Bitter milk: On the Rajamahendravaram milk adulteration case

Detecting violation of rules in time **is** better than **stringent** penalties

The **events** in Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh involving the mass poisoning of consumers by milk **contaminated** with ethylene glycol **sound** a regulatory alarm. As of March 8, **the death toll** was 11, with approximately 20 other people, including **infants**, hospitalised. The police have **invoked** Sections 103 (punishment for murder) and 105 (**culpable homicide** not **amounting to** murder) of the BNS. The **vendor allegedly** continued to supply the milk despite complaints about a **bitter** taste and being warned that a coolant leak could be poisonous, so it seems **reasonable** that the State is treating **gross negligence** in food safety as a serious criminal offence. However, there could also be **counterproductive** effects. Milk is a **staple** in Indian households and **contamination** by an industrial compound already **infamous** in India for its **lethality** **carries** the potential to **trigger** a crisis of confidence in local, unbranded milk supplies. Children and the elderly are most affected by ethylene glycol poisoning due to their higher metabolic sensitivity and lower **renal** reserves, respectively. This could **push** people towards **pasteurised** milk from regulated cooperatives such as Amul or Vijaya, which seems desirable, but a large share of milk is also distributed in India through small vendors. Since the State has **invoked** criminal charges, including 'murder', against the **offenders**, **marginal** actors may quit the market or shift further into informality, which can **paradoxically undermine oversight**.

Though the State may be **projecting** a strong hand **at work** by criminalising the vendor's **alleged** conduct, the **importance** of regulations **cannot** be **overstated**. Food-safety **compliance** is as much about punishing bad actors as about reducing the cost of doing the right thing. In the informal supply chain, cold-chain monitoring and hygiene inspections are almost entirely absent, leaving **room** for **contamination**. **Subsidised** testing kits and cooperative chilling facilities can thus reduce the risk at small dairies. Regulators may also consider **safe-harbour** provisions that ease penalties for dairy operators who report **contamination** at their facilities; this could also encourage early disclosure, giving authorities time to save lives. But this also makes **consistent enforcement** crucial. That a dairy could operate without a safety licence for 11 years raises serious questions about the **oversight** of the local government and the FSSAI: the local authorities failed to conduct periodic field **audits**, and the FSSAI did not **enforce** standardised safety protocols. The **risk** of being detected **becomes** **negligible** and even the **harshest** criminal charges cannot amount to a meaningful preventive measure. An effective system must realise that reliably detecting violations and **imposing** timely **sanctions** are a better **deterrent** than stringent penalties that do not **aid** enforcement and rarely **lead to convictions**.

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

Vocabulary

1. **Stringent** (adjective) - rigorous, severe, strict, firm, rigid कठोर
2. **Contaminate** (verb) - pollute, adulterate, defile, taint, corrupt दूषित करना
3. **Sound** (verb) - resonate, signal, announce, declare, proclaim संकेत देना या गूँजना
4. **The death toll** (noun) - the total number of deaths resulting from a particular event or disaster मरने वालों की संख्या
5. **Infant** (noun) - baby, newborn, toddler, neonate, nursling शिशु
6. **Invoke** (verb) - cite, apply, implement, exert, resort लागू करना या सहारा लेना
7. **Culpable** (adjective) - guilty, blameworthy, censurable, reprehensible, liable अपराधी या दोषपूर्ण
8. **Homicide** (noun) - murder, killing, assassination, slaughter, matricide मानव वध
9. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to be equivalent to or have the same effect as something के बराबर होना
10. **Vendor** (noun) - seller, merchant, trader, dealer, purveyor विक्रेता
11. **Allegedly** (adverb) - purportedly, supposedly, ostensibly, reportedly, professedly कथित तौर पर
12. **Bitter** (adjective) - acrid, tart, harsh, pungent, caustic कड़वा
13. **Reasonable** (adjective) - logical, rational, sensible, justifiable, plausible उचित
14. **Gross** (adjective) - flagrant, glaring, obvious, sheer, total घोर या स्पष्ट
15. **Negligence** (noun) - carelessness, laxity, dereliction, neglect, heedlessness लापरवाही
16. **Counterproductive** (adjective) - harmful, adverse, damaging, biased, detrimental उल्टा प्रभाव डालने वाला
17. **Staple** (noun) - principal, chief, basic, main, essential मुख्य खाद्य पदार्थ
18. Infamous (adjective) - notorious, disreputable, ill-famed, villainous, ignominious कुख्यात
19. **Lethality** (noun) - fatality, deadliness, mortality, virulence, poisonousness घातकता
20. **Trigger** (verb) - activate, initiate, spark, provoke, cause सक्रिय करना या शुरू करना
21. **Renal** (adjective) - relating to the kidneys or their functions गुर्दे संबंधी
22. **Push** (verb) - urge, drive, propel, press, shove धकेलना या मजबूर करना
23. **Pasteurise** (verb) - sterilize, disinfect, sanitize, purify, clean कीटाणुहीन करना
24. **Offender** (noun) - culprit, criminal, lawbreaker, wrongdoer, convict अपराधी
25. **Marginal** (adjective) - peripheral, borderline, slight, minor, negligible मामूली या सीमांत
26. **Paradoxically** (adverb) - contradictorily, inconsistently, incongruously, ironically, oddly विरोधाभासी रूप से

27. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, erode, sabotage, subvert, impair कमजोर करना
28. **Oversight** (noun) - supervision, surveillance, management, administration, inspection निगरानी
29. **Project** (verb) - present, display, exhibit, portray, depict प्रदर्शित करना
30. **At work** (phrase) - in operation or having a particular influence or effect सक्रिय या कार्यरत
31. **Alleged** (adjective) - reported, claimed, supposed, purported, unproven आरोपित या कथित
32. **Overstate** (verb) - exaggerate, embellish, magnify, overemphasize, overrate बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहना
33. **Compliance** (noun) - adherence, obedience, conformity, observance, accordance अनुपालन
34. **Room** (noun) - scope, opportunity, margin, leeway, space गुंजाइश
35. **Contamination** (noun) - pollution, impurity, infection, foulness, adulteration मिलावट या दूषण
36. **Subsidised** (adjective) - funded, sponsored, supported, aided, financed रियायती या सहायता प्राप्त
37. **Safe-harbour** (noun) - a provision in a law or regulation that affords protection from liability or penalty legal under certain conditions कानूनी संरक्षण क्षेत्र
38. **Consistent** (adjective) - steady, constant, uniform, stable, persistent सुसंगत या स्थिर
39. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, imposition, application, administration प्रवर्तन या लागू करना
40. **Audit** (noun) - inspection, examination, check, scrutiny, verification लेखापरीक्षा या जांच
41. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, apply, administer, impose, execute लागू करना
42. **Negligible** (adjective) - insignificant, trivial, minor, petty, trifling नगण्य
43. **Harshest** (adjective) - severest, sternest, roughest, toughest, bitterest सबसे कठोर
44. **Impose** (verb) - inflict, levy, enforce, dictate, ordain थोपना या लगाना
45. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, punishment, deterrent, embargo, restriction दंड या प्रतिबंध
46. **Deterrent** (noun) - discouragement, hindrance, obstacle, restraint, prevention निवारक
47. **Aid** (verb) - assist, help, support, abet, facilitate सहायता करना
48. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in or cause something to happen का कारण बनना
49. **Conviction** (noun) - sentence, judgment, verdict, pronouncement, condemnation दोषसिद्धि

Summary of the Editorial

1. A tragic incident of milk contamination with ethylene glycol occurred in Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, causing serious health consequences.
2. As of March 8, 11 people had died, and around 20 others, including infants, were hospitalised.
3. The police have charged the milk vendor under Sections 103 (murder) and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
4. The vendor allegedly continued supplying milk despite complaints about its bitter taste and warnings of a possible coolant leak.
5. The government is treating the case as gross negligence in food safety, justifying serious criminal charges.
6. However, such strong criminalisation may have unintended consequences for the informal milk market.
7. Milk is a staple food in Indian households, and contamination cases can damage public trust in local, unbranded milk suppliers.
8. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable to ethylene glycol poisoning due to their greater metabolic sensitivity and weaker renal capacity.
9. The incident may push consumers towards pasteurised milk from regulated cooperatives like Amul or Vijaya.
10. However, a large portion of India's milk supply comes from small vendors, making them an important part of the distribution system.
11. Strict criminal charges could force small vendors to exit the market or move further into the informal sector, reducing regulatory oversight.
12. The editorial stresses that effective regulation is as important as punishment in ensuring food safety.
13. The informal dairy supply chain suffers from poor cold-chain monitoring and lack of hygiene inspections, increasing the risk of contamination.
14. Measures such as subsidised testing kits, cooperative chilling facilities, and safe-harbour provisions for reporting contamination could improve compliance.
15. The incident exposes serious failures of regulatory oversight, as the dairy reportedly operated without a safety licence for 11 years, highlighting that early detection and timely enforcement are more effective deterrents than harsh penalties alone.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements are correct regarding the legal and social implications of the milk contamination as per the passage?** **[Editorial Page]**
   a) The State has invoked sections of the BNS related to murder and culpable homicide to treat gross food safety negligence as a serious criminal offense.
   b) The author suggests that children and the elderly are less affected by ethylene glycol poisoning due to their specific metabolic and renal profiles.
   c) Severe criminal charges like "murder" against vendors might paradoxically push marginal actors into further informality, making oversight more difficult.
   A. Only 1
   B. Only 2
   C. Only 1 and 3
   D. Only 2 and 3
2. **According to the passage, why is the informal milk supply chain particularly vulnerable to contamination like the ethylene glycol leak?**
   A. Because informal vendors deliberately add industrial coolants to improve the bitter taste of the milk.
   B. Because small dairies are required by the FSSAI to use ethylene glycol for milk preservation purposes.
   C. Because cold-chain monitoring and hygiene inspections are almost entirely absent in the informal supply chain.
   D. Because the State has replaced all local chilling facilities with subsidized testing kits for infants.
3. **What is the specific chemical compound responsible for the mass poisoning in Rajamahendravaram?**
   A. Formaldehyde
   B. Ethylene glycol
   C. Sodium benzoate
   D. Potassium cyanide
4. **Why are the elderly particularly vulnerable to ethylene glycol poisoning according to the passage?**
   A. Because of their higher metabolic sensitivity
   B. Because they consume more unbranded milk
   C. Because of their lower renal reserves
   D. Because they lack access to pasteurized milk
5. **What "paradoxical" effect does the author fear might result from the State invoking murder charges against small vendors?**
   A. It might lead to an immediate oversupply of branded milk.
   B. It could cause marginal actors to move further into informality.
   C. It will likely result in the FSSAI becoming too powerful.
   D. It might encourage vendors to report coolant leaks more quickly.
6. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
   His _____ disregard for protocol annoyed his superiors.
   A. blatant

B. blatetant
C. blatenmt
D. blattant

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

8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Vindicate
A. Justify
B. Carerree
C. Forgive
D. Accuse

9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Throw one's hat into the ring
A. Resign from a position
B. Announce one's candidacy or challenge
C. Declare outright defeat
D. Bet recklessly

10. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
To be in high dudgeon
A. To be in a state of moral superiority
B. To be offended with exaggerated dignity
C. To be excited without restraint
D. To be lost in self-delusion

11. **Which is the correct spelling for a word meaning 'to erase or wipe out'?**
A. Exponge
B. Expung
C. Expunge
D. Expouge

12. **Which of these is the correct spelling of a logic term for contradictions?**
A. Paraconsistent
B. Paraconssistent
C. Paraconsistint
D. Paraconsestent

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: '**
One who eats human flesh'
A. Cannibal
B. Herbivore
C. Carnivore
D. Omnivore

14. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**

The director gave a **stern** warning to the cast.
A. The sailor stood at the stern of the ship.
B. Her face showed a stern expression.
C. The teacher's tone was stern and serious.
D. His discipline was known to be stern.

15. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for the phrase in italics.**
"A person who is indifferent to or distrustful of human integrity or morality."
A. Idealist
B. Cynic
C. Optimist
D. Humanitarian

16. **Select the correct option:**
He devoted himself to the cause ___ body and soul.
A. with
B. by
C. in
D. heart

17. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
The assumption that all data must be normalized (1)/ before processing it using machine learning algorithms (2)/ has been a common practice (3)/ in this domain for decades. (4)
A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)

18. **Change the following from active to passive:**
Where will they hold the conference?
A. Where the conference will be held?
B. Where will the conference be held?
C. Where is the conference held?
D. Where has the conference been held?

19. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
Those most affected by the decision (1)/ appears to be those (2)/ who were never consulted (3)/ during the drafting of the policy. (4)
A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)

20. **Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:**
The decision was expected to be made by the council after further review.
A. The council expected making a decision after review.
B. It was expected that the council would make the decision after review.
C. The council made the decision as was expected.
D. The council was expected to have made the decision.

Comprehension

The iceberg, known as A23a, was once the largest on Earth, covering an area more than twice the size of Greater London. But after a path full of twists and turns, A23a has melted, fractured and spectacularly disintegrated over the past year. Now, far from the icy seas of Antarctica, what's left of A23a is being eaten away by warmer waters. It's in its death (1) ___, not expected to last more than a matter of weeks. All icebergs melt eventually, but scientists have been looking at how it's disintegrated for clues about how other parts of Antarctica might respond as the climate changes. "It's been an extraordinary journey," says Prof Mike Meredith of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge. "But it is on its (2) ___ now." This is the story of A23a's final months. But first we have to go back to 1986. That year, a nuclear reactor exploded at the Chernobyl power plant in what is now northern Ukraine, Gary Lineker won the golden boot at the Fifa World Cup in Mexico, and Whitney Houston received her first Grammy award. Away from the world's gaze, the Filchner Ice Shelf - a massive floating tongue of ice extending from the Antarctic continent and into the Weddell Sea - was changing dramatically. One of the icebergs to (3) ___ - or calve - was A23a, then about 4,000 sq km (roughly 1,540 sq miles). It soon became anchored in the muds of the Weddell Sea, where it remained stuck for more than 30 years. It wasn't until 2020 (4) ___ scientists noticed signs that A23a was on the move again. Guided by ocean currents and the shape of the seafloor, it began to follow a route along "Iceberg Alley" towards the South Orkney Islands. There, it became trapped in a giant rotating (5) ___ of water called a Taylor Column, spinning on the spot for eight months. It then headed towards South Georgia Island, where it got stuck again, for a few months. But unlike many Antarctic icebergs - which end up melting away and dying here - A23a broke free once more.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
    A. paroxysm
    B. throes
    C. spasms
    D. pang
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
    A. swan song
    B. eleventh hour
    C. last gasp
    D. last legs
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
    A. break down
    B. break apart
    C. break away
    D. break off
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
    A. when
    B. then
    C. that
    D. than
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**

A. vortex
B. deluge
C. confluence
D. centrifuge

Answers

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

[Editorial Page]

Explanations

1. C) **Only 1 and 3**
   - Statement 1 – Correct: The passage states that police invoked Sections 103 and 105 of the BNS, treating the negligence as a serious criminal offense.
   - Statement 2 – Incorrect: The passage states the opposite; children and the elderly are "most affected" due to metabolic sensitivity and lower renal reserves.
   - Statement 3 – Correct: The author notes that since criminal charges were invoked, "marginal actors may quit the market or shift further into informality, which can paradoxically undermine oversight."
2. C) **Because cold-chain monitoring and hygiene inspections are almost entirely absent in the informal supply chain.**
   - The passage explicitly states that in the informal supply chain, "cold-chain monitoring and hygiene inspections are almost entirely absent, leaving room for contamination." others are incorrect: (A) is wrong; the coolant was a leak, not a deliberate additive for taste. (B) is wrong; it is an industrial compound, not a preservative. (D) and (E) are misinterpretations of the passage.
3. B) **Ethylene glycol**
   The passage explicitly identifies the contaminant as "milk contaminated with ethylene glycol," an industrial compound used as a coolant.
   others are incorrect: Formaldehyde and sodium benzoate are common food-related chemicals, and cyanide is a poison, but none are mentioned in the passage.
4. **C) Because of their lower renal reserves**
   The passage distinguishes between two vulnerable groups, stating children are affected by metabolic sensitivity, while the elderly are affected due to "lower renal reserves."
   others are incorrect: Option (A) refers to children. Options (B) and (D) are generalizations about habits or access that the passage does not specifically link to biological vulnerability.
5. **B) It could cause marginal actors to move further into informality.**
   The author notes that harsh criminal charges like 'murder' might cause marginal actors to "shift further into informality, which can paradoxically undermine oversight."
   others are incorrect: Option (A) is a market shift, but not the "paradox" cited. Option (C) is not mentioned. Option (D) is the opposite of the author's concern; informality makes reporting less likely.
6. A) **'blatant'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में व्यक्ति के व्यवहार की स्पष्ट और खुले रूप से की गई उपेक्षा (open disregard) की बात की जा रही है। "His _____ disregard for protocol" में ऐसा शब्द चाहिए जो "साफ़-साफ़, खुले तौर पर" किए गए व्यवहार को दर्शाए। इसलिए, सही वर्तनी वाला शब्द blatant ही अर्थ और संदर्भ दोनों के अनुसार उपयुक्त है।
   - 'Blatant' should be used because the sentence talks about someone's open and obvious disregard for protocol. In "His _____ disregard for protocol", we need a word

that conveys “clear, overt, openly noticeable” behaviour. Therefore, the correctly spelt and context-appropriate word is blatant

7. 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
8. D) **Vindicate** (verb) – Clear, defend, justify, support, exonerate. निर्दोष सिद्ध करना
   Antonym: **Accuse** (verb) – Blame, charge, allege, implicate. दोष लगाना
    - **Justify** (verb) – Defend, explain, validate, support. उचित ठहराना
    - **Carerree** – Incorrect / Not a valid English word
    - **Forgive** (verb) – Pardon, excuse, absolve, overlook. माफ करना
9. B) **Throw one’s hat into the ring** (idiom) – Announce one’s candidacy or challenge उम्मीदवारी पेश करना / चुनौती देना
10. B) **To be in high dudgeon** (idiom) – To be offended with exaggerated dignity बेहद आहत और गरिमामय क्रोध में होना
11. C) The correct spelling of ‘to erase or wipe out’ is ‘**Expunge’** which means “to erase or remove completely” मिटा देना, पूर्णतः समाप्त करना.
12. A) The correct spelling of the logic term is ‘**Paraconsistent’**, which means “a logical system that can handle contradictions without collapsing into triviality” विरोधाभासों को संभालने वाला तर्क तंत्र
13. A) **Cannibal** (noun) – One who eats human flesh मानव मांस खाने वाला
    - **Herbivore** (noun) – an animal that feeds on plants शाकाहारी
    - **Carnivore** (noun) – an animal that feeds on other animals मांसाहारी
    - **Omnivore** (noun) – an animal that eats both plants and animals सर्वाहारी
14. A) **The sailor stood at the stern of the ship**.
    वाक्य में ‘stern’ का अर्थ है — कठोर, सख़्त (strict or serious)।
    अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें ‘stern’ का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।
    विकल्प A में ‘stern’ का अर्थ है — जहाज़ का पिछला हिस्सा (the rear part of a ship)।
    यह पूरी तरह अलग अर्थ है, जबकि उच्चारण वही है — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।
    In the highlighted sentence, stern means strict or severe.
    In option A, stern refers to the back part of a ship, which is a completely different meaning.
    Both words are pronounced and spelled the same, but mean different things — making it a homonym.
15. B) **Cynic** (noun) – A person who is indifferent to or distrustful of human integrity or morality मनुष्य की ईमानदारी या नैतिकता पर अविश्वास करने वाला व्यक्ति
    - **Idealist** (noun) – one who pursues high or noble principles आदर्शवादी
    - **Optimist** (noun) – one who tends to be hopeful and positive आशावादी
    - **Humanitarian** (noun) – one devoted to improving human welfare मानव कल्याण में समर्पित व्यक्ति
16. A) **'with'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह वाक्य किसी कार्य में पूरी तरह, तन-मन से समर्पित होने के भाव को व्यक्त कर रहा है। वाक्य "He devoted himself to the cause ___ body and soul" में "with body and

soul" एक स्थिर संयोजन (fixed expression) है जिसका अर्थ है पूरे समर्पण के साथ। इसलिए यहाँ 'with' सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
'With' should be used because the sentence expresses complete dedication to a cause.
In the sentence "He devoted himself to the cause ___ body and soul", the phrase "with body and soul" is a fixed expression that means with full commitment. Thus, 'with' is the most appropriate choice

17. B) **'processing it using'** के बदले 'processing it for use in' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वर्तमान संरचना में using machine learning algorithms एक dangling modifier बन जाता है— ऐसा लगता है जैसे it (data) खुद algorithms को use कर रहा हो, जबकि वास्तव में algorithms डेटा को use करते हैं। इसलिए modifier को सही तार्किक संबंध में रखने हेतु सुधार आवश्यक है।
    - 'processing it using' will be replaced with 'processing it for use in' because the current structure creates a dangling modifier where using machine learning algorithms mistakenly implies that the data is using the algorithms, whereas logically algorithms use the data.
18. B) **Where will the conference be held?**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। इस वाक्य में Active Voice में "they" Subject है, "will hold" Verb (Simple Future) है और "the conference" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "the conference" Subject बन जाता है। Simple Future Tense का Passive रूप "will be + past participle" होता है। इसलिए Verb को "will be held" में बदला गया है और प्रश्नवाचक संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए "Where will the conference be held?" का प्रयोग किया गया है।
In English
To convert from active to passive:
The object of the active sentence (the conference) becomes the subject of the passive sentence.
The verb tense is retained: Future Simple (will hold → will be held).
The agent (they) is usually omitted in questions.
Other Option Analysis:
Option 1 → Incorrect word order for a question in passive voice.
Option 3 → Changes tense to Present Simple; alters original meaning.
Option 4 → Changes tense to Present Perfect; not consistent with original Future Simple tense.
19. B) 'appears' के बदले 'appear' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject Those most affected by the decision बहुवचन है, इसलिए Verb भी plural होनी चाहिए।
    - 'appear' will be used instead of 'appears' because the subject Those most affected by the decision is plural, so the verb must also be plural.
20. **B) It was expected that the council would make the decision after review**
The decision was expected to be made by the council after further review' एक Passive Voice वाक्य है। Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Passive वाक्य का Agent (by + doer) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The decision" Subject है, "was expected to be made" Passive संरचना है और "by the council" Agent है। Active Voice में बदलने पर Agent "the council" Subject बन जाता है, और वाक्य को प्राकृतिक Active संरचना देने के लिए इसे "It was expected that

the council would make the decision after review" के रूप में बदला जाता है। इसलिए Option B सही है।

In English

To convert from passive to active:

The agent in the passive sentence (the council) becomes the subject of the active sentence.

The verb structure changes from Passive Infinitive to appropriate active construction: was expected to be made → would make.

"The decision" remains the object, now embedded in a that-clause.

Other Option Analysis:

Option 1 → Incorrect verb form ("expected making") and loses proper tense.

Option 3 → Changes meaning; implies the decision is already made.

Option 4 → Still passive; does not convert to active voice.

21. B) **'throes'** सही है क्योंकि "in its death throes" एक standard मुहावरा (idiom) है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ के खत्म होने या मरने की आखिरी स्टेज होता है। पिघलते हुए iceberg के लिए यह बिल्कुल सही है। 'paroxysm' का मतलब भावनाओं या किसी गतिविधि का अचानक दौरा पड़ना होता है। 'spasms' का मतलब मांसपेशियों (muscles) का अचानक सिकुड़ना होता है। 'pang' का मतलब अचानक उठने वाला तेज़ दर्द होता है।
    - 'throes' is used because "in its death throes" is a standard idiom meaning the final stages of something's existence or life. This perfectly describes the melting iceberg. 'paroxysm' means a sudden attack or outburst of a particular emotion or activity. 'spasms' refers to sudden, involuntary muscle contractions. 'pang' means a sudden sharp pain or painful emotion.
22. D) **last legs'** सही है क्योंकि "on its last legs" एक idiom है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ का अपने आखिरी समय या अंत के करीब होना होता है। 'swan song' का मतलब रिटायरमेंट या मौत से पहले का आखिरी परफॉरमेंस होता है। 'eleventh hour' का मतलब बिल्कुल आखिरी मौका होता है (और इसके साथ 'at' आता है)। 'last gasp' का मतलब आखिरी सांस होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ 'at' का प्रयोग होता है, 'on' का नहीं।
    - 'last legs' is used because the idiom "on its last legs" means something is near the end of its life, strength, or usefulness. 'swan song' refers to a final performance or achievement before retirement or death. 'eleventh hour' means the latest possible moment before it is too late (and takes the preposition 'at'). 'last gasp' means the point of exhaustion or death, but usually takes the preposition 'at' ("at its last gasp"), not 'on'.
23. D) **'break off'** सही है क्योंकि यह एक phrasal verb है जिसका मतलब किसी बड़े हिस्से से टूटकर अलग होना होता है। ग्लेशियर से बर्फ के अलग होने (calve) के लिए यही इस्तेमाल होता है। 'break down' का मतलब मशीन का खराब होना या भावुक होकर रो पड़ना होता है। 'break apart' का मतलब कई टुकड़ों में बिखर जाना होता है। 'break away' का मतलब किसी की पकड़ से छूटकर भागना या किसी ग्रुप से अलग होना होता है।
    - 'break off' is used because it is the specific phrasal verb that means to become separated from a larger piece, which is exactly what "calve" means when a chunk of ice separates from a glacier. 'break down' means to stop functioning or to collapse

emotionally. 'break apart' means to shatter into many pieces. 'break away' means to escape from someone's hold or leave a group.

24. C) **'that'** सही है क्योंकि यह इंग्लिश ग्रामर का एक नियम है: "It was not until [Time/Event]" वाले वाक्यों में हमेशा conjunction "that" का इस्तेमाल होता है। इसलिए, "It wasn't until 2020 that..." सही है। 'when' इस खास स्ट्रक्चर में ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। 'then' का मतलब 'फिर' या 'तब' होता है। 'than' का इस्तेमाल तुलना (comparison) करने के लिए होता है।
    - 'that' is used because of a specific English grammar rule: the structure "It was not until [Time/Event]" is always followed by the conjunction "that". So, "It wasn't until 2020 that..." is the correct form. 'when' is grammatically incorrect in this specific "It wasn't until..." structure. 'then' indicates a time sequence but cannot connect this clause. 'than' is used for comparisons.
25. A) **'vortex** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब घूमते हुए पानी या हवा का भंवर (whirlpool) होता है, जो iceberg को फंसाने वाले घूमते हुए पानी के लिए बिल्कुल सही शब्द है। 'centrifuge' एक मशीन है जो चीज़ों को अलग करने के लिए तेज़ी से घूमती है। 'confluence' का मतलब दो नदियों का संगम (मिलन) होता है। 'deluge' का मतलब भारी बाढ़ या मूसलाधार बारिश होता है।
    - ‘vortex' is used because it means a mass of whirling or rotating fluid or air, which perfectly describes the spinning column of water trapping the iceberg. 'centrifuge' is a machine that spins rapidly to separate substances of different densities. 'confluence' means the junction of two rivers. 'deluge' means a severe flood or heavy fall of rain.

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