Express View on India-Maldives row: Dangers of hypernationalism on both sides

Few would have thought that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lakshadweep — only the second such visit by an Indian PM to the long-neglected islands — would kick up a tsunami of controversy engulfing relations between India and Maldives, already under considerable strain. While both sides have reasons to manage the fallout from the entirely avoidable episode, it highlights the dangers of hypernationalism for two South Asian neighbours with much at stake in wide-ranging cooperation. It is also a reminder to the new rulers of Maldives that small nations must exercise prudence in dealing with their neighbours. Needless provocations can trigger consequences that could, in the end, hurt the smaller neighbour a lot more. While Delhi's official reaction has been tough and correct in communicating its outrage through diplomatic channels, India's thin-skinned social media warriors have made a bad situation worse. The managers of these warriors must know that you can't bully your neighbours into submission; they must also recognise that hypernationalists do more harm to India than to the target of the day. Above all, they constrain the freedom of action for Indian diplomacy and alienate many of Delhi's friends and partners in the neighbourhood.

There is no question that the <u>blame for this controversy lies at the door of</u> Maldives — it began when three **brash** deputy ministers used offensive language against PM Modi's posts on a social media platform about his trip to Lakshadweep last week, celebrating the natural beauty of the islands and its potential attractions for the Indian tourist. As two former **presidents** — Ibrahim Solih and Mohamed Nasheed — strongly **condemned** the ministers' **remarks**, the **incumbent** president, Mohamed Muizzu, moved quickly to suspend the three deputy ministers. But make no mistake, the **sentiment** in the tweets represents real **hostility** against India. Having come to power on an anti-India platform in the elections last year, the new government of Maldives has wasted no time in asking Indian military personnel to leave the country and ending the agreement with the Indian navy for a **hydrographic** survey of its waters. Muizzu had **ostentatiously** chosen to travel to Turkey on his first official visit late last year, is now on a state visit to China and appears confident that he can **diminish** India's **salience** in the island republic.

But if the episode **underlines** a **bristling ultranationalism** in Maldives, the social media response in India has also been **over the top**. The trending hashtag "boycott Maldives" is **self-defeating** — China is well-positioned to **step in**. There are various other sources of tourist inflow into Maldives, including Europe and Russia. The social media claim that Lakshadweep is an alternative to Maldives is **delusional**; India is far from developing the necessary infrastructure in Lakshadweep and connectivity to the islands. PM Modi's **visit** to the islands **was** an important first step that requires **sustained follow-up action**. **Boycotting** Maldives in any form will only reduce India's **leverage** in the islands. Delhi should instead **double down on** a firm but **patient** engagement with Maldives that will **rally** friendly forces in the country and remind the **ruling** party of the dangers of pushing too hard against India.

• Over the top (phrase) – to an excessive or exaggerated degree. अत्यधिक स्तर तक

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Vocabulary

- 1. Row (noun) Dispute, conflict, disagreement, altercation, argument विवाद
- Hypernationalism (noun) extremely and unreasonably proud of your own country, and often thinking that other countries are not as good as yours अत्यधिक राष्ट्रवाद
- Kick up (phrasal verb) Provoke, incite, stir up, cause, instigate उत्तेजित करना
- 4. Engulf (verb) Swallow up, submerge, overwhelm, envelop, consume निगल जाना
- 5. **Considerable** (adjective) Substantial, significant, large, major, noteworthy महत्वपूर्ण
- 6. **Strain** (noun) Stress, pressure, tension, burden, load तनाव
- 7. Fallout (noun) Repercussions, aftermath, consequences, outcome, effects प्रभाव/ दुष्परिणाम
- 8. **Episode** (noun) Incident, event, occurrence, situation, happening घटना
- 9. Highlight (verb) Emphasize, underline, spotlight, accentuate, foreground प्रमुखता से दिखाना
- 10. **At stake** (phrase) In question, at risk, in jeopardy, on the line, in danger जोखिम में

- 11. **Wide-ranging** (adjective) Broad, extensive, comprehensive, farreaching, expansive व्यापक
- 12. **Exercise** (verb) Implement, carry out, perform, conduct, execute प्रयोग करना
- 13. **Prudence** (noun) Caution, care, wisdom, discretion, judiciousness सावधानी
- 14. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) Handle, manage, address, tackle, confront स्लझाना, निपटाना
- 15. **Provocation** (noun) Incitement, instigation, agitation, stimulation, goading उकसावा
- 16. **Trigger** (verb) Activate, initiate, spark, set off, provoke श्र्रू करना
- 17. **Outrage** (noun) Fury, anger, indignation, wrath, rage आक्रोश
- 18. **Thin-skinned** (adjective) Oversensitive, easily offended, touchy, delicate, fragile संवेदनशील
- 19. **Bully** (verb) Intimidate, harass, browbeat, terrorize, coerce धमकाना
- 20. **Submission** (noun) Compliance, obedience, capitulation, surrender, acquiescence आज्ञाकारिता; अधीनता

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- 21. Hypernationalist (noun) Extreme patriot, jingoist, chauvinist, zealous nationalist, ultranationalist अत्यधिक राष्ट्रवादी
- 22. **Constrain** (verb) Restrict, limit, confine, inhibit, control बाध्य करना
- 23. Alienate (verb) Estrange, distance, disaffect, turn away, isolate अलग करना
- 24. **Lie the blame at someone's door** (phrase) — Accuse, hold responsible, attribute fault, assign guilt, impute दोषारोपण करना
- 25. **Brash** (adjective) Impudent, impertinent, bold, audacious, rash धृष्ट
- 26. **Condemn** (verb) Denounce, censure, criticize, castigate, reprimand निंदा करना
- 27. **Remark** (noun) Comment, statement, observation, utterance, note टिप्पणी
- 28. Incumbent (adjective) Current, present, existing, in office, holding position पदस्थ
- 29. **Sentiment** (noun) Feeling, emotion, opinion, view, attitude भावना
- 30. Hostility (noun) Antagonism, enmity, animosity, opposition, aggression शत्र्ता
- 31. **Hydrographic** (adjective) Pertaining to the study of bodies of water, oceanographic, aquatic, maritime, nautical जलभूगोल से संबंधित

- 32. **Ostentatiously** (adverb) Showily, pretentiously, flamboyantly, conspicuously, flashily दिखावटी तरीके से; ठाठ से
- 33. **Diminish** (verb) Reduce, decrease, lessen, weaken, lower कम होना
- 34. Salience (noun) Importance, prominence, significance, relevance, conspicuousness प्रमुखता
- 35. **Underline** (verb) Emphasize, highlight, underscore, stress, accentuate बल देना
- 36. Bristling (adjective) Aggressive, defensive, antagonistic, confrontational, prickly चिइचिड़ा
- 37. **Ultranationalism** (noun) Extreme nationalism, radical patriotism, fanatical nationalism, extreme chauvinism, intense jingoism अति राष्ट्रवाद
- 38. **Self-defeating** (adjective) Counterproductive, self-destructive, futile, disadvantageous, harmful स्वयं को हानि पहूंचाने वाला
- 39. **Delusional** (adjective) Misguided, unrealistic, irrational, fanciful, mistaken भ्रमित
- 40. **Sustained** (adjective) Continuous, ongoing, prolonged, enduring, persistent निरंतर

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41. Follow-up action (noun) – Subsequent steps, further measures, continuation, progression, next steps अन्वर्ती कार्य

- 42. **Leverage** (noun) Influence, power, control, sway, clout प्रभाव
- 43. **Double down on** (phrase) Reinforce, intensify, strengthen, escalate, increase efforts दोगुना जोर देना

- 44. **Patient** (adjective) Tolerant, forbearing, enduring, persistent, uncomplaining धैर्यवान
- 45. **Rally** (verb) Gather, unite, mobilize, assemble, convene एकज्ट करना
- 46. **Ruling** (adjective) Governing, dominant, prevailing, controlling, authoritative सत्तारूढ़

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Summary of the Editorial

- 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lakshadweep sparked unexpected controversy, affecting India-Maldives relations.
- 2. The incident underscores the perils of hypernationalism for India and Maldives, countries with significant mutual cooperation interests.
- 3. The situation serves as a caution to Maldives about the risks small nations face when provoking larger neighbors.
- 4. India's official response was strong, expressing outrage diplomatically.
- 5. However, the situation was exacerbated by aggressive Indian social media responses.
- 6. It's critical for India to understand that hypernationalism can damage its diplomatic efforts and relationships.
- 7. The controversy originated from offensive comments by Maldivian deputy ministers on social media regarding Modi's visit.
- 8. Maldives' current government, which has an anti-India stance, has already taken steps to reduce India's military and naval presence.
- 9. The Maldivian President's diplomatic choices, favoring Turkey and China, indicate a shift away from India.
- 10. Indian social media reactions, including calls to boycott Maldives, are counterproductive and could benefit China.
- 11. The idea of substituting Lakshadweep for Maldives as a tourist destination is unrealistic due to infrastructure and connectivity limitations.
- 12. Modi's visit to Lakshadweep was a positive step but requires further development.
- 13. A boycott of Maldives would decrease India's influence in the region.
- 14. India should engage patiently and firmly with Maldives to maintain its influence and support friendly elements within the country.
- 15. Both nations must recognize the hazards of escalating tensions and the importance of diplomatic relations.

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Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What is the tone of the second paragraph in the given passage?

- A. Optimistic
- B. Hostile
- C. Analytical
- D. Indifferent
- 2. What is the main theme of the passage?
 - A. The natural beauty of Lakshadweep
 - B. The impact of social media on international relations
 - C. The complexities of India-Maldives relations
 - D. The importance of tourism for small island nations

3. What would be an appropriate title for the passage?

- A. "The Rising Power of Social Media in South Asia"
- B. "Lakshadweep: A New Tourist Destination"
- C. "The Role of Nationalism in Modern Politics"
- D. "Navigating Diplomatic Strains: India and Maldives"
- 4. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the role of social media in India-Maldives relations?
 - A. Social media has exacerbated tensions and complicated diplomatic relations.
 - B. Social media has little to no impact on diplomatic relations.
 - C. Social media is used primarily for promoting tourism between the two countries.
 - D. Social media has been instrumental in resolving disputes between India and Maldives.
- 5. What inference can be made about the Maldives' foreign policy direction based on the passage?
 - A. The Maldives is seeking to strengthen its ties with India.
 - B. The Maldives is attempting to diversify its international relations, possibly reducing India's influence.
 - C. The Maldives is moving towards a more isolationist stance.
 - D. The Maldives' foreign policy is primarily focused on environmental concerns.

6. Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

It is an _____ day to start your new business.

- A. occasional
- B. auspicious
- C. ominous
- D. audacious

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

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Machines were made to be man's servants. Yet, man has grown so (1) ______ on them that they are in a fair way to become his (2) ______. Already men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting (3) ______ machines. Machines are very stern bosses. They must be fed with coal and (4) ______ petrol to drink and oil to wash with and must be kept at an (5) ______ temperature.

7. Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 1

- A. dependent
- B. inferior
- C. subordinate
- D. Helpless

8. Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 2

- A. administrators
- B. masters
- C. victims
- D. Slaves

9. Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 3

- A. from
- B. into
- C. under
- D. Upon

10. Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 4

- A. gave
- B. given
- C. gives
- D. Give

11. Select the most appropriate option for blank no. 5

- A. outdated
- B. optional
- C. optimist
- D. Optimum

12. Select the correct active form of the given sentence.

The thief was being arrested by the police.

- A. The police was arresting the thief.
- B. The police has arrested the thief.
- C. The police arrested the thief.
- D. The police had arrested the thief.

13. Select one word for the following group of words.

A period of ten years

- A. Fortnight
- B. Decade
- C. Century
- D. Millennium

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14. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.

A. Nevertheless, sound health, economic security and mental satisfaction are desired by all

B. A change that is conducive to happiness may be termed as progress.

- C. But different people find happiness in different things.
- **D.** So, If a change contributes to the growth of these factors, it is progress.
 - A. DBCA
 - B. BCAD
 - C. BDCA
 - D. ABCD

15. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom

A snake in the grass

- A. Difficult to find
- B. A well-wisher
- C. A good friend
- D. A secret enemy
- 16. Select the wrongly spelt word.
 - A. Elegant
 - B. Flashy
 - C. Practicle
 - D. Flexible

17. Select one word for the following group of words.

One who leaves his own country to settle in another

- A. Foreigner
- B. Native
- C. Emigrant
- D. Tourist

18. Select the wrongly spelt word.

- A. Persuasion
- B. Ostentasion
- C. Mansion
- D. Extension

19. In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

The Prime Minister, along with the other ministers have left for America

- A. for America
- B. have left
- C. The Prime Minister along with
- D. the other ministers
- 20. Select the synonym of the given word.

PENITENCE

- A. Admiration
- B. Misery

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- C. Patience
- D. Repentance

21. Select the antonym of the given word.

VICIOUS

- A. Baneful
- B. Sinful
- C. Unfortunate
- D. Virtuous

22. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.

- A. Can I borrow your camera?
- B. I will give it back to you next week.
- C. I am going to jungle safari tomorrow.
- D. My friend told me that jungle is beautiful in these days.
 - A. CADB
 - B. CDAB
 - C. ADBC
 - D. BACD

23. Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

- He _____ a heinous crime
- A. happened
- B. occurred
- C. made
- D. Committed

24. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom

On shank's mare

- A. On a lion
- B. On an elephant
- C. On foot
- D. On a bicycle

25. Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined segment of the given sentence. If no substitution is required select 'No improvement'

A man in need **pleaded for help.**

- A. No improvement
- B. promised for help
- C. commanded to help
- D. requested for helping

Answers

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

Explanation

- 1. C) The second paragraph provides an analysis of the situation between India and the Maldives, discussing the actions of both nations' governments and their consequences. It lacks emotional language and focuses more on understanding and explaining the dynamics of the situation, which is characteristic of an analytical tone.
- 2. C) The passage primarily focuses on the recent controversies and political tensions between India and the Maldives, highlighting the events, reactions, and broader implications for both countries. This suggests that the complexities of India-Maldives relations are the central theme.
- 3. D) The passage discusses the diplomatic tensions and controversies between India and the Maldives, analyzing the causes and potential consequences of these strains. This title aptly summarizes the focus on diplomatic relations between the two nations.
- 4. A) The passage indicates that social media played a role in escalating the controversy, particularly through the actions of certain Maldivian ministers and the Indian public's reaction. It suggests that social media, rather than being a neutral or positive force, has actually heightened tensions and added complexity to the diplomatic situation.
- 5. B) The passage mentions the Maldives asking Indian military personnel to leave, ending an agreement with the Indian navy, and the new Maldivian president's visits to Turkey and China. These actions suggest a shift in the Maldives' foreign policy towards diversifying its international relations and potentially reducing reliance on India.
- 6. B) Auspicious" का use होगा क्योंकि "auspicious" का अर्थ होता है शुभ या अनुकूल। Sentence में बताया गया है कि यह एक _____ दिन है नए व्यापार को शुरू करने के लिए, इसलिए 'auspicious' यहाँ शुभ और अनुकूल स्थिति को दर्शाने के लिए सही है। 'Occasional' का अर्थ होता है कभी-कभार, 'Ominous' का अर्थ होता है अमंगल या खतरनाक, और 'Audacious' का अर्थ होता है साहसी या निर्भीक, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - auspicious" should be used because it means favorable or promising. The sentence is stating that it is an _____ day to start a new business, so 'auspicious' is appropriate to depict a favorable and promising situation. 'Occasional' means now and then, 'Ominous' means threatening or inauspicious, and 'Audacious' means bold or daring, which don't fit in this context
- 7. A) dependent' का use होगा क्योंकि "dependent" का अर्थ होता है किसी पर निर्भर होना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि मनुष्य मशीनों की देखभाल में अपना अधिक समय

बिता रहे हैं, इसलिए 'dependent' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'B. inferior' का अर्थ होता है हीन होना, 'C. subordinate' का अर्थ होता है अधीन होना, और 'D. Helpless' का अर्थ होता है असहाय होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- dependent' should be used because it means to rely on something or someone. The sentence talks about men spending most of their lives looking after and waiting for machines, indicating a reliance on machines. Hence, 'dependent' fits here. Whereas, 'B. inferior' means lesser in quality or value, 'C. subordinate' means lower in rank or position, and 'D. Helpless' means unable to defend oneself or to act without help, which don't fit in this context.
- 8. B) masters' का use होगा क्योंकि यहां बताया गया है कि मनुष्य मशीनों पर इतना निर्भर हो गया है कि वे उसके स्वामी बन सकते हैं। 'Masters' का अर्थ होता है स्वामी या मालिक, जो इस context में फिट बैठता है। 'Administrators' का अर्थ है प्रबंधक, 'Victims' का अर्थ है पीड़ित, और 'Slaves' का अर्थ है गुलाम, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
 - masters' should be used because the sentence implies that man has become so dependent on machines that they are on the verge of becoming his masters. 'Masters' means those who have control or authority over others, fitting the context perfectly. 'Administrators' refers to those who manage or supervise, 'Victims' means those who are harmed or suffer, and 'Slaves' implies those who are dominated or controlled, which aren't appropriate in this context.
- 9. D) 'Upon' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर "waiting upon" का अर्थ होता है किसी की सेवा करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि लोग अपनी जिंदगी का अधिकांश समय मशीनों की देखभाल और सेवा में बिताते हैं, इसलिए 'Upon' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'From' का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थान से, 'Into' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ में, और 'Under' का अर्थ होता है नीचे या किसी चीज़ के तहत, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Upon' should be used because it means to serve or attend to someone. The sentence suggests that people spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines, making 'upon' fitting here. Whereas 'From' implies originating from a place, 'Into' means to be enclosed or surrounded by something, and 'Under' denotes a position below something, which are not correct in this context.
- 10. **B) given'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहां 'fed with coal and given petrol' की तरह passive construction की आवश्यकता है। 'Gave', 'gives', और 'give' active verbs हैं, और इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं क्योंकि machines को coal और petrol दिया जाता है, वे खुद नहीं लेतीं।

- . given' should be used because a passive construction like 'fed with coal and given petrol' is needed here. 'Gave', 'gives', and 'give' are active verbs and are not appropriate in this context since machines are being given coal and petrol; they don't take it themselves.
- 11. D) 'Optimum' का use होगा क्योंकि "optimum" का अर्थ होता है सर्वोत्तम या अधिकतम स्थिति जहां किसी चीज की प्रदर्शन क्षमता सबसे अच्छी होती है। Sentence में मशीनों को एक विशिष्ट तापमान पर रखने की बात की गई है, इसलिए 'optimum' यहाँ सही है। 'Outdated' का अर्थ होता है पुराना या अप्रचलित, 'optional' का अर्थ होता है वैकल्पिक, और 'optimist' का अर्थ है आशावादी, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Optimum' should be used because it means the best or most favorable condition or level where something's performance capability is highest. The sentence talks about machines needing to be kept at a specific temperature, making 'optimum' appropriate here. Whereas 'Outdated' means old or obsolete, 'Optional' means something that is a choice, and 'Optimist' means a person who is hopeful, which are not fitting in this context.
- 12. A) The police was arresting the thief.
- 13. B) Decade (noun) A period of ten years दशक
 - Fortnight (noun) A period of two weeks दो हफ्ते
 - Century (noun) A period of one hundred years शताब्दी
 - Millennium (noun) A period of one thousand years सहस्राब्दी

14. B) BCAD

A change that is conducive to happiness may be termed as progress. But different people find happiness in different things Nevertheless, sound health, economic security and mental satisfaction are desired by all So, If a change contributes to the growth of these factors, it is progress.

- 15. D) A snake in the grass (idiom) A secret enemy गुप्त शत्र
- 16. C) The wrongly spelled word among the options is "Practicle." The correct spelling is 'Practical,' व्यावसायिक, प्रायोगिक.
- 17. C) Emigrant (noun) A person who leaves their own country to live in another. प्रवासी
 - Foreigner (noun) A person born in or coming from a country other than one's own.
 विदेशी
 - Native (noun) A person born in a specified place or associated with a place by birth, whether subsequently resident there or not. स्थानिक

- Tourist (noun) A person who is traveling or visiting a place for pleasure. पर्यटक
- 18. B) The wrongly spelt word among the given options is "Ostentasion". The correct spelling is 'Ostentation' दिखावा, प्रदर्शन.
- 19. **D) 'have left'** की जगह 'has left' होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'along with' के बाद जो noun या pronoun आता है वह main subject को नहीं बदलता, इसलिए verb singular रूप में होगी; जैसे— The teacher, along with the students, is going to the museum.
 - has left' should be used instead of 'have left' because the noun or pronoun that comes after 'along with' does not change the main subject, so the verb will be in the singular form; Like— The teacher, along with the students, is going to the museum.
- 20. **D) Penitence** (noun) The action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong, repentance, contrition, remorse. **पश्चाताप**

Synonym: **Repentance** (noun) – The action of repenting; sincere regret or remorse, contrition, penitence. **पश्चाताप**

- Admiration (noun) Respect and warm approval, esteem, appreciation, regard. प्रशंसा
- Misery (noun) A state of great discomfort or distress due to mental or physical suffering, wretchedness, unhappiness, distress. द्र: ত্র
- Patience (noun) The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious, tolerance, forbearance, endurance. धैर्य

21. B) VICIOUS (adjective) – Evil, immoral, wicked, malicious, harmful. दुष्ट

Antonym: **Virtuous** (adjective) – Having or showing high moral standards, righteous, good, ethical. धर्मिक

- Baneful (adjective) Harmful, damaging, destructive, injurious. हानिप्रद
- Sinful (adjective) Immoral, wicked, wrong, ungodly, impious. पापी
- Unfortunate (adjective) Unlucky, ill-fated, doomed, adverse. दुर्भाग्यशाली

22. B) CDAB

I am going to jungle safari tomorrow. My friend told me that jungle is beautiful in these days. Can I borrow your camera? I will give it back to you next week

23. D) 'Committed' का use होगा क्योंकि "committed" का अर्थ होता है किसी क्रिया या अपराध को अंजाम देना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि व्यक्ति ने एक घिनौना अपराध किया है, इसलिए 'committed' यहाँ सही है। 'Happened' और 'Occurred' का अर्थ होता है घटित होना, जो यहाँ पर असही है क्योंकि अपराध कोई घटना नहीं होती जो अपने आप हो जाती है। 'Made' का अर्थ होता है बनाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Committed'** should be used because it means to perform an act or crime. The sentence mentions that a person has performed a heinous crime, making 'committed' appropriate here. 'Happened' and 'Occurred' mean to take place, which is incorrect here as a crime is not an event that just happens on its own. 'Made' means to create, which doesn't fit in this context.
- 24. C) On shank's mare (idiom) On foot पैदल
- 25. A) 'No improvement'

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