

Falling edifice: On the Delhi private hostel building collapse

Delhi's **ambition** as an education hub **is** at odds with its civic **infrastructure**

The **collapse** of a five-storey building in Delhi, being run as a private hostel that killed seven and injured five in a **densely** populated colony **abutting** Delhi University's South Campus, **has** brought to light the twin issues of **haphazard** development in the capital city's residential areas and the shortage of **affordable** housing for students. With over 70,000 students entering Delhi University every year and almost half of them needing **accommodation** on a student budget, the city has failed to keep up with the growing demand. The University has, for all practical purposes, absolved itself of the responsibility, **citing** lack of land, leaving private players to cash in and run paying guest accommodations or private hostels that are not **regulated**. In a setup where every extra bed means more revenue, matchbox-sized rooms, **often** located in buildings that **flout** building **bylaws** and fire safety regulations and have no **ventilation**, are what several students call home. As soon as they arrive in the capital, **students** from many parts of the country **realise** that they are paying to live in the city not just in **monetary** terms but with their safety, security and **sanity**.

The Delhi government says that it wants the city to be a national education **hub** and **harness** the soft power of its youth, but that will be not possible without **addressing** the need for **affordable**, safe student housing. The Delhi government has **suspended** five senior officers of the civic body, ordered a **probe** and announced that it was working on introducing a **stringent** policy under which every building used for public activity would be required to **undergo** periodic structural audits and obtain safety certifications. It must go beyond these reactive measures to **seek** more **durable** solutions. In 2024, the **basement** of a coaching centre **flooded** due to heavy rains **claiming** the lives of three civil service aspirants. After that incident as well, probes were ordered, basements were **sealed** and legal action was taken against owners but a larger **systemic** change remains **elusive**. The Centre and the Government of NCT must work together with educational institutions to develop more residential, travel and learning facilities for students. The **introduction** of four-year undergraduate programmes also **means** that students will stay on for an additional year, increasing the pressure on accommodation. Private hostels can be part of the solution, but **crumbling** civic infrastructure, illegal construction and **lack** of safety audits must **be** tackled through policy and strict **enforcement**.

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Vocabulary

1. **Edifice** (noun) - building, structure, establishment, construction, complex
इमारत
2. **Ambition** (noun) - aspiration, goal, objective, desire, aim महत्वाकांक्षा
3. **At odds with** (phrasal verb) - to be in disagreement, conflict, or lack of alignment with someone or something के विपरीत
4. **Storey** (noun) - floor, level, tier, deck मंजिल (इमारत की)
5. **Densely** (adverb) - thickly, closely, heavily populatedly, compactively घनी आबादी से
6. **Abutting** (adjective) - adjoining, bordering, touching, adjacent, contiguous सटा हुआ
7. **Bring to light** (phrase) - to reveal, uncover, expose प्रकाश में लाना
8. **Haphazard** (adjective) - random, disorganized, chaotic, unstructured, erratic अव्यवस्थित
9. **Affordable** (adjective) - economical, cheap, reasonably priced, budget-friendly, low-cost किफायती
10. **Accommodation** (noun) - lodging, housing, residence, shelter, quarters रहने की व्यवस्था
11. **Keep up with** (phrasal verb) - to do whatever is necessary to stay level or equal with someone or something साथ बनाए रखना
12. **Absolve** of (verb) - to officially or formally free someone from guilt, blame, or responsibility for a wrongdoing जिम्मेदारी से मुक्त करना
13. **Cite** (verb) - mention, reference, quote, point to, invoke हवाला देते हुए
14. **Cash in** (phrasal verb) - to gain an advantage for yourself from a situation, especially in a way that other people think is wrong or immoral फायदा उठाना
15. **Regulate** (verb) - control, govern, supervise, monitor, oversee नियमित करना
16. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly अक्सर
17. **Flout** (verb) - violate, disobey, defy, break, infringe उल्लंघन करना
18. **Bylaw** (noun) - a law that is made by a local authority and that has to be obeyed only in that area उप-नियम
19. **Ventilation** (noun) - air circulation, fresh air flow हवा का आना-जाना
20. **Monetary** (adjective) - connected with money मौद्रिक
21. **Sanity** (noun) - mental stability, soundness of mind, reason, sense, rationality मानसिक संतुलन
22. **Hub** (noun) - center, focal point, core, nerve center, center point केंद्र या हब
23. **Harness** (verb) - utilize, exploit, employ, channel, use effectively उपयोग में लाना
24. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, deal with, confront, resolve संबोधित करना
25. **Suspend** (verb) - temporarily stop, debar, bench, put on hold, halt निलंबित करना
26. **Probe** (noun) - investigation, inquiry, examination, check, scrutiny जांच

27. **Stringent** (adjective) - strict, rigorous, severe, firm, tight सख्त
28. **Undergo** (verb) - experience, go through, face, endure, pass through से गुजरना
29. **Structural audit** (noun) - a comprehensive health check-up of an existing building to evaluate its overall safety, stability, and physical condition संरचनात्मक ऑडिट
30. **Seek** (verb) - look for, search, pursue, try to find, aim for तलाशना
31. **Durable** (adjective) - lasting, permanent, enduring, long-lasting, stable टिकाऊ
32. **Claim** (verb) - has caused the death of जान लेना (यहाँ आपदा में मौत के संदर्भ में)
33. **Seal** (verb) - close, shut down, block, lock, barricade बंद करना
34. **Systemic** (adjective) - institutional, structural, organic, inherent, widespread ढांचे से जुड़ा
35. **Elusive** (adjective) - hard to catch, evasive, hard to achieve, slippery, intangible हाथ न आने वाला
36. **Crumbling** (adjective) - decaying, collapsing, disintegrating, falling apart, deteriorating ढहता हुआ
37. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, application, imposition, reinforcement अनुपालन

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **collapse** of a five-storey private hostel building in Delhi killed **seven people** and injured five others.
2. The incident highlights the **gap** between Delhi's ambition to become an education hub and its inadequate **civic infrastructure**.
3. Delhi University receives more than **70,000 students annually**, creating a huge demand for affordable accommodation.
4. Nearly **half of these students require budget-friendly housing**, but the city has failed to meet this growing demand.
5. Delhi University has largely **absolved itself** of responsibility for student accommodation, citing a **shortage of land**.
6. This shortage has allowed private operators to **cash in** by running paying-guest facilities and private hostels.
7. Many such accommodations remain **unregulated**, with overcrowded rooms and buildings that violate construction and **fire-safety rules**.
8. Students often live in **poorly ventilated, cramped and unsafe buildings** because affordable alternatives are limited.
9. Therefore, students pay not only financially but also in terms of their **safety, security and mental well-being**.
10. Although the Delhi government wants to make the city a national **education hub**, this goal cannot be achieved without providing **safe and affordable student housing**.
11. The government has suspended five civic officials, ordered an investigation and proposed **periodic structural audits and safety certifications**.
12. However, the editorial argues that such **reactive measures** are insufficient; Delhi needs **long-term and durable solutions**.
13. The 2024 coaching-centre basement flooding, which killed three civil-service aspirants, similarly led to investigations and sealing of basements but failed to produce **systemic change**.
14. The Centre, Delhi Government and educational institutions must jointly develop better **residential, transportation and learning facilities**, especially as four-year degree programmes will increase accommodation demand.
15. **Private hostels can help solve the housing shortage**, but illegal construction, deteriorating civic infrastructure and safety violations must be addressed through **strong policies, regular audits and strict enforcement**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. In the sentence "The Delhi government has suspended five senior officers of the civic body," the verb structure is an example of: [Editorial Page]
 - A. Simple past tense in passive voice
 - B. Present perfect tense in active voice
 - C. Past continuous tense in active voice
 - D. Present continuous tense in passive voice
2. What dual urban challenges are highlighted by the private hostel tragedy?
 - A. Unplanned residential growth and insufficient student lodging
 - B. Exorbitant tuition expenses and restricted transit networks
 - C. Elevated regional migration and deficient varsity campuses
 - D. Municipal agency corruption and commercial zoning breaches
3. What core limitation does the author find in the state government's response?
 - A. It relies on superficial fixes rather than systemic reform
 - B. It refuses to punish negligent municipal civic officials
 - C. It places structural audit expenses directly on scholars
 - D. It prioritizes commercial growth over education expansion
4. What does paying for living in the city with "safety, security and sanity" imply?
 - A. Steep living expenses compel scholars into taking extra shifts
 - B. Aggressive property owners demand excessive monetary deposits
 - C. Strict administrative curfews restrict normal scholar movement
 - D. Harsh living conditions force scholars to sacrifice well-being
5. Why does the passage refer to the 2024 coaching centre flooding incident?
 - A. To illustrate that reactive measures have failed to produce lasting change before
 - B. To argue that coaching centres face even less regulation than hostels
 - C. To show that student deaths have become more frequent since 2024
 - D. To demonstrate that heavy rainfall poses a growing risk to civic infrastructure
6. Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.
 1. She is one of dozens of teens who have participated in the research at the Teens, Family, and Technology Lab at Rutgers University.
 2. Meryl is 13.
 3. While the 13-year-old's language is not unusual, teen voices are still largely missing from broader debates about social media use.
 4. She describes YouTube Shorts as "so addicting"; holding her attention "just long enough" that she loses track of everything else.
 - A. 2-1-4-3
 - B. 2-4-1-3
 - C. 4-2-1-3
 - D. 2-4-3-1
7. 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. BRICS has strayed quite far from where it started.

- A. The first summit hosted by India (the fourth BRICS summit), in 2012, focused on the theme "Global Stability, Security and Prosperity," tacitly reflecting a much broader geopolitical canvas.
- B. To be held this weekend (September 12-13, 2026) the 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi, gives India a huge opportunity to bring coherence back to the expanded group and give it direction if it is to be an effective body in shaping global events.
- C. India was initially an enthusiastic participant, seeing the group as a vehicle for genuine reform of multilateral institutions.
- D. BRICS was formed to give a greater voice to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the emerging economies, in global governance and institutions, particularly financial and economic institutions, and to aim for a more equitable multilateral order.
- S6. The Indian presidency helped lead to the establishment of the BRICS Bank, the New Development Bank.
- A. B-D-C-A
- B. D-C-A-B
- C. B-C-D-A
- D. D-B-C-A
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The detective remained suspicious of the suspect's alibi, as it was inconsistent _____ the evidence.
- A. of
- B. to
- C. in
- D. with
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
To examine or analyse something (such as a metal or an idea) to determine its quality, nature, or components.
- A. Argue
- B. Assay
- C. Assert
- D. Assist
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The company's decision to downsize was intended to increase profitability.
- A. Reduce
- B. Amplify
- C. Overlap
- D. Enhance
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given proverb.**
The proof of the pudding is in the eating.
- A. Don't assume success before it actually happens.
- B. The most noticeable or loudest problems get attention.
- C. The quality of something can be judged after you have tried it.
- D. Time feels longer when you're waiting for something to happen.
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Be a killjoy

- A. Something that is contrary to someone's natural feelings, beliefs, or habits.
- B. A difficult problem or a person who is hard to understand or deal with.
- C. A positive aspect or hope in an otherwise bad situation.
- D. Someone who spoils the fun or dampens others' enthusiasm.

13. **Select the option that correctly punctuates the given sentence.**

I visited Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata last summer.

- A. I visited- Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata, last summer.
- B. I visited, Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata last summer.
- C. I visited Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata last summer.
- D. I visited: Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata, last summer

14. **Select the correctly punctuated version of the phrase to fill in the blank and complete the given sentence.**

'spent our holiday in France it was very crowded' Rahim, Rajam and I

_____.

- A. spent our holiday in France: it was very crowded.
- B. spent our holiday in France it was very crowded.
- C. spent our holiday in France; it was very crowded.
- D. spent our holiday, in France, it was very crowded

15. **Select the most appropriate article to fill in the blank. If no article is needed, select 'No article required'.**

Raveena's plane landed on time, and she collected her luggage from _____ handler quickly.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. no article required
- D. the

16. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Gourmund
- B. Reprimand
- C. Forewarned
- D. Apprehend

17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A loud and boisterous laugh, often one that is unrestrained or hearty.

- A. Snicker
- B. Giggle
- C. Chuckle
- D. Guffaw

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

This is the _____ snowstorm that I have seen in the last ten years.

- A. better
- B. good
- C. easier
- D. worst

19. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

- A. Fragrance
- B. Enigma
- C. Vitality
- D. Ambitious

20. From the alternatives given below, select the correct passive voice of the following sentence.

The soldier looked at the photograph of his family and then he pointed his gun at the enemy.

- A. The photograph of his family looked at by the soldier and then his gun was pointed at the enemy by him.
- B. The photograph of his family was looked at by the soldier and then his gun was pointed at the enemy by him.
- C. The photograph of his family was looked at by the soldier and then his gun pointed at the enemy by him.
- D. The photograph of his family looked at by the soldier and then his gun pointed at the enemy by him.

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

If a person does not use his birth as a human being to attain liberation, then he (1)___ to have wasted his life. Being a human being has many advantages, which aid liberation, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. We can use our hands to offer flowers to God. We can use our hands to clean temples, as the Saivite sage Appar did. We should see our legs as the means to walk to temples, and to (2)___ the sanctum. Our eyes are intended for looking at the images of God in temples. Our mouths are for singing His praises. The head is given to us to (3)___ prayerfully before the Lord. Appar says to his head, Thalaiye nee thalai vanangai (Oh head, bow before Lord Siva). But if we do not use our faculties as they should be used, then of what use is this life? If we pursue pleasures and have no time for God, how can we attain moksha? Something negative can be countered only by something positive. Birth leads to problems and unhappiness. Repeated births take place because of our ignorance. This ignorance is the negative aspect of our lives, and can be banished only if we worship God. Tirukkural verse 358 talks about getting rid of ignorance. Thiruvachagam says there are 84,000 possible births an atma can have. Manickavachagar says in Thiruvachagam that he has taken birth as a (4)___ of grass, a worm, many kinds of animals and birds, snakes, stones, human beings, ghosts, sages and devas and has suffered in consequence. Avvaiyar says it is rare good fortune to take birth as a human being. She advises that we spend our time in the company of virtuous people. Being in the company of those with vices can lead to us picking up those vices. It is imperative that we pay attention to the words of principled people. We must talk about their good qualities and (5)___ them.

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

- A. may be said
- B. may say
- C. may have said
- D. saying

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

- A. traverse

- B. encircle
- C. circumambulate
- D. besiege

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

- A. bow
- B. kneel
- C. submit
- D. bowing

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

- A. sliver
- B. blade
- C. shred
- D. strand

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

- A. mimicry
- B. admire
- C. emulate
- D. impersonate

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **Present perfect tense in active voice.**

passage: "The Delhi government has suspended five senior officers of the civic body." The verb structure "has suspended" follows the formula "has/have + past participle," which is the standard construction for present perfect tense. It is in the active voice because the subject ("The Delhi government") is directly performing the action (suspending) upon the object ("five senior officers"). Option A: Incorrect — Simple past tense would be "suspended" (without "has"), and passive voice would require the structure "were suspended by."

Option C: Incorrect — Past continuous tense follows the structure "was/were + verb-ing" (e.g., "was suspending"). The sentence uses "has suspended," which does not match this pattern.

Option D: Incorrect — Present continuous tense follows "is/are + verb-ing" (e.g., "is being suspended" for passive). The sentence structure "has suspended" matches neither the present continuous tense nor the passive voice construction.

2. A) **Unplanned residential growth and insufficient student lodging.**

Line from passage: "...has brought to light the twin issues of haphazard development in the capital city's residential areas and the shortage of affordable housing for students." The passage names the "twin issues" as (1) "haphazard development in... residential areas" (i.e., unplanned residential growth) and (2) "the shortage of affordable housing for students" (i.e., insufficient student lodging). Option (a) captures both elements accurately.

(b) Incorrect — Neither tuition costs nor transportation/transit networks are mentioned in the passage.

(c) Incorrect — While the passage mentions students coming "from many parts of the country," this is not framed as "migration" as an urban challenge; and "deficient varsity campuses" misrepresents the issue, which is about housing shortage, not campus infrastructure/deficiency itself (the University's issue is lack of land for hostels, not general campus deficiency).

(d) Incorrect — While building bylaws being flouted is mentioned, "corruption" is never explicitly stated as a cause, and "commercial zoning breaches" is not the terminology or focus used — the passage focuses on "haphazard development" and "housing shortage," not zoning violations specifically or corruption as a named issue.

3. A) **It relies on superficial fixes rather than systemic reform**

Line from passage: "It must go beyond these reactive measures to seek more durable solutions." The author explicitly states that the government's actions (suspending officers, ordering a probe, announcing a safety certification policy) are "reactive measures" and calls for the government to go "beyond" them toward "more durable solutions." This directly implies the current response is superficial/short-term rather than addressing the systemic, root-cause issues — reinforced by the reference to the 2024 coaching centre tragedy where similar reactive steps (probes, sealing, legal action) failed to produce "larger systemic change."

(b) Incorrect — The government did act against officials: "The Delhi government has suspended five senior officers of the civic body." The author's criticism is not that no action was taken against officials, but that the response overall lacks durability/systemic depth.

(c) Incorrect — There is no reference to who bears the cost of structural audits.

(d) Incorrect — This critique is not made about the "state government's response" specifically. The passage criticizes the University for citing "lack of land" and leaving the field to private players (profit-driven), but this is a separate point from the author's critique of the government's reactive/insufficient policy response, which is the specific focus of this question.

4. D) **Harsh living conditions force scholars to sacrifice well-being.**

The phrase "safety, security and sanity" directly follows the description of cramped, poorly ventilated, unsafe rooms in buildings that violate fire and building safety codes. This shows that students are enduring physical danger (safety), insecurity (from unregulated, unsafe structures), and mental/emotional strain (sanity) as a "cost" of living in the city — i.e., harsh living conditions that force them to sacrifice their well-being, beyond just the money they pay in rent.

Option A: Incorrect — There is no reference to students taking extra jobs or shifts; this is fabricated and unrelated to the "safety, security and sanity" phrase.

Option B: Incorrect — The focus is on unsafe/unregulated building conditions, not financial demands by owners.

Option C: Incorrect — This is fabricated and irrelevant to the described issue of unsafe, unventilated, illegally-constructed housing.

5. A) **To illustrate that reactive measures have failed to produce lasting change before**

The author cites this incident immediately after criticizing the government's current response as merely "reactive measures" that must go "beyond" to seek "durable solutions." The 2024 example serves as historical evidence/precedent — showing that similar reactive steps (probes, sealing, legal action) were taken after that tragedy too, yet "a larger systemic change remains elusive." This directly supports the author's argument that reactive measures alone don't work, reinforcing the need for structural reform this time.

(b) Incorrect — The passage does not compare the level of regulation between coaching centres and hostels. It uses the coaching centre incident purely as a parallel example of a reactive, insufficient government response — not as a comparative regulatory analysis.

(c) Incorrect — The passage does not make any claim about frequency or trends of student deaths over time. It cites the 2024 incident as one specific past example, not as part of a pattern showing increasing frequency.

(d) Incorrect — While heavy rain is mentioned as the cause of the flooding in that specific incident, the author's purpose in citing it is not about weather/climate risk to infrastructure — it's about the pattern of inadequate government follow-through after tragedies, which is unrelated to rainfall as a recurring civic risk.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 paragraph को start करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है और passage की exact first line है। यह बिना किसी previous context के main subject—13-year-old Meryl—को introduce करता है।

- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें used pronoun "She" सीधे Sentence 2 की Meryl को refer करता है और उसके personal experience को describe करता है कि YouTube Shorts उसके लिए कितना addicting है और वह कैसे सब कुछ भूलकर उसमें engrossed हो जाती है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Meryl के background context को introduce करता है कि वह Rutgers University की Teens, Family, and Technology Lab की research में participate करने वाले दर्जनों teens में से एक है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और sequence का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें used phrase "the 13-year-old's language" Meryl के addictive experience statement को refer करता है और broader issue highlight करता है कि teen language common होने के बावजूद social media debates में teenagers की real voices अभी भी largely missing हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the opening line of the provided text. It independently establishes the subject: a 13-year-old named Meryl.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the pronoun "She" refers back to Meryl, directly detailing her subjective experience with YouTube Shorts and its addictive nature.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it contextualizes Meryl's statement, identifying her as one of numerous adolescent participants in a study at Rutgers University's Teens, Family, and Technology Lab.
- Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 1 as the logical conclusion. The referring phrase "the 13-year-old's language" connects to Meryl's description in Sentence 4, expanding the scope to emphasize that adolescent perspectives remain conspicuously absent from mainstream debates on social media consumption.

7. A) B-D-C-A

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 बताता है कि BRICS अपने मूल उद्देश्य से काफी दूर चला गया है। Sentence B सीधे वर्तमान संदर्भ को जोड़ता है कि New Delhi में आयोजित होने वाला 18th BRICS Summit भारत को इस विस्तारित समूह में सामंजस्य (coherence) वापस लाने का एक बड़ा अवसर देता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह समूह की ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि ("where it started") पर जाता है और समझाता है कि BRICS का गठन Brazil, Russia, India, China और South Africa जैसी उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को वैश्विक मंच पर आवाज़ देने के लिए किया गया था।
- Sentence C Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence D में उल्लिखित multilateral order के सुधार के संदर्भ में भारत के प्रारंभिक दृष्टिकोण ("initially an enthusiastic participant") को स्पष्ट करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence C के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह 2012 में भारत द्वारा आयोजित पहले शिखर सम्मेलन (4th BRICS summit) और उसके विषय का उल्लेख करता है। अंत में, S6 भारत की इसी अध्यक्षता की ठोस उपलब्धि (New Development Bank की स्थापना) को बताते हुए अनुक्रम को समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B follows S1 directly because S1 establishes that BRICS has drifted from its initial trajectory, and Sentence B immediately presents the immediate opportunity for India at the upcoming 18th Summit in New Delhi to restore coherence.
 - Sentence D follows Sentence B by tracing back to the origin of the bloc, outlining its founding objective to amplify the voice of emerging economies in global governance and financial institutions.
 - Sentence C follows Sentence D by highlighting India's early stance and proactive participation, viewing the forum as an instrument for genuine multilateral reform.
 - Sentence A follows Sentence C and links directly before S6 by citing India's first host presidency in 2012 (the 4th summit) and its geopolitical agenda. Finally, S6 concludes the sequence by highlighting the landmark institutional outcome of that Indian presidency: the founding of the New Development Bank.
8. D) **'With'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'inconsistent with' एक स्थायी prepositional phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है — किसी चीज़ के अनुरूप न होना या मेल न खाना। यहाँ वाक्य में 'the suspect's alibi' (आरोपी का बयान) और 'the evidence' (सबूत) के बीच असंगति बताई जा रही है, इसलिए 'with' उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'With' should be used because the fixed expression 'inconsistent with' means not in agreement or harmony with something. In this sentence, the detective finds the suspect's alibi not matching the evidence, so "with" fits best.
9. B) **Assay** (verb) – To examine or analyse something (such as a metal or an idea) to determine its quality, nature, or components. जाँच करना / परखना
- **Argue** (verb) – To give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, action, or theory. वाद-विवाद करना / तर्क करना
 - **Assert** (verb) – To state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully. दृढ़ता से कहना / दावा करना
 - **Assist** (verb) – To help or support someone in doing something. सहायता करना / मदद करना
10. A) **Increase** (verb) – To make greater in size, amount, or degree; expand, enlarge, multiply, raise. बढ़ाना
- Antonym: **Reduce** (verb) – To make smaller or less in amount, degree, or size; lessen, decrease, diminish, lower. घटाना
- **Amplify** (verb) – To make louder, expand, or enlarge. बढ़ाना, विस्तार करना
 - **Overlap** (verb) – To extend over and partly cover something. आच्छादित होना
 - **Enhance** (verb) – To improve or make better in quality or value. सुधारना, बढ़ाना
11. C) **The proof of the pudding is in the eating** (proverb) – The true value or quality of something can only be determined by putting it to the test or using it. किसी वस्तु या कार्य की असली गुणवत्ता तभी पता चलती है जब उसे वास्तव में परखा या इस्तेमाल किया जाए।
12. D) **Be a killjoy** (idiom) – Someone who spoils the fun or dampens others' enthusiasm (वह व्यक्ति जो दूसरों का मज़ा खराब कर दे या उत्साह को कम कर दे)
13. C) **'I visited Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata last summer'** सही उत्तर है क्योंकि सूची (list) में तीन स्थानों — Delhi, Mumbai और Kolkata — के बीच comma (,) का प्रयोग किया जाता है। अतः विकल्प C सही है।
Commas are used to separate items in a list of three or more; hence, the correct sentence is — I visited Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata last summer.

14. C) 'spent our holiday in France; it was very crowded.' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ दो स्वतंत्र clauses हैं—पहला "spent our holiday in France" और दूसरा "it was very crowded"। इन दोनों को आपस में जोड़ने के लिए semicolon (;) का प्रयोग सबसे उपयुक्त है, क्योंकि यह दोनों विचारों को जोड़ता है जिनका आपस में घनिष्ठ संबंध है परंतु वे स्वतंत्र वाक्य भी हो सकते हैं। अतः Option C सही उत्तर है।
- 'spent our holiday in France; it was very crowded' should be used because there are two independent clauses: "spent our holiday in France" and "it was very crowded." A semicolon appropriately connects two closely related but independent ideas. Thus, Option C is the most correct choice.
15. D) **the** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'handler' एक specific व्यक्ति या group को दर्शा रहा है जो Raveena के सामान को संभाल रहा था। जब किसी specific या previously known person/thing की बात की जाती है, तब 'the' का प्रयोग किया जाता है।
- 'The' should be used because the sentence refers to a specific luggage handler responsible for Raveena's baggage. The definite article 'the' is used when referring to a particular or previously identified person or thing.
16. A) The incorrectly spelt word is 'Gourmund'. The correct spelling is '**Gourmand**', which means "a person who enjoys eating, often to excess" पेटू, स्वाद-लोलुप.
17. D) **Guffaw** (noun) – A loud and boisterous laugh, often one that is unrestrained or hearty. जोरदार हँसी / ठहाका
- **Snicker** (verb/noun) – A suppressed or half-stifled laugh, often mocking. दबी हुई हँसी / खिल्ली उड़ाना
 - **Giggle** (verb/noun) – A light, silly, or nervous laugh. मूर्खतापूर्ण या घबराई हुई हँसी
 - **Chuckle** (verb/noun) – A quiet or gentle laugh. धीमी या हल्की हँसी
18. D) '**Worst**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "the _____ snowstorm that I have seen in the last ten years" में comparison सभी snowstorms के बीच हो रहा है, इसलिए यहाँ superlative degree की आवश्यकता है। 'Worst' 'bad' का superlative रूप है, जो यह दर्शाता है कि यह अब तक का सबसे भयानक या खराब snowstorm है।
- 'Worst' should be used because the sentence compares one snowstorm with all others seen in the last ten years, requiring a superlative degree. 'Worst' is the superlative form of 'bad', meaning the most severe or unpleasant. Thus, "worst" is the most appropriate choice.
19. D) The correct spelling of 'Ambitious' is '**Ambitious**' which means "having a strong desire for success or achievement" महत्वाकांक्षी, सफल होने की तीव्र इच्छा रखने वाला.
20. B) The photograph of his family was looked at by the soldier and then his gun was pointed at the enemy by him.
- Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय Active sentence का Object, Passive sentence का Subject बन जाता है। यहाँ दो actions हैं — "looked at the photograph" और "pointed his gun at the enemy।" इसलिए दोनों verbs को Passive Voice में बदला जाएगा। Verb "looked at" Simple Past tense में है, इसलिए यह "was looked at" बनेगा। इसी प्रकार "pointed" भी Simple Past tense में है, इसलिए यह "was pointed" बनेगा। अतः सही Passive sentence होगा — "The photograph of his family was looked at by the soldier and then his gun was pointed at the enemy by him."
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. Here, there are two actions — "looked at the photograph" and "pointed his gun at the enemy." Therefore, both verbs must be converted

into Passive Voice. The verb "looked at" is in the Simple Past tense, so it changes into "was looked at." Similarly, "pointed" is also in the Simple Past tense, so it changes into "was pointed." Therefore, the correct passive sentence is — "The photograph of his family was looked at by the soldier and then his gun was pointed at the enemy by him."

21. A) **may be said**

Blank (1) needs a passive form, since "he" is the one being judged by others, not the one making the judgement. a) may be said: is a modal passive meaning others may judge him thus, matching the impersonal verdict the discourse passes on a wasted human birth. b) may say: is a modal active, violating the requirement since it would mean the person himself declares his life wasted, whereas the assessment comes from outside. c) may have said: is a modal perfect active, violating the requirement since it places a statement he made in the past, while the sentence is drawing a present conclusion about him. d) saying: is a present participle, violating the requirement since the main clause after "then" needs a finite verb, and "then he saying to have wasted" leaves it without one.

Hindi:

- Blank (1) में passive form चाहिए, क्योंकि "he" के बारे में फैसला दूसरे सुना रहे हैं, वो खुद नहीं। a) may be said: यह modal passive है जिसका meaning है दूसरे उसके बारे में ऐसा कह सकते हैं, जो discourse के उस फैसले से match करता है कि मनुष्य जन्म बेकार गया। b) may say: यह modal active है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे मतलब बनेगा कि वो खुद अपनी ज़िंदगी को बेकार बता रहा है, जबकि यह बात बाहर से कही जा रही है। c) may have said: यह modal perfect active है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उसके अतीत में कही किसी बात की ओर ले जाता है, जबकि sentence अभी उसके बारे में नतीजा निकाल रहा है। d) saying: यह present participle है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "then" के बाद main clause को finite verb चाहिए, जो इसमें नहीं है।

22. C) **circumambulate**

Blank (2) needs a base-form verb after "to," for the ritual walk devotees make around a shrine. a) traverse: is a base-form verb meaning crossing an area from one side to the other, violating the requirement since it describes passing through a space, not moving round something in a circle. b) encircle: is a base-form verb meaning forming a ring around something, violating the requirement since it describes a static surrounding, as a wall encircles a fort, rather than a person walking round it. c) circumambulate: is a base-form verb meaning walking ceremonially around a sacred object, matching the pradakshina performed around a temple sanctum. d) besiege: is a base-form verb meaning surrounding a place with armed force, violating the requirement since its hostile, military sense is entirely at odds with an act of worship.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में "to" के बाद ऐसा base-form verb चाहिए जो गर्भगृह की परिक्रमा को बताए। a) traverse: इसका meaning है किसी जगह को एक सिरे से दूसरे सिरे तक पार करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह आर-पार जाना बताता है, गोल घूमना नहीं। b) encircle: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के चारों ओर घेरा बना देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह ठहरा हुआ घेरा बताता है, जैसे दीवार किले को घेरती है, किसी के चलकर घूमने को नहीं। c) circumambulate: इसका meaning है किसी पवित्र स्थान के चारों ओर श्रद्धा से चलना, जो मंदिर के गर्भगृह की प्रदक्षिणा से match करता है। d) besiege: इसका meaning है सेना लेकर किसी जगह को घेर लेना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका युद्ध वाला भाव पूजा से बिल्कुल मेल नहीं खाता।

23. A) **bow**

Blank (3) needs a base-form verb after "to," describing what the head does in worship. a) bow: is a base-form verb meaning lowering the head in reverence, matching Appar's own words quoted right after, "Oh head, bow before Lord Siva." b) kneel: is a base-form verb meaning going down on one's knees, violating the requirement since knees perform that act, while this sentence assigns a function specifically to the head. c) submit: is a base-form verb meaning yielding to another's authority, violating the requirement since it names an inward surrender rather than the physical gesture the head is said to be given for. d) bowing: is a present participle, violating the requirement since "to" must be followed by the base form, giving "to bow."

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में "to" के बाद ऐसा base-form verb चाहिए जो बताए कि पूजा में सिर क्या करता है। a) bow: इसका meaning है श्रद्धा से सिर झुकाना, जो आगे quote किए गए Appar के अपने शब्दों "Oh head, bow before Lord Siva" से match करता है। b) kneel: इसका meaning है घुटनों के बल बैठना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह काम घुटने करते हैं, जबकि यह sentence खास तौर पर सिर का काम बता रहा है। c) submit: इसका meaning है किसी की सत्ता के आगे झुक जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भीतरी समर्पण बताता है, वो शारीरिक क्रिया नहीं जिसके लिए सिर मिला है। d) bowing: यह present participle है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "to" के बाद base form चाहिए, यानी "to bow"।

24. B) blade

Blank (4) needs a noun for a single leaf of grass, in the fixed pairing "___ of grass." a) sliver: is a noun meaning a thin sharp piece broken off something, violating the requirement since a sliver is a fragment split from a larger whole, like glass or wood, not a whole growing leaf. b) blade: is a noun meaning a single flat leaf of grass, matching the standard English pairing "a blade of grass." c) shred: is a noun meaning a strip torn off something, violating the requirement since it implies damage by tearing, while the birth described is of a complete living thing. d) strand: is a noun meaning a single thread or fibre, violating the requirement since it pairs with hair, wool or rope, never with grass.

Hindi:

- Blank (4) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो घास की एक पत्ती को बताए, "___ of grass" वाले जमे-जमाए जोड़े में। a) sliver: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ से टूटा पतला, नुकीला टुकड़ा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह काँच या लकड़ी जैसी बड़ी चीज़ से टूटा हिस्सा बताता है, पूरी उगी हुई पत्ती नहीं। b) blade: इसका meaning है घास की एक चपटी पत्ती, जो "a blade of grass" वाले standard जोड़े से match करता है। c) shred: इसका meaning है फाड़कर निकाली गई पट्टी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें फटने का भाव है, जबकि यहाँ एक पूरे जीव के जन्म की बात है। d) strand: इसका meaning है एक धागा या रेशा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह बाल, ऊन या रस्सी के साथ चलता है, घास के साथ कभी नहीं।

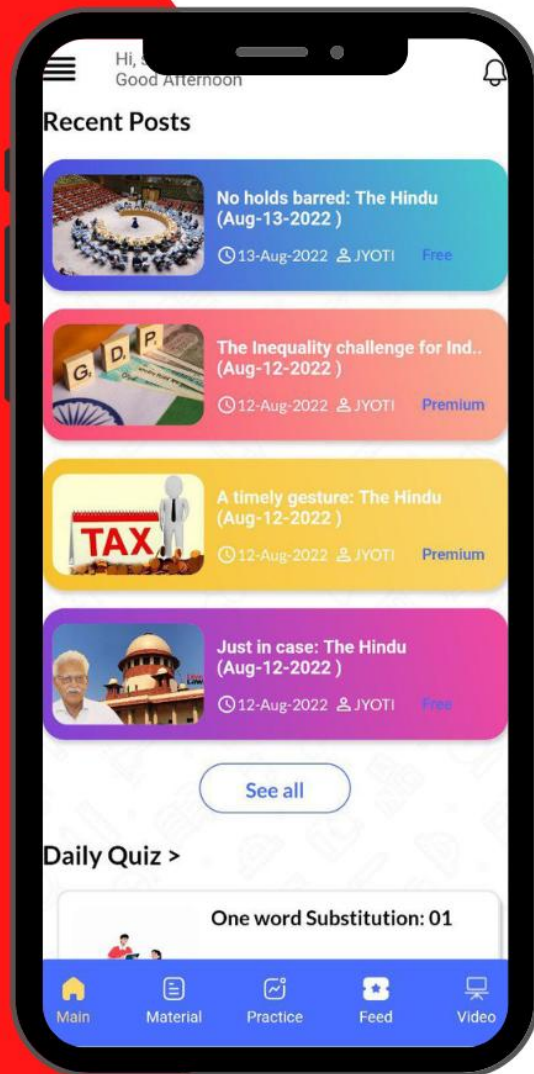
25. C) emulate

Blank (5) needs a base-form verb parallel to "talk," meaning to strive to match the good qualities of principled people. a) mimicry: is a noun meaning the act of copying someone's voice or manner, violating the requirement since "We must talk about their good qualities and mimicry them" needs a verb after "and," not a noun. b) admire: is a base-form verb meaning regarding someone with approval, violating the requirement since it stops at feeling, while Avvaiyar's counsel is to act on those qualities and take them on. c) emulate: is a base-form verb meaning striving to match someone's admired qualities in oneself, matching the advice to keep good company and absorb

their virtues, set against picking up vices from bad company. d) impersonate: is a base-form verb meaning pretending to be another person, violating the requirement since it involves assuming a false identity, not cultivating virtue in one's own.

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में "talk" के parallel ऐसा base-form verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो सद्गुणी लोगों के गुणों को अपने में उतारने की कोशिश करना। a) mimicry: यह noun है जिसका meaning है किसी की आवाज़ या अंदाज़ की नकल उतारने की क्रिया, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "and" के बाद verb चाहिए, noun नहीं। b) admire: इसका meaning है किसी को सराहना की नज़र से देखना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह सिर्फ भाव तक रुक जाता है, जबकि Avvaiyar की सलाह उन गुणों को अपनाने की है। c) emulate: इसका meaning है किसी के सराहनीय गुणों को खुद में उतारने की कोशिश करना, जो अच्छी संगति से गुण अपनाने वाली सलाह से match करता है, जो बुरी संगति से अवगुण चिपकने के मुकाबले रखी गई है। d) impersonate: इसका meaning है किसी और होने का नाटक करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें झूठी पहचान ओढ़ी जाती है, अपने भीतर गुण नहीं उगाए जाते।



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