

Fat dogs of Delhi, **unite**

There was a time, just a few years ago on the calendar and what feels like **aeons** in the internet's **evolution**, when watching videos (and before that, images) of dogs and cats, puppies and kittens, was considered a waste of time. The **World Wide Web**, after all, **was** meant for instant communication, research and, for the creative types, a **self-indulgent** blog nobody asked for. Now, as the internet has transformed from **optimistic** frontier to an algorithmic **nightmare**, the puppies are its **silver lining**. For those in the national capital **gearing up for** another year of pollution and traffic jams, an online **canine** election is a source of **elation**.



On Tuesday, the final **ballot** to elect the “fattest dog of Delhi” **is** being **cast**. Like many a viral **phenomenon**, the Instagram page that started it all began **innocuously** enough: A college student took photos of overweight stray dogs and posted them. Soon, it became a community project, with people sending photographs of their favourite **portly pooches**. The **poll**, which began with 64 **corpulent** canines, **is** down to four hopefuls: Googoo (Saket), Tara Khan (Khan Market), Hero (Malviya Nagar) and Gola (SDA Market in Hauz Khas). Tara and Gola are, unfortunately, contesting for the honour **posthumously**.

Many a fat dog, like their overweight human **counterparts**, has health issues. But dogs do not **judge**, nor are they **self-conscious**. And an election, while **polarising**, has no negative campaigning nor **divisive rhetoric** — a web-based **miracle**. If only people's politics could be more like the puppy poll.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Unite** (verb) - join, combine, merge, ally, coalesce एकजुट होना
2. **Aeon** (noun) - age, eternity, epoch, era, millennium युग
3. **Evolution** (noun) - development, progression, advancement, growth, transformation विकास
4. **Self-indulgent** (adjective) - hedonistic, sybaritic, extravagant, intemperate, pampering आत्म-संतुष्ट
5. **Optimistic** (adjective) - hopeful, positive, sanguine, confident, upbeat आशावादी
6. **Nightmare** (noun) - ordeal, horror, trial, torment, tribulation दुःस्वप्न
7. **Silver lining** (noun) - a positive aspect or hopeful prospect in a negative situation निराशा में आशा की किरण
8. **Gear up** (for) (phrasal verb) - to prepare yourself or to prepare something for an activity or event तैयारी करना
9. **Canine** (noun) - connected with dogs कुत्ता
10. **Elation** (noun) - euphoria, ecstasy, exhilaration, joy, delight उल्लास
11. **Cast one's ballot** (phrase) - to vote in an election मतदान करना
12. **Phenomenon** (noun) - occurrence, event, marvel, sensation, spectacle घटना
13. **Innocuously** (adverb) - harmlessly, safely, innocently, mildly, inoffensively अहानिकर रूप से
14. **Portly** (adjective) - stout, plump, chubby, corpulent, hefty मोटा
15. **Pooch** (noun) - dog, hound, canine, pup, mutt कुत्ता
16. **Corpulent** (adjective) - obese, overweight, plump, portly, stout मोटा
17. **Posthumously** (adverb) - occurring, awarded, or appearing after the death of the originator मरणोपरांत
18. **Counterpart** (noun) - equivalent, peer, equal, parallel, match समकक्ष
19. **Judge** (verb) - assess, evaluate, appraise, criticize, condemn आंकना (या आलोचना करना)
20. **Self-conscious** (adjective) - insecure, awkward, nervous, uneasy, diffident संकोची
21. **Polarise** (verb) - divide, separate, split, part, sever बांटना
22. **Divisive** (adjective) - alienating, estranging, isolating, schismatic, discordant बांटने वाला
23. **Rhetoric** (noun) - oratory, eloquence, bombast, grandiloquence, hyperbole बयानबाजी
24. **Miracle** (noun) - marvel, wonder, phenomenon, sensation, prodigy चमत्कार

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial reflects on how the internet has changed from a platform for communication and research into an algorithm-driven environment.
2. In this transformed digital world, videos and images of dogs and cats have become a positive and enjoyable part of online culture.
3. The writer presents cute animals as a “silver lining” amid the internet’s increasingly stressful and negative nature.
4. For people in Delhi preparing for another year of pollution and traffic congestion, the online dog election offers a light-hearted source of happiness.
5. The central event is an Instagram-based competition to elect the “fattest dog of Delhi.”
6. The idea began simply when a college student photographed overweight stray dogs and shared their pictures online.
7. The initiative gradually developed into a community-driven project, with people submitting photographs of their favourite overweight dogs.
8. The competition initially featured 64 dogs, but the final contest has been reduced to four: Googoo, Tara Khan, Hero and Gola.
9. Tara Khan from Khan Market and Gola from SDA Market are competing posthumously, making their participation unusual but memorable.
10. The editorial acknowledges that many overweight dogs, like overweight humans, can suffer from health problems.
11. However, unlike humans, dogs do not appear to judge others or feel self-conscious about their appearance.
12. The dog election is presented as a humorous example of an online event that creates community participation and entertainment.
13. Despite being an election, the contest has no negative campaigning, personal attacks or divisive political rhetoric.
14. The editorial contrasts this friendly competition with human politics, which can often become polarising and confrontational.
15. The piece ends humorously by suggesting that human politics could learn something from the puppy poll, where competition exists without hostility or divisiveness.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the phrase "algorithmic nightmare" in the passage most likely refer to?**
 - A. The current state of the internet where complex automated systems often prioritize distressing or overwhelming content over simple joy. [Editorial Page]
 - B. The technical failure of Instagram pages to correctly tally the final ballots for the four corpulent canines in the national capital.
 - C. The medical complications faced by overweight stray dogs residing in areas like Saket and Khan Market due to poor health management.
 - D. The inability of researchers to use the World Wide Web for instant communication and self-indulgent blogging during its early years.
2. **Why does the author argue that the online canine election is a "web-based miracle"?**
 - A. Because it manages to conduct a competitive poll without the presence of the hostile and polarizing language found in human politics.
 - B. Because it has transformed stray dogs into self-conscious beings who no longer judge their human counterparts for their health issues.
 - C. Because it allows dogs like Tara and Gola to participate in the final ballot despite the presence of pollution and traffic jams in Delhi.
 - D. Because it proves that the internet has returned to its original state as an optimistic frontier meant for instant research and communication.
3. **How did the canine election evolve into a "community project"?**
 - A. By imposing strict algorithmic rules that prevented people from sending in photographs of their favorite pets.
 - B. By encouraging public participation where individuals contributed images of portly dogs they encountered.
 - C. By promoting divisive rhetoric that forced the college student to focus only on dogs from Saket and SDA Market.
 - D. By transforming the optimistic frontier of the web into a space meant for instant communication and research.
4. **Which of the following best describes the author's tone regarding the evolution of the internet?**
 - A. Objective and detached
 - B. retrospective yet disillusioned
 - C. Cynically dismissive
 - D. Commendatory and enthusiastic
5. **What does the term "optimistic frontier" imply in this context?**
 - A. The final ballot of the dog election where the 64 original canines were reduced to the four remaining hopefuls.
 - B. The geographical expansion of the "fattest dog of Delhi" contest into markets like SDA and Malviya Nagar.
 - C. The early period of the internet when it was viewed as a promising space for positive human advancement and communication.
 - D. The hope that posthumous contestants like Tara and Gola would eventually overcome their health issues through community projects.

1. **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. On a bright sunny afternoon, Tina returned home hungry after playing with her friends.

A. As she munched the yummy parathas and the tangy curd, a question popped into her mind.

B. "I have seen my parents add a spoonful of curd to a bowl of warm milk."

C. As she entered her home, she was greeted with the aroma of hot aloo parathas and dahi.

D. "But how does it magically turn the whole bowl into curd?"

S6. Have you ever wondered about that too?

A. C-A-D-B

B. C-A-B-D

C. A-C-B-D

D. C-B-A-D
2. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**

VERACITY

A. Truthfulness

B. Deception

C. Falsehood

D. Duplicity
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

In all her sorrow she must weep or she will _____.

A. suffer

B. laugh

C. cry

D. die
4. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the phrasal verb "Break out."**

A. To study suddenly (especially something unpleasant like work or display)

B. To stand suddenly (especially something unpleasant like wait or dictate)

C. To start suddenly (especially something unpleasant like war or disease)

D. To stage suddenly (especially something unpleasant like want or despair)
5. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Go through fire and water"?**

A. Avoid danger

B. Face any danger

C. Stay safe

D. Ignore risk
6. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

STIPULATE

A. Waive

B. Demand

C. Specify

D. Require
7. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

One who is honourably discharged from service.

A. Retired

- B. Emeritus
C. Relieved
D. Emancipated
8. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Neither the doctors nor / the nurse were present / when the patient / reached the hospital
A. Neither the doctors nor
B. when the patient
C. the nurse were present
D. reached the hospital
9. **Pick the correctly spelled word referring to the feeling of self-consciousness, shame, or awkwardness.**
A. Embarrassed
B. Embarrassed
C. Embbarased
D. Imbarrassed
10. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
REPLETE
A. Deprived
B. Abundant
C. Scarce
D. Empty
11. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the following sentence.**
The young diplomat **celebrated** a historic foreign policy **acomplishment** after ensuring strict **compliance** with international maritime **directives**.
A. celebrated
B. accomplishment
C. compliance
D. directives
12. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into active voice?**
Where was the meeting held by the union leaders?
A. Where did the union leaders hold the meeting?
B. Where had the union leaders held the meeting?
C. Where have the union leaders held the meeting?
D. Where do the union leaders hold the meeting?
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
PRAGMATIC
A. Idealistic
B. Practical
C. Realistic
D. Sensible
14. **Select the most appropriate collocation to substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The intern should take a right choice in choosing the right job for her.

- A. rake a right choice
- B. fix a right choice
- C. take the right choice
- D. make a right choice

15. **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. The mighty Himalayan mountain range is sometimes called “Roof of the World”, as it has some of the tallest mountains on Earth.

- A. The Himalayas stretch across 13 Indian states from Ladakh in the north to Sikkim in the east.
- B. Picturesque tourist destinations in this mountain range, such as Shimla, Mussoorie, and Darjeeling, receive visitors from across the country.
- C. In India, the Himalayas are also the source of the country’s iconic and culturally important rivers: the Ganga and the Yamuna.
- D. The mountains also harbour a variety of habitats, from the icy high-altitude deserts of Ladakh to the conifer forests of Uttarakhand that are home to some special birds found only in these areas.

S6. When you travel in the Himalayas, watch out for these birds that call this mountain range their home!

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

Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

If there was ever a contest for the most multifaceted member of the plant kingdom, the coconut from the tropical coconut palm tree would probably win (1)____. Its flesh is food, its water (2)____ thirst and cures illnesses, its leaves are woven into thatched roofs and handicrafts, its (3)____ is turned into ropes and mats, its (4)____ is crafted into cups, cooking vessels, and even musical instruments... every part has been put to use by thrifty humans. Its story is so entangled in ours that few people pause to wonder just how this mighty 'nut' first came into our lives.

Although scientists have found coconut fossils dating back more than 30 million years, there is much debate around where it first grew and when it first crossed paths with humans.

Intriguingly, people living in two different parts of the world — along the Pacific and the Indian Ocean — have been growing it independently for centuries. But there is no doubt that the coconut is a veteran (5)_____.

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

- A. hand in hand
- B. hands down
- C. by a whisker
- D. neck and neck

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**

- A. quenches
- B. satisfies
- C. satiate
- D. doused

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**

- A. husk
- B. pulp
- C. coir
- D. rind

19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**

- A. kernel
- B. skin
- C. crust
- D. shell

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**

- A. globetrotter
- B. migrant
- C. nomad
- D. wanderer

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **The current state of the internet where complex automated systems often prioritize distressing or overwhelming content over simple joy.**

Passage: "Now, as the internet has transformed from optimistic frontier to an algorithmic nightmare, the puppies are its silver lining."---The passage contrasts the internet's earlier hopeful days ("optimistic frontier") with its current troubled state ("algorithmic nightmare"). "Algorithmic" refers to the automated systems (algorithms) that decide what content people see online, and "nightmare" suggests this has become something unpleasant or overwhelming. Right after this phrase, the author says puppies are the "silver lining" — meaning amid this negative, algorithm-driven online experience, cute animal content (like the dog poll) offers a small relief or joy. This matches option A well: the internet's current state, shaped by algorithms, is generally distressing, and simple joys like puppy pictures stand out as a positive exception.

B. The passage never mentions any "technical failure" in tallying votes for the dog poll. In fact, it describes the poll's progress clearly (64 dogs narrowed down to 4), showing no issue with counting.

C. While the passage does mention that "many a fat dog... has health issues," this is a separate point made later in the passage, unrelated to the phrase "algorithmic nightmare." The phrase is about the internet's overall current state, not about the dogs' health.

D. This describes the internet's early years and how it was intended to be used ("meant for instant communication, research..."), not its current problematic state. The phrase "algorithmic nightmare" refers to what the internet has "transformed" into now, not what it failed to be used for earlier.

2. A) **Because it manages to conduct a competitive poll without the presence of the hostile and polarizing language found in human politics.**

Passage: "But dogs do not judge, nor are they self-conscious. And an election, while polarising, has no negative campaigning nor divisive rhetoric — a web-based miracle. If only people's politics could be more like the puppy poll."---The author calls the dog election a "web-based miracle" right after pointing out that even though it is "polarising" (people have their favourites and compete), it has "no negative campaigning nor divisive rhetoric." This means the poll manages to bring people together in friendly competition without the nastiness, mudslinging, or divisive language typically found in real (human) political elections. The final line — "If only people's politics could be more like the puppy poll" — confirms this is exactly the point being praised: a rare online event that stays positive and free of hostility. This matches option A closely.

B. The passage says "dogs do not judge, nor are they self-conscious" about their own weight/health issues — this is simply a light observation about dogs' nature, not a claim that the poll "transformed" them into self-conscious beings who judge humans.

C. The mention of "pollution and traffic jams" is about why people in Delhi enjoy the poll as a distraction/relief — it has nothing to do with why Tara and Gola (who are competing posthumously) are specifically allowed to participate.

D. The passage actually says the internet has "transformed FROM optimistic frontier TO an algorithmic nightmare" — meaning it has moved away from its original optimistic state, not returned to it. The dog poll is presented as a rare bright spot ("silver lining") within this otherwise troubled internet, not proof that the internet as a whole has gone back to being optimistic.

3. B) **By encouraging public participation where individuals contributed images of portly dogs they encountered.**

Passage: "Like many a viral phenomenon, the Instagram page that started it all began innocuously enough: A college student took photos of overweight stray dogs and posted them. Soon, it became a community project, with people sending photographs of their favourite portly pooches."---The passage explains that the

project started small — just one college student posting photos of overweight stray dogs. It then says this "became a community project" specifically because other people started "sending photographs of their favourite portly pooches" too. This means the shift from a personal project to a community one happened through public participation — many people joining in and contributing their own dog photos. This matches option B exactly.

A. The passage never mentions any "algorithmic rules" that stopped people from sending photos. In fact, it's the opposite — people were actively encouraged and did send in photos, which is how it became a community project.

C. The passage doesn't mention any "divisive rhetoric" involved in the process, and it doesn't say the student was "forced" to focus only on dogs from Saket and SDA Market. In fact, the final four dogs come from different places (Saket, Khan Market, Malviya Nagar, SDA Market), showing wide participation, not a narrow focus.

D. This describes the internet's original intended purpose (mentioned earlier in the passage, in a different context) — it has nothing to do with how this specific dog poll became a community project.

4. B) **retrospective yet disillusioned**

The author looks back ("retrospective") at how the internet used to be — an "optimistic frontier" meant for communication and research, a simpler and more hopeful time. But then the author shows disappointment ("disillusioned") by saying it has "transformed" into an "algorithmic nightmare." The phrase "what feels like aeons" also shows a wistful, looking-back quality, as if reflecting on how much things have changed for the worse. The puppies being called a "silver lining" further shows that the author sees the current internet mostly in a negative light, with only small positives like the dog poll standing out. This combination of looking back at the past while expressing disappointment with the present matches "retrospective yet disillusioned" precisely.

1. Objective and detached: The author isn't neutral here — phrases like "algorithmic nightmare" clearly show a personal, critical judgment about the internet's current state, not detached objectivity.

3. Cynically dismissive: While there's some disappointment, the author isn't dismissive of the internet altogether — they highlight the dog poll as a genuine "silver lining" and "miracle," showing they still find value and joy in parts of it. A purely cynical/dismissive tone wouldn't include this appreciation.

4. Commendatory and enthusiastic: This tone would fit better when the author discusses the dog poll itself (which they do praise), but not the internet's overall evolution — that part is clearly critical ("algorithmic nightmare"), not praising or enthusiastic.

5. C) **The early period of the internet when it was viewed as a promising space for positive human advancement and communication.**

Passage: "The World Wide Web, after all, was meant for instant communication, research and, for the creative types, a self-indulgent blog nobody asked for. Now, as the internet has transformed from optimistic frontier to an algorithmic nightmare, the puppies are its silver lining."---The word "frontier" suggests a new, unexplored territory full of possibility, and "optimistic" means hopeful and positive. The passage explains that in its early days, the internet was intended for good, constructive purposes like "instant communication" and "research." This matches "optimistic frontier" — the internet's early period when it was seen as a hopeful space meant to help people connect and grow. The passage then contrasts this with what the internet has "transformed" into now (an "algorithmic nightmare"), showing that "optimistic frontier" refers specifically to that earlier, more hopeful time.

A. The "final ballot" and reduction from 64 to 4 dogs is about the dog poll process, which is a completely separate topic from the internet's early history.

B. The "geographical expansion" into markets like SDA and Malviya Nagar refers to where the contesting dogs are from — again, this is about the dog poll, not about the internet's "optimistic frontier" phase.

D. The passage never says there was "hope" that Tara and Gola would "overcome their health issues" — in fact, the passage states they are contesting "posthumously," meaning they have already passed away.

6. B) C-A-B-D

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आया क्योंकि S1 में Tina के घर लौटने का उल्लेख है, और Sentence C उसके घर में प्रवेश करने ("As she entered her home") और गर्म आलू पराठों तथा दही की खुशबू मिलने की बात बताता है।

Sentence A Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि खुशबू मिलने के बाद वह खाने बैठती है ("As she munched the yummy parathas and the tangy curd"), और खाते समय उसके दिमाग में एक सवाल आता है।

Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence A में आए सवाल की पहली कड़ी प्रस्तुत करता है, जहाँ Tina याद करती है कि उसने अपने parents को गर्म दूध के कटोरे में एक चम्मच दही मिलाते देखा है।

Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आया और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह conjunction "But" के साथ Sentence B के observation को सीधे मुख्य प्रश्न में बदलता है कि यह चम्मच भर दही पूरे कटोरे को जादुई रूप से दही में कैसे बदल देता है। अंत में, S6 पाठक से सीधा सवाल पूछकर ("Have you ever wondered about that too?") पूरे विचार को complete करता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence C follows S1 directly because S1 depicts Tina returning home, and Sentence C captures the immediate sensory experience upon her arrival ("As she entered her home")—being greeted by the smell of hot aloo parathas and curd.

Sentence A follows Sentence C chronologically, transitioning from smelling the food to actively eating it ("As she munched the yummy parathas..."), which sparks a question in her mind.

Sentence B follows Sentence A by introducing the first part of her internal monologue, recalling her observation of her parents adding a spoonful of curd to warm milk.

Sentence D follows Sentence B and links directly before S6, completing her thought via the conjunction "But" to pose the central mystery: how that small spoonful transforms the entire bowl into curd. Finally, S6 concludes the sequence by inviting the reader to reflect on the same question ("Have you ever wondered about that too?").

7. A) **VERACITY** (noun) – the quality of being true, accurate, or honest. Hindi: सच्चाई। Synonym: Truthfulness (noun) – the quality of telling the truth; honesty. Hindi: सत्यता

• **Deception** (noun) – the act of making someone believe something false. Hindi: धोखा

• **Falsehood** (noun) – a lie; an untrue statement. Hindi: असत्य

• **Duplicity** (noun) – deceitfulness; double-dealing. Hindi: दोहरापन

8. A) **'Suffer'** का use होगा क्योंकि इस context में यह दिखाना है कि अगर वह अपने दुःख में रोती नहीं है, तो उसे आंतरिक दर्द या कष्ट का सामना करना पड़ेगा। 'Laugh' और 'Cry' का अर्थ हंसना और रोना होता है जो यहाँ fit नहीं बैठते क्योंकि रोने का विकल्प पहले से sentence में दिया गया है। 'Die' अतिरंजना होगी और यह शब्द अक्सर मौत के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है, जो कि यहाँ सही नहीं लगता।

'Suffer' should be used because in this context it implies that if she does not weep in her sorrow, she will experience internal pain or distress. 'Laugh' and 'Cry' are not appropriate because 'cry' is already mentioned as an option and laughing doesn't fit the context of sorrow. 'Die' would be an exaggeration and is commonly used to refer to death, which is not suitable here.

9. C) **Break out** (phrasal verb) – To start suddenly (especially something unpleasant like war or disease). (अचानक शुरू होना)

10. B) **"Go through fire and water"** means Face any danger हर मुश्किल का सामना करना

11. A) **Stipulate** (verb) – To require something as a specific condition of an agreement; to state clearly as a demand or prerequisite. शर्त लगाना, अनिवार्य करना Antonym: Waive (verb) – To refrain from insisting on or using a right or claim; to voluntarily give up a requirement or condition. छोड़ना, माफ करना, अधिकार त्यागना

• **Demand** (verb) – To insist on having something — a synonym of stipulate, not antonym. मांग करना, अपेक्षा करना

• **Specify** (verb) – To state clearly and definitively as a requirement — a synonym of stipulate. निर्दिष्ट करना, स्पष्ट करना

• **Require** (verb) – To make something compulsory or necessary — similar in meaning to stipulate. आवश्यक करना, अपेक्षा करना

12. B) **Emeritus** (adjective) – Honourably discharged from service, especially a retired professional who retains their title as an honor. अवकाशप्राप्त पर सम्मानित

Retired (adjective) – Having left one's job and stopped working. सेवानिवृत्त

Relieved (adjective) – Freed from duty or anxiety. मुक्त किया हुआ

Emancipated (adjective) – Liberated from legal or social restrictions. मुक्तिप्राप्त

13. C) 'were present' के बदले '**was present**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Neither...nor' के संयोजन में verb, 'nor' के बाद आने वाले subject के अनुसार होता है; जब 'the nurse' Singular है, तो Verb भी Singular 'was' होनी चाहिए; जैसे— Neither the teacher nor the students were ready.

'was present' will be used instead of 'were present' because with 'Neither...nor' constructions, the verb should agree with the subject that follows 'nor.' Since 'the nurse' is singular, the verb should also be singular, hence 'was'; Like— Neither the teacher nor the students were ready

14. A) **Embarrassed** (adjective) – humiliated, ashamed, mortified, self-conscious, abashed. (लज्जित)

15. B) **REPLETE** (adjective) – filled to the brim; completely full or abundantly supplied. Hindi: परिपूर्ण।

Synonym: **Abundant** (adjective) – existing in large quantities; more than enough. Hindi: प्रचुर

• **Deprived** (adjective) – lacking adequate necessities; wanting. Hindi: वंचित

• **Scarce** (adjective) – insufficient; barely enough. Hindi: दुर्लभ

• **Empty** (adjective) – containing nothing; void. Hindi: खाली

16. B) **The incorrectly spelt word is accomplishment.**

Correct Spelling: Accomplishment (noun) – achievement, feat, attainment, fulfillment, triumph. (उपलब्धि)

Celebrated (verb/adjective) – observed with ceremony, honored, acclaimed. (प्रशंसित / मनाया गया)

Compliance (noun) – adherence, conformity, observance, obedience. (अनुपालन)

Directives (noun) – instructions, orders, commands, decrees, mandates. (दिशा-निर्देश)

17. A) **Where did the union leaders hold the meeting?** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Passive वाक्य को Active में बदलते समय Passive वाक्य का Subject (यहाँ "the meeting") Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और "by the union leaders" Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य "Where was the meeting held by the union leaders?" में Verb "was held" (Past Simple Passive) है, इसलिए Active में इसे "did hold" (Past Simple) में बदला जाता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य "Where did the union leaders hold the meeting?" होगा।

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object, and the doer of the action (introduced by "by") becomes the subject. The verb is changed from passive to active form while keeping the tense correct. Here, "the meeting" (Subject in Passive) becomes the Object, and "the union leaders" becomes the Subject. The verb "was held" (Past Simple Passive) changes to "did hold" (Past Simple). Hence, the correct sentence is "Where did the union leaders hold the meeting?"

18. A) **Pragmatic** (adjective) – Dealing with things sensibly and realistically; based on practical considerations rather than theory. व्यावहारिक, यथार्थवादी Antonym: Idealistic (adjective) – Guided by ideals and principles rather than practical considerations; visionary but impractical. आदर्शवादी, कल्पनाशील

• **Practical** (adjective) – Concerned with actual use — a synonym of pragmatic, not antonym. व्यावहारिक, उपयोगी

• **Realistic** (adjective) – Having a sensible view of things — similar in meaning to pragmatic. यथार्थवादी, व्यावहारिक

• **Sensible** (adjective) – Showing good judgment — a synonym of pragmatic, not antonym. समझदार, विवेकी

19. D) take a right choice' के बदले '**make the right choice**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'choice' या 'decision' के साथ सही Collocation 'make' होता है। इसी प्रकार के अन्य उदाहरण हैं जैसे— We need to make a decision quickly.

'make the right choice' will be used instead of 'take a right choice' because the correct collocation with 'choice' or 'decision' is 'make'. Similar examples include— We need to make a decision quickly.

20. A) C-B-A-D

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आया क्योंकि S1 में Himalayas के global significance ("Roof of the World") का mention है, और Sentence C national context की ओर shift करते हुए additive marker "also" के साथ बताता है कि India में Himalayas देश की iconic और culturally important नदियों (Ganga और Yamuna) का source हैं।

Sentence B Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया phrase "in this mountain range" Himalayas के geographic landscape को आगे बढ़ाता है और लोकप्रिय tourist destinations (Shimla, Mussoorie, Darjeeling) में visitors के आने का विवरण देता है।

Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि यह tourist towns से आगे बढ़कर Himalayas के broader geographic stretch को specify करता है कि यह उत्तर में Ladakh से पूर्व में Sikkim तक 13 Indian states में फैला है।

Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आया और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह geographical extent के बाद biodiversity की बात करता है कि ये mountains विभिन्न प्रकार के habitats harbour करते हैं जो endemic birds का घर हैं। अंत में, S6 में use किया गया demonstrative phrase "these birds" सीधे Sentence D में mention की गई चिड़ियों को refer करके traveler को call to action देता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence C follows S1 directly because S1 establishes the global stature of the Himalayas as the "Roof of the World," and Sentence C localizes the context using the additive marker "also", identifying the range as the perennial origin of India's sacred rivers: the Ganga and the Yamuna.

Sentence B follows Sentence C by building on that geographical prominence, using the referential phrase "in this mountain range" to highlight scenic hill stations (Shimla, Mussoorie, Darjeeling) that attract domestic tourists.

Sentence A follows Sentence B by panning out from individual destinations to define the range's full administrative footprint across 13 Indian states, stretching from Ladakh in the north to Sikkim in the east.

Sentence D follows Sentence A and links directly before S6, detailing how that vast geographic expanse supports diverse ecological habitats sheltering localized bird species. Finally, S6 provides the concluding reader takeaway, as the demonstrative determiner "these birds" links directly back to the avifauna described in D.

21. B) hands down

Blank (1) needs an idiom completing "would probably win ____," for a victory achieved with such overwhelming ease that there is no real contest at all. a) hand in hand: is an idiom meaning two things closely linked or occurring together, violating the requirement since it describes accompaniment between two things, not the manner of winning a contest. b) hands down: is an idiom meaning winning easily and decisively, without any real competition, matching the sentence's framing that the coconut would "probably win" a contest for most multifaceted plant, implying an obvious, uncontested victory. c) by a whisker: is an idiom meaning winning by the narrowest possible margin, violating the requirement since it describes a close, nearly-tied victory, the opposite of the effortless win the sentence suggests. d) neck and neck: is an idiom meaning two competitors running exactly level, with no clear leader, violating the requirement since it describes an ongoing, undecided contest, not a decisive outcome.

Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा idiom चाहिए जो "would probably win ____" को पूरा करे, और इतनी आसान, भारी जीत को बताए कि कोई असली मुकाबला रह ही ना जाए। a) hand in hand: इसका meaning है दो चीजों का आपस में गहराई से जुड़ा या साथ-साथ होना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह दो चीजों के साथ चलने का रिश्ता बताता है, किसी मुकाबले में जीतने के तरीके को नहीं। b) hands down: इसका meaning है आसानी से और साफ तौर पर जीत जाना, बिना किसी असली प्रतिस्पर्धा के, जो sentence के इस भाव से match करता है कि coconut "probably win" करेगा, यानी एक साफ, बिना शक वाली जीत। c) by a whisker: इसका meaning है बहुत मामूली फ़र्क से जीतना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह एक

करीबी, लगभग बराबरी वाली जीत बताता है, जो sentence के आसान, साफ जीत वाले भाव के बिल्कुल उलट है। d) neck and neck: इसका meaning है दो प्रतिस्पर्धियों का बिल्कुल बराबर चलना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह एक चलता हुआ, अनिश्चित मुकाबला बताता है, कोई तय नतीजा नहीं।

22. A) quenches

Blank (2) needs a singular present-tense verb agreeing with "its water," in the fixed collocation for specifically satisfying thirst, since the rest of the sentence stays in the present tense ("cures illnesses"). a) quenches: is a singular present-tense verb meaning fully satisfying thirst, matching both the required singular present-tense form and the fixed English collocation "quench one's thirst," the standard, dictionary-attested pairing for this exact context. b) satisfies: is a singular present-tense verb meaning fulfilling a need generally, close in sense, but violating the requirement since it pairs more naturally with abstract nouns like curiosity or needs, while "quench" is the specific, established word English reserves for thirst. c) satiate: is the base/plural form, violating the requirement since the singular subject "its water" needs "-s," and even setting grammar aside, "satisfy" is conventionally paired with hunger, not thirst. d) doused: is past tense, violating the requirement since it breaks the present tense used throughout the sentence, and in any case means drenching something in liquid or extinguishing fire, not satisfying thirst.

Hindi:

Blank (2) में "its water" से agree करने वाला singular present-tense verb चाहिए, जो प्यास बुझाने के जमे-जमाए संयोजन में आए, क्योंकि sentence का बाकी हिस्सा भी present tense में है ("cures illnesses")। a) quenches: इसका meaning है प्यास को पूरी तरह बुझाना, जो ज़रूरी singular present-tense रूप और "quench one's thirst" वाले जमे-जमाए, dictionary में दर्ज अंग्रेज़ी संयोजन, दोनों से match करता है। b) satisfies: इसका meaning है किसी ज़रूरत को सामान्य तौर पर पूरा करना, meaning में करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यह curiosity या needs जैसे abstract शब्दों के साथ ज़्यादा स्वाभाविक रूप से जुड़ता है, जबकि "quench" प्यास के लिए तय, स्थापित शब्द है। c) satiate: यह base/plural रूप है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि singular subject के साथ "-s" चाहिए, और grammar छोड़ भी दें तो यह आमतौर पर भूख के साथ जुड़ता है। d) doused: यह past tense है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह present tense को तोड़ता है, और इसका meaning भी तरल में भिगोना या आग बुझाना है, प्यास बुझाना नहीं।

23. C) coir

Blank (3) needs a singular noun agreeing with "is turned," for the fibrous material specifically extracted from coconut husk and woven into ropes and mats. a) husk: is a noun meaning the tough outer covering of certain fruits and seeds, close in origin, but violating the requirement since the husk itself is the whole outer layer, not the fibre extracted from it that is actually spun into rope and matting — coir is the processed product of the husk, not the husk itself. b) pulp: is a noun meaning the soft, fleshy inner part of a fruit, violating the requirement since pulp refers to soft edible flesh, not a fibrous material used for weaving ropes. c) coir: is a noun meaning the coarse fibre extracted specifically from coconut husk, matching exactly the material that is woven into "ropes and mats," the standard term for this processed coconut fibre. d) rind: is a noun meaning the tough outer skin of certain fruits, typically thick and hard, violating the requirement since "rind" is conventionally used for fruits like citrus or melon, not for coconut, and doesn't refer to a fibre suitable for making rope.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "is turned" से agree करने वाला singular noun चाहिए, जो नारियल के husk से खासतौर पर निकाले गए और रस्सियों-चटाइयों में बुने जाने वाले रेशेदार पदार्थ को बताए। a) husk: इसका meaning है कुछ फलों और बीजों का सख्त बाहरी आवरण, मूल में करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि husk खुद पूरा बाहरी आवरण है, उससे निकाला गया वो रेशा नहीं जो असल में रस्सी में कटा जाता है — coir तो husk से बना processed product है, husk खुद नहीं। b) pulp: इसका meaning है किसी फल का नरम, गूदेदार भीतरी हिस्सा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि pulp नरम, खाने लायक गूदे को बताता है, रस्सी बुनने वाले रेशे को नहीं। c) coir: इसका meaning है खासतौर पर नारियल के husk से निकाला गया मोटा रेशा, जो "ropes and mats" में बुने जाने वाले पदार्थ से ठीक match करता है। d) rind: इसका meaning है कुछ फलों का सख्त बाहरी छिलका, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह citrus या melon जैसे फलों के लिए use होता है, नारियल के लिए नहीं।

24. D) shell

Blank (4) needs a singular noun agreeing with "is crafted," for the hard, woody outer covering of the coconut seed specifically used to make cups, vessels, and instruments. a) kernel: is a noun meaning the softer, often edible part found inside a nut or seed's shell, violating the requirement since it names the exact opposite of what's needed — the part inside the hard covering, not the covering itself, so it cannot be "crafted into cups" the way an outer shell can. b) skin: is a noun meaning a thin, soft outer layer, violating the requirement since coconuts have a thick, rock-hard woody covering, not a thin, flexible skin. c) crust: is a noun meaning a hard outer layer, typically referring to bread, pastry, or the earth's surface, violating the requirement since "crust" is conventionally used for baked goods or geological layers, not for the hard covering of a nut or seed. d) shell: is a noun meaning a hard, protective outer covering, especially of a nut or egg, matching exactly the hard, woody covering of the coconut seed that is traditionally carved into cups, cooking vessels, and musical instruments.

Hindi:

Blank (4) में "is crafted" से agree करने वाला singular noun चाहिए, जो नारियल के बीज के उस सख्त, लकड़ी जैसे बाहरी आवरण को बताए जिससे खासतौर पर cups, vessels, और instruments बनाए जाते हैं। a) kernel: इसका meaning है nut या बीज के सख्त आवरण के भीतर मिलने वाला नरम, अक्सर खाने लायक हिस्सा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह ठीक उलटी चीज़ बताता है — आवरण के अंदर वाला हिस्सा, आवरण खुद नहीं, इसलिए इसे "crafted into cups" नहीं किया जा सकता जैसे बाहरी आवरण को किया जाता है। b) skin: इसका meaning है एक पतली, नरम बाहरी परत, जो violate करता है क्योंकि नारियल का आवरण मोटा, पत्थर जैसा सख्त होता है। c) crust: इसका meaning है एक सख्त बाहरी परत, आमतौर पर bread या पृथ्वी की सतह के लिए, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह nut या बीज के आवरण के लिए use नहीं होता। d) shell: इसका meaning है किसी nut या अंडे का सख्त, सुरक्षात्मक बाहरी आवरण, जो नारियल के बीज के उस आवरण से ठीक match करता है जिसे cups, cooking vessels, और musical instruments में तराशा जाता है।

25. A) globetrotter

Blank (5) needs a singular noun completing "a veteran ____," for something that has travelled extensively and repeatedly across the world over a long, established history, echoing the sentence's own point about independent growth across two distant oceans. a) globetrotter: is a noun meaning someone or something that has travelled widely across the world, especially with an established, seasoned history of doing so, matching both "veteran" and the sentence's evidence of the coconut appearing independently along both the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. b) migrant: is a noun meaning one who moves from one place to settle in another, violating the requirement since it implies a single, purposeful relocation to a new settled home, not wide-ranging, repeated travel across the globe. c) nomad: is a noun meaning a member of a people with no fixed home, violating the requirement since it describes never settling anywhere, whereas coconuts take root and grow established populations in specific regions. d) wanderer: is a noun meaning one who moves about without a fixed course or purpose, violating the requirement since it implies aimless movement, whereas the sentence's context of established populations in specific regions suggests purposeful, successful spread.

Hindi:

Blank (5) में "a veteran ____" को पूरा करने वाला singular noun चाहिए, जो लंबे, स्थापित इतिहास के साथ दुनिया भर में बार-बार यात्रा कर चुकी किसी चीज़ को बताए। a) globetrotter: इसका meaning है वो व्यक्ति या चीज़ जिसने दुनिया भर में व्यापक यात्रा की हो, खासतौर पर एक स्थापित, अनुभवी इतिहास के साथ, जो "veteran" और नारियल के Pacific और Indian Ocean दोनों किनारों पर स्वतंत्र रूप से पाए जाने से match करता है। b) migrant: इसका meaning है वो जो एक जगह से दूसरी तय जगह पर बसने के लिए जाए, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें एक बार का, मकसद भरा स्थानांतरण है, बार-बार व्यापक यात्रा नहीं। c) nomad: इसका meaning है ऐसे लोगों का सदस्य जिनका कोई तय घर ना हो, जो violate करता है क्योंकि नारियल असल में खास इलाकों में जड़ें जमाकर स्थापित आबादी बनाता है। d)

wanderer: इसका meaning है बिना तय रास्ते के घूमना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि sentence का संदर्भ मकसद भरा, सफल फैलाव बताता है, बेमकसद भटकना नहीं।