

## Express View on cheetah deaths: Nine too many

The cheetah **casualty count** at Kuno National Park **has** gone up to nine. **Six** of the dead animals, including Dhatri who **breathed her last** on Wednesday, **had** been **relocated** to the protected area in Madhya Pradesh from Namibia and South Africa in an **ambitious** programme that began in September last year. The park has also lost three cheetah **cubs**. The **re-introduction** of the big cat is a long-term project and 11 months is too early to **pass judgment on** Project Cheetah. The high **mortality rate** of the animal in its new home is, however, worrying. **More so**, because South African cheetah **specialists** — they were **roped into** the **steering committee** of the **translocation** programme — **have** raised serious **concerns** about the project's implementation in a letter to the Supreme Court. A report in this newspaper has revealed that in the letter, dated July 15, the wildlife biologists **accused** the government **of keeping them in the dark** about the health of the animals. The government's **claim** that the scientists have since **dissociated** themselves from the letter **doesn't** appear **convincing**, **given** that the young project has invited **allegations** of **giving short shrift** to expert opinion from other quarters as well.

Cheetahs were officially declared **extinct** in India in 1952. In the 1970s the Indira Gandhi government opened **negotiations** with Iran for bringing Persian cheetahs to India in exchange for Asiatic lions. But the move could not **take off**. The relocation project was **revived** in 2009 by the UPA government, only to be **nipped in the bud** by the SC which **reasoned** "that a detailed scientific study should be conducted before the introduction of a foreign species". In 2020, the **apex court** modified its order and allowed the government to **commence** Project Cheetah on a trial basis, **reiterating** that the **endeavour** should be **moored in** "scientific understanding". However, it appears that the government has not always given **due** importance to this guideline. In October last year, this paper reported that **wildlife biologist YV Jhala**, **at the forefront** of the cheetah project for more than a **decade**, and who **escorted** the first batch of the animals from Namibia, **did** not find a place in the government's new Cheetah Task Force. The South African scientists have **alleged** the programme's current management has "little or no scientific training" and foreign experts "have become mere **window dressing**". They have claimed that some of the deaths could have been prevented with "more appropriate **veterinary care**". Less than a week after the wildlife biologists expressed their worries, the SC **admonished** the government and said that a 40 per cent **fatality** in less than a year "**does** not **reflect** a good picture". **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Casualty** (noun) – Fatality, loss; a person or thing badly affected by an event or situation. दुर्घटना
2. **Breath one's last** (phrase) – to die आखिरी सांस लेना
3. **Relocate** (verb) – Move, reposition, transfer, displace, change place स्थानांतरित करना
4. **Ambitious** (adjective) – Driven, determined, aspiring, enterprising, zealous महत्वाकांक्षी
5. **Cub** (noun) – Offspring, young one, baby, juvenile बच्चा
6. **Re-introduction** (noun) – The act of bringing something back into use or attention पुनरुत्पादन
7. **Pass judgment on** (phrase) – you give your opinion about it, especially if you are making a criticism
8. **Mortality rate** (noun) – Death rate, fatality rate, casualty rate मृत्यु दर
9. **More so** (phrase) – To a greater extent, additionally, furthermore, moreover और तो और
10. **Rope in/into** (phrasal verb) – Involve, engage, draw in, bring in शामिल करना
11. **Steering committee** (noun) – Advisory group, consulting body, guidance group सलाहकार समिति
12. **Translocation** (noun) – The process or act of moving something from one place to another स्थानांतरण
13. **Concern** (noun) – Worry, anxiety, apprehension, unease चिंता
14. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Blame, charge, indict, allege आरोप लगाना
15. **Keep someone in the dark** (phrase) – Conceal, hide, withhold information किसी को अंधेरे में रखना
16. **Claim** (noun) – Assertion, declaration, statement, allegation दावा
17. **Disassociate** (verb) – Disconnect, separate, detach, distance, disentangle अपने आप को अलग कर लेना
18. **Convincing** (adjective) – Persuasive, credible, believable, compelling ठोस, यकीनी
19. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind, in view of, as a result of देखते हुए
20. **Allegation** (noun) – Accusation, charge, claim, assertion आरोप

21. **Give short shrift** (phrase) – To ignore, disregard, or exclude (someone or something) ध्यान न देना
22. **Extinct** (noun) – Vanished, disappeared, no longer existing विलुप्त
23. **Negotiation** (noun) – Dialogue, discussion, talks, conference बातचीत
24. **Take off** (phrasal verb) – Succeed, flourish, boom, prosper, thrive सफल होना
25. **Revive** (verb) – Rejuvenate, renew, restore, reawaken, refresh पुनर्जीवित करना
26. **Nip in the bud** (phrase) – Stop at an early stage, prevent from growing, curtail at an initial phase शुरुआती चरण में ही रोक देना; सिर उठाते ही कुचल देना
27. **Reason** (verb) – Think, contemplate, ponder, reflect, deliberate विचार करना
28. **Apex court** (noun) – Supreme court, highest court in a country, topmost judicial body सर्वोच्च न्यायालय
29. **Commence** (verb) – Begin, start, initiate, launch, inaugurate प्रारंभ करना
30. **Reiterate** (verb) – Repeat, restate, reemphasize, retell पुनः कहना
31. **Endeavour** (noun) – Effort, attempt, enterprise, undertaking प्रयास
32. **Moor in** (phrasal verb) – Anchor, dock, tie up, fasten (usually in context of boats) बंधाना
33. **Due** (adjective) – Proper, suitable, fitting, proper, correct, उचित
34. **At the forefront** (phrase) – In the leading position, at the vanguard, in the front अग्रणी स्थिति में
35. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years दशक
36. **Escort** (verb) – to go with a person or vehicle, especially to make certain that he, she, or it leaves or arrives safely साथ जाना
37. **Allege** (verb) – Claim, assert, declare, accuse आरोप लगाना
38. **Window dressing** (noun) – the act of making something look more attractive than it really is, especially when you are hiding negative facts or details
39. **Veterinary** (adjective) – Related to animal medicine पशु चिकित्सा संबंधित
40. **Admonish** (verb) – Reprimand, scold, warn, rebuke डांटना
41. **Fatality** (noun) – Death, casualty, mortality मृत्यु
42. **Reflect** (verb) – Show, indicate, display, mirror दर्शाना

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The Kuno National Park has witnessed the death of nine cheetahs.
2. Six of these cheetahs, including Dhatri, were relocated from Namibia and South Africa to the park as a part of an ambitious project.
3. The park has also lost three cheetah cubs.
4. Although the re-introduction project is long-term, 11 months is deemed too soon to evaluate Project Cheetah's success.
5. The high death rate of the relocated cheetahs is alarming.
6. South African cheetah specialists, involved in the project, have expressed serious concerns about its execution in a letter to the Supreme Court.
7. The wildlife biologists allege that the government hasn't been transparent about the cheetahs' health.
8. The government's denial of the scientists' concerns lacks credibility as the project has faced criticism for not valuing expert opinions.
9. Cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952.
10. An attempt to reintroduce cheetahs in the 1970s via a deal with Iran was unsuccessful.
11. The cheetah relocation idea was revisited in 2009, but the Supreme Court wanted thorough scientific research before introducing a foreign species.
12. In 2020, the court allowed the government to start Project Cheetah on a trial basis, stressing the importance of "scientific understanding".
13. There are allegations that the government hasn't adhered to the court's guidelines.
14. Expert YV Jhala, who had been integral to the project, was excluded from the new Cheetah Task Force.
15. South African scientists believe that the current project's management lacks scientific training, and they argue that better veterinary care could have prevented some of the deaths. The Supreme Court has expressed concern over the high fatality rate.

**Practice Exercise: Banking Pattern Based**

1. **Based on the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following are true about the cheetah relocation programme, except that:** [Editorial page]
  - A. The re-introduction of cheetahs is a long-term project and it is too early to pass judgment on Project Cheetah after 11 months.
  - B. South African cheetah specialists have expressed concerns about the programme's implementation in a letter to the Supreme Court.
  - C. The government claims that the scientists have since dissociated themselves from the letter.
  - D. All the relocated cheetahs to Kuno National Park have been from Namibia and South Africa.
  - E. The Supreme Court has always been in full support of Project Cheetah without any reservations.
2. **Which one of the following statements best summarizes the author's position on the re-introduction of cheetahs at Kuno National Park through Project Cheetah?**
  - A. The author believes that Project Cheetah is a completely failed initiative and should be abandoned immediately.
  - B. The author thinks that while the re-introduction is a noble idea, concerns regarding its implementation and disregard for expert opinions are alarming.
  - C. The author is fully supportive of the government's efforts and sees the death of the cheetahs as a minor setback.
  - D. The author thinks that the high mortality rate of cheetahs is primarily due to the health of the animals they received from Africa.
  - E. None of the above
3. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the cheetah reintroduction and its associated concerns EXCEPT:**
  - A. The relocation project for cheetahs in India was first attempted in the 1970s.
  - B. A total of nine cheetahs, including Dhatri, have died in Kuno National Park.
  - C. Wildlife biologist YV Jhala has been a part of the Cheetah Task Force since its inception.
  - D. South African cheetah specialists were part of the steering committee for the translocation programme.
  - E. All are true
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The history of cheetahs being declared extinct in India.
  - B. The re-introduction of cheetahs in Kuno National Park and the concerns raised regarding the project.
  - C. A comparison between Asiatic lions and Persian cheetahs.
  - D. The Supreme Court's decisions regarding foreign species introduction in India.
  - E. None of the above
5. **Which of the following is a synonym for "casualty" as used in the context of the passage?**

- A. Eradicate
- B. Survivor
- C. Victim
- D. Destroy
- E. Both B & C

**Direction (Q6- Q9): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

The National Conference of Food Ministers failed to resolve the issue of the discontinuance of rice and wheat sales to States under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) in view of the Centre's restrictions. The meet was to discuss topics such as an action plan for the \_\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_\_ of coarse grains and a strengthened focus on food and nutritional security. However, given the \_\_\_\_\_(b)\_\_\_\_\_ in Karnataka over the Centre's stringent restrictions on the OMSS, it was expected that there would be a solution. But the Centre was \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_ to oblige the States, which use the OMSS to cover a considerable portion of their foodgrain requirements. Apart from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan asked that the restrictions be removed. Rejecting the plea, Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal reiterated the Centre's position of taking care of the interests of those outside the scope of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Though it is indisputable that he has to look after the non-NFSA category of beneficiaries, the States' plea too considers the needs of sections of the non-NFSA population, as those covered under the Act get their entitlements under the Centre's monthly allocation of foodgrains. \_\_\_\_\_(d)\_\_\_\_\_, if States are forced to tap the open market, rice and wheat prices are bound to go up.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

6. The meet was to discuss topics such as an action plan for the \_\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_\_ of coarse grains and a strengthened focus on food and nutritional security.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) Arrangement
- (ii) Procurement
- (iii) Intent
- (iv) Effluent

- A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

7. However, given the \_\_\_\_\_(b)\_\_\_\_\_ in Karnataka over the Centre's stringent restrictions on the OMSS, it was expected that there would be a solution.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) Dispute
- (ii) Row
- (iii) Refuse
- (iv) Consent

- A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iv)    D. Both (ii) and (i)    E. None of the above

8. But the Centre was \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_ to oblige the States, which use the OMSS to cover a considerable portion of their foodgrain requirements.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

(i) Take a turn

(ii) Hold talk

(iii) In no mood

(iv) Clear the deck

- A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (i) and (ii)    E. None of the above

9. \_\_\_\_\_(d)\_\_\_\_\_, if States are forced to tap the open market, rice and wheat prices are bound to go up.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

(i) Besides

(ii) Henceforth

(iii) Meanwhile

(iv) Thereafter

- A. Only (i)    B. Only (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (iii) and (ii)    E. None of the above

**Direction: In each question below, a sentence is given with a part of it printed in bold type. That part contains a phrase that may be correct or erroneous. Find out which is the correct phrase that should replace the error in bold, if there is any, and which makes the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No improvement required', mark option E 'No improvement required' as the answer.**

10. He never **remembers to has taken** his lunch box from the kitchen before leaving for office.

- A. remembers having took  
B. remembered having taken  
C. remembers to have taken  
D. remembers taking  
E. No improvement required

**Directions (Q11 – Q14): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.**

- P.** India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, its GDP expanding by 6.3% in the July-September quarter, matching exactly the projections made by the Monetary Policy Committee.
- Q.** However, National Statistical Office (NSO) data shows Q2 GDP growth is markedly lower than the figure (8.4%) for the corresponding period last year, and significantly lower than the explosive 13.5% in the first quarter of the current fiscal.
- R.** Rising raw material costs and higher interest rates have impeded growth in manufacturing — the Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing contracted by 4.3% in the September quarter, while mining and quarrying saw a 2.8% contraction.

- S. While the higher growth rates in the preceding quarters can be explained on the basis of the lower base at the height of the disruptions caused by the.
- T. Covid-19 pandemic, the main takeaway from the latest figures is that the economy has been negatively affected by contraction in the manufacturing and mining sectors.
11. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)  
B. (Q)  
C. (R)  
D. (S)  
E. (T)
12. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)  
B. (Q)  
C. (R)  
D. (S)  
E. (T)
13. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)  
B. (Q)  
C. (R)  
D. (S)  
E. (T)
14. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?
- A. (P)  
B. (Q)  
C. (R)  
D. (S)  
E. (T)
15. **Direction: In the following questions, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A),(B), (C), (D). These words may or may not be placed in their places. Four options with different arrangements of these words are given. Mark the option with the correct arrangements the answer. If no change is required, mark 'No arrangement required' as your answer.**
- After much **emanation(A)**, his feelings of **apprehension(B)** about the future's **indefiniteness(C)** were eased by the **deliberation(D)** of consolation from his loved ones.
- A. ADCB  
B. ACDB  
C. DBCA  
D. ABDC  
E. No arrangement required
- Directions (Q16 – Q17): In the following sentence, four words are given in bold, out of which one word is misspelled. Find the misspelled word**



16. The **architecture**(A) of the building was heavily influenced by ancient **Grecian**(B) art, and it stands as a **testament**(C) to the **grandeur**(D) of the past.

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. None of the above

17. Many people consider **meditation**(A) as a means to achieve **tranquility**(B) and inner peace, which ultimately **enhances**(C) their **productivity**(D) in daily life.

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. None of the above

**Direction: Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option E 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence**

18. **SLUGGISH**

- (i) The **sluggish** flow of contrast supported the notion that the defect was clinically and effectively small.
  - (ii) Fierce competition and **sluggish** demand have resulted in very poor sales
  - (iii) Some blood glucose levels increased rapidly, and others showed a more **sluggish** effect
- A. Only (i)
  - B. Only (ii)
  - C. Only (iii)
  - D. (i), (ii) (iii)
  - E. None of the above

**Direction (Q19 – Q20): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

19. In about five minutes, they would (A)/ cover the distance from the road to the point (B)/ where the waves would (C)/ begin lick their feet. (D)/ No Error. (E)

20. The devastating experiences (A)/ of many wars taught some countries (B)/ the necessary of pursuing peace (C)/ at the expense of nationalist egos. (D)/ No Error. (E)

**Answers**

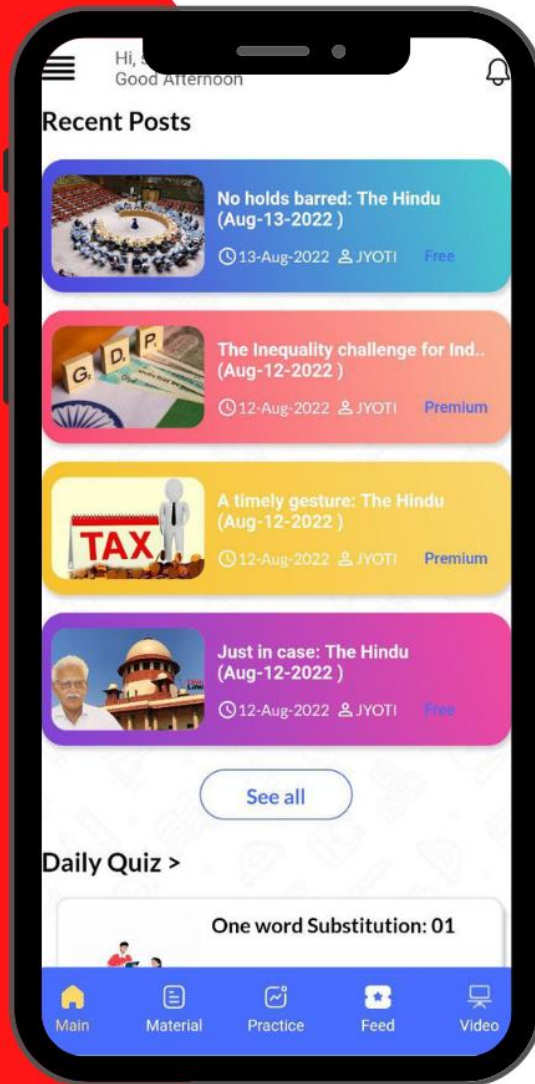
1. E    2. B    3. C    4. B    5. C    6. B    7. D    8.C    9.A    10.D    11. A  
 12. B    13.D    14. E    15. C    16. B    17.B    18. D    19.D    20.C    **[Practice Exercise]**

**Explanations**

1. E) The passage mentions that the Supreme Court initially stopped the relocation project stating that a "detailed scientific study should be conducted before the introduction of a foreign species". Later, it allowed the project on a trial basis with the condition of it being rooted in "scientific understanding". Furthermore, the SC also admonished the government after concerns were raised by wildlife biologists. This shows that the Supreme Court hasn't always been in full support of the project and has had reservations.
2. B) The passage clearly indicates the author's concern about the high mortality rate of the relocated cheetahs at Kuno National Park. While acknowledging that the re-introduction is a long-term project and it might be too early to judge its success, the author cites various instances where expert opinions were not given their due importance. This includes concerns raised by South African cheetah specialists, allegations of the current management having "little or no scientific training," and the Supreme Court's reiteration that the project should be rooted in "scientific understanding." All these points indicate that while the author may see value in the idea of re-introducing the cheetahs, they have serious reservations about how the project has been managed and implemented.
3. C) The passage mentions that YV Jhala has been at the forefront of the cheetah project for over a decade and escorted the first batch of animals from Namibia. However, it also notes that he "did not find a place in the government's new Cheetah Task Force." Therefore, the statement that YV Jhala has been a part of the Cheetah Task Force since its inception is not supported by the passage and is the incorrect option.
4. B) The passage predominantly discusses the efforts made to reintroduce cheetahs in Kuno National Park, the high mortality rate of these cheetahs since their reintroduction, and concerns raised by wildlife experts and the Supreme Court about the execution of this project. While the passage does touch upon the history of cheetahs in India and the Supreme Court's decisions, the primary focus remains the recent re-introduction initiative and the subsequent issues surrounding it.
5. C) In the context of the passage, "casualty" refers to the cheetahs that have died in the Kuno National Park, particularly those that had been relocated. Thus, in this context, "casualty" refers to an individual or entity that suffers harm or death due to a particular event or situation. Out of the given options, "Victim" is the most suitable synonym as it conveys the sense of suffering or being adversely affected by a situation or event.
6. B) 'Procurement' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "procurement" का अर्थ होता है खरीददारी या प्राप्त करना। context के अनुसार, other options inappropriate हैं। 'Arrangement' का अर्थ है व्यवस्था, 'Intent' का अर्थ है अभिप्रेत, और 'Effluent' एक प्रदूषक पदार्थ को दर्शाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Procurement' should be used because it means the action of obtaining or securing something. In the context, the other options are inappropriate. 'Arrangement' means the action, process, or result of arranging or being arranged, 'Intent' means intention or purpose, and 'Effluent' refers to liquid waste, which does not fit in this context.
7. D) 'Row' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "row" का अर्थ होता है विवाद या मतभेद, जो इस context में राज्य और केंद्र सरकार के बीच हुई बातचीत को दर्शाता है। 'Refuse' का अर्थ होता है अस्वीकार करना और 'Consent' का अर्थ है सहमति, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Row' should be used because it means a disagreement or conflict, indicating the discussions between the state and the central government in this context. 'Refuse' means to decline and 'Consent' means agreement, which are not correct in this context.
8. C) 'In no mood' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "In no mood" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष कार्य या प्रस्थिति के लिए रुचि नहीं रखना या तैयार नहीं होना। 'Take a turn' का अर्थ होता है एक नया मोड़ लेना, 'Hold talk' का अर्थ है बातचीत करना, और 'Clear the deck' का अर्थ है तैयारी करना जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'In no mood' should be used because it means not being interested or ready for a particular task or situation. Whereas, 'Take a turn' means to change direction, 'Hold talk' means to converse, and 'Clear the deck' implies getting prepared, which don't fit in this context.
9. A) 'Besides' का use होगा क्योंकि "besides" का अर्थ होता है "इसके अतिरिक्त" या "इसके अलावा", और यहाँ पर वाक्य में पिछली जानकारी को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक additional point पर focus किया जा रहा है। जबकि 'Henceforth' का अर्थ है अब से, 'Meanwhile' का अर्थ है इस दौरान, और 'Thereafter' का अर्थ है उसके बाद, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Besides' should be used because it means "in addition" or "moreover", and here the sentence is focusing on an additional point considering the previous information. Whereas, 'Henceforth' means from now on, 'Meanwhile' means during this time, and 'Thereafter' means after that, which don't fit in this context.
- 10. D) Remembers taking**
- In the given sentence, the correct phrase should be "remembers taking". The verb "remember" is often followed by a gerund form (-ing form) when we are referring to the memory of an action. Hence, "remembers taking" is the right usage.
11. A) P: This sentence introduces the information that India's GDP growth rate was 6.3% in the July-September quarter, which matches projections.
12. B) Q: The sentence begins with "However," indicating a contrast with the previous information. It mentions that this growth rate, although impressive, is actually lower than the rates in the previous year and the previous quarter.

13. D) S: This sentence starts with "While" which indicates a contrasting situation or an explanation. It suggests that the high growth rates in preceding quarters can be justified due to a lower base caused by disruptions.
14. **E) T:** The sentence starts with a reference to the "Covid-19 pandemic" which directly picks up from the preceding ellipsis in sentence S.  
This sentence explains the reasons for the contraction in specific sectors: the manufacturing and mining sectors. It provides data about these contractions.  
Hence, the correct sequence is PQSTR
15. C) **DBCA**  
After much deliberation, his feelings of apprehension about the future's indefiniteness were eased by the emanation of consolation from his loved ones.
16. **B) The misspelled word is Grecian(B). The correct spelling is "Grecian."**
17. **B) The correct spelling is "tranquility". All other words are spelled correctly.**
18. **D) Sluggish** (adjective) – Slow, lethargic, inactive, languid, listless. सुस्त  
According to the given options all options are contextually correct.  
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
19. (D) begin lick के बदले 'begin to lick' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "begin to do something' का प्रयोग होता है।  
➤ 'begin to lick' will be used instead of begin lick because "begin to do something" is used.
20. (C) 'necessary' के बदले 'necessity' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'necessary' एक Adjective है जबकि 'necessity एक Noun और teach somebody something का प्रयोग होता; जैसे-
- i. I taught him mathematics.
  - ii. I taught him the art of singing.
- 'necessary' will be used instead of 'necessary' because 'necessary' is an Adjective whereas 'necessity' is a Noun and teach somebody something



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**