

New and raw: On Nepal-India ties

Nepal and India must avoid misspeaking on border issues

The **visit** of Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal to Delhi, which followed right after the visit of Nepal's new **ruling** party RSP's President Rabi Lamichhane and ahead of a **proposed** visit by the new Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, **signals** an intense **outreach** between Delhi and Kathmandu's new leadership. Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in April, **on the sidelines of** an Indian Ocean regional conference in Mauritius, but this was his first visit to India since the RSP and newly elected Prime Minister Balen Shah took power after the GenZ protests. The **meetings**, a lead up to an expected India visit by Mr. Shah, **indicate** a step-by-step approach to building ties, with Delhi **laying out the red carpet** for Mr. Lamichhane, who met with top **functionaries** of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister, Mr. Jaishankar and the National Security Adviser. These meetings came just after Mr. Shah's **address** to his Parliament where he **accused India of occupying** parts of Nepal while also **claiming** that Nepal is in control of parts of Indian territory, and much to New Delhi's **outrage**, added that Nepal was in touch with the U.K. and China on the issue. Such comments by Mr. Shah, and his decision to **stick to** protocol and refuse a meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, no doubt **ruffled feathers**, and Mr. Lamichhane's first task was to smooth feelings on the issue. In a media meet, Mr. Khanal also **sought to diffuse** the tensions, suggesting that the Nepal government was **committed to turning a page** in Nepali politics, and **casting aside** "old **baggage**" with India. The MEA rejected any role for a "third party" in **negotiations**, particularly China, **given** that Mr. Khanal's next visit is to Beijing. No doubt, the territorial **issues** over Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh **will heat up** again this summer as India sends more groups over the border areas which Kathmandu claims, for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Tibet.

The **agenda** between India and Nepal **is** at present too broad and too **deep**, from border management and **renegotiating** water sharing agreements to **infrastructure**, trade development projects and energy sharing, to be **derailed** at this point. While Nepal's new government may be **granted** some **leeway** for early misspeaking, Kathmandu and Delhi must **tread** carefully in their words and steps. Any **indication** from Kathmandu that it is **cavalier** about India's position in the region, or from Delhi that it **seeks** to interfere with the new government's working, could **set off** the same cycles of **mistrust** that have **dogged** the relationship, particularly since the Nepal Constitution **friction** and trade blockade from India in 2015. While the Modi government's **diplomatic** tasks have been made more complex by youth protests that have **dislodged entrenched** power structures in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, this may also be an important opportunity to rework its **discourse** and partnership framework with smaller yet important neighbours in South Asia. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Raw** (adjective) - uncooked, natural, untreated, unrefined, crude. कच्चा
2. **Tie** (noun) - bond, connection, link, relationship, association. संबंध
3. **Rule** (verb) - govern, control, command, direct, administer. शासन करना
4. **Propose** (verb) - suggest, offer, move, submit, intend. प्रस्ताव करना
5. **Outreach** (noun) - extension, expansion, involvement, service, communication. पहुँच
6. **On the sidelines of** (phrase) - occurring during or at the edge of a main event. मुख्य कार्यक्रम के दौरान
7. **Lay out the red carpet** (idiom) - to give someone a very warm and special welcome. भव्य स्वागत करना
8. **Functionary** (noun) - official, bureaucrat, administrator, officer, agent. पदाधिकारी
9. **Address** (noun) - speech, lecture, discourse, talk, sermon. संबोधन
10. **Accuse of** (phrase) - to say that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal, or unkind आरोप लगाना
11. **Occupy** (verb) - inhabit, hold, seize, capture, possess. कब्जा करना
12. **Claim** (verb) - assert, allege, maintain, state, declare. दावा करना
13. **Outrage** (noun) - fury, anger, wrath, resentment, indignation. आक्रोश
14. **Stick to** (phrasal verb) - to continue to follow or obey something. पालन करना
15. **Ruffle feathers** (idiom) - to cause someone to feel annoyed or upset. किसी को नाराज करना
16. **Seek** (verb) - search, look for, pursue, attempt, endeavor. खोजना या प्रयास करना
17. **Diffuse** (verb) - spread, disperse, scatter, circulate, distribute. कम करना या फैलाना
18. **Commit** (verb) - pledge, promise, dedicate, devote, bind. वचनबद्ध होना
19. **Turn a page** (idiom) - to start fresh or make a new beginning. नई शुरुआत करना
20. **Cast aside** (phrasal verb) - to discard or throw something away. त्याग देना
21. **Baggage** (noun) - burden, weight, encumbrance, emotional load, history. बोझ या पुराना इतिहास
22. **Negotiation** (noun) - dialogue, discussion, bargaining, consultation, conference. बातचीत
23. **Give** (verb) - provide, offer, grant, present, supply. देना
24. **Heat up** (phrasal verb) - to become more intense or active. स्थिति का तनावपूर्ण होना
25. **Agenda** (noun) - plan, schedule, program, list, itinerary. कार्यसूची
26. **Deep** (adjective) - profound, intense, thorough, extensive, serious. गहरा
27. **Renegotiate** (verb) - rearrange, adjust, revisit, reconsider, restructure. फिर से बातचीत करना
28. **Infrastructure** (noun) - foundation, base, framework, setup, system. बुनियादी ढांचा

29. **Derail** (verb) - disrupt, impede, hinder, obstruct, thwart. पटरी से उतारना या विफल करना
30. **Grant** (verb) - allow, permit, concede, accord, bestow. प्रदान करना
31. **Leeway** (noun) - freedom, flexibility, margin, scope, liberty. छूट
32. **Tread** (verb) - walk, step, pace, proceed, move. सावधानी से चलना
33. **Cavalier** (adjective) - dismissive, indifferent, casual, unconcerned, arrogant. लापरवाह
34. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, request, solicit, desire, try. चाहना
35. **Set off** (phrasal verb) - to trigger or cause something to happen. शुरू करना या भड़काना
- 43.
36. **Mistrust** (noun) - suspicion, doubt, skepticism, cynicism, distrust. अविश्वास
37. **Dog** (verb) - haunt, plague, trouble, pester, follow. पीछा करना या परेशान करना
38. **Friction** (noun) - conflict, disagreement, discord, tension, clash. घर्षण या मतभेद
39. **Diplomatic** (adjective) - tactful, sensitive, strategic, official, politic. राजनयिक
40. **Dislodge** (verb) - remove, displace, extract, eject, oust. विस्थापित करना
41. **Entrenched** (adjective) - established, fixed, rooted, settled, deep-seated. गहराई से जमा हुआ
42. **Discourse** (noun) - discussion, conversation, dialogue, debate, communication. संवाद या चर्चा

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial discusses the renewed diplomatic engagement between **India and Nepal** following political changes in Nepal.
2. Shisir Khanal visited India as part of an effort to strengthen ties with New Delhi.
3. His visit followed the India visit of Rabi Lamichhane and preceded the expected visit of Nepal's Finance Minister.
4. The diplomatic outreach reflects India's attempt to engage with Nepal's **new political leadership after recent generational political shifts**.
5. Shisir Khanal had earlier met S. Jaishankar in Mauritius before this official visit.
6. The meetings are viewed as preparation for a future India visit by Nepal's Prime Minister Balen Shah.
7. Tensions arose after Mr. Shah publicly accused India of occupying parts of Nepal and claimed Nepal controlled some Indian territory.
8. Nepal's remarks about discussing border issues with the U.K. and China created concern in India.
9. India rejected the idea of any **third-party involvement**, especially China, in resolving bilateral territorial disputes.
10. Border issues involving **Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh** remain sensitive and could intensify during the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra season.
11. Nepal's leadership attempted to reduce tensions by signalling a willingness to move beyond past disagreements with India.
12. Despite political friction, India and Nepal maintain broad cooperation in **border management, water sharing, infrastructure, trade, and energy**.
13. The editorial warns both countries against **careless statements and diplomatic missteps** that could revive mistrust.
14. It recalls earlier strains in bilateral relations linked to Nepal's Constitution issue and the India–Nepal tensions of **2015**.
15. The editorial concludes that changing political realities in South Asia offer India an opportunity to **reshape relations with smaller neighbours through respect, partnership, and careful diplomacy**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best describes the core purpose of the consecutive high-level visits from Kathmandu's new leadership to New Delhi?** Editorial Page
 - A. To formalize new regional security pacts with India in order to counter growing diplomatic and military pressures from China and the United Kingdom.
 - B. To manage the diplomatic fallout caused by domestic political rhetoric and recalibrate the foundational terms of bilateral cooperation.
 - C. To demand the renegotiation of water-sharing agreements and border management protocols before the summer pilgrimage season begins.
 - D. To seek financial assistance from the Indian government to stabilize Nepal's economy following intense domestic youth-led protests.
2. **What does the author imply could be a primary catalyst for reviving historical cycles of mistrust between India and Nepal?**
 - A. A termination of cross-border infrastructure and energy-sharing projects due to unresolved financial disputes.
 - B. An over-reliance by the new Nepalese regime on youth-led political factions that openly oppose traditional South Asian diplomatic protocols.
 - C. The militarization of border checkpoints along the Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh sectors during the summer season.
 - D. A perceived disregard for India's regional influence by Kathmandu or any actions from New Delhi interpreted as meddling in Nepal's governance.
3. **Based on the passage, how has New Delhi's broader diplomatic strategy in South Asia been reshaped by recent domestic changes in its neighboring countries**
 - A. It has forced India to isolate its smaller neighbors economically to protect its internal trade security.
 - B. It has triggered a collapse of all bilateral ties due to the removal of leadership.
 - C. It has presented a complex regional environment that simultaneously offers an opening to modernize ties.
 - D. It has led New Delhi to abandon its traditional protocol rules when dealing with newly elected.
4. **In context, the word "cavalier" most nearly means:**
 - A. Dismissive
 - B. Treacherous
 - C. Submissive
 - D. Aggressive
5. **The tone of the passage can best be described as:**
 - A. Alarmist
 - B. Objective
 - C. Aggressive
 - D. Enthusiastic
6. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "For the time being"?**
 - A. Permanently
 - B. Temporarily
 - C. Suddenly

- D. Rarely
7. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) between S1 and S6 to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.
- S1. In ancient civilizations, cats were considered sacred and were closely associated with powerful female deities.
- P. For instance, ancient Egyptians worshipped Bastet, a half-cat, half-human goddess representing domesticity, fertility, and childbirth.
- Q. However, centuries later, this revered status shifted drastically as cats became inextricably linked to witchcraft and dark magic.
- R. Consequently, they were turned into symbols of the supposedly dangerous, unruly woman who often lived alone outside societal norms.
- S. By the late 19th century, this stereotype evolved further, with women devoted to felines being increasingly portrayed as eccentric or unstable.
- S6. This enduring caricature of the "crazy cat lady" remains remarkably durable in popular culture even today.
- A. P Q R S
B. Q P R S
C. P R Q S
D. S Q P R
8. **Select the correctly spelled word.**
- A. Credencials
B. Credentails
C. Credentials
D. Credentals
9. **Select the correct option for the Direct Speech conversion of the sentence below.**
- The curator noted that the pigments were deteriorating faster than the varnish could protect them.
- A. The curator noted, "The pigments are deteriorating faster than the varnish can protect them."
B. The curator noted, "The pigments were deteriorating faster than the varnish can be protected by them."
C. The curator noted, "Pigments deteriorate faster than varnish protects."
D. The curator noted, "Pigment deterioration faster than varnish can protect."
10. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**
- A person who studies the origin of words.
- A. Philologist
B. Etymologist
C. Linguist
D. Grammarian
11. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**
- The rules of the land were foreign _____ the new immigrants.
- A. for
B. of

- C. over
D. to
12. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Volatility."**
A. Equanimity
B. Caprice
C. Lucidity
D. Sagacity
13. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrasal verb "Wrap up."**
A. to accept a difficult or unpleasant fact
B. to finish, conclude, or summarize a task
C. to wait for a short period of time only
D. to maintain the same level as something
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Dearth."**
A. Plethora
B. Panacea
C. Parity
D. Probity
15. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Starker."**
A. Complacent
B. Contemptuous
C. Conspicuous
D. Convoluted
16. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
His _____ actions after the scandal only worsened public perception.
A. pusilanemous
B. pusillanimous
C. pusillanemous
D. pusilanimous
17. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error. I go (A) / for a two miles (B) / walk daily. (C) / No error (D)**
A. I go
B. for a two miles
C. walk daily.
D. No error
18. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**
The diligent worker performs his tasks with meticulous care every single day.
A. His tasks are performed with meticulous care by the diligent worker every single day.
B. His tasks were performed with meticulous care by the diligent worker every single day
C. His tasks are being performed with meticulous care by the diligent worker every single day.
D. The diligent worker is performed with meticulous care by his tasks every single day.
19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Traumatic."**
A. Chaotic
B. Tedious
C. Inevitable

D. Comforting

20. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**

1. Capitalising on this growing trend, interior designers note that they are now frequently asked to integrate practical pet features like built-in feeding stations and integrated bed nooks into modern homes.
 2. For instance, one dedicated content creator recently revealed online that she spent over £8,000 to construct intricately decorated, pastel-hued rabbit sheds that connect via green tunnels to outdoor play pens.
 3. Elaborate pet setups are becoming increasingly common, as recent research revealed that a vast majority of pet owners are now actively designing dedicated spaces for their animals.
 4. While most ordinary owners stick to these basic built-in nooks, certain social media influencers have taken this concept of pet-led design to an absolute extreme in their properties.
- A. 3 4 1 2
 B. 1 3 4 2
 C. 3 1 4 2
 D. 4 2 3 1

Passage:

Have you ever wondered whether face masks (1) _____ your identity better than sunglasses? The answer might surprise you. In an interesting post on X, neurologist Dr Sudhir Kumar asks his followers, "Which of the two is more effective in masking face identity: Sunglasses or the face mask?" This is based on a 2023 study, where researchers aimed to find out how face identification performance was affected by both types of face (2) _____. They mentioned, "To summarise, we found that both face masks and sunglasses impaired face identification but in different manners." The study further stated, "Sunglasses led to stronger (3) _____ than face masks did (lowering sensitivity by 50% on average)." Dr Jagadish J Hiremath, medical director at Aasra Hospitals, elaborates, "Sunglasses hinder facial recognition to a greater extent than face masks, primarily due to their (4) _____ of the eyes. The eyes, along with the eyebrows and surrounding areas, (5) _____ crucial features that our brains utilise for identification and memory of faces." In contrast, he adds, face masks typically cover the lower part of the face, which, while still contributing to recognition, is less essential than the eye region. Studies have demonstrated a significant decrease in facial recognition accuracy when the eye region is obscured, highlighting its pivotal role in this process.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. mask
 B. obfuscate
 C. conceal
 D. suppress

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. camouflage
 B. subterfuge
 C. disguise

- D. facade
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. deterioration
 - B. detriment
 - C. impairment
 - D. degradation
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. obstruction
 - B. impedance
 - C. barricade
 - D. embargo
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. have
 - D. were

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) **To manage the diplomatic fallout caused by domestic political rhetoric and recalibrate the foundational terms of bilateral cooperation.**

Line from Passage: "Such comments by Mr. Shah... no doubt ruffled feathers, and Mr. Lamichhane's first task was to smooth feelings on the issue... suggesting that the Nepal government was committed to turning a page in Nepali politics, and casting aside 'old baggage' with India." The core purpose of these intense visits was to repair relations ("smooth feelings") after Nepal's Prime Minister made controversial statements regarding territory and foreign interference ("ruffled feathers"), while trying to reset the partnership ("turning a page in Nepali politics, and casting aside 'old baggage'").

Option A: The passage explicitly states that India is rejecting third-party involvement ("rejected any role for a 'third party' in negotiations, particularly China"). It never mentions Nepal attempting to form security pacts with India against China or the UK; instead, Nepal's leader mentioned those countries regarding territorial disputes, which caused outrage in Delhi.

Option C: While water-sharing and border management are part of a broad ongoing agenda ("too broad and too deep"), the passage does not state that the primary purpose of these specific high-level visits was to "demand renegotiation" before the pilgrimage.

Option D: The passage notes that the youth protests dislodged power structures ("youth protests that have dislodged entrenched power structures"), but it never states that the core purpose of the current visits was to "seek financial assistance" to stabilize the economy.

2. D) **A perceived disregard for India's regional influence by Kathmandu or any actions from New Delhi interpreted as meddling in Nepal's governance.**

Line from Passage: "Any indication from Kathmandu that it is cavalier about India's position in the region, or from Delhi that it seeks to interfere with the new government's working, could set off the same cycles of mistrust that have dogged the relationship..." The author explicitly states that the primary triggers for reviving past friction are Kathmandu acting dismissive of India ("cavalier about India's position in the region") or Delhi attempting to meddle in Nepal's internal politics ("interfere with the new government's working").

Option A: The author actually implies the opposite—that infrastructure and energy projects are currently too established and robust ("too broad and too deep... to be derailed at this point") to easily fall apart over current disputes.

Option B: The passage mentions that the new government rose to power following youth protests ("took power after the GenZ protests"), but it does not claim or imply that an "over-reliance" on these factions is what threatens to revive historical diplomatic mistrust.

Option C: While the passage notes that border disputes will "heat up again" due to the seasonal pilgrimage ("Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Tibet"), it never mentions or implies a "militarization" of these sectors as the catalyst for the wider cycle of mistrust.

3. C) **It has presented a complex regional environment that simultaneously offers an opening to modernize ties.**

Line from Passage: "While the Modi government's diplomatic tasks have been made more complex by youth protests that have dislodged entrenched power structures... this may also be an important opportunity to rework its discourse and partnership framework with smaller yet important neighbours in South Asia." The passage explicitly indicates that the removal of old power structures has made the regional landscape more challenging ("diplomatic tasks have been made more complex"), but emphasizes that this environment simultaneously gives India a clear opening to update its relationships ("important opportunity to rework its discourse and partnership framework").

Option A: The passage does not suggest that India is isolating its smaller neighbors economically. Instead, it frames these regional shifts as a prompt to rebuild and adapt its diplomatic engagement ("rework its discourse and partnership framework").

Option B: The passage strongly argues against a total collapse of relations, clarifying that the bilateral ties are too deeply anchored across multiple sectors ("too broad and too deep... to be derailed") to be suddenly shattered by domestic political changes.

Option D: The passage notes that Nepal's Prime Minister strictly adhered to protocol ("his decision to stick to protocol and refuse a meeting"), which annoyed New Delhi. It does not state that New Delhi has abandoned its own protocol rules.

4. A) **Dismissive**

the adjective "cavalier" refers to an attitude that is offhand, indifferent, or shows a lack of proper concern for important or serious matters. It closely aligns with being dismissive of rules, facts, or other people's feelings.

5. B) **Objective**

The tone is objective, analytical, and balanced ("indicate a step-by-step approach"). The author neutrally reports the points of friction (territorial claims, third-party comments) alongside the positive stabilizing factors (infrastructure, broad agenda), and concludes with a realistic assessment of both diplomatic challenges ("made more complex") and potential openings ("important opportunity"). the writing is distinctly objective (unbiased, neutral, and factual).

6. B) "For the time being" means Temporarily थोड़े समय के लिए

7. A) **P Q R S**

Sentence P, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "For instance" और "goddess" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'sacred' और 'female deities' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि प्राचीन काल में देवियों के रूप में बिल्लियों को कैसे पूजा जाता था (Bastet का सटीक उदाहरण देकर)।

Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this revered status shifted" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताई गई पूजा (worshipped) और पवित्रता की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि सदियों बाद यह सम्मान कैसे पूरी तरह से बदल गया और उन्हें जादू-टोने (witchcraft) से जोड़ दिया गया।

Sentence R, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "Consequently" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए जादू-टोने (witchcraft) के नकारात्मक जुड़ाव के परिणाम की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट

करता है कि इसके परिणामस्वरूप बिल्लियों को समाज से बाहर रहने वाली 'unruly woman' (खतरनाक महिला) का प्रतीक बना दिया गया।

Sentence S, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this stereotype evolved" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर R में बताए गए 'dangerous, unruly woman' वाले प्रतीक से जुड़ता है, और यह बताता है कि 19वीं सदी के अंत तक यह धारणा सनकीपन (eccentric) में बदल गई, जो S6 (जिसमें आज के 'crazy cat lady' वाले व्यंग्य चित्र या caricature के बने रहने की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence P comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrases "For instance" and "goddess" create a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'sacred' status and 'female deities' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground by providing the specific historical example of worshipping Bastet.
- Sentence Q follows P because the transitional phrase "this revered status shifted" creates a mandatory link, directly referring to the high regard ('worshipped') described in P. It introduces the drastic historical change where cats became linked to witchcraft.
- Sentence R follows Q as it uses the word "Consequently" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the negative association with 'witchcraft' mentioned in Q. It clarifies the direct result of this shift, turning them into symbols of the dangerous, unruly woman.
- Sentence S follows R as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "this stereotype evolved" to refer directly back to the symbol of the 'unruly woman' described in R, explaining that by the late 19th century these women were labeled as eccentric, which seamlessly bridges into the modern endurance of the "crazy cat lady" caricature mentioned in S6.

8. C) **Credentials** (noun) – Qualifications, merit, achievements, credibility, record; योग्यता

- Credentials – गलत, spelling गलत
- Credentails – गलत, spelling गलत
- Credentals – गलत, spelling गलत

9. A) **The curator noted, "The pigments are deteriorating faster than the varnish can protect them."**

Direct से Indirect या Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलते समय reporting verb और tense के नियमों का पालन किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में reporting verb "noted" Past Tense में है, लेकिन कथन एक सामान्य और जारी स्थिति (general ongoing fact) को दर्शाता है, इसलिए Direct Speech में tense को Present Continuous में रखा जाता है। Indirect Speech में "were deteriorating" (Past Continuous) का प्रयोग हुआ है, जिसे Direct Speech में "are deteriorating" (Present Continuous) बनाया गया है और "could protect" को "can protect" में बदला गया है। इसलिए विकल्प A सही है।

- While converting Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the reporting verb and tense rules must be followed carefully. In the given sentence, the reporting verb "noted" is in the

past tense, but the statement expresses a general and ongoing fact. Therefore, in Direct Speech, the tense is changed to Present Continuous.

Here, “were deteriorating” (Past Continuous) in Indirect Speech is converted into “are deteriorating” (Present Continuous), and “could protect” is changed into “can protect.” Hence, option A is correct.

10. B) **Etymologist** (noun) – A person who studies the origin and history of words शब्दों की उत्पत्ति का अध्ययन करने वाला

- **Philologist** (noun) – A person who studies language in historical texts प्राचीन भाषा का अध्ययन करने वाला
- **Linguist** (noun) – A person skilled in or studying languages भाषाविद्
- **Grammarians** (noun) – A person who studies grammar व्याकरण विशेषज्ञ

11. D) ‘to’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “foreign to” एक सही collocation है जिसका अर्थ है किसी के लिए अपरिचित या अजनबी होना; जैसे –

The rules of the land were foreign to the new immigrants.

- ‘to’ should be used because “foreign to” is the fixed collocation meaning unfamiliar or strange to someone; the adjective “foreign” in the sense of “unknown or unfamiliar” always takes “to.”

12. B) **Volatility** (noun) – instability, fluctuation, turbulence, caprice, fickleness. (अस्थिरता या उतार-चढ़ाव)

Synonym: **Caprice** (noun) – A sudden and unaccountable change of mood or behavior; unpredictability. (मनमौजीपन या अस्थिरता)

- **Equanimity** (noun): Mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation. (धीरज)
- **Lucidity** (noun): Clarity of expression; intelligibility; the quality of being easy to understand. (स्पष्टता)
- **Sagacity** (noun): The quality of being sagacious; having keen mental discernment and good judgment. (बुद्धिमत्ता)

13. B) **Wrap up** (phrasal verb) – to finish, conclude, or summarize a task, meeting, or event. (समाप्त करना)

14. A) **Dearth** (noun) – A scarcity or lack of something; an inadequate supply. (कमी/अकाल)

Antonym: **Plethora** (noun) – A large or excessive amount of something; an abundance.

(बहुतायत)

- **Panacea** (noun): A solution or remedy for all difficulties or diseases. (रामबाण)
- **Parity** (noun): The state or condition of being equal, especially regarding status or pay. (समानता)
- **Probity** (noun): The quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency. (शुद्धता/ईमानदारी)

15. C) **Starker** (adjective) – sharper, clearer, more distinct, harsher, more conspicuous. (अधिक स्पष्ट या कठोर)
- Synonym: **Conspicuous** (adjective) – clearly visible; attracting notice or attention. (सुस्पष्ट / विशिष्ट)
- **Complacent** (adjective): Uncritically satisfied with oneself or one's achievements, leading to severe laxity. (आत्मसंतुष्ट)
 - **Contemptuous** (adjective): Showing deep disdain, modern scorn, or insolent lack of respect toward an entity. (तिस्कारपूर्ण)
 - **Convolutd** (adjective): Extremely complex, intricate, or highly difficult to follow due to structural twists. (जटिल)
16. B) **Pusillanimous'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द की सही spelling है। "Pusillanimous" का अर्थ होता है कायरतापूर्ण या साहसहीन। Sentence का अर्थ है कि scandal के बाद उसके डरपोक या कमजोर कार्यों ने जनता की धारणा को और खराब कर दिया। इसलिए, "pusillanimous" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'Pusillanimous' should be used because it is the correct spelling of the word meaning "cowardly" or "lacking courage." The sentence conveys that his weak and timid actions after the scandal further damaged public opinion. Thus, "pusillanimous" would be the most appropriate choice.
17. B) 'miles' के बदले 'mile' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब number + noun, किसी दूसरे noun से पहले compound adjective के रूप में आता है, तो वह noun हमेशा singular रहता है। जैसे: a two-hour journey, a three-day trip, a five-year plan।
- 'mile' will be used instead of 'miles' because when a number and a noun together form a compound adjective before another noun, the noun stays in the singular form. Examples: a two-hour journey, a three-day trip, a five-year plan. Correct sentence: I go for a two mile walk daily.
18. A) **His tasks are performed with meticulous care by the diligent worker every single day.**
- Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को Tense के अनुसार Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Active संरचना "performs his tasks" Simple Present Tense में है, जहाँ the diligent worker Subject है, performs Verb है और his tasks Object है। Passive में परिवर्तन करते समय his tasks को Subject बनाया जाता है और Verb are performed (Simple Present Passive) बन जाता है। शेष भाग with meticulous care every single day यथावत रहता है और Agent को by the diligent worker के रूप में जोड़ा जाता है।
- To change from Active to Passive, the object moves into subject position and the verb adapts to its passive equivalent based on tense. Here, performs is Simple Present, so the passive takes the form are performed. The expression with meticulous care every single day remains unchanged, and the agent is retained as by the diligent worker.

19. D) **Traumatic** (adjective) – Distressing, shocking, painful, or emotionally disturbing. दर्दनाक / आघातपूर्ण

Antonym: **Comforting** (adjective) – Giving comfort, solace, or reassurance; soothing.
सांत्वनादायक / सुकून देने वाला

- **Chaotic** (adjective) – In a state of complete confusion and disorder. अराजक / अव्यवस्थित
- **Tedious** (adjective) – Too long, slow, or dull; tiresome. नीरस / उबाऊ
- **Inevitable** (adjective) – Certain to happen; unavoidable. अनिवार्य / अवश्यभावी

20. C) 3 1 4 2

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि पालतू जानवरों के लिए विस्तृत सेटअप (elaborate pet setups) बनाना तेजी से आम होता जा रहा है। यह बिना किसी अस्पष्ट सर्वनाम के स्पष्ट रूप से मुख्य विषय का परिचय देता है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this growing trend" (यह बढ़ता चलन) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 3 में बताए गए 'becoming increasingly common' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इस बढ़ते चलन का फायदा उठाते हुए डिज़ाइनर्स अब घरों में पालतू जानवरों के लिए विशेष जगह (integrated bed nooks) बना रहे हैं।

Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these basic built-in nooks" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 1 में बताए गए 'integrated bed nooks' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि जहाँ आम लोग इन बुनियादी जगहों तक सीमित रहते हैं, वहीं सोशल मीडिया इन्फ्लुएंसर्स (influencers) इस कॉन्सेप्ट को एक चरम स्तर (absolute extreme) पर ले गए हैं।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "For instance" (उदाहरण के लिए) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताए गए इन्फ्लुएंसर्स के 'absolute extreme' (चरम स्तर) वाले सेटअप से जुड़ता है, और यह बताता है कि कैसे एक क्रिएटर ने अपने खरगोशों के लिए £8,000 खर्च कर दिए, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground of the paragraph, introducing the main topic that elaborate, dedicated pet setups are becoming increasingly common among owners.
- Sentence 1 follows 3 because the transitional phrase "this growing trend" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the phenomenon of pet setups 'becoming increasingly common' mentioned in 3. It details how interior designers are responding to this demand by building 'integrated bed nooks'.
- Sentence 4 follows 1 as it uses the phrase "these basic built-in nooks" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the 'integrated bed nooks' described in 1. It introduces a contrast, stating that while normal people stick to these basics, social media influencers take pet-led design to an 'absolute extreme'.

- Sentence 2 follows 4 as the conclusion. It uses the transition "For instance" to provide a direct example of the 'absolute extreme' behavior of influencers mentioned in 4, detailing a specific creator who spent an exorbitant £8,000 on a rabbit setup, which seamlessly finalizes the logical flow of the narrative.
21. C) The blank requires a verb that correctly collocates with the abstract concept of "identity" to mean keeping it hidden. "(conceal)" is the standard verb used when talking about actively hiding one's identity from being recognized. A) mask: While highly thematic, the sentence literally uses the noun "face masks" right before the blank; using "mask" as a verb here ("face masks mask") is highly repetitive and stylistically awkward. B) obfuscate: Means to intentionally make something unclear or confusing, typically used for information, language, or data, not for physically hiding a face. D) suppress: Means to forcibly put an end to something or hold back an emotion, which does not apply to a physical object covering a face.
- Blank को एक verb की आवश्यकता है जो "identity" (पहचान) के abstract concept के साथ सही ढंग से collocate करे। "(conceal)" वह standard verb है जिसका उपयोग identity को recognize होने से छिपाने के लिए किया जाता है। A) mask: हालाँकि यह thematic है, लेकिन sentence blank से ठीक पहले "face masks" का उपयोग करता है; यहाँ "mask" को verb की तरह use करना ("face masks mask") stylistically बहुत repetitive है। B) obfuscate: इसका अर्थ जानबूझकर किसी चीज़ को unclear या confusing बनाना है, जिसका उपयोग आमतौर पर information के लिए होता है, face को physically छिपाने के लिए नहीं। D) suppress: इसका अर्थ forcibly किसी चीज़ को समाप्त करना या emotion को रोकना है, जो physical covering पर apply नहीं होता।
22. C) The blank requires a noun referring to the specific category that both masks and sunglasses fall into when used to alter or hide one's appearance. "(disguise)" is the exact English term for an item worn to hide one's true recognizable identity. A) camouflage: Refers specifically to materials or patterns (like military uniform) used to blend into a background environment, not to hide a face in plain sight. B) subterfuge: Means an abstract deceit or trickery used to achieve a goal, not a wearable physical object. D) facade: Refers to a deceptive outward appearance or the architectural front of a building, not specific wearable accessories.
- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो उस specific category को refer करे जिसमें masks और sunglasses दोनों आते हैं जब उनका उपयोग appearance को छिपाने के लिए किया जाता है। "(disguise)" अपनी true identity को छिपाने के लिए पहने जाने वाले item के लिए exact term है। A) camouflage: यह specifically background environment के साथ blend होने वाले patterns को refer करता है, face को छिपाने को नहीं। B) subterfuge: इसका अर्थ abstract deceit (धोखा) या trickery है, wearable physical object नहीं। D) facade: यह deceptive outward appearance या building के front को refer करता है, specific wearable accessories को नहीं।
23. C) The blank requires a noun that refers to the specific scientific reduction of facial recognition performance. The biggest logical clue is in the sentence immediately preceding this one, which

explicitly states that masks and sunglasses "impaired face identification." Therefore, the study is measuring this exact scientific state, making the noun form "(impairment)" the only logically correct choice. A) deterioration: Means worsening progressively over a period of time, whereas putting on sunglasses causes an immediate functional drop, not a slow decay. B) detriment: Means harm or damage, but it is not used as a measurable scientific state in cognitive studies. D) degradation: Similar to deterioration, it means breaking down physically or chemically over time.

- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो facial recognition performance के specific scientific reduction को refer करे। सबसे बड़ा logical clue ठीक पहले वाले sentence में है, जो explicitly बताता है कि masks और sunglasses ने face identification को "impaired" किया। इसलिए, study इसी scientific state को measure कर रही है, जिससे noun form "(impairment)" एकमात्र logically correct choice बन जाता है। A) deterioration: इसका अर्थ time के साथ progressively worsen होना है, जबकि sunglasses पहनना immediate functional drop का कारण बनता है। B) detriment: इसका अर्थ harm या damage है, लेकिन इसे cognitive studies में measurable scientific state के रूप में उपयोग नहीं किया जाता। D) degradation: इसका अर्थ physically या chemically टूट जाना है।

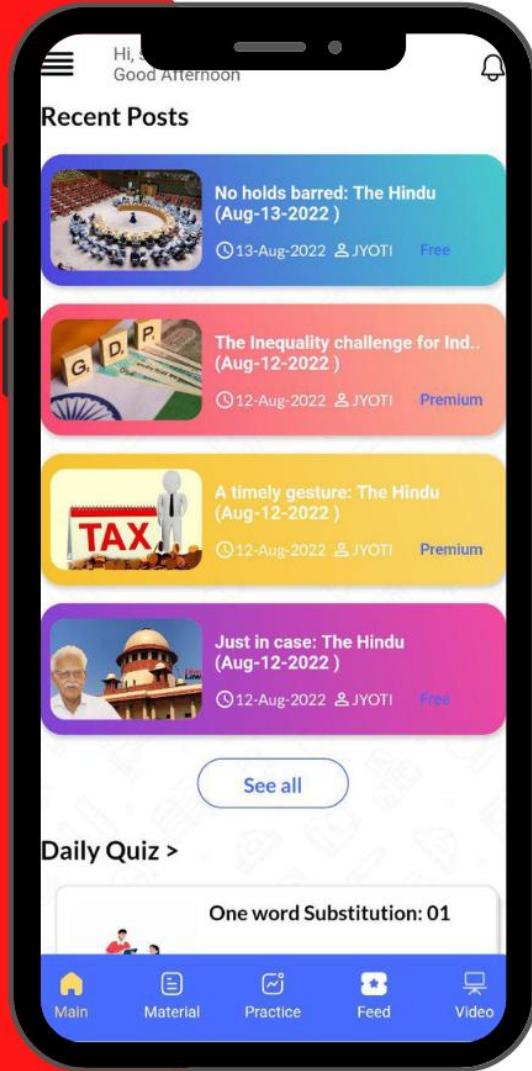
24. A) The blank requires a noun denoting the physical blocking of a visual feature (the eyes) by a physical object (sunglasses). "(obstruction)" precisely means a physical barrier that blocks a line of sight or passage. A) impedance: This is primarily an electrical or physics term for resistance in a circuit, not typically used for physically blocking a view. B) barricade: Refers to a defensive barrier or wall set up to block a street or door, which is an exaggeration for sunglasses. D) embargo: This is an official political ban on trade or commercial activity, making it completely irrelevant to facial features.

- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो किसी physical object (sunglasses) द्वारा visual feature (आँखों) के physical blocking को दर्शाए। "(obstruction)" का सटीक अर्थ वह physical barrier है जो line of sight को block करता है। A) impedance: यह मुख्य रूप से circuit में resistance का electrical या physics term है, आँखों के view को physically block करने के लिए उपयोग नहीं होता। B) barricade: यह street या door को block करने के लिए बनाया गया defensive barrier है, जो sunglasses के लिए exaggeration है। D) embargo: यह trade पर official political ban है, जो facial features के लिए पूरी तरह से irrelevant है।

25. B) The blank tests a strict grammar rule regarding subject-verb agreement and tense. The main subject of the sentence is "The eyes," which is a plural noun. The phrase enclosed in commas ("along with the eyebrows and surrounding areas") is an additive phrase and does not change the grammatical number of the main subject. Therefore, a plural verb is strictly required. Furthermore, the passage states a general, ongoing scientific fact, requiring the present tense. "(are)" is the only grammatically correct plural, present-tense verb. A) is: Singular verb. C) have: Plural verb, but grammatically incorrect in this structure (the eyes are

crucial features, they don't have crucial features). D) were: Plural verb, but in the past tense, which contradicts the statement of a general scientific fact.

- Blank subject-verb agreement और tense के एक strict grammar rule को test करता है। Sentence का main subject "The eyes" है, जो एक plural noun है। Commas में enclosed phrase ("along with the eyebrows and surrounding areas") एक additive phrase है और यह main subject के grammatical number को change नहीं करता है। इसलिए, strictly एक plural verb की आवश्यकता है। इसके अलावा, passage एक general scientific fact बताता है, जिसके लिए present tense की आवश्यकता होती है। "(are)" एकमात्र grammatically correct plural, present-tense verb है। A) is: Singular verb है। C) have: Plural verb है, लेकिन इस structure में grammatically गलत है। D) were: Plural verb है, लेकिन past tense में है, जो general scientific fact को contradict करता है।



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