Before viksit-ing India, save our cities

Social media had a field day last week as Delhi-NCR - Gurgaon **in particular** - **collapsed** yet again under **incessant** rains. **Gurgaon**, the poster boy of urban **dysfunction** and in many ways a **mirror** of India itself, **turned** into a **cruel parody**: **flooded** roads running **alongside gleaming** glass towers, **lux** apartments **marooned in knee-deep** water, and corporate **hubs** transformed into **islands**. The **downpour stripped away** the **Potemkin Village facade**, showing how easily **cosmetic** planning gets **washed down** the drain.

But **set aside** the rain and **waterlogging** for a moment. On an ordinary day, getting from Point Viksit A to Point Viksit B in many Indian cities is punishing. Not just because roads are a choke and public transport is a joke, but because roads are designed to fail. The **culprit** isn't hard to find: a **bureaucracy**-construction **lobby** that **fattens** itself by **churning out shoddy** infra, **thriving on** a **mindless** 'build, build, build' mantra. The **consequences** are no longer **occasional inconveniences**; they are systemic **breakdowns**. With cities that are **urban heat traps** and wet islands, this 'business model' has become less about development and more about dysfunction. It is a disaster **blueprint** that needs to be **upended**.

GoI has now **sought** feedback from states and UTs on key policy initiatives aimed at supporting infrastructure development and **coordinated** urban planning along national highways, which are **feeders** of many of these cities. This is a welcome step. But it can't be yet another paper exercise. Urban **decongestion is** not just about **drawing up** plans. It's about ensuring those plans are **foolproof**, **implementable**, and **executed** with **uncompromising** quality. Because, without quality, **the next flood or traffic jam will peel away** the facade all over again.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **In particular** (phrase) – especially, specifically, notably, particularly, expressly ख़ास तौर पर

2. **Collapse** (verb) – cave in, fall apart, buckle, crumble, give way ध्वस्त होना

3. **Incessant** (adjective) – ceaseless, nonstop, relentless, continual, unremitting निरंतर

4. **Dysfunction** (noun) – breakdown, malfunction, disorder, disarray, failure अव्यवस्था

5. **Mirror** (noun) – reflection, likeness, emblem, representation, analogue प्रतिबिंब

6. **Cruel** (adjective) – harsh, ruthless, merciless, brutal, pitiless निर्मम

7. **Parody** (noun) – spoof, satire, caricature, send-up, mockery उपहास

8. **Flooded** (adjective) – inundated, waterlogged, swamped, deluged, overflowed जलमग्न

9. **Alongside** (adverb) – beside, next to, together with, abreast of, alongside के साथ-साथ

10. **Gleaming** (adjective) – shining, lustrous, sparkling, glossy, polished चमचमाता

11. **Maroon** (verb) – strand, trap, isolate, abandon, leave behind फँसा देना

12. **Knee-deep** (adjective) – up-to-the-knees, submerged, inundated, engulfed, swamped घुटने-भर

13. **Hub** (noun) – centre, nucleus, hotspot, focal point, nexus केंद्र

14. **Downpour** (noun) – deluge, cloudburst, torrent, heavy rain, shower मूसलाधार वर्षा

15. **Strip away** (phrasal verb) – remove, peel off, lay bare, expose, rip away उजागर करना

16. **Potemkin Village** (noun) – Any of a number of fake villages designed to impress the Russian empress Catherine the Great.

17. **Façade** (noun) – front, veneer, pretence, show, exterior दिखावा

18. **Cosmetic** (adjective) – superficial, surface-level, decorative, token, non-substantive ऊपरी

19. **Wash down** (phrasal verb) – be swept away, rinse off, flush away, erode, carry off बहा देना

20. **Set aside** (phrasal verb) – put aside, disregard, shelve, reserve, ignore दरकिनार करना

21. **Waterlogging** (noun) – flooding, stagnation, pooling, inundation, standing water जलभराव

22. **Culprit** (noun) – offender, perpetrator, wrongdoer, cause, guilty party दोषी

23. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – officialdom, administration, civil service, red tape, apparatus नौकरशाही

24. **Lobby** (noun) – pressure group, interest group, bloc, caucus, coterie दबाव-समूह

25. **Fatten** (verb) – enrich, line (one's pockets), inflate, bulk up, pad मालामाल होना

26. **Churn out** (phrasal verb) – mass-produce, crank out, pump out, turn out, spit out धड़ाधड़ बनाना

27. **Shoddy** (adjective) – poor-quality, substandard, flimsy, sloppy, trashy घटिया

28. **Thrive** (on) (verb) – flourish on, profit from, feed on, benefit from, revel in से फलना-फूलना

29. **Mindless** (adjective) – senseless, unthinking, reckless, indiscriminate, brainless बिना-सोचे-समझे

30. **Consequence** (noun) – result, outcome, repercussion, fallout, effect परिणाम

31. **Occasional** (adjective) – sporadic, infrequent, intermittent, periodic, irregular कभी-कभार का

32. **Inconvenience** (noun) – bother, hassle, trouble, disruption, annoyance असुविधा

33. **Breakdown** (noun) – collapse, failure, malfunction, outage, disintegration विघटन

34. **Urban heat trap** (noun) – heat island, thermal trap, hotspot, heat sink, hot zone शहरी ऊष्मा द्वीप

35. **Blueprint** (noun) – plan, roadmap, design, scheme, masterplan खाका

36. **Upend** (verb) – overturn, topple, disrupt, upturn, reset उलट देना

37. **Seek** (verb) – request, solicit, pursue, ask for, look for माँगना

38. **Coordinated** (adjective) – harmonised, integrated, unified, synchronized, joint समन्वित

39. **Feeder** (noun) – a person or thing that supplies something.

40. **Decongestion** (noun) – unclogging, easing, crowd reduction, relief, clearance भीड़-भाड़ में कमी

41. **Draw up** (phrasal verb) – draft, prepare, frame, formulate, devise तैयार करना

42. **Foolproof** (adjective) – failsafe, reliable, airtight, infallible, certain अचूक

43. **Implementable** (adjective) – feasible, actionable, practicable, workable, executable क्रियान्वयनयोग्य

44. **Execute** (verb) – implement, carry out, perform, enforce, deliver कार्यान्वित करना

45. **Uncompromising** (adjective) – inflexible, resolute, unyielding, strict, hard-line अडिग

46. **Peel away** (phrasal verb) – strip off, come off, fall away, flake off, reveal हट जाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Gurgaon's collapse during incessant rains highlighted deep urban dysfunction.

2. Flooded streets contrasted sharply with modern towers and luxury apartments.

3. Corporate hubs were cut off, showing the fragility of urban infrastructure.

4. The rains exposed cosmetic planning as a superficial facade.

5. Even on ordinary days, city travel is punishing due to poor design.

6. Roads remain perpetually choked, while public transport is inadequate.

7. Infrastructure is deliberately designed to fail for vested interests.

8. A bureaucracy–construction lobby profits from low-quality projects.

9. The "build, build, build" mantra prioritizes quantity over quality.

10. The outcome is systemic dysfunction, not occasional inconvenience.

11. Cities have turned into urban heat traps and flood-prone islands.

12. The current model resembles a blueprint for disaster, not development.

13. The central government has sought feedback from states on urban planning policies.

14. Coordinated planning along national highways is being considered.

15. True urban decongestion requires quality execution, not paper exercises, otherwise crises like floods and traffic jams will keep recurring.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?** **[Editorial Page]**
   A. Scathing
   B. Celebratory
   C. Detached
   D. Nostalgic

2. **What type of pronoun is the word "which" in this sentence from the passage?**
   A. Demonstrative pronoun
   B. Interrogative pronoun
   C. Relative pronoun
   D. Indefinite pronoun

3. **Identify the sentence with correct subject–verb agreement (options based on the passage).**
   A. GoI have now sought feedback from states and UTs on key policy initiatives.
   B. On an ordinary day, getting from Point Viksit A to Point Viksit B in many Indian cities are punishing.
   C. The consequences are no longer occasional inconveniences; they are systemic breakdowns.
   D. This "business model" have become less about development and more about dysfunction.

4. **Why does the author call the prevailing urban development approach a "disaster blueprint"?**
   A. Because a bureaucracy–construction lobby pushes shoddy "build, build, build" projects that create systemic breakdowns.
   B. Because private car ownership is rising faster than metro capacity.
   C. Because social media exaggerates routine waterlogging into a crisis.
   D. Because rainfall levels are unprecedented in Indian history.

5. **What step has the GoI taken, and why does the author insist it must go beyond a "paper exercise"?**
   A. It has sought feedback from states/UTs on policy for infrastructure development and coordinated urban planning along national highways; it must yield foolproof, implementable plans executed with uncompromising quality.
   B. It has announced a nationwide ban on all construction during monsoon; it must be strictly enforced by police.
   C. It has launched metro schemes in every tier-2 city; it must prioritize PPP funding.
   D. It has requested corporate CSR donations for drainage; it must be transparently audited.

6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom.**
   To the manner born
   A. To have high manners
   B. To do something as though it is coming naturally
   C. To be sophisticated
   D. To give a ride to someone

7. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**

A) Upon returning from his travels, he was forced to live in a house where his large family lived.
B) Vaikom Muhammad Basheer was a Malayalam fiction writer from Vaikom in Kerala.
C) The household was always noisy and full of chaos, no place for a writer surely!
D) Apart from family members, myriads of domestic animals also treated the house as their own.
A. BCAD
B. BCDA
C. BADC
D. BDCA

8. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
When I shall see him, / I will tell him that / what he has done is wrong. / No error
A. When I shall see him,
B. I will tell him that
C. what he has done is wrong.
D. No error

9. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the given situation.**
Aurangzeb, the famous Mughal ruler, found that he had caught someone more powerful than him in the form of the brave Maratha, Shivaji.
A. Nipping in the bud
B. Changing the hands
C. Catching a tartar
D. Blazing the trail

10. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
If I was the king, / I would change the face / of my country. / No error
A. If I was the king,
B. I would change the face
C. of my country.
D. No error

11. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
His argument was completely **rational** and logical.
A. Absurd
B. Sensible
C. Judicious
D. Reasonable

12. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
The sudden resignation of the minister created great **churn** in the party.
A. Flux
B. Upheaval

C. Calm

D. Ferment

13. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**

A) Even the most ill-equipped laboratory would have been better than their shed.

B) Thus, they did not allow any difficulties to come in their way.

C) But their mind was set upon the discovery of radium.

D) The Curies had to work in extreme poverty.

A. DACB

B. ABCD

C. ADBC

D. DBCA

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

The reckless act had a lasting **repercussion** on the community.

A. Benefit

B. Reward

C. Advantage

D. Consequence

15. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

I look / forward to meet you / in future. / No error

A. I look

B. forward to meet you

C. in future.

D. No error

16. **Choose the correct indirect speech for:**

"How long do you have to wait for your train?" the woman asked me. "About an hour," I replied.

A. The woman asked me how long I had to wait for my train. I replied that I had to wait about an hour.

B. The woman asked me how long did I have to wait for my train. I replied that I have to wait about an hour.

C. The woman told me how long I had to wait for my train and I replied that I will wait about an hour.

D. The woman enquired that how long I had to wait for my train; I replied I would waited about an hour.

17. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

I went to his house but / couldn't see him / because he went out before I arrived. / No error

A. I went to his house but

B. couldn't see him

C. because he went out before I arrived.

D. No error

18. **Choose the correct indirect speech for:**

"Where does Neena live?" I said to Ranjan. He replied, "Sorry, I don't know."

A. I asked Ranjan that where did Neena live. He replied that he doesn't know.

B. I asked Ranjan where Neena lived. He replied regretfully that he didn't know.

C. I told Ranjan where Neena lived. He replied that he knew.

D. I enquired to Ranjan where does Neena live; he replied that he didn't knew.

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

The soldier suffered severe **trauma** after the accident.

A. Delight

B. Anguish

C. Joy

D. Pleasure

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. He was in the habit of stealing food from others.

B. One night, the villagers decided to teach him a lesson and kept only rotten food in their kitchen.

C. The culprit ended up eating the rotten food and fell sick.

D. Once upon a time, there lived a man in a village

A. ACDB

B. DABC

C. BACD

D. ABDC

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.

At the start of the current millennium, the Nilgiris saw a turn of events that were most unlikely in its _____(1)_____history. Plantation farmers, most of them Badagas, revolted against the government as the price for Green Tea Leaves (GTL) had_____(2)_____. Initially restrained, the protest soon turned violent when three public buses were set _____(3)_____fire. The centenary celebrations of the famed Ooty Flower show (1999) was also cancelled following growing _____(4)_____by local planters. The situation was in danger of _____(5)_____out of control.

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

A. ignominious

B. glorious

C. recondite

D. charitable

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

A. dwindle

B. dwindling

C. dwindles

D. dwindled

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

A. at

B. on

C. for

D. with

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

A. concord

B. conjecture

C. resentment

D. benevolence

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

A. spiralling

B. plummeting

C. squandering

D. haranguing

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Scathing**
   The writer harshly criticizes "cosmetic planning," a "build, build, build" lobby, and calls the present model a "disaster blueprint," urging urgent correction—hallmarks of a scathing, sharply critical tone.
   - B) Celebratory — The passage condemns current practices; nothing is being praised.
   - C) Detached — The language is pointed and impassioned, not neutral.
   - D) Nostalgic — The focus is on present failures and fixes, not longing for the past.

2. C) **Relative pronoun**
   "which" introduces a (non-restrictive) relative clause modifying "national highways," linking the antecedent to extra information.
   - A: Demonstrative points (this/that/these/those); not used to introduce a clause here.
   - B: Interrogative asks questions (who/which/what in questions).
   - D: Indefinite refers to non-specific entities (someone, anything, each).

3. C) The consequences are no longer occasional inconveniences; they are systemic breakdowns.
   "consequences" is plural → "are"; "they" is plural → "are." Matches the passage as-is.
   - A "GoI" (Government of India) is treated as singular in the sentence → should be "has," not "have."
   - B The subject is the gerund phrase "getting …," which is singular → should be "is," not "are."
   - D Singular subject "model" → should be "has," not "have."

4. A) Because a bureaucracy–construction lobby pushes shoddy "build, build, build" projects that create systemic breakdowns.
   The passage identifies a "bureaucracy-construction lobby" that "fattens itself by churning out shoddy infra," producing cities that become "urban heat traps and wet islands," hence "a disaster blueprint that needs to be upended."
   - B: Car ownership is not discussed as the main cause.
   - C: Social media's coverage is mentioned, but the failures are attributed to structural/design problems, not exaggeration.
   - D: The passage critiques "cosmetic planning" and poor quality, not record-breaking rainfall.

5. A) It has sought feedback from states/UTs on policy for infrastructure development and coordinated urban planning along national highways; it must yield foolproof, implementable plans executed with uncompromising quality.
   The passage explicitly says GoI has sought feedback on key policy initiatives "supporting infrastructure development and coordinated urban planning along national highways," and warns it "can't be yet another paper exercise" — plans must be "foolproof, implementable, and executed with uncompromising quality."
   - B: No monsoon-construction ban is mentioned.
   - C: No universal metro launch is stated.
   - D: CSR drainage funding is not discussed.

6. B) To the manner born (phrase) – To do something as though it is coming naturally जन्मजात योग्य

7. C) **BADC**
   B starts the sentence by introducing the subject, "Vaikom Muhammad Basheer," and his identity as a Malayalam fiction writer. This establishes the main topic of the passage.

A follows B because it describes an action related to the subject—"Upon returning from his travels, he was forced to live in a house..." A continues with "he" (referring to Basheer from B) and introduces the setting (the house).

D comes next as it elaborates on the "house" mentioned in A, adding details about its inhabitants ("Apart from family members, myriads of domestic animals..."). D uses "the house" (referring back to A) and expands on its chaotic nature.

C concludes the sequence by summarizing the household's condition ("The household was always noisy and full of chaos..."), logically following D.

In Hindi

- B शुरू करता है क्योंकि यह subject "Vaikom Muhammad Basheer" ko introduce करता है – एक famous Malayalam fiction writer.
- A comes next क्योंकि यह B के subject (Basheer) से जुड़ा है – "Upon returning from his travels..."
- D अब आता है क्योंकि यह A में mentioned "house" के बारे में details देता है – "Apart from family members, myriads of domestic animals..."
- C last में आता है क्योंकि यह household की condition को summarize करता है – "The household was always noisy and full of chaos..."

8. A) 'When I shall see him' की जगह 'When I see him' होगा क्योंकि time clauses (when, before, after, until, as soon as) में future अर्थ के लिए Simple Present आता है; shall/will main clause में रहता है।
   - Use 'When I see him' (Simple Present in time clause); keep future only in the main clause. Like— When you arrive, I will call you.

9. C) **Catching a tarta**r (idiom) – To catch or confront someone who is unexpectedly troublesome or hard to manage.
   - **Nipping in the b**ud (idiom) – To suppress or destroy something in its early stages.
   - **Changing the hand**s (idiom) – This isn't a standard English idiom.
   - **Blazing the trail** (idiom) – Being the first to do something and establishing a path for others to follow.

10. A) 'was' की जगह 'were' होगा क्योंकि unreal/imaginary present condition (subjunctive) में सभी subjects के साथ 'were' प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— If I were you, I would apologise.
    Use 'were' (subjunctive) for an unreal present condition.

11. A) **Rational** (adjective) – reasonable, logical, sound, judicious, sensible. तर्कसंगत
    Antonym: **Absurd** (adjective) – ridiculous, illogical, nonsensical, preposterous. अतार्किक
    - **Sensible** (adjective) – wise, reasonable, prudent. समझदार
    - **Judicious** (adjective) – well-judged, prudent, wise. विवेकपूर्ण
    - **Reasonable** (adjective) – fair, logical, moderate. उचित

12. C) **Churn** (noun) – Turbulence, turmoil, upheaval, flux, ferment. उथल-पुथल
    Antonym: **Calm** (noun) – Serenity, tranquility, composure, equanimity, placidity. शांत
    - **Flux** (noun) – Continuous change, flow, fluctuation. प्रवाह
    - **Upheaval** (noun) – Sudden disruption, turmoil, violent disturbance. उथल-पुथल
    - **Ferment** (noun) – Agitation, commotion, restlessness, excitement. अशांति

13. A) **DACB**
    D starts the sentence with the subject "The Curies", introducing who the sentence is about.
    A follows D as it provides additional information about their working conditions, contrasting their "shed" with a proper laboratory.
    C comes next, introduced by the conjunction "But", which contrasts their poor conditions with their strong determination ("their mind was set upon the discovery of radium").
    B concludes the sentence by showing the result of their determination—"they did not allow any difficulties to come in their way."
    In Hindi:

D sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह subject "The Curies" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि किसके बारे में बात हो रही है।

A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह उनकी working conditions के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी देता है, उनके "shed" को एक proper laboratory से compare करता है।

C, A के बाद आता है, जिसे conjunction "But" से introduce किया गया है, जो उनकी poor conditions को उनके strong determination ("their mind was set upon the discovery of radium") के साथ contrast करता है।

B sentence को conclude करता है, उनके determination के result को दिखाते हुए—"they did not allow any difficulties to come in their way."

14. D) **Repercussion** (noun) – consequence, fallout, ramification, impact प्रतिकूल असर

- Synonym: **Consequence** (noun) – result, outcome (परिणाम)
- **Reward** (noun) – compensation for good work (इनाम)
- **Benefit** (noun) – positive result (लाभ)
- **Advantage** (noun) – favorable condition (फायदा)

15. B) 'to meet' की जगह 'to meeting' होगा क्योंकि 'look forward to' में 'to' preposition है और preposition के बाद gerund (V-ing) आता है; जैसे— I look forward to hearing from you.
Use 'to meeting' because after the preposition 'to' (in 'look forward to'), we use a gerund (V-ing).

16. A) The woman asked me how long I had to wait for my train. I replied that I had to wait about an hour.
- said to → asked for questions.
- Wh-question → statement order: "How long do you have to wait…?" → "how long I had to wait…"
- Backshift after past reporting: have to → had to.
- Reply fits the question: "I replied that I had to wait about an hour."

Why the others are wrong
- B: Keeps question inversion (how long did I have…) and present tense (have to).
- C: Uses told (not used for asking) and wrong tense (will wait).
- D: Ungrammatical "enquired that how long" and incorrect "would waited."

17. A) 'went out' की जगह 'had gone out' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दो past actions में जो पहले हुआ उसके लिए Past Perfect (had + V3) आता है; यहाँ "he had gone out" पहले है "I arrived" से।
Use 'had gone out' instead of 'went out' because for two past actions, the earlier one takes Past Perfect. Like— When I reached the station, the train had left.

18. B) I asked Ranjan where Neena lived. He replied regretfully that he didn't know.
- "said to" + question → asked.
- Wh-question → statement order (no inversion): where Neena lived (not "where does Neena live").
- Backshift after past reporting: lives → lived, don't know → didn't know.

Why others are wrong
- A: Uses "that" with a wh-clause and keeps inversion (where did Neena live) and present (doesn't know).
- C: told (not for questions) and changes meaning (he knew).
- D: Unidiomatic enquired to (should be enquired of), keeps inversion (where does…), and wrong verb form didn't knew.

19. B) **Trauma** (noun) – shock, anguish, psychological injury, distress आघात

Synonym: **Anguish** (noun) – severe pain, suffering (पीड़ा)

- **Delight** (noun) – great pleasure (आनंद)
- **Joy** (noun) – happiness (खुशी)
- **Pleasure** (noun) – enjoyment (आनंद)

20. B) **DABC**

D starts the sentence with the subject "Once upon a time, there lived a man in a village," which introduces the main character and setting of the story.

A follows D as it introduces the verb "was," describing the man's habit (stealing food). This establishes a clear subject-verb relationship: The man was in the habit of stealing.

B comes next as it introduces the action taken by the villagers ("decided to teach him a lesson") in response to the man's habit, using the conjunction "One night" to indicate a sequence of events.

C concludes the paragraph by describing the consequence ("ended up eating rotten food and fell sick"), logically following the villagers' action in B.

In Hindi:

- D sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject (एक आदमी) और setting (गाँव) को introduce करता है।
- A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह verb "was" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि subject (आदमी) की क्या आदत थी (चोरी करना)।
- B, A के बाद logically fit होता है, क्योंकि यह villagers की reaction ("सबक सिखाने का फैसला किया") को दर्शाता है, जो आदमी की आदत का परिणाम है।
- C paragraph को complete करता है, क्योंकि यह अंतिम परिणाम (आदमी का बीमार पड़ना) बताता है, जो villagers की action का सीधा नतीजा है।

21. B) **'Glorious'** का use होगा क्योंकि "glorious" का अर्थ होता है गौरवपूर्ण/उज्ज्वल। sentence में Nilgiris की शांत-समृद्ध परंपरा के संदर्भ में कहा गया है कि ऐसी घटनाएँ उसकी "glorious history" में "most unlikely" थीं—यानी उसके गौरवपूर्ण अतीत के विपरीत। व्याकरण की दृष्टि से यह noun "history" से पहले attributive adjective की तरह स्वाभाविक और प्रचलित collocation है ("glorious history"). जबकि 'ignominious' का अर्थ है अपमानजनक/कलंकित, जो अर्थ को उल्टा कर देगा; 'recondite' का अर्थ है गूढ़/अस्पष्ट, जो इतिहास के स्वभाव पर फिट नहीं बैठता; और 'charitable' का अर्थ है दानशील, जो "history" के साथ प्राकृतिक collocation नहीं है।

    - **'Glorious'** will be used because it means illustrious/proud, and the sentence contrasts violent protests with the Nilgiris' proud past—"most unlikely in its glorious history." Grammatically, 'glorious' functions as a natural attributive adjective before the noun "history," forming the idiomatic collocation "glorious history." Whereas 'ignominious' means shameful (reverses the sense), 'recondite' means obscure (doesn't suit "history" here), and 'charitable' means benevolent (unnatural with "history" in this context).

22. D) **dwindled'** का use होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "had _____" दिया है, जो past perfect tense है; past perfect में "had + past participle" लगता है। "price … had dwindled" से पता चलता है कि कीमत पहले ही घट चुकी थी और इसी कारण विरोध भड़का। जबकि 'dwindle' base form है, 'dwindling' participle/gerund है, और 'dwindles' simple present (third-person singular) है—ये सभी "had" के बाद व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही नहीं हैं।

    - **'dwindled'** will be used because the frame "had _____" requires the past perfect ("had + past participle"). "The price had dwindled" shows the fall in price was completed before later events, matching context. Whereas 'dwindle' is the base form, 'dwindling' is a participle/gerund, and 'dwindles' is simple present—none are grammatically correct after "had".

23. B) **on'** का use होगा क्योंकि "set on fire" एक सही स्थिर संयोजन/इडियम है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को आग लगा देना। वाक्य में passive रूप "buses were set on fire" आता है, जहाँ 'on' ही 'set … fire' के साथ सही preposition है। जबकि 'at' गलत संयोजन बनाता है, 'for' उद्देश्य/तैयारी दर्शाता है, और 'with' उपकरण का बोध कराता है—ये तीनों इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

    - **'on'** will be used because "set on fire" is the correct collocation meaning to ignite/burn. The sentence uses the passive form "buses were set on fire," where 'on' properly links 'set' with 'fire'. 'at' is unidiomatic here, 'for' implies purpose/preparation, and 'with' suggests an instrument—none fit this fixed expression.

24. C) **'Resentment'** का use होगा क्योंकि "resentment" का अर्थ होता है असंतोष/रोष; संदर्भ में किसानों का विरोध, हिंसा, और शो का रद्द होना—ये सब स्थानीय प्लांटर्स के बढ़ते रोष से जुड़ते हैं। "growing resentment by local planters" में 'resentment' अमूर्त अगणनीय संज्ञा है जो 'growing' के साथ स्वाभाविक है और 'by local planters' स्रोत बताता है।

   - **'Resentment'** will be used because it means anger/bitterness at perceived unfairness. Given violent protests and event cancellation, "growing resentment by local planters" is contextually and grammatically apt (abstract noun naturally collocates with "growing"; the "by" phrase marks the source). Whereas, 'concord' means agreement (wouldn't trigger unrest), 'conjecture' is speculation (not a feeling causing protests), and 'benevolence' is kindness (opposite in tone), so they don't fit here.

25. A) **'Spiralling'** का use होगा क्योंकि "spiral out of control" एक स्थिर मुहावरा है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी स्थिति का तेजी से और लगातार बिगड़ना। यहाँ "in danger of" के बाद gerund/-ing form आती है, इसलिए 'spiralling' व्याकरण की दृष्टि से भी सही है। जबकि 'plummeting' का अर्थ तेज़ी से गिरना (अधिकतर कीमतें/आंकड़े) है; 'squandering' का अर्थ बर्बाद करना है और इसे object चाहिए; 'haranguing' का अर्थ डांट-फटकार/लंबा भाषण देना है—ये इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

   - **'Spiralling'** will be used because "spiral out of control" is the standard collocation for a situation worsening rapidly. After "in danger of," a gerund (-ing form) is required, so 'spiralling' is grammatically correct. 'Plummeting' means to fall steeply (typically prices/figures); 'squandering' is transitive (needs an object) and means wasting; 'haranguing' means delivering an aggressive speech—none fit this context.