

## Concrete fever: On India and heat management

India must **mandate** green cover and reflective materials for its cities

**Sri Ganganagar**, in Rajasthan **touched** 48° Celsius this week, the hottest that India has been this year so far. **Scorching** summer heat **in the run-up to** the monsoon, which is delayed, **is** not **unusual**, but many **Indians** in the **informal sector** **have** to work directly under the sun in unprotected environments. Climate change is **inextricably** linked to heatwaves. India Meteorological Department data show that the **frequency** of heatwave **spells** has risen by 0.1 days per **decade** since 1961 over India's Core Heatwave Zone that includes the central, northwestern, and eastern **coastal** regions, or about 30% of India's total land area. Their maximum duration has increased by 0.55 days per **decade**; and the 2015-25 interval is, according to the World Meteorological Organization, the warmest 11-year **stretch** since records began. But the **emissions** that produced these numbers **are** only the **proximate** villain. What makes India's heat uniquely **lethal** is not the atmosphere alone. **Urban heat islands** across Indian cities now **run** 2°C to 10°C hotter than their surrounding rural areas, the difference manufactured by concrete, asphalt, the **butchering** of tree cover, and the waste heat **exhaled** by the thousands of air-conditioners cooling offices. Delhi's average **humidity** rose by eight percentage points between 2015-19 and 2020-24. This has a lot to do with an increasingly sealed urban surface **than global warming** alone. This is where the **seduction** of the technological fix **becomes** dangerous with the **instinct** being to reach for more, better and cheaper ACs. This might **shield** the **privileged** office worker **at the expense of** the **vast** majority, **many** of whom **are** outdoor workers and street vendors. **Paradoxically**, the machines are, in a thermodynamic sense, **fuelling** the problem.

What is **called for** instead is **unglamorous**, slow and politically difficult: urban design that mandates reflective materials and green cover, building codes **calibrated** to a climate that has already shifted; and, most urgently, the **enforcement** of labour laws that already exist but are **honoured** largely in the breach. These laws require employers to stop outdoor work when the heat index crosses **thresholds** that human physiology cannot safely absorb. India has not yet had a serious national conversation about budget **heads** for heat management.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Concrete fever** (noun) - the dangerous overheating of urban environments due to dense construction and lack of vegetation  
शहरी गर्मी का प्रकोप
2. **Mandate** (verb) - require, command, order, dictate, oblige अनिवार्य बनाना
3. **So far** (phrase) - until now, up to this point  
अब तक
4. **Scorching** (adjective) - sweltering, blistering, burning, roasting, searing  
झुलसाने वाली
5. **In the run-up to** (phrase) - in the period leading up to an event किसी घटना से ठीक पहले का समय
6. **Unusual** (adjective) - uncommon, rare, atypical, abnormal, extraordinary असामान्य
7. **Informal sector** (noun) - the part of an economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government  
असंगठित क्षेत्र
8. **Inextricably** (adverb) - inseparably, essentially, fundamentally, closely, tightly  
अभिन्न रूप से
9. **Spell** (noun) - period, interval, stretch, duration, stint दौर/अवधि
10. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
11. **Coastal** (adjective) - littoral, seaside, shore, maritime, beachfront तटीय
12. **Stretch** (noun) - expanse, area, reach, length, extension विस्तार/अवधि
13. **Emission** (noun) - discharge, release, output, exhalation, radiation उत्सर्जन
14. **Proximate** (adjective) - immediate, direct, nearest, close, neighboring प्रत्यक्ष/निकटतम
15. **Lethal** (adjective) - fatal, deadly, mortal, dangerous, deathly घातक
16. **Urban heat islands** (noun) - urban areas that are significantly warmer than their surrounding rural areas due to human activities शहरी ताप द्वीप
17. **Butchering** (noun) - destruction, slaughter, brutal cutting, massacre, ruin विनाश (पेड़ों की कटाई)
18. **Exhale** (verb) - release, emit, breathe out, discharge, vent बाहर निकालना (गर्मी छोड़ना)
19. **Humidity** (noun) - moisture, dampness, mugginess, wetness, vapor नमी/आर्द्रता
20. **Global warming** (noun) - the gradual heating of Earth's surface, oceans, and atmosphere वैश्विक तापन
21. **Seduction** (noun) - allure, temptation, attraction, fascination, charm  
प्रलोभन/आकर्षण
22. **Instinct** (noun) - intuition, urge, impulse, nature, tendency स्वाभाविक प्रवृत्ति
23. **Shield** (verb) - protect, cover, guard, shelter, screen बचाना/सुरक्षा करना
24. **Privileged** (adjective) - advantaged, elite, wealthy, favored, affluent सुविधा संपन्न
25. **At the expense of** (idiom) - at the cost of, to the detriment of की कीमत पर
26. **Vast** (adjective) - huge, enormous, immense, extensive, wide विशाल

27. **Paradoxically** (adverb) - contradictorily, ironically, unexpectedly, strangely  
विरोधाभासी रूप से
28. **Fuel** (verb) - power, feed, stimulate, encourage, stoke बढ़ाना
29. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to demand, require or ask for something मांग करना
30. **Unglamorous** (adjective) - unattractive, ordinary, dull, mundane, unexciting  
सादा/कम आकर्षक
31. **Calibrated** (adjective) - adjusted, measured, regulated, standardized, tuned  
मापा/समतुल्य बनाया गया
32. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, application, execution, imposition, carrying out प्रवर्तन/लागू करना
33. **Honour** (verb) - observe, follow, respect, fulfill, obey पालन करना
34. **Threshold** (noun) - limit, boundary, brink, verge, margin सीमा
35. **Head** (noun) - a specific category or item in a financial budget बजट का मद (विषय)

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India is experiencing increasingly severe heatwaves, with Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan recently recording 48°C.
2. Extreme summer heat before the monsoon is common, but climate change is making heatwaves more frequent and intense.
3. Workers in the informal sector are especially vulnerable because they often work outdoors without protection.
4. According to the India Meteorological Department, heatwave frequency has increased across India's Core Heatwave Zone since 1961.
5. The duration of heatwave spells has also risen significantly over the decades.
6. The period from 2015 to 2025 has been identified as the warmest eleven-year stretch on record.
7. Climate change is a major factor, but urban planning failures make heat conditions even worse.
8. Urban heat islands in Indian cities are often 2°C to 10°C hotter than nearby rural areas.
9. Excessive concrete, asphalt surfaces, loss of tree cover, and waste heat from air-conditioners contribute to this phenomenon.
10. Rising humidity in cities such as Delhi further increases human discomfort and health risks.
11. Dependence on more air-conditioners is not a complete solution because they worsen outdoor temperatures through heat emissions.
12. Technological fixes mainly benefit wealthier groups while leaving outdoor workers exposed.
13. The editorial advocates climate-sensitive urban planning with greater green cover and reflective building materials.
14. Existing labour laws requiring suspension of outdoor work during dangerous heat conditions must be strictly enforced.
15. The editorial concludes that India urgently needs a national policy and dedicated funding for heat management, as extreme heat is becoming a major public health and urban governance challenge.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following best explains the phenomenon of "Urban Heat Islands" in Indian cities?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. They represent a geographical shift where urban centers naturally experience higher solar radiation than rural belts.
  - B. They are a consequence of architectural and infrastructural choices that lead to the retention of thermal energy.
  - C. They indicate a proportional relationship between the increase in global temperatures and local humidity levels.
  - D. They are result of the lack of regulated emission standards for industrial cooling units in residential zones.
2. **Which of the following statements is false as it pertains to the information given in the passage?**
  - A. The frequency of heatwave periods in specific Indian regions has been increasing for several decades.
  - B. Humidity levels in urban centers are influenced more by surface characteristics than by global climatic shifts.
  - C. Current labor regulations in India lack the necessary provisions to protect workers from extreme thermal stress.
  - D. The 11-year period ending in 2025 is projected to be the warmest since the beginning of recorded history.
3. **Based on information in the passage, each of the following statements is a plausible explanation of why structural urban reforms are described as "politically difficult" EXCEPT:**
  - A. They require a departure from immediate technological solutions that offer instant comfort.
  - B. They necessitate the enforcement of regulations that might increase the operational costs for employers.
  - C. They involve long-term design changes that do not provide the immediate visibility of technological fixes.
  - D. None of the above options.
4. **The existence of which of the following phenomena would most strongly challenge the information in the passage?**
  - A. A city where temperatures remained stable despite a total loss of its green canopy.
  - B. A study showing that rural humidity levels are rising at the same rate as urban humidity.
  - C. Data suggesting that the waste heat from air conditioners has a negligible effect on city-wide temperatures.
  - D. A labor report showing that outdoor work productivity remains high during peak heatwave spells.
5. **The term "proximate" as used in the passage most nearly means:**
  - A. Ultimate or final
  - B. Immediate or closest
  - C. Irrelevant or minor
  - D. Secret or hidden
6. **Which of the following euphemistic expressions given in the alternatives has the meaning?**

- A bathroom.
- A. The smallest room in the house
  - B. The corner room of the house
  - C. The outdated room in the house
  - D. The neat room in the house
7. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**  
Throw spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks.
- A. To be very active and energetic to the point of hyperactivity
  - B. To escape, flee, or abscond from prison
  - C. To make a large number of attempts or guesses, with the expectation that at least some of them will be correct or useful
  - D. In strictest confidence
8. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Playright
  - B. Playrite
  - C. Playwrite
  - D. Playwright
9. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**  
The long, hot summer days seemed to enarvate him, draining his energy completely.
- A. enervate
  - B. enervate
  - C. enerveate
  - D. No replacement required
10. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "clever".**
- A. Foolish
  - B. Intelligent
  - C. Naive
  - D. Clumsy
11. **Directions: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**
- S1: Later that evening, I was scrolling through the contacts on my phone, reflecting on how long the list had grown over the years.
- P: However, despite having this vast collection, I realised that I regularly speak to only a remarkably small group of people.
- Q: This extensive directory contains former colleagues, distant relatives, old acquaintances, and many others whose numbers were saved with a definite purpose.
- R: This active twenty percent usually comprises a few close friends, a couple of family members, and occasionally a colleague.
- S: To be more precise, perhaps just one-fifth of those saved names receive the vast majority of my daily calls.

S6: Meanwhile, the rest of the contacts simply remain peacefully stored in the phone, rarely ever receiving a dial.

- A. P S R Q
- B. Q P S R
- C. Q S P R
- D. R Q P S

12. **Choose the word that is the closest synonym to the word “pulled”.**

- A. Dragged
- B. Pushed
- C. Stopped
- D. Rejected

13. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition/prepositional phrase in the following sentence.**

Prepare the project \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions given in the manual.

- A. in front of
- B. according to
- C. instead of
- D. for the purpose of

14. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Gaining.**

- A. Acquiring
- B. Winning
- C. Earning
- D. Losing

15. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

A person who collects stamps

- A. Numismatist
- B. Philatelist
- C. Collector
- D. Curator

16. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition/prepositional phrase in the following sentence.**

\_\_\_\_\_ the latest census, the population of India is around 1.46 billion.

- A. Because of
- B. Owing to
- C. Due to
- D. According to

17. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to “anxious”.**

- A. Nervous
- B. Calm
- C. Worried
- D. Restless

18. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences from a passage. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**

1. Phuphee and Sister Gabriella, who lived entirely different lives and practiced different faiths, were not the likeliest of friends.
  2. Desperate for relief from this debilitating condition, the expectant mother visited the nun's facility, where they formed an instant, lifelong connection.
  3. According to village lore, this unusual bond began four decades ago when the nun first arrived in the area to set up a local medical clinic.
  4. Shortly after that clinic was established, the two women crossed paths for the first time because Phuphee developed severe morning sickness during her first pregnancy.
- A. 1 4 2 3  
B. 3 1 4 2  
C. 1 3 4 2  
D. 3 4 1 2
19. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**  
The report is being reviewed by the manager.
- A. The manager reviews the report.  
B. The report is reviewing the manager.  
C. The manager is reviewing the report.  
D. The manager had reviewed the report.
20. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Fortunately.**
- A. Unfortunately  
B. Luckily  
C. Happily  
D. Thankfully

### Comprehension

Tourists from across the world (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to Goa during winter mesmerised by its beaches to celebrate Christmas and New Year. However, most beaches in Goa these days have become crowded and unclean. This often disappoints the tourists who come expecting a vacation in the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of nature in a tropical paradise. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, the beaches that are popular are not that eco-friendly while the ones which are peaceful are less known. It only makes sense that not all treasures are to be discovered by all! I visited Galgibaga Beach in Goa as a part of my fieldwork to learn about the turtle nesting that happens during the winter. It is a protected site that is guarded by the Goa Forest Department. I was captivated by its beauty and serenity. It had a lot more to offer than I had expected and that is what makes it special.

The Galgibag river (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the Arabian Sea here on the beach, which is a photogenic site. The sight of two waters mixing amidst the waves is an experience to capture and cherish. There are plenty of mangroves which provide a contrasting view of green and blue. Especially, at some distance from the beach, the mangroves could be seen along the tract of the Talpona river, which is stony and clear. The beach also hosts several dolphins around it and if one is lucky, one may spot one close to the beach.

The turtles come here to nest their eggs during the winter at night. If luck permits, one may experience the once-in-a-while phenomenon. After the nesting is over, the Forest Department creates a fence around the nesting site to protect it from damage. This beach is also known for its colourful seashells which are plenty in numbers around the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Galgibag river. I collected some purple and green ones!

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
- A. flock
  - B. migrate
  - C. converge
  - D. meander
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
- A. sanctuary
  - B. cradle
  - C. zenith
  - D. lap
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
- A. Serendipitously
  - B. Paradoxical
  - C. Ironically
  - D. Inexorable
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
- A. meeting
  - B. met
  - C. meets
  - D. meet
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. tract
  - B. hinterland
  - C. topography
  - D. precipice

## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. B) **They are a consequence of architectural and infrastructural choices that lead to the retention of thermal energy.**

(Line from passage): "...the difference manufactured by concrete, asphalt, the butchering of tree cover, and the waste heat exhaled by the thousands of air-conditioners cooling offices." passage says Materials like concrete and asphalt, combined with a loss of trees and air conditioning waste, are architectural and infrastructural choices that trap and retain thermal energy (heat).

Option A: The passage states that the temperature difference is "manufactured" by human-made materials and urban development, not because cities "naturally experience higher solar radiation."

Option C: The passage explicitly notes that the rising local humidity levels have more to do with the "sealed urban surface" than global warming alone, contradicting a simple proportional relationship with global temperatures.

Option D: The passage blames the waste heat from standard office air-conditioners and the thermodynamic paradox they create, not a lack of regulated emission standards for industrial cooling units in residential zones.

2. C) **Current labor regulations in India lack the necessary provisions to protect workers from extreme thermal stress.**

(Line from passage): "...the enforcement of labour laws that already exist but are honoured largely in the breach. These laws require employers to stop outdoor work when the heat index crosses thresholds..." The passage states that the necessary regulations do exist; the problem is that they are not being enforced ("honoured largely in the breach"). Therefore, stating that current regulations lack the necessary provisions is false.

Option A: (Line from passage): "India Meteorological Department data show that the frequency of heatwave spells has risen by 0.1 days per decade since 1961 over India's Core Heatwave Zone..." Since 1961 represents several decades, the statement that heatwaves have been increasing for several decades is factually accurate according to the passage.

Option B: (Line from passage): "Delhi's average humidity rose by eight percentage points between 2015-19 and 2020-24. This has a lot to do with an increasingly sealed urban surface than global warming alone." The passage explicitly states that local humidity changes have more to do with the "sealed urban surface" (surface characteristics) than global warming (global climatic shifts).

Option D: (Line from passage): "...and the 2015-25 interval is, according to the World Meteorological Organization, the warmest 11-year stretch since records began." The passage confirms that the 11-year block from 2015 to 2025 is recorded as the warmest stretch in history.

3. D) **None of the above options.**

Question asks which option is NOT a plausible explanation for why structural urban reforms are "politically difficult."

Option A: (Line from passage): "This is where the seduction of the technological fix becomes dangerous with the instinct being to reach for more, better and cheaper ACs." it is plausible: Moving away from immediate, accessible options like purchasing air conditioners requires society and politicians to overcome the "seduction" and "instinct" of chasing instant personal comfort, which is inherently a difficult political challenge.

Option B: (Line from passage): "...the enforcement of labour laws that already exist but are honoured largely in the breach. These laws require employers to stop outdoor work when the heat index crosses thresholds..." it is plausible: Forcing businesses to halt outdoor operations during high heat directly impacts their productivity, deadlines, and financial bottom line. Enforcing rules that increase operational costs or limit output naturally generates heavy political pushback from business owners and employers.

Option C: (Line from passage): "What is called for instead is unglamorous, slow and politically difficult: urban design that mandates reflective materials and green cover, building codes calibrated to a climate that has already shifted..." it is plausible: The author explicitly couples "politically difficult" with the words "unglamorous" and "slow." Structural modifications like rewiring city building codes and restructuring urban layouts take years or decades to show progress. They lack the fast, high-visibility PR appeal of quick technological fixes, making them hard for politicians to prioritize.

4. C) **Data suggesting that the waste heat from air conditioners has a negligible effect on city-wide temperatures.**

(Line from passage): "...and the waste heat exhaled by the thousands of air-conditioners cooling offices... Paradoxically, the machines are, in a thermodynamic sense, fuelling the problem." The author's central, most urgent argument relies on a thermodynamic paradox: using air conditioners to cool down offices physically pumps heat outside and makes the city street-level environment hotter and more lethal. If data proved that AC waste heat actually has a negligible (unnoticeable) effect on city-wide temperatures, the author's primary warning against the "seduction of the technological fix" would completely fall apart.

Option A: Line from passage: "Urban heat islands across Indian cities now run 2°C to 10°C hotter than their surrounding rural areas, the difference manufactured by concrete, asphalt, the butchering of tree cover..." While losing a green canopy without a temperature rise would challenge one part of the equation, the author notes that urban heat is manufactured by a combination of factors ("concrete, asphalt, the butchering of tree cover, and the waste heat..."). A city might counteract canopy loss through reflective materials or fewer ACs, so this does not completely shatter the author's primary argument. |

Option B: (Line from passage): "Delhi's average humidity rose by eight percentage points between 2015-19 and 2020-24. This has a lot to do with an increasingly sealed urban surface than global warming alone." The author uses Delhi's humidity as a localized example to show that urban surfaces aggravate the situation. If rural humidity rose at the same rate, it would suggest a broader regional climate shift, but it wouldn't undo the author's core thermodynamic thesis regarding urban infrastructure and heat retention.

Option D: The author's argument regarding outdoor labor is rooted in human physiology and safety, not economic productivity. High productivity during a heatwave doesn't mean the

workers' bodies are safely absorbing the heat; they could simply be forced to work under dangerous, exploitative conditions.

5. B) **Immediate or closest.**

Derived from the Latin word *prope* (meaning "near"), it is frequently used to describe something that happens closest in time, space, or as the most direct link in a chain of events.

6. A) The smallest room in the house – a euphemistic way of referring to a bathroom शौचालय / बाथरूम

- The corner room of the house – a room located at the corner of a building कोने का कमरा
- The outdated room in the house – a room that is old-fashioned or no longer modern पुराना कमरा

• The neat room in the house – a clean and tidy room साफ-सुथरा कमरा

7. C) "To make a large number of attempts or guesses, with the expectation that at least some of them will be correct or useful" – यह idiom का सही अर्थ है। Throw spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks – जब spaghetti (पास्ता) दीवार पर फेंकी जाती है, तो जो पकी होती है वह चिपक जाती है। इसलिए इस idiom का अर्थ है: बहुत सारे प्रयास या अनुमान लगाना यह उम्मीद करते हुए कि उनमें से कुछ सही निकलें। अनेक तरीके आजमाना।

• "To be very active and energetic to the point of hyperactivity" – Incorrect; यह idiom अत्यधिक ऊर्जावान होने से संबंधित नहीं है।

• "To escape, flee, or abscond from prison" – Incorrect; जेल से भागने का इस idiom से कोई संबंध नहीं है।

• "In strictest confidence" – Incorrect; यह अर्थ "off the record" या "in confidence" जैसे idioms का है, न कि इस idiom का।

8. D) The correct spelling is '**Playwright**' which means "a person who writes plays (dramatist)" नाटककार।

9. B) The correct spelling of '**enervate**' is 'enervate' which means "to weaken or drain of energy" कमजोर करना, शक्ति हीन करना।

10. B) **Clever** (adjective) – Smart, sharp, bright, witty, ingenious चतुर

Synonym: **Intelligent** (adjective) – Having the ability to learn, understand, and think logically, smart, knowledgeable बुद्धिमान

- **Foolish** (adjective) – Lacking good sense, silly, unwise मूर्ख
- **Naive** (adjective) – Innocent, inexperienced, lacking wisdom भोला
- **Clumsy** (adjective) – Awkward, uncoordinated, inept भद्दा

11. B) **Q P S R**

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This extensive directory" (यह विस्तृत निर्देशिका) शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दी गई लंबी 'list' (सूची) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस लंबी लिस्ट में पूर्व सहकर्मी, दूर के रिश्तेदार और पुराने परिचित शामिल हैं।

Sentence P, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "despite having this vast collection" (इस विशाल संग्रह के बावजूद) शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए संपर्कों की विस्तृत निर्देशिका (extensive directory) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory pair) बनाता है जो विरोधाभास

(However) दिखाता है कि इतने सारे नंबर होने के बावजूद लेखक केवल एक छोटे से समूह (small group) से ही बात करता है।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह P में बताए गए 'small group' (छोटे समूह) का गणितीय स्पष्टीकरण देता है। "To be more precise" का उपयोग करते हुए, यह बताता है कि यह छोटा समूह कुल संपर्कों का लगभग पाँचवाँ हिस्सा (one-fifth) है।

Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "This active twenty percent" (यह सक्रिय बीस प्रतिशत) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर S में बताए गए 'one-fifth' (यानी 20%) से जुड़ता है। यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि इस 20% में कौन-कौन शामिल हैं (करीबी दोस्त और परिवार), जो अंततः S6 के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठता है, जिसमें बताया गया है कि बाकी बचे हुए (the rest) नंबर बस फोन में शांति से पड़े रहते हैं।

- Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "This extensive directory" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the long "list" of contacts mentioned in S1. It details exactly who is making up this long list.
- Sentence P follows Q because the phrase "despite having this vast collection" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the extensive directory of people mentioned in Q. It introduces the contrast that despite having so many numbers, the author only talks to a small group.
- Sentence S follows P as it provides a numerical clarification of the "small group" mentioned in P. It uses the phrase "To be more precise" to quantify this group as being just "one-fifth" of the saved names.
- Sentence R follows S as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "This active twenty percent" to create an unbreakable mandatory link directly back to the "one-fifth" mentioned in S (since 1/5 is 20%). It explains exactly who makes up this active fraction, which seamlessly bridges into S6's conclusion about what happens to "the rest" of the unused contacts.

12. A) **Pulled** (verb) – To draw something towards oneself, tug, haul, draw खींचना

Synonym: **Dragged** (verb) – To pull something with effort, haul, trail along घसीटना

- **Pushed** (verb) – To move something away by applying force धक्का देना
- **Stopped** (verb) – To bring to an end, halt, cease रोकना
- **Rejected** (verb) – To refuse or dismiss, decline अस्वीकार करना

13. B) **According to** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में "instructions given in the manual" के अनुसार काम करने की बात कही जा रही है। यहाँ "prepare the project \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions" का अर्थ है कि प्रोजेक्ट को दिए गए निर्देशों के अनुसार तैयार करना। इसलिए, "according to" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'According to' should be used because the sentence conveys the idea of following the instructions given in the manual. The phrase "prepare the project \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions" means to make the project in conformity with the given guidelines. Thus, "according to" would be the most appropriate choice.

14. D) **Gaining** (verb) – Acquiring, obtaining, earning, securing, winning प्राप्त करना / हासिल करना

Antonym: **Losing** (verb) – Failing to keep, being deprived of, forfeiting, missing खोना / गंवाना

- **Acquiring** (verb) – Getting or obtaining something, gaining, earning प्राप्त करना
- **Winning** (verb) – Achieving victory or success, gaining, securing जीतना

- **Earning** (verb) – Receiving money or reward for work, gaining कमाना
15. B) **Philatelist** (noun) – A person who collects stamps डाक टिकट संग्रह करने वाला
- **Numismatist** (noun) – A person who collects coins सिक्कों का संग्रह करने वाला
  - **Collector** (noun) – A person who collects things संग्रहकर्ता
  - **Curator** (noun) – A person who manages a museum or collection संग्रहालयाध्यक्ष
16. D) 'According to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह किसी source / report / data के आधार पर जानकारी देने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "the latest census" एक आधिकारिक स्रोत है, इसलिए उसी के आधार पर population बताई जा रही है। इसलिए "According to" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'According to' should be used because it is used to refer to information based on a source, report, or authority. Here, "the latest census" is an official source, so the population figure is being stated based on it. Thus, "According to" would be the most appropriate choice.
17. B) **Anxious** (adjective) – Worried, uneasy, nervous, restless, apprehensive चिंतित  
Antonym: **Calm** (adjective) – Peaceful, relaxed, composed, tranquil शांत
- **Nervous** (adjective) – Easily agitated, anxious, tense, uneasy घबराया हुआ
  - **Worried** (adjective) – Anxious, troubled, concerned, distressed चिंतित
  - **Restless** (adjective) – Uneasy, unable to relax, anxious, fidgety बेचैन
18. C) 1 3 4 2

Sentence 1, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह एकमात्र पूरी तरह से स्वतंत्र (independent) वाक्य है। यह उस "factual ground" को तैयार करता है जो मुख्य विषय को पेश करता है: फुफी (Phuphee) और सिस्टर गैब्रिएला (Sister Gabriella) का परिचय, और यह तथ्य कि उनके अलग-अलग धर्मों और जीवनशैली के कारण उनका दोस्त बनना एक असामान्य बात थी (not the likeliest of friends)।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this unusual bond" (यह असामान्य बंधन) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 1 में दिए गए 'not the likeliest of friends' (अप्रत्याशित दोस्ती) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि यह अनोखी दोस्ती चार दशक पहले तब शुरू हुई जब नन ने वहाँ एक 'local medical clinic' (स्थानीय क्लिनिक) शुरू किया।

Sentence 4, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "that clinic was established" (वह क्लिनिक स्थापित हुआ) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 3 में बताए गए 'set up a local medical clinic' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि क्लिनिक खुलने के कुछ ही समय बाद, फुफी की पहली गर्भावस्था और 'severe morning sickness' (गंभीर मॉर्निंग सिकनेस) के कारण दोनों महिलाओं की पहली मुलाकात हुई।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this debilitating condition" (यह दुर्बल करने वाली स्थिति) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताई गई 'severe morning sickness' से जुड़ता है। साथ ही, "expectant mother" (गर्भवती माँ) शब्द 4 में बताए गए 'first pregnancy' से जुड़कर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है, यह बताते हुए कि क्लिनिक में जाकर दोनों के बीच तुरंत एक गहरा जुड़ाव (instant connection) बन गया।

- Sentence 1 comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground by introducing the primary subjects: Phuphee and Sister Gabriella. It acts as an independent opening statement highlighting that they were not the likeliest of friends due to their different lives and faiths.
- Sentence 3 follows 1 because the phrase "this unusual bond" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to them being "not the likeliest of friends" mentioned in 1. It

gives the historical context of how this unlikely friendship started: with the opening of a 'local medical clinic'.

- Sentence 4 follows 3 as it uses the phrase "that clinic" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the 'local medical clinic' established in 3. It details exactly what brought them together at that clinic: Phuphee's 'severe morning sickness' during her pregnancy.
- Sentence 2 follows 4 as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "this debilitating condition" to create a mandatory link directly to the 'severe morning sickness' mentioned in 4. Furthermore, the term "expectant mother" directly references the 'pregnancy' in 4, concluding the narrative by explaining how seeking relief led to their lifelong connection.

19. C) **The manager is reviewing the report.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent (by whom) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय Tense वही रखा जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "The report" Subject है, "is being reviewed" Verb (Present Continuous Passive) है और "by the manager" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर "the manager" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "is reviewing" (Present Continuous Active) में बदला गया है और "the report" Object बन गया है।

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the verb is changed accordingly while keeping the tense the same. In this case, "The report" is the subject, "is being reviewed" is the verb in Present Continuous Passive, and "by the manager" is the agent. In the active form, "the manager" becomes the subject, the verb changes to "is reviewing" (Present Continuous Active), and "the report" becomes the object.

20. A) **Fortunately** (adverb) – Luckily, happily, favourably, successfully, positively सौभाग्य से  
Antonym: **Unfortunately** (adverb) – Sadly, regrettably, unluckily, adversely दुर्भाग्य से

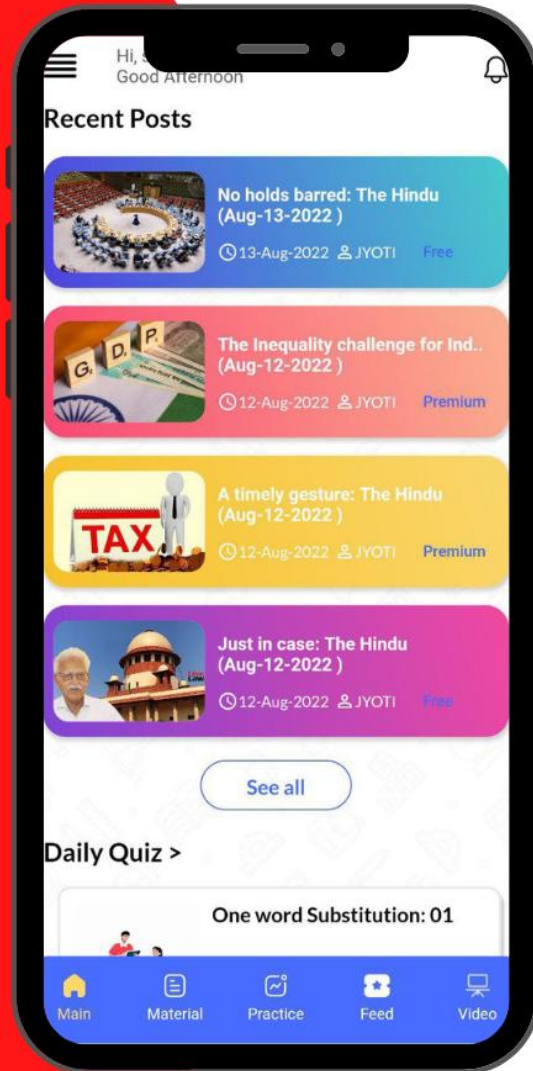
- **Luckily** (adverb) – By good fortune, fortunately, happily सौभाग्य से
- **Happily** (adverb) – In a happy manner, joyfully, cheerfully खुशी से
- **Thankfully** (adverb) – With gratitude, gratefully, appreciatively कृतज्ञतापूर्वक

21. A) **flock** (भारी संख्या में एक जगह जाना या जुटना) सही है। जब पर्यटक (tourists) किसी मशहूर जगह पर भारी भीड़ में जाते हैं, तो अंग्रेज़ी में उसे 'flock to a place' कहा जाता है। migrate का इस्तेमाल ज्यादातर पक्षियों के मौसम बदलने पर जाने या इंसानों के हमेशा के लिए कहीं बसने के लिए होता है। converge (अलग-अलग दिशाओं से आकर एक जगह मिलना) के साथ हमेशा 'on' या 'at' लगता है। meander का मतलब होता है बिना किसी मंज़िल के यूँ ही भटकना।

- The correct answer is "flock" because it specifically means to gather or go in large numbers, perfectly describing tourists visiting a popular destination. "Migrate" implies a permanent move or seasonal animal movement. "Converge" (coming together from different directions) grammatically takes 'on' or 'at'. "Meander" means to wander aimlessly without a destination.

22. D) **lap** (गोद) सही है। अंग्रेज़ी में "in the lap of nature" (प्रकृति की गोद में) एक बहुत ही पक्की और आम कहावत (collocation) है। sanctuary का मतलब 'सुरक्षित जगह या शरण' होता है। cradle (पालना) का इस्तेमाल किसी चीज़ के जन्मस्थान या शुरुआत के लिए होता है (जैसे: cradle of civilization)। zenith का मतलब 'सबसे ऊँचा शिखर' होता है।

- The correct answer is "lap" because "in the lap of nature" is a standard English idiom meaning surrounded by the comforts of a natural environment. "Sanctuary" refers to a safe haven or nature reserve, "cradle" is used metaphorically for a birthplace or origin, and "zenith" means the highest peak or pinnacle, none of which fit the idiom.
23. C) **Ironically** (विडंबना या अजीब बात यह है कि...) सही है। यहाँ हम व्याकरण (grammar) का नियम लगा सकते हैं। वाक्य की शुरुआत में पूरे वाक्य का अर्थ तय करने के लिए एक 'Adverb' (जिसके अंत में आमतौर पर 'ly' लगा हो) की ज़रूरत है। Paradoxical (विरोधाभासी) और Inexorable (जिसे रोकना न जा सके) दोनों Adjectives (खूबी) हैं, इसलिए व्याकरण के हिसाब से ये यहाँ बिना 'ly' के नहीं आ सकते। Serendipitously (किस्मत से अच्छा होना) एक adverb तो है, लेकिन पैसेज के अर्थ (मशहूर बीच गंदे हैं) से बिल्कुल मेल नहीं खाता क्योंकि यह किसी अच्छी (positive) बात के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है।
- The correct answer is "Ironically" because it is an adverb correctly modifying the entire sentence to show a contrast between expectation and reality. "Paradoxical" and "Inexorable" are adjectives and are grammatically incorrect in this position without an '-ly'. "Serendipitously" (by happy chance) fails the meaning test because the context discussed (beaches being unclean) is negative.
24. C) **meets** (मिलती है) सही है। यह पूरी तरह से व्याकरण (grammar) का नियम है। वाक्य का कर्ता (subject) "The Galgibag river" एकवचन (singular) है, और वाक्य एक भौगोलिक सच्चाई (geographic fact) बता रहा है जो हमेशा सच होती है (इसलिए Present Tense लगेगा)। एकवचन कर्ता के साथ हमेशा क्रिया (verb) में 's' या 'es' लगता है (meets)। meet बहुवचन (plural) के लिए आता है। met (मिली थी) past tense है। meeting लगाने के लिए इसके पहले 'is' या 'was' का होना ज़रूरी था।
- The correct answer is "meets" due to strict subject-verb agreement rules. "The Galgibag river" is a singular subject stating a permanent geographic fact (requiring simple present tense), which strictly requires a singular verb ending in 's'. "Meet" is plural. "Met" is past tense. "Meeting" is structurally incomplete without an auxiliary verb (is/was).
25. A) **tract** (ज़मीन या इलाके का एक बड़ा हिस्सा) सही है। पैसेज में नदी के किनारे फैले हुए ज़मीन के हिस्से की बात हो रही है जहाँ सीपियाँ (seashells) मिलती हैं। hinterland का मतलब होता है समुद्र या शहर से बहुत दूर अंदर बसा हुआ जंगली या पिछड़ा इलाका। topography का मतलब होता है ज़मीन की बनावट (नक्शे का विज्ञान)। precipice का मतलब होता है बहुत ऊंची और खड़ी चट्टान या खाई (जहाँ सीपियाँ जमा नहीं होतीं)।
- The correct answer is "tract" because it refers to an area, expanse, or stretch of land, which perfectly describes the area along the river. "Hinterland" refers to the remote areas far from the coast or major rivers. "Topography" is the study of the physical features of land, not the land itself. "Precipice" is a very steep rock face or cliff.



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