Core accountability: On core sector performance

Even **a low base effect** could not push India's oil and gas sectors into growth

The core sector performance in October is a good example of how **statistical distortions** can create incorrect **assessments** of the economy. The 10.9% growth rate, a series high, has been celebrated as a sign of the Indian economy's **strength** and **resilience**. There is, no doubt, an **aspect** of this has been **reflected** in the numbers, especially to do with **infrastructure** creation. However, the much more impactful factor behind the high core sector growth was a low base effect. The overall Index of Core Industries grew just 0.8% in October 2025 and so, in relation, the performance in October 2026 looked that much faster. This low base effect is even **starker** when **looking at** individual sectors within the index. The coal sector grew at a **blistering** 23% in October, more than twice its growth rate in the previous month. Yet, a large part of this was **propelled** by the fact that the sector had **contracted** nearly 8.5% last October. The rest of the sector's growth was **driven** by demand of the electricity and iron ore sectors, or so the data show. The electricity sector also grew at a series high of nearly 22% in October, but **on the back of** a near-7% **contraction** in October last year. This base effect **anomaly** is likely down to the fact that the festive season starts at different but similar points every year. As such, a more accurate reading of the economy will be possible once the data for November are available.

The construction-related sectors **seem** to have seen genuine growth, a **reflection** of the government's ongoing infrastructure push. The iron ore sector's growth rate **accelerated** to a three-month high of 26.4% in October 2026 as compared to a growth of 8.7% in the same month last year. Steel grew at 7.3% versus 9.5% last year, and cement by 15.4% versus 5.2%. The economy's dependence on **government spending** is not going to **ease** in the near future, and might even **intensify** as higher costs **eat into** companies' **profit margins**. The core sector data once again **highlighted** a major reason for these higher costs — the oil and gas sectors. The crude oil sector **shrank** by 4.1%, its 22nd **consecutive** month of contraction. The natural gas sector, similarly, contracted 7.6%, a series-worst performance and the 28th **straight** month of contraction. A major reason behind high inflation in India is the underperformance of these two sectors and the **resultant** dependence on imported fuel. It is time the Petroleum Ministry **candidly** explains — to Parliament in December or to the public directly — why India's fuel output has been continuously falling. If it is a matter of a lack of resources underground, that is one thing, but the underperformance of oil and gas public sector **undertakings** is quite another. Accountability needs to be set. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, answerability, liability, culpability, obligation जवाबदेही
2. **A low base effect** (noun) - a statistical phenomenon where a small initial value makes subsequent growth appear disproportionately high निम्न आधार प्रभाव
3. **Statistical** (adjective) - numerical, quantitative, analytical, data-based, mathematical सांख्यिकीय
4. **Distortions** (noun) - misrepresentations, falsifications, perversions, inaccuracies, skews विकृतियाँ
5. **Assessments** (noun) - evaluations, appraisals, estimations, judgments, analyses आकलन
6. **Strength** (noun) - robustness, vigor, potency, soundness, might मजबूती
7. **Resilience** (noun) - adaptability, toughness, durability, hardiness, buoyancy लचीलापन
8. **Aspect** (noun) - facet, feature, dimension, element, angle पहलू
9. **Reflect** (verb) - indicate, mirror, demonstrate, exhibit, manifest दर्शाना
10. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, foundation, groundwork, facilities, underpinning बुनियादी ढाँचा
11. **Starker** (adjective) - sharper, clearer, more pronounced, plainer, more conspicuous अधिक स्पष्ट
12. **Look at** (phrasal verb) - to examine, consider, or analyze something closely जांचना
13. **Blistering** (adjective) - intense, scorching, rapid, fierce, phenomenal अत्यधिक तीव्र
14. **Propel** (verb) - drive, push, thrust, spur, impel आगे बढ़ाना
15. **Contract** (verb) - shrink, decline, dwindle, diminish, recede सिकुड़ना
16. **Drive** (verb) - fuel, stimulate, boost, motivate, trigger प्रेरित करना या बढ़ावा देना
17. **On the back of** (phrase) - as a result of or supported by a previous event or factor के परिणामस्वरूप
18. **Contraction** (noun) - shrinkage, decline, downturn, reduction, slump संकुचन या गिरावट
19. **Anomaly** (noun) - irregularity, aberration, deviation, quirk, oddity विसंगति
20. **Seem** (verb) - appear, look, sound, suggest, convey प्रतीत होना
21. **Reflection** (noun) - indication, manifestation, sign, expression, display प्रतिबिंब
22. **Accelerate** (verb) - expedite, hasten, quicken, surge, escalate गति बढ़ाना
23. **Government spending** (noun) - money spent by the public sector on goods, services, and infrastructure सरकारी खर्च
24. **Ease** (verb) - alleviate, lessen, subside, abate, diminish कम होना
25. **Intensify** (verb) - escalate, heighten, aggravate, amplify, deepen तीव्र होना
26. **Eat into** (phrasal verb) - to gradually reduce or consume a part of something

such as profits or savings धीरे-धीरे कम करना

27. **Profit margins** (noun) - the percentage of revenue that remains as profit after deducting all business costs लाभ मार्जिन
28. **Highlight** (verb) - emphasize, underscore, accentuate, spotlight, underline उजागर करना
29. **Shrink** (verb) - contract, dwindle, diminish, decline, recede सिकुड़ना
30. **Consecutive** (adjective) - successive, continuous, sequential, uninterrupted, unbroken लगातार
31. **Straight** (adjective) - consecutive, continuous, uninterrupted, successive, unbroken लगातार
32. **Resultant** (adjective) - consequent, ensuing, subsequent, resulting, attendant परिणामी
33. **Candidly** (adverb) - frankly, honestly, openly, bluntly, straightforwardly स्पष्ट रूप से
34. **Undertakings** (noun) - enterprises, ventures, corporations, establishments, entities उपक्रम

Summary of the Editorial

1. India recorded a **10.9% growth rate** in its core sector in October 2026, the highest in the current data series.
2. However, this impressive growth figure does not entirely reflect the economy's actual strength, as it was significantly influenced by a **low base effect**.
3. The Index of Core Industries (ICI) had grown by just **0.8% in October 2025**, making the latest growth rate appear unusually high.
4. The coal sector recorded **23% growth** in October 2026, partly because it had contracted by nearly 8.5% in October 2025.
5. Increased demand from the electricity and iron ore sectors also contributed to the growth in coal production.
6. The electricity sector achieved a series-high growth rate of nearly **22%**, following a contraction of around 7% in October 2025.
7. These unusual growth figures are partly associated with the **festive season**, which begins at slightly different times each year.
8. A more accurate assessment of India's economic performance will be possible after the release of November's core sector data.
9. Construction-related industries have demonstrated genuine growth, reflecting the government's continued emphasis on **infrastructure development**.
10. Iron ore production growth accelerated to **26.4%**, compared with 8.7% in October 2025.
11. Steel production grew by 7.3%, while cement production increased by 15.4%, indicating stronger construction-related industrial activity.
12. The Indian economy is likely to remain dependent on **government expenditure**, particularly as rising costs reduce companies' profit margins.
13. The crude oil sector contracted by **4.1%**, marking its 22nd consecutive month of decline.
14. Natural gas production declined by **7.6%**, its worst performance in the current data series and the 28th consecutive month of contraction. Weak domestic fuel production has increased India's dependence on imported energy, contributing to inflationary pressures.
15. The editorial demands **accountability from the Petroleum Ministry** and its public sector undertakings. The Ministry must explain the continuous decline in domestic oil and gas production, whether it results from insufficient underground resources or poor institutional performance.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which statement best explains why the author argues that "Accountability needs to be set" at the end of the passage?** [Editorial page]
   A. Statistical anomalies in October's core index require parliamentary committees to revise festive calendar benchmarks across electricity and coal utilities.
   B. Rising corporate profit margins in steel and cement require stricter government regulation to prevent inflationary pressures across infrastructure markets.
   C. Persistent output failures in state-run hydrocarbon enterprises cannot be excused without candidly separating operational lapses from geological scarcity.
   D. Expanding reliance on imported crude oil allows public sector undertakings to delay reporting annual production figures until next fiscal year.
2. **What makes the natural gas sector's October performance stand out even relative to the struggling crude oil sector?**
   A. Natural gas benefited from shifting festive demand in October while crude oil remained trapped in multi-year underground depletion.
   B. Natural gas relied on government infrastructure spending in steel and cement while crude oil depended entirely on imported supplies.
   C. Natural gas reversed twenty-two months of consecutive output losses while crude oil recorded its sharpest decline since October 2025.
   D. Natural gas posted a steeper 7.6% contraction, marking both a series-worst reading and its twenty-eighth straight monthly decline.
3. **Which phrase best captures the central subject of the passage?**
   A. Statistical base distortions in October core sector data and persistent oil and gas contractions driving inflation
   B. Seasonal retail consumer spending patterns during autumn festival celebrations across Indian urban and rural markets
   C. Geological exploration techniques used by public sector undertakings to locate underground crude oil reserves
   D. Export competitiveness of Indian steel and cement manufacturers in international infrastructure construction markets
4. **Why does the author argue that "a more accurate reading of the economy will be possible once the data for November are available"?**
   A. Because the Petroleum Ministry will release revised twenty-eight-month production audits for crude oil and natural gas in November.
   B. Because comparing October alongside November neutralizes year-on-year distortions caused by annual shifts in when the festive season begins.
   C. Because construction-related sectors such as iron ore and cement only record government infrastructure disbursements during November each year.
   D. Because corporate profit margins across coal and electricity utilities are calculated after November festive demand concludes.
5. **In the sentence, "The natural gas sector, similarly, contracted 7.6%, a series-worst performance and the 28th straight month of contraction," the phrase "a series-worst performance and the 28th straight month of contraction" functions as:**
   A. Gerund phrase

B. Appositive noun phrase
C. Infinitive phrase
D. Prepositional phrase

6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Severe
A. Native
B. Exotic
C. Acute
D. Fragile

7. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Thrive
A. Violate
B. Flourish
C. Retract
D. Enraged

8. **Directions: Choose the correct phrase for the word highlighted in bold.**
The poor subordinates are **made scapegoats** by their superiors.
A. Blamed for others' faults
B. Given a reward for their hard work
C. Promoted to a higher position
D. Praised for their honesty

9. **Directions: Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Gregarious
A. Social
B. Reserved
C. Friendly
D. Outgoing

10. **Directions: Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Quiescent
A. Dormant
B. Active
C. Silent
D. Passive

11. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
A place where wild animals are kept
A. Abattoir
B. Aquarium
C. Zoo
D. Aviary

12. **Directions: Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**
A. Assasination
B. Indispensable
C. Sentimental
D. Expressionless

13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
    It is said that this is the oldest temple in the region.
    A. This temple is said in the region to be.
    B. This is said to be the oldest temple in the region.
    C. This oldest temple is said to be in the region.
    D. This is told to be the oldest temple.
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**
    Minal said that they were boarding the train then.
    A. Minal asked, “Are we boarding the train now?”
    B. Minal said, “We have been boarding the train now.”
    C. Minal told, “We would be boarding the train by then.”
    D. Minal said, “We are boarding the train now.”
15. **Directions: Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate preposition from the following options.**
    She received a gift ____her best friend.
    A. on
    B. from
    C. of
    D. in
16. **Directions: Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence**
    She walked into the room **<u>with silent</u>** steps.
    A. with silenced
    B. in silence
    C. silently
    D. silence
17. **Directions: Identify the error in the sentence.**
    We were leave for the airport when the storm began.
    A. storm
    B. began
    C. airport
    D. leave
18. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb.**
    Pass over
    A. To cause someone to oppose or fight another person
    B. To take severe punitive measures against an offender
    C. To firmly establish or imprint something in history
    D. To ignore or overlook someone, especially for a promotion
19. **Direction: In the following question, 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 paragraph.**
    A. These include uncovering why there is ice in its craters despite its proximity to the Sun, and understanding the mysterious hollows that are dotted all over its surface.
    B. After an eight-year journey travelling almost six billion miles (10bn km), a spacecraft called BepiColombo has arrived at its final destination and is now in orbit around Mercury.

C. It's operating in an extremely hostile environment: Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and temperatures can reach a fierce 430C and then plunge to -180C, and it is constantly blasted with intense solar radiation.
D. Until now, the planet has been little explored but the hope is this mission will solve some of Mercury's major mysteries.

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

20. **Direction: In the following question, the passage is split into five parts and named 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Rearrange these five parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
1. The panther chameleon and the "dancing" Verreaux's sifaka are among the unique species inhabiting its rainforests, sandstone canyons and otherworldly landscapes.
2. In 2027, Mitsinjo Reserve's much-anticipated 150-hectare reforestation corridor will plant its final trees, restoring habitat for lemurs, fossas and reptiles.
3. With 92% of its mammals found nowhere else on Earth, Madagascar offers extraordinary wildlife encounters.
4. Elsewhere, the Anja Community Reserve uses park fees to fund healthcare and education initiatives.
5. And with the country seeking to increase visitation three-fold in the next two years, travelling responsibly can help protect its remaining wild spaces and nearly 10,000 endemic plants and animals.

A. 3-1-5-2-4
B. 1-3-5-2-4
C. 1-5-3-2-4
D. 5-3-1-2-4

Directions: In the following passage, some words have been omitted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.
If you've ever happened to share a conversation with me for longer than ten minutes, chances are Godzilla has come up at least once. My rabid preoccupation with the King of the Monsters is usually met with bewilderment at best and a barely concealed scoff at worst. Fair enough. What business does a grown man have being so emotionally invested in a giant radioactive lizard? I wish I could quantify what makes this creature inspire such an extraordinary cocktail of ecstasy, terror and outright reverence in me. It is the closest I have come to reckoning with a force beyond human comprehension. Perhaps I do believe in God after all. And it seems Takashi Yamazaki is among its most devoted (4) acolytes.
Minus One has been the only permanent fixture in my Letterboxd Top Four. Its extraordinary thematic depth, resourcefulness with a comparatively (5) minuscule budget, astonishing sense of scale, emotional devastation and thunderous sound design made it an impossibly accomplished piece of filmmaking. It is not merely an (1)___ Godzilla movie, but one of my favourite films ever. (2)___, the prospect of Yamazaki returning with the same filmmaking team, a substantially bigger canvas and an opportunity to expand upon that achievement had me frothing at the mouth.

A direct sequel to 2023's Oscar-winning Godzilla Minus One, Minus Zero picks up in 1949, two years after Godzilla's devastating attack on Ginza. Former kamikaze pilot Kōichi Shikishima (Ryunosuke Kamiki), now married to Noriko (Minami Hamabe), is attempting to build a semblance of domestic normalcy with their adopted daughter, Akiko. Unfortunately, Japan's recovery is (3)___ by Ghidorah, a monstrous new extraterrestrial threat. Yamazaki, returning as writer-director and visual effects supervisor, has also made the first Japanese production filmed for IMAX; the spectacle makes its predecessor look almost quaint by comparison.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
    A. insipid
    B. exemplary
    C. obsolete
    D. abysmal
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. Consequently
    B. Meanwhile
    C. Nevertheless
    D. Alternatively
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. chronicled
    B. expedited
    C. interrupted
    D. bolstered
24. **The word "acolytes" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:**
    A. patrons
    B. critics
    C. novices
    D. devotees
25. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "minuscule" (5) as used in the passage:**
    A. paltry
    B. colossal
    C. diminutive
    D. meagre

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **C) Persistent output failures in state-run hydrocarbon enterprises cannot be excused without candidly separating operational lapses from geological scarcity.**
   passage: "It is time the Petroleum Ministry candidly explains — to Parliament in December or to the public directly — why India's fuel output has been continuously falling. If it is a matter of a lack of resources underground, that is one thing, but the underperformance of oil and gas public sector undertakings is quite another. Accountability needs to be set."----The author points out that crude oil has contracted for 22 months in a row and natural gas for 28 months in a row, which pushes up inflation through imported fuel. The author then says there are two possible reasons: not enough resources underground (a natural limit), or poor performance by oil and gas PSUs (a management failure). The author wants the Ministry to explain which one it is, and says accountability must be set, which applies if the cause is PSU underperformance. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says statistical anomalies require parliamentary committees to revise festive calendar benchmarks, but the passage mentions the base effect and the festive season only to explain the high October growth. The "accountability" line is about oil and gas output, not about the data or calendar, hence incorrect.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says rising profit margins in steel and cement need stricter regulation, but the passage says higher costs are "eating into" companies' profit margins, so margins are under pressure, not rising. Steel and cement are mentioned as examples of genuine construction growth, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says reliance on imported crude lets PSUs delay reporting production figures, but the passage says nothing about delayed reporting. The author's concern is that falling output raises import dependence and inflation, and the call is for an explanation, hence incorrect.
2. **D) Natural gas posted a steeper 7.6% contraction, marking both a series-worst reading and its twenty-eighth straight monthly decline.**
   passage: "The crude oil sector shrank by 4.1%, its 22nd consecutive month of contraction. The natural gas sector, similarly, contracted 7.6%, a series-worst performance and the 28th straight month of contraction."----Crude oil fell 4.1% in its 22nd straight month of decline. Natural gas fell more, by 7.6%, which was the worst reading in the whole series, and it was also its 28th straight month of decline. So natural gas stands out because its fall was both deeper and longer-running. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says natural gas benefited from festive demand while crude was stuck in depletion, but the passage says natural gas contracted 7.6%, so it did not benefit from anything. The festive season is mentioned only to explain the base effect in coal and electricity, and the passage never mentions underground depletion as a fact, hence incorrect.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option says natural gas relied on infrastructure spending in steel and cement, but the passage mentions steel and cement as genuine growth sectors, separate from natural gas. Natural gas contracted, and the passage never says crude oil depends entirely on imports, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says natural gas reversed 22 months of losses and crude had its sharpest decline, but the passage says the 22 months of contraction belong to crude oil, and natural gas kept contracting for a 28th month. Nothing says crude had its sharpest decline, hence incorrect.

3. **A) Statistical base distortions in October core sector data and persistent oil and gas contractions driving inflation.**
   passage: "The core sector performance in October is a good example of how statistical distortions can create incorrect assessments of the economy... However, the much more impactful factor behind the high core sector growth was a low base effect." Also: "A major reason behind high inflation in India is the underperformance of these two sectors and the resultant dependence on imported fuel."----The passage first explains that the 10.9% core sector growth looks strong mainly because of a low base effect (October 2025 grew just 0.8%). It then turns to the continuing contraction of crude oil (22 months) and natural gas (28 months), which raises inflation through imported fuel, and asks for accountability. Option A covers both parts, so it is correct.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says the passage is about festive retail spending in urban and rural markets, but the festive season is mentioned only once, to explain why the base effect occurs. hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says the passage is about exploration techniques used by PSUs, but the passage only asks whether falling output is due to lack of resources underground or PSU underperformance. hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says the passage is about export competitiveness of steel and cement, but the passage mentions steel and cement growth only as signs of genuine domestic infrastructure demand. hence incorrect.
4. **B) Because comparing October alongside November neutralizes year-on-year distortions caused by annual shifts in when the festive season begins.**
   passage: "This base effect anomaly is likely down to the fact that the festive season starts at different but similar points every year. As such, a more accurate reading of the economy will be possible once the data for November are available."----The author says the October base effect is likely caused by the festive season starting at slightly different points each year. So October alone, compared with last October, can mislead. Once November data is available, the two months can be read together, which reduces the distortion from the shifting festive timing. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the Petroleum Ministry will release revised production audits in November, but the passage only says the Ministry should explain falling output to Parliament in December or to the public. It never mentions November audits, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says construction sectors record government disbursements only in November, but the passage says construction-related sectors

already show genuine growth in October (iron ore 26.4%, cement 15.4%). It gives no such November-only rule, hence incorrect.

- Option D: Incorrect. The option says profit margins of coal and electricity utilities are calculated after November, but the passage mentions profit margins only in relation to higher costs, and never says anything about when they are calculated, hence incorrect.

5. **B) Appositive noun phrase**
   passage: "The natural gas sector, similarly, contracted 7.6%, a series-worst performance and the 28th straight month of contraction."----The phrase "a series-worst performance and the 28th straight month of contraction" is a group of nouns (performance, month) with their describing words. It comes right after "contracted 7.6%" and renames or explains that fall in different words. A noun phrase placed beside another expression to explain or rename it is an appositive. So it is an appositive noun phrase. Option B says this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. A gerund phrase starts with an -ing word that works as a noun (like "Contracting every month is bad"). This phrase has no such -ing word, so it is not a gerund phrase, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. An infinitive phrase starts with "to" plus a verb (like "to explain the fall"). This phrase has no "to + verb", hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. A prepositional phrase starts with a preposition (like "in October" or "of contraction"). This phrase starts with the article "a", and "of contraction" is only a small part inside it, not the whole phrase, hence incorrect.
6. C) **Severe** (adjective) – acute, grave, critical, serious, harsh. (गंभीर)
   Synonym: **Acute** (adjective) – (of a bad, difficult, or unwelcome situation or phenomenon) present or experienced to a severe or intense degree. (तीव्र / गंभीर)
   - **Native** (adjective) – associated with the place where a person was born or a thing is produced. (देशी / स्थानीय)
   - **Exotic** (adjective) – originating in or characteristic of a distant foreign country. (विदेशी / अजीब)
   - **Fragile** (adjective) – (of an object) easily broken or damaged; weak. (नाजुक / कमजोर)
7. B) **Thrive** (verb) – flourish, prosper, succeed, bloom, grow. (फलना-फूलना)
   Synonym: **Flourish** (verb) – grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way. (फलना-फूलना / समृद्ध होना)
   - **Violate** (verb) – breach, infringe, break. (उल्लंघन करना)
   - **Retract** (verb) – withdraw, take back, revoke. (वापस लेना)
   - **Enraged** (adjective) – furious, infuriated, angered. (क्रोधित)
8. A) **Scapegoats** (idiom) – Blamed for others' faults. दूसरों की गलतियों के लिए दोषी ठहराए गए लोग
9. B) **Gregarious** (adjective) – Fond of company, sociable. (मिलनसार)
   Antonym: **Reserved** (adjective) – Shy, not showing feelings openly. (संकोची)
   - **Social** (adjective) – Liking company. (सामाजिक)
   - **Friendly** (adjective) – Kind and pleasant. (मित्रवत्)
   - **Outgoing** (adjective) – Sociable and enthusiastic. (खुले स्वभाव का)
10. B) **Quiescent** (adjective) – In a state of inactivity or dormancy. (निष्क्रिय, शांत)
    Antonym: **Active** (adjective) – Engaging in action, energetic. (सक्रिय)

- **Dormant** (adjective) – Temporarily inactive. (सुप्त)
- **Silent** (adjective) – Making no sound. (मौन)
- **Passive** (adjective) – Accepting without response. (निष्क्रिय)

11. C) **Zoo** – A place where wild animals are kept for public display and conservation. चिड़ियाघर
    - **Abattoir** – A place where animals are slaughtered for food. कसाईखाना / बूचड़खाना
    - **Aquarium** – A place where fish and other aquatic animals are kept and displayed. मछलीघर
    - **Aviary** – A large enclosure where birds are kept. पक्षीशाला
12. A) 'Assasination' गलत spelling है। सही spelling 'Assassination' है, जिसका अर्थ है "the murder of an important person, usually for political reasons". राजनीतिक हत्या
13. **B) This is said to be the oldest temple in the region.**
    "It is said that + clause" वाले impersonal वाक्य को बदलने के लिए that-clause का Subject (यहाँ "this") वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है, उसके बाद "is said to + V1" आता है और बाकी हिस्सा वैसा ही रहता है। इसलिए "It is said that this is the oldest temple" का सही रूप "This is said to be the oldest temple in the region" होगा।
    - To change an impersonal sentence of the form "It is said that + clause", the subject of the that-clause (here "this") becomes the subject of the sentence, followed by "is said to + V1", and the rest remains the same. Hence, "It is said that this is the oldest temple" becomes "This is said to be the oldest temple in the region."
14. **D) Minal said, “We are boarding the train now.”**
    Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने पर Past Continuous "were boarding" Present Continuous "are boarding" बन जाती है, "then" बदलकर "now" हो जाता है और "they" बदलकर "we" हो जाता है। Reporting verb "said" वैसी ही रहती है और statement होने के कारण वाक्य का अर्थ नहीं बदलता।
    - While changing Indirect to Direct Speech, Past Continuous "were boarding" changes to Present Continuous "are boarding", "then" changes to "now" and "they" changes to "we". The reporting verb "said" remains the same as the sentence is a statement.
15. B) From' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि उपहार देने वाले व्यक्ति को बताने के लिए "receive a gift from someone" में preposition 'from' आता है। जबकि on, of और in के साथ यह अर्थ नहीं बनता।
    - 'From' should be used because "receive a gift from someone" uses the preposition 'from' to indicate the person who gives the gift. The other prepositions—'on', 'of', and 'in'—do not convey the intended meaning in this context.
16. C) 'silently' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Verb 'walked' की विशेषता (तरीका) बताने के लिए Adverb 'silently' आता है, जिसका अर्थ है बिना आवाज़ के। जबकि 'with silenced' और 'silence' व्याकरण के अनुसार सही नहीं हैं, और 'in silence' के साथ 'steps' का प्रयोग अटपटा बनता है।
    - 'Silently' will be used because the adverb 'silently' describes the manner of the verb 'walked', meaning without noise. Whereas, 'with silenced' and 'silence' are not grammatically correct, and 'in silence' is awkward with 'steps'.
17. D) leave
    'were leave' गलत है क्योंकि 'were' के बाद Past Continuous में Verb की V-ing form आती है। सही वाक्य "We were leaving for the airport when the storm began" होगा।

- 'Were leave' is incorrect because the Past Continuous takes the V-ing form of the verb after 'were'. The correct sentence is "We were leaving for the airport when the storm began".

18. D) **Pass over** (phrasal verb) – to ignore or overlook someone, especially when choosing someone for a promotion or an appointment; bypass, disregard, omit. (अनदेखा करना / पदोन्नति आदि में नज़रअंदाज़ करना)
19. **C) B-C-D-A**

    Hindi Explanation:

    Sentence B पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (B), जो मुख्य घटना और विषय का परिचय देता है कि आठ साल की यात्रा के बाद BepiColombo नामक अंतरिक्ष यान अपने अंतिम गंतव्य पर पहुँच गया है और अब बुध (Mercury) की कक्षा में परिक्रमा कर रहा है।

    Sentence C Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा (B-C), क्योंकि यह pronoun "It's" के माध्यम से BepiColombo के कार्य करने की अत्यधिक कठिन परिस्थितियों—सूर्य के सबसे निकट होने, 430C से -180C तक के तापमान और तीव्र solar radiation—का विवरण देता है।

    Sentence D Sentence C को follow करेगा (C-D), जो बताता है कि अब तक इस ग्रह का बहुत कम अन्वेषण (explored) किया गया है, लेकिन उम्मीद है कि यह मिशन बुध के कुछ प्रमुख रहस्यों (major mysteries) को सुलझाएगा।

    Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (D-A), क्योंकि Sentence D के अंत में आए "major mysteries" को "These include..." के माध्यम से स्पष्ट करते हुए यह सूर्य के निकट होने के बावजूद गड्ढों (craters) में बर्फ होने और सतह पर फैले रहस्यमय गड्ढों (hollows) को समझने का उल्लेख करता है।

    English Explanation:

    Sentence B serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing BepiColombo arriving at its final destination after an eight-year journey and entering orbit around Mercury.

    Sentence C directly follows Sentence B (B-C), referring back to the spacecraft via "It's" to describe the hostile environment it operates in—extreme temperatures from 430C to -180C and intense solar radiation.

    Sentence D follows Sentence C (C-D), shifting from the harsh conditions to the scientific purpose of the mission: solving some of Mercury's major mysteries since the planet has been little explored until now.

    Sentence A concludes the sequence (D-A), elaborating directly on "major mysteries" via "These include..." by specifying the presence of ice in its craters and the mysterious hollows across its surface.
20. **A) 3-1-5-2-4**

    Hindi Explanation:

    Sentence 3 पूरे passage का independent opening sentence है (3), जो मुख्य विषय का परिचय देता है कि पृथ्वी पर कहीं और न पाए जाने वाले 92% स्तनधारियों (mammals) के साथ मेडागास्कर (Madagascar) असाधारण वन्यजीव अनुभव प्रदान करता है।

    Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के तुरंत बाद आएगा (3-1), क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में उल्लेखित अद्वितीय वन्यजीवों के विशिष्ट उदाहरण—panther chameleon और "dancing" Verreaux's sifaka—देता है जो इसके वर्षावनों और परिदृश्यों में रहते हैं।

    Sentence 5 Sentence 1 को follow करेगा (1-5), जो "And with the country seeking..." के माध्यम से अगले दो वर्षों में पर्यटन को तीन गुना बढ़ाने की योजना और जिम्मेदार यात्रा (travelling responsibly) द्वारा

लगभग 10,000 स्थानिक पौधों और जानवरों (endemic plants and animals) की रक्षा की आवश्यकता को जोड़ता है।
Sentence 2 Sentence 5 के ठीक बाद आएगा (5-2), जो वन्यजीव आवासों की रक्षा का ठोस उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है कि 2027 में Mitsinjo Reserve का 150-हेक्टेयर वनीकरण गलियारा (reforestation corridor) लीमर, फोसा और सरीसृपों के आवास को बहाल करने के लिए अपने अंतिम पेड़ लगाएगा।
Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (2-4), जो "Elsewhere" के माध्यम से एक अन्य सामुदायिक संरक्षण पहल—Anja Community Reserve—का विवरण जोड़ता है, जहाँ पार्क शुल्क का उपयोग स्वास्थ्य सेवा और शिक्षा पहलों के वित्तपोषण के लिए किया जाता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 3 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing Madagascar and its extraordinary wildlife encounters where 92% of mammals are found nowhere else on Earth.
Sentence 1 directly follows Sentence 3 (3-1), providing concrete examples of those unique species—the panther chameleon and the "dancing" Verreaux's sifaka—inhabiting its rainforests and canyons.
Sentence 5 follows Sentence 1 (1-5), connecting via "And with the country seeking..." to highlight how responsible travel can protect its remaining wild spaces and nearly 10,000 endemic species amid a planned three-fold rise in tourism.
Sentence 2 directly follows Sentence 5 (5-2), illustrating habitat restoration with Mitsinjo Reserve's 150-hectare reforestation corridor planting its final trees in 2027 to restore habitats for lemurs, fossas, and reptiles.
Sentence 4 concludes the sequence (2-4), pivoting via "Elsewhere" to introduce another conservation example—the Anja Community Reserve, which uses park fees to fund healthcare and education initiatives.

21. **B) exemplary**
Blank (1) needs a positive adjective that the sentence can then top, since "not merely X, but Y" rises from lesser praise to greater: "one of my favourite films ever." The previous sentence also calls the film "an impossibly accomplished piece of filmmaking." a) insipid: means dull and flavourless, violating the requirement since a film praised for "thematic depth" and "emotional devastation" is anything but dull. b) exemplary: means serving as an outstanding model of its kind, matching high praise that the writer then raises even further. c) obsolete: means outdated and no longer used, violating the requirement since the 2023 film remains "the only permanent fixture" in the writer's top four. d) abysmal: means extremely bad, violating the requirement since the writer has just called the film "impossibly accomplished."
Hindi:
- Blank (1) में ऐसा सकारात्मक adjective चाहिए जिसके बाद और बड़ी प्रशंसा की जा सके, क्योंकि "not merely X, but Y" छोटी प्रशंसा से बड़ी प्रशंसा की ओर बढ़ता है: "one of my favourite films ever।" पिछला sentence भी film को "an impossibly accomplished piece of filmmaking" कहता है। a) insipid: इसका meaning है नीरस और फीका, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "thematic depth" और "emotional devastation" के लिए सराही गई film नीरस नहीं हो सकती। b) exemplary: इसका meaning है अपनी श्रेणी में आदर्श उदाहरण, जो उस ऊँची प्रशंसा से match करता है जिसे writer आगे और बढ़ाता है। c) obsolete: इसका meaning है पुराना पड़ चुका और अब प्रयोग में न आने वाला, जो violate करता है क्योंकि 2023 की यह film अब भी writer के top

four में "the only permanent fixture" है। d) abysmal: इसका meaning है अत्यंत बुरा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि writer अभी film को "impossibly accomplished" कह चुका है।

22. **A) Consequently**

Blank (2) needs a linking word that introduces a result: because the writer ranks Minus One among his favourite films, news of Yamazaki returning with the same team "had me frothing at the mouth." a) Consequently: means "as a result," matching excitement that flows directly from his admiration for Minus One. b) Meanwhile: introduces something happening at the same time, or a contrasting development, violating the requirement since the sentence draws a conclusion from the previous one. c) Nevertheless: means "in spite of that," violating the requirement since his excitement follows from his love of the first film, not in spite of it. d) Alternatively: introduces another option, violating the requirement since no choice between options is being offered.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में परिणाम बताने वाला linking word चाहिए: क्योंकि writer Minus One को अपनी सबसे प्रिय films में गिनता है, इसलिए Yamazaki के उसी team के साथ लौटने के समाचार ने उसे "frothing at the mouth" कर दिया। a) Consequently: इसका meaning है "as a result," जो Minus One के प्रति उसकी प्रशंसा से सीधे उपजे उत्साह से match करता है। b) Meanwhile: यह उसी समय होने वाली या विपरीत बात बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence पिछली बात से निष्कर्ष निकालता है। c) Nevertheless: इसका meaning है "in spite of that," जो violate करता है क्योंकि उसका उत्साह पहली film के प्रति प्रेम से उपजा है, उसके होते हुए भी नहीं। d) Alternatively: यह कोई दूसरा विकल्प बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ विकल्पों में से चुनने की बात नहीं हो रही।

23. **C) interrupted**

Blank (3) needs a verb meaning "broken off" or "halted," since "Unfortunately" introduces a setback and Ghidorah is "a monstrous new extraterrestrial threat." a) chronicled: means recorded in a historical account, violating the requirement since a monster does not write the history of a recovery. b) expedited: means sped up, violating the requirement since a monstrous threat would not hasten Japan's recovery, and "Unfortunately" signals bad news. c) interrupted: means broken off or halted, matching a recovery brought to a stop by a new threat. d) bolstered: means strengthened or supported, violating the requirement since a monster attacking the country does not strengthen its recovery.

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में "रोक दिया गया" के meaning वाला verb चाहिए, क्योंकि "Unfortunately" किसी बाधा का संकेत देता है और Ghidorah "a monstrous new extraterrestrial threat" है। a) chronicled: इसका meaning है ऐतिहासिक विवरण में अंकित करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि कोई राक्षस recovery का इतिहास नहीं लिखता। b) expedited: इसका meaning है गति बढ़ाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि कोई राक्षसी संकट Japan की recovery को शीघ्र नहीं करता, और "Unfortunately" बुरे समाचार का संकेत है। c) interrupted: इसका meaning है बीच में रोक देना, जो उस recovery से match करता है जिसे एक नए संकट ने रोक दिया। d) bolstered: इसका meaning है सुदृढ़ करना या सहारा देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि देश पर आक्रमण करने वाला राक्षस उसकी recovery को सुदृढ़ नहीं करता।

24. **D) devotees**

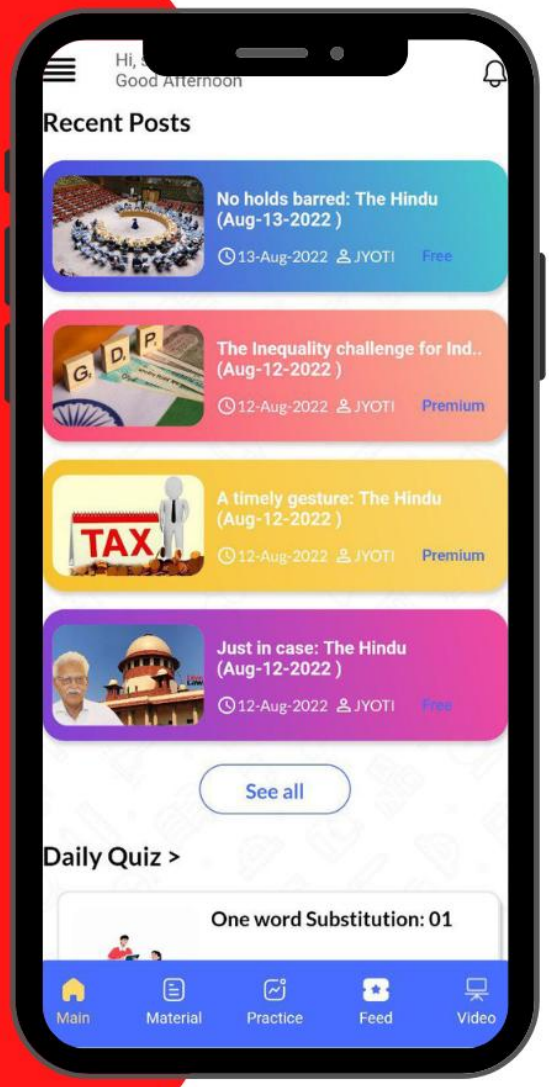
"Acolytes" here means devoted followers, continuing the writer's joke that Godzilla is close to a god ("Perhaps I do believe in God after all"), with Yamazaki among its worshippers. a) patrons: means people who give money or support to an artist or cause, violating the requirement since the sentence is about devotion, not financial backing. b) critics: means people who judge or find fault, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of devoted followers. c) novices: means beginners, which tempts because an acolyte can also be a junior church assistant, but violates the requirement since Yamazaki, an Oscar-winning director, is no beginner; he is a devoted follower. d) devotees: means ardent followers or worshippers, matching Yamazaki's devotion to the "King of the Monsters."
Hindi:

- "Acolytes" का meaning यहाँ समर्पित अनुयायी है, जो writer के इस हास्य को आगे बढ़ाता है कि Godzilla लगभग ईश्वर जैसा है ("Perhaps I do believe in God after all"), और Yamazaki उसके उपासकों में से हैं। a) patrons: इसका meaning है किसी कलाकार या उद्देश्य को धन या सहायता देने वाले लोग, जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence भक्ति की बात करता है, आर्थिक सहायता की नहीं। b) critics: इसका meaning है आलोचना करने वाले लोग, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह समर्पित अनुयायियों का उल्टा है। c) novices: इसका meaning है beginners, जो tempting है क्योंकि acolyte का एक meaning church में सहायक भी है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि Oscar जीतने वाले director Yamazaki beginner नहीं हैं; वे समर्पित अनुयायी हैं। d) devotees: इसका meaning है उत्साही अनुयायी या उपासक, जो "King of the Monsters" के प्रति Yamazaki की भक्ति से match करता है।

25. **B) colossal**

"Minuscule" describes Minus One's very small budget, "comparatively" tiny for a film of its scale, so the antonym must mean "extremely large." a) paltry: means trivially small, violating the requirement since it too describes a tiny amount, not a large one. b) colossal: means extremely large, matching the exact opposite of a tiny budget. c) diminutive: means very small, violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym of minuscule. d) meagre: means scanty or insufficient, violating the requirement since a meagre budget is a small one, the same idea.
Hindi:

- "Minuscule" Minus One के बहुत छोटे budget को बताता है, जो उसके स्तर की film के लिए "comparatively" बहुत छोटा था, इसलिए antonym का meaning "अत्यंत बड़ा" होना चाहिए। a) paltry: इसका meaning है नगण्य रूप से छोटा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी छोटी मात्रा को बताता है, बड़ी को नहीं। b) colossal: इसका meaning है अत्यंत विशाल, जो छोटे budget के ठीक उल्टे से match करता है। c) diminutive: इसका meaning है बहुत छोटा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह minuscule का लगभग synonym है। d) meagre: इसका meaning है अपर्याप्त या थोड़ा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि meagre budget छोटा budget ही होता है, वही भाव।



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