

New hopes: on the new Vice-President of India and parliamentary democracy

The Vice-President should **forge** better ties between the Opposition and **the executive**

Jagdeep Dhankhar will take **oath** as the 14th Vice-President of the country on Thursday, a day after the term of the **incumbent** Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, ends. As the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), he secured 528 votes of the 710 valid votes in the election held on Saturday. The Opposition candidate and Congress leader, Margaret Alva, got 182 votes, with the Trinamool Congress **abstaining**. Mr. Dhankhar's election was **a foregone conclusion**, as the NDA had a clear majority in the **electoral college**, which was further **reinforced** by the support of the Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Mr. Dhankhar, a Jat leader from Rajasthan, has had **stints** in Delhi and the State, in the Janata Dal and the Congress, before he shifted to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2003. His appointment as the Governor of West Bengal **catapulted** him into the national **limelight** even as the BJP fought a **pitched battle** against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to **take over** the **reins** of the State. A lawyer by training, he never **pulled his punches**, and combined political **rhetoric** and legal **reasoning** in frequent **run-ins** with the West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC. He faced charges of **partisanship**, but it all ended with the TMC **mending fences** with him ahead of his election as Vice-President; it **obliquely** supported him by abstaining from the polls. The TMC accused the Congress of not consulting it on Ms. Alva's nomination but that claim is **unconvincing**, and the entire **episode** has exposed **the chinks in the Opposition armour**. The help that he got from the TMC added a slice of **intrigue** to what was otherwise a **predictable** victory.

The Vice-President is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, a critical role anytime, and **more so** in the present situation of extreme **hostility** between the Government and the Opposition. Parliamentary **proceedings** have been continuously **stalled**, Members of Parliament have been suspended and there has been a complete **breakdown** of communication between the **ruling** BJP and the Opposition parties. The Government has repeatedly **bypassed** the Rajya Sabha in the making of critical laws by **arbitrarily** classifying pieces of **legislation** as **money Bills**. The question is now before the Supreme Court. As Vice-President, Mr. Dhankhar will be expected to **facilitate** better relations between the ruling party and the Opposition parties and **uphold** the **majesty** and the constitutional role of the House. It is not an easy task in the current scenario, but his initial moves will be eagerly awaited by everyone invested in parliamentary democracy. Mr. Dhankhar's **elevation** as Vice-President will certainly help the BJP politically. His role as Chairman should be more to protect the Opposition's space, debates and ensure **accountability** of the executive. The **inauguration** of the new Vice-President should renew hopes for parliamentary democracy.

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Forge** (verb) – build up, construct, form, create, establish बनाना
2. **The executive** (noun) – The branch of a government responsible for putting decisions or laws into effect.
3. **Oath** (noun) – vow, sworn statement, promise, pledge, avowal शपथ
4. **Incumbent** (adjective) – current, existing, present, in office पदधारी
5. **Abstain** (verb) – not vote, decline to vote, refuse to vote
6. **A foregone conclusion** (phrase) – A result that can be predicted with certainty.
7. **Electoral college** (noun) – a body of electors chosen by the voters in each state to elect the president and vice president
8. **Reinforce** (verb) – strengthen, fortify, bolster up, shore up, buttress सुदृढ बनाना
9. **Catapult** (verb) – to throw someone or something into a place
10. **Limelight** (noun) – the focus of attention, public attention, public notice, सुर्खियों
11. **Pitched battle** (noun) – a violent confrontation involving large numbers of people. घमासान युद्ध/ लड़ाई
12. **Take over** (phrasal verb) – Assume control of something. कार्यभार सँभालना
13. **Rein** (noun) – The power to direct and control. बाग-डोर, लगाम
14. **Pull one's punches** (phrase) – to hold back in one's criticism; to attenuate the intensity of one's remarks. किसी की आलोचना में पीछे हटना
15. **Rhetoric** (noun) – The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the use of figures of speech and other compositional techniques. बयानबाजी
16. **Reasoning** (noun) – thinking, logic, reason, rationality, analysis, तर्क
17. **Run-in** (noun) – disagreement, argument, dispute, difference of opinion झगड़ा
18. **Partisanship** (noun) – bias, prejudice, one-sidedness, discrimination, पक्षपात, भेदभाव
19. **Mend fences** (phrase) – Make peace with a person or group; be friends again, bury the hatchet, declare a truce झगड़ा खत्म करना
20. **Obliquely** (adverb) – indirectly, in a roundabout way, circuitously, evasively, अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से
21. **Unconvincing** (adjective) – Failing to make someone believe that something is true or valid अविश्वसनीय
22. **Episode** (noun) – incident, event, occurrence, happening, occasion, घटना

23. **Chinks in one's armour** (phrase) – A weakness; a weak point
24. **Intrigue** (noun) – plotting, planning, conspiracy, collusion, conniving, scheming
साज़िश
25. **Predictable** (adjective) – foreseeable, to be expected, only to be expected उम्मीद के मुताबिक
26. **More so** (phrase) – to a greater extent or degree तो और अधिक
27. **Hostility** (noun) – opposition, antagonism, animosity, antipathy, animus शत्रुता
28. **Proceedings** (noun) – course of action, action, step, measure, move, कार्यवाही
29. **Stall** (verb) – obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, रोकना
30. **Breakdown** (noun) – failure, collapse, disintegration, foundering टूटना, भंग
31. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling सत्तारूढ़
32. **Bypass** (verb) – avoid, evade, dodge, escape, elude, circumvent दरकिनार करना
33. **Arbitrarily** (adverb) – Without restraint in the use of authority; autocratically. मनमाने ढंग से
34. **Legislation** (noun) – law, body of laws, constitution, rules, rulings क़ानून
35. **Money bill** (noun) – A Bill is said to be a Money Bill if it only contains provisions related to taxation, borrowing of money by the government, expenditure from or receipt to the Consolidated Fund of India. **A Money Bill may only be introduced in Lok Sabha**, on the recommendation of the President. It must be passed in Lok Sabha by a simple majority of all members present and voting.
36. **Facilitate** (verb) – make easier, make easy, ease, make possible सुकर बनाना
37. **Uphold** (verb) – maintain, sustain, continue, preserve, protect कायम रखना
38. **Majesty** (noun) – stateliness, dignity, magnificence, pomp, solemnity, महिमा
39. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
40. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, liability, answerability जवाबदेही
41. **Inauguration** (noun) – installation, instatement, induction, swearing in अभिषेक, उद्घाटन

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words Editorial page

1. The Vice-President should **forge** better ties between the Opposition and the executive
 - A. Preclude
 - B. Indignant
 - C. Integral
 - D. Construct
2. His appointment as the Governor of West Bengal **catapulted** him into the national limelight even as the BJP fought a pitched battle against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to take over the reins of the State
 - A. Propel
 - B. Pragmatic
 - C. Eccentric
 - D. Unconscionable
3. Parliamentary proceedings have been continuously **stalled**, Members of Parliament have been suspended and there has been a complete breakdown of communication between the ruling BJP and the Opposition parties.
 - A. Peripatetic
 - B. Felicity
 - C. Halt
 - D. Protract

4. Idioms & Phrase

While Soorai Pottru **hogged the limelight** with multiple accolades, including in the 'Best Actor and Actress' categories, other films such as Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum and Mandela also fetched their teams honour and acclaim.

- A. To focus on or bring attention to someone or something
 - B. Get more attention than anyone else present in the situation
 - C. To gradually start to be in a bad state or condition
 - D. To try very hard to keep something
5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
- That manufacturing is not languishing is quite well-known.**
- P. While the listed IT services companies earned nearly Rs 4.2 lakh crore through exports in 2021-22,
 - Q. a rise of 15 percent over the previous fiscal,
 - R. Something or the other comes up every day telling us that industry is not doing good in the country, notwithstanding the well-intentioned Make in India and production-linked incentives.
 - S. Now there is a media report that information technology (IT) companies account for around 43 percent of the forex revenues of listed firms.

- T. A decade ago, this was 22 percent.
 U. the forex revenues or exports of the rest of the BSE 500 companies were down 11.9 percent to Rs 5.6 lakh crore in FY22.

Which among the following will be the **Second** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. U B. P C. R D. Q E. S

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. Children in orphanages receive neither proper care nor protection.
 B. Academic system leads us to believe that we can learn out from listening to authorities.
 C. Certain old customs have to be completely abolished to build a healthy society.
 D. You had better work harder if you want to get a promotion.
 E. All are correct
7. A. He has only coffee in breakfast.
 B. He came in spite of his busy schedule.
 C. Apart from the dance programmes, there will be training sessions for students from various schools in the city on a daily basis.
 D. The government's earnings through royalty, dividends and profit sharing have been steady rising over the years.
 E. All are correct
8. Man (A)/ does not (B)/ live (C)/ by bread alone. (D)/ No Error(E)
9. Last evening (A)/ I went to (B)/ the optician(C) / and bought spectacles. (D)/ No Error(E)

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Humorous
 B. Exhelarate
 C. Dumbbell
 D. Embarrassment

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: A coalition of the sanctioned – July 25, 2022)

It was hard a surprise that Russian President Vladimir Putin chose Iran, **(A)**/ another country at the receiving end of western sanctions, **(B)**/ for his first visit outside the former Soviet **(C)**/ sphere since Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine. **(D)**

Russia and Iran, brought together by their opposition toward the West, already have a strategic partnership in place and have worked together in places such as Syria. But despite this cooperation, tensions have also existed where Russia has remained the big brother. But the war and the subsequent western sanctions on Russia have added a new dimension to the partnership. Hours before Mr. Putin **landed (A)** in Tehran, the countries signed a \$40 billion energy memorandum of understanding where Russia's Gazprom would work with the National Iranian Oil Company in

developing energy fields and building LNG projects and pipelines. Last week, the U.S. had **seeking (B)** that Russia was also **claimed (C)** armed drones from Iran to **deploy (D)** in Ukraine.

So, Russia, battered by sanctions and _____ **11** _____ by the slow progress of its war, is seeking to build a coalition of the sanctioned by deepening an economic, defence and strategic partnership with Iran. And in Tehran, Mr. Putin has found a _____ **12** _____ audience. In Tehran, Mr. Putin also met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to discuss the Syrian civil war and a United Nations proposal to allow grain exports from Ukrainian ports via the Black Sea. The trilateral summit, at a time when the West seeks to isolate and punish Mr. Putin, shows the complex geopolitical moves at play in West Asia. Turkey, a NATO member, has _____ **13** _____ the Russian war and supplied Ukraine with drones, but refused to join the western sanctions against Moscow. Turkey and Russia, which back rival factions in Syria's civil war but have entered into an _____ **14** _____, need each other to protect their interests in Syria.

The visit has also highlighted the importance of West Asia in the time of great power rivalries. **(1)/** This explains the complex trilateral dynamics of the Tehran summit. **(2)/** As the nuclear talks resumed by the Biden administration have reached an **impasse**, Iran's Ayatollahs would naturally prefer a stronger partnership with Russia. **(3)/** Iran, whose bet on the 2015 nuclear deal backfired after the U.S. unilaterally pulled itself out of the agreement in 2018, has been keen on building stronger strategic and economic ties with China and Russia. **(4)/**

Mr. Putin's visit came just days after U.S. President Joe Biden wrapped up his Saudi-Israel tour. Mr. Biden warned America's traditional allies against Russia, China and Iran gaining greater influence in the region. And days later, the Russian leader was in the Iranian capital. While Mr. Biden seeks to build a united front of American allies in West Asia against Iran and Russia, Mr. Putin is betting on Iran to expand the Russian influence in the region in these difficult times.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. So, Russia, battered by sanctions and _____ **11** _____ by the slow progress of its war, is seeking to build a coalition of the sanctioned by deepening an economic, defence and strategic partnership with Iran.
 - A. Rattled
 - B. Apartheid
 - C. Iconoclast
 - D. Condoned
12. And in Tehran, Mr. Putin has found a _____ **12** _____ audience.
 - A. Gesticulating
 - B. Receptive
 - C. Anomaly
 - D. Slandered
13. Turkey, a NATO member, has _____ **13** _____ the Russian war and supplied Ukraine with drones, but refused to join the western sanctions against Moscow.
 - A. Flaunted
 - B. Condemned

- C. Innate
D. Torpor
14. Turkey and Russia, which back rival factions in Syria's civil war but have entered into an _____¹⁴_____, need each other to protect their interests in Syria.
- A. Dilettante
B. Demagogue
C. Tautological
D. Entente

- 15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

It was hard a surprise that Russian President Vladimir Putin chose Iran, **(A)**/ another country at the receiving end of western sanctions, **(B)**/ for his first visit outside the former Soviet **(C)**/ sphere since Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine. **(D)**

- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
- 16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

The visit has also highlighted the importance of West Asia in the time of great power rivalries. **(1)**/ This explains the complex trilateral dynamics of the Tehran summit. **(2)**/ As the nuclear talks resumed by the Biden administration have reached an impasse, Iran's Ayatollahs would naturally prefer a stronger partnership with Russia. **(3)**/ Iran, whose bet on the 2015 nuclear deal backfired after the U.S. unilaterally pulled itself out of the agreement in 2018, has been keen on building stronger strategic and economic ties with China and Russia. **(4)**/

- A. 4321
B. 1234
C. 2134
D. 2143
E. 4312
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

IMPASSE

- (i) The result is an **impasse**, which is normally the case when blind insularity meets common sense.
- (ii) But you need only step a few streets away from the beach for the cacophony to subside and for **impasse** to be restored.
- (iii) An **impasse** was reached and the lorry remained where it was for nearly three hours, to the consternation of motorists behind.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (iii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

Hours before Mr. Putin **landed (A)** in Tehran, the countries signed a \$40 billion energy memorandum of understanding where Russia's Gazprom would work with the National Iranian Oil Company in developing energy fields and building LNG projects and pipelines. Last week, the U.S. had **seeking (B)** that Russia was also **claimed (C)** armed drones from Iran to **deploy (D)** in Ukraine.

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement

19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.

- (i) The man had taken a step or two across the glass roof.
 - (ii) He noticed the presence of strangers in the room.
- A. Once
 - B. Whereas
 - C. Before
 - D. Though
 - E. As opposed to

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

She approved _____ my proposal in no time.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. By
- D. To
- E. None of the above

Answers

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. E 6. B 7. A 8. D 9. D 10. B 11. A 12. B
 13. B 14. D 15. 16. A 17. D 18. C 19. C 20. A **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

4. **Hog the limelight** (phrase) – get/attract more attention than anyone else present in the situation
 सुर्खियों में छा जाना

5. **RSTPQU**

That manufacturing is not languishing is quite well-known. Something or the other comes up every day telling us that industry is not doing good in the country, notwithstanding the well-intentioned Make in India and production-linked incentives. Now there is a media report that information technology (IT) companies account for around 43 percent of the forex revenues of listed firms. A decade ago, this was 22 percent. While the listed IT services companies earned nearly Rs 4.2 lakh crore through exports in 2021-22, a rise of 15 percent over the previous fiscal, the forex revenues or exports of the rest of the BSE 500 companies were down 11.9 percent to Rs 5.6 lakh crore in FY22.

6. 'out' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है। 'Learn (something) from somebody/ something' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

i. I have learnt music from Mr. Sinha.

➤ Use of 'out' is unnecessary. 'Learn (something) from somebody/ something' is used; like-

i. I have learned music from Mr. Sinha

7. 'in breakfast' के बदले 'for breakfast' का प्रयोग होगा, 'have/give/ want something for breakfast' प्रयोग होता है। देखें-

i. They had hard boiled eggs for breakfast.

ii. Do you want bacon and eggs for breakfast.

➤ 'for breakfast' will be used instead of 'in breakfast', 'have/give/ want something for breakfast' is used. see-

i. They had hard boiled eggs for breakfast.

ii. Do you want bacon and eggs for breakfast.

8. 'by' के बदले 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'live on something' का अर्थ है 'to eat a particular type of food to live' अर्थात् 'जीने के लिए किसी खास प्रकार का भोजन खाना'; जैसे-

i. He lives on bread and butter.

ii. She lives on fruit.

➤ 'on' shall be used instead of 'by' because 'live on something' means 'to eat a particular type of food to live' ; As-

i. He lives on bread and butter.

ii. She lives on fruit.

9. 'spectacles' के बदले 'a pair of spectacles' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'spectacles' का अर्थ 'चश्मा' होता है किन्तु 'spectacles' को नहीं गिना जाता है बल्कि इसके 'pair' को गिना जाता है; जैसे-

- i. I do not use spectacles.
- ii. I have bought a pair of spectacles.

➤ 'spectacles' shall be substituted with 'a pair of spectacles' because 'spectacles' means 'specs' but 'spectacles' are not counted but 'pair' thereof; As-

- i. I do not use spectacles.
- ii. I have bought a pair of spectacles.

10. **Exhilarate** (verb) – Make (someone) feel very happy; thrill, excite, intoxicate खुश करना

11. **Rattle** (verb) – Cause (someone) to feel nervous, worried, or irritated. से परेशान होना

12. **Receptive** (adjective) – open-minded, ready to consider new ideas, willing to consider new ideas, open to new ideas, ग्रहणशील

13. **Condemn** (verb) – censure, criticize, castigate, attack, denounce निंदा करना

14. **Entente** (noun) – deal, alliance, treaty, pact, accord, compact समझौता

15. Replace 'Hard' with 'Hardly'.

Hardly (adverb) – Barely, scarcely मुश्किल से

16. (A) 4321

Iran, whose bet on the 2015 nuclear deal backfired after the U.S. unilaterally pulled itself out of the agreement in 2018, has been keen on building stronger strategic and economic ties with China and Russia. As the nuclear talks resumed by the Biden administration have reached an impasse, Iran's Ayatollahs would naturally prefer a stronger partnership with Russia. This explains the complex trilateral dynamics of the Tehran summit. The visit has also highlighted the importance of West Asia in the time of great power rivalries.

17. **Impasse** (noun) – deadlock, dead end, stalemate, checkmate गतिरोध

According to the given options only (i) & (iii) are contextually correct.

19. The man had taken a step or two across the glass roof **before** he noticed the presence of strangers in the room. We commonly use before with the past simple tense. It suggests that the second event happened soon after the first one

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Preclude	verb	To prevent something from ever happening	बंद करना
	Indignant	adjective	Angry; especially as a result of something unjust or unworthy; insulted.	क्रोधित
	Integral	adjective	Essential	आवश्यक
Q2	Pragmatic	adjective	Practical; down to earth; based on experience rather than theory	व्यावहारिक
	Eccentric	adjective	Not conventional; a little kooky; irregular	सनकी, उत्केन्द्र
	Unconscionable	adjective	Not controlled by conscience; unscrupulous	बेशरम
Q3	Peripatetic	adjective	Wandering; travelling continually itinerant	पथिक
	Felicity	noun	Happiness; skillfulness, especially at expressing thing; adeptness	परम सुख, आनंद
	Protract	verb	To prolong	विलंब करना
Q11	Apartheid	noun	The abhorrent policy of racial segregation and oppression in the Republic of South Africa	रंगभेद
	Iconoclast	noun	One who attacks popular belief or institution	मूर्ति, प्रतिमा भंजक
	Condone	verb	To overlook; to permit to happen	माफ करना, छोड़ देना, ध्यान न देना
Q12	Gesticulate	verb	To make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking	इशारा करना
	Anomaly	noun	An aberration; an irregularity; a deviation	असंगति, नियमहीनता
	Slander	verb	To speak badly about someone publicly; to defame; to spread malicious rumor	बदनामी
Q13	Flaunt	verb	To show off; to display ostentiously	इठलाना, शान दिखाना
	Innate	adjective	Existing since birth; inborn; inherent	जन्मजात
	Torpor	noun	Sluggishness; inactivity; apathy	सुस्ती; निष्क्रियता

Q14	Dilettante	noun	Someone with superficial knowledge of the arts; an amateur; a dabbler	कला-प्रेमी, शौकीन
	Demagogue	noun	A leader of the people, but more a rabble rouser	दुर्जनों का नेता
	Tautological	adjective	Redundant; circular	अनुलापिक

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