Sting in the tail: on Cyclone Ditwah, its impact

Ditwah **devastated** Sri Lanka, and **exposed infrastructure gaps** in India

During its slow **crawl** over Sri Lanka in November, Cyclone Ditwah was a rain machine that repeatedly **swept over** the same areas for days, **eventually precipitating** a national disaster with **widespread** flooding. Fourteen lakh people were affected, and at least 474 were killed. After crossing Sri Lanka, the system re-entered the Bay of Bengal and briefly **reintensified**, bringing heavy rains to north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh. By December 1, the storm's **remnant parked** itself **off** Chennai's **coast** as a **deep depression**. The next day, after around 18 cm of rain over 24 hours, the city **woke** to flooded streets and **widespread waterlogging**. While **that** much rain **would** test any urban drainage system, public frustration has **mounted**. **That** Ditwah was **tricky** to predict **made** matters **worse**. Chennai's storm water network has been rebuilt and extended after the 2015 floods, and again since 2023, but it cannot be flood-proof. **Integrated projects** in local basins **are** designed to handle **intense** bursts rather than hours of heavy rain. The GCC has said that it has spent ₹5,200 crore over four years to add around 1,100 km of new drains, with three-fourths of the work done. A separate **endeavour** to fix smaller broken links **is** incomplete, leaving many streets **waterlogged**. Chennai's flat **layout**, increasing paved area, and the three rivers running through it from **catchments** in Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram also mean that when a storm system **inundates** those basins and Chennai together, water levels will rise quickly. Recent floods in north Chennai **exposed** the **encroachment** and **shoddy desilting** of the Kosasthalaiyar. With its ability to tolerate flooding **diminished**, the GCC had to **shut** some drains and pump **stagnant** waters against reverse flow. By **lingering** near Chennai, the new storm had similar effects.

The Thiruppugazh Committee appointed after the 2021 floods produced a 600-page report with basin-wise recommendations and **numerous** measures. The State government has **cited** this report while justifying design changes and drain upgrades, building artificial water bodies, and **seeking** central funds for an 'Integrated Urban Flood Management' project, yet the report remains out of public view. There is also no verifiable **consolidated** implementation plan with a deadline. Flood maps and **elevation** models **exist** for the Chennai basin but they are not a shared reference for enforcement and relief efforts, while proper zoning and limits on construction continue to **elude** residents. Thus, the rains **underline** an unresolved story while **spotlighting** gaps in infrastructure and **transparency**. As the upgrades take shape, the State must publish the report and ensure **hazard** maps and basin-wide **coordination** efforts as well as temporary solutions such as pumps **keep pace with** the storms that routinely test them.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sting in the tail** (phrase) – an unpleasant end or hidden problem. अप्रिय अंत

2. **Devastate** (verb) – destroy, ruin, wreck, ravage, lay waste तबाह करना

3. **Expose** (verb) – reveal, uncover, lay bare, show, disclose उजागर करना

4. **Infrastructure** (noun) – basic physical structures, facilities, framework बुनियादी ढांचा

5. **Gap** (noun) – deficiency, shortcoming, flaw, weakness, hole कमी

6. **Crawl** (noun) – slow movement, creep, dawdle, sluggish progress रेंगना

7. **Sweep over** (phrasal verb) – move over an area quickly and forcefully. तेजी से फैलना

8. **Eventually** (adverb) – finally, in the end, ultimately, after some time अंततः

9. **Precipitate** (verb) – cause, trigger, bring about, hasten, accelerate तेज करना

10. **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, pervasive, ubiquitous, common, prevalent व्यापक

11. **Reintensify** (verb) – strengthen again, regain strength, revive फिर से तेज होना

12. **Remnant** (noun) – remaining part, leftover, vestige, trace, fragment अवशेष

13. **Park off** (phrasal verb) – remain stationary near a location. पास ही रुक जाना

14. **Coast** (noun) – shoreline, seaside, beachfront, littoral तट

15. **Deep depression** (noun) – a low-pressure weather system.

16. **Wake** (verb) – arise, get up, become aware, stir उठना

17. **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, pervasive, ubiquitous, common, prevalent व्यापक

18. **Waterlogging** (noun) – flooding, inundation, accumulation of water जलभराव

19. **Mount** (verb) – increase, grow, rise, accumulate, escalate बढ़ना

20. **Tricky** (adjective) – difficult, complicated, complex, unpredictable पेचीदा

21. **Make worse** (phrase) – aggravate, exacerbate, deteriorate, worsen. बिगाड़ना

22. **Intense** (adjective) – severe, extreme, heavy, powerful, strong तीव्र

23. **Endeavour** (noun) – effort, undertaking, initiative, venture, attempt प्रयास

24. **Waterlogged** (adjective) – flooded, saturated, soaked, submerged जलमग्न

25. **Layout** (noun) – arrangement, design, plan, structure, configuration खाका

26. **Catchment** (noun) – drainage area, basin, watershed, reservoir जलग्रहण क्षेत्र

27. **Inundate** (verb) – flood, overwhelm, swamp, submerge, deluge बाढ़ से भरना

28. **Expose** (verb) – reveal, uncover, lay bare, show, disclose उजागर करना

29. **Encroachment** (noun) – intrusion, invasion, infringement, trespass, violation अतिक्रमण

30. **Shoddy** (adjective) – poor, inferior, careless, sloppy, substandard घटिया

31. **Desilting** (noun) – removal of silt or sediment. गाद हटाना

32. **Diminish** (verb) – reduce, lessen, weaken, decrease, decline कम करना

33. **Shut** (verb) – close, seal, block, lock, stop बंद करना

34. **Stagnant** (adjective) – still, motionless, standing, foul, stale स्थिर

35. **Linger** (verb) – remain, stay, hang around, persist, loiter ठहरना

36. **Numerous** (adjective) – many, countless, several, multiple, innumerable अनेक

37. **Cite** (verb) – mention, refer to, quote, name, point to हवाला देना

38. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim, strive, endeavor कोशिश करना

39. **Consolidated** (adjective) – unified, combined, integrated, merged, amalgamated समेकित

40. **Elevation** (noun) – height, altitude, rise, prominence ऊँचाई

41. **Exist** (verb) – be present, be available, be in place, occur मौजूद होना

42. **Elude** (verb) – escape, evade, avoid, dodge, bypass टल जाना

43. **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate रेखांकित करना

44. **Spotlight** (verb) – highlight, focus on, emphasize, draw attention to ध्यान केंद्रित करना

45. **Transparency** (noun) – openness, clarity, accountability, candor, forthrightness पारदर्शिता

46. **Hazard** (noun) – danger, risk, threat, peril, menace खतरा

47. **Coordination** (noun) – collaboration, cooperation, teamwork, synergy, liaison समन्वय

48. **Keep pace with** (phrase) – to stay at the same speed or level as. के साथ कदम मिलाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Severe Impact on Sri Lanka:** Cyclone Ditwah caused a national disaster in Sri Lanka in November, leading to widespread flooding.

2. **Human Toll:** The cyclone affected 14 lakh people and killed at least 474 in Sri Lanka.

3. **Impact on South India:** After crossing Sri Lanka, the system brought heavy rains to north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh.

4. **Chennai Flooded:** The storm's remnant parked off Chennai's coast, dumping ~18 cm of rain in 24 hours on December 1-2, causing severe waterlogging.

5. **Prediction Challenges:** The storm's "tricky" and unpredictable nature worsened the crisis.

6. **Infrastructure Limits:** Despite post-2015 upgrades, Chennai's stormwater drains cannot be "flood-proof" and are designed for intense bursts, not prolonged heavy rain.

7. **Significant Drain Investment:** The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) spent ₹5,200 crore over four years to add 1,100 km of new drains, with 75% completed.

8. **Unfinished Critical Work:** A separate project to fix smaller, broken drainage links remains incomplete, contributing to waterlogging.

9. **Geographical Vulnerabilities:** Chennai's flat terrain, increasing paved areas, and three rivers from external catchments make it prone to rapid water level rises during basin-wide inundation.

10. **Encroachment & Poor Maintenance:** Recent floods exposed encroachment and shoddy desilting of the Kosasthalaiyar river, diminishing flood tolerance.

11. **Emergency Measures Required:** The GCC had to shut drains and use pumps to manage stagnant water and reverse flow.

12. **Unpublished Expert Report:** A 600-page report by the Thiruppugazh Committee (post-2021 floods) with basin-wise recommendations remains out of public view.

13. **Lacking Clear Plan:** There is no verifiable, consolidated implementation plan with a deadline for the report's recommendations.

14. **Underutilized Flood Data:** Flood maps and elevation models exist but are not a shared reference for enforcement, relief, or zoning, allowing unsafe construction.

15. **Call for Action:** The state must publish the report, ensure basin-wide coordination, use hazard maps, and upgrade temporary solutions (like pumps) to keep pace with recurring storms.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**   **[Editorial page]**
   A. Infrastructure shortcomings and need for transparent flood management
   B. Celebration of Chennai's storm water upgrades
   C. Detailed meteorological study of Cyclone Ditwah
   D. Tourist attractions affected by the cyclone

2. **What was one major reason for public frustration in Chennai during Cyclone Ditwah's impact?**
   A. Lack of rainfall prediction and delay in rebuilding storm-water drains
   B. Difficulty in predicting the cyclone combined with continued waterlogging
   C. Heavy rainfall only due to rivers overflowing their banks
   D. Failure of the Thiruppugazh Committee report implementation

3. **Which Committee prepared a 600-page flood-management report after the 2021 floods?**
   A. Kosasthalaiyar Basin Review Council
   B. Bay of Bengal Disaster Board
   C. Thiruppugazh Committee
   D. GCC Drainage Advisory Forum

4. **What can be inferred about Chennai's drainage system from the passage ?**
   A. The system is outdated and completely non-functional
   B. The system is fully capable of handling prolonged heavy rain
   C. Despite improvements, the system is not flood-proof during long rain spells
   D. The city deliberately ignored all flood-management recommendations

5. **Complete the statement from the passage meaningfully:**
   Flood maps exist for Chennai, but they are not a _____ reference for enforcement and relief efforts.
   A. restricted
   B. historical
   C. temporary
   D. shared

6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word "Perpetual."**
   A. Erratic
   B. Continuous
   C. Tactile
   D. Imminent

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
   The assignment was _____ early in the morning.
   A. due
   B. dew
   C. doe
   D. do

8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Blemish."**
   A. Perfection
   B. Turbulence
   C. Reverence

D. Austerity

9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
   Let the dust settle
   A. Wait for the other person to make a move
   B. To wait for a situation to become clear or certain
   C. To make a space tidy
   D. To make use of a situation

10. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
    Simple, fast-spreading plant without flowers or leaves, which can often cause disease
    A. Bacteria
    B. Amoeba
    C. Virus
    D. Fungus

11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**
    She said that she could bake cookies
    A. She said, "I may bake cookies."
    B. She said, "I can bake cookies."
    C. She says, "I can bake cookies."
    D. She had said, "I can bake cookies

12. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
    We must **confrunt** the challenges of life bravely.
    A. confroont
    B. confrunt
    C. confront
    D. conftront

13. **Select the ANTONYM of the word "Scepticism."**
    A. Credence
    B. Forbearance
    C. Pliability
    D. Tenacity

14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Invincibility."**
    A. Vulnerability
    B. Omnipotence
    C. Diffidence
    D. Brevity

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
    The teacher _____ the students to think critically about the topic.
    A. admonished
    B. acquiesced
    C. assented
    D. advised

16. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
    The meeting **closed** with a vote of thanks

A. stopped

B. finished

C. completed

D. concluded

17. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.**

Parents must monitor what them children access on the internet as they are easily influenced.

A. what them children

B. access on the internet

C. Parents must monitor

D. as they are easily influenced

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

(P) Cats may have a reputation for independence, but emerging research suggests we share a unique connection with them – fuelled by brain chemistry.

(Q) It's the same neurochemical that surges when a mother cradles her baby or when friends hug, fostering trust and affection.

(R) The main chemical involved is oxytocin, often called the love hormone.

(S) And now studies are showing oxytocin is important for cat-human bonding too.

A. P, R, Q, S

B. Q, P, S, R

C. R, S, Q, P

D. R, P, S, Q

19. **Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**

He always used to say that he was not a beggar by choice and if someone couldemploy him, he would **like to eat**

A. love to work

B. listen to me

C. linger at work

D. live to work

20. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.**

Are these library books their?

A. Are these

B. library

C. books

D. Their

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.

GST 2.0 is a _____(1)_____step that aligns India with global best practices, by simplifying taxes and _____(2)_____key essentials such as health and life insurance. It follows from similar _____(3)_____in Australia and the United Kingdom, which ____(4)____youth welfare and consumption. With over 60% of India's GDP _____(5)_____by private spending, GST 2.0 directly benefits young households.

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21. **What should come in the place of 1.**
    A. obscurantist
    B. pragmatist
    C. visionary
    D. realist
22. **What should come in the place of 2.**
    A. exempt
    B. exempted
    C. exempts
    D. exempting
23. **What should come in the place of 3.**
    A. status
    B. reforms
    C. pattern
    D. fervour
24. **What should come in the place of 4.**
    A. spurred
    B. spur
    C. spurs
    D. spurring
25. **What should come in the place of 5.**
    A. combatted
    B. sharpen
    C. disastrous
    D. driven

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **Infrastructure shortcomings and need for transparent flood management**
   The central focus is on how Cyclone Ditwah revealed drainage issues, incomplete work, and the urgent need for transparency, planning, hazard mapping, and flood management reforms.
   - B – Upgrades are mentioned, but in a critical tone, not celebration.
   - C – Meteorology is not the core focus; infrastructure failure is.
   - D – No discussion of tourism.

2. B) **Difficulty in predicting the cyclone combined with continued waterlogging**
   The passage states "That Ditwah was tricky to predict made matters worse…waterlogging…public frustration has mounted." Prediction difficulty + waterlogging together frustrated citizens.
   - A – Drains were rebuilt earlier; frustration was due to prediction + flooding.
   - C – Overflow alone is not stated as the primary cause.
   - D – Non-publication of report is highlighted, but not as main reason for frustration

3. C) **Thiruppugazh Committee**
   The passage clearly states "The Thiruppugazh Committee… produced a 600-page report…"

4. C) **Despite improvements, the system is not flood-proof during long rain spells**
   The passage says upgrades were done, 1100 km drains added, but "it cannot be flood-proof…designed to handle bursts not hours of heavy rain." So improvements exist, yet limitations remain.
   - A – Not "completely" non-functional; upgrades exist.
   - B – Opposite of passage claim.
   - D – Report not public, implementation unclear, but not stated as deliberate ignorance.

5. D) **shared**
   The original line: "Flood maps and elevation models exist… but they are not a shared reference…"
   - A – No context of restriction.
   - B – Nothing suggests historical use.
   - C – Not about duration.

6. B) **Perpetual** (adjective) – Constant, never-ending, continuous. निरंतर
   Synonym: **Continuous** (adjective) – Without interruption, ongoing. अविराम / लगातार
   - **Erratic** – Irregular or unpredictable. अनियमित
   - **Tactile** – Related to touch. स्पर्श-संबंधी
   - **Imminent** – About to happen. आसन्न

7. A) **'Due'** का use होगा क्योंकि "due" का अर्थ होता है निर्धारित समय पर होना या किसी काम का समय पर पूरा होना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि assignment सुबह जल्दी पूरा होना था, इसलिए 'due' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Dew' का अर्थ है ओस, 'Doe' का अर्थ है हिरनी, और 'Do' का अर्थ है करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Due'** will be used because it means expected or scheduled to happen at a particular time. The sentence mentions that the assignment was to be completed early in the morning, making 'due' correct here. Whereas, 'Dew' means moisture on the ground, 'Doe' means a female deer, and 'Do' means to perform an action, which do not fit in this context. "Due" is an adjective describing when the assignment was expected. The other options are either nouns (dew, doe) or a verb (do), which do not fit grammatically in this sentence structure

8. A) **Blemish** (noun) – A mark, stain, flaw, or defect. दाग / दोष

   Antonym: **Perfection** (noun) – The state of being flawless; without any defect. पूर्णता
   - **Turbulence** (noun) – Disorder or instability. अशांति
   - **Reverence** (noun) – Deep respect. श्रद्धा
   - **Austerity** (noun) – Severe simplicity. सादगी

9. B) **Let the dust settle** (idiom) – To wait for a situation to become clear or certain. किसी स्थिति के स्पष्ट या निश्चित होने का इंतजार करना।

10. D) **Fungus** (noun) – Simple, fast-spreading plant without flowers or leaves, which can often cause disease फफूंद
    - **Bacteria** (noun) – Microscopic, single-celled organisms that can live in diverse environments. They can be helpful or harmful. जीवाणु
    - **Amoeba** (noun) – Single-celled organism capable of changing shape, often found in water bodies. अमीबा
    - **Virus** (noun) – Infectious agent that can only replicate inside living cells of organisms, leading to diseases. विषाणु

11. B) **She said, "I can bake cookies."**

    Indirect वाक्य में Reporting Verb "said" को Reporting Speech के साथ Quotation Marks में लिखा जाता है। Reported Speech में "could" को वापस "can" में बदला जाता है, क्योंकि यह Direct Speech में Present Form में होता है। वाक्य "She said, 'I can bake cookies.'" सही Direct Speech है।
    - To convert from Indirect to Direct Speech, the Reporting Verb "said" is paired with the Reporting Speech in quotation marks. The modal verb "could" is reverted to "can," as it reflects the present form in Direct Speech. The correct Direct Speech sentence is "She said, 'I can bake cookies.'"

12. C) The correct spelling of 'confrunt' is '**confront**' which means "to face, deal with, grapple with" का सामना करना.

13. A) **Scepticism** (noun) – Doubt, distrust, disbelief, cynicism, suspicion. संदेह

    Antonym: **Credence** (noun) – Belief or acceptance as true; trust. विश्वास / भरोसा
    - **Forbearance** (noun) – Patience, restraint. धैर्य
    - **Pliability** (noun) – Flexibility. लचक
    - **Tenacity** (noun) – Determination. दृढ़ता

14. B) **Omnipotence**

    Invincibility (noun) – The state of being impossible to defeat; supreme power; अजेयता.

    Synonym: **Omnipotence** – Unlimited power or authority; सर्वशक्तिमान शक्ति.
    - **Vulnerability** – Susceptibility to harm; कमजोर होना.
    - **Diffidence** – Lack of confidence; झिझक.

- **Brevity** – Shortness; संक्षिप्तता.

15. D) **'Advised'** का use होगा क्योंकि "advised" का अर्थ है किसी को सुझाव देना या निर्देशित करना, जो यहां वाक्य के संदर्भ में फिट बैठता है। sentence में mention है कि शिक्षक ने छात्रों को किसी विषय पर गंभीरता से सोचने के लिए प्रेरित किया। 'Admonished' का अर्थ है डांटना या चेतावनी देना, जो यहां सही नहीं है। 'Acquiesced' का अर्थ है चुपचाप सहमति देना, जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में नहीं है। 'Assented' का अर्थ है सहमति देना, जो वाक्य में शिक्षक के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

    - **'Advised'** will be used because it means to suggest or guide someone, which fits the context where the teacher is encouraging students to think critically about a topic. 'Admonished' means to reprimand or warn, which does not fit here. 'Acquiesced' means to accept something reluctantly but without protest, which is not contextually relevant. 'Assented' means to agree, which doesn't align with the teacher's role in this sentence.

16. D) 'closed' के बदले **'concluded'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "concluded" का अर्थ है "समाप्त होना" और यह किसी औपचारिक प्रक्रिया या घटना के समापन के लिए अधिक उपयुक्त है; जैसे— "The conference concluded with a final speech."

    - **'concluded'** will be used instead of 'closed' because "concluded" means "came to an end" and is more appropriate for the formal ending of a process or event; Like— "The conference concluded with a final speech."

17. A) 'what them children' के बदले **'what their children'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Possessive Adjective 'their' का प्रयोग करना चाहिए जब हम किसी के स्वामित्व या संबंध को व्यक्त कर रहे हों; जैसे— Parents must monitor what their children access on the internet as they are easily influenced.

    - 'what them children' should be replaced with 'what their children' because the Possessive Adjective 'their' should be used when we are expressing ownership or relation; Like— Parents must monitor what their children access on the internet as they are easily influenced

18. A) **P, R, Q, S**
    P starts by introducing the topic: the unique human-cat connection via brain chemistry.
    R follows P by specifying the "main chemical involved" (oxytocin), which directly refers to the "brain chemistry" mentioned in P.
    Q begins with "It's the same neurochemical..." which refers to oxytocin from R, and explains its role in other bonding scenarios.
    S starts with "And now studies are showing..." which builds on Q, emphasizing that oxytocin is also key for cat-human bonding (tying back to P).
    In Hindi:

    - P paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह topic introduce करता है: cats और humans के बीच unique connection, जो brain chemistry से fuelled है।
    - R, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह specific chemical "oxytocin" को identify करता है, जिसका P में indirectly mention था ("brain chemistry")
    - Q, R के बाद logically fit होता है क्योंकि "It's the same neurochemical" oxytocin को refer करता है और बताता है कि यह hormone अन्य contexts (जैसे mother-baby) में कैसे work करता है।

- S, Q के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि अब studies show कर रही हैं कि oxytocin cat-human bonding के लिए भी important है, जो P में introduced topic को complete करता है।

19. A) 'like to eat' के बदले 'love to work' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वह कहना चाहता है कि अगर उसे कोई नौकरी दे तो वह काम करने को पसंद करेगा। 'like to eat' का प्रयोग सही संदर्भ में नहीं है; जैसे— He always used to say that he was not a beggar by choice and if someone could employ him, he would love to work.

   - 'love to work' will be used instead of 'like to eat' because he wants to say that if someone could employ him, he would like to work. The phrase 'like to eat' is not appropriate in the given context; Like— He always used to say that he was not a beggar by choice and if someone could employ him, he would love to work.

20. D) Their' के बदले **'there'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'there' का प्रयोग स्थान को दर्शाने के लिए होता है जबकि 'their' का प्रयोग स्वामित्व को दर्शाने के लिए होता है; जैसे— Are these library books there?

   - **There'** will be used instead of 'their' because 'there' is used to indicate location, whereas 'their' is used to indicate possession; Like— Are these library books there

21. C) **Visionary'** का use होगा क्योंकि "visionary" का अर्थ होता है दूरदर्शी/भविष्य-दृष्टि वाला। sentence में कहा गया है कि GST 2.0 global best practices से align करता है और taxes को simplify करता है—ऐसी नीति को "visionary step" कहा जाता है। जबकि 'obscurantist' का अर्थ है जानकारी छिपाने/प्रगति रोकने वाला (context के विरुद्ध), 'pragmatist' व्यक्ति-सूचक संज्ञा है—यहाँ adjective चाहिए (सही रूप 'pragmatic' होता), और 'realist' का adjective रूप यहाँ स्वाभाविक नहीं; सामान्य collocation 'realistic step' होता है, इसलिए grammar और context दोनों से फिट नहीं बैठते।

   - 'Visionary' will be used because it means far-sighted or forward-looking. The sentence says GST 2.0 aligns with global best practices and simplifies taxes—precisely a "visionary step." Whereas 'obscurantist' means anti-reform/withholding knowledge (wrong tone), 'pragmatist' is a person-noun (the needed adjective is 'pragmatic'), and 'realist' is awkward here; the natural collocation is 'realistic step', so these don't fit the context or grammar.

22. D) **Exempting'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "कर-मुक्त करना/छूट देना" और वाक्य में संरचना है: by simplifying taxes and exempting key essentials—यहाँ simplifying और exempting समानांतर -ing रूप (gerund/participle) हैं, इसलिए व्याकरणतः सही है। जबकि exempt मूल रूप है, exempted past participle/विशेषण है, और exempts simple present (3rd person singular) है—ये "by ... and ..." के parallel -ing ढाँचे में फिट नहीं बैठते।

   - 'Exempting' will be used because it keeps parallelism with "simplifying" after "by," and means "to make tax-free," which fits the context of GST 2.0 removing tax on essentials. Whereas, 'exempt' is the base form (not parallel), 'exempted' is a past participle/adjective (breaks the -ing structure), and 'exempts' is simple present (3rd person singular), so none of these maintain the required parallel -ing form here.

23. B) **'reforms'** का use होगा क्योंकि "reforms" का अर्थ होता है नीतिगत सुधार/परिवर्तन; sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह Australia और UK में हुए similar reforms से follow करता है, इसलिए 'reforms' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'status quo' वर्तमान स्थिति (आम तौर पर singular) है और "similar status quo" अप्राकृतिक लगता है; 'standstill' ठहराव/रुकावट दर्शाता है जो अर्थानुकूल नहीं; 'fervour' उत्साह/जोश है, नीति-संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं। साथ ही "similar" के बाद plural count noun स्वाभाविक है, जिसे 'reforms' पूरा करता है।
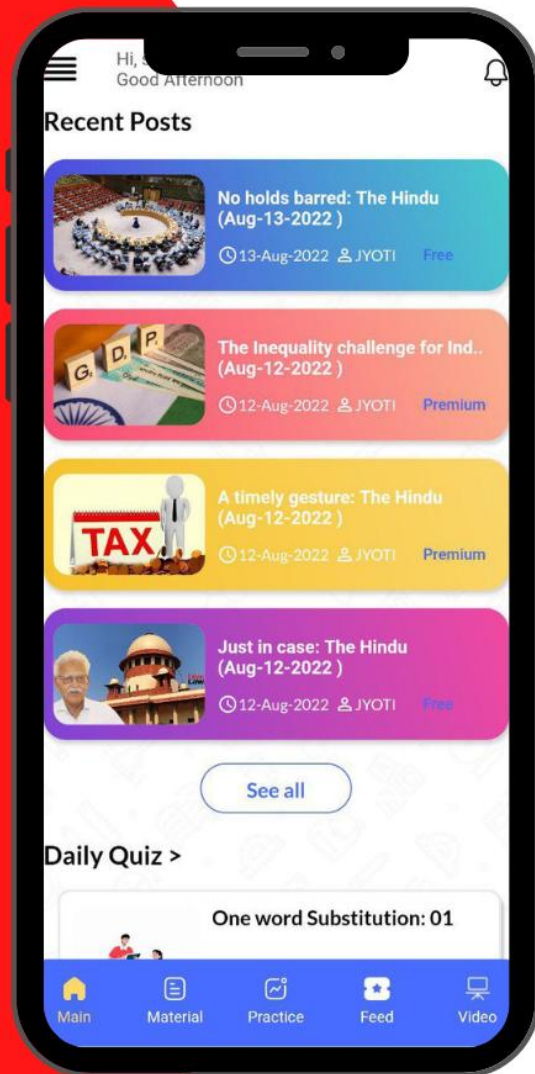
- 'reforms' will be used because it means policy changes/improvements. The sentence says it follows from similar reforms in Australia and the UK, so 'reforms' fits. Whereas, 'status quo' means the existing state (typically singular and "similar status quo" is awkward here), 'standstill' means a halt (not contextually logical), and 'fervour' means intense feeling (not a policy term). Grammatically, a plural count noun after "similar" is natural here, which 'reforms' provides.

24. A) **Spurred'** का use होगा क्योंकि "which" का antecedent "similar reforms/measures" है जो Australia और UK में पहले हो चुके कदम हैं; इसलिए completed effect बताने के लिए simple past चाहिए। 'spurred' का अर्थ है प्रोत्साहित/बढ़ावा दिया—यानी इन सुधारों ने youth welfare और consumption को बढ़ाया। जबकि 'spur' general present देता है (समय-रेखा mismatch), 'spurs' singular subject के साथ आता है (पर antecedent plural है), और 'spurring' participle है जिसे 'which' के बाद be-verb चाहिए (जैसे "which were/are spurring"), इसलिए सही नहीं है।

    - **'Spurred'** will be used because "which" refers to specific prior reforms in Australia and the UK, so the clause should show a completed result in simple past. 'Spurred' means encouraged/boosted, fitting "youth welfare and consumption." 'Spur' would make it a generic present claim (tense mismatch), 'spurs' requires a singular subject, and 'spurring' is a participle that would need a helping verb after 'which' (e.g., "which were/are spurring"), so they are incorrect.

25. D) **'Driven'** का use होगा क्योंकि "driven by" का अर्थ होता है किसी परिणाम का मुख्य कारण/प्रेरक होना; वाक्य में 60% of India's GDP का कारण निजी खर्च बताया गया है, इसलिए 'driven' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Idle' का अर्थ है निष्क्रिय, 'Slothful' का अर्थ है आलसी, और 'Disastrous' का अर्थ है विनाशकारी—ये अर्थानुसार फिट नहीं बैठते और 'by' के साथ कारण बताने की स्वाभाविक संरचना भी नहीं बनाते।

    - **'Driven'** will be used because "driven by" means caused/propelled by; the clause states that over 60% of India's GDP is caused by private spending, so 'driven' fits both meaning and the grammar (past-participle phrase + "by"). Whereas, 'Idle' means inactive, 'Slothful' means lazy, and 'Disastrous' means catastrophic—none convey causation and they don't naturally form the "X ___ by Y" causative collocation here.