

Livelihood scheme for women deserves better

The Centre's **decision** to **let** its **flagship** urban **livelihoods** scheme **lapse** without a successor **is** **injudicious** and **perplexing**. This is particularly so given the positive impact that the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) has had on the social and financial **empowerment** of women. Since its launch in 2014, the scheme has helped create 10.02 lakh self-help groups (SHGs), covering more than one crore women across cities. To risk leaving these **beneficiaries** **adrift** for want of continued support would be to **betray** the promise contained in slogans about women-led development **invoked** by parties across the **spectrum**.

Significantly, **concerns** over funding and the policy **vacuum** created by the end of NULM in October 2024, **cut across** party lines. Of the five states that have **flagged** the issue — Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura — only the first two are Opposition-ruled. All five have **sought** funding to ensure continued support to SHGs and prevent **disruption** to their access to institutional credit and bank linkages. **Addressing** these concerns **is** **critical** to the larger goals of **poverty alleviation** and support to women's entrepreneurship. There is **ample** evidence of SHGs' capacity to advance women's social and economic empowerment — by improving access to credit and skills, building financial literacy and leadership, and increasing self-confidence and **mobility**. The **impact** of initiatives such as Didi ki Rasoi and Bank Sakhis under Bihar's JEEViKA scheme **shows** how such programmes can put money in women's hands while shifting them from dependent household roles to decision-makers. Kerala's Kudumbashree offers an even more **expansive** model, **evolving** from credit groups into a network involved in community kitchens, waste collection and training SHGs in other states.

States, too, must **do their part**. They have found resources for cash-transfer schemes; they must prioritise programmes for women that build enduring economic capacity. SHGs are institutions through which women acquire skills, networks, and a greater **say** in households and communities. To ensure these gains are **sustained**, efforts must be **directed** towards ensuring access to training, mentorship and institutional support. **Going forward**, it is not enough to expand SHG numbers — investment must also be made in the human resources, **infrastructure**, credit linkages and market networks that allow them to **thrive**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Livelihood** (noun) - income, sustenance, employment, occupation, living आजीविका
2. **Let** (verb) - allow, permit, authorize, grant, enable अनुमति देना
3. **Flagship** (adjective) - chief, primary, leading, principal, foremost प्रमुख
4. **Livelihood** (noun) - income, sustenance, employment, occupation, living आजीविका
5. **Lapse** (verb) - expire, terminate, end, cease, stop समाप्त होना
6. **Injudicious** (adjective) - unwise, foolish, imprudent, ill-advised, reckless अविवेकी
7. **Perplexing** (adjective) - puzzling, baffling, confusing, bewildering, mystifying हैरान करने वाला
8. **Empowerment** (noun) - authorization, emancipation, liberation, equipping, strengthening सशक्तिकरण
9. **Beneficiary** (noun) - recipient, receiver, payee, assignee, heir लाभार्थी
10. **Adrift** (adjective) - aimless, lost, floating, unanchored, directionless भटका हुआ
11. **Betray** (verb) - deceive, cheat, fail, forsake, abandon धोखा देना
12. **Invoke** (verb) - cite, appeal, reference, evoke, summon हवाला देना
13. **Spectrum** (noun) - range, gamut, scope, sweep, extent दायरा
14. **Cut across** (phrasal verb) - to affect or be true for different groups that usually remain separate सभी दलों को समान रूप से प्रभावित करना
15. **Flag** (verb) - highlight, indicate, identify, mark, point out ध्यान दिलाना
16. **Seek** (verb) - request, pursue, ask, desire, solicit मांगना
17. **Disruption** (noun) - disturbance, interruption, interference, obstruction, stoppage बाधा
18. **Address** (verb) - tackle, confront, handle, manage, approach निपटना
19. **Critical** (adjective) - crucial, vital, essential, pivotal, important महत्वपूर्ण
20. **Poverty** (noun) - destitution, penury, impoverishment, indigence, hardship गरीबी
21. **Alleviation** (noun) - reduction, mitigation, relief, lessening, easing निवारण या कमी
22. **Ample** (adjective) - plentiful, abundant, copious, substantial, sufficient पर्याप्त
23. **Mobility** (noun) - movement, flexibility, adaptability, motion, maneuverability गतिशीलता
24. **Expansive** (adjective) - extensive, broad, wide, comprehensive, widespread व्यापक
25. **Evolve** (verb) - develop, progress, advance, mature, grow विकसित होना
26. **Do one's part** (phrase) - to take responsibility and contribute one's share of the work अपना योगदान देना
27. **Say** (noun) - voice, influence, vote, authority, input राय

28. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, continue,
preserve, keep, uphold बनाए रखना

29. **Direct** (verb) - aim, focus, guide, point,
steer निर्देशित करना

30. **Going forward** (phrase) - progressing into
the future भविष्य में

31. **Infrastructure** (noun) - foundation,
framework, base, structure, underpinning
बुनियादी ढांचा

32. **Thrive** (verb) - flourish, prosper, succeed,
bloom, grow फलना-फूलना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Scheme discontinued: The Centre's decision to allow the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to lapse without a successor has raised serious concerns.
2. Women's empowerment: Launched in 2014, DAY-NULM has played an important role in promoting the social and financial empowerment of women in urban areas.
3. Large-scale coverage: The scheme has helped establish 10.02 lakh self-help groups (SHGs), covering more than one crore women across Indian cities.
4. Risk to beneficiaries: Without continued government support, millions of women may lose access to essential financial assistance, training and institutional support.
5. Political consensus: Concerns about the scheme's discontinuation cut across party lines, showing that women's livelihood support is an important national issue.
6. States seek financial support: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have requested funding to ensure the continued functioning of SHGs.
7. Credit and banking disruption: The absence of a successor scheme could disrupt women's access to institutional credit, banking facilities and financial linkages.
8. Poverty alleviation: Supporting SHGs is essential for reducing poverty, strengthening women's entrepreneurship and promoting inclusive economic development.
9. Multiple benefits of SHGs: SHGs improve access to credit and skills, promote financial literacy, develop leadership abilities and increase women's self-confidence and mobility.
10. Bihar's JEEViKA model: Initiatives such as Didi ki Rasoi and Bank Sakhis demonstrate how women can earn incomes, provide services and participate in financial activities.
11. Kerala's Kudumbashree model: Kudumbashree has expanded beyond credit groups into community kitchens, waste collection and training programmes for SHGs in other States.
12. States' responsibility: State governments must allocate adequate resources to women's livelihood programmes rather than focusing disproportionately on short-term cash-transfer schemes.
13. Greater decision-making power: SHGs help women develop skills, build social networks and gain a stronger voice in household and community decisions.
14. Need for sustained investment: Women's economic progress requires continuous access to training, mentorship, institutional assistance, infrastructure, credit and market networks.
15. Way forward: The government should introduce a suitable successor to DAY-NULM and focus not only on increasing the number of SHGs but also on making them financially sustainable and economically successful.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary purpose behind citing Bihar's JEEViKA initiatives?** [Editorial page]
- A. To showcase how livelihoods alter household agency.
 - B. To prove rural programs outperform urban missions.
 - C. To illustrate direct rivalry with southern models.
 - D. To demonstrate the breakdown of central credit.
2. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
- A. Universal cash transfers are superior to institutional bank credit programs.
 - B. Southern community networks represent the only workable municipal poverty model.
 - C. Sustaining urban livelihood architectures is vital for long-term female empowerment.
 - D. State administrations bear the primary responsibility for rural economic transformation.
3. **What does the phrase "leaving these beneficiaries adrift" most likely refer to?**
- A. Abandoning organized groups without institutional or financial backing.
 - B. Displacing registered street vendors from regulated commercial zones.
 - C. Reallocating microfinance quotas away from established municipal groups.
 - D. Forcing community kitchen operators to compete with firms.
4. **The tone of the passage is best described as:**
- A. Cautious and apologetic
 - B. Disapproving and prescriptive
 - C. Sarcastic and dismissive
 - D. Optimistic and uncritical
5. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**
- PERPLEXING
- A. Lucid
 - B. Tangled
 - C. Deceptive
 - D. Fleeting
6. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**
- The technician explained that the system had crashed due to a power surge.
- A. The technician explained, "The system had crashed due to a power surge."
 - B. The technician said, "The system have crashed due to a power surge."
 - C. The technician explained, "The system has crash due to a power surge."
 - D. The technician explained, "The system crashes due to a power surge."
7. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**
- The company is currently under threat from a potential lawsuit.
- A. under threat of
 - B. under threat by
 - C. on threat from
 - D. No substitution

8. The following sentence has been divided into three parts. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error (ignore any punctuation errors, if any). If there is no error in the sentence, then select 'No Error'. (A) The investigation revealed that the culprit, / (B) rather than being remorseful, was insolent enough / (C) to have been taunted the victims during the trial. / (D) No Error
- A. The investigation revealed that the culprit
B. rather than being remorseful, was insolent enough
C. to have been taunted the victims during the trial
D. No error
9. **Direction: In the following question, the first sentence is given in its correct position, followed by four sentences marked A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the four sentences in the correct order to form a coherent paragraph.**
- This is Justin Rose's second visit to India.
- A. "That was back in the day before DLF became the DLF of now," Rose said.
B. A 13-time winner on the PGA Tour, Rose hit the peak in 2013 when he won the U.S. Open, his first and only Major title.
C. The first was a good 22 years ago, when the English golfer played a skins game at DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurgaon.
D. Rose's own journey over the last decades has seen tremendous highs.
- A. A C B D
B. C D A B
C. D B C A
D. C A D B
10. The following sentence has two blanks. Choose the most suitable set of prepositions from the given options to fill in the blanks and complete the sentence meaningfully:
- She sat ____ the fireplace ____ keep warm.
- A. below, from
B. above, with
C. above, with
D. near, to
11. **Choose the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**
- The impecunious artist struggled to make ends meet.
- A. Penniless
B. Wealthy
C. Generous
D. Careful
12. **Choose the word that means the same as "Disrespect".**
- A. Irreverence
B. Cruelty
C. Friendly
D. Appreciate
13. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
- To give the cold shoulder
- A. To show kindness

- B. To ignore or slight
C. To embrace warmly
D. To show support
14. **Choose the most appropriate antonym of the underlined word.**
The politician claimed his rivals were trying to traduce his reputation.
A. Slander
B. Defame
C. Malign
D. Exalt
15. **Choose the antonym of 'scrupulous':**
A. Principled
B. Ethical
C. Careless
D. Dishonest
16. **Choose the most suitable preposition from the given options to fill in the blank in the following sentence:**
My house is just one-kilometre ____ the beach.
A. to
B. of
C. till
D. from
17. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
A short amusing story
A. Anecdote
B. Chronicle
C. Epistle
D. Essay
18. **Direction: Rearrange the following five sentences (A, B, C, D, and E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
A. When the cheering dies away, a set of chattering clockwork teeth is placed on the speaker's lectern and clatters on for three minutes.
B. This is the "Nobody for President" campaign now going into its final weeks with a coast-to-coast tour starting here and ending up in New York on election day.
C. The 1976 U.S. Presidential campaign is not all Jimmy Carter, Gerry Ford, and television debates; there is another candidate nobody has yet seen.
D. Confetti and tickertape rain down on an open car as it arrives with an empty back seat, where nobody is the evening's speaker and nobody is introduced.
E. Behind the spectacle is campaign organiser Hugh Romney, a former poet who calls himself Wavy Gravy and argues that the office of President is ridiculous.
A. D-A-B-E-C
B. C-D-A-B-E
C. B-C-D-A-E
D. C-E-B-D-A

19. Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.

The DNA strands were separated through _____ methods.

- A. electroforesis
- B. electrophoresis
- C. electrophorresis
- D. electrophoreses

20. Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.

The complaint has been registered by the customer.

- A. The customer registers the complaint.
- B. The customer has registered the complaint.
- C. The customer registered the complaint.
- D. The complaint registers the customer.

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

The tough outer covering of the eyeball is called the sclera. In humans, the sclerae (in both eyes) are white. This allows someone standing a distance away to easily say which way a person is looking.

Scientists are not sure why human sclerae are white. Chimpanzees may have white, brown or darker sclerae. Bonobos and Sumatran orangutans have light brown sclerae. On the other hand, researchers have documented pale sclerae in golden langurs and southern pig-tailed macaques and some leopards and sea lions.

One leading idea is called the cooperative eye hypothesis, which says we evolved (1) conspicuous eyes because our ancestors could benefit from signalling to others which way they were looking. So some of them could follow another person's glance and know if there was food or danger in a particular direction.

However, a review published in 2025 in Biological Reviews said the hypothesis _____(3) not accumulated enough evidence. For example, in 2023, scientists found that the chimpanzees they were studying in Uganda were able to say where other individuals were looking even with darker sclerae. Instead, the review asked scientists to consider other possibilities, such as protection _____(5) sunlight and (2) random evolutionary changes that _____(4) across generations.

21. The word "conspicuous" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. obscure
- B. furtive
- C. imperceptible
- D. salient

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "random" as used in the passage: (2)

- A. fortuitous
- B. deliberate
- C. arbitrary
- D. haphazard

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. has

- B. have
- C. having
- D. were

24. **Choose the correct form of the verb to fill in the blank: (4)**

- A. occurs
- B. occurring
- C. occur
- D. occurred

25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**

- A. over
- B. from
- C. with
- D. at

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) To showcase how livelihoods alter household agency.

Passage: "The impact of initiatives such as Didi ki Rasoi and Bank Sakhis under Bihar's JEEViKA scheme shows how such programmes can put money in women's hands while shifting them from dependent household roles to decision-makers."----The author gives JEEViKA as proof that SHG-type programmes work. The passage says they put money in women's hands and move them from dependent roles at home to decision-makers. "Household agency" means having a say and making decisions at home. So the example shows how livelihood programmes change women's position in the household. Option A says this.

- B) Incorrect. The option says rural programmes beat urban missions, but the passage never compares rural and urban programmes. JEEViKA is used as an example of what SHGs can achieve.
- C) Incorrect. The option says it shows rivalry with southern models, but the passage presents Kerala's Kudumbashree as another strong example, not as a competitor. Both support the same point.
- D) Incorrect. The option says it shows the breakdown of central credit, but the passage uses JEEViKA to show success. The worry about credit access is raised separately, about the lapse of NULM.

2. C) Sustaining urban livelihood architectures is vital for long-term female empowerment.

Passage: "The Centre's decision to let its flagship urban livelihoods scheme lapse without a successor is injudicious and perplexing." Also: "Going forward, it is not enough to expand SHG numbers — investment must also be made in the human resources, infrastructure, credit linkages and market networks that allow them to thrive."----The passage begins by criticising the end of DAY-NULM, which built over 10 lakh SHGs for more than one crore urban women. It then shows how SHGs help women through credit, skills, confidence and decision-making power. It ends by saying support must continue and grow deeper. So the main idea is that urban livelihood support must be kept going because it empowers women in the long term. Option C says this.

- Option A is incorrect because the option says cash transfers are better than bank credit programmes, but the passage says states have found money for cash transfers and should now prioritise programmes that build lasting economic capacity. It never calls cash transfers better.
- Option B is incorrect because the option says southern networks are the only workable model, but the passage also praises Bihar's JEEViKA, and it says concerns come from states across the country, including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tripura. Kerala is called "an even more expansive model," not the only one.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says states have the main responsibility for rural transformation, but the passage is about an urban scheme, and it first blames the Centre for letting it lapse. The duties of states come up only as a secondary point.

3. A) Abandoning organized groups without institutional or financial backing.

Passage: “To risk leaving these beneficiaries adrift for want of continued support would be to betray the promise contained in slogans about women-led development invoked by parties across the spectrum.” Also: “All five have sought funding to ensure continued support to SHGs and prevent disruption to their access to institutional credit and bank linkages.” ---- “Adrift” means floating without direction or anchor. The passage says the beneficiaries (the women in SHGs) would be left “adrift” “for want of continued support,” meaning they would lose the help they depend on. The states also want funding so SHGs do not lose access to bank credit and linkages. So the phrase means leaving these groups without institutional and financial support. Option A says this.

- Option B is incorrect because the option says street vendors are removed from commercial zones, but the passage never mentions street vendors or commercial zones.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says microfinance quotas are moved away from municipal groups, but the passage does not talk about shifting quotas. It says the scheme lapsed and support may stop.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says kitchen operators must compete with firms, but the passage mentions community kitchens only as part of Kerala’s Kudumbashree model. “Adrift” is about losing support, not about competition.

4. B) Disapproving and prescriptive

Passage lines: “The Centre’s decision to let its flagship urban livelihoods scheme lapse without a successor is injudicious and perplexing.” Also: “States, too, must do their part... they must prioritise programmes for women that build enduring economic capacity.” ---The author starts by calling the Centre’s decision “injudicious and perplexing.” This shows clear disapproval. The author also says the Centre would “betray the promise” of its own slogans. In the last paragraph, the author says what states “must” do and what investment is needed. So the author criticises the lapse and also tells the government and states what to do next. This is “disapproving and prescriptive.”

- Option A is incorrect because the option says the tone is cautious and apologetic, but the passage speaks firmly, with strong words like “injudicious” and “betray.” There is no apology and no hesitation anywhere in the passage.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says the tone is sarcastic and dismissive, but the author takes the issue seriously. The author backs the points with data (10.02 lakh SHGs, over one crore women) and examples like JEEViKA and Kudumbashree.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says the tone is optimistic and uncritical, but the author clearly criticises the Centre’s decision. The author also says that expanding SHG numbers alone is “not enough.”

5. A) Lucid

Passage line: “The Centre’s decision to let its flagship urban livelihoods scheme lapse without a successor is injudicious and perplexing.” ---Here, “perplexing” means confusing or hard to understand. The author is saying the Centre’s decision makes no sense. The opposite of confusing is clear and easy to understand, and “lucid” means exactly that.

- a. Option B is incorrect because “tangled” means twisted or complicated.

- b. Option C is incorrect because “deceptive” means misleading.
- c. Option D is incorrect because “fleeting” means lasting only a short time.
6. A) Indirect Speech को Direct Speech में बदलते समय ‘that’ हटाकर Reported Speech को inverted commas में लिखा जाता है और Reporting Verb ‘explained’ बना रह सकता है। दिए गए विकल्पों में केवल A व्याकरणिक रूप से सही है: The technician explained, “The system had crashed due to a power surge.” Option B में ‘system have’ (subject-verb agreement) गलत है, C में ‘has crash’ (V1 के साथ has) गलत है, और D में ‘crashes’ से अर्थ बदल जाता है।
To change Indirect into Direct Speech, ‘that’ is removed and the reported speech is put within inverted commas; the reporting verb ‘explained’ may be retained. Among the options, only A is grammatically correct: The technician explained, “The system had crashed due to a power surge.” Option B has a subject-verb agreement error (‘system have’), C wrongly uses ‘has crash’, and D (‘crashes’) changes the meaning.
7. A) ‘under threat from’ के बदले ‘**under threat of**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब किसी संभावित घटना/परिणाम (a potential lawsuit) के खतरे की बात हो, तो “under threat of” fixed expression का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The factory is under threat of closure. (‘under threat from’ सामान्यतः खतरे के स्रोत/व्यक्ति के साथ आता है।)
 - ‘under threat of’ will be used instead of ‘under threat from’ because when referring to a possible event or outcome (a potential lawsuit), the fixed expression is “under threat of”; Like— The factory is under threat of closure. (‘under threat from’ usually introduces the source of danger.)
8. C) ‘to have been taunted’ के बदले ‘**to have taunted**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ culprit स्वयं ताना मारने (taunt) का कार्य कर रहा है और उसके बाद object ‘the victims’ आया है, इसलिए Active Perfect Infinitive (to have + V3) आएगा; ‘to have been + V3’ Passive रूप है जिसके बाद object नहीं आता; जैसे— He was foolish enough to have trusted a stranger. • ‘to have taunted’ will be used instead of ‘to have been taunted’ because the culprit is the doer of the action and the verb has an object (‘the victims’), so the active perfect infinitive (to have + V3) is required; ‘to have been + V3’ is passive and cannot take an object; Like— He was foolish enough to have trusted a stranger.
9. D) **C A D B**
 Explanation:
 Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence C opening sentence के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि lead sentence में Justin Rose की "second visit to India" का उल्लेख है, और Sentence C स्वाभाविक रूप से उनकी पहली यात्रा का विवरण देता है—"The first was a good 22 years ago..."। इसलिए opening sentence और C एक सीधा chronological link बनाते हैं।
 - Sentence A Sentence C को follow करेगा और C-A का मजबूत mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sentence C में Gurgaon के "DLF Golf and Country Club" का जिक्र होने के बाद, Sentence A में Rose का direct quote आता है जहाँ demonstrative pronoun "That" उसी 22 साल पुराने DLF क्लब के दौर को refer करता है।
 - Sentence B और Sentence D एक clear pair बनाते हैं। Sentence D Rose के career के उतार-चढ़ाव और बड़ी उपलब्धियों ("tremendous highs") का general introduction देता है।

- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा और paragraph को conclude करेगा क्योंकि यह Sentence D के "tremendous highs" को specific achievements (13-time PGA Tour winner और 2013 U.S. Open Major title) के साथ quantify करता है। इसलिए D-B अगला अनिवार्य mandatory pair है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows the opening sentence directly via numerical and chronological continuity: the lead sentence notes Rose's "second visit", and Sentence C immediately accounts for his maiden trip ("The first was a good 22 years ago...").
- Sentence A forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence C (C-A). Sentence C introduces the venue (DLF Golf and Country Club), and Sentence A anchors Rose's retrospective quote via the demonstrative pronoun "That", reflecting on the club's past era.
- Sentence D pivots the narrative from his travel recollections to his overarching professional golf career, establishing that his journey over subsequent decades witnessed "tremendous highs".
- Sentence B follows Sentence D as a natural mandatory pair (D-B) to close the passage, validating the "tremendous highs" with definitive statistical accolades: 13 PGA Tour titles and the 2013 U.S. Open Major championship.

10. D) 'near' और 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'near' का अर्थ है "के पास" (अग्निकुंड के पास बैठना), और उद्देश्य (purpose) दिखाने के लिए infinitive 'to + V1' (to keep warm) आता है; जैसे— He sat near the heater to dry his clothes. 'below'/'above' स्थिति के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं हैं, और 'from'/'with' उद्देश्य नहीं दर्शाते।

- 'near' and 'to' should be used because 'near' means "close to" (sitting close to the fireplace), and the infinitive 'to + V1' (to keep warm) shows purpose; Like— He sat near the heater to dry his clothes. 'below'/'above' do not fit the position, and 'from'/'with' do not express purpose.

11. A) **Impecunious** (adjective) – having little or no money. निर्धन

Synonym: **Penniless** (adjective) – having no money at all. कंगाल

- **Wealthy** (adjective) – rich. धनी
- **Generous** (adjective) – willing to give freely. उदार
- **Careful** (adjective) – cautious. सावधान

12. A) **Disrespect** (noun) – lack of respect or courtesy. अनादर

Synonym: **Irreverence** (noun) – lack of respect for something that is usually respected. अश्रद्धा

- **Cruelty** (noun) – deliberate infliction of pain or suffering. क्रूरता
- **Friendly** (adjective) – kind and pleasant. मित्रवत
- **Appreciate** (verb) – to value or recognise the worth of. सराहना करना

13. B) **To give the cold shoulder** (idiom) – To ignore or slight someone deliberately जानबूझकर उपेक्षा करना, रूखा व्यवहार करना

14. D) **Traduce** (verb) – to damage someone's reputation by false statements. बदनाम करना

Antonym: **Exalt** (verb) – to praise highly or raise in rank. गुणगान करना

- **Slander** (verb) – to make a false spoken statement that harms reputation. मानहानि करना
 - **Defame** (verb) – to damage the good reputation of someone. बदनाम करना
 - **Malign** (verb) – to speak ill of someone. निंदा करना
15. C) **Scrupulous** (adjective) – Careful, honest, principled, conscientious. ईमानदार / अत्यंत सावधान
Antonym: **Careless** (adjective) – Negligent, inattentive, reckless, irresponsible. लापरवाह
- **Principled** (adjective) – Moral, ethical, upright, honorable. सिद्धांतवादी
 - **Ethical** (adjective) – Moral, righteous, virtuous, proper. नैतिक
 - **Dishonest** (adjective) – Deceitful, untruthful, fraudulent, corrupt. बेईमान
16. D) **'from'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी स्थान से दूरी (distance) बताने के लिए "distance + from" का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The station is two kilometres from my house. 'to', 'of' और 'till' दूरी के साथ इस संरचना में प्रयोग नहीं होते।
- 'from' should be used because distance from a place is expressed as "distance + from"; Like— The station is two kilometres from my house. 'to', 'of' and 'till' are not used in this structure.
17. A) **Anecdote** (noun) – A short amusing or interesting story about a real incident छोटा रोचक / मनोरंजक प्रसंग
- **Chronicle** (noun) – a factual written account of important events कालक्रमिक विवरण
 - **Epistle** (noun) – a formal or literary letter पत्र
 - **Essay** (noun) – a short piece of writing on a particular subject निबंध

18. B) C-D-A-B-E

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह standalone introductory sentence है, जो 1976 के अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के मुख्य दावेदारों के साथ एक अनदेखे उम्मीदवार का primary backdrop तैयार करता है।
- Sentence D Sentence C को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह अनदेखे उम्मीदवार के व्यंग्यात्मक अभियान की पहली रैली का दृश्य दिखाता है, जहाँ खुली कार की खाली सीट पर कन्फेटी बरसती है।
- Sentence A Sentence D के तुरंत बाद आएगा और D-A का मजबूत mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sentence D में भाषण और जयकारों के दृश्य के बाद, Sentence A उस दृश्य को आगे बढ़ाते हुए बताता है कि तालियां थमने पर लेक्चरन पर सिर्फ खिलौना दांत रख दिए जाते हैं।
- Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इस पूरे तमाशे की पहचान उजागर करता है— "This is the 'Nobody for President' campaign..." —और इसके देशव्यापी दौरे का जिक्र करता है।
- Sentence E Sentence B को follow करेगा और paragraph को conclude करेगा क्योंकि अभियान के नाम और दौरे के खुलासे के बाद यह इसके मुख्य आयोजक, कवि Wavy Gravy, और उनकी विचारधारा को सामने लाता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C serves as the standalone introductory sentence, framing the 1976 U.S. presidential election backdrop beyond Carter and Ford to hint at the unseen candidate.

- Sentence D follows Sentence C directly by introducing the visual satire of the rally, depicting an open parade car arriving with an empty back seat.
- Sentence A forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence D (D-A), detailing the comical climax on stage once the initial cheering around the empty speaker fades out.
- Sentence B follows Sentence A to formally define the event through the demonstrative lead "This is the 'Nobody for President' campaign...", outlining its nationwide tour timeline.
- Sentence E follows Sentence B to logically wrap up the passage by revealing the eccentric brain behind the movement, introducing poet and organizer Wavy Gravy and his anti-presidential philosophy.

19. B) The correct spelling is '**electrophoresis**' which means "a technique for separating molecules such as DNA by applying an electric field" वैद्युत कण संचलन।

20. B) Passive से Active में बदलते समय Agent ('by the customer') Subject बन जाता है और "The complaint" Object बन जाता है। "has been registered" (Present Perfect Passive) Active में "has registered" (Present Perfect) बनता है। सही उत्तर: The customer has registered the complaint. Options A और C में Tense बदल गया है, और D में subject-object उलट गए हैं। To change Passive into Active, the agent ('by the customer') becomes the subject and "The complaint" becomes the object. "has been registered" becomes "has registered" (Present Perfect). Hence: The customer has registered the complaint. Options A and C change the tense, and D reverses subject and object.

21. D) **salient**

The passage discusses how humans evolved easily noticeable or prominent eyes ("conspicuous eyes") so ancestors could signal where they were looking. The question asks for the closest synonym for "conspicuous" (meaning easily seen or attracting attention).

- obscure: means not discovered or known about; uncertain (antonym).
- furtive: means attempting to avoid notice or attention, secretive (antonym).
- imperceptible: means impossible to perceive (antonym).
- salient: means most noticeable or important, serving as the closest synonym for "conspicuous."

यह sentence मानव आँखों के स्पष्ट या आसानी से दिखाई देने वाले ("conspicuous") होने को describe करता है। Question में "conspicuous" (स्पष्ट / सुस्पष्ट / ध्यान खींचने वाला) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है।

- obscure: इसका meaning अस्पष्ट या धुंधला (antonym) होता है।
- furtive: इसका meaning गुप्त या चोरी-छिपे (antonym) होता है।
- imperceptible: इसका meaning जो दिखाई न दे (antonym) होता है।
- salient: इसका meaning 'प्रमुख, स्पष्ट या आसानी से नज़र आने वाला' (noticeable/prominent) होता है, जो "conspicuous" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है।

22. B) **deliberate**

The sentence refers to unplanned or chance evolutionary shifts ("random evolutionary changes"). The question asks for the antonym of "random" (meaning made, done, or happening without method or conscious decision).

- fortuitous: means happening by chance rather than intention (synonym).

- deliberate: means done consciously and intentionally, serving as the direct antonym of "random."
- arbitrary: means based on random choice or personal whim (synonym).
- haphazard: means lacking any obvious principle of organization (synonym).

यह sentence विकासवादी परिवर्तनों के बिना किसी योजना या यादृच्छिक ("random") तरीके से होने को describe करता है। Question में "random" (यादृच्छिक / बिना किसी योजना के) का direct antonym पूछा गया है।

- fortuitous: इसका meaning आकस्मिक या संयोगवश (synonym) होता है।
- deliberate: इसका meaning 'जानबूझकर या सोचे-समझे तरीके से किया गया' (intentional/conscious) होता है, जो "random" का direct antonym है।
- arbitrary: इसका meaning मनमाना (synonym) होता है।
- haphazard: इसका meaning अव्यवस्थित या बिना योजना के (synonym) होता है।

23. A) has

The sentence describes a scientific review stating that the hypothesis lacks sufficient proof (the hypothesis ____ not accumulated enough evidence). The subject "hypothesis" is a singular noun, and it is followed by the past participle "accumulated" (V3). This requires a singular auxiliary verb to form the present perfect tense.

- has: is the singular present perfect auxiliary verb that correctly agrees with the singular subject "hypothesis."
- have: is a plural auxiliary verb, violating subject-verb agreement.
- having: is a participle and cannot function as a standalone finite auxiliary verb.
- were: is a plural past verb and does not take a V3 to form an active perfect tense.

यह sentence एक वैज्ञानिक समीक्षा के हवाले से बताता है कि परिकल्पना (hypothesis) ने पर्याप्त साक्ष्य नहीं जुटाए हैं। Subject "hypothesis" एक एकवचन (singular) संज्ञा है, जिसके बाद V3 ("accumulated") का प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए present perfect tense बनाने के लिए singular auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता है।

- has: यह singular auxiliary verb है जो subject-verb agreement के नियमानुसार "hypothesis has not accumulated" की संरचना में perfectly fit होता है।
- have: यह plural verb है।
- having: यह participle है।
- were: यह plural past verb है।

24. C) occur

The sentence describes an ongoing, general scientific fact about biology ("evolutionary changes that ____ across generations"). The relative pronoun "that" refers back to the plural noun "changes." Therefore, a plural present tense verb (base form) is strictly required.

- occurs: is the singular present verb (V1 + s), which violates agreement with the plural subject "changes."
- occurring: is a present participle and cannot act as a standalone main verb.
- occur: is the plural base verb that correctly agrees with "changes" to describe a timeless scientific process (changes that occur).
- occurred: is the past tense verb, which does not fit the description of a continuous, general evolutionary principle.

यह sentence पीढ़ियों के बीच होने वाले विकासवादी परिवर्तनों के सामान्य वैज्ञानिक तथ्य (general fact) को simple present tense में describe करता है। यहाँ relative pronoun "that" अपने antecedent "changes" (बहुवचन / plural) को refer कर रहा है, इसलिए plural verb की आवश्यकता है।

- occurs: यह singular verb है।
- occurring: यह participle है।
- occur: यह plural present verb (base form) है जो plural subject "changes" के साथ subject-verb agreement के नियमानुसार perfectly fit होता है।
- occurred: यह past tense है।

25. B) from

The passage discusses an alternative theory where the sclerae evolved to provide defense or shield the eyes against the sun (protection _____ sunlight). Blank (5) requires the correct preposition to indicate what is being guarded against.

- over: denotes position above.
- from: is the standard preposition used with "protection" to indicate guarding against a hazard or threat ("protection from").
- with: denotes accompaniment or tool.
- at: denotes specific location or time.

यह sentence सूरज की रोशनी (sunlight) से आँखों के बचाव या सुरक्षा ("protection") के बारे में बात कर रहा है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण में किसी खतरे या नुकसान से बचाव दर्शाने के लिए "protection" के साथ हमेशा preposition "from" का use किया जाता है।

- over: यह ऊपर दर्शाता है।
- from: यह निश्चित अभिव्यक्ति "protection from" (से बचाव / सुरक्षा) को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है।
- with: यह के साथ दर्शाता है।
- at: यह स्थान या समय दर्शाता है।