

Wealth of **lacunae**: On the Kudankulam nuclear plant data leak

Cybersecurity, transparency are non-negotiable in **vital** installations

The **ransomware attack** against a contractor involved in the Kudankulam nuclear power project **is concerning**, even if nothing threatening the plant's **integrity** was stolen. In 2019, malware was found on the same facility's administrative network, but the NPCIL maintained that the operational reactor network was unaffected. The new incident extends the same theme. India's **breach disclosure regime** is **inconsistent** and often **plainly opaque**. Affected organisations **tend to** believe **admitting** a breach will damage public confidence, share prices, contracts, and invite regulatory **scrutiny**. So, they tend to ease their language in public statements and avoid disclosure until **compelled**. Many organisations also lack mature incident response capabilities, not uncommonly because they treat cybersecurity as a matter of **compliance** rather than **necessity**. So, **assessing** what data has been affected in the early stages of an attack becomes technically impossible. According to public information, the facility's **core infrastructure** is unaffected; instead, a group called 'World Leaks' **mounted** a ransomware attack **compromising** systems belonging to Reliance Infrastructure, one of the engineering contractors of Units 3 and 4. The **data** in the incident **were hosted** by Yotta Data Services, which said it detected **suspicious** activity on its servers on May 29.

According to open-source intelligence platform RansomLook, the data began appearing on World Leaks on June 11. However, the NPCIL issued a formal clarification only on July 15, **following widespread** media reports. Some 14.3 GB of files have been released, including the **layouts** of ventilation systems, floor plans of an **alleged** "control room", supplier and vendor lists, and insurance paperwork. While the files have not been independently authenticated, the **actors** and their **incentives merit** a closer look. The NPCIL has said that the files only **pertain to** infrastructure beyond the facility's **nuclear island**. However, such information can still serve **so-called** intelligence preparation activities. **India is** the third-most breached country and **has** already **brooked** similar attacks against AIIMS Delhi, airlines, and State government portals. In this **milieu**, the government has **positioned** Kudankulam as the **centrepiece** of India's nuclear power ambitions. As CERT-In is conducting an investigation and Reliance and Yotta have shared their **findings** with the government, CERT-In and NPCIL should also clarify the nature and **authenticity** of the files, whether data were **exfiltrated** before detection, and whether any **credentials** or supplier accounts have been **exposed**. Radical transparency is impossible here but basic cyber-hygiene and **proactive** communication are **non-negotiable**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Lacunae** (noun) - gaps, missing parts, deficiencies, loopholes. रिक्तियां या कमियां
2. **Cybersecurity** (noun) - protection of computer systems and networks from theft or damage. साइबर सुरक्षा
3. **Transparency** (noun) - openness, clarity, accountability, honesty. पारदर्शिता
4. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, critical, fundamental. महत्वपूर्ण या अनिवार्य
5. **Ransomware** (noun) - a type of malicious software that threatens to publish or block access to data unless a ransom is paid. फिरोती के लिए मैलवेयर
6. **Concerning** (adjective) - worrying, disturbing, alarming. चिंताजनक
7. **Integrity** (noun) - wholeness, soundness, honesty, completeness. अखंडता या पूर्णता
8. **Breach** (noun) - violation, break, gap, fracture, infringement. उल्लंघन या सैध
9. **Regime** (noun) - system, rule, order, governance, framework. व्यवस्था या तंत्र
10. **Inconsistent** (adjective) - not uniform, contradictory, variable, unstable. असंगत
11. **Plainly** (adverb) - clearly, obviously, simply, openly. स्पष्ट रूप से
12. **Opaque** (adjective) - unclear, non-transparent, obscure, difficult to understand. अस्पष्ट या अपारदर्शी
13. **Tend to** (phrasal verb) - to be inclined to, prone to. झुकाव होना
14. **Admit** (verb) - confess, acknowledge, accept, grant. स्वीकार करना
15. **Scrutiny** (noun) - critical observation, examination, inspection. जांच या सूक्ष्म निरीक्षण
16. **Compel** (verb) - force, oblige, coerce, drive. मजबूर होना
17. **Compliance** (noun) - adherence, obedience, conformity to rules. अनुपालन
18. **Necessity** (noun) - requirement, essentiality, need. आवश्यकता
19. **Assess** (verb) - evaluate, judge, calculate, analyze. आकलन करना
20. **Core** (adjective) - essential, central, fundamental, primary. मूल या मुख्य
21. **Infrastructure** (noun) - basic physical structures (buildings, roads, systems). बुनियादी ढांचा
22. **Mount** (verb) - organize, stage, set up, launch. (हमला) करना या व्यवस्थित करना
23. **Compromise** (verb) - expose to danger, weaken, endanger. खतरे में डालना या कमजोर करना
24. **Host** (verb) - store, provide space for, maintain. (डेटा) रखना या होस्ट करना
25. **Suspicious** (adjective) - questionable, doubtful, fishy, wary. संदिग्ध
26. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, as a result of. के बाद
27. **Widespread** (adjective) - extensive, common, universal, pervasive. व्यापक
28. **Layout** (noun) - design, arrangement, plan, structure. खाका या विन्यास

29. **Alleged** (adjective) - supposed, claimed, asserted. कथित
30. **Actors** (noun) - participants, agents, players. (हमलावर) समूह या एजेंट
31. **Incentives** (noun) - motives, motivations, inducements, reasons. प्रोत्साहन या उद्देश्य
32. **Merit** (verb) - deserve, warrant, justify, earn. योग्य होना
33. **Pertain to** (phrasal verb) - to relate to, belong to. से संबंधित होना
34. **Nuclear island** (noun) - the part of a nuclear plant housing the reactor and critical systems. परमाणु संयंत्र का केंद्रीय भाग (रिएक्टर आदि)
35. **So-called** (adjective) - commonly named, alleged, supposed. तथाकथित
36. **Brook** (verb) - tolerate, endure, allow, bear. बर्दाश्त करना
37. **Milieu** (noun) - environment, setting, context, atmosphere. परिवेश या माहौल
38. **Position** (verb) - place, set, locate. स्थापित करना या दिखाना
39. **Centrepiece** (noun) - focal point, main feature, highlight, core element. मुख्य केंद्र बिंदु
40. **Findings** (noun) - results, conclusions, discoveries. निष्कर्ष
41. **Authenticity** (noun) - genuineness, validity, reliability, truthfulness. प्रमाणिकता
42. **Exfiltrate** (verb) - stolen (data), transferred data secretly. गुप्त रूप से (डेटा) निकालना
43. **Credentials** (noun) - login details, identification, documents, qualifications. साख या लॉगिन जानकारी
44. **Expose** (verb) - revealed, uncovered, left vulnerable. उजागर करना
45. **Proactive** (adjective) - forward-looking, taking initiative, anticipatory. सक्रिय
46. **Non-negotiable** (adjective) - mandatory, unchangeable, essential, absolute. गैर-समझौता योग्य (अपरिवर्तनीय)

Summary of the Editorial

1. A **ransomware attack** targeted a contractor associated with the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**, raising concerns about cybersecurity at critical infrastructure.
2. Although officials stated that the **plant's operational reactor systems were not compromised**, the incident exposed weaknesses in cybersecurity management.
3. This is **not the first cyber incident** at Kudankulam; in **2019**, malware was detected on the plant's administrative network.
4. The editorial argues that **India's cyber breach disclosure system lacks transparency**, with organisations often delaying or avoiding public disclosure.
5. Many organisations fear that admitting a cyberattack could damage **public trust, business contracts, stock prices, and attract regulatory scrutiny**.
6. Cybersecurity is often treated merely as a **compliance requirement** rather than a critical operational necessity, leading to inadequate preparedness.
7. Poor incident response capabilities make it difficult to determine **what data has been compromised** during the early stages of an attack.
8. The attack reportedly targeted systems belonging to **Reliance Infrastructure**, an engineering contractor working on **Units 3 and 4** of the Kudankulam project.
9. The compromised data were hosted by **Yotta Data Services**, which detected suspicious activity on **May 29**.
10. According to the open-source intelligence platform **RansomLook**, stolen data began appearing on the **World Leaks** ransomware site on **June 11**, but **NPCIL** issued an official clarification only on **July 15**.
11. Around **14.3 GB of data** were reportedly leaked, including **ventilation layouts, floor plans, supplier and vendor information, and insurance documents**.
12. Although NPCIL stated that the leaked files relate only to **non-nuclear infrastructure** outside the plant's nuclear island, such information could still assist hostile actors in planning future attacks.
13. The editorial notes that **India is the world's third-most breached country** and has previously experienced major cyberattacks on institutions such as **AIIMS Delhi, airlines, and State government portals**.
14. Since Kudankulam is a key project in **India's nuclear power expansion plans**, protecting its digital infrastructure is of national strategic importance.
15. The editorial concludes that **CERT-In and NPCIL** should clearly disclose the authenticity of the leaked files, determine whether data were stolen or credentials exposed, and adopt **better cybersecurity practices, timely communication, and greater transparency**, as these are essential for safeguarding critical infrastructure.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. In the sentence, "The new incident extends the same theme" (first paragraph), what two developments is the author referring to? [Editorial page]
 - A. Malicious actors targeting the facility's administrative servers and compromising the central operational reactor network.
 - B. A cyber breach discovered at a nuclear power facility in 2019 and a ransomware compromise affecting an engineering contractor in 2026.
 - C. The systemic lack of mature data response capabilities and the total layout leakage of a highly classified nuclear island.
 - D. Regulatory agencies compelling public disclosures and independent intelligence groups actively authenticating leaked contractor files.
2. Which one of the following statements provides a gist of this passage?
 - A. Recurring cyber breaches at peripheral nuclear networks highlight dangerous structural leaks within India's classified military operations.
 - B. India's critical infrastructure remains secure from ransomware due to proactive corporate governance and strict compliance frameworks.
 - C. Persistent hacking by foreign intelligence groups has crippled India's domestic energy ambitions and state-run portal networks.
 - D. Peripheral cyber breaches at a key nuclear project expose structural opacity and delayed disclosures in India's broader cybersecurity framework.
3. The passage uses the phrase 'intelligence preparation activities' because adversarial groups have adopted a measure of:
 - A. authenticating compromised corporate contractor credentials.
 - B. infiltrating core operational reactor command interfaces.
 - C. mapping peripheral infrastructure blueprints to identify future targets.
 - D. manipulating regulatory public relations to delay breach disclosures.
4. According to the passage, the Kudankulam facility has been given a prominent positioning by the government because it has:
 - A. successfully developed mature incident response capabilities against foreign ransomware.
 - B. acted as the central showcase for India's clean energy expansion goals.
 - C. maintained operational transparency during recent structural breaches.
 - D. isolated its peripheral contractor network from external cybersecurity threats.
5. Which of the following sentences from the passage contains a present perfect tense verb?
 - A. In 2019, malware was found on the same facility's administrative network, but the NPCIL maintained that the operational reactor network was unaffected.
 - B. Affected organisations tend to believe admitting a breach will damage public confidence, share prices, contracts, and invite regulatory scrutiny.
 - C. According to public information, the facility's core infrastructure is unaffected; instead, a group called 'World Leaks' mounted a ransomware attack compromising systems.
 - D. India is the third-most breached country and has already brooked similar attacks against AIIMS Delhi, airlines, and State government portals.
6. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

- P. When a person points out our flaws and scolds us, he is actually doing what we should do when we surrender.
Q. He is, in fact, acting like our representative.
R. When we surrender to Lord Narayana, we should admit that we have faults.
S. We must acknowledge our mistakes and our sins.
A. S-P-R-Q
B. P-R-Q-S
C. R-P-Q-S
D. R-S-P-Q
7. **Choose the option that is similar in meaning to the highlighted word in the given sentence:**
Her constant nagging irritated her husband.
A. aggravated
B. annoyed
C. alleviated
D. worsened
8. **Choose the option that best describes the meaning of the underlined word in the given sentence:**
The government made the announcement, but it was an eyewash for the public.
A. a lotion for the eyes
B. blinding
C. rubbish
D. permanent solution
9. **Choose the best option that describes the underlined word in its opposite sense in the given sentence:**
If you persevere, you will eventually succeed.
A. discontinue
B. fail
C. damage
D. unclaim
10. **Choose the option which is opposite in meaning to the underlined word.**
The hermit said "It is an auspicious day for new beginnings."
A. propitious
B. fortunate
C. ominous
D. opportune
11. **Choose the best one-word substitute for:**
Capable of decaying through the action of living organisms
A. Biodegradable
B. Combustible
C. Recycle agents
D. Sustainable
12. **Choose the correct option to give a one-word substitution for the sentence given.**
The art or passion of growing plants and trees.
A. Pisciculture

- B. Horticulture
C. Cultural identity
D. Sericulture
13. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**
Tom asked his friend, a person who does not believe in God called?
A. Agnostic
B. Atheist
C. Theist
D. Deist
14. **The sentence below has errors in two parts which are highlighted in bold. Identify the same.**
He claimed it was not clear through (A) when the workers would be sent back (B), as he were waiting (C) for the government to arrange for transport (D).
A. BA
B. CA
C. AD
D. BD
15. **Choose the best option to fill in the blank.**
Both Amla and Kavita _____ hard for their Bank PO exams scheduled next month.
A. study
B. have been studying
C. has been studying
D. is studying
16. **Choose the sentence with the wrong homonym.**
A. Please check the brake before driving.
B. She gave me a peace of cake.
C. They all want peace in the world.
D. The vase is a beautiful piece of art.
17. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select "No substitution."**
They walked in the beach, enjoying the sunset.
A. along the beach
B. through the beach
C. below the beach
D. No substitution
18. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct passive voice of the following sentence.**
The grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation.
A. Her seclusion with resignation has been accepted by the grandmother.
B. Her seclusion were accepted by the grandmother with resignation.
C. The grandmother's seclusion was accepted with resignation.
D. Her seclusion was accepted by the grandmother with resignation.
19. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. It is not even a necessary evil, a consolation prize that offers scant to no consolation.

2. Just days after suffering heartbreaking losses to Spain and Argentina respectively, expecting France and England to put on a show is asking for a little too much.
 3. One of them, the third-place playoff, is a match no team wants to feature in.
 4. It feels like it was only the other night that co-hosts Mexico and South Africa kicked off the 23rd edition of the FIFA World Cup, and here we are with only two of the gargantuan 104 matches left to play in the tournament.
- A. 3-1-4-2
 - B. 4-1-3-2
 - C. 4-3-1-2
 - D. 3-4-2-1

20. **Choose the most suitable preposition from the given options to fill in the blank in the following sentence:**

The minister was exempted _____ paying the toll due to his official status.

- A. for
- B. to
- C. from
- D. with

Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

The Bhagavad Gita is a dialogue between two ambitious, high-performing individuals at the critical moment of their careers. One is a soldier who wants to _____ A _____ (reclaim) everything he lost, the other is his adviser. The setting is the battlefield but the principles apply just as directly in a boardroom, a start-up or any place where the stakes are high, said Swami Mitranandaji.

Chapter XV, Verse 5 gives us Krishna's check list for people who want to win without being _____ B _____ by the win. Krishna is not asking Arjuna to quit and become an ascetic. He is giving him the operating system for clarity under pressure. First, the words nirmana moha ask you to be free from pride and illusion. In business, that means your title, your last success or your ego cannot drive the decision. Check the data, not your image.

Next, the words jita sanga dosha is a call to conquer attachment. Be committed to the mission, not addicted to one outcome, one client or one quarter's result. Krishna points out that attachment _____ C _____ judgment. Third, the words adhyatma-nitya means stay anchored in purpose. Understand why you are doing this, beyond money or applause. That 'why' keeps you steady when markets crash or deals fall _____ D _____.

Fourth, the words vinivritta-kamah ask you to be free from compulsive craving. Ambition is fuel. Craving is noise. Leaders with craving chase every shiny object and burn out teams. Fifth, dvandvair vimuktah sukha-dukha-samjnaih: asks you to rise above the pairs of opposites — success and failure, praise and criticism. If a win makes you _____ E _____ (arrogant) and a loss makes you collapse, you are not leading. You are reacting.

21. **Choose the most appropriate meaning of the word in (A): (reclaim).**

- A. recover
- B. forfeit
- C. abandon
- D. surrender

22. **Fill in blank (B) with the correct past participle form of the verb to complete the passive voice construction.**
- A. destroy
 - B. destroying
 - C. destroyed
 - D. destroys
23. **Fill in blank (C) with the correct present tense verb to maintain subject-verb agreement.**
- A. cloud
 - B. clouds
 - C. clouded
 - D. clouding
24. **Fill in blank (D) with the correct adverb/preposition to complete the phrasal verb meaning "to break down or fail."**
- A. through
 - B. down
 - C. apart
 - D. out
25. **Choose the antonym of the word in (E): (arrogant).**
- A. Conceited
 - B. Humble
 - C. Haughty
 - D. Boastful

Answers

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

Explanations

1. B) **A cyber breach discovered at a nuclear power facility in 2019 and a ransomware compromise affecting an engineering contractor in 2026.**
 (The Current Event): The author starts by talking about a brand-new cyberattack: "The ransomware attack against a contractor involved in the Kudankulam nuclear power project is concerning..." (The Past Event): In the very next sentence, the author looks back at history to show this isn't the first time this has happened: "In 2019, malware was found on the same facility's administrative network..." Right after mentioning these two specific events, the author states: "The new incident extends the same theme." By saying the new incident "extends the same theme," the author is drawing a parallel between these two security breaches occurring at or involving the same critical infrastructure facility.
 (a): The passage states that in 2019, the NPCIL maintained the "operational reactor network was unaffected," so this choice incorrectly suggests the central network was compromised.
 (c): While the author mentions a lack of response capabilities, this is a systemic cause or characteristic of the breaches, not the "two developments" being linked by the phrase "extends the same theme."
 (d): This describes events that happened after or during the disclosure process, not the breaches themselves.
2. D) **Peripheral cyber breaches at a key nuclear project expose structural opacity and delayed disclosures in India's broader cybersecurity framework.**
 The passage opens and closes with the security breaches at the Kudankulam project (a peripheral contractor compromise following a 2019 administrative breach). However, the core thematic focus of the passage expands from this specific incident to critique a systemic national problem: India's "inconsistent and often plainly opaque" breach disclosure regime, the tendency of firms to hide hacks to protect share prices, a lack of technical incident response readiness, and delayed public statements (like the NPCIL waiting over a month to clarify). Option (c) is the only option that accurately fuses both the specific event and the systemic issue.
 (a) mentions "military operations," which is factually incorrect; the passage is about a civil nuclear power plant.
 (b) is the opposite of what the author says; the author explicitly criticizes the lack of mature response and the "compliance-only" culture.
 (c) uses the word "crippled." The author says the attacks are concerning and dangerous, but they never claim India's nuclear ambitions have been "crippled" or destroyed.
3. C) **mapping peripheral infrastructure blueprints to identify future targets.**
 The passage says: "The NPCIL has said that the files only pertain to infrastructure beyond the facility's nuclear island. However, such information can still serve so-called intelligence preparation activities." The author is explaining that even "non-core" data—like ventilation layouts and floor plans—acts as a roadmap. "Intelligence preparation" here means reconnaissance: gathering blueprints and facility details now to identify vulnerabilities and

plan more effective, targeted attacks in the future. (c) is correct because it identifies that the stolen blueprints are being used to "map" the facility for future exploitation.

(a) The passage says the files are blueprints and floor plans. You don't use a floor plan to "authenticate a credential."

(b) The passage explicitly says the "core infrastructure is unaffected." The attackers haven't done this yet; that is exactly what the future attack (which they are currently preparing for) might try to do.

(d) The hackers did not delay the disclosure; the government (NPCIL) and the corporations delayed the disclosure. "Intelligence preparation" is a technical/tactical term, not a public relations term.

4. B) **acted as the central showcase for India's clean energy expansion goals.**

The passage states: "In this milieu, the government has positioned Kudankulam as the centrepiece of India's nuclear power ambitions." The term "centrepiece" is a synonym for "central showcase," and "nuclear power ambitions" aligns with the country's broader clean/strategic energy expansion goals.

(a): The passage explicitly states that organizations, in general, often "lack mature incident response capabilities," contradicting this.

(c): The passage argues the exact opposite, calling India's disclosure regime "inconsistent and often plainly opaque" and noting that NPCIL waited over a month to clarify the breach.

(d): The passage confirms the contractor network was not successfully isolated, as it was successfully targeted by a ransomware attack.

5. D) **India is the third-most breached country and has already brooked similar attacks against AIIMS Delhi, airlines, and State government portals.**

The present perfect tense is formed using has/have + the past participle form of the verb (used to describe an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past or began in the past and continues to the present). In sentence (d), the phrase "has already brooked" represents the present perfect tense (has + past participle brooked).

(a): Uses "was found" and "maintained," which are in the simple past tense.

(b): Uses "tend," which is in the simple present tense.

(c): Uses "mounted," which is in the simple past tense.

6. D) **R-S-P-Q**

Explanation:

- Sentence R paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह बिना किसी missing reference के Lord Narayana के सामने surrender करने और faults (गलतियों) को मानने के main topic को पूरी तरह से introduce करता है।
- Sentence S Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence R में बताई गई "faults" को expand करते हुए स्पष्ट करता है कि हमें अपनी mistakes और sins को गहराई से स्वीकार करना चाहिए।
- Sentence P Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह एक नया scenario सामने लाता है जहाँ कोई दूसरा व्यक्ति हमारी कमियां निकालता है, और इसे Sentence R के "surrender" वाले concept के साथ सीधा link करता है।
- Sentence Q Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "He" सीधे तौर पर Sentence P में बताए गए "person" को point करता है, और स्पष्ट करता है कि वह असल में हमारे representative (प्रतिनिधि) की तरह काम कर रहा है।

- Sentence R starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the overarching main topic of surrendering to Lord Narayana and admitting our faults without any dangling references.
 - Sentence S follows Sentence R because it acts as a logical progression, expanding directly on the concept of admitting "faults" by specifying that we must actively acknowledge our mistakes and sins.
 - Sentence P follows Sentence S because it connects the internal act of surrender to an external scenario, explaining that when a person scolds us, they are actually performing the exact act of "surrender" established in Sentence R.
 - Sentence Q concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The pronoun "He" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "person" introduced in Sentence P, concluding the thought by stating they act as our representative.
7. B) **Irritated** (verb) – Annoyed, bothered, exasperated, vexed चिढ़ाया / परेशान किया
 Synonym: **Annoyed** (verb/adjective) – Irritated, troubled, bothered, upset परेशान / चिढ़ा हुआ
- **Aggravated** (verb/adjective) – Made worse, intensified, exacerbated और खराब किया / क्रोधित किया
 - **Alleviated** (verb) – Relieved, reduced, eased कम किया / राहत दी
 - **Worsened** (verb) – Became worse, deteriorated बिगड़ गया
8. C) **Rubbish** (noun) – something intended to deceive people; a sham or pretence दिखावा / धोखा / जनता को भ्रमित करने वाली बात
9. A) **Persevere** (verb) – Persist, continue, endure, keep trying दृढ़ रहना / लगातार प्रयास करना
 Antonym: **Discontinue** (verb) – Stop, cease, give up, abandon बंद कर देना / छोड़ देना
- **Fail** (verb) – Be unsuccessful, fall short असफल होना
 - **Damage** (verb) – Harm, spoil, impair नुकसान पहुँचाना
 - **Unclaim** (verb) – Renounce a claim, disclaim दावा छोड़ना
10. C) **Auspicious** (adjective) – Favorable, fortunate, propitious, promising शुभ / मंगलकारी
 Antonym: **Ominous** (adjective) – Unfavorable, threatening, inauspicious, foreboding अशुभ / अनिष्टसूचक
- **Propitious** (adjective) – Favorable, auspicious, advantageous अनुकूल / शुभ
 - **Fortunate** (adjective) – Lucky, blessed, favorable भाग्यशाली
 - **Opportune** (adjective) – Timely, suitable, favorable उपयुक्त / समयोचित
11. A) **Biodegradable** (adjective) – capable of being decomposed naturally by living organisms जैविक रूप से अपघटित होने योग्य
- **Combustible** (adjective) – capable of catching fire easily ज्वलनशील
 - **Recycle agents** (noun) – materials or agents involved in recycling पुनर्चक्रण से संबंधित पदार्थ
 - **Sustainable** (adjective) – able to be maintained without harming the environment टिकाऊ / पर्यावरण-अनुकूल
12. B) **Horticulture** (noun) – the art and science of growing plants, flowers, fruits, and trees बागवानी / उद्यानिकी
- **Pisciculture** (noun) – the breeding and rearing of fish मत्स्य पालन

- **Cultural identity** (noun) – the identity of a group based on culture सांस्कृतिक पहचान
 - **Sericulture** (noun) – the rearing of silkworms for silk production रेशम कीट पालन
13. B) **Atheist** (noun) – a person who does not believe in the existence of God नास्तिक
- **Agnostic** (noun) – a person who believes that the existence of God is unknown or cannot be known अज्ञेयवादी
 - **Theist** (noun) – a person who believes in the existence of God आस्तिक
 - **Deist** (noun) – a person who believes in a creator God who does not intervene in the universe ईश्वरवादी (जो मानता है कि ईश्वर ने सृष्टि बनाई, पर उसमें हस्तक्षेप नहीं करता)
14. B) **Part (A) और Part (C) में त्रुटि है।**
- (A) में 'clear through' के बदले 'clear as to' या केवल 'clear' होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'clear through' का प्रयोग इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- (C) में 'he were waiting' के बदले '**he was waiting**' होगा क्योंकि Subject 'he' Singular है, इसलिए Past Continuous Tense में 'was' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— He was waiting for the bus.
- There are errors in parts (A) and (C).
- In (A), 'clear through' is incorrect in this context; it should be 'clear as to' or simply 'clear'.
- In (C), 'he were waiting' should be replaced with 'he was waiting' because the Subject 'he' is singular, and Past Continuous Tense requires 'was'; Like — He was waiting for the bus.
15. B) **Have been studying** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence का subject "Both Amla and Kavita" है, जो plural subject (दो व्यक्तियों) को दर्शाता है। साथ ही, "scheduled next month" से पता चलता है कि परीक्षा निकट भविष्य में है और तैयारी कुछ समय से लगातार चल रही है। इसलिए Present Perfect Continuous Tense (have been studying) सबसे उपयुक्त होगा।
- 'Have been studying' should be used because the subject "Both Amla and Kavita" is plural. Moreover, the phrase "scheduled next month" indicates that the preparation has been going on continuously for some time and is still in progress. Therefore, the Present Perfect Continuous Tense (have been studying) is the most appropriate choice.
16. B) **She gave me a peace of cake.**
- यहाँ peace (शांति) का प्रयोग गलत है।
- वाक्य में piece of cake होना चाहिए, जहाँ piece का अर्थ टुकड़ा होता है।
- इसलिए option 2 में homonym का गलत प्रयोग हुआ है।
- Peace means freedom from conflict, whereas piece means a part or portion of something.
- The correct phrase is "a piece of cake", not "a peace of cake".
- Hence, option 2 is the incorrect use of the homonym.
17. A) in the beach' के बदले '**along the beach**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि समुद्र तट के किनारे चलते हुए जाने के लिए Preposition 'along' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। 'In the beach' grammatically incorrect है; जैसे— We walked along the riverbank in the evening.
- 'along the beach' will be used instead of 'in the beach' because the Preposition 'along' is used when moving beside or following the length of something such as a beach. 'In the beach' is grammatically incorrect; Like — We walked along the riverbank in the evening.
18. D) Her seclusion was accepted by the grandmother with resignation.
- Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय Active sentence का Object, Passive sentence का Subject बन जाता है। यहाँ "her seclusion" Object है, जो Passive में Subject बन गया। Verb "accepted"

Simple Past tense में है, इसलिए Passive Voice में यह “was accepted” बनेगा। Phrase “with resignation” यथावत रहेगा और doer “the grandmother” को “by the grandmother” के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाएगा। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — “Her seclusion was accepted by the grandmother with resignation.”

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. Here, “her seclusion” is the object, which becomes the subject in Passive Voice. The verb “accepted” is in the Simple Past tense, so in Passive Voice it changes into “was accepted.” The phrase “with resignation” remains unchanged, and the doer “the grandmother” is used as “by the grandmother.” Therefore, the correct sentence is — “Her seclusion was accepted by the grandmother with resignation.”

19. C) 4-3-1-2

Explanation:

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह बिना किसी missing reference के FIFA World Cup के 23rd edition के समाप्त होने और केवल “two matches” बचे होने के main context को independently introduce करता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase “One of them” सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में बचे हुए “two matches” को point करता है, और बताता है कि उनमें से एक third-place playoff है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun “It” सीधे तौर पर Sentence 3 में introduce किए गए “third-place playoff” को refer करता है, और इसे एक बेकार consolation prize बताता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह Sentence 1 की बात को expand करते हुए France और England का specific example देता है कि हारी हुई टीमों से इस match में बेहतरीन खेल की उम्मीद करना बहुत ज्यादा है।
- Sentence 4 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the overarching situation of the 23rd FIFA World Cup coming to an end with only “two matches” left to play.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase “One of them” acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the remaining “two matches” mentioned in Sentence 4 to introduce the third-place playoff.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because the pronoun “It” serves as a direct logical link, referring exactly to the “third-place playoff” established in Sentence 3 to describe it as a prize offering no real consolation.
- Sentence 2 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, building on the futility established in Sentence 1 by providing the specific real-world example of France and England, concluding that it is too much to expect a great show from recently heartbroken teams.

20. C) ‘From’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “exempted from” एक निश्चित (fixed) prepositional combination है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी दायित्व, नियम या भुगतान से मुक्त किया जाना। Sentence में मंत्री को उसके आधिकारिक पद के कारण टोल भुगतान से छूट दी गई थी, इसलिए “from paying the toll” सबसे उपयुक्त होगा।

- 'From' should be used because "exempted from" is a standard prepositional combination meaning freed from an obligation, duty, rule, or payment. In this sentence, the minister was relieved of the requirement to pay the toll due to his official status. Therefore, "from paying the toll" is the most appropriate expression.

21. A) **recover**

Recover is used because it is a direct synonym for "reclaim", meaning to get back something that was lost. The soldier wants to get back his lost kingdom. Forfeit, Abandon, and Surrender all mean to give up or lose something, which makes them the exact opposite words (antonyms).

- यहाँ Recover का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह "reclaim" का direct synonym है, जिसका meaning खोई हुई चीज़ को वापस पाना होता है। Forfeit, Abandon, और Surrender का meaning हार मान लेना या छोड़ देना होता है, जो इसके opposite words (antonyms) हैं।

22. C) **destroyed**

Destroyed is used because the sentence requires a past participle verb to complete the passive voice structure "being + past participle" (without being destroyed). Destroy and Destroys are active present tense verbs. Destroying is a continuous "-ing" form which does not fit the passive voice rule here.

- यहाँ Destroyed का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence में "being" के बाद passive voice structure को पूरा करने के लिए past participle verb की ज़रूरत है। Destroy और Destroys present tense active verbs हैं। Destroying continuous "-ing" form है, जो इस passive voice rule में fit नहीं बैठता।

23. B) **clouds**

Clouds is used because the subject "attachment" is a singular noun, which requires a singular present tense verb ending in 's' (subject-verb agreement). It means to make a judgment unclear or confused. Cloud is a plural verb. Clouded is past tense, which breaks the present tense flow. Clouding needs a helping verb like "is".

- यहाँ Clouds का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "attachment" singular है, जिसके साथ present tense में 's' वाली singular verb आनी चाहिए (subject-verb agreement)। Cloud plural verb है। Clouded past tense है, जो sentence के flow को तोड़ता है। Clouding के साथ helping verb की ज़रूरत होती है।

24. A) **through**

Through is used because "fall through" is the exact standard phrasal verb meaning a plan, arrangement, or deal fails to happen or be completed. Down is used for physically dropping to the ground. Apart means breaking into pieces physically, or a relationship ending. Out means to have an argument (fall out).

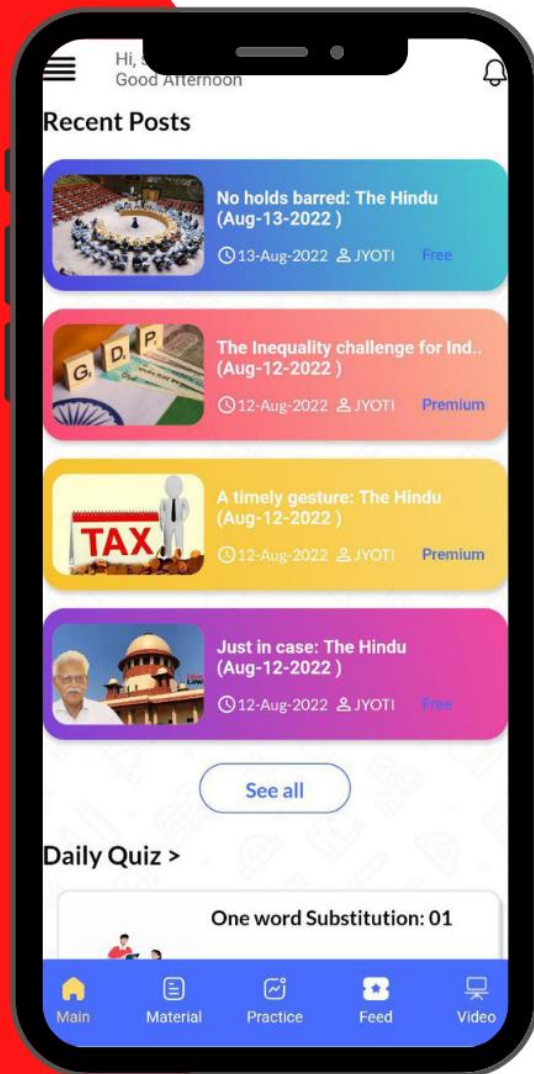
- यहाँ Through का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि "fall through" एक exact standard phrasal verb है जिसका meaning किसी plan या deal का fail हो जाना (पूरा न हो पाना) होता है। Down का meaning physically नीचे गिरना होता है। Apart का meaning टुकड़ों में टूटना या रिश्तों का टूटना होता है। Out का meaning बहस या झगड़ा होना (fall out) होता है।

25. B) **Humble**

Humble is used because it is the perfect antonym (opposite word) for "arrogant". Arrogant means having too much pride, while humble means showing a modest estimate of one's own

importance. Conceited, Haughty, and Boastful are all direct synonyms for arrogant, meaning they describe someone who is overly proud or shows off.

- यहाँ Humble का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह "arrogant" (घमंडी) का perfect antonym (opposite word) है। Humble का meaning विनम्र होना है। Conceited, Haughty, और Boastful सभी arrogant के synonyms हैं, जिनका meaning घमंडी या शेखी बघारने वाला होता है।



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