Slow recovery: On the ISRO's GSLV-F18 mission

ISRO needs more human and material resources to fulfil its **mandate**

With the successful launch of the GSLV-F18 mission and the NVS-03 satellite's healthy status, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is **on course to heave a sigh of relief**. Its last 18 months have been **constrained** by the consequences of two launch failures involving PSLV rockets, which share some of their design **aspects** with GSLV, **to the extent** that the F18 mission was only the second successful launch of 2026. If the NVS-03 satellite is successfully **manoeuvred** into its final intended orbital slot and commissioned, ISRO will also have **pulled off** a rescue mission for the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation' (NavIC) programme, which has been at least one functional satellite short for the last six months and thus unable to **meet** its primary purpose of providing **standalone** positioning services over the Indian **subcontinent**. The three second-generation NVS satellites **thus far** are **distinguished** by having at least one **indigenously** made atomic clock onboard, **in line with** the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology and India's investments in **quantum timekeeping**, and away from the imported clocks onboard the first-generation IRNSS satellites.

The PSC had also **flagged procurement bottlenecks** across ISRO's programmes, including difficulties with obtaining specialised components and ensuring **vendor readiness** on the timelines that NavIC needs. The ISRO Space Applications Centre's 'request for proposals' in 2025 also specified a large lead time of nearly two years between a contract's start and the first two flight models. The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme and the programme to **modernise** the Semiconductor Laboratory can be **tweaked** to serve these needs, with the Electronics Ministry also **setting aside** dedicated funds for developing specialised components and their qualification tests in a five- to seven-year programme. **In tandem**, the government must allocate around ₹17,000 crore in the 2027-28 Union Budget for the Department of Space, against ₹13,705.6 crore in 2026-27, with the hike focusing on manufacturing launch vehicles, replacing satellites, and recruitment. Besides, NavIC also requires a dedicated operator, so that ISRO can be left to focus on its **core** mandate, and India needs a national space law **addressing** private participation in this enterprise, and **liability**. Two successful orbital missions in five-sixths of a year is **unbecoming** of a national space programme with **imminent** plans of human spaceflight, a space station, and **reusable** launch vehicle capabilities. Without significant measures, ISRO will **lurch** from one mission to the next as and when its inadequate workforce is able to make do with its inadequate allocation. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Mandate** (noun) - directive, commission, order, instruction, command जनादेश (या अधिकार)
2. **On course** (phrase) - likely to happen, or likely to succeed as planned सही दिशा में
3. **To heave a sigh of relief** (phrase) - to suddenly feel very happy because something unpleasant has not happened or has ended राहत की सांस लेना
4. **Constrain** (verb) - restrict, limit, curb, restrain, check सीमित करना
5. **Aspect** (noun) - feature, facet, characteristic, element, dimension पहलू
6. **To the extent** (phrase) - to a particular degree or limit इस हद तक
7. **Manoeuvre** (verb) - steer, guide, direct, navigate, manipulate पैंतरेबाज़ी करना
8. **Pull off** (phrasal verb) - to succeed in doing something difficult or unexpected सफल होना
9. **Meet** (verb) - fulfill, satisfy, achieve, answer, match पूरा करना
10. **Standalone** (adjective) - independent, separate, self-contained, unconnected, autonomous स्वतंत्र
11. **Subcontinent** (noun) - landmass, region, area, territory, peninsula उपमहाद्वीप
12. **Thus far** (phrase) - up to this point, until now अब तक
13. **Distinguish** (verb) - characterize, differentiate, individualize, separate, mark विशिष्ट बनाना
14. **Indigenously** (adverb) - natively, locally, domestically, internally, homegrown स्वदेशी रूप से
15. **In line with** (phrase) - in agreement or accordance with something के अनुरूप
16. **Quantum timekeeping** (noun) - highly precise time measurement using quantum mechanics क्वांटम टाइमकीपिंग (परमाणु समय मापन)
17. **Flag** (verb) - indicate, signal, mark, identify, highlight चिह्नित करना
18. **Procurement** (noun) - acquisition, purchasing, buying, obtaining, getting खरीद
19. **Bottleneck** (noun) - blockage, hurdle, obstacle, delay, hindrance बाधा
20. **Vendor** (noun) - supplier, seller, dealer, trader, merchant विक्रेता
21. **Readiness** (noun) - preparedness, preparation, promptness, willingness, fitness तत्परता
22. **Modernise** (verb) - update, upgrade, revamp, refurbish, renovate आधुनिकीकरण करना
23. **Tweak** (verb) - modify, adjust, alter, change, refine सुधार करना
24. **Set aside** (phrasal verb) - to save or keep money or time for a particular purpose अलग रखना
25. **In tandem** (phrase) - alongside each other, together एक साथ

26. **Core** (adjective) - main, primary, central, principal, key मुख्य
27. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, confront, deal, manage निपटाना
28. **Liability** (noun) - accountability, responsibility, obligation, culpability, burden जवाबदेही
29. **Unbecoming** (adjective) - inappropriate, unfitting, unseemly, unsuitable, improper अशोभनीय
30. **Imminent** (adjective) - impending, approaching, looming, upcoming, forthcoming आसन्न (या निकट भविष्य का)
31. **Reusable** (adjective) - recyclable, sustainable, renewable, returnable, multi-use पुन: प्रयोज्य
32. **Lurch** (verb) - stagger, stumble, sway, wobble, flounder लड़खड़ाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Successful Mission:** ISRO successfully launched the GSLV-F18 mission, and the NVS-03 satellite is currently in a healthy status.
2. **Relief for ISRO:** This success offers much-needed relief after a challenging 18-month period constrained by two PSLV launch failures.
3. **Low Launch Frequency:** Due to design overlaps and setbacks, the F18 mission marks only the second successful ISRO launch of 2026.
4. **NavIC Rescue:** If NVS-03 reaches its intended orbital slot, it will rescue the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation' (NavIC) programme.
5. **Standalone Services Restored:** NavIC has been short of functional satellites for six months, temporarily failing its core purpose of providing standalone positioning services over India.
6. **Indigenous Technology:** Second-generation NVS satellites feature at least one indigenously made atomic clock, moving away from imported clocks.
7. **Quantum Timekeeping:** This shift aligns with Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) recommendations and India's investments in quantum timekeeping.
8. **Procurement Bottlenecks:** The PSC flagged severe procurement delays, including trouble securing specialized components and vendor readiness on tight timelines.
9. **Long Lead Times:** A 2025 request for proposals highlighted a massive two-year lead time between contract initiation and the first two flight models.
10. **Policy Solutions:** Schemes like the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme and Semiconductor Laboratory modernization can be tweaked to bridge these manufacturing gaps.
11. **Targeted Funding:** The Electronics Ministry should dedicate a 5–7 year funding programme specifically for developing and qualifying specialized components.
12. **Budgetary Increase Needed:** The government must boost the Department of Space allocation to around ₹17,000 crore in the 2027–28 Union Budget (up from ₹13,705.6 crore).
13. **Strategic Focus Areas:** This budget hike should directly target launch vehicle manufacturing, satellite replacement, and active workforce recruitment.
14. **Governance Reforms:** NavIC needs a dedicated operator so ISRO can focus on core mandates, alongside a national space law to govern private participation and liability.
15. **Urgent Modernization:** Achieving only two successful missions in nearly a year is unsustainable for a space agency preparing for human spaceflight, a space station, and reusable launch vehicles.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the commissioning of the NVS-03 satellite constitute a critical rescue mission for the NavIC programme?** [Editorial Page]
   A. Because previous rocket failures forced ground stations to decommission imported atomic clocks on operating spacecraft.
   B. Because the constellation operated with inadequate satellite strength for months, impairing its primary positioning capabilities.
   C. Because the Space Applications Centre required operational validation before initiating two-year component manufacturing contracts.
   D. Because private operators demanded functional orbital slots prior to assuming commercial liability for navigation services.
2. **How does the passage evaluate the launch cadence achieved by ISRO during the current calendar year?**
   A. Completing two successful orbital launches in ten months falls short of ambitions for advanced spaceflight.
   B. Conducting two orbital missions demonstrates substantial operational recovery following consecutive launch failures involving GSLV rockets.
   C. Delivering two navigation satellites fulfills targets established by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology.
   D. Achieving two successful missions reflects adequate fiscal utilization under the prevailing Department of Space budgetary allocation.
3. **In the passage, the word "UNBECOMING" is used. Which of the following is the most appropriate SYNONYM for "UNBECOMING" in this context?**
   "...is unbecoming of a national space programme with imminent plans of human spaceflight..."
   A. Unprecedented
   B. Inconsequential
   C. Inappropriate
   D. Indispensable
4. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
   A. Recent consecutive launch failures involving light launch vehicles have permanently compromised development timelines for human spaceflight.
   B. Establishing an indigenous semiconductor fabrication facility represents the single prerequisite for modernizing India's regional navigation constellation.
   C. Transferring operational control of domestic space infrastructure to commercial operators eliminates the necessity for budgetary increases.
   D. Realizing ambitious national space exploration objectives requires expanding institutional funding, reforming procurement, and augmenting workforce capacity.
5. **How did the Parliamentary Standing Committee influence the technological design of second-generation navigation satellites?**
   A. By recommending the integration of domestically developed atomic timekeeping payloads aboard operational spacecraft.
   B. By directing the space agency to transition procurement of specialised flight models to external suppliers.

C. By mandating the inclusion of foreign atomic clocks to prevent single-point component failures during missions.
D. By requiring space authorities to conduct multi-year vendor readiness audits before commissioning navigation payloads.

6. **Select the correct synonym for 'Abate'.**
   A. Moderate
   B. Increase
   C. Evil
   D. Honest
7. **Select the synonym of Abstruse.**
   A. Difficult
   B. Obvious
   C. Simple
   D. Clear
8. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.**
   In the doldrums
   A. Feeling lost in a large crowd
   B. A state of stagnation or depression
   C. Being stuck in heavy traffic
   D. A period of extreme hot weather
9. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into four parts and labeled P, Q, R, and S. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   P. While admitting that he hadn't always been in favour of long videos, as they could replace the time users spent interacting with others, he explained that both formats — short and long — were meant to benefit each other.
   Q. Instagram is looking to attract viewers of long-form video content to its platform with the announcement of horizontal, up to 90-minute-long video posting options.
   R. "It's early, and we're testing and listening to feedback as we go. But we're excited to give creators more room to tell their stories with the communities they've already built here. More to come," posted Mr. Mosseri.
   S. On October 26, Instagram's chief Adam Mosseri introduced the posting option as 'Features,' and showed how it works by sharing a six-minute-long horizontal video on his account.
   A. Q-P-S-R
   B. S-Q-P-R
   C. Q-S-P-R
   D. S-P-Q-R
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
    Disrupt
    A. Bolster
    B. Complicate
    C. Endanger
    D. Compound
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
    Cynical

A. Optimistic
B. Illicit
C. Sporadic
D. Belated

12. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
A person who remains calm in both pleasure and pain is called a:
A. Stoic
B. Mystic
C. Skeptic
D. Atheist

13. **Which part of the following sentence contains a spelling error?**
The panellists (1) engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue (2) on post-modern ethics, but one speaker's argumentation (3) lacked coherance (4).
A. (2)
B. (4)
C. (1)
D. (3)

14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**
Leave the premises at once.
A. You are told to leave the premises at once.
B. Someone is to leave the premises at once.
C. People left the premises at once.
D. Let the premises to be left at once.

15. **Choose the correct indirect speech form of the following sentence.**
Roshni said to Rakesh, "time and tide waits for none."
A. Roshni said to Rakesh that time and tide waited for none.
B. Roshni told Rakesh if time and tide waited for none.
C. Roshni told Rakesh that time and tide waits for none.
D. Roshni told Rakesh whether time and tide waits for none.

16. **Fill in the blank with appropriate prepositions.**
Mahesh threw the ball ___ his friend, but he could not catch it.
A. to
B. for
C. against
D. at

17. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**
The wall is decorated by posters.
A. full of posters
B. painted in posters
C. decorated with posters
D. covered in posters

18. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

I had praying / to God / for your golden future.
A. No error
B. I had praying
C. to God
D. for your golden future

19. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb.**
Amount to
A. To reveal or expose something that was previously hidden
B. To be equivalent to or have the same effect as something
C. To involve a wide range of people or things in a particular situation
D. To working or ready to work; established

20. **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 numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
S1. On the morning of Tuesday (October 27, 2026), a 19-month-old male cheetah cub died during treatment for five gunshot injuries at the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University (NDVSU), in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur.
1. The cub KNG22, an offspring of South African female cheetah Nirva, was brought to Jabalpur on Monday (October 26, 2026) night for an emergency surgery, a day after he was found injured and unconscious outside the boundaries of its home, the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district.
2. The cub was cremated on Thursday (October 29, 2026) at the KNP.
3. Since the death, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department both formed separate investigating teams that are currently probing the death.
4. This marked the first instance of a cheetah being shot since the Union Government launched its ambitious Project Cheetah, a reintroduction programme in September 2022.
S6. The incident puts a question on the safety protocols for the big cats that wander beyond the boundaries of their home.
A. 1-2-4-3
B. 1-4-2-3
C. 2-1-4-3
D. 1-4-3-2

Directions: Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.
You may have seen or heard of this item as a health kick food. Quinoa was a (4) staple in the Andes for thousands of years, but in Bolivia, it was seen as food for the poor. By the early 2000s, quinoa became marketed as a superfood, which was high in protein and gluten free. Global demand rose much faster than supply, since quinoa was traditionally grown in chosen few places, like the high altitudes of Peru and Bolivia. Prices roughly tripled from 2006 to 2013. Many Andean quinoa farmers got a great income out of it. (1)___, however, urban consumers in Peru and Bolivia faced higher local prices. It took some monocropping and (5) expansion to

eventually (2)___ to the demand, and then, the price fell. (3)___, around the year 2013, the price of quinoa in India ranged around Rs 1000.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
    A. On the bright side
    B. On the flip side
    C. On the safe side
    D. On the contrary
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. catch up
    B. catching fire
    C. catch on
    D. caught out
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. Henceforth
    B. Till date
    C. Since then
    D. Until then
24. **The word "staple" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:**
    A. delicacy
    B. mainstay
    C. condiment
    D. novelty
25. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "expansion" (5) as used in the passage:**
    A. proliferation
    B. augmentation
    C. curtailment
    D. escalation

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **Because the constellation operated with inadequate satellite strength for months, impairing its primary positioning capabilities.**
Passage: "If the NVS-03 satellite is successfully manoeuvred into its final intended orbital slot and commissioned, ISRO will also have pulled off a rescue mission for the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation' (NavIC) programme, which has been at least one functional satellite short for the last six months and thus unable to meet its primary purpose of providing standalone positioning services over the Indian subcontinent."----NavIC has been at least one working satellite short for the last six months. Because of this, it could not do its main job, which is to give independent positioning services over the Indian subcontinent. NVS-03 fills that gap. So its commissioning "rescues" the programme. Option B says this.
    - Option A is incorrect because the option says rocket failures forced ground stations to shut down imported atomic clocks, but the passage never says this. It only says the newer NVS satellites carry at least one indigenous atomic clock, unlike the imported clocks on the first-generation satellites.
    - Option C is incorrect because the option says the Space Applications Centre needed NVS-03 to be validated before starting manufacturing contracts, but the passage only says the 2025 request for proposals had a long lead time of nearly two years. It does not link this to NVS-03.
    - Option D is incorrect because the option says private operators wanted working orbital slots before taking on liability, but the passage only says NavIC needs a dedicated operator and that India needs a space law covering private participation and liability. It does not link these to NVS-03.
2. A) **Completing two successful orbital launches in ten months falls short of ambitions for advanced spaceflight.**
Passage: "Two successful orbital missions in five-sixths of a year is unbecoming of a national space programme with imminent plans of human spaceflight, a space station, and reusable launch vehicle capabilities."---"Five-sixths of a year" means ten months. The author says only two successful launches in ten months is "unbecoming," meaning not good enough, for a space programme that plans human spaceflight, a space station and reusable rockets. So the author sees the launch pace as too low for these big goals. Option A says this.
    - Option B is incorrect because the option says two missions show a strong recovery after GSLV failures, but the passage says the failures involved PSLV rockets, not GSLV. Also, the author calls the launch pace "unbecoming," not a strong recovery.
    - Option C is incorrect because the option says two navigation satellites met the Parliamentary Standing Committee's targets, but the passage says the two launches were successful orbital missions, not both navigation satellites. It also never says the committee set a target for the number of launches.

- Option D is incorrect because the option says two missions show good use of the budget, but the passage says ISRO has an “inadequate allocation” and an “inadequate workforce.” The author asks for a larger budget, so the author does not see the current use as adequate.

3. C) **Inappropriate**
Meaning: "Unbecoming" means not flattering, not fitting, or unsuitable for a person or organization of a certain standing.
The author says that only two successful launches in ten months does not fit a space programme that plans human spaceflight and a space station. So the launch record is not what we should expect from such a programme. “Inappropriate” means not suitable, so it is the closest synonym.
    - B) Unprecedented: Means never done or known before.
    - C) Inconsequential: Means not important or significant.
    - D) Indispensable: Means absolutely necessary.
4. D) **Realizing ambitious national space exploration objectives requires expanding institutional funding, reforming procurement, and augmenting workforce capacity.**
The title says ISRO needs more human and material resources. The passage then explains how: a bigger budget, fixing delays in getting specialised components, hiring more people, a dedicated NavIC operator and a space law. It ends by warning that without such steps, ISRO will keep struggling with too few staff and too little money. So the main idea is that big space goals need more funding, better procurement and a bigger workforce. Option D says this.
    - Option A is incorrect because the option says the launch failures have permanently damaged human spaceflight timelines, but the passage never says this. It only says the failures constrained ISRO over 18 months, and that the launch record is poor for a programme with such plans.
    - Option B is incorrect because the option says a semiconductor facility is the single requirement for modernising NavIC, but the passage says the Semiconductor Laboratory programme can be tweaked to help, as one of many steps. It lists funding, recruitment, an operator and a space law as well.
    - Option C is incorrect because the option says handing control to commercial operators removes the need for more budget, but the passage says the opposite. It asks for a higher budget and says only that NavIC needs a dedicated operator so ISRO can focus on its core mandate.
5. A) **By recommending the integration of domestically developed atomic timekeeping payloads aboard operational spacecraft.**
The passage says the new NVS satellites carry at least one atomic clock made in India. It says this is “in line with the recommendations” of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The older satellites used imported clocks. So the Committee’s influence was to recommend that satellites use home-made atomic clocks. Option A says this.
    - Option B is incorrect because the option says the Committee told ISRO to buy specialised flight models from outside suppliers, but the passage only says the Committee flagged procurement bottlenecks. It does not say the Committee asked for a shift to external suppliers.

- Option C is incorrect because the option says the Committee required foreign atomic clocks, but the passage says the new satellites moved "away from the imported clocks." This is the opposite of what the passage says.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says the Committee required multi-year vendor readiness audits, but the passage only says the Committee flagged difficulties in ensuring vendor readiness. It does not say it ordered audits, and this is not about satellite design.

6. A) **Abate** (verb) – To reduce in amount, degree, or intensity; to lessen. कम करना, घटाना
Synonym: **Moderate** (verb) – To make less extreme or intense; to reduce. कम करना, सम करना
   - **Increase** (verb) – To become greater in size or amount; antonym of abate. बढ़ाना
   - **Evil** (adjective/noun) – Morally wrong or wicked; unrelated to abate. बुराई
   - **Honest** (adjective) – Truthful and sincere; unrelated to abate. ईमानदार
7. A) **Abstruse** (adjective) – Difficult to understand; obscure and esoteric. कठिन, दुरूह
Synonym: **Difficult** (adjective) – Not easy to understand or deal with. कठिन
   - **Obvious** (adjective) – Easily perceived or understood; antonym of abstruse. स्पष्ट
   - **Simple** (adjective) – Easy to understand; antonym of abstruse. सरल
   - **Clear** (adjective) – Easy to perceive or understand; antonym of abstruse. स्पष्ट
8. B) **In the doldrums** (idiom) – A state of stagnation or depression (inactivity, low spirits, or lack of progress) मंदी या उदासी की स्थिति
9. C) **Q-S-P-R**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
   - Sentence Q पूरे paragraph का broad, independent introductory sentence है। यह main subject को introduce करता है कि Instagram 90-minute तक के horizontal video posting option के साथ long-form video viewers को attract करने की योजना बना रहा है।
   - Sentence S Sentence Q को follow करेगा और Q-S का direct chronological link बनाएगा। Instagram के नए format announcement के बाद Sentence S specific announcement date (October 26) और head of Instagram (Adam Mosseri) द्वारा इस feature को 'Features' नाम से introduce करने की detail देता है।
   - Sentence P Sentence S के ठीक बाद आएगा और S-P का mandatory noun-pronoun pair बनाएगा। Sentence S में उल्लिखित "Instagram's chief Adam Mosseri" के लिए Sentence P में pronoun "he" का use हुआ है: "While admitting that he hadn't always been in favour of long videos... he explained that both formats..."
   - Sentence R Sentence P के बाद आकर विचार को conclude करता है। Adam Mosseri के perspective के बाद Sentence R उनका direct quote प्रस्तुत करता है ("It's early, and we're testing and listening to feedback as we go...") और passage को logical conclusion देता है।

English Explanation:
   - Sentence Q serves as the standalone opening statement, introducing the core topic: Instagram's strategic push into long-form video via horizontal uploads of up to 90 minutes.

- Sentence S follows Sentence Q (Q-S), grounding the general development with specific details regarding its official rollout date (October 26) and name ('Features'), presented by Instagram chief Adam Mosseri.
- Sentence P forms an essential referential link with Sentence S (S-P). The subject pronoun "he" in P refers directly back to the proper noun antecedent "Adam Mosseri" in S, capturing his evolving perspective on balancing short-form and long-form video formats.
- Sentence R directly follows Sentence P (P-R), culminating Mosseri's stance with his verbatim quote on early testing, community engagement, and future plans to complete the passage coherently.

10. A) **Disrupt** (verb) – disturb, interrupt, confuse, unsettle. (बाधित करना / अस्त-व्यस्त करना)

Antonym: **Bolster** (verb) – support or strengthen; prop up. (मजबूत करना / सहारा देना)

- **Complicate** (verb) – make something more difficult or confused. (उलझाना)
- **Endanger** (verb) – imperil, jeopardize, risk. (खतरे में डालना)
- **Compound** (verb) – make (something bad) worse; intensify. (और बिगाड़ देना)

11. A) **Cynical** (adjective) – skeptical, doubtful, pessimistic, distrustful, mocking. (निंदक / निराशावादी)

Antonym: **Optimistic** (adjective) – hopeful and confident about the future; idealistic, trustful. (आशावादी)

- **Illicit** (adjective) – illegal, unlawful, illegitimate, prohibited. (अवैध)
- **Sporadic** (adjective) – occasional, irregular, infrequent, scattered. (छिटपुट)
- **Belated** (adjective) – delayed, late, overdue, tardy, postponed. (विलंबित)

12. A) **Stoic** (noun) – A person who remains calm and unaffected in both pleasure and pain. सुख-दुःख में समभाव रखने वाला

- **Mystic** (noun) – A person who seeks spiritual truth through contemplation. रहस्यवादी
- **Skeptic** (noun) – A person inclined to doubt. संशयवादी
- **Atheist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in God. नास्तिक

13. B) The correct spelling of '**coherance'** (part 4) is 'coherence' which means "the quality of being logical and consistent" सुसंगति, तारतम्यता।

14. D) **Let the premises to be left at once.**

Passive वाक्य में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Imperative (आदेश) वाक्य को Passive में बदलते समय "Let + Object + be + V3" की structure का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य "Leave the premises at once" में Verb "Leave" है और "the premises" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर "the premises" Subject बन गया और वाक्य "Let the premises be left at once" के भाव में बदल गया। "You are told to leave" और "Someone is to leave" में वाक्य अभी भी Active है, जबकि "People left the premises" Past Tense का Active वाक्य है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. An imperative sentence is changed into the passive voice using the structure "Let + Object + be + V3". In the active sentence "Leave the premises at once", "Leave" is the verb and "the premises" is the object. In the passive voice, "the

premises" becomes the subject and the sentence takes the sense of "Let the premises be left at once". "You are told to leave" and "Someone is to leave" are still active in structure, while "People left the premises" is an active sentence in the Past Tense, so these options are incorrect.

15. C) **Roshni told Rakesh that time and tide waits for none.**
Active से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Direct वाक्य का Quotation हटा दिया जाता है और Reporting Verb के अनुसार Tense और structure बदलता है। Active वाक्य में "Roshni" Subject है, "said to Rakesh" Verb (Past Tense Reporting Verb) है और "time and tide waits for none" Message/Object है। Indirect Speech में Message को "time and tide waits for none" रखा गया और "that" conjunction के रूप में use किया गया है।
To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the quotation is removed and the structure is adjusted according to the reporting verb. In this case, "Roshni" (Subject), "told Rakesh" (Verb in Past Tense Reporting), and "time and tide waits for none" (Message/Object) from the direct speech have been transformed into "time and tide waits for none" (Message) with "that" used as a conjunction.

16. A) 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence में यह दिखाया गया है कि गेंद को किसी व्यक्ति की ओर फेंका गया है। यहाँ "Mahesh threw the ball ___ his friend" के माध्यम से यह स्पष्ट हो रहा है कि गेंद उसके दोस्त की ओर गई थी। इसलिए, "to" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
'to' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence indicates that the ball was thrown in the direction of a person. Here, through "Mahesh threw the ball ___ his friend," it is clear that the ball was intended for his friend. Thus, "to" would be the most appropriate choice.

17. C) decorated with posters' का प्रयोग सही है क्योंकि "decorate" के साथ सामान्यतः preposition "with" प्रयोग होती है। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — "The wall is decorated with posters."
'decorated with posters' is correct because the verb "decorate" is generally followed by the preposition "with." Hence, the correct sentence is — "The wall is decorated with posters."

18. B) 'I had praying' के बदले 'I had been praying' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'had' के बाद 'been' और verb की -ing form चाहिए।
    - 'I had been praying' will be used instead of 'I had praying' because after 'had', we need 'been' followed by the -ing form of the verb.

19. B) **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – to be equivalent to or have the same effect as something. (के बराबर होना)

20. B) **1-4-2-3**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
    - Sentence 1 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-1 का direct connection बनाएगा। S1 में unnamed "19-month-old male cheetah cub" का mention है; Sentence 1 उस cub का identity tag (KNG22), lineage (Nirva) और hospital transfer की timeline detail करता है।
    - Sentence 4 Sentence 1 को follow करेगा और 1-4 का link बनाएगा। Demonstrative pronoun "This" Sentence 1 की gunshot shooting incident को point out करके बताता है

कि Project Cheetah के launch (September 2022) के बाद यह cheetah shooting का पहला instance है।

- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और chronological order को maintain करेगा। Tuesday (October 27) की death के बाद Thursday (October 29) को KNP में cremation का factual step आता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा। Cremation के बाद investigation phase की बात आती है—"Since the death, the Union Ministry of Environment... formed separate investigating teams..." इसके तुरंत बाद S6 ("The incident puts a question on the safety protocols...") national parks की boundary से बाहर जाने वाली big cats की security protocols पर सवाल उठाकर passage complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 1 directly follows S1 (S1-1), introducing the specific identification code (KNG22), maternal lineage (Nirva), and rescue details of the unnamed cub mentioned in S1.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 (1-4), using the demonstrative pronoun "This" to refer back to the shooting and highlighting that it represents the first case of a cheetah being shot since Project Cheetah commenced in September 2022.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4, preserving chronological order by detailing the cub's cremation on Thursday (October 29) at KNP.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2, shifting from immediate events to the institutional response as separate investigation panels are launched. Finally, S6 ties directly into Sentence 3 to conclude with broader implications for wildlife protection outside reserve borders.

21. B) **On the flip side**

Blank (1) needs a phrase that introduces the other, less happy side of the quinoa boom — after "Many Andean quinoa farmers got a great income," the passage turns to urban consumers who "faced higher local prices." a) On the bright side: introduces the positive part of a bad situation, violating the requirement since higher prices for urban consumers are a downside, not a bright side. b) On the flip side: means "looking at the other side of the matter," matching the shift from farmers who gained to city buyers who lost out. c) On the safe side: belongs to "to be on the safe side," meaning "as a precaution," violating the requirement since nothing in the sentence is about avoiding risk. d) On the contrary: is used to deny or reject what has just been said, violating the requirement since the passage does not deny that farmers profited — it adds a second, opposite effect.

Hindi:

- Blank (1) में ऐसा phrase चाहिए जो quinoa boom का दूसरा, कम खुशी वाला aspect बताए — "Many Andean quinoa farmers got a great income" के बाद passage उन urban consumers पर आता है जिन्होंने "faced higher local prices।" a) On the bright side: यह किसी बुरी situation का positive हिस्सा बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि urban consumers के लिए ऊँचे दाम downside है, bright side नहीं। b) On the flip side: इसका meaning है "बात का दूसरा aspect देखें तो," जो gain करने वाले farmers से loss झेलने वाले city buyers की ओर shift से match करता है। c) On the safe side: यह "to be on the safe

side" से है, जिसका meaning है "as a precaution," जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence में risk से बचने की कोई बात नहीं है। d) On the contrary: यह अभी कही गई बात को deny या reject करने के लिए आता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि passage यह deny नहीं करता कि farmers को profit हुआ — वो एक दूसरा, उल्टा effect जोड़ता है।

22. A) **catch up**

Blank (2) needs a "catch" phrasal verb in base form after "to," pairing with "to the demand" and meaning "reach the same level," since supply finally grew enough to match demand — "and then, the price fell." a) catch up: means to reach the level of something that was ahead, matching supply finally drawing level with demand, which made prices fall. b) catching fire: echoes "catch fire," meaning to suddenly become popular — as quinoa did — but violates the requirement since an -ing form cannot follow "to," and the sentence is about supply reaching demand, not about popularity. c) catch on: means to become popular, or, with "to," to understand something, violating the requirement since the demand was already obvious — supply needed to reach it, not notice it. d) caught out: means discovered making a mistake, violating the requirement since a past participle cannot follow "to," and nobody is being exposed here.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में "to" के बाद "catch" वाला base-form phrasal verb चाहिए, जो "to the demand" के साथ जुड़े और जिसका meaning हो "बराबर level तक पहुँचना," क्योंकि supply आखिरकार demand जितनी हो गई — "and then, the price fell।" a) catch up: इसका meaning है आगे निकली चीज़ के level तक पहुँचना, जो demand के बराबर आती supply से match करता है, जिससे दाम गिरे। b) catching fire: यह "catch fire" की याद दिलाता है, जिसका meaning है अचानक popular हो जाना — जैसे quinoa हुआ — पर violate करता है क्योंकि "to" के बाद -ing form नहीं आ सकता, और sentence supply के demand तक पहुँचने की बात करता है, popularity की नहीं। c) catch on: इसका meaning है popular होना, या "to" के साथ किसी बात को समझना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि demand तो पहले से साफ थी — supply को उस तक पहुँचना था, उसे notice नहीं करना था। d) caught out: इसका meaning है गलती करते पकड़ा जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "to" के बाद past participle नहीं आ सकता, और यहाँ कोई पकड़ा नहीं जा रहा।

23. D) **Until then**

Blank (3) needs a time phrase meaning "up to that point" — before supply caught up and prices fell — since "around the year 2013" was the peak, after prices had "roughly tripled from 2006 to 2013." a) Henceforth: means "from now on," pointing to the future, violating the requirement since the sentence describes a past price "around the year 2013." b) Till date: means "up to the present day," violating the requirement since it cannot describe a price fixed "around the year 2013." c) Since then: means "from that time onwards," violating the requirement since it would place the Rs 1000 price after the fall, while 2013 came before it — and "since then" would also need "has ranged." d) Until then: means "up to that time," matching the high Indian price around 2013, before supply caught up and prices dropped.

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में ऐसा time phrase चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "उस point तक" — supply के catch up करने और दाम गिरने से पहले — क्योंकि "around the year 2013" peak का समय

था, जब prices "roughly tripled from 2006 to 2013।" a) Henceforth: इसका meaning है "अब से आगे," जो future की ओर point करता है, और violate करता है क्योंकि sentence "around the year 2013" का past price बताता है। b) Till date: इसका meaning है "आज तक," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "around the year 2013" वाले तय price को describe नहीं कर सकता। c) Since then: इसका meaning है "उस समय के बाद से," जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे Rs 1000 वाला दाम price गिरने के बाद का हो जाएगा, जबकि 2013 उससे पहले आया — और "since then" के साथ "has ranged" भी चाहिए होता। d) Until then: इसका meaning है "उस समय तक," जो 2013 के आसपास India के ऊँचे दाम से match करता है, supply के catch up करने और prices गिरने से पहले।

24. B) **mainstay**

"Staple," as used in the passage, means a basic, everyday food that people depend on — quinoa fed the Andes "for thousands of years." a) delicacy: means a rare, choice food, often expensive, which may tempt since quinoa later became pricey, but violates the requirement since a staple is ordinary daily food, and in Bolivia it was "food for the poor." b) mainstay: means the chief support or main part of something, matching quinoa as the backbone of the Andean diet. c) condiment: means a sauce or seasoning added to food, violating the requirement since it is a small addition to a meal, not its main part. d) novelty: means something new and unusual, violating the requirement since quinoa had been eaten for thousands of years.

Hindi:

- Passage में "staple" का meaning है रोज़ का basic खाना जिस पर लोग depend करते हैं — quinoa "for thousands of years" Andes का पेट भरता रहा। a) delicacy: इसका meaning है rare, खास और अक्सर महंगा खाना, जो tempting है क्योंकि quinoa बाद में महंगा हो गया, पर violate करता है क्योंकि staple रोज़ का साधारण खाना होता है, और Bolivia में यह "food for the poor" था। b) mainstay: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ का मुख्य सहारा या main हिस्सा, जो Andean diet की backbone रहे quinoa से match करता है। c) condiment: इसका meaning है खाने में डाला जाने वाला sauce या seasoning, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह meal में छोटा सा addition है, उसका main हिस्सा नहीं। d) novelty: इसका meaning है कोई नई, अनोखी चीज़, जो violate करता है क्योंकि quinoa हज़ारों सालों से खाया जा रहा था।

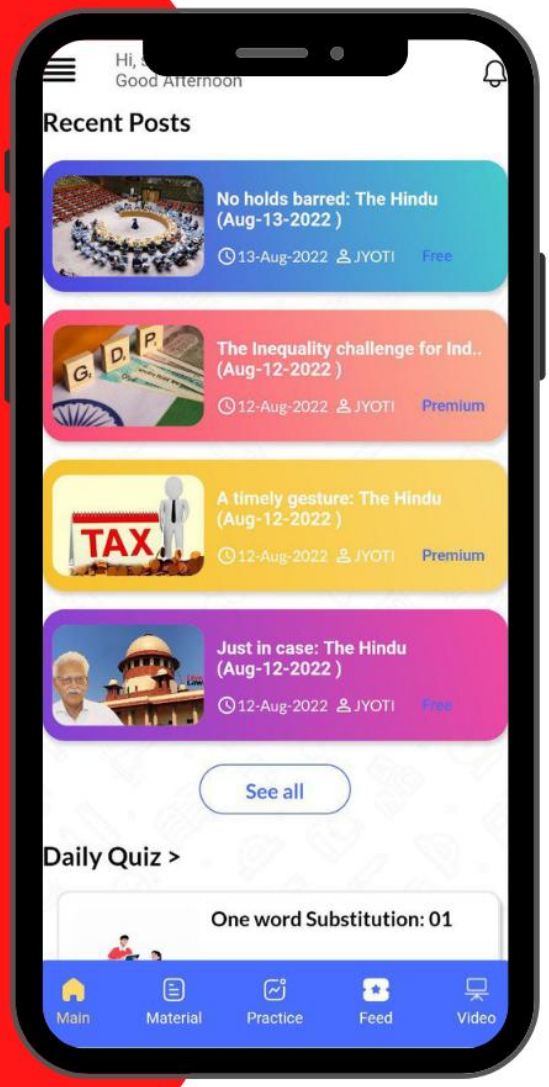
25. C) **curtailment**

"Expansion," as used in the passage, means growing quinoa on more land and in more places so that supply could rise — so the antonym must mean cutting back. a) proliferation: means a rapid spread or increase in number, violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym. b) augmentation: means an increase in size or amount, violating the requirement since it is close to "expansion," not opposite. c) curtailment: means cutting something back or reducing it, matching the opposite of enlarging quinoa cultivation. d) escalation: means a rapid increase or intensification, violating the requirement since it also describes growth.

Hindi:

- Passage में "expansion" का meaning है ज़्यादा land और ज़्यादा जगहों पर quinoa उगाना ताकि supply बढ़ सके — इसलिए antonym का meaning घटाना होना चाहिए। a) proliferation: इसका meaning है तेज़ी से फैलना या संख्या में बढ़ना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह लगभग synonym है। b) augmentation: इसका meaning है size या मात्रा में बढ़ोतरी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि

यह "expansion" के करीब है, उल्टा नहीं। c) curtailment: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ में कटौती करना या उसे कम करना, जो quinoa की खेती बढ़ाने के उल्टे भाव से match करता है। d) escalation: इसका meaning है तेज़ी से बढ़ना या और intense होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी growth बताता है।



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