

Back on track: On P.T. Usha's appointment as Indian Olympic Association president

P.T. Usha can create a **road map** for India's **bid** for the Olympics in the 2030s

Decades ago, when P.T. Usha travelled by the Madras-Mangalore Mail, her employers, the Railways, permitted an **unscheduled** stop at her hometown Payyoli in North Kerala. Such was the respect she **garnered** for her medal-winning **exploits** at the Asian level while the collective **heart-break** she **bequeathed** in **narrowly** missing a bronze in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics **is** remembered even today. After she retired from **track-and-field**, she **evolved** as a coach, **groomed** fresh talent and kept an eye on the **grassroots**. Her latest **appointment** as president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) **comes** with a **surfeit** of **goodwill**. Additionally, it **busts** the **patriarchy inherent** in many sports **hierarchies** across India. She becomes the first woman president of the IOA, a post she was elected to **unopposed**. In a sense the IOA's **hand was forced** as **factionalism drew censure** from the International Olympic Committee and there were **whispers** of a ban. **A change of guard** from the earlier **well-entrenched lobby** with political links **was inevitable** and Usha was seen as the ideal candidate. Already a nominated Rajya Sabha member, Usha's latest sporting **elevation** was seen as an organic progress. Having **handled** many **batons** while running her famous relays, Usha will find the latest one **perhaps** the toughest to **manoeuvre**.

As the **umbrella organisation** for sports bodies in India, the IOA has to **deal with sister associations** lost in **dissidence**. Stadiums become **white elephants**, **leased out** for housing loan **expos** or music concerts. **Age-fudging** and **doping** are **grim** realities as young athletes, **seeking** jobs, chase medals at the zonal, age-group and national levels. Medals **often secure** a career opening in public sector units, banks and a few corporates and Usha is aware of this. **She and her team** of administrators that includes sportspersons and other officials, **need** to **crack the whip**. For all the political **jostling** that happens during the elections, men and women representing opposite **ideologies shake hands** and become **entrenched** in sports administration, seeking **brownie points** and fame. The Government's **leaning on** the **soft power** of sports, the Sports Authority of India's initiatives and **corporate-backed** academies have changed the **landscape**. India is beginning to **aspire** for golds beyond the Asian **realm** and Neeraj Chopra and Abhinav Bindra's **exploits** in the Olympics are a **pointer** that the **skill-sets** are there and if support is provided, **medals** with better **lustre can** be **secured**. With India hoping to bid for the Olympics in the 2030s, Usha and her team are expected to create a road map for that too. The Payyoli Express has a tough challenge ahead. [Practice Exercise]

- **The Payyoli Express** (noun) – Payyoli is famous for being the hometown of athlete PT Usha, who is nicknamed as the Payyoli Express.
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Back on track** (phrase) – to return to the right path, or the right direction. पटरी पर आना
2. **Road map** (noun) – a plan or strategy intended to achieve a particular goal.
3. **Bid** (noun) – An earnest effort to win or attain something प्रयास
4. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
5. **Unscheduled** (adjective) – not arranged or planned according to a programme, timetable, etc अनिर्धारित
6. **Garner** (verb) – gather, collect, accumulate, amass, assemble मिलना/ इकट्ठा करना
7. **Exploit** (verb) – Take advantage of लाभ उठाना
8. **Heart-break** (noun) – grief, suffering, pain, despair बड़ा शोक
9. **Bequeath** (verb) – to hand down; pass on. देना, सौंपना
10. **Narrowly** (adverb) – only just; by only a small margin. छोटे से अंतर से
11. **Track-and-field** (noun) – a sport that includes athletic contests based on running, jumping, and throwing skills
12. **Evolve** (verb) – develop, advance, grow, progress विकसित होना
13. **Groom** (verb) – to choose and prepare somebody for a particular career or job किसी को विशेष व्यवसाय या नौकरी के लिए चुनना और तैयार करना
14. **Grassroots** (noun) – The most basic level of an activity or organization जमीनी स्तर पर
15. **Surfeit** (noun) – excess, surplus, plethora, superfluity अधिकता, अतिरेक
16. **Goodwill** (noun) – Reputation; a kindly feeling of approval and support
17. **Bust** (verb) – to break something तोड़ देना
18. **Patriarchy** (noun) – a organization controlled by men in which they use their power to their own advantage पितृसत्तात्मकता
19. **Inherent** (adjective) – existing as a natural or basic part of something अंतर्निहित
20. **Hierarchy** (noun) – A group of persons or things organized into successive ranks or grades with each level subordinate to the one above पदानुक्रम
21. **Unopposed** (adjective) – not opposed; unchallenged निर्विरोध

22. **Force someone's hand** (phrase) – to make someone do something that they are not willing to do or to make someone do something before they are ready to do जबरदस्ती करना
23. **Factionalism** (noun) – a party or group (as within a government) that is often contentious or self-seeking: clique. गिरोह, गुट्ट
24. **Draw** (verb) – Get, obtain, extract, derive, gain, take, elicit प्राप्त करना
25. **Censure** (noun) – Criticism, disapproval, condemnation, denunciation निंदा
26. **Whisper** (noun) – a rumour or piece of gossip. कानाफूसी
27. **A change of guard** (phrase) – Change of leadership
28. **Well-entrenched** (adjective) – firmly or solidly established; placed अच्छी तरह से स्थापित
29. **Lobby** (noun) – Faction, alliance, pressure group, interest group, campaign group गुट
30. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, certain, necessary, ineluctable अपरिहार्य, अटल
31. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
32. **Handle** (verb) – control, run, manage, deal with, carry संभालना, नियंत्रण करना
33. **Baton** (noun) – a stick that is passed from one runner to another in a relay race छड़ी
34. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
35. **Manoeuvre** (verb) – manipulate a situation to achieve an goal/aim चतुराई से साथ प्रबंध करना.
36. **Umbrella organization** (noun) – an organization that controls or organizes the activities of several other organizations, all of which have a similar purpose
37. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – cope with, handle, manage, attend to, see to, संभालना, निपटना
38. **Sister association** (noun) – an agency or body which is nearly or completely dependent upon another organization to exist.
39. **Dissidence** (noun) – protest against official policy; disagreement, nonconformity, resistance मतभेद
40. **White elephants** (phrase) – something that you no longer need and that is not useful any more, although it cost a lot of money बहुत खर्चीला पर अब बेकार वस्तु

41. **Lease out** (phrasal verb) – to agree to pay money in order to use land, a building for a particular period of time: पट्टे पर देना
42. **Expo** (noun) – a large international exhibition.
43. **Age-fudging** (noun) – a systemic problem of age manipulation in sports उम्र में हेराफेरी
44. **Doping** (noun) – the unlawful use of drugs to enhance the performance of an athlete
45. **Grim** (adjective) – serious, severe, stern, depressing, hopeless गंभीर
46. **Seek** (verb) – search for, hunt for तलाश करना
47. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again अक्सर
48. **Secure** (verb) – give security, ensure, guarantee, assure सुरक्षित करना
49. **Crack the whip** (phrase) – to make people work very hard and treat them strictly and perhaps harshly लोगों से बहुत कठिन परिश्रम करवाना और उनके साथ सख्ती से और शायद कठोर व्यवहार करना !
50. **Jostling** (noun) – the act of competing with other people in order to get what you want धक्का मुक्की, प्रतिस्पर्धा
51. **Ideology** (noun) – philosophy, thought, line, principle, creed, credo, belief, doctrine विचारधारा
52. **Shake hand** (phrase) – to clasp hands in greeting , agreement , etc हाथ मिलाना
53. **Entrenched** (adjective) – ingrained, established, deep-rooted, rooted, fixed अच्छी तरह से स्थापित, जमा हुआ
54. **Brownie points** (noun) – Praise or appreciation, usually a result of something one has done. प्रशंसा
55. **Leaning** (noun) – a tendency or partiality of a particular kind. झुकाव
56. **Soft power** (noun) – the ability to get what you want through attraction instead of coercion or payment.
57. **Corporate-backed** (adjective) – supported by corporates कॉर्पोरेट समर्थित
58. **Landscape** (noun) – the distinctive features of a sphere of activity; situation, backdrop, setting, circumstance परिदृश्य
59. **Aspire** (verb) – aim, hope, desire, want, wish आकांक्षा करना
60. **Realm** (noun) – domain, province, kingdom, sphere, area क्षेत्र, दायरा
61. **Exploit** (noun) – a bold or daring feat. कारनामा, पराक्रम

62. **Pointer** (noun) – Indicator, Indication,
Hint सूचक

63. **Skill-set** (noun) – a person's range of
skills or abilities.

64. **Lustre** (noun) – Sheen, shine, gleam,
gloss चमक

65. **Secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, gain, get,
find हासिल करना

Practice Exercise

Direction: (Q1 – Q5): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Most of the valley had been (1)_____ over the ages by the river waters, (2)_____ rainfall, and fierce winds. All except for one giant monolith, a (3)_____ tower-like mountain of a single rock. It stood at a proud (4)_____ of eight hundred and fifty metres from the valley floor, towering well above the (5)_____ shoulders.

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. dried
 - B. decoded
 - C. eroded
 - D. wiped
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. empty
 - B. heavy
 - C. less
 - D. scanty
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. humongous
 - B. small
 - C. neat
 - D. tiny
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. weight
 - B. height
 - C. length
 - D. width
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. shelf's
 - B. mountain
 - C. valley
 - D. valley's

Directions (Q6–Q7): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6.
 - A. Bequeathe
 - B. Bequethe
 - C. Bequeat
 - D. Bequeath
7.
 - A. Manoeuvre
 - B. Manoevure
 - C. Manouevure

D. Manoeuvre

Directions (Q8–Q9): In the following questions, the 1st and the last sentence are numbered 1 and 6. The rest of the sentences/passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four sentences/ parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences/passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

8. 1. Many people advised me against opting for English.
P. The reason is I love the subject.
Q. Similarly I chose Political Science.
R. I decided to opt for it.
S. I find Political Science extremely interesting.
6. It was a subject in my graduation as well.
A. PQRS B. RPSQ C. RPQS D. SRPQ
9. 1. The availability of electric power
P. would make a tremendous difference
Q. to be improved
R. to the countryside
S. and enable rural economy
6. in various directions.
A. PRSQ B. RQSP C. QRPS D. RSQP

Directions (Q10-Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

10. I shall have written the letter.
A. The letter is being written by me.
B. The letter will have been written by me.
C. The letter will be written by me.
D. The letter has been written by me.
11. Then her face was bowed.
A. Then she bowed her face.
B. Then her face has been bowed.
C. Then she was being bowed her face.
D. Her face was bowed by then.
12. The walls had not been decorated by us.
A. We have not decorated the walls.
B. We had not decorated the walls.
C. We have not been decorating the walls.
D. We had not been decorating the walls.

Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. Study of insects is
A. etymology
B. entomology

- C. ecology
- D. embryology

14. **Careful in the spending of money, time, etc.**

- A. punctual
- B. economical
- C. miserly
- D. calculative

Directions (15 – 16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. At last the rioters **fell back**.

- A. fell on the ground
- B. yielded
- C. ran back
- D. turned back

16. The Madagascar Coup attempt **ended in a fiasco**.

- A. had no effect
- B. was an utter failure
- C. resulted in blood-shed
- D. was a disaster

Directions (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

17. **CENSURE**

- A. Criticism
- B. Corroborate
- C. Extrovert
- D. Extol

18. **INEVITABLE**

- A. Avoidable
- B. Antipathy
- C. Coerce
- D. Euphemism

Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. **ELEVATION**

- A. Wanton
- B. Ebullient
- C. Promotion
- D. Ramification

20. **DISSIDENCE**

- A. Conformism
- B. Adage
- C. Acrimonious
- D. Incongruous

Directions (21 – 22): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.

21. No sooner had the dividend been declared, the notices were sent out.
- A. The company had hardly declared the dividend till the notices were sent for mailing.
 - B. They had no sooner declared the dividend then the notices were sent out.
 - C. Hardly had the dividend been declared when the notices were sent out.
 - D. No improvement
22. Riding upon his horse, the tiger jumped at him.
- A. Riding upon the tiger, the horse jumped at him.
 - B. The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse.
 - C. The tiger rode at him while he was jumping upon his horse.
 - D. No improvement

Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

23. Each one of you (A)/ must make up his mind (B)/ as I did (C)/ No Error (D)
24. Sudoku was first designed in the 1970s (A)/ by a retired architect (B)/ and freelance puzzle constructor. (C)/ No Error(D)
25. During the last few years (A)/ the company works hard (B)/ to modernise its image. (C)/ No Error (D)

Answers

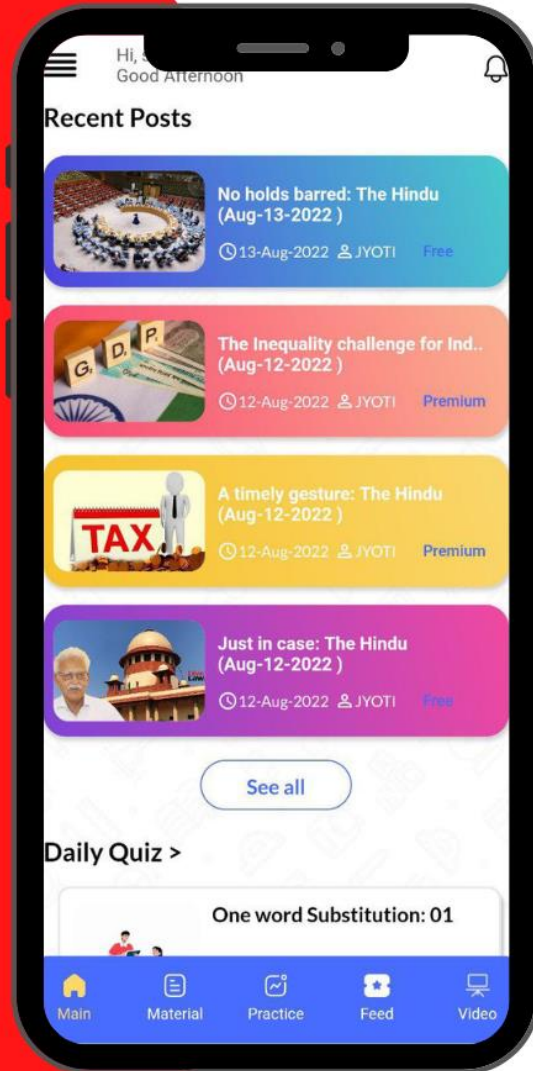
1. C 2.B 3.A 4.B 5.D 6. D 7. A 8.C 9.A 10.B 11.A 12.B
 13. B 14.B 15.A 16.B 17. D 18. A 19. C 20. A 21.A 22.B 23.D 24.C
 25. B

Explanations

1. **Erode** (verb) – To wear (something) away by erosion नष्ट करना
2. **Heavy** (adjective) – of great amount, or degree, or force अधिक
3. **Humungous** (adjective) – huge; enormous विशालकाय
4. दिए गए रिक्त स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त शब्द ' Height ' है।
5. valley's का प्रयोग होगा !
6. **Bequeath** (verb) – to hand down; pass on. देना, सौंपना
7. **Manoeuvre** (verb) – manipulate a situation to achieve an goal/aim चतुराई से साथ प्रबंध करना
8. **RPQS**
 Many people advised me against opting for English. I decided to opt for it. The reason is I love the subject. Similarly I chose Political Science. I find Political Science extremely interesting. It was a subject in my graduation as well.
9. **PRSQ**
 The availability of electric power would make a tremendous difference to the countryside and enable rural economy to be improved in various directions.
10. The letter will have been written by me.
11. Then she bowed her face.
12. We had not decorated the walls.
13. **Entomology** – Study of insects कीटविज्ञान
 - **Etymology** – the study of the origin and history of words and their meanings व्युत्पत्ति
 - **Ecology** – the study of the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment पारिस्थितिकी
 - **Embryology** – the scientific study of the development of embryos-young animals and plants before birth भ्रूणविज्ञान
14. **Economical** – Careful in the spending of money, time, etc. किफायती
 - **Punctual** – Not late; happening or doing at the arranged/correct time समयनिष्ठ
 - **Miserly** – hating to spend money कंजूस
 - **Calculative** – used of person-the most calculating and selfish men; shrewd मतल्बी
15. **Fell back** (Phrase) – fell on the ground

16. **Ended in a fiasco** (Phrase) – a complete failure पूरी तरह से विफलता
17. **Censure** (noun) – Criticism, disapproval, condemnation, denunciation निंदा
- **Extol** (verb) – To praise highly; to laud सराहना, बड़ाई करना
 - **Corroborate** (verb) To confirm; to back up with evidence पुष्ट करना
 - **Extrovert** (noun) – An open, outgoing person; a person whose attention is focused on other rather than on himself or herself बहिर्मुखी, बहिर्मुख
18. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, inescapable, certain, necessary, ineluctable अपरिहार्य, अटल
- **Antipathy** (noun) – Firm dislike; a dislike घृणा, चिढ़
 - **Coerce** (verb) – To force someone to do or not to do something जबरन कराना
 - **Euphemism** (noun) – Pleasant or inoffensive expression used in place of unpleasant or offensive one प्रयोक्ति, व्यंजना
19. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
- **Wanton** (adjective) – Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल
 - **Ebullient** (adjective) – Boiling; bubbling with excitement; exuberant उत्तेजित, जोशीला
 - **Ramification** (noun) – A consequences; a branching out शाखा विस्तार
20. **Dissidence** (noun) – protest against official policy; disagreement, nonconformity, resistance मतभेद
- **Adage** (noun) – An old saying; a familiar bit of wisdom कहावत
 - **Acrimonious** (adjective) – Full of spite; bitter; nasty उग्र, रूखा, चिड़चिड़ापन
 - **Incongruous** (adjective) – Not harmonious; not consistent; not appropriate; not fitting in बेमेल
21. The company had hardly declared the dividend till the notices were sent for mailing
Hardly (Adv.): used for saying that something has just begun, happened etc.
22. The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse.
The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse is the right option
23. (D) No error.
24. (C) 'constructor' के बदले 'designer' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'puzzle' को 'design' करनेवाला 'puzzle designer' कहलाएगा।

- 'designer' will be used instead of 'constructor' because 'designer' of 'puzzle' will be called 'puzzle designer'.
25. (B) 'works' के बदले 'has worked' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'During + Period of Time' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः Present Perfect Tense में होता है; जैसे-
- i. During the last five years he has progressed a lot.
- 'has worked' will be used instead of 'works' because 'During + Period of Time' is generally used in Present Perfect Tense; As-
During the last five years he has progressed a lot.



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