

Good, not good enough: On India and the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026

Without raising sports standards, India should not **bid for** hosting Olympics

Aspiring to host the Olympic Games in 2036, India faced a harsh reality check at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. Compared with the previous Hangzhou Games, where it won 106 medals with a 650-plus **contingent**, the country won 85 medals from around 500 athletes. The **aggregate fell short of** an internally **projected** figure of around 100 medals. It is **likely** to invite a **thorough postmortem**, given the hundreds of crores of public money spent on the athletes' preparation. India laboured to 21 gold medals, seven fewer than in Hangzhou, after a late **surge** of 11 top honours in the last two days, **driven** by the **exploits** of archers, boxers, wrestlers, and hockey and cricket players. It tied with Uzbekistan but **managed to** retain its fourth spot on the strength of a bigger **haul** of silver. Thirteen of the gold medals came from team events, with cricket, kabaddi and hockey **making a clean sweep** of titles. It **underscored** a **stark** reality: the country needs to **raise its bar** in medal-fetching individual sports, such as athletics, swimming, gymnastics, fencing and cycling, which determine success in **multi-disciplinary Games**. China, the **runaway** winner with a massive aggregate of 341 medals, including 169 gold, **secured** 54 medals in swimming alone. Barring athletics, India stood nowhere.

On a brighter note, India **fielded** 310 **debutants** and recorded a **marginal** increase in its athlete-to-medal ratio ahead of Los Angeles 2028. Several historic performances provided reasons to **rejoice**. Seventeen-year-old **rookie** recurve archer Kumkum Mohod **dismantling** the Korean women's **hegemony** to help the archery team contribute five gold medals was a defining moment. Trap shooter Neeru Dhanda, golfer Pranavi Urs, wrestler Sujeet Kalkal and the women's hockey team, which **upset** Paris Olympics silver medallist China to **clinch** gold after 44 years, **hogged the limelight**. Lovlina Borgohain, Aman Sehrawat, Mirabai Chanu, Vithya Ramraj and Gulveer Singh **lived up to their billing**. Boxers, wrestlers and golfers **registered noticeable** improvement. Olympic quota places in archery and hockey added to the excitement. Indian women **catching up with** men — both genders delivered 38 medals **apiece** — was another encouraging sign. **On the flip side**, India's two major contributors, athletics and shooting, which earned 24 and 15 medals, respectively, **yielded** 12 fewer medals than in 2023. The shuttlers slipped, while the tennis players returned empty-handed after 40 years. P.V. Sindhu and Manu Bhaker flopped. Stricter **scrutiny** of athletes' funding and efficient implementation of the revamped Khelo India scheme, designed with a long-term vision, are **essential** for **course correction**. Without **propelling** India's sporting standards, **a bid to host** the Olympics may become a **countdown** to international **embarrassment**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Bid** (for) (verb) - to offer to do something or to make an effort to get something
प्रयास करना
2. **Aspire** (verb) - desire, aim, hope, wish, long आकांक्षा करना
3. **Host** (verb) - organize, hold, present, arrange, entertain मेज़बानी करना
4. **Contingent** (noun) - delegation, group, team, detachment, deputation दल
5. **Aggregate** (noun) - total, sum, whole, mass, collection कुल
6. **Fall short of** (phrase) - to fail to reach an expected amount or standard से कम रह जाना
7. **Project** (verb) - estimate, calculate, predict, forecast, plan अनुमान लगाना
8. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, possible, expected, anticipated, plausible संभावित
9. **Thorough** (adjective) - comprehensive, complete, exhaustive, detailed, rigorous विस्तृत
10. **Postmortem** (noun) - analysis, evaluation, review, assessment, examination समीक्षा
11. **Given** (preposition) - taking into account or considering a particular situation को देखते हुए
12. **Surge** (noun) - increase, rise, growth, upsurge, jump वृद्धि
13. **Drive** (verb) - propel, push, motivate, prompt, inspire प्रेरित करना
14. **Exploit** (noun) - achievement, feat, deed, accomplishment, performance कारनामा
15. **Manage** (to) (verb) - to succeed in doing something difficult सफल होना
16. **Haul** (noun) - collection, yield, catch, harvest, taking प्राप्ति
17. **Make a clean sweep** (idiom) - to win all the prizes or every part of a competition सूपड़ा साफ करना
18. **Underscore** (verb) - highlight, emphasize, stress, underline, accentuate ज़ोर देना
19. **Stark** (adjective) - clear, sharp, plain, bare, harsh स्पष्ट या कठोर
20. **Raise your bar** (phrase) - to increase the standards or expectations स्तर बढ़ाना
21. **Multi-disciplinary** (adjective) - involving several different subjects or sports बहु-विषयक
22. **Runaway** (adjective) - easy, effortless, sweeping, undisputed, overwhelming एकतरफा
23. **Secure** (verb) - obtain, acquire, gain, win, get हासिल करना
24. **On a brighter note** (phrase) - looking at the positive aspect of a situation सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण से
25. **Field** (verb) - enter, play, deploy, position, pitch मैदान में उतारना
26. **Debutant** (noun) - beginner, novice, newcomer, entrant, starter पहली बार भाग लेने वाला
27. **Marginal** (adjective) - slight, small, minimal, negligible, minor मामूली

28. **Rejoice** (verb) - celebrate, exult, cheer, delight, glory खुशी मनाना
29. **Rookie** (noun) - beginner, novice, newcomer, amateur, trainee नौसिखिया
30. **Dismantle** (verb) - destroy, demolish, deconstruct, overturn, break तोड़ना या समाप्त करना
31. **Hegemony** (noun) - dominance, supremacy, authority, leadership, control आधिपत्य
32. **Upset** (verb) - defeat, beat, overcome, topple, conquer हराना या उलटफेर करना
33. **Clinch** (verb) - secure, win, seal, assure, guarantee जीत पक्की करना
34. **Hog the limelight** (phrase) - to take all the attention for oneself सुर्खियां बटोरना
35. **Live up to something** (phrasal verb) - to perform as well as expected or advertised उम्मीदों पर खरा उतरना
36. **Register** (verb) - record, show, display, mark, indicate दर्ज करना
37. **Noticeable** (adjective) - evident, obvious, clear, distinct, visible ध्यान देने योग्य
38. **Catch up with** (phrasal verb) - to reach the same quality, standard, or level as someone else बराबरी करना
39. **Apiece** (adverb) - each, individually, separately, respectively, per प्रत्येक
40. **On the flip side** (phrase) - looking at the opposite or negative aspect of a situation दूसरी ओर
41. **Yield** (verb) - produce, generate, provide, return, give देना या उत्पन्न करना
42. **Scrutiny** (noun) - inspection, examination, analysis, investigation, review जांच
43. **Essential** (adjective) - crucial, necessary, vital, important, indispensable आवश्यक
44. **Course correction** (phrase) - a change in strategy or direction to fix a mistake सुधार
45. **Propel** (verb) - push, drive, force, thrust, motivate आगे बढ़ाना
46. **A bid to** (adverb) - an attempt or effort to achieve something का प्रयास
47. **Host** (verb) - organize, hold, present, arrange, entertain मेज़बानी करना
48. **Countdown** (noun) - preparation, timeline, prelude, run-up, approach उलटी गिनती
49. **Embarrassment** (noun) - shame, humiliation, awkwardness, disgrace, indignity शर्मिंदगी

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's performance at the **Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026** exposed significant weaknesses as the country aspires to host the **2036 Olympics**.
2. India won **85 medals from around 500 athletes**, compared with **106 medals from a 650-plus contingent** at the Hangzhou Asian Games.
3. The medal tally fell well below the internally projected target of around **100 medals**, prompting the need for a detailed **postmortem** of India's sports preparation.
4. India won **21 gold medals**, seven fewer than at Hangzhou, although a late surge of 11 golds in the final two days improved its overall performance.
5. India retained its **fourth position**, tying with Uzbekistan in gold medals but finishing ahead because of a larger overall silver-medal haul.
6. **Thirteen of India's 21 gold medals came from team events**, particularly cricket, kabaddi and hockey, highlighting the country's dependence on team sports.
7. The performance revealed the need to improve in **individual Olympic sports** such as athletics, swimming, gymnastics, fencing and cycling, which are crucial for success in multi-disciplinary competitions.
8. **China dominated the Games**, winning 341 medals, including 169 golds, while securing 54 medals in swimming alone, showing the enormous gap between China and India in several individual disciplines.
9. Despite the disappointing overall tally, India had several positive developments, including **310 debutants** and a marginal improvement in the athlete-to-medal ratio ahead of the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympics**.
10. **Kumkum Mohod**, a 17-year-old recurve archer, emerged as a major success by helping India challenge South Korea's dominance and contributing to the archery team's five gold medals.
11. Other athletes who made notable contributions included **Neeru Dhanda, Pranavi Urs, Sujeet Kalkal and Lovlina Borgohain**, while the women's hockey team won gold after 44 years by defeating China.
12. India's **women athletes performed particularly well**, winning 38 medals — equal to the 38 won by men — indicating encouraging progress towards greater gender balance in Indian sport.
13. However, major concerns remained: **athletics and shooting**, India's two biggest contributors, won 12 fewer medals than in 2023; badminton declined, and tennis failed to produce a medal after 40 years.
14. The poor performances of prominent athletes such as **P.V. Sindhu and Manu Bhaker** show that India needs stricter scrutiny of sports funding and more effective implementation of the revamped **Khelo India** programme.
15. The editorial concludes that India must **substantially raise its sporting standards before bidding for the 2036 Olympics**; otherwise, hosting the Games could turn into a source of international embarrassment rather than national pride.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage suggest about the nature of India's fourth-place finish on the medals table?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It reflected an outright superiority over Asian rivals in premier multi-disciplinary track events.
 - B. It was preserved through a tiebreaker on silver medal volume rather than individual gold dominance.
 - C. It resulted from a uniform distribution of podium finishes across all contested individual categories.
 - D. It was secured primarily because major continental swimming powerhouses suffered early disqualifications.
2. **According to the passage, what was the primary reason the archery squad's campaign was celebrated as a defining moment?**
 - A. It disrupted the longstanding international dominance maintained by the Korean women's recurve team.
 - B. It secured the country's first-ever direct qualification berths for multi-disciplinary world games.
 - C. It produced more gold medals than all other domestic collective team disciplines combined at the Games.
 - D. It relied exclusively on veteran Olympians who had previously delivered top honours at Hangzhou.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. Global event hosting ambitions should be pursued through immediate expansions in athlete contingent sizes.
 - B. Relying on indigenous team events guarantees sustainable long-term dominance across global championships.
 - C. Public financial audits should be curtailed to shield high-profile athletes from administrative scrutiny.
 - D. Bidding for the Olympics requires prior systemic mastery in medal-heavy individual sports disciplines.
4. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**

PROPELLING

 - A. IMPEDING
 - B. DIVERSIFYING
 - C. AMPLIFYING
 - D. AUDITING
5. **The tone of the passage is best described as:**
 - A. Candid and evaluative
 - B. Celebratory and uncritical
 - C. Dismissive and indifferent
 - D. Cynical and derisive
6. **Which word is nearest in meaning to 'demonstrating'?**

This trend is already booming in China, demonstrating significant potential globally.

- A. Exhibiting
 - B. Displaying
 - C. Showcasing
 - D. Revealing
7. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
The decision will have been announced before the meeting concludes.
- A. Someone was announced the decision before the meeting concludes.
 - B. They will have announced the decision before the meeting concludes.
 - C. The decision will be announced before the meeting concludes.
 - D. The meeting will have announced the decision.
8. **Choose the most suitable preposition from the given options to fill in the blank in the following sentence:**
The footfall has gone up ____ ten percent.
- A. with
 - B. for
 - C. by
 - D. of
9. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
But operating at such elevations requires more than a dog being physically strong or accustomed to cold weather.
The Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) have reportedly deployed trained Himalayan canines, including indigenous breeds such as the Bakharwal and Tibetan Mastiff, for surveillance and security operations along the Ladakh frontier.
Military dogs undergo specialised training and acclimatisation to prepare them for the combination of thin air, extreme temperatures and demanding terrain.
According to a report by The Telegraph online, the dogs are being used at sensitive posts, some at an altitude of up to 14,000 feet, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- A. 4-2-1-3
 - B. 2-1-4-3
 - C. 2-4-1-3
 - D. 1-2-4-3
10. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Unanimously
- A. Consistently
 - B. Severely
 - C. Consensually
 - D. Straightforwardly
11. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.**
A bad workman always blames his tools
- A. To blame external factors for poor performance
 - B. To fix equipment before starting work
 - C. To hire assistants when a task is difficult to complete
 - D. To refuse to work without proper training

12. **Select the alternative that can be used as a one-word substitute for the highlighted group of words.**

The busy court appointed a person who writes by shorthand immediately.

- A. Photographer
- B. Cartographer
- C. Stenographer
- D. Bibliographer

13. **Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**

- A. exasperete
- B. separate
- C. equivalent
- D. temperature

14. **In the following sentence, a part of the sentence is bolded. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the bolded part.**

I prefer to analyze the raw data personally to relying on the subjective interpretations provided by the junior researchers.

- A. I prefer analyzing
- B. I prefer reading ... than
- C. I prefer to reading
- D. I prefer read

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

To throw in the towel

- A. To surrender or admit defeat
- B. To clean up
- C. To continue fighting
- D. To start a new task

16. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

The celebration is associated with the legend of King Mahabali and is marked by elaborate flower carpets known as pookalam, traditional performances, feasts and community celebrations.

One of the biggest attractions for visitors is the Onam Sadya, a traditional vegetarian feast served on a banana leaf.

Onam is Kerala's major harvest festival and one of the best times to experience the state's cultural traditions.

Depending on the occasion, it can include numerous dishes featuring rice, vegetables, curries, pickles and desserts.

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

17. **From the given alternatives, select the correct direct narration of the given indirect narration.**

Shivi told Rahul that he had realized that the mysterious footprints in the snow were actually made by a very large neighborhood dog.

- A. Shivi said to Rahul, "He realized that the mysterious footprints in the snow were actually made by a very large neighborhood dog."
- B. Shivi said to Rahul, "He realizes that the mysterious footprints in the snow were actually made by a very large neighborhood dog."
- C. Shivi said to Rahul, "He realized that the mysterious footprints in the snow had been actually made by a very large neighborhood dog."
- D. Shivi said to Rahul, "He realized that the mysterious footprints in the snow were actually made from a very large neighborhood dog."

18. **The following sentence has been divided into four parts, namely A, B, C and D, which are given in the alternatives. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.**

The child requested his mother to gave him a big chocolate because he had been very good all day long and deserved a treat.

- A. The child requested his mother to
- B. gave him a big chocolate because he
- C. had been very good all day
- D. long and deserved a treat.

19. **Which of the following options is not one of the meanings of the homonym 'project'?**

- A. A planned piece of work to achieve a goal
- B. To extend outward or stick out
- C. A protective structure used in military defence
- D. To guess or estimate something

20. **What is the antonym of "Uxorious"?**

- A. Henpecked
- B. Loving
- C. Domineering
- D. Devoted

Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

Imagine Homo economicus as a full-blooded character. Call him Neo. This character is a utility-maximising, or usually profit-maximising, character — rational, priding himself on a tough realism about the world, assuming everyone acts mostly on self-interest. He sees the world as a series of price points, measures every opportunity cost, and is _____ A _____ (sentimental) about only his unsentimentality.

He further believes that everyone acting like this rational actor will, through a miraculous feat of coordination, produce public benefits and untold prosperity. His avatars have a different machismo about them. One is called Finn, a finance bro who uses the power of money to make and unmake worlds; a Davos Man, who _____ B _____ economies in opening them up; or Tek, the guy who believes that boundless technology combined with boundless capital can create a new humanity. All believe that markets will somehow coordinate these machismos.

The outcome will be untold public benefit. But in reality, the world they create is Darwinian: some win, some lose. The losers might want the helping hand of the State, might resent the

power of the winner, might even _____ C _____ (agitate) for equality. But in reality, they are whiners, holding back humanity. Imagine further an Everyman, who just might think human beings are more complex: less rational, subject to behavioural influences, not single-minded in their motivations but, above all, slightly more decent and capable of cooperation. Not everything has a price; cooperation can produce more public goods and a better society than _____ D _____ competition, and demanding a little equality is hardly whining, but the demand of justice. Imagine if these characters collided in a psychodrama in the real world; these social theories became character types who show up in historical crises, from deindustrialisation to depressions. It would make for a fascinating _____ E _____ (fable) of sorts.

21. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (A): (sentimental).**
 - A. obdurate
 - B. phlegmatic
 - C. maudlin
 - D. pragmatic
22. **Fill in blank (B) with the most appropriate verb to complete the sentence**
 - A. stratifies
 - B. dislocates
 - C. subverts
 - D. emancipates
23. **Choose the antonym of the word in (C): (agitate).**
 - A. instigate
 - B. remonstrate
 - C. foment
 - D. acquiesce
24. **Fill in blank (D) with the most appropriate adjective to complete the sentence**
 - A. internecine
 - B. gladiatorial
 - C. pugnacious
 - D. bellicose
25. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (E): (fable).**
 - A. diatribe
 - B. apologue
 - C. exposition
 - D. panegyric

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) — **It was preserved through a tiebreaker on silver medal volume rather than individual gold dominance.**

passage: "It tied with Uzbekistan but managed to retain its fourth spot on the strength of a bigger haul of silver."---The passage says India and Uzbekistan had the same position (tied), and India kept fourth place only because it had more silver medals than Uzbekistan. This shows the fourth place was not due to gold medal dominance but was decided by comparing silver medal counts. This matches option B exactly.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage actually says the opposite about individual track events — it states "Barring athletics, India stood nowhere" in medal-fetching individual sports like swimming, gymnastics, fencing, and cycling. This shows weakness, not superiority, in these areas.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage shows uneven results, not a "uniform distribution." For example, athletics and shooting (India's main contributors) actually yielded fewer medals than before, while team events like cricket, kabaddi, and hockey swept titles — this is not an equal spread across categories.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage never mentions any "disqualifications" of swimming powerhouses. In fact, it says China alone won 54 medals in swimming — showing swimming powers were strong, not disqualified, at this event.

2. A) — **It disrupted the longstanding international dominance maintained by the Korean women's recurve team.**

passage: "Seventeen-year-old rookie recurve archer Kumkum Mohod dismantling the Korean women's hegemony to help the archery team contribute five gold medals was a defining moment."---The passage calls this a "defining moment" because Kumkum Mohod broke Korea's long-standing control ("hegemony") over women's recurve archery. This is highlighted as the key reason for celebrating this achievement, matching option A exactly.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage mentions "Olympic quota places in archery and hockey added to the excitement" as a separate point, later in the passage — this is not described as the main reason the archery campaign was called a "defining moment." That reason is specifically tied to beating Korea's dominance.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage says archery contributed five gold medals, but it never compares this number to "all other domestic collective team disciplines combined." In fact, team events like cricket, kabaddi, and hockey are mentioned as making "a clean sweep of titles" — there's no such comparison made in the passage.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage specifically describes Kumkum Mohod as a "17-year-old rookie" — meaning she was new, not a veteran. This directly contradicts option D's claim that the team relied on veteran Olympians.

3. D) **Bidding for the Olympics requires prior systemic mastery in medal-heavy individual sports disciplines.**

passage: "It underscored a stark reality: the country needs to raise its bar in medal-fetching individual sports, such as athletics, swimming, gymnastics, fencing and cycling, which determine success in multi-disciplinary Games... Without propelling India's sporting standards, a bid to host the Olympics may become a countdown to international embarrassment."----The passage's title itself says "Without raising sports standards, India should not bid for hosting Olympics," and the whole passage builds toward this point — showing India is weak in big individual sports (swimming, gymnastics, fencing, cycling) that matter most at events like the Olympics, while only succeeding in team events. The ending warns that without fixing this, an Olympic bid could lead to embarrassment. This matches option D — India needs to first get strong in individual sports before bidding for the Olympics.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage does not argue for simply increasing the number of athletes sent. In fact, India sent fewer athletes (500) than before (650+) and still got more debutants and a better medal ratio — the passage focuses on improving skill/performance in key sports, not just contingent size.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage does not say relying on team events "guarantees" long-term success. In fact, it criticizes over-reliance on team sports (cricket, kabaddi, hockey) and says India must improve in individual sports too — this option says the opposite of the passage's actual point.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage actually calls for more scrutiny, not less — it says "stricter scrutiny of athletes' funding" is needed for improvement. This option contradicts what the passage recommends.

4. A) **IMPEDING**

Propelling means to drive, push, or cause to move forward. Impeding means to delay, obstruct, or hinder progress or movement.

In this context, "propel" means to drive forward, push, or advance something — here, improving/advancing India's sporting standards. "Impede" means to block, hinder, or slow down progress — this is the direct opposite of pushing something forward, making it the correct antonym.

Diversifying: Adding variety or expanding into different areas.

Amplifying: Increasing the volume, strength, or intensity of something.

Auditing: Conducting an official inspection of accounts or conducting a systematic review.

5. A) — **Candid and evaluative**

passage: "It underscored a stark reality: the country needs to raise its bar in medal-fetching individual sports... Barring athletics, India stood nowhere... Stricter scrutiny of athletes' funding and efficient implementation of the revamped Khelo India scheme... are essential for course correction."---The author honestly points out both good and bad results — praising achievements like the archery team, hockey gold, and rising young athletes, while also clearly stating weaknesses like poor showings in athletics, shooting, and star players like Sindhu and Bhaker "flopping." This balanced, direct, and judging tone — openly assessing strengths and weaknesses without hiding the truth — matches "candid and evaluative."

Option (b) — Incorrect. "Celebratory and uncritical" would mean only praising without pointing out problems. But the passage clearly criticizes weak areas too (shooting, athletics, Sindhu, Bhaker) — so it is not purely celebratory or uncritical.

Option (c) — Incorrect. "Dismissive and indifferent" would mean not caring or brushing off the topic. The author clearly cares deeply about India's performance, giving detailed facts and strong recommendations — this shows engagement, not indifference.

Option (d) — Incorrect. "Cynical and derisive" would mean mocking or showing distrust/scorn. The author does not mock anyone — the criticism is constructive and fact-based (giving numbers, reasons, and solutions), not scornful or mocking in tone.

6. C) **"Demonstrating"** का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाना या प्रदर्शित करना। वाक्य में यह trend की संभावनाओं को सामने लाने के अर्थ में है, इसलिए "Showcasing" (स्पष्ट रूप से प्रदर्शित करना) इसका सबसे निकटतम अर्थ है। "Exhibiting" (प्रदर्शनी में दिखाना), "Displaying" (सामने रखना) और "Revealing" (छिपी बात उजागर करना) इस संदर्भ में उतने उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
 - "Demonstrating" means clearly showing or proving something. In the sentence, it refers to the trend clearly presenting its potential, so "Showcasing" (presenting something prominently) is the closest in meaning. "Exhibiting" (showing publicly), "Displaying" (putting on view) and "Revealing" (making something hidden known) are less suitable here.
7. B) **They will have announced the decision before the meeting concludes.**
 Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और "by" के बाद वाला agent Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The decision" Subject है और "will have been announced" Verb (Future Perfect Passive) है; इसमें agent नहीं दिया गया है, इसलिए Active में Subject के रूप में "They" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active में बदलने पर "They" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will have announced" (Future Perfect) में बदला गया है और "the decision" Object बन गया है।
 - To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence, and the agent (after "by") becomes the subject. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The decision" (Subject) and "will have been announced" (Passive Verb in Future Perfect) from the passive voice have no agent, so "They" is used as the subject. They have been transformed into "They" (Subject), "will have announced" (Verb in Future Perfect), and "the decision" (Object).
8. C) किसी संख्या या प्रतिशत में वृद्धि या कमी की मात्रा (amount of change) बताने के लिए "by" का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे — Prices rose by 5%. इसलिए "gone up by ten percent" सही है। "with", "for" और "of" इस संदर्भ में गलत हैं।
 - "By" is used to express the amount or degree of increase or decrease, e.g. "Prices rose by 5%." Hence, "gone up by ten percent" is correct. "With", "for" and "of" are incorrect in this context.
9. C) **2-4-1-3**
 Explanation:
 Hindi Explanation:
 - Sentence 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के मुख्य विषय प्रस्तुत करता है कि भारतीय सेना और ITBP ने लद्दाख सीमा पर

निगरानी और सुरक्षा कार्यों के लिए बखरवाल और तिब्बती मस्टीफ जैसी स्थानीय नस्लों के प्रशिक्षित कुत्तों को तैनात किया है।

- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "the dogs" सीधे Sentence 2 के "trained Himalayan canines" को refer करता है और The Telegraph की रिपोर्ट के हवाले से बताता है कि ये कुत्ते LAC पर 14,000 फीट तक की ऊंचाई वाले संवेदनशील चौकियों पर तैनात हैं।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया phrase "such elevations" सीधे Sentence 4 में उल्लिखित "altitude of up to 14,000 feet" को refer करता है और contrast connector "But" के साथ बताता है कि इतनी ऊंचाई पर काम करने के लिए केवल शारीरिक रूप से मजबूत होना या ठंड का आदी होना ही काफी नहीं है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह Sentence 1 में उठाई गई आवश्यकता का समाधान प्रस्तुत करता है कि इन सैन्य कुत्तों को पतली हवा (thin air), अत्यधिक तापमान और दुर्गम इलाके के लिए विशेष प्रशिक्षण और अनुकूलन (acclimatisation) से गुजारा जाता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, introducing the topic by stating that the Indian Army and ITBP have deployed trained indigenous Himalayan canines (Bakharwal and Tibetan Mastiff) along the Ladakh frontier.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 directly because the definite noun phrase "the dogs" refers back to the deployed canines in 2, citing a report by The Telegraph online regarding their deployment at sensitive posts up to 14,000 feet along the LAC.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 via the demonstrative noun phrase "such elevations", which points directly back to the "altitude of up to 14,000 feet" in 4, using "But" to state that altitude demands more than natural strength and cold tolerance.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 as the natural conclusion, explaining the solution to the high-altitude challenges highlighted in 1 by describing the specialized military training and acclimatisation regimens required for thin air and harsh terrain.

10. C) **Unanimously** (adverb) – collectively, unitedly, harmoniously, solidly, consensually. (सर्वसम्मति से)

Synonym: **Consensually** (adverb) – in a way that involves or is based on mutual consent or agreement. (सहमति से / सर्वसम्मति से)

- **Consistently** (adverb) – regularly, steadily, uniformly. (लगातार)
- **Severely** (adverb) – harshly, strictly, intensely. (बुरी तरह / कठोरता से)
- **Straightforwardly** (adverb) – directly, simply, clearly. (सीधे तौर पर)

11. A) **A bad workman always blames his tools** (proverb) – To blame external factors for one's own poor performance. नाच न जाने आँगन टेढ़ा

12. C) **Stenographer** (noun) – A person who writes in shorthand, especially one employed to take dictation or record court proceedings. आशुलिपिक

- **Photographer** (noun) – a person who takes photographs. छायाकार
- **Cartographer** (noun) – a person who draws or produces maps. मानचित्रकार
- **Bibliographer** (noun) – a person who compiles lists of books or studies the history of books. ग्रंथसूचीकार

13. A) The correct spelling of 'exasperete' is 'exasperate' which means "to irritate or annoy someone intensely" खिझाना, अत्यधिक क्रोधित करना.
14. A) 'I prefer to analyze' के बदले 'I prefer analyzing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब 'prefer' के साथ दो कार्यों की तुलना 'to' के द्वारा की जाती है, तो दोनों कार्य Gerund (V-ing) रूप में आते हैं— prefer + V-ing + to + V-ing। वाक्य के दूसरे भाग में 'to relying' है, अतः पहला भाग भी 'analyzing' होगा; जैसे— I prefer walking to driving.
- 'I prefer analyzing' will be used instead of 'I prefer to analyze' because when 'prefer' compares two actions using 'to', both actions take the gerund form — prefer + V-ing + to + V-ing. Since the second part of the sentence has 'to relying', the first action must also be 'analyzing'; Like— I prefer walking to driving.
15. A) **To throw in the towel** (idiom) – To surrender or admit defeat. हार मान लेना
16. A) **3-1-2-4**
- Explanation:
- Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के केंद्रीय विषय का परिचय देता है कि ओणम केरल का प्रमुख फसल उत्सव (harvest festival) है और राज्य की सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं का अनुभव करने का सबसे अच्छा समय है।
 - Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "The celebration" सीधे Sentence 3 के ओणम उत्सव को refer करता है और इसके पौराणिक संदर्भ (राजा महाबली की कथा) तथा पारंपरिक विशेषताओं (पूकलम, प्रदर्शन, और दावतें) का विवरण देता है।
 - Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 1 में उल्लिखित दावतों ("feasts") में से सबसे प्रमुख आकर्षण—'ओणम सद्या' (केले के पत्ते पर परोसा जाने वाला पारंपरिक शाकाहारी भोजन)—का परिचय देता है।
 - Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें use किया गया pronoun "it" सीधे Sentence 2 के "Onam Sadya" को refer करता है और विस्तार से बताता है कि इस दावत में चावल, सब्जियाँ, करी, अचार और मिठाइयाँ शामिल होती हैं।
- English Explanation:
- Sentence 3 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, defining Onam as Kerala's primary harvest festival and an ideal window into the state's cultural heritage.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 directly via the noun phrase "The celebration", which refers to Onam and elaborates on its mythological association with King Mahabali, along with customary rituals like pookalam flower carpets and feasts.
 - Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 by picking up on the mention of feasts, introducing the premier culinary attraction for visitors: the traditional banana-leaf vegetarian feast known as the Onam Sadya.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 as the natural conclusion, where the pronoun "it" refers directly back to the "Onam Sadya", specifying that the meal features an assortment of rice, vegetables, curries, pickles, and desserts.
17. A) **Shivi said to Rahul, "He realized that the mysterious footprints in the snow were actually made by a very large neighborhood dog."**

Indirect से Direct Narration में बदलते समय 'told' को 'said to' में बदला जाता है, 'that' हटा दिया जाता है और Reported Speech को inverted commas में रखा जाता है। साथ ही Tense को वापस बदला जाता है; यहाँ "had realized" (Past Perfect) Direct में "realized" (Simple Past) हो जाएगा, जबकि "were made" वैसा ही रहेगा। अतः Option A सही है। Option B में "realizes" (Present Tense) गलत है, Option C में "had been made" अनावश्यक Past Perfect है, और Option D में "made from" गलत है क्योंकि कार्य करने वाले (agent) को बताने के लिए "by" का प्रयोग होता है।

- While converting Indirect into Direct Narration, 'told' changes to 'said to', 'that' is removed and the reported speech is placed within inverted commas. The tense is also shifted back; here "had realized" (Past Perfect) becomes "realized" (Simple Past), while "were made" remains unchanged. Hence, Option A is correct. Option B wrongly uses the present tense "realizes", Option C unnecessarily uses "had been made", and Option D uses the wrong preposition "from" instead of "by" to indicate the agent.

18. B) भाग B में "gave" के बदले "give" का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "to" (infinitive) के बाद हमेशा verb का first form (V1) आता है; सही वाक्य — The child requested his mother to give him a big chocolate because he had been very good all day long and deserved a treat.

- In part B, "give" will be used instead of "gave" because the infinitive marker "to" is always followed by the base form (V1) of the verb. The correct sentence is: The child requested his mother to give him a big chocolate because he had been very good all day long and deserved a treat.

19. C) **Homonym "project"** के कई अर्थ हैं: (noun) किसी लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए योजनाबद्ध कार्य — परियोजना; (verb) बाहर की ओर निकला होना; (verb) अनुमान लगाना। लेकिन "सैन्य रक्षा में प्रयुक्त सुरक्षात्मक ढाँचा" project का अर्थ नहीं है; ऐसे ढाँचे को "rampart" या "bulwark" कहते हैं।

- The homonym "project" means: (noun) a planned piece of work to achieve a goal; (verb) to extend outward or stick out; (verb) to guess or estimate something. "A protective structure used in military defence" is not a meaning of project; such a structure is called a "rampart" or "bulwark".

20. C) **Uxorious** (adjective) – Excessively fond of or submissive to one's wife, doting, henpecked. पत्नी के प्रति अत्यधिक आसक्त

Antonym: **Domineering** (adjective) – Asserting one's will over others, overbearing, bossy, controlling. दबंग, हावी रहने वाला

- **Henpecked** (adjective) – Continually dominated by one's wife, submissive, meek. पत्नी के दबाव में रहने वाला
- **Loving** (adjective) – Showing love and care, affectionate, tender. प्रेमपूर्ण
- **Devoted** (adjective) – Very loving or loyal, dedicated, faithful. समर्पित

21. C) **maudlin**

The sentence describes the character ironically being emotional only about his own lack of emotion. The question asks for the most appropriate synonym for "sentimental" (meaning prone to feelings of tenderness, sadness, or excessive emotion). a) obdurate: means stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion (antonym-leaning). b) phlegmatic: means having an unemotional and stolidly calm disposition (antonym). c) maudlin: means self-pityingly or tearfully sentimental, serving as the closest synonym for "sentimental." d) pragmatic: means dealing with things practically and realistically.

- यह sentence उस पात्र के अपनी भावनाहीनता को लेकर ही भावुक होने पर व्यंग्य करता है। Question में "sentimental" (भावुक) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) obdurate: इसका meaning जिद्दी या कठोर होता है। b) phlegmatic: इसका meaning शांत या आवेगहीन (antonym) होता है। c) maudlin: इसका meaning 'अति-भावुक या रोतड़ू' (excessively sentimental) होता है, जो "sentimental" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। d) pragmatic: इसका meaning व्यावहारिक होता है।

22. B) **dislocates**

The sentence discusses the disruptive impact of the "Davos Man" (global capitalist elites) on traditional economic structures while forcing them to open up to global free markets (who _____ economies in opening them up). Blank (B) requires a verb meaning to disrupt or disturb the normal functioning of something. a) stratifies: means to arrange or classify into layers/classes. b) dislocates: means to disrupt, uproot, or disturb the normal arrangement of something, fitting the context of severe economic disruption perfectly. c) subverts: means to undermine the power and authority of an established system. d) emancipates: means to set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.

- यह sentence 'Davos Man' द्वारा अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को दुनिया के लिए खोलने की आड़ में उन्हें अस्त-व्यस्त या बाधित करने को describe करता है। a) stratifies: इसका meaning स्तरों में बांटना होता है। b) dislocates: इसका meaning 'अस्त-व्यस्त करना, बाधित करना या उखाड़ना' (disrupt) होता है, जो यहाँ perfectly fit होता है। c) subverts: इसका meaning तख्तापलट करना या व्यवस्था भंग करना होता है। d) emancipates: इसका meaning स्वतंत्र करना होता है।

23. D) **acquiesce**

The passage notes that the "losers" in this Darwinian system might protest, campaign, or demand fairness (might even _____ for equality). The question asks for the antonym of "agitate" (meaning to campaign, protest, or argue forcefully for something). a) instigate: means to bring about or initiate an action/event (synonym-leaning). b) remonstrate: means to make a forcefully reproachful protest (synonym). c) foment: means to instigate or stir up an undesirable course of action (synonym). d) acquiesce: means to accept something reluctantly but without protest, serving as the direct antonym of "agitate."

- यह sentence इस व्यवस्था में हारने वालों द्वारा समानता के लिए विरोध या आंदोलन करने ("agitate") को describe करता है। Question में "agitate" (आंदोलन करना/विरोध जताना) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) instigate: इसका meaning भड़काना होता है। b) remonstrate: इसका meaning विरोध जताना (synonym) होता है। c) foment: इसका meaning उकसाना होता है। d) acquiesce: इसका meaning 'बिना विरोध के चुपचाप मान लेना या स्वीकार कर लेना' होता है, जो "agitate" का direct antonym है।

24. B) **gladiatorial**

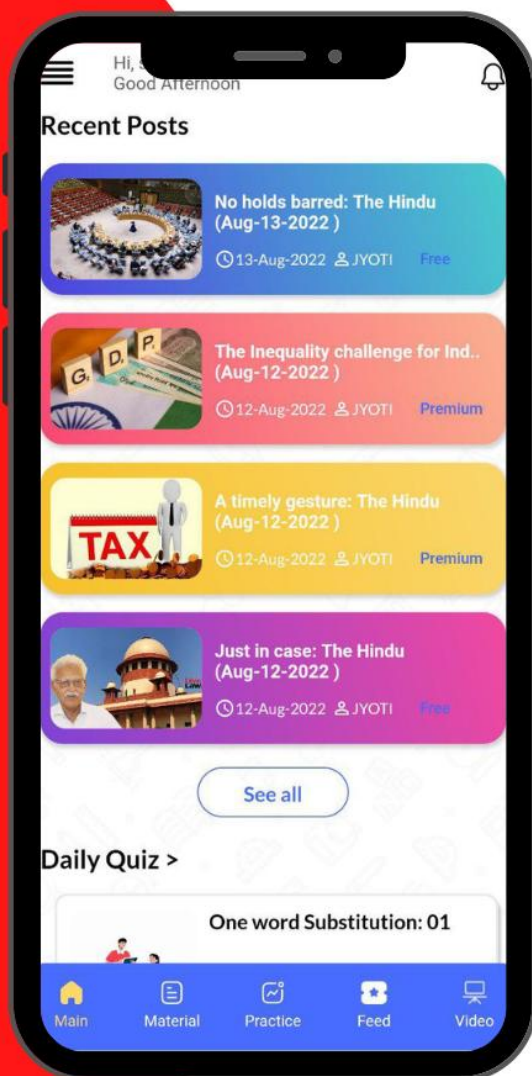
The passage contrasts the benefits of human cooperation against a ruthless, zero-sum, survival-of-the-fittest type of rivalry (better society than _____ competition). Blank (D) requires an adjective that describes intense, cutthroat, and merciless combat or competition. a) internecine: means mutually destructive to both sides. b) gladiatorial: originally referring to ancient Roman gladiators, it figuratively describes intense, cutthroat, and ruthless combat or competition (gladiatorial competition). c) pugnacious: means eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight. d) bellicose: means demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight (usually relating to war).

- यह sentence सहयोग (cooperation) से मिलने वाले लाभों की तुलना क्रूर और अस्तित्व की लड़ाई वाली प्रतियोगिता (competition) से करता है। "competition" के लिए एक उपयुक्त adjective की आवश्यकता है जो इसे निर्मम दिखाए। a) internecine: इसका meaning परस्पर विनाशकारी होता है। b) gladiatorial: इसका meaning 'अत्यंत क्रूर, जानलेवा या अस्तित्व के लिए संघर्षपूर्ण' (cutthroat/ruthless) होता है, जो "gladiatorial competition" (कटु प्रतिस्पर्धा) के रूप में perfectly fit होता है। c) pugnacious: इसका meaning झगड़ालू होता है। d) bellicose: इसका meaning लड़ाकू होता है।

25. B) apologue

The passage concludes that combining these social theories and archetypes into a real-world story would create a fascinating metaphorical tale conveying a lesson (fascinating _____ of sorts). The question asks for a synonym for "fable" (meaning a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral). a) diatribe: means a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something. b) apologue: means a moral fable, especially one with animals as characters, serving as the exact synonym for "fable." c) exposition: means a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory. d) panegyric: means a public speech or published text in praise of someone or something.

- यह sentence इन सभी पात्रों और सिद्धांतों को मिलाकर एक दिलचस्प नीतिकथा या प्रतीकात्मक कहानी ("fable") बनने को describe करता है। Question में "fable" (नीतिकथा/काल्पनिक कथा) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) diatribe: इसका meaning कड़ी निंदा या कटु आलोचना होता है। b) apologue: इसका meaning 'नीतिकथा या उपदेशात्मक कहानी' (moral fable) होता है, जो "fable" का direct synonym है। c) exposition: इसका meaning व्याख्या या विवरण होता है। d) panegyric: इसका meaning स्तुति या प्रशंसापत्र होता है।



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