

She led the way to the top, that's her legacy

Harmanpreet Kaur's **contribution** as captain of the women's cricket team cannot **be** measured only by the ODI World Cup trophy she **lifted** last year. It can be seen in the way the team began to **carry itself on** the biggest stages. When Harmanpreet **took over**, India had already reached two ODI World Cup finals. But there was still a sense that the team had to prove it belonged among the best. During her captaincy, the results began to follow more **consistently**. India reached the 2018 T20 World Cup semifinal, the 2020 T20 World Cup final and the 2023 T20 World Cup semifinal before **going all the way** in the 2025 ODI World Cup.

The journey was not smooth. Harmanpreet's batting became less **consistent**, and her decisions were often **questioned**. But she remained at the centre of the team through the difficult periods. Her leadership was **driven** by her **passion** for the game and a strong belief in the players around her. The World Cup win turned that belief into reality. Now, as Smriti Mandhana takes over, she **inherits** a team that has tasted success and knows what is expected at the highest level. Mandhana cannot and should not try to **recreate** Harmanpreet's leadership style. She will have to lead in her own way. But she will be expected to protect the confidence that has been built and take it further.



That is the challenge. Harmanpreet helped India believe it belonged at the top. Mandhana has to **make sure** that belief does not **fade** — and **turns into** a habit of winning. After **back-to-back** group-stage **exits** at the T20 World Cup, winning a title in the shortest format will be a priority. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Contribution** (noun) - input, involvement, role, participation, assistance योगदान
2. **Lift** (verb) - raise, hoist, elevate, heave, upraise उठाना
3. **Carry oneself on** (phrase) - to behave or conduct oneself in a particular manner, especially with confidence आचरण करना
4. **Take over** (phrasal verb) - to assume control, management, or responsibility for something कार्यभार संभालना
5. **Consistently** (adverb) - regularly, steadily, constantly, uniformly, invariably निरंतर रूप से
6. **Go all the way** (phrase) - to continue a course of action to its conclusion or to achieve ultimate success पूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त करना
7. **Consistent** (adjective) - steady, regular, stable, uniform, dependable सुसंगत या निरंतर
8. **Question** (verb) - doubt, challenge, dispute, interrogate, examine सवाल उठाना
9. **Drive** (verb) - propel, motivate, inspire, prompt, urge प्रेरित करना
10. **Passion** (noun) - enthusiasm, zeal, fervour, ardour, eagerness जुनून
11. **Inherit** (verb) - receive, assume, succeed, acquire, obtain विरासत में मिलना
12. **Recreate** (verb) - reproduce, copy, duplicate, replicate, rebuild फिर से बनाना
13. **Make sure** (phrase) - to establish that something is definitely so or to ensure something happens सुनिश्चित करना
14. **Fade** (verb) - diminish, decline, wane, wither, vanish क्षीण होना या फीका पड़ना
15. **Turn into** (phrasal verb) - to be transformed or changed into something else में बदल जाना
16. **Back-to-back** (adjective) - consecutive, successive, continuous, sequential, straight लगातार
17. **Exit** (noun) - departure, withdrawal, retirement, leaving, retreat बाहर होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Harmanpreet Kaur's Legacy:** Harmanpreet Kaur's contribution as captain of the Indian women's cricket team extends beyond winning the 2025 ODI World Cup; she helped transform the team's confidence and mentality.
2. **Building a Winning Mindset:** Under her leadership, the Indian team increasingly demonstrated that it could compete with the world's best teams on major international stages.
3. **Earlier Achievements:** Before Harmanpreet's captaincy, India had already reached two ODI World Cup finals, but the team still needed to establish itself as a consistent force in international cricket.
4. **Consistent Performances:** During her captaincy, India reached the 2018 T20 World Cup semifinal, the 2020 T20 World Cup final and the 2023 T20 World Cup semifinal.
5. **Historic World Cup Victory:** India's triumph in the 2025 ODI World Cup marked the culmination of years of progress and strengthened the team's belief in its capabilities.
6. **Leadership Challenges:** Harmanpreet's captaincy was not without difficulties, as her batting became less consistent and some of her leadership decisions attracted criticism.
7. **Passion and Determination:** Her passion for cricket and strong belief in her teammates helped her remain central to the team during challenging periods.
8. **Turning Belief into Success:** The ODI World Cup victory demonstrated that the confidence Harmanpreet had encouraged could translate into a major international achievement.
9. **Smriti Mandhana Takes Over:** As Smriti Mandhana assumes leadership, she inherits a team that has experienced success and understands the demands of competing at the highest level.
10. **A Different Leadership Style:** Mandhana should develop her own leadership approach rather than attempting to imitate Harmanpreet's methods.
11. **Preserving Team Confidence:** One of Mandhana's main responsibilities will be to protect the confidence, unity and competitive spirit established during Harmanpreet's captaincy.
12. **Maintaining Success:** The challenge for the new captain is to ensure that India's achievements are not isolated successes but become part of a sustained winning culture.
13. **T20 World Cup Priority:** Following consecutive group-stage exits at the T20 World Cup, winning the title in the shortest format should be a major priority for the Indian team.
14. **Continuity and Progress:** Mandhana must build on the foundation laid by Harmanpreet while introducing her own ideas to improve the team's performance.
15. **Central Message:** Harmanpreet's greatest legacy is that she helped India believe it belonged among the best. Mandhana's task is to preserve that belief and turn it into a consistent habit of winning.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the author's primary objective in outlining the tournament finishes between 2018 and 2025?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. To demonstrate how progressive knockout appearances culminated in winning the ultimate one-day crown.
 - B. To prove that performance in the shortest format was prioritized over fifty-over world championships.
 - C. To show that early exits in preliminary rounds ceased entirely once leadership duties were reorganized.
 - D. To illustrate that tactical decisions during finals were universally accepted without public debate.
2. **How did India's one-day world championship win influence the squad's psychology according to the passage?**
 - A. It eliminated the pressure to reverse recent setbacks in shortest-format competitions.
 - B. It masked tactical vulnerabilities that had caused previous stumbles in knockout rounds.
 - C. It prompted the team to adopt an identical strategic blueprint across all match formats.
 - D. It solidified emergent self-assurance into an established sense of championship reality.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. Specialization in the shortest format determines long-term standing in modern cricket.
 - B. A transformative captaincy built lasting self-belief, setting a standard for the future.
 - C. Reaching consecutive world deciders guarantees stability during leadership transitions.
 - D. Individual batting averages remain the primary measure of effective match leadership.
4. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence from the passage:**
"Harmanpreet helped India believe it belonged at the top."
 - A. India is helped by Harmanpreet to believe it belonged at the top.
 - B. India was helped by Harmanpreet to believe it belonged at the top.
 - C. India had been helped by Harmanpreet to believe it belonged at the top.
 - D. India has been helped by Harmanpreet to believe it belonged at the top.
5. **The tone of the passage is best described as:**
 - A. Laudatory yet prescriptive
 - B. Nostalgic yet apprehensive
 - C. Skeptical yet resigned
 - D. Eulogistic yet indifferent
6. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**
The car was parked right out the gate, blocking the driveway.
 - A. in front of the gate
 - B. in front to the gate
 - C. in the front of the gate
 - D. No substitution
7. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**
Her slow ____ through the company ranks came only after earning the ____ of every senior executive.

- A. ascent, ascent
B. assent, assent
C. ascent, assent
D. assent, ascent
8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word:**
Acrimious
A. Harmonious
B. Bitter
C. Angry
D. Hostile
9. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (A, B, C, D) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
A. The Rann Utsav is a seasonal celebration centred around the Great Rann of Kutch, where the landscape transforms into a vast white salt desert.
B. The festival showcases Gujarat's folk music, dance, handicrafts, textiles and cuisine.
C. Visitors can also explore nearby villages and learn more about Kutch's distinctive craft traditions.
D. The cooler months make this period particularly suitable for exploring the region, while the full moon is an especially popular time to see the salt desert.
A. A-B-C-D
B. B-C-A-D
C. C-A-D-B
D. D-B-C-A
10. **Choose the option that correctly completes the sentence with the correct spelling of the word:**
The company's core values are _____ and do not change over time.
A. immuatable
B. immutable
C. imutable
D. immutible
11. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**
"The scientist discovered a new planet."
A. A new planet was discovered by the scientist.
B. A new planet is discovered by the scientist.
C. A new planet had discovered by the scientist.
D. A new planet was being discovered.
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Succesful
B. Successfull
C. Successful
D. Succesfull
13. **In the following question, a sentence has been given in Indirect Speech. Choose the correct Direct Speech form.**
She said that only if he had studied regularly would he have passed the exam.

- A. She said, "Only if he studied regularly he would have passed the exam."
- B. She said, "Only if he had studied regularly he would pass the exam."
- C. She said, "Only if he had studied regularly would he have passed the exam."
- D. She said, "Only he would pass the exam if he had studied regularly."

14. Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning to the underlined word.

The students who graduated from that school are adept at playing musical instruments

- A. proficient
- B. comfortable
- C. careful
- D. proverbial

15. What is the synonym of "Apathy"?

- A. Interest
- B. Concern
- C. Indifference
- D. Compassion

16. Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.

Priyanka enjoyed studying texts filled with expressions that were commonly used in ancient times but have since fallen out of general use.

- A. Archaic
- B. Technical
- C. Modern Slang
- D. Trending

17. Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (P, Q, R, S) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.

P. The sum, €175,000, which is a little under Rs 2 crore, was, by the company's own admission, immaterial to its finances.

Q. DRIETS Île-de-France, the regional labour body responsible for enforcing employment law around Paris, had examined how Infosys recorded the working hours of some of its employees in France and found the system wanting: not fraudulent, but not reliable, auditable, or capable of being properly monitored, for certain categories of staff.

R. Infosys has not said which employees were affected or whether it has been ordered to fix the system.

S. In late July, Infosys told the Bombay Stock Exchange something that would once have seemed like a footnote: a French labour authority had fined it.

- A. P-Q-S-R
- B. Q-R-S-P
- C. S-P-Q-R
- D. R-S-P-Q

18. Identify the error in the below-given sentence.

"The police has arrested the suspect in the case".

- A. police
- B. suspect
- C. arrested

D. has

19. What is the meaning of the phrase "Elephantine task"?

- A. A huge difficult task
- B. A secret mission
- C. A simple chore
- D. A task involving elephants

20. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The climbers reached the _____ of the mountain by dawn.

- A. peek
- B. peak
- C. pique
- D. pick

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

Almost two-thirds of the population of chinstrap penguins have disappeared from a remote volcanic island near Antarctica, aerial surveys suggest. Zavodovski Island was home (1)____ the largest penguin colony in the world, but researchers who (2)____ the surveys say it has now lost that (3)____. According to the study, there were 63% fewer occupied nests of chinstrap penguins in 2025 than at the same time in 2011. The research team say climate change is affecting the birds' food supply and survival, and the penguins may now be officially endangered. Another species of penguin, the macaroni, also nests on the island and is thriving, which scientists believe is linked to their more varied diet. Zavodovski is part of the South Sandwich Islands, a remote (4)____ north of the Antarctic continent which is a UK overseas territory. In 2011, it was hailed by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) as home to the largest penguin colony in the world - with an estimated 600,000 chinstrap penguins and 90,000 macaroni penguins nesting on its bleak, rocky terrain. BAS, which led this new research, says it is "one of the most extreme places in the world to undertake fieldwork". A BAS team (5)____ for 15 days to reach the island and study its avian inhabitants, using drones, aerial photography and fitting tracking devices to 20 birds. This research and satellite imagery suggested that - between 2011 and 2025 - the number of occupied chinstrap penguin nests declined by 63%.

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

- A. in
- B. to
- C. with
- D. by

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

- A. put off
- B. turned down
- C. carried out
- D. wrote off

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

- A. accolade
- B. habitat
- C. colony

D. plaudits

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

A. peninsula

B. glacier

C. insular

D. archipelago

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

A. trekked

B. sailed

C. embarked

D. navigate

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) To demonstrate how progressive knockout appearances culminated in winning the ultimate one-day crown.**

passage: "India reached the 2018 T20 World Cup semifinal, the 2020 T20 World Cup final and the 2023 T20 World Cup semifinal before going all the way in the 2025 ODI World Cup."---The author lists these results one after another to show a steady climb. India kept reaching the last stages of big tournaments, and then finally won the 2025 ODI World Cup. The word "before" shows that the earlier finishes led up to the win. This matches option A.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage never says T20 was more important than the 50-over World Cup. In fact, the ODI World Cup win is called the biggest result. So this option goes against the passage.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage says the opposite. It mentions "back-to-back group-stage exits at the T20 World Cup" even after these results. So early exits did not stop completely.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage says Harmanpreet's "decisions were often questioned." So her decisions were debated, not accepted by everyone without discussion.

2. **D) It solidified emergent self-assurance into an established sense of championship reality.**

passage: "Her leadership was driven by her passion for the game and a strong belief in the players around her. The World Cup win turned that belief into reality. Now, as Smriti Mandhana takes over, she inherits a team that has tasted success and knows what is expected at the highest level."---Before the win, the team only had belief that it belonged at the top.---- The passage says the World Cup win "turned that belief into reality." So the win made the team's confidence real and solid. The team now knows what success feels like and what is expected at the highest level. This matches option (a).

Option (a) — Incorrect. The passage says the opposite. Right after the win, it says that after back-to-back group-stage exits, winning a T20 title "will be a priority." So the pressure in the shortest format is still there.

Option (b) — Incorrect. The passage never says the win hid any weaknesses. It only talks about the win building belief and confidence. Tactical weaknesses are not mentioned.

Option (c) — Incorrect. The passage does not say the team started using the same plan in every format. It actually says the T20 format still needs a title, so the formats are treated separately.

3. **B) A transformative captaincy built lasting self-belief, setting a standard for the future.**

passage: "Harmanpreet helped India believe it belonged at the top. Mandhana has to make sure that belief does not fade — and turns into a habit of winning."---The passage starts by saying Harmanpreet's contribution is more than the World Cup trophy. It is the belief the team gained. It then says Mandhana must protect this belief and take it further. So the main idea is that Harmanpreet's captaincy built lasting self-belief in the team, and this sets the standard for the future. This matches option B.

Option A: Incorrect. The passage mentions the T20 title only at the end, as a priority for Mandhana. It does not say that one format decides a team's long-term standing.

Option C: Incorrect. The passage never says reaching finals guarantees a smooth change of captain. It says Mandhana faces a real challenge in protecting the confidence built, so nothing is guaranteed.

Option D: Incorrect. The passage says her batting became less consistent, yet her leadership still mattered a lot. So batting averages are not the main measure of her leadership.

4. **(B) — India was helped by Harmanpreet to believe it belonged at the top.**

The original sentence is in simple past (“helped”). In passive voice, the object (“India”) becomes the subject, and the verb becomes “was + past participle” (was helped). The doer comes after “by,” and the rest of the sentence stays the same. The tense and meaning do not change.

Option (a) — Incorrect. “Is helped” is present tense. The original sentence is about something that already happened, so the time is changed.

Option (c) — Incorrect. “Had been helped” is past perfect. It means the action happened before another past event. The original has no such second event, so the time meaning is wrong.

Option (d) — Incorrect. “Has been helped” is present perfect. The original is simple past, so this changes the tense and the meaning.

5. **A) Laudatory yet prescriptive**

passage: “Harmanpreet Kaur’s contribution as captain... cannot be measured only by the ODI World Cup trophy she lifted last year” (praise) and “Mandhana has to make sure that belief does not fade — and turns into a habit of winning” (instruction).---The passage praises Harmanpreet for building belief in the team and leading it to the World Cup win. Then it tells Mandhana what she must do next: protect the confidence, lead in her own way, and win the T20 title. Praise for the past and advice for the future together make the tone laudatory yet prescriptive.

Option B: Incorrect. The passage is not sad about the past, and it does not sound afraid about the future. It calls the next step a “challenge,” but it speaks in a confident, practical way.

Option C: Incorrect. The author does not doubt Harmanpreet or the team. The author praises the win and the belief behind it. Nothing in the passage shows giving up.

Option D: Incorrect. The author clearly cares about what happens next and gives direct advice to the new captain. That is the opposite of being indifferent.

6. **A) ‘out the gate’ के बदले ‘in front of the gate’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी चीज़ के ठीक सामने की स्थिति बताने के लिए “in front of” (के सामने) का प्रयोग होता है, जिससे driveway अवरुद्ध हो रहा था; जैसे— A bus stopped in front of the school. ‘in front to’ गलत है, और ‘in the front of’ का अर्थ है “किसी चीज़ के अगले भाग के अंदर”।**

- ‘in front of the gate’ will be used instead of ‘out the gate’ because “in front of” describes a position directly before something; Like— A bus stopped in front of the school. ‘in front to’ is incorrect, and ‘in the front of’ means inside the front part of something.

7. **‘ascent’ और ‘assent’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “ascent” का अर्थ है ऊपर चढ़ना/उन्नति (कंपनी में पदोन्नति), और “assent” का अर्थ है सहमति/स्वीकृति (वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की सहमति)। दोनों homophones हैं पर अर्थ अलग है; जैसे— The bill received the President’s assent.**

- ‘ascent’ and ‘assent’ should be used because “ascent” means rising or climbing up (her rise through the ranks) and “assent” means approval or agreement (of the senior executives). They are homophones with different meanings; Like— The bill received the President’s assent.

8. A) **Acrimonious** (adjective) – (typically of speech or a debate) Angry and bitter. कटु, तीखा
 Antonym: **Harmonious** (adjective) – Friendly and peaceful; free from disagreement. सौहार्दपूर्ण
- **Bitter** (adjective) – Angry and resentful. कड़वा
 - **Angry** (adjective) – Feeling strong displeasure. क्रोधित
 - **Hostile** (adjective) – Unfriendly; antagonistic. शत्रुतापूर्ण

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence A paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के मुख्य विषय प्रस्तुत करता है कि 'रण उत्सव' (Rann Utsav) कच्छ के महान रण पर केंद्रित एक मौसमी उत्सव है, जहाँ परिदृश्य एक विशाल सफेद नमक के रेगिस्तान में बदल जाता है।
- Sentence B Sentence A को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त noun phrase "The festival" सीधे Sentence A के "Rann Utsav" को संदर्भित करता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि यह उत्सव गुजरात के लोक संगीत, नृत्य, हस्तशिल्प, वस्त्र और व्यंजनों को प्रदर्शित करता है।
- Sentence C Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त additive connector "also" ("Visitors can also explore...") उत्सव के मुख्य आकर्षणों के साथ-साथ पर्यटकों के लिए एक अतिरिक्त गतिविधि जोड़ता है कि वे आस-पास के गांवों का दौरा कर सकते हैं और कच्छ की अनूठी शिल्प परंपराओं को जान सकते हैं।
- Sentence D Sentence C के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह पूरी यात्रा के व्यावहारिक समय का विवरण देते हुए बताता है कि ठंडे महीने इस क्षेत्र की यात्रा के लिए विशेष रूप से उपयुक्त होते हैं, और पूर्णिमा (full moon) का समय सफेद नमक के रेगिस्तान को देखने के लिए सबसे लोकप्रिय समय होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence A functions as the standalone introductory sentence, introducing the topic by defining the Rann Utsav as a seasonal cultural celebration centered on the salt plains of the Great Rann of Kutch.
- Sentence B follows Sentence A directly because the definite noun phrase "The festival" refers back to the Rann Utsav, detailing the core cultural elements showcased (folk music, dance, handicrafts, textiles, and cuisine).
- Sentence C follows Sentence B via the additive transition "also" ("Visitors can also explore..."), expanding the scope of activities from the main festival grounds to touring nearby artisan villages.
- Sentence D follows Sentence C as the natural conclusion, closing with operational timing advice by noting that the cooler months are ideal for exploration, with full-moon nights offering the peak visual spectacle.

10. B) The correct spelling is '**immutable**' which means "unchanging over time; unable to be changed" अपरिवर्तनीय।

11. A) **A new planet was discovered by the scientist**

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 scientist" Subject है, "discovered" Verb (Simple Past) है और "a new planet" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "A new planet" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "was discovered" (Simple Past Passive: was/were + V3) में बदला गया है और "by the scientist" 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 scientist" (Subject), "discovered" (Verb in Simple Past) and "a new planet" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "A new planet" (Subject), "was discovered" (Passive Verb in Simple Past) and "by the scientist".

12. C) The correct spelling is 'Successful' which means "accomplishing an aim or purpose; having achieved success" सफल।

13. C) She said, "Only if he had studied regularly would he have passed the exam."

Indirect Speech को Direct Speech में बदलते समय 'that' हटाकर Reported Speech को inverted commas में लिखा जाता है। Reported Speech Third Conditional (past की काल्पनिक स्थिति) है, जिसका Tense Narration में नहीं बदलता। 'Only if' से शुरू होने वाले वाक्य में main clause में inversion होता है (would he have passed)। सही उत्तर: She said, "Only if he had studied regularly would he have passed the exam." Options A और B में Tense व inversion गलत हैं, और D में वाक्य-संरचना बदल गई है।

To change Indirect into Direct Speech, 'that' is removed and the reported speech is put within inverted commas. The reported speech is a third conditional (an imaginary past situation), whose tense does not change in narration. A sentence beginning with 'Only if' requires inversion in the main clause (would he have passed). Hence: She said, "Only if he had studied regularly would he have passed the exam." Options A and B have wrong tenses and no inversion, and D changes the structure.

14. A) **Adept** (adjective) – Very skilled or proficient at something. निपुण, कुशल

Synonym: **Proficient** (adjective) – Competent or skilled in doing something. दक्ष, प्रवीण

- **Comfortable** (adjective) – At ease; free from stress. सहज
- **Careful** (adjective) – Taking care to avoid mistakes. सावधान
- **Proverbial** (adjective) – Referred to in a proverb; well known. लोकोक्ति संबंधी, प्रसिद्ध

15. C) **Apathy** (noun) – Lack of interest, enthusiasm or concern. उदासीनता

Synonym: **Indifference** (noun) – Lack of interest or concern. उदासीनता, बेपरवाही

- **Interest** (noun) – The feeling of wanting to know about something. रुचि
- **Concern** (noun) – Worry or care about something. चिंता, परवाह
- **Compassion** (noun) – Sympathetic pity and concern for others. करुणा

16. A) **Archaic** (adjective) – (of a word or expression) Very old and no longer in general use. पुरातन, अप्रचलित

- **Technical** (adjective) – Relating to a particular subject or skill. तकनीकी
- **Modern Slang** (noun) – Informal words used currently. आधुनिक बोलचाल के शब्द
- **Trending** (adjective) – Currently popular. प्रचलित

17. C) S-P-Q-R

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence S paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के मुख्य घटना प्रस्तुत करता है कि जुलाई के अंत में, इंफोसिस ने बॉम्बे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज को सूचित किया कि एक फ्रांसीसी श्रम प्राधिकरण (French labour authority) ने उस पर जुर्माना लगाया है।
- Sentence P Sentence S को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त noun phrase "The sum" सीधे Sentence S में लगाए गए जुर्माने ("fined it") की राशि (€175,000 / लगभग 2 करोड़ रुपये) का विवरण देता है और बताता है कि कंपनी के अनुसार यह राशि उसके वित्त के लिए महत्वहीन (immaterial) थी।
- Sentence Q Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence P के अगले विचार—जुर्माने का कारण महत्वपूर्ण था—का खुलासा करता है। यह उस फ्रांसीसी प्राधिकरण (DRIEETS Île-de-France) का नाम बताता है और स्पष्ट करता है कि उसने कर्मचारियों के काम के घंटों को रिकॉर्ड करने की प्रणाली में कमियां पाई थीं।
- Sentence R Sentence Q के बाद आएगा और paragraph का conclusion बनेगा। यह Sentence Q में उल्लिखित कमियों के संदर्भ में कंपनी की वर्तमान स्थिति को स्पष्ट करता है कि इंफोसिस ने यह नहीं बताया है कि कौन से कर्मचारी प्रभावित हुए थे या क्या उसे सिस्टम को ठीक करने का आदेश दिया गया है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence S functions as the standalone introductory sentence, breaking the primary news event without prior dependency: Infosys disclosing to the Bombay Stock Exchange that it had been penalized by a French labour regulator.
- Sentence P follows Sentence S directly because the noun phrase "The sum" specifies the exact quantum of the fine mentioned in S (€175,000, or just under Rs 2 crore), noting that while the monetary penalty was immaterial to corporate finances, the underlying rationale was significant.
- Sentence Q follows Sentence P by identifying the specific regulatory body (DRIEETS Île-de-France) and laying out the core investigative finding: Infosys's working-hour logging mechanism for certain staff lacked adequate reliability, auditability, and monitoring capability.
- Sentence R follows Sentence Q as the natural conclusion, presenting the company's current position and remaining ambiguities regarding which staff segments were impacted and whether formal remediation directives were issued.

18. 18. D) 'has' के बदले 'have' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'police' एक Collective Noun है जो सदैव Plural माना जाता है और इसके साथ Plural Verb आता है; जैसे— The police have caught the thief. (Similarly: people, cattle, clergy.)

- 'have' will be used instead of 'has' because 'police' is a collective noun that is always treated as plural and takes a plural verb; Like— The police have caught the thief. (Similarly: people, cattle, clergy.)

19. A) **Elephantine task** (idiom) – A huge, difficult task बहुत बड़ा और कठिन कार्य

20. B) **'peak'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "peak" का अर्थ है पहाड़ की चोटी (शिखर); पर्वतारोही सुबह तक पहाड़ की चोटी पर पहुँचे। 'peek' (झाँकना), 'pique' (चिढ़/जिज्ञासा जगाना) और 'pick' (चुनना) homophones/similar words हैं, पर अर्थ अलग हैं।

- 'peak' should be used because it means the pointed top of a mountain. 'peek' (a quick look), 'pique' (irritation or to arouse interest) and 'pick' (to choose) sound similar but have different meanings.

21. B) **to**

Blank (1) needs the preposition fixed with "be home," the phrase for a place where a population lives, since the island is described as the site of "the largest penguin colony in the world." a) in: marks a position inside something, as in "chicks huddled in the nest," violating the requirement since "home in the largest penguin colony" would place the island inside the colony — the reverse of the real relation, in which the colony lives on the island. b) to: forms the fixed phrase "be home to," meaning to be the place where a group lives or is found, matching the island hosting the colony; the passage itself repeats it later: "hailed ... as home to the largest penguin colony." c) with: marks company or accompaniment, as in "researchers travelled with drones," violating the requirement since "home with the largest penguin colony" would suggest the island lives alongside the penguins rather than being the place where they live. d) by: marks nearness or the doer of an action, as in "nests by the shore" or "a study led by BAS," violating the requirement since "home by the colony" would mean the island sits beside the colony or was made by it, not that the colony lives on it.

- Blank (1) में "be home" के साथ fixed होकर आने वाला preposition चाहिए, जिस phrase का meaning है वो जगह जहाँ कोई population रहती है, क्योंकि island को "the largest penguin colony in the world" की जगह बताया गया है। a) in: यह किसी चीज़ के अंदर होने को बताता है, जैसे "chicks huddled in the nest," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "home in the largest penguin colony" से island खुद colony के अंदर चला जाएगा — असली relation का उल्टा, जिसमें colony island पर रहती है। b) to: यह "be home to" वाला fixed phrase बनाता है, जिसका meaning है वो जगह होना जहाँ कोई group रहता या पाया जाता है, जो island पर colony के रहने से match करता है; passage खुद आगे इसे दोहराता है: "hailed ... as home to the largest penguin colony." c) with: यह साथ होने को बताता है, जैसे "researchers travelled with drones," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "home with the largest penguin colony" से लगेगा कि island penguins के साथ-साथ रहता है, ना कि वो जगह है जहाँ penguins रहते हैं। d) by: यह पास होने या काम करने वाले को बताता है, जैसे "nests by the shore" या "a study led by BAS," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "home by the colony" का मतलब होगा island colony के पास है या उससे बना है, ना कि colony उस पर रहती है।

22. C) **carried out**

Blank (2) needs a past-tense phrasal verb meaning "conducted" or "performed," since the researchers did the aerial surveys whose results — "63% fewer occupied nests" — the passage goes on to report. a) put off: means postponed, as in "The voyage was put off due to storms," violating the requirement since a survey that was postponed could not have produced the 2025 nest counts the researchers are now reporting. b) turned down: means refused or rejected, as in "turned down the offer," violating the requirement since the researchers did not refuse the surveys; they did them and now speak about their findings. c) carried out: means conducted or

performed a task, as in "carried out an experiment," matching researchers who did the aerial surveys and now report what they found. d) wrote off: means dismissed something as worthless or a failure, violating the requirement since the researchers rely on these very surveys — "This research and satellite imagery suggested..." — so they clearly have not dismissed them.

- Blank (2) में ऐसा past-tense phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "conduct किया" या "किया," क्योंकि researchers ने वो aerial surveys किए जिनके results — "63% fewer occupied nests" — passage आगे बताता है। a) put off: इसका meaning है postpone करना, यानी आगे टाल देना, जैसे "The voyage was put off due to storms," जो violate करता है क्योंकि टाला गया survey 2025 के nest counts नहीं दे सकता था, जिन्हें researchers अब बता रहे हैं। b) turned down: इसका meaning है मना कर देना या reject करना, जैसे "turned down the offer," जो violate करता है क्योंकि researchers ने surveys से मना नहीं किया; उन्होंने surveys किए और अब उनके findings बता रहे हैं। c) carried out: इसका meaning है कोई काम conduct करना या पूरा करना, जैसे "carried out an experiment," जो उन researchers से match करता है जिन्होंने aerial surveys किए और अब अपने findings बता रहे हैं। d) wrote off: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को बेकार या fail मानकर dismiss कर देना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि researchers इन्हीं surveys पर rely कर रहे हैं — "This research and satellite imagery suggested..." — इसलिए उन्होंने इन्हें dismiss नहीं किया।

23. A) accolade

Blank (3) needs a singular noun after "that," naming an honour or distinction, since "that" points back to the island's status as home to "the largest penguin colony in the world" — a title it no longer holds after the 63% decline. a) accolade: means an honour, award or special distinction, matching "that" title of being the world's largest penguin colony, which the island has lost. b) habitat: means the natural home of an animal, violating the requirement since the island is still a habitat — over a third of the chinstraps remain and the macaroni penguins are "thriving" there; what it has lost is the distinction of being the largest colony. c) colony: means a group of animals living together, violating the requirement since "lost that colony" would mean the penguins are gone entirely, while "63% fewer occupied nests" shows over a third remain; the island lost its ranking, not the colony itself. d) plaudits: means praise, close in meaning, but is a plural noun, violating the requirement since the singular "that" cannot come before a plural — it would have to be "those plaudits."

- Blank (3) में "that" के बाद ऐसा singular noun चाहिए जो किसी honour या खास distinction को बताए, क्योंकि "that" island के "the largest penguin colony in the world" वाले status की तरफ point करता है — वो title जो 63% गिरावट के बाद अब उसके पास नहीं है। a) accolade: इसका meaning है कोई honour, award या खास distinction, जो दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी penguin colony होने वाले उस title से match करता है जिसे island खो चुका है। b) habitat: इसका meaning है किसी जानवर का natural घर, जो violate करता है क्योंकि island अब भी habitat है — chinstraps का एक-तिहाई से ज़्यादा हिस्सा अब भी वहीं है और macaroni penguins वहाँ "thriving" हैं; उसने जो खोया है वो सबसे बड़ी colony होने की distinction है। c) colony: इसका meaning है साथ रहने वाले जानवरों का group, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "lost that colony" का मतलब होगा penguins पूरी तरह disappear हो गए, जबकि "63% fewer occupied nests"

दिखाता है कि एक-तिहाई से ज़्यादा अब भी हैं; island ने अपनी ranking खोई है, colony नहीं। d) plaudits: इसका meaning है तारीफ, meaning करीब है, पर यह plural noun है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि singular "that" किसी plural से पहले नहीं आ सकता — इसके लिए "those plaudits" चाहिए होता।

24. D) archipelago

Blank (4) needs a singular noun after "a remote," naming what the "South Sandwich Islands" are as a whole — a set of islands — since the name itself is plural and Zavodovski is described as one "volcanic island" among them. a) peninsula: means a piece of land almost surrounded by water but joined to a mainland, like the southern tip of India, violating the requirement since these are separate "Islands," and "remote ... north of the Antarctic continent" shows they are not attached to any mainland. b) glacier: means a slow-moving river of ice, fitting the Antarctic setting, but violating the requirement since the passage describes islands with "bleak, rocky terrain" and a "volcanic island," not a mass of ice. c) insular: is an adjective meaning relating to an island, close in sense, but violating the requirement since "a remote ____" needs a noun after the adjective "remote"; "a remote insular north of..." leaves the phrase without a noun. d) archipelago: means a group of islands, matching the plural "South Sandwich Islands," of which Zavodovski is one.

- Blank (4) में "a remote" के बाद ऐसा singular noun चाहिए जो पूरे "South Sandwich Islands" को एक साथ बताए — यानी islands का एक group — क्योंकि नाम खुद plural है और Zavodovski को उनमें से एक "volcanic island" बताया गया है। a) peninsula: इसका meaning है ज़मीन का ऐसा हिस्सा जो लगभग चारों तरफ पानी से घिरा हो पर mainland से जुड़ा हो, जैसे India का southern tip, जो violate करता है क्योंकि ये अलग-अलग "Islands" हैं, और "remote ... north of the Antarctic continent" दिखाता है कि ये किसी mainland से जुड़े नहीं हैं। b) glacier: इसका meaning है धीरे-धीरे खिसकने वाली बर्फ की नदी, जो Antarctic setting में fit लगता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि passage "bleak, rocky terrain" और "volcanic island" वाले islands की बात करता है, बर्फ के ढेर की नहीं। c) insular: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है island से जुड़ा, sense में करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "a remote ____" में adjective "remote" के बाद noun चाहिए; "a remote insular north of..." में कोई noun नहीं बचता। d) archipelago: इसका meaning है islands का group, जो plural "South Sandwich Islands" से match करता है, जिनमें से एक Zavodovski है।

25. B) sailed

Blank (5) needs a past-tense verb describing how the team travelled for "15 days" to reach a remote island near Antarctica — a long journey across the sea. a) trekked: means made a long, hard journey on foot, violating the requirement since no one can walk across the sea to reach a remote island; trekking happens over land. b) sailed: means travelled by ship across the sea, matching a 15-day journey to a remote island and the past-tense narrative. c) embarked: means went on board a ship or began a journey, violating the requirement since embarking is a single moment — the moment of boarding — and cannot last "for 15 days"; with "for," it takes a destination ("embarked for South Georgia"), not a length of time. d) navigate: means to steer a ship or plan its route, close in sense, but is present tense, violating the requirement since the passage reports a finished expedition in the past ("led," "suggested"), so the verb must be past.

- Blank (5) में ऐसा past-tense verb चाहिए जो बताए कि team Antarctica के पास एक remote island तक पहुँचने के लिए "15 days" तक कैसे travel करती रही — यानी समुद्र में एक लंबी journey। a) trekked: इसका meaning है पैदल लंबी, मुश्किल यात्रा करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि कोई भी समुद्र पार करके पैदल remote island तक नहीं जा सकता; trekking ज़मीन पर होती है। b) sailed: इसका meaning है ship से समुद्र में यात्रा करना, जो remote island तक 15 दिन की journey और passage की past-tense narration, दोनों से match करता है। c) embarked: इसका meaning है ship पर चढ़ना या journey शुरू करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि embark करना एक पल का काम है — ship पर चढ़ने का पल — जो "for 15 days" तक नहीं चल सकता; "for" के साथ इसके बाद destination आता है ("embarked for South Georgia"), समय की लंबाई नहीं। d) navigate: इसका meaning है ship को चलाना या उसका रास्ता तय करना, sense में करीब है, पर यह present tense है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि passage पूरी हो चुकी expedition को past में बता रहा है ("led," "suggested"), इसलिए verb past में होना चाहिए।