First responder: On Maldives-India ties

India and Maldives let subtle diplomacy surpass muscular posturing

Nearly a year after his election, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu made his first bilateral visit to Delhi, seen as an attempt to mend fences with Delhi. India was not his first bilateral destination, a tradition leaders of friendly neighbouring countries observe, although Mr. Muizzu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met briefly at a summit in the UAE in December 2023 and he attended Mr. Modi's swearing-in in June. Tensions between India and Maldives were originally a consequence of Mr. Muizzu's Presidential campaign, that was built on the opposition's "India Out" campaign. Next came a controversy that pitched tourism in Lakshadweep as an alternative to the Maldives following criticism of Mr. Modi by Maldivian Ministers that led to a "Boycott Maldives" campaign in India. Mr. Muizzu's decision to travel to Turkey, China and the UAE before he came to India also rankled. Even as Mr. Muizzu said he would pursue a "Maldives first" policy, critics in New Delhi grew concerned over Male's economic initiatives and defence pact with China. Amidst the change in regimes in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, India has been under some fire over its Neighbourhood First policy, further fuelled by this perceived distancing from the Maldives. As Mr. Modi and Mr. Muizzu held their first formal bilateral negotiations, some of the work in smoothening their path had been done. After India acceded to Mr. Muizzu's demand that Indian troops stationed in the Maldives since 2012, for aircraft maintenance, be replaced by technical personnel, both sides turned course, with their Foreign Ministers exchanging visits and new joint projects being announced. India's decision to extend \$100 million in SBI subscriptions of Maldivian T-bills enabled Male to make its debt service payments at a time it was in danger of defaulting. Mr. Muizzu has also softened his rhetoric and sacked the Ministers who were critical of Mr. Modi.

India's extension of \$400 million in support and Indian ₹3,000 crore in a currency swap arrangement has shored up Male's record-low currency reserves. The joint announcement of infrastructure projects, Free Trade Agreement talks, and the outline of a vision statement on a comprehensive and maritime security partnership to be concluded indicate a change. In Mumbai and Bengaluru, Mr. Muizzu made a strong case for the return of Indian tourists to previous levels, and offered more avenues for investment and employment. The turnaround is welcome news, given the historic relationship, and shows how sensitive and subtle diplomacy can surpass muscular posturing and brash statements. This also allows the natural logic of close geography to reassert itself, which has ensured that India is always, as Mr. Modi put it, the "first responder" for the Maldives in times of need.

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

Vocabulary

- 1. **Ties** (noun) Relationships, connections, bonds, associations, affiliations संबंध
- 2. **Let** (verb) Allow, permit, enable, facilitate, grant होने देना
- 3. **Subtle** (adjective) Delicate, nuanced, refined, understated, discreet सूक्ष्म
- 4. **Diplomacy** (noun) Negotiation, tact, statecraft, discretion, finesse क्टनीति
- Surpass (verb) Exceed, outdo, excel, transcend, outperform पार करना
- 6. **Muscular posturing** (noun) Aggressive stance, assertiveness, forceful attitude, belligerence, show of strength आक्रामक मुद्रा
- 7. **Bilateral** (adjective) Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, joint, shared द्विपक्षीय
- 8. **Mend fences** (phrase) Reconcile, make peace, resolve differences, restore harmony, repair relationships संबंध स्धारना
- 9. **Neighbouring** (adjective) Adjacent, nearby, bordering, adjoining, surrounding पडोसी
- 10. **Summit** (noun) Meeting, conference, gathering, assembly, conclave शिखर सम्मेलन

- 11. **Swearing-in** (noun) Inauguration, induction, installation, investiture, oathtaking शपथ ग्रहण
- 12. **Pitch** (verb) Promote, advertise, propose, suggest, present प्रचार करना
- 13. **Following** (preposition) After, subsequent to, succeeding, in the wake of, ensuing के बाद
- 14. **Criticism** (noun) Disapproval, censure, condemnation, reproach, rebuke आलोचना
- 15. **Lead** (to) (verb) Result in, cause, bring about, produce, give rise to कारण बनना
- 16. **Boycott** (noun) Protest, ban, embargo, sanction, prohibition बहिष्कार
- 17. **Rankle** (verb) Annoy, irritate, provoke, offend, gall खटकना
- 18. **Pursue** (verb) Follow, seek, chase, strive for, aim for पीछा करना
- 19. **Critics** (noun) Detractors, opponents, faultfinders, censors, disapprovers आलोचक
- 20. **Male** (noun) The capital city of Maldives माले (मालदीव की राजधानी)
- 21. **Pact** (noun) Agreement, treaty, deal, accord, contract समझौता

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- 22. **Amidst** (preposition) Among, during, in the midst of, surrounded by, amidst के बीच में
- 23. **Regime** (noun) Government, administration, authority, rule, system शासन
- 24. **Under fire** (phrase) Criticized, attacked, condemned, scrutinized, assailed आलोचना का सामना करना
- 25. **Fuel** (verb) Stimulate, provoke, incite, inflame, spark भड़काना
- 26. **Perceived** (adjective) Apparent, seeming, supposed, believed, recognized कथित
- 27. **Distance** (from) (verb) Separate, dissociate, detach, disengage, alienate दूरी बनाना
- 28. **Smoothen** (verb) Ease, facilitate, streamline, simplify, soften सरल बनाना
- 29. **Accede** (to) (verb) Agree, consent, accept, comply, concede सहमत होना
- 30. **Troop** (noun) Soldiers, military personnel, forces, service members, army units सैनिक
- 31. **Station** (verb) Deploy, position, assign, post, place तैनात करना

- 32. **Turn course** (phrase) Change direction, alter course, shift path, change tack, reverse course दिशा बदलना
- 33. **Extend** (verb) Offer, grant, provide, give, furnish प्रदान करना
- 34. **Default** (verb) Fail to pay, miss a payment, renege, neglect, not fulfill obligations चूक करना
- 35. **Rhetoric** (noun) Oratory, discourse, speech, expression, bombast भाषण
- 36. **Sack** (verb) Dismiss, fire, terminate, discharge, remove निकाल देना
- 37. **Critical** (of) (adjective) Disapproving, condemnatory, judgmental, censorious, fault-finding आलोचनात्मक
- 38. Currency swap arrangement (noun) An agreement to exchange currencies between two countries to facilitate trade मुद्रा विनिमय व्यवस्था
- 39. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) Support, strengthen, reinforce, bolster, buttress मजबूती देना
- 40. **Infrastructure** (noun) Facilities, framework, foundation, utilities, amenities बुनियादी ढांचा
- 41. Free trade agreement (noun) An agreement between countries to reduce trade barriers and increase trade मुक्त व्यापार समझौता

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- 42. **Outline** (noun) Summary, overview, framework, draft, sketch रूपरेखा
- 43. **Comprehensive** (adjective) Complete, thorough, extensive, all-inclusive, broad ट्यापक
- 44. **Conclude** (verb) Finalize, complete, finish, end, wrap up समाप्त करना
- 45. **Avenue** (noun) Opportunities, channels, means, paths, routes मार्ग
- 46. **Turnaround** (noun) Reversal, change, transformation, shift, about-face परिवर्तन

- 47. **Given** (preposition) Considering, in view of, taking into account, in light of, bearing in mind देखते ह्ए
- 48. **Brash** (adjective) Bold, impudent, reckless, impertinent, audacious असंयमी/
- 49. **Reassert** (verb) Reinstate, reaffirm, reestablish, reiterate, confirm again पुनः स्थापित करना
- 50. **Ensure** (verb) Make certain, guarantee, secure, confirm, assure स्निश्चित करना

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Summary of the Editorial

- 1. **Presidential Visit**: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu's first bilateral visit to Delhi was aimed at mending fences with India.
- 2. **Previous Interactions**: Mr. Muizzu met PM Narendra Modi briefly in UAE and attended his swearing-in ceremony but chose not to make India his first bilateral destination.
- 3. "India Out" Campaign: Tensions between the two nations arose due to Mr. Muizzu's campaign rhetoric, built on an anti-India stance during his Presidential campaign.
- 4. **Tourism Controversy**: The "Boycott Maldives" campaign in India emerged following criticism of Mr. Modi by Maldivian ministers, impacting tourism.
- 5. **Visit to Other Countries**: Mr. Muizzu's preference to visit Turkey, China, and UAE before India further strained ties.
- 6. **Maldives' Economic and Defence Relations**: New Delhi expressed concerns over Maldives' growing economic and defence engagement with China.
- 7. **Neighbourhood First Policy Concerns**: Shifts in political regimes in neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka increased criticism of India's Neighbourhood First policy.
- 8. **Resolution of Troop Presence**: India agreed to replace Indian troops stationed in Maldives since 2012 for aircraft maintenance with technical personnel, easing diplomatic tension.
- 9. **Debt Assistance**: India extended \$100 million in SBI subscriptions of Maldivian T-bills to help Maldives make debt service payments, preventing a default.
- 10. **Softening Rhetoric**: Mr. Muizzu has toned down his anti-India rhetoric and removed ministers critical of India.
- 11. **Currency Support**: India provided \$400 million in support and ₹3,000 crore under a currency swap arrangement to bolster Maldives' currency reserves.
- 12. **New Infrastructure Projects**: Both sides have announced new joint infrastructure projects, indicating a renewed economic partnership.
- 13. **Free Trade Agreement**: Discussions on a Free Trade Agreement were initiated to further enhance economic ties.
- 14. **Tourism Boost**: In Mumbai and Bengaluru, Mr. Muizzu promoted the return of Indian tourists and sought investment in Maldives.
- 15. **Diplomacy Over Posturing**: The improvement in ties showcases the effectiveness of sensitive and subtle diplomacy over aggressive posturing, reaffirming India's role as Maldives' "first responder" in times of need.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- Which of the following reasons is the most likely cause of tensions between India and the Maldives, as per the passage? [Editorial page]
 - A. Mr. Muizzu's decision to prioritize a "Maldives first" policy.
 - B. The "India Out" campaign during Mr. Muizzu's Presidential campaign.
 - C. India's Neighbourhood First policy causing issues with its neighboring countries.
 - D. The visit of Mr. Muizzu to Turkey, China, and UAE before India.
- 2. What can be inferred about India's diplomatic approach towards the Maldives under Mr. Muizzu's presidency?
 - A. India adopted a flexible and accommodating diplomatic approach.
 - B. India has maintained a hostile stance against the Maldives.
 - C. India withdrew its financial support due to the Maldives' relationship with China.
 - D. India completely withdrew its military presence from the Maldives.
- 3. What is the tone of the passage?
 - A. Aggressive
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Diplomatic
 - D. Critical
- 4. According to the passage, what does the "natural logic of close geography" refer to in the context of India-Maldives relations?
 - A. The geographical proximity that makes India a natural first responder for Maldives' needs.
 - B. The shared maritime borders which necessitate military cooperation between the two nations.
 - C. The shared cultural heritage that binds the two countries together.
 - D. The common economic markets that lead to joint development projects.
- 5. What is the closest meaning of the word "surpass" as used in the context: "sensitive and subtle diplomacy can surpass muscular posturing"?
 - A. Excel
 - B. Match
 - C. Weaken
 - D. Support
- 6. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
 - O. I wondered if adults actually read this stuff. Recently, I discovered a kindred soul the English writer Geoff Dyer, who said, "Where Eagles Dare is unreadably bad in spite of its narrative allure.
 - P. We regretted there were no school exams on the Complete Works of Maclean.
 - Q. In my schooldays when reading an entire series of thrillers or spy novels was good etiquette, Alistair Maclean supplied both genres.
 - R. But even as we were slicing through the oeuvre, many of us were aware that Maclean could be thrilling and unreadable, predictable and surprising in turn.
 - S. Was I, as a second and third former at Grammar school firmly in the midst of the Maclean-buying demographic?"
 - A. RSOPQ
 - B. QPROS
 - C. QSRPO

- D. RSQPO
- 7. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.
 - A. My mother had just reached double my age.
 - B. At the dinner party, one of my relatives gave me a piece of advice: after someone turns 50, you start counting their age backwards.
 - C. Recently, my family and I celebrated my mother's 50th birthday, and a few months ago, I turned 25.
 - D. I guess that's true life does have a reverse gear, and it typically kicks in around 50.
 - A. DBAC
 - B. BDAC
 - C. ABDC
 - D. CABD

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been left out. Select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

In todays fast-paced	and technology-di	riven world, (1)	is crucial to disconnect occasionally
for the sake of our he	ealth. (2)	exposure to scree	ns and the demands of the digital era
can lead to stress, an	xiety and reduced	l well-being. Taking t	ime to unplug and engage (3)
activitie	s that promote re	elaxation, such as spe	ending time in nature,
(4)hobbies of	or simply enjoying	quality time with lov	ved ones allows us to recharge, find
balance and (5)	our menta	I and physical health	1.

- 8. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.
 - A. that
 - B. this
 - C. it
 - D. these
- 9. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.
 - A. Sporadic
 - B. Interrupted
 - C. Constant
 - D. Redundant
- 10. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.
 - A. to
 - B. into
 - C. for
 - D. In
- 11. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.
 - A. chasing
 - B. trailing
 - C. constructing
 - D. pursuing
- 12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.
 - A. underscore
 - B. focus

C.	precede
D.	prioritise
13. Sel 6	ect the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.
Sto	oic Control of the Co
A.	Cooperative
В.	Tolerant
C.	Apathetic
D.	Fervent
14. Sel 6	ect the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.
Cal	
A.	Impressed
	Upset
C.	Urban
D.	Quiet
15. Sel 6	ect the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the following
sen	tence.
The	<u>ere was some</u> drawing-pins in my desk.
	Theirs some
В.	There has some
C.	There is some
	There are some
	d the given sentence carefully. Change the meaning of the sentence by replacing the erlined word with its ANTONYM from the following options.
His	father warned him not to use <u>vulgar</u> language at home
A.	decorous
В.	impervious
C.	licentious
D.	ribald
17. Sel 6	ect the most appropriate idiom to complete the given sentence.
Wi	th the increasing market prices and stagnant salaries, he is
A.	beating the rap
В.	feeling the pinch
C.	getting it off his chest
D.	taking a break
18. Cho	ose an appropriate word that can substitute the bracketed word and complete the sentence
mea	aningfully.
She	elley was very happy (while) I accepted her invitation to her birthday party.
A.	when
В.	before
C.	after
D.	as
19. Sel	ect the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.
	has vision because of his illness
	blurred
В.	obscured

C. unfocused

- D. faded
- 20. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.

The stone was also said to have **occult** powers

- A. unfathomable
- B. latent
- C. ambiguous
- D. Intelligible
- 21. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Absurd

- A. Sudden
- B. Arbitrary
- C. Abstruse
- D. Irrational
- 22. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

The common masses have waited for three hours to meet the king in the royal court

- A. will waiting
- B. have been waiting
- C. had waiting
- D. has been waiting
- 23. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.

She's under the **allusion** that she'll get the job.

- A. illusion
- B. hallucination
- C. vision
- D. unreality
- 24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

I don't like dirty cars, so you should keep it .

- A. similar
- B. shabby
- C. spotless
- D. new
- 25. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined part of the given sentence.
 - Mr. Sengupta's complaint to the higher authority was only a red herring.
 - A. clever bluff
 - B. discouraging act
 - C. candid confession
 - D. fortunate evidence

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Answers

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

Explanations

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1. B) The "India Out" campaign during Mr. Muizzu's Presidential campaign.

B is correct because the passage specifically mentions that tensions between India and the Maldives were a consequence of Mr. Muizzu's Presidential campaign, which was built on the opposition's "India Out" campaign.

A is incorrect because while the "Maldives first" policy might have caused concern in India, it was not the primary cause of tensions according to the passage.

C is incorrect as the passage only mentions India's Neighbourhood First policy in a broader context, not as a direct cause of tension with the Maldives.

D is incorrect because while Mr. Muizzu's decision to visit Turkey, China, and UAE before India did rankle, it was a result of existing tensions, not the primary cause.

2. A) India adopted a flexible and accommodating diplomatic approach.

A is correct because the passage highlights that India acceded to Mr. Muizzu's demand to replace Indian troops with technical personnel and provided financial support through \$100 million in SBI subscriptions, indicating a flexible and accommodating approach.

B is incorrect as the passage mentions that both countries turned course and engaged in bilateral negotiations, indicating India did not maintain a hostile stance.

C is incorrect because the passage states that India extended financial support, not withdrew it, despite concerns over Male's economic initiatives with China.

D is incorrect because India only replaced its military personnel with technical personnel and did not completely withdraw its military presence.

3. C) Diplomatic

The tone of the passage is diplomatic as it emphasizes the sensitive and subtle manner in which India and the Maldives have resolved their differences, highlighting constructive dialogue and mutual understanding over forceful approaches. The passage illustrates how both sides have used diplomacy to mend ties and strengthen their relationship.

A: Incorrect because there is no hostile or forceful language used in the passage. Instead, it emphasizes subtlety and diplomacy.

B: Incorrect because the passage leans towards describing positive changes and the active engagement between the two countries, rather than remaining impartial.

D: Incorrect because the passage does not criticize either country. It focuses on the resolution of tensions and the improvement in bilateral relations.

4. A) The geographical proximity that makes India a natural first responder for Maldives' needs.

A: Correct Answer. The passage mentions that "the natural logic of close geography" ensures that India is always the "first responder" for the Maldives in times of need, indicating that geographical proximity leads to quicker response and assistance.

B: Incorrect, as the passage does not highlight military cooperation as a key factor in their relationship.

C: Incorrect, since the passage does not discuss shared cultural heritage in relation to the current context of India-Maldives ties.

D: Incorrect, as joint development projects are a result of their economic relations but not directly tied to geographical proximity.

5. A) **Excel**

A: "Surpass" in this context means to go beyond or excel compared to something else—in this case, diplomacy being more effective than "muscular posturing."

6. B) **QPROS**

Q starts the paragraph as it introduces the context of the narrator's school days, mentioning that reading thrillers or spy novels was a common practice, and Alistair Maclean was a prominent author who provided books in both genres.

P follows Q because it adds to the narrator's experience with Maclean's works during school days, mentioning that the students regretted not having exams on the Complete Works of Maclean. This sentence logically builds on the nostalgia introduced in Q and expresses a sentiment related to those readings.

R comes next after P as it provides a critical view of Maclean's books, stating that despite being thrilling, they could also be "unreadable" and "predictable." This sentence introduces a contrast to the initial admiration and shows a different perspective that the readers developed.

O follows R naturally as it continues the critique by mentioning the narrator's doubt about whether adults read such books. It also introduces Geoff Dyer's opinion, which reinforces the critique started in R.

S concludes the paragraph by asking a rhetorical question that reflects on the narrator's younger self being in the Maclean-buying demographic. This brings a sense of reflection and closure to the paragraph.

7. D) **CABD**

C starts the paragraph by introducing the context of the celebration, stating that the family recently celebrated the mother's 50th birthday, and that the speaker turned 25 a few months ago. This provides the foundation and time context for the rest of the sentences.

A logically follows C because it gives additional information related to the ages mentioned. It states that the mother had just reached double the speaker's age, which directly ties back to the ages mentioned in C and provides a natural continuation.

B comes after A as it introduces an event at the dinner party where a relative gave a piece of advice about counting age backwards after turning 50. This logically follows the information about the mother's 50th birthday mentioned in A and provides a connection to the dinner party.

D concludes the paragraph by reflecting on the advice in B, stating that life does indeed have a reverse gear around age 50.

- 8. C) It' का use होगा क्योंकि "it" का अर्थ होता है किसी वस्तु, विचार या परिस्थिति को संदर्भित करना। इस sentence में बात की जा रही है कि आध्निक द्निया में डिसकनेक्ट करना जरूरी है, इसलिए 'it' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'that' का उपयोग किसी विशेष वस्त् या व्यक्ति को निर्दिष्ट करने के लिए होता है, 'this' का उपयोग निकटता या परिचय के संदर्भ में किया जाता है, और 'these' का उपयोग बह्वचन में वस्तुओं के लिए किया जाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
 - 'It' will be used because "it" refers to a thing, idea, or situation. In this sentence, the discussion is about the necessity of disconnecting in today's fast-paced world, making 'it' fitting here. Whereas, 'that' is used to specify a particular object or person, 'this' is used in the context of proximity or introduction, and 'these' is used for plural items, which don't fit in this context.
- 9. C) Constant' का use होगा क्योंकि "constant" का अर्थ होता है निरंतर या लगातार। इस sentence में बात की जा रही है कि लगातार स्क्रीन और डिजिटल युग की मांगों का exposure तनाव, चिंता और कम well-being की ओर ले जा सकता है। इसलिए 'constant' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'Sporadic' का अर्थ है छिटप्ट, 'Interrupted' का अर्थ है बाधित, और 'Redundant' का अर्थ है अनावश्यक या अतिरिक्त, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Constant' will be used because it means continuous or ongoing. The sentence mentions that continuous exposure to screens and the demands of the digital era can lead to stress, anxiety, and reduced well-being, making 'constant' fitting here. Whereas, 'Sporadic' means occasional, 'Interrupted' means broken or disrupted, and 'Redundant' means unnecessary or superfluous, which don't fit in this context.
- 10. D) "In" का use होगा क्योंकि "engage in" का अर्थ होता है किसी गतिविधि में शामिल होना या उसमें भाग लेना। वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि लोग ऐसी गतिविधियों में शामिल होते हैं जो आराम को बढावा देती हैं, इसलिए "in" यहाँ सही है। जबकि "to" का अर्थ है किसी स्थान या स्थिति की ओर, "into" का अर्थ है किसी गतिविधि में भाग लेना, और "for" का अर्थ है किसी उद्देश्य के लिए, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
 - "In" will be used because "engage in" means to participate or involve oneself in an activity. The sentence mentions people involving themselves in activities that promote relaxation, so "in" is fitting here. Whereas, "to" means towards a place or position, "into" implies a motion towards the inside of something, and "for" means for a purpose, which don't fit in this context.
- 11. D) Pursuing' का use होगा क्योंकि "pursuing" का अर्थ होता है किसी गतिविधि या शौक को सक्रियता से आगे बढ़ाना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि विश्राम को बढ़ावा देने वाली गतिविधियों में शामिल होना, जैसे कि प्रकृति में समय बिताना, इसलिए 'pursuing' यहाँ सही है।

जबिक 'chasing' का अर्थ होता है पीछा करना, 'trailing' का अर्थ है पीछा करना या पीछा करते रहना, और 'constructing' का अर्थ है निर्माण करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Pursuing' will be used because it means to actively engage in a hobby or activity. The sentence mentions engaging in activities that promote relaxation, such as spending time in nature, making 'pursuing' appropriate here. Whereas, 'chasing' means to follow, 'trailing' means to follow behind, and 'constructing' means to build, which don't fit in this context.
- 12. D) 'Prioritise' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "prioritise" का अर्थ है किसी चीज को सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बनाना या उसे पहले ध्यान देना। वाक्य में बात की जा रही है कि समय निकालकर आराम देने वाली गतिविधियों में शामिल होना हमारे मानसिक और शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य को प्राथमिकता देने में मदद करता है, इसलिए 'prioritise' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'underscore' का अर्थ है रेखांकित करना, 'focus' का अर्थ है ध्यान केंद्रित करना, और 'precede' का अर्थ है पहले आना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
 - 'Prioritise' will be used because it means to make something the most important or give it first attention. The sentence mentions taking time to engage in activities that promote relaxation helps us to prioritise our mental and physical health, making 'prioritise' fitting here. Whereas, 'underscore' means to emphasize, 'focus' means to concentrate, and 'precede' means to come before, which don't fit in this context.
- 13. D) Stoic (adjective) Enduring pain and hardship without showing feelings or complaining, unemotional, impassive. उदासीन

Antonym: Fervent (adjective) – Having or displaying a passionate intensity, enthusiastic, ardent. उत्साही

- Cooperative (adjective) Involving mutual assistance in working toward a common goal, collaborative, supportive. सहकारी
- Tolerant (adjective) Showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with, accepting, open-minded. सहिष्ण्
- Apathetic (adjective) Showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern, indifferent, unmoved. उदासीन
- 14. B) Calm (adjective) Peaceful, tranquil, serene, composed. शांति

Antonym: Upset (adjective) – Distressed, agitated, disturbed, troubled. परेशान

- Impressed (adjective) Feeling admiration, affected, touched. प्रभावित
- Urban (adjective) Relating to a city, metropolitan, civic. शहरी
- Quiet (adjective) Silent, still, noiseless, hushed. शांत

- 15. D) There was' के बदले **"There are'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'drawing-pins' Plural हैं, अत: Verb भी Plural होगा; जैसे— There are many books on the table.
 - 'There are' will be used instead of 'There was' because 'drawing-pins' is Plural, so the Verb will also be Plural; Like— There are many books on the table.
- 16. A) **Vulgar** (adjective) Lacking sophistication or good taste; unrefined, coarse, crude. अश्लील Antonym: **Decorous** (adjective) In keeping with good taste and propriety; polite and restrained, proper, refined. शिष्ट
 - Impervious (adjective) Not allowing fluid to pass through; unable to be affected by. अभेदय
 - **Licentious** (adjective) Promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual matters; disregarding accepted rules or conventions. अनैतिक
 - **Ribald** (adjective) Referring to sexual matters in an amusingly rude or irreverent way. 31 ਅਨੀਲ
- 17. B) **feeling the pinch** (idiom) Experiencing financial difficulties or hardship आर्थिक कठिनाई का अन्भव करना
 - **beating the rap** (idiom) Avoiding punishment for a crime or wrongdoing सजा से बचना
 - **getting it off his chest** (idiom) Expressing something that has been bothering or worrying him चिंता को व्यक्त करना
 - taking a break (idiom) Taking a short rest or pause from work or activity विश्राम करना
- 18. A) 'while' के बदले 'when' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य यह दर्शा रहा है कि Shelley तब बहुत खुश हुई जब मैंने उसके जन्मदिन की पार्टी के लिए उसका निमंत्रण स्वीकार किया। 'When' सही विकल्प है क्योंकि यह किसी घटना के घटित होने के समय को दर्शाता है। 'While' का प्रयोग आमतौर पर दो घटनाओं के साथ एक ही समय में घटित होने के लिए किया जाता है, जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है; जैसे— Shelley was very happy when I accepted her invitation to her birthday party.
 - 'When' will be used instead of 'while' because the sentence indicates that Shelley became very happy at the moment I accepted her invitation to her birthday party.
 'When' is the correct choice as it refers to the time when the event occurred. 'While' is usually used for two events happening simultaneously, which is not suitable in this context; Like— Shelley was very happy when I accepted her invitation to her birthday party.
- 19. 'A) **Blurred'** का use होगा क्योंकि "blurred" का अर्थ होता है धुंधला होना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि उसकी बीमारी के कारण उसकी दृष्टि धुंधली हो गई है, इसलिए 'blurred' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Obscured' का अर्थ होता है अस्पष्ट करना, 'Unfocused' का अर्थ होता है

अस्थिर या ध्यान केंद्रित न होना, और 'Faded' का अर्थ होता है मुरझाना या फीका होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

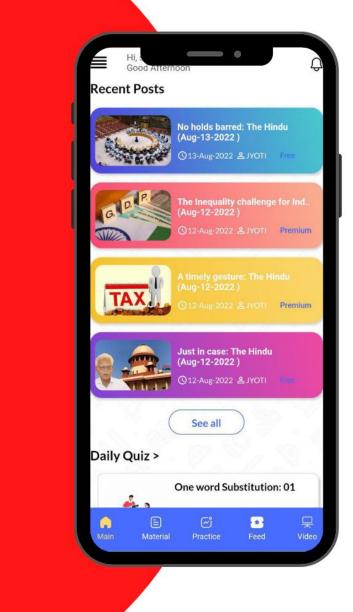
- 'Blurred' will be used because it means to be unclear or fuzzy. The sentence mentions that his vision is affected due to his illness, making 'blurred' fitting here. Whereas, 'Obscured' means to make unclear or hidden, 'Unfocused' means not having focus, and 'Faded' means to lose color or strength, which don't fit in this context.
- 20. D) Occult (adjective) relating to magical powers or supernatural phenomena, hidden, secret. ग्प्त, रहस्यमय

Antonym: Intelligible (adjective) – able to be understood, clear, comprehensible. स्पष्ट

- **Unfathomable** (adjective) incapable of being fully explored or understood, incomprehensible, mysterious.अथाह
- Latent (adjective) existing but not yet developed or manifest, hidden, concealed. गुप्त
- **Ambiguous** (adjective) open to more than one interpretation, unclear, uncertain. अस्पष्ट
- 21. D) Absurd (adjective) Ridiculously unreasonable, lacking any logical sense, nonsensical. बेत्का Synonym: Irrational (adjective) – Not logical or reasonable, senseless, illogical. तर्कहीन
 - Sudden (adjective) Happening or coming unexpectedly, abrupt. अचानक
 - Arbitrary (adjective) Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system, capricious. मनमाना
 - Abstruse (adjective) Difficult to understand, obscure, esoteric. गুढ़
- 22. B) 'have waited' के बदले 'have been waiting' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां वाक्य यह दर्शाता है कि आम जनता तीन घंटे से राजा से मिलने की प्रतीक्षा कर रही है और यह क्रिया अभी भी जारी है। जब कोई क्रिया अतीत में शुरू होती है और अब तक जारी रहती है, तब Present Perfect Continuous Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। अतः 'have been waiting' सही विकल्प होगा; जैसे— The common masses have been waiting for three hours to meet the king in the royal court.
 - 'have been waiting' will be used instead of 'have waited' because the sentence indicates that the common masses started waiting three hours ago and are still waiting. When an action starts in the past and continues up to the present, the Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used. Therefore, 'have been waiting' is the correct choice; Like— The common masses have been waiting for three hours to meet the king in the royal court.
- 23. A) 'allusion' के बदले 'illusion' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'illusion' का अर्थ है एक गलत धारणा या कल्पना, जो इस वाक्य में व्यक्त किया जा रहा है कि वह गलतफहमी में है कि उसे नौकरी मिल जाएगी। 'Allusion'

का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ का अप्रत्यक्ष या संकेतात्मक उल्लेख, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। अतः 'illusion' सही विकल्प है; जैसे— She's under the illusion that she'll get the job.

- 'illusion' will be used instead of 'allusion' because 'illusion' means a false belief or
 misconception, which fits the context of the sentence, indicating that she is mistakenly
 thinking she will get the job. 'Allusion' means an indirect or symbolic reference, which
 is not appropriate in this context. Therefore, 'illusion' is the correct choice; Like She's
 under the illusion that she'll get the job.
- 24. C) 'Spotless' का use होगा क्योंकि "spotless" का अर्थ होता है बिल्कुल साफ़। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि मुझे गंदी कारें पसंद नहीं हैं, इसलिए आपको इसे साफ़ रखना चाहिए, इसलिए 'spotless' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'similar' का अर्थ है समान, 'shabby' का अर्थ है जर्जर, और 'new' का अर्थ है नया, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Spotless' will be used because it means completely clean. The sentence mentions that I don't like dirty cars, so you should keep it clean, making 'spotless' fitting here. Whereas, 'similar' means same, 'shabby' means worn-out, and 'new' means new, which don't fit in this context.
- 25. A) Red herring (phrase) Clever bluff बात भटकाना



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