## Absolute numbers: On the ECI and faith in the process

The ECl should do everything to reinforce people's faith in the democratic process
A total of 58 Lok Sabha seats in eight States and Union Territories voted on Saturday in the sixth and penultimate phase of the general election 2024. With this, polling has been completed in 28 States and Union Territories, in 486 constituencies. Voting is also over for 105 Assembly constituencies of Odisha. The last phase of polling will be on June 1 for the remaining 57 seats and counting of votes will take place on June 4. Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from West Bengal which also reported the highest polling percentage at 79.47. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Anantnag-Rajouri seat recorded a turnout of $54.30 \%$, an impressive high. Urban apathy continued in the seven seats of Delhi which went to the polls with just $57.67 \%$ of the electorate turning out to vote. The searing heat wave prevailing in north India did not help matters. The Election Commission of India (ECI) released, for the first time in this general election, the absolute number of votes cast in each constituency for the first five phases. The ECI came out with the data a day after the Supreme Court of India refused to direct the commission to disclose details of Form 17C, which contains this data at the booth level and is handed out to all the polling agents of the candidates.

The ECI has alleged, inappropriately, there to be a "pattern of false narratives and mischievous design to vitiate electoral process". It is true that concerns have been raised by several actors about the electoral process, and it is possible that a part of it could be due to ignorance or even out of mischief. A mature and appropriate response expected of the body that is tasked with overseeing the largest democratic exercise on the planet is to provide information to the public that removes such concerns. The commission opposed the disclosure of Form 17C in the Supreme Court - all the while insinuating at a conspiracy to vitiate the electoral process. Complaints brought to its attention by anyone should be addressed in a manner that behoves a robust democracy. It is indeed the duty of the ECl to ensure that the electoral process is not vitiated, and the best way to achieve it is to ensure the maximum transparency that is administratively possible. The ECI has done well by publishing the data on the absolute number of voters, and it could proactively look for more measures that could reinforce public faith in the process and in its own integrity.
[Practice Exercise]

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


## Vocabulary

1. Absolute (adjective) - Total, complete, utter, sheer, outright सम्पूर्ण
2. Reinforce (verb) - Strengthen, bolster, support, fortify, buttress मजबूत करना
3. Penultimate (adjective) - Second-last, next-to-last, almost-last, one-before-last, preceding-last अंतिम से पहले का
4. Constituency (noun) - Electoral district, voting district, electoral area, ward, precinct निर्वाचन क्षेत्र
5. Take place (phrase) - Occur, happen, transpire, come about, befall होना
6. Sporadic (adjective) - Occasional, infrequent, irregular, intermittent, scattered छिटपुट
7. Turnout (noun) - Participation, attendance, number of attendees, showing, gathering मतदाता उपस्थिति
8. Apathy (noun) - Indifference, lack of interest, unconcern, dispassion, insensitivity उदासीनता
9. Electorate (noun) - Voters, voting public, constituents, body of voters, enfranchised citizens मतदाताओं
10. Turn out (phrasal verb) - Attend, appear, show up, be present, come out उपस्थित होना
11. Searing (adjective) - Scorching, blistering, burning, intense, sweltering झुलसाने वाली
12. Prevail (verb) - Exist, reign, occur, be happening, be present प्रबल होना
13. Help matters (phrase) - Assist, facilitate, aid, contribute, make easier मदद करना
14. Cast a vote (phrase) - Vote, ballot, participate in voting, make a choice, express a preference मतदान करना
15. Direct (verb) - Command, instruct, guide, oversee, order निर्देश देना
16. Booth (noun) - Stall, kiosk, stand, cubicle, polling station मतदान कक्ष
17. Hand out (phrasal verb) - Distribute, give out, pass around, dole out, allocate बाँटना
18. Allege (verb) - Claim, assert, accuse, declare, contend आरोप लगाना
19. Narrative (noun) - Story, account, description, chronicle, report कथानक
20. Mischievous (adjective) - Naughty, playful, impish, wicked, troublesome शरारती
21. Vitiate (verb) - Spoil, impair, tarnish, mar, degrade भ्रष्ट करना
22. Ignorance (noun) - Lack of knowledge, unawareness, unfamiliarity, incomprehension, nescience अज्ञानता
23. Mischief (noun) - Naughtiness, misbehavior, troublemaking, pranks, roguery शरारत
24. Task (with) (verb) - Assign, charge, entrust, delegate, commission सौंपना
25. Oversee (verb) - Supervise, manage, monitor, direct, control देखरेख करना
26. Insinuate (verb) - Imply, suggest, hint, allude, intimate इशारा करना
27. Conspiracy (noun) - Plot, scheme, intrigue, plan, collusion साजिश
28. Address (verb) - Tackle, deal with, attend to, confront, handle निपटना
29. Behove (verb) - Be appropriate, befit, be incumbent, be expected, be proper उपयुक्त होना
30. Robust (adjective) - Strong, sturdy, vigorous, hardy, resilient मज़बूत
31. Indeed (adverb) - Certainly, truly, undeniably, actually, really वास्तव में
32. Transparency (noun) - Openness, clarity, accountability, honesty, lucidity पारदर्शिता
33. Proactively (adverb) - Preemptively, anticipatively, preventively, ahead of time, foresightedly सक्रियता से
34. Look for (phrasal verb) - Seek, search, hunt for, try to find, pursue तलाश करना
35. Integrity (noun) - Honesty, uprightness, probity, ethics, rectitude ईमानदारी

## Summary of the Editorial

1. General Elections 2024 Update: The sixth phase of India's general elections 2024 saw 58 Lok Sabha seats across eight states and UTs go to polls, making it the penultimate voting phase.
2. Current Polling Status: With this latest phase, 28 states and UTs have completed voting in 486 constituencies.
3. Odisha Assembly Polls: In addition to the Lok Sabha elections, voting for 105 Assembly constituencies in Odisha has also concluded.
4. Final Phase Scheduled: The last polling phase is set for June 1 for the remaining 57 seats, with vote counting on June 4.
5. Violence and Turnout: Reports of isolated violent incidents emerged from West Bengal, which also had the highest voter turnout at $79.47 \%$.
6. Anantnag-Rajouri Seat: This constituency in Jammu and Kashmir recorded a significant turnout of $54.30 \%$.
7. Voter Apathy in Delhi: The national capital saw lower turnout with only $57.67 \%$ of eligible voters participating.
8. Impact of Weather: A severe heatwave in northern India likely affected voter turnout.
9. ECI Data Release: For the first time, the Election Commission of India (ECI) released absolute voter numbers for each constituency for the first five phases.
10. Supreme Court Decision: The Supreme Court declined to compel the ECI to release Form 17C, which contains detailed polling booth-level voter data.
11. Allegations of Misinformation: The ECI criticized what it described as false narratives and designs to disrupt the electoral process.
12. ECI's Response to Criticism: The commission has been urged to adopt a mature approach by disclosing information to alleviate public concerns about the electoral process.
13. Transparency in the Electoral Process: Ensuring maximum transparency is deemed crucial for maintaining the integrity of elections and public trust.
14. ECI's Duties: The commission is responsible for safeguarding the electoral process from being undermined.
15. Proactive Measures by ECI: The release of voter data and potential additional transparency measures are steps by the ECI to bolster public confidence in the democratic process.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What should the ECI do first to reinforce public faith in the electoral process? [Editorial page]
A. The ECI should publish the data on the absolute number of voters and look for more measures to enhance transparency and public faith.
B. The ECI should address complaints brought to its attention by ensuring transparency in the disclosure of Form 17C and other relevant documents.
C. The ECI should appropriately respond to concerns raised by the public by alleging a pattern of false narratives and mischievous designs to vitiate the electoral process.
D. The ECI should proactively look for more measures that could reinforce public faith in the process while ensuring that concerns raised by the public are appropriately addressed.
2. Based on the passage, what can be inferred as the primary reason for the ECI to ensure transparency in the electoral process?
A. To address and mitigate concerns raised by several actors about the electoral process, whether due to ignorance or mischief.
B. To counter allegations and insinuations of a conspiracy to vitiate the electoral process by external actors.
C. To reinforce public faith in the process and maintain the integrity of the largest democratic exercise on the planet.
D. To comply with judicial orders and avoid any legal repercussions from the Supreme Court regarding the disclosure of electoral information.
3. Which of the following states or union territories reported the highest polling percentage in the sixth phase of the general election 2024?
A. Odisha, with a notable turnout in its 105 Assembly constituencies.
B. Jammu and Kashmir, with the Anantnag-Rajouri seat recording a high turnout.
C. Delhi, despite urban apathy and a lower turnout due to a searing heat wave.
D. West Bengal, despite sporadic incidents of violence.
4. What is the tone of the passage?
A. Optimistic
B. Neutral
C. Critical
D. Indifferent
5. What is the main theme of the passage?
A. The challenges faced by voters during elections
B. The role of the ECl in ensuring free and fair elections
C. The importance of voter turnout in elections
D. The effects of weather on voter participation
6. Select the most appropriate phrasal verb to fill in the blank. Mohan $\qquad$ the charge of Centre for Life Skills from Mustafa.
A. took out
B. took through
C. took off
D. took over
7. Identify the sentence that provides the meaning of the given idiom.

Under the cloud
A. The classmates were dancing together under the rain.
B. The driver was under suspicion after the police found blood on his car.
C. The Red fort looks beautiful amidst the cloudy weather and cold atmosphere.
D. It was the best place to sit under the sky with hands full of food.
8. Choose the option that can substitute the underlined segment correctly and complete the meaning of the sentence.
Bajrang is in extreme Pain in his teeth.
A. Ache
B. Agony
C. Hurt
D. Sting
9. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.
A. Nocturnal
B. Repulcive
C. Scoreboard
D. Irrespective
10. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'Unsure' from the given sentence. Himanshi is preparing customised gifts and handicrafts for surprising Mehul on his retirement, but the date is not certain yet.
A. date
B. certain
C. customised
D. Handicrafts
11. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.

He was acquitted of all the charges in the court today.
A. Conformed
B. Discharged
C. Praised
D. Convicted
12. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.

Her modest behaviour was appreciated by everyone in the assembly.
A. distant
B. unpresuming
C. conceited
D. Obvious
13. Select the most appropriate synonym of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank. She looked $\qquad$ (luminous) in the diamond necklace.
A. impudent
B. strident
C. transcendent
D. Resplendent
14. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Once in a blue moon
A. Very ancient
B. Very colorful
C. Very rare
D. Very high
15. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

Who teaches her geography?
A. By who geography is taught to her?
B. By whom she is taught geography?
C. By whom is she taught geography?
D. By whom was she taught geography?
16. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
A. Because of the region's scorching heat and aridity, a considerable amount of water evaporates.
B. As a result, the salt and other minerals become increasingly concentrated.
C. It is then unable to exit the lake and is forced to evaporate.
D. The Dead Sea is one of the saltiest bodies of water on the planet, with about ten times the salt content of typical saltwater.
E. This is because water flows into the Dead Sea from a single primary tributary, the Jordan River.
A. DECAB
B. DCBAE
C. DEABC
D. DACEB
17. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
A) Bauxite is used as a main raw material for the production of aluminium.
B) Precipitation is a pre-final stage for actual production.
C) Sodium aluminate is acquired in the next step.
D) The smelting process actually extracts aluminium as a final product from its oxide
A. $A B C D$
B. ACBD
C. $D C A B$
D. ADCB
18. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
A. She dashed from one side to the other, taking care not to destroy the lovely flowers in the garden.
B. Karen took a stroll in a lovely garden full of tulips and butterflies.
C. She discovered a swing constructed of tree branches behind a large bush.
D. Karen went onto the swing without hesitation and began swinging, causing the wind to dishevel her hair.
E. The small girl adored the outdoors and relished the breeze blowing through her hair
A. BEACD
B. DBCAE
C. BDECA
D. BDCAE
19. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

Who broke my glasses?
A. Who had broken my glasses?
B. Who is breaking my glasses?
C. By whom were my glasses being broken?
D. By whom were my glasses broken?
20. Select the correctly spelt option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.
Her duel attitude misguides everyone.
A. daul
B. deul
C. dual
D. dwell

## 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.
Posters are (1) $\qquad$ to promote a brand or pass \{2). $\qquad$ important information. They can be used for $\{3$ ) $\qquad$ purposes ranging from telling people to be cautious as the floor is wet, to informing them about an upcoming sale or event. They usually include a picture (4) $\qquad$ very few words. A suitable \{5)
$\qquad$ makes a poster effective and memorable.
21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.
A. use
B. uses
C. being use
D. Used
22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.
A. away
B. on
C. for
D. to
23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3 .
A. little
B. varied
C. much
D. Similar
24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.
A. nor
B. and
C. yet
D. Also
25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5 .
A. caption
B. anticipation
C. quotation
D. caution

## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. A) This is correct because the passage emphasizes that the ECl should publish the data on the absolute number of voters and proactively look for more measures to enhance transparency and public faith.
B: Incorrect because addressing complaints and ensuring transparency, while important, are not mentioned as the first steps.
C: Incorrect because responding to concerns by alleging false narratives is deemed inappropriate and not a constructive first step.
D: Incorrect because while looking for more measures is important, the passage specifically highlights publishing voter data as the initial step.
2. C) This is correct because the passage highlights that the primary goal of transparency is to reinforce public faith and maintain the integrity of the democratic process.
A: Incorrect because while addressing concerns is important, it is a secondary aspect rather than the primary reason.
B: Incorrect because countering allegations and insinuations is more of a reactionary measure rather than the primary reason for ensuring transparency.
D: Incorrect because compliance with judicial orders is not mentioned as the main motivation for ensuring transparency in the passage.
3. D) West Bengal, despite sporadic incidents of violence.

D is correct because the passage states, "Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from West Bengal which also reported the highest polling percentage at 79.47."
A is incorrect because although polling is over for 105 Assembly constituencies in Odisha, the passage does not indicate that it had the highest polling percentage.
$B$ is incorrect because the passage mentions an impressive turnout of $54.30 \%$ in Jammu and Kashmir but does not indicate it as the highest.
C is incorrect because Delhi had a turnout of just $57.67 \%$, which is not the highest as compared to West Bengal's 79.47\%.
4. C) Critical
A. This option is incorrect because the passage does not express hope or positivity about the current state of affairs. Instead, it highlights concerns and criticisms regarding the electoral process.
B. This option is incorrect because the passage clearly takes a stance and critiques the ECI's actions, which is not characteristic of a neutral tone.
C. This option is correct as the passage critiques the Election Commission of India (ECI) for its handling of electoral transparency and response to allegations, suggesting that more should be done to ensure faith in the democratic process.
D. This option is incorrect because the passage does not show apathy or lack of concern. On the contrary, it discusses significant issues and suggests actions to improve the situation.
5. B) The role of the ECI in ensuring free and fair elections
A. This option is incorrect because the passage focuses more on the actions and responsibilities of the ECI rather than the specific challenges faced by voters.
B. This option is correct as the passage discusses the responsibilities of the Election Commission of India and critiques its actions and transparency in the electoral process.
C. This option is incorrect because while voter turnout is mentioned, it is not the central focus of the passage.
D. This option is incorrect because, although the passage mentions the searing heat wave, it is not the primary focus of the discussion.
6. D) 'took over' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence मोहन का Centre for Life Skills की जिम्मेदारी Mustafa से संभालने का संकेत कर रहा है। "took over" इस प्रकार के परिप्रेक्ष्य में किसी अधिकृत पद या जिम्मेदारी को संभालने का अर्थ होता है। इसलिए, "took over" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'took over' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence indicates Mohan assuming the responsibility of the Centre for Life Skills from Mustafa. "took over" means to assume control or responsibility in such contexts. Thus, "took over" would be the most appropriate choice.

7. B) Under the cloud (idiom) - Being under suspicion or disrepute आशंका में होना
8. B) Pain' के बदले 'Agony' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहा पर 'extreme' का उपयोग हो रहा है जिसका अर्थ है बहुत अधिक पीड़ा। 'Agony' इस संदर्भ में सही शब्द होता है।

- Agony' will be used instead of 'Pain' because the word 'extreme' is used which means intense pain. 'Agony' is the appropriate word in this context.

9. B) The incorrectly spelled word among the given options is 'Repulcive'. The correct spelling is 'Repulsive' which means "evoking intense aversion or disgust" घृणा उत्तेजक, प्रतिकूल.
10. B) Unsure (adjective) - Lacking confidence in or certainty about something, doubtful, uncertain. अनिश्चित

Antonym: Certain (adjective) - Free from doubt or reservation; confident, sure. निश्चित

- Date (noun) - A particular day or year when a given event occurred or will occur. तारीख
- Customised (adjective) - Made or done to order; custom-made. अनुकूलित
- Handicrafts (noun) - A work produced by hand labor, manual skill work. हस्तशिल्प

11. D) Acquitted (verb) - Declared not guilty of a specific offense or crime, absolved, exonerated. दोषमुक्त

Antonym: Convicted (verb) - Declare (someone) to be guilty of a criminal offense by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge. दोषी ठहराया गया

- Conformed (verb) - Comply with rules, standards, or laws. अनुरूप
- Discharged (verb) - Release from a task, duty, or responsibility. मुक्ति
- Praised (verb) - Express approval or admiration of, commend, applaud. प्रशंसा

12. C) Modest (adjective) - Having or showing a moderate or humble estimate of one's merits, importance, etc.; not vain or boastful. विनम

Antonym: Conceited (adjective) - Having an excessively favorable opinion of one's abilities, appearance, etc.; vain. अभिमानी

- Distant (adjective) - Far off in space or time; not near; reserved or aloof. दूर
- Unpresuming (adjective) - Not presumptuous; modest. अभिमान रहित
- Obvious (adjective) - Easily seen, recognized, or understood; self-evident. स्पष्ट

13. D) Luminous (adjective) - Emitting or reflecting light, glowing, shining. प्रकाशमान

Synonym: Resplendent (adjective) - Shining brightly, radiant, dazzling, glowing. चमकदार

- Impudent (adjective) - Not showing due respect for another person, insolent, cheeky. धृष्ट
- Strident (adjective) - Loud and harsh, grating, piercing. कठोर
- Transcendent (adjective) - superior in quality or achievement उत्कृष्ट

14. C) Once in a blue moon (idiom) - Very rare बहुत ही दुर्लभ
15. C) By whom is she taught geography?
16. A) DECAB

The Dead Sea is one of the saltiest bodies of water on the planet, with about ten times the salt content of typical saltwater. This is because water flows into the Dead Sea from a single primary tributary, the Jordan River. It is then unable to exit the lake and is forced to evaporate Because of the region's scorching heat and aridity, a considerable amount of water evaporates As a result, the salt and other minerals become increasingly concentrated
17. B) ACBD

## May 28, 2024 JOIN TELEGRAM CHANNEL: ENGLISH MADHYAM

Bauxite is used as a main raw material for the production of aluminium Sodium aluminate is acquired in the next step. Precipitation is a pre-final stage for actual production The smelting process actually extracts aluminium as a final product from its oxide
18. A) BEACD

Karen took a stroll in a lovely garden full of tulips and butterflies. The small girl adored the outdoors and relished the breeze blowing through her hair She dashed from one side to the other, taking care not to destroy the lovely flowers in the garden She discovered a swing constructed of tree branches behind a large bush Karen went onto the swing without hesitation and began swinging, causing the wind to dishevel her hair.
19. D) By whom were my glasses broken?
20. C) The correct spelling for the underlined word "duel" in the context of the sentence is "dual." उचित शब्द "duel" की स्थान पर "dual" है।
21. D) sentence में, "Posters are $\qquad$ to promote..." में blank के लिए verb का past participle चाहिए क्योंकि यहाँ पर passive voice का प्रयोग हुआ है। passive voice यहाँ इस बात को सूचित करता है कि posters कार्य नहीं कर रहे हैं बल्कि क्रिया के प्राप्तकर्ता हैं। "use" verb का सही past participle form "used" है।

In the sentence, "Posters are $\qquad$ to promote...", the blank requires a past participle form of the verb because of the passive voice construction. The passive voice here indicates that posters are not doing the action but are the recipients of the action. The correct past participle form of the verb "use" is "used."
22. B) 'On' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जानकारी "passsed on" की जाती है, जिसका अर्थ होता है जानकारी आगे देना। जबकि 'Away' का अर्थ है दूर, 'For' का अर्थ है किसी उद्देश्य के लिए, और 'To' का अर्थ है किसी दिशा में जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- On' should be used as information is "passed on", which means to relay or forward the information. Whereas, 'Away' means distant, 'For' implies purpose, and 'To' denotes direction, which don't fit in this context.

23. B) Varied' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "varied" का अर्थ होता है विविध या अनेक प्रकार के। जैसा कि संदर्भ में बताया गया है कि पोस्टर्स का उपयोग विभिन्न उद्देश्यों के लिए किया जा सकता है - जैसे लोगों को सतर्क करने के लिए या उन्हें किसी आगामी बिक्री या घटना के बारे में सूचित करने के लिए। जबकि 'Little' का अर्थ होता है थोड़ा, 'Much' का अर्थ है अधिक, और 'Similar' का अर्थ है समान, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- Varied' should be used because it means diverse or of different kinds. As described in the context, posters can be used for various purposes - from alerting people to be cautious to informing them about an upcoming sale or event. Whereas, 'Little'
means not much, 'Much' implies a lot, and 'Similar' means alike, which don't fit in this context

24. B) 'And' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पोस्टर में आमतौर पर एक चित्र होता है और बहुत ही कम शब्द होते हैं। इसलिए, 'and' यहां दो विचारों को जोड़ने के लिए सही शब्द है। जबकि 'Nor' का अर्थ होता है ना ही, 'Yet' का अर्थ है फिर भी, और 'Also' का अर्थ है भी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- And' should be used because posters typically include a picture and very few words. Here, 'and' connects the two ideas correctly. Whereas, 'Nor' implies neither/nor, 'Yet' means nevertheless, and 'Also' means in addition to, which don't fit in this context.

25. A) 'Caption' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "caption" का अर्थ होता है एक छवि या चित्र के नीचे दिए गए शब्द जो उसे व्याख्या करते हैं। जबकि 'Anticipation' का अर्थ है प्रत्याशा, 'Quotation' का अर्थ है उद्धरण, और 'Caution' का अर्थ है सतर्कता, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Caption' should be used because it refers to the words provided under an image or picture that explain it. Whereas, 'Anticipation' means expectation, 'Quotation' refers to a cited passage, and 'Caution' implies warning, which don't fit in this context.


