

The fearless protector of faith and human freedom

Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, **stands** in history as a **towering** symbol of courage, sacrifice, and the universal right to religious freedom. His **martyrdom** was not only an act of spiritual conviction but a **bold assertion** of human rights long before the concept gained global **recognition**.

His life and teachings **carried forward** Guru Nanak's principle that **the Sole Commanding Power**—Ek Omkar—is truth without fear (Nirbhau) and without **enmity** (Nirvair). From this flowed a simple but **profound** ideal: humans must neither **instil** fear in others nor live in fear themselves. Guru Tegh Bahadur wrote and lived this philosophy. His **verse** captures the **essence** of freedom from fear: One who does not cause fear to anyone, nor does he fear anyone. He alone is **enlightened**—thus says Nanak. This principle shaped his greatest sacrifice. **When a group** of Kashmiri Brahmins **sought** his protection from attempts at forced conversion by officials of Emperor Aurangzeb, Guru Tegh Bahadur assured them courage. He told them to convey that if he himself converted, they would follow.

Soon after, he was arrested and taken from Agra to Delhi along with his companions—Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das, Bhai Dyal Das, Bhai Gurditta, and Bhai Jaita.

The Guru was ordered to perform a **miracle** or **embrace** Islam. His **refusal** led Aurangzeb to **brutally martyr** the Guru's **companions** before his eyes, hoping to break his **resolve**. Bhai Mati Das was **sawed** alive, Bhai Dyal Das was boiled in water, and Bhai Sati Das was burned after being wrapped in cotton. Yet the Guru remained calm, **rooted in** the understanding of the body's **impermanence**: The human body is made of the five elements and returns to the source from which it arose. In November 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was **beheaded** in Delhi. His body was secretly taken and **cremated** by a Sikh merchant, while his head was carried to Anandpur Sahib by Bhai Jaita and cremated by the young Guru Gobind Rai, the tenth Guru. Born on April 1, 1621, in Amritsar to Guru Hargobind, Guru Tegh Bahadur was originally named Tyag Mal. He earned the name "Tegh Bahadur"—Brave Swordsman—for his **valour** in the Battle of Kartarpur.

His early education included reading, writing, religion, music, martial training, and **horsemanship**. Influenced deeply by Guru Hargobind's doctrine of Miri-Piri, he combined spiritual depth with **worldly** responsibility. After years of **meditation** in Bakala and a long **pilgrimage**, he was identified as the true Guru through the famous incident of Makhana Shah Lubana, who announced "Guru ladho re!" upon finding the genuine Guru. During his travels across the North, East, and Assam, Guru Tegh Bahadur spread Guru Nanak's teachings and founded Anandpur Sahib—the City of **Bliss**.

As **persecution** under Aurangzeb **intensified**, he travelled extensively to inspire people to face **tyranny** with **steadfast** faith. Guru Tegh Bahadur composed 59 shabads and 57 shlokas **incorporated** in the Guru Granth Sahib. His verses guide humans toward **detachment**, **integrity**, and inner freedom. His life and martyrdom remain **eternal** reminders of the right to live—and believe—without fear.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Towering** (adjective) – monumental, immense, majestic, grand, colossal विशाल
2. **Martyrdom** (noun) – sacrifice, self-sacrifice, suffering, death for a cause शहादत
3. **Bold** (adjective) – courageous, brave, fearless, daring, audacious निडर
4. **Assertion** (noun) – declaration, affirmation, statement, proclamation, avowal दावा
5. **Recognition** (noun) – acknowledgment, acceptance, validation, credit, appreciation मान्यता
6. **Carry forward** (phrasal verb) – continue, advance, perpetuate, sustain, promote आगे बढ़ाना
7. **Enmity** (noun) – hostility, hatred, animosity, antagonism, ill will शत्रुता
8. **Profound** (adjective) – deep, intense, philosophical, thoughtful, insightful गहन
9. **Instil** (verb) – implant, inculcate, impart, infuse, introduce स्थापित करना
10. **Verse** (noun) – hymn, composition, poetry, shabad, stanza शब्द
11. **Essence** (noun) – core, heart, soul, crux, nucleus सार
12. **Enlighten** (verb) – illuminate, educate, inform, reveal, clarify ज्ञान देना
13. **Seek** (verb) – ask for, request, look for, search for, pursue मांगना
14. **Miracle** (noun) – wonder, marvel, supernatural event, divine act चमत्कार
15. **Embrace** (verb) – accept, adopt, take up, welcome, espouse अपनाना
16. **Refusal** (noun) – denial, rejection, declination, non-acceptance, rebuff इनकार
17. **Brutally** (adverb) – savagely, cruelly, viciously, mercilessly, ruthlessly क्रूरतापूर्वक
18. **Companion** (noun) – associate, colleague, friend, follower, comrade साथी
19. **Rooted** (in) (adjective) – grounded, based, fixed, firm, established आधारित
20. **Impermanence** (noun) – transience, temporariness, fleetingness, mortality अनित्यता
21. **Behead** (verb) – decapitate, execute, guillotine, sever the head सिर कलम करना
22. **Cremate** (verb) – burn the body, consign to flames, incinerate दाहसंस्कार करना
23. **Valour** (noun) – bravery, courage, gallantry, heroism, fearlessness वीरता

24. **Horsemanship** (noun) – horse-riding skill, equestrianism, riding ability घुड़सवारी
25. **Worldly** (adjective) – temporal, earthly, material, secular, mundane सांसारिक
26. **Meditation** (noun) – contemplation, reflection, deep thought, dhyana ध्यान
27. **Pilgrimage** (noun) – religious journey, yatra, holy trip, spiritual travel तीर्थयात्रा
28. **Bliss** (noun) – joy, ecstasy, happiness, serenity, divine happiness आनंद
29. **Persecution** (noun) – oppression, victimization, harassment, tyranny, ill-treatment उत्पीड़न
30. **Intensify** (verb) – increase, strengthen, heighten, escalate, amplify तेज करना
- **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, steadfastness, tenacity, doggedness, firmness संकल्प
31. **Tyranny** (noun) – oppression, despotism, dictatorship, cruelty, autocracy अत्याचार
32. **Steadfast** (adjective) – resolute, firm, unwavering, determined, unyielding दृढ़
33. **Incorporate** (verb) – include, integrate, embody, contain, assimilate शामिल करना
34. **Detachment** (noun) – dispassion, non-attachment, aloofness, renunciation वैराग्य
35. **Integrity** (noun) – honesty, principle, righteousness, morality, virtue ईमानदारी
36. **Eternal** (adjective) – everlasting, perpetual, timeless, immortal, endless शाश्वत
- **Saw** (verb) – cut (something) using a saw. काटना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, is remembered as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and protection of human freedom.
2. His martyrdom is one of the earliest and strongest stands for religious liberty in world history.
3. He upheld Guru Nanak's teachings of Ek Omkar—truth that is fearless (Nirbhau) and without enmity (Nirvair).
4. He taught that humans should neither create fear nor live in fear, a principle central to his life.
5. His writings emphasised inner freedom and enlightenment through fearlessness.
6. This philosophy guided his decision to defend Kashmiri Brahmins facing forced conversions under Aurangzeb.
7. He boldly told them to inform the authorities that if he converted, they would too—placing himself between tyranny and the oppressed.
8. Guru Tegh Bahadur was arrested along with companions Bhai Mati Das, Bhai Sati Das, Bhai Dyal Das, Bhai Gurditta, and Bhai Jaita.
9. They were ordered to convert or perform miracles; refusal led to brutal executions of his companions.
10. Despite witnessing horrific torture, the Guru remained composed, rooted in the belief in the body's impermanence.
11. He was beheaded in Delhi in November 1675, becoming a martyr for freedom of belief.
12. His body was secretly cremated by a Sikh merchant, while Bhai Jaita carried his head to Anandpur Sahib for cremation.
13. Born Tyag Mal in 1621, he gained the name "Tegh Bahadur" for bravery in the Battle of Kartarpur.
14. Deeply shaped by Miri-Piri philosophy, he combined spiritual depth with worldly responsibility, travelling widely to spread Sikh teachings.
15. His 59 shabads and 57 shlokas in the Guru Granth Sahib continue to inspire detachment, integrity, and fearless living—an enduring testament to the right to believe freely.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what was the fundamental principle that guided Guru Tegh Bahadur's sacrifice?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The political necessity for Sikh sovereignty.
 - B. The spiritual ideal of freedom from all fear.
 - C. The military strategy to oppose the Mughals.
 - D. The economic policy for community welfare.
2. **How did Guru Tegh Bahadur demonstrate his resolve after his arrest?**
 - A. He performed a miracle to prove his divinity.
 - B. He negotiated a treaty with Emperor Aurangzeb.
 - C. He remained calm despite his companions' martyrdom.
 - D. He organized a military revolt from his prison.
3. **What significant contribution did Bhai Jaita make following the Guru's execution?**
 - A. He publicly declared the Guru's successor.
 - B. He founded the holy city of Anandpur Sahib.
 - C. He secretly cremated the Guru's body in Delhi.
 - D. He carried the Guru's head to Anandpur Sahib.
4. **What is the significance of the name "Tegh Bahadur" (Brave Swordsman) that was given to the Guru?**
 - A. It honored his profound skills in scriptural debate.
 - B. It recognized his valour during the Battle of Kartarpur.
 - C. It celebrated his extensive travels and pilgrimages.
 - D. It reflected his deep devotion and musical compositions.
5. **Based on his teachings, which individual would Guru Tegh Bahadur describe as truly enlightened?**
 - A. One who possesses immense worldly power and influence.
 - B. One who causes no fear to others and feels fear from none.
 - C. One who performs great miracles to demonstrate their faith.
 - D. One who withdraws completely from all worldly responsibilities.
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of "Untenable."**
 - A. Indefensible
 - B. Lucid
 - C. Congenial
 - D. Mutable
7. **Select the word that is most opposite in meaning to the word in CAPITAL letters.**
SUCCEED
 - A. Achieve
 - B. Fail
 - C. Move fast
 - D. Lose
8. **Select the meaning of the given highlighted phrase.**
From the mountain top, we got a **bird's eye view** of the valley.
 - A. Narrow view
 - B. Detailed analysis

- C. Broad overview
D. Specific angle
9. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**
One who loses temper very soon
A. Temporal
B. Argumentative
C. Tampered
D. Hot-headed
10. **Find the correctly spelled word.**
A. Redundent
B. Redundant
C. Redundunt
D. Redudentt
11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
"I said to him, 'How long will you stay?' He replied, 'For five days.'"
A. I asked him how long he would stay. He replied that he would stay for five days.
B. I asked him how long will he stay. He replied he stays for five days.
C. I told him how long he would stay. He replied that he stayed for five days.
D. I asked him how long he will stay. He replied that he will stay for five days.
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Don't be such an _____; we have plenty of time to complete the task.
A. eager beaver
B. eat crow
C. elephant in the room
D. easy money
13. **Identify the error in the number of sentences given below and select the option which shows how many sentences are incorrect. If all sentences are correct, then select option (D), All are correct.**
(i). This task is being undertaken for the benefit of young people in needed at the instance of the Chief of the Group.
(ii). If I am the principal of the school I would abolish all examinations.
(iii). My mother is thinking that I should stop drinking.
(iv). The students have a good time in the class today.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 4
D. All are correct
14. **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. Various stakeholders are up in arms — farmers are complaining of tardy purchase of their produce, rice millers need space to store the fresh paddy and arhtiyas are demanding a raise in their commission.

- Q. The paddy glut in Punjab's grain markets not only reflects the inefficiency of procurement agencies but also the failure of the Central and state governments to work in close coordination.
- R. After all, for how long can Punjab keep 'exporting' its dwindling natural resource through paddy cultivation?
- S. Ironically, the entire hue and cry is regarding a crop that has wreaked havoc on the state's water table, with desertification no longer being a remote possibility.
- A. SPQR
B. QRSP
C. QRPS
D. QPSR
15. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
The company has been growing rapidly since its **inception**.
A. Outset
B. Conclusion
C. Genesis
D. Commencement
16. **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. should the focus be on great power competition or continuing imbalance in the institutions, agenda setting, and global inequality?
Q. The former looks at the means and not the ends
R. The Summit of the Future raises a set of fundamental questions on global governance:
S. with a continuing debate on the meaning of justice
A. SPQR
B. RSQP
C. RPQS
D. RQPS
17. **select the best express synonym of the highlighted phrasal verb**
The government introduced financial incentives to **shore up** the faltering economy.
A. Weaken the agriculture sector.
B. Criticize the agriculture sector.
C. Strengthen the agriculture sector.
D. Privatize the agriculture sector.
18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
If I wrote an email / to my boss now, / he will react / by yelling at me tomorrow in the morning.
A. he will react
B. If I wrote an email
C. by yelling at me tomorrow in the morning.
D. to my boss now,
19. **Select the most appropriate degree of comparison to fill in the blank.**
Hunny is _____ person in his family

- A. tall
- B. taller
- C. more taller
- D. the tallest

20. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Conviction."**

- A. Certainty
- B. Mosaic
- C. Fervor
- D. Tangent

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. **B). The spiritual ideal of freedom from all fear.**

The passage explicitly states that Guru Tegh Bahadur lived by the philosophy "that humans must neither instil fear in others nor live in fear themselves," which flowed from Guru Nanak's principle of Nirbhau and Nirvair. His sacrifice for the Kashmiri Brahmins was a direct assertion of this ideal. The other options, while potentially related to the historical context, are not identified in the passage as the core principle behind his martyrdom.

2. **C) He remained calm despite his companions' martyrdom.**

The passage describes how Aurangzeb brutally martyred the Guru's companions in front of him to break his will. However, the Guru "remained calm, rooted in the understanding of the body's impermanence." This directly illustrates his unwavering resolve. The passage confirms he refused to perform a miracle (contradicting A), and options B and D are not mentioned as events that occurred.

3. **D) He carried the Guru's head to Anandpur Sahib.**

The passage clearly states, "his head was carried to Anandpur Sahib by Bhai Jaita." Option C is incorrect as this action was performed by a Sikh merchant. Option B is attributed to Guru Tegh Bahadur himself, and option A is not mentioned in the passage.

4. **B) It recognized his valour during the Battle of Kartarpur.**

The passage directly states that he earned the name "Tegh Bahadur" for his valour in the Battle of Kartarpur. The other options describe other aspects of his life—such as his education, pilgrimage, and compositions—but they are not linked by the passage to the origin of this specific title.

5. **B) One who causes no fear to others and feels fear from none.**

The passage quotes the Guru's verse: "One who does not cause fear to anyone, nor does he fear anyone. He alone is enlightened—thus says Nanak." This is presented as the core essence of his philosophy. The other options contradict the passage: he refused to perform miracles (C), and his doctrine of Miri-Piri combined spiritual depth with worldly responsibility, not complete withdrawal (D).

6. **A) Indefensible**

Untenable – unjustifiable, weak, cannot be defended. असमर्थनीय

- **Lucid** – clear.
- **Congenial** – pleasant.
- **Mutable** – changeable.

7. **B) Succeed** (verb) – Achieve desired aim or result, accomplish, prosper, prevail, triumph सफल होना

Antonym: Fail (verb) – To be unsuccessful in achieving one's goal, collapse, miscarry, break down, fall short असफल होना

- **Achieve** (verb) – To accomplish something successfully, attain, realize, fulfill. प्राप्त करना

- **Move fast** (verb phrase) – To go quickly, hurry, rush, speed. तेज़ी से चलना
 - **Lose** (verb) – To misplace or be deprived of, be defeated, forfeit, squander. खोना / हारना
8. C) **Bird's eye view** (phrase) – a general view, broad overview सामान्य दृष्टिकोण
9. D) **Hot-headed** (adjective) – quickly aroused to anger; impulsive and easily provoked जल्दी गुस्सा होने वाला
- **Temporal** (adjective) – relating to worldly as opposed to spiritual affairs; secular सांसारिक
 - **Argumentative** (adjective) – given to expressing divergent or opposite views; contentious तर्क-वितर्क में लिप्त
 - **Tampered** (verb) – interfere with (something) in order to cause damage or make unauthorized alterations छेड़छाड़ करना
10. B) **Correct Spelling:** Redundant – Meaning unnecessary or superfluous. अनावश्यक / अतिरिक्त
11. A) I asked him how long he would stay. He replied that he would stay for five days.
 "said to" + question → asked.
 Wh-question keeps the wh-word ("how long") and shifts to statement order (subject + verb):
 how long he would stay (no inversion).
 Backshift: will → would (reporting verb in past).
 Short answer "For five days." → full reported clause: he replied that he would stay for five days.
 Why others are wrong
 B: Uses question inversion in indirect (how long will he stay ?); also wrong tense in reply (he stays ?).
 C: told is for statements, not questions; reply tense (stayed) is incorrect for the intended future period.
 D: No backshift (will → will ?) despite past reporting ("said/replied").
12. A) 'Eager beaver' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "कोई व्यक्ति जो अत्यधिक उत्साही और मेहनती हो।" Sentence में कहा गया है कि "Don't be such an _____; we have plenty of time to complete the task," जिसका अर्थ है कि वक्ता दूसरे व्यक्ति को जरूरत से ज़्यादा उत्साही बनने से मना कर रहा है। इसलिए 'eager beaver' यहाँ सही है। 'Eat crow' का अर्थ है अपनी गलती को स्वीकार करना और माफी माँगना। यह संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यहाँ माफी माँगने की कोई बात नहीं हो रही है। 'Elephant in the room' का अर्थ है ऐसी बड़ी समस्या जिसका सामना करने से लोग बच रहे हों। यह भी गलत है क्योंकि sentence में किसी समस्या का जिक्र नहीं है। 'Easy money' का अर्थ है आसानी से कमाया गया पैसा। यहाँ पैसे से संबंधित कोई बात नहीं है, इसलिए यह option गलत है।
- Eager beaver' will be used because it means a person who is very enthusiastic and hardworking. The sentence implies someone is unnecessarily overenthusiastic despite having plenty of time.

- Eat crow' means to admit a mistake and apologize, which is contextually irrelevant. Elephant in the room' refers to a major problem avoided in discussion, but there is no problem mentioned here. Easy money' means money earned with little effort, which is unrelated to the sentence.

13. C) 4

(i) Correction: This task is being undertaken for the benefit of young people in need at the instance of the Chief of the Group.

Solution) in need एक स्थिर मुहावरा है जिसका अर्थ "ज़रूरतमंद/आवश्यकता में" होता है; यहाँ needed (V3/adj.) गलत है।

- Use the fixed phrase in need (not in needed) to mean "needy/requiring help." Example — Funds were raised for families in need.

(ii) Correction: If I were the principal of the school, I would abolish all examinations.

Solution) काल-संगति (Second Conditional) में यदि वर्तमान में अवास्तविक/काल्पनिक स्थिति हो तो if-clause में past/subjunctive "were" और main clause में would + V1 आता है।

- For unreal present: If + were, would + V1. Example — If I were you, I would rest.

(iii) Correction: My mother thinks (that) I should stop drinking.

Solution) think/know/believe जैसे stative verbs मत/विश्वास दर्शाते हैं; सामान्य राय के लिए Present Simple प्रयोग होता है, is thinking that अप्राकृतिक है।

- Use thinks/believes for opinions. Progressive only for temporary deliberation with a different pattern: She is thinking of quitting.

(iv) Correction: The students had a good time in class today.

"today" के भीतर जो घटना पूरी हो चुकी है, उसके लिए Simple Past (had) उचित है: "They had a good time in class today." यहाँ "enjoyed oneself" का भाव है।

- Use Simple Past for a finished event earlier today: I had lunch at 1 pm today.

14. D) QPSR

- Why Q comes first: Q introduces the main issue — the paddy glut in Punjab and its connection to the inefficiency of procurement agencies and lack of coordination between governments. Why P follows Q: P explains the stakeholders affected by the inefficiency mentioned in Q, detailing the issues faced by farmers, rice millers, and arhtiyas. P expands on Q by showing how the lack of coordination impacts different groups involved.
- Why S follows P: S provides an ironic observation about the crop (paddy) that is causing the issues described in P. It highlights the environmental damage caused by paddy cultivation, which has put the water table at risk.
- Why R comes last: R ends with a rhetorical question, reinforcing the idea from S about the unsustainable nature of paddy cultivation. It poses a broader question about the future of Punjab's resources, which effectively concludes the discussion.

15. B) **Inception** (noun) – Beginning, outset, commencement, genesis, start. आरम्भ

Antonym: Conclusion (noun) – Ending, termination, finale, closure, culmination. समाप्ति

- **Outset** (noun) – Beginning, start, inception, initiation. आरम्भ

- **Genesis** (noun) – Origin, birth, beginning, inception. उत्पत्ति
- **Commencement** (noun) – Start, initiation, inception, outset. प्रारम्भ

16. C) RPQS

- R: The paragraph begins with R, which introduces the main topic by stating that "The Summit of the Future raises a set of fundamental questions on global governance." This sets the context and theme for the subsequent sentences.
- P: P follows R, introducing one of the primary questions posed by the summit. This directly builds upon the theme of global governance raised in R.
- Q: Q logically comes after P, as it provides an evaluation of the first option mentioned in P (great power competition). It states that the former looks at the means and not the ends, offering a critique.
- S: S comes at the end, which adds to the discussion by mentioning that this debate is part of a larger, ongoing discourse on the meaning of justice. This sentence wraps up the paragraph by linking it to a broader context.

17. C) Shore up (phrasal verb) – Support, bolster, strengthen, fortify, reinforce मजबूत करना

18. B) 'If I wrote an email' के बदले 'If I write an email' का use होगा क्योंकि Conditional Sentence में मुख्य Clause 'he will react' Future Tense में है, अतः Conditional Clause Present Indefinite Tense में होगा; जैसे— If I write to him now, he will answer tomorrow.

- 'If I write an email' will be used instead of 'If I wrote an email' because in a Conditional Sentence, when the main clause is in Future Tense ('he will react'), the conditional clause must be in Present Indefinite Tense; Like— If I write to him now, he will answer tomorrow.

19. D) 'The tallest' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में तुलना पूरी family के बीच की जा रही है और "tall" एक positive degree है, जबकि "taller" comparative degree और "the tallest" superlative degree है। यहाँ superlative degree का use आवश्यक है क्योंकि Hunny को पूरी family के संदर्भ में सबसे लंबा बताया जा रहा है। 'More taller' गलत है क्योंकि यह redundant comparative degree है।

- 'The tallest' will be used because the sentence is making a comparison among all members of the family, and "tall" is the positive degree, "taller" is the comparative degree, while "the tallest" is the superlative degree. The use of the superlative degree is correct as Hunny is being described as the tallest in the context of the entire family. 'More taller' is incorrect as it redundantly uses a comparative degree.

20. A) Certainty

Conviction (noun) – Firm belief, principle, strong faith. दृढ़ विश्वास

Synonym: Certainty – Firmness of belief; complete confidence. निश्चितता

- **Mosaic** – Pattern of small pieces. जटिल पैटर्न
- **Fervor** – Intense enthusiasm (close but NOT exact synonym for belief). उत्साह
- **Tangent** – Sudden change of course. प्रसंगांतर

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.

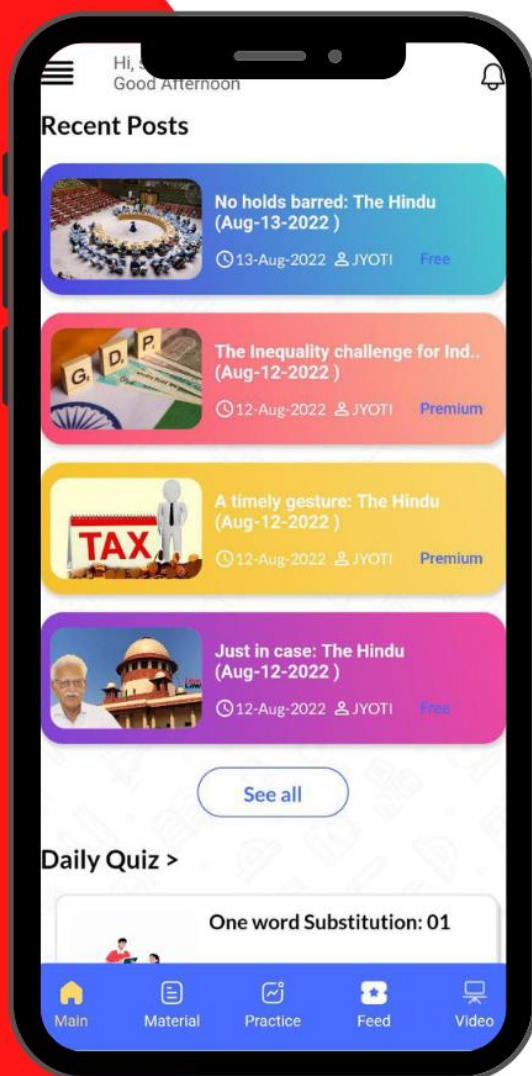
24. C) 'Resentment' का use होगा क्योंकि "resentment" का अर्थ होता है असंतोष/रोष; संदर्भ में किसानों का विरोध, हिंसा, और शो का रद्द होना—ये सब स्थानीय प्लान्टर्स के बढ़ते रोष से जुड़ते हैं। "growing resentment by local planters" में 'resentment' अमूर्त अगणनीय संज्ञा है जो 'growing' के साथ स्वाभाविक है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



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