

Buried questions: On the Sikkim tunnel accident

The **costs** of projects in environmentally **fragile** zones **are** many

India is **grappling with** another Himalayan tragedy. **Workers** in an under-construction tunnel at the Teesta Stage-VI hydroelectric project of NHPC Limited (formerly National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Ltd.), in Sikkim's Namchi district, **struck a pocket of** suspected **trapped** methane. The **resulting burst** partially damaged the tunnel, killing at least 15 of an estimated 25 workers, with rescue operations still under way. The NHPC has announced a detailed investigation. Methane is a well-recognised **hazard** in underground **excavation**, and the geology of the Teesta **basin** makes it a **likely** one. The basin sits in a **seismically** active zone, with young and heavily **fractured** rock, and where compressed pockets of gas **laid down** long ago can **lie** hidden until an excavation breaks into them. The **presence** of the gas, in that sense, **is** not **in itself** surprising. What remains unclear is far more **consequential**: the **precise** circumstances in which the pocket was **breached**, whether its risk was **assessed** and **modelled** during project planning, and whether the gas-detection and **ventilation safeguards** that such conditions demand were **in place** and functioning.

Underground **work** in India's difficult **terrain** **has** always been **perilous**. In February this year, an **explosion** at an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya **killed** about 30 workers, and in 2023, a **stretch** of a road tunnel under construction in Uttarakhand **collapsed**, trapping 41 workers for 17 days before they were **pulled out**. The circumstances vary, but together they **underscore** how **lethal** underground and tunnelling work remains across the country. A **series** of hydropower projects along the 400-kilometre stretch of the Teesta that links Sikkim, West Bengal, and Bangladesh **have varied** histories with environmental clearances but share a common feature — their location in the fragile Himalayan **belt**. That **vulnerability** was **demonstrated** tragically in October 2023, when a glacial lake **outburst** flood from the South Lhonak lake destroyed the Teesta-III dam and killed more than a 100 people downstream. Teesta-VI was absorbed by the public-sector NHPC Limited after its private developers, unable to afford **escalating** costs, went into **insolvency**. Relief and rescue must remain the immediate priority, and every **effort** to reach those still **trapped is warranted**. But once the emergency has passed, the government cannot treat the disaster as an **isolated misfortune**. It must order a **thorough**, independent review of whether the **conditions** attached to the project's environmental clearance **were, in practice**, strictly met.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Buried questions** (phrase) - unaddressed or hidden issues waiting to be answered. अनसुलझे सवाल / छिपे हुए प्रश्न
2. **Fragile** (adjective) - delicate, vulnerable, sensitive, brittle, weak. संवेदनशील / नाजुक
3. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) - to hold someone and fight with them से जूझना / मुकाबला करना
4. **Strike** (verb) - hit, collide, encounter, bump, stumble. टकराना / अचानक सामना होना
5. **A pocket of** (phrase) - a small, isolated area or enclosure containing something (like gas or water). (गैस या तरल पदार्थ का) छोटा संचित क्षेत्र / थैली
6. **Trapped** (adjective) - cornered, caught, stranded, imprisoned, stuck. फंसा हुआ
7. **Resulting** (adjective) - consequent, ensuing, following, subsequent. परिणामस्वरूप होने वाला
8. **Burst** (noun) - explosion, rupture, blast, blow-up, breakout. विस्फोट / फटना
9. **Hazard** (noun) - danger, peril, risk, threat, menace. खतरा / जोखिम
10. **Excavation** (noun) - digging, tunneling, unearthing, quarrying, mining. खुदाई / उत्खनन
11. **Basin** (noun) - valley, watershed, catchment area, depression. द्रोणी / बेसिन (जल निकासी क्षेत्र)
12. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, expected, plausible, prospective. संभावित
13. **Seismically** (adverb) - tectonically, earthquake-wise, in terms of seismic activity. भूकंपीय दृष्टि से
14. **Fractured** (adjective) - broken, cracked, split, fissured, fragmented. चटका हुआ / टूटे हुए (चट्टानों)
15. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) - to deposit, accumulate or settle. जमा होना / स्थापित होना
16. **Lie** (verb) - rest, be situated, remain, be located. स्थित होना / पड़े रहना
17. **In itself** (phrase) - intrinsically, by its very nature. अपने आप में
18. **Consequential** (adjective) - significant, important, momentous, far-reaching, meaningful. महत्वपूर्ण / दूरगामी परिणाम वाला
19. **Precise** (adjective) - exact, accurate, specific, definite, correct. सटीक / स्पष्ट
20. **Breach** (verb) - rupture, violate, break through, fracture, crack. भेदना / सेंध लगाना / तोड़ना
21. **Assess** (verb) - evaluate, appraise, judge, estimate, analyze. आकलन करना
22. **Model** (verb) - simulate, project, forecast, outline, pattern. प्रतिरूप तैयार करना / मॉडल बनाना

23. **Ventilation** (noun) - the process of supplying fresh air to a place and removing stale air. वेंटिलेशन / हवा का आवागमन
24. **Safeguard** (noun) - protection, security measure, precaution, defense, shield. सुरक्षा उपाय
25. **In place** (phrase) - existing and ready to be used or functioning. कार्यात्मक / अपनी जगह पर मौजूद
26. **Terrain** (noun) - topography, landscape, ground, landform, country. भूभाग / इलाका
27. **Perilous** (adjective) - dangerous, hazardous, risky, treacherous, unsafe. खतरनाक / जोखिम भरा
28. **Explosion** (noun) - blast, detonation, burst, blow-up, eruption. विस्फोट / धमाका
29. **Collapse** (verb) - cave in, fall down, give way, crumble, fold. ढह जाना / गिर जाना
30. **Pull out** (phrasal verb) - to withdraw, remove, or leave a place or activity. बाहर निकालना
31. **Underscore** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, underline, accent. रेखांकित करना / जोर देना
32. **Lethal** (adjective) - fatal, deadly, mortal, life-threatening, destructive. जानलेवा / घातक
33. **Varied** (adjective) - diverse, assorted, various, heterogeneous, manifold. विविध / विभिन्न
34. **Belt** (noun) - zone, region, strip, area, tract. पट्टी / क्षेत्र
35. **Vulnerability** (noun) - susceptibility, weakness, defenselessness, fragility. संवेदनशीलता / कमजोरी
36. **Demonstrate** (verb) - show, exhibit, prove, manifest, display. प्रदर्शित करना / साबित करना
37. **Outburst** (noun) - sudden release, eruption, explosion, gush. अचानक फूटना / प्रकोप
38. **Escalating** (adjective) - increasing, mounting, soaring, intensifying, growing. बढ़ता हुआ
39. **Insolvency** (noun) - bankruptcy, financial ruin, liquidation, default. दिवालियापन
40. **Warranted** (adjective) - justified, called for, deserved, authorized, validated. उचित / समर्थित
41. **Isolated** (adjective) - solitary, detached, single, separate, sporadic. अलग-थलग / छिटपुट
42. **Misfortune** (noun) - mishap, adversity, calamity, disaster, bad luck. दुर्भाग्य / आपदा
43. **Thorough** (adjective) - comprehensive, exhaustive, complete, rigorous, meticulous. संपूर्ण / पूरी तरह से
44. **In practice** (phrase) - in reality, practically वास्तव में / व्यावहारिक रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Tunnel Accident in Sikkim:** A tragic accident occurred in an under-construction tunnel of the **Teesta Stage-VI hydroelectric project** in Sikkim's Namchi district after workers struck a suspected pocket of trapped methane gas.
2. **Heavy Casualties:** At least **15 of the estimated 25 workers** lost their lives, while rescue operations continue to search for the remaining trapped workers.
3. **Investigation Ordered:** NHPC Limited has announced a **detailed investigation** to determine the exact cause of the accident and identify any lapses.
4. **Methane as a Known Hazard:** Methane gas is a **well-recognised danger** in underground excavation, particularly in tunnels constructed in mountainous regions.
5. **Fragile Himalayan Geology:** The **Teesta basin lies in a seismically active Himalayan region** with young, fractured rocks where compressed methane pockets can remain trapped for centuries.
6. **Key Safety Questions:** The editorial asks whether the methane risk was **properly assessed, modelled, and anticipated** during project planning.
7. **Need for Safety Systems:** It also questions whether **gas-detection equipment, ventilation systems, and other safety measures** were installed and functioning effectively.
8. **Recurring Underground Disasters:** The incident is part of a series of deadly underground accidents in India, highlighting persistent safety challenges in tunnelling projects.
9. **Recent Similar Accidents:** The editorial cites the **2025 Meghalaya illegal coal mine explosion** and the **2023 Uttarakhand tunnel collapse**, both of which caused significant loss of life.
10. **Hydropower Projects in Fragile Zones:** Several hydropower projects along the **400-km Teesta River** are located in the environmentally sensitive Himalayan region, making them highly vulnerable.
11. **Lessons from the 2023 Teesta Flood:** The **South Lhonak glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)** in October 2023 destroyed the Teesta-III dam and killed over **100 people**, demonstrating the region's environmental risks.
12. **Financial Challenges:** The Teesta-VI project was taken over by **NHPC** after its private developers became insolvent due to escalating project costs.
13. **Immediate Priority:** The editorial stresses that **rescue and relief operations** for trapped workers must remain the government's foremost concern.
14. **Need for Independent Review:** After the rescue efforts, the government should conduct a **thorough and independent investigation** into whether environmental clearance conditions and safety requirements were fully implemented.
15. **Broader Message:** The editorial argues that the disaster should **not be viewed as an isolated accident** but as a warning about the high environmental and human costs of infrastructure projects in fragile Himalayan ecosystems, calling for stricter safety enforcement and greater accountability.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the primary purpose of this passage?**
 - A. To advocate for a ban on infrastructure projects in the fragile Himalayan region.
 - B. To urge an independent probe into environmental and safety compliance following a tunnel tragedy.
 - C. To explain the geological factors that cause dangerous methane gas leaks in underground excavations.
 - D. To contrast the operational capacity of public sector agencies with failed private developers.
2. **According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?**
 - A. Methane gas pockets are an unforeseen and unexpected discovery during tunnelling in the Teesta basin.
 - B. The South Lhonak lake flood was caused by structural design failures in the construction of the Teesta-III dam.
 - C. Hydropower projects along the 400-kilometre Teesta stretch share identical environmental clearance histories.
 - D. The Teesta Stage-VI project was transferred to the public sector due to financial distress faced by private builders.
3. **In context, the phrase "isolated misfortune" (final paragraph) refers to:**
 - A. treating the tunnel disaster as unrelated to the recurring pattern of tunnelling and Himalayan accidents
 - B. treating the tunnel disaster as a result of NHPC's takeover of the insolvent private developers
 - C. treating the tunnel disaster as a delay caused by ongoing rescue efforts in Sikkim
 - D. treating the tunnel disaster as a consequence of the glacial lake flood at the Teesta-III dam
4. **Identify the correct type of sentence used in the line:**
"Relief and rescue must remain the immediate priority, and every effort to reach those still trapped is warranted."
 - A. Compound
 - B. Complex
 - C. Simple
 - D. Compound-Complex
5. **Of all of the following, which does the author NOT mention as a factor associated with tragedies or hazards in underground/tunnelling work in India?**
 - A. Insolvent private developers failing to afford escalating costs
 - B. Compressed pockets of gas trapped in young and fractured rock
 - C. Inadequate training and safety equipment provided to manual labourers
 - D. Operation of illegal mining activities in perilous terrain
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

P. The basin sits in a seismically active zone, with young and heavily fractured rock, and where compressed pockets of gas laid down long ago can lie hidden until an excavation breaks into them.

- Q. Workers in an under-construction tunnel at the Teesta Sage-VI hydroelectric project of NHPC Limited, in Sikkim's Namchi district, struck a pocket of suspected trapped methane.
- R. Methane is a well-recognised hazard in underground excavation, and the geology of the Teesta basin makes it a likely one.
- S. The resulting burst partially damaged the tunnel, killing at least 15 of an estimated 25 workers, with rescue operations still under way.
- A. Q-S-R-P
B. R-P-Q-S
C. Q-R-P-S
D. R-S-P-Q
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. Football fever, it seemed, had caught up with one of the most consistent teams in Ultimate Table Tennis.
 2. Moments after Delhi Dabang TTC's Sutirtha Mukherjee claimed the final game of the tie against Ahmedabad APL Pipers' Manika Batra and the customary handshakes were done, Sutirtha and her teammates gathered in a semi-huddle.
 3. The celebration was the idea of youngster Raegan Albuquerque, an ardent Ronaldo fan. They leapt into the air, twisted mid-flight, landed with their feet planted wide apart and roared "Suiii" in unison — Cristiano Ronaldo's trademark celebration that has become a global sporting phenomenon.
- A. B-A-D-C
B. B-D-A-C
C. D-B-C-A
D. A-B-D-C
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- The students are in great _____ of their teachers
- A. praise
B. awe
C. respect
D. gusto
9. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
- The servant was beaten /through his master /with a stick. /No error
- A. No error
B. with a stick
C. through his master
D. The servant was beaten
10. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.**
- Many accidents at the factory are caused of workers who don't read warning signs.
- A. are caused because of
B. is the cause of
C. is caused by

- D. No Improvement
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The origin of ice-cream dates back _____ nearly half-a-century.
A. to
B. at
C. from
D. into
12. **In the following question, out of the given four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**
Birds of the same feather
A. People with a generous heart
B. To get into trouble together
C. To be in a totally helpless condition
D. People with similar character
13. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.**
For her, money is only the means to an end
A. the means for an end
B. means to end
C. No Improvement
D. a means to the end
14. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Gloomy
A. Cloudy
B. Bright
C. Dull
D. Greedy
15. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.**
The wound on her hand is now heal completely.
A. has now healing
B. No Improvement
C. is now healed
D. is healing now
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Immense
A. Insignificant
B. Dull
C. Minute
D. Massive
17. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
The child always goes for sleep with his teddy bear. /No error
A. with his teddy bear

- B. goes for sleep
 - C. No error
 - D. The child always
18. **Choose the correctly spelt word.**
- A. Exhausted
 - B. Intelligent
 - C. Equally
 - D. Amigrate
19. **In the following question, out of the given four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**
- Cat's whiskers
- A. A very easy matter
 - B. To be highly impressive
 - C. To be very determined
 - D. Difficult to understand
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- I _____ very busy lately.
- A. would be
 - B. have been
 - C. will be
 - D. should be

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Issue-driven mobilisation by civil society groups _____(1) to remain orderly so long as the government of the day signals that it is willing to listen and engage with genuine concerns. The scenes from Delhi on July 20, when mostly young demonstrators were chased, tear-gassed, and baton-charged within sight of the new Parliament building, with some allegedly struck by pellet guns, while mobile Internet was switched off and Metro stations were shut _____(2) the area, were _____(3). The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) march escalated only after the police resorted to force. Had the Union government engaged with the protesters earlier, including activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was on an indefinite fast and forcibly hospitalised two days earlier, the confrontation _____(4) avoided. A meeting was eventually conceded through Union Minister J.P. Nadda, but only after thousands had reached Parliament's doorstep. It came too late. That a movement born as online _____(5) could gather millions of digital followers and bring thousands to the street says a great deal about the government's own record, which has become the source of a litany of grievances. Recurring paper leaks in entrance examinations, the re-conducting of NEET, and the friction over the three-language formula have led to deep concerns that higher education is being administered without accountability by the government.

21. **Select the most appropriate option for (1):**
- A. tend
 - B. tends
 - C. tending
 - D. tended
22. **Select the most appropriate option for (2):**

- A. in
- B. across
- C. among
- D. at

23. **Select the most appropriate option for (3):**

- A. inevitable
- B. inescapable
- C. avoidable
- D. unforeseen

24. **Select the most appropriate option for (4):**

- A. could be
- B. can be
- C. would be
- D. could have been

25. **Select the most appropriate option for (5):**

- A. satire
- B. tragedy
- C. malice
- D. eulogy

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) **To urge an independent probe into environmental and safety compliance following a tunnel tragedy.**

The passage centers on the tragic methane burst at the Teesta Stage-VI hydroelectric project and questions whether risk assessment, planning safeguards, and environmental conditions were properly met. It concludes with the explicit argument that the government must order "a thorough, independent review of whether the conditions attached to the project's environmental clearance were, in practice, strictly met."

(a) Incorrect: The author highlights the ecological fragility of the Himalayas, but never calls for a halt or ban on development projects.

(c) Incorrect: Methane dynamics and geological features are discussed only to show that the gas presence was predictable—the focus is on whether proper safeguards were implemented.

(d) Incorrect: The transition of the project from private developers to NHPC is mentioned as background context, not to evaluate or contrast their managerial capabilities.

2. D) **The Teesta Stage-VI project was transferred to the public sector due to financial distress faced by private builders.**

The passage states: "Teesta-VI was absorbed by the public-sector NHPC Limited after its private developers, unable to afford escalating costs, went into insolvency." This precisely matches (d) — the project moved to the public sector because the original private developers faced financial distress (couldn't afford rising costs, leading to insolvency).

(a) Incorrect: The passage states that methane presence is a "well-recognised hazard" and "in that sense, is not in itself surprising" due to the young, fractured rock and seismic nature of the basin. Calling it "unforeseen and unexpected" contradicts the passage.

(b) Incorrect: The flood was caused by a "glacial lake outburst flood from the South Lhonak lake", which subsequently destroyed the dam—not because of structural design failures inside the dam itself.

(c) Incorrect: The passage specifically notes that the series of hydropower projects have "varied histories with environmental clearances", not identical ones.

3. A) **treating the tunnel disaster as unrelated to the recurring pattern of tunnelling and Himalayan accidents**

The passage lists three prior disasters — Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Teesta-III — and says they "underscore how lethal underground and tunnelling work remains across the country." This builds a pattern. Right after, the author says the disaster shouldn't be treated as an "isolated misfortune" — meaning it shouldn't be seen as a one-off, precisely because the passage just proved it fits a recurring pattern. So "isolated" = disconnected from that pattern, which is what [A] states.

[B] Teesta-VI's takeover by NHPC is just background history, not the cause of the disaster.

[C] Rescue operations are a logistical phase of the emergency, not the systemic misfortune referred to.

[D] The Teesta-III flood is a separate historical example of regional vulnerability, not the cause of the tunnel disaster (which was caused by a methane burst).

4. A) **Compound**

A compound sentence consists of at least two independent (main) clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (such as and, but, or), with no dependent (subordinate) clauses.

Independent Clause 1: "Relief and rescue must remain the immediate priority" (Subject: Relief and rescue; Verb phrase: must remain)

Coordinating Conjunction: "and"

Independent Clause 2: "every effort to reach those still trapped is warranted" (Subject: every effort to reach those still trapped; Verb: is warranted)

Since both clauses express complete thoughts on their own and are linked by the coordinating conjunction "and", the sentence is Compound.

5. C) **Inadequate training and safety equipment provided to manual labourers**

The passage never discusses labour training standards, protective gear for workers, or worker-specific safety preparedness anywhere in the passage.

[A] MENTIONED The passage states: "Teesta-VI was absorbed by the public-sector NHPC Limited after its private developers, unable to afford escalating costs, went into insolvency." This is explicitly mentioned.

[B] The passage states: "The basin sits in a seismically active zone, with young and heavily fractured rock, and where compressed pockets of gas laid down long ago can lie hidden until an excavation breaks into them." This is explicitly mentioned.

[D] The passage states: "In February this year, an explosion at an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya killed about 30 workers." This directly references illegal mining as a factor.

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

Sentence Q paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह Sikkim में tunnel के अंदर "trapped methane" मिलने की मुख्य घटना को बिना किसी missing reference के independently introduce करता है।

Sentence S Sentence Q के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The resulting burst" (परिणामस्वरूप हुआ धमाका) एक सीधा logical link है, जो Sentence Q में मिली methane गैस के कारण हुए हादसे और उससे हुई मौतों को प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence R Sentence S के बाद आया क्योंकि हादसे का विवरण देने के बाद, यह एक broader context देता है कि "methane" underground excavation में एक जाना-माना खतरा है, और पहली बार "Teesta basin" की geology का जिक्र करता है।

Sentence P Sentence R के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The basin" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence R में introduce किए गए "Teesta basin" को point करता है, और उसकी भौगोलिक स्थिति (geology) को detail में समझाकर passage को बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त करता है।

- Sentence Q starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the primary incident of workers striking a pocket of trapped methane in the Teesta Stage-VI tunnel without any dangling references.
- Sentence S follows Sentence Q because the demonstrative phrase "The resulting burst" serves as a direct logical link, explaining the immediate catastrophic consequence of striking the methane pocket established in Q.

- Sentence R follows Sentence S because, after detailing the physical incident, it zooms out to provide the broader scientific context, explaining that methane is a recognized hazard and introducing the specific "geology of the Teesta basin."
- Sentence P concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The phrase "The basin" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "Teesta basin" introduced in R, and expands on its highly volatile geological characteristics to perfectly wrap up the narrative.

7. B) **B-D-A-C**

Sentence B paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह "Delhi Dabang TTC" की जीत और खिलाड़ियों के "semi-huddle" में इकट्ठा होने के main event को बिना किसी missing reference या ambiguous pronoun के independently introduce करता है।

Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "They" सीधे तौर पर Sentence B में introduce की गई "Sutirtha and her teammates" को point करता है, और सटीक रूप से बताता है कि उन्होंने उस huddle में क्या किया (Ronaldo's trademark celebration)।

Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence D में किए गए football (Ronaldo) celebration पर एक logical commentary है। यह बताता है कि कैसे उस विशेष जश्न को देखकर लगा कि इस table tennis team पर "football fever" चढ़ गया है।

Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The celebration" सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में बताए गए "Suiiii" celebration से जुड़ता है, और अंत में यह रहस्य खोलता है कि यह अनोखा idea असल में टीम के युवा खिलाड़ी Raegan Albuquerque का था, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

Sentence B starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the overarching event of Delhi Dabang TTC's victory and the players gathering in a semi-huddle without relying on any prior references.

Sentence D follows Sentence B because the pronoun "They" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to "Sutirtha and her teammates" introduced in Sentence B to detail their exact physical actions.

Sentence A follows Sentence D because it acts as a logical progression and thematic commentary. It observes the specific Cristiano Ronaldo action described in D and broadens it conceptually to state that "football fever" had visibly caught up with the table tennis team.

Sentence C concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The definite phrase "The celebration" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing back to the specific celebratory act detailed in D, cleanly wrapping up the narrative by revealing the true architect behind the idea.

8. B) 'Awe' सही विकल्प है क्योंकि 'awe' का अर्थ होता है गहरी प्रशंसा या सम्मान के साथ मिश्रित भय या आश्चर्य। वाक्य में उल्लिखित है कि छात्र अपने शिक्षकों के प्रति बहुत अधिक भावना रखते हैं, इसलिए 'awe' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Praise' का अर्थ है प्रशंसा करना, 'Respect' का अर्थ है सम्मान करना, और 'Gusto' का अर्थ है उत्साह या जोश, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- awe' is the correct option because 'awe' means a feeling of deep admiration or respect mixed with fear or wonder. The sentence mentions that students have a great feeling towards their teachers, making 'awe' fitting here. Whereas, 'Praise' means to express

admiration, 'Respect' means to regard highly, and 'Gusto' means enthusiasm or vigor, which don't fit in this context

9. C) 'through his master' के बदले 'by his master' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Passive Voice में क्रिया के कर्ता को प्रकट करने के लिए 'by' का प्रयोग होता है, न कि 'through' का; जैसे— The letter was written by me.
- 'by his master' will be used instead of 'through his master' because in Passive Voice, 'by' is used to express the doer of the action, not 'through'; Like— The letter was written by me.
10. A) 'Are caused of' के बदले 'are caused by' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब कोई चीज किसी कारण से होती है, तो हम 'by' का प्रयोग करते हैं, न कि 'of' का; जैसे— The delay was caused by heavy traffic.
- are caused by' will be used instead of 'are caused of' because when something happens due to a reason, we use 'by', not 'of'; Like— The delay was caused by heavy traffic.
11. A) **To** का use होगा क्योंकि जब किसी विशेष समय अवधि की शुरुआत की बात आती है, तो 'to' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ पर, ice-cream की उत्पत्ति की बात की जा रही है जो लगभग आधी शताब्दी पहले हुई थी, इसलिए 'to' यहाँ सही है। 'At' का उपयोग स्थान को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, 'from' का उपयोग उत्पत्ति या स्रोत को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, और 'into' का उपयोग परिवर्तन या रूपांतरण को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'To' should be used because it is used to indicate the beginning of a specific period of time. Here, the origin of ice-cream is being discussed, which dates back to nearly half-a-century ago, making 'to' the correct choice. 'At' is used to indicate location, 'from' is used to indicate origin or source, and 'into' is used to indicate transformation or change, which are not appropriate in this context.
12. D) **Birds of the same feather** (idiom) - People with similar character समान चरित्र वाले लोग
13. C) **No Improvement**.
14. B) **Gloomy** (adjective) – Dark, dim, dismal, dreary, depressing. उदास
Antonym: **Bright** (adjective) – Shining, radiant, luminous, brilliant, vivid. उज्ज्वल
- Cloudy** (adjective) – Overcast, gloomy, gray, dull. बादल छाए हुए
 - Dull** (adjective) – Boring, uninteresting, tedious, monotonous. नीरस
 - Greedy** (adjective) – Avaricious, covetous, grasping, acquisitive. लालची
15. C) 'is now heal' के बदले '**is now healed**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात घाव के ठीक होने की हो रही है जो कि एक पूर्ण क्रिया है; जैसे— The wound on her hand is now healed completely.
- 'is now healed' will be used instead of 'is now heal' because the sentence is talking about the wound being healed, which is a completed action; Like— The wound on her hand is now healed completely.
16. D) **Immense** (adjective) – Extremely large or great, especially in scale or degree, enormous, huge, vast. विशाल
Synonym: **Massive** (adjective) – Large and heavy or solid, huge, enormous, immense. विशाल
- Insignificant** (adjective) – Too small or unimportant to be worth consideration, negligible, trivial, minor. महत्वहीन
 - Dull** (adjective) – Lacking interest or excitement, boring, tedious, monotonous. सुस्त
 - Minute** (adjective) – Extremely small, tiny, minuscule, infinitesimal. सूक्ष्म

17. B) 'goes for sleep' के बदले '**goes to sleep**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'go to sleep' एक वाक्यांश है जिसका अर्थ है सोने जाना; जैसे— The child always goes to sleep with his teddy bear.
- 'goes to sleep' will be used instead of 'goes for sleep' because 'go to sleep' is a phrase that means to go to bed to sleep; Like— The child always goes to sleep with his teddy bear.
18. B) The correct spelling among the given options is '**Intelligent**' which means "having or showing intelligence, especially of a high level" बुद्धिमान, चतुर
19. B) Cat's whiskers (idiom) – To be highly impressive बहुत प्रभावशाली होना
20. B) '**have been**' का use होगा क्योंकि "have been" का अर्थ होता है हाल ही में या अभी तक की अवधि में किसी स्थिति या कार्य में लगे होने का वर्णन करना। Sentence में "lately" शब्द का इस्तेमाल हुआ है, जो एक समय की अवधि को दर्शाता है, इसलिए 'have been' यहाँ सही है। 'Would be' एक काल्पनिक स्थिति को दर्शाता है, 'will be' भविष्य की स्थिति को दर्शाता है, और 'should be' एक सलाह या अनुमान को दर्शाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'have been' should be used because it describes being engaged in a situation or action during a recent or ongoing period. The sentence uses "lately," indicating a time period, making 'have been' fitting here. 'Would be' indicates a hypothetical situation, 'will be' indicates a future state, and 'should be' suggests advice or speculation, which don't fit in this context.
21. B) Tends is used because the core subject "mobilisation" is a singular, uncountable noun, which strictly requires a singular present-tense verb ending in 's' (subject-verb agreement). Tend is a plural verb. Tended is past tense, which directly violates the present-tense rule established by "is willing" later in the sentence, breaking the grammatical flow of stating a general truth. Tending is a participle that grammatically cannot function as the main verb without an auxiliary verb (like "is tending").
- In Hindi:
- यहाँ Tends का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence का main subject "mobilisation" एक singular noun है, जिसके साथ present tense में 's' वाली singular verb आनी चाहिए। Tend plural verb है। Tended past tense है, जो "is willing" वाले present tense flow (general truth) को तोड़ता है। Tending बिना helping verb (is) के main verb नहीं बन सकता।
22. B) Across is used because it specifically emphasizes sweeping coverage from one side of a defined geographic space to the other, perfectly capturing the comprehensive, widespread scale of a sweeping internet and transit shutdown over the entire region. In merely states a static location without conveying the expansive, blanket scale demanded by the context. Among strictly requires a plural noun of distinct entities (e.g., "among the people"), not a singular space like "area." At designates a single, specific geographical point, making it physically impossible to use for a broad, expansive zone.
- In Hindi:
- यहाँ Across का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning किसी तय जगह के एक छोर से दूसरे छोर तक (पूरे area में) फैलना होता है, जो इंटरनेट और मेट्रो के व्यापक (widespread) शटडाउन के context को बिल्कुल सही दर्शाता है। In सिर्फ location बताता है, इसमें फैलाव (scale) का भाव नहीं है। Among का use कई अलग-अलग चीजों (plural) के बीच के लिए होता है, singular

"area" के लिए नहीं। At का meaning किसी एक specific point (बिंदु) पर होता है, जो एक बड़े area के लिए logically पूरी तरह गलत है।

23. C) Avoidable is used because it means capable of being prevented. This perfectly aligns with the author's core argument in the next sentence: that the violence "escalated only after the police resorted to force" and could have been stopped. Inevitable and Inescapable mean an event was destined to happen regardless of anyone's actions, which directly contradicts the author's entire premise. Unforeseen means unexpected, but the passage states the government ignored prior warnings (like an indefinite fast), proving it was highly foreseeable.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Avoidable का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning है जिसे टाला जा सकता था। लेखक का पूरा तर्क यही है कि अगर पुलिस बल प्रयोग न करती, तो यह नौबत नहीं आती, यानी इसे रोका जा सकता था। Inevitable और Inescapable का meaning है जो होकर ही रहता (अटल), जो लेखक की बात का सीधा विरोध करते हैं (antonyms)। Unforeseen का meaning अचानक (unexpected) होता है, लेकिन पहले से अनशन (fast) चल रहा था, इसलिए यह unforeseen नहीं था।

24. D) Could have been is used because the sentence strictly follows the "Third Conditional" grammar rule, which describes an unreal, imaginary situation in the past. The condition clause starts with "Had + [subject] + [past participle]" (Had the government engaged...), which mandates that the main clause must use "would/could/might + have been + [past participle]". Could be, Can be, and Would be are all grammatically fatal here because they refer to present or future hypothetical situations, not a completed past event.

In Hindi:

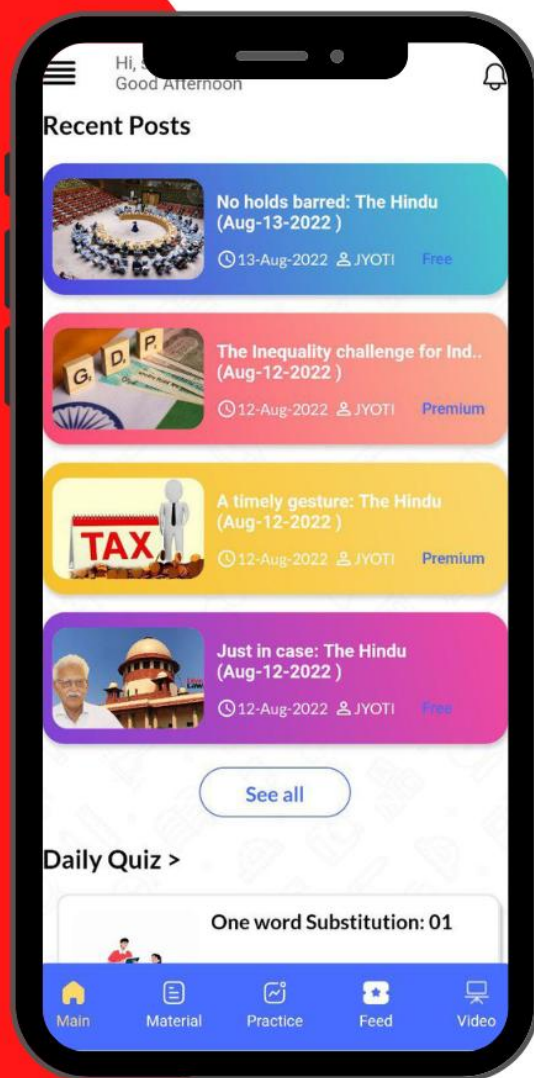
- यहाँ Could have been का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह strictly "Third Conditional" का grammar rule है, जो past की किसी ऐसी घटना (hypothetical) को बताता है जो हुई नहीं। जब condition "Had + [subject] + V3" (Had the government engaged...) से शुरू होती है, तो main clause में हमेशा "would/could + have been + V3" ही आता है। Could be, Can be, और Would be present या future के लिए आते हैं, past की पूरी हो चुकी घटना के लिए ये grammatically पूरी तरह गलत हैं।

25. A) Satire is used because it refers to the use of humor, irony, or ridicule to expose political or social stupidity. It is the only logical word for a digital movement that started as a joke or meme ("online satire") but transformed into a massive, serious street protest. Tragedy refers to a serious, sorrowful event, which does not birth online humor movements. Malice means the intentional desire to harm others, which doesn't fit a digital campaign gathering public followers. Eulogy is a speech praising someone who has died, which is contextually absurd here.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Satire का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning व्यंग्य या मज़ाक (irony/humor) होता है। एक movement जो internet पर मज़ाक (online satire) के रूप में शुरू हुआ और बाद में एक गंभीर सड़क आंदोलन बन गया, इसके लिए यही एकमात्र logical word है। Tragedy का meaning दुखद घटना होता है। Malice का meaning दुर्भावना (नुकसान पहुँचाने की नीयत) होता

है। Eulogy का meaning किसी मृत व्यक्ति की प्रशंसा में दिया गया भाषण होता है, जो यहाँ logically पूरी तरह बेतुका (absurd) है



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