

Diminishing relevance: On the Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games look increasingly like a **relic** from the past

As Olympic and World Championships medallist Mirabai Chanu stood **atop** the **podium** in Glasgow on Sunday, tears rolling down her cheeks after becoming the first woman weightlifter to **secure** her third **consecutive** Commonwealth Games gold medal, she provided **much-needed succour** to a Games that had risked **fading** into **oblivion** a few years ago. With India set to host the **centenary** edition of the Games in Ahmedabad in 2030, there could not have been a better advertisement than Mirabai's golden **triumph**, which also **ensured** her fourth medal of any colour in a row in the women's 48kg category with a total of 190kg. The **seasoned** weightlifter's **feat** may not be the only **glorious** chapter written in the Scottish city, as other leading Indian athletes are expected to **climb** the podium in athletics and para-athletics, weightlifting and para-weightlifting, boxing, judo, and lawn bowls and para-bowls. According to an internal estimation by the Union Sports Ministry, India's athletes are expected to win around 30 medals even though several **disciplines** in which Indians have traditionally **excelled** — such as wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and squash — **were** dropped from the **scaled-down** Glasgow event. Medals are expected from Neeraj Chopra, Murali Sreeshankar, Praveen Chithravel, and boxers Lovlina Borgohain and Jaismine Lamboria.

The **curtailed** Commonwealth Games **highlights** the diminishing relevance of the **erstwhile** British Empire's sporting tradition. The 2026 **edition**, originally **allotted** to Victoria, **faced** an **existential** threat after the Australian State **withdrew** as a **host** three years ago due to **spiralling** costs. **Glasgow**, the host in 2014, **saved** the Games from **embarrassment** by **proposing** a scaled-down version — with 10 integrated **disciplines**, across four **venues** within an eight-mile **corridor**. Even though the Commonwealth Games do not match the global or regional excellence of the Olympics or the Asian Games, the platform still holds a strong appeal for Indian sportspersons and **administrators**. While India's **success** at the **elite** world level across different sports **has** been **sporadic**, it has the **dubious distinction** of topping the global doping charts for three **successive** years. Multiple athletes across disciplines have been caught for consuming banned substances even **in the run-up to** Glasgow 2026. Either they have been withdrawn from the Indian **contingent** or have failed to qualify due to this, impacting the nation's medal chances and bringing it **shameful** international headlines. As the country prepares to organise a bigger Commonwealth Games — especially **against the backdrop of** the **corruption-tainted** Delhi 2010 edition — it would do well to enhance its **vigilance** to **curb** financial **malpractices** and promote clean sport over the next four years.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Diminish** - (verb) - reduce, lessen, decrease, dwindle, shrink कम करना
2. **Relevance** - (noun) - pertinence, applicability, appropriateness, bearing, connection प्रासंगिकता
3. **Relic** - (noun) - artifact, antique, remnant, survivor, fossil पुराना अवशेष
4. **Atop** - (preposition) - on, upon, above, over, atop of के ऊपर
5. **Podium** - (noun) - dais, platform, stage, rostrum, stand मंच
6. **Secure** - (verb) - obtain, acquire, win, gain, achieve हासिल करना
7. **Consecutive** - (adjective) - successive, sequential, continuous, following, serial लगातार
8. **Much-needed** - (adjective) - required, essential, necessary, desired, expected आवश्यक
9. **Succour** - (noun) - aid, help, assistance, relief, support सहायता
10. **Fading** - (adjective) - vanishing, dissolving, waning, dimming, declining धुंधला पड़ता हुआ
11. **Oblivion** - (noun) - obscurity, anonymity, disregard, forgetfulness, extinction गुमनामी
12. **Centenary** - (adjective) - centennial, hundredth, secular, anniversary, age-old शताब्दी
13. **Triumph** - (noun) - victory, win, success, conquest, achievement जीत
14. **Ensure** - (verb) - guarantee, secure, warrant, assure, confirm सुनिश्चित करना
15. **Seasoned** - (adjective) - experienced, veteran, expert, practiced, matured अनुभवी
16. **Feat** - (noun) - achievement, accomplishment, exploit, deed, performance कमाल
17. **Glorious** - (adjective) - splendid, magnificent, superb, stellar, illustrious शानदार
18. **Climb** - (verb) - ascend, mount, scale, rise, go up चढ़ना
19. **Excel** - (verb) - surpass, outperform, shine, transcend, eclipse बेहतर प्रदर्शन करना
20. **Scaled-down** - (adjective) - reduced, minimized, curtailed, downsized, trimmed छोटा किया गया
21. **Curtail** - (verb) - shorten, restrict, abridge, reduce, lessen कम करना
22. **Highlight** - (verb) - emphasize, spotlight, underline, feature, stress प्रकाश डालना
23. **Erstwhile** - (adjective) - former, past, old, erstwhile, quondam पुराना
24. **Allot** - (verb) - assign, allocate, distribute, designate, give आबंटित करना
25. **Existential** - (adjective) - empirical, vital, living, being, real अस्तित्ववादी
26. **Withdraw** - (verb) - retreat, pull out, recede, leave, depart पीछे हटना
27. **Host** - (noun) - presenter, organizer, anchor, steward, master आयोजक

28. **Spiralling** - (adjective) - soaring, skyrocketing, mounting, increasing, escalating तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ
29. **Embarrassment** - (noun) - awkwardness, shame, humiliation, distress, discomfiture शर्मिंदगी
30. **Propose** - (verb) - suggest, offer, present, submit, move प्रस्ताव रखना
31. **Discipline** - (noun) - branch, subject, field, sport, domain क्षेत्र
32. **Venue** - (noun) - location, site, place, arena, spot स्थल
33. **Corridor** - (noun) - passage, pathway, aisle, gallery, lane गलियारा
34. **Administrator** - (noun) - manager, executive, director, official, regulator प्रबंधक
35. **Elite** - (adjective) - select, prime, choice, top, premier कुलीन
36. **Sporadic** - (adjective) - intermittent, occasional, irregular, periodic, scattered छुटपुट
37. **Dubious** - (adjective) - doubtful, questionable, uncertain, suspicious, dubious संदिग्ध
38. **Distinction** - (noun) - difference, eminence, prominence, honor, excellence विशेषता
39. **Successive** - (adjective) - consecutive, sequential, serial, following, succeeding क्रमिक
40. **In the run-up to** - (phrase) - during the period leading up to an important event. से पहले का समय
41. **Contingent** - (noun) - delegation, group, body, squad, team दल
42. **Shameful** - (adjective) - disgraceful, scandalous, ignominious, humiliating, base अपमानजनक
43. **Against the backdrop of** - (phrase) - in the context of or influenced by a particular situation or event. की पृष्ठभूमि में
44. **Corruption-tainted** - (adjective) - tainted by corruption, blemish-ridden, graft-stained, corrupt, dishonest भ्रष्टाचार से ग्रस्त
45. **Vigilance** - (noun) - watchfulness, alertness, caution, observation, surveillance सतर्कता
46. **Curb** - (verb) - check, restrain, control, suppress, limit नियंत्रित करना
47. **Malpractice** - (noun) - misconduct, wrongdoing, irregularity, corruption, abuse अनियमितता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Mirabai Chanu's historic achievement:** Mirabai Chanu won her **third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal** in Glasgow, becoming the first woman weightlifter to achieve this feat.
2. **Fourth consecutive CWG medal:** Competing in the **women's 48kg category**, Mirabai lifted a total of **190kg** and secured her **fourth consecutive Commonwealth Games medal**.
3. **Boost for the Commonwealth Games:** Her victory provided much-needed attention and prestige to the Commonwealth Games, which have been struggling with **declining relevance and interest**.
4. **India to host CWG 2030:** India is set to host the **centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad in 2030**, making the Glasgow Games particularly significant for the country.
5. **India expects around 30 medals:** According to the **Union Sports Ministry's internal estimates**, Indian athletes are expected to win approximately **30 medals** at the Glasgow Games.
6. **Several major sports excluded:** The scaled-down Glasgow edition dropped sports in which India traditionally performs well, including **wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and squash**.
7. **India still has strong medal prospects:** Athletes such as **Neeraj Chopra, Murali Sreeshankar, Praveen Chithravel, Lovlina Borgohain and Jaismine Lamboria** are among India's major medal hopes.
8. **CWG's relevance is diminishing:** The reduced scale of the Games reflects the **declining importance of the sporting tradition associated with the erstwhile British Empire**.
9. **Victoria withdrew as host:** The **2026 Commonwealth Games** were originally awarded to Victoria, Australia, but the State withdrew three years earlier because of **rapidly rising organisational costs**.
10. **Glasgow rescued the 2026 Games:** Glasgow, which had also hosted the Games in **2014**, stepped in and prevented their cancellation by proposing a **smaller and more economical format**.
11. **2026 Games significantly scaled down:** Glasgow organised just **10 integrated disciplines across four venues within an eight-mile corridor**, highlighting the financial and organisational challenges facing the Games.
12. **CWG lacks global sporting stature:** The Commonwealth Games do not offer the same level of **global or regional sporting excellence as the Olympics or Asian Games**, further questioning their long-term significance.
13. **CWG remains important for India:** Despite its declining international stature, the Commonwealth Games continue to have **considerable appeal for Indian athletes and sports administrators**, partly because India's success at elite global competitions remains inconsistent.

14. **India faces a serious doping problem:** India has topped the **global doping charts for three consecutive years**, with several athletes caught using banned substances even before Glasgow 2026, damaging medal prospects and the country's international reputation.
15. **Lesson for Ahmedabad 2030:** With memories of the **corruption-tainted Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games**, India must strengthen financial oversight, prevent corruption and intensify anti-doping measures to ensure that **Ahmedabad 2030 promotes clean sport and responsible administration**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **The primary function of the passage as a whole is to**
 - A. account for the downscaling of an international event
 - B. contrast national sporting achievements with global standards
 - C. examine national sporting interests amidst upcoming host obligations
 - D. evaluate the financial feasibility of hosting multi-sport events
2. **According to information in the passage, the term "succour" refers to the**
 - A. financial relief provided to an event facing cancellation from escalating hosting costs
 - B. administrative assistance offered by host cities to preserve traditional sporting competitions
 - C. national pride generated by athletes securing consecutive gold medals in multi-sport games
 - D. moral encouragement given to a athletic competition threatening to lose global relevance
3. **According to the passage, what directly caused the exclusion of several sports in which India traditionally excelled?**
 - A. The host city's downscaled event framework
 - B. The nation's continuous doping sanction record
 - C. The reduced interest of national administrators
 - D. The financial malpractices of past editions
4. **In the sentence, "The 2026 edition, originally allotted to Victoria, faced an existential threat after the Australian State withdrew as a host three years ago due to spiralling costs," the main verb "faced" is in:**
 - A. active voice, present tense
 - B. passive voice, present tense
 - C. active voice, past tense
 - D. passive voice, past tense
5. **Which of the following best describes the overall tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory and uncritical
 - B. Appreciative and cautionary
 - C. Cynical and dismissive
 - D. Optimistic and enthusiastic
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

P. The Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK), an armed militant group and political party based in Iran's Kurdish region (also known as Eastern Kurdistan), says they are not a proxy of any power but a force for democratic change and freedom in Iran.

Q. In an email interview, Rivar Abdanan, a spokesperson of PJAK and a member of the party's Leadership Council, said PJAK would enter the war only if the "existence of the Kurdish people comes under threat".

R. PJAK, which is aligned with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) of Turkiye, has sought greater autonomy for Eastern Kurdistan in Iran.

S. After the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran on February 28, there were speculations that Kurdish groups in Iran would join the war against the Islamic Republic.

A. P-Q-R-S

- B. P-R-S-Q
C. R-P-S-Q
D. S-P-Q-R
7. **Choose the sentence with no spelling error.**
A. I was rently at a literary festival.
B. I was recently at a litrary festival.
C. I was recently at a literary festival.
D. I was recently at a literery festival
8. **Improve the underlined part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
There has been a noticeable fall in the number of children dying from malnutrition.
A. noticeable falling
B. No improvement
C. noticeably falling
D. noticeably falls
9. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
Near 800 million people worldwide lack updated sanitation
A. updated sanitation.
B. people worldwide lack
C. No error
D. Near 800 million
10. **Choose the word that can substitute the given group of words.**
A child born after the death of his father
A. Orphan
B. Pseudonym
C. Posthumous
D. Bigot
11. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. The display-free speaker is slated to have moving parts and can provide personalised services to users by leveraging ChatGPT's capabilities.
2. OpenAI is building an AI-powered speaker that will provide smart home services, according to a Bloomberg report, citing anonymous sources who are familiar with the matter.
3. It can reportedly learn about the user through the media they consume, eventually providing a more customised experience.
4. The frontier AI lab has not confirmed the development
A. 2-1-4-3
B. 4-2-1-3
C. 2-4-1-3
D. 1-3-2-4
12. **Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the given word.**
Devious
A. Outspoken

- B. Circuitous
C. Clandestine
D. Serpentine
13. **Choose the word that means the same as the given word.**
Nacreous
A. Monochromatic
B. Pale
C. Gloom
D. Iridescent
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
In space it is possible to identify and _____ some unique characteristics of human physiology and biology
A. isolate
B. excess
C. replete
D. partition
15. **Improve the underlined part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**
Scientists have predicted that the cultivation of rice will be affected severe.
A. affect severe
B. No improvement
C. effecting severely
D. affected severely
16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Backseat driver
A. A person who offers unsolicited advice.
B. To miss an appointed meeting.
C. Attempt to get control over someone.
D. To conclude proceedings
17. **Choose the word that means the same as the given word.**
Corrective
A. Commuting
B. Restorative
C. Compensatory
D. Sluggish
18. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**
The engineers completed the structural analysis before the design phase began.
A. The structural analysis is completed by the engineers before the design phase began.
B. The structural analysis was being completed by the engineers before the design phase began.
C. The structural analysis had been completed by the engineers before the design phase began.
D. The structural analysis was completed by the engineers before the design phase began.

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

The judge said, "What do you have to say on your defence?"

- A. The judge asked what he was to say on his defence.
- B. The judge asked what he will have to say on his defence.
- C. The judge asked what he is to say on his defence.
- D. The judge asked what he had to say on his defence.

20. In the following question, out of the given four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

To play with fire

- A. Feel sick
- B. To take foolish risk
- C. To abuse
- D. Show disappointment

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

India's tiger conservation story is widely regarded as one of the world's most (1) extraordinary wildlife recoveries — a species brought back from near extinction through sustained political commitment, scientific management, and decades of on-ground protection. Since the launch of Project Tiger in 1973, the country's network of protected areas ____ (3) expanded from nine reserves covering 18,278 sq km to 58 reserves spanning 84,488 sq km, accounting for nearly 2.6% of India's landmass. India's tiger population has risen from 1,411 in 2006 to 3,682 in 2022, firmly establishing the country as home to over 70% of the world's wild tigers. This success has now created a new conservation frontier — the growing proportion of tigers living outside protected areas.

Although national datasets do not conclusively link rising tiger numbers with increasing human-tiger conflict, forest departments across several landscapes report a steady (2) escalation in such incidents. As territorial carnivores require extensive home ranges, tigers disperse naturally when core habitats reach saturation. Consequently, more tigers ____ (4) moving beyond protected boundaries into human-dominated fringes. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, 35-40% of India's tiger population now lives ____ (5) designated Tiger Reserves. This reality has prompted the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to launch the Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR) initiative.

21. The word "extraordinary" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. commonplace
- B. remarkable
- C. predictable
- D. trivial

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "escalation" as used in the passage: (2)

- A. decrease
- B. surge
- C. intensification
- D. expansion

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. have
- B. has
- C. having
- D. are

24. **Choose the correct auxiliary verb to complete the sentence: (4)**

- A. is
- B. are
- C. was
- D. been

25. **Select the correct preposition to fill in the blank: (5)**

- A. outside
- B. besides
- C. in
- D. among

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. C) **examine national sporting interests amidst upcoming host obligations**

The passage begins by highlighting Mirabai Chanu's success and India's projected medal tally at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games (CWG). It then transitions into the context of the Games' "diminishing relevance" and the fact that India is set to host the 2030 edition in Ahmedabad. The later half of the passage discusses the challenges India faces, such as doping scandals and the need to avoid the financial corruption seen during the Delhi 2010 Games. C is correct: The passage primary focuses on India's performance and enthusiasm for the CWG (national interests) while framing this interest against the responsibilities and lessons India must learn before hosting the 2030 edition (upcoming host obligations).

A: While the passage mentions why the event was downscaled (financial costs in Australia), this is a contextual detail, not the primary purpose of the entire passage.

B: The passage briefly mentions that the CWG doesn't match the Olympics in excellence, but its main focus is not a comparative study of athletic standards; it is focused on India's specific situation.

D: While it mentions "spiralling costs" and "financial malpractices," the passage does not provide a comprehensive financial evaluation or feasibility study of hosting such events; rather, it uses these points as cautionary advice for India's 2030 hosting duties.

2. D) **moral encouragement given to a athletic competition threatening to lose global relevance**

"Succour": The word "succour" means assistance or support in times of hardship and distress. The passage says Chanu's win "provided much-needed succour to a Games that had risked fading into oblivion a few years ago." (the Games "had risked fading into oblivion a few years ago)." This is the specific problem. — its relevance/existence as a meaningful sporting event was in danger. Mirabai Chanu, through her podium performance (winning gold, emotional moment) gave the Games a reason to still matter — a compelling, emotional moment that reasserts its value and visibility

A is incorrect because Chanu's gold medal is a sporting achievement, not an injection of money to solve the "escalating hosting costs."

B is incorrect because "succour" in this sentence refers to the effect of Chanu's performance, not the administrative actions taken by Glasgow.

C is incorrect because the passage specifies that the succour was provided "to a Games" (the event itself), not just to the nation's pride. While it did generate pride, the primary function of the word here is to describe the relief/support given to the struggling competition.

3. A) **The host city's downscaled event framework**

"...several disciplines in which Indians have traditionally excelled — such as wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and squash — were dropped from the scaled-down Glasgow event."

The passage explains that Glasgow had to step in as a last-minute host because the original host (Victoria, Australia) backed out due to high costs. To make the event possible on such

short notice and with a lower budget, Glasgow proposed a "scaled-down version" with only 10 disciplines (sports). Because they limited the total number of sports to 10, many sports India is usually good at (like wrestling and hockey) were excluded or "dropped." Therefore, the downscaled framework of the event is the direct reason those sports are missing.

Option (b) is incorrect because doping affected individual athletes' participation, not the selection of the sports themselves.

Option (c) is incorrect because the passage states the Games still hold a "strong appeal" for administrators.

Option (d) is incorrect because financial malpractices are mentioned as a concern for India's future hosting, not as the reason for the current reduction in the number of sporting disciplines in Glasgow.

4. C) **active voice, past tense.**

Voice: The subject of the sentence ("The 2026 edition") is the one performing the action of "facing" the threat. In passive voice, the subject would be receiving the action (e.g., "An existential threat was faced by the 2026 edition"). Since the subject is the doer, it is in the active voice.

Tense: The verb "faced" is the simple past form of "face." The context of the sentence also points to the past, mentioning events that happened "three years ago." Therefore, it is in the past tense.

5. B) **Appreciative and cautionary**

Appreciative: The passage begins with a positive and respectful account of Mirabai Chanu's "golden triumph," describing it as a "glorious chapter" and "much-needed succour" for the Games. It acknowledges the prestige and appeal the platform holds for Indian athletes.

Cautionary: The second half of the passage takes a serious, warning tone. It highlights the "diminishing relevance" of the Games, India's "dubious distinction" of leading global doping charts, and the "shameful" headlines caused by banned substances. It ends with an explicit warning (a caution) that India must enhance vigilance against financial malpractices and promote clean sport as it prepares to host the 2030 edition.

6. B) **P-R-S-Q**

Explanation:

Sentence P paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है, जो मुख्य विषय (The Kurdistan Free Life Party - PJAK) को बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे introduce करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।

Sentence R Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence P में introduce किए गए "PJAK" के बारे में अतिरिक्त जानकारी (PKK से जुड़ाव और autonomy की माँग) देकर एक सीधा logical continuation बनाता है।

Sentence S Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह PJAK (Kurdish groups) के वर्तमान संदर्भ को introduce करता है और उन अटकलों (speculations) के बारे में बताता है कि क्या वे इस नए युद्ध में शामिल होंगे।

Sentence Q Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह Sentence S में उठाई गई अटकलों (speculations about joining the war) का direct answer देता है, जिसमें प्रवक्ता स्पष्ट करता है कि PJAK युद्ध (the war) में तभी शामिल होगा जब उनके अस्तित्व पर खतरा होगा।

- Sentence P starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook, establishing the main subject (The Kurdistan Free Life Party - PJAK) independently without any dangling references. (As requested, it is the exact first sentence of the source text).
 - Sentence R follows Sentence P because it provides a logical continuation, offering additional background information about the exact same group, "PJAK," introduced in P (its alignment with PKK and its goals).
 - Sentence S follows Sentence R because it introduces the immediate situational context (the U.S.-Israel war) and raises specific "speculations" regarding whether these Kurdish groups would join the conflict.
 - Sentence Q concludes the sequence because it provides the direct answer to the speculations raised in Sentence S. The quote from the spokesperson explains exactly under what conditions PJAK would actually "enter the war," perfectly wrapping up the sequence.
7. C) **I was recently at a literary festival.**
8. B) **No improvement**
9. D) error Near 800 million' भाग में है। सही प्रयोग 'Nearly 800 million' होगा क्योंकि 'nearly' एक क्रिया विशेषण है जिसका इस्तेमाल यह दर्शाने के लिए किया जाता है कि कुछ लगभग है, लेकिन पूरी तरह से नहीं। मूल वाक्य में 'Near' का प्रयोग गलत है क्योंकि यह या तो एक संबंध सूचक, विशेषण या क्रिया विशेषण के रूप में काम करता है, लेकिन यहाँ आवश्यक अर्थ में नहीं। सही वाक्य होगा: "Nearly 800 million people worldwide lack updated sanitation."
- The error is in part 'D. Near 800 million'. The correct usage should be 'Nearly 800 million' because 'nearly' is an adverb used to indicate that something is almost, but not completely, the case. The original sentence uses 'Near' which is incorrect in this context as it functions either as a preposition, adjective, or adverb, but not in the sense required here. The corrected sentence should be: "Nearly 800 million people worldwide lack updated sanitation."
10. C) **Posthumous** (adjective) - Occurring, awarded, or appearing after the death of the originator. मरणोपरांत
- **Orphan** (noun) - A child whose parents are dead. अनाथ
 - **Pseudonym** (noun) - A fictitious name, especially one used by an author. उपनाम
 - **Bigot** (noun) - A person who is intolerant toward those holding different opinions. कट्टरपंथी
11. C) **2-4-1-3**
- Explanation:
- Sentence 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है, जो "OpenAI" और उसके नए "AI-powered speaker" को बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे introduce करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The frontier AI lab" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में introduce किए गए "OpenAI" को point करता है, और बताता है कि कंपनी ने अभी इस रिपोर्ट (development) की पुष्टि नहीं की है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह वापस मुख्य विषय (speaker) पर लौटता है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The display-free speaker" एक सीधा grammatical link है, जो Sentence 2 में बताए गए "AI-powered speaker" की विशेषताओं (moving parts, ChatGPT capabilities) को विस्तार से समझाता है।

Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "It" सीधे तौर पर speaker को refer करता है। साथ ही, यह Sentence 1 में बताए गए "personalised services" को आगे बढ़ाते हुए समझाता है कि यह कैसे काम करेगा (learning through media) और एक "customised experience" देगा, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

- Sentence 2 starts the sequence because it acts as the introductory hook, establishing the main subject—OpenAI building an AI-powered speaker—independently without any dangling references. (As requested, it is the exact first sentence of the source text).
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the descriptive phrase "The frontier AI lab" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to "OpenAI" established in Sentence 2, clarifying that the company itself has not confirmed the leaked Bloomberg report.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it pivots back to detailing the device. The phrase "The display-free speaker" directly links back to the "AI-powered speaker" introduced in Sentence 2, elaborating on its physical design and core capabilities.
- Sentence 3 concludes the sequence by logically expanding on Sentence 1. The pronoun "It" serves as a direct link back to the speaker, while the concept of a "customised experience" directly elaborates on the "personalised services" just mentioned in Sentence 1, perfectly wrapping up the information block.

12. A) **Devious** (adjective) – Not straightforward, sneaky, underhanded, or dishonest in character or behavior. चालाक

Antonym: **Outspoken** (adjective) – Speaking one's mind freely, candid, forthright, direct. स्पष्टवादी

- **Circuitous** (adjective) – Not direct, roundabout, indirect. घुमावदार
- **Clandestine** (adjective) – Done secretly or covertly, especially for deceitful or illicit purposes. गुप्त
- **Serpentine** (adjective) – Winding and twisting like a snake, or complex, cunning, or treacherous. सर्पिल

13. D) **Nacreous** (adjective) – Resembling nacre, a lustrous, iridescent material found in some seashells, particularly in the inner layer of pearl oysters. सीप की तरह का

SAME WORD: **Iridescent** (adjective) – Showing luminous colors that seem to change when seen from different angles, similar to the appearance of a pearl. इंद्रधनुषी

- **Monochromatic** (adjective) – Having only one color or shades of one color; not iridescent. एकरंगा
- **Pale** (adjective) – Light in color or having less color, not usually displaying iridescence. फीका
- **Gloom** (noun) – Darkness, sadness; not applicable as it is not an adjective describing a quality of appearance. उदासी

14. A) **Isolate** का use होगा क्योंकि "isolate" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को अलग करके उसकी पहचान करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि अंतरिक्ष में मानव शरीर की कुछ अनूठी विशेषताओं की पहचान करके उन्हें अलग किया जा सकता है, इसलिए 'isolate' यहाँ सही शब्द है। जबकि 'Excess' का अर्थ है अत्यधिक होना, 'Replete' का अर्थ है पूर्ण रूप से भरा हुआ होना, और 'Partition' का अर्थ है विभाजन करना, जो इस context में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- 'Isolate' should be used because it means to separate something and identify its characteristics. The sentence indicates that in space, it is possible to identify and separate some unique characteristics of human physiology and biology, making 'isolate' the appropriate choice. Whereas, 'Excess' means to have too much of something, 'Replete' implies being fully or abundantly filled, and 'Partition' means to divide into parts, which do not fit in this context.

15. D) वाक्य में रेखांकित भाग को 'affected severely' के रूप में सुधारा जाएगा। इस सुधार का कारण यह है कि वाक्य संरचना में क्रिया को संशोधित करने के लिए एक क्रिया विशेषण की आवश्यकता होती है। मूल वाक्य में, 'severe' एक विशेषण है और यह क्रिया 'affected' को सही ढंग से संशोधित नहीं करता है। इसलिए, 'severe' को 'severely' में बदला जाना चाहिए, जो कि एक क्रिया विशेषण है, जिससे वाक्य व्याकरणिक रूप से सही हो जाता है। सही वाक्य होगा: वैज्ञानिकों ने भविष्यवाणी की है कि चावल की खेती प्रभावित होगी गंभीर रूप से।

- The underlined part of the sentence will be corrected to 'affected severely'. The reason for this correction is that the sentence structure requires an adverb to modify the verb. In the original sentence, 'severe' is an adjective and does not correctly modify the verb 'affected'. Therefore, 'severe' should be changed to 'severely', which is an adverb, making the sentence grammatically correct. The corrected sentence will be: Scientists have predicted that the cultivation of rice will be affected severely.

16. A) **Backseat driver** (idiom) – A person who offers unsolicited advice. बिना मांगी सलाह देने वाला व्यक्ति

17. B) **Corrective** (adjective) - Intended to correct or counteract something harmful or undesirable, remedial, reparative, healing. सुधारात्मक

Synonym: **Restorative** (adjective) - Having the ability to restore health, strength, or well-being, rejuvenating, revitalizing, refreshing. स्वास्थ्यप्रद

- **Commuting** (verb) - Travel some distance between one's home and place of work on a regular basis, traveling, journeying. आवागमन
- **Compensatory** (adjective) - Serving to compensate, offsetting, balancing, counterbalancing. प्रतिपूरक
- **Sluggish** (adjective) - Slow-moving or inactive, lethargic, lazy, slothful. सुस्त

18. D) **The structural analysis was completed by the engineers before the design phase began.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "The engineers" Subject है, "completed" (Past Simple) Verb है और "the structural analysis" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The structural analysis" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "was completed" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by the engineers" जोड़ा जाता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "The structural analysis was completed by the engineers before the design phase began."

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed into the passive form with the correct tense. In this case, "The engineers" (Subject), "completed" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the structural analysis" (Object) are transformed into "The structural analysis" (Subject), "was completed" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by the engineers". Hence, the correct answer is — "The structural analysis was completed by the engineers before the design phase began." (Option 4)

19. D) **The judge asked what he had to say on his defence.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय Reporting Verb, Pronoun और Tense बदले जाते हैं। दिए गए वाक्य में Reporting Verb "said" प्रश्नवाचक होने के कारण asked बनता है। Reported Speech में "do you have" (Simple Present) का backshift होकर had to say (Past) हो जाता है और Pronoun "you / your" को he / his में बदला जाता है।

- To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb, pronouns, and tense are changed appropriately. In an interrogative sentence, the reporting verb "said" becomes asked, the question form changes into statement order, and the tense is backshifted. In this case, "do you have to say" (Simple Present) changes to had to say (Past), and the pronouns "you / your" change to he / his according to the context.

20. B) **To play with fire** (idiom) – To take foolish risks मूर्खतापूर्ण जोखिम उठाना

21. B) **remarkable**

Remarkable means worthy of attention or striking, making it the perfect synonym for "extraordinary" in the context of an impressive wildlife recovery. Commonplace (ordinary), Predictable (expected), and Trivial (of little value) are antonyms or words that contradict the magnitude of the achievement described in the passage.

- यहाँ Remarkable सही है क्योंकि इसका meaning असाधारण या ध्यान देने योग्य (extraordinary) होता है, जो वन्यजीवों की रिकवरी की शानदार सफलता के संदर्भ में बिल्कुल सही है। Commonplace (सामान्य), Predictable (जिसका अनुमान पहले से हो), और Trivial (तुच्छ) इसके विपरीत (antonyms) या नकारात्मक भाव वाले शब्द हैं।

22. A) **decrease**

Decrease is the correct answer because the question specifically asks for an antonym (opposite word). "Escalation" means a rapid increase or a rise in intensity (like human-tiger conflicts). Therefore, "decrease" (a reduction) is the exact logical opposite. Surge, Intensification, and Expansion are all direct synonyms of escalation that denote growth or increase.

- यहाँ Decrease सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Escalation" का meaning किसी चीज़ (जैसे विवाद या घटना) का तेज़ी से बढ़ना होता है। "Decrease" का meaning कम होना या घटना होता है, जो इसका सही विलोम है। Surge (अचानक वृद्धि), Intensification (तीव्रता बढ़ना), और Expansion (विस्तार) सभी escalation के synonyms हैं।

23. B) **has**

Has is used because the true grammatical subject of the sentence is the singular noun "network" ("the country's network"). The phrase "of protected areas" is merely a prepositional phrase modifying the subject. A singular subject strictly requires a singular verb ("has"). Have

and Are are plural verbs. Having is a participle that cannot function as the main auxiliary verb here without breaking grammatical rules.

- यहाँ Has का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence का मुख्य subject singular noun "network" है ("protected areas" सिर्फ preposition 'of' का object है)। Singular subject के साथ हमेशा singular verb (has) आती है। Have और Are plural verbs हैं, इसलिए ये subject-verb agreement के नियमों के खिलाफ हैं। Having participle है, जो बिना main helping verb के यहाँ इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकता।

24. B) are

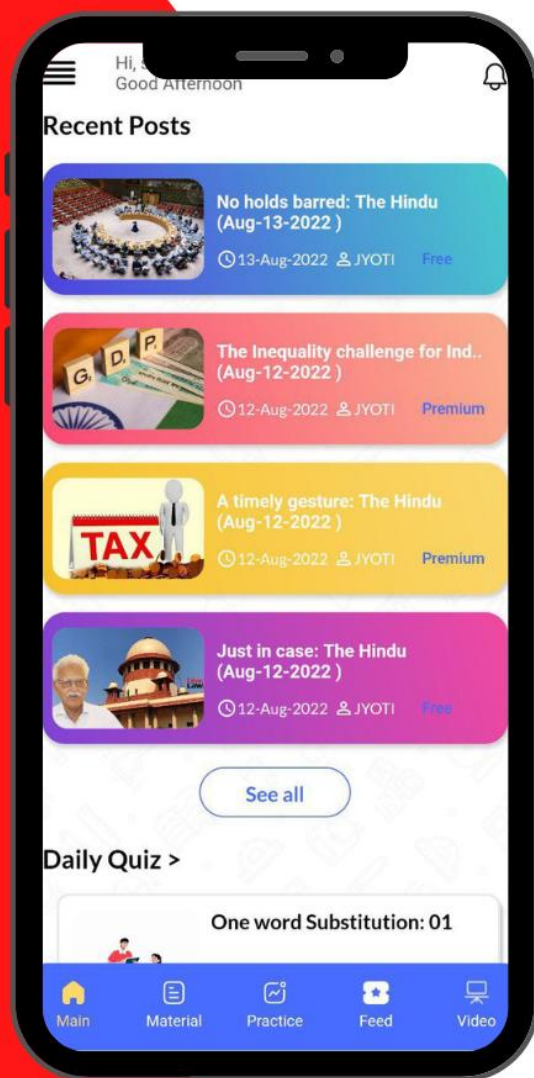
Are is used because the subject "tigers" is a plural noun, and the sentence describes an ongoing, present reality ("moving beyond"), requiring the present continuous tense plural auxiliary verb. Is and Was are singular verbs. Been is a past participle that strictly requires a perfect tense auxiliary verb (like "have" or "had") immediately preceding it.

- यहाँ Are का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "tigers" plural (बहुवचन) है, और sentence वर्तमान में चल रही एक क्रिया (present continuous tense - "moving") को दर्शा रहा है। Is (present) और Was (past) singular verbs हैं, जो plural subject के साथ गलत हैं। Been verb की third form है, जिसके पहले "have" या "has" का होना अनिवार्य है।

25. A) outside

Outside is used because the entire preceding paragraph discusses tigers moving "beyond protected boundaries" and explicitly introduces the government initiative named "Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves (TOTR)". Besides means in addition to. In directly contradicts the passage's premise about the growing proportion of tigers leaving the core areas. Among means surrounded by, which does not logically fit the spatial relationship described.

- यहाँ Outside का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि पूरे passage का मुख्य विषय ही उन बाघों के बारे में है जो संरक्षित क्षेत्रों की सीमाओं के "बाहर" जा रहे हैं (जैसा कि सरकार की पहल 'Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves' के नाम से भी स्पष्ट है)। Besides का मतलब 'के अलावा' होता है। In का मतलब 'अंदर' होता है, जो पैसेज के मूल विचार के बिल्कुल विपरीत है। Among का मतलब 'के बीच में' होता है, जो यहाँ spatial (स्थानिक) संदर्भ में गलत है।



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