

Distressing regularity: On Meghalaya's rat-hole mines

Illegal mining should become socially expensive and operationally **prohibitive**

The **explosion** in an illegal **rat-hole mine** in Meghalaya on February 5, killing at least 18 workers, **is** a **grim** reminder that court **supervision** cannot substitute **governance**. Illegal coal mining in India is a long-running problem, but the **northeast**, especially Meghalaya's **coal belt**, **has** a **distinct ecosystem** — of small privately or community-owned landholdings, thin coal **seams**, weak local **enforcement**, and supply chains — that can **launder** illegal coal into **legitimate** markets through intermediaries. Rat-hole mining is the norm (for illegal setups), and they are **prone to collapsing** because they lack engineered roofs and side-wall protections. The National Green Tribunal ordered its **cessation** in 2014, but illegal mines have continued due to a high local dependence on income from coal, fragmented ownership and contractorships that spread **accountability** and **patronage**. **Operators** of illegal mines also **underreport** accidents and **keep workers off** formal records; and while workers' deaths **hit the headlines**, injuries — due to polluted water, acid drains, **unstable landscapes**, and degraded roads — and child labour use do not.

Illegal coal is currently not easy to separate from **legacy** or auctioned coal once it has entered the supply chain. But the expected **cost** of illegal **extraction** and transport **needs** to **go up**. Meghalaya already has a framework to prevent illegal mining, transport, and storage under the MMDR Act. Using technology to reduce the cost of detection, it should add mandatory GPS tracking for all coal carriers, **invalidate consignments** that **deviate** from a specific route, and integrate satellite and drone patrol data with control rooms. Illegal **mining** should also **become** socially expensive, **perhaps** through community monitoring, **incentivised** by sharing penalties with local bodies. **Conversely**, the State should pressure **intermediaries** with **seizure**, cancelled licences, prosecution, and **blacklisting** from auctions. Next, bans fail **sans** alternatives, so the State should displace illegal mining as an income source by **setting up** credit and market linkages for **horticulture**, construction, small manufacturing and tourism, and refitting public works to absorb mining labour. Finally, the State must **dismantle incentives** on the supply side; the February 5 blast shows that illegal mines continue to access an informal labour market. **To this end**, the State may allow workers to testify in exchange for **amnesty**, and aggressively pursue **errant** contractors. It should also **subvert** the administrative tolerance for such contractors by rotating postings in hotspot districts and independently **auditing** permits, among others. **Treating** rat-hole mining as an enforcement issue alone **risks** pushing the practice further underground.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Distressing** (adjective) – upsetting, perturbing, agonizing, harrowing, grievous कष्टदायक
2. **Prohibitive** (adjective) – restrictive, repressive, forbidding, exorbitant, excessive निषेधात्मक
3. **Rat-hole mine** (noun) – a type of mining involving digging very small tunnels, barely large enough for a person to fit into चूहे के बिल जैसी खान
4. **Grim** (adjective) – bleak, somber, ghastly, forbidding, macabre भीषण
5. **Supervision** (noun) – oversight, surveillance, stewardship, administration, inspection पर्यवेक्षण
6. **Governance** (noun) – administration, regulation, jurisdiction, authority, management शासन
7. **Coal belt** (noun) – an area or region that has significant underground deposits of coal कोयला क्षेत्र
8. **Distinct** (adjective) – discrete, disparate, peculiar, evident, marked विशिष्ट
9. **Ecosystem** (noun) – a community of living organisms interacting with each other and their physical environment पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
10. **Seam** (noun) – layer, vein, stratum, lode, bed परत
11. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, imposition, application, compulsion प्रवर्तन
12. **Launder** (verb) – disguise, sanitize, process, distort, manipulate हेरफेर कर वैध बनाना
13. **Legitimate** (adjective) – lawful, valid, authentic, legal, constitutional वैध
14. **Prone to** (adjective) – be likely to something की संभावना
15. **Cessation** (noun) – termination, conclusion, halt, stoppage, abeyance समाप्ति
16. **Accountability** (noun) – liability, responsibility, answerability, culpability, amenability जवाबदेही
17. **Patronage** (noun) – sponsorship, backing, advocacy, aegis, championship संरक्षण
18. **Keep off** (phrasal verb) – to prevent someone or something from being included or entering something दूर रखना
19. **Hit the headlines** (phrase) – to become suddenly famous or widely reported in the news सुर्खियों में आना
20. **Unstable** (adjective) – precarious, volatile, erratic, capricious, rickety अस्थिर
21. **Landscape** (noun) – terrain, topography, scenery, outlook, vista परिवर्त्य

22. **Legacy** (noun) – inheritance, bequest, heritage, endowment, vestige विरासत

23. **Extraction** (noun) – removal, withdrawal, excavation, mining, derivation निष्कर्षण

24. **Go up** (phrasal verb) – to increase in price, amount, level, or intensity बढ़ना

25. **Invalidate** (verb) – nullify, annul, void, negate, quash अमान्य करना

26. **Consignment** (noun) – shipment, delivery, cargo, batch, freight भेजा गया माल

27. **Deviate** (verb) – digress, stray, veer, diverge, swerve विचलित होना

28. **Perhaps** (adverb) – possibly, feasibly, conceivably, maybe, perchance शायद

29. **Incentivise** (verb) – encourage, motivate, stimulate, induce, inspire प्रोत्साहित करना

30. **Conversely** (adverb) – contrarily, inversely, oppositely, vice versa, on the contrary इसके विपरीत

31. **Intermediary** (noun) – mediator, broker, middleman, agent, go-between बिचौलिया

32. **Seizure** (noun) – confiscation, impounding, capture, appropriation, distraint जब्ती

33. **Blacklisting** (noun) – boycotting, barring, debarring, excluding, ostracizing काली सूची में डालना

34. **Sans** (preposition) – without, minus, lacking, bereft of, devoid of के बिना

35. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – the act of establishing or starting something like a business or system स्थापना करना

36. **Horticulture** (noun) – gardening, cultivation, agriculture, floriculture, pomology बागवानी

37. **Dismantle** (verb) – deconstruct, disassemble, demolish, strip, raze विघटित करना

38. **Incentive** (noun) – inducement, lure, bait, stimulus, impetus प्रोत्साहन

39. **To the end** (phrase) – for this purpose or in order to achieve the specific goal mentioned इसी उद्देश्य से

40. **Amnesty** (noun) – pardon, reprieve, absolution, exoneration, immunity आम माफी

41. **Errant** (adjective) – offending, wayward, delinquent, aberrant, deviant पथश्रृंखला

42. **Subvert** (verb) – undermine, sabotage, destabilize, overturn, corrupt तख्तापलट करना

43. **Auditing** (noun) – inspection, verification, scrutiny, examination, appraisal लेखापरीक्षा

Summary of the Editorial

1. The February 5 explosion in an illegal rat-hole mine in Meghalaya, killing at least 18 workers, highlights repeated governance failures.
2. Court supervision alone is insufficient to curb illegal mining without strong and active state governance.
3. Illegal coal mining is a long-standing national issue, but Meghalaya's context makes it uniquely difficult to control.
4. Small private and community-owned landholdings enable fragmented and unregulated mining practices.
5. Thin coal seams encourage the use of dangerous rat-hole mining methods.
6. Rat-hole mines lack proper engineering safeguards, making collapses and accidents common.
7. Despite the National Green Tribunal banning rat-hole mining in 2014, illegal operations persist.
8. High local dependence on coal income sustains illegal mining activities.
9. Fragmented ownership and contract systems dilute accountability and encourage patronage networks.
10. Mine operators often hide accidents, keep workers off official records, and suppress injury data.
11. Injuries, environmental damage, polluted water, degraded roads, and child labour rarely receive attention.
12. Illegal coal easily enters legitimate supply chains, making enforcement challenging.
13. The cost and risk of illegal mining must be increased through better detection and stricter penalties.
14. Technology like GPS tracking, satellite surveillance, and drone monitoring can strengthen enforcement.
15. Long-term solutions require alternative livelihoods, labour protection, and dismantling supply-side incentives, not enforcement alone.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The need for comprehensive governance reforms to curb illegal rat-hole mining
 - B. The economic benefits of coal mining in Meghalaya
 - C. Judicial intervention as the sole solution to mining disasters
 - D. The geological challenges of coal extraction in Northeast India
2. **What can be reasonably inferred about the failure of bans on rat-hole mining in Meghalaya?**
 - A. Bans fail because coal demand decreases locally
 - B. Bans succeed when judicial supervision intensifies
 - C. Bans collapse solely due to technological absence
 - D. Bans ignore economic dependence and accountability gaps
3. **Which measure is explicitly proposed to raise the cost of illegal coal transport?**
 - A. Mandatory GPS tracking for coal carriers
 - B. Judicial monitoring through tribunal oversight
 - C. Complete prohibition on regional coal auctions
 - D. Expansion of community land ownership rights
4. **Why does the passage argue that court supervision cannot substitute governance in Meghalaya's mining context?**
 - A. Orders alone cannot replace local enforcement
 - B. Governance failures enable persistent illegal mining
 - C. Coal demand nationally overwhelms judicial supervision
 - D. Mining technology gaps undermine safety regulations
5. **Why does the passage recommend technological surveillance measures for coal transportation?**
 - A. Stricter court monitoring of mining accidents
 - B. Increasing national coal production through auctions
 - C. Mandatory GPS tracking integrated patrol data
 - D. Immediate blanket bans without livelihood alternatives

Comprehension

The wiry man, in his thirties walked slowly into the clinic accompanied by his equally thin wife and their five-year-old child. After going through his symptoms and signs, I understood that he was suffering from a spinal illness and prescribed him (1)_____ medications. Usually when I prescribe the treatment, whether it be surgical intervention or medications, I guess the patient's affordability by 'looking' at (2)_____. Clothes, jewellery, footwear and phones — all of these give me an idea about how they would be able to handle the cost of their illness.

In the Western world, the treatment is purely based on science. The disease dictates the treatment more often than by the patient. However, in India, the patients' socio-economic status plays a major role. The wife showed me a list of medications prescribed earlier by another younger colleague. I noticed that the medications were quite pricey while inexpensive formulations of the same drug was available. I gave them a new set of medications and later (3)_____ the colleague about his knowledge of price of drugs. His guesses were (4)_____ off target, which (5)_____ me to think more on this.

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. Certain

B. possible
C. general
D. prescriptive

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. them
B. those
C. these
D. there

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
A. enquired about
B. enquired into
C. enquired after
D. enquired with

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
A. quiet
B. quite
C. far
D. little

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
A. lead
B. leads
C. leading
D. led

11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
CONDEMN
A. Praise
B. Criticize
C. Protect
D. Applaud

12. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
He made a **whooping** mistake in his calculation.
A. whopping
B. whoopeng
C. whoping
D. whoppinng

13. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
The cry of a goat
A. Bleat
B. Bray
C. Croak
D. Yelp

14. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
The chant included a solemn **sursum** near the offertory.
A. The musicologist analyzed the sursum tones in Gregorian chant.

- B. The botanist labeled the root as sursum-curving.
- C. The cantor raised his arms at the sursum.
- D. The choir followed the rubric leading into the sursum.

15. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:

UPBRAID

- A. Flatter
- B. Reprimand
- C. Praise
- D. Compliment

16. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Hazardous."

- A. Innocuous
- B. Verbose
- C. Furtive
- D. Vicious

17. Choose the correct passive voice form of the sentence:

We threw away the rubbish.

- A. The rubbish was thrown away.
- B. The rubbish thrown away.
- C. The rubbish was being thrown away.
- D. The rubbish will be thrown away.

18. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Rout."

- A. Triumph
- B. Retreat
- C. Forfeit
- D. Dissolve

19. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Rahul had strong pain in his stomach

- A. high
- B. strict
- C. deep
- D. severe

20. Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

I like to go on a trip with Rahul as he is cheerful and _____.
A. easy-going
B. uncaring
C. closed
D. tense

21. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Nipped in the bud

- A. To remove unnecessary items
- B. Very promising at a young age
- C. To cut the bud
- D. To stop something immediately so that it does not become a worse problem

22. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

Not only the minister but also the bureaucrats (1)/ has been accused of manipulating (2)/ the data presented in the economic survey (3)/ to align with political interests. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

If you want good seats, I _____ you buy the tickets in advance.

- A. imply
- B. intend
- C. claim
- D. suggest

24. Find the incorrect part of the sentence:

She prevented me to enter the hall.

- A. She prevented
- B. me to enter
- C. the hall.
- D. No error

25. A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.

I said, "He will be here by noon."

- A. I said he will be there by noon.
- B. I said that he would be here by noon.
- C. I said that he would be there by noon.
- D. I said he shall be there by noon.

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) The need for comprehensive governance reforms to curb illegal rat-hole mining

The passage centres on how illegal rat-hole mining persists due to weak governance, fragmented accountability, and economic dependence, and argues for a multi-pronged solution involving technology, enforcement, social accountability, and alternative livelihoods.

B: The passage highlights dependence and harm, not benefits.

C: It explicitly states that court supervision cannot replace governance.

D: Geological factors are mentioned briefly but are not the central focus.

2. D) Bans ignore economic dependence and accountability gaps

The passage implies bans fail because local income dependence on coal, fragmented ownership, and diffused accountability persist without viable alternatives.

A: Coal demand is not described as decreasing anywhere.

B: Judicial supervision is explicitly said to be insufficient.

C: Technology absence is mentioned, but not as the sole cause.

3. A) Mandatory GPS tracking for coal carriers

The passage directly states mandatory GPS tracking and route validation as mechanisms to increase detection and cost.

B: Tribunal supervision already exists and is criticised.

C: No such proposal is mentioned in the passage.

D: Land ownership reform is not discussed as a measure

4. B) Governance failures enable persistent illegal mining

B is correct because the passage stresses that weak enforcement, fragmented ownership, patronage, and informal labour markets allow illegal mining to continue despite court orders.

A is incorrect as it is only a partial observation; the passage goes beyond enforcement to structural governance failures.

C is incorrect because national coal demand is not identified as the main reason for court supervision failing.

D is incorrect since technology gaps affect safety, not the broader governance failure discussed.

5. C) Mandatory GPS tracking integrated patrol data

C is correct because the passage argues that GPS, satellite, and drone integration raises detection probability, increasing the expected cost of illegal mining.

B is incorrect as boosting production does not address illegal transport or laundering of coal.

A is incorrect since post-accident monitoring does not prevent illegal extraction or movement.

D is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that bans fail without alternative livelihoods.

6. A) Certain' का प्रयोग यहाँ सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में डॉक्टर यह नहीं बता रहा कि कौन-सी दवाएँ दी गईं, बल्कि यह संकेत दे रहा है कि कुछ विशेष (लेकिन unspecified) दवाएँ दी गईं। Medical और formal contexts में certain medications एक standard collocation है। जबकि 'possible' अनिश्चितता दिखाता

है, 'general' बहुत vague है और medicines के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं, और 'prescriptive' नियम या authority से जुड़ा होता है, न कि दवाओं के प्रकार से। इसलिए 'certain' context और grammar दोनों के अनुसार सही है।

- "Certain" is the correct choice because the sentence refers to some specific medicines without naming them. In medical and formal writing, certain medications is a standard and natural collocation used to indicate particular but unspecified drugs. The other options do not fit the context: "possible" suggests uncertainty rather than prescription, "general" is too vague and does not suit medicines being prescribed, and "prescriptive" relates to authority or rules, not the nature of medicines. Therefore, "certain" is both grammatically and contextually appropriate.

7. A) **Them'** का प्रयोग सही है क्योंकि यह pronoun सीधे patients को refer करता है। वाक्य में affordability को patients को देखकर judge करने की बात हो रही है। 'Those' और 'these' demonstratives हैं और इनके साथ noun चाहिए, जबकि 'there' एक adverb है जो स्थान बताता है। इसलिए केवल 'them' ही grammatical और contextual रूप से सही है।

- "Them" is correct because it is a pronoun that clearly refers back to the patients. The sentence talks about judging a patient's affordability by looking at the patients themselves. The options "those" and "these" are demonstrative pronouns and require a noun to follow, which is missing here, while "there" is an adverb of place and does not fit the sentence structure. Hence, "them" is the only grammatically correct and meaningful option.

8. D) **Enquired with'** का प्रयोग यहाँ सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि लेखक ने किसी व्यक्ति (colleague) से जानकारी प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की। यहाँ focus information के source (colleague) पर है, न कि केवल topic पर। enquire with someone का प्रयोग उस स्थिति में स्वीकार्य माना जाता है जहाँ किसी व्यक्ति से जानकारी ली जाती है या उसे consult किया जाता है। जबकि 'enquired about' किसी विषय (topic) के बारे में पूछने के लिए अधिक सामान्य है, 'enquired into' investigation के sense में आता है, और 'enquired after' किसी की तबीयत या कुशल-क्षेत्र पूछने के लिए प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए context और intent के अनुसार 'enquired with' यहाँ उपयुक्त है।

- 'Enquired with' is correct because the sentence focuses on approaching a person (the colleague) as the source of information. In such contexts, enquire with someone is accepted when the emphasis is on consulting a person rather than merely asking about a topic. While 'enquired about' is commonly used for asking about a subject, 'enquired into' implies investigation, and 'enquired after' is used for asking about someone's well-being. Hence, considering context and intent, 'enquired with' fits best here.

9. B) **Quite'** यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह degree adverb के रूप में off target को intensify करता है। Quite off target एक accepted idiomatic expression है। 'Quiet' sound से जुड़ा है, 'far' के साथ far off target चाहिए, और 'little' इस adjective के साथ fit नहीं बैठता। इसलिए 'quite' ही सही है।

- "Quite" is the correct option because it functions as an adverb of degree, intensifying the phrase off target. The expression quite off target is idiomatic and commonly used to indicate that something is significantly inaccurate. "Quiet" relates to sound, "far" would require a different structure (far off target), and "little" does not collocate with off target. Thus, "quite" fits both grammatically and contextually.

10. D) **Led'** का प्रयोग सही है क्योंकि वाक्य past tense में है। 'Lead' और 'leads' present tense हैं, जबकि 'leading' के लिए sentence structure अलग चाहिए। इसलिए 'led' grammatical और contextual दोनों रूप से सही है।

"Led" is correct because the sentence is in the past tense.. The options "lead" and "leads" are present tense forms, while "leading" would require a different grammatical structure. Hence, "led" is the only option that maintains tense consistency and correct usage.

11. B) **Criticize** (verb) – To express strong disapproval निंदा करना

- **Praise** (verb) – To express warm approval प्रशंसा करना
- **Protect** (verb) – To keep safe from harm सुरक्षा करना
- **Applaud** (verb) – To show approval by clapping तालियाँ बजाकर प्रशंसा करना

12. A) The correct spelling of 'whooping' (in this context) is 'whopping' which means "huge or enormous" — बहुत बड़ा, जबरदस्त।

13. A) **Bleat** (verb) – The cry of a goat or sheep. मेमने या बकरी की चीख

- **Bray** (verb) – The loud, harsh cry of a donkey or mule. गधे की रेंक
- **Croak** (verb) – The deep, hoarse sound made by a frog or a raven. मेंढक या कौवे की खरखराहट भरी आवाज
- **Yelp** (verb) – A short, sharp cry of pain or alarm, especially from a dog. कुत्ते की दर्द या चेतावनी में निकलने वाली तीव्र ध्वनि

14. B) **The botanist labeled the root as sursum-curving.**

वाक्य में 'sursum' का अर्थ है — ईसाई धर्म की प्रार्थना में प्रयुक्त एक लिटर्जिकल पद, विशेष रूप से "Sursum corda" (अर्थ: Lift up your hearts), जो offertory के आस-पास बोला जाता है।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जहाँ 'sursum' का समान उच्चारण और समान वर्तनी वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ में प्रयोग हुआ हो (homonym)।

विकल्प B में 'sursum' का अर्थ है — ऊपर की ओर मुड़ा हुआ / ऊपर की दिशा में (Latin मूल का वैज्ञानिक/वनस्पति प्रयोग)।

यहाँ इसका धार्मिक अर्थ नहीं है, बल्कि दिशात्मक / वैज्ञानिक अर्थ में प्रयोग हुआ है।

दोनों मामलों में शब्द एक ही है (sursum), उच्चारण भी समान है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह अलग हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का सही उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, sursum refers to a liturgical expression used in Christian worship, especially in Sursum corda.

- In option B, sursum means upward or upward-curving in a botanical/scientific sense.

- Since the pronunciation and spelling are the same but meanings differ, option B is the correct answer.

15. B) **Upbraid** (verb) – Scold, rebuke, reproach, castigate, admonish फटकार लगाना

Synonym: **Reprimand** (verb) – To criticize or scold someone officially; rebuke, admonish, censure. फटकारना

- **Flatter** (verb) – Praise excessively, compliment, adulate. खुशामद करना
- **Praise** (verb) – Appreciate, commend, applaud. प्रशंसा करना
- **Compliment** (verb) – To express praise or admiration. प्रशंसा करना

16. A) **Hazardous** (adjective) – Dangerous, risky, perilous, unsafe, precarious. जोखिम भरा

Antonym: **Innocuous** (adjective) – Not harmful or dangerous; harmless. अहानिकर / सुरक्षित

- **Verbose** (adjective) – Using more words than needed. शब्दाडंबरपूर्ण
- **Furtive** (adjective) – Secretive; attempting to avoid notice. गुप्त
- **Vicious** (adjective) – Deliberately cruel or violent. दुष्ट

17. A) The rubbish was thrown away.

Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय उसी Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

Active वाक्य में “We” Subject है, “threw away” Verb (Simple Past Tense) है और “the rubbish” Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object “the rubbish” Subject बन गया है, Verb को “was thrown away” (Simple Past Passive) में बदला गया है और Subject “we” को हटाया जा सकता है क्योंकि वह आवश्यक नहीं 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 changed from its active form to the passive form, while keeping the same tense.

In this sentence:

“We” → Subject

“threw away” → Verb (Simple Past Tense)

“the rubbish” → Object

After conversion:

“The rubbish” → Subject

“was thrown away” → Passive verb (Simple Past Passive)

Agent (“by us”) → optional and omitted

Hence, the correct passive sentence is:

The rubbish was thrown away.

Correct option: (1)

Other Options Analysis:

Option (2): “The rubbish thrown away” → Incomplete sentence (missing auxiliary verb).

Option (3): “was being thrown away” → Past Continuous, tense changes.

Option (4): “will be thrown away” → Future tense, meaning changes.

18. A) Rout (noun) – Crushing defeat, collapse, debacle. पराजय / भगदड़

Antonym: **Triumph** (noun) – Great victory or achievement. विजय / सफलता

- **Retreat** – Move back or withdraw. पीछे हटना
- **Forfeit** – Lose as a penalty. जप्त/क्षति
- **Dissolve** – Break apart. विघटित करना

19. D) 'strong' के बदले 'severe' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम दर्द की तीव्रता का वर्णन करते हैं तो 'severe' का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— She had severe headaches last night.

- 'severe' will be used instead of 'strong' because when describing the intensity of pain, 'severe' is used; Like— She had severe headaches last night.

20. A) 'easy-going' का use होगा क्योंकि "easy-going" का अर्थ होता है सरल और तनाव-मुक्त। वाक्य के अनुसार, राहुल के साथ यात्रा पर जाना पसंद किया जाता है क्योंकि वह खुशमिजाज है, इसलिए 'easy-going' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह एक सकारात्मक और सहज व्यक्तित्व लक्षण को दर्शाता है। जबकि

'Uncaring' का अर्थ है बेपरवाह, 'Closed' का अर्थ है बंद या असहज, और 'Tense' का अर्थ है तनावपूर्ण, जो इस context में सही नहीं

- 'easy-going' should be used because it means relaxed and free of stress. According to the sentence, going on a trip with Rahul is preferred because he is cheerful, thus 'easy-going' is fitting here as it denotes a positive and comfortable personality trait. Whereas, 'Uncaring' implies a lack of concern, 'Closed' means not open or comfortable, and 'Tense' indicates stress, which don't fit in this context

21. D) **Nipped in the bud** (idiom)-To stop something immediately so that it does not become a worse problem किसी समस्या को तुरंत रोक देना ताकि वह और बड़ी समस्या न बन सके।

22. B) 'has been' के बदले 'have been' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Not only the minister but also the bureaucrats' में Verb का agreement 'bureaucrats' (Plural Subject) से होगा। इसलिए Verb भी Plural 'have been' होना चाहिए।

- 'have been' will be used instead of 'has been' because in the construction 'Not only the minister but also the bureaucrats,' the verb agrees with the nearer subject 'bureaucrats' (plural). Hence, the verb should also be plural 'have been.'

23. D) **Suggest'** का use होगा क्योंकि "suggest" का अर्थ होता है किसी को कोई सलाह या विचार देना। यहाँ पर sentence कहता है कि अगर आपको अच्छी सीट्स चाहिए तो मैं आपको सलाह देता हूँ कि आप टिकट्स पहले से खरीद लें, इसलिए 'suggest' यहाँ पर सही विकल्प है। 'Imply' का अर्थ होता है कुछ इशारों में कहना, 'Intend' का अर्थ है किसी चीज की योजना बनाना, और 'Claim' का अर्थ है कुछ दावा करना, जो इस सन्दर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठते

- 'Suggest' should be used because it means to give advice or a recommendation. The sentence is advising that if you want good seats, it is recommended to buy the tickets in advance, making 'suggest' the correct choice here. 'Imply' means to suggest something indirectly, 'Intend' means to have a plan or aim, and 'Claim' means to assert something as a fact, none of which are appropriate in this context

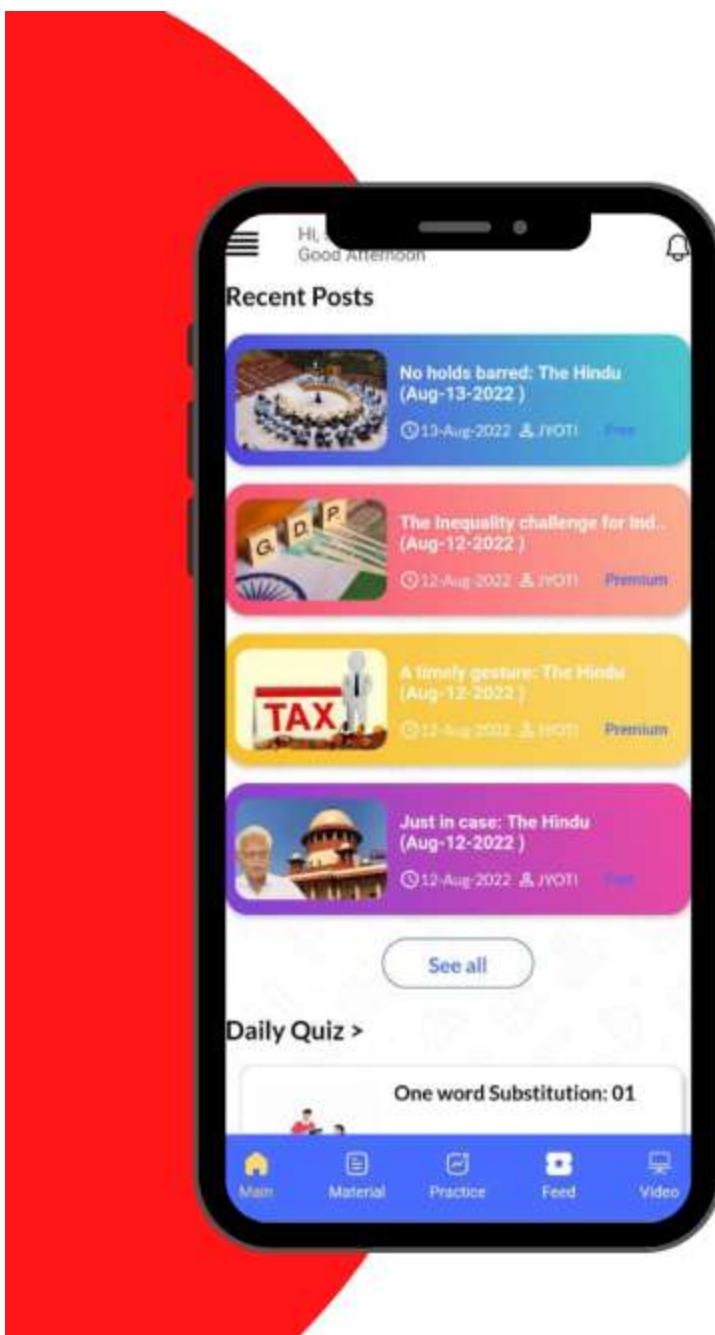
24. B) 'to enter' के बदले 'from entering' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि prevent + object + from + V-ing सही संरचना है; जैसे— They prevented him from going inside.

- 'from entering' will be used instead of 'to enter' because the correct structure is prevent + object + from + verb-ing; Like— They prevented him from going inside.

25. C) **I said that he would be there by noon.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb "said" Past Tense में है, इसलिए Reported Speech के Verb "will be" को Past form "would be" में बदला जाएगा। साथ ही "here" को "there" में बदला गया है क्योंकि स्थान बदलने पर ऐसा किया जाता है। अतः सही वाक्य होगा — "I said that he would be there by noon."

- To change from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "said" is in the past tense, so the reported verb "will be" is changed to its past form "would be." Also, "here" is changed to "there" to show the change in place. Therefore, the correct sentence is "I said that he would be there by noon."



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