

Series of gaps: on underreporting of child sexual abuse

Distrust of police **has led to** underreporting of child sexual abuse

Child sexual **abuse** in India **remains persistently** under-reported and the state response to it has shown up **trenchant** systemic **inefficiencies**. In over 90% of cases, including the recent Sular case in Coimbatore in which a charge sheet was filed last week, the **threat** to a child **is** from within the family's trusted circles. Public imagination **often fixates** on **predatory strangers**, which is not **conducive to** helping families and communities identify a risk in time. Migrant and working-class communities are especially at risk as they are less integrated in local protective social networks. Second, **abandoned** industrial sites and poorly maintained common land **tend to** become crime scenes. But despite the 'Safe City' project and the recognition of child-friendly urban development **paradigms**, urban redesign still focuses on **core** areas of major metros. The social safety **dimensions** of urban **wetland restoration**, like that of the Noyyal river, **are** often **overlooked** as well. Next, while POCSO trials are required to **conclude** within a year of the special court **taking cognisance**, POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and **conviction rates** have historically ranged between 3% and 30%, **undermining** confidence in the police and judiciary. The Sular case **prompted** promises of **swift** action, but this is only one case; systemic reforms to protect **vulnerable** children remain **elusive**. In 2024, the NCRB recorded 69,191 POCSO cases involving more than 70,000 child victims.

Public distrust **discourages** residents from reporting suspicions and encourages families fearing police **apathy** to search for missing children themselves, **potentially** allowing the **perpetrators** to hide evidence or **flee**. **Ultimately**, when the state fails to deliver due punishment, the people **perceive** the police to be a **bureaucratic** hurdle, leaving children more **vulnerable**. Repeatedly **strengthening** penalties merely **suppresses** reporting in most cases where the **offender** is familiar. Even the 2018 and 2019 **amendments** to the POCSO Act reacted to public **outrage** rather than considered evidence and focused on **harsher** punishments. Both **comprehensive** longitudinal data on **recidivism** and analyses of whether harsher legal penalties are effective **deterrents** remain **scarce**. While data collection has improved, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has noted that qualitative analyses of **acquittals** rarely inform policy changes. Finally, survivors and families face secondary **victimisation** from **insensitive** administrative responses and media reports. Together with the lack of policing informed by **trauma** response and **stigma**, true safety continues to **evade** thousands of children leaving them vulnerable to a cycle of unreported and unpunished violence. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Abuse** (noun) - mistreatment, harm, maltreatment, ill-treatment, cruelty. शोषण/दुर्व्यवहार
2. **Distrust** (noun) - suspicion, mistrust, doubt, skepticism, wariness. अविश्वास
3. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to cause or result in something. कारण बनना
4. **Persistently** (adverb) - continuously, constantly, steadily, repeatedly, doggedly. लगातार
5. **Trenchant** (adjective) - incisive, sharp, cutting, effective, vigorous. प्रभावशाली (तीखा)
6. **Inefficiency** (noun) - incompetence, inadequacy, ineptitude, wastefulness, inability. अक्षमता
7. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, many times. अक्सर
8. **Fixate** (verb) - obsess, focus, dwell, preoccupy, concentrate. ध्यान केंद्रित करना (जुनून की हद तक)
9. **Predatory** (adjective) - exploitative, hunting, rapacious, voracious, aggressive. हिंसक (शोषणकारी)
10. **Stranger** (noun) - unknown person, foreigner, newcomer, outsider. अजनबी
11. **Conducive** (to) (adjective) - favorable, helpful, beneficial, promote. सहायक
12. **Abandoned** (adjective) - deserted, forsaken, neglected, discarded, left. त्यागा हुआ
13. **Tend to** (phrasal verb) - to be likely to do something or to happen in a particular way. झुकाव होना
14. **Paradigm** (noun) - model, pattern, framework, prototype, standard. प्रतिमान (मॉडल)
15. **Core** (noun) - center, heart, essence, nucleus, hub. केंद्र
16. **Dimension** (noun) - aspect, facet, feature, scale, magnitude. आयाम
17. **Wetland** (noun) - an area of land that is permanently or seasonally covered with water and supports water-loving plants and animals आर्द्रभूमि
18. **Restoration** (noun) - renovation, revival, repair, rehabilitation, renewal. बहाली
19. **Overlook** (verb) - ignore, disregard, neglect, miss, bypass. अनदेखा करना
20. **Conclude** (verb) - finish, complete, end, terminate, settle. निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचना (समाप्त करना)
21. **Take cognisance** (phrase) - to notice and take into judicial account. संज्ञान लेना
22. **Conviction rate** (noun) - percentage of cases resulting in a guilty verdict. दोषसिद्धि दर
23. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, sabotage, compromise, erode, subvert. कमजोर करना
24. **Prompt** (verb) - trigger, incite, spur, encourage, provoke. प्रेरित करना
25. **Swift** (adjective) - fast, quick, rapid, prompt, immediate. त्वरित (तेज)

26. **Vulnerable** (adjective) - susceptible, weak, exposed, defenseless, at risk. असुरक्षित
27. **Elusive** (adjective) - hard to find, evasive, intangible, indefinable. दुर्लभ (प्राप्त न हो पाने वाला)
28. **Discourage** (verb) - deter, dissuade, dishearten, daunt, prevent. हतोत्साहित करना
29. **Apathy** (noun) - indifference, lack of interest, lethargy, detachment. उदासीनता
30. **Potentially** (adverb) - possibly, likely, conceivably, hiddenly. संभावित रूप से
31. **Perpetrator** (noun) - offender, criminal, culprit, wrongdoer, attacker. अपराधी
32. **Flee** (verb) - escape, run away, bolt, abscond, depart. भाग जाना
33. **Ultimately** (adverb) - finally, eventually, in the end, lastly. अंततः
34. **Perceive** (verb) - observe, notice, discern, interpret, view. समझना (अनुभव करना)
35. **Bureaucratic** (adjective) - administrative, red-tape-heavy, official, formal. नौकरशाही संबंधी
36. **Vulnerable** (adjective) - helpless, endangered, at-risk, exposed. असुरक्षित
37. **Strengthen** (verb) - reinforce, fortify, bolster, toughen, intensify. मजबूत करना
38. **Suppress** (verb) - repress, stifle, curb, quench, conceal. दबाना
39. **Offender** (noun) - criminal, culprit, wrongdoer, perpetrator, lawbreaker. अपराधी
40. **Amendment** (noun) - revision, modification, alteration, change, adjustment. संशोधन
41. **Outrage** (noun) - anger, fury, indignation, wrath, shock. आक्रोश
42. **Harsher** (adjective) - stricter, more severe, more rigorous, sterner. कठोरतर
43. **Comprehensive** (adjective) - inclusive, complete, thorough, extensive, detailed. व्यापक
44. **Recidivism** (noun) - reoffending, relapsing into crime. पुनरावृत्ति (अपराध की)
45. **Deterrent** (noun) - disincentive, discouragement, curb, warning, check. निवारक
46. **Scarce** (adjective) - rare, insufficient, sparse, meager, limited. दुर्लभ
47. **Acquittal** (noun) - absolution, clearance, exoneration, discharge, dismissal. दोषमुक्ति
48. **Victimisation** (noun) - unfair treatment, oppression, persecution. उत्पीड़न
49. **Insensitive** (adjective) - thoughtless, callous, uncaring, indifferent, unsympathetic. असंवेदनशील
50. **Trauma** (noun) - psychological injury, shock, distress, damage, hurt. आघात
51. **Stigma** (noun) - disgrace, shame, dishonor, brand, mark. कलंक
52. **Evade** (verb) - avoid, dodge, elude, escape, shirk. बचना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that **child sexual abuse in India remains severely underreported** and reflects deeper systemic failures.
2. A major reason for underreporting is **public distrust in police and the justice system**.
3. In **more than 90% of child sexual abuse cases**, including the recent Sular case, perpetrators are often found within the child's **family or trusted social circle**.
4. The common belief that strangers are the main threat distracts attention from the **real risks within familiar environments**.
5. Migrant and working-class families are especially vulnerable because they often lack **strong local support and protection networks**.
6. Unsafe physical spaces such as **abandoned industrial areas and neglected public spaces** can become sites for such crimes.
7. Despite initiatives like **Safe City projects**, urban planning has not sufficiently incorporated **child safety and protective design**.
8. Social safety concerns are often ignored even in environmental and urban restoration projects.
9. Though the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) requires trials to conclude within a year, **POCSO courts face very high case pendency**.
10. Historically low conviction rates have weakened public confidence in **policing and judicial outcomes**.
11. According to NCRB data cited in the editorial, **over 69,000 POCSO cases involving more than 70,000 child victims were recorded in 2024**.
12. Families often avoid reporting and instead conduct searches themselves because they fear **police delay or insensitivity**.
13. The editorial questions whether repeatedly increasing punishments actually improves safety, noting that evidence on deterrence remains limited.
14. It criticises policymaking that focuses on harsher laws without enough **qualitative study of acquittals, recidivism, and implementation gaps**.
15. The editorial concludes that child protection requires **faster justice, trauma-informed policing, sensitive administration, better urban planning, and stronger community trust**, not just stricter punishments.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following arguments or realities might the state policy makers have overlooked while passing the 2018 and 2019 POCSO amendments?** [Editorial Page]
 - a) Escalating statutory punishments often acts as a deterrent to reporting crimes when the perpetrator belongs to the child's close social ecosystem.
 - b) Public outrage is an unreliable foundation for long-term legal amendments when it bypasses an empirical evaluation of recidivism data.

A. Only a
B. Only b
C. both a and b
D. Neither a nor b
2. **How would you describe the legislative strategy of the state regarding child protection as expressed in the passage, using an idiom?**
 - a. Locking the stable door after the horse has bolted
 - b. Catching a tartar
 - c. A paper tiger

A. Only a
B. Only c
C. Both b and c
D. Both a and c
3. **The author has used different tones in the passage to present the issue. Which of the following options correctly identify those tones?**
 - a. Melodramatic
 - b. Condemnatory
 - c. Analytical

A. Only b
B. Only c
C. Both a and b
D. Both b and c
4. **Which of the following consequences will be observed if the public perception of the state apparatus continues to deteriorate, according to the passage?**
 - A. Immediate families will actively circumvent official law enforcement mechanisms during initial crises, inadvertently aiding the escape of suspects.
 - B. Special POCSO courts will witness an immediate inflation in their historical conviction rates due to local community-led investigations.
 - C. The institutional mechanisms under the 'Safe City' project will be systematically uninstalled across all major industrial and metropolitan regions.
 - D. All a, b and c
5. **Which of the following counterviews to the current state approach of handling child sexual abuse can be inferred as TRUE from the passage?**
 - A. The administrative obsession with high-profile metropolitan zones leaves socio-economically marginalized and migratory demographics outside the urban safety umbrella.
 - B. Elevating the mathematical severity of punitive legal sentences without improving low conviction rates in special courts fails to establish a functional systemic deterrent.

- C. Insensitive bureaucratic interfaces and toxic media coverage actively compound the psychological trauma of the aggrieved families, worsening institutional alienation.
- D. All a, b and c
6. **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. Driven by the glaring inequality in access to clean drinking water, three teenagers from Rajasthan set out to find an affordable, low-cost solution to the invisible crisis of microplastic contamination.
- P. Through rigorous laboratory experimentation, they discovered that these specific seeds contain a glue-like plant fiber known as xyloglucan, which naturally utilizes a highly branched structure to hold plant cells together.
- Q. To achieve this ambitious goal of creating a highly accessible filtration method, the team focused their attention on tamarind seeds, identifying them as a cheap, widely available, and completely biodegradable resource.
- R. Once this sticky, natural mechanism effectively causes the invisible, hazardous particles to clump together into larger masses, they can be effortlessly extracted from the water using a simple handheld magnet.
- S. When the seeds are processed into a biodegradable powder and dissolved in contaminated water, the unique branching structure of this xyloglucan acts as an adhesive, actively binding to the microscopic plastic impurities.
- S6. Ultimately, this incredibly innovative and accessible process, dubbed Plas-Stick, can retrieve approximately 90% of microplastics from a given sample, proving that effective environmental solutions do not always require expensive technology.
- A. P S Q R
B. Q P S R
C. S R Q P
D. Q S P R
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**
- A. Currently, the national pension scheme covers only a minuscule fraction of the estimated 4.5 to 6 crore PwDs, leaving many vulnerable citizens with grossly inadequate monthly allowances ranging from just ₹300 to ₹500.
- B. To rectify this systemic inequality and fulfill its constitutional obligations, India must urgently establish a Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR) that guarantees a baseline social security across all states.
- C. Despite India's celebrated progress in becoming a global model for a digital welfare state, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) remain largely excluded from this promise of universal outreach and inclusivity.
- D. However, addressing this massive exclusion is not just a moral imperative but also a matter of sound economics, as studies indicate that funding disability income acts as a powerful economic stimulus rather than a mere welfare expense.
- A. C D A B
B. A C B D
C. C A D B

- D. D B C A
8. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error:**
A. My grandfather B. is not only C. a fastly runner, D. but also a great swimmer.
A. My grandfather
B. is not only
C. a fastly runner,
D. but also a great swimmer.
9. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error:**
A. He are one of the B. few researchers whom I believe C. has the potential to make a D. significant breakthrough in this field.
A. He are one of the
B. few researchers whom I believe
C. has the potential to make a
D. significant breakthrough in this field
10. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
A. The company has been B. experiencing a lot of C. problems since D. the last two years.
A. The company has been
B. experiencing a lot of
C. problems since
D. the last two years.
11. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
The committee arrived ____ a unanimous decision after hours of deliberation.
A. at
B. in
C. on
D. into
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: PROVENANCE**
A. Fabrication
B. Origin
C. Prediction
D. Imitation
13. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrase:**
The manager dismissed the idea outright, calling it _____ without any substantial benefit.
A. a storm in a teacup
B. a shot in the dark
C. a bone of contention
D. a blessing in disguise
14. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Recession
B. Recission
C. Recesion
D. Reccisiom
15. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Secretarite

- B. Secretariat
C. Secretariat
D. Secretariat
16. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: On the same wavelength**
A. Talking to someone for a long time
B. Having similar ideas and understanding each other well
C. Waiting for a good opportunity to speak
D. Arguing about a different point of view
17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Disgracers**
A. Honorees
B. Outcasts
C. Rejects
D. Insulters
18. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
Persistent harassment to do something.
A. Coerce
B. Convince
C. Persuade
D. Importune
19. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Sublime**
A. Mediocre
B. Exalted
C. Glorious
D. Supreme
20. **Change the following sentence into the Active form:**
The ancient manuscript has to be handled with extreme care.
A. Extreme care has to handle the ancient manuscript.
B. The ancient manuscript is handled with extreme care.
C. They have to handle the ancient manuscript with extreme care.
D. They must handle the ancient manuscript with extreme care.

Passage:

We are but earth-bound creatures forever in (1) _____ to time. We feel the rush of passing hours carrying us (2) _____ life even as it drags us towards an (3) _____ end. The tide of time at its own pace — sometimes joyous, sometimes distressing, sometimes full of motion, sometimes hanging still — brooks no authority, has no master. Often, it can be a medley of voices mellifluous and raucous, solemn and vivacious with events that appear not in sequence but crowded together in chaotic confusion. We have no control over the ticking hands of time, and we mourn its unwitting loss. We have devised sundials, hourglasses, clocks, and watches to measure time, not stop it or hurry it. It is a way of trying to keep everything from happening at once.

Yet it is through this confusion of (4) _____ experiences we have to pick our path and arrive at our conclusions, to walk forward through the crests and troughs with the faith that the highs and lows will pass. Aristotle regarded time as the measure of change, while Newton conceived of time as an absolute reality existing independently of change. Einstein's theory of

relativity reconciled aspects of both views by showing that time is neither wholly dependent on change nor absolutely independent of it; rather, its measurement (5) _____ on the observer's motion and gravitational environment, making any single absolute definition of time impossible.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. debt
 - B. homage
 - C. thrall
 - D. custody
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. with
 - B. through
 - C. along
 - D. in
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. imminent
 - B. terminal
 - C. eminent
 - D. inevitable
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. sundry
 - B. myriad
 - C. disparate
 - D. versatile
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. depending
 - B. depend
 - C. will depend
 - D. depends

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) **both a and b**

Statement a: Line from Passage: "Repeatedly strengthening penalties merely suppresses reporting in most cases where the offender is familiar." Correct. The passage states that increasing punishments ("strengthening penalties") causes reporting to drop ("suppresses reporting") when the abuser is known to the child ("where the offender is familiar"). This matches the concept of an ecosystem deterrent.

Statement b: Line from Passage: "Even the 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence... Both comprehensive longitudinal data on recidivism and analyses of whether harsher legal penalties are effective deterrents remain scarce." Correct. The passage explicitly criticizes these specific amendments for reacting to emotional public pressure instead of using concrete empirical data regarding repeat offenses (recidivism data).

2. D) **Both a and c**

Statement a is correct Line from passage: "Even the 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence..." This idiom means taking retroactive action after damage is already done. The state's reactive approach to public outrage, rather than proactively using empirical prevention models, fits this description.

Statement b. This idiom means dealing with someone who proves to be unexpectedly troublesome or powerful. It does not fit the legislative strategy described.

Statement c is correct.. Line from passage: "...POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%..." A "paper tiger" refers to something that appears highly threatening or powerful on paper (severe laws/harsher penalties) but is completely ineffective in reality due to zero implementation and low convictions.

3. D) **Both b and c**

For Tone a: Incorrect. While the subject matter (child sexual abuse) is deeply sensitive, the author handles it with restrained prose, factual metrics, and systemic critiques. The passage avoids exaggerated, sensationalized, or theatrical language.

For Tone b: Line from Passage: "...the state response to it has shown up trenchant systemic inefficiencies." and "...undermining confidence in the police and judiciary." and "...reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence..." Correct. The author explicitly criticizes, censures, and passes strong negative judgment on the state's failures, legal amendments, police apathy, and urban planning oversights throughout the passage.

For Tone c: Line from Passage: "In over 90% of cases... the threat to a child is from within the family's trusted circles." and "POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%..." and "Repeatedly strengthening penalties merely suppresses reporting..." Correct. The author uses an objective framework to systematically deconstruct the crisis, breaking it down into distinct factors: social networks,

geographical/urban design vulnerabilities, judicial bottlenecks (pendency and conviction metrics), and legislative policy data.

4. A) **Immediate families will actively circumvent official law enforcement mechanisms during initial crises, inadvertently aiding the escape of suspects.**

Statement a is TRUE. Line from passage: "Public distrust discourages residents from reporting suspicions and encourages families fearing police apathy to search for missing children themselves, potentially allowing the perpetrators to hide evidence or flee." The passage clearly states that when trust breaks down, families investigate independently, which gives criminals the opportunity to destroy evidence or escape.

Statement b is FALSE. Line from passage: "...POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%, undermining confidence..." Community investigations do not increase judicial conviction rates. Low conviction rates are a cause of public distrust, not an outcome that is reversed by it.

Statement c is FALSE. Line from passage: "But despite the 'Safe City' project and the recognition of child-friendly urban development paradigms, urban redesign still focuses on core areas of major metros." The passage notes that the project's focus is misaligned, but it never suggests that public distrust causes the total uninstallation or removal of these urban security initiatives.

5. D) **All a, b and c**

Statement a is TRUE. Lines from passage: "Migrant and working-class communities are especially at risk as they are less integrated... urban redesign still focuses on core areas of major metros." The passage confirms that urban safety investments ignore non-core demographics, leaving highly vulnerable, non-integrated migrant populations exposed outside the protective infrastructure.

Statement b is TRUE. Lines from passage: "...POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%... Even the 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act reacted to public outrage... and focused on harsher punishments." This validates the critique that raising statutory punishments is an ineffective, superficial fix when the structural enforcement machinery suffers from massive trial delays and abysmal conviction rates.

Statement c is TRUE. Line from passage: "Finally, survivors and families face secondary victimisation from insensitive administrative responses and media reports." "Secondary victimization" means that institutional coldness and toxic press reporting compound the primary trauma, alienating the victim's family from the system.

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

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "To achieve this ambitious goal" (इस महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए) शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में स्थापित किए गए 'find an affordable, low-cost solution' (एक किफायती समाधान खोजने) वाले लक्ष्य की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए उन्होंने इमली के बीजों (tamarind seeds) का चुनाव किया।

Sentence P, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these specific seeds" (ये विशिष्ट बीज) शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए 'tamarind seeds' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory link) बनाता है, जो बताता है कि इन बीजों के अंदर वास्तव में क्या होता है—जाइलोग्लुकन

(xyloglucan) नामक एक गोंद जैसा फाइबर जिसकी संरचना अत्यधिक शाखायुक्त (highly branched structure) होती है।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "the unique branching structure of this xyloglucan" (इस जाइलोग्लुकन की अनूठी शाखा संरचना) शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में पेश किए गए 'xyloglucan' और 'highly branched structure' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि जब इस पाउडर को पानी में घोला जाता है, तो यह संरचना माइक्रोप्लास्टिक अशुद्धियों (plastic impurities) से चिपकने (binding) का काम करती है।

Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "causes the invisible, hazardous particles to clump together" (अदृश्य, खतरनाक कणों को एक साथ गुच्छे में बांध देता है) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर S में बताई गई 'binding' प्रक्रिया का परिणाम है। यह बताता है कि इस गुच्छे को चुंबक (magnet) से बाहर निकाला जा सकता है, जो S6 (जिसमें इस पूरी प्रक्रिया द्वारा 90% माइक्रोप्लास्टिक निकाले जाने की सफलता की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the transitional phrase "To achieve this ambitious goal" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the objective to "find an affordable, low-cost solution" established in S1. It sets the factual ground by introducing the material they chose: tamarind seeds.
- Sentence P follows Q because the phrase "these specific seeds" creates a mandatory link, directly referring to the "tamarind seeds" introduced in Q. It explains the scientific property of these seeds, specifically the presence of xyloglucan and its "highly branched structure."
- Sentence S follows P as it uses the phrase "the unique branching structure of this xyloglucan" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the chemical components detailed in P. It explains the chemical reaction of this structure actively binding to the plastic impurities when dissolved in water.
- Sentence R follows S as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "causes the invisible, hazardous particles to clump together" as a direct result of the active binding described in S. It introduces the final step of the extraction using a magnet, seamlessly bridging into S6, which summarizes the 90% retrieval success rate of the entire Plas-Stick process.

7. C) C A D B

Sentence C, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ या सर्वनाम के मुख्य विषय का परिचय देता है—कि कैसे भारत के 'डिजिटल वेलफेयर स्टेट' बनने के बावजूद विकलांग व्यक्ति (PwDs) इस समावेशिता (inclusivity) से बाहर रह गए हैं।

Sentence A, Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह C में बताए गए "excluded" (बाहर रह जाने) वाले तथ्य का सटीक विवरण और डेटा देता है। यह बताता है कि कैसे राष्ट्रीय पेंशन योजना केवल एक छोटे से हिस्से को कवर करती है और पेंशन की राशि (₹300 से ₹500) कितनी अपर्याप्त है।

Sentence D, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "However" (हालाँकि) और "addressing this massive exclusion" (इस व्यापक बहिष्कार को संबोधित करना) शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में बताई गई अपर्याप्त कवरेज और बहिष्कार की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory link) बनाता है, जो बहस को एक सामाजिक समस्या से हटाकर उसके आर्थिक पहलू (economic stimulus) की ओर ले जाता है।

Sentence B, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "To rectify this systemic inequality" (इस प्रणालीगत असमानता को सुधारने के लिए) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर C, A, और D में बताई गई समस्याओं को समेटता है। यह अंतिम समाधान के रूप में 'MUDPFR' (न्यूनतम पेंशन दर) लागू करने का प्रस्ताव देता है, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence C comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground. It introduces the primary subject—the exclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) from India's celebrated digital welfare state—without relying on any preceding pronouns or context.
 - Sentence A follows C because it expands directly on the "exclusion" introduced in C. It provides the specific statistical evidence of this failure, detailing the minuscule fraction of people covered and the grossly inadequate monthly pension amounts they receive.
 - Sentence D follows A as the transitional word "However" and the phrase "addressing this massive exclusion" create a mandatory link pointing directly back to the inadequate coverage described in A. It pivots the narrative from a purely social grievance to a compelling economic argument.
 - Sentence B follows D as the final conclusion. It uses the phrase "To rectify this systemic inequality" to comprehensively reference the social and economic shortcomings detailed in C, A, and D. It seamlessly wraps up the paragraph by proposing the ultimate policy solution: the establishment of a Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR).
8. C) 'fastly' के बदले **'fast'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'fast' एक Adverb है जो यहाँ 'runner' को Qualify कर रहा है और English में 'fastly' जैसा कोई शब्द Standard Usage में नहीं होता।
- 'fast' will be used instead of 'fastly' because 'fast' is the correct adverb used to qualify 'runner' and 'fastly' is not accepted in standard English usage.
9. A) 'are' के स्थान पर **'is'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject 'He' Singular है, इसलिए Singular Verb 'is' आयेगा। जैसे— He is one of the few researchers...
- 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the subject 'He' is singular, therefore the verb must be singular. Like— He is one of the few researchers...
10. C) since the last two years' के बदले **'for the last two years'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' के बाद point of time आता है न कि period of time; जैसे— He has been living here since 2020 / He has been living here for three years.
- 'for the last two years' will be used instead of 'since the last two years' because 'since' must be followed by a specific point of time, not a duration; Like— He has been living here since 2020 / He has been living here for three years.
11. A) The correct preposition is "at" because standard English uses the fixed expression "arrive at a decision." The preposition "at" is used with arrive when referring to reaching an abstract point such as a decision, conclusion, or agreement, not a physical place. In this sentence, the committee reached a final outcome after hours of discussion, so "arrived at a unanimous decision" is grammatically correct and widely accepted in formal and exam-oriented English.
- सही preposition "at" है। English में "arrive at a decision" एक correct और fixed expression है। जब हम decision, conclusion या agreement तक पहुँचने की बात करते हैं, तब arrive के साथ at use किया जाता है। इस sentence में committee ने long discussion के बाद

final decision लिया है, इसलिए “arrived at a unanimous decision” सही है। बाकी options इस context में correct नहीं माने जाते, खासकर exam में।

12. B) **Provenance** (noun) – the place of origin, source, or earliest known history of something
उत्पत्ति / स्रोत
Synonym: **Origin** (noun) – the beginning or source from which something comes मूल / प्रारंभ
- **Fabrication** (noun) – the act of making up or inventing something गढ़ना / मनगढ़ंत
 - **Prediction** (noun) – a statement about what will happen in the future पूर्वानुमान
 - **Imitation** (noun) – copying or mimicking something नकल / अनुकरण
13. B) **a shot in the dark** (phrase) – An attempt or idea made without proper reasoning or certainty बिना सोचे-समझे किया गया प्रयास
- **A storm in a teacup** – unnecessary fuss तिल का ताड़
 - **A bone of contention** – a matter of dispute विवाद का कारण
 - **A blessing in disguise** – seeming bad but actually good छुपा हुआ लाभ
14. A) The correctly spelt word is “**Recession**” which means a temporary economic decline आर्थिक मंदी / गिरावट।
15. C) The correctly spelt word is “**Secretariat**” which means an administrative office or department सचिवालय / कार्यालय।
16. B) **On the same wavelength** (idiom) - Having similar ideas and understanding each other well एक जैसी सोच रखना / एक-दूसरे को अच्छी तरह समझना
17. A) **Disgracers** (noun) – people who bring shame, dishonor, or embarrassment अपमान / बदनामी
Antonym: **Honorees** (noun) – people who are honored, celebrated, or recognized for merit सम्मानित व्यक्ति
- **Outcasts** (noun) – those who are socially rejected or excluded बहिष्कृत
 - **Rejects** (noun) – those who are refused, dismissed, or not accepted अस्वीकृत
 - **Insulters** (noun) – those who insult or demean others अपमान करने वाले
18. D) **Importune** (verb) – Persistent harassment to do something लगातार आग्रह या तंग करके कुछ करवाने की ज़िद करना
- **Coerce** (verb) – To force someone to do something by threats or pressure. बलपूर्वक करवाना / दबाव डालकर करवाना
 - **Convince** (verb) – To make someone believe or accept something. समझाकर मनाना
 - **Persuade** (verb) – To cause someone to do something by reasoning or urging. तर्क देकर मनाना / समझाना
19. A) **Sublime** (adjective) – of great excellence, grandeur, or beauty; inspiring awe श्रेष्ठ / उत्कृष्ट
Antonym: **Mediocre** (adjective) – ordinary, not very good, lacking excellence साधारण / औसत
- **Exalted** (adjective) – elevated, noble, highly praised उच्च
 - **Glorious** (adjective) – magnificent, splendid, admirable शानदार / गौरवपूर्ण
 - **Supreme** (adjective) – highest in rank or quality सर्वोच्च
20. C) **They have to handle the ancient manuscript with extreme care.**
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Passive वाक्य का Subject हटाकर करने वाले को Subject बनाया जाता है, और Verb संरचना को Active रूप में बदला जाता है। वाक्य में “has to be handled”

Passive संरचना है (obligation + passive) और Active में बदलते समय इसे "have to handle" में बदल दिया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में करने वाला स्पष्ट नहीं है, इसलिए Active में सामान्य Subject "they" उपयोग किया गया है। बाकी जानकारी "with extreme care" उसी रूप में रखी गई है।

- To change this from Passive to Active Voice, the passive subject is replaced with the doer as the subject, and the verb phrase "has to be handled" (obligation + passive) is converted to its active form "have to handle". Since the agent is not specified, the generic subject "they" is used in the active sentence, and the phrase "with extreme care" remains unchanged.

21. C) The blank requires a noun that completes the phrase "in [blank] to," meaning being under the absolute power or control of something. "(thrall)" is the exact word used in the idiom "in thrall to," which beautifully captures humanity's helplessness and captivity to the passage of time. A) debt: Implies owing something financial or moral, not an absolute state of captivity. B) homage: Means to show respect publicly (pay homage to), which contradicts the helpless nature described later. D) custody: A legal or physical state of imprisonment, which is too literal and clinical for this poetic context.

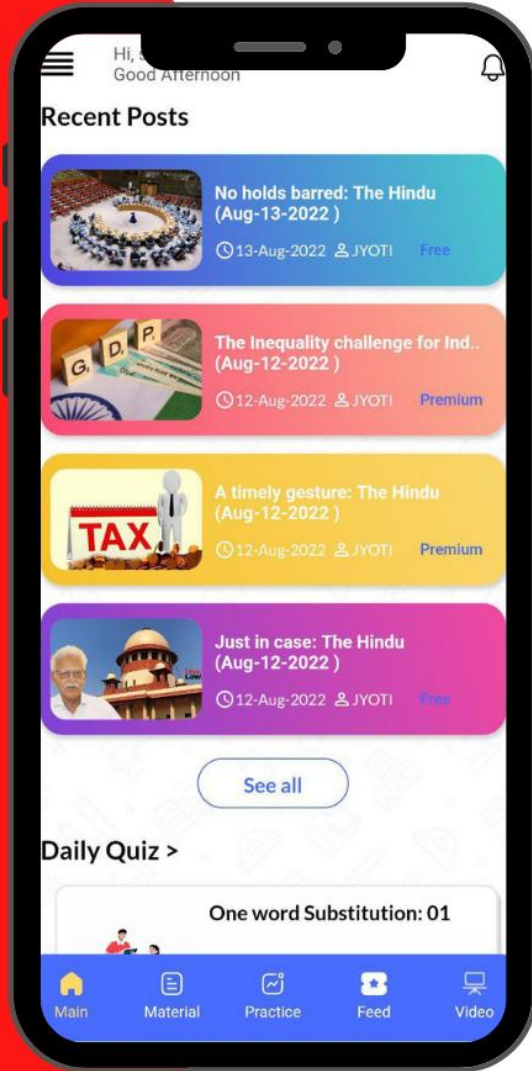
- Blank को एक ऐसे noun की आवश्यकता है जो "in [blank] to" phrase को पूरा करे, जिसका अर्थ किसी के पूर्ण नियंत्रण या शक्ति के अधीन होना है। "(thrall)" उस idiom "in thrall to" का सटीक शब्द है, जो समय के बीतने के प्रति मानवता की विवशता और कैद (गुलामी) को खूबसूरती से पकड़ता है। A) debt: इसका अर्थ कर्ज है। B) homage: इसका अर्थ सम्मान देना है, जो विवशता के विपरीत है। D) custody: यह एक कानूनी (legal) हिरासत है, जो इस काव्यात्मक संदर्भ के लिए बहुत literal है।

22. B) The blank requires a preposition indicating movement from one end of an immersive experience (life) to the other. "(through)" is the correct preposition because life is viewed as a medium or duration that we experience from inside, navigating its internal events. A) with: Implies accompaniment, not a journey from beginning to end. C) along: Means moving in a constant direction on a line or path, which doesn't capture the immersive "rush" of life. D) in: Indicates being located inside something, but lacks the sense of motion and journey that "carrying us" requires.

- Blank को एक preposition की आवश्यकता है जो जीवन जैसे immersive अनुभव के एक छोर से दूसरे छोर तक की गति को दर्शाए। "(through)" सही preposition है क्योंकि जीवन को एक अवधि या माध्यम के रूप में देखा जाता है जिसे हम अंदर से अनुभव करते हैं (गुजरते हैं)। A) with: इसका अर्थ 'के साथ' है। C) along: इसका अर्थ एक रास्ते पर साथ-साथ चलना है। D) in: यह अंदर होने की स्थिति को दर्शाता है, लेकिन "carrying us" द्वारा आवश्यक गति (motion) और यात्रा का बोध नहीं कराता।

23. D) The blank requires an adjective describing the ultimate end of life (death) in a broad, philosophical sense. "(inevitable)" means completely unavoidable and absolutely certain to happen, regardless of how long it takes. This perfectly fits the passage's theme that time drags all of us toward an inescapable fate. Option A) "imminent" is a very strong distractor, but it specifically means that something is about to happen very soon or immediately. Because the passage discusses being carried "through life" (which implies a long, ongoing journey), the end is not imminent (happening tomorrow) for everyone. However, the end is inevitable (100% certain) for everyone. The difference is between time (imminent) and certainty (inevitable). B) terminal is redundant when paired with "end". C) eminent means famous or respected.

- Blank को एक ऐसे adjective की आवश्यकता है जो दार्शनिक अर्थ में जीवन के अंतिम अंत (मृत्यु) का वर्णन करे। "(inevitable)" का अर्थ है जिसे किसी भी हालत में टाला न जा सके (unavoidable) और जिसका होना निश्चित है, चाहे उसमें कितना भी समय लगे। यह passage की theme के साथ पूरी तरह से fit बैठता है कि समय हम सभी को एक निश्चित नियति की ओर खींचता है। Option A) "imminent" एक मजबूत distractor है, लेकिन इसका अर्थ है जो बहुत जल्द या तुरंत होने वाला हो (about to happen)। चूंकि passage "through life" (पूरे जीवन के लंबे सफर) की बात कर रहा है, इसलिए सबका अंत तुरंत (imminent) नहीं होने वाला है, लेकिन सबका अंत निश्चित (inevitable) जरूर है। दोनों में मुख्य अंतर 'समय' (imminent) और 'निश्चितता' (inevitable) का है। B) terminal "end" के साथ redundant (अनावश्यक दोहराव) है। C) eminent का अर्थ प्रसिद्ध है।
24. B) The blank requires an adjective describing a vast, countless, and overwhelming variety of experiences. "(myriad)" means an extremely great, uncountable number of things, perfectly capturing the "chaotic confusion" and abundance of life's events mentioned earlier. A) sundry: Means various items not important enough to be mentioned individually. C) disparate: Means things so different in kind that they cannot be compared, focusing on difference rather than their overwhelming number. D) versatile: Describes a person or tool able to adapt to many different functions (बहुमुखी).
- Blank को एक adjective की आवश्यकता है जो अनुभवों की एक विशाल, अनगिनत और overwhelming विविधता का वर्णन करे। "(myriad)" का अर्थ चीजों की एक अत्यंत बड़ी, अनगिनत संख्या है, जो जीवन की घटनाओं की "chaotic confusion" और प्रचुरता को पूरी तरह से capture करता है। A) sundry: इसका अर्थ है विभिन्न छोटी-मोटी चीजें। C) disparate: इसका अर्थ है ऐसी भिन्न चीजें जिनकी तुलना नहीं की जा सकती। D) versatile: यह किसी व्यक्ति या उपकरण के लिए उपयोग होता है जो कई कार्य कर सकता है।
25. D) The blank tests subject-verb agreement and tense. The passage is stating a scientific fact (general truth), which requires the simple present tense. The subject of the clause is "its measurement", which is a singular noun. Therefore, a singular present-tense verb is strictly required. "(depends)" is the grammatically correct singular present-tense verb. A) depending: A present participle that cannot act as a main verb without a helping verb (like "is depending"). B) will depend: Future tense, which is incorrect for stating an established scientific fact. D) depend: A plural present-tense verb, which mathematically disagrees with the singular subject "measurement".
- Blank subject-verb agreement और tense का परीक्षण करता है। Passage एक scientific fact (सामान्य सत्य) बता रहा है, जिसके लिए simple present tense की आवश्यकता होती है। Clause का subject "its measurement" है, जो एक singular noun है। इसलिए, strictly एक singular present-tense verb की आवश्यकता है। "(depends)" व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही विकल्प है। A) depending: यह बिना helping verb के main verb की तरह काम नहीं कर सकता। B) will depend: यह future tense है, जो स्थापित वैज्ञानिक तथ्य बताने के लिए गलत है। D) depend: यह एक plural present-tense verb है, जो singular subject "measurement" के साथ agree नहीं करता है।



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