

Tourism and trade: On the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project

Consensus is vital in leveraging the strategic importance of Nicobar

The Union government's ₹92,000 crore mega-infrastructure **project** for the **holistic** development of the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) by building it up as a port and tourism-led economy **has gathered** speed in the last six months, even as concerns remain about its impact on the Island's **ecology** and the rights of local populations, the Nicobarese and the Shompen — two **indigenous** tribal groups. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands **administration** has notified a draft master plan for the project. Apart from the International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP), the airport, and power plants, the draft master plan **envisions** developing the GNI as a "seaside destination in a **pristine, unspoilt**, protected environment", **outlining** plans for business, **adventure, biodiversity** tourism, family entertainment, **amusement** parks, etc., along with adequate social **infrastructure** for healthcare, education, and **livelihood**. The draft is planned for a **projected** population of over 3.36 lakh by 2055, by which time the expected tourist **inflow** will be a million a year. **Over 70%** of the direct employment the government hopes to create **will** be in tourism and **allied** sectors. The current population of the GNI is a little less than 10,000. This **transformation** of the GNI, **aided** by the ICTP, **is crucial** to leverage the "strategic importance" of the Island's location at the western entrance to the Malacca Strait. The draft plan has said the port will help India achieve its "aims to capture a significant share in global sea trade".

But while the administration has **sought** public suggestions and **objections** for 30 days, it remains unclear till when this **window** will remain open, **given** that the draft does not mention when it was notified. This draft plan follows another draft plan to relocate local Nicobarese communities to **make way** for the project. The two plans **seemingly contradict** each other **with regard to** where **existing** populations may be relocated, which has renewed fears among these groups. These communities have been opposing the project's clearance since 2022, **alleging** that their forest rights had not been settled. While the National Green Tribunal has **set aside** concerns about the project's **impact** on the GNI's **biodiversity** by **citing** its "strategic importance", a challenge to the project's clearances **remains** in the Calcutta High Court. Some have also **questioned** the project's commercial and **naval merits**. **Considering** that the project aims to **irreversibly alter** the demography, and ecology of the GNI, the most **prudent path** for the government **is** to take the time needed to build a more **holistic consensus** over it. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Given** (preposition) – Considering, in light of, taking into account, with regard to देखते हुए

Vocabulary

1. **Consensus** (noun) - agreement, harmony, accord, concurrence, unity एकता
2. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, indispensable, critical, paramount महत्वपूर्ण
3. **Leverage** (verb) - exploit, utilize, capitalize, harness, maximize लाभ उठाना
4. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, planned, deliberate, diplomatic रणनीतिक
5. **Holistic** (adjective) - comprehensive, integrated, complete, total, exhaustive समग्र
6. **Gather** (verb) - accumulate, amass, collect, garner, assemble इकट्ठा करना
7. **Ecology** (noun) - the study of how living organisms interact with each other and their environment पारिस्थितिकी
8. **Indigenous** (adjective) - native, aboriginal, local, domestic, endemic स्वदेशी
9. **Administration** (noun) - management, governance, executive, authority, oversight प्रशासन
10. **Envision** (verb) - visualize, contemplate, foresee, imagine, anticipate कल्पना करना
11. **Pristine** (adjective) - immaculate, pure, untouched, spotless, virgin प्राचीन और निर्मल
12. **Unspoilt** (adjective) - preserved, natural, unaffected, unblemished, intact बेदाग/अछूता
13. **Outline** (verb) - delineate, sketch, summarize, define, draft रूपरेखा तैयार करना
14. **Adventure** (noun) - escapade, exploit, venture, quest, thrill साहसिक कार्य
15. **Biodiversity** (noun) - the variety of different plants, animals, and other living organisms in a particular area जैव विविधता
16. **Amusement** (noun) - entertainment, recreation, diversion, leisure, mirth मनोरंजन
17. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, foundation, structure, base, groundwork बुनियादी ढांचा
18. **Livelihood** (noun) - subsistence, maintenance, sustenance, occupation, living आजीविका
19. **Projected** (adjective) - estimated, predicted, expected, forecast, anticipated अनुमानित
20. **Inflow** (noun) - influx, arrival, ingress, stream, flood अंतर्वाह
21. **Allied** (adjective) - associated, affiliated, related, linked, connected संबद्ध
22. **Aid** (verb) - assist, facilitate, support, help, abet सहायता करना
23. **Crucial** (adjective) - pivotal, decisive, critical, key, essential अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
24. **Seek** (verb) - solicit, request, pursue, demand, explore मांगना
25. **Objection** (noun) - protest, opposition, dissent, complaint, challenge आपत्ति

26. **Window** (noun) - opportunity, period, opening, slot, interval अवसर/समय सीमा
27. **Make way for** (phrase) - to provide space or opportunity for someone or something else by moving or stepping aside किसी के लिए रास्ता बनाना
28. **Seemingly** (adverb) - apparently, ostensibly, evidently, superficially, outwardly स्पष्ट रूप से
29. **Contradict** (verb) - refute, counter, gainsay, negate, belie विरोधाभास होना
30. **With regard to** (phrase) - concerning a particular subject; in relation to something के संबंध में
31. **Existing** (adjective) - current, present, prevalent, contemporary, extant वर्तमान
32. **Allege** (verb) - claim, assert, aver, contend, maintain आरोप लगाना
33. **Set aside** (phrasal verb) - to decide not to consider something or to ignore a previous decision रद्द करना/खारिज करना
34. **Cite** (verb) - quote, mention, refer, invoke, instance हवाला देना
35. **Question** (verb) - query, dispute, challenge, doubt, interrogate सवाल उठाना
36. **Naval** (adjective) - maritime, marine, nautical, seafaring, oceanic नौसेना संबंधी
37. **Merit** (noun) - worth, value, excellence, quality, asset योग्यता/गुण
38. **Considering** (preposition) - taking into account, given, keeping in mind, in view of, noting ध्यान में रखते हुए
39. **Irreversibly** (adverb) - permanently, irrevocably, fatally, unalterably, finally अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से
40. **Alter** (verb) - modify, change, transform, amend, adjust बदलना
41. **Prudent** (adjective) - cautious, judicious, sagacious, wise, sensible समझदार
42. **Holistic** (adjective) - comprehensive, integrated, complete, total, exhaustive समग्र
43. **Consensus** (noun) - agreement, harmony, accord, concurrence, unity आम सहमति

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Union government has accelerated a ₹92,000 crore mega-infrastructure project on **Great Nicobar Island (GNI)**.
2. The project aims to transform GNI into a **port-led and tourism-driven economy**.
3. Key components include an **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)**, airport, and power plants.
4. The plan envisions GNI as a **major seaside tourism destination** with multiple tourism activities.
5. It includes **business, adventure, biodiversity tourism**, and entertainment facilities.
6. Social infrastructure such as **healthcare, education, and livelihood support** is also proposed.
7. The project targets a **population increase to 3.36 lakh by 2055**.
8. Annual tourist inflow is expected to reach **1 million visitors**.
9. Around **70% of employment** is expected to come from tourism and allied sectors.
10. Currently, GNI has a **small population of less than 10,000**, indicating a drastic transformation.
11. The project leverages GNI's **strategic location near the Malacca Strait** to boost global trade.
12. It aims to help India capture a **larger share in international maritime trade**.
13. Concerns persist regarding **ecological damage and impact on indigenous tribes** like Nicobarese and Shompen.
14. There are **contradictions in relocation plans** and fears about displacement and forest rights.
15. The editorial concludes that **broad consensus and careful deliberation** are essential before proceeding due to long-term ecological and social impacts.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Consider the following statements regarding the Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project:** [Ed. Pg.]
- A. The project envisions a projected population of over 3.36 lakh by the year 2055.
 - B. Over 70% of direct employment is expected to be generated in the tourism sector.
 - C. The current population of the Island is approximately one million people.
 - D. The Malacca Strait location is cited as a reason for the project's strategic value.
- Which of the statements given above are CORRECT?
- A. Only 1, 2, and 3
 - B. Only 2, 3, and 4
 - C. Only 1, 2, and 4
 - D. All are correct
2. **What is the primary concern raised regarding the relocation of the Nicobarese communities?**
- A. The two draft plans appear to contradict each other on where people will move.
 - B. The local tribes have requested to move to the mainland for better education.
 - C. The administration has refused to provide any social infrastructure for health.
 - D. The international community has banned the relocation of the Shompen groups.
3. **Why does the government believe the International Container Transshipment Port is crucial?**
- A. To help the nation capture a much larger share in the global maritime trade.
 - B. To reduce the total number of tourists visiting the island to under 10,000.
 - C. To ensure that the Shompen tribes are moved to the western Malacca Straits.
 - D. To stop the development of healthcare and educational social infrastructure.
4. **Identify whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F) based on the passage:**
- 1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has stopped the project due to its impact on biodiversity.
 - 2. A legal challenge against the project's clearances is currently active in the Calcutta High Court.
- A. 1-T, 2-T
 - B. 1-F, 2-T
 - C. 1-T, 2-F
 - D. 1-F, 2-F
5. **In the context of the passage, which word is a SYNONYM for "Prudent"?**
Which word from the passage is an ANTONYM for "Pristine"?
- i. I. Wise; II. Altered
 - ii. I. Hasty; II. Protected
 - iii. I. Biased; II. Strategic
 - iv. I. Unclear; II. Unspoilt
6. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
The king's _____ reign led to widespread unrest among the people.
- A. despotick
 - B. desppotic
 - C. despotic
 - D. disspotic
7. **Fill in the blank with the appropriate adverb.**
The policy was implemented _____, without prior public consultation.

- A. arbitrarily
B. intuitively
C. pragmatically
D. sequentially
8. **Choose the correct active voice form from the given options.**
The laptop may not be bought by her.
A. She may not buy the laptop.
B. She might not buy the laptop.
C. She should not have bought the laptop.
D. She may not have bought the laptop.
9. **What does the idiom "to keep the wolf away from the door" mean?**
A. To avoid financial hardship
B. To escape from a dangerous situation
C. To protect oneself from enemies
D. To stay away from risky opportunities
10. **Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate tense of the underlined word.**
He work for an hour when I found him sleeping on the couch.
A. had worked
B. has worked
C. will have worked
D. was working
11. **Improve the sentence by selecting the correct form of tense from the options.**
She said that she _____ the report before the deadline.
A. will complete
B. has completed
C. had completed
D. completes
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
INTRANSIGENT
A. Unyielding
B. Independent
C. Punctual
D. Objective
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
PREFUNCTORY
A. Cursory
B. Meticulous
C. Earnest
D. Elaborate
14. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Impervious
A. Impregnable
B. Permeable
C. Durable

- D. Impassive
15. **The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
1. However, the country's shortage of land has led officials to view this estuary village as a prime location for high-voltage substations to connect offshore wind energy.
 2. The Dutch government insists that vast new sites are required to build the infrastructure necessary for the nation's green energy transition.
 3. Residents of Moerdijk now face the threat of their homes being demolished and their community vanishing within the next decade to make way for the national grid.
 4. A small fishing village of 1,100 people in the south of the Netherlands is at risk of completely disappearing from the map.
- A. 4-2-1-3
B. 2-4-1-3
C. 4-1-2-3
D. 2-1-4-3
16. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Lucid
- A. Clear
 - B. Confusing
 - C. Bright
 - D. Fluent
17. **Which of the following is incorrectly spelled?**
- A. Obsolesence
 - B. Scrumptious
 - C. Vanquish
 - D. Capitulation
18. **Identify the error in the sentence.**
Of the three runners, he was the faster.
- A. faster
 - B. was
 - C. runners
 - D. three
19. **Choose the one that correctly represents the sentence in direct speech.**
Adit explained that he hadn't had the time to prepare his speech the day before.
- A. Adit explained that he hadn't had the time to prepare his speech the day before.
 - B. Adit said, "I haven't had the time to prepare my speech the day before."
 - C. Adit said, "I didn't have the time to prepare my speech yesterday."
 - D. Adit said, "I didn't have the time to prepare my speech the day before."
20. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for the sentence below.**
"In his extreme old age when he behaves like a fool, people often lose patience with him."
- A. Superannuation
 - B. Dotage
 - C. Senescence
 - D. Imbecility

Comprehension

Born in Grindon, County Durham, in 1981, Charlotte Riley is an actor and writer. She studied English at Durham University before training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Riley first came to (1) ___ with her portrayal of Cathy in *Wuthering Heights* in 2009, and has since appeared in series such as *Peaky Blinders* and *Press*, as well as on stage. In 2017, she founded The WonderWorks, a network of childcare support options for people involved in the TV and film industry. I was always described as (2) ___ and smiley as a kid, and this photo of me in my dad's office in Teesside proves exactly that. It was my first time going to work with him, so I wanted to wear a jumper that was just like the one he usually wore. I have vivid memories of the room smelling of drip coffee, and I know that I was happy, even though it was a super boring place to be. I spent a lot of time there, and was mostly left to my own devices. I was allowed to (3) ___ the same stationery cupboard and would make artwork out of whatever I could find – Dad was a fitter for Imperial Chemical Industries and ran an engineering company, so there was a lot of art made out of filtration components. When I was around nine, he would put me (4) ___ work – if I wasn't clearing out a cupboard, I was making calls to clients. I was never scared, because he treated me as if I was (5) ___ and had the ability to do anything. He instilled this idea of, "What's the worst that could happen? You might be shit at it. And what?" I was taught to fail well – and enjoy failing.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
 - A. limelight
 - B. prominence
 - C. stardom
 - D. acclaim
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
 - A. boisterous
 - B. mischievous
 - C. defiant
 - D. cheeky
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
 - A. plunder
 - B. scavenge
 - C. raid
 - D. ransack
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
 - A. into
 - B. for
 - C. at
 - D. to
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
 - A. proficient
 - B. competent
 - C. adept
 - D. autonomous

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) **Only 1, 2, and 4.**

- Statement 1 is CORRECT: The passage notes the plan is for a "projected population of over 3.36 lakh by 2055."
- Statement 2 is CORRECT: The passage states that "Over 70% of the direct employment... will be in tourism."
- Statement 4 is CORRECT: The passage highlights the "strategic importance" of the location at the "western entrance to the Malacca Strait."
- Statement 3 is INCORRECT: The passage states the current population is "a little less than 10,000," not one million.

2. A) **The two draft plans appear to contradict each other on where people will move.**

The passage states, "The two plans seemingly contradict each other with regard to where existing populations may be relocated."

- (B) : The passage indicates the communities have been "opposing the project's clearance since 2022."
- (C) : The passage actually outlines plans for "adequate social infrastructure for healthcare."
- (D) : While the passage mentions the Shompen, it does not mention an international ban on their relocation.

3. A) **To help the nation capture a much larger share in the global maritime trade.**

The passage mentions the port will help India achieve its aim to "capture a significant share in global sea trade."

- (B) : The passage expects the tourist inflow to rise to "a million a year."
- (C) : The port is for trade; relocation of tribes is a separate, controversial administrative draft plan.
- (D) : The passage lists social infrastructure as a planned component for the projected population.

4. B) **1-F, 2-T.**

- Statement 1 is FALSE: The passage says the NGT "set aside concerns... by citing its 'strategic importance'."
- Statement 2 is TRUE: The passage confirms that "a challenge to the project's clearances remains in the Calcutta High Court."

5. A) **I. Wise; II. Altered.**

Synonym: The passage suggests the most prudent (wise/sensible) path is to build a consensus.

Antonym: The passage describes the island as pristine (original/unspoilt); the project intends to irreversibly alter (change/spoil) the ecology.

6. C) The correct spelling is '**despotic**', which means "exercising power in a cruel and arbitrary way" — तानाशाही / निरंकुश।

- The complete sentence: “The king’s despotic reign led to widespread unrest among the people.”
7. A) ‘**arbitrarily**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “implemented arbitrarily” का अर्थ है बिना किसी नियम या सार्वजनिक सहमति के लागू करना, जो वाक्य के संदर्भ “without prior public consultation” के अनुरूप है; जैसे — The rules were applied arbitrarily, favouring some groups over others.
- ‘**arbitrarily**’ should be used because it means in a random or unrestrained manner, fitting the context of implementing policy without consultation.
 - ‘**intuitively**’ – Incorrect; it means based on instinct or gut feeling, not implying lack of public consultation.
 - ‘**pragmatically**’ – Incorrect; it means in a practical and sensible way, which contradicts the negative context of the sentence.
 - ‘**sequentially**’ – Incorrect; it means in a sequence or order, which has no connection to the absence of public consultation.
8. A) ‘The laptop may not be bought by her.’ का Active Voice होगा ‘She may not buy the laptop.’ क्योंकि Passive Voice में Modal + be + V3 का प्रयोग होता है; Active Voice में Subject + Modal + V1 बनता है: ‘She’ (subject) + ‘may not’ (modal) + ‘buy’ (V1) + ‘the laptop’ (object)।
- Rule: Passive: Object + may/might + be + V3 + by + Subject → Active: Subject + may/might + V1 + Object.
 - B is incorrect – ‘might’ changes the degree of possibility; the original uses ‘may’.
 - C is incorrect – ‘should not have bought’ introduces a completely different modal and tense, changing the meaning.
 - D is incorrect – ‘may not have bought’ uses Perfect infinitive, altering the tense from simple to perfect.
9. A) **Keep the wolf away from the door** (idiom) – To have just enough money to avoid poverty or financial difficulty; to meet basic needs barely. वित्तीय कठिनाई से बचे रहना।
10. D) ‘was working’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “**when I found him sleeping**” से पता चलता है कि एक action (working) तब जारी थी जब दूसरी action (found) हुई; ऐसे में Past Continuous ‘was working’ का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे — She was reading when the phone rang.
- ‘was working’ should be used because the sentence describes an ongoing action in the past that was interrupted by another past event (‘found’), requiring the Past Continuous tense.
 - ‘had worked’ – Incorrect; Past Perfect indicates a completed action before another past action, but the context shows the action was in progress, not completed.
 - ‘has worked’ – Incorrect; Present Perfect cannot be used for a past interrupted action.
 - ‘will have worked’ – Incorrect; Future Perfect is for actions that will be completed before a future point, not past ongoing actions.
11. C) ‘**had completed**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Indirect Speech में Reporting Verb ‘said’ (Simple Past) होने पर Reported Clause में tense एक step पीछे जाता है: Present Perfect ‘has completed’ → Past Perfect ‘had completed’; जैसे — He said that he had finished the work.
- ‘**had completed**’ should be used because when the reporting verb is in the past tense (‘said’), the reported clause must use Past Perfect to indicate an action completed before another past action.

- **'will complete'** – Incorrect; future tense cannot be used after a past reporting verb in indirect speech.
 - **'has completed'** – Incorrect; Present Perfect cannot be used after a past reporting verb; it must shift to Past Perfect.
 - **'completes'** – Incorrect; Simple Present cannot follow a past reporting verb in indirect speech.
12. A) **INTRANSIGENT** (adjective) – Refusing to change one's views or to agree; uncompromising. अड़ियल / हठी।
Synonym: **Unyielding** (adjective) – Not giving way to pressure; firm and inflexible. दृढ़ / न झुकने वाला।
- **Independent** (adjective) – Free from outside control; self-reliant. स्वतंत्र।
 - **Punctual** (adjective) – doing something or happening at the right time; not late
 - **Objective** (adjective) – Not influenced by personal feelings; impartial. निष्पक्ष।
13. A) **PERFUNCTORY** (variant of PERFUNCTORY) (adjective) – Carried out with minimal effort; done as a routine duty without care. औपचारिक / लापरवाही से किया गया।
Synonym: **Cursory** (adjective) – Hasty and superficial; done quickly without attention to detail. सरसरी / ऊपरी।
- **Meticulous** (adjective) – Showing great attention to detail; the opposite of perfunctory. सूक्ष्म / बारीकी से।
 - **Earnest** (adjective) – Serious and sincere in intention; opposite in meaning to perfunctory. गंभीर / ईमानदार।
 - **Elaborate** (adjective) – Involving many details or careful preparation; opposite in meaning to perfunctory. विस्तृत / जटिल।
14. B) **Impervious** (adjective) – Not allowing fluid to pass through; unable to be affected by something. अभेद्य / प्रभाव न पड़ने वाला।
Antonym: **Permeable** (adjective) – Allowing fluids or gases to pass through; open to influence. पारगम्य / प्रभावशील।
- **Impregnable** (adjective) – Unable to be captured or broken into; similar in meaning to Impervious, not its antonym. अजेय।
 - **Durable** (adjective) – Able to withstand wear or decay; long-lasting. टिकाऊ। Not related to permeability.
 - **Impassive** (adjective) – Not showing or feeling emotion; similar sense to Impervious when used figuratively, not its antonym. भावहीन।
15. A) **(4-2-1-3)**
Sentence 4, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह इस पूरी घटना के मुख्य स्थान (Moerdijk) और संकट (disappearing from the map) की पहचान करता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक ठोस आधार (factual ground) प्रदान करता है कि खबर किस बारे में है और किस जगह की बात हो रही है।
Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" (क्यों) पेश करता है। यह पिछले वाक्य में बताए गए खतरे को सीधे सरकार की "green energy transition" की ज़रूरत से जोड़ता है। यह इस स्थिति के महत्व को समझने के लिए एक बड़ा परीक्षण (test) है कि आखिर एक गाँव को हटाने की ज़रूरत क्यों पड़ रही है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "परीक्षण" या सरकारी ज़रूरत का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। जहाँ 2 में बुनियादी ढांचे (infrastructure) की बात की गई है, वहीं Sentence 1 विशिष्ट विवरण (specific details) देता है कि देश में ज़मीन की कमी (shortage of land) है और Moerdijk अपनी लोकेशन की वजह से इसके लिए सबसे सटीक जगह है।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक निष्कर्ष (conclusion) देता है। सारे कारणों और लोकेशन की खूबियों को समझाने के बाद, 3 इस बात का अंतिम परिणाम (final impact) बताता है कि अगले दशक में गाँव के घर गिराए जा सकते हैं और समुदाय खत्म हो सकता है।

- Sentence 4 comes at the beginning because it identifies the primary subject (the village) and the central conflict (disappearing from the map). It provides the essential factual ground by establishing the location and the severity of the situation.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the threat mentioned in the previous sentence to the government's strategic need for a "green energy transition." This serves as a critical test of the situation's importance, explaining the motive behind the potential demolition.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because it elaborates on the nature of that "test" or the government's reasoning. While 2 mentions the need for infrastructure, Sentence 1 provides specific details regarding the "shortage of land" and why Moerdijk's specific geography makes it a prime target for planners.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 because it serves as the logical conclusion for the entire scenario. After detailing the logistical and strategic needs, it provides a wrap-up by describing the final consequence: the demolition of homes and the potential vanishing of the village in the coming decade.

16. B) **Lucid** (adjective) – Expressed clearly; easy to understand; mentally clear. स्पष्ट / बोधगम्य।

Antonym: **Confusing** (adjective) – Causing bewilderment; not clear. भ्रमित करने वाला / अस्पष्ट।

- **Clear** (adjective) – Easy to perceive or understand; a synonym of Lucid, not its antonym. स्पष्ट।
- **Bright** (adjective) – Giving out much light; intelligent. चमकीला / प्रतिभाशाली। Not an antonym of Lucid.
- **Fluent** (adjective) – Speaking or writing easily and accurately; close in meaning to Lucid, not its antonym. धाराप्रवाह।

17. A) The correct spelling of 'Obsolescence' is '**Obsolescence**', which means "the process of becoming outdated or no longer used" – पुराना पड़ जाना / अप्रचलित हो जाना।

- **Scrumptious** – Correct spelling; meaning extremely tasty or delicious – अत्यंत स्वादिष्ट।
- **Vanquish** – Correct spelling; meaning to defeat thoroughly – पराजित करना।
- **Capitulation** – Correct spelling; meaning the act of surrendering or giving in – आत्मसमर्पण।

18. A) 'faster' के बदले '**fastest**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब तीन या अधिक व्यक्तियों/वस्तुओं की तुलना होती है तो Superlative Degree का प्रयोग होता है; 'faster' Comparative Degree है जो केवल दो के बीच तुलना के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है; जैसे – Of the three students, she was the brightest.

- 'fastest' will be used instead of 'faster' because when comparing three or more items, the Superlative Degree (fast → fastest) must be used, not the Comparative Degree.

19. C) 'Adit explained that he hadn't had the time to prepare his speech the day before.' का Direct Speech होगा 'Adit said, "I didn't have the time to prepare my speech yesterday.'" क्योंकि Indirect Speech में 'the day before' Direct Speech में 'yesterday' बनता है, और Past Perfect 'hadn't had' Direct Speech में Simple Past 'didn't have' बनता है।
- Rule: Indirect → Direct: 'the day before' → 'yesterday'; Past Perfect → Simple Past; third person pronoun → first person.
 - A is incorrect – This is the original indirect speech sentence, not the direct form.
 - B is incorrect – 'haven't had' (Present Perfect) is wrong; the correct tense conversion gives Simple Past 'didn't have'.
 - D is incorrect – 'the day before' should convert to 'yesterday' in Direct Speech, not remain as 'the day before'.
20. B) **Dotage** – The period of extreme old age when a person may behave foolishly or have impaired mental faculties. अत्यधिक बुढ़ापे की अवस्था जब व्यक्ति मूर्खतापूर्ण व्यवहार करे।
- **Superannuation** – The process of retiring due to old age or receiving a pension; it does not specifically imply foolish behaviour.
 - **Senescence** – The process of ageing or growing old; it refers to biological ageing in general, not specifically to foolish behaviour in old age.
 - **Imbecility** – Extreme stupidity or foolishness in general, not necessarily associated with extreme old age.
21. B) [**prominence**] सही है क्योंकि "came to prominence" एक fixed phrase है जिसका मतलब famous या important होना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि 'Wuthering Heights' का role ही उनका सबसे बड़ा breakthrough था जिसने उनके acting career को पहचान दिलाई। Limelight के साथ "into" लगता है (came into the limelight)। Stardom और acclaim के साथ generally 'achieved' या 'received' आता है, "came to" नहीं।
- [prominence] is correct because "came to prominence" is a fixed, standard English phrase meaning to become famous, important, or well-known. The passage implies that this specific acting role was her major career breakthrough that put her on the map. "Limelight" requires the preposition into ("stepped into the limelight"). "Stardom" and "acclaim" are generally used with verbs like achieved or received, making them grammatically incorrect with "came to".
22. D) [**cheeky**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब playful और थोड़ा सा naughty (शरारती) होना होता है, जो बच्चों के लिए बहुत cute लगता है। Passage imply कर रहा है कि वो बचपन में बहुत fun और खुश रहने वाली बच्ची थीं, जो "smiley" word से perfect match करता है। Mischievous का मतलब कभी-कभी सच में trouble create करना भी हो सकता है। Boisterous का मतलब सिर्फ loud (शोर मचाने वाला) होता है। Defiant का मतलब बड़ों की बात न मानना (disobedient) होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।
- [cheeky] is correct because it describes a playful, slightly naughty, but very endearing and cute childhood behavior. The passage implies she was a fun, happy kid, which is supported by the word "smiley" right next to it. "Mischievous" can sometimes imply causing actual trouble or harm. "Boisterous" just means loud and full of energy. "Defiant" means openly disobedient and aggressive, which doesn't fit the happy vibe of the photo.

23. C) [raid] सही है क्योंकि casual language में किसी cupboard या fridge को "raid" करने का मतलब उसमें से मजे के लिए अपनी पसंद की चीज़ें (जैसे stationery या snacks) निकालना होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि उन्हें creativity दिखाने के लिए office का सामान यूज़ करने की पूरी freedom थी। Plunder और ransack का मतलब जंग या चोरी में बुरी तरह तोड़-फोड़ करके लूटना होता है। Scavenge का मतलब कचरे या waste में से काम की चीज़ें खोजना होता है।

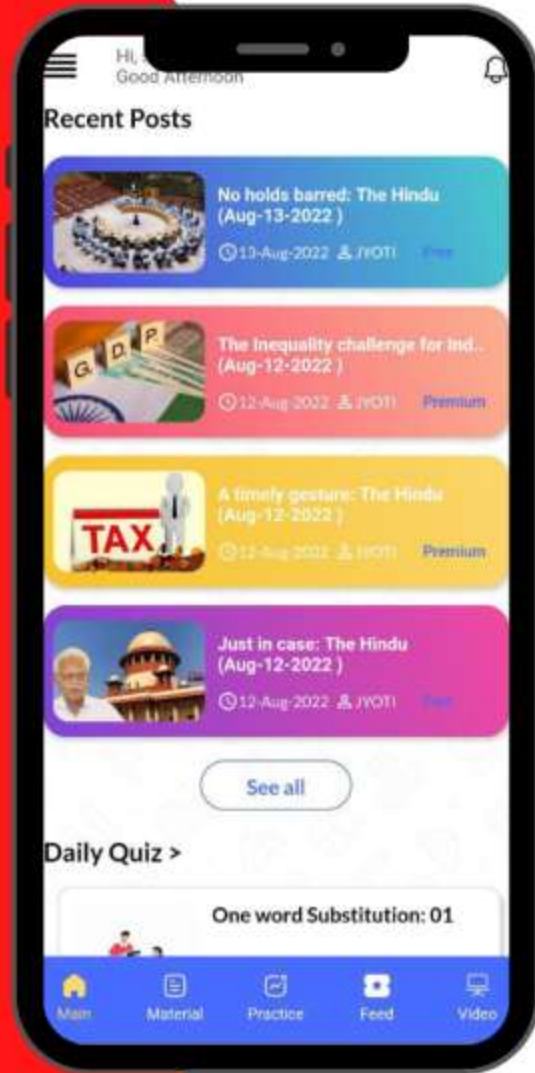
- [raid] is correct because in a casual/domestic context, "raiding" a cupboard or fridge means to quickly and playfully take things you want (like snacks or stationery). The passage implies that she was given the freedom to playfully explore and take office supplies to fuel her creativity. "Plunder" and "ransack" are violent words associated with war, stealing, and destruction. "Scavenge" implies searching through trash or leftovers to survive.

24. B) [competent] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब capable होना या किसी काम को अच्छे से कर पाने के लायक होना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि उनके father उन्हें एक capable adult की तरह treat करते थे, जिससे उनके अंदर confidence आया और उनका डर खत्म हो गया। Proficient और adept के साथ usually 'in' या 'at' आता है (जैसे proficient in a skill)। Autonomous का मतलब independent होना होता है, लेकिन यहाँ focus उनकी 'capability' (काबिलियत) पर है।

- [competent] is correct because it broadly means having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully. The passage implies that her father treated her like a capable adult, which built her deep sense of self-belief and fearlessness. "Proficient" and "adept" usually require a specific skill and a preposition (e.g., proficient in calling, adept at clearing), rather than a general state of being. "Autonomous" means acting independently, but the focus here is on her capability, not just her independence.

25. D) [to] सही है क्योंकि "put someone to work" एक exact idiom है जिसका मतलब किसी को कोई काम या task सौंपना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि उनके father उन्हें सिर्फ बिठाकर नहीं रखते थे, बल्कि उन्हें real business के काम देकर active रखते थे। Grammatically यहाँ into, for, या at लगाना पूरी तरह गलत है।

- [to] is correct because "put someone to work" is the exact, grammatically strict English idiom meaning to assign someone a job or task. The passage implies that her father actively involved her in real business tasks rather than just letting her sit idle. Using into, for, or at work in this sentence structure is completely grammatically incorrect.



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