

Losing forest for trees: On the CAG's **audit** of the Green India Mission

India is counting trees when it should be **restoring** forests

A performance **audit** by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of the Green India Mission (GIM) **has** found that a scheme **conceived** to **heal** India's forests had, across a **decade**, achieved almost nothing it **set out** to do. Instead of improving forest quality over 1.4 million hectares, the mission only managed 0.11 million — not even a tenth of the target. On expanding forest cover, the mission **barely scraped** together four per cent. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) channels money collected from industry for **diverting** forest land into **afforestation**, while the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, now rebranded as VB-G RAM G funds rural wage labour that can be used for plantation and land-restoration works, but GIM's intended **convergence with** these schemes never **materialised**. The mission was one of the eight **pillars** of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, unveiled in 2008, and the instrument through which India promised the Paris Agreement an additional **carbon sink** of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes by 2030. Its **animating** idea was **ecological** — biodiversity, water, **sequestration**, and the revival of **habitat**. GIM however seems to be **on the back burner** and, for all practical purposes, replaced by a tree plantation **drive** called 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (A Tree in the Name of Mother)'. Launched in 2024, the government reports planting 140 crore **saplings so far**, but the latest forest data **expose** the **gulf** between a tree and a forest. The India **State** of Forest Report 2023 **records** a gain of 1,445 square kilometres in green cover but only 156 sq km of it is true forest. The rest, 1,289 sq km, is 'tree cover outside recorded forests.' Within the recorded forests, **dense canopy** is thinning into **scrub**. Ergo, India is planting more and foresting less.

Few examples **encapsulate** this as much as the controversy over the Aravallis. **Arguably** the country's most **degraded** range — its hillocks **guarried away**, its **native** growth **overrun** by the **invasive** 'vilayati kikar' (*Prosopis juliflora*) — it is now to be **rescued** by a 'Green Wall' of fresh planting. But these **arboreal conscripts** cannot undo the damage from years of mining, **halt encroachment**, or **summon** back an **ecosystem** that took **millennia** to form. **Restoration** is not **landscaping**. The CAG's instrument is **accountancy**: it can count hectares and rupees, not the worth of a living forest; and its **assessment** cannot always capture the practical challenges of implementing missions. However, its **verdict** still lands. A **mission** to restore India's forests **has** been allowed to **wither** while the state **busies** itself counting trees.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Audit** (noun) - inspection, examination, check, review, evaluation लेखापरीक्षा
2. **Restore** (verb) - rehabilitate, rejuvenate, repair, revive, renew पुनर्स्थापित करना
3. **Conceive** (verb) - design, formulate, plan, create, devise कल्पना करना
4. **Heal** (verb) - cure, mend, repair, remedy, restore ठीक करना
5. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
6. **Set out** (phrasal verb) - to start a journey, begin a task with a clear goal, arrange things in order, or explain an idea clearly in writing or speech उद्देश्य रखना
7. **Barely** (adverb) - hardly, scarcely, marginally, infrequently, narrowly मुश्किल से
8. **Scrape** (verb) - manage, accumulate, gather, collect, salvage बमुश्किल जुटाया
9. **Divert** (verb) - deflect, redirect, turn aside, shift, convert मोड़ना
10. **Afforestation** (noun) - the planting of trees on land that has not been forested before. वनरोपण
11. **Convergence** (with) (noun) - when two or more things move toward the same point, come together, or grow more and more alike के साथ अभिसरण
12. **Materialise** (verb) - happen, occur, actualize, take shape साकार होना
13. **Pillars** (noun) - foundations, supports, bases, cornerstones, bulwarks स्तंभ
14. **Carbon sink** (noun) - an area of forest that is large enough to absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere and therefore to reduce the effect of Global warming कार्बन सिंक
15. **Animating** (adjective) - inspiring, motivating, energizing, stimulating, driving प्रेरक
16. **Ecological** (adjective) - environmental, green, natural, biophysical, habitat-related पारिस्थितिक
17. **Sequestration** (noun) - capture, isolation, absorption, storage, retention पृथक्करण
18. **Habitat** (noun) - environment, natural home, ecosystem, surroundings, territory आवास
19. **On the back burner** (idiom) - to give something a lower priority, postpone it, or set it aside temporarily because other matters are more urgent ठंडे बस्ते में डालना
20. **Drive** (noun) - campaign, movement, push, crusade, initiative अभियान
21. **Saplings** (noun) - young trees पौधे
22. **So far** (phrase) - thus far, up to now अब तक
23. **Expose** (verb) - reveal, disclose, uncover, lay bare, exhibit उजागर करना
24. **Gulf** (noun) - chasm, gap, abyss, divide, distance खाई
25. **Dense** (adjective) - thick, heavy, compact, impenetrable, close घना

26. **Canopy** (noun) - overhead cover, treetop layer आवरण
27. **Scrub** (noun) - brushwood, bushes, undergrowth, thicket, shrubbery झाड़ियाँ
28. **Encapsulate** (verb) - summarize, embody, epitomize, comprehend, sum up संक्षेप में प्रस्तुत करना
29. **Arguably** (adverb) - conceivably, debatably, defensibly, possibly, maintainably संभवतः
30. **Degraded** (adjective) - deteriorated, damaged, impaired, ruined, depleted निम्नीकृत
31. **Quarry** (away) (verb) - to remove or cut away stone, rock, or other material from the ground. उत्खनन करना
32. **Native** (adjective) - indigenous, local, domestic, original, endemic मूल
33. **Overrun** (verb) - invaded, overspread, infested, swarmed, occupied भर जाना
34. **Invasive** (adjective) - encroaching, intrusive, spreading, aggressive, alien आक्रामक
35. **Rescue** (verb) - save, deliver, liberate, redeem, salvage बचाया गया
36. **Arboreal** (adjective) - tree-dwelling, woody, forest, sylvan कीय
37. **Conscripts** (noun) - recruits, draftees, levies, inductees, enlisted men अनिवार्य सैनिक
38. **Halt** (verb) - stop, cease, arrest, pause, check रोकना
39. **Encroachment** (noun) - intrusion, trespass, invasion, infringement, overlap अतिक्रमण
40. **Summon** (verb) - conjure, evoke, call forth, invoke, muster आह्वान करना
41. **Ecosystem** (noun) - a community of living organisms and their physical environment interacting with each other. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
42. **Millennia** (noun) - thousands of years सहस्राब्दी
43. **Restoration** (noun) - rehabilitation, repair, renewal, revival, recovery पुनरुद्धार
44. **Landscape** (verb) - decorate, design, format, shape, beautify परिदृश्य बनाना
45. **Accountancy** (noun) - bookkeeping, accounting, auditing, financial calculation, computation लेखांकन
46. **Assessment** (noun) - evaluation, appraisal, estimation, judgment, analysis आकलन
47. **Verdict** (noun) - judgment, decision, ruling, finding, conclusion फैसला
48. **Wither** (verb) - fade, shrivel, atrophy, languish, decay मुरझाना
49. **Busy** (verb) - occupy, engage, employ, absorb, involve व्यस्त रखना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **CAG performance audit** reveals that the **Green India Mission (GIM)** has failed to achieve most of its original forest-restoration objectives over the past decade.
2. GIM aimed to improve the quality of forests across **1.4 million hectares**, but it managed to restore only **0.11 million hectares**, far below its target.
3. The mission also achieved only about **4% of its target for expanding forest cover**, showing a major gap between its objectives and actual implementation.
4. GIM was designed to work in **convergence** with schemes such as **CAMPA** and **MGNREGA/VB-G RAM G**, but this intended coordination largely **never materialised**.
5. The mission was one of the **eight pillars of the National Action Plan on Climate Change** launched in 2008.
6. GIM was also important for India's international climate commitment to create an additional **carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes by 2030**.
7. The original vision of GIM was **ecological restoration**, focusing on **biodiversity, water conservation, carbon sequestration and habitat revival**, rather than simply planting trees.
8. However, GIM appears to have been pushed "**on the back burner**", while government attention has shifted towards mass tree-planting initiatives such as '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**'.
9. Although the government reports planting around **140 crore saplings**, the editorial argues that the number of trees planted does not necessarily indicate improvement in the quality of forests.
10. The **India State of Forest Report 2023** recorded an increase of **1,445 sq km in green cover**, but only **156 sq km** of this increase was actually within forests; **1,289 sq km** came from tree cover outside recorded forests.
11. The decline in **dense forest canopy** and its transformation into **scrub** further demonstrates that India may be increasing tree numbers while simultaneously losing forest quality.
12. The **Aravallis** illustrate the limitations of plantation-based approaches because the region has suffered from **mining, encroachment, quarrying and invasive species** such as *Prosopis juliflora*.
13. Simply planting trees through a proposed **Green Wall** cannot recreate an ecosystem that developed naturally over **thousands of years** or reverse decades of environmental degradation.
14. The editorial stresses that **forest restoration is fundamentally different from landscaping**: restoring a forest requires rebuilding ecological systems, biodiversity, habitats and natural processes, not merely increasing tree numbers.
15. Although the CAG primarily measures **money, hectares and implementation**, rather than the complete ecological value of forests, its findings deliver a clear warning: **India is becoming increasingly focused on counting trees instead of restoring forests**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best captures the primary focus of the passage?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Examine the institutional failure to integrate financial resources with the practical objectives of ecological restoration.
 - B. Analyze how the shift toward popular plantation drives undermines the long-term commitments made under global climate pacts
 - C. Evaluate the role of performance audits in exposing the lack of convergence between labor schemes and environmental policy.
 - D. Highlight the widening gap between superficial metrics of green cover and the actual health of India's forest density.
2. **In the context of the passage, the phrase "animating idea" most nearly refers to the:**
 - A. Core vision prioritizing holistic ecological health over the simple pursuit of numerical plantation targets.
 - B. Strategic framework designed to satisfy specific carbon sequestration demands of an international pacts
 - C. Institutional strategy used to merge diverse government funding pools for local land restoration works.
 - D. Evaluative standard used by auditing bodies to calculate the disparity between cover and forest quality.
3. **According to the passage, which activity allows rural residents to earn a financial livelihood?**
 - A. Participating in labor for land-restoration under the rebranded rural schemes.
 - B. Contributing to the plantation drives honoring a specific maternal figure.
 - C. Supervising the industrial funds collected for diverting recorded forest zone.
 - D. Monitoring the carbon sequestration targets outlined by regional climate pacts.
4. **Based on the passage, which of the following is NOT identified as a hurdle or failure in India's forest restoration efforts?**
 - A. The failure of various governmental agencies to synchronize their financial and labor resources.
 - B. The qualitative decline of established wooded areas despite an increase in individual tree counts.
 - C. The inability of the primary ecological mission to meet its predefined spatial and quality goals.
 - D. The lack of scientific expertise to select appropriate species for the specific regional climates.
5. **According to the passage, what primarily accounts for the recent statistical gain in India's total green cover?**
 - A. The expansion of disparate vegetation located beyond official state timber domains.
 - B. The successful restoration of thinning dense canopies within protected territories.
 - C. The functional integration of industrial compensation with rural labor initiatives.
 - D. The achievement of carbon sequestration obligations under international conventions.
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. Among the most harrowing scenes recalled by historians and authors are coaches arriving at Indian and Pakistani railway stations carrying nothing but human remains.

2. Speculation, panic, and overcrowding made them even more vulnerable to attack.
 3. Independence had been announced, but the territorial division between India and Pakistan was not.
 4. Trains packed with Hindu and Sikh refugees headed east, while Muslims fled west—across a boundary whose exact location they did not yet know.
 - A. 4-2-1-3
 - B. 2-1-4-3
 - C. 3-1-2-4
 - D. 3-4-2-1
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. Its website proudly describes the property as a five-star retreat on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, between Chennai and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mahabalipuram.
 2. Nestled within the walls of a 17th-century Dutch fort in Covelong (Kovalam), Tamil Nadu, is a luxury beach hotel.
 3. Three centuries ago, Covelong and Banquibazar were linked as trading settlements of the Ostend Company, also known as the General Imperial India Company, the Austrian Empire's attempt to enter the lucrative trade of the Indian Ocean.
 4. What it doesn't mention is the fort's connection to Banquibazar, now a suburb of Barrackpore in West Bengal.
 - A. 4-2-1-3
 - B. 2-1-4-3
 - C. 1-4-3-2
 - D. 3-2-4-1
8. **Select the antonym of the given word.**
LIBERTY
- A. Deliverance
 - B. Convenience
 - C. Dependence
 - D. Independence
9. **Select one word for the following group of words.**
Open refusal to obey orders
- A. Compliance
 - B. Adherence
 - C. Obedience
 - D. Defiance
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Dead heat
- A. Close contest that ends in a tie
 - B. Strong opposition to one's ideas
 - C. A deadly blast of hot air
 - D. A strong heat wave
11. **Select the synonym of the given word.**
REVERE

- A. Respect
 - B. Condemn
 - C. Enjoy
 - D. Repeat
12. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**
The boy which stole the money was caught by the police.
- A. was caught
 - B. The boy which
 - C. stole the money
 - D. by the police
13. **Select the synonym of the given word.**
PREVENT
- A. Construct
 - B. Allow
 - C. Avert
 - D. Provoke
14. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**
She _____ on paying the bill at the restaurant.
- A. offered
 - B. insisted
 - C. suggested
 - D. requested
15. **Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined segment of the given sentence. If substitution is not required select 'no improvement'.**
The animal resembled with a cat.
- A. resembled
 - B. resembled by
 - C. No improvement
 - D. resembled to
16. **Select the antonym of the given word.**
BROAD
- A. Long
 - B. Narrow
 - C. Large
 - D. Wide
17. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**
The groom stood before the _____ for the wedding ceremony at the church.
- A. atlas
 - B. alter
 - C. attic
 - D. altar
18. **Select one word for the following group of words.**
Morals that govern one's behavior
- A. Intuition

- B. Ethics
C. Attitude
D. Psychology
19. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
A) Eventually, she overcame adversities and achieved success.
B) She engaged herself in 'earn while you learn', finance scheme in her college.
C) She needed financial support to complete her graduation.
D) Rama was a very poor girl.
A. ABCD
B. ADCB
C. DCBA
D. CBDA
20. **In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.**
Saraswati college has maintained its reputation as one of the best college in the country.
A. Saraswati college has maintained
B. its reputation as
C. in the country
D. one of the best college

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

For decades, India's school education policy (1) _____ a simple objective: to bring a school within reach of every child. The neighborhood school became an instrument of social justice, particularly for poor and rural families. (2) _____, many such schools have limited infrastructure and serve very few students or operate with a single teacher.

With education in the Concurrent List, States have (3) _____ varying approaches to low-enrolment schools. This presents a (4) _____: for a village, losing its school can mean longer travel, weaker community participation, and reduced neighborhood access; yet a very small or single-teacher school may struggle to provide subject-specific teaching, peer learning, sports, laboratories, and co-curricular activities. (5) _____ can potentially provide a richer, better-resourced learning environment.

The fundamental question is, therefore, not merely how many schools have disappeared, but whether the affected children now have access to better schooling. Is consolidation a misfortune for communities, or a necessary step towards quality and holistic development?

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
A. pursues
B. pursued
C. pursuing
D. pursue
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
A. Moreover
B. Therefore
C. However
D. Similarly

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**

- A. adapted
- B. adopted
- C. adept
- D. admitted

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**

- A. clarity
- B. solution
- C. agreement
- D. dilemma

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5)**

- A. Fragmentation
- B. Isolation
- C. Consolidation
- D. Neglect

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. D) **Highlight the widening gap between superficial metrics of green cover and the actual health of India's forest density.**

The passage repeatedly contrasts tree planting/green-cover figures with the actual quality and density of forests. The clearest evidence is: "The latest forest data expose the gulf between a tree and a forest." It further states: "The India State of Forest Report 2023 records a gain of 1,445 square kilometres in green cover but only 156 sq km of it is true forest." And the passage concludes: "India is planting more and foresting less." Thus, the central focus is that impressive-looking plantation and green-cover numbers do not necessarily indicate healthy, dense and ecologically functional forests.

option A: The passage does mention that GIM failed to converge with CAMPA and employment schemes, but this is a supporting issue, not the primary focus.

option B: The passage mentions the shift from GIM toward 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', and it also refers to India's Paris Agreement commitment. However, it does not primarily analyze the effect of plantation drives on global climate commitments.

option C: The CAG audit is important because it provides evidence of GIM's failure, but the passage does not primarily discuss the role or effectiveness of performance audits.

2. A) **Core vision prioritizing holistic ecological health over the simple pursuit of numerical plantation targets.**

The passage states that GIM's "animating idea was ecological — biodiversity, water, sequestration, and the revival of habitat." This directly contrasts with what the mission actually became — a numbers-driven exercise focused on sapling counts (as seen in the closing critique that "India is planting more and foresting less"). The "animating idea," therefore, refers to the foundational, holistic ecological vision behind the mission — not a narrow, quantitative planting target.

option B: The Paris Agreement and the 2.5–3 billion tonne carbon sink are mentioned as an important commitment, but they are not the meaning of "animating idea." The passage explicitly says the idea was broader and ecological.

option C: This refers to the convergence of GIM with CAMPA and employment schemes. That is an implementation mechanism, not the mission's guiding vision.

option D: This describes an auditing/evaluation criterion. The phrase refers to the purpose behind GIM, not how auditors measure its performance.

3. A) **Participating in labor for land-restoration under the rebranded rural schemes.**

The passage states: "the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, now rebranded as VB-G RAM G funds rural wage labour that can be used for plantation and land-restoration works." The key phrase is "rural wage labour", which means rural residents can earn wages by participating in plantation and land-restoration activities. Therefore, (a) is supported by the passage.

option B: The passage says that 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' is a tree-plantation drive, but it does not state that it provides rural residents with a financial livelihood.

option C: CAMPA channels money collected from industry for afforestation. Rural residents are not described as earning a livelihood by supervising these funds.

option D: Carbon sequestration targets relate to India's climate commitments, not to providing employment or wages to rural residents.

4. **D) The lack of scientific expertise to select appropriate species for the specific regional climates.**

The passage does not mention any shortage of scientific expertise or problems with selecting tree species according to regional climates. Therefore, this is NOT identified as a hurdle or failure.

option A: The passage mentions the failure of convergence between GIM, CAMPA and the rural employment scheme: "GIM's intended convergence with these schemes never materialised." So, failure to coordinate resources is identified as a problem.

option B: The passage states: "Within the recorded forests, dense canopy is thinning into scrub." This indicates a decline in forest quality despite an increase in overall tree/green cover.

option C: The CAG audit found that GIM achieved only 0.11 million hectares against the 1.4 million-hectare target for improving forest quality. It also achieved only about four per cent of its forest-cover expansion target. So, failure to meet its predefined goals is explicitly identified.

5. **A) The expansion of disparate vegetation located beyond official state timber domains.**

The passage states: "The India State of Forest Report 2023 records a gain of 1,445 square kilometres in green cover but only 156 sq km of it is true forest." It then explains:

"The rest, 1,289 sq km, is 'tree cover outside recorded forests.'" Thus, most of the increase in green cover came from tree/vegetation cover outside officially recorded forests, rather than from genuine expansion or restoration of forests. Therefore, (a) is correct.

option B: The passage says the opposite: "Within the recorded forests, dense canopy is thinning into scrub." So, established forests are actually experiencing declining quality, not successful restoration.

option C: The passage explicitly says: "GIM's intended convergence with these schemes never materialised." Therefore, integration between industrial compensation funds and rural labour schemes did not account for the increase.

option D: The carbon sequestration commitment under the Paris Agreement is mentioned as a goal of GIM, but the passage does not say that this obligation caused the recent increase in green cover.

6. **D) 3-4-2-1**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे तौर पर स्वतंत्रता (Independence) की घोषणा और भारत-पाकिस्तान के बीच क्षेत्रीय विभाजन (territorial division) के तय न होने का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ पेश करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में बताए गए 'अज्ञात सीमा' के संदर्भ को आगे बढ़ाता है। यह उन शरणार्थियों (refugees) से भरी ट्रेनों का वर्णन करता है जो उस

सीमा (boundary) के पार जा रही थीं जिसके सटीक स्थान (exact location) को वे अभी तक नहीं जानते थे।

- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "them" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में बताई गई ट्रेनों में यात्रा कर रहे शरणार्थियों (Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim refugees) को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि कैसे वे भीड़ और घबराहट के कारण हमले (attack) के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील हो गए थे।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। Sentence 2 में बताए गए 'हमलों' (attacks) के चरम और दुखद परिणाम के रूप में, यह वाक्य उन खौफनाक दृश्यों (harrowing scenes) का वर्णन करता है जहाँ ट्रेनें केवल मानव अवशेष (human remains) लेकर स्टेशनों पर पहुँच रही थीं, जिससे यह पैसेज बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly establishes the overarching historical context—the announcement of Independence alongside the uncertainty of the territorial division—without needing any prior context.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because it directly illustrates the chaotic consequence of the uncertain division mentioned in Sentence 3, describing the trains of refugees moving across a boundary whose "exact location they did not yet know."
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because the pronoun "them" directly refers back to the fleeing refugees packed into the trains described in Sentence 4. It explains how the overcrowding and panic made these specific groups highly vulnerable to attack.
- Sentence 1 comes after Sentence 2 because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. Following the mention of their vulnerability to "attack" in Sentence 2, it details the ultimate, tragic outcome of those attacks—coaches arriving with "nothing but human remains"—wrapping up the sequence logically and powerfully.

7. B) 2-1-4-3

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के तमिलनाडु के कोवलोंग (Covelong) में एक 17वीं सदी के डच किले के अंदर मौजूद लक्जरी बीच होटल का विषय पेश करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "Its" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में बताए गए "luxury beach hotel" को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि इस होटल की वेबसाइट अपनी संपत्ति का वर्णन कैसे करती है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence 1 में बताई गई बातों के विपरीत (contrast) एक नई जानकारी पेश करता है। "What it doesn't mention" (जो यह नहीं बताता) वाक्यांश का "it" उसी होटल की वेबसाइट को refer करता है, और यह किले के 'Banquibazar' से संबंध की बात करता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। यह Sentence 4 में पेश किए गए 'Covelong' और 'Banquibazar' के ऐतिहासिक संबंध को स्पष्ट करता है कि तीन सदी पहले ये दोनों 'Ostend Company' की व्यापारिक बस्तियाँ (trading settlements) हुआ करती थीं, जिससे यह पैसेज बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly establishes the core subject—the luxury beach hotel located within a 17th-century Dutch fort in Covelong, Tamil Nadu—without needing any prior context.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because the pronoun "Its" directly refers back to the "luxury beach hotel" introduced in Sentence 2. It details exactly how the hotel's website describes the property to the public.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it introduces a direct contrast to the website's description. The pronoun "it" in "What it doesn't mention" refers directly back to the hotel's website from Sentence 1, introducing the hidden historical connection to "Banquibazar."
 - Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 4 because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. It directly explains the historical connection between "Covelong and Banquibazar" just introduced in Sentence 4, detailing how they were historically linked as trading settlements, wrapping up the sequence logically.
8. C) **LIBERTY** (noun) – The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views. स्वतंत्रता
Antonym: **Dependence** (noun) – The state of relying on or being controlled by someone or something else. निर्भरता
- **Deliverance** (noun) – The action of being rescued or set free. मुक्ति
 - **Convenience** (noun) – The state of being able to proceed with something with little effort or difficulty. सुविधा
 - **Independence** (noun) – The fact or state of being independent. स्वतंत्रता
9. D) **Defiance** (noun) – Open refusal to obey orders अवज्ञा
- **Compliance** (noun) – the act of conforming, acquiescing, or yielding; a disposition or tendency to yield to the will of others. अनुपालन
 - **Adherence** (noun) – attachment or commitment to a person, cause, or belief. अनुपालन
 - **Obedience** (noun) – compliance with someone's wishes or orders or acknowledgment of their authority. आज्ञाकारिता
10. A) **Dead heat** (idiom) - Close contest that ends in a tie बराबरी में समाप्त होनेवाली प्रतिस्पर्धा
11. A) **REVERE** (verb) – To have great respect for someone or something, to admire, honor, esteem, hold in high regard. आदर करना
Synonym: **Respect** (verb) – To have due regard for the feelings, wishes, or rights of others; to admire, esteem, honor. सम्मान करना
- **Condemn** (verb) – To express complete disapproval of; criticize, censure, denounce. निन्दा करना
 - **Enjoy** (verb) – To take delight or pleasure in; to appreciate, relish, savor. आनंद लेना
 - **Repeat** (verb) – To do, make, or perform again; to replicate, redo, reiterate. दोहराना
12. B) The boy which' के बदले 'The boy who' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि हम लोगों के लिए 'who' का इस्तेमाल करते हैं, 'which' का प्रयोग वस्तुओं और जानवरों के लिए होता है; जैसे— It was the boy who helped the old lady.
The boy who' will be used instead of 'The boy which' because we use 'who' for people, and 'which' is used for objects and animals; Like— It was the boy who helped the old lady.

13. C) **PREVENT** (verb) - Stop, hinder, obstruct, thwart, restrain. रोकना
 Synonym: **Avert** (verb) – Turn away, ward off, avoid, fend off. टालना
- **Construct** (verb) – Build, make, form, create. बनाना
 - **Allow** (verb) – Permit, let, authorize, grant permission. अनुमति देना
 - **Provoke** (verb) – Incite, stimulate, instigate, stir up. उकसाना
14. B) '**Insisted**' का use होगा क्योंकि "insisted (on)" का अर्थ होता है किसी बात पर ज़ोर देना या दृढ़ रहना।
 Sentence में mention किया गया है कि उसने रेस्टोरेंट में बिल भरने पर ज़ोर दिया, इसलिए 'insisted' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Offered' का अर्थ है प्रस्तावित करना, 'Suggested' का अर्थ है सुझाव देना, और 'Requested' का अर्थ है अनुरोध करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Insisted' should be used because Insist (on) means to be emphatic or resolute about something. The sentence mentions that she was emphatic about paying the bill at the restaurant, making 'insisted' fitting here. Whereas, 'Offered' means to propose, 'Suggested' means to put forward for consideration, and 'Requested' implies asking for something, which don't fit in this context.
15. A) 'resembled with' के बदले '**resembled**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'resemble' के साथ 'with' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है। सही रूप में वाक्य होगा— The animal resembled a cat.
- 'resembled' will be used instead of 'resembled with' because 'with' is not used with 'resemble'. The correct sentence would be— The animal resembled a cat.
16. B) **Broad** (adjective) – Wide, extensive, expansive, vast. व्यापक
 Antonym: **Narrow** (adjective) – Limited in extent, restricted, confined, limited. संकीर्ण
- **Long** (adjective) – Measuring a great distance from end to end, lengthy, extended. लंबा
 - **Large** (adjective) – Of considerable or relatively great size, extent, or capacity, big, huge. बड़ा
 - **Wide** (adjective) – Having a great extent from side to side, broad, vast. चौड़ा
17. D) '**Altar**' का use होगा क्योंकि "altar" का अर्थ होता है एक पवित्र स्थल जहाँ पूजा या अन्य धार्मिक क्रियाएँ होती हैं। यहाँ की बात हो रही है एक शादी की समारोह की जो चर्च में हो रही है, इसलिए 'altar' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Atlas' का अर्थ है नक्शा या मानचित्र, 'Alter' का अर्थ है परिवर्तन करना, और 'Attic' का अर्थ है एक घर के ऊपर का हिस्सा, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Altar' should be used because it means a holy place where religious ceremonies, like a wedding, are conducted. Since the sentence is talking about a wedding ceremony in a church, 'altar' is the appropriate choice. Whereas, 'Atlas' means a collection of maps, 'Alter' means to change, and 'Attic' refers to a space or room inside the roof of a house, which are incorrect in this context.
18. B) **Ethics** (noun) – Principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity. नैतिकता
- **Intuition** (noun) – the ability to understand something immediately, a 'gut feeling'. सहज ज्ञान
 - **Attitude** (noun) – a settled way of thinking or feeling about something, typically one that is reflected in a person's behaviour. दृष्टिकोण
 - **Psychology** (noun) – the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. मनोविज्ञान
19. C) **DCBA**

Rama was a very poor girl. She needed financial support to complete her graduation. She engaged herself in 'earn while you learn', finance scheme in her college. Eventually, she overcame adversities and achieved success.

20. D) 'one of the best college' के बदले **'one of the best colleges'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'one of the' के बाद plural noun का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— She is one of the best teachers in our school.

- 'one of the best colleges' will be used instead of 'one of the best college' because after 'one of the' a plural noun is used; Like— She is one of the best teachers in our school.

21. B) **pursued**

The sentence describes an education policy goal followed over past historical eras (For decades, India's school education policy...). Blank (1) needs a simple past tense verb to match the completed historical narrative established by "became." a) pursues: is a third-person singular present tense verb, which fails to match the historical past framing. b) pursued: is the simple past tense verb that correctly pairs with "For decades" and "became." c) pursuing: is a present participle that cannot function as the main finite verb of the sentence without an auxiliary verb. d) pursue: is a plural base verb form that violates subject-verb agreement with the singular noun phrase "policy."

In Hindi:

- यह sentence पिछले दशकों में भारत की शिक्षा नीति के उद्देश्य को describe करता है। Blank (1) को past tense verb की आवश्यकता है जो "became" के साथ काल (tense) का संतुलन बनाए रखे। a) pursues: यह present tense verb है। b) pursued: यह simple past tense verb है जो "For decades" और ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ के साथ perfectly fit होता है। c) pursuing: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के main verb नहीं बन सकता। d) pursue: यह plural base verb है।

22. C) **However**

The first two sentences establish a positive social justice achievement, while the next clause highlights the negative drawbacks of limited infrastructure and single-teacher schools. Blank (2) needs an adversative transition connector that introduces contrast. a) Moreover: introduces an additional supporting point in the same direction, failing to signal the negative contrast. b) Therefore: expresses a logical conclusion or consequence rather than an opposing condition. c) However: is the standard conjunctive adverb used to contrast a positive premise with a contrasting reality or limitation. d) Similarly: indicates a comparison of likeness, which does not introduce contrasting challenges.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence सामाजिक न्याय की सफलता के बाद स्कूलों में मौजूद बुनियादी ढांचे की कमियों और चुनौतियों के बीच contrast को describe करता है। Blank (2) को एक ऐसे connector की आवश्यकता है जो विपरीत विचार (contrast) को दिखाए। a) Moreover: यह एक जैसी बात को आगे जोड़ने के लिए use होता है। b) Therefore: यह परिणाम (result) दिखाने के लिए use होता है। c) However: इसका meaning 'हालाँकि/फिर भी' होता है, जो सकारात्मक पहलू के बाद कमियों को दर्शाने में perfectly fit होता है। d) Similarly: यह समानता दिखाने के लिए use होता है।

23. B) **adopted**

The sentence discusses how various state governments have formally chosen and implemented different policy measures (States have _____ varying approaches...). Blank (3) needs a past participle verb meaning to formally choose or take up a strategy. a) adapted: means to adjust or modify something to suit a new purpose, which is less idiomatic than adopting an approach. b)

adopted: means to formally choose, accept, or take up a course of action or policy (adopted varying approaches). c) adept: is an adjective meaning skilled or proficient, which cannot serve as the verb complement after "have." d) admitted: means confessed or allowed entry, which is contextually incorrect for policy implementation.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence राज्यों द्वारा कम नामांकन वाले स्कूलों के लिए विभिन्न नीतियों और तरीकों को अपनाने को describe करता है। Blank (3) को auxiliary verb "have" के बाद सही past participle verb की आवश्यकता है। a) adapted: इसका meaning किसी चीज़ में फेरबदल करके अनुकूल बनाना होता है। b) adopted: इसका meaning किसी नीति या दृष्टिकोण को 'अपनाना' (formally choose/take up) होता है, जो "approaches" के साथ perfectly fit होता है। c) adept: यह एक adjective (निपुण) है, verb नहीं। d) admitted: इसका meaning स्वीकार करना या प्रवेश देना होता है।

24. D) dilemma

The sentence elaborates on a difficult policy trade-off: keeping a small village school means poorer resources, but closing it causes longer travel and weaker community access. Blank (4) needs a noun indicating a tough choice between two undesirable alternatives. a) clarity: means the state of being clear and easy to understand, which contradicts a complex policy conflict. b) solution: means an answer to a problem, whereas the passage presents an ongoing conflict of two competing needs. c) agreement: means harmony or mutual consent, which does not define a conflicting policy situation. d) dilemma: means a difficult situation in which a choice must be made between two or more conflicting alternatives.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence दो परस्पर विरोधी विकल्पों (स्कूल बंद करने पर दूरी बढ़ना बनाम चालू रखने पर संसाधनों की कमी) के बीच की जटिल स्थिति को describe करता है। Blank (4) को दो कठिन विकल्पों के बीच के द्वंद्व को दर्शाने वाले noun की आवश्यकता है। a) clarity: इसका meaning स्पष्टता होता है। b) solution: इसका meaning समाधान होता है। c) agreement: इसका meaning सहमति होता है। d) dilemma: इसका meaning 'दुविधा' या असमंजस (difficult choice between alternatives) होता है, जो यहाँ perfectly fit होता है।

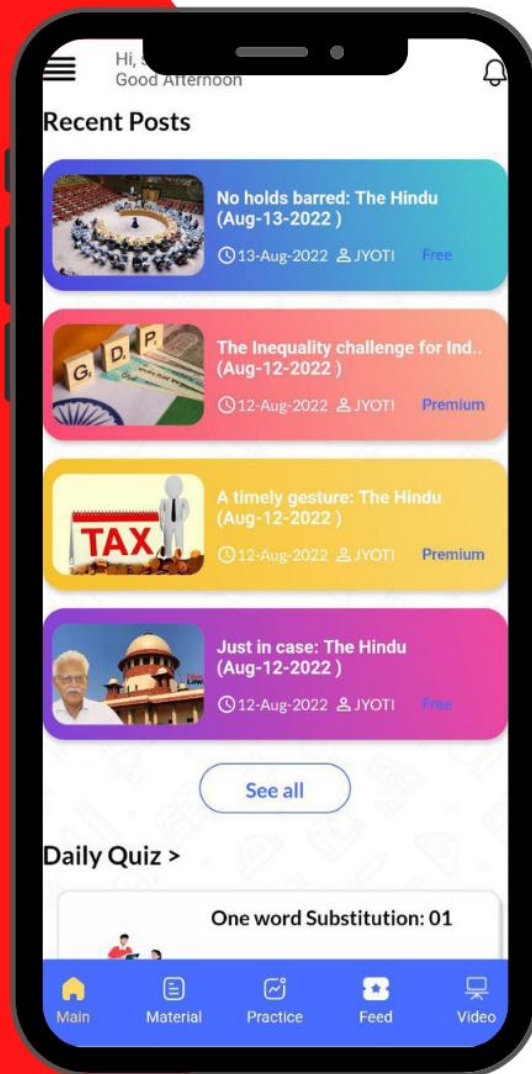
25. C) Consolidation

The sentence offers school mergers as a potential method to provide better infrastructure, specialized teachers, and diverse activities. Blank (5) needs the noun representing the combining or merging of small schools. a) Fragmentation: means breaking into small, separate, isolated parts, which is the opposite of pooling resources together. b) Isolation: means being separated or kept alone, which does not improve teaching resources. c) Consolidation: means the action or process of combining multiple things into a single, more effective coherent whole (merging small schools). d) Neglect: means lack of proper care and attention, which contradicts providing richer learning environments.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence छोटे स्कूलों के विलय (merging) से छात्रों को बेहतर संसाधन और शिक्षक मिलने की संभावना को describe करता है। Blank (5) को स्कूलों को एक साथ जोड़ने की प्रक्रिया के सही noun की आवश्यकता है। a) Fragmentation: इसका meaning टुकड़ों में बांटना (विखंडन) होता है। b) Isolation: इसका meaning अलग-थलग करना होता है। c) Consolidation: इसका meaning

'विलय' या एकीकरण (combining into a single unit) होता है, जो वाक्य के अर्थ में perfectly fit होता है। d) Neglect: इसका meaning लापरवाही या उपेक्षा होता है।



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