

Distant neighbours: on cricket and India and Pakistan

India and Pakistan seem incapable of normal sporting **ties**

If sport is **war minus the shooting**, cricket involving India and Pakistan takes it to another level. And finally all those **whispers in the corridors of power** and cricketing maidans over the last few months were found to be true when on Saturday it **came to light** that India has officially informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) about its inability to travel to Pakistan to participate in the Champions Trophy. The **tournament**, scheduled next year from February 19 to March 9, with Pakistan as the **lone** host, **was** always **grappling with** the 'India-question', **considering** the political and diplomatic **unease** between the **sparring** neighbours on either side of the Radcliffe Line. It is a fact that since the 2008 Asia Cup in Karachi, India has not toured Pakistan. **Bilateral** series involving the two have **ground to a halt** and the sporting **face-off** is restricted to ICC events at a **neutral venue** or in India. Pakistan had used its participation in the ICC World Cup match in Ahmedabad in 2023 to get India to **reciprocate** the **gesture**, but the view from Delhi was different. Pakistani officials were also open to the idea of India playing only in Lahore while staying in India.

However, just as in the 2023 Asia Cup, in which India played all its games in Sri Lanka, including the final, while avoiding a trip to primary host Pakistan, this time around the request is for a similar arrangement. India may prefer its Champions Trophy games and the final, if it **lasts the distance**, to be held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). **That** the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah is the ICC chairman-elect while being the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Secretary for now, **may** have added a political twist. But even under the earlier Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government till 2014, Pakistan remained a 'no-go-area' after the terror strikes in Mumbai. Among former India cricketers too, the **overwhelming** view is that a trip **past** the Wagah border should be avoided. The Pakistan Cricket Board is **miffed**, but a tournament **split** between Pakistan and the UAE **remains** a possibility. The security **angle** in Pakistan has **stirred** debate since the 2009 shooting incident against the Sri Lankan team bus at Lahore. But since then **much water has flowed down the Indus** and other nations have resumed tours to Pakistan. In all this **subcontinental frost**, it is sad that **star players**, including Virat Kohli, **have** not played a single Test against Pakistan, a **statistic** that seems set to remain that way.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Distant** (adjective) – Remote, far-off, faraway, separated, disconnected दूरस्थ
2. **Neighbour** (noun) – Adjacent country, bordering nation, nearby state, next-door country पड़ोसी
3. **Ties** (noun) – Relations, connections, links, bonds, associations संबंध
4. **War minus the shooting** (phrase) – Intense rivalry or competition resembling war without actual violence गोलीबारी के बिना युद्ध
5. **Whisper** (verb) – Murmur, speak softly, gossip, spread rumors, talk quietly फुसफुसाना
6. **The corridors of power** (noun) – the senior levels of government or administration. सत्ता के गलियारे
7. **Come to light** (phrase) – Be revealed, become known, emerge, be disclosed, uncover सामने आना
8. **Lone** (adjective) – Sole, only, single, solitary, one and only एकमात्र
9. **Grapple with** (phrasal verb) – Struggle with, contend with, wrestle with, deal with, confront से जूझना
10. **Considering** (preposition) – Given, in view of, taking into account, bearing in mind को देखते हुए
11. **Unease** (noun) – Discomfort, anxiety, apprehension, unrest, disquiet असहजता
12. **Sparring** (adjective) – Quarreling, disputing, conflicting, feuding, fighting विवादपूर्ण
13. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, involving two parties द्विपक्षीय
14. **Grind to a halt** (phrase) – Come to a stop, cease gradually, slow down and stop, come to a standstill धीरे-धीरे रुक जाना
15. **Face-off** (noun) – Confrontation, clash, standoff, encounter, conflict मुकाबला
16. **Neutral venue** (noun) – a place that is not the home ground of any of the teams participating in an event
17. **Reciprocate** (verb) – to behave or feel towards somebody in the same way as he/she behaves or feels towards you परस्पर आदान-प्रदान करना (भावनाओं या आचरण का)
18. **Gesture** (noun) – Action, sign, act, move, token इशारा
19. **Last the distance** (phrase) – Endure till the end, go all the way, sustain throughout, finish completely अंत तक टिके रहना
20. **Overwhelming** (adjective) – Predominant, immense, overpowering, vast, dominant भारी

21. **Past** (preposition) – Beyond, over, after, farther than पार
time has passed and circumstances have altered बहुत समय बीत चुका है
22. **Miffed** (adjective) – Annoyed, irritated, offended, displeased, upset नाराज़
23. **Angle** (noun) – Perspective, point of view, aspect, approach, standpoint दृष्टिकोण
24. **Stir** (verb) – Provoke, incite, arouse, cause, trigger उत्तेजित करना
25. **Much water has flowed down the river** (phrase) – A lot has changed since then;
26. **Subcontinental** (adjective) – Pertaining to the Indian subcontinent, regional, relating to South Asia उपमहाद्वीपीय
27. **Frost** (noun) – hostility, chilliness in relations, unfriendliness शत्रुता
28. **Statistic** (noun) – Data point, figure, numerical fact, piece of information आंकड़ा
- 29.

Summary of the Editorial

1. India and Pakistan continue to face obstacles in maintaining normal sporting ties, particularly in cricket.
2. India has officially informed the ICC of its inability to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy scheduled from February 19 to March 9 next year.
3. Political tensions and diplomatic unease between the neighboring nations have strained bilateral cricket series since the 2008 Asia Cup in Karachi.
4. India has not toured Pakistan since 2008, and matches between the two are now limited to ICC events at neutral venues or in India.
5. Despite Pakistan's efforts, including playing in Ahmedabad in the 2023 ICC World Cup, India has not reciprocated by traveling to Pakistan.
6. Pakistani officials proposed that India play only in Lahore while staying in India, but India's response has not changed.
7. Similar to the 2023 Asia Cup, India prefers playing its Champions Trophy matches and the final, if reached, in the UAE rather than in Pakistan.
8. The political angle is highlighted by the role of Jay Shah, son of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, as ICC chairman-elect and BCCI Secretary.
9. Even under previous governments, Pakistan remained a restricted area for Indian cricket tours following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.
10. Most former Indian cricketers agree with avoiding tours to Pakistan, reinforcing the stance taken by the authorities.
11. The Pakistan Cricket Board is frustrated by India's decision, but a tournament split between Pakistan and the UAE is being considered.
12. Security concerns persist in Pakistan since the 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team, though other nations have resumed tours.
13. Much has changed in Pakistan since the 2009 incident, but security remains a sensitive issue in cricketing discussions.
14. Cricket fans and players, including stars like Virat Kohli, regret that there have been no India-Pakistan Test matches in recent years.
15. The frost in cricketing ties between the two nations continues to deprive fans of intense and memorable matches.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- What is the tone of the passage?**
 - Optimistic and encouraging
 - Critical and lamenting
 - Humorous and sarcastic
 - Neutral and factual
- Based on the passage, what is the main reason for India's decision not to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy?**
 - Political and diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan
 - Security concerns for its players in Pakistan.
 - Financial disagreements with the International Cricket Council.
 - Poor cricketing facilities in Pakistan.
- According to the passage, which statement best describes recent cricket relations between India and Pakistan?**
 - They have regularly played bilateral series since 2008.
 - India only plays Pakistan in ICC events at neutral venues or in India.
 - Pakistan refused to participate in the ICC World Cup match in Ahmedabad in 2023.
 - Pakistani officials demanded that India play all matches in Karachi.
- From the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following are true about India's cricketing relationship with Pakistan EXCEPT that:**
 - India prefers to play its matches against Pakistan at neutral venues rather than in Pakistan.
 - Political factors influence India's decision to not play cricket in Pakistan.
 - India has avoided touring Pakistan since the 2008 terror attacks on Mumbai.
 - India played all its games in the 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan, including the final
- Which one of the following statements best summarizes the author's position on the current state of cricketing ties between India and Pakistan?**
 - The author believes that India should continue to avoid playing in Pakistan due to security concerns.
 - The author thinks that political considerations have unfairly influenced India's decision to play in Pakistan.
 - The author feels that it is unfortunate that star players have not played a single Test against Pakistan due to ongoing tensions.
 - The author suggests that cricketing ties between India and Pakistan are improving despite political issues.

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.

Today, lets explore the significant role of human beings in shaping the world as we know it.

Can you 1._____ a world without human beings? Who would have 2._____ the resources and created social and cultural environment? The people are 3._____ to develop the economy and the society. The people make and use resources and are themselves resources with 4._____ quality. Coal is but a piece of rock, until people were able to 5._____ technology to obtain it and make it a 'resource

- Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - imagine
 - neglect

- C. fabricate
D. ignore
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. utilised
B. destroyed
C. crippled
D. broken
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3**
A. frantic
B. hopeful
C. hasty
D. Crucial
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
A. inconstant
B. varying
C. deviating
D. Alternating
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
A. mint
B. fashion
C. invent
D. Open
11. **Read the sentence carefully and select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined part.**
The crux of the study has been delineated by the researcher.
A. relevant part
B. central point
C. fixed limitation
D. collected data
12. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**
Play cards is not allowed here
A. Playing card
B. Play card
C. Played cards
D. Playing cards
13. **Identify the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Accept
A. Regret
B. Refuse
C. Agree
D. Present
14. **Identify the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
His joyial nature has won him many friends
A. Dumb

- B. Cunning
C. Shrewd
D. Miserable
15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
Vihaan is clumsy at dancing
A. heavy duty
B. easy handed
C. all thumbs
D. master skill
16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.**
When I got an opportunity to start a new business, Ravikanth queered my pitch.
A. Helped me by standing beside me
B. Advised me
C. Ruined my plan
D. Supported me with money
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Absurd
A. Reasonable
B. Foolish
C. Nonsensical
D. Insane
18. **Identify the correct spelling of the underlined word.**
The police issued a varant to the criminals
A. Warant
B. Warent
C. Varrant
D. Warrant
19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Lazy
A. Barren
B. Diligent
C. Helpful
D. Genuine
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Change
A. Adjust
B. Renew
C. Alter
D. Resolute
21. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'Plausible' from the given sentence.**
The trend of improvement is unlikely to continue for the foreseeable future
A. unlikely
B. trend
C. future
D. foreseeable

22. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**

There was a noise that was wake me up.

- A. wakes me up
- B. has woke me up
- C. woke me up
- D. woken me up

23. **Select the option to fill in the blank with the most appropriate collocation.**

In boarding schools, students need to _____ by themselves

- A. make the bed
- B. run the bed
- C. turn the bed
- D. wash the bed

24. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Imprudent
- B. Scatered
- C. Brazen
- D. Crowded

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

Spill the beans

- A. To leak a secret
- B. To help someone extraordinarily
- C. Cook the beans carefully
- D. The act of loving beans

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Critical and lamenting

A: Optimistic and encouraging is incorrect because the passage does not express hope or encouragement about the situation. Instead, it highlights ongoing issues without suggesting positive outcomes.

B: Critical and lamenting is correct. The passage criticizes the inability of India and Pakistan to engage in normal sporting ties and laments the missed opportunities for players and fans.

C: Humorous and sarcastic is incorrect as the passage maintains a serious tone without using humor or sarcasm to convey its message.

D: Neutral and factual is incorrect because, while the passage presents facts, it also includes subjective commentary expressing disappointment, which goes beyond a neutral tone.

2. A) Political and diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan.

A is correct because the passage states that due to "political and diplomatic unease between the sparring neighbours," India is unable to travel to Pakistan.

B is incorrect because the passage does not mention security concerns as the main reason for India's decision.

C is incorrect as there is no mention of financial disagreements with the ICC in the passage.

D is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the quality of cricketing facilities in Pakistan.

3. B) India only plays Pakistan in ICC events at neutral venues or in India.

A is incorrect because the passage mentions that "bilateral series involving the two have ground to a halt" since 2008.

B is correct as the passage states that "the sporting face-off is restricted to ICC events at a neutral venue or in India."

C is incorrect because Pakistan did participate in the ICC World Cup match in Ahmedabad in 2023.

D is incorrect since Pakistani officials were open to India playing only in Lahore, not insisting on Karachi.

4. D) India played all its games in the 2023 Asia Cup in Pakistan, including the final.

D is incorrect according to the passage. The passage states that India played all its 2023 Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka, avoiding a trip to the primary host, Pakistan.

A is correct as the passage mentions India's preference for playing Champions Trophy games and the final in the UAE rather than in Pakistan.

B is correct because political influences, such as Jay Shah's roles, are noted to have added a political twist to cricketing decisions.

C is correct since the passage implies that India has avoided touring Pakistan after security concerns, referencing incidents like the 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team.

5. **C) The author feels that it is unfortunate that star players have not played a single Test against Pakistan due to ongoing tensions.**

C accurately summarizes the author's position, as the passage concludes by expressing sadness that star players like Virat Kohli haven't played any Test matches against Pakistan.

A is incorrect because the author doesn't advocate for continued avoidance but rather highlights the ongoing issues.

B is incorrect political considerations have unfairly influenced India's decision to play in Pakistan.

D is incorrect as the passage describes "subcontinental frost," indicating strained relations, not improvement.

6. A) **Imagine**' का use होगा क्योंकि "imagine" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की कल्पना करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि क्या आप एक ऐसी दुनिया की कल्पना कर सकते हैं जहाँ इंसान न हों, इसलिए 'imagine' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Neglect' का अर्थ है उपेक्षा करना, 'Fabricate' का अर्थ है बनाना या गढ़ना, और 'Ignore' का अर्थ है अनदेखा करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Imagine'** will be used because it means to visualize or think about something that isn't real or present. The sentence mentions if you can visualize a world without human beings, making 'imagine' fitting here. Whereas, 'Neglect' means to overlook or ignore, 'Fabricate' means to construct or invent, and 'Ignore' means to disregard, which don't fit in this context.

7. A) **Utilised**' का use होगा क्योंकि "utilised" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को उपयोग करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि कौन संसाधनों को उपयोग करेगा और सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक वातावरण बनाएगा, इसलिए 'utilised' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Destroyed' का अर्थ है नष्ट करना, 'Crippled' का अर्थ है अपंग बनाना, और 'Broken' का अर्थ है टूटना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Utilised'** will be used because it means to make use of something. The sentence mentions who would have used the resources and created a social and cultural environment, making 'utilised' fitting here. Whereas, 'Destroyed' means to destroy, 'Crippled' means to make someone or something unable to function properly, and 'Broken' means to be fractured or damaged, which don't fit in this context.

8. D) **Crucial**' का use होगा क्योंकि "crucial" का अर्थ होता है अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण या निर्णायक। sentence में mention किया गया है कि इस समय फैसला लेना बहुत जरूरी है, इसलिए 'crucial' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Frantic' का अर्थ है उत्तेजित या घबराया हुआ, 'Hopeful' का अर्थ है आशान्वित, और 'Hasty' का अर्थ है जल्दबाजी में किया हुआ, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Crucial'** will be used because it means extremely important or decisive. The sentence mentions that making a decision at this moment is very important, making 'crucial' fitting here. Whereas, 'Frantic' means excited or anxious, 'Hopeful' means optimistic, and 'Hasty' means done in a hurry, which don't fit in this context.

9. B) **Varying**' का use होगा क्योंकि "varying" का अर्थ होता है भिन्न-भिन्न या अलग-अलग। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि लोग खुद भी विभिन्न गुणों के साथ संसाधन हैं, इसलिए 'varying' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Inconstant' का अर्थ होता है अस्थिर, 'Deviating' का अर्थ होता है विचलित होना, और 'Alternating' का अर्थ होता है अदल बदल करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Varying'** will be used because it means different or diverse. The sentence mentions that people themselves are resources with diverse qualities, making 'varying' fitting here. Whereas, 'Inconstant' means unstable, 'Deviating' means departing, and 'Alternating' means switching, which don't fit in this context.
10. C) **Invent**' का use होगा क्योंकि "invent" का अर्थ होता है कुछ नया खोज या निर्माण करना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि लोग तकनीक का उपयोग करके कोयले को प्राप्त कर उसे एक 'resource' बनाते हैं, इसलिए 'invent' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'mint' का अर्थ है सिक्के बनाना, 'fashion' का अर्थ है आकार देना या बनाना, और 'open' का अर्थ है खोलना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Invent'** will be used because it means to create or discover something new. The sentence mentions that people were able to use technology to obtain coal and make it a 'resource,' making 'invent' fitting here. Whereas, 'mint' means to produce coins, 'fashion' means to shape or create, and 'open' means to make accessible, which don't fit in this context.
11. B) **Crux** (noun) – Central point केंद्रीय बिंदु
12. D) वाक्य का subject 'playing' gerund है, और जब gerund को subject के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाता है, तो इसे singular subject माना जाता है। इसलिए, इसके लिए singular verb ('is') की आवश्यकता होती है।
- "Playing cards" refers to the activity of playing with a deck of cards, which is a plural activity involving multiple cards. The phrase "playing card" would refer to a single card, which doesn't make sense in the context of the activity being prohibited.
 - The subject of the sentence is the gerund 'playing,' and when a gerund is used as a subject, it is treated as a singular subject. Therefore, a singular verb ('is') is required. 'Cards' is the object of the gerund 'playing,' so the correct phrase is 'Playing cards.'
13. C) **Accept** (verb) – to consent to receive or undertake something offered; to say yes to an invitation or offer. स्वीकार करना
Antonym: **Refuse** (verb) – indicate or show that one is not willing to do something; decline. इनकार करना
- **Regret** (verb) – feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something that has happened or been done. पछताना
 - **Agree** (verb) – have the same opinion about something; consent or concur. सहमत होना
 - **Present** (verb) – give something to someone formally or ceremonially. प्रस्तुत करना

14. D) **Jovial** (adjective) – Cheerful, friendly, happy, jolly. प्रसन्नचित्त/ आनन्दित

Antonym: Miserable (adjective) – Unhappy, sad, sorrowful, gloomy. दुखी

- **Dumb** (adjective) – Unable to speak, mute, silent. गूंगा
- **Cunning** (adjective) – Sly, deceitful, crafty, tricky. धूर्त
- **Shrewd** (adjective) – Astute, sharp, clever, intelligent. चतुर

15. C) All thumbs (phrase) – Clumsy बेढंगा

16. C) **Queered my pitch** (idiom) – Ruined my plan योजना बर्बाद करना

17. A) **Absurd** (adjective) – Ridiculously unreasonable, illogical, or inappropriate. तर्कहीन/ बेतुका

Antonym: Reasonable (adjective) – Having sound judgment, fair, sensible, logical. तर्कसंगत

- **Foolish** (adjective) – Lacking good sense or judgment, unwise. मूर्ख
- **Nonsensical** (adjective) – Having no meaning, making no sense, absurd. निरर्थक
- **Insane** (adjective) – Mentally disordered, crazy, mad. पागल

18. D) The correct spelling of 'varant' is 'warrant' which means "a legal document authorizing the police to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out some other action" वॉरंट, आदेश.

19. B) **Lazy** (adjective) – Unwilling to work or use energy, idle, indolent, lethargic. आलसी

Antonym: Diligent (adjective) – Having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties, hard-working, industrious, meticulous. परिश्रमी

- **Barren** (adjective) – Unable to produce much or any vegetation, infertile, unproductive. बंजर
- **Helpful** (adjective) – Giving or ready to give help, cooperative, supportive. मददगार
- **Genuine** (adjective) – Truly what something is said to be, authentic, real, sincere. वास्तविक

20. C) **Change** (verb) – To make or become different, modify, alter, adjust. बदलना

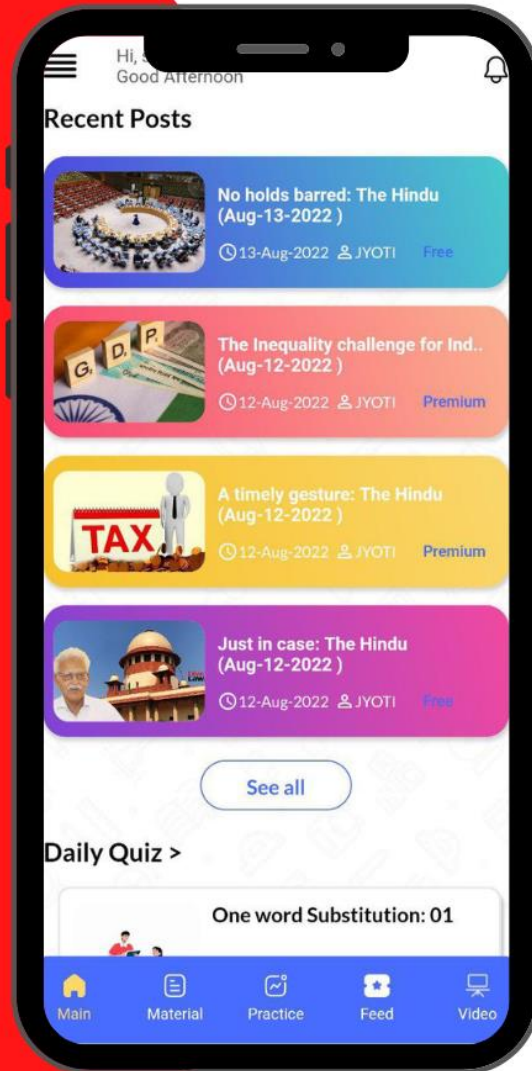
Synonym: Alter (verb) – To change or cause to change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way. बदलना

- **Adjust** (verb) – To modify or correct, set or regulate to a specified condition. समायोजित करना
- **Renew** (verb) – To resume after an interruption, reestablish, revive. नवीनीकरण करना
- **Resolute** (adjective) – Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering. दृढ़

21. A) **Plausible** (adjective) – Seeming reasonable or probable, believable, credible. विश्वसनीय

Antonym: Unlikely (adjective) – Not likely to happen, improbable, doubtful. असंभव

- **Trend** (noun) – A general direction in which something is developing or changing, tendency, movement. प्रवृत्ति
 - **Future** (noun) – The time yet to come, prospects, destiny. भविष्य
 - **Foreseeable** (adjective) – Able to be predicted, expected, anticipated. पूर्वानुमेय
22. C) 'was wake me up' के बदले '**woke me up**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'that' Clause में verb 'was' Past Tense में है अतः Relative Clause में भी Verb Past Tense में होगा; जैसे— It was Ram, Laxman and Sita who went to the forest.
- '**woke me up**' will be used instead of 'was wake me up' because in 'that' clause the verb 'was' is in Past Tense, so in Relative Clause also Verb will be in Past Tense; Like— It was Ram, Laxman and Sita who went to the forest.
23. A) 'make the bed' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह सही collocation है जो यह दर्शाता है कि छात्रों को अपने बिस्तर को स्वयं ठीक करना पड़ता है। 'Make the bed' एक idiom है, जिसका अर्थ होता है बिस्तर को सही तरीके से व्यवस्थित करना, जैसे चादरें सीधी करना और तकियों को ठीक से रखना।
- 'make the bed' is the correct collocation because it indicates that students need to tidy up their beds themselves. It is an idiom means to arrange the bed properly, such as straightening the sheets and placing the pillows correctly.
24. B) The incorrectly spelt word is "Scatered." The correct spelling should be "Scattered," which means "spread or thrown over a wide area" बिखरा हुआ, छितराया हुआ।
25. A) **Spill the beans** (idiom) – To leak a secret **राज़ उगल देना**



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