

Knockout blows: On the cricket World Cup entering its business end

India has so far **played its part** as the favourite in the cricket World Cup

The cricket World Cup finally enters its business end, having **criss-crossed** India since the first match involving England and New Zealand at Ahmedabad on October 5. **In their backyard**, Rohit Sharma's men have **exuded** a **dominant aura**, **brushing aside** opposition units, **be it** the **fancied** ones or the **emerging outfits**. Nine wins **on the trot** is a **remarkable** achievement. **The Men in Blue** have batted with **elan**, and bowled with **zest**; they rode smooth in all their contests to top the league phase with 18 points. Having won the World Cup in 1983 and 2011, India is eyeing a third **tryst** with glory. New Zealand is the hurdle in the semifinal at Mumbai on Wednesday. During the 2019 edition in England, India **wilted** against New Zealand in the semifinal. However, this time around, having defeated their **doughty rivals** at Dharamshala in the league stage, Indian cricketers believe that they can **get past** Kane Williamson's men. New Zealand qualified from a mid-table **clutter** involving Pakistan and Afghanistan, and has a new-generation star in **prolific** batter Rachin Ravindra. Always a team in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts, New Zealand can be a tricky opposition and India, despite its current form, is aware of the knockout stage **pitfalls**. In the 2015 edition too, India lost in the semifinal.

Currently, Rohit's men are in such **ominous** form that **even the absence** of injured all-rounder Hardik Pandya **has** not affected their plans. Rohit, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul have **prospered**, while **the bowling**, **helmed** by Jasprit Bumrah, **has run through startled** opposition ranks. India, though, is yet to win an ICC title since the last **triumph** at the Champions Trophy in 2013. A 10-year **drought** needs to be **addressed** and there could **be a shot at redemption** when the **dust settles** at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium after the final on November 19. **South Africa and Australia**, the other semifinalists, at different points **have** displayed form and **fragility**. Powered by Glenn Maxwell's unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan, Australia has the **x-factor** while South Africa has depth even if **skipper** Temba Bavuma's runs have **dried up**. **That defending champion** England and past **powerhouses** like Pakistan and Sri Lanka have crashed, **is** a pointer to the **flux** within cricket. Even as the **host flourished**, the most **heartening story** of this World Cup **is** the growth revealed by a **pugnacious** Afghanistan and **to some extent**, the Netherlands. To **widen** its **footprints**, the **willow game** needs these teams to evolve. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Knockout blow** (noun) – Here it refers to ‘Semi-final’ match; an event or action that causes someone or something to fail
2. **Business End** (noun) – Crucial phase, decisive part, final stage, critical segment, important period महत्वपूर्ण चरण
3. **Play one’s part** (phrase) – Fulfill role, contribute, participate, take part, perform duty अपनी भूमिका निभाना
4. **Criss-crossed** (adjective) - Intersected, crossed, traversed, zigzagged, networked आर-पार होना
5. **In one’s backyard** (phrase) - In one's domain, on home ground, in familiar territory, at home, on one's turf - अपने क्षेत्र में
6. **Exude** (verb) – Radiate, emit, ooze, display, exhibit बिखेरना
7. **Dominant** (adjective) – Predominant, commanding, superior, ruling, leading प्रभावशाली
8. **Aura** (noun) – Atmosphere, presence, air, vibe, ambience आभा
9. **Brush aside** (phrasal verb) – Dismiss, ignore, reject, overlook, disregard नजरअंदाज करना
10. **Be it** (phrase) – Whether it is, regardless of, irrespective of, no matter, despite चाहे वह
11. **Fancied** (adjective) – Preferred, liked, favored, chosen, popular पसंदीदा
12. **Emerging** (adjective) – Rising, developing, up-and-coming, budding, nascent उभरता हुआ
13. **Outfit** (noun) – Team, group, unit, band, crew टीम
14. **On the trot** (phrase) – in succession. लगातार
15. **Remarkable** (adjective) – Extraordinary, exceptional, outstanding, notable, impressive उल्लेखनीय
16. **The Men in Blue** (noun) – Here it refers to ‘Indian team’. भारतीय टीम
17. **Elan** (noun) – Flair, style, panache, enthusiasm, vigor जोश
18. **Zest** (noun) – Enthusiasm, eagerness, passion, zeal, energy उत्साह
19. **Tryst** (noun) – Encounter, meeting, rendezvous, appointment, date मुलाकात
20. **Wilt** (verb) – Fade, weaken, droop, wither, collapse कमजोर पड़ना

21. **Doughty** (adjective) – Brave, courageous, valiant, fearless, stout-hearted साहसी
22. **Rival** (noun) – Competitor, opponent, challenger, adversary, contender प्रतिद्वंद्वी
23. **Get past someone** (phrase) – Defeat: Overcome, bypass, outdo, surpass, outstrip हराना
24. **Clutter** (noun) – Mess, disorder, jumble, confusion, disarray अव्यवस्था
25. **Prolific** (adjective) – Productive, fertile, fruitful, creative, abundant फलवान
26. **Pitfall** (noun) – Hazard, danger, risk, trap, snare जोखिम
27. **Ominous** (adjective) – Threatening, foreboding, inauspicious, sinister, menacing अमंगलकारी
28. **Prosper** (verb) – Thrive, flourish, succeed, bloom, burgeon समृद्ध होना
29. **Helm** (verb) – Lead, steer, guide, direct, command संचालन करना
30. **Run through** (phrasal verb) – to look at, examine, or deal with a set of things, especially quickly
31. **Startled** (adjective) – Surprised, shocked, astonished, amazed, astounded चकित
32. **Triumph** (noun) – Victory, success, win, conquest, achievement विजय
33. **Drought** (noun) – Here it refers to scarcity or lack of ICC trophy.
34. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, confront, handle, attend to सुलझाना, निपटाना
35. **Be a shot at** (phrase) – Attempt, try, effort, endeavor, stab प्रयास करना
36. **Redemption** (noun) – Salvation, deliverance, rescue, liberation, recovery मुक्ति/वसूली
37. **Settle the dust** (phrase) – Resolve, calm down, finalize, conclude, pacify स्थिति शांत होना
38. **Fragility** (noun) – Weakness, delicacy, vulnerability, brittleness, frailty भंगुरता
39. **X-factor** (noun) – Special quality, unique aspect, distinguishing feature, wow factor, charm विशेष गुण
40. **Skipper** (noun) – Captain, leader, commander, chief, head कप्तान
41. **Dry up** (phrasal verb) – Deplete, diminish, exhaust, evaporate; to no longer exist or be available कम होना
42. **Defending champion** (noun) – Reigning champion, title holder, current winner, defending winner, incumbent वर्तमान विजेता

43. **Powerhouse** (noun) – Strong team, major player, dominant force, leader, juggernaut
शक्तिशाली टीम
44. **Flux** (noun) – Change, transition, instability, fluctuation, variation
परिवर्तनशीलता
45. **Host** (noun) – Organizer, presenter, arranger, conductor, facilitator मेजबान
46. **Flourish** (verb) – Thrive, prosper, grow, bloom, succeed फलना-फूलना
47. **Heartening** (adjective) – Encouraging, uplifting, cheering, reassuring, inspiring प्रोत्साहक
48. **Pugnacious** (adjective) – Aggressive, combative, belligerent, confrontational, quarrelsome झगड़ालू
49. **To some extent** (phrase) – Partially, somewhat, to a degree, in some measure, to a certain degree कुछ हद तक
50. **Widen** (verb) – Expand, broaden, enlarge, stretch, extend चौड़ा करना
51. **Footprint** (noun) – Mark, impression, trace, track, footprint निशान
52. **The willow game** (noun) – Here it refers to 'Cricket match'

Summary of the Editorial

1. **World Cup Progress:** The cricket World Cup is at its crucial stage, having started with the England vs. New Zealand match in Ahmedabad on October 5.
2. **India's Performance:** India, led by Rohit Sharma, has performed exceptionally well, winning nine consecutive matches and topping the league phase with 18 points.
3. **Historical Context:** India, with World Cup wins in 1983 and 2011, is aiming for its third title.
4. **Semifinal Challenge:** India faces New Zealand in the semifinals in Mumbai, a rematch of the 2019 World Cup where India lost to New Zealand.
5. **New Zealand's Path:** New Zealand, led by Kane Williamson, qualified amid competition from Pakistan and Afghanistan, showcasing a new star in Rachin Ravindra.
6. **New Zealand's Strength:** Known for its team cohesion, New Zealand presents a significant challenge.
7. **India's Consistent Form:** Despite Hardik Pandya's injury, India's team, including Rohit, Kohli, and Bumrah, has shown strong form.
8. **ICC Title Drought:** India has not won an ICC title since the 2013 Champions Trophy.
9. **Final Venue:** The World Cup final is set for November 19 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.
10. **Other Semifinalists:** South Africa and Australia are the other semifinalists, each showing strengths and weaknesses.
11. **Australia's Standout Performance:** Glenn Maxwell's 201 against Afghanistan highlights Australia's x-factor.
12. **South Africa's Depth:** Despite captain Bavuma's form, South Africa has shown depth in its team.
13. **Upsets and Exits:** Defending champion England, along with Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have been knocked out, indicating a shift in cricket dynamics.
14. **Emerging Teams:** Afghanistan and the Netherlands have shown impressive growth, important for the expansion of cricket.
15. **Tournament Significance:** The World Cup's progress and outcomes are pivotal in the evolving landscape of international cricket.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about India's performance and challenges in the cricket World Cup?** [Editorial page]
 - A. India has struggled throughout the tournament and faces a significant challenge against New Zealand.
 - B. India has been consistently dominant, but the upcoming match against New Zealand is not seen as a significant challenge.
 - C. Despite a strong performance in the league phase, India recognizes the potential challenge posed by New Zealand in the semifinal.
 - D. India has had a mixed performance in the tournament and is expected to easily defeat New Zealand in the semifinal.
2. **Based on the passage, which statement best reflects the critical thinking aspect of India's performance in the Cricket World Cup?**
 - A. India has consistently underperformed in the World Cup, demonstrating a lack of skill and strategy.
 - B. India's success in the World Cup is solely attributed to their home-ground advantage and not their skill or strategy.
 - C. Despite India's strong performance and winning streak, their past semifinal losses indicate a need for cautious optimism in the knockout stage.
 - D. India's past World Cup victories guarantee their success in the current tournament, making them the indisputable favorite.
3. **What is the tone of the passage about the cricket World Cup?**
 - A. Pessimistic and critical
 - B. Neutral and informative
 - C. Optimistic and praising
 - D. Humorous and light-hearted
4. **What is the main theme of the given passage?**
 - A. The unpredictability of cricket
 - B. The dominance of Indian cricket in the World Cup
 - C. The evolution and growth of lesser-known cricket teams
 - D. The history of cricket World Cups
5. **Which sequence correctly represents the order of events mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Rohit's team's performance, ICC title drought, England's exit, Afghanistan's growth.
 - B. ICC title drought, Rohit's team's performance, Afghanistan's growth, England's exit.
 - C. Afghanistan's growth, ICC title drought, Rohit's team's performance, England's exit.
 - D. England's exit, Rohit's team's performance, ICC title drought, Afghanistan's growth.
6. **Which player scored an unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan?**
 - A. Virat Kohli
 - B. Glenn Maxwell
 - C. Jasprit Bumrah
 - D. Temba Bavuma

7. **Choose the synonym of the word "ominous" as used in the given passage.**
- A. Threatening
 - B. Promising
 - C. Encouraging
 - D. Insignificant
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students, it would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results.
 - Q. The board has also decided to issue merit certificates to the top 0.1% of the students, and to stop classifying them in the first, second and third divisions.
 - R. On the face of it, and analysed in isolation, the decision is progressive because the pressure — self-imposed or extraneous — to score high in the CBSE exams causes great mental stress to students, many of whom are not equipped to deal with it at that stage in their lives.
 - S. CBSE's decision would also allow Class XII students to prioritise the core subject they wish to pursue at the undergraduate level, instead of focusing on all subjects in order to attain a high aggregate score.
- A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQRS
9. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the following sentence.**
- The government arrested the opposition leader, making the situation worse.
- A. To cast pearls before swine
 - B. To be on the last leg
 - C. To add fuel to the fire
 - D. To bite the dust
10. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the given word.
- Compel
- A. Allow
 - B. Stop
 - C. Give
 - D. Obligate
11. **Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
- The chef prepares the food in the kitchen.
- A. The food will be prepared by the chef in the kitchen.
 - B. The food prepares by the chef in the kitchen.
 - C. The food is preparing by the chef in the kitchen.
 - D. The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.
12. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
- Bharath is a skilful achiever, so he hits the nail on the leg.
- A. hits the nail on the head

- B. hits the nail on the shoulder
C. put the nail in the hole
D. hits the screw on the top
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**
Although the new fashion trend was quite popular, some critics were quick to deride it as a passing fad.
A. Ridicule
B. Hail
C. Detest
D. Applaud
14. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
P. the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished
Q. in the minds of the Tamils
R. under the patronage of successive Pandian kings
S. The name 'Madurai' evokes
A. SPQR
B. SQPR
C. SRPQ
D. SQRP
15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A book where names and addresses of people living in an area is kept
A. Diary
B. Encyclopaedia
C. Directory
D. Library
16. **Select the correct spelling from the given options to fill in the blank.**
Jaysmiya is one of the most _____ persons I have ever met as she has many talents.
A. versataile
B. versatele
C. versateile
D. Versatile
17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
I have been in Chennai since a week, but I am planning to return now.
A. for
B. from
C. in
D. No substitution required
18. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word in the given sentence.

A **colossal** amount of money has been wasted on the construction of a new administrative building.

- A. huge
- B. miniature
- C. small
- D. Micro

19. **Select the correct spelling from the given options to replace the underlined word in the following sentence.**

The new policy will **supplant** the old one and introduce stricter measures for workplace safety.

- A. override
- B. supersede
- C. succeed
- D. Superseede

20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Penury

- A. Emergency
- B. Opulence
- C. Regression
- D. Euphemism

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.

Friendship is one of the most significant aspects _____1_____ human life. It is a relationship based on mutual trust, respect and support. True friendship is not just about spending time _____2_____, but also about sharing each other's joys, sorrows and dreams. Good friends are those who stand by us in both good times and bad times, providing emotional and moral support. Having good friends can have a positive impact on one's mental health and wellbeing. Friends can be a source of happiness, laughter and comfort. They can also provide different perspectives and ideas that can help us grow as _____3_____. Moreover, friends can serve as a support system during challenging times, offering words of encouragement and helping us navigate through difficult situations. _____4_____, building and maintaining friendships requires effort, patience and understanding. It is important to be there for each other, listen to one another and respect each other's boundaries. It is important to remember that friendships can evolve and change over time, and it is okay to let go of _____5_____ friendships.

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

- A. on
- B. of
- C. for
- D. By

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. simultaneously
 - B. together
 - C. jointly
 - D. Collectively
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Houses
 - B. individuals
 - C. Buildings
 - D. Objects
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. Similarly
 - B. And
 - C. Because
 - D. However
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. toxic
 - B. unsafe
 - C. happy
 - D. safe

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- C) Despite a strong performance in the league phase, India recognizes the potential challenge posed by New Zealand in the semifinal.**
The passage highlights India's strong performance in the cricket World Cup, with nine consecutive wins and top position in the league phase. However, it also acknowledges the potential challenges in the upcoming semifinal against New Zealand. The reference to India's past defeat against New Zealand in the 2019 semifinal and the acknowledgment of New Zealand's capabilities, despite India's current form, suggest a recognition of the potential difficulties in the knockout stage.
- C) Despite India's strong performance and winning streak, their past semifinal losses indicate a need for cautious optimism in the knockout stage.**
Option C demonstrates critical thinking by acknowledging India's impressive performance (nine wins on the trot) while also considering past experiences (semifinal losses in 2015 and 2019) to form a balanced perspective on their chances in the knockout stages. This option reflects an understanding that past performances, both successful and unsuccessful, can inform expectations and strategies in current situations. It avoids the extremes of overconfidence or undue pessimism, instead advocating for a realistic assessment based on available evidence.
- B) Neutral and informative**
The tone of the passage is neutral and informative. The author presents facts and details about the cricket World Cup, including team performances, player highlights, and historical context, without showing a biased or emotional perspective. This tone is evident in the straightforward reporting of events, such as India's performance, the standout players, and the challenges faced by other teams. The language is objective and focused on delivering information about the cricket World Cup.
- B) The dominance of Indian cricket in the World Cup**
The main theme of the passage is the dominance of Indian cricket in the World Cup. The passage extensively discusses India's performance in the current World Cup, highlighting their winning streak, the team's strengths in batting and bowling, and their aspirations for winning the title. It also compares India's current form with past performances and mentions the challenges from other teams. While there are mentions of other teams and the growth of cricket in general, the central focus remains on India's commanding presence in the tournament.
- A) Rohit's team's performance, ICC title drought, England's exit, Afghanistan's growth.**

The passage first discusses the current form of Rohit's team and the absence of Hardik Pandya. It then mentions India's drought in ICC titles since 2013, followed by the discussion of other teams like England's exit and finally ends with the growth of Afghanistan and the Netherlands in the World Cup. Hence, the correct order of events as per the passage is: Rohit's team's performance, ICC title drought, England's exit, and Afghanistan's growth.

6. **B) Glenn Maxwell**

The passage explicitly mentions that Glenn Maxwell scored an unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan, making him the correct answer. The other players listed are also mentioned in the passage but in different contexts.

7. **A) Threatening**

In the given passage, the word "ominous" is used to describe the form of Rohit's team. In this context, "ominous" refers to something that gives the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen. The synonym for this meaning is "threatening," which also conveys a sense of impending danger or harm

8. **D) PQRS**

P: This is the first sentence. It tells us what the big decision CBSE has made - they're not going to release merit lists for the exams

Q: This should come next, because it gives us more information about the new decisions. CBSE will give merit certificates to the top students and stop putting them in divisions

R: After we know what the decision is, this sentence explains why it's a good idea. It says that the old way of doing things was causing a lot of stress for students.

S: This is the last sentence. It tells us another benefit of the decision - it lets students focus on the subject they like the most, instead of trying to get high scores in every subject.

9. **C) To add fuel to the fire** (idiom) – Making a situation worse **स्थिति को और बुरा बनाना**

- **To cast pearls before swine** (idiom) – To offer something valuable to someone who does not understand its value. **भैंस के आगे बीन बजाना**
- **To be on the last leg** (idiom) – To be near the end of life, usefulness, or existence. **अन्तिम घड़ियाँ गिनना**
- **To bite the dust** (idiom) - To fail or be defeated or to die. **दम तोड़ देना**

10. **D) Compel** (verb) – Force or oblige (someone) to do something, necessitate, make mandatory.

मजबूर करना

Synonym: **Obligate** (verb) – Bind or compel (someone), especially legally or morally. **बाध्य करना**

- **Allow** (verb) – Give (someone) permission to do something, permit, authorize. **अनुमति देना**
- **Stop** (verb) – Come to an end, cease to happen, halt, terminate. **रोकना**

- **Give** (verb) – Present or hand over to, grant, bestow, provide. देना
11. D) The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.
12. A) '**hits the nail on the leg**' के बदले 'hits the nail on the head' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही मुहावरा है जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी बात को बिल्कुल सही तरीके से कहना।
- 'hits the nail on the head' will be used instead of 'hits the nail on the leg' because it is the correct idiom that means to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
13. A) **Deride** (verb) – Mock, ridicule, jeer at, scoff at. हंसी उड़ाना
- Synonym: **Ridicule** (verb) – Mock, jeer at, scoff at, make fun of. हंसी उड़ाना
- **Hail** (verb) – Acclaim, commend, applaud, praise. स्तुति करना
 - **Detest** (verb) – Dislike intensely, abhor, loathe, hate. घृणा करना
 - **Applaud** (verb) – Show approval or praise by clapping, commend, acclaim. सराहना
14. B) **SQPR**
The name 'Madurai' evokes. in the minds of the Tamils the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished under the patronage of successive Pandian kings
15. C) **Directory** (noun) – A book or electronic resource listing names, addresses, and other details of individuals or businesses in a particular district or area. नामावली
- **Diary** (noun) – A daily record, typically a book, in which one keeps a regular record of events, appointments, or observations. डायरी
 - **Encyclopaedia** (noun) – A book or set of books containing information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject, usually arranged alphabetically. विश्वकोश
 - **Library** (noun) – A building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution. पुस्तकालय
16. D) **Versatile**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है। जब बात व्यक्ति की कई प्रकार की क्षमताओं और सामर्थ्यों की होती है, तो 'versatile' शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इसलिए, विकल्प D "Versatile" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- '**Versatile**' should be used because it is the correct spelling. When referring to a person's ability to adapt to many different functions or activities, the word 'versatile' is used. Thus, option D "Versatile" would be the most appropriate choice.
17. A) '**since**' के बदले 'for' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग किसी specific point in time से शुरू होकर अब तक के समय के लिए किया जाता है, जबकि 'for' का प्रयोग किसी period of time के लिए किया जाता है; जैसे— I have been waiting for two hours.

- 'for' will be used instead of 'since' because 'since' is used for a specific point in time continuing up to the present, while 'for' is used for a certain duration of time; Like — I have been waiting for two hours.
18. A) **Colossal** (adjective) – Extremely large in size, extent, or degree. विशाल
- Synonym:** **Huge** (adjective) – Very large, enormous, massive. बहुत बड़ा
- **Miniature** (adjective) – Very small of its kind, diminutive. सूक्ष्म
 - **Small** (adjective) – Of a size that is less than normal or usual, little. छोटा
 - **Micro** (adjective) – Extremely small, minute, tiny. अत्यधिक सूक्ष्म
19. B) 'supplant' के बदले 'Supersede' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है और इसका अर्थ 'पुरानी चीज को नई चीज से बदल देना' है, जो कि दिए गए वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही है।
- **Supersede** will be used instead of 'supplant' because it is the correct spelling and means 'to replace something old with something new', which is appropriate in the context of the given sentence.
20. B) **Penury** (noun) – Extreme poverty; destitution, indigence, pauperism. दरिद्रता
- Antonym:** **Opulence** (noun) – Great wealth or luxuriousness, affluence, richness, luxury. संपन्नता
- **Emergency** (noun) – A sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or occasion requiring immediate action. आपातकालीन स्थिति
 - **Regression** (noun) – A return to a former or less developed state. प्रतिगमन
 - **Euphemism** (noun) – A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. प्रियोक्ति
21. B) 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर "Friendship is one of the most significant aspects" इस वाक्य में "of" सही जोड़ देता है क्योंकि यह व्यक्त करता है कि मित्रता मानव जीवन के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलुओं में से एक है। जबकि 'on', 'for', और 'By' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'of' should be used because it connects "Friendship" to "one of the most significant aspects". Whereas, 'on', 'for', and 'By' do not fit appropriately in this context.
22. B) **Together** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "together" का अर्थ होता है साथ में या संग में बिताया जा रहा समय। 'Simultaneously' का अर्थ है एक समय में, 'Jointly' का अर्थ है संयुक्त रूप से, और 'Collectively' का अर्थ है समूह रूप से, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **Together** should be used because it indicates spending time in each other's company. Whereas, 'Simultaneously' implies at the same time, 'Jointly' means in a combined manner, and 'Collectively' suggests as a group, which don't fit in this context.

23. B) '**Individuals**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "individuals" का अर्थ होता है व्यक्ति या लोग। पूरे संदर्भ में यह सुझाव दिया जा रहा है कि दोस्त हमें व्यक्तिगत रूप से विकसित होने में मदद कर सकते हैं। 'Houses', 'Buildings', और 'Objects' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये व्यक्तिगत विकास से संबंधित नहीं हैं।
- '**Individuals**' should be used because it refers to persons or people. The context suggests that friends can help in personal growth. 'Houses', 'Buildings', and 'Objects' are not apt in this context as they are not related to personal development.
24. D) '**However**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में पाठ में एक विपरीत धारा या विचार का परिवर्तन हो रहा है। पूरे पाठ में मित्रता के सकारात्मक पहलुओं की चर्चा हो रही है, जबकि इस विचार में उसकी बनाए रखने में आवश्यक प्रयास और समझदारी की चर्चा हो रही है।
- '**However**' should be used because it indicates a contrast or a change in the direction of thought in the passage. The entirety of the passage discusses the positive aspects of friendship, while this statement discusses the effort and understanding required to sustain it.
25. A) '**Toxic**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब बात होती है दोस्ती को छोड़ देने की, तो वह उस समय होती है जब वह दोस्ती हानिकारक होती है या व्यक्ति के लिए हानिकारक सितुएशन में डालती है। 'Unsafe', 'Happy' और 'Safe' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- '**Toxic**' should be used because when it comes to letting go of friendships, it's typically in reference to those that are harmful or put an individual in a detrimental situation. 'Unsafe', 'Happy', and 'Safe' don't fit in this context.