

## Strategic afterthought: On the Great Nicobar project

The government must be **transparent** with the Nicobar project

For a project so **often invoked** as a matter of national security strategy, the **ballooning** Great Nicobar Island **development**, now **estimated** to be at ₹91,000 crore, **rests on** a **remarkably thin** strategic record. The Centre has long **cited** the “strategic” character of its **centrepiece** — a transshipment port at Galathea Bay — to **withhold** information on its environmental clearances. Yet, the Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port “lacked strategic **objectives**”. That **label** arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a **founding rationale** and more of an afterthought, **retrofitted** to a balance sheet. Both the PIB and the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) cleared the proposal, yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget — an unusual **rebuke** for a **venture** sold as nationally **vital**. If the port cannot **stand on** commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.

Great Nicobar sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar **archipelago**, **wrapped in** tropical rainforest and **ringed** by reefs of rare ecological value. The **project** — port, international airport, power plant and township — would **clear vast tracts** of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the **nesting beaches** of the leatherback turtle and the **habitat** of the endemic Nicobar megapode. **Scientists** who have studied the island **warn** that the loss would be **irreversible**, and that no **afforestation** elsewhere can replace what is **felled** here. The island’s **indigenous inhabitants** have objections of their own, running alongside the ecological ones but not reducible to them. Tribal councils have said that **consent** was secured without full disclosure, and asked that **ancestral** land and the **resettlement** promised after the 2004 tsunami not be **overridden** by the project. Their criticism is not a **refusal** of all development. The **quarrel** is with scale, **secrecy** and sequence — a project **conceived** at a **magnitude** the island cannot absorb. The **remedy** is **transparency**. The Centre should release the High-Powered Committee report in full, account openly for the true cost to the public **exchequer**, and **weigh it against** an environmental loss that the exchequer can never **reimburse**. A **project** of this scale **owes** the country at least that much. [Practice Exercise]

- **Endemic** (adjective) – (often used about a disease or problem) regularly found in a particular place or among a particular group of people and difficult to get rid of स्थानिक
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

## Vocabulary

1. **Strategic afterthought** (noun) - a plan or reason added after the initial stage because the original justification was insufficient रणनीतिक सोच जो बाद में पैदा हुई
2. **Transparent** (adjective) - open, clear, honest, candid, straightforward पारदर्शी
3. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, commonly, repeatedly, mostly अक्सर
4. **Invoke** (verb) - cite, appeal to, call upon, implement, apply उल्लेख करना/आह्वान करना
5. **Ballooning** (adjective) - expanding, increasing, swelling, burgeoning, mushrooming तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ
6. **Estimate** (verb) - calculate, assess, gauge, evaluate, appraise अनुमान लगाना
7. **Rest on** (phrasal verb) - to be based on or depend on something पर निर्भर होना
8. **Remarkably** (adverb) - notably, strikingly, surprisingly, extraordinarily, significantly असाधारण रूप से
9. **Thin** (adjective) - weak, flimsy, inadequate, superficial, scant कमज़ोर/अल्प
10. **Cite** (verb) - mention, refer to, quote, name, indicate उल्लेख करना
11. **Centrepiece** (noun) - highlight, centerpiece, core, focus, centerpiece मुख्य केंद्र
12. **Withhold** (verb) - suppress, conceal, retain, reserve, hide छिपाना/रोक कर रखना
13. **Objective** (noun) - goal, aim, target, purpose, intent उद्देश्य
14. **Label** (noun) - tag, classification, designation, mark, stamp पदनाम/संज्ञा
15. **Founding** (adjective) - original, primary, initial, basic, root मूल
16. **Rationale** (noun) - logic, reasoning, basis, justification, grounds तर्क
17. **Retrofit** (verb) - adapt, adjust, modify, refit, update बाद में जोड़ना/समायोजित करना
18. **Rebuke** (noun) - reprimand, scolding, reproach, admonishment, criticism फटकार/आलोचना
19. **Venture** (noun) - project, undertaking, enterprise, scheme, endeavor उपक्रम/परियोजना
20. **Vital** (adjective) - crucial, essential, critical, key, necessary महत्वपूर्ण
21. **Stand (on)** (verb) - to be supported by or rely on something for justification पर टिकना/निर्भर होना
22. **Archipelago** (noun) - group of islands द्वीप समूह
23. **Wrap (in)** (verb) - to cover or surround something से घिरा होना
24. **Ringed** (adjective) - encircled, surrounded, bordered, enclosed, girded घेरा हुआ
25. **Vast** (adjective) - huge, immense, extensive, enormous, gigantic विशाल

26. **Tract** (noun) - area, region, expanse, territory, zone क्षेत्र
27. **Nesting beaches** (noun) - coastal areas used by animals to lay eggs प्रजनन तट
28. **Habitat** (noun) - environment, home, territory, surroundings, ecosystem प्राकृतिक आवास
29. **Irreversible** (adjective) - permanent, unalterable, final, irrevocable, lasting अपरिवर्तनीय
30. **Afforestation** (noun) - the process of planting trees to create a forest in an area that previously had little or no forest वृक्षारोपण
31. **Fell** (verb) - cut down, chop down, clear, remove, level काटना/गिराना
32. **Indigenous** (adjective) - native, original, local, aboriginal, inhabitant मूल निवासी
33. **Inhabitant** (noun) - resident, dweller, occupant, citizen, local निवासी
34. **Consent** (noun) - agreement, permission, approval, assent, consensus सहमति
35. **Ancestral** (adjective) - hereditary, inherited, patrimonial, traditional, family पैतृक
36. **Resettlement** (noun) - relocation, displacement, migration, transfer, settlement पुनर्वास
37. **Override** (verb) - overrule, disregard, ignore, supersede, trample अनदेखा करना/अधिभावी होना
38. **Refusal** (noun) - rejection, denial, declination, disapproval, veto अस्वीकृति
39. **Quarrel** (noun) - dispute, disagreement, argument, conflict, contention विवाद
40. **Secrecy** (noun) - confidentiality, concealment, privacy, cover-up, mystery गोपनीयता
41. **Conceive** (verb) - design, imagine, formulate, plan, devise कल्पना करना/बनाना
42. **Magnitude** (noun) - scale, size, extent, proportion, dimension परिमाण/विशालता
43. **Remedy** (noun) - solution, fix, cure, answer, resolution उपाय
44. **Transparency** (noun) - clarity, openness, honesty, candidness, lucidity पारदर्शिता
45. **Exchequer** (noun) - treasury, funds, finances, coffers, budget राजकोष
46. **Weigh against** (phrasal verb) - to compare the importance of one thing with another तुलना करना
47. **Reimburse** (verb) - compensate, repay, refund, pay back, indemnify भरपाई करना
48. **Owe** (verb) - be indebted, be beholden, be obligated, have a duty ऋणी होना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Government's **Great Nicobar Island development project** has expanded significantly and is now estimated to cost **₹91,000 crore**.
2. The project is frequently justified on the grounds of **national security and strategic importance**, especially regarding the proposed **transshipment port at Galathea Bay**.
3. Despite these claims, the **Public Investment Board (PIB)** in **August 2024** reportedly concluded that the port originally **lacked clear strategic objectives**.
4. According to the editorial, the **strategic label appeared later through the Ministry of Defence**, raising concerns that it was added after the project had already progressed.
5. The editorial suggests that this strategic justification may have been used to **avoid greater public scrutiny and limit transparency**.
6. Although the project received approval from both the **Public Investment Board (PIB)** and the **Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)**, financial concerns remained.
7. The **PPPAC rejected the request for ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding**, asking the Ports Ministry to arrange funds internally.
8. This rejection created doubts about whether the project is **commercially viable as a transshipment hub**.
9. The editorial argues that if the project's actual purpose is military rather than commercial, then the economic rationale needs clearer explanation.
10. **Great Nicobar Island** is described as an ecologically sensitive region containing **tropical rainforests, coral reefs, and rare biodiversity**.
11. The project includes construction of a **port, international airport, power plant, and township**, requiring extensive forest clearance.
12. Environmental experts warn that the destruction of **primary forests** would be irreversible and cannot be compensated through afforestation elsewhere.
13. The development threatens important wildlife habitats, including the nesting grounds of the Leatherback sea turtle and the habitat of the Nicobar megapode.
14. Indigenous communities have objected, claiming that **consent procedures lacked full disclosure** and that their **ancestral and resettled lands** may be affected.
15. The editorial concludes that the Centre should adopt **greater transparency**, release the **High-Powered Committee report**, disclose the real public cost, and evaluate whether the environmental damage is justified.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, the financial viability and strategic framing of the Galathea Bay port face which of the following contradictions?** [Editorial Page]
  - a) It is being promoted as nationally vital, yet it was denied Viability Gap Funding by the PPPAC.
  - b) The Ministry of Defence initially rejected the project, but the Public Investment Board retrofitted it into the balance sheet.

A. Only a  
B. Only b  
C. both a and b  
D. Neither a nor b
2. **What is the ultimate course of action recommended by the author regarding the Great Nicobar Island project?**
  - A. A permanent and unconditional cancellation of all infrastructure components to protect the rare nesting grounds of the local leatherback turtle population.
  - B. The immediate execution of massive compensatory afforestation programs across the Indian mainland before any actual forest clearing begins on the island
  - C. Total public disclosure of the high-level committee's findings and an honest evaluation of state expenditure against permanent environmental depletion.
  - D. All a, b and c
3. **Which of the following words is/are SYNONYMOUS with the word 'endemic' as used in the context of the passage?**
  - a. ubiquitous
  - b. indigenous
  - c. native
  - d. rife

A. Only a and b  
B. Only a and c  
C. Only b and c  
D. only a and d
4. **In the phrase: "...wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs..."**  
What grammatical structure is "wrapped" a part of?
  - A. A finite verb acting as the main predicate in the past simple tense
  - B. A past participle introducing a reduced relative or participial phrase
  - C. A perfect gerund functioning as the direct object of the clause
  - D. A passive voice auxiliary verb establishing a main independent sentence
5. **Which of the following statements is/are TRUE according to the above passage?**
  - a. The primary purpose of the port was officially established by the Finance Ministry body as a matter of national defense strategy right from its inception.
  - b. A central advisory committee declined a significant sum of financial support for the venture, instructing the responsible ministry to self-fund the shortfall.

A. both a and b  
B. Only b

- C. only a  
D. Neither a nor b
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Perceive."**  
A. Appertain  
B. Apportion  
C. Apprehend  
D. Appraise
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) between S1 and S6 to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**  
S1. One of the most costly aspects of running an AI company is what is referred to as "compute," which requires massive investments in infrastructure.  
P. This specific term typically describes the expensive processing power required to build, train, test, and finally make complex offerings like chatbots available to the public.  
Q. To illustrate the sheer scale of these expenses, OpenAI's compute costs alone are estimated to be over \$100 billion a year.  
R. However, despite this massive outflow of cash, the revenue that the company actually makes from its core business operations is merely a fraction of that amount.  
S. OpenAI is not the only heavyweight dealing with such financial imbalances; billionaire Elon Musk's rocket company, SpaceX, is similarly far from being a profitable business.  
S6. Anthropic, however, stands out from these rivals, having recently told its investors that it actually expects to turn a profit in the first half of this year due to growing sales.  
A. P Q R S  
B. Q R P S  
C. R P S Q  
D. P S Q R
8. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Keep pants on"?**  
A. Lose patience  
B. Remain calm  
C. Get angry  
D. Act quickly
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Sustainable."**  
A. Ubiquitous  
B. Uncanny  
C. Unctuous  
D. Unviable
10. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**  
'A system of government where priests rule in the name of God'.  
A. Plutocracy  
B. Theocracy  
C. Autocracy  
D. Aristocracy
11. **Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.**  
The engineer visited the construction \_\_\_\_\_ to check the progress of the building.  
A. site

- B. cite  
C. sight  
D. sigh
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Isolated."**  
A. Inebriated  
B. Integrated  
C. Incinerated  
D. Infiltrated
13. **Change the following from active to passive:**  
Can the algorithm classify the images without supervision?  
A. Can the images being classified by the algorithm without supervision?  
B. Can the images be classified by the algorithm without supervision?  
C. Can the images been classified by the algorithm without supervision?  
D. Can the images have been classified by the algorithm without supervision?
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
Neither the professor nor the students \_\_\_\_\_ present in the seminar room when the fire alarm went off.  
A. was  
B. were  
C. has been  
D. is
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct voice:**  
The student said that the teacher had explained the lesson clearly.  
A. The student said, "The teacher explained the lesson clearly."  
B. The student said, "The teacher has explained the lesson clearly."  
C. The student said, "The teacher had explained the lesson clearly."  
D. The student said, "The teacher explains the lesson clearly."
16. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**
1. Because of this ongoing diplomatic void, even if Trump succeeds in securing a temporary de-escalation, the region is likely to remain trapped in a fragile state of no-war, no-peace, with continuing consequences for the world economy.
  2. This deep mutual distrust is further compounded by the complete absence of meaningful direct contact between Tehran and Washington since the Islamabad meeting in April.
  3. As a direct result of those global economic consequences, India recently saw a second increase in domestic LPG prices in three months, serving as a stark reminder that this West Asian conflict is not a distant one.
  4. Even before the return to kinetic action, the US and Iran remained far apart on a deal because their core demands on critical issues have been fundamentally irreconcilable.
- A. 4 1 2 3  
B. 2 4 1 3  
C. 4 2 1 3  
D. 1 3 4 2
17. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**

The new rule made the process cumbersum and slow.

- A. cumbersam
- B. cumbersum
- C. cumbersome
- D. cumbersame

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks:**

A lamb was grazing with \_\_\_\_ sheep one day.

- A. a flock of
- B. a group of
- C. a mob of
- D. a number of

19. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**

The manager **is angry on** the clerk.

- A. is angry at
- B. is annoyed by
- C. is angry with
- D. is angry over

20. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Trail."**

- A. Coerce
- B. Course
- C. Cohere
- D. Corral

**Passage:**

In June 1926, an old man in dishevelled clothing was struck down by a tram when crossing the street on his way to church. A few days later, he died in a pauper's hospital. The man was Antoni Gaudí, who (1) \_\_\_\_\_ known as "God's architect".

Gaudí left behind a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ task. He died partway (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the construction of Sagrada Família – an iconic, towering church in Barcelona, north-eastern Spain. From a distance, the church rises above the city skyline like a bristling organic behemoth. Up close, it seems even more like a living thing. Hypnotically detailed (4) \_\_\_\_\_ depicting biblical themes seem to grow out of the stone. Always intended to continue long after his death, building Sagrada Família posed extraordinary challenges. Gaudí's sketches and models were obliterated during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, leaving (5) \_\_\_\_\_ material for his successors to work from. There was a time when its soaring towers were thought to be too tall for their foundations, and vulnerable to wind. Nevertheless, 100 years on from Gaudí's death, Pope Leo XIV is visiting Sagrada Família as the central pinnacle of the church – the Tower of Jesus Christ – is inaugurated. It stands complete at 172.5m (566ft). It has earned Sagrada Família the title of tallest church in the world.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. had become
- B. would become
- C. become
- D. becomes

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. Herculean
  - B. epochal
  - C. momentous
  - D. ponderous
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. into
  - B. for
  - C. of
  - D. through
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. frescoes
  - B. corniche
  - C. mural
  - D. façades
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. scant
  - B. sparse
  - C. derelict
  - D. negligible

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

### 1. A) Only a

Line from the passage: "...an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital. ... yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding..." The passage supports this contradiction because it points out the irony of the situation: the project is being marketed to the public as ["nationally vital"], but the government's own appraisal committee denied it funding, ["refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding"], and told them to self-fund. Statement b. INCORRECT Line from the passage: "...the Public Investment Board (PIB)... found... that the port "lacked strategic objectives". That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence..." The passage does not support this because the statement swaps the roles of the two departments. The passage says the Public Investment Board is the one that found it ["lacked strategic objectives"], and it was the Ministry of Defence that added the strategic label ["only afterwards"] as an afterthought.

### 2. C) Total public disclosure of the high-level committee's findings and an honest evaluation of state expenditure against permanent environmental depletion.

This matches the author's exact closing recommendation. The passage explicitly demands that the government must ["release the High-Powered Committee report in full"], properly ["account openly for the true cost to the public exchequer"], and balance those numbers against ["an environmental loss that the exchequer can never reimburse"].

Option A: Incorrect> The author does not recommend a permanent, total shutdown of the entire infrastructure plan. The text clarifies that ["Their criticism is not a refusal of all development"] and states clearly that the path forward is different: ["The remedy is transparency"].

Option B: Incorrect>The author does not advocate for mainland planting programs. In fact, the passage completely dismisses this idea as an effective solution, highlighting expert warnings that ["no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here"].

### 3. C) Only b and c

Endemic: Naturally occurring, originating in, or restricted to a particular region or environment.

Indigenous: Originating naturally in a particular place; native.

Native: Associated with the place of one's birth or naturally belonging to a particular region.

Ubiquitous: Found everywhere, which is the exact opposite of endemic.

Rife: Of common occurrence, widespread, or prevalent.

### 4. B) A past participle introducing a reduced relative or participial phrase

"Wrapped" is a past participle (the third form of the verb). It acts as an adjective describing a noun (likely an island).

It acts as a shortened or reduced relative clause (equivalent to "...which is wrapped in tropical rainforest...").

Instead of being the main action (predicate) of the sentence, it provides extra descriptive information about the subject.

5. B) **Only b**

Line from the passage: "...yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget — an unusual rebuke..." The passage supports this statement by explicitly confirming that a central appraisal committee (PPPAC) [refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding] and gave a rebuke by [telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget] instead of providing the financial support.

Statement a: INCORRECT. The passage contradicts this statement by showing that the Finance Ministry body actually found the port ["lacked strategic objectives"], and that the defense strategy justification was retrofitted later as ["less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought"] rather than something established from its inception.

6. C) **Perceive** (verb) – Discern, recognize, distinguish, observe, apprehend. (समझना/महसूस करना)

Synonym: **Apprehend** (verb) – To understand or perceive the experience of something. (समझना/महसूस करना)

- **Appertain** (verb): To relate to; to belong to. (संबंधित होना)
- **Apportion** (verb): To divide and assign in proportion. (हिस्सों में बाँटना)
- **Appraise** (verb): To assess the value or quality of something. (आंकना)

7. A) **P Q R S**

Sentence P, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This specific term" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए "compute" की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस शब्द का वास्तव में क्या अर्थ है और इसमें क्या-क्या शामिल होता है।

Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these expenses" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताए गए 'expensive processing power' और बुनियादी ढांचे की लागत की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो इन खर्चों का एक वास्तविक उदाहरण (OpenAI's \$100 billion) देता है।

Sentence R, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this massive outflow of cash" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए \$100 बिलियन के भारी खर्च की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इतने बड़े खर्च के बावजूद, कंपनी की आय (revenue) इसका एक बहुत छोटा हिस्सा है।

Sentence S, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "such financial imbalances" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर R में बताए गए खर्च और आय के बीच के भारी अंतर से जुड़ा है, और यह बताता है कि SpaceX की स्थिति भी ऐसी ही (unprofitable) है, जो S6 (जिसमें Anthropic के मुनाफे में होने का विपरीत उदाहरण है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence P comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "This specific term" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the word "compute" mentioned in

S1. It establishes the factual ground of what this term actually describes regarding infrastructure and processing power.

- Sentence Q follows P because the transitional phrase "these expenses" creates a mandatory link, directly referring to the costs of 'expensive processing power' described in P. It introduces a concrete example to illustrate the massive scale of these costs, citing OpenAI's \$100 billion estimate.
- Sentence R follows Q as it uses the phrase "this massive outflow of cash" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the \$100 billion cost mentioned in Q. It clarifies the stark contrast between these staggering expenses and the relatively small fraction of revenue the company actually makes.
- Sentence S follows R as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "such financial imbalances" to refer directly back to the huge gap between expenses and revenue described in R, explaining that SpaceX faces a similar unprofitable reality, which seamlessly bridges into the contrasting, profitable situation of Anthropic mentioned in S6.

8. B) "Keep pants on" means Remain calm धैर्य रखना.

9. D) Sustainable (adjective) – Maintainable, viable, feasible, supportable, enduring. (टिकाऊ या वहनीय)

Antonym: **Unviable** (adjective) – Not capable of working successfully; not feasible. (अक्षम / जो टिकाऊ न हो)

- **Ubiquitous** (adjective): Present, appearing, or found everywhere. (सर्वव्यापी)
- **Uncanny** (adjective): Strange or mysterious, especially in an unsettling way. (विलक्षण / अलौकिक)
- **Unctuous** (adjective): Excessively flattering or ingratiating; oily. (चापलूसी करने वाला)

10. B) **Theocracy** (noun) – A system of government in which priests rule in the name of God ईश्वर-शासित शासन प्रणाली

- **Plutocracy** (noun) – Government by the wealthy धनिकों का शासन
- **Autocracy** (noun) – Government by a single person with absolute power निरंकुश शासन
- **Aristocracy** (noun) – Government by a privileged or elite class अभिजात वर्ग का शासन

11. A) **Site**' का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence में इंजीनियर के निर्माण स्थल पर जाकर बिल्डिंग की प्रगति की जांच करने की बात हो रही है। यहाँ "The engineer visited the construction (\_\_\_\_) to check the progress of the building" के माध्यम से उस भौतिक स्थान को दर्शाया जा रहा है जहाँ निर्माण कार्य हो रहा है। इसलिए, "site" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'Site' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is referring to the physical location where the construction work is taking place. Here, through "The engineer visited the construction (\_\_\_\_) to check the progress of the building," it indicates the specific place being visited. Thus, "site" would be the most appropriate choice.

12. B) **Isolated** (adjective) – Solitary, remote, separate. (अलग-थलग)

Antonym: **Integrated** (adjective) – With various parts or aspects linked or coordinated.  
(एकीकृत)

- **Inebriated** (adjective): Drunk; intoxicated. (नशे में)
- **Incinerated** (verb): Destroyed by burning. (जलाकर राख कर देना)
- **Infiltrated** (verb): Secretly entered or joined (a group or organization) to get information or do harm. (घुसपैठ करना)

13. B) **Can the images be classified by the algorithm without supervision?**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और modal verb (can) को ज्यों-का-त्यों रखते हुए verb को be + past participle में बदला जाता है।

Active वाक्य में “the algorithm” Subject है, “can classify” Verb (modal + base form) है और “the images” Object है।

Passive में बदलने पर “the images” Subject बन जाता है और Verb “can be classified” हो जाता है।

Question form बनाए रखने के लिए “Can” को शुरुआत में रखा जाता है। इसलिए विकल्प B सही है।

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice:

The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

The verb is changed from its active form to the passive form, while keeping the same tense and interrogative structure.

In this sentence:

“the algorithm” → Subject

“can classify” → Verb (Modal + Base Form)

“the images” → Object

“without supervision” → Adverbial phrase

Interrogative form present

After conversion:

“the images” → Subject

“can be classified” → Passive verb (Modal + Passive Infinitive)

Interrogative structure retained

“without supervision” → Adverbial phrase

“by the algorithm” → Agent (optional)

Hence, the correct passive sentence is:

Can the images be classified by the algorithm without supervision?

Correct option: (2)

Other Options Analysis:

Option (1): “being classified” → missing auxiliary “be” after modal, incorrect structure.

Option (3): “been classified” → grammatically incorrect after modal “can”.

Option (4): “have been classified” → Perfect tense, tense changes.

14. B) **were**

When two subjects are joined by "Neither...nor", the verb agrees with the nearest (second) subject.

यहां "students" plural है, इसलिए plural verb "were" का प्रयोग होगा।

Hindi: "Neither the professor nor the students" में students plural subject है, इसलिए "were" सही है।

15. B) **The student said, "The teacher has explained the lesson clearly."**

The correct answer is Option 2 because the indirect sentence uses past perfect tense ("had explained"), which appears due to tense backshift after the reporting verb "said." When converting such a sentence into direct speech, the tense is returned to the form that the speaker originally used. Here, the speaker is referring to an action that has been completed recently and whose effect is still relevant, so present perfect tense ("has explained") is the most natural choice. Option 2 correctly reflects this tense and preserves the intended meaning of the original statement, whereas the other options either unnecessarily change the tense or alter the sense of the sentence.

सही उत्तर Option 2 है क्योंकि दिए गए वाक्य में indirect speech का प्रयोग किया गया है, जहाँ "had explained" past perfect tense में है। यह tense reporting verb "said" के कारण backshift की वजह से आया है। जब ऐसे वाक्य को direct speech में बदला जाता है, तो tense को उस रूप में लाया जाता है जैसा वक्ता ने वास्तव में कहा होगा। यहाँ वक्ता यह बताना चाहता है कि teacher ने lesson हाल ही में और ठीक से समझाया है, इसलिए present perfect tense "has explained" सबसे उपयुक्त है। Option 2 में tense और meaning दोनों सही तरह से maintain किए गए हैं, जबकि बाकी options में tense या भाव बदल जाता है।

16. C) **4 2 1 3**

Sentence 4, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि युद्ध की वापसी से पहले ही अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच एक समझौते को लेकर बड़ी दूरियां थीं क्योंकि उनकी मांगें असंगत (irreconcilable) थीं।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This deep mutual distrust" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताई गई असंगत मांगों और दूरियों (far apart) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि यह गहरा अविश्वास दोनों देशों के बीच सीधे संपर्क की कमी के कारण और भी बढ़ गया है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this ongoing diplomatic void" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 2 में बताए गए 'absence of meaningful direct contact' (सीधे संपर्क की कमी) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस कूटनीतिक शून्य के कारण, भले ही तनाव कम हो जाए, क्षेत्र अस्थिर रहेगा और विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था (world economy) पर इसके प्रभाव जारी रहेंगे।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "those global economic consequences" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 1 में बताए गए

'consequences for the world economy' से जुड़ता है, और यह बताता है कि इन्हीं आर्थिक परिणामों के कारण भारत में LPG की कीमतें बढ़ी हैं, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence 4 comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground of the paragraph, introducing the fundamental reality that the US and Iran remained far apart on a deal due to their irreconcilable demands.
- Sentence 2 follows 4 because the phrase "This deep mutual distrust" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the fundamentally 'irreconcilable' positions and division mentioned in 4. It elaborates that this lack of trust is worsened by the complete absence of direct contact.
- Sentence 1 follows 2 as it uses the phrase "this ongoing diplomatic void" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the 'absence of meaningful direct contact' described in 2. It clarifies that due to this lack of communication, the region will remain unstable with continuing consequences for the world economy.
- Sentence 3 follows 1 as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "those global economic consequences" to refer directly back to the 'consequences for the world economy' mentioned in 1, explaining how these global effects directly caused LPG price hikes in India, which seamlessly finalizes the logical flow of the narrative.

17. C) The correct spelling of 'cumbersum' is '**cumbersome**', which means "unwieldy, burdensome, awkward" (झंझटपूर्ण, भारी-भरकम).

18. A) **a flock of**

'a flock of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sheep के लिए collective noun "flock" ही सही और मानक माना जाता है। Sentence में lamb के साथ sheep का समूह बताया जा रहा है, इसलिए a flock of sheep grammatically और contextually correct है।

- 'a flock of' should be used because "flock" is the correct collective noun for sheep. The other options are either too generic or used for different animals or contexts, making a flock of the most appropriate choice.

19. C) '**is angry with**' के बदले प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'angry with' का प्रयोग किसी व्यक्ति (person) के प्रति क्रोध व्यक्त करने के लिए किया जाता है; जबकि 'angry at' या 'angry about' का प्रयोग किसी वस्तु या स्थिति के लिए होता है।

- 'is angry with' will be used instead of 'is angry on' because 'angry with' is used when anger is directed towards a person, whereas 'angry at' or 'angry about' is used for things or situations.

जैसे— The manager is angry with the clerk

20. B) **Trail** (noun) – path, track, way, route, course. (रास्ता)

Synonym: **Course** (noun) – The route or direction followed by a ship, aircraft, road, or river. (मार्ग / रास्ता)

- **Coerce** (verb): To persuade an unwilling person to do something by using force or threats. (मजबूर करना)
- **Cohere** (verb): To be united; to form a whole. (जुड़ना)

- **Corral** (verb): To gather together and confine a group of people or things. (इकट्ठा करना)
21. B) The blank requires a verb phrase that expresses a future legacy from the perspective of a past narrative. "(would become)" is the grammatically correct "future in the past" tense, indicating that his title as "God's architect" was a legacy that happened after the events described (his death as an unrecognized pauper). A) had become: The past perfect tense implies he was already widely known by this title before the accident, which disrupts the narrative flow. C) become: Grammatically incorrect without a helping verb. D) becomes: This is the simple present tense, which completely breaks the past tense narrative established by "was struck down" and "died".
- Blank को एक verb phrase की आवश्यकता है जो past narrative के perspective से किसी future legacy को दर्शाए। "(would become)" grammar का "future in the past" rule है, जो यह बताता है कि उनका यह title उनके मरने के बाद की legacy थी। A) had become: इसका अर्थ है कि वह accident से पहले ही यह बन चुके थे, जो narrative को disrupt करता है क्योंकि वह एक unrecognized गरीब की तरह मरे थे। C) become: Helping verb के बिना grammatically गलत है। D) becomes: यह simple present tense है, जो "was struck down" और "died" द्वारा establish की गई past tense narrative को पूरी तरह से break कर देता है।
22. C) The blank requires an adjective describing a task of great historical significance and impact. "(momentous)" specifically refers to an event, decision, or task of massive importance, especially regarding its impact on the future. A) Herculean: Means requiring great physical effort. While building is hard work, "momentous" better captures the spiritual and historical gravity of the church. B) epochal: Means forming a new historical era, which is too broad for a single construction "task." D) ponderous: Means slow and clumsy because of great weight. It does not fit the word "task" logically.
- Blank को एक adjective की आवश्यकता है जो इस task के great historical importance और impact का वर्णन करे। "(momentous)" का अर्थ बहुत महत्वपूर्ण या ऐतिहासिक (historic) है, विशेष रूप से future impact के संदर्भ में। A) Herculean: इसका अर्थ है ऐसा काम जिसमें बहुत ज्यादा physical effort की आवश्यकता हो; लेकिन "momentous" church की historical gravity को बेहतर capture करता है। B) epochal: इसका अर्थ एक नया historical era बनाना है, जो एक single "task" के लिए बहुत broad है। D) ponderous: इसका अर्थ भारी वजन के कारण slow और clumsy होना है, जो "task" के साथ logically fit नहीं होता।
23. D) The blank requires a preposition that collocates with "partway" to indicate that an event was interrupted in the middle of an ongoing process. The standard English idiom for being in the middle of a continuous process (like construction) is "partway (through)." A) into: "Partway into" is used for entering a physical space or beginning a time period, not the progression of a project. B) for: Grammatically incorrect in this structure. D) of: Does not form a valid idiom with "partway" in this context.
- Blank को एक preposition की आवश्यकता है जो "partway" के साथ collocate करे यह बताने के लिए कि कोई process बीच में interrupt हो गया था। किसी project या construction के बीच में

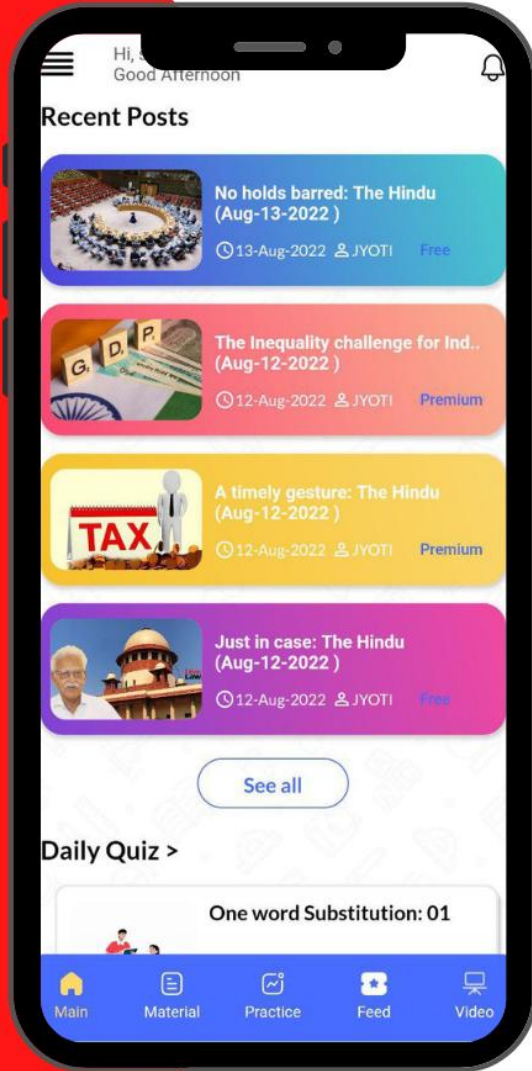
होने के लिए standard idiom "partway (through)" है। A) into: इसका उपयोग physical space में enter करने के लिए होता है, project के progression के लिए नहीं। B) for: इस structure में grammatically गलत है। D) of: इस context में "partway" के साथ valid idiom नहीं बनाता।

24. D) The blank requires an architectural noun for the large exterior faces of the building that depict biblical themes and seem to "grow out of the stone." "(façades)" specifically refers to the principal front or face of a large building, which in Sagrada Família are heavily sculpted in 3D stone. A) frescoes: These are watercolor paintings done rapidly on wet plaster. They are flat, not 3D carvings. B) cornice: (Or cornice) refers to an ornamental molding just below the ceiling, or a coastal road, not an entire exterior face. C) mural: A flat painting applied directly to a wall, failing the context of stone carving.

- Blank को building के बाहरी हिस्से (exterior faces) के लिए एक architectural noun की आवश्यकता है जो stone से "grow" (उभरते) हुए दिखाई देते हैं। "(façades)" किसी बड़ी building के मुख्य front या face को refer करता है, जो यहाँ heavily sculpted हैं। A) frescoes: ये गीले plaster पर की गई flat paintings होती हैं, 3D stone carvings नहीं। B) cornice: यह छत के नीचे की molding या coastal road होती है, पूरी exterior face नहीं। C) mural: यह दीवार पर बनी flat painting होती है, जो stone carving के context में fit नहीं बैठती।

25. A) The blank requires an adjective describing the extreme lack of reference material left after Gaudi's models were obliterated (destroyed). "(scant)" means barely sufficient, very little, or almost none, perfectly collocating with "material" to show the severe shortage. A) scant: The correct choice. B) sparse: Means thinly dispersed or scattered over an area (like population or trees), not used for reference material. C) derelict: Means in a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect, used for abandoned buildings. D) negligible: Means so small it can be ignored. The remaining material was very small in amount, but it was crucial, not ignorable.

- Blank को एक adjective की आवश्यकता है जो models के नष्ट (obliterate) होने के बाद बचे हुए material की बहुत कम मात्रा का वर्णन करे। "(scant)" का अर्थ है barely sufficient या बहुत कम, जो "material" के साथ perfectly collocate करता है। A) scant: सही विकल्प है। B) sparse: इसका अर्थ किसी area में thinly spread होना है (जैसे पेड़ या population), reference material के लिए नहीं। C) derelict: इसका उपयोग abandoned या खस्ताहाल buildings के लिए होता है। D) negligible: इसका अर्थ है इतना छोटा कि ignore किया जा सके। बचा हुआ material कम था लेकिन crucial था, ignore करने लायक नहीं।



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