

Targeting research: On the silencing of independent research voices

Attacks on research institutions **reflect** India's declining academic freedoms

Mistakes and **misinterpretations** must not be confused with cases of **malicious misinformation**. The **filing** of FIRs against a researcher **associated** with Lokniti, a programme of the CSDS, and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)'s **show cause notice** to the CSDS, **represent** yet another troubling chapter in the recent **erosion** of academic freedoms in India. The **trigger** seems to be a post on X by Lokniti co-director Sanjay Kumar, which had **erroneous** data about reductions in the **electoral roll** in some constituencies in Maharashtra. Expressing regret, Mr. Kumar deleted the post. Yet, the BJP governments in Maharashtra and at the Centre have **weaponised** what is a mistake to launch broader attacks on the institution, despite the post having no connection to the Opposition's allegations about **inflated** electoral roll numbers during the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections. The ICSSR's **insinuations** about the CSDS-Lokniti's funding arrangements **echo** the treatment **meted out** to other **premier** institutions. The Centre for Policy Research faced tax surveys that **resulted in** the cancellation of its foreign funding licence and **tax-exempt** status. This targeting suggests a **coordinated** effort to **silence** independent research voices rather than **address** administrative concerns. Such acts have **led to** India's ranking falling to the bottom 20% among 179 nations in the 2024 Academic Freedom Index published by the V-Dem Institute.

Institutions such as CSDS-Lokniti **serve** a **vital** democratic function by conducting **empirical** research that helps understand policy **implications**. Through its National Election Studies and **comprehensive** data **archive**, Lokniti has helped transform the study of Indian politics to one based on **rigorous, large-scale** empirical inquiry. Its **survey** on the verification documents listed by the ECI during its **Special Intensive Revision** exercise in Bihar, among voters across five States and one Union Territory, **exemplifies** this. Rather than **acknowledging** the finding that the availability of such documents is rather low among a large **cohort** of voters in India, and places **onerous** burdens on voters **in the event of** a country-wise SIR, the ICSSR has **characterised** this research as an attempt to **malign** the ECI. How can policy **effectiveness** be **assessed** without rigorous empirical investigations such as well-designed and **transparent** opinion surveys? The current government has also **undermined** its own statistical **apparatus**. The delayed Census and **suppressed** statistical surveys **point to discomfort** with independent and critical analysis. As India **navigates** complex development challenges, it **desperately** needs **the kind of** critical feedback and evidence-based analysis that **institutions** such as the CSDS **provide**. **Silencing** these voices through administrative harassment and funding restrictions **serves** neither **good governance** nor national interest. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, mirror, reveal, signal दर्शाना
2. **Misinterpretation** (noun) – misreading, misconstruction, misunderstanding, false reading, wrong inference गलत व्याख्या
3. **Malicious** (adjective) – spiteful, malevolent, ill-intentioned, vindictive, pernicious दुराशयी
4. **Misinformation** (noun) – falsehood, false data, incorrect info, fake news, disinformation भ्रामक सूचना
5. **Associated** (with) (adjective) – connected, linked, related, affiliated, tied संबंधित
6. **Erosion** (noun) – deterioration, weakening, attrition, wearing-away, decline क्षरण
7. **Trigger** (noun) – catalyst, spark, cause, provocation, instigator कारक
8. **Erroneous** (adjective) – wrong, inaccurate, mistaken, fallacious, faulty त्रुटिपूर्ण
9. **Electoral roll** (noun) – voter list, voters' register, electoral register, roll of electors, voter database मतदाता सूची
10. **Weaponise** (verb) – militarise, arm, deploy as a weapon, instrumentalise, turn against हथियार बनाना
11. **Inflate** (verb) – exaggerate, overstate, pad, magnify, jack up बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर दिखाना
12. **Insinuation** (noun) – innuendo, hint, insinuated slur, sly suggestion, veiled allegation उकसावा, परोक्ष संकेत
13. **Echo** (verb) – Reverberate, rebound, resonate, reiterate, गूंजना/दुहराना
14. **Mete out** (phrasal verb) – dispense, administer, dole out, hand out, allot देना
15. **Premier** (adjective) – leading, top-tier, foremost, pre-eminent, flagship प्रमुख
16. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – lead to, cause, bring about, culminate in, yield परिणाम देना
17. **Tax-exempt status** (noun) – exemption status, tax-free status, non-taxable category, fiscal exemption, tax immunity कर-मुक्त दर्जा
18. **Coordinated** (adjective) – harmonised, aligned, orchestrated, unified, concerted समन्वित
19. **Silence** (verb) – muzzle, stifle, gag, shut down, quieten चुप कराना
20. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, confront, respond to, attend to निपटाना
21. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, produce, induce का कारण बनना
22. **Serve** (verb) – function, act, operate, fulfill a role, serve as कार्य करना

23. **Vital** (adjective) – essential, crucial, indispensable, pivotal, key अत्यावश्यक
24. **Empirical** (adjective) – data-driven, evidence-based, observational, measured, experiential अनुभवजन्य/ प्रयोगसिद्ध
25. **Implication** (noun) – consequence, upshot, ramification, import, meaning निहितार्थ
26. **Comprehensive** (adjective) – exhaustive, wide-ranging, all-encompassing, thorough, complete व्यापक
27. **Archive** (noun) – repository, records vault, data bank, depository, collection अभिलेखागार
28. **Rigorous** (adjective) – strict, exacting, stringent, robust, meticulous कठोर
29. **Large-scale** (adjective) – extensive, nationwide, broad-based, mass, wide-scale बड़े पैमाने का
30. **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** (noun) – A focused exercise by the Election Commission to update and verify voter details, ensuring accuracy and transparency in the electoral process.
31. **Exemplify** (verb) – illustrate, demonstrate, typify, show, epitomise उदाहरण देना
32. **Acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, concede, recognise, own up स्वीकार करना
33. **Cohort** (noun) – group, segment, category, constituency, demographic समूह
34. **Onerous** (adjective) – burdensome, taxing, heavy, arduous, exacting दुष्कर
35. **In the event of** (phrase) – in case of, should there be, if there is, upon, in occurrence of की स्थिति में
36. **Characterise** (verb) – describe, portray, depict, brand, label वर्णित करना
37. **Malign** (verb) – defame, vilify, slander, smear, traduce बदनाम करना
38. **Effectiveness** (noun) – efficacy, impact, potency, usefulness, performance प्रभावशीलता
39. **Assess** (verb) – evaluate, appraise, gauge, measure, review आकलन करना
40. **Transparent** (adjective) – open, clear, accountable, see-through, forthright पारदर्शी
41. **Undermine** (verb) – weaken, erode, sabotage, impair, undercut कमजोर करना
42. **Apparatus** (noun) – machinery, framework, system, setup, institutional machinery तंत्र
43. **Suppress** (verb) – withhold, stifle, bury, conceal, quash दबा देना
44. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, signal, highlight, allude to संकेत करना

45. **Discomfort** (noun) – unease, disquiet, anxiety, restlessness, awkwardness
असहजता
46. **Navigate** (verb) – steer, manage, negotiate, handle, work through
सँभालना/मार्गदर्शन करना
47. **Desperately** (adverb) – urgently, acutely, pressing, intensely, severely बेहद
48. **The kind of** (phrase) – such, the sort of, the type of, the variety of, that kind of जिस तरह का
49. **Good governance** (noun) – the process by which public institutions effectively, efficiently, and equitably meet society's needs while being transparent, accountable, and responsive to its citizens
सुशासन

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Misinterpretation vs. Misinformation** – Honest mistakes in data should not be treated as malicious misinformation.
2. **FIR Filed Against Researcher** – Sanjay Kumar of CSDS-Lokniti faced an FIR for posting incorrect electoral-roll data on X, despite promptly deleting it and expressing regret.
3. **Disproportionate Political Reaction** – BJP-led governments in Maharashtra and at the Centre used this error to launch wider attacks on CSDS-Lokniti.
4. **Unrelated to Opposition Allegations** – The post was unrelated to opposition claims about inflated electoral rolls in the 2024 Maharashtra elections.
5. **ICSSR's Show-Cause Notice** – ICSSR issued a notice questioning CSDS-Lokniti's funding, echoing tactics used against other independent research institutions.
6. **Pattern of Institutional Targeting** – Similar punitive action has hit the Centre for Policy Research, which lost its foreign-funding licence and tax-exempt status.
7. **Co-ordinated Silencing Effort** – These moves suggest a concerted attempt to mute independent research voices rather than genuine administrative oversight.
8. **Plunge in Academic-Freedom Ranking** – India now ranks in the bottom 20 % of 179 countries on the 2024 Academic Freedom Index (V-Dem Institute).
9. **Democratic Value of Lokniti** – CSDS-Lokniti plays a crucial democratic role by producing empirical research that informs policy and public discourse.
10. **Evidence-Based Political Analysis** – Through National Election Studies and rich data archives, Lokniti has made Indian politics a data-driven field.
11. **Electoral-Verification Survey** – Its Bihar SIR survey revealed low document availability, indicating burdens on voters if a nationwide revision were attempted.
12. **Government's Hostile Response** – ICSSR framed this research as an attempt to malign the Election Commission rather than engage with its substantive findings.
13. **Need for Empirical Evaluation** – Effective policy requires rigorous, transparent opinion surveys and independent analysis.
14. **Weakening of Official Statistics** – The government's delay of the Census and suppression of statistical surveys further erodes independent data systems.
15. **Harassment Hurts Governance** – Administrative intimidation and funding curbs on research bodies harm good governance and national interest.

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

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Optimistic
 - D. Sarcastic
2. **Which of the following is most reasonably inferred from the passage about the government's approach to independent research bodies such as CSDS-Lokniti and CPR?**
 - A. It actively supports large-scale opinion surveys and shields researchers from legal action.
 - B. It seeks to discipline or align independent research through administrative and fiscal pressure.
 - C. It is neutral and allows legal and academic processes to proceed without interference.
 - D. It is mainly interested in correcting isolated social-media errors rather than scrutinizing institutions.
3. **Choose the option that best completes the sentence from the passage's context and meaning.**

"The ICSSR's _____ about the CSDS-Lokniti's funding arrangements echo the treatment meted out to other premier institutions."

 - A. clarifications
 - B. insinuations
 - C. endorsements
 - D. concessions
4. **Read the statement carefully. Choose the option (A–D) that best evaluates its truthfulness strictly on the basis of the passage**

Statement: "Sanjay Kumar's erroneous X post was connected to the Opposition's allegations of inflated electoral roll numbers during the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections."

 - A. True — because the post directly substantiated the Opposition's claim of inflated voter rolls in 2024 and therefore triggered official scrutiny of Lokniti-CSDS.
 - B. True — because Lokniti formally endorsed the Opposition's narrative and coordinated with political parties to publicize it.
 - C. False — because the passage states the post had no connection to the Opposition's allegations; it mistakenly cited reductions in some constituencies, was deleted with regret, and was nevertheless used by governments to attack the institution.
 - D. False — because ICSSR had already cleared Lokniti's funding compliance long before the post, making any link to the Opposition's claims irrelevant.
5. **Which institution is cited as having had its foreign funding licence and tax-exempt status cancelled following tax surveys?**
 - A. CSDS–Lokniti
 - B. Centre for Policy Research (CPR)
 - C. V-Dem Institute
 - D. Election Commission of India (ECI)
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Having got excited she opened up the Pandora's Box which led to lot of commotion

 - A. uproar

- B. peace
C. sound
D. furious
7. **Examine the four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options, pick the one that gives their correct order.**
A. These young cadets undergo a rigorous training program which is aimed to prepare them for the Armed Forces.
B. Finally after the Senior Secondary examination these cadets compete to qualify for entry into the National Defence Academy located in Pune.
C. It is also referred to as the Cradle of Excellence which trains cadets from the early age of 12.
D. Nestled in a lush green campus of 18 acres in Dehradun Cantonment is the RIMC, the Rashtriya Indian Military Academy
A. ABDC
B. CABD
C. DABC
D. DCAB
8. **Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.**
Alas! He has been defeated.
A. Adjective
B. Adverb
C. Interjection
D. Conjunction
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
The inherent danger in the problem is that it would lead to many more problems
A. outward
B. difficult
C. hallow
D. inbuilt
10. **Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.**
(i) It is still true that the Indian economy is dependent on monsoon.
(ii) It would be nice to have a good evening stroll after five hours of office.
(iii) Arun likes Geography more than he likes History.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 1
D. All are correct
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
The decision was absurd for many of the members of the team.
A. bizarre
B. meaningless
C. reasonable
D. thoughtful

12. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

His arguments are not valid. People consider it **bombastic**

- A. outdated
- B. straight forward
- C. verbose
- D. not true

13. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.

- A. In India, forests are huge catchment areas for rivers and streams as they help in storing water.
- B. If these forests continue to be felled indiscriminately, rivers and streams will dry up leading to drought.
- C. Due to this many states are facing shortage of water in the summer months.
- D. Unfortunately, these dense forest areas are disappearing

- A. DCBA
- B. ABCD
- C. CADB
- D. ADCB

14. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

The feathers fly

- A. To add more success to one's career
- B. To fight and argue a lot
- C. To lead a carefree life
- D. To get into a romantic relationship

15. Identify the number of sentence/s is/are grammatically incorrect and select the option which shows how many sentences are grammatically incorrect. If all the sentences are correct, then select option (D), all are correct.

- (i) He had been doing the job of a physician during the 1990s.
- (ii) He said that he preferred coffee than tea.
- (iii) All that glitters are not gold.

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 1
- D. All are correct

16. Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.

Similar mishaps are continually **happening** on the new highway because of improper signalling.

- A. manifesting
- B. occurring
- C. repeating
- D. no improvement

17. Identify the part of speech of the underlined word.

The preacher said, "No one is **above** the all powerful"

- A. Adverb
- B. Place value

C. Preposition

D. Verb

18. **Improve the bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**

The visiting school children **circumnavigated around** the Dal Lake with visible delight during their visit to Srinagar.

A. circumnavigated about

B. circumnavigated on

C. circumnavigated

D. no improvement

19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

A foregone conclusion

A. A generous gift

B. A confusing idea

C. An obvious speculation

D. An inevitable result

20. **convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure**

The keys were found by him under the old wooden table.

A. He finds the keys under the old wooden table.

B. He was finding the keys under the old wooden table.

C. He is finding the keys under the old wooden table.

D. He found the keys under the old wooden table.

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 annual Glastonbury music festival in Britain usually makes headlines for its grand _____ (1) _____ of contemporary and legendary musical talent. This year, Glasto made headlines instead for becoming centre stage of anti-Israel sloganeering and calls of _____ (2) _____ - including 'Death, death to the IDF'. Such is the ruckus even a week after the 5-day fest ended that two performers accused _____ (3) _____ antisemitic incitement - English punk rap duo Bob Vylan and Northern Irish hip-hop trio Kneecap - are now under criminal investigation. Many have been rightly appalled by their call for 'violence against violence' in the context of Israel's continued mass murders in Gaza. The latest _____ (4) _____ over BBC - the independent-but-not-quite-independent public service broadcaster - not cutting its broadcast feed of Bob Vylan's performance it later described as 'offensive and deplorable' despite 'internal warnings', _____ (5) _____ led to parliamentary debate and a BBC apology.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

A. solitude

B. docility

C. congregation

D. recognition

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

A. affront

- B. starvation
 - C. atrocity
 - D. defiance
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
- A. of
 - B. at
 - C. on
 - D. for
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**
- A. armistice
 - B. concord
 - C. fracas
 - D. hassle
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
- A. have
 - B. was
 - C. were
 - D. has

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Critical

The passage condemns FIRs/funding crackdowns and warns of “erosion of academic freedoms,” a clearly critical stance.

B Neutral—incorrect: the author takes a clear position.

C Optimistic—incorrect: it highlights decline/harassment, not hope.

D Sarcastic—incorrect: the register is serious, not mocking.

2. B) It seeks to discipline or align independent research through administrative and fiscal pressure.

The passage cites FIRs, show-cause notices, tax surveys, and funding-license cancellations, plus delayed Census/suppressed surveys—together suggesting pressure aimed at silencing/disciplining independent research.

A: examples show harassment, not protection.

C: multiple interventions show non-neutrality.

D: the passage points to broader institutional targeting, not just social-media corrections.

3. B) insinuations

“Insinuations” (subtle/hostile suggestions) fits the critical tone and aligns with the idea of casting suspicion.

A: “Clarifications” implies neutral explanation—doesn’t match accusatory tone.

C: “Endorsements” is positive—opposite of the passage’s critique.

D: “Concessions” means yielding/compromise—semantically off here.

4. C) False — because the passage states the post had no connection to the Opposition’s allegations; it mistakenly cited reductions in some constituencies, was deleted with regret, and was nevertheless used by governments to attack the institution.

A: Contradicts the passage; it says there was “no connection.”

B: Introduces facts not stated (endorsement/coordination), hence unsupported.

D: Adds an unstated premise (ICSSR “cleared” funding); the passage mentions insinuations and notices, not a prior clean chit.

5. B) Centre for Policy Research (CPR)

The passage states CPR faced tax surveys that led to cancellation of its foreign funding licence and tax-exempt status.

A: Wrong—CSDS—Lokniti received a show-cause notice/pressure, not cancellation of licence/status.

C: Wrong—V-Dem is cited only as publisher of the Academic Freedom Index.

D: Wrong—ECI appears in context of verification documents and alleged “maligning,” not licence/status cancellation.

6. A) Commotion (noun) – Disturbance, turmoil, chaos, confusion, uproar. हलचल / कोलाहल

Synonym: Uproar (noun) – Loud noise, outcry, tumult, racket, clamor. शोर-शराबा

• **Peace** (noun) – Calmness, tranquility, harmony, silence. शांति

- **Sound** (noun) – Noise in general, not necessarily chaotic or disturbing. ध्वनि / आवाज़
- **Furious** (adjective) – Extremely angry, enraged, wrathful, violent. क्रोधित

7. D) **DCAB**

D starts the sentence by introducing the subject "RIMC (Rashtriya Indian Military Academy)", which tells us what the passage is about.

C follows D as it provides additional information about the RIMC using the pronoun "It" (referring back to RIMC) and describes its role as the "Cradle of Excellence", which trains cadets from an early age.

A comes next as it logically continues the idea introduced in C by explaining what these cadets undergo—"rigorous training"—connecting back to the training mentioned earlier.

B concludes the passage by explaining the final stage of these cadets' journey—competing for entry into the National Defence Academy—after their Senior Secondary examination.

In Hindi:

D sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह "RIMC" को subject के रूप में introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि passage किसके बारे में है।

C, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "It" (RIMC को refer करते हुए) का उपयोग करके RIMC के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी देता है और इसे "Cradle of Excellence" बताता है, जो 12 साल की उम्र से ही cadets को train करता है।

A, C के बाद logically आता है क्योंकि यह उन cadets के training के बारे में बताता है, जिसका C में जिक्र हुआ था—"rigorous training program"।

B passage को conclude करता है, क्योंकि यह cadets के journey के final stage—Senior Secondary exam के बाद NDA में entry के लिए competition—को बताता है।

8. C) **Alas!** Interjection है, जो अचानक उत्पन्न भावना (emotion) को व्यक्त करता है। यहाँ यह दुख और खेद (sorrow/regret) को प्रकट कर रहा है।

'Alas!' functions as an Interjection, expressing sudden emotion of sorrow/regret.

9. D) **Inherent** (adjective) – Inbuilt, intrinsic, innate, fundamental, natural. जन्मजात / अंतर्निहित

Synonym: Inbuilt (adjective) – Existing as a natural or essential part; intrinsic, integral, innate. अंतर्निहित

- **Outward** (adjective) – External, visible, superficial, outside. बाहरी
- **Difficult** (adjective) – Hard, challenging, tough, arduous. कठिन
- **Hallow** (verb) – To make holy, sanctify, consecrate. पवित्र करना

10. B) **2**

(i) Error

'monsoon' से पहले article लगेगा: dependent on the monsoon; 'on/upon' दोनों चल सकते हैं, पर 'the' आवश्यक है। सही वाक्य— It is still true that the Indian economy is dependent on the monsoon.

Insert the article before 'monsoon': dependent on the monsoon (on/upon both fine). Correct: It is still true that the Indian economy is dependent on the monsoon.

(ii) Error

'five hours of office' अशुद्ध है; स्थान/कार्यस्थल के लिए at the office आएगा। सही— It would be nice to have a good evening stroll after five hours at the office.

Use at the office (not 'of'). Correct: It would be nice to have a good evening stroll after five hours at the office.

(iii) **No Error**

वाक्य व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही है: Arun likes Geography more than he likes History. (इसे संक्षेप में भी लिख सकते हैं: Arun likes Geography more than History.)

Grammatically fine as written (parallel structure). A shorter variant—Arun likes Geography more than History—is also correct.

11. C) **absurd** (adjective) – Illogical, ridiculous, senseless, foolish, preposterous. बेतुका / हास्यास्पद

Antonym: Reasonable (adjective) – Rational, logical, sensible, fair, sound. तर्कसंगत / उचित

- **Bizarre** (adjective) – Strange, odd, unusual, weird, grotesque. अजीब
- **Meaningless** (adjective) – Worthless, insignificant, trivial, purposeless. निरर्थक
- **Thoughtful** (adjective) – Reflective, considerate, contemplative, pensive. विचारशील

12. B) **Bombastic** (adjective) – Pompous, inflated, pretentious, grandiloquent, flowery. फूला हुआ / डींग मारने वाला

Antonym: Straightforward (adjective) – Simple, direct, clear, unpretentious, plain. सीधा-सादा

- **Outdated** (adjective) – Old-fashioned, obsolete, antiquated, passé. पुराना
- **Verbose** (adjective) – Wordy, long-winded, loquacious, garrulous.
- **Not true** (phrase) – False, incorrect, untrue. गलत

13. D) **ADCB**

A starts the sentence by introducing the subject "forests in India" and their role as catchment areas for rivers and streams.

D follows A because it introduces a contrast ("Unfortunately") and mentions the problem—the disappearance of these forests.

C comes next as it explains the consequence of forests disappearing—water shortage in summer months.

B concludes the sentence by explaining the future consequence if deforestation continues—drying up of rivers and drought.

In Hindi:

A sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह subject "forests in India" को introduce करता है और उनका role बताता है (rivers और streams के लिए catchment areas)।

D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह एक contrast ("Unfortunately") देता है और problem बताता है—forests का गायब होना। "These dense forest areas" पिछले sentence के forests को refer करता है।

C, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह consequence बताता है—पानी की कमी। "Due to this" पिछले sentence (D) के problem को refer करता है।

B sentence को complete करता है, future consequence (drought) explain करके। "These forests" फिर से पहले के forests को refer करता है।

14. B) **The feathers fly** (idiom) – To fight and argue a lot झगड़ना और बहस करना

15. A) A) 3

(i) Error

'had been doing' के बदले Simple Past ('worked') या Past Continuous ('was working') का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि "the 1990s" एक समाप्त हो चुकी अवधि है और कोई बाद का past-anchor नहीं है; 'since' नहीं, 'during/in the 1990s' सही। जैसे— He worked as a physician during the 1990s. • Use Simple Past ('worked') or Past Continuous ('was working') instead of 'had been doing' because "the 1990s" is a finished period with no later past reference. Like— He worked as a physician during the 1990s.

(ii) Error

'prefer' के बाद संरचना X to Y होती है, 'than' नहीं; सही वाक्य— He said that he preferred coffee to tea. • After 'prefer' the correct pattern is X to Y, not 'than'; correct: He said that he preferred coffee to tea.

(iii) Error

Subject-verb agreement तथा मानक कहावत के अनुसार 'All that glitters is not gold' (या अधिक तार्किक: 'Not all that glitters is gold'); 'are' की जगह 'is' होगा। • By subject-verb agreement and the standard proverb, use 'is': All that glitters is not gold (or: Not all that glitters is gold).

16. B) 'happening' के बदले '**occurring**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का आशय "लगातार दुर्घटनाएँ घट रही हैं" से है। यहाँ 'occur' (to take place, to happen) सही क्रिया है, जबकि 'happen' बोलचाल में सही है परन्तु औपचारिक/सही प्रयोग में 'occur' अधिक उपयुक्त है। जैसे— Similar accidents are continually occurring due to careless driving.

'occurring' will be used instead of 'happening' because the sentence intends to express "mishaps are taking place repeatedly." The verb 'occur' (to take place, to happen) is more precise and formal in this context, while 'happen' is more casual. Like— Similar accidents are continually occurring due to careless driving.

17. C) '**above**' यहाँ एक Preposition है, क्योंकि यह 'the all powerful' (noun phrase) के साथ जुड़कर स्थानिक/स्तरीय संबंध को दर्शा रहा है — अर्थात् कोई भी व्यक्ति सर्वशक्तिमान से ऊँचा/ऊपर नहीं है।

- 'above' functions as a Preposition, showing relation in terms of position or hierarchy (higher than the all powerful).

18. C) 'Circumnavigated around' के बदले केवल '**circumnavigated**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि circumnavigate शब्द का अर्थ ही होता है "चारों ओर घूमना / परिक्रमा करना।" इसके साथ around लगाने से अर्थ दुहराव (redundancy) हो जाता है। जैसे— The sailors circumnavigated the globe. (यहाँ 'around' की आवश्यकता नहीं है)।

- 'circumnavigated' will be used instead of 'circumnavigated around' because the verb circumnavigate itself means "to travel/go all the way around something." Adding around makes it redundant.

Like— The sailors circumnavigated the globe. (Here, around is unnecessary).

19. D) **A foregone conclusion** (idiom) – An inevitable result अपरिहार्य परिणाम

20. D) He found the keys under the old wooden table.

Passive sentence: The keys (object) were found (simple past passive) by him (agent) under the old wooden table (place).

Rule: Object + was/were + V³ + by + agent → Agent + V² + object (+ place/time).

Apply: him → he (agent becomes subject), were found → found (V², simple past), keep the keys as object, keep place phrase.

Result: He found the keys under the old wooden table.

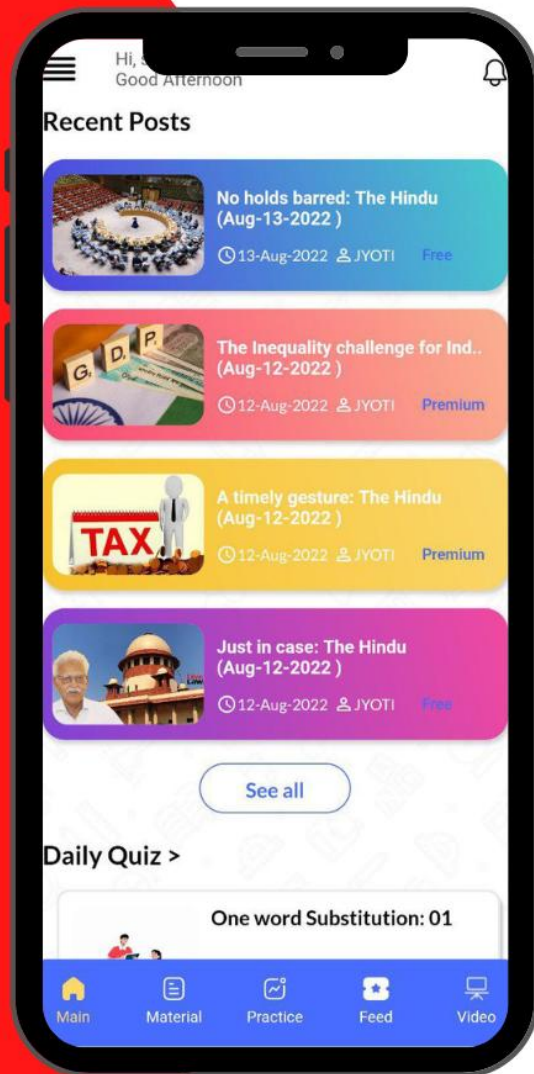
21. C) **Congregation** का use होगा क्योंकि "congregation" का अर्थ है बड़ी संख्या में लोगों या समूह का इकट्ठा होना। Passage में कहा गया है कि Glastonbury festival अपने grand congregation of musical talent (यानी समकालीन और दिग्गज संगीत प्रतिभाओं के भव्य जमावड़े) के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। इसलिए यहाँ यह शब्द contextually और grammatically सही है। जबकि 'Solitude' का अर्थ है एकांत, 'Docility' का अर्थ है विनम्रता या आज्ञाकारिता, और 'Recognition' का अर्थ है पहचान या सराहना, जो festival के भव्य जमावड़े को व्यक्त नहीं करते।
- **'Congregation'** will be used because it means a large gathering or assembly of people. The sentence highlights that the Glastonbury festival is famous for its grand congregation of contemporary and legendary musical talent. Whereas, 'Solitude' means loneliness, 'Docility' means submissiveness, and 'Recognition' means acknowledgment, none of which fit the idea of a festival showcasing many artists together.
22. D) **Defiance** का use होगा क्योंकि "defiance" का अर्थ है खुला विरोध या विद्रोह। Passage में कहा गया है कि festival में anti-Israel sloganeering और calls of defiance (यानी विद्रोही नारे और चुनौतीपूर्ण रुख) लगाए गए। इसलिए यहाँ 'defiance' सही है। जबकि 'Affront' का अर्थ है अपमान, 'Starvation' का अर्थ है भूख से मरना, और 'Atrocity' का अर्थ है क्रूरता, जो sloganeering और विरोध के context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- **'Defiance'** will be used because it means open resistance or bold disobedience. The sentence mentions anti-Israel sloganeering and calls of defiance, which perfectly fits the context of protest. Whereas, 'Affront' means insult, 'Starvation' means extreme hunger, and 'Atrocity' means cruelty — none of which convey the sense of protest or rebellious calls in this context.
23. A) **Of** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ performers पर antisemitic incitement का आरोप लगाया गया है। अंग्रेजी में सही phrase होता है "accused of" किसी crime या wrongdoing के लिए। इसलिए 'of' grammatically सही है। जबकि 'At', 'On', और 'For' prepositions इस verb 'accused' के साथ सही idiomatic usage नहीं बनाते।
- **'Of'** will be used because the correct collocation in English is "accused of" when referring to being charged with a crime or offense. The sentence states that two performers were accused of antisemitic incitement. Whereas, 'At', 'On', and 'For' are not grammatically correct prepositions after 'accused' in this context.
24. C) **Fracas** का use होगा क्योंकि "fracas" का अर्थ है शोरगुल, झगड़ा या हंगामा। Passage में बताया गया है कि BBC के ऊपर विवाद हुआ क्योंकि उसने प्रदर्शन का broadcast काटा नहीं। इसलिए 'the latest fracas over BBC' (BBC को लेकर हुआ ताज़ा विवाद/हंगामा) contextually और grammatically सही है। जबकि 'Armistice' का अर्थ है युद्धविराम, 'Concord' का अर्थ है शांति या

समझौता, और 'Hassle' का अर्थ है झंझट या छोटी-मोटी परेशानी, जो इस बड़े सार्वजनिक विवाद को व्यक्त नहीं करते।

- 'Fracas' will be used because it means a noisy disturbance or controversy. The sentence highlights the latest fracas over BBC not cutting the broadcast feed despite warnings, making it contextually correct. Whereas, 'Armistice' means ceasefire, 'Concord' means agreement or harmony, and 'Hassle' means a minor inconvenience — none convey the sense of a serious public uproar here.

25. D) **Has** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ singular subject “the latest fracas over BBC” है और present perfect tense में क्रिया का सही रूप singular subject के लिए has होता है। Sentence में कहा गया है कि यह विवाद parliamentary debate and a BBC apology तक ले गया। इसलिए 'has led' grammatically सही है। जबकि 'Have' plural subjects के साथ आता है, 'Was' और 'Were' past tense के लिए होते हैं और present perfect के context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Has' will be used because the subject “the latest fracas over BBC” is singular and the sentence requires present perfect tense: has led to parliamentary debate. Whereas, 'Have' is for plural subjects, 'Was' and 'Were' are past tense forms and do not fit the present perfect construction here.



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