

True colours: On the significance of India's Oscar wins

The Oscars served as a **marker** of America's **nod** to **inclusivity**

India **woke up** at **dawn** on Monday to watch the 95th Academy Awards held at Dolby Theatre, Los Angeles, and **cheer** the two wins. Director Kartiki Gonsalves' Tamil documentary The Elephant Whisperers became the first ever Indian production to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short. Director S.S. Rajamouli's Telugu film RRR became the first Indian **feature production** to win an Oscar when its **catchy** 'Naatu Naatu' won for Best Original Song (music composer M.M. Keeravani and lyricist Chandrabose). **Amid** this cheer, however, director Shaunak Sen's All That Breathes lost the Best Documentary Feature to director Daniel Roher's Navalny. RRR's win is **significant in the context of** India's last wins at the Oscars in 2009, from the British production, Slumdog Millionaire — Best Original Song and Score for music composer A.R. Rahman and lyricist Gulzar's 'Jai Ho', and Resul Pookutty for Best Sound Mixing. While this Danny Boyle film can be described as a western world's interpretation of Indian cinema's song, dance and mainstream masala, RRR is an Indian mainstream production that is **unapologetic** about its **spectacle** action pieces and dance numbers. The 'Naatu Naatu' win can be viewed as the Academy's nod to cinema that captured the imagination of a multicultural American society.

The awards have again **brought to the fore** the **debate** whether the Oscars are 'too White', particularly with the **nomination** of Andrea Riseborough in the Best Actress category for To Leslie, widely **criticised** for **snubbing potential** names such as Viola Davis for The Woman King and Danielle Deadwyler for Till, and forcing the Academy to **probe** whether she had **secured the nod** due to **aggressive campaigning** from her Hollywood **peers**. **The silver lining** of inclusivity **came** in the form of Everything Everywhere All At Once (the story of an **immigrant** Chinese family), securing 11 nominations and winning seven awards. Its top prizes included Best Picture and Best Director, and an award for Vietnamese-American Ke Huy Quan in the Best Supporting Actor category. Its lead actress Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian woman to receive a nomination and win in the Best Actress category. It is also the first Best Actress win for a non-white actress in 20 years. Cheers **greeted** the 60-year-old when she urged women not to **let** anyone ever tell them that they are **past their prime**. The other non-white film to **make its presence felt** through nominations and its win for Best Costume Design was Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. In the years ahead, these **multicultural** wins should **pave the way for** more **artistes** to take to the global stage. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, gain, get, find हासिल करना

Vocabulary

1. **True colours** (noun) – the real/actual personality, attitude, views, and prejudices of a person other than the first impression or appearance.
2. **Significance** (noun) – Importance, impact, substance, consequence, weight महत्व
3. **Marker** (noun) – a distinctive feature or characteristic indicative of a particular quality or condition सूचक
4. **Nod** (noun) – Permission, signal, affirmation स्वीकृति
5. **Inclusivity** (noun) – the fact of including all types of people, things or ideas and treating them all fairly and equally समावेशिता
6. **Wake up** (phrasal verb) – Arise, awaken, come to उठना/ जगना
7. **Dawn** (noun) – Daybreak, sunrise, morning भोर का समय
8. **Cheer** (verb) – Celebrate, applaud, hail, rejoice खुशी मनाना
9. **Feature production/film** (noun) – a type of film that is typically longer in length and has a higher production value than other types of films, such as short films or documentaries.
10. **Catchy** (adjective) – likely to attract attention; memorable, Likeable आकर्षक
11. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of के बीच
12. **Significant** (adjective) – Important, noteworthy महत्वपूर्ण
13. **In the context of** (phrase) – the situation within something happens इस संदर्भ में
14. **Unapologetic** (adjective) – unashamed, confident, impenitent, unregretful शर्मिंदगी नहीं होना
15. **Spectacle** (noun) – a visually striking performance or display.
16. **Bring to the fore** (phrase) – To emphasize something or make it more noticeable. प्रकट करना, सामने लाना
17. **Debate** (noun) – Discussion, argument, dispute, deliberation बहस
18. **Nomination** (noun) – a suggestion of somebody for appointment for receiving an honor or award नामांकन
19. **Criticise** (verb) – Censure, condemn, carp, slate, roast, slam, disapprove of आलोचना करना
20. **Snub** (verb) – reject, ignore, disregard नजरअंदाज /अनदेखी करना
21. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, likely, prospective, latent, probable, budding संभावित

22. **Probe** (verb) – investigate, examine, scrutinize, inquire into जांच करना
23. **Secure/get the nod** (phrase) – be selected or approved; be chosen चुनना
24. **Aggressive** (adjective) – assertive, forceful, competitive, insistent, vigorous आक्रामक
25. **Campaigning** (noun) – promoting, advocating; such as public speeches, advertisements, canvassing, debates, rallies, and social media प्रचार
26. **Peer** (noun) – equal, match, compeer, fellow साथी
27. **Silver lining** (noun) – ray of hope, positive side, glimmer of hope उम्मीद की किरण
28. **Immigrant** (adjective) – relating to those who have come to settle in another country आप्रवासी
29. **Greet** (verb) – welcome, meet, receive अभिवादन करना
30. **Let** (verb) – allow, permit, give permission to होने देना
31. **Past one's prime** (phrase) – someone is no longer at their best or most successful period of life. सर्वश्रेष्ठ समय बीतना
32. **Make one's presence felt** (phrase) – have powerful effect or influence. अपनी पहचान बनाना
33. **Multicultural** (adjective) – for or including people of many different races, languages, religions and traditions बहु-सांस्कृतिक
34. **Pave the way for** (phrase) – create situation that allows something to happen. के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त करना
35. **Artiste** (noun) – a professional entertainer, especially a singer or dancer मनोरंजन करने वाला कलाकार

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Practice Exercise

[Editorial Page]

- What is significant about the win of RRR at the Oscars?**
 - It is the first ever Indian production to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short.
 - It is the first Indian feature production to win an Oscar for Best Original Song.
 - It is the first Indian documentary to win an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.
 - It is the first Indian film to win multiple Oscars.
- Which Indian film has been referred to as unapologetic about its spectacle action pieces and dance numbers in the given passage?**
 - RRR
 - Danny Boyle film
 - A Bollywood film
 - None of the above
- What is the reason for the debate on the Oscars awards?**
 - Lack of diversity in the nominees
 - Low quality of the nominated movies
 - Inability to secure nominations for potential names
 - Ineligibility of certain actors for the awards
- Who became the first Asian woman to win in the Best Actress category and in which movie?**
 - Sandra Oh in Killing Eve
 - Lupita Nyong'o in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
 - Michelle Yeoh in an Everything Everywhere All At Once
 - Emma Stone in La La Land
- What is the tone of the passage?**
 - Hopeful and celebratory
 - Disappointed and cynical
 - Neutral and informative
 - Despondent and dejected
- What is the theme of the passage?**
 - The impact of Indian cinema on the Oscars
 - The lack of diversity at the Oscars
 - The rise of multicultural cinema at the Oscars
 - The importance of campaigning for Oscar nominations
- Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:**
 - The resolution, or a call for a “just and lasting peace”, that was eventually sponsored by more than 70 countries, demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities, and appealed for accountability at international courts for rights violations and war crimes
 - As a result, although there is a military stalemate in Ukraine, casualties continue to rise, and western sanctions have not found favour with much of the world, Ukraine and NATO

countries called the vote a major victory — much like they had in a similar vote, on March 2, 2022.

- C. Two amendments suggested by Russia’s ally Belarus, to replace the term “invasion” with what Russia calls “Special Military Operations”, and to call for dialogue immediately, were rejected.
- D. Nearly one year to the date of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s launch of attacks on Ukraine (February 24, 2022), the UN General Assembly’s vote on the latest resolution to criticise Russia resulted in 141 votes in favour, seven against (it includes Russia) and 32 abstentions (it includes India and China).
- E. Significantly, the sponsors, led by the U.S., its allies, and European Union countries, did not call for peace talks — something Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy does not favour at present, given the status quo advantage that lies with Russian forces having laid claim to about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory.

A. ACBED B. DBACE C. DAECB D. DEBAC

Cloze test

Many barriers on the road to gender equality have been removed, but many _____ **8** _____ remain. Women have fought hard to get to the present when, thanks to higher education and work opportunities, they can dream of balancing work and home, though couple equity is still not a reality for many. The battle for rights related to reproductive health has been a hard-fought one but women have been successful at _____ **9** _____ governments to initiate policy changes to improve their health and well-being. In India, the Maternity Benefit Act that was _____ **10** _____ by Parliament in 1961 has been amended from time to time to give women better benefits; for instance, paid maternity leave has been extended from the earlier 12 weeks to 26 weeks. It is in this context that the Supreme Court of India’s directive to a petitioner to _____ **11** _____ the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to frame a policy on menstrual pain leave has to be seen. Pointing out that there are different “dimensions” to it, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the biological process must not become a “disincentive” for employers offering jobs to women. A petition had sought the Court’s direction to States to frame rules for granting menstrual pain leave for students and working women, but there are apprehensions that these could entrench existing _____ **12** _____ and also result in furthering discrimination.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

8. Many barriers on the road to gender equality have been removed, but many _____ remain.
- Room
 - Intervention
 - Roadblocks
 - Augury
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

9. The battle for rights related to reproductive health has been a hard-fought one but women have been successful at _____ governments to initiate policy changes to improve their health and well-being.
- Reassure
 - Persuading
 - Estimating
 - Addressing
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above
10. In India, the Maternity Benefit Act that was _____ by Parliament in 1961 has been amended from time to time to give women better benefits; for instance, paid maternity leave has been extended from the earlier 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Denigrated
 - Enacted
 - Prompted
 - Triggered
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above
11. It is in this context that the Supreme Court of India's directive to a petitioner to _____ the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development to frame a policy on menstrual pain leave has to be seen.
- Impose
 - Approach
 - Persist
 - Deport
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above
12. A petition had sought the Court's direction to States to frame rules for granting menstrual pain leave for students and working women, but there are apprehensions that these could entrench existing _____ and also result in furthering discrimination
- Stigma
 - Wing
 - Restrain
 - Loyalty
- A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above

Direction: Spot the error in the given sentence, if any -

13. The buzz at the party was (A)/ that a famous (B)/ film star and politician (C)/ would probable drop by for a while. (D)/ No Error. (E)
14. The Opposition disrupted proceedings (A)/ in both Houses of Parliament (B)/ for the second consecutive day (C)/ above the plight of farmers in the country. (D)/ No Error. (E)
15. In response to the growing crisis, (A)/ the agency is urgently asking for more (B)/contributions to make up for (C)/ its sharp decline in purchasing power. (D)/ No Error. (E)
16. The tennis player easy through (A)/ the opening set (B)/ before her opponent (C)/ rallied to take the final two sets for the biggest victory of her young career. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Answers

1. B 2. A 3. A 4. C 5. A 6. C 7. C 8. C 9. B 10. B 11. B 12.A
13. D 14. D 15. C 16. A

Explanations

1. B. It is the first Indian feature production to win an Oscar for Best Original Song.
Explanation: The passage states that RRR, a Telugu film directed by S.S. Rajamouli, won an Oscar for Best Original Song for 'Naatu Naatu', composed by M.M. Keeravani and written by Chandrabose. This is significant because it marks the first time an Indian feature production has won an Oscar. The other wins mentioned in the passage are for Best Documentary Short and Best Sound Mixing, and Slumdog Millionaire was a British production. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.
2. A) RRR
Explanation: The given passage compares a Danny Boyle film to RRR, an Indian mainstream production that is unapologetic about its spectacle action pieces and dance numbers. Therefore, option A is the correct answer. Option B is incorrect because while the Danny Boyle film is mentioned in the passage, it is not referred to as unapologetic about its spectacle action pieces and dance numbers. Option C is too broad and general, as Bollywood films can vary in their style and approach. Option D is incorrect as the passage clearly mentions RRR as the Indian film that is unapologetic about its spectacle action pieces and dance numbers.
3. A. Lack of diversity in the nominees
Explanation: The passage states that the recent awards have brought up the debate of whether the Oscars are 'too White', which refers to the lack of diversity in the nominees. The nomination of Andrea Riseborough in the Best Actress category for To Leslie is criticised for snubbing potential names such as Viola Davis for The Woman King and Danielle Deadwyler for Till. The silver lining of inclusivity came in the form of Everything Everywhere All At Once securing 11 nominations and winning seven awards, which included awards for Vietnamese-American Ke Huy Quan in the Best Supporting Actor category.
4. The correct answer is c) Michelle Yeoh in an unnamed movie. In the passage, it is mentioned that Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian woman to receive a nomination and win in the Best Actress category. She did not win for a specific movie, but her win represents a significant milestone for Asian women in the film industry. The passage also mentions that Black Panther: Wakanda Forever won for Best Costume Design, making it another non-white film that made its presence felt through nominations and wins. These multicultural wins are expected to pave the way for more artistes from diverse backgrounds to take to the global stage.
5. a) Hopeful and celebratory
Explanation: The passage discusses the recent Oscar awards and the impact of Indian and non-white cinema on the awards. Despite some criticism, the passage is overall hopeful and celebratory about the multicultural wins and their potential impact on the global stage.
6. (c) The rise of multicultural cinema at the Oscars

Explanation: The passage focuses on the impact of multicultural cinema on the recent Oscars, including the wins of an Indian documentary and feature film, and the success of a Chinese-immigrant family story and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. The passage also discusses the historic wins of non-white actors and the hope that these multicultural wins will pave the way for more artists to take the global stage.

7. DAECB

D comes first because it provides a timeline and context for the resolution and the vote that followed.

A follows because it describes the content and demands of the resolution.

E comes next because it provides additional information about the stance of the resolution sponsors and the current position of the Ukrainian President.

C is the penultimate sequence as it provides additional information about the rejected amendments suggested by Russia's ally Belarus.

B comes last as it repeats the information already mentioned in C, but also provides additional details about the rejection of the suggested amendments.

Nearly one year to the date of Russian President Vladimir Putin's launch of attacks on Ukraine (February 24, 2022), the UN General Assembly's vote on the latest resolution to criticise Russia resulted in 141 votes in favour, seven against (it includes Russia) and 32 abstentions (it includes India and China). The resolution, or a call for a "just and lasting peace", that was eventually sponsored by more than 70 countries, demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities, and appealed for accountability at international courts for rights violations and war crimes. Significantly, the sponsors, led by the U.S., its allies, and European Union countries, did not call for peace talks — something Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy does not favour at present, given the status quo advantage that lies with Russian forces having laid claim to about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. Two amendments suggested by Russia's ally Belarus, to replace the term "invasion" with what Russia calls "Special Military Operations", and to call for dialogue immediately, were rejected. As a result, although there is a military stalemate in Ukraine, casualties continue to rise, and western sanctions have not found favour with much of the world, Ukraine and NATO countries called the vote a major victory — much like they had in a similar vote, on March 2, 2022.

8. **Roadblock** (noun) – a hindrance or obstruction. अवरोध, बाधा

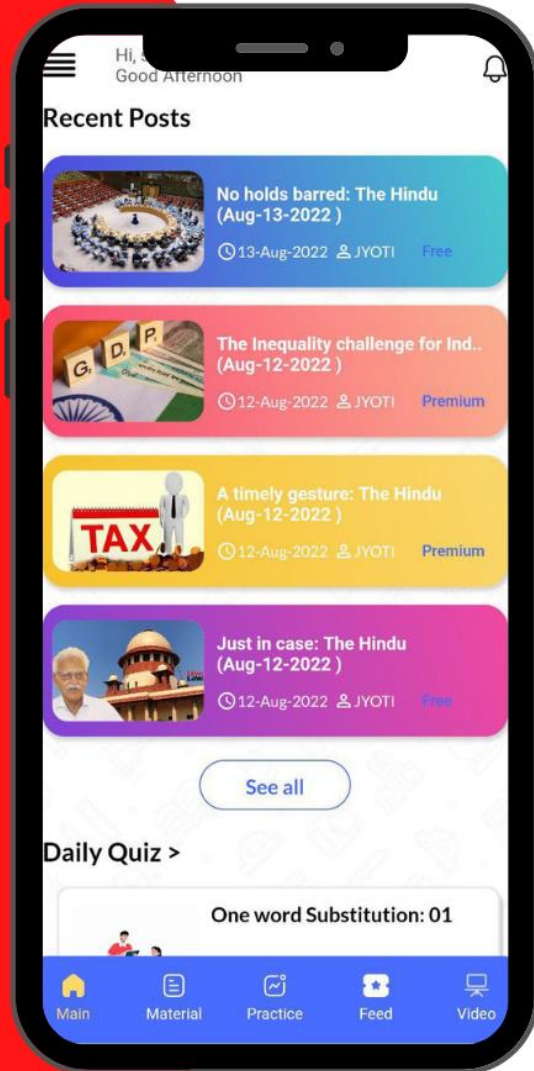
- **Room** (noun) – space, scope, opportunity गुंजाइश
- **Intervention** (noun) – involvement, intercession, interceding, interposing हस्तक्षेप
- **Augury** (noun) – Portend, omen, auspice, indication, sign, forewarning संकेत

9. **Persuade** (verb) –convince, influence, induce, coax, sway मनाना/ राजीकरना

- **Reassure** (verb) – Assure, Comfort, Encourage, Soothe, Calm, Restore confidence पुनः आश्वस्त करना
 - **Estimate** (verb) – evaluate, judge, assess, calculate, gauge अनुमान करना
 - **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना
10. **Enact** (verb) – make law, pass, approve, ratify, validate, sanction कानून बनाना
- **Denigrate** (verb) – criticize unfairly; disparage. बदनाम करना
 - **Prompt** (verb) – induce, provoke, inspire, stimulate, motivate, lead प्रेरित करना
 - **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, start, prompt, activate, cause, spark off, set off शुरू करना
11. **Approach** (verb) – Contact, accost, speak to, talk to, get in touch with, make contact with संपर्क करना
- **Impose** (verb) – foist, force, thrust, inflict थोपना
 - **Persist** (verb) – persevere, continue, carry on, go on कायम रहना
 - **Deport** (verb) – expel, banish, exile, transport, expatriate, extradite निर्वासित करना, निकाल देना
12. **Stigma** (noun) – shame, disgrace, dishonor, humiliation कलंक, लांछन, धब्बा
- **Wing** (noun) – group, branch, arm, faction शाखा
 - **Restrain** (noun) – Self-control, control, self-possession, self-discipline संयम
 - **Loyalty** (noun) – devotion, allegiance, faithfulness, constancy निष्ठा
13. (D) 'probable' के बदले 'probably' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'probable' (संभावित संभाव्य) एक Adjective है जबकि 'probably' (संभवतः संभावित रूप से) एक Adverb है, और Verb 'drop' की विशेषता एक Adverb बताएगा, न कि एक Adjective.
- 'probable' will be used instead of 'probably' because 'probable' is an Adjective while 'probably' is an Adverb, and the attribute of the Verb 'drop' is an Adverb, Not an Adjective.
14. (D) 'above' के बदले 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'on the plight of' का अर्थ है 'on the condition of' = (की हालत पर)।
- 'on' will be used instead of 'above' because 'on the plight of' means 'on the condition of' = (on the understanding that).
15. (C) 'make' के बदले 'making' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'contribution' के साथ प्रयुक्त 'to' Preposition है, न कि Infinitive Particle, और किसी भी Preposition के बाद आनेवाला Verb अपने v⁴ ' रूप में होता है; जैसे-

- i. He is addicted to smoking. ['to'- Preposition]
 - ii. He wanted to drink. ['to'-Infinitive Particle]
 - 'make' shall be replaced by 'making' because 'to' used with 'contribution' is a Preposition, not an Infinitive Particle, and the Verb that follows any Preposition is in its 'v4' form; like-
 - i. He is addicted to smoking. ['to'- Preposition]
 - ii. He wanted to drink. ['to'-Infinitive Particle]
16. (A) 'easy through' के बदले 'easily threw' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'easy' एक Adjective है और 'through' एक Preposition है जिनका प्रयोग एक साथ नहीं होता है, और प्रश्न में 'The tennis player Subject' है जिसके लिए Verb 'throw' (फेंकना) का Past रूप 'threw' होना चाहिए और इसकी विशेषता बताने के लिए Adverb 'easily' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए।

'easily threw' will be used instead of 'easy through' because 'easy' is an Adjective and 'through' is a Preposition which are not used together, and 'The tennis player subject' in the question for which The past form of the Verb 'throw' should be 'threw' and the Adverb 'easily' should be used to describe it.



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