

Change in the hills: on Congress' victory in Himachal Pradesh

The Congress wants to **showcase governance** in Himachal Pradesh to win votes in other States

The Congress has **turned a new leaf** in Himachal Pradesh by electing Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu as the Chief Minister, and the State's 15th, on Sunday. The **victory** in Himachal Pradesh **has** come as a **silver lining** for the Congress **amid dark clouds** over the party. The victory is **narrow** — the Congress **led** the **rival** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by one percentage point in terms of vote share — and the State is **tiny**, with four Lok Sabha seats. Still, the party's **return** to power after a **hiatus** of five years **gives** it hope that it can be the **refuge** for people who may be **looking for** an alternative to the BJP. The party quickly **resolved** the **tussle** for the top post. In choosing Mr. Sukhu, it has **effected** a **shift** that has the **potential** to **inspire** workers and **blunt** the BJP's charge of **dynastic politics levelled against** it. The son of a bus driver and a four-time MLA who sold milk for a living in his early years, Mr. Sukhu is as **modest** and **grounded** as a politician could get. The **soft spoken** leader has never **shied away from** taking a position and stood up to the late Virbhadra Singh who had the Congress **under his thumb** for **decades**. Mr. Sukhu is **uniquely** qualified for the job, and his **elevation signals** much needed but **often** missing **dynamism** in the Congress.

The new leader will have an **uphill** task in managing party **dynamics** and governance. The Congress has made a **slew** of promises, not entirely thought through. Topping the list is the promise of **restoration** of the old pension scheme **in place of** the market-linked New Pension System/Scheme (NPS). A return to OPS would see the introduction of new welfare schemes that will burden the **exchequer**. The State has 1.5 lakh employees under the NPS, and **a majority** of them who are opposed to it **are likely** to have **favoured** the Congress in these elections. Mr. Sukhu's elevation also **unsettles** the **entrenched** power structure in the Congress and he will have to **ensure** the support of the family and **loyalists** of Virbhadra Singh. He will also have to **bear** the weight of expectations **arising out** of the Congress's national plans. The party wants to showcase governance in the three States under its **rule** to win votes **elsewhere**. Himachal Pradesh may be a small State but it has acquired a status that is **disproportionate** to its size with the change of government. What works in Mr. Sukhu's favour is the **goodwill** that he has gained over 40 years in politics. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Victory** (noun) – triumph, success, conquest, win, achievement जीत
2. **Showcase** (verb) –display, exhibit, present, demonstrate दिखाना
3. **Governance** (noun) –The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन
4. **Turn a new leaf** (phrase) – start to act or behave in a better or more responsible way एक नए रूप में शुरू करना
5. **Silver lining** (phrase) – ray of hope, positive side, glimmer of hope उम्मीद की किरण
6. **Amid** (preposition) –in the middle of के बीच
7. **Dark cloud** (phrase) – Ill fortune दुर्भाग्य
8. **Narrow** (adjective) – limited in extent, scope; restricted, limited संकीर्ण/ सीमित
9. **Lead** (verb) – be superior to (competitors or colleagues). आगे होना
10. **Rival** (adjective) – Competing, opposing, challenging, enemy, conflicting विरोधी
11. **Tiny** (adjective) – very small बहुत छोटा
12. **Hiatus** (noun) – pause, break, interval, interruption, suspension विराम
13. **Refuge** (noun) – Asylum, Place of safety शरणस्थली
14. **Look for** (phrasal verb) – search for, hunt for, seek, look about for तलाश करना
15. **Resolve** (verb) – Solve, settle, come to a decision समाधान करना
16. **Tussle** (noun) – scuffle, fight, struggle खींचतान, संघर्ष
17. **Effect** (verb) – to cause something to happen; implement, bring about, create कार्यान्वित करना
18. **Shift** (noun) – change, alteration, adjustment, adaptation, amendment बदलाव /परिवर्तन
19. **Potential** (noun) – capability, capacity, ability, power क्षमता
20. **Inspire** (verb) – stimulate, motivate, excite, encourage, rouse प्रेरित करना
21. **Blunt** (verb) – make or become less sharp.
22. **Dynastic politics** (noun) – A succession of rulers or group from the same family or line who maintains power for several generations वंशवादी राजनीति
23. **Level a charge against someone** (phrase) – make an accusation against someone किसी पर कुछ आरोप लगाना
24. **Modest** (adjective) – humble, simple, discreet, ordinary विनम्र/ नरम

25. **Grounded** (adjective) – well balanced and sensible. जमीन से जुड़े
26. **Soft-spoken** (adjective) – speaking in quiet gentle voice or manner मृदुभाषी/ चुपके से दिल में जगह करनेवाला
27. **Shy away from** (phrase) – steer clear of, avoid, evade, eschew, shun से दूर भागना
28. **Late** (adjective) – former, dead, deceased स्वर्गीय
29. **Under one's thumb for** (phrase) – completely under someone's influence or control. किसी की मुट्ठी में या काबू में होना
30. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
31. **Uniquely** (adverb) – in a very special or unusual way; Outstandingly विशिष्ट रूप से
32. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance पदोन्नति
33. **Signal** (verb) – sign, indicate, suggest, show संकेत करना
34. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, in many instances, repeatedly, again and again अक्सर
35. **Dynamism** (noun) – energy, spirit, liveliness, zestfulness, vitality गतिशीलता
36. **Uphill** (adjective) – arduous, difficult, rising, laborious, tough कठिन
37. **Dynamic** (noun) – the forces which stimulate growth, development, or change within a system or process.
38. **Slew** (noun) – a large amount or number कई
39. **Restoration** (noun) – reinstatement, reimposition, reinstallation, rehabilitation, return बहाली
40. **In place of** (phrase) – instead of के स्थान में
41. **Exchequer** (noun) – funds, coffers, resources, money, finances सरकारी खजाना
42. **Likely** (adjective) – probable, possible, expected संभावना
43. **Favour** (verb) – support, back, Be in support of something, help पक्ष लेना/समर्थन करना
44. **Unsettle** (verb) –disturb, upset, disconcert, unnerve, agitate अस्थिर करना
45. **Entrenched** (adjective) – ingrained, established, deep-rooted, rooted, fixed अच्छी तरह से स्थापित, जमा हुआ
46. **Ensure** (verb) – make sure, make certain, see to it सुनिश्चित करना
47. **Loyalist** (noun) – a person who remains loyal to the established ruler or government वफादार/राजपक्ष समर्थक
48. **Bear** (verb) – sustain, carry, support, shoulder, uphold, absorb भार उठाना(अपेक्षाओं का)/सहना

49. **Arise out** (phrasal verb) – occur, begin, start, happen उत्पन्न होना
50. **Rule** (noun) – Regime, power, control, government शासन
51. **Elsewhere** (adverb) – somewhere else, at another place, in another place और कहीं
52. **Disproportionate** (adjective) – uneven, unequal, unbalanced, inconsistent असंगत
53. **Goodwill** (noun) – Reputation; a kindly feeling of approval and support

Practice Exercise

1. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**
 - A. Progress
 - B. Mystery
 - C. Pilgrim
 - D. Syntoms
2. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

My older brother, / which you'll / meet later, / is a dentist.

 - A. My older brother
 - B. which you'll
 - C. meet later
 - D. is a dentist
3. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Rely
 - A. Move
 - B. Distrust
 - C. Await
 - D. Depend
4. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.
To take after
 - A. To chase someone
 - B. To be similar in appearance
 - C. To mock someone
 - D. To change sides often
5. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.
Hatred can be overcome by love.
 - A. Love can overcome hatred.
 - B. Love has overcome hatred.
 - C. Love is overcoming hatred.
 - D. Love can overcame hatred
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. However, when areas in Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt.
 - B. Ladakh is a cold desert with a low average annual rainfall.
 - C. Thus, glaciers have been the main source of water for the people.
 - D. This was because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.

A. CBDA B. BCAD C. DABC D. BCDA
7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.
Foul play
 - A. Unfair or dishonest behaviour

- B. A bad smelling theatre or playground
C. Unpleasant weather for playing
D. A drama which is badly produced
8. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.
Formally put an end to a system, practice, or institution
A. Stop
B. Destroy
C. Kill
D. Abolish
9. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them contains an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options.**
He was / late / for school / and punished.
A. for school
B. late
C. He was
D. and punished
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
She hardly works on weekends, _____?
A. doesn't she
B. is she
C. does she
D. isn't she
11. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.
I wish I were listening to my parents
A. am listening
B. have listened
C. No substitution required
D. had listened
12. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.
Mother said, "Abhinav slipped while trying to board a bus."
A. Mother told that Abhinav slipped while trying to board a bus.
B. Mother said that Abhinav slipped while trying to board a bus.
C. Mother says that Abhinav slipped while trying to board a bus.
D. Mother said that Abhinav had slipped while trying to board a bus.
13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
DUO
A. Bond
B. Pair
C. Loan
D. Debt

14. 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.
- It was a surprising / to receive the gift/ from my brother.
- A. No error
 - B. It was a surprising
 - C. from my brother
 - D. to receive the gift
15. 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.
- The fisheries sector / have grown significantly / in the last one year.
- A. have grown significantly
 - B. in the last one year
 - C. No error
 - D. The fisheries sector
16. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
- My house / is more / spacious than / my sister.
- A. is more
 - B. My house
 - C. my sister
 - D. spacious than
17. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
- Do you trust me?**
- A. Am I trusted by you?
 - B. Do I am trusted by you?
 - C. Do I was trusted by you?
 - D. I am trusted by you.
18. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
- Paranoid**
- A. Convinced
 - B. Trustful
 - C. Committed
 - D. Distrustful
19. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
- Indifferent to pleasure and pain**
- A. Cynic
 - B. Stoic
 - C. Prudent
 - D. Lusty
20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Appal

- A. Alarm
- B. Assure
- C. Amaze
- D. Astound

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

An old man lived in the village. He was one of the (1) _____ unfortunate people in the world. The whole village was tired (2) _____ him; he was always gloomy, he (3) _____ complained and was always in a bad mood. The (4) _____ he lived, the more vile he was becoming and the more (5) _____ were his words.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. maximum
 - B. utmost
 - C. most
 - D. main
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. from
 - B. of
 - C. by
 - D. at
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3**
 - A. mostly
 - B. commonly
 - C. cyclically
 - D. constantly
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. long
 - B. lengthy
 - C. longer
 - D. longest
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. fatal
 - B. mortal
 - C. poisonous
 - D. toxic

Answers

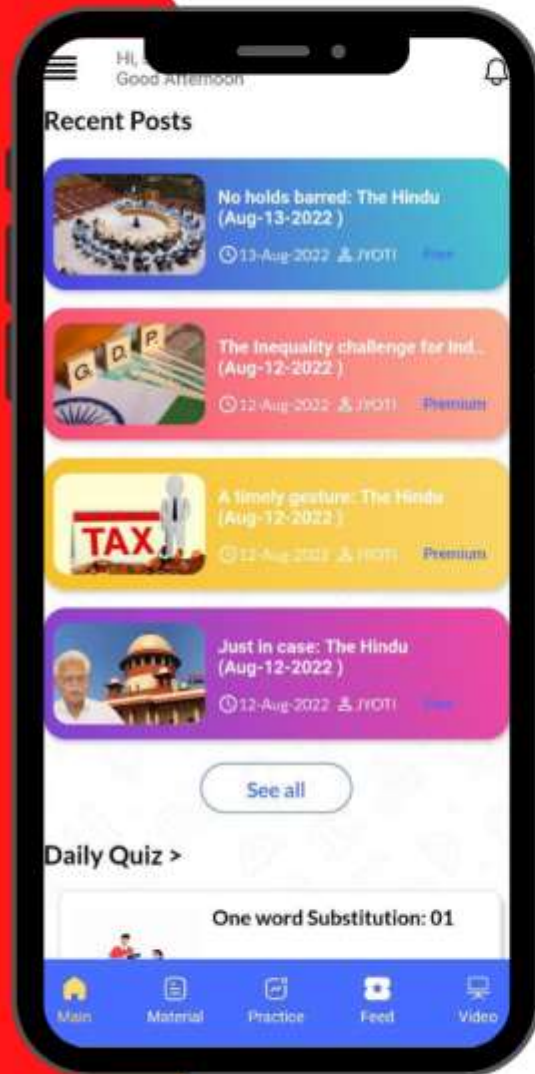
1. D 2. B 3. B 4. B 5. A 6. B 7. A 8. D 9. D 10. C 11. D 12. D
 13. B 14. B 15. A 16. C 17. A 18. D 19. B 20. B 21. C 22. B 23. D 24. C
 25. C

Explanations

- Symptom** – Indication, sign, indicator, warning, sign लक्षण
 - Progress** – Development, growth, advancement, improvement प्रगति
 - Mystery** – Secrecy, anonymity, obscurity, ambiguity, inscrutability रहस्य
 - Pilgrim** – Traveller, hajji, tourist, visitor, wayfarer तीर्थयात्री
- 'which' के बदले 'whom' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि verb या preposition के object के रूप में 'Who' के बजाय 'whom' का प्रयोग किया जाता है !
- Rely** – Trust, depend on, bank on, count on भरोसा करना
 Antonym:- **Distrust** संदेह करना
 - Move** – progress, relocate, redeploy, change, shift चलना
 - Await** – expect, anticipate, wait for, wait on, look forward to प्रतीक्षा करना
 - Depend** – be contingent, hinge on, rest on, be subject to निर्भर होना
- To take after** (phrase) – To be similar in appearance सदृश होना
- Love can overcome hatred
- BCAD**
 Ladakh is a cold desert with a low average annual rainfall. Thus, glaciers have been the main source of water for the people. However, when areas in Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. This was because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer came up with the idea of artificial glaciers
- Foul play** (phrase) – Unfair or dishonest behaviour ढकोसला, धोखा
- Abolish** (verb) – Formally put an end to a system, practice, or institution समाप्त करना, उन्मूलन करना
- 'And' के बदले 'So' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिए गए संदर्भ में 'So' का अर्थ है 'जिसके परिणामस्वरूप; इसलिए !
- 'Does she' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि एक सकारात्मक कथन (i.e. positive statement) के बाद एक नकारात्मक Question tag का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'Were listening' के बदले 'had' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Wish + Past perfect tense का उपयोग खेद व्यक्त करने के लिए किया जाता है, या हम चाहते हैं कि अतीत में एक स्थिति अलग हो !
- Mother said that Abhinav had slipped while trying to board a bus.

13. **Duo** (noun) – Pair, twosome, couple, duet, double act जोड़ी
- **Bond** (noun) – Promise, pledge, oath, word; Tie, link, connection, union गहरा संबंध
 - **Loan** (noun) – Advance, credit, finance, mortgage उधार
 - **Debt** (noun) – Obligation, duty, responsibility; Liability, debit, bill, money owing ऋण
14. 'it was a surprising' के बदले 'it was surprising' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि हम Article का प्रयोग singular countable noun के साथ करते हैं और यहाँ पर 'Surprising' एक 'adjective' के रूप में प्रयोग हुआ है ना की 'Noun'.
15. 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिए गए वाक्य में 'Sector' Main subject है। और यह singular है। इसलिए, 'singular helping verb' का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए।
16. 'my sister' के बदले 'my sister's' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि adjective 'Spacious' हमें बताता है कि मेरी बहन के घर (my sister's) की तुलना में मेरे घर में अधिक 'spacious' है !
The Adjective 'Spacious' tells us that my house, compared with my sister's, had more of the quality of spaciousness.
17. Am I trusted by you?
18. **Paranoid** (adjective) – Suspicious, distrustful, fearful, mistrustful, obsessed, unreasonable चित्तविक्षेपी
- **Convinced** (adjective) – Persuaded, influenced, swayed, converted, induced कायल
 - **Trustful** (adjective) – having or marked by a total belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone. विश्वासी, विश्वासशील
 - **Committed** (adjective) – Dedicated, loyal, devoted, steadfast, unswerving, faithful समर्पित
19. **Stoic** (noun) – Indifferent to pleasure and pain साधु, बैरागी
- **Cynic** (noun) – a person who questions whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile. निंदक, मानवद्वेषी
 - **Prudent** (adjective) – acting with or showing care and thought for the future विवेकी
 - **Lusty** (adjective) – healthy and strong; full of vigour. मोटा- ताजा
20. **Appal** (verb) – Horrify, shock, disgust, dismay, sicken, outrage, scandalize, distress भयभीत करना
- Antonym:** Assure आश्वासन देना, भरोसा दिलाना
- **Alarm** (verb) – Frighten, terrify, panic, distress, startle डराना, चौंकाना
 - **Amaze** (verb) – Astonish, astound, shock, stun, startle, surprise, flabbergast विस्मित करना, अचंभे में डालना

- **Astound** (verb) – Amaze, astonish, surprise, shock, dumfound हक्का बक्का करना
21. **Most** (determiner) – greatest in amount, quantity, or degree; the majority of; nearly all of. अधिकांश
- **Utmost** (adjective) – most extreme; greatest. परम
22. **Tire of someone** (phrasal verb) – become bored with someone or something से थक जाना
23. **Constantly** (adverb) – continuously over a period of time; always. लगातार, निरंतर, हमेशा
- **Cyclically** (adverb) – in a way that is repeated many times, always in the same order. नियमित रूप से
24. Double comparative degree of adjective is used here so 'Longer' should be used.
The comparative degree of adjective + , The comparative degree +
- The more you study, the more you learn.
 - The more I see her, the more I like her
25. The most appropriate word for the given blank is 'poisonous'. दिए गए संदर्भ में इसका अर्थ है 'very unpleasant and unkind' बहुत ही अप्रिय और निर्दयी'



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