

Amid extreme weather events, Uttarakhand needs to rethink its highways

In the current monsoon season, Uttarakhand has received more than 1,340 mm of rain, an excess of about 22 per cent. The state has been hit by **cloud bursts**, **flash floods** and **landslides**. The latest extreme weather **incident** in the state **triggered** landslides on Tuesday, **sweeping away** at least 13 people in Dehradun district. More than 100 people are **reportedly** trapped in Dehradun city. While there is little doubt that climate change has made the weather **erratic**, there is also a **consensus** among experts that ecosensitive planning could have made the country's high-altitude regions less **vulnerable to** the **fury** of rains. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' (MoRTH) **decision** to **re-examine** the safety of certain **stretches** of the under-construction Uttarkashi-Gangotri road – a part of the Char Dham Highway project – **has**, therefore, come not a day too soon.

The **geology** of the Himalayan region, the **subterranean** stress on rocks, **makes** it **prone to** instability. Cutting into mountainsides to create wide roads adds to the **precarity** of the slopes. As a study in the journal Natural Hazard and Earth System Sciences **pointed out** last year, rock blasting required during the road widening process can **fracture** rock masses, creating potential landslide-prone zones along the road **corridors**. In a letter to the MoRTH, after the flash floods in Dharali in August, two experts **flagged** similar concerns. **The experts** – part of the Supreme Court-appointed High-Powered Committee that **examined** the environmental concerns about the Char Dham project – **said** that the widening of the valley sides had created new landslide zones. **The scientists** – one of whom continues to be part of the Char Dham panel, while the other has resigned – **referred** to a project report they had submitted in 2023, which suggested measures to minimise tree felling. Their suggestions are significant. Trees **arrest avalanches** and their roots have a stabilising influence on slopes. **The loss** of natural stabilisers **increases** the surface **runoff** during heavy rainfall or snowmelt, **saturating soil** and increasing the region's **susceptibility to** landslides. However, the **caveats** suggested by the scientists were ignored.

In their **zeal** to expand tourism in the state, the Centre and the Uttarakhand government appear to have shown inadequate sensitivity to the **idiosyncrasies** of the mountains and repeatedly ignored the **red flags** raised by experts. The Himalayan region needs **scrupulous** attention to environmental due processes and the institution of better disaster warning systems. The MoRTH review should be the beginning of a **long-overdue course correction**. [Practice Exercise]

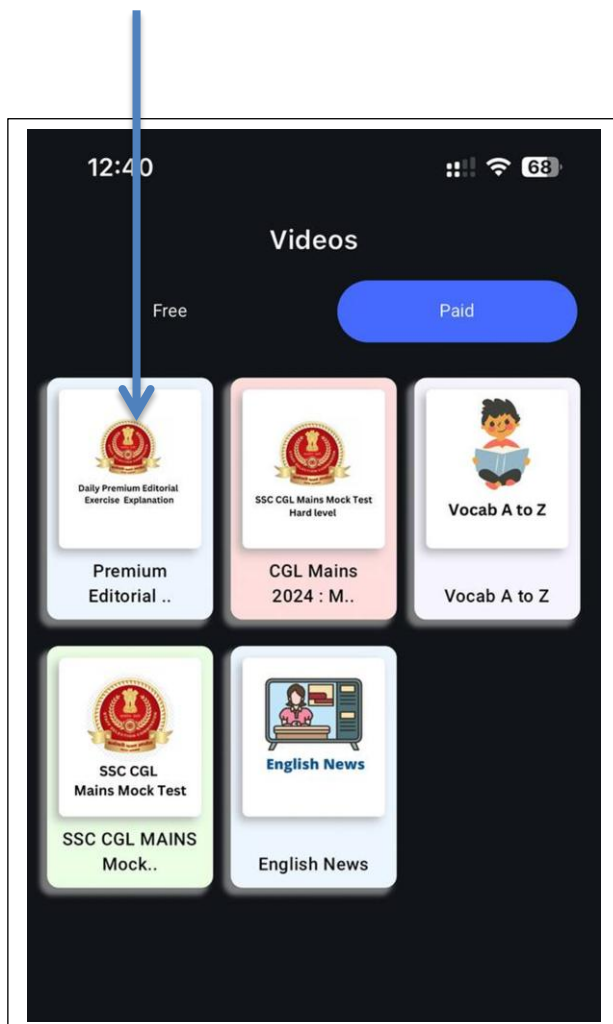
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Amid** (preposition) – among, amidst, in the middle of, during, in the midst of के बीच/के दौरान
2. **Cloud burst** (noun) – torrential downpour, sudden deluge, cloudburst rain, cloudburst event, violent shower बादल फटना
3. **Flash flood** (noun) – a sudden local flood, typically due to heavy rain. आकस्मिक बाढ़
4. **Landslide** (noun) – landslip, slope failure, mass wasting, debris slide, mudslide भूस्खलन
5. **Trigger** (verb) – cause, spark, set off, ignite, precipitate कारण बनना
6. **Sweep away** (phrasal verb) – to carry off/remove completely by force (esp. by water) बहा ले जाना
7. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, as reported, purportedly, per reports, by accounts बताया जाता है
8. **Erratic** (adjective) – unpredictable, irregular, capricious, inconsistent, volatile अनियमित
9. **Consensus** (noun) – general agreement, common accord, unanimity, concurrence, collective view सर्वसम्मति
10. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) – susceptible, prone, exposed, at risk, defenceless प्रभावित होने योग्य
11. **Fury** (noun) – wrath, rage, ferocity, violence, intensity प्रचंडता
12. **Re-examine** (verb) – review, reassess, reappraise, reconsider, re-evaluate पुनः जाँचना
13. **Stretch** (noun) – section, segment, span, length, tract मार्ग/सड़क का खंड
14. **Geology** (noun) – the science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance, its history, and the processes that act on it. भू-विज्ञान
15. **Subterranean** (adjective) – underground, subsurface, below-ground, underfoot, beneath the surface भूमिगत
16. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – susceptible, liable, inclined, disposed, vulnerable प्रवृत्त
17. **Precarity** (noun) – instability, insecurity, shakiness, uncertainty, fragility अस्थिरता
18. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – to indicate; to draw attention to something इंगित करना
19. **Fracture** (verb) – crack, break, fissure, splinter, shatter तोड़ना
20. **Corridor** (noun) – route, passage, belt, pathway, thoroughfare गलियारा
21. **Flag** (verb) – highlight, signal, raise, mark, warn about चेतावनी देना

22. **Examine** (verb) – inspect, scrutinize, assess, evaluate, probe जाँचना
23. **Arrest** (verb) – halt, stop, check, stem, retard रोकना
24. **Avalanche** (noun) – snow slide, snowslip, snow avalanche, slab avalanche, snow torrent हिमस्खलन
25. **Runoff** (noun) – the draining away of water (or substances carried in it) from the surface of an area of land, a building or structure, etc. पृष्ठीय बहाव
26. **Saturating soil** (noun) – soil where all of the air voids are completely filled with water, resulting in a 100% degree of saturation जलसंतृप्त मृदा
27. **Susceptibility** (to) (noun) – vulnerability, proneness, sensitivity, liability, receptivity संवेदनशीलता
28. **Caveat** (noun) – warning, caution, proviso, qualification, condition चेतावनी
29. **Zeal** (noun) – enthusiasm, ardour, fervour, eagerness, keenness उत्साह/जोश
30. **Idiosyncrasy** (noun) – peculiarity, quirk, distinctive trait, singularity, uniqueness विलक्षणता/विशेषता
31. **Red flag** (noun) – a warning sign indicating danger or a problem खतरे/समस्या का संकेत
32. **Scrupulous** (adjective) – meticulous, thorough, conscientious, exacting, careful सूक्ष्म
33. **Long-overdue** (adjective) – much-delayed, belated, overdue, long-pending, tardy बहुत देर से लंबित
34. **Course correction** (noun) – an adjustment in plan/policy to get back on the right track दिशा-सुधार/मार्ग-संशोधन

Video solution of Practice Exercise from this Editorial is exclusively available on App.



Summary of the Editorial

1. Uttarakhand has received 1,340 mm of rainfall this monsoon, 22% above normal.
2. The state has faced cloudbursts, flash floods, and landslides.
3. A recent landslide in Dehradun killed at least 13 people, with over 100 trapped.
4. Climate change has made weather erratic and unpredictable.
5. Experts agree that ecosensitive planning could reduce vulnerability in high-altitude regions.
6. The MoRTH has decided to review safety on stretches of the under-construction Uttarkashi-Gangotri road (Char Dham project).
7. The Himalayan geology is inherently unstable, prone to landslides due to rock stress.
8. Road widening by cutting slopes adds to slope instability and landslide risks.
9. A 2023 study in *Natural Hazard and Earth System Sciences* warned rock blasting creates fracture zones along roads.
10. Supreme Court-appointed High-Powered Committee experts flagged risks after the Dharali flash floods in August.
11. Their 2023 report recommended minimising tree felling to stabilise slopes.
12. Trees help by arresting avalanches, stabilising slopes, and reducing runoff.
13. Ignoring such safeguards has worsened the region's susceptibility to landslides.
14. The Centre and Uttarakhand government, in pursuit of tourism expansion, have ignored environmental red flags.
15. The region requires strict environmental due processes, better disaster warnings, and course correction, beginning with the MoRTH review.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred about the impact of ignoring expert suggestions regarding the Char Dham Highway project?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It strengthened the stability of the mountain slopes.
 - B. It increased the vulnerability of the region to landslides.
 - C. It helped in controlling flash floods in Uttarakhand.
 - D. It reduced the surface runoff during heavy rainfall.
2. **Which of the following can be reasonably concluded about the government's approach towards development in Uttarakhand?**
 - A. It fully prioritised environmental safety over tourism expansion.
 - B. It consistently acted on the warnings of environmental experts.
 - C. It showed more zeal for tourism and infrastructure than ecological sensitivity.
 - D. It abandoned the Char Dham Highway project after expert objections.
3. **Which factor most significantly contributes to the instability of Himalayan slopes during road construction, and why?**
 - A. Tourism pressure, because more visitors increase waste generation.
 - B. Rock blasting, because it fractures rock masses and creates new landslide-prone zones.
 - C. Heavy rainfall, because it directly triggers landslides without other causes.
 - D. Wider highways, because they reduce space for trees and stabilising vegetation.
4. **Which action of the government appears most problematic in the context of environmental safety, and why?**
 - A. Instituting disaster warning systems, because they create panic among locals.
 - B. Ignoring expert caveats, because trees that could stabilise slopes were removed.
 - C. Reviewing the project, because it delays infrastructure development.
 - D. Promoting tourism, because it brings economic growth to the state.
5. **In the context of the passage, what does the idiom "course correction" most nearly mean?**
 - A. To abandon a project completely and start a new one
 - B. To adjust policies or actions in response to mistakes or risks
 - C. To continue on the same path regardless of consequences
 - D. To halt all developmental work indefinitely
6. **Each item consists of a word or group of words in CAPITAL letters followed by four options. Select the option most nearly opposite in meaning to the CAPITAL word(s).**
THREW COLD WATER ON
 - A. Supported
 - B. Defeated
 - C. Amended
 - D. Modified
7. **Directions: Each sentence has three underlined parts labelled (a), (b), and (c). Find out whether there is an error in any underlined part and indicate your answer accordingly. If you find no error, your answer should be (d).**
(a) Every woman in the world/(b) fervently hopes that their child/(c) will be a normal and healthy baby./ (d) No error.
 - A. Every woman in the world

- B. fervently hopes that their child
C. will be a normal and healthy baby.
D. No error.
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Lee is humming a soothing tune for the masses
A. A soothing tune had been hummed for the masses by Lee.
B. A soothing tune was being humming by Lee for the masses.
C. A soothing tune is being hummed for the masses by Lee.
D. A soothing tune has been hummed by Lee for the masses.
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A person who conforms to accepted behaviour or established practices.
A. Psychologist
B. Conformist
C. Socialist
D. Rebelist
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Dig up dirt
A. Enquire about a missing person
B. Find and disclose evidence
C. To uncover negative information about someone or something.
D. Hide and protect vital evidence
11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Mrs. Leela opened the window.
A. The window is opened by Mrs. Leela.
B. The window was being opened by Mrs. Leela.
C. The window is being opened by Mrs. Leela.
D. The window was opened by Mrs. Leela.
12. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words**
a group of stars found close together
A. concoction
B. conflagration
C. confederation
D. constellation
13. **Directions: Each sentence has three underlined parts labelled (a), (b), and (c). Find out whether there is an error in any underlined part and indicate your answer accordingly. If you find no error, your answer should be (d).**
(a) Neither of them/(b) send their papers/(c) in time for the last seminar./ (d) No error.
A. Neither of them
B. send their papers
C. in time for the last seminar.
D. No error.
14. **Directions: Each item consists of a word or group of words in CAPITAL letters, followed by four options. Select the option most similar in meaning to the CAPITAL word(s).**
AFFINITY

- A. Admiration
- B. Adoration
- C. Respect
- D. Intimacy

15. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given idiom.**

When pigs fly

- A. Correct approach
- B. In unity
- C. In due course of time
- D. Just impossible

16. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**

- A. By the time we returned home, the colour of the shoes will turn brown and most important, they won't be on our feet.
- B. The wear and tear was faster and much quicker for me and my brother.
- C. At the time of the reopening of school after the summer holidays, it was an annual ritual to purchase a new pair of white shoes as part of the school uniform.
- D. We ran in the dusty playgrounds and slid on the mosaic floors of the verandah of the classrooms.
- E. White canvas shoes were not as sturdy as the black leather ones.

- A. DECAB
- B. CBDEA
- C. ABEDC
- D. CEBDA

17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

Jaundice is caused by drinking contaminated water.

- A. Drinking contaminated water can cause jaundice
- B. Drinking contaminated water causes jaundice.
- C. Drinking contaminated water has caused jaundice.
- D. Drinking contaminated water caused jaundice.

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

P. With creatively doctored content and brand collaborations, anyone can amass huge followings and enormous cultural and economic influence.

Q. But beneath that glossy surface lies a truly complex, and at times, unnerving landscape of the pressure to maintain relevance, authenticity, and engagement.

R. Over the past couple of years, influencer culture has been among the defining features of the digital age, responsible for the formation of aspirations, consumer behaviour and social norms.

S. It is through platforms such as Instagram and YouTube that new celebrities have been able to emerge.

- A. RSPQ
- B. QPRS
- C. QRPS
- D. RQPS

19. **Directions:** Each item consists of a word or group of words in CAPITAL letters, followed by four options. Select the option most similar in meaning to the CAPITAL word(s).

GRIEVANCES

- A. Complaints
- B. Problems
- C. Obstacles
- D. Hardships

20. **Directions:** Each sentence has three underlined parts labelled (a), (b), and (c). Find out whether there is an error in any underlined part and indicate your answer accordingly. If you find no error, your answer should be (d).

(a) The front page story was about a schoolgirl,/ (b) that had hurt herself,/ (c) while saving a child in an accident./ (d) No error.

- A. The front page story was about a schoolgirl,
- B. that had hurt herself,
- C. while saving a child in an accident.
- D. No error.

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 ship struck the iceberg (1) _____ its side while it was still moving forward. In a few (2) _____, six great holes were made in the steel. Water rushed in, not in one place, but in separate places covering the Titanic hundred feet. The steel doors were therefore (3) _____. Captain Smith soon understood that (4) _____ could save the ship. He ordered the wireless officer to send out the ship's position and the letters CQD, which is the call for help. It told the world that the Titanic was (5) _____.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1**

- A. under
- B. with
- C. beyond
- D. above

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. years
- B. days
- C. moments
- D. weeks

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

- A. painted
- B. burnt
- C. useless
- D. complete

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**

- A. nothing
- B. all
- C. everything

D. enemies

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

A. floating

B. victorious

C. sinking

D. reaching

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B) It increased the vulnerability of the region to landslides.**
 The passage highlights that widening roads led to tree felling, which removed natural stabilisers and increased surface runoff, thereby raising landslide risks.
 A is wrong because ignoring suggestions weakened, not strengthened, slopes.
 C is wrong because the project made flash floods more dangerous, not controlled them.
 D is wrong because surface runoff increased, not reduced.
- C) It showed more zeal for tourism and infrastructure than ecological sensitivity.**
 The passage states that the Centre and Uttarakhand government expanded tourism but ignored repeated red flags by scientists, proving that economic/tourism goals outweighed ecological concerns.
 A is wrong because environmental safety was neglected.
 B is wrong because warnings were ignored, not followed.
 D is wrong because the project wasn't abandoned; it continued despite concerns.
- B) Rock blasting, because it fractures rock masses and creates new landslide-prone zones.**
 The passage clearly states that blasting fractures rock masses, making the slopes more unstable, which is the most direct cause of new landslide-prone areas.
 A is partially related but secondary; waste is not the main destabiliser.
 C is not complete: rainfall is a trigger, but instability is worsened by blasting and deforestation.
 D is also correct in effect but is a consequence of blasting/tree loss; the deeper reason is fractured geology.
- B) B. Ignoring expert caveats, because trees that could stabilise slopes were removed.**
 Experts had warned that tree loss destabilises slopes, but their suggestions were ignored, worsening risks.
 A is wrong: disaster warning systems are recommended, not problematic.
 C is wrong: reviewing is necessary for safety, not harmful.
 D is wrong: tourism itself isn't "problematic," but its uncontrolled push without ecological care is.
- B) To adjust policies or actions in response to mistakes or risks**
 The passage says: "The MoRTH review should be the beginning of a long-overdue course correction."
 Here, "course correction" means rethinking and modifying the approach to development (especially the highway project) after recognising environmental risks.
 A is wrong because it does not mean abandoning a project, only changing its direction.
 C is wrong because it means not continuing blindly; it implies change.
 D is wrong because it does not mean halting development entirely, only revising it.
- A) THREW COLD WATER ON** (idiom) – To discourage, to dampen enthusiasm, to oppose किसी की उत्सुकता या योजना को हतोत्साहित करना
 Antonym: **Supported** (verb) – To encourage, to uphold, to promote, to back समर्थन करना

- **Defeated** (verb) – To beat, to overcome, to vanquish. हारना (यह समानार्थी दिशा में नहीं है, बल्कि विरोध का परिणाम है, इसलिए सही antonym नहीं है)
 - **Amended** (verb) – To correct, to revise, to improve. सुधारना (यह हतोत्साहित करने या समर्थन करने से संबंधित नहीं है)
 - **Modified** (verb) – To alter, to change, to adjust. बदलना (यह भी किसी की योजना या उत्साह को प्रभावित करने के भाव से नहीं जुड़ता)
7. B) **'their'** के बदले **'her'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject "Every woman" Singular है। जब Singular Subject होता है, तो उसके लिए Singular Possessive Pronoun ('her') प्रयोग करना चाहिए, न कि Plural ('their')। जैसे— Every student must submit his/her assignment on time.
- 'her' will be used instead of 'their' because the subject "Every woman" is Singular. For a Singular subject, the Singular Possessive Pronoun ('her') should be used, not the Plural ('their'). Like— Every student must submit his/her assignment on time.
8. C) **A soothing tune is being hummed for the masses by Lee**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए: Active वाक्य में "Lee" (Subject), "is humming" (Verb - Present Continuous Tense), और "a soothing tune for the masses" (Object) है। Passive वाक्य में, Object "a soothing tune" को Subject बना दिया गया है। Verb को Present Continuous Passive Voice में बदलते समय "is being hummed" का प्रयोग किया गया है। वाक्य के अंत में "by Lee" का प्रयोग किया गया है ताकि यह स्पष्ट हो कि क्रिया किसके द्वारा की जा रही है।
- To change from Active to Passive Voice: In the active sentence, "Lee" (Subject), "is humming" (Verb in Present Continuous Tense), and "a soothing tune for the masses" (Object) are present. In the passive sentence, the object "a soothing tune" becomes the subject. The verb in Present Continuous is converted into its passive form "is being hummed." "by Lee" is added at the end to indicate the doer of the action.
9. B) **Conformist** (noun) – A person who conforms to accepted behaviour or established practices. समानुशारी
- **Psychologist** (noun) – a professional or expert in the scientific study of the mind and its functions. मनोविज्ञानी
 - **Socialist** (noun) – a person who advocates or practices socialism, a political and economic theory advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. समाजवादी
 - **Rebelist** (noun) – Though "Rebelist" is not a standard term in English, it could be inferred as someone who rebels or goes against the norm. विद्रोही
10. C) **Dig up dirt** – To uncover negative information about someone or something किसी व्यक्ति या चीज़ के बारे में नकारात्मक जानकारी निकालना।
11. D) **The window was opened by Mrs. Leela**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Mrs. Leela" Subject है, "opened" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the window"

Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The window" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was opened" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "by Mrs. Leela" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "Mrs. Leela" (Subject), "opened" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the window" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The window" (Subject), "was opened" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by Mrs. Leela".

12. D) **Constellation** (noun) – A group of stars that forms a recognizable pattern in the sky, often named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure. तारामंडल

- **Concoction** (noun) – The action of creating something by mixing or combining various ingredients, especially a drink or dish, or a fabricated story or plan. मिश्रण
- **Conflagration** (noun) – An extensive fire that destroys a great deal of land or property. प्रचंड आग
- **Confederation** (noun) – An organization that consists of a number of parties or groups united in an alliance or league. संघ

13. B) 'send' के बदले 'sends' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Neither of them' Singular Subject है। जब 'neither' का प्रयोग होता है, तो verb Singular में आता है। इसलिए 'send' (plural verb) गलत है और 'sends' (singular verb) सही होगा। जैसे— Neither of the boys sends his homework on time.

- 'sends' will be used instead of 'send' because 'Neither of them' is a singular subject. With 'neither,' the verb must be singular. Hence, 'send' is wrong and 'sends' is correct. Example— Neither of the boys sends his homework on time.

14. D) **Affinity** (noun) – Liking, sympathy, attraction, rapport, closeness लगाव, आत्मीयता
Synonym: **Intimacy** (noun) – Close familiarity, close relationship, deep friendship, warmth निकटता, आत्मीयता

- **Admiration** (noun) – Respect, appreciation, esteem, praise प्रशंसा
- **Adoration** (noun) – Deep love, devotion, worship उपासना, भक्ति
- **Respect** (noun) – High regard, esteem, honor, reverence सम्मान

15. D) **When pigs fly** (idiom)- Just impossible means something that will never happen or is impossible., इसका अर्थ है "ऐसा जो कभी नहीं हो सकता।"

16. D) **CEBDA**

C: C (At the time of the reopening of school...) is the starting sentence because it introduces the context of the paragraph: the purchase of new white shoes as part of the school uniform.

E: This sentence gives a comparison and connects directly to the type of shoes (white canvas) mentioned in sentence C.

B: B comes after E, as it describes the consequences of wearing the less sturdy shoes, specifically for the narrator and their brother. This logically follows the comparison in E. The subject ("wear and tear") and verb ("was") describe the condition of the shoes, linking it directly to the topic introduced earlier.

D: This sentence gives further details about the activities that caused the wear and tear described in B, using past tense actions to indicate what the narrator and their brother did.

A: A (By the time we returned home...) is the concluding sentence, providing the result of all the previous actions. It uses a future perfect tense ("will turn"), indicating what will happen to the shoes after all the described activities.

17. B) **Drinking contaminated water causes jaundice**

Passive वाक्य: "Jaundice is caused by drinking contaminated water" को Active Voice में बदलने के लिए हमें Passive वाक्य के Subject "Jaundice" को Active वाक्य में Object बनाना होगा। Passive वाक्य में Verb "is caused" (Present Simple Tense) है। Passive वाक्य में "by drinking contaminated water" को Active वाक्य में Subject बनाना होगा। इसलिए, Active वाक्य: "Drinking contaminated water causes jaundice."

- In the Passive sentence: "Jaundice is caused by drinking contaminated water," the Subject "Jaundice" in Passive Voice will become the Object in Active Voice. The Verb "is caused" is in the Present Simple Tense. The phrase "by drinking contaminated water" will become the Subject in the Active sentence. Thus, the Active Voice sentence is: "Drinking contaminated water causes jaundice."

18. A) **RSPQ**

R: R comes first because it introduces the topic (influencer culture) with a clear subject and broad overview.

S: S follows R as it narrows down to specific platforms like Instagram and YouTube, creating a connection between the general topic in R and specific examples.

P: P follows S because it adds a deeper explanation of the influencer's power (with content and collaborations), logically following how they emerge on platforms mentioned in S.

Q: Q comes last because it contrasts and concludes the discussion with "But," signaling a shift in tone and introducing the complexities of maintaining influence.

19. A) **Grievances** (noun) – Complaints, objections, protestations, remonstrances, resentments शिकायतें

Synonym: Complaints (noun) – Expressions of dissatisfaction or annoyance about something.
शिकायतें

- **Problems** (noun) – Difficulties or situations that need to be dealt with. समस्याएँ
- **Obstacles** (noun) – Things that block one's way or prevent progress. बाधाएँ
- **Hardships** (noun) – Severe suffering or privation. कठिनाइयाँ

20. B) 'that' के बदले 'who' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Clause में antecedent "a schoolgirl" व्यक्ति (human) है। व्यक्तियों के लिए Relative Pronoun 'who/whom/whose' का प्रयोग होता है, जबकि 'that' का प्रयोग वस्तुओं या जानवरों के लिए किया जाता है। जैसे— The boy who won the prize is my friend.

- 'who' will be used instead of 'that' because the antecedent "a schoolgirl" is a person. For human antecedents, we use 'who/whom/whose' as the relative pronoun, whereas 'that' is used for things or animals. Like— The boy who won the prize is my friend.

21. B) **'With'** का use होगा क्योंकि "with" का अर्थ यहाँ "के साथ टकराना" को दर्शाने के लिए किया गया है। जब कोई चीज़ किसी अन्य वस्तु से टकराती है, तो "with" का use किया जाता है, जैसे

"The car collided with a tree." इस वाक्य में, जहाज (ship) बर्फ़ की चट्टान (iceberg) से टकराया, इसलिए "with" सही option है। 'Under' का अर्थ "नीचे" होता है, लेकिन यहाँ जहाज हिमखंड के नीचे नहीं टकराया, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'Beyond' का अर्थ "के परे" होता है, लेकिन यहाँ टकराने की स्थिति व्यक्त की जा रही है, न कि किसी चीज़ से आगे जाने की, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'Above' का अर्थ "ऊपर" होता है, लेकिन जहाज ने हिमखंड को ऊपर से नहीं छुआ, इसलिए यह गलत है।

- **'With'** will be used because it correctly indicates the ship colliding with the iceberg. 'Under' means "beneath," which does not fit as the ship did not hit below the iceberg. 'Beyond' means "past," which is incorrect because the ship did not move past the iceberg; it struck it. 'Above' means "over," which does not describe the impact between the ship and the iceberg

22. C) **'moments'** का use होगा क्योंकि "moments" का अर्थ होता है बहुत छोटे समय का अवधि। passage में mention किया गया है कि जब पानी जहाज के अंदर आया, तो यह कुछ ही क्षणों में हुआ, इसलिए 'moments' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'years' का अर्थ है वर्षों की अवधि, 'days' का अर्थ है दिनों की अवधि, और 'weeks' का अर्थ है सप्ताहों की अवधि, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- **'moments'** will be used because it refers to a very short period of time. The passage mentions that water rushed in quickly after the impact, which aligns perfectly with the idea of 'moments'. Whereas, 'years' refers to a span of years, 'days' means a span of days, and 'weeks' indicates a duration of weeks, none of which fit the context here.

23. C) **'Useless'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह steel doors के बारे में बताता है जो प्रभावी नहीं रहे। sentence में कहा गया है कि पानी कई जगहों से अंदर आ गया, जिससे steel doors को बंद करने का कोई असर नहीं पड़ा। इसलिए, 'useless' सही answer है। 'Painted' का अर्थ है रंग करना, जो यहाँ irrelevant है। 'Burnt' का अर्थ है जलना, जो steel doors के लिए सही नहीं हो सकता। 'Complete' का अर्थ है पूर्ण, जो इस context में फिट नहीं बैठता।

- **'Useless'** will be used because it describes the steel doors that became ineffective. The sentence explains that water rushed in from several places, making it impossible for the steel doors to stop it. Hence, 'useless' is the correct answer. 'Painted' means colored, which is irrelevant here. 'Burnt' means burned, which cannot apply to steel doors in this context. 'Complete' means finished or whole, which does not fit here.

24. A) **'Nothing'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'nothing' का अर्थ होता है 'कोई भी चीज़ नहीं' या 'कुछ भी नहीं'। यहाँ sentence में स्पष्ट है कि Captain Smith को यह समझ आ गया था कि जहाज को बचाने के लिए कुछ भी नहीं किया जा सकता था। इसलिए 'nothing' सही option है। 'All' का अर्थ है 'सभी,' जो इस संदर्भ में गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ बचाव का कोई भी उपाय संभव नहीं था। 'Everything' का अर्थ है 'सब कुछ,' जो इस context में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यहाँ बचाव के सभी विकल्प खत्म हो चुके थे। 'Enemies' का अर्थ है 'दुश्मन,' जो इस context में बिल्कुल भी उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- **'Nothing'** will be used because it means 'no thing' or 'not anything.' The sentence clearly indicates that Captain Smith understood that nothing could save the ship, making 'nothing' the most appropriate choice. 'All' means "everything" or "everyone," which is incorrect in this context because no action could save the ship. 'Everything' means "all

things," but it does not fit here as all possible options for rescue were no longer available. 'Enemies' means "opponents," which is irrelevant and does not make sense in the given context.

25. C) **sinking** का use होगा क्योंकि "sinking" का अर्थ है डूबना। Passage में बताया गया है कि कैप्टन ने मदद के लिए संकेत भेजा क्योंकि टाइटैनिक खतरे में था, और पानी जहाज के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में घुस चुका था। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि जहाज डूब रहा था, इसलिए 'sinking' सही है। 'Floating' का अर्थ है तैरना, जो यहाँ फिट नहीं होता क्योंकि टाइटैनिक डूब रहा था। 'Victorious' का अर्थ है विजयी, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Reaching' का अर्थ है पहुँचना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

- **'sinking'** will be used because "sinking" means going underwater. The passage describes how water was entering the ship, and the captain sent a distress signal indicating that the Titanic was in danger. This makes 'sinking' the correct choice. 'Floating' means staying on the surface of water, which is incorrect since the ship was sinking. 'Victorious' means achieving victory, which doesn't fit the context. 'Reaching' means arriving, which is also irrelevant in this scenario.