

Arrest the grief: On illegal sand mining in central India

Livelihood issues are at the heart of illegal sand mining in central India

The National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary in central India protects a **lotic ecosystem** across an area **straddling** three States. Its **existence** is **crucial** for the critically **endangered** gharial, the red-crowned roofed turtle and the **endangered** Ganges river dolphin. All three species depend on sand to survive, especially the river's sandbars and sandbanks. Yet, **organised** crime and state **paralysis** have been stealing away just that sand, **prompting** the Supreme Court of India to call the local sand-mining mafia "modern **dacoits**". The mafia **erupted** to **meet** the demand for sand during North India's construction **boom**, and has been able to **exploit** gaps in **jurisdiction** among the three States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh — despite the Court and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banning the activity. State governments have also **abetted** this **ploy** by **passing the buck on** acting against the mafia. Between 2017 and 2024, tractor **trolleys laden** with illegally mined sand **mowed down** forest guards and police officers while miners also shot at police during raids. The police reported that miners had also begun using local villagers to track the movement of patrol vehicles using mobile apps and GPS. By 2023, reports indicated that mining **syndicates** in the Gwalior-Chambal region **were** using semi-automatic weapons, **often outgunning** the local forest departments.

Frustrated with having failed to **staunch** the bleeding, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attempted to **legalise** sand mining in certain districts inside the sanctuary. Madhya Pradesh submitted proposals for limited mining in two districts but **resistance** from the NGT **stalled** its plans, and the State **subsequently** withdrew them. Rajasthan followed with a similar proposal in March this year only for the Court to block it. Traditional agriculture is difficult in the Chambal **ravines**, leaving many young men to turn to mining sand for a living. The mafia recruits them as foot soldiers, leaving forest officials to face 'public anger' when they **militate** against the mafia. The Court took **suo motu cognisance** of Rajasthan's measure, with Justice Sandeep Mehta, last week, '**reminding**' the State of the National Security Act and the State-specific Goonda Act. The Court's frustration is understandable. But **given** the recent troubled history of green governance, where it has played regulator, there is **merit** in the Court disciplining the regulator rather than replacing it. The **lesson** from Chambal's violent history **is** that force alone cannot quiet an economy **feeding on grievance**. **Sweeping crackdowns** will **deepen** local **resentment** and **entrench** the same social cover that **sustains** the syndicates. **Lasting** change will come only from **restoring** lawful livelihoods and **credible, even-handed enforcement**. **[Practice Ex.]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Arrest** (verb) - stop, halt, check, curb, inhibit रोकना या थामना
2. **Grief** (noun) - sorrow, misery, woe, distress, heartache दुख या शोक
3. **Livelihood** (noun) - subsistence, income, maintenance, occupation, living आजीविका
4. **At the heart of** (idiom) - to be the most important or basic part of something के केंद्र में या मुख्य कारण होना
5. **Lotic ecosystem** (noun) - an ecosystem involving flowing water such as rivers, streams, and springs बहते जल का पारिस्थितिक तंत्र
6. **Straddle** (verb) - span, bridge, extend across, bestride, encompass दोनों ओर फैले होना
7. **Existence** (noun) - being, presence, survival, reality, endurance अस्तित्व
8. **Crucial** (adjective) - critical, pivotal, vital, essential, decisive महत्वपूर्ण
9. **Endangered** (adjective) - threatened, at risk, vulnerable, imperiled, precarious विलुप्तप्राय या खतरे में
10. **Organised** (adjective) - systematic, structured, coordinated, planned, orderly संगठित
11. **Paralysis** (noun) - standstill, state of inaction, stagnation, immobility, deadlock जड़ता या गतिहीनता
12. **Prompt** (verb) - provoke, induce, inspire, stimulate, cause प्रेरित करना या उकसाना
13. **Dacoit** (noun) - bandit, robber, highwayman, marauder, brigand डकैत
14. **Erupt** (verb) - explode, breakout, burst, flare up, ignite अचानक उत्पन्न होना
15. **Meet** (verb) - satisfy, fulfill, achieve, supply, match पूरा करना (मांग आदि)
16. **Boom** (noun) - surge, expansion, growth, upturn, explosion तेजी या उछाल
17. **Exploit** (verb) - abuse, manipulate, misuse, utilize, leverage शोषण करना या लाभ उठाना
18. **Jurisdiction** (noun) - the official power or authority to make legal decisions or enforce laws अधिकार क्षेत्र
19. **Abet** (verb) - assist, aid, support, encourage, incite उकसाना या मिलीभगत करना
20. **Ploy** (noun) - tactic, scheme, ruse, maneuver, stratagem चाल या पैंतरेबाज़ी
21. **Pass the buck on** (idiom) - to shift the responsibility for something to someone else अपनी जिम्मेदारी दूसरों पर डालना
22. **Laden** (adjective) - burdened, loaded, weighted, heavy, fraught लदा हुआ
23. **Mow down** (phrasal verb) - to kill or knock down (people) in a fast or violent way कुचल देना या मार गिराना
24. **Syndicate** (noun) - association, consortium, union, alliance, group सिंडिकेट या संघ
25. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, many times अक्सर

26. **Outgun** (verb) - surpass, outpower, exceed, outdo, overcome भारी पड़ना (हथियारों या शक्ति में)
27. **Staunch** (verb) - stop, halt, stem, check, block रोकना (विशेषकर खून या नुकसान को)
28. **Legalise** (verb) - legitimate, authorize, permit, sanction, validate वैध बनाना
29. **Resistance** (noun) - opposition, defiance, refusal, obstruction, hindrance प्रतिरोध
30. **Stall** (verb) - obstruct, delay, block, halt, impede ठप करना या रोकना
31. **Subsequently** (adverb) - afterwards, later, following, consequently, then बाद में
32. **Ravine** (noun) - gorge, canyon, gully, abyss, chasm बीहड़ या घाटी
33. **Militate** (verb) - work against, resist, oppose, counteract, conflict प्रतिकूल होना या विरोध करना
34. **Suo motu cognisance** (noun) - an action taken by a court of its own accord without any formal complaint or petition from any party स्वतः संज्ञान
35. **Remind** (verb) - prompt, suggest, recall, nudge, caution याद दिलाना
36. **Given** (preposition) - considering, granting, assuming, taking into account, in view of देखते हुए
37. **Merit** (noun) - value, worth, excellence, quality, credit योग्यता या गुण
38. **Feed on** (phrasal verb) - to grow stronger or more powerful using something as a source of energy or support का लाभ उठाना या उस पर पलना
39. **Grievance** (noun) - complaint, resentment, injustice, grudge, injury शिकायत या व्यथा
40. **Sweeping** (adjective) - wide-ranging, comprehensive, extensive, broad, thorough व्यापक
41. **Crackdown** (noun) - repression, clampdown, suppression, check, restraint कड़ी कार्रवाई
42. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, strengthen, exacerbate, increase, magnify गहरा करना
43. **Resentment** (noun) - bitterness, indignation, anger, hostility, pique नाराजगी
44. **Entrench** (verb) - establish, root, fix, embed, fortify मज़बूत करना या जड़ जमाना
45. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, support, nourish, keep, continue बनाए रखना
46. **Lasting** (adjective) - enduring, permanent, persistent, perpetual, abiding स्थायी
47. **Restore** (verb) - reinstate, re-establish, revive, return, repair बहाल करना
48. **Credible** (adjective) - believable, plausible, reliable, trustworthy, dependable विश्वसनीय
49. **Even-handed** (adjective) - fair, impartial, unbiased, equitable, neutral निष्पक्ष
50. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, imposition, administration, application प्रवर्तन या लागू करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary** protects a vital river ecosystem across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.
2. It is crucial for endangered species like the **gharial, red-crowned roofed turtle, and Ganges river dolphin**.
3. These species depend heavily on **sandbanks and sandbars** for survival.
4. Illegal sand mining is rapidly destroying this fragile ecosystem.
5. The **Supreme Court of India** has termed the sand mafia as “modern dacoits.”
6. Rising **construction demand in North India** has fueled illegal sand extraction.
7. The mafia exploits **jurisdictional gaps among the three States**.
8. Despite bans by courts and the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**, illegal mining continues.
9. State governments have shown **weak enforcement and responsibility shifting**.
10. There has been **violent resistance**, including attacks on forest guards and police.
11. Mining syndicates use **technology like GPS and mobile apps** to evade authorities.
12. Some groups are heavily armed, even **outgunning local enforcement agencies**.
13. Attempts by States to **legalise limited mining inside the sanctuary** were blocked by courts.
14. **Livelihood issues** in the Chambal ravines push local youth into illegal mining activities.
15. The editorial argues that **sustainable solutions require alternative livelihoods and fair enforcement**, not just forceful crackdowns.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following species are specifically mentioned as being dependent on the sandbars of the Chambal Sanctuary for their survival?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The Gharial, the Red-crowned roofed turtle, and the Ganges river dolphin.
 - B. The National sand-mining mafia, the Gharial, and the Forest guards.
 - C. The Modern dacoits, the endangered Ganges river dolphin, and the Villagers.
 - D. The critically endangered Gharial, the Tiger, and the Roofed turtle.
2. **What reason is provided in the passage for many young men in the Chambal ravines turning to illegal sand mining?**
 - A. A lack of interest in modern mobile apps and GPS tracking technology.
 - B. The difficulty of practicing traditional agriculture in the Chambal ravines.
 - C. A desire to use semi-automatic weapons against the National Green Tribunal.
 - D. The failure of the Supreme Court to implement the State-specific Goonda Act.
3. **How have the state governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attempted to handle the "frustration" of failing to stop illegal mining?**
 - A. By replacing all forest officials with local villagers to reduce public anger.
 - B. By launching a sweeping crackdown under the National Security Act last week.
 - C. By proposing to legalise limited sand mining in certain districts of the sanctuary.
 - D. By handing over the entire jurisdiction of the sanctuary to the state of Uttar Pradesh
4. **According to the author, what is the "lesson" to be learned from Chambal's violent history?**
 - A. That the National Green Tribunal should be replaced by the Supreme Court.
 - B. That the only way to stop the mafia is through the use of semi-automatic weapons.
 - C. That force alone cannot quiet an economy that is feeding on local grievance.
 - D. That tracking patrol vehicles with mobile apps should be made legal for villagers.
5. **Which statement best describes the author's view on the use of "sweeping crackdowns" to solve the mining crisis?**
 - A. They are necessary to protect the Ganges river dolphin from modern dacoits.
 - B. They will result in the immediate restoration of lawful livelihoods for young men.
 - C. They will deepen local resentment and entrench the social cover for syndicates.
 - D. They are the most credible and even-handed form of enforcement available.
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentence parts (P, Q, R, S) between the fixed sentences S1 and S6 to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph.**

S1: While it was primarily children who were affected by polio, no one was truly safe from the disease.

P. It left him permanently paralysed from the waist down for the rest of his life.

Q. For instance, future US president Franklin D Roosevelt contracted the virus in 1921 at the age of 39.

R. To achieve this, he founded the March of Dimes in 1938, a charity that turned the traditional model of fundraising on its head.

S. Later, while in office, he made combatting this crippling virus his own personal crusade.

S6: Rather than seeking big donations from a few wealthy individuals, this charity asked for tiny ones from the masses, raising hundreds of millions of dollars.

 - A. Q, P, R, S
 - B. P, Q, S, R

- C. Q, P, S, R
D. S, P, Q, R
7. **Choose a word that is similar in meaning to the word in bold.**
Farmers wash trees infested with insects with any one of the many insecticides not easily obtainable.
A. Acceptable
B. Accessible
C. Probable
D. Interminable
8. **Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.**
Recycling is now an essential measure and it is time for everyone in society to become more responsibility.
A. Recycling is now an essential measure
B. and it is time
C. for everyone in society to become
D. more responsibility
9. **Choose the correct sentence.**
A. He suggested me to take rest.
B. He suggested that I take rest.
C. He suggested me that I take rest.
D. He suggested for me to take rest.
10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
He was accused _____ misappropriating company funds.
A. for
B. of
C. with
D. about
11. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**
The ambassador's tone was _____, balancing diplomacy with quiet authority.
A. belligerent
B. conciliatory
C. erratic
D. morose
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Adulteration
B. Addulteration
C. Adulltration
D. Adulterashion
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Minuscule
B. Miniscule
C. Miniscuele
D. Minouscule

14. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

We met at the restaurant at a long time.

- A. till a long time
 - B. after a long time
 - C. before a long time
 - D. No substitution
15. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

He is married with a woman who works in the Navy.

- A. Married for
 - B. Married to
 - C. Married by
 - D. No substitution
16. Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.

The child said that he was afraid of the dark and requested the lady to stay with him.

- A. The child said, "I am afraid of the dark. Please stay with me."
 - B. The child said, "I was afraid of the dark. Kindly stay with me."
 - C. The child said, "I am afraid of the dark. Will you stay with me?"
 - D. The child said, "I was afraid of the dark. Stay with me."
17. Which sentence contains a misspelled word?
- A. The architect suggested using concrete for the foundation to ensure durability.
 - B. Without concreet evidence, the theory remains purely speculative.
 - C. She needed more concrete examples to support her argument.
 - D. The committee asked for a concrete plan before approving the project.

18. What is the antonym of "Laconic"?

- A. Elliptical
- B. Wordy
- C. Compendious
- D. Clipped

19. Which word is closest in meaning to ghastly?

He made a desperate but only partially successful effort to turn the talk onto a less ghastly topic.

- A. Simple
 - B. Light
 - C. Gruesome
 - D. Boring
20. What is a procession for a funeral called?
- A. Parade
 - B. Carousal
 - C. Cortege
 - D. Carnival

Comprehension

The dark (1) ___ of a shipwreck, beached and rotting on the sand, provides the powerful (2) ___ in award-winning poet and author Susannah Dickey's third novel *Into the Wreck*. Five members of a family mourn the death of a gentle but distant father: a man shaped into silence by the Troubles, and whose absence leaves each of them trying to (3) ___ a family truth that was never fully articulated. The story is set in a coastal town in modern-day County Donegal, delivered to us in five separate narratives. Gemma, the middle child of three, is studying for A-levels alongside an awkwardly timed new obsession with boys; she (4) ___ a self-imposed responsibility to maintain the fragile (5) ___ of the family home. Anna, the eldest, fled to London at 16 to escape constant confrontations with her mother and is now forced to return for her father's funeral, while Matthew, the youngest, silently and heartbreakingly carries the weight of the world's and the family's problems on his 15-year-old shoulders.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
 - A. hull
 - B. crew
 - C. cargo
 - D. compass
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
 - A. suspense
 - B. symbolism
 - C. dedication
 - D. dialogue
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
 - A. formulate
 - B. publish
 - C. comprehend
 - D. endorse
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
 - A. inherits
 - B. schedules
 - C. finances
 - D. harbours
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
 - A. temperature
 - B. foundation
 - C. revenue
 - D. equilibrium

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- A) The Gharial, the Red-crowned roofed turtle, and the Ganges river dolphin.**
 The passage explicitly states: "Its existence is crucial for the critically endangered gharial, the red-crowned roofed turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. All three species depend on sand to survive..."

(B) The "mafia" and "forest guards" are humans involved in the conflict, not species protected by the sanctuary.

(C) "Modern dacoits" is a term used by the Court to describe the mafia, not a biological species.

(D) While the Gharial and turtle are mentioned, the "Tiger" is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.
- B) The difficulty of practicing traditional agriculture in the Chambal ravines.**
 The passage states: "Traditional agriculture is difficult in the Chambal ravines, leaving many young men to turn to mining sand for a living."

(A) The passage says they actually use mobile apps and GPS to track patrol vehicles, rather than lacking interest in them

(C) The use of weapons is a result of their involvement in the syndicates, not the original reason they turned to mining for a living.

(D) The Goonda Act is a legal tool mentioned by the Court to stop the mining, not a reason why people start mining.
- C) By proposing to legalise limited sand mining in certain districts of the sanctuary.**
 The passage explains: "Frustrated with having failed to staunch the bleeding, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan attempted to legalise sand mining in certain districts inside the sanctuary."

(A) The passage mentions the mafia recruits villagers, but states do not replace officials with them; officials face "public anger" instead.

(B) The National Security Act was a "reminder" from the Court to the State, not an action the States had already launched to solve their frustration.

(D) The passage highlights "gaps in jurisdiction among the three States," not a transfer of power to one state.
- C) That force alone cannot quiet an economy that is feeding on local grievance.**
 The passage explicitly states: "The lesson from Chambal's violent history is that force alone cannot quiet an economy feeding on grievance."

(A) The author argues there is merit in the Court "disciplining the regulator [NGT] rather than replacing it."

(B) The passage notes the mafia uses these weapons, but the author argues for "lawful livelihoods" and "even-handed enforcement" rather than just more force.

(D) Tracking vehicles is mentioned as a tactic used by the mafia, not a recommended lesson or legal change.
- C) They will deepen local resentment and entrench the social cover for syndicates.**

The passage warns: "Sweeping crackdowns will deepen local resentment and entrench the same social cover that sustains the syndicates."

(A) The author argues against this method, stating that "force alone cannot quiet an economy feeding on grievance," implying that crackdowns are an insufficient and ineffective necessity.

(B) The passage presents crackdowns and livelihoods as opposites; the author states that "Lasting change" (restoring livelihoods) is the alternative to the failed history of violent force.

(D) The author distinguishes between the two, suggesting that crackdowns are a failed tactic of "force," whereas "credible, even-handed enforcement" is the yet-to-be-achieved solution.

6. C) **Correct Sequence: Option c (Q-P-S-R)**

Sentence Q, S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 बताता है कि कोई भी सुरक्षित नहीं था, और Q "For instance" (उदाहरण के लिए) का उपयोग करके एक वयस्क का उदाहरण देता है (Franklin D Roosevelt) जिसे यह बीमारी हुई थी।

Sentence P, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि pronoun "It" सीधे Q में बताए गए "the virus" को refer करता है, और इस infection का तत्काल शारीरिक परिणाम (paralysis) बताता है।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उसकी व्यक्तिगत त्रासदी (tragedy) को सार्वजनिक कार्रवाई (public action) में बदलता है। यह बताता है कि "Later, while in office" उसने इस बीमारी के खिलाफ अपनी लड़ाई को एक "personal crusade" बना लिया।

Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह बताता है कि S में बताए गए crusade को "To achieve this" (इसे हासिल करने के लिए) उसने क्या विशेष कदम उठाया, जो कि March of Dimes charity की स्थापना करना था।

Sentence S6, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "this charity" सीधे R में पेश किए गए "March of Dimes" को refer करता है, और समझाता है कि इसके धन जुटाने (fundraising) का अनूठा मॉडल कैसे काम करता था

- Sentence Q comes immediately after S1 because S1 establishes that "no one was truly safe," and Q provides a high-profile example ("For instance") of an adult, Franklin D Roosevelt, contracting the disease.
- Sentence P follows Sentence Q because the pronoun "It" directly refers to "the virus" mentioned in Q, describing the immediate physical consequence of the infection (permanent paralysis).
- Sentence S follows Sentence P because it transitions his personal tragedy into public action. It explains that "Later, while in office," he turned his fight against the disease into a "personal crusade."
- Sentence R follows Sentence S because it provides the specific action he took "To achieve this" crusade mentioned in S, which was founding the March of Dimes charity.
- Sentence S6 follows Sentence R because "this charity" directly refers back to the "March of Dimes" introduced in R, explaining exactly how its unique fundraising model worked to raise millions.

7. B) **Obtainable** (adjective) – able to be got, acquired, or reached प्राप्त होने योग्य

Synonym: **Accessible** (adjective) – easy to reach, get, or obtain सुलभ / उपलब्ध

- **Acceptable** (adjective) – satisfactory or approved स्वीकार्य
- **Probable** (adjective) – likely to happen संभावित

- **Interminable** - endless; extremely long and seemingly never ending. अंतहीन, बहुत लंबा और खत्म न होने वाला.
8. D) 'more responsibility' के बदले **'more responsible'** होगा क्योंकि become के बाद adjective का प्रयोग होता है, न कि noun; यहाँ व्यक्ति के गुण/स्थिति की बात हो रही है; जैसे— He became careful.
- 'more responsible' will be used instead of 'more responsibility' because after the verb become, we need an adjective, not a noun.
9. B) **He suggested that I take rest.**
'suggested' के साथ सही structure suggest + that + subject + base form of verb होता है; इसलिए "He suggested that I take rest." व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही है।
- Option B is correct because suggest is not followed by an indirect object (me) and it takes a that-clause with base verb; Like— He suggested that she go early.
10. B) 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि accused के साथ हमेशा of preposition का ही प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ वाक्य में आरोप लगाने की बात हो रही है — "accused of misappropriating company funds" — इसलिए व्याकरण की दृष्टि से of ही सही और मानक preposition है।
- 'Of' should be used because the verb accused is conventionally and grammatically followed by the preposition of. The structure "accused of + wrongdoing" is fixed in English usage. Hence, of is the most appropriate choice here.
11. B) **'conciliatory'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में ambassador के tone को ऐसा बताया गया है जो diplomacy और quiet authority के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखता है। यहाँ आक्रामकता या उदासी नहीं, बल्कि समझौता-पूर्ण और संतुलित रवैये की बात हो रही है, जो conciliatory शब्द से सबसे सही रूप में व्यक्त होता है।
- 'Conciliatory' should be used because the sentence describes a tone that balances diplomacy with calm authority. This implies a peace-making, accommodating, and tactful approach rather than aggression, unpredictability, or sadness. Therefore, conciliatory is the most appropriate option.
12. A) The correctly spelt word is "**Adulteration**", which means the act of making something impure by adding inferior or harmful substances मिलावट / अशुद्ध करना।
13. A) The correctly spelt word is "**Minuscule**", which means extremely small or tiny बहुत छोटा / नगण्य।
14. B) 'at a long time' के बदले 'after a long time' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही idiomatic expression after a long time है, जिसका अर्थ है काफी समय बाद।
- 'after a long time' will be used instead of 'at a long time' because at समय की अवधि के लिए प्रयोग नहीं होता; यहाँ after सही preposition है।
15. B) 'married with' के बदले **'married to'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही collocation married to है; जैसे— She is married to a doctor.
- 'married to' will be used instead of 'married with' because English usage requires the preposition to with married.
16. A) **The child said, "I am afraid of the dark. Please stay with me."**
Direct से Indirect Speech की तरह ही, Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलते समय Tense, Pronoun और Request/Statement का सही रूप अपनाया जाता है।
दिए गए वाक्य में "The child said" Reporting Verb है, "that he was afraid of the dark" Statement है और "requested the lady to stay with him" एक polite request है। Direct Speech में बदलते समय

Past Tense was afraid को Present Tense am afraid में बदला जाता है, Pronoun he → I हो जाता है और Request को please / request form में लिखा जाता है।

In converting Indirect to Direct Speech, the tense shifts back, pronouns change according to the speaker, and a request is expressed politely. Here, the past tense was afraid changes to present am afraid, the pronoun he becomes I, and the request is expressed using Please stay with me. Hence, the most appropriate conversion is:

17. B) **The sentence “Without concrete evidence, the theory remains purely speculative.” contains a misspelled word.**

The correct spelling is “concrete”, which means solid, definite, or specific ठोस / निश्चित।

18. B) **Laconic** (adjective) – using very few words; brief and concise in speech संक्षिप्त / अल्पभाषी

Antonym: **Wordy** (adjective) – using too many words; verbose शब्दबहुल / लंबा-चौड़ा

- **Elliptical** (adjective) – very brief, omitting words संक्षिप्त
- **Compendious** (adjective) – concise but comprehensive संक्षेप में विस्तृत
- **Clipped** (adjective) – short, abrupt, concise छोटा / संक्षिप्त

19. C) **Ghastly** (adjective) – horrible, shocking, causing fear or disgust भयावह / डरावना

Synonym: **Gruesome** (adjective) – extremely unpleasant, horrifying भयानक

- **Simple** (adjective) – easy or uncomplicated सरल
- **Light** (adjective) – cheerful or not serious हल्का
- **Boring** (adjective) – dull or uninteresting उबाऊ

20. C) **Cortege** (noun) – A procession accompanying a funeral अंतिम यात्रा जुलूस

- **Parade** (noun) – A public procession for celebration or display परेड
- **Carousal** (noun) – Noisy drinking or revelry हंगामा/मदिरापान
- **Carnival** (noun) – A festive public celebration उत्सव

21. A) **[hull]** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब जहाज़ का मुख्य ढांचा (main body) होता है, जो रेत पर पड़े और सड़ते हुए जहाज़ (shipwreck) के वर्णन के लिए बिल्कुल सही है। Compass एक छोटा दिशा बताने वाला उपकरण है। Cargo का मतलब जहाज़ पर लदा हुआ माल या सामान (goods) होता है। Crew का मतलब जहाज़ पर काम करने वाले लोग (staff) होता है।

- [hull] is correct because it refers to the main body or framework of a ship, which perfectly fits the physical description of a dark, rotting shipwreck sitting on the sand. Compass is a small navigation instrument used to find direction. Cargo refers to the goods or merchandise carried on a ship. Crew refers to the people who work on and operate the ship.

22. B) **[symbolism]** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी विचार को दर्शाने के लिए प्रतीक (symbols) का इस्तेमाल करना होता है। साहित्य या नॉवेल में टूटे हुए जहाज़ का इस्तेमाल अक्सर टूटे हुए परिवार को दर्शाने के लिए एक प्रतीक (metaphor) के रूप में होता है। Suspense का मतलब रहस्य या बेचैनी (uncertainty) होता है। Dialogue का मतलब किरदारों के बीच की बातचीत (conversation) होता है। Dedication का मतलब किताब की शुरुआत में किसी को सम्मान देने के लिए लिखे गए शब्द (message) होता है।

- [symbolism] is correct because it refers to the use of symbols or metaphors to represent larger ideas or qualities in literature. In this novel, the broken shipwreck serves as a powerful literary device (symbolism) to represent the broken family.

Suspense means a feeling of excited or anxious uncertainty about what will happen next. Dialogue refers to the spoken conversation between characters. Dedication is the short message at the front of a book honoring a specific person.

23. C) [**comprehend**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ को पूरी तरह से समझना (understand) होता है। परिवार के सदस्य अपने पिता की अनकही सच्चाई को समझने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। Formulate का मतलब किसी योजना या विचार को सही तरीके से बनाना (create) होता है। Publish का मतलब किताब या लेख को छापना (issue) होता है। Endorse का मतलब सार्वजनिक रूप से किसी चीज़ का समर्थन (support) करना होता है।
- [comprehend] is correct because it means to mentally grasp or understand something completely. The family members are trying to understand or make sense of the unspoken truth about their father. Formulate means to mathematically or methodically create or prepare something, like a plan or a recipe. Publish means to prepare and issue a book, journal, or article for public sale. Endorse means to publicly declare your approval or support for a product or a person.
24. D) [**harbours**] सही है क्योंकि जब इसे एक क्रिया (verb) के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, तो इसका मतलब मन में कोई भावना, ज़िम्मेदारी या विचार लंबे समय तक रखना (keep in mind) होता है। वह घर को संभालने की ज़िम्मेदारी अपने मन में रखे हुए है। Inherits का मतलब किसी के मरने के बाद उसकी संपत्ति (property) या पैसा मिलना होता है। Schedules का मतलब किसी काम का समय (time) तय करना होता है। Finances का मतलब किसी काम के लिए पैसे (funding) देना होता है।
- [harbours] is correct because as a verb, to "harbour" a feeling, thought, or responsibility means to keep it secretly in one's mind for a long time. She is secretly holding onto this self-imposed responsibility to keep the family together. Inherits means to receive money, property, or traits from someone who has died. Schedules means to arrange or plan for an event to take place at a specific time. Finances means to provide funding or money for a person or project.
25. D) [**equilibrium**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब संतुलन (balance) या मानसिक और भावनात्मक स्थिरता होता है। वह अपने दुखी परिवार के नाजुक संतुलन (emotional balance) को बनाए रखने की कोशिश कर रही है। Temperature का मतलब तापमान (गर्मी या सर्दी) होता है। Foundation का मतलब किसी इमारत की नींव (base) या किसी संस्था का आधार होता है। Revenue का मतलब किसी व्यापार या कंपनी की कुल कमाई (income) होता है।
- [equilibrium] is correct because it means a state of perfect balance, calmness, or emotional stability. She is trying to maintain the very fragile emotional balance within her grieving family home. Temperature is the measured degree of heat or cold in an object or environment. Foundation is the lowest load-bearing part of a building, or the underlying basis or principle of an idea. Revenue is the total financial income generated by an organization or business.



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