

Hold on to your goodness

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see,” said Mark Twain.

Human beings are **kinder** to each other when they feel safe and secure. However, with the rise of **aggression** in our culture, the threat of terrorism, and the increase in stress in our schools and workplaces, we find ourselves in a position of fear, which creates **anxiety**, resulting in distorted thinking. These recent **changes** in our culture **have** promoted a lack of **goodwill** towards others and **fostered** more **self-absorption** and less outward giving. It seems that today there are no takers for acts of kindness, truthfulness and simplicity. As a result, **those** who do good are **often left deserted**. On the other hand, the **clever** and **shrewd** steal the show. It's very sad that the world today is more conducive to those who are **manipulative** and practical, and those who chase rewards, than to those **toiling** hard with faith in the return of good actions. In such a scenario, then what is the point of being good in a mad, bad, sad world? Because every good deed anyway gets 'lost', as many of us have come to believe. Just like everything becomes dark at night and a **lone** flower in a thick jungle remains unseen, the little goodness **flickering** here and there in the world seems to be of no use.

History presents us with **innumerable** examples of times when the bad seemed to be **all-pervasive**, when powerful **conquerors** looted and trapped the **masses** in an **undignified** life. And yet, from these very masses emerged a small, **courageous** group of **awakened** people who led a revolution against injustice and finally turned the tables on their **oppressors**. But, of course, all **acts** of goodness **do** not amount to a revolution, for they do not always aim to blow strong winds of change. But **nevertheless**, they work like a cool breeze in a hot desert, or a drizzle on parched land.

We all know the story of the little bird that filled her beak with water from a pond and headed for the **woods** that were on fire. While she was at it, a **spectator** asked the tiny creature what was the point of her efforts, for the small droplets would not douse the huge flames. She **quipped**, “When I die, and my life's record is being read out, my name will appear on the list of those who tried to put out the flames, and not among those who **sparked** it or did nothing about it.” We must remember that there is a law of cause and effect that guides every act in the universe.

And what a person does unto anyone, he does unto himself. So, while a negative action **piles debt** on a person, a positive act is an investment in a good future. So, an honest person must hold on to his **virtue** with courage and **patience in testing times**. He must **empower** himself with the **unflinching** hope that, as night is followed by day, better times will **inevitably** follow. It is just a matter of time before the clouds will give way to clearer skies. So, keep the faith until the new day arrives.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Hold on to** (phrasal verb) - to maintain a grasp on something; to persist in or keep something डटे रहना / बनाए रखना
2. **Kindness** (noun) - benevolence, compassion, generosity, humanity, philanthropy दयालुता
3. **Kind** (adjective) - benevolent, compassionate, generous, humane, philanthropic दयालु
4. **Aggression** (noun) - hostility, belligerence, animosity, violence, invasion आक्रामकता
5. **Anxiety** (noun) - apprehension, trepidation, unease, worry, angst चिंता
6. **Result in** (phrasal verb) - to cause a particular situation to happen के परिणामस्वरूप
7. **Distort** (verb) - misrepresent, falsify, twist, alter, warp विकृत करना
8. **Goodwill** (noun) - benevolence, friendliness, harmony, amity, compassion सद्भावना
9. **Foster** (verb) - encourage, promote, cultivate, nurture, stimulate बढ़ावा देना
10. **Self-absorption** (noun) - narcissism, egocentrism, selfishness, introspection, self-obsession आत्म-लीनता
11. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, habitually, customarily अक्सर
12. **Desert** (verb) - abandon, forsake, leave, betray, relinquish छोड़ देना
13. **Clever** (adjective) - astute, ingenious, smart, intelligent, brainy चतुर
14. **Shrewd** (adjective) - astute, calculating, crafty, cunning, sharp चालाक
15. **Steal the show** (phrase) - to attract the most attention and praise अप्रत्याशित रूप से सबका ध्यान खींच लेना
16. **Conducive to** (phrase) - making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible के लिए अनुकूल
17. **Manipulative** (adjective) - scheming, calculating, cunning, crafty, devious जोड़-तोड़ करने वाला
18. **Toil** (verb) - labor, struggle, strive, grind, sweat कठिन परिश्रम करना
19. **Lone** (adjective) - solitary, single, isolated, sole, uncompanied अकेला
20. **Flicker** (verb) - glimmer, twinkle, glint, shimmer, spark टिमटिमाना
21. **Innumerable** (adjective) - countless, myriad, incalculable, numerous, untold अनगिनत
22. **All-pervasive** (adjective) - omnipresent, ubiquitous, universal, widespread, permeating सर्वव्यापी
23. **Conqueror** (noun) - victor, vanquisher, winner, subjugator, champion विजेता
24. **Mass** (noun) - commoners, plebeians, populace, multitude, crowd जनसाधारण
25. **Undignified** (adjective) - shameful, unseemly, degrading, humiliating, unbecoming अशोभनीय
26. **Courageous** (adjective) - brave, valiant, fearless, intrepid, heroic साहसी

27. **Awaken** (verb) - arouse, stimulate, rouse, inspire, wake जगाना
28. **Turn the tables on** (phrase) - to reverse a situation completely बाजी पलट देना
29. **Oppressor** (noun) - tyrant, dictator, persecutor, subjugator, despot अत्याचारी
30. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to be equivalent to or have the same effect as के बराबर होना
31. **Nevertheless** (adverb) - nonetheless, however, notwithstanding, yet, still फिर भी
32. **Head for** (phrasal verb) - to move in the direction of something की ओर बढ़ना
33. **Woods** (noun) - forest, timberland, woodland, thicket, copse जंगल
34. **Spectator** (noun) - onlooker, observer, bystander, watcher, viewer दर्शक
35. **Quip** (verb) - joke, jest, retort, banter, mock ताना मारना
36. **Read out** (phrasal verb) - to read aloud पढ़कर सुनाना
37. **Put out** (phrasal verb) - to extinguish a fire बुझाना
38. **Spark** (verb) - ignite, trigger, initiate, provoke, stimulate भड़काना
39. **Pile** (verb) - accumulate, amass, heap, stack, hoard ढेर लगाना
40. **Debt** (noun) - liability, obligation, arrears, dues, deficit कर्ज़
41. **Virtue** (noun) - righteousness, morality, goodness, integrity, ethics गुण
42. **Patience** (noun) - endurance, perseverance, tolerance, forbearance, fortitude धैर्य
43. **In testing times** (phrase) - during difficult or challenging periods मुश्किल समय में
44. **Empower** (verb) - authorize, enable, equip, entitle, strengthen सशक्त बनाना
45. **Unflinching** (adjective) - resolute, steadfast, unwavering, unyielding, determined दृढ़
46. **Inevitably** (adverb) - unavoidably, naturally, necessarily, surely, certainly निश्चित रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Kindness** is a universal language that can be understood by everyone, regardless of physical limitations.
2. People tend to be **kinder** when they feel safe and secure, but fear and insecurity can reduce their willingness to help others.
3. Rising **aggression**, terrorism, and increasing stress in schools and workplaces have created greater **anxiety** in society.
4. Anxiety and fear can lead to **distorted thinking**, making people more self-centred and less concerned about others.
5. Modern society often appears to reward **clever, shrewd, and manipulative** people rather than those who value honesty, simplicity, and goodness.
6. As a result, people who perform good deeds may feel **deserted**, ignored, or unrewarded, while those chasing personal rewards may receive greater attention.
7. The editorial questions whether goodness has any value in a world where good actions often seem to go unnoticed or **“get lost.”**
8. **History**, however, shows that even during periods of widespread injustice, courageous people have emerged from ordinary masses to challenge powerful **oppressors**.
9. Not every act of goodness creates a revolution, but even small acts can provide **relief, hope, and positive change** in difficult circumstances.
10. The story of the **little bird trying to put out a forest fire** illustrates that even seemingly insignificant efforts have value.
11. The bird’s message is that it is better to be remembered among those who **tried to solve a problem** than among those who caused it or simply remained inactive.
12. The editorial emphasises the **law of cause and effect**: our actions have consequences, and what we do to others ultimately affects ourselves.
13. **Negative actions** create a kind of debt, whereas positive actions can be viewed as an **investment in a better future**.
14. Therefore, honest and good people should preserve their **virtue**, especially during difficult times, with courage, patience, and **unflinching hope**.
15. The central message is to **hold on to goodness and faith even when circumstances are difficult**, because dark periods eventually pass and better times can follow.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which of the following best captures the central theme of the passage? **[Editorial Page]**
 - A. The necessity of collective resistance to overturn the pervasive influence of manipulative social structures.
 - B. The enduring relevance of individual moral fortitude amidst the escalating cynicism of contemporary culture.
 - C. The psychological impact of environmental stressors on the human capacity for spontaneous acts of kindness.
 - D. The historical cyclicity of societal decay followed by the inevitable rise of revolutionary moral movements.
2. Choose the word which is **MOST OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.
SHREWD
 - A. ANALYTICAL
 - B. DIPLOMATIC
 - C. GUILLESS
 - D. PERSISTENT
3. Why has the climate of goodwill towards others diminished in recent times?
 - A. Because the rise of systemic aggression has compelled individuals to prioritize self-preservation over outward giving.
 - B. Because the modern socio-economic landscape disproportionately rewards manipulative tactics over the merit of hard work.
 - C. Because the absence of immediate tangible returns has discouraged the younger generation from pursuing altruistic goals.
 - D. Because the psychological effects of historical injustices have created a permanent sense of anxiety and distrust.
4. The author's tone in describing the "small awakened group" can be best described as:
 - A. Admonitory
 - B. Commendatory
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Scholarly
5. Identify the type of sentence used in the line: "As night is followed by day, better times will follow."
 - A. Compound
 - B. Complex
 - C. Simple
 - D. Compound-Complex
6. Direction: Rearrange the following four parts (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.
 1. Local families in these accommodations offer tourists a warm and homely atmosphere even as they introduce them to a new culture and guide them to places to visit.
 2. They are mostly concentrated in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Shivamogga in south Karnataka, and Hampi in Vijayanagara district in north Karnataka, and these districts attract majority of tourists during monsoon, weekends, and holidays.

3. Such accommodations have caught the fancy of tourists in recent years, and according to the Tourism Department officials, there are around 4,000 homestays registered in Karnataka.
4. A home away from home — that is the promise of homestays for tourists travelling from other countries, States, and cities to major tourist destinations in Karnataka.
- A. 4-1-3-2
B. 3-2-4-1
C. 1-4-3-2
D. 4-3-1-2
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (A, B, C, D) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
- A. Built of granite, these halls are grand edifices supported by massive pillars and adorned with life-size sculptures, intricate carvings, friezes, murals and, most importantly, inscriptions.
- B. It boasts 14 gopurams, including four towering raja gopurams at its eastern, western, southern and northern entrances; gold-plated vimanas above the sanctums of Sundareswarar and Meenakshi; the famed Golden Lotus Tank; and a train of magnificent mandapams.
- C. Far more than a place of worship, the sprawling complex is a marvel of sacred design.
- D. Goddess Meenakshi is revered by the people of Madurai as their queen (Maduraiyin Rani or Arasi in Tamil), but what draws thousands of devotees from across the world to the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple each day is its audacious architecture.
- A. D-C-A-B
B. C-D-B-A
C. D-C-B-A
D. B-D-C-A
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
FELICITOUS
- A. Odd
B. Irrelevant
C. Unsuitable
D. Appropriate
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
DILATORY
- A. Quick
B. Efficient
C. Prompt
D. Tardy
10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:**
Refulgent
- A. Dull
B. Radiant
C. Gleaming
D. Luminous

11. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Hoist with one's own petard

- A. He has benefited by sheer luck
- B. He has risen through deceit
- C. He has gained unearned praise
- D. He is destroyed by his own trap or scheme

12. Select the correct spelling of a word meaning 'a person who avoids work or effort'

- A. Sluggard
- B. Sluggerd
- C. Sluggart
- D. Slugerd

13. Which of these is the correct spelling of a theory centered on utility and outcomes?

- A. Utilitarianism
- B. Utiliterianism
- C. Utilitarianism
- D. Utillitarianism

14. Choose the correct one-word substitution for:

'A person who pretends to be what he is not'

- A. Mimic
- B. Actor
- C. Impostor
- D. Hypocrite

15. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:

'A government or state in which those in power exploit national resources and steal'

- A. Plutocracy
- B. Kleptomania
- C. Oligarchy
- D. Kleptocracy

16. Choose the correct semantic fit: The intervention was seen as a _____ to escalating tensions.

- A. deterrent
- B. detention
- C. detraction
- D. derision

17. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The **basilica** was renowned for its acoustics and proportions.

- A. The archaeologist uncovered the foundations of a Roman basilica.
- B. The musician composed an oratorio for performance in the basilica.
- C. The botanist catalogued a rare basilica with serrated leaves.
- D. The botanist catalogued a rare basilica with serrated leaves.

18. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

She spoke (1)/ concise during the press briefing (2)/ to ensure the journalists (3)/ captured the key points accurately. (4)/

- A. (1)

- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

19. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

So intense was the resistance (1)/ that the proposal not only failed (2)/ but also faced with widespread criticism (3)/ across institutional stakeholders. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

20. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:

The baby was sleeping **since two hours**:

- A. from two hours
- B. for two hours
- C. by two hours
- D. since two hour

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

The bullet struck N.V. Satya Srinivas Rao in the chest. His bulletproof jacket stopped it, but the impact knocked his rifle from his hands and sent him to the ground. Then came the second shot. This time, the bullet found a gap in the jacket. It entered Rao's abdomen from the left side, tore through his body and exited on the other side. It was November 30, 1992. Rao, then 26 and barely a year into the Andhra Pradesh Police, had entered a house in Baddepalli in erstwhile Karimnagar district with three other Greyhounds personnel. They ____ (3) hunting a group of Naxals belonging to the Chandra Pulla Reddy group. Five bodies already lay (1) scattered around the house. Rao noticed Sardar, the commander of the dalam. Injured but still alive, the Naxal had positioned himself behind the bodies of his (2) fallen comrades, using them as sandbags. He ____ (4) his weapon and fired at Rao. The young cop fought ____ (5) his life for nearly 25 days before being discharged from the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad on Christmas day.

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

- A. dispersed
- B. gathered
- C. organized
- D. concentrated

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

- A. deceased
- B. alive
- C. slain
- D. perished

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

- A. was
- B. were
- C. are

D. been

24. **Choose the correct form of the verb to fill in the blank: (4)**

A. raise

B. raising

C. raised

D. rises

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

A. for

B. with

C. at

D. about

Answers

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

Explanations

1. B) **The enduring relevance of individual moral fortitude amidst the escalating cynicism of contemporary culture.**

passage: "It seems that today there are no takers for acts of kindness, truthfulness and simplicity... So, an honest person must hold on to his virtue with courage and patience in testing times. He must empower himself with the unflinching hope that, as night is followed by day, better times will inevitably follow. So, keep the faith until the new day arrives." -----The passage centers on one core message — the world today seems unkind and dismissive of good people (kindness "gets lost," the clever "steal the show"), yet the passage repeatedly pushes back against giving up on goodness. The little bird story and the "cause and effect" idea are both used to support the same point: keep holding on to virtue even when it feels pointless. The final call for the honest person to "hold on to his virtue with courage and patience" and "keep the faith" is the passage's main takeaway, matching option B — staying morally strong even as the surrounding culture grows more cynical and unkind.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage mentions a "revolution" only once, as a past historical example of masses rising against oppression — it does not call for or argue in favor of "collective resistance" today. The passage's focus is on personal, individual virtue, not on organizing any group movement.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage does open with the idea that people are "kinder... when they feel safe and secure," but this is only a brief starting observation. The passage's main focus quickly shifts to encouraging individual virtue despite hardship — the psychological effect of stress is not developed as the central theme throughout the passage.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage mentions history only once, as a single example of bad times followed by a revolution — it does not argue that this is a repeating, "cyclical" pattern throughout history. The passage's larger message is about personal patience and faith, not about a historical cycle of decay and revolutionary rise.

2. C) **GUILELESS**

In this context, "shrewd" means clever, cunning, and sharp in a calculating or manipulative way — someone who knows how to get ahead using clever tactics. "Guileless" means innocent, honest, and without any cunning or deceit — this is the direct opposite of being shrewd, as it describes someone who lacks calculating or manipulative cleverness entirely.

(Analytical) — Incorrect. "Analytical" means good at breaking things down logically — this is actually similar to being sharp or clever in thinking, not opposite to "shrewd."

(Diplomatic) — Incorrect. "Diplomatic" means being tactful and skilled in dealing with people — this is close to being clever in social situations, similar to "shrewd" rather than its opposite.

(Persistent) — Incorrect. "Persistent" means continuing steadily despite difficulty — this relates to determination, not to cleverness or cunning.

3. A) **Because the rise of systemic aggression has compelled individuals to prioritize self-preservation over outward giving.**

passage: "With the rise of aggression in our culture, the threat of terrorism, and the increase in stress in our schools and workplaces, we find ourselves in a position of fear, which creates anxiety, resulting in distorted thinking. These recent changes in our culture have promoted a lack of goodwill towards others and fostered more self-absorption and less outward giving." -- The passage links the decline in goodwill to rising aggression, terrorism, and stress, which create fear and anxiety. This fear leads people to become more focused on themselves (self-absorption) and less generous toward others. This is exactly what option A describes — aggression causing people to focus on protecting themselves rather than giving outwardly to others.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage does mention that the world today "is more conducive to those who are manipulative and practical," but this is presented as a separate observation about who "succeeds," not as the direct cause of why goodwill itself has diminished. The passage's stated cause for declining goodwill is aggression/fear, not the reward system for manipulation.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage never mentions the "younger generation" specifically, nor does it discuss age groups being discouraged from altruism due to lack of immediate rewards.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage discusses fear and anxiety as coming from current aggression and stress (terrorism, workplace stress), not from "historical injustices." The mention of history later in the passage is about past examples of revolution against oppression, not about ongoing psychological effects causing today's anxiety.

4. B) **Commendatory**

passage: "And yet, from these very masses emerged a small, courageous group of awakened people who led a revolution against injustice and finally turned the tables on their oppressors." The author uses positive, admiring words like "courageous" and "awakened" to describe this group, and highlights their success in overturning injustice ("turned the tables on their oppressors"). This is clear praise and approval of their actions — presenting them as an inspiring example within the passage's larger argument about holding on to goodness. This matches "commendatory," which means expressing praise or approval.

(Admonitory) — Incorrect. Admonitory means warning someone about something wrong. The author is not warning the group about anything — instead, he is praising their courage and success, which is the opposite of admonishing them.

(Indifferent) — Incorrect. Indifferent means having no particular feeling or opinion. The author clearly shows positive feeling toward this group by calling them "courageous" and "awakened" — this shows engagement and admiration, not indifference.

(Scholarly) — Incorrect. Scholarly would mean a detached, academic, research-based description. The author's description here is emotional and admiring ("courageous," "awakened"), not a neutral, fact-based academic analysis — so this does not fit the tone used.

5. B) **Complex**

A complex sentence contains exactly one independent clause and at least one dependent clause

Dependent Clause: "As night is followed by day" — This clause begins with the subordinating conjunction "As" and cannot stand alone as a complete thought.

Independent Clause: "better times will follow" — This is the main clause because it expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence

Option A: A compound sentence requires two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (like and, but, or) or a semicolon.

Option C: A simple sentence contains only one independent clause and no dependent clauses.

Option D: A compound-complex sentence requires at least two independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

6. A) 4-1-3-2

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 4 अनुच्छेद की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के कर्नाटक के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों पर जाने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए होमस्टे की अवधारणा और उसके मुख्य वादे ("A home away from home") का परिचय देता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त पदबंध "in these accommodations" सीधे Sentence 4 के होमस्टे को संदर्भित करता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि कैसे स्थानीय परिवार पर्यटकों को घरेलू माहौल, नई संस्कृति और दर्शनीय स्थलों का मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करते हैं।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इन आवासों की बढ़ती लोकप्रियता और आधिकारिक आंकड़ों की ओर संक्रमण करता है ("Such accommodations have caught the fancy of tourists in recent years...") और पर्यटन विभाग के अनुसार कर्नाटक में पंजीकृत 4,000 होमस्टे का डेटा प्रस्तुत करता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा और गद्यांश का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम "They" Sentence 3 में उल्लिखित 4,000 होमस्टे को संदर्भित करता है और बताता है कि वे मुख्य रूप से किन जिलों (कोडगु, चिकमगलूर, हासन आदि) में केंद्रित हैं तथा वे कब पर्यटकों को सर्वाधिक आकर्षित करते हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 4 is the standalone introductory sentence, framing the central theme by introducing the core promise of homestays ("A home away from home") for travelers visiting Karnataka.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 directly because the demonstrative phrase "in these accommodations" refers back to the homestays defined in Sentence 4, describing how local host families provide warmth, cultural immersion, and travel guidance.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 by scaling up from the experiential host-guest dynamic to commercial trends and official statistics ("Such accommodations have caught the fancy of tourists..."), citing the Department of Tourism's figure of roughly 4,000 registered homestays.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 as the logical conclusion. The pronoun "They" refers directly to the 4,000 registered homestays, specifying their regional concentrations across southern and northern Karnataka and highlighting their peak tourist seasons.

7. C) D-C-B-A

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation

- Sentence D अनुच्छेद की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह देवी मीनाक्षी के प्रति मदुरै के लोगों की आस्था का उल्लेख करते हुए मीनाक्षी-सुंदरेश्वर मंदिर (Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple) और उसकी भव्य वास्तुकला (audacious architecture) का संपूर्ण परिचय देता है।
- Sentence C Sentence D को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त पदबंध "the sprawling complex" सीधे Sentence D के मीनाक्षी-सुंदरेश्वर मंदिर परिसर को संदर्भित करता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि यह केवल एक पूजा स्थल नहीं बल्कि पवित्र डिजाइन का एक चमत्कार है।
- Sentence B Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence C में वर्णित डिजाइन के चमत्कार को सिद्ध करने वाले वास्तुशिल्प घटकों की सूची प्रस्तुत करता है—14 गोपुरम, गर्भगृहों के ऊपर स्वर्ण-मंडित विमान, पोट्रामरई कुलम (Golden Lotus Tank), और भव्य मंडपों की एक श्रृंखला ("a train of magnificent mandapams")।
- Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आएगा और अनुच्छेद का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें प्रयुक्त संज्ञा पदबंध "these halls" (ये मंडप/हॉल) सीधे Sentence B के अंत में उल्लिखित "magnificent mandapams" को संदर्भित करता है और ग्रेनाइट से निर्मित इन हॉलों, उनके विशाल स्तंभों और मूर्तियों का विस्तृत विवरण देकर गद्यांश को पूर्ण करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence D serves as the standalone introductory sentence, framing the dual context: the devotional reverence for Goddess Meenakshi as the queen of Madurai, and the global draw of the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple driven by its monumental architecture.
 - Sentence C follows Sentence D directly because the definite noun phrase "the sprawling complex" anchors back to the temple introduced in D, elevating its status from a mere house of worship to an architectural marvel of sacred engineering.
 - Sentence B follows Sentence C by enumerating the macro-structural features that justify that reputation—14 gopurams (including four cardinal raja gopurams), gold-plated vimanas, the Golden Lotus Tank, and a sequence of majestic assembly halls ("a train of magnificent mandapams").
 - Sentence A follows Sentence B as the logical conclusion. The demonstrative noun phrase "these halls" creates an immediate syntactic link to the "magnificent mandapams" concluding Sentence B, expanding on their granite construction, massive pillars, and intricate sculptural detailing
8. D) **Felicitous** (adjective) – Well-chosen, apt, suitable, appropriate, fitting उपयुक्त
 Synonym: **Appropriate** (adjective) – Suitable or proper in the circumstances, apt, fitting, right. उचित
- **Odd** (adjective) – Strange, peculiar, unusual, weird. अजीब

- **Irrelevant** (adjective) – Not connected with the subject, immaterial, unrelated. असंबंधित
 - **Unsuitable** (adjective) – Not appropriate or proper, unfit, improper. अनुपयुक्त
9. D) **Dilatory** (adjective) – Slow, sluggish, procrastinating, lagging, delaying देर करने वाला, सुस्त
 Synonym: **Tardy** (adjective) – Delayed, late, unpunctual, sluggish, behind schedule. विलंबित, देर से
- **Quick** (adjective) – Fast, rapid, speedy, swift. तेज
 - **Efficient** (adjective) – Effective, productive, competent, capable. कुशल
 - **Prompt** (adjective) – Immediate, instant, punctual, timely. तत्पर
10. A) **Refulgent** (adjective) – Shining brightly, radiant, gleaming, lustrous, luminous चमकदार
 Antonym: **Dull** (adjective) – Lacking brightness, not shiny, dim, lifeless. फीका
- **Radiant** (adjective) – Shining, bright, glowing, beaming. दीप्तिमान
 - **Gleaming** (adjective) – Shining brightly, polished, lustrous. चमचमाता
 - **Luminous** (adjective) – Emitting or reflecting light, radiant, glowing. प्रकाशमान
11. D) **Hoist with one's own petard** (idiom) – He is destroyed by his own trap or scheme अपने ही जाल में फँस जाना
12. A) The correct spelling of 'Sluggard' is '**Sluggard**' which means "a person who is habitually lazy or avoids work or effort" आलसी व्यक्ति
13. C) The correct spelling of 'Utilitarianism' is '**Utilitarianism**' which means "a theory that actions are right if they are useful or for the benefit of a majority" उपयोगिता पर आधारित सिद्धांत.
14. D) **Hypocrite** (noun) – A person who pretends to have moral standards or beliefs that they do not actually possess पाखंडी व्यक्ति
- **Mimic** (noun) – A person skilled in imitating the voice, manner, or appearance of others नकलची
 - **Actor** (noun) – A person whose profession is acting on the stage, in films, or on television अभिनेता
 - **Impostor** (noun) – A person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others छल करने वाला व्यक्ति
15. D) **Kleptocracy** (noun) – A government or state in which those in power exploit national resources and steal चोरी करने वाली सरकार या शासन प्रणाली
- **Plutocracy** (noun) – government by the wealthy धनिकों का शासन
 - **Kleptomania** (noun) – a recurrent urge to steal, typically without regard for need or profit चोरी की मानसिक प्रवृत्ति
 - **Oligarchy** (noun) – a small group of people having control of a country or organization अल्पतंत्र शासन

16. A) 'Deterrent' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence बढ़ते हुए तनावों को रोकने या कम करने वाले उपाय की बात कर रहा है। "The intervention was seen as a _____ to escalating tensions" में intervention को एक रोकथाम या निरोधक कदम के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, जो "deterrent" के अर्थ से पूरी तरह मेल खाता है।

- 'Deterrent' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence refers to an action or measure intended to prevent or reduce rising tensions. In "The intervention was seen as a _____ to escalating tensions," the intervention is viewed as a preventive or restraining step, which perfectly aligns with the meaning of "deterrent."

17. C) . **The botanist catalogued a rare basilica with serrated leaves.**

वाक्य में 'basilica' शब्द का अर्थ है — एक बड़ा रोमन या ईसाई चर्च भवन (a large, important church or Roman public hall)।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य ढूँढ़ना है जिसमें 'basilica' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प C में 'basilica' का प्रयोग 'basil' पौधे के रूप में किया गया है (यानी तुलसी जैसा पौधा – Ocimum basilicum)।

हालाँकि शब्द थोड़ा रूपांतरित है, इसका उच्चारण 'basilica' के समान है, लेकिन अर्थ वनस्पति शास्त्र (botany) से संबंधित है, न कि स्थापत्य (architecture) से।

दोनों का उच्चारण समान है पर अर्थ भिन्न, इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, basilica means a large Roman or Christian church noted for its architectural structure.
- In option C, basilica (used in a botanical context) refers to a species of the basil plant with serrated leaves.
- Both share similar pronunciation and spelling, but different meanings and fields of use, making them homonyms.

18. B) 'concise' के बदले '**concisely**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'spoke' एक Verb है और उसे Qualify करने के लिए Adverb की आवश्यकता है; 'concise' Adjective है जबकि 'concisely' उसका Adverb रूप है।

- 'concisely' will be used instead of 'concise' because here 'spoke' is a Verb and it needs to be qualified by an Adverb. 'Concise' is an Adjective whereas 'concisely' is its Adverb form.

Like— She spoke concisely during the press briefing to ensure clarity

19. C) 'faced with' के बदले '**was faced with**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य Passive Voice में है और यहाँ Verb के पहले 'was' की आवश्यकता है ताकि पूरा वाक्य व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही बने। जैसे— The proposal not only failed but also was faced with widespread criticism.

- 'was faced with' will be used instead of 'faced with' because the sentence is in Passive Voice, and the auxiliary verb 'was' is required before the past participle to make the

structure grammatically correct; Like — The proposal not only failed but also was faced with widespread criticism

20. B) **'for two hours'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग समय के starting point (आरंभ बिंदु) के साथ होता है, जबकि 'for' का प्रयोग duration (अवधि) के साथ किया जाता है। यहाँ 'two hours' अवधि (समय की लंबाई) दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए सही रूप होगा — The baby was sleeping for two hours.

- 'for two hours' will be used instead of 'since two hours' because 'since' is used with the starting point of time, whereas 'for' is used with the period of time. Here, 'two hours' indicates a duration, so the correct sentence is — The baby was sleeping for two hours.

21. A) **dispersed**

The passage describes multiple deceased bodies lying spread out in various directions around the premises ("bodies already lay scattered around the house"). The question asks for the word closest in meaning to "scattered" (meaning distributed or spread irregularly over an area). a) dispersed: means distributed, spread out, or scattered over an area, serving as the direct synonym. b) gathered: means brought together in one group (antonym). c) organized: means arranged systematically. d) concentrated: means clustered closely together in one place (antonym).

In Hindi:

- यह sentence घर के आसपास विभिन्न स्थानों पर शवों के इधर-उधर बिखरे पड़े होने ("scattered") को describe करता है। Question में "scattered" (बिखरे हुए/फैले हुए) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) dispersed: इसका meaning 'बिखरे हुए, फैले हुए या तितर-बितर' होता है, जो "scattered" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। b) gathered: इसका meaning एकत्रित (antonym) होता है। c) organized: इसका meaning व्यवस्थित होता है। d) concentrated: इसका meaning केंद्रित या एक जगह जमा होता है।

22. B) **alive**

The passage uses "fallen" in a military/combat sense to refer to comrades who were killed or slain in action ("bodies of his fallen comrades"). The question asks for the antonym of "fallen" (meaning dead or killed in battle). a) deceased: means dead (synonym). b) alive: means living or not dead, serving as the direct antonym of "fallen." c) slain: means killed violently in battle (synonym). d) perished: means died or suffered destruction (synonym).

In Hindi:

- यह sentence मुठभेड़ में मारे गए नक्सलियों के शवों ("fallen comrades") को describe करता है, जहाँ "fallen" का अर्थ युद्ध में वीरगति/मृत्यु को प्राप्त होना है। Question में "fallen" (मारे गए/मृत) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) deceased: इसका meaning मृतक (synonym) होता है। b) alive: इसका meaning 'जीवित या ज़िंदा' होता है, जो "fallen" का direct antonym है। c) slain: इसका meaning मारा गया (synonym) होता है। d) perished: इसका meaning नष्ट/मृत हुआ (synonym) होता है।

23. B) **were**

The sentence describes an ongoing continuous action taking place in the past narrative involving multiple police personnel (They _____ hunting a group of Naxals...). The plural subject pronoun "They" strictly requires the plural past auxiliary verb "were" to form the past continuous tense (were hunting). a) was: is a singular past auxiliary verb, violating agreement with the plural subject "They." b) were: is the correct plural past auxiliary verb completing the past continuous structure. c) are: is a present tense verb, violating past narrative consistency established by "entered" and "was". d) been: is a past participle that cannot function as an auxiliary without a preceding "had/have".

In Hindi:

- यह sentence ग्रेहाउंड्स के जवानों द्वारा अतीत में नक्सलियों की तलाश/अभियान जारी रखने की घटना को past continuous tense में describe करता है। Plural subject "They" के अनुसार past continuous tense बनाने के लिए plural past auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता है। a) was: यह singular verb है जो plural subject "They" के साथ गलत है। b) were: यह plural past auxiliary verb है जो "They were hunting..." की वाक्य संरचना में subject-verb agreement के अनुसार perfectly fit होता है। c) are: यह present tense है। d) been: यह participle है।

24. C) raised

The sentence describes a completed historical action in the past narrative where the injured commander lifted his weapon to shoot (He _____ his weapon and fired at Rao). The coordinate conjunction "and" connects two parallel past actions, requiring the simple past form (V2) to match the paired verb "fired." a) raise: is a base present verb, breaking past narrative tense harmony. b) raising: is a participle that cannot function as a standalone finite main verb. c) raised: is the simple past tense form (V2) that maintains strict parallel structure with fired (raised... and fired). d) rises: is a third-person singular present intransitive verb.

In Hindi:

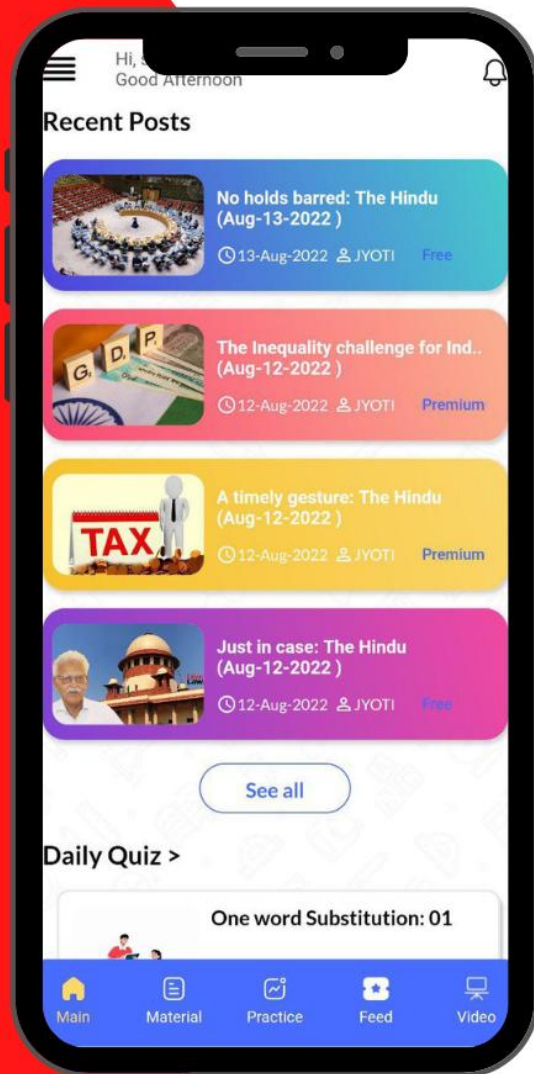
- यह sentence नक्सली कमांडर द्वारा हथियार उठाने और गोली चलाने की पिछली घटना को describe करता है। Conjunction "and" के बाद "fired" (past tense - V2) होने के कारण grammatical parallelism बनाए रखने के लिए पहले भाग में भी simple past verb (V2) की आवश्यकता है। a) raise: यह present base form है। b) raising: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के finite verb नहीं बन सकता। c) raised: यह verb 'raise' का past form (V2) है जो "fired" के साथ मिलकर (raised his weapon and fired) perfectly fit होता है। d) rises: यह present intransitive verb है।

25. A) for

The passage describes the wounded policeman struggling continuously in the hospital to survive and stay alive (The young cop fought _____ his life for nearly 25 days...). Blank (5) requires the standard preposition used with the verb "fight" to denote struggling desperately to survive or preserve one's existence. a) for: forms the established English idiom "fight for one's life" (to struggle desperately to survive against death or fatal injury). b) with: indicates struggling against an opponent or alongside someone. c) at: denotes a target or location. d) about: indicates concerning or regarding.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence गंभीर रूप से घायल पुलिसकर्मी के अस्पताल में 25 दिनों तक जीवन और मौत के बीच संघर्ष करने को describe करता है। Verb "fought" के साथ जीवित रहने की जंग दर्शाने वाले standard idiom के अनुसार preposition की आवश्यकता है। a) for: यह निश्चित मुहावरेदार अभिव्यक्ति "fight for one's life" (जिंदगी की जंग लड़ना/जीवित रहने के लिए संघर्ष करना) का मानक preposition है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है। b) with: यह किसी के साथ या उपकरण दर्शाता है। c) at: यह स्थान/बिंदु दर्शाता है। d) about: यह के बारे में दर्शाता है।



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