Express View on service dogs: Happy retirement

In an emotional **ceremony** on Wednesday, CISF personnel **bid farewell to** three of their **canine comrades** in the national capital. Sony, Rocky and Romeo of the Delhi Metro unit have **hung up** their **leashes** after nearly a **decade** of dedicated service. **Over the course of** an **eventful** career, the three explosive-detecting **dogs** — a female German Shepherd, a male Golden Retriever and a male Cocker Spaniel — **helped** **sniff out** and identify several **unclaimed** or unattended items or pieces of **baggage** and **played** an invaluable **role in** securing the **safe passage** of lakhs of **commuters** everyday.

While the CISF has already **procured** their **sprightly** young replacements, Sony, Rocky and Romeo have been sent to a local NGO in the hope of finding them permanent homes. This is a welcome change from the days when **dogs** in military, paramilitary and police service **would** be **euthanised** after being **put out to pasture**. This was common practice around the world — partly, it was argued, because dogs that have served in high-risk defence and security jobs would have a hard time adjusting to civilian life, being too aggressive for most ordinary families.

In India, most of the retired canines are now **put up** for **adoption** — **often ending up** being taken in by the **handlers** with whom they spent years building a **bond**, but frequently also finding new homes with **civilian** families. In 2021, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) showed another **way forward**: The force started a programme to give retired canines a second chance as "therapy dogs", with dogs being trained at the ITBP National Training Centre for Dogs and Animals to **assist** in the **recuperation** of personnel **undergoing** medical treatment as well as children with special needs. **Humane** approaches like this can ensure that the life of a service dog, with years spent in **rescuing** and protecting, doesn't have to end with retirement.   **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Humane** (adjective) – Caring, kind, gentle, humanitarian, compassionate, benevolent
  दयाशील
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Ceremony** (noun) – Rite, ritual, formality, observance, ceremonial समारोह

2. **Bid farewell to** (phrase) – Say goodbye to, take leave of, part with, send off, see off, अलविदा कहना

3. **Canine** (adjective) – Doglike, pertaining to dogs, of dogs, कुत्ते संबंधी

4. **Comrade** (noun) – Companion, colleague, partner, associate, साथी

5. **Hang up** (phrasal verb) – hang something on a hook टांग देना

6. **Leash** (noun) – Tether, restraint, lead, chain, पट्टा

7. **Decade** (noun) – Ten years, tenner, दशक

8. **Over the course of** (phrase) – During, in the course of, through, के दौरान

9. **Eventful** (adjective) – Significant, important, momentous, महत्वपूर्ण

10. **Sniff out** (phrasal verb) – Detect, discover, find, unearth, detect, bring to light खोज निकालना

11. **Unclaimed** (adjective) – Not collected, not claimed, untaken, at लावारिस

12. **Baggage** (noun) – Luggage, bags, suitcases, सामान

13. **Play a role in** (phrase) – Contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in, भूमिका निभाना

14. **Safe passage** (noun) – Safe journey, secure transit, सुरक्षित यात्रा

15. **Commuter** (noun) – Traveler, passenger, Person along for the ride यात्री

16. **Procure** (verb) – Acquire, obtain, get, buy, purchase खरीदना

17. **Sprightly** (adverb) – Lively, active, energetic, जोशीले; चुस्त-दुरुस्त

18. **Euthanise** (verb) – put (an animal) to death humanely. इच्छामृत्यु देना

19. **Put out to pasture** (phrase) – make someone leave job because of old age. सेवामुक्त करना

20. **Put up** (for) (phrasal verb) – offer something for sale or auction.

21. **Adoption** (noun) – Taking in, acceptance, गोद लेना

22. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, commonly, अक्सर

23. **End up** (phrasal verb) – to reach or come to a place, condition, or situation that was not planned or expected पहुंचना (अंत में)

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Page 2

24. **Handler** (noun) – Manager, trainer, संचालक

25. **Bond** (noun) – Tie, connection, relationship, सम्बन्ध

26. **Civilian** (adjective) – Non-military, non-combatant, non-belligerent, civil, citizen नागरिक

27. **Way forward** (phrase) – the best option or solution.

28. **Assist** (verb) – Help, aid, support, facilitate, contribute सहायता करना

29. **Recuperation** (noun) – Recovery, healing, convalescence, rehabilitation, restoration स्वास्थ्यलाभ

30. **Undergo** (verb) – Experience, endure, go through, face, suffer से गुज़रना

31. **Rescue** (verb) – Save, deliver, liberate, extricate, recover बचाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) held a farewell ceremony for three of its canine members in Delhi.

2. The dogs, named Sony, Rocky, and Romeo, served in the Delhi Metro unit, providing security for nearly a decade.

3. These dogs, comprising a German Shepherd, a Golden Retriever, and a Cocker Spaniel, were instrumental in identifying unclaimed items and ensuring commuter safety.

4. Their main function was explosive detection, a role in which they excelled.

5. Following their retirement, the CISF has procured younger dogs to replace the retiring ones.

6. Sony, Rocky, and Romeo have been given to a local NGO for adoption.

7. This is a positive shift from earlier practices where service dogs were euthanized post-retirement.

8. The argument for euthanasia was that these dogs, having served in high-risk security roles, could be too aggressive for civilian life.

9. However, in India, most retired service dogs are now put up for adoption.

10. These dogs often get adopted by their former handlers or by civilian families who provide them with a new home.

11. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) initiated a program in 2021 for retired canines to serve as therapy dogs.

12. This program re-trains these dogs to assist in the recovery of personnel undergoing medical treatment or children with special needs.

13. The training for these roles is provided at the ITBP National Training Centre for Dogs and Animals.

14. This approach demonstrates that the life of a service dog doesn't have to end with retirement.

15. Such humane approaches ensure that dogs who have spent years in service continue to have fulfilling lives post-retirement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What critical thinking aspect can be inferred from the change in handling service dogs after their retirement?**   **[Editorial Page]**
   A. The dogs are no longer useful after retirement.
   B. There is an improved understanding of service dogs' capability to adapt to civilian life.
   C. The NGO's have been successful in their campaign against euthanizing service dogs.
   D. The CISF personnel have developed stronger emotional ties with their canine comrades.

2. **According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true about the retired service dogs, Sony, Rocky, and Romeo?**
   A. They played a significant role in ensuring the safe passage of commuters.
   B. They are explosive-detecting dogs.
   C. They were euthanized after retirement.
   D. They have been sent to a local NGO to find them permanent homes.

3. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**
   A. Critical
   B. Sentimental
   C. Satirical
   D. Mirthful

4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
   A. The difficulties of transitioning service dogs to civilian life
   B. The evolution of practices regarding the retirement of service dogs in India
   C. The training process for replacement service dogs
   D. The unique roles each of the three retired dogs played in the CISF

5. What does the idiom **"put out to pasture"** mean in the context of the editorial?
   A. To send the dogs for grazing
   B. To force (animal) to leave a job because of old age
   C. To train the dogs for new tasks
   D. To provide the dogs with extensive medical care

6. What is a synonym for **'recuperation'** as used in the passage?
   A. Strength
   B. Rehabilitation
   C. Decay
   D. Weakness

7. What is a synonym for **'procured'** as used in the passage?
   A. Ignored
   B. Dismissed
   C. Obtained
   D. Discarded

8. **What is the primary purpose of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) program for retired service dogs?**
   A. To train the dogs to protect new civilian families.

B. To assist in the rescue of endangered species.

C. To train the dogs as therapy animals for personnel in medical treatment and children with special needs.

D. To build stronger bonds between retired dogs and their original handlers.

9. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words/phrase.

Showing astute powers of judgement; clever and judicious

A. Shrift

B. Shrike

C. Shriek

D. Shrewd

10. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

One who takes a dark view of things

A. Polyglot

B. Pessimist

C. Pedant

D. Periscope

Comprehension

The Union Cabinet has cleared a ₹17,490-crore National Green Hydrogen (NGH) mission that aims to _____1_____ the production of hydrogen from renewable energy. Hydrogen is an essential industrial fuel that has a range of uses from producing ammonia, making steel and cement, to _____2_____ fuel cells that can run buses and cars. However, the cheapest way to manufacture this is to _____3_____ on fossil fuel such as coal and natural gas and this produces carbon emissions. The concerns over global warming and the ____4____ but steady embrace of alternative fuels have stoked the world's interest in producing hydrogen from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy. This, however, ____5____ relatively expensive.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1**.

A. Constitute

B. Facilitate

C. Dilute

D. Promoting

12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2**.

A. Increase

B. Powered

C. Promote

D. Powering

13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3**.

A. Strengthen

B. Capitalise

C. Rely

D. Advance

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4**.

A. Vital

B. Gradual

C. Essential

D. Unusual

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5**.

A. Are

B. Is

C. Was

D. Were

16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 20-year rule has also provided a notable model of governance.

Q. whose end or continuance is of interest in many countries.

R. The Turkish presidential elections are being followed unusually closely in diverse parts of the world.

S. It is not just that the winner could redefine the country's role in international alliances such as Nato, and thereby meaningfully impact geopolitics.

    A. RSPQ   B.RPSQ   C.SQPR   D.PRQS

17. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Cutting corners

A. Investing in MNCs to get better returns and exchange

B. Doing something poorly in order to save time or money

C. Stitching clothes with a unique design

D. Cutting the edges to make it small and round

18. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code represents a transition from a regime of 'debtor-in-possession' to 'creditor-in-control' – the overarching aim being preserving the insolvent firm.

Q. In 2019, Jet Airways faced similar issues.

R. Consequently, the voluntary insolvency sought by Go First has once again turned the spotlight on the cross-border spillover of a domestic problem.

S. India's aviation industry is dependent on a global supply chain for its operations.

    A. SRPQ   B.QRSP   C.SRQP   D.SPRQ

19. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. Manipur's violence between Meiteis and Kukis seems to have been brought under control over the last two days.

Q. Friction between different ethnic groups has roots in Manipur's geography and culture.

R. There's a lot of blame to go around, starting with the executive, which was unprepared despite knowing long festering disputes were coming to a boil.

S. Tragically, the violence led to a loss of more than 50 lives and destruction of property.

    A. QRSP   B.PSRQ   C.QSRP   D.PQSR

20. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. In August 2022, two Supreme Court judges, DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna, produced an unusual judgment.

Q. It was the reason for the return that caught attention.

R. In a dispute between abank and its employee, the judges sent the matter back to the relevant HC.

S. The SC judgment said: "The judgment of the division bench of the high court of Himachal Pradesh is incomprehensible. "

    A. QRSP   B.QSRP   C.PSQR   D.PRQS

Answers

1. B   2.C   3.B   4. B   5.B   6. B   7. C   8.C   9.D   10.B   11.B

12. D   13.C   14.B   15.B   16.A   17.B   18.C   19.B   20.D   [Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) There is an improved understanding of service dogs' capability to adapt to civilian life.**
   The passage does not provide information to support options A, C, and D. It doesn't mention that dogs are no longer useful after retirement. There's no specific information about NGOs campaigning against euthanizing service dogs or CISF personnel developing stronger emotional ties with their dogs. However, the fact that service dogs are now being sent to NGOs in hopes of finding them permanent homes instead of being euthanized suggests that there is an improved understanding of service dogs' ability to adapt to civilian life. This is consistent with critical thinking as it involves re-evaluating previous beliefs (that these dogs could not adjust to civilian life and had to be euthanized) in light of new evidence or changing perspectives.

2. **C) They were euthanized after retirement.**
   The passage discusses the retirement of three service dogs, Sony, Rocky, and Romeo, from the Delhi Metro unit. It mentions their roles and achievements, and explains that they have been sent to a local NGO in the hope of finding them new homes in their retirement. The passage also explicitly states that the practice of euthanizing service dogs after retirement, while once common, is no longer the practice. Hence, the statement that they were euthanized after retirement is not true according to the passage.

3. B) **Sentimental**
   The passage displays a sentimentality towards the retirement of the service dogs. The tone is warm and affectionate as the author discusses the dogs' past services and their future plans after retirement. The passage does not critique or satirize anything, making the other options incorrect.

4. **B) The evolution of practices regarding the retirement of service dogs in India**
   The central theme of the passage revolves around the evolution of practices concerning the retirement of service dogs in India, from being euthanised to being given a chance at adoption or serving as therapy dogs. The difficulties in transitioning service dogs to civilian life and the roles of the three dogs in the CISF are touched upon, but they are not the main theme. The training process for replacement service dogs is mentioned, but it's not elaborated enough to be considered the central theme.

5. **B) To force (animal) to leave a job because of old age**
   The phrase "put out to pasture" is an idiom that originally refers to the practice of allowing older or less useful livestock to graze in a pasture during their retirement. The idiom carries a negative connotation here, underscoring the tragic end of the dogs' service lives in the past.

6. B) In the context of the passage, **'recuperation'** refers to the process of regaining health or strength, so **'rehabilitation'** is the correct synonym.

7. The word **'procured'** as used in the passage refers to the action of acquiring or obtaining something. Therefore, **'obtained'** is the correct synonym for 'procured'.

8. **C) To train the dogs as therapy animals for personnel in medical treatment and children with special needs.**

   The passage states that the ITBP started a program to give retired canines a second chance as "therapy dogs." These dogs are trained at the ITBP National Training Centre for Dogs and Animals to assist in the recuperation of personnel undergoing medical treatment and children with special needs. This points to option C as the correct answer. Options A, B, and D are not supported by the information provided in the passage.

9. **D) Shrewd** – Showing astute powers of judgement; clever and judicious चतुर

   - **Shrift** – confession, especially to a priest. आचार्य के पास पाप का स्वीकार
   - **Shrike** – a songbird with a strong sharply hooked bill, often impaling its prey of small birds, lizards, and insects on thorns. एक प्रकार का पक्षी
   - **Shriek** – a high-pitched piercing cry or sound; a scream. चीख

10. **B) Pessimist** – One who takes a dark view of things निराशावाद

    - **Polyglot** – a person who knows and is able to use several languages. बहुभाषी
    - **Pedant** – a person who is excessively concerned with minor details and rules or with displaying academic learning पण्डितवादी
    - **Periscope** – an apparatus consisting of a tube attached to a set of mirrors or prisms, by which an observer (typically in a submerged submarine or behind a high obstacle) can see things that are otherwise out of sight. पेरिस्कोप

11. B) **Facilitate** (verb) – assist, help, ease, promote, further सरल बनाना

    The verb "facilitate" makes the most sense in this context as it means to make something possible or easier, which aligns with the aim of the National Green Hydrogen (NGH) mission, which is to enable the production of green hydrogen.

    - **Constitute** (verb) – Form, compose, represent, make-up बनाना, निर्मित करना
    - **Dilute** (verb) – Weaken, reduce, lessen, कमजोर करना
    - **Promote** (verb) – Encourage, foster, stimulate, advance बढ़ावा देना

12. "Powering fuel cells" fits best here, as hydrogen is commonly used to power fuel cells in vehicles. "Increase" and "promote" would not make sense as hydrogen doesn't "increase" or "promote" fuel cells. "Powered" is not correct as it changes the tense and makes the sentence grammatically incorrect

13. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend, count on , bank on पर निर्भर होना

    The cheapest way to produce hydrogen is to depend on or "rely on" fossil fuels.

    - **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, enhance, increase, intensify, fortify मजबूत करना

- **Capitalise** (on) (verb) – Take advantage of, exploit, benefit from, gain from, फायदा उठाना
- **Advance** (on) (verb) – Proceed, progress, move forward, march, approach, आगे बढ़ना

14. **Gradual** (adjective) – Taking place or progressing slowly or by degrees. क्रमिक, धीरे-धीरे
    - **Vital** (adjective) – Crucial, essential, necessary, indispensable महत्वपूर्ण
    - **Unusual** (adjective) – Uncommon, atypical, out-of-the-ordinary, rare, strange असामान्य
    - **Essential** (adjective) – Vital, crucial, necessary, important आवश्यक

15. "**Is**" is correct because the subject "**This**" (referring to the process of producing hydrogen from renewable sources) is singular. Therefore, the singular form "is" should be used. "Are", "was", and "were" are incorrect as they do not agree with the singular subject in number or tense

16. **A) RSPQ**
    R: The paragraph should start with this sentence because it introduces the main subject of the paragraph: The Turkish presidential elections. The sentence reveals that the elections are being closely watched around the world, but it doesn't explain why. This leads naturally into sentence S

    S: This sentence provides one reason why the world is so interested in the Turkish elections. It suggests that the outcome could have global implications due to Turkey's role in international alliances. This adds detail to the topic introduced in sentence R and leads naturally to further detail or elaboration.

    P: This sentence provides additional context for why the elections are being closely followed. It indicates that President Erdogan's long rule and his model of governance are factors that have contributed to the interest in these elections. This sentence expands on the earlier discussion and leads into the final sentence.

    Q: This sentence refers back to President Erdogan's 20-year rule introduced in sentence P**.** It concludes the paragraph by emphasizing that there is international interest in whether his rule will continue or end.

17. **B) Cutting corners** (phrase) – Doing something poorly in order to save time or money

18. C) **SRQP**
    S: In the first sentence (S), the context is set by mentioning the global dependencies of the aviation industry.
    R: Then, in (R), a specific problem is presented concerning Go First and their voluntary insolvency, highlighting the industry's ongoing struggles.
    Q: Sentence (Q) further emphasizes the point by bringing up a past example, Jet Airways, that faced similar issues, indicating it's not an isolated incident.
    P: Lastly, the paragraph concludes with (P), which introduces the general solution (The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) to the types of issues discussed in previous sentences.

19. **B) PSRQ**

P: This sentence gives an introductory remark about the recent violence that has occurred in Manipur. It provides the context for the rest of the paragraph.

S: This sentence naturally follows the first, expanding on the details of the violence mentioned in the previous sentence

R: This sentence reflects on the implications of the violence, looking into the responsibility for these incidents

Q: This sentence rounds up the paragraph by providing an explanation for why such violence may occur, going deeper into the root cause of the issue
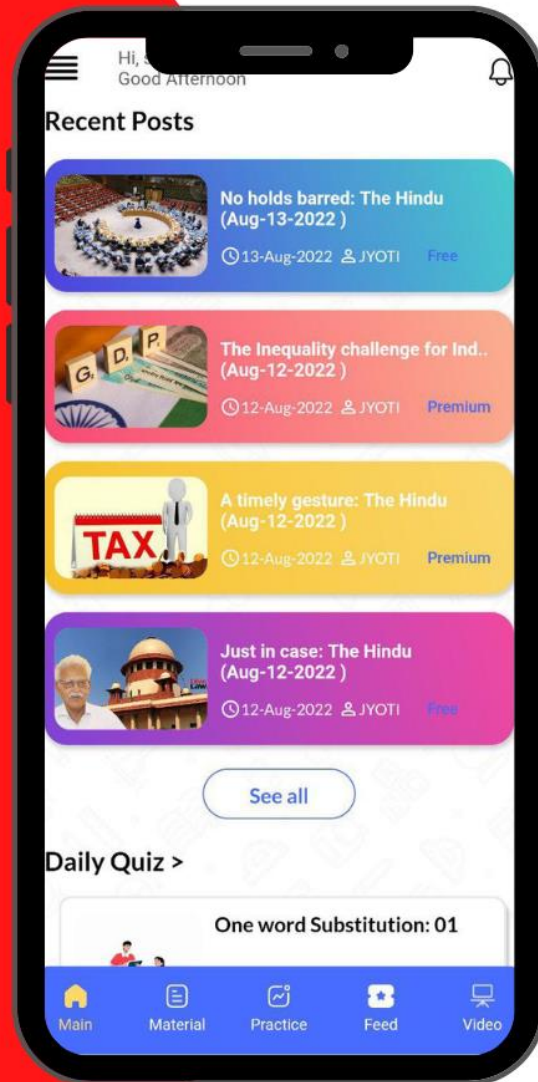
20. **D) PRQS**

P: Sentence 'P' sets the context for the paragraph by introducing the two Supreme Court judges and an unusual judgment they produced. This sentence serves as the base from which the rest of the information can flow coherently.

R: Next, sentence 'R' provides further detail about the judgment mentioned in 'P', explaining that the dispute was between a bank and its employee, and that the judges decided to send the matter back to the relevant High Court (HC).

Q: Then, sentence 'Q' should follow, because it builds suspense by stating that it was the reason for the return of the case to the HC that caught attention. It logically connects with the event mentioned in 'R'

S: Finally, sentence 'S' presents the reason for the return of the case that caught attention as mentioned in 'Q', concluding the paragraph by quoting the judges' judgment about the incomprehensibility of the HC's division bench judgment.

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