

Curing our broken, disturbing roads: NHAI mandates AI-based machine control for highway projects

A road is only as good as the system that builds and maintains it. India has specifications for road construction. Too **often**, the **distance** between what's prescribed on paper and what gets built **is** measured in **potholes**, patchwork and pending repairs.

NHAI's **move** to make AI-based machine control (AI-MC) compulsory for highway projects **is** welcome. **Using** sensors, computers and real-time data to ensure every layer **is** built to specification can bring **precision**, **accountability** and **consistency** to 'street credentials'.

There will be **an upfront cost**. But if better construction means roads that last longer, need fewer repairs and reduce accidents, the investment can pay for itself. In 2025, 62,122 people died on NHs. Better-engineered roads can't **eliminate** accidents. But quality is **vital** to road safety and comfort.

Good roads move trucks more efficiently, and reduce fuel use, travel time and **logistics costs**. A Transport Corporation of India (TCI)-IIM Kolkata study estimated that poor road conditions, delays and frequent **halts** cost India \$21.3 bn a year - \$6.6 bn in delays and \$14.7 bn in added fuel consumption.



We **tend to** measure **infra** in kilometres of highways and billions of rupees. But **development** - 'viksit' in today's **jargon** - **is** experienced on the road outside one's home, on the street to the market, or **en route to** school. Roads are among the most visible **markers** of development.

NHAI's **embrace** of tech should extend to city roads, **arterial** roads and neighbourhood streets, where potholes, **shoddy patchwork**, poor drainage and constant **digging** remain common. We need not just better roads, but a culture of moving away from a 'vendor-tender' culture, and of **monitoring** roads before they become **laughable** definitions of what city roads should be.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Mandate** (verb) - command, order, direct, require, decree अनिवार्य करना
2. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, routinely अक्सर
3. **Pothole** (noun) - crater, pit, cavity, road hollow, depression गड्ढा
4. **Precision** (noun) - exactness, accuracy, meticulousness, correctness, exact सटीकता
5. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, liability, answerability, culpability जवाबदेही
6. **Consistency** (noun) - uniformity, stability, constancy, regularity, coherence निरंतरता या एकरूपता
7. **An upfront cost** (noun) - an initial, one-time expense that you must pay before a product, service, project, or business venture begins शुरुआती लागत
8. **Eliminate** (verb) - remove, eradicate, wipe out, abolish, do away with समाप्त करना
9. **Vital** (adjective) - crucial, essential, imperative, critical, indispensable अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
10. **Logistics cost** (noun) - all the total expenses a business pays to move, store, handle, and manage goods from raw material suppliers to final customers परिवहन लागत
11. **Halt** (noun) - stop, pause, standstill, break, stoppage ठहराव
12. **Tend to** (phrasal verb) - being likely to do something as a habit or taking care of a person, place, or task की प्रवृत्ति रखना
13. **Infra** (noun) - infrastructure, framework, basic facilities, structural base, public works बुनियादी ढांचा (संक्षिप्त रूप)
14. **Jargon** (noun) - terminology, vocabulary, vernacular, language, parlance तकनीकी शब्दावली
15. **En route** (to) (adverb) - on the way; while travelling from/to a place के रास्ते में
16. **Marker** (noun) - indicator, sign, symbol, token, benchmark सूचक
17. **Embrace** (verb) - adopt, welcome, accept, take up, espouse अपनाना या खुले दिल से स्वीकार करना
18. **Arterial** (adjective) - main, principal, key route, connecting, major highway मुख्य (सड़क)
19. **Shoddy** (adjective) - poor quality, careless, inferior, substandard, sloppy घटिया या निम्न स्तर का
20. **Patchwork** (noun) - mending, repair work, makeshift fix, piecemeal repair, patchwork job जोड़-तोड़ की मरम्मत
21. **Digging** (noun) - excavation, trenching, burrowing, unearthing, tunneling खुदाई
22. **Monitoring** (noun) - surveillance, tracking, observation, oversight, supervision निगरानी
23. **Laughable** (adjective) - ridiculous, absurd, comical, ludicrous, humorous हास्यास्पद

Summary of the Editorial

1. The quality of a road depends not only on its design but also on the **system used to construct and maintain it**.
2. Although India has detailed **road construction standards**, there is often a large gap between prescribed specifications and the roads actually built.
3. This gap is visible in the form of **potholes, poor patchwork and delayed repairs**.
4. The **NHAI's decision to make AI-based Machine Control (AI-MC) compulsory** for highway projects is a welcome step.
5. AI-MC uses **sensors, computers and real-time data** to ensure that different layers of a road are constructed according to specifications.
6. The technology can improve **precision, accountability and consistency** in highway construction.
7. AI-based construction will involve **higher upfront costs**, but better-quality roads could reduce long-term maintenance expenses.
8. Stronger and longer-lasting roads can also help **reduce accidents**, although better construction alone cannot eliminate road accidents.
9. Road quality is particularly important for **road safety, comfort and efficient transportation**.
10. Good roads allow trucks to move more efficiently, reducing **fuel consumption, travel time and logistics costs**.
11. A TCI-IIM Kolkata study estimated that poor road conditions, delays and frequent halts cost India about **\$21.3 billion annually**.
12. India often measures infrastructure development through **highway kilometres and money spent**, but people experience development through the roads they use every day.
13. Roads near homes, markets and schools are highly visible **markers of development**, making their quality important to citizens' daily lives.
14. The NHAI's use of technology should therefore be extended beyond highways to **city roads, arterial roads and neighbourhood streets**, where potholes, poor patchwork, drainage problems and repeated digging are common.
15. India needs not only better roads but also a shift away from the **vendor-tender culture** towards continuous monitoring, accountability and timely maintenance before roads deteriorate into symbols of poor urban governance.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is implied by the author's suggestion that NHAI's technology should extend to "city roads and arterial roads"?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Modernizing highways alone is insufficient for achieving true development.
 - B. City roads are structurally more important than the national highway grid.
 - C. Urban infrastructure requires less investment than high-speed corridors.
 - D. Potholes on neighborhood streets are caused by a lack of digital sensors.
2. **Identify the correct passive voice form: "Poor road conditions cost India \$21.3 billion a year."**
 - A. India is cost \$21.3 billion a year by poor road conditions.
 - B. \$21.3 billion is being cost to India by poor road conditions.
 - C. \$21.3 billion a year has been cost by poor road conditions.
 - D. India was costed \$21.3 billion a year by road conditions.
3. **The author's tone in the passage can best be described as:**
 - A. Cynical and Aggressive
 - B. Laudatory and Enthusiastic
 - C. Objective and Suggestive
 - D. Sarcastic and Dismissive
4. **Which of the following can be deduced about the relationship between road quality and safety from the passage?**
 - A. Structural integrity is a prerequisite for safety but not an absolute solution.
 - B. Technology can replace human vigilance in avoiding road fatalities.
 - C. Higher highway speeds are linked to the adoption of digital sensors.
 - D. Accidental deaths on highways are caused by poor engineering standards.
5. **According to the author, what is the fundamental problem with the "vendor-tender" culture?**
 - A. It prevents private sector participation in the building of city streets.
 - B. It creates a bureaucratic hurdle that slows down international bidding.
 - C. It rewards transparency and prevents the use of low-quality materials.
 - D. It prioritizes the process of procurement over the longevity of the asset.
6. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

It was not merely the fragmentation of administrative jurisdictions across sectors (1)/ that disrupted cohesive governance, but the inertia embedded in overlapping regulatory mandates (2)/ which, though designed to safeguard institutional autonomy, (3)/ ends up paralyzing inter-departmental responsiveness altogether. (4)

 - A. (1)
 - B. (2)
 - C. (3)
 - D. (4)
7. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

'A person who eats excessively or greedily'.

 - A. Glutton
 - B. Gourmet

- C. Epicure
D. Sybarite
8. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. During several Aprils in the past, as water level in the State's reservoirs hit rock bottom under the relentless summer sun, scheduled power cuts became part of life in our village. While adults accepted them with resignation, for us teenage boys the darkness was an invitation to adventure.
 2. One of our favourite pastimes was placing small candles atop their hard carapaces of tortoises in the marsh and gently release them. In the pitch darkness, it was a mesmerising sight — the candle flame casting a long, undulating reflection on the water before suddenly vanishing into the deep.
 3. It is often said that nostalgia is a poetic denial of the present. Yet, for me, a sudden plunge into darkness instantly brings to mind the vividly etched scenes of my teenage years in rural Kerala.
 4. However, for our gang of boys standing on the tumultuous cusp of adolescence, the darkness was never an inconvenience. The evening power cuts provided the perfect cover for our rustic escapades.
- A. 3-4-1-2
B. 3-1-4-2
C. 1-3-4-2
D. 3-1-2-4
9. **Change the following from active to passive:**
The committee had been debating complex amendments when the bell rang.
- A. Complex amendments had had been been debated by the committee when the bell rang.
B. Complex amendments had been being debated by the committee when the bell rang.
C. Complex amendments had be being debated by the committee when the bell rang.
D. Complex amendments had debated by the committee when the bell rang.
10. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
Had I known about the traffic, I **will leave early**.
- A. would have left earlier
B. would leave early
C. had left earlier
D. would left earlier
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
JUVENILE
- A. Adult
B. Wise
C. Childish
D. Mature
12. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Bury the hatchet
- A. To reconcile after a conflict

- B. To deepen hostility
 - C. To run away
 - D. To forget someone's name
13. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Extirpate
- A. Exterminate
 - B. Establish
 - C. Uproot
 - D. Eradicate
14. **Identify the misspelt word**
- A. Embarrassment
 - B. Indispensible
 - C. Camouflage
 - D. Rendezvous
15. **Spot the correct spelling of early film base compound.**
- A. Nitrocelulose
 - B. Nitrocellulose
 - C. Nitracellulose
 - D. Nitrocallulose
16. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- S1. Suru Valley, around 90 km from Kargil in Ladakh and 290 km from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, is steeped in a rich and harmonious cultural heritage. Tucked away in the Himalayas, it is surrounded by glacial deposits and famous peaks.
- A. The locals maintain a traditional agrarian lifestyle rooted in hospitality and spiritual devotion. Isolated from heavy commercialisation, the valley preserves an authentic way of life, where centuries-old customs, local Ladakhi-Balti cuisine and communal farming practices continue to thrive undisturbed.
 - B. While the lower valley follows Islamic traditions, the higher reaches remain deeply connected to the Buddhist heritage of neighbouring Zaskar.
 - C. The valley is primarily inhabited by the Purgi people of Tibetan descent, representing a unique historical blend of Islamic and Buddhist traditions.
 - D. The second Suru Summer Festival, recently organised by the Ladakh administration, focused on promoting Kargil as a premier sustainable, cultural and adventure tourism destination, while creating greater livelihood and employment opportunities for local communities.
- S6. As part of the event, various adventure activities were organised at different locations. A cycle rally, paragliding, river rafting and rock climbing were among the highlights of the festival
- A. C-B-A-D
 - B. B-C-A-D
 - C. C-A-B-D

D. B-A-C-D

17. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

The policy aims to neither penalise first-time offenders (1)/ nor those who may have violated norms (2)/ due to systemic ambiguity (3)/ rather than deliberate intent. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

18. Select the correct option:

The finance minister's statement was laden with caveats, none of ____ were explained.

- A. that
- B. them
- C. which
- D. Whom

19. Select the correct option:

The philosopher's stance was diametrically ____ to the prevailing orthodoxy

- A. adverse
- B. averse
- C. converse
- D. opposed

20. Select the correct option:

No sooner ____ the findings published than critics began questioning their legitimacy.

- A. was
- B. had
- C. were
- D. have

Directions

Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

Passage

Every year our club infallibly observes World Bicycle Day on June 3. Almost all the members along with a large number of residents of our small town (1)____ in the celebration with great enthusiasm.

In the morning, all the participants gather in the club ground with their bicycles dusted and cleaned thoroughly. Some of the participants decorate their bicycles to add (2)____ by wrapping colourful ribbons or floral garlands around the frame and handlebars, snapping spoke beads to the wheels or attaching a basket filled with faux flowers. (3)____, every bicycle is attached with small placards and cut-outs reading health- and environment-related pictures and slogans such as "Less Fuel, More Fitness", "Ride a Cycle, Save the Planet", "Burn Fat, Not Oil", "Leave the Noise, Ride a Bicycle."

A few days before the celebrations, World Bicycle Day becomes a (4)____ in our locality. The participants ride across the main road of the town covering about 10 kilometres. The number of participants in the bicycle rally is multiplied when more cyclists join on the way.

The rally ends in the club ground from where it starts. It is followed by a series of addresses delivered by some participants and guests before the closing address of our club president. Undoubtedly, everybody in their speeches encourages riding bicycles regularly for the benefits of our health, betterment of the environment, conservation of fossil fuels, and so on. Ironically, except the school-going teenagers, most of the participants leave their bicycles under the staircase (5)___ the next June 3. To them, the observation of the day seems just like a fashion.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):

- A. participates
- B. partake
- C. participate
- D. contribute

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):

- A. flair
- B. flare
- C. grandeur
- D. novelty

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

- A. Nonetheless
- B. Besides
- C. Instead
- D. Beside

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

- A. catchphrase
- B. rumour
- C. buzzword
- D. spectacle

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

- A. Unless
- B. since
- C. hence
- D. until

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Modernizing highways alone is insufficient for achieving true development.**

The author explicitly contrasts the way infrastructure is measured (highway kilometres, rupees spent) with the way development is actually experienced (the road outside one's home, the street to the market, the route to school). By saying NHAI's technology "should extend" beyond highways to city and neighbourhood roads, the author is implying that highway modernization alone doesn't capture or deliver real development — because most people's daily experience of roads is local, not national. This directly supports option (a).
Option B: The passage opens by calling the highway initiative "welcome" and spends multiple paragraphs praising its benefits — reduced accidents, lower logistics costs, fuel savings. Nowhere does it rank city roads above highways in importance.
Option C: This is the only mention of "investment" or "cost" in the entire passage, and it refers specifically to the cost of AI-MC technology on highways — not a comparison between urban roads and highways.
Option D: The author attributes poor city road quality to a systemic problem — the "vendor-tender culture" and lack of proper monitoring — not specifically to the absence of digital sensors.

2. B) **India is cost \$21.3 billion a year by poor road conditions.**

"Poor road conditions cost India \$21.3 billion a year" is a ditransitive sentence (a verb with two objects): Subject: Poor road conditions. Verb: cost (simple present tense). Indirect Object: India (the receiver of the "cost"). Direct Object: \$21.3 billion a year (the "cost" itself). With verbs like "give," "cost," "ask," "tell" — verbs that take two objects — passive voice is usually formed by promoting the indirect object to the subject position, while the direct object stays after the verb: The passage uses simple present tense ("cost" — a general, ongoing economic fact, not a one-time past event). So the passive form must also stay in simple present: "is cost" (not "was cost," "has been cost," or "is being cost").
Active: "Poor road conditions cost India \$21.3 billion a year"
Passive: "India is cost \$21.3 billion a year by poor road conditions"

3. C) **Objective and Suggestive**

The author presents facts and data in a measured, balanced way — citing statistics (62,122 deaths, \$21.3 bn losses), acknowledging both benefits ("welcome," "can pay for itself") and limitations ("can't eliminate accidents") of the AI-MC initiative. This balanced weighing of pros and cons reflects an objective tone. At the same time, the author moves beyond mere reporting to offer recommendations — that technology "should extend" to city roads, and that India needs "a culture of moving away from a 'vendor-tender' culture." This forward-looking, recommendatory language reflects a suggestive tone. Together, the passage neither swings into extreme praise nor harsh criticism, but calmly presents evidence and then suggests improvements — making "Objective and Suggestive" the most accurate description.

Option A: A cynical tone would distrust or mock the initiative, assuming it won't work or is merely superficial. Instead, the author explicitly calls the move "welcome" and explains its genuine benefits (precision, accountability, cost recovery). There is no aggressive language, harsh criticism, or confrontational phrasing anywhere in the passage.

Option B: A purely laudatory/enthusiastic tone would involve unqualified praise and excitement, without acknowledging limitations. However, the author deliberately tempers praise with caveats — noting that better roads "can't eliminate accidents," and pointing out persistent problems like "potholes, shoddy patchwork, poor drainage" on city roads. This balanced, measured approach rules out a simply celebratory or enthusiastic tone.

Option D: The author isn't mocking or belittling NHAI's efforts; rather, the overall passage builds a reasoned case for extending good practices further.

4. **A) Structural integrity is a prerequisite for safety but not an absolute solution.**

The author directly states two things together: first, that "better-engineered roads can't eliminate accidents" (acknowledging that structural quality alone won't stop all fatalities), and second, that "quality is vital to road safety" (acknowledging that structural quality is still a necessary contributing factor). This combination precisely reflects the idea that structural integrity/road quality is necessary but not sufficient — a prerequisite for safety, but not a complete or absolute solution on its own. This matches option (a) exactly.

Option B: The passage explicitly states that better engineering "can't eliminate accidents," which directly contradicts the idea that technology (without human vigilance, driving behavior, traffic rules, etc.) can fully prevent fatalities.

Option C: The passage discusses sensors only in the context of ensuring construction quality (precision, accountability, consistency), not in relation to vehicle speed or driving behavior on highways.

Option D: The passage explicitly states that even "better-engineered roads can't eliminate accidents," implying that other factors beyond engineering (such as driver behavior, vehicle condition, weather, traffic violations, etc.) also contribute to accidents.

5. **D) It prioritizes the process of procurement over the longevity of the asset.**

The author places "vendor-tender culture" in direct opposition to what's actually needed — "better roads" and proper "monitoring." This juxtaposition implies that the vendor-tender system, as it currently operates, focuses on completing the procurement/contracting process (awarding tenders, selecting vendors) rather than ensuring long-term road quality and durability. The passage's overall argument — that there's a gap between specifications "on paper" and what "gets built" (mentioned in the opening lines: "the distance between what's prescribed on paper and what gets built is measured in potholes, patchwork and pending repairs") — reinforces this idea that the system emphasizes completing the tender process rather than ensuring the asset (the road) actually lasts. This makes option D the most logical inference from the passage.

Option A: The passage never discusses "private sector participation" or suggests that the vendor-tender culture excludes private players.

Option B: There is no mention of "bureaucratic hurdles," "international bidding," or delays in the tendering process in the passage.

Option C: The author lists ongoing problems (potholes, shoddy patchwork) as evidence of poor quality control, and calls for moving away from the vendor-tender culture — meaning the author views this culture as a hindrance, not something that "rewards transparency" or "prevents" low-quality work.

6. D) 'ends up' के बदले **'ended up'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य वाक्य का काल Past Tense में है — It was not merely... that disrupted... but the inertia... which... अतः Relative Clause में भी Verb Past Tense में होना चाहिए।

'ended up' will be used instead of 'ends up' because the main clause is in the Past Tense (It was... that disrupted...), so the verb in the subordinate (relative) clause must also be in the past form to maintain tense consistency.

7. A) **Glutton** (noun) – A person who eats excessively or greedily बहुत खाने वाला व्यक्ति, पेटू
- **Gourmet** (noun) – A person who is a connoisseur of good food; a food expert स्वादिष्ट भोजन का जानकार
 - **Epicure** (noun) – A person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink स्वादप्रिय व्यक्ति
 - **Sybarite** (noun) – A person who is self-indulgent in their fondness for sensuous luxury विलासी व्यक्ति

8. B) **3-1-4-2**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph को start करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी previous context के writer की nostalgia और rural Kerala में teenage years के दौरान darkness से जुड़े memories के core theme को introduce करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह background context provide करता है कि summer season (Aprils) में reservoirs के low water levels के कारण village में scheduled power cuts कैसे routine बन गए थे, जो adults के लिए resignation और teenage boys के लिए adventure थे।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 1 में mention teenage boys के attitude को reinforce करता है कि darkness उनके लिए कभी inconvenience नहीं थी, बल्कि rustic escapades के लिए perfect cover थी।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और sequence का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें used phrase "One of our favourite pastimes" Sentence 4 के escapades का first specific real-life example provide करता है, जिसमें marsh में tortoises के carapaces पर candles रखकर water में floating flame देखने का visual description दिया गया है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the opening line of the provided text. It independently introduces the overarching theme of nostalgia and vivid teenage memories triggered by sudden darkness in rural Kerala.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it establishes the seasonal and environmental backdrop—how April summer heat depleted reservoir levels and caused scheduled power cuts in the village.

- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it builds on the contrast between adult resignation and adolescent excitement, elaborating that the evening blackouts served as an ideal cover for their rural escapades.
 - Sentence 2 comes after Sentence 4 as the logical conclusion. It delivers the concrete illustration promised in Sentence 4 via the phrase "One of our favourite pastimes," detailing the nocturnal ritual of placing lit candles on tortoises in the marsh.
9. B) **Complex amendments had been being debated by the committee when the bell rang.**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "The committee" Subject है, "had been debating" Verb (Past Perfect Continuous) है और "complex amendments" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "Complex amendments" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "had been being debated" (Past Perfect Continuous Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the committee" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The committee" (Subject), "had been debating" (Verb in Past Perfect Continuous), and "complex amendments" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "Complex amendments" (Subject), "had been being debated" (Passive Verb in Past Perfect Continuous), and "by the committee"
10. A) 'will leave early' के बदले '**would have left earlier**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक Third Conditional Sentence है जो भूतकाल की किसी काल्पनिक स्थिति और उसके परिणाम को दर्शाता है। "Had I known" (Past Perfect) से संकेत मिलता है कि शर्त अतीत में थी, इसलिए मुख्य Clause में 'would have + past participle' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा। ✓ सही वाक्य होगा: Had I known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.
- 'would have left earlier' will replace 'will leave early' because this is a third conditional sentence, referring to an unreal past condition and its probable past result. Since "Had I known" is in the Past Perfect, the main clause must use "would have + past participle." Correct sentence: Had I known about the traffic, I would have left earlier
11. C) **Juvenile** (adjective) – Young, youthful, immature, adolescent, childlike किशोर / बाल-संबंधी
Synonym: **Childish** (adjective) – Silly or immature like a child; youthful in behavior बालिश / बचकाना
- **Adult** (noun/adjective) – A fully grown or mature person; not young वयस्क / प्रौढ़
 - **Wise** (adjective) – Having knowledge, experience, and good judgment बुद्धिमान / विवेकी
 - **Mature** (adjective) – Fully developed physically or mentally; grown-up परिपक्व / समझदार
12. A) **Bury the hatchet** (idiom) – To reconcile after a conflict (मतभेद या झगड़े के बाद सुलह करना / मेल-मिलाप करना)
13. B) **Extirpate** (verb) – Destroy completely, eradicate, wipe out, eliminate, exterminate. पूर्णतः नष्ट करना

Antonym: **Establish** (verb) – Set up, found, create, institute, start. स्थापित करना

- **Exterminate** (verb) – Kill or destroy completely, annihilate, eradicate. समाप्त करना
- **Uproot** (verb) – Pull out by the roots, remove completely. जड़ से उखाड़ना
- **Eradicate** (verb) – Eliminate or destroy completely. मिटा देना

14. B) The correct spelling of 'Indispensible' is '**Indispensable**', which means "absolutely necessary, essential" अत्यावश्यक, अनिवार्य.

15. B) The correct spelling of 'Nitracellulose' is 'Nitrocellulose', which means "a highly flammable compound made from cellulose treated with nitric acid, used as a film base and in explosives." नाइट्रोसेल्युलोज – यह एक अत्यंत ज्वलनशील यौगिक

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में Suru Valley की geographical location और rich cultural heritage का introduction दिया गया है। Sentence C सीधे demographic context provide करता है कि valley में primarily Tibetan descent के Purgi people रहते हैं, जो Islamic और Buddhist traditions का blend represent करते हैं।
- Sentence B Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence C में mention किए गए religious blend को geographically break down करता है—lower valley Islamic traditions follow करती है, जबकि higher reaches Zaskar के Buddhist heritage से connected हैं।
- Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह local community के agrarian lifestyle, hospitality, cuisine और authentic cultural practices की details provide करता है।
- Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आएगा और S6 से connect करेगा। यह tourism development initiative—"The second Suru Summer Festival"—को introduce करता है। Finally, S6 में used phrase "the event" और "the festival" Sentence D के Suru Summer Festival को refer करते हुए festival की adventure activities (cycle rally, paragliding, rafting, rock climbing) के साथ sequence को logically conclude करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows S1 directly because S1 establishes the geographical setting and rich cultural heritage of Suru Valley, and Sentence C introduces the resident demographic—the Purgi people of Tibetan descent—and their dual Islamic-Buddhist traditions.
- Sentence B follows Sentence C because it geographically demarcates the dual heritage cited in Sentence C, noting that the lower valley follows Islamic traditions while the higher reaches align with Buddhist heritage.
- Sentence A follows Sentence B because it expands on the daily lifestyle of the local community, detailing their agrarian practices, authentic customs, and traditional Ladakhi-Balti cuisine.
- Sentence D follows Sentence A and links directly before S6 by introducing the regional development initiative: the administration-backed "second Suru Summer Festival." Finally, S6 uses the referential phrases "the event" and "the festival" to

detail the adventure activities organised as part of the festival introduced in Sentence D.

17. A) to neither penalise' के बदले '**neither to penalise**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "neither...nor" को जब किसी infinitive (to + verb) के साथ प्रयोग किया जाता है, तो "neither" 'to' के बाद नहीं बल्कि उससे पहले आता है। सही क्रम होगा — The policy aims neither to penalise first-time offenders nor those who may have violated norms...
- 'neither to penalise' will be used instead of 'to neither penalise' because when the correlative conjunction 'neither...nor' is used with an infinitive, 'neither' should come before 'to', not after it. Correct sentence — The policy aims neither to penalise first-time offenders nor those who may have violated norms due to systemic ambiguity rather than deliberate intent.
18. C) **which** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य "none of ___ were explained" में "none" एक सर्वनाम है जो "caveats" (plural noun) को संदर्भित करता है। "which" का प्रयोग वस्तुओं या चीजों के लिए किया जाता है, इसलिए यहाँ "which" सही है।
- 'Which' should be used because in the sentence "none of ___ were explained," the pronoun "none" refers to "caveats," which are things, not people. Hence, the correct relative pronoun to refer back to "caveats" is "which." Therefore, "none of which were explained" is grammatically and contextually accurate.
19. D) '**Opposed**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence में दार्शनिक के दृष्टिकोण (philosopher's stance) को उस समय की प्रचलित परंपरागत मान्यताओं (prevailing orthodoxy) के बिल्कुल विपरीत बताया गया है। "Diametrically opposed" एक स्थायी phrase है, जिसका अर्थ होता है "completely opposite" अर्थात् "संपूर्ण रूप से विपरीत"। इसलिए यहाँ "opposed" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'Opposed' should be used because, in the entire context, the sentence describes the philosopher's stance as being completely contrary to the prevailing orthodoxy. "Diametrically opposed" is a fixed expression meaning "completely opposite." Hence, "opposed" is the most appropriate choice
20. B) '**Had**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "No sooner" के साथ प्रायः "had" का प्रयोग होता है और वाक्य संरचना 'No sooner had + subject + past participle... than + clause' के रूप में होती है। यहाँ "findings" के प्रकाशित होते ही आलोचक प्रश्न करने लगे — यह past perfect और simple past के बीच का संबंध दिखा रहा है।
- 'Had' should be used because with "No sooner," the standard structure is 'No sooner had + subject + past participle... than + clause.' Here, the sentence indicates that as soon as the findings were published, critics began questioning — showing a cause-and-effect relationship between past perfect and simple past actions.
21. C) **participate**
- Blank (1) needs a plural present-tense verb, since the subject is "almost all the members," and the "along with" phrase does not change that number. a) participates: is a singular verb, violating the requirement since "members" is plural — the singular ending is a trap for anyone who lets "a large number of residents" or the nearby singular "town" pull the agreement. b) partake: is a plural verb meaning taking part in or sharing something, correctly plural, but violating the requirement since it needs "of" or "in" with a formal, often food-related sense, and reads oddly stiff for a town cycling event. c) participate: is a plural verb

meaning taking part in an activity, matching both the plural subject and the everyday register of a club celebration. d) contribute: is a plural verb meaning giving something towards a common effort, violating the requirement since it implies donating money or effort to a cause, not being present and taking part.

Hindi:

- Blank (1) में plural present-tense verb चाहिए, क्योंकि subject है "almost all the members," और "along with" वाला हिस्सा उसका number नहीं बदलता। a) participates: यह singular verb है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "members" plural है — यह singular ending उन लोगों के लिए trap है जो "a large number of residents" या पास वाले singular "town" से agreement खींच लेते हैं। b) partake: यह plural verb है जिसका meaning है किसी चीज़ में हिस्सा लेना या साझा करना, plural तो सही है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि इसके साथ "of" या "in" लगता है और इसका formal, अक्सर खाने से जुड़ा भाव इस town वाले cycling event पर बहुत भारी बैठता है। c) participate: यह plural verb है जिसका meaning है किसी गतिविधि में हिस्सा लेना, जो plural subject और club celebration के आम lehje दोनों से match करता है। d) contribute: इसका meaning है किसी साझा काम में कुछ देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह पैसा या मेहनत देना बताता है, मौजूद रहकर हिस्सा लेना नहीं।

22. A) **flair**

Blank (2) needs a noun for stylish visual appeal, since the ribbons, garlands and spoke beads are added purely to make the bicycles look striking. a) flair: is a noun meaning distinctive stylishness in how something is done or presented, matching the decorative touches that give the bicycles a bit of style. b) flare: is a noun meaning a sudden burst of flame or a signal light, violating the requirement since it is a homophone with an entirely unrelated meaning — a spelling trap for anyone going by sound. c) grandeur: is a noun meaning impressive magnificence and splendour, violating the requirement since it belongs to palaces and mountains, far too weighty for ribbons tied to a handlebar. d) novelty: is a noun meaning the quality of being new and unfamiliar, violating the requirement since these decorations repeat every year, so their appeal is style rather than newness.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो stylish दिखावट बताए, क्योंकि ribbons, garlands और spoke beads सिर्फ cycles को आकर्षक बनाने के लिए लगाए जा रहे हैं। a) flair: इसका meaning है किसी काम या पेशकश में दिखने वाला खास अंदाज़, जो cycles को थोड़ा style देने वाली सजावट से match करता है। b) flare: इसका meaning है आग की अचानक लपट या signal वाली रोशनी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उच्चारण में एक जैसा है पर meaning बिल्कुल अलग — यह आवाज़ के भरोसे चलने वालों के लिए spelling trap है। c) grandeur: इसका meaning है भव्यता और शान, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह महलों और पहाड़ों के लिए है, handlebar पर बंधे ribbons के लिए बहुत भारी है। d) novelty: इसका meaning है नया और अनोखा होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह सजावट हर साल दोहराई जाती है, तो इसकी खूबी नयापन नहीं, अंदाज़ है।

23. B) **Besides**

Blank (3) needs a connector that opens the sentence and adds one more item to what was just described — decorations first, then placards and slogans. a) Nonetheless: is a

conjunctive adverb meaning in spite of that, violating the requirement since the placards do not go against the decorations; both belong to the same effort. b) Besides: is a conjunctive adverb meaning in addition to that, matching the placards being added on top of the ribbons and garlands already mentioned. c) Instead: is a conjunctive adverb meaning in place of that, violating the requirement since the placards accompany the decorations rather than replacing them. d) Beside: is a preposition meaning next to, at the side of, violating the requirement since it must be followed by a noun ("beside the bicycle") and cannot stand alone before a comma — a one-letter trap for anyone reading it as "Besides."

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में ऐसा connector चाहिए जो sentence शुरू करे और अभी बताई गई बात में एक और चीज़ जोड़े — पहले सजावट, फिर placards और slogans। a) Nonetheless: इसका meaning है उसके बावजूद, जो violate करता है क्योंकि placards सजावट के खिलाफ नहीं हैं, दोनों एक ही तैयारी का हिस्सा हैं। b) Besides: इसका meaning है इसके अलावा, जो पहले बताए गए ribbons और garlands के ऊपर placards जुड़ने से match करता है। c) Instead: इसका meaning है उसकी जगह पर, जो violate करता है क्योंकि placards सजावट के साथ लगते हैं, उसकी जगह नहीं लेते। d) Beside: यह preposition है जिसका meaning है के बगल में, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसके बाद noun चाहिए होता है ("beside the bicycle") और यह अकेला comma से पहले खड़ा नहीं हो सकता — एक अक्षर का यह फर्क "Besides" पढ़ लेने वालों के लिए trap है।

24. C) **buzzword**

Blank (4) needs a singular noun for a term suddenly on everyone's lips in the locality in the days before the event. a) catchphrase: is a noun meaning a memorable phrase repeatedly associated with a person or show, violating the requirement since it belongs to a particular speaker or programme, while here a term is circulating through the whole neighbourhood. b) rumour: is a noun meaning an unverified story passed around, violating the requirement since the event is a fixed annual fact, not gossip of doubtful truth. c) buzzword: is a noun meaning a term suddenly in fashionable, widespread use, matching a name on everyone's tongue for a few days, and quietly setting up the closing line that the day "seems just like a fashion." d) spectacle: is a noun meaning a striking public display, violating the requirement since it names the event itself, whereas the sentence describes what the name becomes days before anything is staged.

Hindi:

- Blank (4) में ऐसा singular noun चाहिए जो उस शब्द को बताए जो event से कुछ दिन पहले पूरे इलाके की जुबान पर चढ़ जाता है। a) catchphrase: इसका meaning है किसी व्यक्ति या show से जुड़ा बार-बार दोहराया जाने वाला यादगार जुमला, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह किसी खास बोलने वाले से जुड़ा होता है, जबकि यहाँ शब्द पूरे मोहल्ले में घूम रहा है। b) rumour: इसका meaning है बिना पुष्टि वाली उड़ती बात, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह event हर साल तय है, कोई अफ़वाह नहीं। c) buzzword: इसका meaning है वो शब्द जो अचानक हर तरफ चलन में आ जाए, जो कुछ दिन सबकी जुबान पर रहने वाले नाम से match करता है, और आगे "seems just like a fashion" वाली बात के लिए ज़मीन भी तैयार करता है। d) spectacle: इसका meaning है आँखें खींचने वाला सार्वजनिक नज़ारा, जो violate करता है

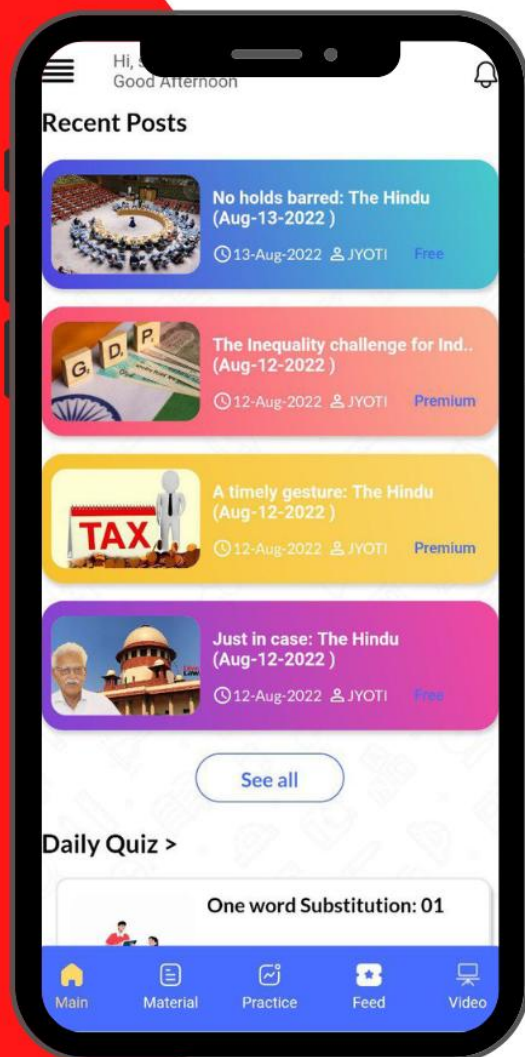
क्योंकि यह खुद event को बताता है, जबकि sentence बता रहा है कि आयोजन से पहले ही उसका नाम क्या बन जाता है।

25. D) **until**

Blank (5) needs a preposition for a period continuing right up to a future point — the bicycles lying unused all the way to next June 3. a) Unless: is a conjunction meaning except if, violating the requirement since it introduces a condition and must be followed by a clause, not the noun phrase "the next June 3." b) since: is a preposition meaning from a past point up to now, violating the requirement since it looks backward, while the blank points forward to a date yet to come. c) hence: is a conjunctive adverb meaning for that reason, violating the requirement since it links a cause to its result and cannot take a noun phrase after it the way a preposition must here. d) until: is a preposition meaning up to the time that, matching the neglect stretching from the rally to the following year's celebration.

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में ऐसा preposition चाहिए जो किसी हालत के आगे किसी तय दिन तक चलते रहने को बताए — यानी cycles का अगले June 3 तक पड़े रहना। a) Unless: यह conjunction है जिसका meaning है अगर ऐसा ना हो तो, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह शर्त लगाता है और इसके बाद clause चाहिए होता है, "the next June 3" जैसा noun phrase नहीं। b) since: इसका meaning है किसी बीते वक्त से अब तक, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह पीछे की तरफ देखता है, जबकि blank आगे आने वाली तारीख की बात कर रहा है। c) hence: यह conjunctive adverb है जिसका meaning है इस वजह से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह कारण को नतीजे से जोड़ता है और इसके बाद noun phrase नहीं आ सकता, जैसा यहाँ preposition के लिए ज़रूरी है। d) until: इसका meaning है उस वक्त तक जब, जो rally से अगले साल के आयोजन तक खिंचती इस बेरुखी से match करता है।



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