Let there be light: On the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine

The Nobel **Laureates** for Medicine **illuminated** how the brain works

The first of the Nobel announcements has come, **heralding** the season of celebrating the fruits of the **perennial** human **endeavour** to know more and use that knowledge to benefit people. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine went jointly to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegeman and Georg Nagel "for their discoveries **concerning** light-gated ion channels and optogenetics". True to Alfred Bernhard Nobel's aim of annually recognising those who have "**conferred** the greatest benefit to **humankind**", this year's Nobel went to people who **shone a light**, literally, on the brain, providing a **quantum leap** in understanding how it functions. **In essence**, if the brain is a **puppeteer pulling the strings**, the body is the **marionette**. The **dexterity** of the puppeteer is obvious, but her methods, **often** not. It is this that the Nobel trio **sought** to explain with **optogenetics** — making it possible to show how nerve cells communicate with each other, and the body, regulating memory, emotions and bodily functions. It allowed **mapping** the brain in ways that were previously impossible. As most often in work that the Nobel **acknowledges** and honours, there was rich **collaboration** across **continents** in **advancing** optogenetics. Peter Hegemann **wondered** what enabled Chlamydomonas, a single-celled **alga**, to swim towards a light source; Georg Nagel went on to discover an algal protein that can be illuminated with blue light to open a channel within, allowing charged ions to flow into the cell and create electrical **impulses**. Karl Deisseroth transformed the protein into a light-controlled switch for nerve cells. Practically, today, scientists use harmless viral agents to deliver **genes** for **light-sensitive** proteins into specific target cells. Then they deliver **precise** pulses of light, activating the channels, allowing research to study the patterns. In the **decades** since the laureates described their work, researchers have gone on to use optogenetics to reveal neural circuits **governing** specific memories, feelings and behaviours relevant to neurological and **psychiatric disorders**. It **laid the groundwork for** clinical treatments targeting conditions including **Alzheimer's** and **addiction**. Researchers are even using the method in attempts to restore **sight**.

As technology **facilitates** easier pathways to **translating** scientific research that happens in labs into practical therapies, diagnostics and health-care practices that could **ameliorate** human health or protect it from illness, it is also important for nations to find ways to ensure that the fruits of such research actually reach all the people who might benefit from it, **irrespective of** their location or station in life.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Let there be light** (phrase) - an expression of creating light or bringing clarity प्रकाश होने दो
2. **Laureate** (noun) - winner, victor, recipient, champion, honouree पुरस्कार विजेता
3. **Illuminate** (verb) - enlighten, clarify, elucidate, explain, highlight स्पष्ट करना
4. **Herald** (verb) - announce, proclaim, signal, usher, indicate घोषणा करना
5. **Perennial** (adjective) - everlasting, perpetual, enduring, eternal, persistent चिरस्थायी
6. **Endeavour** (noun) - effort, attempt, venture, undertaking, enterprise प्रयास
7. **Concerning** (preposition) - regarding, respecting, touching, involving, about के संबंध में
8. **Confer** (verb) - bestow, grant, award, present, endow प्रदान करना
9. **Humankind** (noun) - humanity, mankind, people, mortals, society मानव जाति
10. **Shine a light** (phrase) - to examine or explain something to make it easier to understand प्रकाश डालना
11. **Quantum leap** (noun) - a sudden, significant, and very large advance बड़ी छलांग
12. **In essence** (phrase) - fundamentally or basically मूल रूप से
13. **Puppeteer** (noun) - manipulator, controller, operator, handler, director सूत्रधार
14. **Pull the strings** (phrase) - to secretly control or influence a situation गुप्त रूप से नियंत्रण करना
15. **Marionette** (noun) - puppet, figure, doll, dummy, tool कठपुतली
16. **Dexterity** (noun) - agility, nimbleness, skill, proficiency, adroitness निपुणता
17. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, routinely, commonly अक्सर
18. **Seek** (verb) - attempt, try, strive, aim, endeavour प्रयास करना
19. **Optogenetics** (noun) - a biological technique to control the activity of cells with light प्रकाश-आनुवंशिकी
20. **Map** (verb) - chart, plot, delineate, trace, record खाका तैयार करना
21. **Acknowledge** (verb) - recognize, admit, concede, accept, grant मान्यता देना
22. **Collaboration** (noun) - cooperation, partnership, teamwork, association, alliance सहयोग
23. **Continent** (noun) - landmass, mainland, region, territory, tract महाद्वीप
24. **Advance** (verb) - progress, develop, promote, further, improve आगे बढ़ाना
25. **Wonder** (verb) - ponder, question, speculate, marvel, contemplate सोचना
26. **Alga** (noun) - a simple non-flowering aquatic plant शैवाल
27. **Impulse** (noun) - stimulus, signal, pulse, surge, current आवेग

28. **Gene** (noun) - chromosome, trait, heredity, genetics, dna जीन
29. **Light-sensitive** (adjective) - photosensitive, reactive, responsive, perceptive, delicate प्रकाश-संवेदनशील
30. **Precise** (adjective) - exact, accurate, specific, meticulous, definite सटीक
31. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten-years दशक
32. **Govern** (verb) - control, regulate, direct, manage, guide नियंत्रित करना
33. **Psychiatric disorders** (noun) - mental or behavioral patterns that cause suffering or poor functioning मनोरोग
34. **Lay the groundwork for** (idiom) - to create the foundation for something to succeed आधारशिला रखना
35. **Alzheimer** (noun) - a progressive neurologic disorder that causes memory loss अल्जाइमर
36. **Addiction** (noun) - dependency, habit, obsession, craving, reliance लत
37. **Sight** (noun) - vision, eyesight, viewing, visibility, perception दृष्टि
38. **Facilitate** (verb) - ease, assist, expedite, promote, aid सुविधाजनक बनाना
39. **Translate** (verb) - convert, transform, change, render, transmute परिवर्तित करना
40. **Ameliorate** (verb) - improve, better, enhance, upgrade, alleviate सुधारना
41. **Irrespective of** (phrase) - without considering or regardless of की परवाह किए बिना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was jointly awarded to **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel**.
2. They were honoured for their discoveries concerning **light-gated ion channels and optogenetics**.
3. Their work has significantly improved scientists' understanding of **how the brain functions and how nerve cells communicate**.
4. **Optogenetics** uses light to control specific nerve cells, allowing researchers to observe their activity with great precision.
5. The technique has enabled scientists to **map the brain** in ways that were previously impossible.
6. Peter Hegemann investigated how the single-celled alga **Chlamydomonas** moves towards light.
7. Georg Nagel discovered an **algal protein** that responds to blue light by opening an ion channel and generating electrical impulses.
8. Karl Deisseroth transformed this discovery into a **light-controlled switch for nerve cells**, establishing the foundation of modern optogenetics.
9. Today, scientists can use **harmless viral vectors** to introduce genes for light-sensitive proteins into particular brain cells.
10. Scientists then use **precise pulses of light** to activate these proteins and study the resulting patterns of neural activity.
11. Optogenetics has helped researchers identify neural circuits responsible for **memory, emotions, feelings and behaviour**.
12. The technique has particularly advanced research into **neurological and psychiatric disorders**, including Alzheimer's disease and addiction.
13. Optogenetics has also created possibilities for **restoring sight**, demonstrating its potential beyond basic scientific research.
14. The Nobel-winning work reflects the importance of **international scientific collaboration**, with researchers across continents contributing to the development of optogenetics.
15. The editorial concludes that as science increasingly converts laboratory discoveries into **therapies, diagnostics and healthcare solutions**, countries must ensure that these benefits reach **all people regardless of their location or social status**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which part of speech is the word "literally" in the sentence below?** **[Editorial Page]**
   "...this year's Nobel went to people who shone a light, literally, on the brain, providing a quantum leap in understanding how it functions."
   A. Verb
   B. Adjective
   C. Noun
   D. Adverb
2. **What does the term "light-controlled switch" imply in this context?**
   A. A diagnostic sensor that illuminates degenerated brain regions during surgery without altering cellular electrical currents.
   B. A biochemical compound that destroys harmful viral carriers once light-sensitive genes have entered target cells.
   C. A biological mechanism enabling researchers to modulate the electrical activity of specific nerve cells using light pulses.
   D. An optical instrument designed to restore vision by projecting light directly onto damaged optic nerves.
3. **What is one of the main societal challenges regarding advanced medical research highlighted in the passage?**
   A. Ensuring that therapies developed from lab discoveries reach all individuals regardless of geographical or social barriers.
   B. Developing alternatives to viral gene delivery to prevent immune rejection during psychiatric treatments.
   C. Securing private commercial funding for basic botanical research that lacks immediate therapeutic applications.
   D. Preventing clinical diagnostic tools from being deployed before long-term mapping of neural circuits is completed.
4. **What does the passage suggest about the operational nature of optogenetics?**
   A. It maps neural pathways by inserting viral delivery agents into brain cells without requiring external light activation.
   B. It enables targeted neural investigation by combining viral gene delivery of photoreceptive proteins with calibrated light pulses.
   C. It replaces cellular electrical impulses with synthetic chemical markers to trace how memories are stored in the brain.
   D. It restores visual perception by using algal channel proteins to repair damaged muscular responses in the body.
5. **What is the tone of the author regarding intercontinental scientific collaboration?**
   A. Affirming and laudatory
   B. Distrustful and guarded
   C. Cynical and dismissive
   D. Indifferent and passive
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

1. In Madras (now Chennai), the ice bars were brought to the Ice House in Triplicane, where they were stored and cut into smaller pieces for evening drinks.
2. The huge blocks of ice were naturally formed in the lakes of New England in the U.S. and imported to India.
3. The Ice House, even today, remains a popular reminder of a place where the British sold ice.
4. In the sweltering heat of colonial Madras, British rulers and the city's elite raised glasses of Scotch whisky, chilled by ice cubes floating in their drinks

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

1. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
   IMPARTIAL
   A. Biased
   B. Unbiased
   C. Partisan
   D. Prejudiced
2. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.Want to curl up and die**
   A. To suffer from a severe physical illness
   B. To feel extreme embarrassment or shame
   C. To prefer sleeping in a small space
   D. To give up on a difficult goal
3. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
   DEBACLE
   A. Triumph
   B. Disaster
   C. Collapse
   D. Fiasco
4. **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 recent trip to Europe, we saw, in almost all the cities we had visited, drivers stopping mid-traffic to let pedestrians cross.
   A. Here, navigating the roads is a real challenge for the pedestrians.
   B. First, let us talk about traffic sense — or rather, its complete and glorious absence.
   C. This is in stark contrast to what we see in India.
   D. In India, lane markings are less rule than rumour, treated not as boundaries but as artistic suggestions from a civil engineer who was clearly dreaming of a better country.
   S6. Straddling the exact centre of two lanes is standard technique, guaranteeing that nobody behind you can overtake, no matter which side they choose to risk their life on.
   A. A-C-B-D
   B. C-A-B-D

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

5. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when alone
A. Soliloquy
B. Dialogue
C. Monologue
D. Extempore

6. **Select the correctly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**
A. Bourgeosie
B. Bourgoisie
C. Bourgeoisie
D. Boorgeoisie

7. **Change the following sentence from active to passive:**
By the end of the semester, the professors will have been evaluating the thesis papers.
A. The thesis papers were evaluated by the professors by the end of the semester.
B. The professors have been evaluating the thesis papers by the end of the semester.
C. The thesis papers will be evaluated by the professors by the end of the semester.
D. The thesis papers will have been being evaluated by the professors by the end of the semester.

8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in Direct Speech.**
He said that he would never lie.
A. He said, "I never lie."
B. He said, "I would never lie."
C. He said, "I will never lie."
D. He said, "I have never lied."

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.**
The city council has launched a new project to _____ the abandoned industrial wasteland for a community park.
A. Reclaim
B. Straddle
C. Abet
D. Stall

10. **For each question, choose the option that best improves the underlined portion of the sentence:**
The research findings **not only indicated a correlation but they also suggested** a causal relationship**.**
A. not indicated a correlation but they also suggested
B. not only indicated a correlation but also suggested
C. indicated not only a correlation but they also suggested
D. not only indicated a correlation but suggested also

11. **Direction: Read the sentence to find the grammatical error. The sentence has been split into four parts: (A), (B), (C), and (D). Select the option that contains the error.**

The external security consultant inquired that (A) how the unauthorized users managed (B) to bypass the multi-factor authentication (C) protocols on the main server. (D)

A. The external security consultant inquired that
B. how the unauthorized users managed
C. to bypass the multi-factor authentication
D. protocols on the main server.

12. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrasal verb.**
Crop up
A. To claim recognition or praise for something achieved by others
B. To appear or happen unexpectedly.
C. To financially support or fund an organization.
D. To ensure someone faces legal punishment for a crime.
13. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
PEREMPTORY
A. Submissive
B. Dictatorial
C. Lenient
D. Polite
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
GARRULOUS
A. Talkative
B. Taciturn
C. Chatty
D. Loquacious

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

Practice makes perfect is an often repeated axiom in life. (1)___ is key, an aspect reiterated by Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita. Tiruvalluvar says, "He who desires not the personal pleasure, but focuses entirely on completing his duty will stand as a pillar of strength and support to one's family and relatives (Kural 615)". One should never (2)___ in life but persevere. Abhyasa — any repeated activity — in any field will yield results, and the same is true of spirituality, said Swami Sivayoganandha.

Having the desire to evolve devotionally is a good base upon which one can develop further. Spending 20 minutes focusing entirely on God, chanting a mantra whereby one controls the wandering mind is the starting point. Lord Krishna says, "If you are unable to fix your mind steadily (3)___ Me, then by the yoga of constant practice seek to reach Me, Oh Dhananjaya." (CH XII, V 9). Nowhere does Krishna say it is easy, aware as He is of human nature. In fact, He further states that if one is unable to even practise Abhyasa yoga, one should intently perform actions for Krishna's sake. One will soon achieve perfection by this method as well. Meditate and dedicate it to Him. (4)___ ego and do just what God bids you to do: which is to lead a dharmic life and do what is good for the world. One should be like the sun. Regardless of all things else, it always rises and performs its function afresh. The sun does not expect anything in return. Similarly work is its own reward. One should not try to (5)___ oneself from a task

merely because it is difficult; the art of executing it comes from repeated exertion. When a person wants to do a good deed, he or she should not expect anything in return from anyone, neither praise nor acknowledgement nor adulation. Only when his mind is light can a person find true happiness.

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
    A. Steadfast
    B. Lethargy
    C. Perseverance
    D. Impatience
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. give out
    B. give up
    C. give off
    D. give away
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. over
    B. against
    C. beyond
    D. upon
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**
    A. Shed
    B. Feed
    C. Discarded
    D. Relinquishing
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**
    A. dedicate
    B. renounce
    C. extricate
    D. shirked

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. D) **Adverb**

line: "...this year's Nobel went to people who shone a light, literally, on the brain..."---The word "literally" is describing how the action of "shone a light" happened — it tells us that the light was shone in an actual, real, physical sense (not just as a figure of speech/metaphor). A word that describes or gives more information about a verb (an action word, like "shone") is called an adverb. Many adverbs end in "-ly," like "literally," "quickly," "carefully" — this is a common pattern for adverbs in English.

A) Verb: The actual verb in this sentence is "shone" (the action of shining). "Literally" doesn't show any action itself — it simply describes how the shining happened, so it's not a verb.

B) Adjective: An adjective describes a noun (a person, place, or thing), like "a bright light." "Literally" isn't describing "light" (the noun) directly — it's describing the verb "shone" (the action), so it functions as an adverb, not an adjective.

C) Noun: A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea (like "light," "brain," "people"). "Literally" isn't naming anything — it's modifying/describing an action, so it cannot be a noun.

2. C) **A biological mechanism enabling researchers to modulate the electrical activity of specific nerve cells using light pulses**.

Passage: "Karl Deisseroth transformed the protein into a light-controlled switch for nerve cells." Also: "...allowing charged ions to flow into the cell and create electrical impulses... Then they deliver precise pulses of light, activating the channels, allowing research to study the patterns."---A "switch" is something that can be turned on or off to control something. Here, "light-controlled" means the switch is operated using light. The passage explains that this switch works on nerve cells — when light hits the protein, it opens a channel, letting ions flow in and create electrical signals (nerve activity). So this "switch" lets scientists control/turn on nerve cell activity using light. This matches option C — a way to control the electrical activity of nerve cells using light.

A. The passage doesn't describe this as a "diagnostic sensor" used "during surgery." It's described as a way to activate/control nerve cells for research purposes (studying patterns), not specifically as a surgical diagnostic tool.

B. The passage doesn't say anything about a compound that "destroys" viral carriers. Viral agents are used only to "deliver genes" into cells — there's no mention of the switch being related to destroying these viral delivery tools afterward.

D. While the passage does mention attempts to "restore sight" later on, this is described as one application researchers are currently exploring, not the specific definition of what a "light-controlled switch" is in itself. The switch is about controlling nerve cell activity broadly, not specifically an "optical instrument" for vision restoration.

3. A) **Ensuring that therapies developed from lab discoveries reach all individuals regardless of geographical or social barriers.**

Passage: "...it is also important for nations to find ways to ensure that the fruits of such research actually reach all the people who might benefit from it, irrespective of their location or station in life."---The passage says it's important for countries to make sure that the benefits of scientific research reach everyone who could use it, no matter where they live ("location") or their social/economic position ("station in life"). This matches option (a) closely — making sure medical advances reach everyone, regardless of geography or social background.

(b) The passage doesn't mention anything about "immune rejection" or alternatives to viral gene delivery. It simply says viral agents used are "harmless" — there's no discussion of rejection issues or finding alternatives.

(c) The passage doesn't talk about "private commercial funding" for research.

(d) The passage doesn't say clinical tools should be "prevented" from being used before mapping is "completed." In fact, the passage shows optogenetics already being used for various treatments and explorations (Alzheimer's, addiction, restoring sight) as research continues — there's no mention of holding back tools until mapping is finished.

4. B) **It enables targeted neural investigation by combining viral gene delivery of photoreceptive proteins with calibrated light pulses**.
Passage: "Practically, today, scientists use harmless viral agents to deliver genes for light-sensitive proteins into specific target cells. Then they deliver precise pulses of light, activating the channels, allowing research to study the patterns."--The passage explains how optogenetics works in two steps: first, scientists use viral agents to deliver genes for "light-sensitive proteins" (photoreceptive proteins) into specific cells. Then, they shine precise/calibrated pulses of light onto these cells to activate the channels, allowing them to study how the cells behave. This matches option B closely — combining viral delivery of light-sensitive proteins with controlled light pulses to study neural activity.

A) The passage says light activation IS required — "they deliver precise pulses of light, activating the channels." This option wrongly says light activation is NOT needed, which contradicts the passage.

C) The passage doesn't mention "synthetic chemical markers" replacing electrical impulses. In fact, the whole point of the discovery is that light creates "electrical impulses" by opening ion channels — chemical markers are not part of this process as described.

D) The passage mentions restoring sight only briefly as one area researchers are currently exploring ("Researchers are even using the method in attempts to restore sight") — it doesn't describe this as repairing "muscular responses." This option adds an incorrect and unsupported detail about muscles.

5. A) **Affirming and laudatory**
Passage line: "As most often in work that the Nobel acknowledges and honours, there was rich collaboration across continents in advancing optogenetics."---The author uses positive words like "rich collaboration" to describe how scientists from different continents worked together on this research. The word "rich" shows appreciation — it means the collaboration was valuable and meaningful, not just ordinary. The author also connects this collaboration to Nobel-worthy work, further showing approval. This shows the author is supportive and praising (laudatory) of international scientific teamwork, which matches option (a).

(b) Distrustful and guarded: This would mean the author is suspicious or cautious about collaboration. There's no such hesitation or doubt in the passage — the author openly praises the collaboration as "rich," which is the opposite of distrust.

(c) Cynical and dismissive: This would mean the author doubts the value of collaboration or dismisses it as unimportant. The passage clearly values and highlights this collaboration positively, not dismissively.

(d) Indifferent and passive: This would mean the author doesn't care either way. But the author actively uses praising language ("rich collaboration"), showing clear positive engagement, not indifference.

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

Explanation:

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के औपनिवेशिक मद्रास (colonial Madras) की तपती गर्मी का दृश्य स्थापित करता है, जहाँ ब्रिटिश शासक और शहर के संभ्रांत लोग बर्फ तैरती हुई स्कॉच व्हिस्की का आनंद लेते थे।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें use किया गया noun phrase "The huge blocks of ice" सीधे Sentence 4 के "ice cubes" के मूल स्रोत का खुलासा करता है कि यह बर्फ अमेरिका के न्यू इंग्लैंड की झीलों में प्राकृतिक रूप से बनती थी और भारत आयात की जाती थी।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 2 में भारत आई बर्फ की मद्रास में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को जोड़ता है कि आयातित बर्फ की सिल्लियों को ट्रिप्लिकेन के 'आइस हाउस' में लाया जाता था, जहाँ उनका भंडारण होता था और शाम के पेय पदार्थों के लिए उन्हें छोटे टुकड़ों में काटा जाता था।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह ऐतिहासिक प्रसंग से वर्तमान समय की ओर बढ़ते हुए बताता है कि 'आइस हाउस' आज भी उस स्थान की एक लोकप्रिय स्मृति के रूप में खड़ा है जहाँ अंग्रेज बर्फ बेचते थे ("The Ice House, even today, remains a popular reminder...")।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 4 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, vividly setting the historical scene in colonial Madras with the British elite sipping Scotch whisky chilled with floating ice cubes.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 directly by tracing the origin of the chilled drink's key element via the noun phrase "The huge blocks of ice", revealing they were naturally harvested from frozen New England lakes in the United States and shipped to India.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 by narrowing the distribution route down to Madras (now Chennai), describing how the imported ice blocks were delivered to the Ice House in Triplicane for storage and portioning into drinks.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 1 as the natural conclusion, bridging past operations to modern times via the phrase "even today", observing that the Ice House remains an enduring landmark commemorating the British ice trade.

7. B) **Impartial** (adjective) – Treating all rivals or disputants equally; fair and not biased. निष्पक्ष।
   Synonym: Unbiased (adjective) – Showing no prejudice for or against something; fair. निष्पक्ष, निर्पेक्ष।
   - **Biased** (adjective) – Unfairly prejudiced for or against someone or something. पक्षपाती (antonym of impartial)।
   - **Partisan** (adjective) – Prejudiced in favour of a particular cause; one-sided. पक्षपाती (antonym of impartial)।
   - **Prejudiced** (adjective) – Having or showing a dislike or distrust based on preconceived opinions. पूर्वाग्रही (antonym of impartial)।
8. B) **Want to curl up and die** (idiom) – To feel extreme embarrassment or shame अत्यधिक शर्मिंदगी महसूस करना
9. A) **Debacle** (noun) – A sudden disastrous collapse or defeat; a complete and utter failure. पराजय, शिकस्त, भारी विफलता
   Antonym: **Triumph** (noun) – A great victory or achievement; a resounding success. विजय, सफलता, जीत
   - **Disaster** (noun) – A sudden calamitous event — a synonym of debacle, not antonym. आपदा, विपत्ति
   - **Collapse** (noun) – A sudden failure or breakdown — a synonym of debacle. पतन, ढहना
   - **Fiasco** (noun) – A ludicrous or humiliating failure — a synonym, not antonym of debacle. पूर्ण विफलता, नाकामी
10. B) **C-A-B-D**
    Explanation:
    Hindi Explanation:
    - Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में यूरोप के अनुशासित ड्राइवरों का उल्लेख है, और Sentence C में प्रयुक्त phrase "This is in stark contrast to what we see in India" सीधे यूरोपीय और भारतीय सड़क परिदृश्यों के बीच एक सीधा विरोधाभास (contrast) स्थापित करता है।
    - Sentence A Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त adverb "Here" सीधे Sentence C के भारत (India) को संदर्भित करता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि यहाँ पैदल चलने वालों के लिए सड़कों पर चलना वास्तव में एक बड़ी चुनौती है।
    - Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह सामान्य समस्या से आगे बढ़कर व्यवस्थागत कमियों का विश्लेषण शुरू करता है ("First, let us talk about traffic sense — or rather, its complete and glorious absence")।
    - Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह Sentence B में उठाए गए 'ट्रैफिक सेंस के अभाव' का पहला ठोस उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है कि भारत में लेन मार्किंग्स (lane markings) को नियमों के बजाय मात्र सुझाव माना जाता है। अंत में, S6 लेन मार्किंग्स से ही जुड़े व्यवहार को पूरा करते हुए बताता है कि दो लेन के ठीक बीच में गाड़ी चलाना मानक तकनीक है ताकि पीछे वाला ओवरटेक न कर सके।

    English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows S1 directly because S1 illustrates European drivers yielding to pedestrians, and Sentence C deploys the comparative connector "This is in stark contrast to what we see in India" to pivot from Europe to the Indian traffic environment.
- Sentence A follows Sentence C directly because the locational adverb "Here" refers back to India, underscoring the immediate consequence of that contrast: navigating roads becomes an ordeal for pedestrians.
- Sentence B follows Sentence A by transitioning from pedestrian vulnerability to an anatomical critique of driver discipline via the structural marker "First, let us talk about traffic sense..."
- Sentence D follows Sentence B and links directly before S6 by providing the first empirical proof of missing traffic sense: how lane markings are routinely treated as whimsical suggestions rather than legal boundaries. Finally, S6 immediately resolves this line-discipline discussion by describing the ubiquitous habit of straddling the exact centre of two lanes to block overtaking.

11. A) **Soliloquy** (noun) – An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when alone (especially in a play). स्वगत कथन

- **Dialogue** (noun) – A conversation between two or more people. संवाद
- **Monologue** (noun) – A long speech by one person, usually to an audience. एकालाप
- **Extempore** (noun) – A speech given without preparation. आशुभाषण

12. C) The correct spelling is '**Bourgeoisie'** which means "the middle class, especially with reference to its materialistic values or conventional attitudes" मध्यम वर्ग / पूंजीपति वर्ग.

13. D) Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "the professors" Subject है, "will have been evaluating" Verb (Future Perfect Continuous) है और "the thesis papers" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The thesis papers" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will have been being evaluated" (Future Perfect Continuous Passive: will have been being + V3) में बदला गया है और "by the professors" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
    - To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "the professors" (Subject), "will have been evaluating" (Verb in Future Perfect Continuous) and "the thesis papers" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The thesis papers" (Subject), "will have been being evaluated" (Passive Verb in Future Perfect Continuous: will have been being + V3) and "by the professors".

14. C) Indirect Speech को Direct Speech में बदलते समय 'that' हटाकर Reported Speech को inverted commas में लिखा जाता है। Indirect का 'would' Direct में 'will' बन जाता है; 'he' → 'I'। सही उत्तर: He said, "I will never lie." Option B में 'would' नहीं बदला, और A व D में Tense गलत है।

- To change Indirect into Direct Speech, 'that' is removed and the reported speech is put within inverted commas. 'would' changes back to 'will'; 'he' → 'I'. Hence: He said, "I will never lie." Option B keeps 'would', and A and D use the wrong tense.

15. A) **Reclaim**
'Reclaim' का use होगा क्योंकि 'Reclaim' का अर्थ होता है पुनः प्राप्त करना या बंजर भूमि को काम के लायक बनाना। sentence में कहा गया है कि नगर परिषद ने सामुदायिक पार्क के लिए छोड़े गए औद्योगिक कचरे (wasteland) को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए एक नया प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया है, इसलिए 'Reclaim' यहाँ सही है। 'Straddle' का अर्थ है दोनों ओर फैले होना, 'Abet' का अर्थ है उकसाना, और 'Stall' का अर्थ है ठप करना या रोकना। ये तीनों वाक्य के संदर्भ में अनुपयुक्त हैं।
    - 'Reclaim' should be used because 'Reclaim' means to recover or bring wasteland into a condition for use.The sentence states that the city council has launched a project to reclaim abandoned industrial wasteland for a park, making 'Reclaim' appropriate here. 'Straddle' means to span or extend across, 'Abet' means to assist or incite, and 'Stall' means to obstruct or delay. These verbs are contextually unsuitable for the sentence.
16. B) 'not only indicated a correlation but they also suggested' के बदले '**not only indicated a correlation but also suggested'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'not only… but also' के दोनों भाग parallel होने चाहिए; 'not only' के बाद verb (indicated) है, इसलिए 'but also' के बाद भी सीधे verb (suggested) आएगा, subject 'they' नहीं; जैसे— She not only sings but also dances.
    - 'not only indicated a correlation but also suggested' will be used because 'not only… but also' requires parallel structure; 'not only' is followed by a verb (indicated), so 'but also' must also be followed directly by a verb (suggested), without repeating 'they'; Like— She not only sings but also dances.
17. A) **The sentence contains a conjunction error in indirect speech. When reporting a question that begins** with a Wh- question word (e.g., how, why, what, where), the Wh- word itself acts as the conjunction joining the two clauses. Using "that" before it is strictly prohibited. Therefore, "inquired that how" must be corrected to "inquired how."
    - यह sentence Indirect Speech में गलत Conjunction (संयोजक) का प्रयोग करता है। जब किसी रिपोर्ट किए गए प्रश्न की शुरुआत 'Wh- शब्द' (जैसे how, where, what) से होती है, तो वह शब्द खुद ही दो वाक्यों को जोड़ने का काम करता है। उससे ठीक पहले "that" का प्रयोग व्याकरण के विरुद्ध है। इसलिए, वाक्य में से "that" को हटा दिया जाना चाहिए।
18. B) **Crop up** (phrasal verb) – to appear or happen unexpectedly. (अचानक सामने आना)
19. B) **Dictatorial** (adjective) – of or typical of a ruler with total power; autocratic and domineering. Hindi: तानाशाही, निरंकुश। The word PEREMPTORY (adjective) means final and authoritative; not open to appeal or question; dictatorial in manner. Hindi: आज्ञसूचक, अटल।
    - **Submissive** (adjective) – ready to conform to the authority or will of others. Hindi: आज्ञाकारी, समर्पित। It is the antonym of PEREMPTORY.
    - **Lenient** (adjective) – gentle and tolerant; not strict or severe. Hindi: नरम, उदार। It is opposite in meaning to PEREMPTORY.

- **Polite** (adjective) – having or showing good manners and consideration for other people. Hindi: विनम्र, शिष्ट। It does not match the meaning of PEREMPTORY.

20. B) **Garrulous** (adjective) – Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters. बातूनी, वाचाल
Antonym: **Taciturn** (adjective) – Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little. मितभाषी, कम बोलने वाला, चुप्पी साधे रहने वाला
    - **Talkative** (adjective) – Fond of talking — a synonym of garrulous, not antonym. बातूनी, बोलने वाला
    - **Chatty** (adjective) – Fond of chatting informally — a synonym of garrulous. बातूनी, गपशप करने वाला
    - **Loquacious** (adjective) – Tending to talk a great deal — a synonym of garrulous, not antonym. वाचाल, बातूनी
21. C) **Perseverance**
Blank (1) needs a noun as the subject of "is key," naming the quality of continuing to make an effort despite difficulty, since the passage opens with "Practice makes perfect" and soon says "One should never give up in life but persevere." a) Steadfast: is an adjective meaning firm and unwavering, close to the idea of a steady mind, but violating the requirement since the subject of "is key" must be a noun, and an adjective cannot stand alone as a subject — "Steadfast is key" is ungrammatical (the noun would be "steadfastness"). b) Lethargy: means a lack of energy and enthusiasm, violating the requirement since it is the very state that practice is meant to overcome; the passage praises "constant practice" and "repeated exertion," not sluggishness. c) Perseverance: means continuing steadily despite difficulty, matching "Practice makes perfect" and the advice "never give up in life but persevere." d) Impatience: means wanting results at once and being unable to wait, violating the requirement since the passage stresses slow, repeated effort and admits "Nowhere does Krishna say it is easy" — impatience is what makes people quit, the opposite of what Krishna urges.
Hindi:
    - Blank (1) में "is key" का subject बनने वाला noun चाहिए, जो मुश्किलों के बावजूद लगातार कोशिश करते रहने की quality को बताए, क्योंकि passage "Practice makes perfect" से शुरू होता है और जल्द ही कहता है "One should never give up in life but persevere." a) Steadfast: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है firm और पक्का, जो steady मन वाले idea के करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "is key" का subject noun होना चाहिए, और adjective अकेले subject नहीं बन सकता — "Steadfast is key" grammar के हिसाब से गलत है (noun "steadfastness" होगा)। b) Lethargy: इसका meaning है energy और enthusiasm की कमी, यानी सुस्ती, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यही वो state है जिसे practice से दूर किया जाता है; passage "constant practice" और "repeated exertion" की तारीफ करता है, सुस्ती की नहीं। c) Perseverance: इसका meaning है मुश्किलों के बावजूद लगातार डटे रहना, जो "Practice makes perfect" और "never give up in life but persevere" वाली सलाह, दोनों से match करता है। d) Impatience: इसका meaning है तुरंत result चाहना और wait ना कर पाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि passage धीमी, बार-बार की मेहनत पर ज़ोर देता है और मानता है कि

"Nowhere does Krishna say it is easy" — impatience ही लोगों से कोशिश छुड़वाती है, जो Krishna की बात के बिल्कुल उल्टा है।

22. B) **give up**

Blank (2) needs a "give" phrasal verb meaning to stop trying and quit, since it stands in direct contrast with "but persevere" in the same sentence. a) give out: means to stop working or run out, said of strength, a body part or supplies, as in "His strength gave out halfway," violating the requirement since that is a failure that happens to a person, not a choice one can be advised against with "should never"; the contrast with "persevere" needs a deliberate decision to quit. b) give up: means to stop trying or quit, matching the contrast "never give up … but persevere." c) give off: means to send out heat, light or a smell, as the sun — the passage's own model — gives off light and heat, violating the requirement since it needs an object ("give off light"), and sending out light is what the passage praises the sun for, not something one should "never" do; it is also no opposite of persevering. d) give away: means to give something freely, as in charity, or to reveal a secret, and needs an object ("give away one's wealth"), violating the requirement since no object follows, and selfless giving is something the passage values, not something one should "never" do.

- Blank (2) में "give" वाला ऐसा phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो कोशिश छोड़कर हार मान लेना, क्योंकि उसी sentence में यह "but persevere" के सीधे contrast में खड़ा है। a) give out: इसका meaning है strength, शरीर के किसी हिस्से या supplies का काम करना बंद कर देना या run out हो जाना, जैसे "His strength gave out halfway," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह ऐसी failure है जो इंसान के साथ हो जाती है, कोई choice नहीं जिसके लिए "should never" कहकर सलाह दी जा सके; "persevere" से contrast के लिए हार मानने का सोचा-समझा decision चाहिए। b) give up: इसका meaning है कोशिश छोड़ देना या हार मान लेना, जो "never give up … but persevere" वाले contrast से match करता है। c) give off: इसका meaning है गर्मी, रोशनी या smell बाहर छोड़ना, जैसे passage का अपना model, यानी sun, light और heat give off करता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसके लिए object चाहिए ("give off light"), और रोशनी देना तो वही काम है जिसके लिए passage sun की तारीफ करता है, ऐसा काम नहीं जिसे "never" करना चाहिए; साथ ही यह persevere करने का opposite भी नहीं है। d) give away: इसका meaning है कोई चीज़ free में दे देना, जैसे charity में, या कोई secret बता देना, और इसके लिए object चाहिए ("give away one's wealth"), जो violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ कोई object नहीं है, और selfless देना तो passage के हिसाब से अच्छी बात है, ऐसा काम नहीं जिसे "never" करना चाहिए।

23. D) **upon**

Blank (3) needs the preposition that pairs with "fix your mind" to mean concentrating steadily on someone, since Krishna is telling Arjuna where to rest his attention — on Krishna Himself, the goal he must "seek to reach." a) over: means above or in control of something, as in "power over others," violating the requirement since a mind placed above or in charge of Krishna is the opposite of the surrender and ego-shedding the passage teaches, and "fix one's

mind over" is not the idiom for concentration. b) against: shows opposition, as in "set one's mind against something," meaning to be determined to reject it, violating the requirement since Krishna is asking for steady devotion to Him, not resistance. c) beyond: means on the far side of or past something, violating the requirement since it would point the mind past Krishna, while He is the very goal ("seek to reach Me"); the attention must rest on Him, not look beyond Him. d) upon: forms "fix one's mind upon," meaning to concentrate steadily on, matching Krishna's call to hold the mind on Him, and its formal tone suits a scriptural translation addressing "Oh Dhananjaya."
Hindi:

- Blank (3) में वो preposition चाहिए जो "fix your mind" के साथ आकर किसी पर steady ध्यान लगाने का meaning दे, क्योंकि Krishna Arjuna को बता रहे हैं कि ध्यान कहाँ टिकाना है — खुद Krishna पर, जो वो goal हैं जिन तक उसे "seek to reach" करना है। a) over: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के ऊपर होना या उस पर control रखना, जैसे "power over others," जो violate करता है क्योंकि Krishna के ऊपर या उन पर control रखने वाला मन, passage की surrender और ego छोड़ने वाली सीख का बिल्कुल उल्टा है, और "fix one's mind over" concentration का idiom भी नहीं है। b) against: यह विरोध बताता है, जैसे "set one's mind against something," यानी किसी चीज़ को reject करने का पक्का decision, जो violate करता है क्योंकि Krishna अपने प्रति steady भक्ति माँग रहे हैं, विरोध नहीं। c) beyond: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के उस पार या उससे आगे, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे मन Krishna से आगे कहीं और चला जाएगा, जबकि वही goal हैं ("seek to reach Me"); ध्यान उन पर टिकना चाहिए, उनसे आगे नहीं। d) upon: यह "fix one's mind upon" बनाता है, जिसका meaning है किसी पर लगातार ध्यान लगाना, जो Krishna के मन को अपने ऊपर टिकाने वाले call से match करता है, और इसका formal tone "Oh Dhananjaya" वाले scriptural translation पर फिट बैठता है।

24. A) **Shed**

Blank (4) needs a base verb opening a command, since this part of the passage gives a series of instructions ("Meditate and dedicate it to Him"), and the blank is joined by "and" to the base form "do." a) Shed: is the base form meaning to get rid of something, the way a tree sheds its leaves or a snake sheds its skin, matching both the command form parallel to "do" and the message of humility — expecting "neither praise nor acknowledgement nor adulation." b) Feed: is the right form but violates the requirement on meaning, since "feed the ego" means making it grow stronger, while doing "just what God bids" and wanting no praise or adulation means reducing the ego. c) Discarded: is past tense, close in meaning (thrown away), but violating the requirement since a command needs the base form; "Discarded ego and do…" breaks the parallel with "do." d) Relinquishing: is an -ing form meaning giving up, close in meaning, but violating the requirement since an -ing form cannot start a command joined by "and" to "do"; the command needs "Relinquish," not "Relinquishing."
Hindi:

- Blank (4) में command शुरू करने वाला base verb चाहिए, क्योंकि passage का यह हिस्सा instructions की series देता है ("Meditate and dedicate it to Him"), और blank, "and"

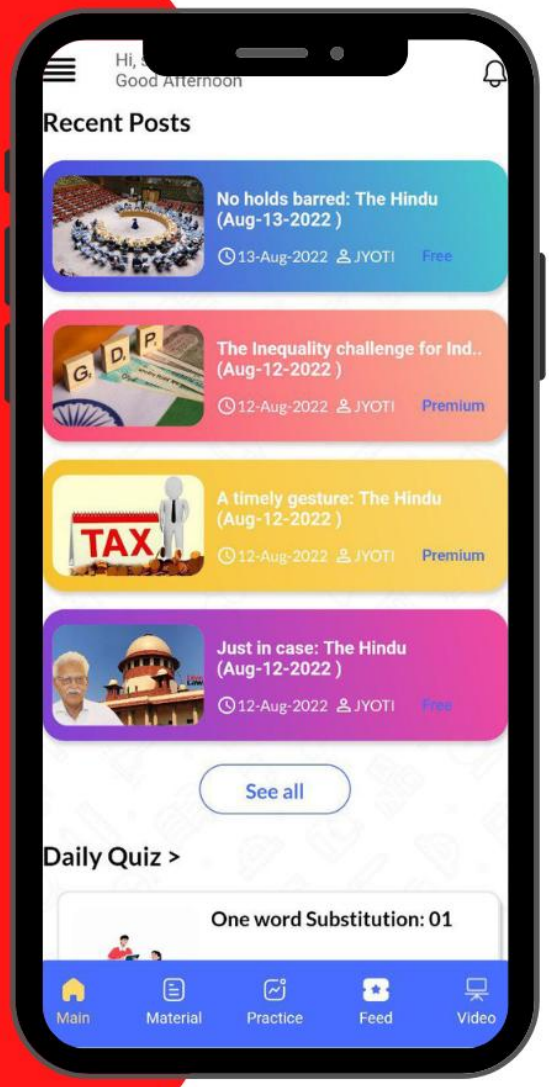
लगाकर base form "do" के साथ जुड़ा है। a) Shed: यह base form है जिसका meaning है किसी चीज़ से छुटकारा पाना, जैसे पेड़ अपने पत्ते गिरा देता है या साँप अपनी skin छोड़ देता है, जो "do" के parallel command form और humility वाले message — "neither praise nor acknowledgement nor adulation" को expect ना करना — दोनों से match करता है। b) Feed: इसका form सही है पर meaning में violate करता है, क्योंकि "feed the ego" का मतलब है ego को और बढ़ाना, जबकि "just what God bids" करना और कोई praise या adulation ना चाहना ego को कम करना है। c) Discarded: यह past tense है, meaning करीब है (फेंक दिया), पर violate करता है क्योंकि command के लिए base form चाहिए; "Discarded ego and do..." "do" वाले parallel को तोड़ देता है। d) Relinquishing: यह -ing form है जिसका meaning है छोड़ देना, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि -ing form ऐसा command शुरू नहीं कर सकता जो "and" लगाकर "do" से जुड़ा हो; command के लिए "Relinquish" चाहिए, "Relinquishing" नहीं।

25. C) **extricate**

Blank (5) needs a base verb after "try to" that pairs with "oneself from," meaning to free oneself from a difficult situation, since the sentence warns against escaping a task "merely because it is difficult." a) dedicate: echoes "dedicate it to Him" earlier, but violates the requirement since it pairs with "to," not "from" ("dedicate oneself to a task"), and it means devoting oneself to a task — the opposite of getting out of it. b) renounce: means formally giving up a possession, claim or way of life, as in "renounce worldly pleasures," and takes the thing given up as its direct object, violating the requirement since "renounce oneself from a task" is not English, and renunciation in the Gita's sense means giving up attachment, not running away from difficult duties. c) extricate: is the base form meaning to free oneself, with effort, from a difficult situation, matching "extricate oneself from a task" and the warning against escaping it "merely because it is difficult." d) shirked: is the past tense of "shirk" (to avoid a duty), close in meaning, but violating the requirement on two counts — "try to" needs a base verb, and "shirk" takes the duty directly as its object ("shirk a task"), not "oneself from."
Hindi:

- Blank (5) में "try to" के बाद ऐसा base verb चाहिए जो "oneself from" के साथ जुड़कर किसी मुश्किल situation से खुद को निकालने का meaning दे, क्योंकि sentence किसी task से सिर्फ इसलिए निकल भागने के खिलाफ warning देता है कि "it is difficult." a) dedicate: यह passage के पहले वाले "dedicate it to Him" को दोहराता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि इसके साथ "from" नहीं, "to" आता है ("dedicate oneself to a task"), और इसका meaning है खुद को किसी task में लगा देना — task से निकलने का बिल्कुल उल्टा। b) renounce: इसका meaning है किसी possession, claim या जीवन के तरीके को formally छोड़ देना, जैसे "renounce worldly pleasures," और इसके साथ छोड़ी जाने वाली चीज़ सीधे object बनती है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "renounce oneself from a task" English में बनता ही नहीं, और Gita वाले meaning में renunciation का मतलब

attachment छोड़ना है, मुश्किल duties से भागना नहीं। c) extricate: यह base form है जिसका meaning है मेहनत करके खुद को किसी मुश्किल situation से निकालना, जो "extricate oneself from a task" और सिर्फ "it is difficult" होने पर task छोड़ने के खिलाफ warning, दोनों से match करता है। d) shirked: यह "shirk" (किसी duty से बचना) का past tense है, meaning करीब है, पर दो वजहों से violate करता है — "try to" के बाद base verb चाहिए, और "shirk" के साथ duty सीधे object बनती है ("shirk a task"), "oneself from" नहीं।



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