

## Favourites on top: On ICC women Twenty20 World Cup

Australia won the T20 World Cup as expected, but not without **hiccups**

Australia's **victory** at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which **concluded** at Cape Town on Sunday, **was** expected: even in a sport rightly celebrated for its **glorious** uncertainties, a **win** for the Australian women's cricket team **is** almost a **certainty**. It was Australia's sixth victory in what was the eighth edition of the tournament. Australia has also been the champion in seven out of the 12 Women's Cricket (ODI) World Cups. In Tests too — **regrettably**, there are very few of them for women these days — Australia has the best percentage of wins among all the teams. **The Aussies** had arrived in South Africa for the World Cup with a **remarkable** record in the T20 format. In three years, they had lost only once, that too in the Super Over to India at Navi Mumbai in December. It was India that ended an even more **spectacular run** by Australia: 26 ODI wins. And that victory in 2021 had come in **Australia's own backyard**. The Indian women had an excellent opportunity to stop their **formidable rival's** run at the World Cup in South Africa, too. In the semifinal, they were **well placed** in their **chase** of a challenging target until Harmanpreet Kaur was run out after her bat got stuck.

The other semifinal, however, saw a major **upset**, with **the host defeating** England. There had already been excellent **crowds** for the tournament, but South Africa's **presence** in the final **ensured a full house** at the Newlands Cricket Ground. The South African women may have **stumbled** on the final **hurdle**, but their campaign was probably the real story of the World Cup. They had entered the tournament **amid** a controversy: **the captain**, Dane van Niekerk, **had** been **dropped** on fitness **grounds** (she failed to reach the two-kilometre running **benchmark** by 18 seconds). And they were **stunned** by Sri Lanka in the opening match. But, under the captaincy of Sune Luus, they **bounced back admirably** and went on to become the first South African team, male or female, to enter a cricket World Cup final. It should be a major **impetus** to the women's sport, not just cricket, in South Africa, a country that **paid a heavy price** for its **apartheid** policy. It may be **pertinent** to note that **Nelson Mandela**, South Africa's first Black President, **had** successfully used sport — the 1995 Rugby World Cup, which South Africa **hosted** and won — to **unite a divided** nation.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Ground** (noun) – reason, cause, basis, base, foundation आधार; कारण

## Vocabulary

1. **Hiccups** (noun) – a small problem or difficulty छोटी-मोटी समस्या या कठिनाई
2. **Conclude** (verb) – finish, complete, close, infer, terminate समापन करना
3. **Glorious** (adjective) – illustrious, famous, famed, magnificent, superb शानदार
4. **Certainty** (noun) – the quality of being reliably true. निश्चितता
5. **Regrettably** (adverb) – unfortunately, alas, sadly, unluckily, deplorably अफसोस से
6. **The Aussies** (noun) – Australia women cricket team
7. **Remarkable** (adjective) – Worthy of attention; striking. उल्लेखनीय
8. **Spectacular** (adjective) – remarkable, stunning, Impressive, great, enormous शानदार
9. **Run** (noun) – a continuous series of performances. उपलब्धि
10. **In one's own backyard** (phrase) – the area of activity that you are involved in; in own country (here it refers to Australia)
11. **Formidable** (adjective) – difficult to deal with; strong, powerful दुर्जेय, मजबूत
12. **Rival** (noun) – competitor, opponent, contestant, contender प्रतिद्वंद्वी
13. **Well placed** (adjective) – in a good situation to be able to do something अच्छी तरह से तैयार होना
14. **Chase** (noun) – an act in which something is being pursued (target) पीछा (लक्ष्य का)
15. **Upset** (noun) – A game, contest in which the favorite is defeated. उलटफेर
16. **Host** (noun) – here it refers to South Africa मेज़बान
17. **Defeat** (verb) –beat, overcome, conquer, win against हराना
18. **Crowd** (noun) – A large number of things or people considered together भीड़
19. **Presence** (noun) – an impressive appearance उपस्थिति
20. **Ensure** (verb) – Make sure, make certain, confirm, certify सुनिश्चित करना
21. **Full house** (noun) – an audience that fills the venue for an event to capacity. खचाखच भरा हुआ
22. **Stumble** (on) (verb) – to make mistakes or hesitate/ falter in actions लड़खड़ाना
23. **Hurdle** (noun) – obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, impediment बाधा
24. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of के बीच

25. **Drop** (verb) – exclude, discard, oust, expel, leave out बाहर करना
26. **Benchmark** (noun) – Standard, yardstick, level, scale मानदंड
27. **Stun** (verb) – to surprise or shock somebody हक्का बक्का करना
28. **Bounce back** (phrasal verb) – recover, improve, get better वापसी
29. **Admirably** (adverb) – Commendably, splendidly, very well, marvelously प्रशंसनीय ढंग से/ शानदार
30. **Impetus** (noun) – motivation, stimulus, incitement, incentive प्रोत्साहन
31. **Pay a price** (phrase) – to experience the bad result of something you have done बुरा परिणाम भुगतना
32. **Apartheid** (adjective) – (in South Africa) a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race. रंगभेद
33. **Pertinent** (adjective) – relevant, to the point, apposite, appropriate, suitable उचित/ मुनासिब
34. **Host** (verb) – be the host of or for; hold, present, introduce, accommodate मेज़बान करना
35. **Unite** (verb) – join, connect, bring together जोड़ना/ एकजुट करना
36. **Divided** (adjective) – Separated, partitioned, segregated, विभाजित

## Practice Exercise

**Direction (Q1 – Q2):** Select the best express synonym of the given words

[\[Editorial page\]](#)

1. **Spectacular**

- A. Stunning
- B. Worthy
- C. Ambition
- D. Allied

2. **Impetus**

- A. Manage
- B. Stimulus
- C. Underlying
- D. Capital

3. Select the best express **Antonym** of the given word

**Pertinent**

- A. Tariff
- B. Dip
- C. Concern
- D. Inappropriate

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

This publicity ***cuts both ways***. It focuses on us as well as on them.

- A. Hold something tightly or carefully
- B. Be able to understand or solve something
- C. To pay attention to a situation carefully
- D. To have both advantages and disadvantages

5. **Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

- (i) should serve as a warning: the Ukraine conflict could potentially spill over into (A)/ the missile incident in Poland, in which two people were killed, (B)/ a wider war between nuclear-armed Russia and NATO (C)/
- (ii) and NATO's decision to back Ukraine with military supplies have brought(D)/ the two sides to an eyeball-to-eyeball situation, (E)/ the Russian invasion of its neighbouring country (F)/ with only a spark needed for a conflagration(G)/

- A. ABC, EFDG
- B. DGFE, BAC
- C. BAC, FDEG
- D. FDGE, CBA

E. None of the above

**Direction (Q6 – Q9):** Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. Apart from the dance programmes, (A)/ there will be training sessions for (B)/ students from various schools in the city (C)/ on a daily basis. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. The government's earnings (A)/ through royalty, dividends and profit sharing (B)/ have been steady rising (C)/ over the years. (D)/ No Error. (E)
8. The man was (A)/ reportedly upset (B)/ over his sister's death (C)/ about a fortnight behind. (D)/ No Error. (E)
9. Despite of (A)/ elaborate search operations, (B)/ the police could find no trace (C)/ of the missing girls. (D)/ No Error. (E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
  - A. Sustainable
  - B. Precaurious
  - C. Recommencement
  - D. Occurrence

**Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(The Hindu Editorial: Puncturing ties– Feb 08, 2023)**

The visit, which would have been the first by a top U.S. diplomat since 2018, was the result of a months-long effort to halt the downward spiral in ties, coming out of the Biden-Xi meet in November at the G-20 Bali summit. **(1)/** The fragility of that effort has been laid bare by the controversy over the balloon, which has punctured the process of restoring stability in relations that have been marred by growing discord. **(2)/** The detection of the balloon last week over Montana sparked a diplomatic crisis, leading to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling off a highly anticipated visit to China from February 6. **(3)/** The shooting down of a Chinese surveillance balloon by the U.S. military has served as a stark reminder of the deep distrust that characterises relations between the world's two biggest powers. **(4)/**

Beijing has maintained that the balloon was “civilian” (meteorology), but had drifted \_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_. It also \_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the move to shoot it down as an overreaction. The U.S. has seen the deployment of what it called a surveillance balloon, on the eve of the Blinken visit, deep into its airspace as a grave provocation — one, it pointed out, that Beijing too would not have tolerated. U.S. officials have acknowledged this was by no means the first such surveillance balloon spotted over American skies; there was a similar incident under the Trump administration. Balloons were also \_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ over Japan in 2020 and 2021, and over India's Andaman Islands last year. All three governments did not take steps to shoot down the balloons, **presumably(A)** coming to the **conclusion(B)** that the balloons, in the age of **intelligence(C)** powered by advanced satellites, were not important **enough(D)** to warrant being shot down. New Delhi and Tokyo may now be prompted to reassess how they handle such intrusions in the future. Beijing, for its part, would do well to reconsider the benefits and costs of what appears to be a new, and provocative, tool for intelligence-gathering. It is **conceivable** that the Biden administration may have allowed the balloon to quietly drift away had it not been spotted in Montana. The Biden administration faced intense criticism at home for not shooting down the balloon earlier. Its response, **(A)/** including cancelling the Blinken visit, **(B)/** reflect how China has become **(C)/** a hot-button issue in U.S. politics. **(D)/** This development has \_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ how a key relationship is managed.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

11. Beijing has maintained that the balloon was “civilian” (meteorology), but had drifted (a)\_\_\_\_\_.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) Observation
- (ii) Off-course
- (iii) Brilliance
- (iv) Staggering

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

12. It also \_\_\_\_\_(b)\_\_\_\_\_ the move to shoot it down as an overreaction.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) Slammed
- (ii) Setback
- (iii) Ambition
- (iv) Outcome

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iv)    D. Both (ii) and (iv)    E. None of the above

13. Balloons were also \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_ over Japan in 2020 and 2021, and over India’s Andaman Islands last year.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

- (i) Nestle
- (ii) Beckoned
- (iii) Marred
- (iv) Spotted

A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (i) and (ii)    E. None of the above

14. This development has \_\_\_\_\_(d)\_\_\_\_\_ how a key relationship is managed.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

- (i) Rival
- (ii) Alliance
- (iii) Constrained
- (iv) Edge

A. Only (i)    B. Only (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (iii) and (ii)    E. None of the above

15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select ‘No error’ as your answers.**

Its response,(A)/ including cancelling the Blinken visit,(B)/ reflect how China has become(C)/ a hot-button issue in U.S. politics.(D)/

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)

- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

The visit, which would have been the first by a top U.S. diplomat since 2018, was the result of a months-long effort to halt the downward spiral in ties, coming out of the Biden-Xi meet in November at the G-20 Bali summit. **(1)**/ The fragility of that effort has been laid bare by the controversy over the balloon, which has punctured the process of restoring stability in relations that have been marred by growing discord. **(2)**/ The detection of the balloon last week over Montana sparked a diplomatic crisis, leading to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling off a highly anticipated visit to China from February 6. **(3)**/The shooting down of a Chinese surveillance balloon by the U.S. military has served as a stark reminder of the deep distrust that characterises relations between the world's two biggest powers.**(4)**

- A. 2341
- B. 1243
- C. 2134
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

**CONCEIVABLE**

- (i) Books on every **conceivable** subject lined one wall
  - (ii) Looking at the symbols in question from this perspective, it becomes **conceivable** that they represent various things.
  - (iii) Note that the emphasis is on **conceivable** solutions.
- A. Only (i)
  - B. Only (ii)
  - C. Only (iii)
  - D. (i), (ii)
  - E. (i), (ii), (iii)

18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**

All three governments did not take steps to shoot down the balloons, **presumably(A)** coming to the **conclusion(B)** that the balloons, in the age of **intelligence(C)** powered by advanced satellites, were not important **enough(D)** to warrant being shot down.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. C – D
- D. A – C

E. No arrangement

19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

(i) Flagship program for girl's education are making their mark

(ii) literacy rate among the rural girls is low

A. Unlike

B. Lest

C. Yet

D. Because

E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He has decided to embark \_\_\_\_\_ new business undertaking.

A. Of

B. In

C. On

D. To

## Answers

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

## Explanations

- Spectacular** (adjective) – remarkable, stunning, Impressive, great, enormous शानदार
  - Worthy** (adjective) – Having worth or merit or value योग्य
  - Ambition** (noun) – aspiration, goal, desire, objective महत्वाकांक्षा
  - Allied** (adjective) – related, associated, connected, linked संबंधित
- Impetus** (noun) – motivation, stimulus, incitement, incentive प्रोत्साहन
  - Manage** (to) (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, especially with difficulty सफल होना
  - Underlying** (adjective) – fundamental, primary, basic, core, principal, main बुनियादी
  - Capital** (noun) – Money, funds, wealth
- Pertinent** (adjective) – relevant, to the point, apposite, appropriate, suitable उचित/ मुनासिब
  - Tariff** (noun) – tax, duty, toll, excise कर
  - Dip** (verb) – Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरना
  - Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry, apprehension fear चिंता
- Cut both ways** (Phrase) – to have both advantages and disadvantages: फायदे और नुकसान दोनों
- BAC, FDEG**  
 The missile incident in Poland, in which two people were killed, should serve as a warning: the Ukraine conflict could potentially spill over into a wider war between nuclear-armed Russia and NATO. The Russian invasion of its neighbouring country and NATO's decision to back Ukraine with military supplies have brought the two sides to an eyeball-to-eyeball situation, with only a spark needed for a conflagration.
- (E) No error.
- (C) 'steady' के बदले 'steadily' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'steady' एक Adjective है जिसका अर्थ 'अचल, स्थिर' तथा 'steadily' एक Adverb है जिसका अर्थ है 'स्थिरता से, दृढ़ता से' और Verb 'rising' की विशेषता एक Adverb बताएगा, न कि एक Adjective; जैसे-
  - She is making a steady progress in her business.
  - She is steadily progressing in her business.
  - 'steadily' will be used instead of 'steady' because 'steady' is an Adjective which means 'firm, Fixed' and 'steadily' is an Adverb which means 'in a controlled or unwavering manner.' and Verb 'rising' will be characterized as an Adverb, not an Adjective; like-
    - She is making a steady progress in her business.
    - She is steadily progressing in her business.

8. (D) 'behind' के बदले 'ago' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'behind' एक Preposition है जिसका अर्थ है 'के पीछे' जबकि 'ago' एक Adverb of Time है जो 'पहले' के अर्थ में past time के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, जैसे-
- i. She was standing behind Mohan. (के पीछे)
  - ii. I came here a month ago (के पहले)
- 'ago' will be used instead of 'behind' because 'behind' is a Preposition which means 'at the back of' whereas 'ago' is an Adverb of Time which means 'former' for past time is used, such as-
    - i. She was standing behind Mohan. (behind)
    - ii. I came here a month ago
9. (A) 'despite' के साथ 'of' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है।
- 'of' is not used with 'despite'.
10. **Precarious** (adjective) – unwarranted, risky, dangerous, hazardous, perilous; shaky, unstable, uncertain अनिश्चित
11. **Off-course** (adjective) – in the wrong direction or away from the intended course गलत दिशा में
- **Observation** (noun) – remark, comment, opinion, thought, statement टिप्पणी, विचार
  - **Brilliance** (noun) – The state or quality of being brilliant प्रतिभा
  - **Staggering** (adjective) – astonishing, overwhelming, amazing, breathtaking, astounding चौंका देने वाला
12. **Slam** (verb) – criticize severely; censure, denounce, condemn कड़ी आलोचना करना।
- **Setback** (noun) – a reversal or check in progress. असफलता, झटका
  - **Ambition** (noun) – aspiration, intention, goal, aim, objective, object, महत्वाकांक्षा
  - **Outcome** (noun) – result, end result, consequence, net result, upshot परिणाम, नतीजा
13. **Spot** (verb) – notice, see, observe, detect देखना
- **Nestle** (verb) – lie, be situated, be located बसना, रहना
  - **Beckon** (verb) – Signal, sign, indicate संकेत करना
  - **Mar** (verb) – spoil, ruin, impair, upset, damage बिगाड़ना/ खराब होना
14. **Constrain** (verb) – limit, restrain, confine, restrict, check सीमित करना
- **Rival** (noun) – competitor, opponent, contestant, contender प्रतिद्वंद्वी
  - **Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन
  - **Edge** (noun) – Advantage, superiority; an advantage over other people बढ़त
15. 'reflect' के बदले 'reflects' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject 'Its response' Singular है जिसके लिए Singular Verb का प्रयोग होगा।

## 16. (E) 4312

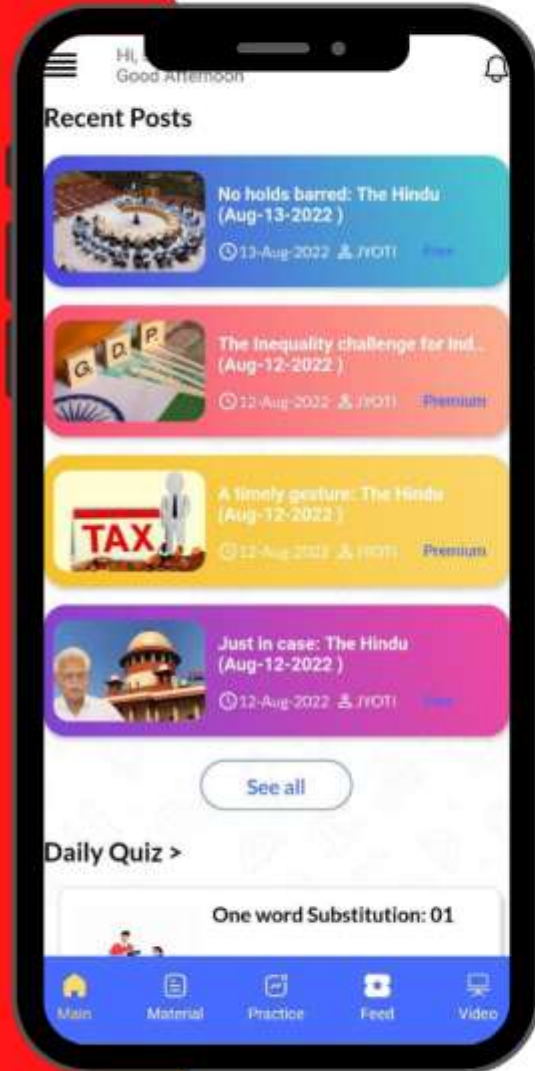
The shooting down of a Chinese surveillance balloon by the U.S. military has served as a stark reminder of the deep distrust that characterises relations between the world's two biggest powers. The detection of the balloon last week over Montana sparked a diplomatic crisis, leading to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling off a highly anticipated visit to China from February 6. The visit, which would have been the first by a top U.S. diplomat since 2018, was the result of a months-long effort to halt the downward spiral in ties, coming out of the Biden-Xi meet in November at the G-20 Bali summit. The fragility of that effort has been laid bare by the controversy over the balloon, which has punctured the process of restoring stability in relations that have been marred by growing discord.

17. **Conceivable** (adjective) – imaginable, believable, possible बोधगम्य/संभाव्य

According to the given options all are contextually correct.

## 18. All three governments did not take steps to shoot down the balloons, presumably coming to the conclusion that the balloons, in the age of intelligence powered by advanced satellites, were not important enough to warrant being shot down.

19. Flagship program for girl's education are making their mark, **yet** literacy rate among the rural girls is low.20. **Embark on/upon** – begin, start, commence, undertake, set about शुरू करना



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

