD's official definition (10 cm/hour over 10 sq km) requires precise radar data, which is lacking in the region.

5. Possible gradual build-up: The editorial suggests the disaster may have resulted from continuous rain loosening soil on steep, uneven terrain, not necessarily a sudden cloudburst.

6. Knee-jerk labeling: Labeling such disasters as cloudbursts allows state authorities to evade accountability, portraying them as uncontrollable natural events.

7. Government response: Authorities often limit their response to ritualistic condolences and fixed monetary relief, instead of meaningful structural reforms.

8. Army casualties: Among those feared dead are Indian Army personnel, highlighting the scale and seriousness of the tragedy.

9. Topography vulnerability: The Himalayan region's fragile geography makes it highly prone to landslides and floods, especially during extreme weather.

10. Role of climate change: The editorial emphasizes that climate change is increasing the frequency of extreme rainfall events in Himalayan states.

11. Human interference: Numerous infrastructure projects in the hills add to vulnerability, as their debris becomes latent explosives during such rains.

12. Ignored warning signs: These disasters are no longer rare outliers but part of a disturbing pattern linked to environmental neglect and unregulated construction.

13. Lack of monitoring systems: Absence of weather radars and real-time monitoring in high-altitude regions hampers accurate forecasting and preparedness.

14. Call for silt and debris review: The editorial urges the State government to urgently assess silt and debris accumulation at vulnerable spots once the situation stabilizes.

15. Need for proactive action: Instead of mere post-disaster response, authorities must implement preventive measures to protect Himalayan ecosystems from the compounded effects of climate change and human activity.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
    A. The beauty and tourism potential of the Himalayas
    B. The need for better disaster preparedness in Himalayan regions due to climate change
    C. The history of cloudbursts in Uttarakhand
    D. The economic benefits of infrastructure projects in hilly areas

2. **What can be reasonably inferred about the authorities' response to natural disasters in Uttarakhand from the passage?**
    A. The authorities rely on precise meteorological data to define disasters accurately and prevent misinformation.
    B. The term 'cloudburst' is often used by state authorities to deflect responsibility and present the event as unavoidable.
    C. Authorities have developed a long-term climate adaptation strategy to manage the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.
    D. Public authorities provide personalized support and compensation tailored to the victims' specific losses.

3. **Choose the most appropriate set of words to fill in the blank:**
    The increasing number of disasters in the Himalayas is not merely accidental but a result of _____ planning, _____ infrastructure development, and a disregard for ecological sensitivity.
    A. deliberate – strategic
    B. uninformed – regulated
    C. haphazard – unrestrained
    D. sustainable – measured

4. Which of the following words is the most suitable synonym for "**elicit**" as used in the sentence: "...the event only elicits social media commiseration from public authorities..."?
    A. Provoke
    B. Conceal
    C. Dismiss
    D. Fabricate

5. **Why do the authors of the passage argue that calling the disaster a 'cloudburst' may be misleading or inadequate?**
    A. Because it helps authorities explain the scientific cause clearly
    B. Because the IMD does not recognize cloudbursts as valid phenomena
    C. Because it allows officials to escape accountability by terming it a freak event
    D. Because the damage was caused solely by man-made factors, not rainfall

6. Each question contains two columns (A and B). You have to match the sentence halves logically to form meaningful and coherent ideas.
    **Column A (Beginnings)**

A. The Renaissance marked a radical shift

B. Fueled by classical revival and humanist ideals,

C. The invention of the printing press

D. As secularism expanded,

**Column B (Endings)**

1. which altered the way humans interacted with art, science, and politics.

2. intellectuals began to question established doctrines of the Church.

3. in the way knowledge and power were perceived across Europe.

4. allowed the rapid spread of new ideas among emerging literate classes.

A. A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

B. A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

C. A-1., B-3. C-2. D-4

D. A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

7. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**

There has been a **resurgance** of interest in folk music.

A. resurgence

B. resurgance

C. resurgince

D. ressurgence

8. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word**.

The analyst was asked to **gauge** the impact of the policy change.

A. Neglect

B. Measure

C. Ignore

D. Distract

9. **Each presents sentence halves where you must fill in the blank with the correct matching part from the given options**.

1. The development of language was not just a tool for communication but ___

2. As humans evolved, the ability to form complex social structures ___

3. Cognitive flexibility allowed Homo sapiens to adapt to diverse environments ___

4. The capacity for abstract thinking and imagination ___

**Options**:

A. helped in the creation of myths, rituals, and early religious systems.

B. emerged as a key factor in group survival and resource sharing.

C. a cognitive leap that allowed abstract thinking and cultural transmission.

D. giving them an advantage over other hominin species.

A. 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A

B. 1-D, 2-C, 3B, 4-A

C. 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A

D. 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C

10. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence**.

The flood caused **extensive** damage to the village.

A. Limited

B. Expansive

C. Prolonged

D. Comprehensive

11. **Choose the most appropriate option to change the voice (active / passive) form of the given sentence.**

A breakthrough technology had been being developed by the startup company long before major investors noticed its potential.

A. The startup company had developed a breakthrough technology long before major investors noticed its potential.

B. The startup company had been developing a breakthrough technology long before major investors noticed its potential.

C. The startup company developed a breakthrough technology long before major investors noticed its potential.

D. The startup company had been being developing a breakthrough technology long before major investors noticed its potential.

12. **Choose the most appropriate option to change the voice (active / passive) form of the given sentence.**

The engineering department will have been testing the structural integrity of the bridge design for over two years before it is approved by the government.

A. The structural integrity of the bridge design will be tested by the engineering department for over two years before it is approved by the government.

B. The structural integrity of the bridge design is being tested by the engineering department for over two years before it is approved by the government.

C. The structural integrity of the bridge design will have been being tested by the engineering department for over two years before it is approved by the government.

D. The structural integrity of the bridge design has been tested by the engineering department for over two years before it is approved by the government.

13. **Identify the part of the sentence which has an error**:

They completed the assignment / in very a short time / and submitted it / before the deadline.

A. They completed the assignment

B. in very a short time

C. and submitted it

D. before the deadline

14. **Rearrange the following to form a logical sequence**:

A. This biological adaptation is not just limited to visual changes but extends to internal physiological processes as well.

B. Animals inhabiting extreme climates often display extraordinary survival mechanisms.

C. The Arctic fox, for instance, changes the color of its fur from brown to white to blend into its snowy surroundings.

D. These traits, developed over thousands of years, are critical for maintaining ecological balance.

E. From camouflage to hibernation, evolution has equipped them to endure and flourish in hostile environments.

A. E C B A D

B. B E C A D

C. B C A E D

D. A D C B E

15. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence**.

She was overwhelmed by **fatigue** after the long journey.

A. Weariness

B. Burnout

C. Languor

D. Vitality

16. **Select the meaning of the given italicize phrasal verb**.

The new reforms will surely *bring about* positive changes in the economy.

A. Prevent

B. Cause

C. Withhold

D. Delay

17. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word**.

The teacher gave a live **demonstration** of the scientific experiment.

A. Confusion

B. Denial

C. Abandonment

D. Illustration

18. **Select the correct idiom to substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence**.

Sean is notorious for **revealing the secrets** about the company

A. Being in bad blood

B. Biting the dust

C. Spilling the beans

D. Biting the bullet

19. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph**:

A. It wasn't until the late 19th century that electricity became widely adopted, revolutionizing industries and enabling the birth of modern technology.

B. The human journey toward harnessing power began with primitive sources such as firewood and animal labor.

C. Gradually, coal-powered steam engines reshaped transportation and manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution.

D. Over centuries, civilizations experimented with various forms of energy—from water wheels in ancient Rome to windmills in medieval Europe.

E. However, the real transformation began with the discovery of fossil fuels and the mechanization they enabled.

 A. B D C E A

B. A B C D E

C. C E D A B

D. D B E C A

20. **Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:**

Walking through the dark alley, / a sudden noise / frightened him / from behind the bins.

A. Walking through the dark alley

B. a sudden noise

C. frightened him

D. from behind the bins

**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.**

The Bombay High Court's _____1_____of all those convicted in the Mumbai train blast case of July 2006, _____2_____ come as a rude shock for the families of the 189 people killed and around 800 people who were injured. The High Court has _____3_____ the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, deeming confessions gained as under duress, terming identification parades faulty and _____4_____ forensic evidence custody as not foolproof. It is a shocker because it was based on the same evidence that the trial court, in 2015, _____5_____ five of the accused to death and seven to life imprisonment.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1**.
    A. condemnation
    B. inculpation
    C. incrimination
    D. exoneration

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
    A. have
    B. has
    C. was
    D. were

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
    A. kept out
    B. take advantage of
    C. ripped apart
    D. drove up

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
    A. sighting
    B. citing
    C. site
    D. sighing

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**.
    A. Precise
    B. Briefed
    C. phrased
    D. sentenced

## Answers

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

## Explanation                                                                [Practice Exercise]

1. B) **The need for better disaster preparedness in Himalayan regions due to climate change**
   The passage discusses the Uttarakhand disaster, linking it to extreme rainfall, climate change, and poor infrastructure planning.
   It calls for a review of debris accumulation and better policies to mitigate future disasters, making disaster preparedness the central theme.
   A: Incorrect because the passage focuses on disasters, not tourism.
   C: Incorrect because while cloudbursts are mentioned, the focus is on systemic risks, not historical events.
   D: Incorrect because the passage criticizes such projects for increasing disaster risks, not praising their benefits.

2. B) **The term 'cloudburst' is often used by state authorities to deflect responsibility and present the event as unavoidable**.
   The passage suggests that officials quickly term the disaster a "cloudburst," which has a technical definition by the IMD. However, the author criticizes this "knee-jerk categorisation" and implies it is used to claim helplessness and reduce accountability by projecting the event as a "freak phenomenon."
   A. Incorrect – The passage criticizes the lack of weather radars and inability of the IMD to compute precise data at those altitudes, not that authorities rely on such data.
   C. Incorrect – Nowhere in the passage is a long-term adaptation strategy mentioned; in fact, it criticizes the lack of systemic mitigation.
   D. Incorrect – Authorities are said to give token compensation and offer social media commiseration, which is a generic, impersonal response.

3. C) **haphazard – unrestrained**
   The passage critiques the numerous infrastructure projects and accumulation of debris in ecologically sensitive zones, implying that poorly planned (haphazard) and unchecked (unrestrained) development is responsible for amplifying the disasters.
   A. **deliberate** – **strategic** – Incorrect: Suggests intentional and well-thought-out planning, which contradicts the author's critical tone toward planning failures.
   B. **uninformed** – **regulated** – Incorrect: While "uninformed" may partially work, "regulated" implies control, which is opposite of the implied lack of control.
   D. **sustainable** – **measured** – Incorrect: These are positive terms, but the passage highlights reckless development, not sustainability or caution.

4. A) **Provoke**
   "Elicit" in this context means to draw out or evoke a response or reaction. "Provoke" fits best as it also means to trigger a response or reaction.

5. C) **Because it allows officials to escape accountability by terming it a freak event**
   The passage suggests that labeling the event a 'cloudburst' is often a knee-jerk reaction that lets officials project helplessness and avoids addressing deeper causes like mismanaged infrastructure and climate vulnerability.

A. **Incorrect** – The term is not used to explain clearly; it is used prematurely without full data.

B. **Incorrect** – IMD does recognize cloudbursts but under specific technical definitions.

D. **Incorrect** – The passage shows that both natural (rainfall) and man-made (infrastructure debris) factors contributed. Not solely man-made.

6. D) **A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2**

A–3: The Renaissance changed perception of knowledge and power.

पुनर्जागरण ने ज्ञान और शक्ति की धारणा में बदलाव लाया।

B–1: Classical revival impacted art, science, and politics.

क्लासिकल पुनरुद्धार ने कला, विज्ञान और राजनीति को प्रभावित किया।

C–4: Printing press spread ideas rapidly.

प्रिंटिंग प्रेस ने विचारों का तेजी से प्रसार संभव किया।

D–2: Secularism led to questioning of religious authority.

धर्मनिरपेक्षता से चर्च की शिक्षाओं पर सवाल उठने लगे।

7. A) The correct spelling of 'resurgance' is 'resurgence', which means "revival or comeback after a period of inactivity" — पुनरुत्थान / फिर से उभरना.

8. B) **Gauge** (verb) – measure, assess, estimate, evaluate – मापना

**Synonym**: **Measure** (verb) – to determine extent or quantity (मापना)

**Neglect** (verb) – fail to care or consider (उपेक्षा करना)

**Ignore** (verb) – to disregard (नज़रअंदाज़ करना)

**Distract** (verb) – to divert attention (ध्यान भटकाना)

9. C) **1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A**

1 – C: Language was not just a tool, but a cognitive leap → enabled complex thought.

भाषा केवल संवाद का माध्यम नहीं बल्कि मानसिक छलांग थी।

2 – B: Complex social structures → key to survival.

समूहों में जीने की क्षमता से संसाधन साझा करना संभव हुआ।

3 – D: Flexibility → adaptation over others.

कॉग्निटिव लचीलापन से अन्य प्रजातियों पर बढ़त मिली।

4 – A: Imagination → myths & rituals.

कल्पना शक्ति से कथाएं और धार्मिक परंपराएं बनीं।

10. A) **Extensive** (adjective) – Widespread, vast, massive, comprehensive. व्यापक

**Antonym**: **Limited** (adjective) – Restricted in size, amount, or extent; narrow, confined. सीमित

• **Expansive** (adjective) – Covering a wide area. विस्तृत

• **Prolonged** (adjective) – Extended in duration. लंबा खिंचा हुआ

• **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Including all elements; thorough. संपूर्ण

11. B) The startup company had been developing a breakthrough technology long before major investors noticed its potential.

Passive Tense Identification:

had been being developed = Past Perfect Continuous (Passive)

इसका Active रूप होगा: had been developing

Passive Subject 'A breakthrough technology' → Active Object
Agent 'by the startup company' → Active Subject
Time Clause 'long before major investors noticed…' remains unchanged

12. C) The structural integrity of the bridge design will have been being tested by the engineering department for over two years before it is approved by the government.
Tense Identification: The sentence is in Future Perfect Continuous Tense (will have been testing).
Passive Voice Rule:
Future Perfect Continuous का Passive होता है:
will/shall + have + been + being + V3 (past participle)
यहां active verb: will have been testing

इसका Passive बनता है: will have been being tested

Object 'the structural integrity of the bridge design' को वाक्य के आरंभ में लाया गया।

Remaining time clause for over two years before… as it is.

13. B) 'in very a short time' के बदले 'in a very short time' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम 'very' का प्रयोग adjective से पहले करते हैं, और adjective के साथ indefinite article (a/an) होता है, तब 'very' के बाद article आता है — न कि पहले।

जैसे— She gave a very clear explanation.

'in a very short time' will be used instead of 'in very a short time' because when 'very' modifies an adjective preceded by an article, the correct order is article + very + adjective + noun.
Correct sentence: They completed the assignment in a very short time and submitted it before the deadline.

14. B) **B E C A D**
B is the best opening sentence — it introduces the topic: animals and survival.
   (शुरुआत): चरम जलवायु में रहने वाले जानवरों के जीवित रहने के तरीके।
E elaborates on survival strategies like camouflage and hibernation.
   (व्याख्या): जानवरों के अनुकूलन की प्रक्रिया।
C gives a specific example — Arctic fox.
   (उदाहरण): आर्कटिक लोमड़ी रंग बदलकर छुप जाती है।
A adds that adaptations are both external and internal.
   (विस्तार): अनुकूलन केवल बाहरी नहीं, आंतरिक भी होते हैं।
D concludes by noting their evolutionary significance.
   (निष्कर्ष): इन लक्षणों से पारिस्थितिक संतुलन बना रहता है।

15. D) **Fatigue** (noun) – Tiredness, exhaustion, weariness, burnout, languor. थकावट

**Antonym**: **Vitality** (noun) – The state of being strong and active; energy, vigor, liveliness. ऊर्जा / जीवंतता

- **Weariness** – Extreme tiredness. थकान

- **Burnout** – Physical or mental collapse. थकावट

- **Languor** – Weakness, fatigue. सुस्ती

16. B) **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – cause, produce, lead to, result in – लाना / उत्पन्न करना

   **Synonym**: **Cause** (verb) – to make something happen – कारण बनना

   **Prevent** (verb) – stop from happening – रोकना

   **Withhold** (verb) – to hold back – रोक कर रखना

   **Delay** (verb) – postpone – विलंब करना

17. D) **Demonstration** (noun) – display, illustration, presentation, proof – प्रदर्शन

   **Synonym**: **Illustration** (noun) – visual or verbal explanation (दृश्य उदाहरण)

   **Confusion** (noun) – lack of clarity (उलझन)

   **Denial** (noun) – refusal to accept (इनकार)

   **Abandonment** (noun) – act of leaving (त्याग)

18. C) **Spilling the beans** (Idiom) – To reveal secrets (राज़ खोलना)

   **Being in bad blood** – Having a hostile relationship or enmity (दुश्मनी या वैर होना)

   **Biting the dust** – Failing or being defeated (असफल होना या पराजित होना)

   **Biting the bullet** – Facing a difficult or unpleasant situation bravely (कठिन परिस्थिति का हिम्मत से सामना करना)

19. A) **B D C E A**
   B introduces the topic: early human efforts with basic energy sources.
      (शुरुआत): मानव शक्ति के आदिम स्रोतों से शुरुआत होती है।
   D extends this by showing gradual evolution in energy usage.
      (विकास): प्राचीन रोम के जलचक्कियों से लेकर मध्यकालीन पवनचक्कियों तक।
   C brings the Industrial Revolution into the context.
      (औद्योगिक क्रांति): कोयले से चलने वाले इंजन ने परिवहन व उद्योग में क्रांति लाई।
   E focuses on fossil fuels as a turning point.
      (टर्निंग पॉइंट): जीवाश्म ईंधनों की खोज ने असली परिवर्तन शुरू किया।
   A concludes by noting electricity's impact in the modern age.
      (निष्कर्ष): 19वीं सदी में बिजली के प्रयोग से तकनीक में क्रांति आई।

20. B) 'a sudden noise' के बदले 'he' या कोई subjective noun/pronoun आना चाहिए, क्योंकि Participle Phrase 'Walking through the dark alley' का subject वही होना चाहिए जो main clause का subject है।

   जैसे— Walking through the forest, she saw a deer. (✔ सही)

   गलत: Walking through the forest, a deer was seen. (✗)

The phrase 'Walking through the dark alley' is a dangling participle — it should modify the doer of the action. But here, the subject that follows is 'a sudden noise', which is not capable of walking.

Correct sentence: Walking through the dark alley, he was frightened by a sudden noise from behind the bins.

21. D)'Exoneration' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी को दोषमुक्त करना या बरी करना। passage में mention किया गया है कि बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट ने 2006 के मुंबई ट्रेन ब्लास्ट केस में दोषी ठहराए गए सभी लोगों को बरी कर दिया, जो पीड़ित परिवारों के लिए एक झटका था। इसलिए 'exoneration' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'condemnation' का अर्थ है निंदा करना, 'inculpation' का अर्थ है दोष लगाना, और 'incrimination' का अर्थ है आरोप लगाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Exoneration' will be used because it means to free someone from blame or declare them not guilty. The passage mentions that the Bombay High Court freed all those convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train blast case, which came as a shock to the victims' families. Hence, 'exoneration' fits here. Whereas, 'condemnation' means strong disapproval, 'inculpation' means blaming, and 'incrimination' means accusing—none of which fit in this context.

22. B) 'Has' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ subject "The Bombay High Court's acquittal" singular है और present perfect tense में singular subject के साथ 'has' का प्रयोग होता है। sentence में action (acquittal) का present पर effect दिखाया गया है, इसलिए 'has' सही है। जबकि 'have' plural subjects के साथ use होता है, 'was' past continuous tense में use होता है, और 'were' plural past tense में, जो यहाँ context के अनुसार सही नहीं हैं।

'Has' will be used because the subject "The Bombay High Court's acquittal" is singular, and in present perfect tense, singular subjects take 'has'. The sentence shows the present effect of the action (acquittal), so 'has' is correct. Whereas, 'have' is used with plural subjects, 'was' is used in past continuous tense, and 'were' in plural past tense, which are incorrect here as per the context.

23. C) 'Ripped apart' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को पूरी तरह से खंडित कर देना। यहाँ sentence में High Court ने investigation को पूरी तरह से खारिज कर दिया है, जिसमें witnesses को untrustworthy बताया गया है, confessions को दबाव में लिया हुआ कहा गया है, और forensic evidence को unreliable बताया गया है। इसलिए 'ripped apart' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'kept out' का अर्थ है बाहर रखना, 'take advantage of' का अर्थ है फायदा उठाना, और 'drove up' का अर्थ है बढ़ाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Ripped apart' will be used because it means to completely dismantle or criticize severely. Here, the sentence states that the High Court has severely criticized the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, confessions coerced, and forensic evidence unreliable. Thus, 'ripped apart' fits perfectly. Whereas, 'kept out' means to exclude, 'take advantage of' means to exploit, and 'drove up' means to increase, none of which fit in this context.
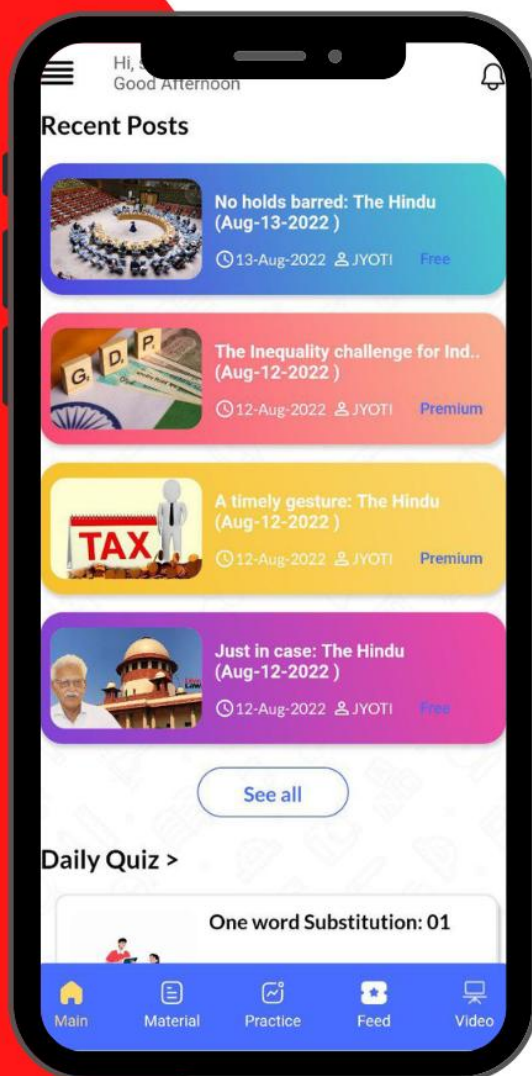
24. B) 'Citing' का use होगा क्योंकि "citing" का अर्थ होता है किसी साक्ष्य या उदाहरण का हवाला देना। यहाँ sentence में forensic evidence (अपराधिक साक्ष्य) का हवाला दिया जा रहा है, इसलिए 'citing' सही है।

जबकि 'sighting' का अर्थ है देखना (जैसे किसी वस्तु को), 'site' का अर्थ है स्थान, और 'sighing' का अर्थ है आह भरना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Citing' will be used because it means to refer to evidence or an example. Here, the sentence is referring to forensic evidence, making 'citing' the correct choice. Whereas, 'sighting' means seeing (e.g., an object), 'site' means a location, and 'sighing' means exhaling audibly, which do not fit in this context.

25. D) 'Sentenced' का use होगा क्योंकि "sentenced" का अर्थ होता है किसी को सजा सुनाना। इस sentence में mention किया गया है कि 2015 में trial court ने पाँच accused को मौत की सजा और सात को उम्रकैद की सजा सुनाई थी, इसलिए 'sentenced' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Precise' का अर्थ है सटीक, 'Briefed' का अर्थ है संक्षिप्त जानकारी देना, और 'Phrased' का अर्थ है शब्दों में व्यक्त करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Sentenced' will be used because it means to officially declare punishment for a crime. The sentence mentions that in 2015, the trial court sentenced five accused to death and seven to life imprisonment, making 'sentenced' correct here. Whereas, 'Precise' means exact, 'Briefed' means to give summarized information, and 'Phrased' means to express in words, which do not fit in this context.