Déjà vu: on India's monsoon vulnerabilities

India must reduce monsoon **vulnerabilities**, not just build response abilities

Heavy rain has left a **trail** of destruction across North India. Several districts have been **cut off** across Himachal Pradesh. Jammu and Kashmir reported over 40 deaths while **swollen** rivers **breached** flood **marks** in Srinagar and Anantnag. In Punjab, entire villages have been **inundated** and farmland has disappeared. The national capital, too, reported excessive rainfall and a **surging** Yamuna. The **intensity and the volumes** of the southwest monsoon **have** been **swinging** sharply between **the extremes**. August's rain has arrived in concentrated **bursts**, **overwhelming fragile slopes** in the Himalaya, **bursting banks** in the plains, and inundating low-lying regions. This **erraticism** has cut across **geographies** in a sign of the monsoon's increasing **unpredictability**. The consequences go beyond immediate damage. **Intense** rain over short periods **amplifies** local **erosion**. Mountain slopes **destabilise** and raise risks for settlements far removed. **Relief**, in this context, **cannot** be **confined to** reactive measures. The **knowledge** that concentrated, destructive rainfall is now a **recurring** possibility **makes** it **imperative** for States and the Centre to invest in preventive strategies. **Continuing** to treat such events as **unforeseeable** emergencies **is** to deny the evidence already **at hand**.

Indeed, **framing** each **calamity** as "**unprecedented**" **distracts** from the **lessons** that should already **have been learnt**. In Himalayan States, forest clearance and road-widening continue **sans** adjustments such as slope-safe engineering in eco-sensitive zones despite experts warning of **irreversibly** weakened slopes. As **catchments' buffering capacity shrinks**, **the chance** of slope failure **rises** while **silt accumulates** in dams and rivers downstream, worsening the flood load. Yet, despite repeated disasters, the early warning and **evacuation architecture** remains underdeveloped. The **capacity** to forecast heavy rain **has** improved but it is not being translated into reliable ground-level warnings. Relief agencies **mobilise** once the damage has occurred, but systematic drills, pre-positioned supplies and community **preparedness** remain insufficient. Sadly, States and the Centre continue to **pursue strategic** road projects and urban expansion with urgency, even in landscapes **repeatedly flagged** as **unstable**, while **climate-resilient infrastructure lags**. Compensatory **afforestation** and **rehabilitation** rarely match the qualitative **attributes** of what has been lost. The **cumulative** effect is visible as **denuded** slopes, shrinking catchment areas, and populations at increasingly higher risk. Relief operations command headlines and budgets but unless **sustainable** infrastructure, landslide **mitigation** and early-warning systems are pursued equally seriously, the next monsoon **spell** will launch another cycle of loss. **Shifting** from **acclaiming** resilience, **post facto**, to systematically reducing vulnerabilities **beforehand remains** overdue.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

- **Indeed** (adverb) – Actually, in reality, in fact, certainly वास्तव में

- **Spell** (noun) – a short period. अवधि

Vocabulary

1. Déjà vu (noun) – sense of repetition, familiar feeling, seen-it-before feeling, recurrence, repeat-echo पहले जैसा अनुभव

2. Vulnerability (noun) – susceptibility, exposure, fragility, weakness, risk असुरक्षा

3. Trail (noun) – wake, path, track, aftermath, trace निशान

4. Cut off (phrasal verb) – isolate, sever, disconnect, block, maroon अलग कर देना

5. Swollen (adjective) – engorged, bloated, brimming, surging, overfull उफना हुआ

6. Breach (verb) – break, overtop, burst through, violate, rupture तोड़ना

7. Mark (noun) – level, gauge, benchmark, line, threshold स्तर

8. Inundate (verb) – flood, submerge, deluge, swamp, drown जलमग्न होना

9. Surging (adjective) – rising, swelling, rushing, mounting, rapidly increasing तेजी से बढ़ता

10. Intensity (noun) – severity, force, strength, magnitude, ferocity तीव्रता

11. Swing (verb) – fluctuate, oscillate, vary, seesaw, veer उतार-चढ़ाव होना

12. The extremes (noun) – polarities, opposite ends, outer limits, highs and lows, far ends अत्यंत सीमाएँ

13. Burst (noun) – a period of continuous and intense effort. विस्फोट

14. Overwhelming (adjective) – overpowering, crushing, inundating, enormous, staggering अत्यधिक

15. Fragile (adjective) – delicate, brittle, flimsy, frail, tender नाजुक

16. Slope (noun) – incline, hillside, gradient, escarpment, bank ढलान

17. Burst (verb) – break, rupture, split, explode, overtop फूट पड़ना

18. Bank (noun) – riverbank, embankment, levee, shore, verge तट

19. Erraticism (noun) – irregularity, volatility, capriciousness, inconsistency, unpredictability अनियमितता

20. Geography (noun) – region, terrain, landscape, area, topography भूक्षेत्र

21. Unpredictability (noun) – uncertainty, variability, randomness, indeterminacy, unreliability अनिश्चितता

22. Intense (adjective) – severe, heavy, fierce, extreme, torrential भीषण

23. Amplify (verb) – magnify, heighten, intensify, exacerbate, escalate बढ़ा देना

24. Erosion (noun) – scouring, wear, degradation, denudation, washout कटाव

25. Destabilise (verb) – unsettle, weaken, undermine, unbalance, loosen अस्थिर करना

26. Confine (to) (adjective) – limited to, restricted to, bounded to, circumscribed to, contained to तक सीमित

27. Recurring (adjective) – repeated, periodic, frequent, cyclical, continual बार-बार होने वाला

28. Imperative (noun) – necessity, urgent need, priority, must, obligation आवश्यकता

29. Unforeseeable (adjective) – unpredictable, unforeseen, incalculable, unknowable, unexpected अपूर्वानुमेय

30. At hand (phrase) – imminent, near, within reach, present, close by निकट

31. Frame (verb) – present, cast, formulate, construct, articulate प्रस्तुत करना

32. Calamity (noun) – disaster, catastrophe, crisis, tragedy, debacle आपदा

33. Unprecedented (adjective) – unparalleled, never-before, unmatched, novel, extraordinary अभूतपूर्व

34. Distract (verb) – divert, sidetrack, deflect, draw away, mislead भटकाना

35. Learn the lesson (phrase) – take heed, draw lessons, internalize learning, heed warnings, absorb the lesson सबक सीखना

36. Sans (preposition) – without, lacking, minus, devoid of, free of के बिना

37. Irreversibly (adverb) – permanently, irrevocably, irretrievably, unalterably, conclusively अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से

38. Catchment (noun) – watershed, drainage basin, river basin, catchment area, feeder area जलागम क्षेत्र

39. Buffering capacity (noun) – absorptive capacity, holding capacity, dampening capacity, resilience, storage capacity अवशोषण क्षमता

40. Shrink (verb) – contract, diminish, dwindle, reduce, narrow कम होना

41. Silt (noun) – sediment, alluvium, mud, deposit, sludge गाद

42. Accumulate (verb) – build up, gather, pile up, amass, collect जमना

43. Evacuation (noun) – removal, relocation, clearance, withdrawal, rescue निकासी

44. Architecture (noun) – framework, structure, system, design, setup ढाँचा

45. Mobilise (verb) – deploy, muster, activate, rally, organize जुटाना

46. Preparedness (noun) – readiness, readiness level, preplanning, readiness posture, alertness तत्परता

47. Pursue (verb) – implement, undertake, advance, push, follow अमल करना

48. Strategic (adjective) – priority, long-term, key, defense-critical, high-stakes रणनीतिक

49. Repeatedly (adverb) – again and again, time and again, frequently, persistently, continually बार-बार

50. Flag (verb) – highlight, signal, point out, raise, mark चिह्नित करना

51. Unstable (adjective) – shaky, precarious, insecure, unsound, volatile अस्थिर

52. Climate-resilient (adjective) – climate-robust, adaptive, climate-proof, climate-hardy, resilient-to-climate जलवायु-अनुकूल

53. Infrastructure (noun) – public works, systems, facilities, networks, built environment बुनियादी ढाँचा

54. Lag (verb) – fall behind, trail, slow, drift behind, underperform पीछे रहना

55. Afforestation (noun) – forestation, tree-planting, greening, replantation, plantation drive वनीकरण

56. Rehabilitation (noun) – restoration, resettlement, recovery, remediation, rebuilding पुनर्वास

57. Attribute (noun) – quality, characteristic, feature, property, trait गुण

58. Cumulative (adjective) – aggregate, combined, overall, additive, accruing संचयी

59. Denuded (adjective) – stripped, deforested, bared, removed, lay waste उजड़ा हुआ

60. Sustainable (adjective) – durable, long-term, viable, enduring, eco-friendly टिकाऊ

61. Mitigation (noun) – reduction, alleviation, abatement, minimisation, risk-limitation शमन

62. Acclaim (verb) – praise, hail, applaud, laud, celebrate प्रशंसा करना

63. Post facto (preposition) – after the fact, retrospectively, ex post, later, subsequently घटना के बाद

64. Beforehand (adverb) – in advance, earlier, prior, ahead of time, pre-emptively पहले से

65. Overdue (adjective) – belated, long-delayed, pending, past-due, tardy लंबे समय से लंबित

Summary of the Editorial

1. Heavy monsoon rains have caused destruction across North India, especially Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Delhi.

2. Over 40 deaths were reported in Jammu & Kashmir, while swollen rivers breached flood marks in Srinagar and Anantnag.

3. Punjab witnessed inundated villages and submerged farmland, and Delhi faced excessive rainfall with the Yamuna river surging.

4. The southwest monsoon is showing extreme variability, swinging sharply between heavy bursts and dry spells.

5. Concentrated rainfall overwhelms fragile Himalayan slopes, plains' riverbanks, and low-lying regions, highlighting monsoon unpredictability.

6. Short-duration, high-intensity rainfall accelerates erosion, destabilises slopes, and threatens distant settlements.

7. Relief measures alone are insufficient; proactive and preventive strategies are essential.

8. Calling every disaster "unprecedented" prevents learning from past experiences.

9. In Himalayan states, forest clearance and road-widening continue without slope-safe engineering, despite warnings.

10. Shrinking catchment capacity raises slope failure risks and increases silt in rivers and dams, intensifying floods.

11. Early warning and evacuation systems remain underdeveloped despite improved rainfall forecasting.

12. Relief efforts usually begin after disasters, while drills, pre-positioned supplies, and community training are lacking.

13. Governments continue prioritising road projects and urban expansion in unstable regions over climate-resilient infrastructure.

14. Compensatory afforestation and rehabilitation measures often fail to match the ecological value of what is destroyed.

15. Unless sustainable infrastructure, landslide mitigation, and strong early-warning systems are prioritised, India will face a repeated cycle of monsoon-related destruction.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Identify the correct type of sentence used in line: "The capacity to forecast heavy rain has improved but it is not being translated into reliable ground-level warnings."** **[Editorial page]**
   A. Compound
   B. Complex
   C. Simple
   D. Compound-complex

2. **What does the word "inundated" most nearly mean as used in the passage?**
   ("In Punjab, entire villages have been inundated and farmland has disappeared.")
   A. Flooded or submerged with water
   B. Evacuated by residents
   C. Eroded by wind
   D. Saturated with people

3. **Why does the passage argue that framing each calamity as "unprecedented" is counterproductive?**
   A. Because it automatically reduces budgetary allocations for disaster management.
   B. Because it diverts attention from lessons already available and delays preventive, structural fixes.
   C. Because it makes meteorological forecasting less accurate
   D. Because it implies the monsoon is weakening, not strengthening.

4. **How, according to the passage, do Himalayan land-use changes heighten downstream flood risk?**
   A. Quarrying alone liquefies soil → rivers dissolve embankments → all floods originate from bank collapse.
   B. Deforestation cools local microclimates → rainfall declines → dams are emptied → sudden refilling causes floods.
   C. Wider roads create new wind corridors → monsoon tracks shift → cities receive zero warning → flash floods result.
   D. Forest clearance and road-widening weaken slopes → catchment buffering shrinks → slope failures rise → silt builds up in dams/rivers → flood load downstream worsens.

5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
   A. Alarmist and sensational
   B. Cautionary and critical
   C. Optimistic and celebratory
   D. Detached and purely descriptive

6. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
   He delivered **an eccentric** speech.
   A. an odd
   B. a peculiar
   C. a normal
   D. an idiosyncratic

7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
   A. A fox, hearing the cock and thinking to make a meal of him, came and stood under the tree.

B. As the night passed away and the day dawned, the cock, according to his custom, set up a shrill crowing.

C. A dog and a cock having struck up an acquaintance went out on their travels together.

D. Nightfall found them in a forest, so the cock, flying up on a tree, perched among the branches, while the dog dozed below at the foot.

A. DCAB

B. CDBA

C. CABD

D. BCDA

8. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence**

   He began to <u>search unsystematically and untidily through</u> the old boxes in the attic, hoping to find his childhood photographs buried somewhere under the clutter.

   A. Proletariat

   B. Chimera

   C. Clemency

   D. Rummage

9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

   HINDRANCE

   A. Catalyst

   B. Encumbrance

   C. Check

   D. Impediment

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

    Tax **evetion** is a crime.

    A. evasion

    B. evetion

    C. evasian

    D. evision

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

    The new policy was a natural **corollary** of economic reforms.

    A. Cause

    B. Result

    C. Origin

    D. Source

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

    Believing that hard work alone guarantees success is a common **fallacy**.

    A. Truth

    B. Reality

    C. Fact

    D. Misconception

13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

A. Though they had never ever heard Subha utter their names, they unfailingly recognized her footsteps as she came into their shed.
B. They even understood the precious moments between them as she loved and cuddled them, scolded them, and pleaded to them.
C. Subha did really have a close circle of friends and companions; they were Sarbasi and Panguli, the two cows living in their cow-shed.
D. They understood the silent, melancholy tune of her unspoken words during those moments, and the intensity of her expressions more easily than the spoken language of other humans.
A. DABC
B. CADB
C. CBDA
D. ADBC

14. **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) No one turned up to claim the stowed away piece of baggage which was discovered on the luggage compartment of the bus.
(ii) Certain animals have a tendency to communicate only with its own species and none other.
(iii) As soon as the clock chimed to announce the hour at midnight she sprung up from her bed.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 1
D. All are correct

15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute to fill in the blanks for the given group of highlighted words.**
The government issued **an official order to stop doing business with another country** due to escalating political tensions.
A. Oblivion
B. Corollary
C. Aphorism
D. Embargo

16. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
Her **wiligness** to help was appreciated.
A. wiligness
B. willingness
C. willignass
D. willeness

17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Your guess is as good as mine
A. To guess an incredible idea
B. To predict a disaster
C. To be superstitious
D. To have no idea of the answer

18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**

The man said that they had been there for two and a half years and were going to stay another six months.

A. The man said, "They have been there for two and a half years and are going to stay another six months."

B. The man said, "We had been here for two and a half years and would stay another six months."

C. The man said, "We have been there for two and a half years and are going to stay other six months."

D. The man said, "We have been here for two and a half years and are going to stay another six months."

19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
    Feet of clay
    A. Very soft feet
    B. Difficulty in running
    C. Slow in actions
    D. Hidden faults

20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
    A. Dad: "Yes, tell me."
    B. Laxmi: "Dad, I need to speak to you."
    C. Dad: "I think you are still too young for it."
    D. Laxmi: "Please buy me a scooter."
    A. BADC
    B. BCDA
    C. ABDC
    D. DCBA

    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.
    India's economic ascent, which is now valued at $4.19 trillion, has earned it a _____ (1) _____place in the global growth story. The country is _____ (2) _____to become the world's third-largest economy. Yet, this momentum now faces a _____ (3) _____disruption — the proposed 50% tariffs by the United States President Donald Trump on Indian exports. Targeting $40 billion in trade, these tariffs could _____ (4)_____nearly 1% from India's GDP, striking labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems, and leather and footwear which are critical industries that _____(5)_____employ women.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
    A. tenuous
    B. firm
    C. distraught
    D. consecutive

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
    A. frenzied
    B. flustered

C. associated

D. poised

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

A. formidable

B. puny

C. vulnerable

D. imprecise

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

A. break out

B. bring about

C. shave off

D. look into

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

A. crucially

B. comprehensively

C. collectively

D. disproportionately

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Compound**
   It contains two independent clauses ("…has improved" / "it is not being translated…") joined by the coordinating conjunction "but."
   B. Complex: would require a dependent (subordinate) clause introduced by words like because, although, which—none here.
   C. Simple: would have only one independent clause; here there are two.
   D. Compound-complex: would need two+ independent clauses and at least one dependent clause; there is no dependent clause.

2. A) **Flooded or submerged with water**
   The context is heavy rain/monsoon flooding; "inundated" directly means covered with water.
   B. Evacuated: refers to people leaving; the sentence describes the state of the villages, not the movement of residents.
   C. Eroded by wind: wrong agent/process; the passage ties damage to rain and rivers, not aeolian erosion.
   D. Saturated with people: "inundated" can figuratively mean "overwhelmed," but here the literal hydrological sense is clearly intended.

3. B) Because it diverts attention from lessons already available and delays preventive, structural fixes.
   The passage says calling every event "unprecedented" distracts from lessons that should already have been learned, thereby postponing preventive strategies (slope-safe engineering, early warnings, resilience planning).
   B: The passage mentions headlines and budgets for relief; it does not claim budgets shrink.
   C: Forecasting capacity has improved; the problem is translating forecasts into ground-level warnings, not loss of accuracy.
   D: The passage emphasizes volatility/intensity (bursts, unpredictability), not a weakening monsoon.

4. D) Forest clearance and road-widening weaken slopes → catchment buffering shrinks → slope failures rise → silt builds up in dams/rivers → flood load downstream worsens.
    The passage lays out a chain: slope weakening and reduced buffering increase failures and siltation, which adds to downstream flood loads.
   A: Quarrying isn't singled out, and the passage doesn't say all floods stem from embankment dissolution.
   B: No claim about cooling microclimates or emptied dams; rainfall isn't described as declining overall.
   C: No mention of wind corridors or monsoon-track shifts due to roads.

5. B) **Cautionary and critical**
   The passage warns against reactive relief, criticises policy/practice (forestation clearance, road-widening, weak early-warning), and urges preventive, climate-resilient planning.

A (Alarmist and sensational): The piece is serious, evidence-led—not sensational.

C (Optimistic and celebratory): It highlights failures and risks, not celebration.

D (Detached and purely descriptive): Goes beyond description to critique and prescribe action.

6. C) **Eccentric** (adjective) – Unconventional, unusual, odd, peculiar, idiosyncratic. सनकी / अजीब

Antonym: **Normal** (adjective) – Regular, usual, conventional, typical, ordinary. सामान्य / साधारण

Odd (adjective) – Strange, weird, queer, eccentric, anomalous. अजीब

Peculiar (adjective) – Strange, singular, unusual, curious, eccentric. अनोखा

Idiosyncratic (adjective) – Distinctive, individual, peculiar, eccentric, quirky. सनकी

7. B) **CDBA**

C starts the paragraph by introducing the two main subjects, "A dog and a cock," and their action of traveling together. This sets the context for the events that follow.

D follows C logically because it continues the timeline ("Nightfall found them...") and describes where they stopped (a forest). It also establishes their positions—the cock on the tree and the dog below—which is crucial for the next events.

B comes after D because it moves the timeline forward ("As the night passed away and the day dawned...") and describes the cock's action (crowing), which triggers the fox's appearance.

A concludes the sequence by introducing the fox, who hears the cock and comes to the tree, creating the conflict (the fox wanting to eat the cock).

In Hindi:

C paragraph की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह दो main subjects "A dog and a cock" को introduce करता है और उनके साथ यात्रा करने की action बताता है। यह आगे की घटनाओं के लिए context set करता है।

D, C के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह timeline को continue करता है ("Nightfall found them...") और बताता है कि वे कहाँ रुके (जंगल में)। यह उनकी positions (कॉक पेड़ पर और कुत्ता नीचे) को establish करता है, जो आगे की घटनाओं के लिए जरूरी है।

B, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह समय को आगे बढ़ाता है ("As the night passed away...") और कॉक की action (crow करना) बताता है, जिससे लोमड़ी का आना trigger होता है।

A sequence को conclude करता है क्योंकि यह लोमड़ी को introduce करता है, जो कॉक की आवाज सुनकर पेड़ के नीचे आती है और conflict (लोमड़ी द्वारा कॉक को खाने की इच्छा) पैदा करती है।

8. D) **Rummage** (verb) – To search unsystematically and untidily through something. तलाशना

Proletariat (noun) – The working-class people, especially in the context of Marxist theory. सर्वहारा

Chimera (noun) – A thing that is hoped for but is illusory or impossible to achieve. कल्पना

Clemency (noun) – Mercy or lenience shown towards an offender. दया

9. A) **Hindrance** (noun) – An obstacle; something that delays or obstructs. बाधा/अवरोध

Antonym: **Catalyst** (adjective) – Something that speeds up or facilitates a process. उत्प्रेरक/प्रवर्धक

Encumbrance – A burden or impediment. बोझ/बाधा

Check – A restraint or stop. रोक/निरोध

Impediment – Obstruction; barrier. अवरोध/बाधा

10. A) The correct spelling of '**evetion**' is 'evasion' which means "avoidance, dodging" (करचोरी).

11. B) **Corollary** (noun) – consequence, result, by-product, follow-on, outcome (परिणामस्वरूप निष्कर्ष)

    Synonym: **Result** (noun) – Outcome, effect (परिणाम)

    Cause (noun) – Reason for something (कारण)

    Origin (noun) – Beginning, source (उत्पत्ति)

    Source (noun) – Place from which something arises (स्रोत)

12. D) **Fallacy** (noun) – misconception, myth, error, false belief, mistaken notion (भ्रम)

    Synonym: **Misconception** (noun) – Wrong idea, mistaken belief (ग़लत धारणा)

    Truth (noun) – Reality, fact (सच्चाई)

    Reality (noun) – Actual existence (वास्तविकता)

    Fact (noun) – A thing known to be true (तथ्य)

13. B) **CADB**
    C starts the paragraph by introducing Subha and her companions (the cows), establishing the subject.
    A follows C because it uses the pronoun "they" (the cows) to describe their recognition of Subha's presence, linking back to the subject introduced in C.
    D connects to A by explaining how the cows understood Subha's silent expressions, elaborating on their bond.
    B concludes by adding more details about their understanding of her emotions, completing the idea introduced in D.
    In Hindi:
    C paragraph की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह विषय (Subha) और उसके साथियों (गायों) को introduce करता है।

    A, C के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह pronoun "they" (गायों) का उपयोग करता है, जो C में introduce की गई गायों को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि गायें Subha के कदमों को पहचानती थीं।

    D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि गायें Subha की अव्यक्त भावनाओं को कैसे समझती थीं, जो A में बताई गई पहचान को आगे बढ़ाता है।

    B paragraph को end करता है, क्योंकि यह गायों और Subha के बीच के emotional connection को और गहराई से बताता है, जो D में शुरू हुई बात को पूरा करता है।

14. A) **3**
    (i) Error

    'on the luggage compartment' के बदले 'in the luggage compartment' होगा, क्योंकि सामान compartment के अंदर मिलता है; चाहें तो restrictive clause में 'that' भी रख सकते हैं। सही— No one turned up to claim the stowed-away piece of baggage that was discovered in the luggage compartment of the bus.
    Use in (not 'on') with compartment (it's an interior). Correct: …baggage that was discovered in the luggage compartment of the bus.
    (ii) Error

    Subject–pronoun agreement: plural animals के साथ their आएगा; 'none other' की जगह स्वाभाविक no other। सही— Certain animals tend to communicate only with their own species and no other.
    Plural subject → plural pronoun their (not 'its'). Natural phrasing: no other.
    (iii) Error

    Past form में sprang होगा, sprung नहीं; introductory clause के बाद comma रखना भी उचित है।
    सही— As soon as the clock chimed to announce the hour at midnight, she sprang up from her bed.
    Use simple past sprang (not 'sprung'); a comma after the opener is standard.

15. D) **Embargo** (noun) – An official order to stop doing business with another country प्रतिबंध
    Oblivion (noun) – the state of being unaware or unconscious of what is happening around one. विस्मृति
    Corollary (noun) – a proposition that follows from one already proven; a natural consequence. स्वाभाविक परिणाम

    Aphorism (noun) – a concise statement of a principle or truth. सूक्ति

16. B) The correct spelling of 'wiligness' is 'willingness' which means "readiness, eagerness" (तत्परता).

17. D) **Your guess is as good as mine** (idiom) – To have no idea of the answer आपका अनुमान भी मेरे जितना ही सही है (उत्तर के बारे में कोई जानकारी न होना)

18. D) The man said, "We have been here for two and a half years and are going to stay another six months."
    Backshift reversal: Indirect had been → have been; were going to → are going to in direct speech.
    रिपोर्टेड स्पीच के past perfect/"were going to" को direct में वापस have been / are going to किया जाता है।
    Pronoun & place: they → we (speaker includes himself) and there → here (speaker refers to current place).

सर्वनाम व स्थान बदलते हैं: they → we, there → here (वक्ता खुद को समूह में शामिल कर रहा है और उसी जगह की बात कर रहा है)।

Quantity: another six months is the natural collocation.

another six months सही उपयोग है।

Why not A/B/C:

A: Keeps they / there—doesn't reflect speaker's viewpoint; less likely than we / here.

they/there रखे हुए हैं—वक्ता का दृष्टिकोण नहीं दिखता।

B: Wrong tenses for direct: had been / would stay should be have been / are going to.

direct में backshift नहीं रहता; यहाँ गलत है।

C: Wrong deictic and collocation: there (should be here) and other six months (should be another six months).

there और other दोनों गलत प्रयोग।

19. D) **Feet of clay** (idiom) – Hidden faults छुपी हुई कमजोरियाँ / दोष

20. A) **BADC**
    B starts the paragraph because it introduces the subject "Laxmi" and her intention to speak to her dad. This sets up the context for the conversation.
    A follows B because it is Dad's response, acknowledging Laxmi's request to speak. The word "Yes" directly connects to Laxmi's statement in B, forming a natural question-answer flow.
    D comes next as it is Laxmi's reply to her dad, making a request ("Please buy me a scooter"). This logically follows Dad's permission to speak (A).
    C concludes the paragraph as it is Dad's reaction to Laxmi's request. The pronoun "it" refers back to the scooter mentioned in D, creating a grammatical link.
    In Hindi
    B paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह subject "Laxmi" को introduce करता है और उसके पिता से बात करने के इरादे को बताता है।

    A, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह पिता का जवाब है, जो Laxmi के बोलने के अनुरोध को स्वीकार करता है। "Yes" शब्द B से सीधे जुड़ता है।

    D, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Laxmi का पिता से स्कूटर खरीदने का अनुरोध है, जो पिता के बोलने की अनुमति देने (A) के बाद आता है।

    C paragraph को समाप्त करता है क्योंकि यह पिता की प्रतिक्रिया है। "it" शब्द D में उल्लिखित स्कूटर को refer करता है, जिससे grammatical connection बनता है।
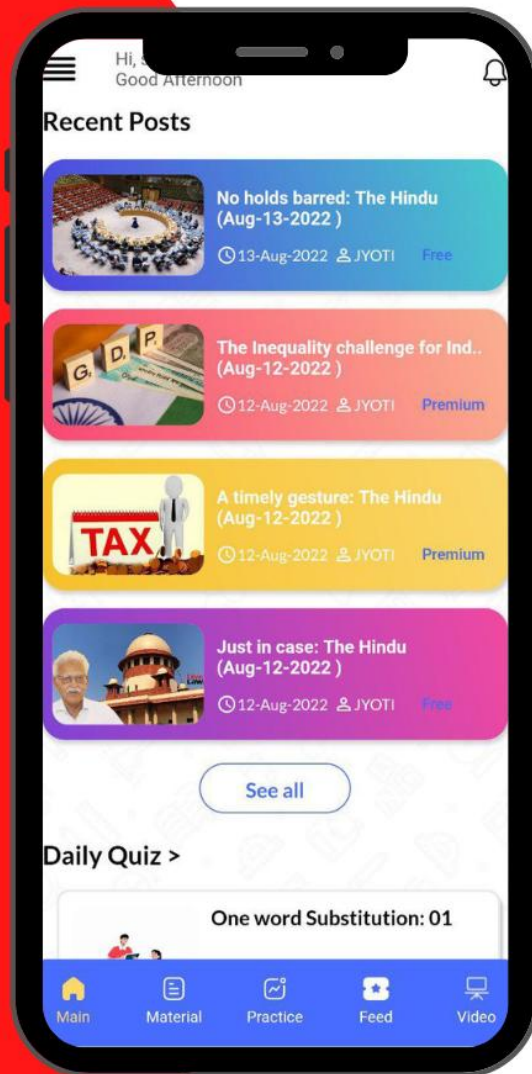
21. B) **Firm'** का use होगा क्योंकि "firm" का अर्थ है मजबूत, स्थिर या पक्का। Sentence में कहा गया है कि India की economy को global growth story में एक मजबूत जगह मिली है, इसलिए 'firm' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'tenuous' का अर्थ है कमजोर या अस्थिर, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'Distraught' का अर्थ है परेशान या दुखी, जो context से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Consecutive' का अर्थ है लगातार या क्रम में, लेकिन यहाँ किसी position की स्थिरता की बात हो रही है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है।

'Firm' will be used because it means strong, stable, or secure. The sentence says that India's economy has earned a strong place in the global growth story, making 'firm' correct here. Whereas 'tenuous' means weak or fragile, which is the opposite of what the passage conveys. 'Distraught' means troubled or distressed, not suitable for describing a position. 'Consecutive' means successive or in sequence, but the sentence is about stability of position, not sequence

22. D) **Poised'** का use होगा क्योंकि "poised" का अर्थ है तैयार होना या किसी स्थिति के लिए तत्पर होना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि India दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी economy बनने के लिए तैयार है, इसलिए यहाँ 'poised' सही बैठता है। जबकि 'frenzied' का अर्थ है उन्मादी या अत्यधिक उत्तेजित, 'flustered' का अर्थ है घबराया या परेशान, और 'associated' का अर्थ है जुड़ा होना, ये तीनों context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि यहाँ बात "तैयारी/position" की हो रही है, न कि घबराहट या association की।

'Poised' will be used because it means ready or positioned for something. The sentence says India is set to become the world's third-largest economy, so 'poised' is contextually and grammatically correct. Whereas, 'frenzied' means frantic or wildly excited, 'flustered' means confused or nervous, and 'associated' means connected or linked—none of which fit the context that describes readiness.

23. A) **'Formidable'** का use होगा क्योंकि "formidable" का अर्थ होता है एक ऐसा खतरा या चुनौती जो बहुत बड़ा और गंभीर हो। sentence में mention किया गया है कि India की growth momentum को US tariffs से खतरा है, और ये disruption बहुत गंभीर (formidable) है। इसलिए 'formidable disruption' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'puny' का अर्थ है बहुत छोटा और कमजोर, जो threat की intensity को नहीं दिखाता। 'Vulnerable' का अर्थ है आसानी से चोट पहुँचने योग्य, लेकिन यहाँ disruption को describe किया जा रहा है, न कि India की स्थिति को। 'Imprecise' का अर्थ है अस्पष्ट या unclear, जो context में बिल्कुल फिट नहीं होता।

'Formidable' will be used because it means a very serious or powerful threat/challenge. The sentence says India's growth momentum faces a strong disruption due to US tariffs, so 'formidable disruption' fits best. Whereas, 'puny' means weak or insignificant, which downplays the threat. 'Vulnerable' means easily harmed, but the focus here is on describing the disruption, not India's state. 'Imprecise' means unclear, which doesn't make sense in this economic context.

24. C) **Shave off'** का use होगा क्योंकि "shave off" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को घटा देना या कम कर देना। sentence में कहा गया है कि proposed US tariffs India के GDP से लगभग 1% घटा सकते हैं, इसलिए 'shave off' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Break out' का अर्थ है अचानक शुरू होना (जैसे युद्ध या आग), 'Bring about' का अर्थ है किसी परिवर्तन को लाना, और 'Look into' का अर्थ है किसी मामले की जाँच करना। ये तीनों अर्थ GDP से कमी लाने के संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठते।

'Shave off' will be used because it means to reduce or cut down something. The sentence mentions that the proposed US tariffs could reduce nearly 1% from India's GDP, so 'shave off' is correct here. Whereas, 'Break out' means to suddenly start (like a war or fire), 'Bring about' means to cause something to happen, and 'Look into' means to investigate. None of these fit in the context of GDP reduction.

25. D)**Disproportionately'** का use होगा क्योंकि "disproportionately" का अर्थ होता है असमान रूप से या अधिक मात्रा में। Sentence में लिखा है कि ये industries women को employ करती हैं और इन industries में महिलाओं की संख्या बाकी industries की तुलना में असमान रूप से ज़्यादा है। इसलिए 'disproportionately' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Crucially' का अर्थ है महत्वपूर्ण ढंग से, 'Comprehensively' का अर्थ है पूरी तरह से, और 'Collectively' का अर्थ है सामूहिक रूप से — ये सब context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि बात यहाँ unequal representation की हो रही है, न कि importance, completeness, या group action की।

'Disproportionately' will be used because it means "unequally or to an unusually large extent." The sentence suggests that these industries employ women in much greater numbers compared to other sectors, making 'disproportionately' fitting. Whereas, 'Crucially' means importantly, 'Comprehensively' means completely, and 'Collectively' means together/as a group — none of which express the idea of unequal or higher representation of women in these industries.