

Female punch with four medals at the World Boxing Championship

Five years ago, in an emotional **farewell at home** in New Delhi, Mary Kom won a record sixth World Championships gold. Her nearly two-**decade**-long career had **blazed a path** for many to **come after** her, becoming Indian boxing's ultimate icon, bringing women's boxing into **relevance**. As her **career** — an **unlikely** Asian Games **swansong notwithstanding** — **winds down**, there was **plenty** of proof at the World Boxing Championships, at the same **venue** as Kom's farewell, that the sport remains **in good hands**. With four Indian finalists keeping the locals excited till the final day of the world event, India had **punched above its weight**.

Nitu Ghanghas, 22, participating in the 48kg category, the one Kom made her own, won a first Worlds medal by **sweeping** gold. So did **veteran** Saweety Boora in the 81kg category. Representing both India and the Northeast region **in a similar vein to** Kom, Lovlina Borgohain **shone** brightly in the 75kg category and won the gold. It is, however, the **emergence** of Nikhat Zareen, who won her second World Championship gold on Sunday, as a world-class boxer that is Indian boxing's **crowning** achievement. Zareen's gold last year was followed by sweeping inspirational **takes on** her life, but this year it is the mastery of her **craft** that earned her the **plaudits**. Zareen is as **fierce** in the ring as she is **articulate off** it. Male or female, the Hyderabad boxer is easily the most-recognised boxer in the country now. A **woman** being a fan favourite in a generally male-dominated sport **symbolises** the trend of Indian boxing.

Men's boxing may have been in a **lull** ever since Vijender Singh's 2008 Olympics bronze, with no improvement **in sight**. But as preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics go **into full flow** this year, at the World Championships, the women have shown that boxing in India is their **domain**. India has more Olympic medals won by women than by men, **at any rate**. But it is the **consistent** flow of **smashing headlines** that the women **garner** that has given glowing visibility to women's boxing in India. It is the **assured** performances at the top level, without **flagging** in quality, without **going off the boil**, that makes women's boxing dependable as a constant source of inspiration. In Ghanghas and Zareen, in Boora and Borgohain, is the continuing **lineage** of high standards that Kom set in India with her six World Championships. With her consistent showing, Zareen can be **counted upon** as a Paris Games medal **certainty**, the only one besides Neeraj Chopra. **The very best is yet to come.**

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Farewell** (noun) – departure, goodbye
विदाई
2. **At home** (phrase) – In one's own country. अपने देश में
3. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years
दशक
4. **Blaze a Path/Trail** (phrase) – To be the first to do something
5. **Come after** (phrasal verb) – follow, succeed, come next; be the successor (of); अनुसरण करना
6. **Relevance** (noun) – significance, importance, application, bearing, pertinence प्रासंगिकता
7. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, unexpected, uncertain असंभव
8. **Swansong** (noun) – the final performance or activity of a person's career. अंतिम प्रदर्शन
9. **Notwithstanding** (preposition) – in spite of, despite, regardless of, for all के बावजूद
10. **Wind down** (phrasal verb) – To diminish or cause to diminish gradually in energy, intensity, or scope हास होना
11. **Plenty** (noun) – Abundance, copiousness, bounty, a lot बहुत
12. **Venue** (noun) – place, location, spot, setting स्थान
13. **In good hands** (phrase) – in safe hands, in expert hands सक्षम हाथों में
14. **Punch above one's weight** (phrase) – To perform, achieve at a level that is considered beyond one's abilities, talents अपने क्षमता से ज्यादा करना
15. **Sweeping** (adjective) – (of the outcome of a contest) decisive; overwhelming ज़बर्दस्त
16. **Veteran** (adjective) – Expert, old-time, past master, Experienced person अनुभवी
17. **In a similar vein** (phrase) – Of similar kind इसी तरह से
18. **Shine** (verb) – perform very well; stand out, be brilliant, gleam अच्छा प्रदर्शन करना
19. **Emergence** (noun) – appearance, arrival, coming उद्भव
20. **Crowning** (adjective) – ultimate, highest, pinnacle, prime(achievement) सबसे बड़ी
21. **Take on something** (noun) – an opinion about something
22. **Craft** (noun) – skill, art, technique, ability कौशल/दक्षता

23. **Plaudit** (noun) – praise, acclaim, recognition, commendation प्रशंसा
24. **Fierce** (adjective) –aggressive, intense, strong, powerful तेजतर्र
25. **Articulate** (adjective) –eloquent, expressive, fluent, communicative स्पष्टवादी/मुखर
26. **Off** (adverb) –away (from the ring) दूर
27. **Symbolise** (verb) –represent, signify, indicate, exemplify प्रतीक होना
28. **Lull** (noun) – a temporary interval of quiet or lack of activity. ठहराव, विराम
29. **In sight** (phrase) – within reach or visible नजर आना
30. **In full flow** (phrase) – functioning effectively and productively बहुत ज्यादा उत्साह के साथ
31. **Domain** (noun) –an area of activity or knowledge क्षेत्र
32. **At any rate** (phrase) – in any case; anyway, whatever happens किसी भी कीमत पर, किसी भी दशा में
33. **Consistent** (adjective) – persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
34. **Smashing** (adjective) – excellent, superb, exceptional, phenomenal शानदार
35. **Headline** (noun) – An important or sensational piece of news.
36. **Garner** (noun) – a store or supply of anything. धान्यकोष्ठ
37. **Assured** (adjective) – Ensured, guaranteed, confirmed, secured आश्वासित/ सुनिश्चित
38. **Flagging** (adjective) – becoming weaker or less enthusiastic; weakening, waning, कमजोर/ कमी
39. **Go off the boil** (phrase) – to lose enthusiasm or energy, or to become less successful over time उत्साह खोना
40. **Lineage** (noun) – ancestry, heritage, pedigree, genealogy वंशावली
41. **Count on/upon** (phrasal verb) – rely on, trust, have confidence in, depend on भरोसा करना
42. **Certainty** (noun) – surety, confidence, assurance निश्चितता
43. **The best is yet to come** (phrase) – the best or most favorable things are still ahead in the future सबसे अच्छा अभी आना बाकी है

Practice Exercise

1. Which of the following statements is **CORRECT** with respect to the passage? Editorial Page
 - (i) Mary Kom won a record sixth World Championships gold five years ago.
 - (ii) Men's boxing in India has consistently outperformed women's boxing.
 - (iii) Mary Kom's retirement marked the end of successful women's boxing in India.
 - (iv) Nikhat Zareen has won two World Championship golds.
 - A. (i), (ii), (iii)
 - B. (i), (iv)
 - C. (ii), (iii)
 - D. (iii), (iv)
2. **How has the performance of Indian women boxers impacted the visibility of women's boxing in India?**
 - A. Decreased interest in the sport
 - B. Gained glowing visibility
 - C. Remained unchanged
 - D. Overshadowed by men's boxing
3. **Who is considered the ultimate icon of Indian boxing and brought relevance to women's boxing in India?**
 - A. Nitu Ghanghas
 - B. Saweety Boora
 - C. Mary Kom
 - D. Nikhat Zareen
4. **What tone does the passage convey regarding the current state of women's boxing in India?**
 - A. Pessimistic
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Critical
5. **According to the passage, what is the main theme regarding women's boxing in India?**
 - A. The decline of women's boxing after Mary Kom's retirement
 - B. The success and growing prominence of women's boxing in India
 - C. The comparison of women's boxing with other sports in India
 - D. The lack of support for women's boxing in India

Directions: Given below are four sentences, three of which, are jumbled.

6. **Pick the option that gives the correct order.**
 - A. The shelves in the library were filled with thick volumes: dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books.

- B. This shelf was quite high and out of his reach, so he had to fetch a ladder to pick a book that interested him.
- C. Ritesh found nothing that interested him, until he came to a small section on photography, which was one of his hobbies.
- D. Unfortunately, as he was climbing down the ladder, the book that he had chosen slipped from his hand and fell with a loud thud.

A. ACBD B. ABCD C. ABDC D. AD BC

7. **Pick the option that gives the correct order.**

- A. To spend the waiting hours at the airport, I walked into the bookstore and bought some magazines.
- B. It was Partha, an old friend.
- C. I had hardly turned a few pages of a magazine when I felt a hand on my shoulder.
- D. Then I found a comfortable seat and sat down to read.

A. ACDB B. ABCD C. ADCB D. ACBD

Directions: 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.

8. **Please come down for breakfast.**

- A. Requested you are to come down for breakfast.
- B. You are request to come down for breakfast.
- C. You are requested to come down for breakfast.
- D. You are to come down for breakfast.

9. **There are three important things to keep in mind while trekking.**

- A. There are three important things keeping in mind while trekking.
- B. There are three important things to be keep in mind while trekking.
- C. There are three important things to be kept in mind while trekking.
- D. There are three important things to be keeping in mind while trekking.

Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

10. **I said to my brother, "Please do not disturb me."**

- A. I requested my brother not to disturb me.
- B. I request my brother not to disturb me.
- C. I requested my brother to stop disturbing me.
- D. I requested my brother do not disturb me.

11. **My friend said to me, "I am learning Hindustani music."**

- A. My friend told me that she was learning Hindustani music.
- B. My friend told me that she is learning Hindustani music.
- C. My friend told me that she will be learning Hindustani music.
- D. My friend told me that she was to learn Hindustani music.

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

12. **Incapable of being justified or excused**

- A. Inexcusable
- B. Partisan
- C. Peninsula
- D. Emeritus

13. **Act of forecasting by examining present condition**

- A. Ode
- B. Nocturnal
- C. Prognostication
- D. Proselyte

14. **Food agrees with one's taste**

- A. Actuary
- B. Carnivorous
- C. Palatable
- D. Protocol

Directions: Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. Our leader does not make false promises, he walks the talk.

- A. to talk while walking
- B. to make empty promises
- C. taking a long walk
- D. to do what one says

16. He does not have money to pay back the loan, he is in a tight corner.

- A. In a difficult situation
- B. hiding in the house
- C. in the prison
- D. being bankrupt

17. It was getting dark and I was hoping against hope that I would get a lift to go home.

- A. not bothered about the outcome
- B. hoping in a hopeless situation
- C. becoming totally hopeless
- D. have complete faith

Directions: choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

18. **COMMENCEMENT**

- A. Empower
- B. Conclusion
- C. Invade
- D. Stability

19. **VALID**

- A. Illogical

- B. Probe
- C. Culprit
- D. Reckless

Direction: In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

20. IMPERATIVE

- A. Unfolding
- B. Complicated
- C. Unstable
- D. Essential

21. DISPARITY

- A. Undertake
- B. Restoration
- C. Discrepancy
- D. Undertaking

Directions: 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 needed'

22. She is quite capable to do that.

- A. capable with doing
- B. capable from doing
- C. capable of doing
- D. No substitution needed

Directions: Find out the error, if any –

23. His assistants have (A)/ and are still doing (B)/ excellent work for the organization. (C)/ no error(D)

24. They were having (A)/ a birthday party at home (B)/ next week. (C)/ no error(D)

25. The first task is provided (A)/ sufficient arable land (B)/ to the dispossessed farmers. (C)/ no error (D)

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

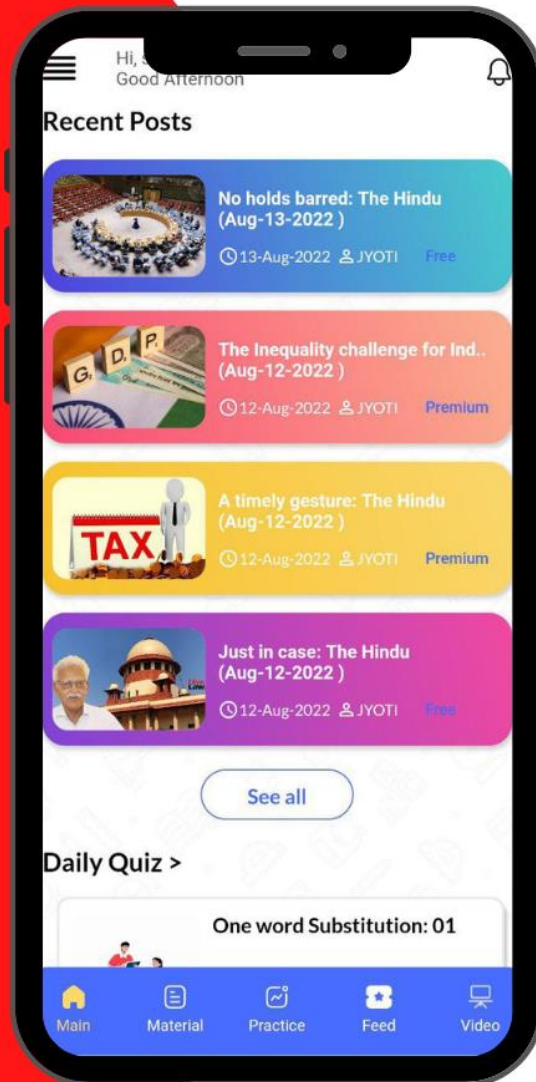
Explanations

- Only Statement (i) & (iv) is correct as per the passage.
- B. Gained glowing visibility
 Explanation: The passage states that the consistent flow of smashing headlines and the women's assured performances at the top level have given glowing visibility to women's boxing in India. Their success has made women's boxing a constant source of inspiration, illustrating the impact of their achievements on the sport's visibility.
- C. Mary Kom
 Explanation: Mary Kom is considered the ultimate icon of Indian boxing and has brought women's boxing into relevance in India. She won a record six World Championships gold, and her nearly two-decade-long career has paved the way for many upcoming Indian women boxers.
- B) Optimistic
 Explanation: The passage conveys an optimistic tone about the current state of women's boxing in India. The author highlights the achievements of Indian women boxers at the World Boxing Championships, mentioning the gold medals won by Nitu Ghanghas, Saweety Boora, Lovlina Borgohain, and Nikhat Zareen. The passage also emphasizes the impact of Mary Kom's career on the sport and the growing trend of women dominating Indian boxing.
- B) The success and growing prominence of women's boxing in India
 Explanation: The main theme of the passage is the success and growing prominence of women's boxing in India. The author provides evidence of the sport's progress by discussing the gold medals won by Indian women boxers at the World Boxing Championships and the impact of Mary Kom's career. Additionally, the passage highlights the visibility and inspiration provided by women's boxing in India, and how it has become the domain of women, even in a generally male-dominated sport.
- ACBD**
 The shelves in the library were filled with thick volumes: dictionaries, encyclopedias and other reference books. Ritesh found nothing that interested him, until he came to a small section on photography, which was one of his hobbies. This shelf was quite high and out of his reach, so he had to fetch a ladder to pick a book that interested him. Unfortunately, as he was climbing down the ladder, the book that he had chosen slipped from his hand and fell with a loud thud.
- ADCB**

To spend the waiting hours at the airport, I walked into the bookstore and bought some magazines. Then I found a comfortable seat and sat down to read. I had hardly turned a few pages of a magazine when I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was Partha, an old friend.

8. You are requested to come down for breakfast.
9. There are three important things to be kept in mind while trekking.
10. I requested my brother not to disturb me
11. My friend told me that she was learning Hindustani music.
12. **Inexcusable** – Incapable of being justified or excused अक्षम्य
 - **Partisan** – Someone who supports a person or something Without any thinking समर्थक
 - **Peninsula** – Area of land almost surrounded by sea प्रायद्वीप
 - **Emeritus, voluntary** – One who is honourably discharged from service अवकाशप्राप्त, स्वैच्छिक
13. **Prognostication** – Act of forecasting by examining present condition भविष्यवाणी
 - **Ode** – A poem in praise संबोधन-गीत
 - **Nocturnal** – Active at night रात्रिकालीन
 - **Proselyte** – One who persuades someone to accept a particular belief धर्मांतरित
14. **Palatable** – Food agrees with one's taste स्वादिष्ट
 - **Actuary** – One who calculate premium बीमांकक
 - **Carnivorous** – One who eat flesh मांसाहारी
 - **Protocol** – Rules of behaviour in a formal situation शिष्टाचार
15. **walks the talk** (phrase) – to do what one says जो कहा है उसे करना
16. **in a tight corner** (phrase) – In a difficult situation कठिन परिस्थिति में
17. **Hope against hope** (phrase) – hoping in a hopeless situation निराशाजनक स्थिति में उम्मीद करना
18. **Commencement** (noun) – the beginning of something; Start, onset शुरुआत
 - **Empower** (verb) – authorize, license, entitle, permit, allow, sanction, सशक्त करना
 - **Invade** (verb) – Attack, Occupy, Enter, Assault, Raid, March into घुसपैठ करना, चढ़ाई करना
 - **Stability** (noun) – Permanence, constancy, balance, solidity, firmness स्थिरता
19. **Valid** (adjective) – Logical, suitable, rational, sound, compelling जायज़, वैध
 - **Probe** (noun) – investigation, inquiry, examination, scrutiny छानबीन, जांच

- **Culprit** (noun) – The person or thing at fault for a problem or crime दोषी, मुजरिम
 - **Reckless** (adjective) – Irresponsible, wild, thoughtless, inattentive, hasty, careless, rash, लापरवाह
20. **Imperative** (adjective) – essential, necessary, vital, indispensable, crucial आत्यावश्यक, लाज़िमी
- **Unfolding** (adjective) – developing, evolving, growing, progressing; becoming known सामने आने वाली
 - **Complicated** (adjective) – Complex, Intricate, Byzantine, Thorny, Convolutd, Problematical जटिल
 - **Unstable** (adjective) – Volatile, unsteady, changeable, insecure अस्थिर
21. **Disparity** (noun) – discrepancy, inconsistency, imbalance, inequality, incongruity, असमानता
- **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, embark on, venture on आरंभ करना
 - **Restoration** (noun) – the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition. मरम्मत
 - **Undertaking** (noun) – a task that is taken on कार्य, काम
22. 'Capable of doing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Capable के बाद 'fixed preposition' 'of' का प्रयोग होता है।
23. (A) 'have' के साथ 'done' का प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा।
- 'have' has to be used with 'done'.
24. (A) 'were having' के बदले 'will have' या 'are having' का प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि part(c) में 'next time' का प्रयोग है जिससे पता चलता है कि कार्य future में होने वाला है।
- 'will have' or 'are having' has to be used instead of 'were having' because in part (c) 'next time' is used which shows that the work is going to happen in future.
25. (A) 'provided' के बदले 'to provide' का प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'the first task' active subject है जिसके लिए 'Be' क्रिया का प्रयोग है और 'Be' क्रिया के complement के रूप में infinitive का प्रयोग होगा जिसका object 'sufficient arable land' है।
- 'to provide' has to be used instead of 'provided' because 'the first task' is the active subject for which the verb 'Be' is used and the infinitive will be used as the complement of the verb 'Be' Whose object is 'sufficient arable land'



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