

El Niño **calls for** wider monitoring of ecological stress

In recent years, India has become reasonably **proficient** in **forecasting** atmospheric disturbances that cause cyclones. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues alerts for extreme weather events such as **intense** rainfall and heat waves. In the coming months, the country's scientific community will face a different climate-related challenge. India has entered a **potentially** difficult post-monsoon period. After a 12.6 per cent rainfall **deficit** during the southwest monsoon, the IMD expects extremely dry conditions over most of the country for the rest of the year. A **strengthening El Niño** can reduce water availability in rivers and **wetlands** and increase stress on farms, forests and oceans. These could have **cascading effects** on people's lives and **livelihoods**. However, two **forests** with similar rainfall deficits may **respond** differently because of differences in soil moisture, **vegetation**, groundwater or human pressure. Two wetlands may have different capacities to **withstand** a **prolonged** dry spell. Such differences cannot be explained by the intensity of warming and **point to** the importance of local ecological conditions. A Super El Niño may not cause an ecological shock by itself, but it can push an already stressed system **past** a **threshold**. Micro-monitoring can help **discern** ecological **nuances** and help direct **scarce** resources to **imperilled** ecosystems. It can also identify **resilience**.

Continuous and high-level satellite **data** of the Earth's atmosphere and **surface** **has** fundamentally transformed weather forecasting and disaster response. Such observations today need to be **complemented** with field-level observations. Uttarakhand's recent **move** towards real-time monitoring of glacial lakes **is** an important initiative **in this respect**. At the especially **vulnerable** Vasundhara Tal, sensors will link changes in water levels, snow depth and other features of the glacial lake with early-warning **mechanisms**. Similarly, tracking soil moisture, vegetation stress and animal movement is necessary to identify unusually dry **patches** in forests early. This is particularly **imperative** because warmer winters, erratic western disturbances, and declining snow cover are already **altering** the moisture cycle in the Himalaya, leaving forests **vulnerable to** fires before spring. **Identifying** thermal distress in **coral reefs** can, **likewise**, **provide** valuable **insights** into the health of **marine ecosystems** and help protect **shorelines** from waves and **erosion**.

Last month, nearly 200 **ecologists** in the country **issued** an appeal for an emergency ecosystem-wide monitoring network. The appeal is **salient** because the current El Niño is **likely** to be too large for any one institution to track. The country has proven scientific capacity to understand weather, but ecological monitoring remains divided among research institutions, government departments, universities, and citizen groups. A **coordination framework** among them can **enable** a **robust** response not just to the immediate challenge, but to broader climate **vagaries**. **[Practice exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask for or demand something मांग करना
2. **Proficient** (adjective) - skilled, adept, competent, capable, experienced कुशल
3. **Forecast** (verb) - predict, foretell, anticipate, project, prophesy भविष्यवाणी करना
4. **Intense** (adjective) - severe, extreme, acute, fierce, profound तीव्र
5. **Potentially** (adverb) - possibly, probably, conceivably, likely, presumably संभावित रूप से
6. **Deficit** (noun) - shortage, shortfall, deficiency, scarcity, lack कमी
7. **Strengthen** (verb) - fortify, bolster, reinforce, toughen, intensify मजबूत करना
8. **El niño** (noun) - an abnormal weather pattern caused by the warming of the pacific ocean अल नीनो
9. **Wetlands** (noun) - marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, moors आर्द्रभूमि
10. **Cascading effect** (noun) - an inevitable chain of events where one event triggers another श्रृंखलाबद्ध प्रभाव
11. **Livelihoods** (noun) - incomes, sustenance, living, maintenance, subsistence आजीविका
12. **Vegetation** (noun) - flora, plants, greenery, foliage, herbage वनस्पति
13. **Withstand** (verb) - endure, resist, tolerate, brave, bear सहन करना
14. **Prolonged** (adjective) - extended, lengthy, sustained, protracted, continuous लंबा
15. **Point to** (phrasal verb) - to indicate or show that something is true or likely इशारा करना
16. **Past** (preposition) - beyond, exceeding, over, outside, without के पार
17. **Threshold** (noun) - limit, boundary, brink, verge, margin सीमा
18. **Discern** (verb) - perceive, recognize, detect, identify, distinguish पहचानना
19. **Nuances** (noun) - subtleties, distinctions, variations, shades, gradations सूक्ष्मता
20. **Scarce** (adjective) - limited, insufficient, meager, sparse, deficient दुर्लभ
21. **Imperil** (verb) - endanger, jeopardize, risk, threaten, hazard खतरे में डालना
22. **Resilience** (noun) - flexibility, durability, elasticity, toughness, adaptability लचीलापन
23. **Surface** (noun) - exterior, outside, face, top, veneer सतह
24. **Complement** (verb) - complete, supplement, enhance, augment, enrich पूरक होना
25. **In this respect** (phrase) - concerning this specific feature or detail इस संबंध में
26. **Vulnerable** (adjective) - susceptible, exposed, defenseless, fragile, unprotected असुरक्षित

27. **Mechanism** (noun) - system, procedure, process, method, apparatus तंत्र
28. **Patches** (noun) - areas, spots, tracts, plots, zones हिस्से
29. **Imperative** (adjective) - crucial, essential, vital, critical, necessary अनिवार्य
30. **Alter** (verb) - change, modify, adjust, amend, transform बदलना
31. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) - exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed by something की चपेट में
32. **Coral reefs** (noun) - a ridge of rock in the sea formed by the growth and deposit of coral मूंगा चट्टानें
33. **Likewise** (adverb) - similarly, correspondingly, equally, identically, uniformly उसी प्रकार
34. **Insights** (noun) - understanding, awareness, intuition, perception, comprehension अंतर्दृष्टि
35. **Marine ecosystem** (phrase) - aquatic environment with high levels of dissolved salt समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
36. **Shoreline** (noun) - the line along which the edge of the sea, a lake, a river etc. meets the land तटरेखा
37. **Erosion** (noun) - a process in which soil, stone, etc. is gradually damaged and removed by the waves, rain, or wind, or the result of this action कटाव
38. **Ecologist** (noun) - a person who studies or is an expert in ecology पर्यावरणविद्
39. **Salient** (adjective) - prominent, noticeable, striking, outstanding, remarkable मुख्य
40. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, possible, plausible, anticipated, expected संभावित
41. **Coordination** (noun) - collaboration, cooperation, organization, synchronization, harmony समन्वय
42. **Robust** (adjective) - strong, sturdy, vigorous, tough, powerful मजबूत
43. **Vagaries** (noun) - fluctuations, variations, unpredictability, quirks, whims अनिश्चितताएं

Summary of the Editorial

1. **India has become proficient** in forecasting atmospheric disturbances such as cyclones, heavy rainfall and heat waves through the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. However, the country now faces a different climate challenge as it enters a **potentially difficult post-monsoon period**.
3. The southwest monsoon recorded a **12.6% rainfall deficit**, and the IMD expects extremely dry conditions across most of India for the remaining months of the year.
4. A **strengthening El Niño** could reduce water availability in rivers and wetlands while increasing stress on farms, forests and oceans.
5. These environmental stresses can have **cascading effects** on people's lives, livelihoods and economic activities.
6. The impact of drought-like conditions will not be uniform because ecosystems with similar rainfall deficits can respond differently depending on **soil moisture, vegetation, groundwater and human pressure**.
7. Therefore, the severity of El Niño alone cannot explain ecological damage; **local ecological conditions** are equally important.
8. A very strong El Niño may not directly cause an ecological shock, but it can push an already stressed ecosystem **beyond a critical threshold**.
9. **Micro-monitoring** can identify ecological differences, locate imperilled ecosystems and help authorities direct scarce resources where they are most needed.
10. Continuous satellite observations have significantly improved **weather forecasting and disaster management**, but they need to be complemented by detailed **field-level monitoring**.
11. Uttarakhand's initiative to monitor **glacial lakes in real time** is a positive example, with sensors tracking water levels, snow depth and other indicators to strengthen early-warning systems.
12. Monitoring **soil moisture, vegetation stress and animal movement** can help identify unusually dry forest areas before they become vulnerable to fires.
13. Himalayan ecosystems are already facing changes caused by **warmer winters, erratic western disturbances and declining snow cover**, which are altering moisture cycles and increasing forest-fire risks.
14. Monitoring **coral-reef thermal stress** can provide early insights into the health of marine ecosystems and help protect shorelines from waves and erosion.
15. Nearly **200 Indian ecologists** have called for an emergency ecosystem-wide monitoring network. The editorial argues that coordination among research institutions, government departments, universities and citizen groups is essential for building a **robust response to El Niño and wider climate uncertainties**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage suggest about the ecological role of a "Super El Niño"?** **[Editorial Pg.]**
 - A. It operates as a solitary catalyst that triggers total degradation across pristine environments.
 - B. It serves as an exacerbating force that drives already fragile habitats beyond tipping points.
 - C. It neutralizes the protective influence exerted by resilient coastal coral reefs.
 - D. It supersedes local vegetative conditions to govern the precise timing of regional blazes
2. **What is the author's primary goal in citing the real-time tracking of Vasundhara Tal?**
 - A. To demonstrate that field sensors make satellite weather tracking unnecessary.
 - B. To prove that high-altitude glacial lakes are immune to winter warming trends.
 - C. To illustrate the value of combining ground observations with satellite data.
 - D. To show that early snowmelt can prevent downstream forest fires.
3. **What does the passage suggest was the ultimate cause of fragmentation in India's ecological monitoring?**
 - A. A lack of scientific expertise in predicting cyclonic landfalls accurately.
 - B. Work divided among separate state bodies, universities, and citizen groups.
 - C. Inadequate satellite coverage across sensitive coastal and marine biomes.
 - D. High costs associated with installing early-warning sensors in wetlands.
4. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**

VAGARIES

 - A. STABILITIES
 - B. PROBABILITIES
 - C. INTENSITIES
 - D. FRAGILITIES
5. **The tone of the passage is best described as:**
 - A. Critical and alarmist
 - B. Reflective and cynical
 - C. Neutral and descriptive
 - D. Analytical and pragmatic
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The widespread apathy of the electorate towards the forthcoming local council elections alarmed civic leaders, who feared that a historically low turnout would undermine the democratic legitimacy of whichever candidates were ultimately returned to represent their communities.

 - A. Indifference
 - B. Enthusiasm
 - C. Passion
 - D. Zeal
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.**

The detective found the suspect's shifting alibi quite _____, as it raised more questions than it provided answers.

 - A. troublesome

- B. perplexing
- C. viable
- D. informed

8. **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. Stardom is for a few chosen ones, and once they become a star, it is indeed a struggle to hold on to that status.

- A. And Amitabh Bachchan remains the biggest star of them all who has reigned over decades and generations.
- B. The actor grew up in Allahabad, spent a few years in Delhi, moved to Kolkata for work and then came to Mumbai to make it in the film industry.
- C. Most have been unable to do that, but there are a rare few who have made it happen: not once, but twice.
- D. After a dull start, Bachchan became the biggest star of the 1970s and despite a few hiccups, he was one of the only stars who could unite an entire country.

S6. After enjoying a great run in the movies and a rather forgettable time in politics, Big B turned towards business in the 1990s.

- A. C-A-B-D
- B. C-B-A-D
- C. A-C-B-D
- D. C-A-D-B

9. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

The art history teacher was sacked after she were thought taking school supplies.

- A. she was caught
- B. she was dumped
- C. she was wondered
- D. she was enlightened

10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

There are some monkeys / on the roof of the / carriage but Madhav / did not see them.

- A. did not see them.
- B. carriage but Madhav
- C. on the roof of the
- D. There are some monkeys

11. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

After months of refusing to negotiate, the union leadership finally capitulated to the management's revised proposals, recognising that continued industrial action would cause irreparable damage to both the workforce and the organisation's ability to survive in an increasingly competitive market.

- A. Resist
- B. Persist
- C. Defy

- D. Succumb
12. What is the correct meaning of the idiom “Beck and call”?
- A. Ignore orders
 - B. Always ready to obey
 - C. Work freely
 - D. Take rest
13. Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb. Align with
- A. To handle, manage or cope with difficult situations or tasks
 - B. To consider or include something when making a decision or judgment
 - C. To be in agreement, support, or cooperation with a person, group, idea, or goal
 - D. To abstain voluntarily from food or drink for a specific period of time
14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
- DOCILE
- A. Obedient
 - B. Compliant
 - C. Submissive
 - D. Stubborn
15. Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.
- A. The book is divided into four segments: ‘life and death’, love and loss’, pain and anger’, and ‘healing and hope’.
 - B. In her foreword, Kotha describes herself as “a sad Indian girl”, and motifs of melancholy and mortality—graveyards, hell and heaven, skulls, flowers in eyes, and guns, among others—permeate both her art and writings.
 - C. Sixteen-year-old writer and artist Kavya Kotha of Hyderabad has published her debut anthology, Echoes: Poems on Healing, Pain and Becoming—a compilation of poetry, sketches, paintings, and short stories.
 - D. The anthology weaves the heavy themes with stories and sketches that serve as pinpricks of hope and light.
- A. 3-1-4-2
 - B. 3-1-2-4
 - C. 1-3-2-4
 - D. 3-2-1-4
16. Choose the correct spelling to complete the sentence:
- "Her advice proved to be truly _____ to the success of the project."
- A. indispensable
 - B. indespicable
 - C. indispensible
 - D. indispensable
17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
- SLOTH
- A. Laziness
 - B. Idleness
 - C. Diligence

D. Sluggishness

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

To remove fears, doubts and false ideas, usually by proving them wrong or unnecessary

- A. Rebut
- B. Dispel
- C. Impede
- D. Quell

19. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.

The burglar destroyed several items in the room. Even the carpet has been torn.

- A. The burglar, being destroyed several items in the room, also carpet has torn.
- B. Several items in the room were destroyed by the burglar. Even the carpet has been torn.
- C. Including the carpet, several items in the room have been torn by the burglar.
- D. Several items destroyed in the room by the burglar. Even the carpet he has torn.

20. Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:

The farmers said, "It is time to plough our fields as the soil has become damp."

- A. The farmers said that it has been time to plough their fields as the soil had become damp.
- B. The farmers said that it was time to plough their fields as the soil had become damp.
- C. The farmers said that it had been time to plough their fields as the soil had become damp.
- D. The farmers said that it was time to plough their fields as the soil has been damp.

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Months into her 20-year-old son's disappearance on a random Tuesday morning, Maryam (1) implores one of the officers in charge of her son Dilawar's case, to shift his gaze. She has been pleading for assistance but has been met only with suspicion and surveillance by the London authorities who started investigating her son — and in some ways, Maryam — for connections to the Islamic State. She asks the officer, "Do you know what it means to have a missing son? Do you know what a knock on the door does to me?"

This frames the central tension in Mirza Waheed's *Maryam & Son*. A mother who doesn't know how to grieve her son, Maryam is surrounded by people who offer her shrugged indifference at best and accusation at worst; the world seems to be closing in on her, and there is little she can do about it. With that premise, in the painful in-between that Maryam's life has become, Waheed makes readers confront the price of innocence denied, trust stolen, and grief poisoned, or more to the point, of racial profiling, state surveillance and imperial policy. While placed firmly inside the home, the book has everything to do with the politics of today. It tells the story of an impact: When otherness, stereotypes and (2) impunity for the powerful converge, the fallout for the othered can be catastrophic. Contemporary European politics _____ (3) obsessed with the Muslim immigrant and her assumed crimes, fuelling a machinery that discriminates _____ (5) home and invades outside. At a time when domestic politics in the West is consumed by rhetoric and headlines announce the arrival of Western forces and funding in foreign countries, Maryam's story _____ (4) as a plea, a window into the homes such politics and policies seek to overtake and destroy.

21. The word "implores" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. importunes
- B. commands

C. repudiates

D. abjures

22. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "impunity" as used in the passage: (2)**

A. dispensation

B. liability

C. indemnity

D. exoneration

23. **Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)**

A. are

B. were

C. is

D. being

24. **Choose the correct form of the verb to fill in the blank: (4)**

A. came

B. come

C. comes

D. coming

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

A. at

B. on

C. within

D. over

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) **It serves as an exacerbating force that drives already fragile habitats beyond tipping points.**

Passage: "A Super El Niño may not cause an ecological shock by itself, but it can push an already stressed system past a threshold."---The passage says a Super El Niño alone might not cause damage on its own, but it can push a system that is already under stress beyond a "threshold" (a tipping point). This means El Niño acts as an added pressure on ecosystems that are already weak/stressed, pushing them over the edge — rather than being the sole cause of destruction by itself. This matches option B closely — it's described as an "exacerbating force" (something that makes an existing problem worse) that can push fragile habitats past their tipping points.

- The passage specifically says a Super El Niño "may not cause an ecological shock by itself" — meaning it does NOT act as a "solitary" (standalone) cause of total destruction. This directly contradicts option A, which claims El Niño alone triggers complete degradation.
- The passage mentions coral reefs only in the context of identifying "thermal distress" through monitoring — it never says El Niño "neutralizes" their protective role.
- The passage says local factors (like warmer winters, declining snow cover, moisture cycle changes) make forests "vulnerable to fires before spring" — but it doesn't say El Niño "supersedes" (overrides) these local conditions to control fire timing. In fact, the passage emphasizes that LOCAL ecological conditions matter most, not that El Niño overrides them.

2. C) **To illustrate the value of combining ground observations with satellite data.**

The passage first explains that satellite data alone needs to be "complemented with field-level observations." Right after saying this, it gives Vasundhara Tal's real-time sensor monitoring as "an important initiative in this respect" — meaning it is used as a concrete example of how ground-level (field) observations work alongside satellite data to improve monitoring and early warning. So the author brings up Vasundhara Tal specifically to show what good ground-level monitoring looks like, supporting the broader point about combining field data with satellite data. This matches option C closely.

- The passage never says field sensors make satellite tracking "unnecessary." In fact, it says the two should work together ("complemented with"), not that one replaces the other. This is the opposite of the passage's point.
- The passage calls Vasundhara Tal "especially vulnerable," meaning it is at risk, not "immune" to changes like winter warming.
- The passage discusses glacial lake monitoring (water levels, snow depth) and forest fire risk (due to moisture cycle changes) as two separate issues in different parts of the passage. It never claims that tracking Vasundhara Tal or early snowmelt "prevents" forest fires — this connects two unrelated ideas and overstates the claim.

3. B) **Work divided among separate state bodies, universities, and citizen groups.**

Passage: "The country has proven scientific capacity to understand weather, but ecological monitoring remains divided among research institutions, government departments, universities, and citizen groups."---The passage directly states that ecological monitoring "remains divided among" multiple separate groups — research institutions, government departments, universities, and citizen groups. This division (work being spread out and disconnected across different bodies) is identified as the issue, rather than any single group's failure. This matches option B closely.

A) The passage actually says India has "become reasonably proficient in forecasting atmospheric disturbances that cause cyclones" — meaning cyclone forecasting is a strength, not a weakness. This contradicts the statement, and cyclone forecasting has no direct connection to the fragmentation of ecological monitoring mentioned later.

C) The passage doesn't mention "inadequate satellite coverage" as a cause of fragmentation. In fact, satellite data is described positively, as something that has "fundamentally transformed weather forecasting and disaster response" — the issue raised is about combining it with field-level data and institutional coordination, not about satellite coverage gaps.

D) The passage doesn't mention "high costs" of installing sensors as a cause of fragmentation. While sensors are mentioned (e.g., at Vasundhara Tal), there's no discussion of cost being a barrier or reason for the current division in ecological monitoring efforts.

4. A) **STABILITIES**

Passage line: "A coordination framework among them can enable a robust response not just to the immediate challenge, but to broader climate vagaries."---Here, "vagaries" means unpredictable, erratic changes or fluctuations — things that are hard to predict because they keep shifting (like unpredictable weather behavior). The opposite of unpredictability and constant change is consistency and steadiness — which is exactly what "stabilities" means (the state of being stable, steady, and not changing erratically). So "stabilities" is the clearest opposite.

B) **PROBABILITIES**: This means the likelihood or chance of something happening.

C) **INTENSITIES**: This means the strength or degree of something (like how strong or severe something is).

D) **FRAGILITIES**: This means weaknesses or the state of being easily broken/damaged.

5. D) **Analytical and pragmatic**

Throughout the passage, the author carefully breaks down the problem — explaining how rainfall deficits, El Niño, and local ecological differences affect various ecosystems (forests, glacial lakes, coral reefs). This careful explanation of cause and effect is "analytical." At the same time, the author doesn't just describe the problem — they consistently offer practical, workable solutions: micro-monitoring, field sensors, a "coordination framework," directing "scarce resources" efficiently. This focus on real, actionable solutions (rather than just criticizing or worrying) makes the tone "pragmatic" (practical, solution-focused). Together, this matches option D well — the passage explains issues logically and offers sensible, workable ways to address them.

Critical and alarmist: The passage doesn't use dramatic or fear-inducing language. It states facts like rainfall deficits and El Niño risks calmly, and focuses on constructive solutions rather than raising alarm or harshly criticizing any party.

Reflective and cynical: The passage isn't "cynical" (distrustful or mocking) — it doesn't criticize any system harshly or express doubt about intentions. Instead, it stays constructive and forward-looking, making this tone a poor fit.

Neutral and descriptive: While the passage does describe facts, it goes beyond pure description — it actively argues for specific solutions (coordination frameworks, micro-monitoring) and explains why they matter, which shows a persuasive/analytical purpose beyond simple neutral description.

6. A) **Apathy** (noun) – Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern; absence of emotion or feeling; the condition of not caring about things. उदासीनता, निष्क्रियता, भावनाशून्यता

Synonym: **Indifference** (noun) – Lack of interest, concern, or sympathy; the state of not caring; absence of feeling for or against something. उदासीनता, तटस्थता, बेपरवाही

- **Enthusiasm** (noun) – Intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval; a strong feeling of excitement. उत्साह, जोश
- **Passion** (noun) – Strong and barely controllable emotion; intense desire or enthusiasm. जुनून, तीव्र भावना
- **Zeal** (noun) – Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective. उत्साह, लगन, जोश

7. B) **perplexing**

'perplexing' का use होगा क्योंकि 'perplexing' का अर्थ होता है हैरान करने वाला या उलझाने वाला (puzzling, baffling, confusing)। Sentence में कहा गया है कि जासूस को संदिग्ध का बदलता हुआ बयान काफी हैरान करने वाला (perplexing) लगा क्योंकि इससे जवाब मिलने के बजाय और अधिक सवाल खड़े हो गए, इसलिए 'perplexing' यहाँ व्याकरण और संदर्भ दोनों की दृष्टि से सही है। 'Troublesome' का अर्थ कष्टदायक होता है। 'Viable' का अर्थ व्यावहारिक होता है। 'Informed' का अर्थ सूचित या जागरूक होता है, जो यहाँ अर्थहीन हैं।

'perplexing' should be used because 'perplexing' means very confusing or difficult to understand. The sentence states that the shifting alibi was confusing and raised more questions, making 'perplexing' contextually appropriate. 'Troublesome' means annoying, 'Viable' means workable, and 'Informed' means having knowledge; none of these capture the sense of confusion caused by the suspect's statement.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में stardom बनाए रखने के संघर्ष ("struggle to hold on to that status") की बात कही गई है, और Sentence C उसी संदर्भ को जोड़ते हुए बताता है कि अधिकांश लोग ऐसा करने में असमर्थ रहे हैं ("Most have been unable to do that"), लेकिन कुछ विरले लोग हैं जिन्होंने इसे दो बार कर दिखाया।
- Sentence A Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह उन विरले सितारों में सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है—कंजक्शन "And" के साथ Amitabh Bachchan का परिचय देता है जिन्होंने दशकों और पीढ़ियों तक राज किया।

- Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "The actor" सीधे Amitabh Bachchan को refer करता है और उनके शुरुआती जीवन तथा भौगोलिक यात्रा (इलाहाबाद, दिल्ली, कोलकाता और अंततः मुंबई फिल्म उद्योग) का कालानुक्रमिक विवरण देता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह मुंबई आने के बाद उनके करियर की प्रगति बताता है कि धीमी शुरुआत के बाद Bachchan 1970 के दशक के सबसे बड़े सितारे बने जिन्होंने पूरे देश को एकजुट किया। अंत में, S6 फिल्मों में शानदार दौर और राजनीति के बाद 1990 के दशक में उनके व्यापार की ओर मुड़ने के साथ sequence को आगे बढ़ाता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows S1 directly because S1 frames the immense difficulty of sustaining celebrity status, and Sentence C immediately validates that premise via the demonstrative link ("Most have been unable to do that") while introducing the rare exception of those who achieved peak stardom twice.
 - Sentence A follows Sentence C by naming the ultimate embodiment of that rare phenomenon, using the connective "And" to introduce Amitabh Bachchan as the pre-eminent star whose reign spanned generations.
 - Sentence B follows Sentence A because the epithet "The actor" refers directly back to Amitabh Bachchan, tracing his formative journey chronologically from Allahabad to Delhi, Kolkata, and eventually Mumbai.
 - Sentence D follows Sentence B and links directly before S6, documenting his initial cinematic breakthroughs to establish him as the defining superstar of the 1970s. Finally, S6 provides chronological continuity, transitioning from his peak film and political phases to his commercial ventures in the 1990s.
9. A) 'were thought' के बदले '**was caught**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'she' के साथ 'were' का प्रयोग गलत है, यहाँ 'was' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए और 'thought' की जगह 'caught' आएगा क्योंकि यहाँ किसी को पकड़े जाने की बात की जा रही है। जैसे— She was caught taking the money.
- 'was caught' will be used instead of 'were thought' because the use of 'were' with 'she' is incorrect; it should be 'was', and 'caught' replaces 'thought' as it indicates the act of being discovered in the act of taking school supplies. Like— She was caught taking the money.
10. D) 'are' के बदले '**were**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि क्रिया 'did not see' Past Tense में है अतः मुख्य क्रिया भी Past Tense में होनी चाहिए; जैसे— There were some monkeys on the roof of the carriage but Madhav did not see them.
- 'were' will be used instead of 'are' because the verb 'did not see' is in Past Tense, so the main verb should also be in Past Tense; Like— There were some monkeys on the roof of the carriage but Madhav did not see them.
11. D) **Capitulate** (verb) – To cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; to yield; to surrender under agreed conditions. शर्त पर हथियार डाल देना, आत्मसमर्पण करना Synonym: Succumb (verb) – To fail to resist pressure, temptation, or some other negative force; to yield; to give way to. हार मानना, झुक जाना, वश में आना

- **Resist** (verb) – To withstand the action or effect of something; to refuse to comply. प्रतिरोध करना, रोकना
 - **Persist** (verb) – To continue firmly in an opinion or course of action despite opposition. डटे रहना, अड़े रहना
 - **Defy** (verb) – To openly resist or refuse to obey; to challenge. अवज्ञा करना, चुनौती देना
12. B) “**Beck and call**” means Always ready to obey हुक्म के इंतजार में रहना
13. C) **Align with** (phrasal verb) – to be in agreement, support, or cooperation with a person, group, idea, or goal. (के साथ जुड़े होना / सहमत होना)
14. D) **DOCILE** (adjective) – ready to accept control or instruction; submissive and obedient. Hindi: विनम्र, सीधा। Antonym: **Stubborn** (adjective) – having or showing dogged determination not to change; obstinate. Hindi: ज़िद्दी, हठी
- **Obedient** (adjective) – complying with orders; synonym of Docile. Hindi: आज्ञाकारी
 - **Compliant** (adjective) – inclined to agree; willing to do what is asked; synonym of Docile. Hindi: अनुपालक
 - **Submissive** (adjective) – ready to yield to authority; synonym of Docile. Hindi: समर्पणशील
15. B) **3-1-2-4**
- Explanation:
- Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी previous context के मुख्य विषय प्रस्तुत करता है—हैदराबाद की 16 वर्षीय लेखिका और कलाकार काव्या कोठा तथा उनकी पहली कृति Echoes: Poems on Healing, Pain and Becoming।
 - Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "The book" सीधे Sentence 3 के debut anthology को refer करता है और इसकी संरचना के चार खंडों ('life and death', 'love and loss', 'pain and anger', 'healing and hope') का विवरण देता है।
 - Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पुस्तक की संरचना से आगे बढ़कर इसकी अंतर्वस्तु और भावनात्मक टोन की ओर जाता है; इसमें लेखिका के foreword और उनकी कला तथा रचनाओं में व्याप्त उदासी और नश्वरता के प्रतीकों (graveyards, hell and heaven, skulls) का उल्लेख है।
 - Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें use किया गया phrase "the heavy themes" सीधे Sentence 2 में वर्णित melancholy और mortality के विषयों को refer करता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि संकलन इन गंभीर विषयों को आशा और प्रकाश की किरण के रूप में प्रस्तुत करने वाली कहानियों और चित्रों के साथ संतुलित करता है।
- English Explanation:
- Sentence 3 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, introducing the author, Kavya Kotha, alongside her newly published debut anthology, Echoes: Poems on Healing, Pain and Becoming.

- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 directly because the definite noun phrase "The book" explicitly links to the aforementioned anthology, delineating its internal structural layout across four thematic sections.
 - Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 by delving into the expressive tone set in the foreword, detailing how themes of sadness, mortality, and somber imagery permeate the author's visual and textual contributions.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 as the natural conclusion, where the referential noun phrase "the heavy themes" directly addresses the dark motifs outlined in 2, resolving the narrative by noting how the accompanying sketches and short stories inject moments of hope and light.
16. D) The correct spelling is "**indispensable**", which means absolutely necessary or essential अत्यंत आवश्यक / अनिवार्य।
17. C) **SLOTH** (noun) – reluctance to work or make any effort; laziness and sluggishness. Hindi: आलस। Antonym: **Diligence** (noun) – steady, earnest, and energetic effort; careful hard work. Hindi: परिश्रम, लगन
- **Laziness** (noun) – the quality of being unwilling to work; synonym of Sloth. Hindi: आलस्य
 - **Idleness** (noun) – the state of being inactive; synonym of Sloth. Hindi: निष्क्रियता
 - **Sluggishness** (noun) – slow and inactive; lacking energy; synonym of Sloth. Hindi: सुस्ती
18. B) **Dispel** (verb) – To remove fears, doubts, or false ideas, usually by proving them wrong or unnecessary. भय, संदेह या गलत विचारों को दूर करना
- **Rebut** (verb) – To prove that something (especially an accusation or theory) is false. खंडन करना, अस्वीकार करना
 - **Impede** (verb) – To delay or prevent something by obstructing it. रोकना, बाधा डालना
 - **Quell** (verb) – To put an end to something (such as a rebellion or fear) by force. दबाना, शांत करना
19. B) "The burglar destroyed" (Simple Past Active) की passive voice "were destroyed by the burglar" होती है। दूसरे clause "Even the carpet has been torn" में पहले से passive है, इसलिए यह unchanged रहता है।
- "The burglar destroyed" (Simple Past Active) → passive: "Several items in the room were destroyed by the burglar." The second sentence "Even the carpet has been torn" is already in passive voice and remains unchanged.
- ✓ Correct sentence: Several items in the room were destroyed by the burglar. Even the carpet has been torn.
20. B) **The farmers said that it was time to plough their fields as the soil had become damp.** Direct से Indirect Narration में बदलते समय Tense, Pronoun और Time reference में परिवर्तन किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Reporting Verb "said" Past Tense में है। Direct Speech में "It is time" Present Tense में है, जिसे Indirect Speech में Past Tense (was time) में बदला जाता है। Pronoun "our" Reporting Subject "the farmers" के अनुसार their बन जाता है। साथ ही "has become damp" (Present Perfect) को Sequence of Tenses के अनुसार had become damp (Past Perfect) में बदला जाता है।

- To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the tense of the reported clause is shifted back according to the reporting verb, and pronouns are changed to match the subject. Here, "it is time" becomes "it was time," "our fields" becomes "their fields," and "has become damp" changes to "had become damp," maintaining grammatical accuracy.

21. A) importunes

The passage describes Maryam desperately pleading and begging the investigating officer for help (Maryam implores one of the officers... She has been pleading for assistance). The question asks for the word closest in meaning to "implores" (meaning to beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something). a) importunes: means to ask someone pressingly and persistently for something, serving as the closest synonym for "implores." b) commands: means gives an authoritative order (antonym). c) repudiates: means refuses to accept or rejects. d) abjures: means solemnly renounces a belief or claim.

- यह sentence मरियम द्वारा अपने लापता बेटे के मामले में जांच अधिकारी से अत्यंत लाचारी और हताशा में बार-बार विनती या प्रार्थना करने ("implores") को describe करता है। Question में "implores" (विनती करना/याचना करना) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) importunes: इसका meaning 'दृढ़तापूर्वक या निरंतर आग्रह/विनती करना' (pressingly plead/beg) होता है, जो "implores" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। b) commands: इसका meaning आदेश देना होता है। c) repudiates: इसका meaning खारिज करना या अस्वीकार करना होता है। d) abjures: इसका meaning त्यागना होता है।

22. B) liability

The passage highlights powerful authorities acting without fear of punishment or consequence (stereotypes and impunity for the powerful). The question asks for the antonym of "impunity" (meaning exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action). a) dispensation: means exemption from a rule or usual requirement (synonym). b) liability: means the state of being legally responsible and accountable, especially for penalties or obligations, serving as the direct antonym of "impunity." c) indemnity: means security or protection against a loss or financial burden (synonym). d) exoneration: means the action of officially absolving someone from blame (synonym).

- यह sentence सत्ताधारियों और शक्तिशाली लोगों द्वारा बिना किसी दंड या जवाबदेही के डर के कार्य करने ("impunity") को describe करता है। Question में "impunity" (दंडमुक्ति/सजा से छूट) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) dispensation: इसका meaning छूट या विशेष रियायत (synonym) होता है। b) liability: इसका meaning 'उत्तरदायित्व, कानूनी जवाबदेही या दायित्व' (state of being accountable/responsible to penalty) होता है, जो "impunity" का direct antonym है। c) indemnity: इसका meaning क्षतिपूर्ति या सुरक्षा (synonym) होता है। d) exoneration: इसका meaning दोषमुक्ति (synonym) होता है।

23. C) is

The sentence describes an ongoing condition in modern political discourse (Contemporary European politics _____ obsessed with the Muslim immigrant...). The subject noun "politics", though ending in "-s", is a singular uncountable noun when referring to political science, political affairs, or statecraft as a single entity, requiring the singular present auxiliary verb "is". a) are: is a plural verb, violating subject-verb agreement with singular "politics". b) were: is a plural past verb, violating both number agreement and the present timeframe (fuelling a machinery that discriminates). c) is: is the third-person singular present auxiliary verb that agrees with the singular noun "politics". d) being: is a participle that cannot function as a standalone finite auxiliary.

- यह sentence समकालीन यूरोपीय राजनीति के मौजूदा रुख को present tense में describe करता है। विषय के रूप में प्रयुक्त संज्ञा "politics" (राजनीति) देखने में plural लगती है लेकिन एकवचन (singular non-count noun) होती है, जिसके अनुसार singular present auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता है। a) are: यह plural verb है जो singular subject "politics" के साथ गलत है। b) were: यह plural past verb है। c) is: यह singular present auxiliary verb है जो subject-verb agreement के नियमानुसार "politics is obsessed..." में perfectly fit होता है। d) being: यह participle है जो finite verb नहीं बना सकता।

24. C) comes

The sentence introduces the role that Maryam's narrative plays in current sociopolitical realities (Maryam's story _____ as a plea, a window into the homes...). The singular subject "Maryam's story" and the overarching present timeframe of literary analysis (tells, is consumed, announce, seek) strictly require the third-person singular present verb form (V1 + -s). a) came: is a past tense verb, violating narrative tense consistency. b) come: is a plural base verb, violating subject-verb agreement with the singular subject "story". c) comes: is the third-person singular present verb that agrees with "Maryam's story" (story comes as a plea). d) coming: is a present participle lacking an auxiliary verb.

- यह sentence साहित्यिक विश्लेषण के सामान्य वर्तमान काल (literary present tense) में मरियम की कहानी के एक गुहार के रूप में सामने आने को describe करता है। Singular subject "Maryam's story" के अनुसार third-person singular present verb (V1 + -s) की आवश्यकता है। a) came: यह past tense है जो वर्तमान संदर्भ (tells, seek) के साथ गलत है। b) come: यह base plural verb है। c) comes: यह singular present verb है जो singular subject "story" के साथ subject-verb agreement के अनुसार perfectly fit होता है। d) coming: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के main verb नहीं बन सकता।

25. A) at

The passage sets up a contrast between domestic discrimination within the country and external aggression abroad (fuelling a machinery that discriminates _____ home and invades outside). Blank (5) requires the fixed idiom contrasting internal domestic affairs with foreign ones. a) at: completes the established idiomatic contrast "at home and abroad/outside" (meaning within one's own country vs. in other countries). b) on: does not collocate with "home" in this context. c) within: while grammatically possible in general prose, breaks the fixed paired idiom "at home... outside". d) over: denotes above or across.

- यह sentence देश के भीतर (घरेलू स्तर पर) भेदभाव करने और बाहर दूसरे देशों में दखल देने के विरोधाभास को describe करता है। अंग्रेजी में अपने देश के भीतर और बाहर के संदर्भ में निश्चित मुहावरा "at home and outside" (या at home and abroad) use होता है। a) at: यह स्थापित मुहावरेदार अभिव्यक्ति "at home" (देश के भीतर/घरेलू मोर्चे पर) का मानक preposition है, जो "outside" के विरोध में perfectly fit होता है। b) on: यह संदर्भहीन है। c) within: यह मानक मुहावरेदार जोड़ी को तोड़ता है। d) over: यह ऊपर दर्शाता है।