

## Delhi and Dhaka must **insulate** ties from **short-termism**

Over the better part of two **decades**, Delhi and Dhaka **crafted** one of the Subcontinent's most significant and **stable** bilateral relationships. **Part** of the reason for this **was** the **conducive** atmosphere created by the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in Bangladesh. Hasina's **perceived** "pro-India" stance has become a **thorny** issue in her country since her **ouster** in August 2024, and matters were **made worse** by the political **instability**, including attacks on minorities. However, after the BNP's victory in the Bangladesh elections in February, it is clear that a more mature leadership on both sides is ready to **reset ties**. The **visit** by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman **is** an important step in that journey.

According to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, the minister "**reiterated** its request to **extradite** Sheikh Hasina and her Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to Bangladesh, who have been awarded the death penalty by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)". The demand must be read for what it is — a political statement by a new government. Delhi cannot **acquiesce to** the request, not least because the ICT was widely **condemned** as a politically **partisan** body. That said, there was much in the Foreign Minister's visit to **steer ties back on track**. Both sides **reportedly** discussed the importance of renewing the Ganga Water Treaty, which will expire in December. Bangladesh also expressed the need for greater supplies of fuel and fertilisers. Both countries have agreed to **normalise** the issuing of visas. For India, the most **salient** issue is **securing** the 4,156 km border. **Cooperation** along the border **has** helped maintain a stable frontier for both sides, including along India's northeastern states. Connectivity, energy cooperation and **multilateral** initiatives under bodies such as BIMSTEC depend on Dhaka and Delhi being **on the same page**.

**To his credit**, PM Tarique Rahman has **struck a conciliatory note** since his appointment. It is necessary to build on Dhaka's call for ties to be based on "mutual trust and respect and **reciprocal** benefit". Both countries share a history, culture and geography that make the gains of working together **exponential**. The task now is not to **let** the past — including the Hasina issue — become a **roadblock**. **For the sake of** the people of India and Bangladesh, their governments must insulate the relationship from a short-term politics.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Insulate** (verb) - protect, shield, sequester, cushion, defend बचाना
2. **Short-termism** (noun) - myopia, expediency, narrowness, transience, superficiality अल्पकालिक सोच
3. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
4. **Craft** (verb) - create, forge, fashion, shape, mold बनाना
5. **Stable** (adjective) - steady, firm, constant, durable, fixed स्थिर
6. **Conducive** (adjective) - helpful, favorable, beneficial, advantageous, instrumental सहायक
7. **Perceive** (verb) - observe, regard, view, sense, discern समझना-मानना
8. **Thorny** (adjective) - problematic, controversial, difficult, vexing, tricky कठिन-विवादास्पद
9. **Ouster** (noun) - removal, expulsion, dismissal, eviction, overthrow बेदखली
10. **Make worse** (phrase) - to cause a situation to become more difficult or unpleasant बदतर बनाना
11. **Instability** (noun) - volatility, insecurity, fragility, flux, imbalance अस्थिरता
12. **Reset** (verb) - restart, adjust, recalibrate, re-establish, redo पुनर्गठित करना
13. **Tie** (noun) - bond, connection, link, relation, association संबंध
14. **Reiterate** (verb) - repeat, restate, renew, recap, dwell दोहराना
15. **Extradite** (verb) - deport, banish, deliver, surrender, expel प्रत्यर्पण करना-अपराधी सौंपना
16. **Acquiesce** (to) (phrasal verb) - to accept something reluctantly but without protest मान लेना
17. **Condemn** (verb) - denounce, criticize, censure, blame, decry निंदा करना
18. **Partisan** (adjective) - biased, prejudiced, factional, sectarian, partial पक्षपाती
19. **Steer** (verb) - guide, direct, lead, pilot, navigate मार्ग दिखाना-संचालित करना
20. **Back on track** (phrase) - returning to the right path or working properly again पटरी पर वापस आना
21. **Reportedly** (adverb) - supposedly, allegedly, ostensibly, apparently, seemingly खबरों के अनुसार
22. **Normalise** (verb) - regularise, standardise, stabilize, fix, equilibrate सामान्य बनाना
23. **Salient** (adjective) - prominent, major, chief, main, principal मुख्य
24. **Secure** (verb) - protect, fasten, fortify, guard, shield सुरक्षित करना
25. **Multilateral** (adjective) - many-sided, collective, joint, shared, international बहुपक्षीय
26. **On the same page** (phrase) - to have the same understanding or agree about something एकमत होना

27. **To someone's credit** (phrase) - used to point out a quality or action that deserves praise किसी के श्रेय में
28. **Strike a note** (phrase) - to express a particular feeling or attitude एक खास स्वर या भाव प्रकट करना
29. **Conciliatory** (adjective) - appeasing, placatory, pacifying, peacemaking, mollifying मैत्रीपूर्ण
30. **Reciprocal** (adjective) - mutual, joint, shared, complementary, corresponding पारस्परिक
31. **Exponential** (adjective) - rapid, huge, mounting, surging, soaring अत्यधिक-तेज़
32. **Let** (verb) - allow, permit, authorize, grant, enable होने देना
33. **Roadblock** (noun) - obstacle, barrier, hurdle, hindrance, obstruction बाधा
34. **For the sake of** (phrase) - for the purpose or benefit of someone or something के वास्ते-के लिए

### Summary of the Editorial

1. India and Bangladesh have built a **stable and significant bilateral relationship** over the past two decades.
2. This stability was largely due to the leadership of Sheikh Hasina and her pro-India stance.
3. Her **ouster in August 2024** created political tensions in Bangladesh.
4. Political instability led to **internal issues, including attacks on minorities**.
5. The victory of the BNP in elections signals a **new phase in bilateral relations**.
6. A **reset in India-Bangladesh ties** is now possible with mature leadership on both sides.
7. The visit of Khalilur Rahman is a **positive diplomatic step**.
8. Bangladesh has requested the **extradition of Sheikh Hasina and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal**.
9. India is unlikely to accept this request due to concerns about the **credibility of the tribunal**.
10. Despite tensions, both sides discussed **renewal of the Ganga Water Treaty**.
11. Bangladesh seeks **greater supply of fuel and fertilisers from India**.
12. Both nations agreed to **resume and normalise visa services**.
13. Border security along the **4,156 km India-Bangladesh border** remains crucial.
14. Cooperation is essential for **connectivity, energy, and regional initiatives like BIMSTEC**.
15. Both countries must **prioritise long-term cooperation over short-term political issues**, ensuring mutual trust and shared benefits.

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**

1. **According to the passage, what is the primary reason for the thorniness of Sheikh Hasina's legacy in Bangladesh?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Her failure to secure the Ganga Water Treaty during her two-decade tenure.
  - B. Her perceived pro-India stance and the political instability following her 2024 ouster.
  - C. Her refusal to allow the normalisation of visas between Delhi and Dhaka.
  - D. Her active role in the BIMSTEC multilateral initiatives against the BNP.
2. **Which statement is CORRECT regarding the current state of the Ganga Water Treaty?**
  - A. The treaty is due to expire in December of this year.
  - B. A new water sharing deal was signed during the visit.
  - C. The BNP government has decided to scrap the treaty.
  - D. Both nations have refused to discuss water issues.
3. **Identify whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F):**
  1. PM Tarique Rahman has used a conciliatory tone toward India since his appointment.
  2. BIMSTEC is a multilateral body that depends on Delhi and Dhaka being on the same page.
  - A. 1-T, 2-T
  - B. 1-F, 2-T
  - C. 1-T, 2-F
  - D. 1-F, 2-F
4. **What is the author's primary recommendation for the future of Delhi-Dhaka relations?**
  - A. India should prioritize the Hasina issue over border security and energy cooperation.
  - B. Both nations should allow the past and the ICT rulings to dictate their bilateral trajectory.
  - C. The relationship should be insulated from short-term politics for the benefit of the people.
  - D. Bangladesh should reduce its reliance on fuel and fertilisers from India to ensure trust.
5. **Which of the following is identified as the most salient issue for India regarding its ties with Bangladesh?**
  - A. The immediate extradition of Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.
  - B. Increasing the supply of fertilisers and fuel to Dhaka.
  - C. Securing the 4,156 km shared border.
  - D. Dissolving the BIMSTEC and moving toward a new bilateral body.
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentence parts (P, Q, R, S) between the fixed sentences S1 and S6 to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph.**

S1: The ceasefire talks in Pakistan represent a glimmer of hope because both the United States and Iran have compelling reasons to end the conflict.

P: For the Iranian regime, despite its defiant rhetoric, the massive economic standstill and physical damage to its cities have made a period of regrouping essential.

Q: Consequently, the Pakistani intermediaries face the daunting task of bridging the gap between Trump's "surrender-like" 15-point plan and Iran's rejected 10-point list.

R: On the American side, President Trump is eager for an exit to manage upcoming state visits, global summits, and the pressure of the November midterm elections.

S: However, the primary obstacle remains a total lack of trust and the fact that Israel has recently escalated its military operations in Lebanon.

S6: Ultimately, a durable peace will depend on whether both sides can agree to keep talking despite their contradictory and intractable demands.

- A. RPSQ
- B. RPQS
- C. SRPQ
- D. SQRP

7. **Choose the correct option to give a one-word substitution for the sentence given.**

Killing of an unborn baby.

- A. Homicide
- B. Paternity
- C. Maternity
- D. Foeticide

8. **Select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of idioms/phrases.**

Look before you leap

- A. Hide something
- B. Analyze the consequences before making a decision
- C. Depending on others for task completion
- D. Always be humble to people of lower designation

9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**

The manager was taken aback \_\_\_\_\_ the sudden resignation of three key employees.

- A. by
- B. at
- C. for
- D. over

10. **Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.**

They built a \_\_\_\_\_ to cross the river.

- A. bred
- B. bread
- C. bridge
- D. bredge

11. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**

The plane flew on the city, offering a great view.

- A. over the city
- B. in the city
- C. at the city
- D. No substitution

12. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**

The company has done away for unnecessary paperwork by going completely digital.

- A. Done away with
- B. Done off
- C. Done in for
- D. No substitution

13. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct passive voice of the following sentence.**

The students were imitating the way of the description by the teacher.

- A. The way of the description by the teacher was imitated by the students.
- B. The way of the description by the teacher were being imitated by the students.
- C. The way of the description by the teacher had been imitated by the students.
- D. The way of the description by the teacher was being imitated by the students.

14. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.**

All the arrangements had been made by the organizers before we arrived.

- A. The organizers made all the arrangements before we arrived.
- B. The organizers will have made all the arrangements before we arrive.
- C. The organizers had made all the arrangements before we arrived.
- D. The organizers have made all the arrangements before we arrived.

15. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**

It was widely considered that the ancient ruins were believed to have been constructed by a previously unknown civilization.

- A. They widely considered that a previously unknown civilization believed to have constructed the ancient ruins.
- B. People widely considered that a previously unknown civilization was believed to have constructed the ancient ruins.
- C. People widely considered that a previously unknown civilization had constructed the ancient ruins.
- D. It was believed that a previously unknown civilization had constructed the ancient ruins, it was widely considered.

16. **What is the antonym of "Surreptitious"?**

- A. Covert
- B. Furtive
- C. Overt
- D. Stealthy

17. **What is the antonym of "Noisome"?**

- A. Fragrant
- B. Rancid
- C. Putrid
- D. Malodorous

18. **Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.**

I'm lucky that I have been doing a job I enjoy, all my working life.

- A. I'm lucky that
- B. I have been doing a job
- C. I enjoy all my working life.
- D. No correction required

19. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**

- A. Sacrilegious
- B. Sacriligious
- C. Sacrelegious

D. Sacrilegious

20. **Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:**

Snigdha said, "What a beautiful day today is!"

A. Snigdha exclaimed that that day has been a very beautiful day.

B. Snigdha exclaimed that that day a very beautiful day was.

C. Snigdha exclaimed that day was a very beautiful day.

D. Snigdha exclaimed that that day was a very beautiful day.

### **Comprehension**

I have spent the last few weeks (1) \_\_\_ on a pair of special orange safety goggles three hours before bed. They're made of thick, uncomfortable plastic that casts the world in a (2) \_\_\_ amber glow, making it hard to see anything blue. But I don't stop there. I cover the windows with blackout curtains and switch off all my lamps, one by one. In their place, I exclusively light my apartment with candles. My sleep routine is (3) \_\_\_, but it's for an experiment. I found out what happens when you (4) \_\_\_ blue light.

The world has grown increasingly panicked about this photochromatic (5) \_\_\_ over the past 10 years. We're told that our phones, TVs, computers, tablets and LED light bulbs expose us to a perverse amount of blue light. Supposedly, this ruins our sleep by disrupting the natural rhythms of daylight that influence our internal body clock. There's science to back some of this up, but recent studies and analysis suggests that things are a lot more complicated. In fact, chances are good that you've fallen for some serious misconceptions on this subject. Experts tell me it's unlikely that light from your phone is ruining your sleep.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1).?**

A. welding

B. fasten

C. strapping

D. tethering

22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**

A. matte

B. opaque

C. dull

D. somber

23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**

A. clinical

B. deranged

C. haphazard

D. nocturnal

24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**

A. neutralize

B. banish

C. extinguish

D. veto

25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**

A. antagonist

B. pollutant

- C. fiend
- D. infection

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. **B) Her perceived pro-India stance and the political instability following her 2024 ouster.**

The passage states, "Hasina's perceived 'pro-India' stance has become a thorny issue... since her ouster in August 2024, and matters were made worse by the political instability."

- Incorrect: The treaty expires in December 2026; the passage doesn't blame her for a failure to secure it, but mentions the need for renewal now.
- Incorrect: Both countries have only recently agreed to normalise visas; it wasn't cited as her specific "thorny" legacy.
- Incorrect: BIMSTEC is mentioned as a framework for future cooperation, not a cause of her ouster.

2. **A) The treaty is due to expire in December of this year.**

The passage explicitly states the importance of renewing the treaty, "which will expire in December."

- (B) Incorrect: The passage says they "discussed the importance of renewing" it, not that they signed a new one yet.
- (C) Incorrect: Far from scrapping it, the passage notes that both sides discussed the "importance of renewing" the treaty.
- (D) Incorrect: The passage confirms that "both sides reportedly discussed" the water treaty during the Foreign Minister's visit.

3. **A) 1-T, 2-T.**

- Statement 1 is TRUE: The passage states, "PM Tarique Rahman has struck a conciliatory note since his appointment."
- Statement 2 is TRUE: The passage says multilateral initiatives under "bodies such as BIMSTEC depend on Dhaka and Delhi being on the same page."

4. **C) The relationship should be insulated from short-term politics for the benefit of the people.**

The final line of the passage explicitly states that governments "must insulate the relationship from a short-term politics" for the benefit of the people.

- INCORRECT: The author advises the opposite, stating the task is "not to let the past — including the Hasina issue — become a roadblock" to strategic goals.
- INCORRECT: The passage encourages a "reset" led by "mature leadership" rather than allowing past ICT rulings to dictate the future trajectory of the relationship.
- INCORRECT: The passage highlights that providing "greater supplies of fuel and fertilisers" is actually a key step used to "steer ties back on track."

5. **C) Securing the 4,156 km shared border.**

The passage explicitly states, "For India, the most salient issue is securing the 4,156 km border."

- Incorrect: This is a demand from Bangladesh, not India's salient issue.
- Incorrect: This was a "need" expressed by Bangladesh during the visit.

- Incorrect: Connectivity and energy cooperation "depend on" bodies like BIMSTEC; the passage doesn't suggest dissolving it.

6. **C) Sentence S comes at the beginning because it identifies the primary obstacles standing in the way of the peace talks. By highlighting the total absence of trust and the escalation in Lebanon, it provides the essential factual ground for why the negotiation environment is so volatile.**

Sentence R follows Sentence S because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the American side's domestic pressures—such as upcoming elections and summits—to their strategic need for an exit. This establishes the talks as a critical test for the Trump administration's foreign policy.

Sentence P follows Sentence R because it elaborates on the nature of that "test" from the opposing perspective. While R focused on US motivations, Sentence P provides concrete details regarding Iran's status: explaining that massive economic damage and the need to regroup have forced them to the table despite their defiance.

Sentence Q follows Sentence P because it serves as the logical conclusion for the sequence. After detailing the motivations of both powers, it focuses on the intermediaries' struggle to reconcile two vastly different documents (the 15-point and 10-point plans), framing the deadlock as the final hurdle before the concluding summary in S6.

- Sentence S, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह उन मुख्य बाधाओं की पहचान करता है जो शांति वार्ता के रास्ते में खड़ी हैं। यह अविश्वास और लेबनान में बढ़ते हमलों का जिक्र करके रिपोर्ट को एक ठोस आधार (factual ground) प्रदान करता है कि वार्ता इतनी कठिन क्यों है।
- Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" (क्यों) पेश करता है। यह "American side" के विशिष्ट राजनीतिक और आर्थिक हितों (जैसे चुनाव और तेल की कीमतों) को सीधे युद्ध समाप्त करने की आवश्यकता से जोड़ता है। यह अमेरिका के लिए इस वार्ता के महत्व को एक बड़ा परीक्षण (test) बनाता है।
- Sentence P, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "परीक्षण" का विस्तार से वर्णन करता है। जहाँ R में अमेरिका के कारणों की बात की गई है, वहीं Sentence P ईरान के पक्ष का विशिष्ट विवरण देता है कि भारी नुकसान और आर्थिक ठहराव के कारण उसे भी इस समय युद्ध रोकने की सख्त जरूरत है।
- Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक निष्कर्ष (conclusion) देता है। दोनों पक्षों की मजबूरियों को समझाने के बाद, Q पाकिस्तान के मध्यस्थों (intermediaries) की कठिन चुनौती और दोनों पक्षों की विवादास्पद योजनाओं (15-point vs 10-point plans) के सांख्यिकीय/दस्तावेजी अंतर को स्पष्ट करता है।

7. D) **Foeticide** (noun) – Killing of an unborn baby भ्रूण हत्या

- **Homicide** (noun) – Killing of a human being by another human व्यक्ति की हत्या
- **Paternity** (noun) – The state of being a father पितृत्व
- **Maternity** (noun) – The state of being a mother मातृत्व

8. B) **Look before you leap** (idiom) – Analyze the consequences before making a decision किसी भी काम को करने से पहले उसके परिणामों के बारे में सोचना

9. A) "by" का प्रयोग सही होगा क्योंकि "taken aback" एक fixed expression है और इसके साथ सामान्यतः preposition "by" का ही प्रयोग किया जाता है, जो किसी अप्रत्याशित कारण को दर्शाता है। यहाँ अचानक हुए इस्तीफे ही वह कारण हैं।
- "by" should be used because "taken aback" is commonly followed by "by" to indicate the cause of surprise or shock, and the sudden resignation is that cause.
10. C) **bridge** का प्रयोग सही होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में नदी को पार करने के लिए बनाई गई संरचना की बात हो रही है, जिसे bridge कहा जाता है।
- "bridge" should be used because it refers to a structure built to cross a river, whereas the other options are incorrect spellings or have different meanings.
11. A) 'flew on the city' के बदले **'flew over the city'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि over का प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब कोई वस्तु किसी स्थान के ऊपर से गुजरती है।
- 'over the city' is correct, since an aircraft flies above a place, not on, in, or at the city.
12. A) 'done away for' के बदले **'done away with'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही phrasal verb done away with होता है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को समाप्त कर देना।
- 'done away with' is correct, while done away for, done off, और done in for मानक प्रयोग में सही नहीं हैं।
- Done away with" is a correct and standard English expression which means to abolish, eliminate, or completely remove something such as a rule, system, or practice. For example, "The government did away with the old law" means the old law was officially removed. The structure used is "do/did/done + away with + object." On the other hand, "done away for," "done off," and "done in for" are not correct or standard expressions in English. However, "done in" alone can mean very tired, and "done for" alone can mean ruined or in serious trouble, but "done in for" together is grammatically incorrect.
13. D) **The way of the description by the teacher was being imitated by the students.**  
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense के Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Tense Past Continuous है। Active वाक्य में "the students" Subject है, "were imitating" Verb (Past Continuous) है और "the way of the description by the teacher" Object है। Passive में Object Subject बन जाता है और Verb को was being imitated (Past Continuous Passive) में बदला जाता है।
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb is converted into the passive form while keeping the same tense. Here, the sentence is in the Past Continuous tense. "The students" is the subject, "were imitating" is the verb, and "the way of the description by the teacher" is the object. In the passive construction, the verb changes to "was being imitated."
14. C) **The organizers had made all the arrangements before we arrived.**  
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent (by + doer) Active वाक्य का Subject बनता है और Verb को उसी Tense में Active रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Tense Past Perfect है। Passive वाक्य में "All the arrangements" Subject है, "had been made" Verb (Past Perfect Passive) है और "by the organizers" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर Agent "the organizers"

Subject बन जाता है और Verb had made (Past Perfect Active) में बदल जाता है, जबकि “before we arrived” clause वही रहता है।

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the verb is converted into its active form while maintaining the same tense. Here, the sentence is in the Past Perfect tense. “All the arrangements” is the subject, “had been made” is the passive verb, and “by the organizers” is the agent. In the active form, “the organizers” becomes the subject and the verb changes to “had made.”

15. C) **People widely considered that a previously unknown civilization had constructed the ancient ruins.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Impersonal Passive structure (“It was widely considered that...”, “were believed to...”) को हटाकर स्पष्ट Subject (People) लाया जाता है। Passive में छिपा हुआ Agent Active में Subject बनता है और Verb को सही Tense में Active रूप दिया जाता है। यहाँ आशय यह है कि लोगों का मानना था कि किसी अज्ञात सभ्यता ने खंडहर बनाए थे, इसलिए Active में Past Perfect (had constructed) सबसे उपयुक्त रहता है।

- To convert an impersonal passive sentence into Active Voice, the vague subject “It was...” is replaced with a clear agent like “People,” and the verbs are changed to their active forms while preserving meaning and tense. The belief/reporting remains in the past, and the construction action is best expressed with Past Perfect to indicate completion before the belief.

16. C) **Surreptitious** (adjective) – Done secretly or stealthily; covert, furtive गुप्त

Antonym: **Overt** (adjective) – Done openly or plainly; public, evident प्रकट

- **Covert** (adjective) – Hidden, secret, concealed गुप्त
- **Furtive** (adjective) – Secretive, sly, stealthy चुपके से किया गया
- **Stealthy** (adjective) – Done quietly and secretly; sneaky गुप्त

17. A) **Noisome** (adjective) – Having an extremely unpleasant smell; offensive, foul दुर्गंधयुक्त

Antonym: **Fragrant** (adjective) – Having a pleasant smell; sweet-smelling सुगंधित

- **Rancid** (adjective) – Having a strong, unpleasant smell or taste सड़ा हुआ
- **Putrid** (adjective) – Decayed and emitting a foul smell सड़ा-गला
- **Malodorous** (adjective) – Having a bad smell; foul-smelling दुर्गंधयुक्त

18. D) कोई त्रुटि नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य में Present Perfect Continuous tense (have been doing) का प्रयोग सही है और all my working life समयावधि को दर्शाने के लिए स्वाभाविक रूप से प्रयुक्त हुआ है।

- No correction is required as the sentence is grammatically correct: have been doing correctly shows an action continuing over the entire working life.

19. A) The correct spelling is ‘Sacriligious’, which means showing disrespect or violation of something considered sacred — अपवित्र करने वाला, धर्म का अपमान करने वाला.

20. D) **Snigdha exclaimed that that day was a very beautiful day.**

Direct से Indirect Narration में बदलते समय Exclamatory sentence को assertive form में बदला जाता है। Reporting Verb “said” को भावना के अनुसार exclaimed में बदला जाता है। Direct Speech में “What a beautiful day today is!” एक Exclamation है, इसलिए Indirect में what/how हट जाता है। Time

expression “today” को Indirect Speech में that day में बदला जाता है और Tense को Past में रखा जाता है।

- To change an exclamatory sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the exclamation is converted into a statement, the reporting verb is changed to “exclaimed,” and suitable changes are made in tense and time expressions. Here, “today” becomes “that day,” and the sentence takes a normal declarative structure.

21. C) [**strapping**] सही है क्योंकि "strapping on" एक perfect phrasal verb है जिसका इस्तेमाल चश्मा (goggles) या कोई gear कसकर पहनने के लिए होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि author के लिए सोने की तैयारी करना अब relaxing नहीं रहा, बल्कि किसी mission के लिए "gear up" होने जैसा heavy task बन गया है। Fasten grammatically गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ '-ing' form की ज़रूरत है। Welding लोहे को जोड़ने को कहते हैं। Tethering का मतलब किसी चीज़ को रस्सी से बांधकर रखना होता है।

- [strapping] is correct because "strapping on" is the specific phrasal verb for securing gear (like safety goggles) using a strap. The passage implies that the author's sleep prep is no longer a calming habit but feels like aggressively "gearing up" for a difficult physical mission. Fasten is grammatically incorrect here because the sentence requires the '-ing' form ("spent the last few weeks fastening..."). Welding is a metal-joining process.

Tethering means tying an object to a fixed point so it cannot move.

22. C) [**dull**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब फीकी या बिना चमक वाली रोशनी (dim light) होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि उन मोटे चश्मों ने दुनिया की सारी brightness छीन ली है और देखने के experience को बहुत boring बना दिया है। Matte का इस्तेमाल बिना चमक वाले paint या surface के लिए होता है। Opaque का मतलब होता है जिसके आर-पार बिल्कुल न देखा जा सके। Somber का इस्तेमाल उदासी भरे माहौल (gloomy mood) के लिए होता है।

- [dull] is correct because it describes a light or color that is not bright, intense, or vivid. The passage implies that these thick safety goggles ruin the visual quality of the world, making the author's environment look greyish, restricted, and unappealing. Matte describes a non-shiny solid surface (like wall paint). Opaque means you cannot see through it at all (which would make wearing goggles pointless). Somber describes a dark, gloomy emotional mood or atmosphere.

23. B) [**deranged**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब पागलपन भरा या insane होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि author को खुद पता है कि उनका यह extreme routine (सिर्फ मोमबत्ती जलाना, मोटे चश्मे पहनना) किसी भी normal इंसान को पूरी तरह 'crazy' लगेगा। Clinical का मतलब medical और cold होता है, जो candles वाले vibe से match नहीं करता। Haphazard का मतलब बिना किसी plan के (random) काम करना होता है। Nocturnal रात में जागने वाले जीवों को कहते हैं।

- [deranged] is correct because it means completely insane, crazy, or unbalanced. The passage implies that the author fully knows their extreme behavior (lighting only candles, wearing orange goggles, using blackout curtains) is totally irrational and "over the top" for a normal person, but they are doing it purely for science. Clinical means cold, medical, and unemotional (which contradicts the use of candles). Haphazard means disorganized or random, but this routine is strictly planned. Nocturnal means active only at night.

24. B) [**banish**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी को exile कर देना या पूरी तरह से घर से निकाल देना होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि author 'blue light' को सिर्फ कम नहीं कर रहे, बल्कि एक criminal

की तरह अपने घर से हमेशा के लिए बाहर निकाल रहे हैं। Neutralize किसी चीज़ के असर को बेअसर करना होता है। Extinguish का मतलब आग या flame बुझाना होता है। Veto का मतलब किसी law को खारिज करना होता है।

- [banish] is correct because it means to send someone or something away as a punishment, or to get rid of something completely. The passage implies an extreme level of paranoia, showing that the author is treating blue light like a forbidden criminal that must be strictly exiled from their home. Neutralize means to make something ineffective (often a chemical or military term). Extinguish means to physically put out a fire or flame. Veto means to officially reject a law or proposal.

25. C) [fiend] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब शैतान या बहुत बुरी चीज़ (demon) होता है। Passage एक mocking (मज़ाकिया) tone imply कर रहा है कि कैसे media ने blue light को एक डरावने राक्षस (monster) जैसा बना दिया है जिससे पूरी दुनिया panic कर रही है। Antagonist सिर्फ कहानी के opponent को कहते हैं। Pollutant pollution फैलाने वाली चीज़ को कहते हैं। Infection बीमारी फैलाने वाले कीटाणुओं को कहते हैं।

- [fiend] is correct because it refers to an evil spirit, demon, or a cruel entity. The passage implies a humorous and mocking tone, highlighting how society and the media have exaggerated the danger of blue light, treating a simple natural element like a terrifying "demonic" monster. Antagonist is just a neutral term for an opponent or villain in a story. Pollutant is a physical substance that poisons the environment. Infection is a disease caused by germs.