

Defection business: On party-hopping as a feature of Indian politics

Party-hopping seems **set** to stay as parties choose candidates with resources

Even as party campaigns are **in full swing** and candidates are announced in **poll-bound** Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, one **development** that seems to be common to these elections and those held recently **is** the last minute defection of leaders from one party to another. Elections in India have become expensive and most parties, except those from the Left, **tend** to field candidates not just based **on their dint of** work or popularity but, increasingly, on their abilities to **mobilise** resources for campaigns. So, electoral politics has **thrown up** a set of politicians who are in it to build a career more out of **patronage** and less out of **ideological conviction**. This allows for a large degree of **malleability** in party **affiliation** for this set, many of whom engage in party-hopping as they have a good sense of the way electoral winds are blowing. Joining them too are **incumbents** who do so if not given another chance by their parties, and also **rebels**. The politics of patronage can be **frowned upon** as being less representative of interests and demands in a constituency and more of a transaction between the candidate and the voter — the voter gets goods and services from the winning candidate for voting in favour while the legislator uses the post to create an **elaborate spoils system**, usually to benefit from it as well. This system of patronage can also be seen as an **outcome** of the larger **democratisation** of the polity itself, as it throws up representatives **catering** to specific demands of voters, making the process meaningful for them, **bypassing** the party structure.

The **by-product** of this system **is** the presence of careerist politicians who are in it more for transactional purposes than principled or ideological reasons. A reason why the Congress has lost out to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in **pre-eminence** nationally is because of large-scale defections to the BJP, which has **managed** to **articulate** a clear ideological **stance** of **right-wing conservatism** through its leadership while providing a platform for those **seeking** to use the electoral system for patronage. As the Congress tries to **rejuvenate** itself, the party has sought to **distinguish** itself from the BJP not just in terms of what it represents in **secular** terms but also as a vehicle of welfare through electoral guarantees. This has allowed itself to **play host to** last-minute **defectors** from the BJP and regional parties in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, but this also throws up a challenge in retaining these **malleable** legislators. **Alas**, defections will remain a feature of Indian politics unless voters punish the defectors for repeated party-hopping and see no longer term interest in choosing a representative with **tenuous** ideological affiliation.

[Practice exercise]

- **Set** (to) (adjective) – Be ready for के लिए तैयार होना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Defection** (noun) – Apostasy, desertion, renunciation, tergiversation, abandonment
दल-बदल
2. **Business** (noun) – Affairs, dealings, matters, work, occupation कार्य
3. **Party-hopping** (noun) – the term refers to the practice of politicians switching allegiance from one party to another, especially during elections. दल-बदल
4. **In full swing** (phrase) – At full speed, at the height, going strong, in full operation, in full play पूरे जोश में
5. **Poll-bound** (adjective) – it refers to the period or state of an area or constituency where an election is imminent. चुनावी राज्य
6. **Development** (noun) – event, turn of events, occurrence, happening, circumstance घटनाक्रम
7. **Tend** (verb) – Incline, lean, gravitate, trend, be disposed झुकाव होना
8. **On their dint of** (phrase) – By virtue of, on the strength of, through the effort of के आधार पर
9. **Mobilise** (verb) – Rally, muster, marshal, energize, summon संगठित करना
10. **Throw up** (phrasal verb) – Produce, generate, give rise to, create, engender उत्पन्न करना
11. **Patronage** (noun) – support given to a public organization, especially by giving money
12. **Ideological** (adjective) – Doctrinal, philosophical, creedal, dogmatic, theoretical वैचारिक
13. **Conviction** (noun) – Belief, opinion, persuasion, credence, certainty दृढ़ विश्वास
14. **Malleability** (noun) – the ability to be easily changed into a new shape
15. **Affiliation** (noun) – Association, alliance, connection, relationship, attachment संबंध
16. **Incumbent** (noun) – Holder, bearer, occupant, officeholder, titleholder पदाधिकारी
17. **Rebel** (noun) – Dissident, revolutionary, insurgent, mutineer, protestor बागी
18. **Frown upon** (phrasal verb) – Disapprove of, scorn, disdain, look askance at, deprecate नापसंद करना
19. **Elaborate** (adjective) – Detailed, intricate, complex, complicated, sophisticated विस्तृत
20. **Spoils system** (noun) – the term refers to the practice of a political party giving public office to its supporters as a reward for working toward victory, and as an incentive to keep working for the party.

21. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, upshot, fruition परिणाम
22. **Democratisation** (noun) – The process of making something democratic; no exact synonyms but refers to the action of making something accessible to all segments of a population. लोकतंत्रीकरण
23. **Cater** (to) (verb) – Serve, provide, accommodate, supply, fulfil पूरा करना
24. **Bypass** (verb) – Circumvent, avoid, skirt, dodge, sidestep दरकिनार करना
25. **By-product** (noun) – something that happens as the result of something else उपजात
26. **Pre-eminence** (noun) – Superiority, supremacy, predominance, distinction, renown प्रधानता
27. **Manage** (to) (verb) – Succeed, achieve, accomplish, handle, execute सफल होना
28. **Articulate** (verb) – Express, voice, enunciate, state, communicate स्पष्ट करना
29. **Stance** (noun) – Position, viewpoint, attitude, stand, approach रुख
30. **Right-wing** (adjective) – Conservative, traditionalist, rightist, authoritarian, reactionary दक्षिणपंथी
31. **Conservatism** (noun) – Traditionalism, orthodoxy, conventionalism, resistance to change, caution रूढ़िवाद
32. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, endeavour, strive प्रयास करना
33. **Rejuvenate** (verb) – Revitalize, renew, restore, revivify, reinvigorate पुनर्जीवित करना
34. **Distinguish** (verb) – Differentiate, discern, distinguish between, recognize, characterize अंतर करना
35. **Secular** (adjective) – Non-religious, lay, temporal, worldly, civil धर्मनिरपेक्ष
36. **Play host to** (phrase) – Accommodate, entertain, welcome, receive, provide for मेज़बानी करना
37. **Defector** (noun) – Deserter, turncoat, traitor, renegade, apostate दल-बदलू
38. **Malleable** (adjective) – easily influenced, trained, or controlled
39. **Alas** (adverb) – Unfortunately, regrettably, sadly, lamentably, woefully अफ़सोस
40. **Tenuous** (adjective) – Weak, insubstantial, flimsy, fragile, slight कमजोर

Summary of the Editorial

1. Party-hopping is prevalent in current Indian elections, with leaders switching allegiances last minute.
2. Campaign expenses drive parties to prefer resourceful candidates over those with significant work or popularity.
3. Politicians often prioritize career-building and patronage over ideological commitment.
4. This careerist approach to politics encourages flexibility in party affiliation.
5. Defections are common among those not re-nominated and party rebels.
6. Patronage politics results in transactional relationships between voters and candidates, often disregarding wider constituency interests.
7. The system reflects a larger democratization trend, catering to specific voter demands outside of party structures.
8. Careerist politicians often engage in politics for personal gain rather than principled governance.
9. Congress has lost national prominence to the BJP partly due to defections.
10. The BJP has successfully attracted defectors with its clear right-wing ideology and patronage opportunities.
11. As Congress attempts a comeback, it tries to differentiate from the BJP ideologically and through welfare promises.
12. Congress's revival efforts involve welcoming defectors from the BJP and other regional parties.
13. The party faces challenges in maintaining loyalty among these new, ideologically flexible members.
14. Defections will likely persist in Indian politics unless voters start penalizing inconsistent party allegiance.
15. The future of political stability may hinge on whether electorates value ideological commitment over short-term gains offered by defectors.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which one of the following statements is true regarding the trend of party-hopping in the context of the elections mentioned in the passage?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Party-hopping is discouraged as parties are looking for candidates with strong ideological convictions.
 - B. Party-hopping occurs due to candidates' abilities to mobilize resources for campaigns rather than their popularity or work.
 - C. Party-hopping is a recent phenomenon that has only been observed in the latest elections.
 - D. The Left parties in India are the most affected by party-hopping because of their electoral expense strategies.
2. **What is the underlying reason for politicians engaging in party-hopping according to the passage?**
 - A. Politicians switch parties primarily to align with their deep ideological beliefs.
 - B. Politicians engage in party-hopping to take advantage of the electoral system and build a career.
 - C. Party-hopping is a strategy to protest against the undemocratic practices within their former parties.
 - D. The practice of party-hopping is a way for politicians to showcase their loyalty to the voters' demands above party lines.
3. **Which of the following inferences can be drawn regarding the impact of party-hopping on the Congress party's struggle for political pre-eminence?**
 - A. Party-hopping has had little to no impact on the Congress party's political stance as it continues to hold a strong ideological ground.
 - B. The Congress party has capitalized on party-hopping to such an extent that it has surpassed BJP in terms of national pre-eminence.
 - C. Party-hopping has exacerbated the Congress party's challenges by attracting careerist politicians, thereby diluting its ideological clarity and electoral stability.
 - D. Party-hopping has effectively eliminated ideological differences between Congress and BJP, making them indistinguishable in the political arena.
4. **What potential consequence of party-hopping is implied as a necessary action for the sustenance of a principled political landscape in the passage?**
 - A. Political parties must focus on accumulating candidates with substantial financial resources regardless of their ideological stance.
 - B. Voters need to hold defectors accountable and reject those with weak ideological commitments to discourage party-hopping.
 - C. Political parties should encourage party-hopping to maintain a dynamic and adaptive political environment.
 - D. Defectors should be given leadership roles to leverage their experience in multiple political spectrums.
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The effective strategies of political campaigning in India

- B. The impact of left-wing politics on Indian elections
C. The persistence of party-hopping as a strategy in Indian politics
D. The growth of political alliances in Indian electoral politics
6. What is the tone of the sentence "**Alas, defections will remain a feature of Indian politics unless voters punish the defectors for repeated party-hopping and see no longer term interest in choosing a representative with tenuous ideological affiliation**"?
- A. Optimistic
B. Indifferent
C. Concerned
D. Jubilant
7. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. European football has just witnessed the rise and fall of a multi-billion sporting empire — in less than three days.
Q. The plans to form a league of elite, super-rich clubs who were to be given membership in perpetuity, with no need of qualification or fear of relegation, struck at the principle of sporting meritocracy. It was an attempt at a great heist, and it met with very hostile public opinion.
R. ESL's base was, it was clear, the greed of the biggest clubs of Europe, except the ones from Germany and France, who didn't join.
S. The plans to form the breakaway 20-team European Super League (ESL) are in disarray as English and Italian clubs have pulled out of the proposed league. Football leagues in Europe have a rich and cherished history, with fan loyalties going back four or even more generations.
- A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Trouble is brewing for tea growers, orchardists and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh as agriculture is largely rain-fed. With over 70 per cent deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow witnessed since January, the farmers are suffering severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.
Q. In the Kullu valley, the apple producers are worried that owing to the inadequate amount of chilling time, their fruit of labour would be hit. Pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.
R. Farmers in Bilaspur district have also been affected by the drought-like conditions as a 30-40 per cent reduction in wheat yield is feared because the crop is stunted. Cattle are being fed wheat as there is shortage of fodder in some areas. Earlier, the vegetable farmers of Solan faced tough times as their yield was reduced to half.
S. The dry weather has wilted the famous tea leaves in the Kangra valley, impacting the production by a whopping 75 per cent.
- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS
9. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.**
Children below the age of 14 were not allowed to partisipate in the cooking competition
- A. Competition

- B. Participate
C. Children
D. Allowed
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
After I complete my training program / I will have been joining a team of astronauts / and preparing to / embark on a mission to Mars.
A. I will have been joining a team of astronauts
B. embark on a mission to Mars
C. and preparing to
D. After I complete my training program
11. **The given sentence contains an error. Select the option that correctly rectifies the error.**
Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the bad.
A. Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the worst.
B. Earlier, he was feeling good, but things took a turn for the bad.
C. Earlier, he was feeling well, but things took a turn for the ill.
D. Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the ill.
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Blessing in disguise
A. Something that seems good but is harmful for you
B. Something that seems bad but provides some benefit
C. Something that cannot be hidden from anyone
D. Something that remains hidden from everyone
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Break
A. Divide
B. Mend
C. Split
D. Breach
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A place of burial
A. Building
B. Laboratory
C. Cemetery
D. Observatory
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Forthcoming
A. Large
B. Extensive
C. Adventurous
D. Past

16. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

I will celebrating New Year at my old residence as usual.

- A. I
B. will celebrating
C. New Year
D. at my old residence as usual
17. **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.**

Why don't / you throw this / paper on the dust bin?

- A. paper on the dust bin
B. No error
C. you throw this
D. Why don't
18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Beat around the bush

- A. To be persistent in pursuing a goal
B. To be impatient and short-tempered
C. To be direct and formal
D. To avoid addressing a topic correctly
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Her stories paid _____ to her mother, whom she regarded as the goddess of bravery

- A. frustration
B. sainthood
C. absoluteness
D. Homage
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Amicable

- A. Friendly
B. Proud
C. Generous
D. Harsh

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.

Once, there was a boy who became bored when he watched over the village sheep _____1_____ on the hillside. To entertain himself, he sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" When the villagers heard the cry, they came _____2_____ the hill to drive the wolf away. But, when they arrived, they saw no wolf. The boy was amused when seeing their angry faces. "Don't scream wolf, boy," warned the villagers, "when there is no wolf!" They angrily went back down the hill. Later, the shepherd boy cried out once again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf

is chasing the sheep!” When the villagers came, they saw there was no wolf, they said strictly, “Save your ____3____ cry for when there is really a wolf! Don’t cry ‘wolf’ when there is no wolf!” Later, the boy saw a real wolf sneaking around his flock. Alarmed, he jumped on his feet and cried out as loud as he could, “Wolf! Wolf!” But the villagers thought he was ____4____ them again, and so they didn’t come to help. At sunset, the villagers went looking for the boy who hadn’t returned with their sheep. When they went up the hill, they found him ____5____ as all the sheep were dead.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. laughing
 - B. receiving
 - C. assisting
 - D. Grazing
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. driving
 - B. walking down
 - C. running down
 - D. running up
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. frightened
 - B. laughable
 - C. funny
 - D. Muffled
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. fooling
 - B. questioning
 - C. fighting
 - D. Seeing
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. singing
 - B. happy
 - C. dancing
 - D. weeping

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) Party-hopping occurs due to candidates' abilities to mobilize resources for campaigns rather than their popularity or work.**

The passage clearly states that electoral politics in India favors candidates who can mobilize resources for campaigns, leading to a prevalence of politicians who shift their party affiliations based on the potential for career advancement rather than ideological conviction. This directly supports the assertion made in option B, which is identified as a reason for the trend of party-hopping. The other options are incorrect as A is explicitly contradicted by the passage, C makes an unsupported claim about the recency of the phenomenon, and D is inaccurate regarding the parties most affected by party-hopping.

2. **B) Politicians engage in party-hopping to take advantage of the electoral system and build a career.**

The passage suggests that party-hopping is a strategic move by politicians who are more focused on career-building through patronage than on following ideological convictions. This behavior is driven by the ability to sense where electoral advantages lie and by the need to mobilize resources for campaigns, as mentioned in the passage. Option B is the most accurate reflection of the passage's depiction of party-hopping as a feature of Indian politics, where it is more about careerism than about democratic representation or ideological alignment.

3. **C) Party-hopping has exacerbated the Congress party's challenges by attracting careerist politicians, thereby diluting its ideological clarity and electoral stability.**

The passage suggests that the Congress party is losing to the BJP because of defections and is trying to rejuvenate itself with a clear distinction in ideology and electoral promises. However, the acceptance of last-minute defectors presents the challenge of maintaining the loyalty of these legislators who may not have a firm ideological stance, which could dilute the party's clarity and stability.

4. **B) Voters need to hold defectors accountable and reject those with weak ideological commitments to discourage party-hopping.**

The passage implies that a remedy to the issue of party-hopping is for voters to punish politicians who frequently switch parties, as this would promote a more principled and ideologically driven political landscape. By not rewarding these defectors with electoral victory, it would discourage the practice of changing parties for transactional purposes.

5. **C) The persistence of party-hopping as a strategy in Indian politics**

The main theme of the passage is the persistence of party-hopping as a strategy in Indian politics. The passage details the phenomenon of leaders switching parties, particularly highlighting how

elections in India have prompted politicians to prioritize resources and personal gain over ideological conviction. This theme is further emphasized by discussions of how this practice affects the political landscape, such as the BJP's rise to pre-eminence and the Congress party's challenges. The passage does not primarily focus on the strategies of political campaigning, the impact of left-wing politics, or the growth of political alliances.

6. **C) Concerned**

The tone of the given sentence is one of concern. The word "Alas" signals a sense of regret or worry, indicating the author's concern about the continuing trend of political defections and party-hopping. The statement suggests that this pattern will persist unless the electorate becomes more proactive in holding politicians accountable for such behavior, emphasizing the need for voter action to discourage this phenomenon. This tone is neither optimistic nor jubilant, as it does not convey hope or happiness. It is also not indifferent because the author is clearly expressing a problem and is not neutral or uncaring about the situation.

7. **B) PSRQ**

P: The paragraph begins with sentence P, which introduces the topic of a multi-billion sporting empire rising and falling in European football.

S: Sentence S provides the context of the breakaway European Super League (ESL) and the disarray caused by English and Italian clubs pulling out.

R: Sentence R explains that the greed of the biggest clubs, except those from Germany and France, formed the base of the ESL.

Q: Finally, sentence Q elaborates on the plans of the ESL and how they clashed with the principle of sporting meritocracy, leading to hostile public opinion.

8. **C) PSQR**

P: The first sentence (P) introduces the main problem of trouble brewing for tea growers, orchardists, and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh due to the agriculture being largely rain-fed. It mentions the deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow, which has led to severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.

S: The second sentence (S) provides specific information about the impact of the dry weather on tea production in the Kangra valley. It states that the production has been impacted by a whopping 75 percent due to the wilted tea leaves caused by the dry weather

Q: The third sentence (Q) shifts the focus to the apple producers in the Kullu valley. It explains their concerns about the inadequate amount of chilling time, which could potentially harm their fruit production. It also mentions that pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.

R: The final sentence (R) talks about the drought-like conditions affecting farmers in Bilaspur district. It mentions a 30-40 percent reduction in wheat yield due to the stunted crop. It also highlights the shortage of fodder in some areas, which has led to feeding wheat to cattle. It briefly refers to the vegetable farmers of Solan who faced tough times with a reduced yield

9. B) The incorrect spelling in the given sentence is '**Partisipate**'. The correct spelling is 'Participate'.

हिस्सा लेना

10. A) 'I will have been joining' के बदले 'I will be joining' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में दो भविष्य की निरंतर क्रियाएँ 'joining' और 'preparing' दी गई हैं और इनमें समानता (parallelism) बनाने के लिए दोनों क्रियाओं को future continuous tense में रखा जाना चाहिए। 'will have been joining' एक future perfect continuous tense है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'I will be joining' से यह दर्शाया जाता है कि प्रशिक्षण पूर्ण होने के तुरंत बाद, वक्ता एक टीम में शामिल होने वाला है और मंगल मिशन की तैयारी कर रहा होगा। इसलिए सही उत्तर है:

- 'I will be joining' should be used instead of 'I will have been joining' to maintain parallelism with the continuous action described by 'preparing' in the future tense. 'Will have been joining' is a future perfect continuous tense, which is not appropriate here. 'I will be joining' indicates that immediately after completing the training, the speaker will be joining a team and will be preparing for the Mars mission. Hence, the correct answer is:

11. A) Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the worst.

12. B) **Blessing in disguise** (idiom) – Something that seems bad but provides some benefit **दुःख के भेस में सुख**

13. B) **Break** (verb) – To separate into parts, often violently, cause to disintegrate, snap. तोड़ना

Antonym: Mend (verb) – To repair, fix, put right, restore. मरम्मत करना

- **Divide** (verb) – To separate or be separated into parts. विभाजित करना
- **Split** (verb) – To break or cause to break forcibly into parts. विभाजन करना
- **reach** (noun/verb) – An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct. उल्लंघन/तोड़ना

14. C) **Cemetery** (noun) – A place set aside for graves, tombs, or funeral urns, especially one that is not a churchyard; place of burial. कब्रिस्तान

- **Building** (noun) – A structure with a roof and walls, such as a house, school, store, or factory. इमारत
- **Laboratory** (noun) – A room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching, or for the manufacture of drugs or chemicals. प्रयोगशाला
- **Observatory** (noun) – A building or structure providing an elevated place for observing astronomical events, weather, or the natural environment. वेधशाला

15. D) **Forthcoming** (adjective) – About to happen, upcoming, imminent, soon to be. आगामी

Antonym: **Past** (adjective) – Having happened or existed before the present time, earlier, bygone.

भूतकाल

- **Large** (adjective) – Of considerable size, big, substantial, significant. **बड़ा**
- **Extensive** (adjective) – Covering a large area; broad, widespread, wide-ranging. **व्यापक**
- **Adventurous** (adjective) – Willing to take risks or to try out new methods, ideas, or experiences, bold, daring. **साहसिक**

16. B) 'will celebrating' के बदले 'will be celebrating' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'will' के बाद हमेशा verb की first form (base form) आती है या 'be + verb-ing' form आता है; जैसे— I will celebrate, or I will be celebrating.

- 'will be celebrating' will be used instead of 'will celebrating' because after 'will,' we always use the first form (base form) of the verb or the 'be + verb-ing' form; Like— I will celebrate, or I will be celebrating.

17. A) **paper on the dust bin** में त्रुटि है। 'on' के स्थान पर 'in' होना चाहिए जैसे की हम कहते हैं "dustbin में"। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा "Why don't you throw this paper in the dust bin?"

- The error is in 'paper on the dust bin'. The correct preposition to use here is 'in' rather than 'on'. So, the correct sentence should be "Why don't you throw this paper in the dust bin?"

18. D) **Beat around the bush** (idiom) – To avoid addressing a topic correctly **घुमा-फिराकर बात करना**

19. D) **'Homage'** क्योंकि "homage" का अर्थ होता है किसी की सम्मान या आदर में दी जाने वाली श्रद्धांजलि। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि उसकी कहानियाँ उसकी माँ को सम्मान देती थीं, जिसे वह साहस की देवी मानती थी, इसलिए 'Homage' यहाँ पर सही है। जबकि 'Frustration' का अर्थ है आसंतोष या निराशा, 'Sainthood' का अर्थ है संतता और 'Absoluteness' का अर्थ है पूर्णता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Homage** should be chosen because it means a special honor or respect shown publicly. The sentence indicates that her stories paid respect to her mother, whom she saw as a goddess of bravery, making 'Homage' appropriate here. On the other hand, 'Frustration' means dissatisfaction or upset, 'Sainthood' refers to the state of being a saint, and 'Absoluteness' means completeness, which don't fit in this context.

20. A) **Amicable** (adjective) – Characterized by friendliness and absence of discord, cordial, warm, harmonious. **मैत्रीपूर्ण**

Synonym: Friendly (adjective) – Kind, warm-hearted, affable, amiable. **मित्रवत्**

- **Proud** (adjective) – Having a high opinion of oneself, arrogant, haughty. **अभिमानी**

- **Generous** (adjective) – Showing kindness towards others, magnanimous, liberal, charitable. **उदार**
- **Harsh** (adjective) – Unpleasantly rough or jarring, severe, stern. **कठोर**

21. D) **Grazing** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "grazing" का अर्थ होता है घास चरना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि लड़का गाँव की भेड़ों की देखभाल करता था जो पहाड़ी पर थीं। भेड़ें घास चरती हैं, इसलिए 'Grazing' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Laughing' का अर्थ होता है हंसना, 'Receiving' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना, और 'Assisting' का अर्थ है सहायता करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Grazing**' should be used because it means to feed on growing grass. The sentence mentions that the boy watched over the village sheep which were on the hillside. Sheep eat grass, making 'grazing' the correct term here. Whereas, 'Laughing' means to express mirth, 'Receiving' means to get or take, and 'Assisting' means to give support, which don't fit in this context.

22. D) '**running up**' का use होगा क्योंकि जब लड़का ने "Wolf! Wolf!" चिल्लाया, तो गांववाले तेजी से पहाड़ी की ओर दौड़े ताकि वे भेड़ों को बचा सकें। इसलिए 'running up' सबसे सही विकल्प है जो वे तेजी से पहाड़ी की ओर दौड़ते हुए आए थे। 'driving' का अर्थ होता है गाड़ी चलाना, 'walking down' का अर्थ होता है धीरे-धीरे नीचे जाना, और 'running down' का अर्थ है तेजी से नीचे जाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**running up**' should be used because when the boy cried out "Wolf! Wolf!", the villagers would have quickly rushed towards the hill to save the sheep. Thus, 'running up' is the most appropriate option suggesting they came hurrying up the hill. 'driving' implies operating a vehicle, 'walking down' suggests a slow descent, and 'running down' indicates moving rapidly downwards, which don't fit in this context.

23. A) **Frightened** का use होगा क्योंकि "frightened" का अर्थ होता है डरा हुआ। पूरे context में बार-बार लोमड़ी के आने की चिल्लाने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए boy की चिल्लाने वाली आवाज 'frightened' हो सकती है। इसलिए 'Frightened' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Muffled' का अर्थ है धीमा या अवाज को कम कर देना, 'laughable' और 'funny' का अर्थ है हंसी आने वाला, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Frightened**' should be used because it means scared or fearful. Given the context where the boy keeps crying out about the wolf, his shout can be described as 'frightened'. Thus, 'Frightened' is the correct choice here. Whereas 'Muffled' implies a sound that is muted or softened, 'laughable' and 'funny' mean something that can cause laughter, which aren't fitting in this context.

24. A) 'Fooling' का use होगा क्योंकि लड़के ने पहले गांव वालों को धोखा दिया था जब वह झूठा चिल्ला रहा था कि भेड़िया आ रहा है। इसलिए, जब लड़का फिर से चिल्ला रहा था, गांव वाले सोच रहे थे कि वह उन्हें फिर से धोखा दे रहा है। इस context में 'fooling' अर्थात धोखा देना सही है। 'Questioning' का अर्थ है प्रश्न करना, 'Fighting' का अर्थ है लड़ाई करना, और 'Seeing' का अर्थ है देखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है

- **Fooling'** should be used because the boy had deceived the villagers earlier by falsely crying out about the presence of a wolf. Therefore, when the boy cried out again, the villagers believed he was trying to deceive or 'fool' them once more. In this context, 'fooling' meaning deceiving is appropriate. Whereas, 'Questioning' means to ask, 'Fighting' means to combat, and 'Seeing' means to observe, which don't fit in this context.

25. D) 'Weeping' का use होगा क्योंकि 'weeping' का अर्थ होता है रोना। जब बाकी सभी भेड़ मर गई थीं, तो लड़का उदास हो सकता है और उसे दुःख हो सकता है। इसलिए, यहां 'weeping' सही है। 'Singing' का अर्थ है गाना गाना, 'Happy' का अर्थ है खुश होना और 'Dancing' का अर्थ है नाचना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Weeping'** should be used because it means crying. Given all the sheep were dead, the boy might be sad and distressed. Therefore, 'weeping' is the correct choice here. 'Singing' means to sing, 'Happy' means being joyful, and 'Dancing' means to dance, which don't fit in this context.