

Aid and advice: On Jammu and Kashmir and the Lieutenant-Governor's Assembly member nominations

L-G's **nominations** without government **nod** **could** **undermine** J&K's electoral process

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' **assertion** to the J&K High Court that the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) can **nominate** five Assembly members without the "aid and advice" of the elected government **overrides** democratic **accountability**. **Consequential decisions** such as nominating members who have voting rights in an elected assembly **must** flow from democratic **mandate**, not administrative **discretion**. The High Court's constitutional question could not be more direct: do the 2023 **amendments** to the J&K Reorganisation Act, allowing the L-G to nominate five Assembly members "which have the **potential** of converting the minority government into a majority government and vice-versa," **violate** the Constitution's basic structure? Rather than **addressing** this, the Ministry **delves** into legal technicalities. Its **submission** argues that nominations fall outside the elected government's **remit**, **seemingly invoking** the K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India **precedent** from Puducherry while **claiming** the "**sanctioned** strength" includes elected and nominated members. It even references Section 12 of the 1963 Union Territories Act (voting procedures) as **justification** for **bypassing** democratic consultation. When five nominated members could determine government stability in a 119-member Assembly, the issue **transcends** **statutory** definitions of "sanctioned strength". The real question is whether any legal **framework** allowing appointed officials to **potentially overturn** the people's electoral **verdict** **violates** the democratic **essence** of the Constitution.

The amendments inserted Sections 15A and 15B into the 2019 Act, allowing the L-G to nominate two Kashmiri **migrants** (including one woman) and one from the Pakistan-occupied J&K community, besides the **existing** power to nominate two women, if **inadequately** represented in the elected Assembly. This effectively creates five nominated seats. The High Court's **framing** of this issue **acknowledges** the **stakes** involved: this could "convert minority government into majority government and **vice-versa**", potentially **subverting** the electoral process. This concern is not **unsubstantiated** — in 2021, three years after Lakshminarayanan, Puducherry saw nominated members and **defecting** elected MLAs contributing to the **collapse** of the Congress-led government. Also, J&K's **trajectory** to Union Territory, without consultation with elected representatives, **makes** democratic **accountability** even more **crucial**. The unfulfilled **promise** of **Statehood restoration**, acknowledged by the Supreme Court and despite **overwhelming** support in J&K, **reinforces** that current **arrangements** should **strengthen** democratic governance. The Ministry's **argument** that nominations exist "outside the **realm** of the business of the elected government" also **contradicts** evolving Supreme Court **jurisprudence**. In the Delhi services cases of 2018 and 2023, it ruled that the L-G should act on elected governments' aid and advice, with **discretionary powers** treated as exceptions. **Seen in this light**, the Ministry's arguments do not **hold water**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

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|--|---|
| 1. Nomination (noun) – appointment, selection, designation, candidature, proposal नामांकन | 12. Potential (noun) – capacity, capability, possibility, promise, latent power क्षमता |
| 2. Nod (noun) – approval, consent, sanction, assent, green light स्वीकृति | 13. Violate (verb) – breach, contravene, infringe, transgress, flout उल्लंघन करना |
| 3. Undermine (verb) – weaken, erode, subvert, sap, compromise कमजोर करना | 14. Address (verb) – tackle, confront, deal with, attend to, respond to समाधान करना |
| 4. Assertion (noun) – claim, contention, statement, averment, declaration दावा | 15. Delve (into) (verb) – investigate, probe, explore, examine, inquire into गहन पड़ताल करना |
| 5. Nominate (verb) – appoint, propose, designate, recommend, put forward नियुक्ति का प्रस्ताव करना | 16. Submission (noun) – argument, contention, pleading, representation, proposal (to a court) दलील |
| 6. Override (verb) – overrule, supersede, trump, annul, negate अमान्य करना | 17. Remit (noun) – scope, mandate, purview, jurisdiction, sphere कार्यक्षेत्र |
| 7. Accountability (noun) – answerability, responsibility, liability, accountableness, answerableness जवाबदेही | 18. Seemingly (adverb) – apparently, ostensibly, outwardly, purportedly, on the face of it ऊपरी तौर पर |
| 8. Consequential (adjective) – significant, momentous, impactful, weighty, far-reaching महत्वपूर्ण | 19. Invoke (verb) – cite, appeal to, refer to, call upon, rely on (a law/case) हवाला देना |
| 9. Mandate (noun) – authority, commission, directive, warrant, authorization जनादेश | 20. Precedent (noun) – prior case, benchmark, authority, exemplar, guiding case पूर्व उदाहरण |
| 10. Discretion (noun) – judgment, prudence, latitude, leeway, prerogative विवेक | 21. Claim (verb) – assert, contend, maintain, allege, profess दावा करना |
| 11. Amendment (noun) – modification, alteration, revision, change, update संशोधन | 22. Sanctioned (adjective) – approved, authorized, permitted, ratified, endorsed स्वीकृत |

23. **Justification** (noun) – rationale, reasoning, grounds, vindication, defense औचित्य
24. **Bypass** (verb) – circumvent, sidestep, avoid, skirt, evade दरकिनार करना
25. **Transcend** (verb) – surpass, exceed, go beyond, outstrip, overstep अधिक हो जाना
26. **Statutory** (adjective) – legal, legislated, mandated, codified, prescribed वैधानिक
27. **Framework** (noun) – structure, schema, architecture, system, scaffold ढांचा
28. **Potentially** (adverb) – possibly, conceivably, arguably, feasibly, in principle संभावित रूप से
29. **Overtake** (verb) – reverse, nullify, set aside, upend, quash निरस्त करना
30. **Verdict** (noun) – judgment, ruling, decision, finding, adjudication फैसला
31. **Violate** (verb) – breach, infringe, transgress, contravene, defy उल्लंघन करना
32. **Essence** (noun) – core, crux, substance, gist, quintessence सार
33. **Migrant** (noun) – immigrant, émigré, displaced person, refugee, itinerant worker प्रवासी
34. **Existing** (adjective) – current, present, prevailing, in-place, operative वर्तमान
35. **Inadequately** (adverb) – insufficiently, poorly, scantily, meagerly, unsatisfactorily अपर्याप्त रूप से
36. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, recognize, concede, affirm स्वीकृति देना
37. **Stake** (noun) – interest, share, risk, investment, concern दांव/हित/जोखिम
38. **Vice-versa** (adverb) – conversely, the other way round, in reverse, reciprocally, oppositely इसके विपरीत भी
39. **Subvert** (verb) – undermine, sabotage, destabilize, overturn, erode उलट देना
40. **Unsubstantiated** (adjective) – unproven, unverified, unsupported, baseless, groundless निराधार
41. **Defect** (verb) – desert, switch sides, cross over, abandon, decamp दलबदल करना
42. **Collapse** (noun) – fall, breakdown, implosion, crumbling, downfall पतन
43. **Trajectory** (noun) – path, course, arc, progression, direction पथ
44. **Accountability** (noun) – answerability, responsibility, liability, accountableness, obligation जवाबदेही
45. **Crucial** (adjective) – critical, pivotal, vital, essential, key अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण

46. **Statehood** (noun) – the constitutional status of being a State within the Union, with its own legislature and powers राज्य का दर्जा
47. **Restoration** (noun) – reinstatement, return, reestablishment, revival, restitution बहाली
48. **Overwhelming** (adjective) – massive, sweeping, overpowering, predominant, resounding प्रबल
49. **Reinforce** (verb) – strengthen, buttress, bolster, fortify, shore up मजबूत करना
50. **Arrangement** (noun) – setup, scheme, plan, structure, configuration व्यवस्था
51. **Strengthen** (verb) – fortify, bolster, reinforce, consolidate, solidify मजबूत
52. **Realm** (noun) – domain, sphere, field, province, ambit क्षेत्र
53. **Contradict** (verb) – oppose, counter, belie, refute, gainsay विरोध करना
54. **Jurisprudence** (noun) – legal theory, case law, legal philosophy, doctrine, judicial precedent विधिशास्त्र
55. **Discretionary power** (noun) – prerogative, latitude, leeway, judgmental authority, executive discretion विवेकाधीन शक्ति
56. **Seen in this light** (phrase) – from this perspective, in this context, considered thus, viewed accordingly, looked at this way इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में
57. **Hold water** (phrase) – be tenable, be valid, stand up (to scrutiny), be credible, withstand examination ठोस ठहरना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs told the J&K High Court that the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) can nominate five Assembly members without the “aid and advice” of the elected government.
2. Such nominations, carrying voting rights, can influence Assembly majority, impacting democratic accountability.
3. The High Court is examining if 2023 amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act violate the Constitution’s basic structure.
4. These amendments allow the L-G to nominate five members, potentially converting a minority government into a majority and vice versa.
5. The Ministry’s submission focuses on legal technicalities rather than addressing core constitutional concerns.
6. It draws parallels with the K. Lakshminarayanan vs Union of India case in Puducherry, where nominated members bypassed elected government consultation.
7. The Ministry cites Section 12 of the 1963 Union Territories Act to justify bypassing democratic advice.
8. In a 119-member Assembly, five nominated members could decide the government’s fate.
9. The amendments added Sections 15A and 15B to the 2019 Act, enabling nomination of two Kashmiri migrants (one woman), one from Pakistan-occupied J&K, and two women if underrepresented.
10. This nomination power could subvert the electoral process, as seen in Puducherry in 2021 when nominated members contributed to a government’s collapse.
11. J&K’s downgrade to a Union Territory without elected representatives’ consultation makes democratic safeguards even more important.
12. The promised restoration of Statehood, supported by the people and acknowledged by the Supreme Court, remains unfulfilled.
13. The Ministry’s stance that nominations are “outside the realm” of the elected government’s business conflicts with Supreme Court rulings.
14. In Delhi services cases (2018, 2023), the Court held that the L-G must act on the elected government’s aid and advice, with discretion as an exception.
15. The editorial concludes that the Ministry’s legal arguments fail to justify bypassing democratic mandate in J&K’s governance.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Objective and analytical
 - B. Sarcastic and dismissive
 - C. Optimistic and hopeful
 - D. Neutral and descriptive
2. **Why does the J&K High Court view the 2023 amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act as a potential threat to democratic governance?**
 - A. Because they give the L-G the authority to unilaterally dissolve the Assembly without consulting elected representatives.
 - B. Because they empower the L-G to nominate five members whose votes could change the outcome of government formation in the Assembly.
 - C. Because they allow the L-G to appoint the Chief Minister from among the nominated members.
 - D. Because they prevent Kashmiri migrants and PoJK community members from participating in the Assembly process.
3. **What precedent does the Ministry of Home Affairs cite to justify the L-G's independent nomination powers in J&K?**
 - A. The Delhi services case of 2018, which granted the L-G unrestricted administrative powers.
 - B. The 1963 Union Territories Act, which granted Union Territories full legislative independence.
 - C. The Supreme Court ruling in K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India, concerning nominated members in Puducherry.
 - D. The 2021 Puducherry dissolution order issued by the President under emergency powers.
4. **If the 2023 amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act are upheld without requiring the L-G to act on the elected government's aid and advice, which of the following consequences best aligns with the core democratic concern highlighted in the passage?**
 - A. It would expedite the legislative process by enabling quicker appointment of Assembly members without political delays.
 - B. It could promote administrative efficiency by removing the need for elected representatives' approval in special appointments.
 - C. It would strengthen representation of underrepresented groups while keeping the Assembly's stability unaffected.
 - D. It could empower the L-G to indirectly alter the outcome of an election by changing the Assembly's power balance through nominations.
5. **Based on the passage, which scenario most closely parallels the risk described in J&K if the L-G's nomination powers remain unchecked?**
 - A. A university's chancellor appointing members to the governing council without faculty consultation, thereby shifting control over academic policy decisions.
 - B. A company's HR department fast-tracking employee promotions based on performance metrics approved by the board.
 - C. A sports team's captain selecting substitute players from a reserve list during a match.
 - D. A local library board adding new members chosen from community volunteers to assist in event management.

6. In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is printed in bold. Choose the option that best improves the bold part. If no improvement is required, select (D) No improvement.

Each of the researchers must ensure that they submit their final draft with the statistical appendix, the raw data tables, and the signed consent forms before the ethics committee's deadline.

- A. he or she submits his or her final draft with the statistical appendix, the raw data tables, and the signed consent forms
B. he submits his final draft with the statistical appendix, the raw data tables, and the signed consent forms, as per the guidelines provided
C. their final drafts are to be submitted with the statistical appendix, the raw data tables, and the signed consent forms
D. No improvement
7. Rearrange the four sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct order from the options.

P. It proposes merging smaller colleges into regional clusters to reduce duplication of courses.
Q. The draft White Paper has stirred debate across campuses after the higher education minister released it last week.
R. While supporters argue that clusters will improve resource sharing, critics fear the loss of local identity.
S. At the heart of the proposal is a five-year roadmap to raise teaching standards and research output.

- A. P-Q-R-S
B. S-P-Q-R
C. Q-P-S-R
D. Q-S-P-R
8. Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:

By the time the police arrived at the scene, / the robbers left the bank / taking with them a large sum of cash / and disappearing into the nearby forest.

- A. By the time the police arrived at the scene
B. the robbers left the bank
C. taking with them a large sum of cash
D. and disappearing into the nearby forest
9. Identify the part of speech of the bracketed word.

I admired the decision [that] she took under pressure.

- A. Demonstrative determiner
B. Relative pronoun
C. Subordinating conjunction (complementizer)
D. Degree adverb
10. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.

The expedition leader said to the trainees, "Please do not descend into the gorge until the rope anchors have been inspected; secure the helmets tight, keep your radios on channel seven, and report to me as soon as the first rappel is over."

- A. The expedition leader requested the trainees not to descend into the gorge until the rope anchors had been inspected, to secure the helmets tight, to keep their radios on channel seven, and to report to him as soon as the first rappel was over.
- B. The expedition leader told the trainees that they do not descend into the gorge until the rope anchors have been inspected; that they secure the helmets tight, keep their radios on channel seven, and report to him as soon as the first rappel is over.
- C. The expedition leader forbade the trainees to not descend into the gorge until the rope anchors had been inspected and suggested that they should secure the helmets tight and keep their radios on channel seven, and report to him when the first rappel completes.
- D. The expedition leader advised that the trainees did not descend into the gorge till the rope anchors were inspected, secured the helmets tight, kept their radios on channel seven, and then informed him as soon as the first rappel had been over.
11. **Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:**
The finance minister has announced a series of economic reforms yesterday / aimed at boosting foreign investment / and improving the ease of doing business / in the country.
- A. The finance minister has announced a series of economic reforms yesterday
- B. aimed at boosting foreign investment
- C. and improving the ease of doing business
- D. in the country
12. **Identify the part of speech of past in the sentence:**
"We crept past the sleeping guards without a sound."
- A. Adverb modifying "crept," with no object
- B. Preposition introducing a phrase with "the sleeping guards" as its object
- C. Adjective modifying "guards"
- D. Noun meaning "history" or "a former time"
13. **Rearrange the four sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent paragraph. Choose the correct order from the options.**
- P. To address safety concerns, the team limited the dosage in the second cohort and added a 72-hour monitoring window.
- Q. The preliminary results, published in a peer-reviewed journal, show a 45% reduction in symptom severity compared to placebo.
- R. After the initial cohort reported mild arrhythmia in two participants, the protocol was amended.
- S. The Phase II trial of the nasal vaccine enrolled 312 adults across four centers.
- A. S-R-P-Q
- B. R-P-S-Q
- C. S-P-R-Q
- D. R-S-P-Q
14. **In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is printed in bold. Choose the option that best improves the bold part. If no improvement is required, select (D) No improvement.**
The director **made the interns to compile a comprehensive dossier on competitor strategies, including pricing algorithms and distribution networks,** before the review meeting began.

- A. made the interns compile a comprehensive dossier on competitor strategies, including pricing algorithms and distribution networks
- B. made the interns to be compiling a comprehensive dossier on competitor strategies, including pricing algorithms and distribution networks
- C. made the interns to compile a comprehensive dossier regarding competitor strategies, including pricing algorithms and distribution networks
- D. No improvement

15. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.

The compliance officer said to the senior analyst, "Did you circulate this draft to external vendors before obtaining legal clearance, why did you omit the confidentiality clause when you sent it on Monday, and which department head approved this deviation?"

- A. The compliance officer asked the senior analyst if he circulated this draft to external vendors before obtaining legal clearance, why the confidentiality clause was omitted when he sent it on Monday, and which department head was approving this deviation.
- B. The compliance officer demanded that he should tell whether he circulated those drafts to external vendors before obtaining legal clearance and why had he omitted the confidentiality clause, and who had approved that deviation.
- C. The compliance officer asked the senior analyst did he circulate this draft to external vendors before obtaining legal clearance, why did he omit the confidentiality clause when he sent it on Monday, and which department head approved this deviation.
- D. The compliance officer asked the senior analyst whether he had circulated that draft to external vendors before obtaining legal clearance, why he had omitted the confidentiality clause when he sent it on Monday, and which department head had approved that deviation.

16. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.

The curator said, "What a meticulous restoration this is! If only the grant committee had released the funds earlier, the fresco would not have suffered so much deterioration."

- A. The curator exclaimed with admiration that the restoration was meticulous and added that if the grant committee had released the funds earlier, the fresco would not have suffered so much deterioration.
- B. The curator said that the restoration had been very meticulous and hoped if the grant committee released the funds earlier, the fresco will not suffer much deterioration.
- C. The curator exclaimed that how meticulous restoration it was and regretted that if the grant committee were to release the funds earlier, the fresco would not be suffering so much deterioration.
- D. The curator exclaimed with joy that the restoration had been meticulous and wished the grant committee had released the funds earlier so that the fresco would not suffer so much deterioration.

17. Identify the part of the sentence which has an error:

She needs not worry about the final approval / as the project has already been cleared / by the regulatory authorities / after the thorough review process.

- A. She needs not worry about the final approval
- B. as the project has already been cleared
- C. by the regulatory authorities
- D. after the thorough review process

18. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

P. In 2022, the coastal city's public utility floated a small green-hydrogen pilot to power its fishing-ice plants during monsoon outages.

Q. The announcement, although tentative, immediately recalibrated vendor negotiations and pushed the finance department to ring-fence a contingency fund.

R. When field tests began, saline spray accelerated corrosion in the storage valves, forcing the team to redesign the enclosure.

S. To preserve the launch date, engineers switched to composite casings and added desiccant purgers, which incidentally reduced compressor noise near the docks.

T. These practical wins reassured the city council, and the pilot was upgraded into a multi-year program with clear milestones.

A. Q-P-R-S-T

B. P-Q-S-R-T

C. R-S-P-Q-T

D. P-Q-R-S-T

19. In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is printed in bold. Choose the option that best improves the bold part. If no improvement is required, select No improvement.

Compared with last quarter's volatile figures, the company's revenue trajectory is **more better than analysts had anticipated during the earnings preview**, and this has sparked renewed confidence among cautious institutional investors.

A. No improvement

B. better than analysts had, by far, anticipated during their earnings preview discussions

C. much more better than the analysts had originally anticipated during the earnings preview

D. better than what analysts had anticipated during the earnings preview

20. Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.

GDP growth is often used as a **benchmark** for economic health.

A. Anomaly

B. Yardstick

C. Exception

D. Irregularity

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.

Over the past two decades, China has entrenched _____1_____ as a dominant actor in Africa's mining sector. But signs are mounting that the _____2_____ is beginning to turn. A new wave of resistance, driven by increased scrutiny from African governments as well as civil society activism, _____3_____ starting to challenge China's long-standing dominance in Africa's mining industry. Chinese firms have often failed to deliver promised skills transfer or infrastructure. Consequently, African nations are growingly _____4_____ their rights to value-added development. The old model of raw resource extraction in exchange for infrastructure or investments is no longer _____5_____ in a region demanding agency, accountability, and economic sovereignty.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
A. himself
B. themselves
C. oneself
D. itself
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. cliff
B. tide
C. mountain
D. overfall
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. was
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
A. assert
B. asserting
C. asserts
D. asserted
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
A. indefensible
B. spindrift
C. tenable
D. fallacious

Answer

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

Explanation

1. A) Objective and analytical

The passage adopts an objective and analytical tone as it critically examines the constitutional and democratic implications of the Lieutenant-Governor's power to nominate Assembly members in Jammu & Kashmir without the elected government's aid and advice. The language is factual, legal, and evaluative, avoiding emotional exaggeration.

B) The passage does not mock or ridicule; instead, it systematically critiques using constitutional reasoning.

C) There is no forward-looking hopefulness; the passage is concerned with the risks to democratic governance.

D) The passage is not neutral; it takes a clear stance against undermining democratic accountability.

2. B) Because they empower the L-G to nominate five members whose votes could change the outcome of government formation in the Assembly.

The amendments allow the L-G to nominate five members (two women, two Kashmiri migrants including one woman, and one from the PoJK community) whose voting rights could potentially change a minority government into a majority government, or vice-versa. This raises concerns about bypassing the democratic mandate and undermining the electoral process.

A – The amendments do not grant the L-G the unilateral power to dissolve the Assembly.

C – There is no provision to appoint a Chief Minister from nominated members.

D – In fact, the amendments add representation for Kashmiri migrants and PoJK communities, not exclude them.

3. C) The Supreme Court ruling in *K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India*, concerning nominated members in Puducherry.

The Ministry references the *K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India* case, where the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's authority to nominate members in Puducherry without consulting the elected government. They use this precedent to argue that J&K's nominated members also fall outside the elected government's remit.

A – The Delhi services case of 2018 actually restricted the L-G's discretionary powers, not expanded them.

B – The 1963 Act is referenced for voting procedures (Section 12) but not for granting full legislative independence.

D – There was no such 2021 presidential order for emergency dissolution; Puducherry's government fell due to defections and nominated members' role, not presidential emergency powers.

4. D) It could empower the L-G to indirectly alter the outcome of an election by changing the Assembly's power balance through nominations.

The passage emphasizes that allowing the L-G to nominate members without elected government consultation could "convert minority government into majority government and

vice-versa,” thereby potentially overturning the people’s electoral verdict — a direct threat to the democratic essence of the Constitution.

A (Incorrect): While faster appointments may occur, the passage warns that such speed comes at the cost of democratic accountability, which is the central concern.

C (Incorrect): Though representation of certain groups is mentioned (Kashmiri migrants, PoJK community, women), the passage clearly warns that these nominations can affect government stability — meaning stability is indeed affected.

C (Incorrect): Administrative efficiency is not the main focus here; the real concern is undermining democratic governance.

5. A) A university’s chancellor appointing members to the governing council without faculty consultation, thereby shifting control over academic policy decisions.

A mirrors the core risk in J&K: an unelected authority (chancellor/L-G) appointing decision-making members without the consent of the democratically chosen body (faculty/elected government), thereby potentially shifting control and altering decisions.

B (Incorrect): This involves internal promotion within agreed performance rules, not bypassing an elected or representative process.

C (Incorrect): Substitutions in sports are a part of pre-agreed match rules and don’t alter democratic representation.

D (Incorrect): Adding volunteers to assist in events is supportive in nature and lacks the high-stakes power shift seen in legislative decision-making.

6. A) ‘Each of the researchers’ व्याकरणिक रूप से singular होता है; अतः pronoun और verb भी singular होंगे: he or she submits his or her.

जैसे— Each candidate must bring his or her admit card.

• ‘he or she submits his or her ...’ will be used instead of ‘they submit their ...’ because with the singular quantifier ‘Each of ...’, formal grammar requires singular pronoun + singular verb for agreement.

Like— Each participant must send his or her bio before Monday.

Correct sentence: Each of the researchers must ensure that he or she submits his or her final draft with the statistical appendix, the raw data tables, and the signed consent forms before the ethics committee’s deadline.

7. D) Q–S–P–R

Begin with Q because it introduces the document (“the draft White Paper”) and its context/time marker “last week,” setting the scene. हिंदी में, Q आरंभिक पंक्ति है क्योंकि यह विषय और समय—किस कागज़ पर बहस हो रही है और कब जारी हुआ—स्पष्ट करता है।

Next S naturally zooms in: the phrase “At the heart of the proposal” signals a shift from context to core content—a five-year roadmap. हिंदी में, S प्रस्ताव के मुख्य बिंदु पर लाता है—शिक्षण और शोध को बेहतर करने का रोडमैप।

Then P uses the pronoun “It”, which anaphorically refers back to “the proposal,” giving a specific mechanism (merging colleges). हिंदी में, P में It = proposal; यहाँ कार्यान्वयन का तरीका बताया गया है—कॉलेज क्लस्टर।

Finally R offers a balanced evaluation with the contrastive marker “While”—supporters vs critics—so it must conclude the paragraph by presenting debate/outcome. हिंदी में, R बहस का दोनों पक्ष दिखाकर पैराग्राफ को समापन देता है।

8. B) ‘the robbers left’ के बदले ‘the robbers had left’ का प्रयोग होना चाहिए क्योंकि यह action (bank छोड़ना) पुलिस के आने से पहले हो चुका था। जब दो past actions हों, तो पहले वाले में Past Perfect और बाद वाले में Past Indefinite प्रयोग होता है।

उदाहरण — ✓ By the time we reached the station, the train had left.

“The robbers left” should be “the robbers had left” because the act of leaving the bank happened before the police arrived. In two past actions, the earlier one takes Past Perfect, and the later one takes Past Indefinite.

Example — ✓ By the time we reached the station, the train had left.

9. B) “that” introduces a relative clause (“that she took under pressure”) which modifies “decision.” Inside the clause, “that” stands for the noun “decision” as the object of “took” (“she took it”). You can replace it with “which,” or drop it (“the decision she took”)—typical of a relative pronoun.

“that” यहाँ relative clause (“that she took under pressure”) को शुरू करता है जो “decision” का वर्णन करता है। यह clause में object की जगह लेता है, इसलिए यह relative pronoun है। इसे “which” से बदला या कई बार हटाया भी जा सकता है—जो relative pronoun की पहचान है।

Why others are wrong:

A Determiner / निर्धारक: Determiner “that” तभी होता है जब यह सीधे किसी संज्ञा से पहले आए (“that decision”). यहाँ ऐसा नहीं है।

C Subordinating conjunction / अवन्त समुच्चयबोधक: Complementizer “that” बोलते हैं जैसे “He said that he was ready.” यहाँ “that” किसी संज्ञा-उपवाक्य (noun clause) को जोड़ता है, न कि relative clause।

D Degree adverb / परिमाण क्रिया-विशेषण: “that” degree दिखाने पर (“not that hard”) adverb होता है; इस वाक्य में degree नहीं दिख रही।

10. A) The word please marks a request, so requested is the natural reporting verb. A negative imperative is idiomatically rendered with not to + base verb, while the positive directives are most clearly and correctly sequenced with parallel to-infinitives, preserving order and force. Within the time clauses introduced by until and as soon as, backshift follows the past reporting verb, so have been inspected becomes had been inspected and is over becomes was over. Pronouns and deixis adjust normally, with me → him and your → their. Only option A integrates all of these features smoothly; B relies on finite that-clauses with present-tense forms that clash with past reporting, C creates a double-negative feel and leaves an unshifted completes, and D converts the instructions into a completed past narrative, undermining the directive sense.

“Please” का प्रयोग विनम्र अनुरोध को सूचित करता है, अतः reported speech में requested उपयुक्त क्रिया है। नकारात्मक आदेश को मानक रूप में not to + क्रिया मूल से व्यक्त किया जाता है, जबकि शेष

सकारात्मक निर्देशों को समानांतर to-infinitives में रखने से क्रम और स्पष्टता बनी रहती है। until तथा as soon as जैसे समय-उपवाक्यों में, भूतकालीन रिपोर्टिंग के बाद क्रियाएँ उपयुक्त रूप से backshift होती हैं; इसलिए have been inspected → had been inspected और is over → was over हो जाता है। सर्वनाम भी बदले जाते हैं—me → him, your → their। केवल विकल्प A इन सभी बातों को स्वाभाविक ढंग से समाहित करता है; B में that-clauses के वर्तमान रूप भूत रिपोर्टिंग से टकराते हैं, C में double-negative जैसी भावना बनती है और completes बिना backshift के रह जाता है, जबकि D आदेशों को पूर्ण हो चुके भूतकालीन कार्यों जैसा बना देता है, जिससे निर्देशात्मक अर्थ कमज़ोर पड़ता है।

11. A) 'has announced... yesterday' गलत है क्योंकि Present Perfect Tense (has/have + V3) का प्रयोग past time adverbs जैसे yesterday, in 1990, last year के साथ नहीं होता। ऐसे मामलों में Past Indefinite (V2) का प्रयोग होता है।

उदाहरण — ✓ He visited Delhi yesterday. (✗ has visited Delhi yesterday)

"Has announced... yesterday" is incorrect because the Present Perfect Tense cannot be used with past time adverbs like yesterday, in 1990, last year. In such cases, we use the Past Indefinite Tense (V2).

Example — ✓ He visited Delhi yesterday. (✗ has visited Delhi yesterday)

12. B) past takes a noun phrase object ("the sleeping guards"), so it functions as a preposition, forming the prepositional phrase "past the sleeping guards."
past अपने बाद संज्ञा-समूह "the sleeping guards" को ले रहा है, इसलिए यह preposition है और "past the sleeping guards" एक prepositional phrase बनाता है।

13. A) S-R-P-Q

Open with S: it sets scope (Phase II, nasal vaccine), sample size (312 adults), and sites (four centers). हिंदी में, S ट्रायल की बुनियादी सूचना देता है—चरण, प्रतिभागी, केंद्र।

R follows because "After the initial cohort..." indicates a chronological pivot—an event (arrhythmia) that triggers change. हिंदी में, R समय संकेतक "After..." से आगे की कार्रवाई का कारण बताता है।

P then explains the nature of that change with the purpose marker "To address safety concerns," giving specific adjustments (dosage limit, 72-hour monitoring). हिंदी में, P बताता है कि सुरक्षा चिंताओं के कारण क्या-क्या संशोधन हुए।

Q concludes with results publication and effect size (45% reduction), logically after design and safety adaptations. हिंदी में, Q अंत में निष्कर्ष/परिणाम प्रस्तुत करता है—उचित समापन।

14. A) 'made' (causative verb) के बाद bare infinitive (V1) आता है; इसलिए 'to compile' गलत है, सही रूप 'compile' होगा।

जैसे— The teacher made the students rewrite the answer.

• 'compile ...' will be used instead of 'to compile ...' because after the causative verb 'make', we use the bare infinitive (base form) and not the to-infinitive.

Like— The manager made the team stay late to finish the report.

Correct sentence: The director made the interns compile a comprehensive dossier on competitor strategies, including pricing algorithms and distribution networks, before the review meeting began.

15. D) In reported questions, wh-words such as when/why/which are retained, but the clauses switch to declarative order without auxiliary–subject inversion, and a yes/no question takes whether or if. Because the reporting verb is in the past, past-simple events that are prior in time backshift to the past perfect, so did circulate becomes had circulated, did omit becomes had omitted, and approved becomes had approved. Deictic words also shift appropriately, with this draft becoming that draft and this deviation becoming that deviation, and the second person pronouns change to third person.

अप्रत्यक्ष वाक्य में प्रश्नवाचक वाक्यों के wh-शब्द वैसे ही बने रहते हैं, लेकिन सहायक क्रिया और कर्ता का उलट-फेर हटाकर वाक्य साधारण घोषणात्मक क्रम में रखा जाता है, तथा yes/no प्रकार के प्रश्न के लिए whether/if का प्रयोग किया जाता है। रिपोर्टिंग क्रिया भूत काल में होने के कारण समय में पूर्व घटित घटनाएँ past perfect में स्थानांतरित होती हैं; इसलिए did circulate → had circulated, did omit → had omitted, और approved → had approved हो जाता है। संकेतवाची शब्द भी बदलते हैं—this draft → that draft, this deviation → that deviation—और दूसरे पुरुष के सर्वनाम you/your का रूप third person में बदलता है।

16. A) Exclamations of admiration are reported by converting the exclamatory form into a declarative content clause with an evaluative reporting phrase, so exclaimed with admiration that the restoration was meticulous conveys tone without the exclamation syntax. The second sentence expresses a true past counterfactual, had released ... would not have suffered, which remains in the perfect conditional framework even after a past reporting verb because it encodes an unreal past condition and its unreal past result. Option A preserves both tone and meaning precisely; B needlessly backshifts the present evaluation and breaks sequence with will not suffer, C mishandles the exclamation structure and replaces the counterfactual with a speculative present frame, and D misreports tone and weakens the counterfactual result by using would not suffer instead of would not have suffered.

प्रशंसात्मक विस्मयसूचक वाक्य को अप्रत्यक्ष रूप में घोषणात्मक वाक्य बनाकर, उपयुक्त भावसूचक वाक्यांश के साथ प्रस्तुत किया जाता है; अतः “exclaimed with admiration that the restoration was meticulous” बिना विस्मय-रूप के वही सराहना व्यक्त करता है। दूसरी पंक्ति वास्तविक भूतकालीन प्रतिकल्प (counterfactual) है—“had released ... would not have suffered”—जो past reporting के बाद भी perfect conditional रूप में बनी रहती है, क्योंकि यह अवास्तविक भूत शर्त और उसके अवास्तविक भूत परिणाम को दर्शाती है। विकल्प A अर्थ और भाव, दोनों को यथावत रखता है; B अनावश्यक backshift कर देता है और “will not suffer” से काल-क्रम तोड़ देता है, C विस्मय संरचना और counterfactual दोनों का गलत रूप देता है, और D भाव को “with joy” कहकर बदल देता है तथा परिणाम को “would not have suffered” की जगह “would not suffer” करके कमज़ोर करता है।

17. A) 'needs not' गलत है क्योंकि जब need या dare के बाद not आता है, तो यह modal auxiliary बन जाता है और इसके बाद bare infinitive आता है। इस modal रूप में 's' नहीं लगता — सही होगा need not।

उदाहरण — ✓ She need not go there. (✗ needs not go there)

"Needs not" is incorrect because when need or dare is followed by not, it functions as a modal auxiliary and is followed by a bare infinitive. In this modal form, there is no 's' in the third person singular — the correct form is need not.

Example — ✓ She need not go there. (✗ needs not go there)

18. D) P-Q-R-S-T

Opening needs a context-setting sentence with full nouns, not back-references. P introduces year, place, and project—so P is the natural start. Q begins with "The announcement", a backward pointer that must refer to P; hence Q follows P (P→Q). R starts with "When field tests began," indicating a time-progression after planning/funding; this fits after Q (planning → testing). S uses a purpose marker "To preserve the launch date"—a remedial step caused by the problem in R (corrosion → redesign → switch to composites), so R→S is tight cause-effect. Finally, T starts with "These practical wins", a summarizing demonstrative requiring S's outcomes (noise reduction, composite casings) as antecedents; thus S→T.

शुरुआत ऐसी लाइन से होनी चाहिए जो किसी पर निर्भर न हो—P यही करता है (year + city + project). Q का "The announcement" सीधे P की ओर इशारा करता है, इसलिए Q तभी आ सकता है जब P पहले हो. R में "When field tests began" टाइम-शिफ्ट है—funding/plan के बाद टेस्टिंग, इसलिए Q के बाद. S में "To preserve the launch date"—R की समस्या (corrosion) के समाधान के रूप में आता है. T का "These practical wins" S की उपलब्धियों को समेटता है; इसलिए अंतिम T.

19. D) 'more better' के बदले केवल 'better' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि double comparative वर्जित है; 'better' स्वयं comparative है, इसलिए उसके साथ 'more' नहीं लगेगा।

जैसे— This route is better than the one we took yesterday.

• 'better than what analysts had anticipated during the earnings preview' will be used instead of 'more better than analysts had anticipated during the earnings preview' because 'better' is already a comparative form; adding 'more' creates an incorrect double comparative.

Like— This plan is better than the alternative we considered.

20. B) **Benchmark** (noun) – standard, criterion, yardstick, reference, measure (मानक)

Synonym: Yardstick – a standard for comparison (मापदंड)

Anomaly (noun) – deviation from the norm (विसंगति)

Exception (noun) – not conforming to a rule (अपवाद)

Irregularity (noun) – lack of uniformity (अनियमितता)

21. D) 'Itself' का use होगा क्योंकि यहां China (एक देश) के बारे में बात हो रही है, जिसे singular और neuter gender में refer किया जाता है। 'Itself' singular reflexive pronoun है जो China के लिए सही है।

'Himself' (masculine), 'themselves' (plural), और 'oneself' (general) इस context में grammatically incorrect हैं।

'Itself' will be used because China (a country) is being referred to here, which is singular and neuter. 'Itself' is the singular reflexive pronoun appropriate for China. 'Himself' (masculine), 'themselves' (plural), and 'oneself' (general) are grammatically incorrect in this context.

22. B) 'Tide' का use होगा क्योंकि "tide" का अर्थ होता है ज्वार या प्रवृत्ति। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि चीन के प्रभुत्व के खिलाफ एक नई लहर उठ रही है, इसलिए 'tide' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह बदलती प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है। जबकि 'Cliff' (चट्टान), 'Mountain' (पहाड़), और 'Overfall' (जलप्रपात) इस context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये physical चीजों को describe करते हैं, न कि परिस्थितियों के बदलाव को।

'Tide' will be used because it means a trend or a shift in direction. The sentence mentions that signs indicate a shift against China's dominance, making 'tide' appropriate here as it signifies a changing trend. Whereas, 'Cliff' (a steep rock face), 'Mountain' (a large landform), and 'Overfall' (a waterfall) are incorrect as they describe physical objects, not situational changes.

23. A) 'Is' का use होगा क्योंकि subject "a new wave of resistance" singular है। यहाँ "wave" main noun है, और "of resistance" prepositional phrase है जो subject को plural नहीं बनाता। इसलिए singular verb 'is' सही है। 'Are' plural के लिए होता है, 'were' और 'was' past tense में हैं, जबकि यहाँ present tense की आवश्यकता है।

'Is' will be used because the subject "a new wave of resistance" is singular. Here, "wave" is the main noun, and "of resistance" is a prepositional phrase that doesn't make the subject plural. Thus, the singular verb 'is' is correct. 'Are' is plural, while 'were' and 'was' are in the past tense, but the context requires present tense.

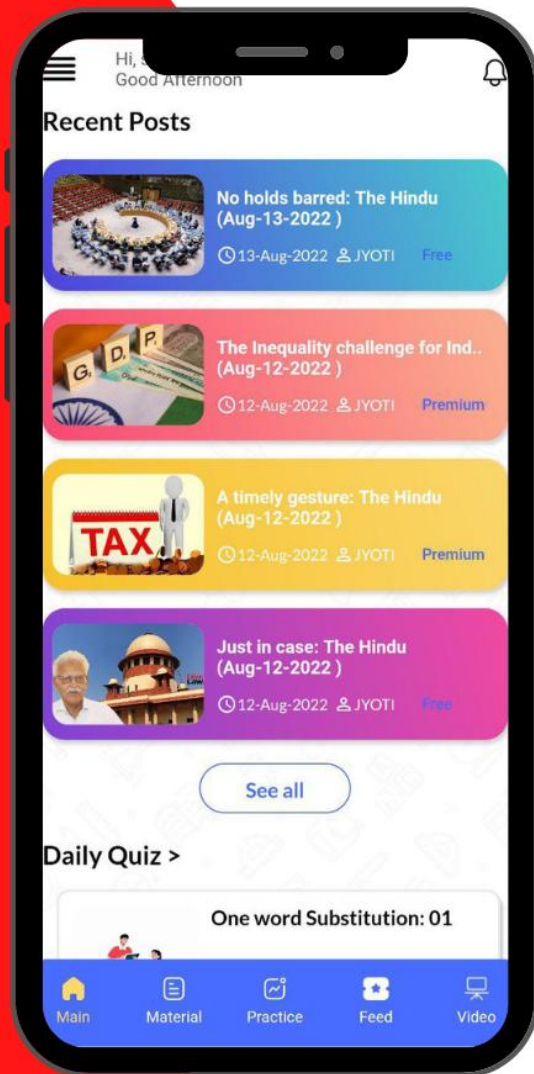
24. B) 'Asserting' का use होगा क्योंकि "asserting" का अर्थ होता है दृढ़ता से अधिकार या राय को व्यक्त करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि अफ्रीकी देश अब value-added development के अपने अधिकारों को दृढ़ता से व्यक्त कर रहे हैं, इसलिए 'asserting' यहाँ सही है। यह present continuous tense में है क्योंकि यह एक चल रही प्रक्रिया को दर्शाता है। जबकि 'Assert' (base form) tense के अनुसार सही नहीं है, 'Asserts' (singular present) subject-verb agreement के अनुसार गलत है (क्योंकि "African nations" plural है), और 'Asserted' (past tense) वर्तमान स्थिति को व्यक्त नहीं करता।

'Asserting' will be used because it means firmly stating one's rights or opinions. The sentence mentions that African nations are now firmly asserting their rights to value-added development, making 'asserting' correct here. It is in the present continuous tense as it shows an ongoing process. Whereas, 'Assert' (base form) doesn't match the tense, 'Asserts' (singular present) is incorrect due to subject-verb agreement (since "African nations" is plural), and 'Asserted' (past tense) doesn't convey the current scenario.

25. C) 'Tenable' का use होगा क्योंकि "tenable" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थिति या तर्क को बनाए रखने योग्य होना। passage में mention किया गया है कि अफ्रीकी देश अब मूल्य-वर्धित विकास की मांग कर रहे हैं, इसलिए कच्चे संसाधनों के बदले बुनियादी ढांचे का पुराना मॉडल अब बनाए रखने योग्य (tenable) नहीं

है। जबकि 'Indefensible' का अर्थ है जिसका बचाव न किया जा सके, 'Spindrift' समुद्री फेन को कहते हैं, और 'Fallacious' का अर्थ है गलत या भ्रामक, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Tenable' will be used because it means a situation or argument that can be maintained or defended. The passage mentions that African nations are now demanding value-added development, so the old model of raw resource extraction in exchange for infrastructure is no longer tenable (sustainable). Whereas, 'Indefensible' means unjustifiable, 'Spindrift' refers to sea spray, and 'Fallacious' means false or misleading, which don't fit here.



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