

New equilibrium: on the recalibration of U.S.-China ties

As the United States and China **recalibrate ties**, **implications** for other nations **are** huge

On the surface, Chinese President Xi Jinping's Washington visit appeared to be more about ceremony than **substance**. President Donald Trump **rolled out the red carpet**, personally welcoming the Chinese leader at the base where he landed. The last time that a U.S. President **accorded** such an **honour** to a foreign leader **was** when John F. Kennedy welcomed British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan in 1962. Mr. Trump also **laid out** a grand state dinner at the White House, inviting some of the biggest names in tech and business in the U.S. Beyond the optics, the **concrete outcomes** from the Trump-Xi talks **were** **modest**. The most immediate one was an agreement for both leaders to meet twice this year at the APEC **summit** in Shenzhen and the G-20 in Miami, marking an **unusual** four meetings in one year, with Mr. Trump having visited Beijing in May. Both sides also agreed to **operationalise** a board of trade and investment. No new trade agreement was reached, although both have extended for another two months the trade **truce** agreed to at Busan last year as well as an **arrangement** for a \$30 billion **reciprocal tariff** reduction. China **reaffirmed** its **commitment** to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually, but offered no new ones. Other long pending issues such as semiconductors, rare earths and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan appear **deferred** for now. Both did, however, announce the **establishment** of a new **dialogue** on Artificial Intelligence and the opening of a channel for incidents, **amid** growing concerns over the consequences of an **unregulated** AI race.

The modest **outcomes** from the Xi visit should not **obscure** the broader shift that recent U.S.-China engagement has **underlined**. The **agreement** between the world's two biggest powers to **pursue** what they call a **constructive** relationship of **strategic stability** based on fairness, respect and **reciprocity** **points to** a new equilibrium. Their relationship certainly remains **beset** by serious structural challenges and will remain one **marked** by **rivalry**. At the same time, both sides appear **eager to** set a floor to ensure a rivalry that is more managed, **stable** and **predictable**. **Countries** in the region **will** be watching closely how this may **temper** an "America First" Washington's **appetite** to push back against China in **waters** far from home. New Delhi will need to carefully watch this **evolving** new equilibrium. The recent U.S. tariff threats aimed at India have offered a **stark contrast** to the measured language with which Washington has been engaging Beijing. For long, a **strand** of Indian strategic thinking **has** been **predicated on** the assumption that U.S. **strategy** in the region **was centred on** the idea of a relationship with India as a **bulwark** against Chinese influence. That assumption increasingly appears open to question.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Equilibrium** (noun) - balance, stability, symmetry, parity, composure संतुलन
2. **Recalibration** (noun) - readjustment, reassessment, reevaluation, modification, reorganization पुनर्मूल्यांकन
3. **Recalibrate** (verb) - readjust, reevaluate, reassess, modify, reorganize फिर से जांचना
4. **Tie** (noun) - relation, connection, bond, association, link संबंध
5. **Implication** (noun) - consequence, ramification, repercussion, effect, outcome परिणाम
6. **On the surface** (phrase) - appearing in a certain way but perhaps not actually so ऊपर से
7. **Substance** (noun) - significance, importance, meaningfulness, essence, core मूल तत्व
8. **Roll out the red carpet** (phrase) - to give a guest a special and welcoming treatment भव्य स्वागत करना
9. **Accord** (verb) - grant, give, bestow, confer, present प्रदान करना
10. **Lay out** (phrasal verb) - to arrange or present something formally प्रबंध करना
11. **Concrete** (adjective) - solid, tangible, actual, real, definite ठोस
12. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, conclusion, aftermath, upshot परिणाम
13. **Modest** (adjective) - moderate, ordinary, limited, small, unexceptional मामूली
14. **Summit** (noun) - meeting, conference, convention, council, assembly शिखर सम्मेलन
15. **Unusual** (adjective) - uncommon, abnormal, rare, extraordinary, atypical असामान्य
16. **Operationalise** (verb) - execute, implement, actualize, apply, enact लागू करना
17. **Truce** (noun) - ceasefire, armistice, peace, agreement, treaty शांति समझौता
18. **Arrangement** (noun) - agreement, deal, settlement, understanding, pact व्यवस्था
19. **Reciprocal tariff** (noun) - mutual taxes imposed on imported goods by two countries पारस्परिक टैरिफ
20. **Reaffirm** (verb) - reiterate, restate, confirm, assert, uphold फिर से पुष्टि करना
21. **Commitment** (noun) - dedication, devotion, pledge, promise, obligation प्रतिबद्धता
22. **Defer** (verb) - postpone, delay, suspend, put off, adjourn टालना
23. **Establishment** (noun) - creation, formation, founding, institution, inception स्थापना
24. **Dialogue** (noun) - conversation, discussion, talk, communication, discourse बातचीत
25. **Amid** (preposition) - amidst, among, during, amidst, throughout के बीच

26. **Unregulated** (adjective) - uncontrolled, unrestricted, unmonitored, unchecked, free अनियंत्रित
27. **Obscure** (verb) - hide, conceal, cover, mask, overshadow छिपाना
28. **Underline** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underscore जोर देना
29. **Pursue** (verb) - follow, chase, seek, continue, conduct आगे बढ़ाना
30. **Constructive** (adjective) - positive, useful, helpful, productive, beneficial रचनात्मक
31. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, planned, diplomatic, politic रणनीतिक
32. **Stability** (noun) - steadiness, firmness, solidity, balance, security स्थिरता
33. **Reciprocity** (noun) - mutuality, exchange, cooperation, trade, return पारस्परिकता
34. **Point to** (phrasal verb) - to indicate or suggest something is likely संकेत देना
35. **Beset** (verb) - plague, afflict, torment, trouble, harass घेर लेना
36. **Mark** (verb) - characterize, distinguish, define, indicate, denote चिह्नित करना
37. **Rivalry** (noun) - competition, contention, opposition, conflict, friction प्रतिद्वंद्विता
38. **Eager** (to) (adjective) - having a strong desire to do something उत्सुक
39. **Stable** (adjective) - steady, firm, secure, unfluctuating, solid स्थिर
40. **Predictable** (adjective) - foreseeable, expected, anticipated, certain, reliable पूर्वानुमान योग्य
41. **Temper** (verb) - moderate, mitigate, alleviate, soften, lessen कम करना
42. **Appetite** (noun) - desire, craving, hunger, longing, inclination इच्छा
43. **Waters** (noun) - seas, oceans, territories, regions, zones जल क्षेत्र
44. **Evolve** (verb) - develop, progress, advance, unfold, mature विकसित होना
45. **Stark** (adjective) - sharp, clear, distinct, absolute, complete स्पष्ट
46. **Contrast** (noun) - difference, dissimilarity, disparity, distinction, divergence अंतर
47. **Strand** (noun) - element, component, thread, aspect, part पहलू
48. **Predicate on** (phrase) - based on or relying on something आधारित होना
49. **Centre on** (phrasal verb) - focused on or revolving around a particular subject केंद्रित होना
50. **Bulwark** (noun) - shield, defense, safeguard, protection, fortification रक्षक

Summary of the Editorial

1. Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington was highly ceremonial, with President Donald Trump giving him an unusually warm welcome.
2. Despite the impressive diplomatic optics, the concrete outcomes of the Trump-Xi meeting were relatively modest.
3. Both leaders agreed to meet twice more during the year, at the APEC summit in Shenzhen and the G-20 summit in Miami.
4. The two countries also agreed to operationalise a board of trade and investment to improve economic engagement.
5. No new trade agreement was signed, but both sides extended their existing trade truce and agreed on a reciprocal tariff reduction arrangement worth about \$30 billion.
6. China reaffirmed its commitment to purchase \$17 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products annually, without making additional purchasing commitments.
7. Difficult issues such as semiconductors, rare earths and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan were largely postponed rather than resolved.
8. The U.S. and China agreed to establish a new Artificial Intelligence dialogue and an incident-management channel because of concerns about an unregulated AI race.
9. The editorial argues that these limited agreements should not hide a broader transformation in U.S.-China relations.
10. Both countries appear to be seeking a new equilibrium based on strategic stability, fairness, respect and reciprocity, even though their fundamental rivalry remains.
11. The objective seems to be creating a floor under their rivalry, making competition more managed, stable and predictable rather than allowing it to escalate uncontrollably.
12. This changing relationship could have major consequences for other countries, particularly nations in the Asia-Pacific region that depend on the balance between Washington and Beijing.
13. Regional countries will closely observe whether a more stable U.S.-China relationship reduces Washington's willingness to challenge China in distant waters under its "America First" approach.
14. India needs to carefully monitor this evolving relationship, especially because recent U.S. tariff threats against India contrast with Washington's more measured engagement with China.
15. The editorial questions the long-standing Indian strategic assumption that the U.S.-India relationship would serve as a bulwark against China, suggesting that the emerging U.S.-China equilibrium could require India to reassess this assumption.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the author argue that New Delhi will need to carefully watch the evolving new equilibrium?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Because the disparity in the diplomatic communication styles indicates a shift in the regional priorities.
 - B. Because the increased frequency of the bilateral summits will lead to a cessation of the naval friction.
 - C. Because the commitment to the massive agricultural imports will limit the market access for the other partners.
 - D. Because the collaboration on the emerging technologies will prioritize the interests of the American firms.
2. **Which of the following is FALSE according to the passage?**
 - A. One nation has confirmed its intent to acquire the farm products within a specified financial limit.
 - B. The level of hospitality shown to the visitor was a unique event that had not occurred in decades.
 - C. A comprehensive trade pact was signed to provide a solution to the existing duty wars.
 - D. The leadership has committed to a series of interactions to ensure the stability of the relationship.
3. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word "RECALIBRATE" as used in the passage.**
 - A. PRESERVE
 - B. ORGANIZE
 - C. EVALUATE
 - D. MODERATED
4. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence from the passage: "Mr. Trump also laid out a grand state dinner at the White House."**
 - A. A grand state dinner was also laid out by Mr. Trump at the White House.
 - B. A grand state dinner were also laid out by Mr. Trump at the White House.
 - C. A grand state dinner has been laid out by Mr. Trump at the White House.
 - D. A grand state dinner had been laid out by Mr. Trump at the White House.
5. **Identify the correct DIRECT speech form of the following sentence from the passage: "China reaffirmed its commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."**
 - A. China said, "We reaffirmed our commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."
 - B. China said, "They reaffirmed their commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."
 - C. China said, "We reaffirm our commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."
 - D. China said, "We will reaffirm our commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

1. When Bharata left Ayodhya with the intention of bringing back Rama from his vanvas and arrived with lakhs of personnel at the hermitage of sage Bharadwaj, the great rishi prayed to Indra to send enough to feed the army.
2. The Vedas say food is the lifeline and feeding others (annadanam) helps the receiver ingest good values, while the giver is blessed with the negation of his sinful deeds, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan.
3. The sage was able to provide such a feast for all due to the accumulation of his good deeds, penance and meditation.
4. The gift of food (annadanam) is not only the best form of charity but also of highest dharmic principles
- A. 4-2-1-3
- B. 2-4-1-3
- C. 4-1-2-3
- D. 4-2-3-1
7. **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. A recent episode of the Oprah Winfrey Podcast revealed a stunning new hypothesis in cancer research.
A. Winfrey's guest was Siddhartha Mukherjee, cancer researcher, oncologist and author of the Pulitzer-winning book The Emperor of All Maladies.
B. Instead, it was about chronic inflammation.
C. It had nothing to do with artificial intelligence (A.I.) or a new drug's mechanism.
D. Partway through their conversation, when she asked about the future of cancer treatment, he said, "There are thousands of dormant cancer cells sitting in your body."
S6. "Then something happens — I call it the sleeping beauty kiss — that wakes them up."
A. C-B-A-D
B. B-C-A-D
C. C-A-B-D
D. C-B-D-A
8. **Which of the following idioms given in the alternatives has the meaning?**
To take advantage of a set of rules, procedures, or structures to achieve a personal or institutional goal, often in a way that is clever, slightly dishonest, or exploits loopholes.
A. Buck the system
B. Get something out of one's system
C. Get something out of your system
D. Work the system
9. **Which of the following idiom given in the alternatives has the meaning?**
Describing the shortest, most direct path between two points, measured in a straight line and disregarding any obstacles like roads, rivers, or mountains.
A. Pull a crow with one
B. As the crow flies
C. Stone the crows
D. Crow about something

10. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
A bigger bang for one's buck.
A. To begin to put forth more effort in some area
B. To be very healthy
C. To make money quickly and/or without effort, often through dishonest, unscrupulous, or ethically dubious means
D. Greater value for the amount of money one is spending
11. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
A. Ocasional
B. Ocassional
C. Occasional
D. Ocasionnal
12. **Match the word with its closest synonym. Word: Solace**
A. Comfort
B. Sorrow
C. Anger
D. Distress
13. **Which of the following words is the closest synonym of the word "special"?**
A. Common
B. Ordinary
C. Unique
D. Usual
14. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.**
The minister described the reforms as indispensible, transformative, and strategic, though some critics called them premature.
A. indispensible
B. transformative
C. strategic
D. premature
15. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "accompany".**
A. Escort
B. Follow
C. Abandon
D. Attend
16. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Pleasure.**
A. Enjoyment
B. Delight
C. Happiness
D. Pain
17. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**
A person who studies plants.
A. Zoologist
B. Botanist

- C. Biologist
- D. Horticulturist

18. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

One who tells anecdotes in a skilful and amusing way.

- A. Raconteur
- B. Sybarite
- C. Martinet
- D. Epicurean

19. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**

Nobody wants to part _____ their money.

- A. with
- B. from
- C. on
- D. away

20. **Choose the correctly spelled word from the options below:**

- A. Soveriegnity
- B. Soverignty
- C. Sovereignty
- D. Sovreignty

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Dharma is sukshma, its subtle meanings difficult to grasp. There are many smritis that lay down different rules regarding duties and rights. They differ in respect of these rules. So, which should we follow? We should follow what our Acharyas advise us to follow, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. Only those who practise dharma must talk about it. Rama was qualified to talk about dharma, because He was a practitioner of dharma. Vaali questions the propriety of Rama's action of shooting an arrow at him (Vaali) from behind, and wonders if His act is dharmic. Rama explains what dharma is to Vaali. Vaali's foremost sin is misbehaviour towards Sugreeva's wife. Vaali is the elder brother of Sugreeva and is therefore like a father to him. He should have treated Sugreeva as he would his son. Would it be right for a man to make his son's wife his own? Vaali, by his conduct towards Sugreeva's wife, had committed a very grave sin. Just as one must not have lustful thoughts about one's daughter or sister, (1) _____ one must not have such thoughts about one's brother's wife. (2) _____ such a fundamental rule, how could Vaali talk about dharma and hope for (3) _____? Dharma sastras say that a king who (4) _____ out proper punishment for a crime or a sin will enter heaven. If a thief or a sinner is punished by his king, he escapes (5) _____. But a king who fails to punish a wrongdoer will definitely go to hell, according to the dharma sastras. As for killing Vaali from behind, do hunters have to face animals before killing them, asks Rama. Vaali has been claiming that what he did was right according to vanara dharma. If he took refuge behind the argument that he was an animal, then using the same argument, Rama could say He was justified in hitting Vaali from behind.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**

- A. conversely
- B. likewise

- C. nonetheless
 - D. otherwise
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
- A. Having broken
 - B. Having been broken
 - C. breaking
 - D. To have broken
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
- A. retribution
 - B. clemency
 - C. vengeance
 - D. chastisement
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**
- A. doles
 - B. metes
 - C. rendered
 - D. accord
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**
- A. bliss
 - B. purgatory
 - C. hell
 - D. paradise

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Because the disparity in the diplomatic communication styles indicates a shift in the regional priorities.**

passage: "New Delhi will need to carefully watch this evolving new equilibrium. The recent U.S. tariff threats aimed at India have offered a stark contrast to the measured language with which Washington has been engaging Beijing. For long, a strand of Indian strategic thinking has been predicated on the assumption that U.S. strategy in the region was centred on the idea of a relationship with India as a bulwark against Chinese influence. That assumption increasingly appears open to question."-----The US is using tariff threats with India but careful, respectful words with China. This difference in tone hints that the US may no longer see India as its main partner against China. India has long believed it was, so it must watch closely. This matches option A.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage says the rivalry will continue and remains "beset by serious structural challenges." It never says frequent meetings will lead to a "cessation" of naval friction.

Option C — Incorrect. China's \$17 billion agricultural purchase commitment is mentioned only as part of the U.S.-China talks. The passage does not link it to limiting other countries' market access, and it is not the reason given for India to watch carefully.

Option D — Incorrect. The new AI dialogue is mentioned, but the passage says nothing about it favouring American firms. It is described as a response to concerns over an unregulated AI race, not as a reason for India to be watchful.

2. C) **A comprehensive trade pact was signed to provide a solution to the existing duty wars.**

Passage line: "No new trade agreement was reached, although both have extended for another two months the trade truce agreed to at Busan last year as well as an arrangement for a \$30 billion reciprocal tariff reduction."-----The passage says that no new trade agreement was reached. The only thing that happened was that the existing temporary truce (and the tariff reduction arrangement) was extended for two more months. A truce that needs extending every few months is not a "solution," and no "comprehensive pact" was signed. So this statement goes against the passage. This is FALSE.

Option A Passage: "China reaffirmed its commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually, but offered no new ones."--- China said again that it will buy farm products worth \$17 billion every year. "Specified financial limit" simply means this fixed \$17 billion amount. This is TRUE.

Option B: "The last time that a U.S. President accorded such an honour to a foreign leader was when John F. Kennedy welcomed British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan in 1962." ---Since the last such welcome happened in 1962, it had not happened for more than 60 years. So "a unique event that had not occurred in decades" is correct. This is TRUE.

Option D: Passage line: "The most immediate one was an agreement for both leaders to meet twice this year at the APEC summit in Shenzhen and the G-20 in Miami, marking an unusual

four meetings in one year." ----Both leaders agreed to hold several meetings in the year. The passage also says both sides want a rivalry that is "more managed, stable and predictable," so the meetings support stability. This is TRUE.

3. A) **PRESERVE**

Recalibrate means to change, adjust, or correct something (like a system, plan, or machine) to match a new standard or set of conditions. Preserve means to keep something exactly as it is, maintaining its original state without making any changes or adjustments.

Passage: "As the United States and China recalibrate ties, implications for other nations are huge." ---Here, "recalibrate" means to adjust or reset something so it works differently or better than before. The U.S. and China are changing the way their relationship works. The opposite of adjusting or changing is to keep things as they are, and "preserve" means exactly that: to maintain something without change. So "preserve" is the most opposite word.

Organize: Means to arrange things in a structured way.

Evaluate: Means to assess or judge the value of something.

Moderated: Means to make something less extreme or to preside over something.

4. A) **A grand state dinner was also laid out by Mr. Trump at the White House.**

Sentence line: "Mr. Trump also laid out a grand state dinner at the White House."

To change a sentence into passive voice. 1.) The object of the active sentence ("a grand state dinner") becomes the new subject. 2.) The verb changes to "be + past participle" form, keeping the same tense as the original. 3.) The doer ("Mr. Trump") moves to the end with "by".

The original verb "laid out" is in the simple past tense. The passive of simple past is "was/were + past participle", so "laid out" becomes "was laid out". Since "dinner" is singular, we use "was".

B. The tense is correct, but "were" is wrong. "Dinner" is singular, so it needs "was", not "were".

C. "Has been laid out" is in the present perfect tense. The original sentence is simple past, so this changes the time meaning.

D. "Had been laid out" is in the past perfect tense. This would show the dinner was arranged before some other past event, which the original sentence does not say.

5. C) **China said, "We reaffirm our commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."**

Sentence line: "China reaffirmed its commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."---To change a sentence into direct speech, we put China's own words in quotation marks and reverse the changes made in indirect speech. Two things need attention: 1.) Pronoun: China speaking about itself would say "we" and "our", not "it/its" or "they/their". 2.) The past tense "reaffirmed" in reported speech comes from the present tense in the original words. Going back to direct speech, "reaffirmed" becomes "reaffirm". So the correct direct form is: China said, "We reaffirm our commitment to buy \$17 billion worth of agricultural products annually."

A. The pronouns "we/our" are right, but the verb stays in the past tense ("reaffirmed"). Going back to direct speech, the past tense should shift to the present, so this is wrong.

B. "They/their" is wrong because a speaker talking about its own side would say "we/our". The tense is also not corrected.

D. "Will reaffirm" is future tense. This changes the time meaning, because the original sentence talks about something already done, not something that will happen later.

6. A) **4-2-1-3**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी previous context के मुख्य विषय—अन्नदान (annadanam)—को best form of charity और highest dharmic principle के रूप में introduce करता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 4 के dharmic principle वाले विचार को expand करता है और Damal S. Ramakrishnan के हवाले से Vedas का reference देता है कि food lifeline है और अन्नदान giver और receiver दोनों को spiritually लाभ पहुँचाता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह theoretical explanation के बाद scriptural narrative का practical example पेश करता है, जहाँ Bharata की सेना के ऋषि Bharadwaj के hermitage पहुँचने पर ऋषि Indra से भोजन की प्रार्थना करते हैं।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "The sage" और "such a feast" सीधे Sentence 1 के sage Bharadwaj और सेना के लिए जुटाए गए food को refer करता है और sequence को complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 4 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, defining the central philosophical theme: the gift of food (annadanam) as both the supreme charitable act and the highest dharmic virtue.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 directly by validating that principle with canonical authority, citing the Vedas via Damal S. Ramakrishnan on how feeding others nourishes values in the receiver while absolving the giver of sins.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 by providing a classical narrative illustration of this principle, describing Bharata's arrival with his vast army at the hermitage of sage Bharadwaj and the sage's prayer to Indra for sustenance.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 as the natural conclusion, using the definite noun phrases "The sage" and "such a feast" to resolve the hermitage episode by attributing the miraculous feast to Bharadwaj's spiritual merit, penance, and meditation.

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

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में podcast episode में cancer research की एक new hypothesis सामने आने का mention है। Sentence C इसमें use किए गए pronoun "It" के ज़रिए clarify करता है कि इसका artificial intelligence (A.I.) या किसी new drug mechanism से कोई लेना-देना नहीं था।
- Sentence B Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence C के negative statement ("It had nothing to do with...") का direct contrast मार्कर "Instead" के साथ answer देता है कि यह hypothesis असल में chronic inflammation के बारे में थी।

- Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि यह podcast के context को expand करता है और Winfrey के guest, प्रसिद्ध cancer researcher और oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee को introduce करता है।
- Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आया और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह उनकी बातचीत ("their conversation") के दौरान cancer treatment के future पर पूछे गए सवाल और Mukherjee के initial statement को quote करता है कि हमारे शरीर में हजारों dormant cancer cells मौजूद हैं। अंत में, S6 उस process ("sleeping beauty kiss") का mention करके Mukherjee के कथन को आगे बढ़ाता है जिससे वे cells सक्रिय हो जाते हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows S1 directly because the neuter pronoun "It" anchors back to the newly revealed cancer research hypothesis, clarifying what the premise is not about (artificial intelligence or a new drug mechanism).
 - Sentence B follows Sentence C using the corrective transition "Instead", resolving the negative premise in C by explicitly naming the true focus: chronic inflammation.
 - Sentence A follows Sentence B by introducing the conversational source of the insight—Oprah Winfrey's guest, Siddhartha Mukherjee, renowned oncologist and author of The Emperor of All Maladies.
 - Sentence D follows Sentence A and links directly before S6 by transitioning to their specific dialogue on the future of cancer therapy, opening Mukherjee's direct quotation about the thousands of dormant cancer cells latent in the human body. Finally, S6 provides the immediate rhetorical continuation of Mukherjee's quote, describing the awakening trigger he terms "the sleeping beauty kiss."
8. D) **Work the system** – idiom meaning to take advantage of rules, procedures, or structures to achieve a personal or institutional goal, often in a clever or slightly dishonest way by exploiting loopholes. नियमों / व्यवस्था का फायदा उठाना।
- **Buck the system** – means to resist or go against the established rules or authority; opposite of working within the system. व्यवस्था का विरोध करना।
9. B) **As the crow flies** – idiom meaning the shortest, most direct distance between two points, measured in a straight line regardless of roads or obstacles. सीधी रेखा में दूरी।
- **Pull a crow with one** – means to have a complaint or dispute with someone; unrelated to distance or direction. किसी से झगड़ा / शिकायत करना।
 - **Stone the crows** – an exclamation of surprise or shock; does not relate to measuring distance. आश्चर्य प्रकट करना।
 - **Crow about something** – means to boast or brag about an achievement; unrelated to the meaning of a direct path. किसी बात पर शेखी बघारना।
10. D) **A bigger bang for one's buck** – idiom meaning greater value, benefit, or return for the amount of money spent. पैसे का अधिक मूल्य / अधिक फायदा।
11. C) The correct spelling is '**Occasional**', which means happening or done infrequently; occurring now and then. कभी-कभी होने वाला।
- **Ocasional** – Incorrect spelling; missing the double 'c' ("oc—" should be "occ—").
 - **Ocassional** – Incorrect spelling; has a double 's' ("ass") which is wrong; the correct form has double 'c' but single 's'.

- **Ocasionnal** – Incorrect spelling; missing the double ‘c’ and has an incorrect double ‘n’; correct form: “occasional” (double ‘c’, single ‘s’, single ‘n’).
12. A) **Solace** (noun/verb) – comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness. सांत्वना / दिलासा।
 Synonym: **Comfort** (noun/verb) – a state of ease and freedom from pain or constraint; relief from grief or distress. सांत्वना / राहत।
- **Sorrow** (noun) – a feeling of deep distress caused by loss or disappointment; opposite in meaning to solace. दुःख / शोक।
 - **Anger** (noun) – a strong feeling of annoyance or displeasure; unrelated to the meaning of solace. क्रोध।
 - **Distress** (noun) – extreme anxiety or suffering; opposite in meaning to solace, which is the relief from distress. संकट / पीड़ा।
13. C) Solution: C) **Special** (adjective) – better, greater, or otherwise different from what is usual; distinctive. विशेष।
 Synonym: **Unique** (adjective) – being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. अद्वितीय / अनूठा।
- **Common** (adjective) – occurring or found frequently; widely known — opposite in meaning to special. सामान्य / आम।
 - **Ordinary** (adjective) – with no special or distinctive features; normal — opposite in meaning to special. साधारण।
 - **Usual** (adjective) – habitually or typically occurring or done; not exceptional — also opposite in meaning to special. सामान्य / हमेशा की तरह।
14. A) The correct spelling of ‘indispensible’ is ‘**indispensable**’, which means absolutely necessary or essential. अनिवार्य / अपरिहार्य।
- **transformative** – Correct spelling; meaning causing a marked change in someone or something. परिवर्तनकारी।
 - **strategic** – Correct spelling; meaning relating to the planning and directing of operations. रणनीतिक।
 - **premature** – Correct spelling; meaning occurring or done before the usual or proper time. समय से पहले।
15. C) **Accompany** (verb) – to go somewhere with someone; to be present at the same time as something else. साथ जाना / साथ रहना।
 Antonym: **Abandon** (verb) – to leave someone or something behind; to desert. छोड़ देना / त्यागना।
- **Escort** (verb) – to accompany someone officially or protectively; a synonym of accompany, not its **antonym**. साथ चलना / अनुरक्षण करना।
 - **Follow** (verb) – to go or come after; related to going with or behind someone, not abandoning them. पीछे चलना।
 - **Attend** (verb) – to be present at or go to a place or event; similar in meaning to accompany, not its antonym. उपस्थित रहना।
16. D) **Pleasure** (noun) – a feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment. आनंद / खुशी।
 Antonym: **Pain** (noun) – physical or mental suffering; the opposite of pleasure. दर्द / पीड़ा।

- **Enjoyment** (noun) – the state of taking pleasure in something; a synonym of pleasure, not its antonym. आनंद।
 - **Delight** (noun) – great pleasure or joy; also a synonym of pleasure, not its antonym. प्रसन्नता।
 - **Happiness** (noun) – the state of being happy; also a synonym of pleasure, not its antonym. खुशी।
17. B) **Botanist** – a scientist who studies plants, their structure, growth, and classification; directly matches the given definition. वनस्पतिशास्त्री।
- **Zoologist** – a scientist who studies animals and animal behaviour; not plants. प्राणी विज्ञानी।
 - **Biologist** – a scientist who studies living organisms broadly, including both plants and animals; not exclusively plants. जीव विज्ञानी।
 - **Horticulturist** – a person who practices horticulture, i.e., the cultivation and management of gardens and crops; focuses on growing plants rather than the scientific study of plants. बागवानी विशेषज्ञ।
18. A) **Raconteur** – a person who tells anecdotes in a skilful and amusing way; directly matches the given definition. किस्सागो / कहानी सुनाने में निपुण व्यक्ति।
- **Sybarite** – a person who is excessively fond of luxury and comfort; unrelated to storytelling. विलासप्रिय व्यक्ति।
 - **Martinet** – a person who demands strict obedience to rules and orders; unrelated to telling anecdotes. कठोर अनुशासक।
 - **Epicurean** – a person devoted to sensual enjoyment, especially good food and drink; unrelated to skilful storytelling. भोग-विलासी / स्वादप्रिय।
19. A) 'with' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "**part with**" एक सही collocation है जिसका अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को छोड़ना या सौंप देना, विशेषकर जब वह मूल्यवान हो; जैसे –
Nobody wants to part with their money.
- 'with' should be used because "part with" is the fixed phrasal verb meaning to give up or hand over something, especially something one values.
 - 'from' – Incorrect; "part from" is used when separating from a person ("parting from a friend"), not when giving up a possession like money.
 - 'on' – Incorrect; "part on" is not a standard collocation with this meaning.
 - 'away' – Incorrect; "part away" is not a recognised phrasal verb in English.
20. C) **Sovereignty** (noun), which refers to supreme power, autonomy, independence, or self-rule (संप्रभुता).
21. B) **likewise**
The sentence sets up a direct parallel comparison between two ethical prohibitions (Just as one must not... _____ one must not...). Blank (1) requires a comparative adverb mirroring "Just as" to show similarity of principle. a) conversely: introduces an opposite statement. b) likewise: means in the same way or similarly, perfectly completing the comparative correlative structure (Just as... likewise...). c) nonetheless: means nevertheless. d) otherwise: indicates an alternative consequence.
In Hindi:

- यह sentence दो समान नैतिक नियमों की तुलना करता है (जैसे पुत्री या बहन के बारे में अनुचित विचार नहीं रखने चाहिए, वैसे ही भाई की पत्नी के बारे में भी नहीं)। Correlative comparison (Just as...) के साथ समानता दर्शाने वाले adverb की आवश्यकता है। a) conversely: इसका meaning इसके विपरीत होता है। b) likewise: इसका meaning 'उसी प्रकार, उसी तरह या वैसे ही' (in the same way) होता है, जो तुलनात्मक वाक्य में perfectly fit होता है। c) nonetheless: इसका meaning फिर भी होता है। d) otherwise: इसका meaning अन्यथा होता है।

22. A) Having broken

The sentence uses an active participle clause to indicate a completed prior action by the subject ("Vaali") before raising the rhetorical question (_____ such a fundamental rule, how could Vaali talk about dharma...). A perfect active participle (Having + V3) is required because Vaali performed the action of breaking the rule. a) Having broken: is the perfect active participle correctly modifying Vaali (Having broken such a rule). b) Having been broken: is passive, which would erroneously mean the subject "Vaali" was broken. c) breaking: indicates a simultaneous ongoing action rather than a completed prior transgression. d) To have broken: is a perfect infinitive that cannot introduce an adverbial participial clause modifying the subject.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence बाली द्वारा पहले ही मूलभूत नियम तोड़ दिए जाने के बाद धर्म की बात करने पर सवाल उठाता है। Subject "Vaali" ने स्वयं नियम तोड़ा है, इसलिए active voice में कार्य की पूर्णता दर्शाने के लिए perfect active participle (Having + V3) की आवश्यकता है। a) Having broken: यह active participle form है जो 'नियम तोड़ चुकने के बाद' (after having broken) का सही अर्थ देकर grammatically perfectly fit होता है। b) Having been broken: यह passive voice है जो गलत अर्थ देगा। c) breaking: यह वर्तमान में जारी क्रिया दिखाता है। d) To have broken: यह participial clause नहीं बना सकता।

23. B) clemency

The sentence asks how a transgressor who committed such a grave moral offense could expect leniency, forgiveness, or mercy from his punisher (hope for _____?). Blank (3) requires a noun denoting mercy or leniency in judicial punishment. a) retribution: means severe punishment inflicted as vengeance (antonym of mercy). b) clemency: means mercy, lenience, or compassion shown by someone in authority when dispensing justice (hope for clemency). c) vengeance: means retaliation or revenge. d) chastisement: means the act of scolding or severe corporal punishment.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence इतने गंभीर अपराध के बाद बाली द्वारा क्षमा या दया की उम्मीद करने पर सवाल उठाने को describe करता है। Blank (3) को दंड में राहत या दया दर्शाने वाले noun की आवश्यकता है। a) retribution: इसका meaning कठोर दंड या प्रतिशोध होता है। b) clemency: इसका meaning 'दया, क्षमा या दंड में नरमी' (mercy/leniency) होता है, जो "hope for clemency" के संदर्भ में perfectly fit होता है। c) vengeance: इसका meaning प्रतिशोध होता है। d) chastisement: इसका meaning कड़ी फटकार या दंड होता है।

24. B) metes

The sentence describes a monarch dispensing and administering lawful punishment according to the scriptures (a king who _____ out proper punishment). The singular subject "a king"

requires a third-person singular present verb (V1 + -s) to maintain subject-verb agreement and match the idiom with "out". a) doles: "doles out" specifically implies distributing small charitable handouts or meager rations. b) metes: is the singular present verb forming the legal idiom "metes out" (specifically meaning dispenses or administers justice/punishment). c) rendered: is past tense, violating present general truth tense consistency. d) accord: is a plural base verb, violating subject-verb agreement with singular "a king".

In Hindi:

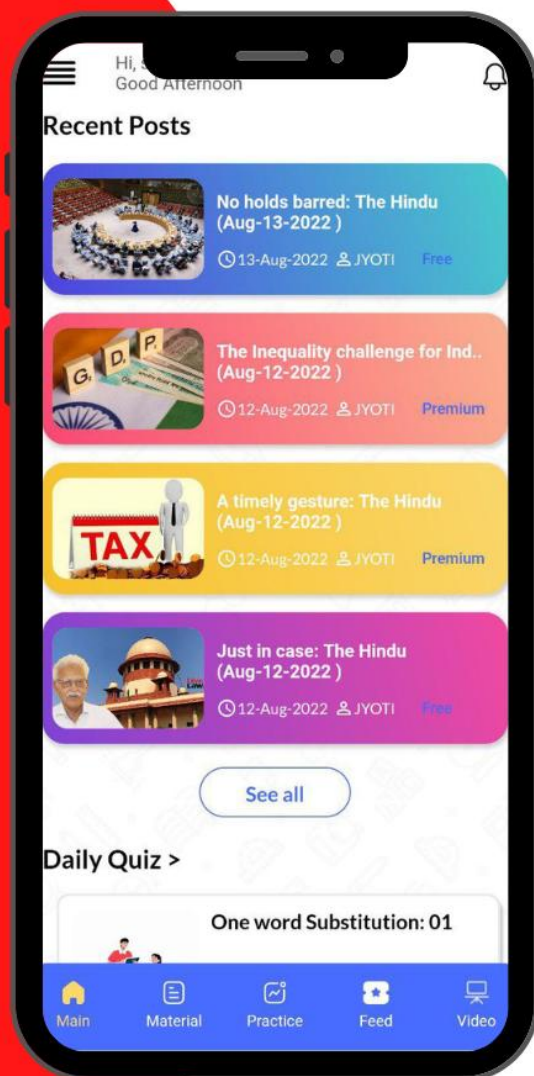
- यह sentence राजा द्वारा शास्त्रानुसार अपराधियों को उचित दंड देने/लागू करने को simple present tense में describe करता है। Singular subject "a king" के अनुसार singular present verb (V1 + -s) और "out" के साथ सही विधिक collocation की आवश्यकता है। a) doles: "doles out" खैरात या अल्प सामग्री बांटने के लिए आता है। b) metes: यह singular present verb है जो "out" के साथ मिलकर मानक मुहावरा "metes out" (दंड देना/न्याय लागू करना) बनाता है, जो "proper punishment" के साथ perfectly fit होता है। c) rendered: यह past form है। d) accord: यह plural base verb है।

25. C) hell

The passage states that when a king administers justice on Earth, the wrongdoer is freed from karmic retribution and avoids eternal damnation, whereas a king who fails to punish goes to hell himself (he escapes _____. But a king... will definitely go to hell). Blank (5) requires the noun naming eternal damnation to establish direct semantic parallelism with the subsequent clause. a) bliss: means supreme happiness. b) purgatory: refers to an intermediate cleansing state in Catholic theology, not the direct counterpart to heaven/hell described in the shastras. c) hell: specifically matches the direct textual counterpart to "enter heaven" and the parallel contrast (go to hell). d) paradise: means heaven.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence राजा द्वारा दिए गए दंड के माध्यम से पापी के पापों से मुक्त होने और परलोक में नर्क की यातना से बचने को describe करता है। बाद के वाक्य (king... will definitely go to hell) के साथ सीधे विरोध और संगति के लिए शब्द की आवश्यकता है। a) bliss: इसका meaning परमानंद होता है। b) purgatory: यह कैथोलिक मत की शुद्धि की अवस्था है। c) hell: इसका meaning 'नर्क' होता है, जो "escapes hell" और आगे आने वाले "go to hell" के संदर्भ में logically और contextually perfectly fit होता है। d) paradise: इसका meaning स्वर्ग होता है।



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