

Drawing lines: On the India-China 25th Special Representatives' talks

India and China must be **transparent** about the talks on boundary dispute

Following Tuesday's talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) on the boundary question, India and China have agreed to **substantial outcomes** on managing the **disputed** border. According to an eight-point **consensus** released on Wednesday, both countries have agreed to advance discussions on "an early and substantial harvest of boundary **delimitation**". They have agreed to hold next month a meeting of an expert-level **mechanism** on **trans-border** rivers and to maintain communication on sharing **hydrological** data, which India has been **pushing for**. Two additional meeting **points** to **hold talks** between top military commanders **will** be **set up**, along with two new channels of **hotlines** in the Eastern and Middle Sectors. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi **reaffirmed** the efforts taken over the past two years to keep the peace along the Line of Actual Control, and **committed to** continuing the on-going **normalisation** in relations. That the NSA's **visit** to Beijing **took place** before India hosts the BRICS **Summit**, on September 12, **underlined** both sides' **keenness** to continue with this process of re-engagement, with the expected visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping after a gap of seven years. An October 2024 **meeting** between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Xi **kickstarted** this **calibrated** effort towards **normalcy**, and a 2025 meeting in Tianjin helped continue the **momentum**. It is **apparent** that both sides see continued engagement at the highest level as key to **sustaining** this process of normalisation.

The dual **tracks** of the SR meetings and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs, a body comprising **diplomats** and military officials, **have** worked well towards keeping the borders generally stable over the past two years. The latest outcomes will certainly help in keeping the peace. Less clear is how both sides **intend** to take up the task of border delimitation. Neither side has explained which parts of the border they plan to **delimit**, or whether they are **reconsidering** the 2005 agreement on Political **Parameters** and Guiding Principles, under which the SRs were **tasked with** first agreeing a framework to settle the boundary. While both sides in Beijing reaffirmed the 2005 agreement, Article 10 of its text notes that it is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can **delineate** the boundary. **Tangible progress** on the border dispute must certainly **be welcomed**. However, agreements made without public visibility, **notwithstanding** their **merit**, may invite **suspicion**. As India and China continue **negotiating** their long-running boundary question, it is **imperative** that they bring their publics along.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Draw the line** (idiom) - to never do something because you think it is wrong सीमा तय करना
2. **Transparent** (adjective) - open, clear, candid, forthright, lucid पारदर्शी
3. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding के बाद
4. **Substantial** (adjective) - considerable, significant, meaningful, sizeable, ample ठोस
5. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, effect, aftermath, product परिणाम
6. **Disputed** (adjective) - contested, controversial, debated, challenged, conflicted विवादित
7. **Consensus** (noun) - agreement, accord, harmony, concurrence, unison आम सहमति
8. **Delimitation** (noun) - the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country परिसीमन
9. **Mechanism** (noun) - procedure, system, apparatus, instrument, machinery तंत्र
10. **Trans-border** (adjective) - cross-border, transnational, international, interstate सीमा पार
11. **Hydrological** (adjective) - water-related, aquatic, hydrologic, water-resource, hydrographic जलवैज्ञानिक
12. **Push for** (phrasal verb) - to repeatedly ask for something or try to make something happen जोर डालना
13. **Hold talks** (phrase) - organize discussions between parties for agreement बातचीत करना
14. **Set up** (phrasal verb) - to establish, create or build स्थापित करना
15. **Hotline** (noun) - a direct telephone line to a business or organization हॉटलाइन
16. **Reaffirm** (verb) - assert, reiterate, re-emphasize, restate, confirm पुनः पुष्टि करना
17. **Committed to** (phrase) - to promise or give your loyalty, time, or money to a particular principle, person, or plan of action प्रतिबद्ध
18. **Normalisation** (noun) - regularization, restoration, stabilization, standardisation सामान्यीकरण
19. **Take place** (phrasal verb) - to happen, occur आयोजित होना
20. **Summit** (noun) - conference, meeting, gathering, assembly, colloquium शिखर सम्मेलन
21. **Underline** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accent रेखांकित करना
22. **Keeness** (noun) - eagerness, enthusiasm, zeal, fervor, avidity उत्सुकता
23. **Calibrated** (adjective) - measured, adjusted, calculated, assessed, gauged मापा हुआ
24. **Normalcy** (noun) - normality, regularity, order, standard, usualness सामान्य स्थिति
25. **Momentum** (noun) - impetus, drive, energy, thrust, velocity गति

26. **Apparent** (adjective) - obvious, evident, clear, manifest, visible स्पष्ट
27. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, support, uphold, continue, prolong बनाए रखना
28. **Diplomat** (noun) - envoy, ambassador, emissary, consul, negotiator राजनयिक
29. **Intend** (verb) - aim, plan, propose, mean, design इरादा रखना
30. **Delimit** (verb) - bound, demarcate, define, mark, limit सीमा निर्धारित करना
31. **Reconsider** (verb) - re-evaluate, review, rethink, reassess, re-examine पुनर्विचार करना
32. **Parameter** (noun) - criterion, guideline, limit, framework, standard पैरामीटर
33. **Task** (with)(verb) - to deal with or handle a difficult person, problem, or situation काम सौंपना
34. **Delineate** (verb) - outline, trace, map, depict, sketch रेखांकित करना
35. **Tangible** (adjective) - palpable, concrete, real, substantial, material मूर्त
36. **Welcome** (verb) - greet, embrace, accept, hail, appreciate स्वागत करना
37. **Notwithstanding** (preposition) - despite, in spite of, regardless of के बावजूद
38. **Merit** (noun) - worth, value, excellence, quality, virtue खूबी
39. **Suspicion** (noun) - mistrust, distrust, doubt, skepticism, misgiving संदेह
40. **Negotiate** (verb) - bargain, discuss, transact, mediate, consult बातचीत करना
41. **Imperative** (adjective) - crucial, essential, vital, pressing, obligatory अनिवार्य

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Substantial outcomes:** India and China have reached important agreements after the **25th Special Representatives' talks** on the boundary dispute.
2. **Boundary delimitation:** Both sides agreed to work towards an **early and substantial outcome on boundary delimitation**.
3. **Trans-border rivers:** The two countries will hold an expert-level meeting on **trans-border rivers** and continue sharing hydrological data.
4. **India's demand:** Continued communication on **hydrological information** is significant because India has been pushing for greater cooperation in this area.
5. **Military communication:** Two additional meeting points for **senior military commanders** will be established to improve communication.
6. **New hotlines:** Two new **hotline channels** will be created in the Eastern and Middle Sectors of the border.
7. **Commitment to peace:** Ajit Doval and Wang Yi reaffirmed efforts to maintain **peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
8. **Normalisation of relations:** Both sides committed themselves to continuing the process of **normalising India-China relations**.
9. **High-level engagement:** The talks demonstrate that India and China consider **continued engagement at the highest level** essential for sustaining normalisation.
10. **Recent diplomatic momentum:** The process gained momentum after the **October 2024 meeting between Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping**, followed by their 2025 meeting in Tianjin.
11. **BRICS significance:** The timing of the NSA's Beijing visit before India hosts the **BRICS Summit** indicates both countries' interest in continued diplomatic re-engagement.
12. **Existing mechanisms:** The Special Representatives' talks and the **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination** have helped keep the border generally stable over the past two years.
13. **Unclear delimitation process:** Despite the latest agreement, neither side has explained **which parts of the border will be delimited** or whether the 2005 agreement will be reconsidered.
14. **Need for transparency:** The 2005 agreement provides the framework for settling and delineating the boundary, so the lack of clarity about how delimitation will proceed could create **suspicion**.
15. **Way forward:** Progress on the boundary dispute should be welcomed, but India and China must make their negotiations **more transparent and publicly visible**, bringing their citizens along in the long process of resolving the dispute.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence: "Both sides see continued engagement as key to sustaining this process."** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Continued engagement was seen as key to sustaining this process by both sides.
 - B. Continued engagement is seen as key to sustaining this process by both sides.
 - C. The process is seen to be sustained by the continued engagement of both sides.
 - D. Both sides have seen that continued engagement is key to sustaining the process.
2. **Choose the correct indirect speech conversion of the sentence: Article 10 notes, "It is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary."**
 - A. Article 10 notes that it was only on the basis of the framework that both sides could delineate the boundary.
 - B. Article 10 noted that only on the framework's basis both sides will delineate the boundary.
 - C. Article 10 has noted that it was only on the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary.
 - D. Article 10 notes that it is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary.
3. **What is the primary purpose of involving the public in the boundary resolution process, as suggested by the author?**
 - A. To allow the general population to vote on the specific territorial changes proposed by the SRs.
 - B. To prevent the development of internal suspicion and ensure national support for the final agreement.
 - C. To increase the speed of the negotiations by incorporating public suggestions into the framework.
 - D. To demonstrate to the international community that both nations are following democratic principles.
4. **How do the "dual tracks" mentioned in the passage contribute to the stability of the disputed boundary?**
 - A. By allowing military officials and diplomats to work in parallel on both technical and political fronts.
 - B. By replacing the 2005 agreement with a more modern framework that focuses on economic re-engagement.
 - C. By ensuring that the public is informed of every minor adjustment made during the negotiation process.
 - D. By prioritizing the shared governance of trans-border rivers over the delimitation of the physical border.
5. **What role do the newly proposed communication hotlines play in the Eastern and Middle Sectors?**
 - A. To ensure that political leaders can directly manage the day-to-day logistics of border troops.
 - B. To provide an immediate layer of crisis management between high-level operational commanders.

- C. To bypass the existing diplomatic mechanisms and establish a purely military-led resolution process.
- D. To automate the sharing of hydrological data without the need for periodic expert meetings.
6. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- S1. In 2017, my wife, Adele Brown, was invited to spend three weeks at an NGO in Gulu, Uganda, teaching critical thinking skills to blind high school-age students.
- A. The vibrant market was filled with local vendors selling goods such as used clothes, fruit, and firewood.
- B. I was asked along to document the organisation's activities during the visit.
- C. I asked the Ugandan teachers how I might approach someone to take their portrait.
- D. While there, I became particularly fascinated by the town's main market.
- S6. They suggested I offer a modest "model fee" after seeking permission.
- A. D-A-B-C
- B. B-D-A-C
- C. B-A-D-C
- D. D-B-C-A
7. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
- Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen
- A. Desolate
- B. Suspicious
- C. Ominous
- D. Bleak
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
- A person in love with himself
- A. Narcissist
- B. Lunatic
- C. Stoic
- D. Polyglot
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
- God has clearly blessed human beings for his glory.
- A. Appointed
- B. Produced
- C. Applied
- D. Cursed
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word to fill in the blank.**
- For Rahul, everything was a _____ (modern) experience until he stepped onto the field.
- A. new
- B. flashy
- C. global
- D. asiatic
11. **Choose the most appropriate meaning of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

Even though Margaret had already eaten a large meal, she could not resist eating two slices of the delectable pie

- A. Stale
- B. Delicious
- C. Nutritious
- D. Rotten

12. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

- A. These are irreplaceable historical documents, carefully preserved against the ravages of wars, dust, fire, and time.
 - B. Have you ever visited a rare-book store?
 - C. It is a place where books often sit untouched for years, sometimes gathering dust and fraying at the edges, as the world spins around them.
 - D. They could be books from the library of Virginia Woolf, the poems of Tukaram, spicy letters from a mistress to a king, maps of places that have changed so dramatically that they are now unrecognisable, or precious first editions of J.R.R. Tolkien or Rabindranath Tagore
- A. 2-4-3-1
 - B. 2-3-4-1
 - C. 3-2-4-1
 - D. 2-1-4-3

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

Fly into a passion

- A. To be aggressive at times
- B. To become aggressive often
- C. To become angry suddenly
- D. To be always angry

14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Moral

- A. Ethical
- B. Honourable
- C. Godliness
- D. Symphony

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The contingent managed to _____ successfully

- A. park the deal
- B. close the deal
- C. heal the deal
- D. catch the deal

16. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

I named the child Ritesh.

- A. The child Ritesh is named.
- B. The child was named Ritesh.
- C. The child is named Ritesh.
- D. The child Ritesh was named.

17. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined segment in the given sentence.

By the end of the football match, feelings had reached fever pitch.

- A. in or to many places
- B. be extremely serious and worrying
- C. start well
- D. to get so strong that one cannot control them

18. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

- A. Cemetery
- B. Accommodate
- C. Intruder
- D. Neccessary

19. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The monster trucks have very _____ engines, they can probably pull a train coach without any problem

- A. dominant
- B. forceful
- C. impressive
- D. powerful

20. Rectify the sentence by selecting the correct spelling of the underlined word.

I would never associate with such a person.

- A. associate
- B. accosiate
- C. assosiate
- D. asosiate

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Rama avatara is the only one which is dealt with in a literary work, namely Valmiki Ramayana. There are many works about Krishna avatara, but these are not exclusively about Krishna, said M.A. Venkatakishnan in a discourse. Srimad Bhagavatam deals with many things, and only the tenth skanda is about Krishna. Vishnu Purana also talks about Krishna avatara, but only the fifth amsa (section) is about Krishna. The remaining five amsas talk about Varaha, Narasimha and so on. Valmiki's work _____ (3) called adi kavya, because it is the first work to have been written in kavya style. The Vedas do not have an author. Ramayana is the first work to come after the Vedas and that is why it is called adi kavya. The first four chapters are like an introduction. Only in the fifth chapter, we learn about Ayodhya and its king Dasaratha. Valmiki performed (1) rigorous penance. There are eight stages in penance. The first stage is yama, followed by niyama, pranayama, pratyahara, asana, dhaarana, dhyana and samadhi. These stages involve control of the senses, control of the mind, breath control, meditation, and remaining seated continuously, without getting up for any reason. Valmiki went through all these stages and because he never moved, a termite hill came up _____ (5) him. When his tapas ended, he _____ (4) the hill to come out. Valmika means termite hill. Because the sage came out of a termite hill, he came to be known as Valmiki. He began writing his story when Rama was ruling as king of Ayodhya and before Sita was banished by Rama. Valmiki had already met Rama, and knew about Him. But when Narada visits him, he asks the latter who is

the (2) ideal man alive at that time, who has 16 great qualities. Valmiki knows that only Rama possesses these qualities, and that Narada is going to tell him so.

21. **The word "rigorous" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)**
- A. strict or severe
 - B. lenient
 - C. superficial
 - D. careless
22. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "ideal" as used in the passage: (2)**
- A. perfect
 - B. exemplary
 - C. flawed
 - D. quintessential
23. **Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)**
- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. were
 - D. being
24. **Choose the correct form of the verb to fill in the blank: (4)**
- A. break
 - B. breaking
 - C. broke
 - D. broken
25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**
- A. around
 - B. across
 - C. over
 - D. between

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **Continued engagement is seen as key to sustaining this process by both sides.**
 The original sentence is in present tense, active voice: "Both sides (subject) see (present tense verb) continued engagement (object) as key to sustaining this process." To convert to passive voice, the object of the active sentence ("continued engagement") becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb changes to the passive form matching the same tense (present simple: is/are + past participle): "Both sides see continued engagement..." → "Continued engagement is seen... by both sides." The rest of the sentence ("as key to sustaining this process") remains unchanged since it's a complement, not part of the core subject-verb-object structure being converted.
 (a) Incorrect — "was seen" changes the tense from present to past. The original uses see (present).
 (c) Incorrect — Changes the original structure and meaning. It suggests that the process is what is being seen as sustained, rather than "continued engagement" being seen as key to sustaining it.
 (d) Incorrect — This is still active voice because "Both sides" remains the subject performing "have seen."
2. D) **Article 10 notes that it is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary.**
 when the reporting verb is in the present tense ("notes"), there is no backshift of tense in the reported (indirect) speech. The tense of the direct speech is retained as -is. Original direct speech: "Article 10 notes, 'It is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary.'" Since the reporting verb "notes" is present tense, the tenses inside the quotation ("is" and "can") remain unchanged in indirect speech. We simply remove the quotation marks, add the conjunction "that," and adjust punctuation: "Article 10 notes that it is only on the basis of the framework that both sides can delineate the boundary." This matches option 4 exactly — no backshift of "is" to "was" or "can" to "could" is needed.
 1. Incorrect — "notes" is present tense, so changing is → was and can → could is unnecessary.
 2. Incorrect — Changes notes → noted and can → will, which changes the tense/meaning. Also, "on the framework's basis" is awkward.
 3. Incorrect — Changes the reporting verb to "has noted" and unnecessarily changes is → was, while keeping can. The tense structure is inconsistent.
3. B) **To prevent the development of internal suspicion and ensure national support for the final agreement.**
 "Tangible progress on the border dispute must certainly be welcomed. However, agreements made without public visibility, notwithstanding their merit, may invite suspicion. As India and China continue negotiating their long-running boundary question, it is imperative that they bring their publics along." The author explicitly warns that agreements lacking "public visibility" — regardless of their actual merit — "may invite suspicion." This directly implies that

the purpose of involving the public is to prevent such suspicion from developing. The author then concludes it is "imperative" that both countries "bring their publics along," suggesting that public awareness and buy-in are necessary for the process to be trusted and sustained domestically. This matches option (b) — the goal is to prevent internal suspicion and secure genuine national support for whatever agreement is eventually reached, rather than having a deal that the public views with distrust or feels excluded from.

(a) Incorrect — The passage does not say that the public should vote on territorial changes. It only stresses bringing the public along.

(c) Incorrect — There is no mention of using public suggestions to speed up negotiations.

(d) Incorrect — The author does not mention demonstrating democratic principles to the international community. The focus is on public visibility and avoiding suspicion.

4. **A) By allowing military officials and diplomats to work in parallel on both technical and political fronts.**

"The dual tracks of the SR meetings and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs, a body comprising diplomats and military officials, have worked well towards keeping the borders generally stable over the past two years." The passage identifies two distinct but complementary mechanisms — the SR meetings (a high-level political/diplomatic track between figures like NSA Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi) and the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC), which is described as "a body comprising diplomats and military officials." These two tracks operate in parallel, addressing both the broader political negotiations (SR level) and the more technical, on-ground coordination (WMCC level, involving military and diplomatic personnel). Together, this dual-track approach has "worked well towards keeping the borders generally stable." This matches option (a) — parallel work by diplomats and military officials across technical and political fronts contributing to stability.

(b) Incorrect — The dual tracks did not replace the 2005 agreement. The passage says both sides reaffirmed that agreement.

(c) Incorrect — Public involvement is discussed separately. The passage does not say the dual tracks ensure that the public is informed of every adjustment.

(d) Incorrect — Trans-border rivers are only one of the issues discussed. The dual tracks are primarily credited with maintaining border stability, not with prioritising river management over border delimitation.

5. **B) To provide an immediate layer of crisis management between high-level operational commanders.**

"Two additional meeting points to hold talks between top military commanders will be set up, along with two new channels of hotlines in the Eastern and Middle Sectors." The hotlines are introduced in the same breath as the new meeting points for "top military commanders," indicating they serve as a direct communication tool linked to these high-level operational figures. Hotlines, by nature, are typically used for rapid, direct communication to manage urgent situations or de-escalate tensions quickly — functioning as an immediate channel for crisis management between senior military commanders overseeing the Eastern and Middle Sectors, complementing the broader SR-level and WMCC-level mechanisms discussed elsewhere in the passage. This matches option (b).

(a) Incorrect — The passage does not say political leaders will use the hotlines to manage the day-to-day logistics of troops.

(c) Incorrect — The hotlines do not bypass diplomatic mechanisms. The passage actually presents them alongside the existing SR and diplomatic mechanisms.

(d) Incorrect — Hydrological data is a separate issue handled through an expert-level mechanism. The hotlines are related to border/military communication, not automated data sharing.

6. B) **B-D-A-C**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आया क्योंकि S1 में लेखक की पत्नी (Adele Brown) को युगांडा के एक गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGO) में पढ़ाने के निमंत्रण का उल्लेख है, और Sentence B सीधे लेखक की अपनी भूमिका स्पष्ट करता है कि उन्हें संगठन की गतिविधियों का दस्तावेजीकरण (document) करने के लिए साथ ले जाया गया था।
- Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि यह युगांडा में रहने के दौरान लेखक के व्यक्तिगत अनुभव और शहर के मुख्य बाज़ार (town's main market) के प्रति उनके आकर्षण को पेश करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त वाक्यांश "The vibrant market" सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में उल्लिखित 'main market' को refer करता है और वहां बेचे जाने वाले सामानों (पुराने कपड़े, फल और जलाऊ लकड़ी) का विवरण देता है।
- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आया और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह बाज़ार के दृश्य से फोटोग्राफी की ओर बढ़ता है, जहाँ लेखक स्थानीय युगांडा के शिक्षकों से पूछता है कि वह लोगों का पोर्ट्रेट लेने के लिए उनसे कैसे संपर्क करे। अंत में, S6 में प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम "They" सीधे Sentence C के 'Ugandan teachers' को refer करता है और शिक्षकों द्वारा दी गई सलाह (कि अनुमति मांगने के बाद एक मामूली 'मॉडल शुल्क' दिया जाए) के साथ अनुक्रम को तार्किक रूप से पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B follows S1 immediately because S1 introduces the wife's invitation to the NGO in Gulu, Uganda, and Sentence B directly establishes the narrator's specific purpose for the trip (documenting the organisation's activities).
- Sentence D follows Sentence B because it transitions from the official NGO assignment to the author's personal interest, noting how he became fascinated by the town's main market.
- Sentence A follows Sentence D because the noun phrase "The vibrant market" directly refers back to the "main market" introduced in Sentence D, elaborating on what the vendors were selling (used clothes, fruit, and firewood).
- Sentence C follows Sentence A and links smoothly to S6. It moves from describing the market environment to photography, where the author consults the Ugandan teachers about approaching people for portraits. Finally, S6 serves as the logical conclusion, with the pronoun "They" referring directly back to the "Ugandan teachers" in Sentence C and detailing their practical advice regarding a modest "model fee."

7. C) **Ominous** (adjective) – Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen. अशुभ

- **Desolate** (adjective) – a place deserted of people and in a state of bleak and dismal emptiness. सुनसान
 - **Suspicious** (adjective) – having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something. संदेहजनक
 - **Bleak** (adjective) – (of an area of land) lacking vegetation and exposed to the elements; (of a situation or future prospect) not hopeful or encouraging; unlikely to have a favorable outcome. निराशाजनक
8. A) **Narcissist** (noun) – A person who has excessive interest in or admiration of themselves. आत्ममोहित व्यक्ति
- **Lunatic** (noun) – a person who is considered as mentally ill, or in a more informal and unsympathetic context, someone who is acting in a foolish or eccentric manner. पागल व्यक्ति
 - **Stoic** (noun) – a person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining. तटस्थ व्यक्ति
 - **Polyglot** (noun) – a person who knows and is able to use several languages. बहुभाषी व्यक्ति
9. D) **Blessed** (verb) – To confer or invoke divine favor upon; to give thanks to or for. प्रशंसित
Antonym: **Cursed** (verb) – To invoke or wish evil upon; to utter curses; damned. शापित
- **Appointed** (verb) – Assigned, designated, or set aside for a specific purpose. नियुक्त
 - **Produced** (verb) – Created, made, manufactured, or brought into existence. उत्पन्न
 - **Applied** (verb) – Put into practice or action. लागू
10. A) **New** का use होगा क्योंकि "new" का अर्थ होता है नया या पहले ना अनुभव किया हुआ। sentence में बताया गया है कि Rahul के लिए सब कुछ नया अनुभव था जब तक कि वह मैदान में नहीं आया, इसलिए 'new' यहाँ सही शब्द है। 'Flashy' का अर्थ होता है चमकीला या दिखावटी, 'Global' का अर्थ है वैश्विक, और 'Asiatic' का अर्थ है एशियाई, जो कि इस context में सही नहीं बैठते।
- 'New' should be used because it means something novel or not experienced before. The sentence suggests that for Rahul, everything was a novel experience until he stepped onto the field, which makes 'new' the correct word here. 'Flashy' implies something showy or ostentatious, 'Global' means worldwide, and 'Asiatic' refers to something Asian, none of which fit in this context
11. B) **'Delicious'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'delectable' का अर्थ होता है 'बहुत स्वादिष्ट या लुभावना', जो कि Margaret के पाई के टुकड़ों को खाने के प्रतिरोध न कर पाने की भावना से मेल खाता है। 'Stale', 'Nutritious' या 'Rotten' शब्दों के अर्थ इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठते।
- 'Delicious' will be used because 'delectable' means 'very pleasant to taste or tempting', which corresponds to Margaret's inability to resist the pie slices. The meanings of 'Stale', 'Nutritious', or 'Rotten' do not fit in this context
12. B) **2-3-4-1**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह आपके दिए गए पैसेज का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य ("Have you ever visited a rare-book store?") है, जो बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे तौर पर 'rare-book store' के मुख्य विषय को प्रस्तुत करता है।

- Sentence 3 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम (pronoun) "It" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में पूछे गए 'rare-book store' को refer करता है और उस जगह की स्थिति का वर्णन करता है जहाँ किताबें वर्षों तक धूल खाती और किनारों से घिसती रहती हैं।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम "They" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 3 में उल्लिखित 'books' को refer करता है और उन दुर्लभ किताबों के विशिष्ट उदाहरण (वर्जीनिया वुल्फ, तुकाराम, पत्र, नक्शे, और टैगोर/टोल्किन के पहले संस्करण) विस्तार से बताता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और क्रम का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें प्रयुक्त शब्द "These" Sentence 4 में सूचीबद्ध सभी पुस्तकों और दस्तावेजों को refer करता है और यह बताते हुए पैसेज को समाप्त करता है कि ये युद्ध, धूल, आग और समय से बचाकर रखे गए अपूरणीय ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the exact first sentence of the provided text ("Have you ever visited a rare-book store?"). It independently establishes the core subject without needing prior context.
 - Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 because the pronoun "It" directly refers back to the "rare-book store" introduced in Sentence 2, defining it as a place where books sit untouched for years, gathering dust and fraying at the edges.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because the pronoun "They" directly refers back to the "books" mentioned in Sentence 3, listing the specific historical works, poems, letters, maps, and first editions found there.
 - Sentence 1 comes after Sentence 4 as the logical conclusion, using the demonstrative "These" to refer back to all the items cataloged in Sentence 4 and defining them as irreplaceable historical documents carefully preserved against wars, dust, fire, and time
13. C) **Fly into a passion** (idiom) – To become angry suddenly सहसा क्रुद्ध हो जाना
- **To be aggressive at times** (phrase) – Occasionally displaying assertiveness or hostility at times कभी-कभी आक्रामक होना
 - **To become aggressive often** (phrase) – Frequently displaying assertiveness or hostility अक्सर आक्रामक होना
 - **To be always angry** (phrase) – To have a constant feeling of anger हमेशा क्रुद्ध रहना
14. A) **Moral** (adjective) - concerned with what is right and wrong नैतिक
Synonym: **Ethical** (adjective) – Pertaining to or dealing with morals or the principles of morality; pertaining to right and wrong in conduct. नैतिक
- **Honourable** (adjective) – Deserving of honor or respect; characterized by integrity. सम्माननीय
 - **Godliness** (noun) – The quality of being devoutly religious; piety. धार्मिकता
 - **Symphony** (noun) – An elaborate instrumental composition in three or more movements, typically for an orchestra. स्वर की समता
15. B) **Close the deal** (verb) – to come to an agreement on a business transaction परिचालन को अंतिम रूप देना
16. B) **The child was named Ritesh.**

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। Active वाक्य में "I" Subject है, "named" Verb (Past Simple) है और "the child" Object है, जबकि "Ritesh" Object Complement है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The child" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was named" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला गया है और "Ritesh" Complement की तरह ज्यों का त्यों प्रयोग किया गया है।

- 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 transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "I" (Subject), "named" (Verb in Past Simple), and "the child" (Object), along with "Ritesh" (Object Complement) from the active voice have been transformed into "The child" (Subject), "was named" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "Ritesh" (retained as Complement).
17. D) 'fever pitch' के बदले सही विकल्प 'D' होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'fever pitch' का अर्थ है किसी भावना का इतना अधिक हो जाना कि उसे नियंत्रित कर पाना मुश्किल हो जाए; जैसे— By the end of the football match, feelings had reached fever pitch, meaning the emotions became so intense that they were uncontrollable.
- 'D' will be the correct option instead of 'fever pitch' because here 'fever pitch' means to get emotions so strong that one cannot control them; Like — By the end of the football match, feelings had reached fever pitch, meaning the emotions became so intense that they were uncontrollable.
18. D) The correct spelling of the incorrectly spelled word 'Necessary' is '**Necessary**', आवश्यक, जरूरी.
19. D) '**Powerful**' अधिक उपयुक्त है क्योंकि 'powerful' सीधे तौर पर इंजन की शक्ति या बल को दर्शाता है, जो ट्रेन के डिब्बे को खींचने की क्षमता से मेल खाता है। इस संदर्भ में एक ऐसे शब्द की ज़रूरत है जो इंजनों की ताकत को इंगित करे, और 'powerful' इस विशेषता का सटीक वर्णन करता है।
- 'Powerful' should be used because "powerful" directly relates to the strength or force an engine possesses, which aligns with the ability to pull a heavy load like a train coach. The context requires a word that indicates the strength of the engines, and 'powerful' aptly describes this characteristic
20. A) The correct spelling of 'ascociate' is 'associate',, संबद्ध करना.
21. A) **strict or severe**
The passage describes the intense, highly disciplined, and austere yogic penance performed by Sage Valmiki without moving for years ("rigorous penance"). The question asks for the word closest in meaning to "rigorous." a) strict or severe: means extremely thorough, demanding, and austere, serving as the direct synonym for "rigorous." b) lenient: means permissive or merciful, which is an antonym. c) superficial: means shallow or surface-level, which contradicts deep penance. d) careless: means showing a lack of attention, which is an opposite idea.
- In Hindi:
- यह sentence महर्षि वाल्मीकि द्वारा की गई अत्यंत कठोर और अनुशासित तपस्या ("rigorous penance") को describe करता है। Question में "rigorous" (कठोर/सख्त) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) strict or severe: इसका meaning 'सख्त, कठोर या अत्यंत अनुशासित' होता है, जो "rigorous" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। b) lenient: इसका

meaning उदार या कोमल (antonym) होता है। c) superficial: इसका meaning सतही (antonym) होता है। d) careless: इसका meaning लापरवाह होता है।

22. C) flawed

The passage refers to Narada being asked about the perfect, flawless man possessing all sixteen supreme divine virtues ("the ideal man alive"). The question asks for the antonym of "ideal" (which means satisfying one's conception of what is perfect or most suitable). a) perfect: means having all the required desirable elements, serving as a synonym. b) exemplary: means serving as a desirable model, serving as a synonym. c) flawed: means having blemishes, imperfections, or defects, serving as the direct antonym of "ideal." d) quintessential: means representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality, serving as a synonym.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence सोलह दिव्य गुणों से युक्त सर्वगुण संपन्न, दोषरहित पुरुष ("ideal man") के संदर्भ को describe करता है। Question में "ideal" (आदर्श/उत्कृष्ट/दोषरहित) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) perfect: इसका meaning परिपूर्ण (synonym) होता है। b) exemplary: इसका meaning अनुकरणीय (synonym) होता है। c) flawed: इसका meaning 'दोषयुक्त, त्रुटिपूर्ण या अधूरा' (having defects) होता है, जो "ideal" का direct antonym है। d) quintessential: इसका meaning सर्वोत्कृष्ट उदाहरण (synonym) होता है।

23. B) is

The sentence states a timeless, universally acknowledged literary fact in the present passive voice regarding Valmiki's epic (Valmiki's work _____ called adi kavya, because it is the first work...). Blank (3) requires a singular present auxiliary verb to agree with the singular noun phrase subject "Valmiki's work." a) are: is a plural verb, violating subject-verb agreement with the singular noun "work." b) is: is the singular present auxiliary verb that correctly agrees with "Valmiki's work" to form the passive construction (is called). c) were: is a plural past verb, which contradicts both subject-verb agreement and the present factual context (because it is...). d) being: is a participle that cannot function as a finite auxiliary without an accompanying helping verb.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence वाल्मीकि रामायण को वर्तमान में 'आदिकव्य' कहे जाने के सार्वभौमिक साहित्यिक तथ्य को passive voice में describe करता है। Singular subject "Valmiki's work" और present tense संदर्भ (because it is...) के अनुसार singular present auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता है। a) are: यह plural verb है जो singular subject "work" के साथ गलत है। b) is: यह singular present auxiliary verb है जो "Valmiki's work" के साथ passive voice (is called) बनाने में perfectly fit होता है। c) were: यह plural past verb है। d) being: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के main verb नहीं बन सकता।

24. C) broke

The sentence describes a completed past action of Sage Valmiki shattering and emerging from the termite mound when his penance concluded (When his tapas ended, he _____ the hill to come out.). In this past narrative time frame established by the subordinate clause (When his tapas ended...), a simple past tense verb (V2) is strictly required for the main clause. a) break: is the base present tense form, which violates past narrative tense consistency. b) breaking: is a present participle, which cannot act as the standalone finite verb of the sentence. c) broke: is the correct simple past tense verb (V2) of "break," completing the past narrative structure (he

broke the hill). d) broken: is a past participle (V3), which requires an auxiliary verb (had/was broken) to function as a predicate.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence तपस्या समाप्त होने पर महर्षि वाल्मीकि द्वारा बांबी (termite mound) को तोड़कर बाहर निकलने की भूतकालिक घटना को describe करता है। Time clause (When his tapas ended...) past tense में होने के कारण main clause में भी simple past verb (V2) की आवश्यकता है। a) break: यह present form है जो past narrative के साथ गलत है। b) breaking: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के finite verb नहीं बन सकता। c) broke: यह verb 'break' का simple past form (V2) है, जो वाक्य संरचना में perfectly fit होता है। d) broken: यह past participle (V3) है जिसे auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता होती है।

25. A) around

The passage explains that because the sage sat completely motionless in one spot for years, the termites built their mound surrounding his body on all sides (a termite hill came up _____ him). Blank (5) requires a preposition denoting encircling or surrounding on all sides. a) around: is the standard preposition meaning located or built on every side of a central object/person (came up around him). b) across: indicates extending from one side to the opposite side, which does not convey encircling someone. c) over: denotes directly above or covering the top without encircling the perimeter. d) between: is used when referring to two distinct reference points, making it ungrammatical with the singular pronoun "him."

In Hindi:

- यह sentence तपस्यारत ऋषि के चारों ओर दीमकों द्वारा बांबी (mound) बना दिए जाने को describe करता है। Blank (5) को किसी व्यक्ति को चारों तरफ से घेरने (encircling) का भाव दर्शाने वाले preposition की आवश्यकता है। a) around: इसका meaning 'चारों तरफ या चारों ओर' (on all sides of) होता है, जो "came up around him" के संदर्भ में perfectly fit होता है। b) across: इसका meaning आर-पार होता है। c) over: इसका meaning ऊपर होता है। d) between: इसका use दो वस्तुओं/व्यक्तियों के बीच के लिए होता है।



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