Digital exile: On digital censorship

The government could be creating a system of **arbitrary censorship**

A decade-long **trend** in digital **governance** in India **crescendoed** last week when **a slew of** social media accounts operated by independent **activists** and journalists **were** blocked **apparently** for **criticising** the Union government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his government's West Asia policies and the LPG crisis. In seven years, from 2014 to 2021, **the number of** URLs, posts, and accounts blocked **ballooned** from 470 to 9,800; since then, there is evidence that entire **accounts**, especially if they were publishing politically unfavourable comments, **were** being blocked. There was a wave of censorship during the farmers' protest in 2020-21; the government **restored** many accounts after international **outcry** but this also **demonstrated** that it was not beyond mass censorship. Similarly, the government used emergency powers under the IT Rules to block links to a BBC documentary in 2023, which also expanded the definition of what **constituted** a "threat to public **order**". But when Twitter (now X) challenged several blocking orders, between 2021 and 2022, in the Karnataka High Court, the High Court **dismissed** the **plea** and fined Twitter, further **emboldening** the state to **censor** accounts.

In Shreya Singhal (2015), the Supreme Court of India **upheld** Section 69A of the IT Act 2000 **precisely** because of its procedural safeguards, including requiring **reasoned** orders and judicial review. **In practice**, however, the government has been **diluting** the safeguards through an **expansive** use of Rule 16 of the 2009 Blocking Rules, which requires blocking **proceedings** to be **confidential**. When this **stipulation** is **invoked** to **withhold** blocking orders or their reasons from affected parties, it **undermines** their ability to challenge the action in court, **eroding** the very safeguards that justified the constitutionality of Section 69A. The 2009 Rules also require blocking orders to be reviewed by a committee **composed** under the IT Rules 2009, yet this is an entirely executive body and has never **overturned** a government blocking order. **In effect**, the government is openly and systematically **bypassing** the right to be heard and **violating the doctrine of proportionality**. Rule 16 is a procedural rule, yet the government is using it to **override** the constitutional right to free speech while **shielding** itself from judicial review. A person's **entire account** being blocked **amounts to** a digital exile, removing the person from the public square, which is a **hallmark** of an **authoritarian** government rather than of a liberal democracy. The government's **plan** to **decentralise** blocking powers to multiple Ministries could effectively create a **regime** of arbitrary censorship, where any department can silence a critic without the specialised **oversight**, however **flawed**, of the IT Ministry. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – Be equivalent to

Vocabulary

1. **Exile** (noun) - banishment, expatriation, deportation, displacement, ostracism देश निकाला

2. **Arbitrary** (adjective) - random, erratic, whimsical, capricious, inconsistent मनमाना

3. **Censorship** (noun) - the control or restriction of information, ideas, or content by authorities सेंसरशिप/पाबंदी

4. **Governance** (noun) - the system or process of governing and managing a country, organization, or institution शासन

5. **Crescendo** (verb) - peak, intensify, escalate, climax, mount चरम पर पहुँचना

6. **A slew of** (phrase) - a large number or quantity of something ढेर सारे

7. **Activist** (noun) - campaigner, advocate, reformer, militant, protestor कार्यकर्ता

8. **Apparently** (adverb) - seemingly, ostensibly, supposedly, evidently, purportedly स्पष्ट रूप से

9. **Criticise** (verb) - censure, denounce, condemn, disparage, fault आलोचना करना

10. **Balloon** (verb) - swell, expand, mushroom, escalate, surge तेजी से बढ़ना

11. **Restore** (verb) - reinstate, re-establish, return, renew, recover बहाल करना

12. **Outcry** (noun) - protest, clamour, objection, indignation, complaint चिल्लाहट/कड़ा विरोध

13. **Demonstrate** (verb) - show, manifest, display, evidence, prove प्रदर्शित करना

14. **Constitute** (verb) - compose, form, create, establish, organize गठित करना

15. **Order** (noun) - command, decree, directive, mandate, instruction आदेश

16. **Dismiss** (verb) - reject, discard, repudiate, spurn, decline खारिज करना

17. **Plea** (noun) - appeal, petition, suit, prayer, entreaty याचिका

18. **Embolden** (verb) - encourage, hearten, nerve, strengthen, animate प्रोत्साहित करना

19. **Censor** (verb) - redact, expunge, suppress, stifle, edit पाबंदी लगाना

20. **Upheld** (verb) - maintain, support, sustain, validate, confirm बरकरार रखना

21. **Precisely** (adverb) - exactly, accurately, strictly, specifically, correctly बिल्कुल/ठीक

22. **Reasoned** (adjective) - logical, rational, sensible, justified, coherent तर्कसंगत

23. **In practice** (phrase) - in reality or in the actual performance of something व्यवहार में

24. **Dilute** (verb) - weaken, thin, attenuate, diminish, reduce कमजोर करना

25. **Expansive** (adjective) - extensive, broad, wide-ranging, comprehensive, vast विस्तृत

26. **Proceeding** (noun) - action, process, measure, step, course कार्रवाई

27. **Confidential** (adjective) - secret, private, classified, restricted, intimate गोपनीय

28. **Stipulation** (noun) - condition, requirement, provision, prerequisite, clause शर्त/नियम

29. **Invoke** (verb) - appeal, cite, summon, resort, petition आह्वान करना

30. **Withhold** (verb) - retain, reserve, keep, suppress, restrain रोक लेना

31. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, subvert, sabotage, erode, diminish कमजोर करना

32. **Erode** (verb) - wear, corrode, abrade, diminish, undermine धीरे-धीरे नष्ट करना

33. **Compose** (verb) - constitute, form, fashion, organize, frame गठित करना

34. **Overturn** (verb) - reverse, overrule, quash, nullify, rescind पलट देना

35. **In effect** (phrase) - for all practical purposes or in reality वास्तव में

36. **Bypass** (verb) - avoid, circumvent, sidestep, ignore, evade दरकिनार करना

37. **Violate** (verb) - breach, infringe, transgress, defy, disobey उल्लंघन करना

38. **The doctrine of proportionality** (noun) - the legal principle that a punishment or action must match the severity of the cause आनुपातिकता का सिद्धांत

39. **Override** (verb) - overrule, cancel, reverse, disregard, nullify रद्द करना/अभिभावी होना

40. **Shield** (verb) - protect, guard, defend, screen, shelter ढाल बनना/बचाना

41. **Hallmark** (noun) - trademark, characteristic, sign, stamp, indicator विशेषता/पहचान

42. **Authoritarian** (adjective) - a system where strict control is exercised by a ruler or government, often limiting individual freedoms सत्तावादी

43. **Decentralise** (verb) - distribute, disperse, scatter, diffuse, spread विकेंद्रीकृत करना

44. **Regime** (noun) - a system or form of government, especially one in power व्यवस्था/शासन

45. **Oversight** (noun) - supervision, surveillance, monitoring, inspection, management निगरानी

46. **Flawed** (adjective) - faulty, defective, imperfect, unsound, blemished त्रुटिपूर्ण

Summary of the Editorial

1. India has seen a **steady rise in digital censorship** over the past decade.
2. Recently, **social media accounts of activists and journalists** were blocked for criticising the government.
3. The number of blocked URLs and accounts increased sharply from **470 (2014) to 9,800 (2021)**.
4. There is growing evidence that **entire accounts are being blocked**, not just specific content.
5. During the **farmers' protests (2020–21)**, mass censorship was used, though some accounts were later restored.
6. In **2023**, links to a **BBC documentary** were blocked using emergency powers.
7. The definition of **"threat to public order"** has been expanded to justify censorship.
8. When **Twitter (X)** challenged blocking orders, the Karnataka High Court dismissed the plea and fined it.
9. This judgment **strengthened the government's authority** to censor online content.
10. The Supreme Court in **Shreya Singhal (2015)** upheld Section 69A due to procedural safeguards.
11. However, the government is **weakening these safeguards** through misuse of Rule 16 (confidentiality clause).
12. Blocking orders are often **not shared with affected users**, preventing legal challenges.
13. Review committees under IT Rules are **executive-controlled and ineffective**, rarely overturning decisions.
14. Blocking entire accounts leads to **"digital exile"**, removing individuals from public discourse.
15. The proposal to **decentralise censorship powers across ministries** may result in arbitrary and unchecked censorship.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what specific legal development in 2022 further "emboldened" the state to censor digital accounts?** **[Editorial page]**
   A. The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of Section 69A of the IT Act.
   B. The Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Twitter's plea and the subsequent fine it imposed.
   C. The Union government's decision to restore several accounts during the 2020-21 protests.
   D. The introduction of the IT Rules of 2009 which required all blocking to be confidential.

2. **Why did the Supreme Court originally uphold Section 69A of the IT Act 2000 in the Shreya Singhal (2015) case?**
   A. Because the Court believed that social media accounts amounted to a form of "digital exile."
   B. Because the section was deemed necessary to expand the definition of a "threat to public order."
   C. Because it contained procedural safeguards like reasoned orders and the right to judicial review.
   D. Because it allowed the government to bypass the right to be heard during a national emergency.

3. **How does the government's use of Rule 16 of the 2009 Blocking Rules impact affected parties?**
   A. It provides them with a specialized oversight committee that consistently overturns blocking orders.
   B. It ensures that their right to free speech is protected through a transparent and public hearing.
   C. It requires all blocking proceedings to be confidential, preventing parties from challenging the orders.
   D. It forces the IT Ministry to decentralize its powers to all other Ministries for better efficiency.

4. **What does the author describe as a "hallmark of an authoritarian government" in the context of digital governance?**
   A. The creation of a review committee composed entirely of members from the executive body.
   B. The act of removing a person from the public square by blocking their entire digital account.
   C. The exponential increase in the number of URLs and posts blocked between 2014 and 2021.
   D. The use of specialized oversight from the IT Ministry to regulate politically favorable comments.

5. **What is the author's primary concern regarding the plan to "decentralise" blocking powers to multiple Ministries?**
   A. It will lead to an overly complex system where the IT Ministry has too much specialized oversight.
   B. It will result in arbitrary censorship where critics are silenced without proper oversight.
   C. It will help the government restore the procedural safeguards that were lost after 2015.

D. It will require the Karnataka High Court to review thousands of new blocking orders every week.

6. **Directions: In the following question, the sentences of a paragraph are jumbled up. Arrange them in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
   A. Following those online calls for retribution, defense forces were forced to dispatch troops to several villages to stop civilians from committing further acts of arson.
   B. This sudden surge in violence began after an 18-year-old teenage settler was killed on Saturday when a vehicle reportedly hit his quad bike.
   C. In response to that fatal incident, WhatsApp groups used by these extremists immediately called for a widespread "revenge campaign."
   D. Extremist Jewish settlers have carried out a spate of attacks on Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank, setting fire to homes, vehicles, and agricultural fields.
   A. BDCA
   B. DBCA
   C. ACBD
   D. CBAD

7. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
   A. The final decision was made B. between the two countries C. after long negotiation D. and several meetings.
   A. The final decision was made
   B. between the two countries
   C. after long negotiation
   D. and several meetings.

8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
   The archaeologist stumbled _____ an ancient manuscript buried beneath the ruins.
   A. across
   B. into
   C. upon
   D. over

9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Teleological**
   A. Purpose-driven
   B. Random
   C. Historical
   D. Reactive

10. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
    A. Acknowledgement
    B. Acknowledgment
    C. Acknowlegdment
    D. Acknowlegement

11. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "desert" with the same meaning as in the following sentence?**
    "We had to desert the ship after the engine failed."
    A. The Mojave Desert is known for its extreme heat.
    B. Many animals that live in the desert are nocturnal.

    C. We found an oasis in the middle of the vast desert.

    D. He would never desert his friends in their time of need.

12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
   A. Conspicous
   B. Conspequous
   C. Conspqcuous
   D. Conspicuous

13. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: See eye to eye**
   A. To stare at someone intensely
   B. To understand a complex visual concept
   C. To disagree completely with someone
   D. To agree fully with someone else

14. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Ponderous**
   A. Clumsy
   B. Light
   C. Heavy
   D. Slow

15. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
   A person who is in charge of a ship.
   A. Sailor
   B. Captain
   C. Officer
   D. Pilot

16. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
   A person who studies casually without seriousness.
   A. Scholar
   B. Dilettante
   C. Expert
   D. Savant

17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Connive**
   A. Support
   B. Oppose
   C. Motivate
   D. Reject

18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
   A part of the rural population are migrated to the cities.
   A. A parts of the rural population has migrated
   B. A part of the rural populations have migrated
   C. A part of the rural population were migrated
   D. A part of the rural population has migrated

19. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
   John, a football player who captained his team in school as well as college, **will be inaugurated** the match tomorrow in Pune.
   A. will inaugurate

    B. in inauguration
    C. will inaugurating
    D. is inaugurate

20. **Rearrange the following sentence parts to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:**
P. After laying out a grid across the site, the team started to dig out the topsoil layers gently.
Q. They meticulously documented the location of artefacts as they were gradually unearthed using trowels and brushes.
R. Every item they discovered, including old tools and shattered ceramics, was cleaned and catalogued.
S. The artefacts brought the past of a long-lost culture to life by telling a story.
    A. P, S, Q, R
    B. Q, P, R, S
    C. S, Q, R, P
    D. P, Q, R, S

Comprehension

Before we enter the clouds (1) ___ snow-capped Helvellyn, I glance back down at Ullswater . The early morning sun is bursting around the dark corners of High Dodd and Sleet Fell, sending a flush of light across the golden bracken and on to the hammered silver of the lake. Further away to the south, ragged patches of snow cling to the high gullies. The nearest village, Glenridding, can barely be seen behind the leafless trees and all I can hear is the (2) ___ of the stream. It is the (3) ___ Lakeland scene: the steep slopes above the water, the soft colours and hard rock, all combining into something (4) ___. And judging by the photographic and artistic record, it is one that has hardly changed since the Cumbrian wind first ruffled a Romantic poet's curls. Our best loved national parks – the Lake District, Peak District, Eryri (Snowdonia) and Dartmoor – all officially opened 75 years ago, in 1951. It was the result of a long campaign, arguably begun by one of those Romantics, William Wordsworth, a poet whose particular love for the Lakes led him to observe that the area should be "a sort of national property, in which every man has a right and an interest who has an eye to (5) ___ and a heart to enjoy".

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
    A. underneath
    B. amidst
    C. of
    D. on

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
    A. rustle
    B. clatter
    C. bellow
    D. gurgle

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
    A. epitome
    B. quintessential
    C. proportional
    D. customary

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
    A. unprecedented
    B. monolithic
    C. inimitable
    D. synonymous

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
    A. envision
    B. diagnose
    C. scrutinize
    D. perceive

Answers

1. B   2. C   3.C   4.B   5. B   6.B   7. C   8.C   9. A   10. A   11.D   12.D

13. D   14.B   15.B   16.B   17.B   18.D   19.A   20.D   21.D   22.D   23.B   24.C

25. D   **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

1. **B) The Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Twitter's plea and the subsequent fine it imposed.**
   The passage states that when Twitter challenged orders between 2021 and 2022, the Karnataka High Court dismissed the plea and fined them, which "further emboldened the state to censor accounts."
   others are incorrect: (A) refers to a 2015 case. (C) is an example of a temporary reversal, not a reason for empowerment. (D) is the origin of the rules, but the court case was the specific catalyst mentioned for the state's emboldenment.

2. **C) Because it contained procedural safeguards like reasoned orders and the right to judicial review.**
   The passage notes that the Court upheld the section "precisely because of its procedural safeguards," specifically mentioning reasoned orders and review.
   others are incorrect: (A) is the author's current criticism, not the Court's 2015 view. (B) and (D) describe the current alleged misuse/dilution, which is what the author claims is undermining the 2015 ruling.

3. **C) It requires all blocking proceedings to be confidential, preventing parties from challenging the orders.**
   The passage explains that Rule 16 requires proceedings to be confidential, which "undermines their ability to challenge the action in court" by withholding reasons.
   others are incorrect: (A) is contradicted by the passage, which says the committee has "never overturned" an order. (B) is the opposite of the author's claim. (D) is a future plan mentioned at the end, not the direct impact of Rule 16.

4. **B) The act of removing a person from the public square by blocking their entire digital account.**
   The passage states that blocking an entire account "amounts to a digital exile... which is a hallmark of an authoritarian government."
   others are incorrect: While (A) and (C) are mentioned as problems, the specific "hallmark of an authoritarian government" label is attached to the concept of "digital exile" and removal from the public square. (D) is not mentioned as a hallmark.

5. **B) It will result in arbitrary censorship where critics are silenced without proper oversight.**
   The final sentence warns that decentralization could "create a regime of arbitrary censorship, where any department can silence a critic without... specialized oversight."
   others are incorrect: (A) is the opposite of the concern (lack of oversight is the issue). (C) is a positive outcome the author clearly does not expect. (D) is not mentioned as a consequence of decentralization.

6. **B) Correct Sequence: D-B-C-A**

Sentence D सबसे पहले आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का main topic (मुख्य विषय) introduce करता है। यह एक broad statement देता है कि West Bank में extremist settlers ने Palestinian गाँवों पर लगातार कई हमले (spate of attacks) किए हैं और घरों व खेतों में आग लगाई है।

Sentence B, Sentence D के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि "This sudden surge in violence" (हिंसा में यह अचानक आई तेज़ी) सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में बताए गए हमलों (attacks) को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि इस हिंसा की शुरुआत आखिर कैसे हुई—एक 18 साल के settler की मौत के बाद।

Sentence C, Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "that fatal incident" (वह जानलेवा घटना) सीधे तौर पर Sentence B में बताई गई settler की मौत (was killed) को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि उस मौत के response में, WhatsApp groups पर "revenge campaign" (बदले की मुहिम) शुरू करने की मांग की गई।

Sentence A आखिर में आएगा क्योंकि "those online calls for retribution" (बदले के लिए वे ऑनलाइन मांगें) सीधे तौर पर Sentence C में बताए गए WhatsApp groups के "revenge campaign" को refer करता है। यह paragraph को conclude करता है कि उन मैसेजेस के बाद सेना (defense forces) को आगज़नी (arson) रोकने के लिए वहाँ भेज दिया गया।

Sentence D comes first because it serves as the introductory topic sentence. It establishes the main subject: a recent wave of violent attacks and arson carried out by extremist settlers in the West Bank.

Sentence B follows immediately because the phrase "This sudden surge in violence" directly references the "spate of attacks" introduced in Sentence D. It provides the crucial context, explaining the trigger for this violence—the death of an 18-year-old settler.

Sentence C comes next because the phrase "that fatal incident" points directly back to the settler being "killed" in Sentence B. It explains the immediate reaction to that death, which was a call for a "revenge campaign" organized via WhatsApp groups.

Sentence A comes last because the phrase "those online calls for retribution" undeniably refers back to the WhatsApp "revenge campaign" mentioned in Sentence C. It concludes the paragraph by showing the final result of those online calls: the military being dispatched to stop the arson.

7. C) 'after long negotiation' के बदले '**after long negotiations**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'negotiation' यहाँ Countable Noun है और समय-समय पर हुई कई वार्ताओं को दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए Plural रूप आवश्यक है; जैसे— The treaty was signed after long negotiations.

   • 'after long negotiations' will be used instead of 'after long negotiation' because 'negotiation' here is a countable noun referring to multiple rounds of talks, so plural form is required; Like— The treaty was signed after long negotiations.

8. C) '**upon**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि phrasal expression stumble upon का अर्थ होता है — किसी चीज़ पर अनायास या अचानक पहुँच जाना या मिल जाना। यहाँ archaeologist ने ruins के नीचे से manuscript discover किया है, इसलिए context में अचानक मिलने का अर्थ व्यक्त हो रहा है, जो stumble upon से सबसे सही तरीके से व्यक्त होता है।

   • **'upon' should be used because the phrasal verb "stumble upon" means to unexpectedly find or come across something. In the sentence, the archaeologist discovers a manuscript buried beneath the ruins, which implies an accidental discovery. Thus, "stumbled upon" is the most appropriate choice.

9. A) **Teleological** (adjective) – Related to purpose, goal, or end result; explaining phenomena by their ultimate aim; purpose-driven, goal-oriented, purposive, finalistic, ends-based. उद्देश्य आधारित / लक्ष्यप्रधान

   Synonym: **Purpose-driven** (adjective) – Guided by a purpose, intention, or goal. उद्देश्य द्वारा संचालित

   - **Random** (adjective) – Without plan or purpose; arbitrary. अनियमित / बिना उद्देश्य
   - **Historical** (adjective) – Relating to history. ऐतिहासिक
   - **Reactive** (adjective) – Responding to stimuli or events. प्रतिक्रियात्मक

10. A) The correctly spelt word is **Acknowledgement** which means "the act of accepting or recognizing something" स्वीकृति / स्वीकारोक्ति

11. D) **Highlighted** वाक्य में 'desert' का अर्थ है — छोड़ देना / त्याग देना (to abandon)।
    विकल्प D में भी 'desert' का अर्थ दोस्तों को नहीं छोड़ना यानी abandon न करना है।
    इसलिए यह same meaning का सही उदाहरण है।
    In the highlighted sentence, 'desert' means to abandon.
    Option D uses 'desert' with the same meaning — to not abandon friends.
    Thus, option D matches the same meaning.

12. D) The correctly spelt word is **Conspicuous** which means "clearly visible or attracting attention" स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देने वाला / ध्यान खींचने वाला।

13. D) **See eye to eye** (idiom) - To agree fully with someone else पूरी तरह सहमत होना / एक जैसी राय रखना

14. B) **Ponderous** (adjective) – Extremely heavy, dull, or slow due to weight or bulk; heavy, cumbersome, clumsy, weighty, labored. भारी / बोझिल / धीमा

    Antonym: **Light** (adjective) – Not heavy; easy to move; graceful, quick. हल्का / सुगम

    - **Clumsy** (adjective) – Awkward in movement; ungraceful. अनाड़ी
    - **Heavy** (adjective) – Having great weight; ponderous. भारी
    - **Slow** (adjective) – Not fast; sluggish. धीमा

15. B) **Captain** (noun) – a person who is in charge of a ship जहाज़ का प्रभारी / कप्तान

    • **Sailor** (noun) – a person who works on a ship नाविक

    • **Officer** (noun) – a person holding a position of authority अधिकारी

    • **Pilot** (noun) – a person who operates an aircraft वैमानिक

16. B) **Dilettante** (noun) – a person who studies or engages in an activity casually without seriousness सतही रूप से सीखने वाला / शौकिया विद्यार्थी

    - **Scholar** (noun) – a person with deep academic knowledge विद्वान
    - **Expert** (noun) – a person with special skill or knowledge विशेषज्ञ
    - **Savant** (noun) – a person of great learning and knowledge अति विद्वान

17. B) **Connive** (verb) – To secretly cooperate in wrongdoing; to scheme; to conspire; collude, plot, scheme, abet, condone. गुप्त रूप से बुरे कार्य में साथ देना / षड्यंत्र करना

    Antonym: **Oppose** (verb) – To resist, counter, or act against something; reject, hinder, obstruct, combat. विरोध करना / प्रतिरोध करना

    - **Support** (verb) – To assist or back someone or something. समर्थन करना
    - **Motivate** (verb) – To inspire or encourage. प्रेरित करना

- **Reject** (verb) – To refuse or decline. अस्वीकार करना

18. D) **A part of the rural population has migrated**

are migrated' के बदले 'has migrated' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'A part of the rural population' एक Singular idea को दर्शाता है, इसलिए Singular Verb की आवश्यकता है और migrate verb का Passive नहीं बल्कि Active रूप प्रयोग किया जाएगा; जैसे— A part of the staff has resigned.

- 'has migrated' will be used instead of 'are migrated' because 'A part of the rural population' denotes a singular idea, so it takes a singular verb, and the verb must be in active form, not passive; Like— A part of the staff has resigned.

19. A) will be inaugurated' के बदले '**will inaugurate'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ John स्वयं मैच का उद्घाटन करेगा, इसलिए Active Voice आवश्यक है, न कि Passive Voice; जैसे— The minister will inaugurate the event tomorrow.

- 'will inaugurate' will be used instead of 'will be inaugurated' because John himself will perform the action of inaugurating the match, so the verb must be in Active Voice, not Passive; Like— The minister will inaugurate the event tomorrow.

20. D) **P, Q, R, S**

 After laying out a grid across the site, the team started to dig out the topsoil layers gently.They meticulously documented the location of artefacts as they were gradually unearthed using trowels and brushes. Every item they discovered, including old tools and shattered ceramics, was cleaned and catalogued. The artefacts brought the past of a long-lost culture to life by telling a story.

P paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह archaeological work की initial stage को दिखाता है। Site पर grid बनाना और topsoil को धीरे-धीरे हटाना खुदाई शुरू करने का पहला systematic step होता है।

Q, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह excavation के दौरान की activity बताता है। Artefacts जब धीरे-धीरे बाहर आते हैं, तब उनकी exact location को document किया जाता है, जो digging के साथ-साथ होता है।

R, Q के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह next procedure को दर्शाता है। Items मिलने और record होने के बाद उन्हें clean किया जाता है और catalogue किया जाता है, इसलिए यह logically बाद में आता है।

S paragraph का conclusion है क्योंकि यह पूरे process का outcome और importance बताता है। Artefacts के through एक long-lost culture की कहानी सामने आती है, जो passage को natural end देता है।

P starts the paragraph because it describes the initial stage of the archaeological process. Laying out a grid and gently removing topsoil is the first systematic step before any artefacts can be properly studied.

Q follows P because it explains what happens during excavation. As artefacts are uncovered, the team carefully documents their exact locations, which logically occurs while digging is in progress.

R comes after Q because it shows the next procedural step. Once items are found and documented, they are cleaned and catalogued, making this a natural continuation of the excavation work.
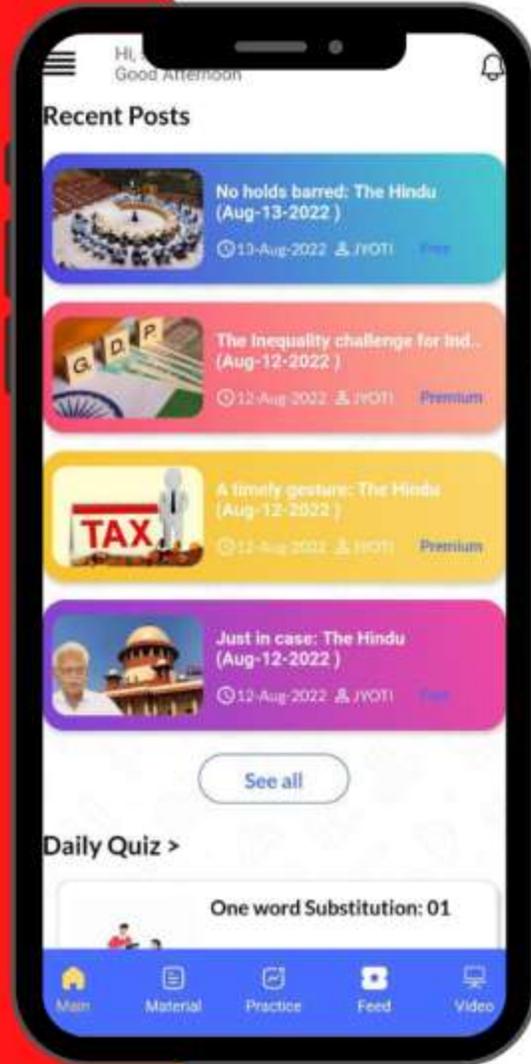
S concludes the paragraph because it highlights the result and significance of the entire process. By interpreting the artefacts, the team brings the past of a long-lost culture to life, which serves as a meaningful ending.

Therefore, the correct order is P → Q → R → S, which corresponds to Option 4.

21. D) [**on**] सही है क्योंकि इसका इस्तेमाल किसी सतह (surface) के ऊपर होने के लिए होता है। हेलवेलिन (Helvellyn) एक पहाड़ है और बादल उसकी बर्फीली चोटी के 'ऊपर' (on) हैं। amidst का मतलब 'के बीच में' होता है। of का मतलब 'का/की' होता है, जो यहाँ जगह (location) नहीं बताता। underneath का मतलब 'के बिल्कुल नीचे' होता है, जो बादलों और पहाड़ की चोटी के लिए गलत है।

- [on] is correct because it indicates position resting atop a surface. Helvellyn is a mountain, and the clouds are resting directly on top of its snow-capped peak. amidst means surrounded by things, but you don't say clouds are "surrounded by" a mountain. of indicates belonging, which does not show physical placement here. underneath means directly below, which is factually incorrect for clouds relative to a mountain peak.

22. D) [**gurgle**] सही है क्योंकि पानी के पत्थरों से टकराकर बहने पर जो बुलबुलों वाली आवाज़ (कल-कल) आती है, उसे ही 'gurgle' कहते हैं। rustle का मतलब सूखी पत्तियों या कागज़ के खड़खड़ाने की आवाज़ होता है। clatter का मतलब कठोर चीज़ों के आपस में टकराने की (खटखट) आवाज़ होता है। bellow का मतलब किसी इंसान या बड़े जानवर के ज़ोर से दहाड़ने या चिल्लाने की आवाज़ होता है।

- [gurgle] is correct because it is the specific noun used for the hollow, bubbling sound made by water flowing over rocks in a stream. rustle is the soft, crackling sound made by dry leaves or paper. clatter is a continuous rattling sound made by hard objects striking each other. bellow is a deep roaring shout made by a person or a large animal.

23. B) [**quintessential**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ का सबसे बेहतरीन या सबसे सटीक उदाहरण (perfect example) होना होता है। पैराग्राफ में उस नज़ारे को लेकलैंड का सबसे शानदार और असली रूप बताया गया है। epitome का मतलब भी बिल्कुल यही होता है, लेकिन वह एक noun है और उसके साथ हमेशा 'of' आता है (the epitome of), इसलिए वह यहाँ ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। customary का मतलब आम तौर पर होने वाला (प्रथागत) होता है। proportional का मतलब आकार में बराबर (अनुपातिक) होता है।

- [quintessential] is correct because it is an adjective meaning the absolute most perfect or typical example of a certain quality or class. The passage describes the ultimate, perfect example of a Lakeland scene. epitome has the exact same meaning, but it is a noun, so it strictly requires the structure "is the epitome of a Lakeland scene," making it grammatically incorrect here. customary means usual or traditional practice. proportional means corresponding in size or amount.

24. C) [**inimitable**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका मतलब इतना अनोखा और बेहतरीन होना होता है जिसकी कोई नकल न कर सके (impossible to copy)। ढलानों, रंगों और पत्थरों का यह तालमेल इतना सुंदर है कि इसकी नकल नहीं की जा सकती। unprecedented का मतलब कुछ ऐसा होना जो इतिहास में पहले कभी न हुआ हो (अभूतपूर्व)। monolithic का मतलब एक ही बड़े पत्थर से बना हुआ होता है। synonymous का मतलब एक जैसा अर्थ (पर्यायवाची) होना होता है।

- [inimitable] is correct because it is an adjective meaning so unique and perfect that it is impossible to copy or imitate. The combination of steep slopes, soft colors, and hard rock creates a beauty that cannot be duplicated. unprecedented means never done or known before in history. monolithic means formed of a single large block of stone or rigidly unvarying. synonymous means having the exact same meaning as another word.

25. D) [**perceive**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब अपनी इंद्रियों (खासकर आँखों) से किसी चीज़ को देखना, महसूस करना या समझना (**notice**) होता है। प्रकृति की सुंदरता को देखने के लिए "an eye to perceive"

(देखने/महसूस करने वाली आँख) का इस्तेमाल बिल्कुल सटीक है। envision का मतलब भविष्य की कल्पना करना होता है। diagnose एक मेडिकल शब्द है जिसका मतलब बीमारी का पता लगाना होता है। scrutinize का मतलब बहुत आलोचनात्मक तरीके से बारीक जांच करना होता है, जो प्रकृति का मज़ा लेने के भाव के साथ गलत बैठता है।

- [perceive] is correct because it is a verb meaning to become aware of or notice something through the physical senses, especially sight. The sentence pairs "an eye to perceive" (seeing/noticing the beauty) with "a heart to enjoy." envision means to imagine something as a future possibility. diagnose is a medical term for identifying the nature of an illness. scrutinize means to examine or inspect something very closely and critically, which ruins the poetic, relaxed tone of enjoying nature.