## Overkill: On only a 100% recount of VVPATs

**Verification** of a statistically significant sample of VVPAT slips **should suffice**

**The introduction and use** of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), an **adjunct** system attached to the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), and the **provision** of counting VVPAT **tallies** from five random polling booths in every Assembly constituency to be matched with the EVM vote-count, **have** not **assuaged critics** of the use of EVMs in Indian elections. Some suggest the fact that the process could be more **transparent** if a machine **audit trail** of all the commands that are **executed** is maintained in the system, beyond just the votes recorded in the EVM's ballot unit and the printed slips in the VVPATs, allowing for an audit to **rule out** any **malicious** code. This could **indeed** make the system more **robust** and be considered as an upgrade to the existing machines. Others suggest that the use of VVPATs has introduced **potential vulnerabilities** that did not **exist** with the **standalone** nature of EVMs and the technical and administrative safeguards that **undergirded** the **legacy system**. This too could be **addressed** by reworking the **safeguards** to ensure that the VVPAT-combined systems are as secure and foolproof as the standalone EVMs were. But **incomprehensible** is the **critique** from many, including political parties such as the Congress, that only a 100% recount of all VVPATs would suffice, instead of the current method of sampling the number of recounts, **in order to** have full **transparency**. The Supreme Court of India has now listed a series of **petitions** related to this demand.

Despite Cassandra-like **pronouncements** about **malpractices** and EVM-hacking, there has been no proof of any actual **tampering** of EVMs **so far**. While **EVMs**, as any machine is bound to, **have** suffered glitches, and **promptly** been replaced **in the event of** machine failures, the critique that they are **prone** to hacking or **manipulation** despite the existing technical and administrative safeguards has not been made with any actual proof. The sample counting of VVPATs, across both the general election in 2019 and several other Assembly elections **for instance**, which allow the voter to confirm whether the **mandate** matches the choice made on the EVM, have shown that the mismatch between the VVPAT recount and the EVM count has been **minuscule** — an **outcome** of **trivial** errors such as non-deletion of mock polls in the machine before the voting process or errors in manual recording of the final count from the machine. An **increase** in the recount sample to make it more statistically significant, by making the selected number of Assemblies specific to each State/Union Territory based on the size of the **province**, or, simply to increase the recount sample in seats where the **margin** of victory is **narrow** (say, less than 1% of the overall votes) **could** be solutions. But to **insist** on a full recount seems an overkill and a clear lack of trust in the EVM itself. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

# Vocabulary

1. **Overkill** (noun) – Excessive action or effort, more than what is necessary or appropriate अतिरिक्त प्रयास

2. **Suffice** (verb) – Be enough, be adequate, be sufficient, meet the needs, satisfy पर्याप्त होना

3. **Adjunct** (adjective) – Supplementary, additional, auxiliary, accessory, extra सहायक

4. **Provision** (noun) – Supply, providing, furnishing, arrangement, preparation प्रावधान

5. **Tally** (noun) – Total, sum, count, record, score गणना

6. **Assuage** (verb) – Relieve, ease, alleviate, soothe, mitigate शांत करना

7. **Critics** (noun) – Detractors, faultfinders, censors, reviewers, commentators आलोचक

8. **Transparent** (adjective) – Clear, open, straightforward, evident, obvious पारदर्शी

9. **Audit trail** (noun) – A record or evidence of all the steps in a transaction or process

10. **Execute** (verb) – Carry out, perform, implement, effectuate, enact क्रियान्वित करना

11. **Rule out** (phrasal verb) – Exclude, eliminate, dismiss, disregard, reject खारिज करना

12. **Malicious** (adjective) – Harmful, spiteful, malevolent, vindictive, destructive दुर्भावनापूर्ण

13. **Indeed** (adverb) – In fact, actually, really, truly, certainly वास्तव में

14. **Robust** (adjective) – Strong, sturdy, tough, powerful, vigorous मजबूत

15. **Potential** (adjective) – Possible, likely, prospective, potential, conceivable संभावित

16. **Vulnerability** (noun) – Susceptibility, weakness, frailty, proneness, liability कमजोरी

17. **Exist** (verb) – Be, live, have existence, be present, occur अस्तित्व में होना

18. **Standalone** (adjective) – Independent, self-contained, separate, isolated, unconnected स्वतंत्र

19. **Undergird** (verb) – Support, reinforce, brace, strengthen, fortify मजबूती देना

20. **Legacy system** (noun) – old method, yet still in use

21. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, handle, attend to, confront सुलझाना, निपटाना

22. **Safeguard** (noun) – Protection, precaution, defence, safety measure रक्षा

23. **Incomprehensible** (adjective) – Unintelligible, unclear, obscure, unfathomable, perplexing समझ से बाहर

24. **Critique** (noun) – Analysis, evaluation, assessment, review, appraisal आलोचना

25. **In order to** (phrase) – With the purpose of, for the purpose of, so as to, so that ताकि

26. **Transparency** (noun) – Openness, clarity, lucidity, clearness, visibility पारदर्शिता

27. **Petition** (noun) – Appeal, request, plea, entreaty, application याचिका

28. **Pronouncement** (noun) – Declaration, statement, announcement, proclamation, assertion घोषणा

29. **Malpractice** (noun) – Misconduct, wrongdoing, improper behavior, unprofessionalism दुराचार

30. **Tampering** (noun) – Interference, meddling, manipulation, alteration, falsification हेरफेर

31. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to the present, up to this point, hitherto अब तक

32. **Promptly** (adverb) – Quickly, without delay, immediately, instantly, rapidly तत्काल

33. **In the event of** (phrase) – In case of, if there is, should there be, in the occurrence of की स्थिति में

34. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – Susceptible, liable, inclined, disposed, likely प्रवृत्त

35. **Manipulation** (noun) – Control, influence, maneuvering, management, handling हेरफेर

36. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, as an example, to give an example, as an illustration उदाहरण के लिए

37. **Mandate** (noun) – Authority, command, decree, directive, order आदेश

38. **Minuscule** (adjective) – Tiny, small, minute, microscopic, infinitesimal सूक्ष्म

39. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, upshot, aftermath परिणाम

40. **Trivial** (adjective) – Insignificant, unimportant, minor, petty, negligible मामूली

41. **Province** (noun) – Region, territory, area, district, sector प्रांत

42. **Margin** (noun) – Difference, gap, lead, edge, advantage अंतर

43. **Narrow** (adjective) – Limited, restricted, confined, tight, constricted संकीर्ण

44. **Insist** (on) (verb) – Demand, assert, maintain, stand firm, hold out for जोर देना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The use of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) along with Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in Indian elections has not fully satisfied critics.

2. Some propose adding a machine audit trail for more transparency, which could enhance system robustness.

3. Others point out potential vulnerabilities introduced by VVPATs compared to standalone EVMs, suggesting the need for updated safeguards.

4. A major critique, notably from the Congress party, is that only a 100% recount of VVPATs would ensure full transparency.

5. The Supreme Court of India is currently considering petitions related to this demand for a complete VVPAT recount.

6. Despite concerns about EVM malpractices and hacking, no actual tampering has been proven.

7. EVM glitches have occurred but have been addressed promptly, with no evidence of hacking or manipulation.

8. Sample counting of VVPATs in past elections has shown only minuscule mismatches between VVPAT recounts and EVM counts.

9. These mismatches are often due to trivial errors like non-deletion of mock polls or manual recording errors.

10. Increasing the VVPAT recount sample to be more statistically significant could be a solution, rather than a full recount.

11. Adjusting the recount sample size based on the size of the state or union territory, or increasing it in closely contested seats, are potential approaches.

12. Insisting on a 100% VVPAT recount is seen as excessive and indicative of a lack of trust in the EVM system.

13. A more statistically significant sample of VVPAT slips for verification should suffice for transparency.

14. A complete VVPAT recount is considered overkill and unnecessary.

15. The editorial suggests that addressing concerns with targeted improvements and increased sampling is a more reasonable approach than a full recount.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary concern raised by critics regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) in Indian elections, as mentioned in the passage?** **[Editorial page]**
   A. Critics argue that the use of EVMs and VVPATs has made the voting process less transparent and more susceptible to manipulation due to the lack of a machine audit trail for all commands executed during the voting process.
   B. Critics are concerned that the introduction of VVPATs has eliminated the need for EVMs altogether, making the voting process more cumbersome and less efficient.
   C. Critics believe that the use of EVMs and VVPATs has significantly improved the transparency and accuracy of the voting process, leaving no room for further enhancements or audits.
   D. Critics suggest that the standalone nature of EVMs was more secure and reliable, and the addition of VVPATs has introduced unnecessary complexities and vulnerabilities to the system.

2. **What is the critique of the current method of verifying VVPAT tallies in Indian elections, as described in the passage?**
   A. The critique is that the current method of verifying a statistically significant sample of VVPAT slips is sufficient for ensuring transparency and should not be changed.
   B. The critique is that the verification of VVPAT tallies from only five random polling booths in every Assembly constituency is inadequate and that a 100% recount of all VVPATs is necessary for full transparency.
   C. The critique is that the use of VVPATs has made the voting process too transparent, leading to unnecessary scrutiny and delays in the announcement of election results.
   D. The critique is that the Supreme Court of India has been too lenient in its approach to the demands for a 100% recount of VVPATs, thereby undermining the integrity of the election process.

3. **What is the tone of the line** "An increase in the recount sample to make it more statistically significant, by making the selected number of Assemblies specific to each State/Union Territory based on the size of the province, or, simply to increase the recount sample in seats where the margin of victory is narrow (say, less than 1% of the overall votes) could be solutions."?
   A. Critical
   B. Suggestive
   C. Indifferent
   D. Pessimistic

4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
   A. The passage primarily discusses the technical and administrative safeguards of EVMs and the absence of proof regarding their tampering.
   B. The passage focuses on the criticism surrounding the use of VVPATs in Indian elections and the debate over the necessity of a 100% recount for transparency.

C. The passage highlights the effectiveness of EVMs in preventing malpractices and the negligible impact of trivial errors on election outcomes.

D. The passage emphasizes the role of the Supreme Court in addressing petitions related to the demand for a 100% recount of VVPATs.

5. **What can be inferred about the critics' perspective on the transparency and security of the EVM-VVPAT system?**

(i) Some critics believe that maintaining a machine audit trail of all commands executed in the system could enhance transparency and security.

(ii) Critics unanimously agree that the current VVPAT tally counting method from random polling booths is sufficient for ensuring transparency.

(iii) There is a consensus among critics that only a 100% recount of all VVPATs can guarantee full transparency and eliminate any doubts about the integrity of the election process.

    A. Only i is correct

    B. Only ii is correct

    C. Only iii is correct

    D. Both i and iii are correct

    E. All i, ii, and iii are correct

6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

I play / cricket in / my childhood/ with my sister.

    A. my childhood

    B. with my sister

    C. play

    D. cricket in

7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Announced

    A. Estrange

    B. Declared

    C. Secret

    D. Hid

8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Crooked

    A. Admirable

    B. Taken

    C. Twisted

    D. Toasted

9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**

The 95th Academy Awards on March 13/ the Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about/ calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award at / the raising of an orphaned elephant

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A. The 95th Academy Awards on March 13 calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award at the raising of an orphaned elephant the Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about.

B. The Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about at the 95th Academy Awards on March 13 the raising of an orphaned elephant calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award.

C. The raising of an orphaned elephant calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award at the 95th Academy Awards on March 13 The Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about.

D. The Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about the raising of an orphaned elephant calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award at the 95th Academy Awards on March 13.

10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**

She wanted to make sure to **_take all on board_** before making the final decision.

A. To ignore everyone's opinion

B. To understand completely

C. To be stubborn

D. To refuse a proposal

11. **Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**.

1. In a reality show, "Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives", Sima Taparia of the series, "Indian Matchmaking", was asked about the possibility of matching for queer couples.

A. Her careful reply was: she is not 'doing that' right now because

B. Even as season three of her show dropped, the Supreme Court began hearing the case for marriage equality within the ambit of the Special Marriage Act

C. It is not allowed in India and she will not commit to taking on queer clients when it is

D. If the court rules in favour of expanding the definition of marriage beyond that of a union between biological men and women, Ms. Taparia's response leaves enough room for ambiguity – for legal rights do not automatically

2. Translate to social sanction, and this is exactly what the arguments in the courtroom and beyond illustrate.

A. DBCA          B. CBDA          C. ACBD          D.ABCD

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

P. On April 20 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the Indian Space Policy 2023 that had been in the works for some years.

Q. Just preceding this, this writer wrote the article, "Awaiting lift-off into the Second Space Age" (April 10, 2023), which said that India's modest entry into the First Space Age followed by its many gains should be used to help the country tap the vast potential in the Second Space Age.

R. The document has been received positively by industry.

S. However, it needs to be followed up with suitable legislation, accompanied by clear rules and regulations.

A. SQRP      B.PSRQ      C.SRQP      D.PRSQ

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

P. No other event — save the fall of Dhaka in 1971 — did more for India's self-esteem and its place in the world, and no other policy decision had greater consequences for its national security.

Q. In the previous two decades, the military aspects of India's nuclear policy and programme were shrouded in a veil of ambiguity and opaqueness.

R. Twenty-five years ago, on May 11 and 13, 1998, India carved out a new future for itself.

S. There had been little reliable information available since May 18, 1974, the day India conducted its first nuclear test and termed it a "peaceful nuclear explosion."

A. RPQS      B.RSQP      C.SRQP      D.SPRQ

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

P. The social fabric of Tamil Nadu, widely acknowledged as a progressive State, is put to severe strain every now and then by appalling acts of atrocities against Dalits

Q. A one-man commission, appointed by the Madras High Court, has also begun a parallel inquiry

R. Even nearly four months after the State's premier investigation agency, the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), began its investigation

S. The most recent of such cases — the dumping of human faeces in an overhead tank that supplied drinking water to Dalit families at Vengaivayal in Pudukottai district — remains unresolved

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

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

P. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has almost doubled its borders with Russia with the addition of Finland as its 31st member in April 2023

Q. Sweden will become a member eventually, once the ratification process gets over, which will swell

R. The accession of Finland was the fastest on record

S. NATO's territorial expanse like never before, and also make the Baltic Sea a NATO lake

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

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

P. Countries have stepped up efforts to achieve health and well-being

Q. As the world enters the fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation is gradually improving

R. Most border restrictions have been lifted and global health governance is now focused on a post-pandemic recovery

S. For all and further the realisation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose progress was impacted by the pandemic

A. SPQR      B.SRQP      C.QRPS      D.QPSR

**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.**

Any _____1_____ that revolves around a planet is a satellite. Mother Earth has a natural satellite in the moon. The earth is circled by a lot of man-made or artificial satellites. In 1957, the Soviet Sputnik was the first to be _____2_____ into space. There are currently a number of artificial satellites launched into space by various nations.

These satellites make it possible for us to talk on the phone, watch television, predict the weather, map the various surfaces of the earth and learn more about the world in which we live.How does a satellite get started? It is typically launched into space by means of a rocket. After ascending into the thinner air layers above the earth, the satellite is released from the rocket. For a successful satellite launch, a rocket's speed is carefully calculated and controlled. Every object in space is pushed toward the earth's centre by gravity. The inertia of motion will propel the object into space if it has its own velocity of motion. When the orbital velocity is exactly right, these two opposing forces are balanced, causing the satellite to _____3_____ toward the earth while still hovering over its surface.

A satellite is said to be in gee-stationary orbit when it completes one revolution around the earth in a 24-hour period; It doesn't change when compared to a point on the surface of the earth. These orbits are typically used by satellites for communication and weather. The camera on the weather satellites takes pictures and sends them back to Earth. These are helping aid in weather forecasting. Radio receivers and amplifiers on communication satellites can _____4_____ waves back at a frequency that is different from the one the satellite received.

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**
    A. piece
    B. being
    C. body
    D. Object

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**
    A. lobbed
    B. launched
    C. floated
    D. Tossed

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**
    A. migrate
    B. move
    C. stir
    D. jump

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**
    A. locate
    B. send

   C.  deliver

   D.  Discharge

21. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**.

You snooze, you lose

   A.  If you oversleep, you are likely to lose a job

   B.  Laziness is not good

   C.  You may lose your money if snoozing is not stopped

   D.  If you are not alert, you are likely to miss opportunities

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Stories of dolphins' saving human lives _____ throughout history.

   A.  have been said

   B.  told

   C.  have been told

   D.  had been said

23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Extinct

   A.  Vibrant

   B.  Vanished

   C.  Active

   D.  Living

24. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Glorify

   A.  Simplify

   B.  Stupefy

   C.  Praise

   D.  Strengthen

25. **Select the grammatically correct sentence.**

   A.  It was a hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchases and a couple of meetings.

   B.  It was a hectic day for Susan with the lot of purchase and a couple of meetings.

   C.  It was a hectic day for Susan with the lot of purchase and an couple of meetings.

   D.  It was the hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchase and the couple of meetings.

## Answers

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

12. D    13.A    14.B    15.D    16.C    17.D    18.B    19.B    20.B    21.D    22.C

23. B    24. C    25.A                             **[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

1. **A) Critics argue that the use of EVMs and VVPATs has made the voting process less transparent and more susceptible to manipulation due to the lack of a machine audit trail for all commands executed during the voting process.**
   The passage mentions that some critics suggest that the process could be more transparent if a machine audit trail of all the commands executed is maintained in the system, beyond just the votes recorded in the EVM's ballot unit and the printed slips in the VVPATs. This indicates that the primary concern is the lack of a comprehensive audit trail that could rule out any malicious code.

2. B) **The critique is that the verification of VVPAT tallies from only five random polling booths in every Assembly constituency is inadequate and that a 100% recount of all VVPATs is necessary for full transparency.**
   The passage states that the critique from many, including political parties such as the Congress, is that only a 100% recount of all VVPATs would suffice, instead of the current method of sampling the number of recounts, in order to have full transparency. This indicates that the critique is focused on the inadequacy of the current verification method and the need for a complete recount for greater transparency.

3. B) **Suggestive**
   The tone of the line is suggestive because it presents ideas for increasing the statistical significance of the recount sample in a positive and constructive manner, without criticizing the existing process. The line proposes potential solutions to improve the statistical significance of the recount sample in a constructive manner.

4. **B) The passage focuses on the criticism surrounding the use of VVPATs in Indian elections and the debate over the necessity of a 100% recount for transparency.**
   The main theme of the passage is the critique and debate surrounding the use of VVPATs in Indian elections, particularly the argument that only a 100% recount of all VVPATs would ensure full transparency, as opposed to the current method of sampling recounts.

5. D) **Both i and iii are correct**
   The passage indicates that some critics suggest enhancing the system's transparency and security by maintaining a machine audit trail of all commands executed, beyond just the votes recorded and printed slips (i). Additionally, it mentions that many critics, including political parties like the Congress, believe that only a 100% recount of all VVPATs would suffice for full transparency (iii). There is no indication that critics unanimously agree that the current method is sufficient (ii).

6. C) '**Play'** के बदले 'played' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में 'in my childhood' का उल्लेख है, जो past tense को सूचित करता है; जैसे—  I played cricket in my childhood with my sister.
   - 'played' will be used instead of 'play' because the sentence mentions 'in my childhood', which indicates the Past Tense; Like— I played cricket in my childhood with my sister.

7. B) **Announced** (verb) – To make a public and formal declaration; to make known, proclaim. प्रकाशित

   **Synonym**: **Declared** (verb) – To announce officially or formally; to state openly or publicly. घोषित
   - **Estrange** (verb) – To cause someone to be no longer close or affectionate to someone; alienate. अलग/ विचित्र।
   - **Secret** (adjective) – Not known or seen or not meant to be known or seen by others. गुप्त
   - **Hid** (past of "hide") (verb) – To put or keep out of sight; to conceal. छिपाना

8. C) **Crooked** (adjective) – Bent, curved, not straight, devious. कपटी

   **Synonym**: **Twisted** (adjective) – Warped, contorted, bent. **मुड़ा हुआ**
   - **Admirable** (adjective) – Deserving praise, commendable, praiseworthy. प्रशंसनीय
   - **Taken** (verb) – Past participle of 'take'. In context as an adjective, it can mean captivated or charmed. **लिया हुआ**
   - **Toasted** (verb) – To make something, especially bread, warm and brown by placing it close to a high heat. **सेंकना**

9. D) The Elephant Whisperers, a documentary about the raising of an orphaned elephant calf by a tribal couple, won the best documentary (short) award at the 95th Academy Awards on March 13.

10. B) **Take all on board** (phrase) – To understand completely: समझना पूरी तरह से

11. C) ACBD
    Sentence 1 talks about a question asked to Sima Taparia.
    **A:** The pronoun "Her" in sentence A refers to "Sima Taparia" from sentence 1. Thus, A logically follows 1.
    **C:** The pronoun it in sentence C refers to "matching for queer couples" from sentence 1 and the continuation of the reason mentioned in sentence A. Thus, C logically follows A.
    **B:** Sentence B provides a context about the timing of the events discussed, which is around the release of season three of her show. This offers a further backdrop to why Sima Taparia gave the answer she did. Thus, B logically follows C

**D:** the court" in sentence D refers to the "Supreme Court" mentioned in sentence B. This sentence further explains the implications of the court's possible ruling and its connection to Ms. Taparia's stance. Thus, D logically follows B.

12. **D) PRSQ**

**P:** Sentence P introduces the 'Indian Space Policy 2023' released by ISRO on April 20, 2023.

**R:** Sentence R starts with "The document..." which refers to the 'Indian Space Policy 2023' mentioned in Sentence P.

**S:** Sentence S starts with "However..." which is a contrast connector. It introduces a different perspective or limitation related to the positive reception. Here, it indicates that despite the positive reception, there are still further steps that need to be taken. The use of "However" indicates a continuation from the previous idea, making S follow R.

**Q:** Sentence Q starts with "Just preceding this...". "This" refers to the event or happening mentioned in the previous sentence. Given that S talks about the need for follow-up steps after releasing the policy, Q refers to the time "just preceding" the release of this policy. Hence, Q comes after S.

13. **A) RPQS**

**R:** This sentence introduces a specific time frame and hints towards a significant event that took place. This is a starting point as it sets the stage for what follows.

**P:** This sentence naturally follows sentence R because it elaborates on the "new future" and the significance of the event mentioned in sentence R. The term "event" here refers to the previously mentioned carving out of a new future.

**Q:** Sentence Q expands on the "policy decision" from sentence P. The "policy decision" in P hints towards the "nuclear policy and programme" in Q, making Q the logical successor to P. The mention of "previous two decades" means we're now going backward in time, discussing the time leading up to the event in R.

**S:** Sentence S provides further context to the "ambiguity and opaqueness" mentioned in sentence Q by specifying the previous significant event related to the nuclear policy - the 1974 test. The timeline provided here (1974) falls within the "previous two decades" mentioned in Q.

14. B) PSRQ

**Option Elimination Method:**

**A. QSPR -** This option begins by mentioning the one-man commission even before the main event has been discussed, which doesn't make sense. So, this can be eliminated.

**C. QSRP -** This option places the one-man commission before the main event and its investigation, which isn't as coherent. So, this can be eliminated.

**D. PQSR -** This option first sets the context (P), then directly introduces the one-man commission (Q) before even addressing the main event. So, this can also be eliminated.

B. **PSRQ -** This order seems logical. It first sets the context (P), then speaks about a recent case

that serves as an example of the broader issue (S), follows it up with the time since the investigation began (R), and then introduces the parallel investigation (Q).

15. **D) PQSR**

P: P introduces NATO and the addition of Finland. The mention of "April 2023" provides a time sequence hint, suggesting it is a recent event.

Q: The word "eventually" in Q is a time-sequence word. It refers to something that will happen after the event in P.

S: S completes the thought introduced in Q with "which will swell". The sentence in S ("NATO's territorial expanse like never before, and also make the Baltic Sea a NATO lake") describes the consequence of Sweden joining, as suggested by the phrase "which will swell" in Q

R: The reason is that R focuses specifically on Finland and its record accession, which seems to be an additional piece of information after the general discussion of NATO's expansion in P, Q, and S. It serves as a detail that adds emphasis to the significant changes happening in NATO, reinforcing the idea introduced in P.

16. **C) QRPS**

Q: Q introduces the context of the fourth year of the pandemic and its improving situation.

R: The sentence in Q tells us the situation is improving. In R, it gets specific about how it is improving by stating that "Most border… ". The term "post-pandemic recovery" further builds on the idea of the situation improving. There's a progression from the general situation to specific measures taken.

P: The end of R mentions "global health governance is now focused on a post-pandemic recovery". P directly talks about one such recovery effort: "Countries have stepped up efforts to achieve health and well-being".

S: P ends with the term "health and well-being". S starts with "For all …". The mention of health and well-being in P directly connects to SDGs in S because health and well-being is one of the goals.

17. D) **'Object'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में हम किसी भी प्रकार की वस्तु या चीज की बात कर रहे हैं जो एक ग्रह के चारों ओर घूम सकती है, चाहे वह प्राकृतिक हो या मानव-निर्मित। 'Piece' का अर्थ होता है टुकड़ा, 'Being' का अर्थ होता है प्राणी, और 'Body' अक्सर जीवित प्राणियों के शारीरिक अंग के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Object'** should be used because in this context, we're discussing any entity or thing that revolves around a planet, whether natural or man-made. Whereas, 'Piece' means a fragment, 'Being' refers to a creature, and 'Body' often refers to the physical parts of living organisms, which don't fit in this context.

18. B) **'Launched'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "launched" का अर्थ होता है अंतरिक्ष में प्रेषित करना। जबकि 'Lobbed' का अर्थ होता है धीरे से फेंकना, 'Floated' का अर्थ होता है तैरना या हवा में उड़ना, और 'Tossed' का अर्थ है तेजी से फेंकना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Launched'** should be used because it means to send or propel something, especially a vehicle or projectile, into the air or water. Whereas, 'Lobbed' implies throwing something slowly in an arc, 'Floated' means to rest on the surface of a liquid without sinking, and 'Tossed' implies throwing something lightly or casually, which don't fit in this context.

19. B) **'Move'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "move" का अर्थ होता है एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाना। जबकि 'Migrate' का अर्थ है प्रवास करना या स्थायी रूप से एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर जाना, 'Stir' का अर्थ है हिलाना या मिश्रण करना, और 'Jump' का अर्थ है उछलना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Move'** should be used because it means to go from one place to another. Whereas, 'Migrate' implies to travel or permanently shift from one place to another, 'Stir' means to shake or mix, and 'Jump' means to leap, which don't fit in this context.

20. B) **Send'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "send" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर पहुंचाना। जबकि 'Locate' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान का पता लगाना, 'Deliver' का अर्थ है संदेश या वस्त्र पहुंचाना, और 'Discharge' का अर्थ है मुक्त करना या छोड़ देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Send'** should be used because it means to transmit something from one place to another. Whereas, 'Locate' means to find a place, 'Deliver' means to hand over a message or item, and 'Discharge' implies releasing or letting go, which don't fit in this context.

21. D) **You snooze, you lose** (idiom) – If you are not alert, you are likely to miss opportunities अगर आप सतर्क नहीं हैं, तो आप अवसर को खो सकते हैं

22. C) **'have been told'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence इतिहास में मनुष्यों की जीवन बचाने वाली डॉल्फिन्स की कथाओं की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "have been told" का प्रयोग समय के साथ चर्चित होने वाली कथाओं को दर्शाता है, जिसमें प्रत्यक्ष वार्ताकार नहीं होते हैं। इसलिए, "**have been told**" सबसे उपयुक्त option होगा।

23. B) **Extinct** (adjective) – No longer in existence, gone, disappeared, wiped out. विलुप्त
Synonym: **Vanished** (adjective) – Disappeared, gone, evaporated, faded away. गायब

- **Vibrant** (adjective) – Full of energy and life, lively, energetic, animated. जीवंत
- **Active** (adjective) – Engaged, busy, lively, energetic. सक्रिय
- **Living** (adjective) – Alive, breathing, existing, functioning. जीवित

24. C) **Glorify** (verb) – To honor with praise, admiration, or worship; to extol, exalt, elevate. महिमा गाना

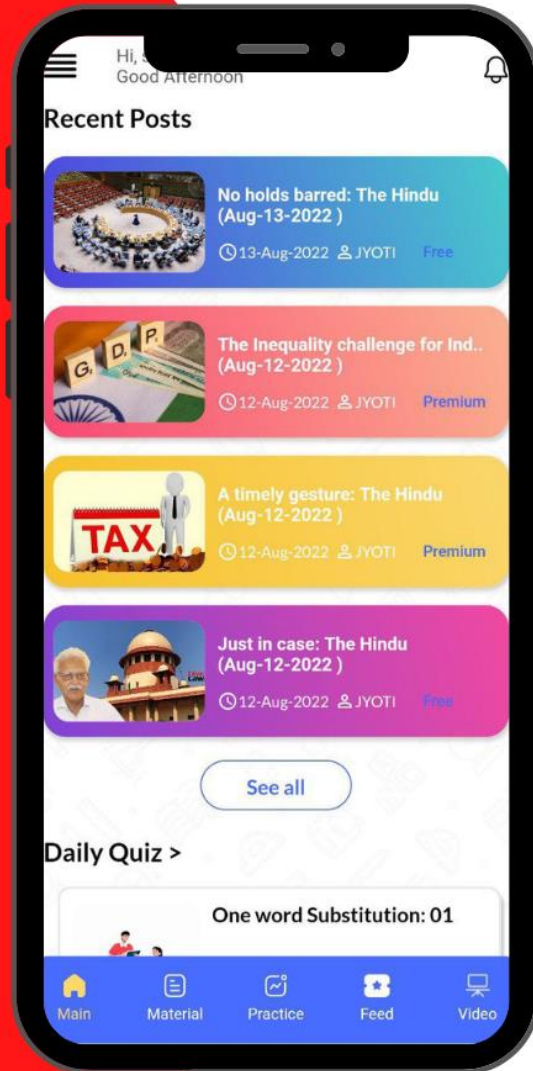Synonym: **Praise** (verb) – Expressing approval, commendation, admiration, lauding. प्रशंसा करना

- **Simplify** (verb) – Make something simpler or easier to do or understand. सरल करना
- **Stupefy** (verb) – To astonish, shock, or make numb or stunned. चौंका देना
- **Strengthen** (verb) – Make or become stronger, reinforce, fortify. मजबूत बनाना

25. A) 'the lot of purchase' के बदले 'a lot of purchases' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'a lot of' एक common phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है 'बहुत सारा' और 'purchases' यहाँ पर plural form में है, जो की सही है। इसलिए, सही sentence है:

A. It was a hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchases and a couple of meetings.

- 'a lot of purchases' will be used instead of 'the lot of purchase' because 'a lot of' is a common phrase meaning 'many', and 'purchases' is correctly used in the plural form.

# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

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