Critical ban: On recycling of lithium-ion batteries

India needs to create an entire **ecosystem** for recycling of lithium-ion batteries

On November 10, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade banned the export of lithium-ion battery **black mass** by moving it from the "free" to the "**prohibited**" list of exports. Black mass is an intermediate product when spent batteries and factory scrap are **shredded**. It contains valuable lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and graphite. The Commerce Ministry says the ban will ensure **feedstock** for domestic refiners, lift their capacity utilisation and **draw** investment. While the **recycling** of lead-acid batteries end-to-end **is** an **established** ecosystem and **formalised**, too, lithium-ion battery recycling is an **emerging** segment with only a few dozen licensed operators but has much **potential** given the scale of use of such batteries in EVs. While the ban will redirect supply, it will not automatically create a market and ecosystem. Just **banning** export without creating an entire ecosystem **will** only **lead to dumping** of lithium-ion batteries into landfills if the blackmass has no market. Blackmass production is a largely mechanical process but further downstream processing is more specialised chemical processing requiring larger investment and further policy support. If **downstream** units are online, their output can directly **feed into indigenous** lithium-ion battery manufacture.

India depends heavily on imports for **critical** minerals such as those used in battery inputs. Beyond working on supply **aspects**, the government must **address** the price gap to create a **robust** recycling market. Under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, producers buy extended producer responsibility (EPR) certificates from recyclers but these are undervalued. Cheap certificates reward recycling **on paper** over investment in **high-yield** plants. A floor **price** that covers the full cost of recovery, with digital tracking, would **fix** that. Rare earths show how recycling remains **a missed opportunity** for India because of policy gaps. A smartphone can be up to 1% neodymium-iron-boron magnet by **weight**. That puts its rare earth content at about 3,000 parts per million, comparable to India's monazite beach sands. **Extracting** it takes less energy than mining. A **magnet** separated from the phone **is** about 30% rare earth. Magnets **make up** as much as 3% of a hard drive, but are usable only if they are removed before the drive is shredded for data destruction. Yet the e-waste rules do not require rare earth separation. Rare earths need a separate EPR category, too. Payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ecosystem** (noun) - environment, network, system, framework, structure पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
2. **Black mass** (noun) - an intermediate mixture obtained from shredding and processing spent batteries बैटरी रीसाइक्लिंग से प्राप्त मिश्रण
3. **Prohibit** (verb) - forbid, ban, bar, restrict, enjoin प्रतिबंधित करना
4. **Shred** (verb) - tear, rip, cut, fragment, dismantle टुकड़े टुकड़े करना
5. **Feedstock** (noun) - material, resource, input, supply, provision कच्चा माल
6. **Draw** (verb) - attract, invite, allure, pull, entice आकर्षित करना
7. **Establish** (verb) - found, institute, create, constitute, initiate स्थापित करना
8. **Formalise** (verb) - regularise, validate, legitimize, authorize, sanction औपचारिक रूप देना
9. **Emerge** (verb) - appear, arise, surface, emanate, transpire उभरना
10. **Potential** (noun) - capability, capacity, aptitude, promise, ability क्षमता
11. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in a particular action or consequence का कारण बनना
12. **Dump** (verb) - dispose, discard, discharge, scrap, abandon कचरा फेंकना
13. **Downstream** (adjective) - occurring later in a production process or industry value chain उत्पादन के बाद का चरण
14. **Feed into** (phrasal verb) - to supply or contribute something to a larger process or system में योगदान देना
15. **Indigenous** (adjective) - native, domestic, local, homegrown, aboriginal स्वदेशी
16. **Critical** (adjective) - crucial, vital, essential, pivotal, imperative महत्वपूर्ण
17. **Aspect** (noun) - facet, feature, dimension, characteristic, component पहलू
18. **Address** (verb) - tackle, confront, handle, manage, resolve समाधान करना
19. **Robust** (adjective) - strong, sturdy, resilient, vigorous, tough मजबूत
20. **On paper** (phrase) - existing in theory rather than in practical reality केवल कागजों पर
21. **High-yield** (adjective) - producing a high return or large amount of product उच्च उपज वाला
22. **A missed opportunity** (noun) - a valuable chance to achieve something that was not taken एक गवांया हुआ अवसर
23. **Weight** (noun) - mass, heaviness, load, burden, gravity वजन
24. **Extract** (verb) - remove, withdraw, derive, pull, uproot निकालना
25. **Make up** (phrasal verb) - to form or constitute a part of a whole हिस्सा होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Export Ban:** On November 10, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) prohibited the export of lithium-ion battery black mass by shifting it from the 'Free' to the 'Prohibited' export category.
2. **Meaning of Black Mass:** Black mass is an intermediate product obtained by shredding spent lithium-ion batteries and factory scrap.
3. **Valuable Minerals:** Black mass contains valuable materials such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and graphite, which are essential for battery manufacturing.
4. **Government's Objective:** The Commerce Ministry aims to ensure domestic availability of raw materials, improve the capacity utilisation of Indian refiners and attract investment in the recycling sector.
5. **Emerging Industry:** Unlike lead-acid battery recycling, which has an established and formalised ecosystem, lithium-ion battery recycling is still an emerging industry in India.
6. **Growing Potential:** India has significant opportunities in lithium-ion battery recycling because of the increasing use of these batteries in electric vehicles (EVs).
7. **Limitations of the Ban:** Merely prohibiting black mass exports will not automatically create a domestic market or a complete recycling ecosystem.
8. **Risk of Landfill Dumping:** Without sufficient domestic processing facilities and buyers, discarded lithium-ion batteries could end up in landfills, creating environmental problems.
9. **Need for Advanced Processing:** Producing black mass involves largely mechanical processes, whereas extracting valuable minerals requires specialised chemical processing and substantial investment.
10. **Domestic Battery Manufacturing:** Establishing downstream processing facilities would allow recovered minerals to directly support indigenous lithium-ion battery manufacturing.
11. **Import Dependence:** India heavily depends on imports for critical minerals used in battery production. Therefore, developing domestic recycling capabilities is essential for reducing this dependence.
12. **Problem with EPR Certificates:** Under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, producers purchase Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates from recyclers. However, these certificates are currently undervalued, discouraging investment in advanced recycling facilities.
13. **Suggested Policy Reform:** The government should introduce a minimum or floor price for EPR certificates that covers the actual cost of mineral recovery, supported by digital tracking mechanisms.
14. **Untapped Rare Earth Potential:** Recycling electronic waste could help India recover rare earth elements. For example, smartphones contain neodymium-iron-boron magnets, while hard drives contain magnets that can be reused to recover valuable rare earth minerals. A magnet separated from a smartphone can contain approximately 30% rare earth elements.

15. **Separate EPR Category:** Existing e-waste rules do not mandate rare earth separation. The government should introduce a separate EPR category for rare earth minerals because conventional payment based on weight is unsuitable for recovering these valuable materials.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the author imply by stating that "payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals"?** [Editorial Page]
   A. Because rare earths occur in tiny fractions by weight despite high strategic value, pricing models must reflect recovery economics.
   B. Because neodymium magnets account for thirty per cent of a smartphone's total mass, weight-based fees would bankrupt electronics producers.
   C. Because shredding hard drives increases the total metallic weight of electronic scrap, weight-based EPR certificates overpay informal recyclers.
   D. Because India's monazite beach sands contain negligible rare-earth concentrations compared to lithium-ion battery black mass exports.
2. **Which of the following statements best captures the central thesis of the passage?**
   A. Banning black mass exports and expanding mechanical shredding plants will eliminate India's import dependence on critical battery minerals.
   B. Established lead-acid battery recyclers should transition into weight-based EPR certificate trading to finance rare-earth separation from shredded hard drives.
   C. Lowering certificate prices under the Battery Waste Management Rules will encourage EV manufacturers to invest directly in domestic monazite mining.
   D. Building a viable battery and rare-earth recycling ecosystem requires pairing supply restrictions with downstream chemical capacity, pricing reforms, and policy support.
3. **Which statement best explains why rare-earth recovery from discarded electronics remains underexploited in India despite promising mineral concentrations?**
   A. Smartphone neodymium magnets contain far lower rare-earth concentrations than monazite beach sands and require substantially higher extraction energy.
   B. Discarded computer hard drives contain negligible amounts of rare-earth magnets unless chemically processed into lithium-ion battery black mass.
   C. Existing e-waste regulations omit mandatory pre-shredding magnet separation and lack a dedicated EPR pricing category suited to trace minerals.
   D. Domestic refiners face strict export prohibitions on separated neodymium magnets that prevent them from achieving profitable capacity utilization.
4. **Why does the author argue that existing e-waste rules represent a missed opportunity for India's rare-earth supply?**
   A. Because they prohibit licensed operators from extracting neodymium magnets from spent smartphones and discarded computer hard drives domestically.
   B. Because they require domestic refiners to export intermediate black mass before recovering lithium, nickel, cobalt, and graphite locally.
   C. Because they force electronics manufacturers to rely primarily on coastal monazite sand mining rather than recycled battery inputs.
   D. Because they fail to mandate rare-earth separation before shredding and lack a dedicated EPR category beyond weight-based payments.
5. **In the sentence, "Producers buy EPR certificates from recyclers under the Battery Waste Management Rules," the prepositional phrase "under the Battery Waste Management Rules" functions as:**
   A. Noun phrase

A. Adverbial phrase
B. Participle phrase
C. Absolute phrase

1. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: AGITATION**
   A. Calmness
   B. Disturbance
   C. Approval
   D. Stillness
2. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the given phrase.**
   Keep on even keel
   A. To take severe measures against someone or something.
   B. To keep something in a steady and untroubled state.
   C. To expand operations or begin to explore new opportunities.
   D. To work together or cooperate with someone.
3. **Find the incorrect part of the sentence:**
   She congratulated him for his success.
   A. him for
   B. She congratulated
   C. no error
   D. his success!
4. **What is the antonym of "Sycophantic"?**
   A. Submissive
   B. Independent
   C. Fawning
   D. Flattering
5. **From the given alternatives, select the correct direct narration of the given indirect narration.**
   Tanvi told Rakesh that she believed the key to a happy life was maintaining strong relationships with her friends and family members.
   A. Tanvi said to Rakesh, "I believed the key to a happy life is maintaining strong relationships with your friends and family members."
   B. Tanvi said to Rakesh, "I believe the key to a happy life was maintaining strong relationships with your friends and family members."
   C. Tanvi said to Rakesh, "I believe the key to a happy life is maintained strong relationships with your friends and family members."
   D. Tanvi said to Rakesh, "I believe the key to a happy life is maintaining strong relationships with your friends and family members."
6. **In the following question, the passage is split into four parts and numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
   1. On the far side of the track, a shimmering turquoise lake flanked by pine forests.
   2. Alighting at the train station of Santa Linya in northern Spain, I paused to wonder what the railway engineers were thinking.

3. Ahead – the only way out – a rocky trail snaking up the limestone cliff.

4. A rough halt hewn out of the mountainside, with no ticket office, no waiting room, no sign of human habitation – just a single platform in the wilderness.

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

7. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
One who believes in giving equal opportunity to wome in all fields.

A. Fanatic
B. Misogynist
C. Philanderer
D. Feminist

8. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Contrite**
A. Unrepentant
B. Forgiving
C. Remorseful
D. Regretful

9. **Choose the option with the correct spelling.**
A. Trousseau
B. Trousaeu
C. Truosseau
D. Truoseau

10. **Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:**
The keys were found by him under the old wooden table.

A. He finds the keys under the old wooden table.
B. He is finding the keys under the old wooden table.
C. He found the keys under the old wooden table.
D. He was finding the keys under the old wooden table.

11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: AUTOCRATIC**
A. Authoritarian
B. Democratic
C. Submissive
D. Cooperative

12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
His actions are incompatible ____ his words.

A. to
B. for
C. with
D. by

13. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**

She is my **cousin sister**.

A. cousin
B. own cousin
C. cousin girl
D. cousin sibling

14. **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 numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

S1. At Camasunary bay on the Strathaird peninsula of the Isle of Skye, we watched an otter at low tide lifting seaweed to find crabs.

1. The mountain view from the summit's glaciated slabs is perhaps the finest in Scotland – or even Europe.

2. An hour passed, maybe two, before we headed back.

3. Boots off, we crossed one of Skye's shortest (and coldest) rivers, before slogging upwards through unforgiving heather to the col beneath the pathless hill Sgùrr na Strì.

4. Below is landlocked Loch Coruisk, girdled by the black teeth of the entire Cuillin ridge. Extraordinary.

S6. The otter was by then long gone, hopefully just as replete and satisfied as we were.

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

15. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the following sentence.**

The corporate law firm established a new subsidary to manage its international litigation and asset management operations.

A. litigation
B. subsidary
C. established
D. corporate

Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words or phrases from the options given below.

Ever since I (A)___ writing as a hobby, something curious has happened. Everyone around me has become my commissioning editor.

I am inundated with suggestions about what to write. My father, convinced that every human interest story deserves my views, forwards news clippings with the expectation that an essay will soon follow. Friends believe my pen, or rather my keyboard, should celebrate the unique bond between women. Then there are the worldly wise who feel that my profession, among many weighty matters, would benefit from my views.

While my heart receives these well-meaning suggestions with enthusiasm, my mind has never been particularly democratic and seems to have a taste of its own when it comes to writing. It invariably wanders towards cockroaches and ghosts rather than larger concerns. Besides, it writes only when genuinely interested.

This (B)___ for attracting unsolicited advice, I realise, runs across all creative pursuits. The (C)___ painter may be asked to paint a sunset here and a waterfall there, though her interest may lean towards modern art. The same holds true for sculpture, pottery, embroidery, anything. Suggestions are rarely made in isolation; they are usually followed by requests from well wishers who assume that everything we create is waiting to be gifted.

Luckily, writing is not considered a gift, unless you publish a book. Otherwise, imagine getting an essay on AI taking over jobs as a birthday present.

Perhaps my (D)___ to being told what to write goes back to the essay topics imposed on us at school: festivals, friendships, the woes of pollution. These essays demanded coherence, articulation, an attractive opening, and a logical conclusion. Mine never ticked any of the boxes. They were, at best, solemn, verbose, and boring.

The only essay I remember enjoying was the autobiography of a jailbird, for Hindi class. My protagonist, Shyam, a drug peddler recounting his journey up to his arrest, was dangerous, unapologetic, remorseless. My teacher was unimpressed. (E)___, apparently, was not moral enough; Shyam was expected to have a change of heart and take a solemn oath towards positive transformation. I was not happy. Perhaps that is why I never imagined writing would be something I would enjoy later in life.

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (A).**
    A. set off
    B. give up
    C. picked on
    D. took up
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (B).**
    A. remedy
    B. penchant
    C. immunity
    D. deterrent
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (C).**
    A. philistine
    B. dabble
    C. amateur
    D. commissioned
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (D).**
    A. detest
    B. aversion

C. gratitude
D. susceptibility

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (E).**
A. Being arrested
B. To be arrest
C. Got arrested
D. Arresting

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) Because rare earths occur in tiny fractions by weight despite high strategic value, pricing models must reflect recovery economics.

   passage: "A smartphone can be up to 1% neodymium-iron-boron magnet by weight. That puts its rare earth content at about 3,000 parts per million... Yet the e-waste rules do not require rare earth separation. Rare earths need a separate EPR category, too. Payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals."----The passage shows that rare earths make up only a very small part of a device by weight (about 3,000 parts per million in a phone). Heavy items like casings and batteries would dominate any payment based on total weight, so the tiny but valuable rare earth content would earn almost nothing. This is why the author says rare earths need their own EPR category with a different way of valuing them. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.

   Option B: Incorrect. The option says magnets are 30% of a smartphone's mass, but the passage says a smartphone is up to 1% magnet by weight, and that the separated magnet is about 30% rare earth. The option mixes these two figures, hence incorrect.

   Option C: Incorrect. The option says shredding hard drives raises metallic weight and makes weight-based certificates overpay informal recyclers, but the passage says shredding destroys the usable magnets, and it never mentions informal recyclers or overpayment, hence incorrect.

   Option D: Incorrect. The option says India's monazite sands have negligible rare-earth content, but the passage says a phone's rare earth content is comparable to India's monazite beach sands. It never compares them to black mass exports, hence incorrect.

2. D) Building a viable battery and rare-earth recycling ecosystem requires pairing supply restrictions with downstream chemical capacity, pricing reforms, and policy support.

   passage: "While the ban will redirect supply, it will not automatically create a market and ecosystem. Just banning export without creating an entire ecosystem will only lead to dumping of lithium-ion batteries into landfills if the blackmass has no market... Blackmass production is a largely mechanical process but further downstream processing is more specialised chemical processing requiring larger investment and further policy support... A floor price that covers the full cost of recovery, with digital tracking, would fix that... Rare earths need a separate EPR category, too."-----The passage says the export ban alone is not enough. India also needs downstream chemical processing units, better prices for EPR certificates (a floor price), and policy support such as a separate EPR category and rare earth separation rules. The title also

says India needs “an entire ecosystem.” Option D covers the ban, the downstream capacity, the pricing reforms and the policy support, so it is correct.

Option A: Incorrect. The option says the ban and more shredding plants will end import dependence, but the passage says the ban “will not automatically create a market and ecosystem,” and that shredding is only the mechanical first step. It never says import dependence will end , hence incorrect.

Option B: Incorrect. The option says lead-acid recyclers should move into weight-based EPR trading to fund rare earth separation, but the passage mentions lead-acid recycling only as an already established ecosystem. It also says “payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals,” hence incorrect.

Option C: Incorrect. The option says lowering certificate prices will push EV makers into monazite mining, but the passage says EPR certificates are already undervalued and that this is a problem. It wants a floor price, not lower prices, and it never talks about EV makers mining monazite, hence incorrect.

3. C) Existing e-waste regulations omit mandatory pre-shredding magnet separation and lack a dedicated EPR pricing category suited to trace minerals.

passage: “Magnets make up as much as 3% of a hard drive, but are usable only if they are removed before the drive is shredded for data destruction. Yet the e-waste rules do not require rare earth separation. Rare earths need a separate EPR category, too. Payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals.”----The passage says rare earths in electronics are rich (about 3,000 parts per million in a phone, comparable to India’s monazite sands) and easier to extract than to mine. But the e-waste rules do not require the magnets to be separated before shredding, so they get destroyed. There is also no separate EPR category, and payment by weight does not suit rare earths because they are present in tiny amounts. These policy gaps are why recovery is underused. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.

Option A: Incorrect. The option says phone magnets have far lower rare-earth concentration than monazite sands and need more energy, but the passage says the phone’s rare earth content is “comparable to India’s monazite beach sands” and that extracting it “takes less energy than mining.” Both claims are reversed, hence incorrect.

Option B: Incorrect. The option says hard drives contain negligible magnets unless turned into black mass, but the passage says magnets make up as much as 3% of a hard drive and are usable if removed before shredding. Black mass is linked to lithium-ion batteries, not hard drives, hence incorrect.

Option D: Incorrect. The option says refiners face export prohibitions on separated neodymium magnets, but the passage says the export ban applies to lithium-ion battery black mass, not magnets. The underuse is blamed on policy gaps in e-waste rules, hence incorrect.

4. D) Because they fail to mandate rare-earth separation before shredding and lack a dedicated EPR category beyond weight-based payments.

   passage: “Magnets make up as much as 3% of a hard drive, but are usable only if they are removed before the drive is shredded for data destruction. Yet the e-waste rules do not require rare earth separation. Rare earths need a separate EPR category, too. Payment by weight cannot be applied for rare earth minerals.”----The passage says rare earths in old electronics are rich (about 3,000 parts per million in a phone) and take less energy to extract than mining. But the e-waste rules do not make recyclers remove the magnets before shredding, so the magnets are destroyed. There is also no separate EPR category, and payment by weight does not suit rare earths, which are present in tiny amounts. These are the policy gaps the author calls a missed opportunity. Option D says exactly this, so it is correct.

   Option A: Incorrect. The option says the rules prohibit operators from extracting neodymium magnets, but the passage says the rules “do not require” separation. Not requiring something is different from prohibiting it, hence incorrect.

   Option B: Incorrect. The option says the rules force refiners to export black mass before recovery, but the passage says black mass export has been banned by the DGFT, and black mass is linked to lithium-ion batteries, not to the e-waste rules on rare earths, hence incorrect.

   Option C: Incorrect. The option says the rules force manufacturers to rely on monazite sand mining, but the passage only compares the rare earth content of phones to monazite sands. It never says the rules push anyone toward mining, hence incorrect.

5. B**) Adverbial phrase**

   Adverbial phrase (Correct). A prepositional phrase acts as an adverbial phrase when it modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. In this sentence, "under the Battery Waste Management Rules" modifies the verb "buy" by explaining the condition, authority, or circumstance under which producers buy the EPR certificates. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.

   Option A: Incorrect. The option says the phrase is a noun phrase, but a noun phrase works as a subject or an object. In the sentence, the subject is “Producers” and the object is “EPR certificates,” so this phrase is neither, hence incorrect.

   Option C: Incorrect. The option says the phrase is a participle phrase, but a participle phrase starts with a verb form ending in -ing or -ed. This phrase starts with the preposition “under,” hence incorrect.

   Option D: Incorrect. The option says the phrase is an absolute phrase, but an absolute phrase is a noun plus a participle that is not joined to the sentence by a preposition. This phrase starts with a preposition and has no participle, hence incorrect.

6. B) **Agitation** (noun) – a state of anxiety, restlessness or disturbance. बेचैनी/उत्तेजना

   Synonym: **Disturbance** (noun) – disruption, unrest. अशांति

- **Calmness** (noun) – a state of being peaceful. शांति
- **Approval** (noun) – acceptance or agreement. स्वीकृति
- **Stillness** (noun) – absence of movement. स्थिरता

7. B) Keep on even keel (phrase) – to keep something in a steady and untroubled state. (संतुलन बनाए रखना)
8. A) for' के बदले 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि congratulate के साथ preposition 'on' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— She congratulated him on his success.
    - 'on' will be used instead of 'for' because the verb 'congratulate' is followed by the preposition 'on'; Like— She congratulated him on his success.
9. B) **Sycophantic** (adjective) – Behaving in an excessively flattering way to gain advantage; servile. चापलूस
    - **Antonym**: **Independent** (adjective) – Not depending on or seeking the approval of others; self-reliant. स्वतंत्र, आत्मनिर्भर
    - **Submissive** (adjective) – Ready to obey others. आज्ञाकारी, विनम्र
    - **Fawning** (adjective) – Seeking favour by flattery. खुशामदी
    - **Flattering** (adjective) – Praising excessively. चाटुकारी
10. D) Indirect Speech को Direct Speech में बदलते समय 'told' को 'said to' में बदला जाता है, 'that' हटाया जाता है और Reported Speech को inverted commas में लिखा जाता है। Tense वापस Present में बदलता है: 'believed' → 'believe', 'was maintaining' → 'is maintaining'; 'she' → 'I'। सही उत्तर: Tanvi said to Rakesh, "I believe the key to a happy life is maintaining strong relationships with … friends and family members." Options A और B में Tense असंगत है और C में 'is maintained' गलत है। (ध्यान दें: 'her friends' का सही Direct रूप 'my friends' होगा; दिए गए विकल्पों में D सबसे उपयुक्त है।)
    - To change Indirect into Direct Speech, 'told' becomes 'said to', 'that' is removed and the reported speech is put within inverted commas. The tenses shift back: 'believed' → 'believe' and 'was maintaining' → 'is maintaining'; 'she' → 'I'. Hence D is correct. Options A and B mix tenses and C ('is maintained') is wrong. (Note: strictly, 'her friends' should become 'my friends'; among the options given, D is the most appropriate.)
11. C. 2-4-1-3

    Sentence 2 पूरे परिच्छेद का independent opening sentence है। यह मुख्य घटना और स्थान का परिचय देता है कि उत्तरी स्पेन के Santa Linya रेलवे स्टेशन पर उतरते समय लेखक यह सोचने के लिए रुका कि रेलवे इंजीनियरों ने क्या सोचा होगा।

Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और 2-4 का सीधा descriptive link बनाएगा। लेखक के आश्चर्य के तुरंत बाद Sentence 4 उस स्टेशन का प्रत्यक्ष विवरण देता है—पहाड़ को काटकर बनाया गया एक कच्चा पड़ाव, जहाँ न कोई ticket office है, न waiting room, और न ही मानव बस्ती का कोई निशान, बस जंगल में एक अकेला platform है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा और 4-1 का spatial progression link बनाएगा। प्लेटफॉर्म का वर्णन करने के बाद Sentence 1 आस-पास के दृश्य को जोड़ता है कि पटरी के दूसरी तरफ चीड़ के जंगलों से घिरी एक चमकती हुई turquoise lake है।

Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (1-3)। दूसरी तरफ के दृश्य के बाद Sentence 3 आगे के रास्ते का वर्णन करता है कि सामने—बाहर निकलने का एकमात्र रास्ता—चूना पत्थर की चट्टान (limestone cliff) पर ऊपर की ओर जाता एक पथरीला रास्ता है, जिससे पूरे परिच्छेद का दृश्य चित्रण तार्किक रूप से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence 2 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the narrator arriving at the Santa Linya train station in northern Spain and pausing to wonder what the railway engineers had in mind.

Sentence 4 directly follows Sentence 2 (2-4), immediately explaining the narrator's puzzlement by describing the station itself—a rough halt carved into the mountainside with no ticket office, waiting room, or human habitation, just a solitary platform in the wilderness.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 (4-1), shifting the spatial focus outward from the platform to the view across the tracks: a shimmering turquoise lake bordered by pine forests.

Sentence 3 concludes the sequence (1-3), completing the panoramic spatial scan by describing what lies directly ahead as the sole exit: a rocky trail winding up the limestone cliff.

12. D) **Feminist** (noun) – A person who supports feminism, the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes.

- **Fanatic** (noun) – A person filled with excessive and single-minded zeal, especially for an extreme religious or political cause. कट्टरपंथी
- **Misogynist** (noun) – A person who dislikes, despises, or is strongly prejudiced against women. स्त्री द्वेषी
- **Philanderer** (noun) – A man who readily or frequently enters into casual sexual relationships with women; a womanizer. अय्याश

13. A) Contrite (adjective) – Feeling or expressing sorrow for a wrong one has done; penitent, remorseful. **पश्चातापी**
    - **Antonym**: **Unrepentant** (adjective) – Showing no regret for one's wrongdoing; impenitent. पश्चाताप न करने वाला
    - **Forgiving** (adjective) – Ready to pardon others. क्षमाशील
    - **Remorseful** (adjective) – Filled with deep regret. पछतावे से भरा
    - **Regretful** (adjective) – Feeling sorry about something. खेदपूर्ण
14. A) The correct spelling is 'Trousseau' which means "the clothes, linen and other belongings collected by a bride for her marriage" दहेज का सामान, वधू का साज-सामान।
15. C) He found the keys under the old wooden table.

    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। Passive वाक्य में "The keys" Subject है, "were found" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by him" Active Subject को दिखाता है। Active में बदलने पर Subject "He" बन गया, Verb "found" (Past Simple Active) में बदल गया और Object "the keys" वही रहा।

    To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The keys" (Passive Subject), "were found" (Verb in Past Simple Passive), and "by him" (Passive indicator of Actor) from the passive voice have been transformed into "He" (Active Subject), "found" (Active Verb in Past Simple), and "the keys" (Active Object).

16. A) **Autocratic** (adjective) – ruling with absolute power. निरंकुश
    - **Synonym**: **Authoritarian** (adjective) – demanding strict obedience to authority. सत्तावादी
    - **Democratic** (adjective) – based on equal participation. लोकतांत्रिक
    - **Submissive** (adjective) – ready to obey. विनम्र/आज्ञाकारी
    - **Cooperative** (adjective) – willing to work together. सहयोगी
17. C) 'with' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "incompatible" के साथ हमेशा preposition 'with' का ही प्रयोग किया जाता है। sentence में "His actions are incompatible ____ his words" का अर्थ है कि उसके कार्य उसके शब्दों के साथ मेल नहीं खाते हैं। इसलिए "with" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
    - 'with' should be used because the adjective "incompatible" is always followed by the preposition 'with'. In the sentence, "His actions are incompatible ____ his words," it

indicates that his actions do not match or agree with his words. Thus, “with” would be the most appropriate choice.

18. A) 'cousin sister' के बदले 'cousin' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि English में ‘sister’ जोड़ने की आवश्यकता नहीं है; सिर्फ़ 'cousin' ही पर्याप्त है; जैसे— She is my cousin.

- 'cousin' will be used instead of 'cousin sister' because in English adding ‘sister’ is unnecessary; only 'cousin' is enough; Like— She is my cousin.

19. Correct Answer: A. 3-1-4-2

Sentence 3 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-3 का chronological travel link बनाएगा। S1 में Camasunary bay पर ऊदबिलाव (otter) को देखने के बाद Sentence 3 यात्रा के अगले चरण का वर्णन करता है कि जूते उतारकर उन्होंने स्काई की सबसे छोटी (और सबसे ठंडी) नदियों में से एक को पार किया और फिर Sgùrr na Strì पहाड़ी के नीचे दर्रे (col) तक कठिन चढ़ाई की।

Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा और 3-1 का upward progression link बनाएगा। पहाड़ी तक चढ़ाई करने के बाद Sentence 1 शिखर (summit’s glaciated slabs) से दिखाई देने वाले दृश्य की भव्यता बताता है कि यह शायद स्कॉटलैंड—या यहाँ तक कि यूरोप—का सबसे बेहतरीन पर्वतीय दृश्य है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आएगा और 1-4 का descriptive detail pair बनाएगा। शिखर से दिखने वाले दृश्य के दावे के बाद Sentence 4 उस दृश्य का प्रत्यक्ष विवरण देता है कि नीचे चारों ओर से पूरी Cuillin ridge की काली चोटियों से घिरी हुई Loch Coruisk झील दिखाई देती है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और 4-2 का temporal transition link बनाएगा। इस अद्भुत दृश्य का आनंद लेने के बाद Sentence 2 समय बीतने और वापसी की शुरुआत को दर्शाता है कि एक या दो घंटे बीत गए, जिसके बाद वे वापस लौटे। इसके तुरंत बाद S6 वापसी पर otter के जा चुके होने और उनकी संतुष्टि के साथ पूरे परिच्छेद को पूर्ण करता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence 3 directly follows S1 (S1-3), advancing the chronological journey from watching the otter at Camasunary bay to taking off their boots, crossing one of Skye's coldest rivers, and hiking up through heather toward Sgùrr na Strì.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 (3-1), progressing naturally from the climb up the hill to the panoramic reward at the top—describing the mountain view from the summit's glaciated slabs as perhaps the finest in Scotland or Europe.

Sentence 4 forms an immediate descriptive pair with Sentence 1 (1-4), specifying what makes that summit view so extraordinary: landlocked Loch Coruisk lying below, encircled by the jagged Cuillin ridge.

Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 (4-2), marking the passage of time at the summit ("An hour passed, maybe two") before initiating their return journey. Finally, S6 brings the narrative full circle by noting that the otter from S1 was long gone upon their return, concluding the passage.

20. B) subsidary is the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

The correct spelling is subsidiary (noun) – a business company that belongs to and is controlled by another larger company. (सहायक कंपनी)

Litigation (noun) – legal proceedings, lawsuit, case, legal action. (मुकदमाबाज़ी)

Established (verb) – set up, founded, instituted. (स्थापित)

Corporate (adjective) – business, commercial, enterprise-wide. (कॉरपोरेट / व्यावसायिक)

21. D) took up

Blank (A) needs a phrasal verb meaning "started doing as a hobby," since "Ever since" marks the point at which writing began, along with everything that followed. a) set off: means started a journey or triggered something, as in "set off an alarm," violating the requirement since it does not take a hobby as its object. b) give up: is the base form and means to stop doing something, violating the requirement on two counts: "Ever since" needs a past-tense verb here, and the writer has not stopped writing; her mind "writes only when genuinely interested." c) picked on: means bullied or unfairly criticised someone, violating the requirement since it needs a person as its object; it is a trap for "picked up," which would mean starting a hobby. d) took up: means began a new hobby or activity, matching the moment writing entered the writer's life.

Hindi:

Blank (A) में ऐसा phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "hobby के रूप में कुछ start करना," क्योंकि "Ever since" उस समय को बताता है जब writing start हुई, और उसके बाद जो कुछ हुआ। a) set off: इसका meaning है यात्रा पर निकलना या कुछ trigger करना, जैसे "set off an alarm," जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका object कोई hobby नहीं होती। b) give up: यह base form है और इसका meaning है कुछ करना छोड़ देना, जो दो कारणों से violate करता है: "Ever since" के बाद यहाँ past-tense verb चाहिए, और writer ने लिखना छोड़ा नहीं है; उसका मन "writes only when genuinely interested।" c) picked on: इसका meaning है किसी को सताना या बिना कारण उसकी आलोचना करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका object कोई व्यक्ति

होता है; यह "picked up" का trap है, जिसका meaning hobby start करना होता। d) took up: इसका meaning है कोई नई hobby या activity start करना, जो उस पल से match करता है जब writing writer के जीवन में आई।

22. B) penchant

Blank (B) needs a noun meaning "a strong tendency," followed by "for," since creative pursuits regularly attract advice: the painter is asked for sunsets and waterfalls, and the same holds for "sculpture, pottery, embroidery, anything." a) remedy: means a cure, and "remedy for" is a real pairing, which tempts, but violates the requirement since nothing here cures or stops the flow of advice. b) penchant: means a strong liking or habitual tendency, matching the way every creative pursuit seems to invite suggestions. c) immunity: means protection from something and is usually followed by "to" or "from," violating the requirement since creative pursuits are anything but immune to advice; they attract it. d) deterrent: means something that discourages an action, violating the requirement since the examples show advice pouring in, not being kept away.

Hindi:

Blank (B) में "for" के साथ आने वाला ऐसा noun चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "प्रबल tendency," क्योंकि creative pursuits पर बार-बार advice आती है: painter से sunsets और waterfalls माँगे जाते हैं, और यही बात "sculpture, pottery, embroidery, anything" पर लागू होती है। a) remedy: इसका meaning है उपचार, और "remedy for" एक सही pairing है, जो tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ कुछ भी advice को रोकता या उसका उपचार नहीं करता। b) penchant: इसका meaning है प्रबल रुचि या स्वाभाविक झुकाव, जो इस बात से match करता है कि सारे creative pursuits suggestions को अपनी ओर खींच लेते हैं। c) immunity: इसका meaning है किसी बात से बचाव, और इसके साथ usually "to" या "from" आता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि creative pursuits advice से बचे हुए नहीं हैं, बल्कि उसे अपनी ओर खींचते हैं। d) deterrent: इसका meaning है ऐसी बात जो किसी काम से रोके, जो violate करता है क्योंकि examples दिखाते हैं कि advice लगातार आ रही है, रुक नहीं रही।

23. C) amateur

Blank (C) needs an adjective for someone who paints for pleasure rather than pay, like the writer, who "took up writing as a hobby," and unlike a professional whose work is sold rather than gifted to "well wishers." a) philistine: means indifferent or hostile to art and culture, violating the requirement since this painter's "interest may lean towards modern art." b) dabble: is a verb meaning to take part in something casually, close in sense, violating the requirement since "The ___ painter" needs an adjective, not a verb. c) amateur: means doing

something for pleasure rather than as a paid profession, matching a hobbyist painter showered with suggestions. d) commissioned: means hired and paid to produce a particular work, which tempts after "commissioning editor," but violates the requirement since paid requests would be her job, not "unsolicited advice," and her work would be sold, not gifted.

Hindi:

Blank (C) में ऐसे व्यक्ति के लिए adjective चाहिए जो पैसे के लिए नहीं, आनंद के लिए paint करता है, जैसे writer, जिसने "took up writing as a hobby," न कि कोई professional, जिसका काम "well wishers" को gift नहीं किया जाता बल्कि बेचा जाता है। a) philistine: इसका meaning है art और culture में रुचि न रखने वाला या उनका विरोधी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इस painter की "interest may lean towards modern art।" b) dabble: यह verb है जिसका meaning है किसी काम को हल्के-फुल्के ढंग से try करना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "The ___ painter" में adjective चाहिए, verb नहीं। c) amateur: इसका meaning है paid profession के रूप में नहीं, आनंद के लिए कुछ करने वाला, जो suggestions से घिरे hobbyist painter से match करता है। d) commissioned: इसका meaning है पैसे देकर किसी विशेष काम के लिए hire किया गया, जो "commissioning editor" के बाद tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि paid requests उसका काम होतीं, "unsolicited advice" नहीं, और उसका काम बिकता, gift नहीं होता।

24. B) aversion

Blank (D) needs a noun meaning "strong dislike," followed by "to," since the writer resents being told what to write and traces this to school essays whose imposed topics she never enjoyed. a) detest: is a verb meaning to hate, close in sense, violating the requirement since "my ___" needs a noun, not a verb. b) aversion: means a strong dislike, matching her resistance to imposed writing topics, which began at school. c) gratitude: means thankfulness, violating the requirement since she was unhappy with imposed topics, and "gratitude to" is followed by a person, not an experience. d) susceptibility: means being easily influenced or affected, violating the requirement since the writer resists suggestions; her mind "has never been particularly democratic."

Hindi:

Blank (D) में "to" के साथ आने वाला ऐसा noun चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "strong dislike," क्योंकि writer को यह बताया जाना अच्छा नहीं लगता कि वह क्या लिखे, और वह इसकी जड़ school के उन essays में देखती है जिनके थोपे गए topics उसे कभी अच्छे नहीं लगे। a) detest: यह verb है जिसका meaning है घृणा करना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "my ___" में noun चाहिए, verb नहीं। b) aversion: इसका meaning है तीव्र अरुचि, जो school के

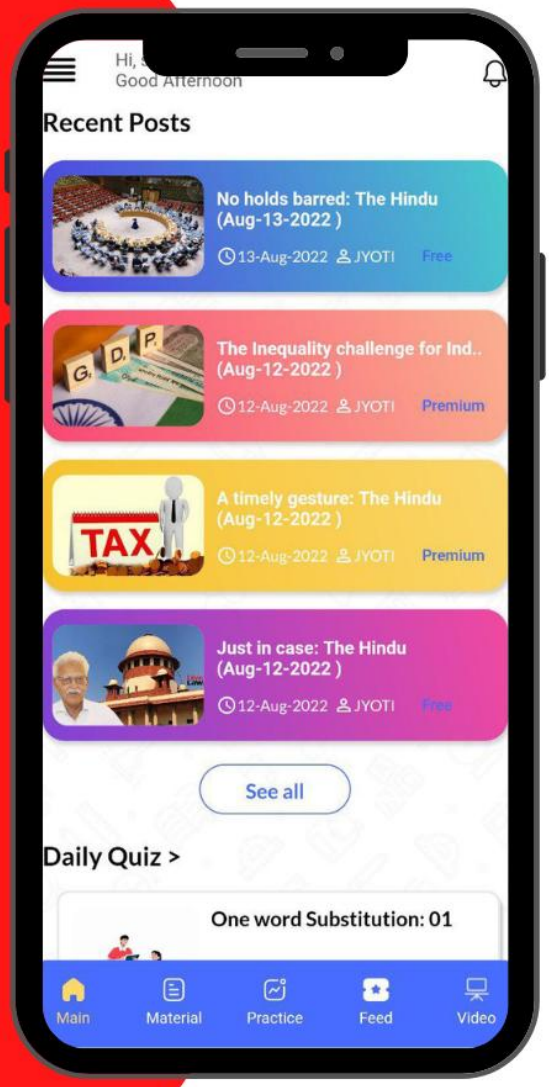
दिनों से चली आ रही थोपे गए topics के प्रति उसकी अरुचि से match करता है। c) gratitude: इसका meaning है आभार, जो violate करता है क्योंकि थोपे गए topics से वह दुखी थी, और "gratitude to" के बाद कोई व्यक्ति आता है, कोई अनुभव नहीं। d) susceptibility: इसका meaning है सरलता से प्रभावित हो जाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि writer suggestions का विरोध करती है; उसका मन "has never been particularly democratic।"

25. A) Being arrested

Blank (E) needs a phrase that can act as the subject of "was not moral enough" and that shows Shyam receiving the action, since he was the one arrested. A passive gerund, "Being arrested," does both. a) Being arrested: is a passive gerund, matching a subject that names what happened to Shyam at the end of the story. b) To be arrest: is a broken infinitive, violating the requirement since a passive infinitive needs the past participle "arrested," not the base form "arrest." c) Got arrested: is a finite verb phrase, the informal passive, violating the requirement since a finite verb cannot be the subject of a sentence; as a subject it would have to be "Getting arrested." d) Arresting: is an active gerund, violating the requirement since it would mean Shyam arresting someone, the reverse of what happened.

Hindi:

Blank (E) में ऐसा phrase चाहिए जो "was not moral enough" का subject बन सके और यह दिखाए कि action Shyam पर हुआ, क्योंकि arrest Shyam हुआ था। Passive gerund, "Being arrested," ये दोनों काम करता है। a) Being arrested: यह passive gerund है, जो उस subject से match करता है जो story के अंत में Shyam के साथ हुई बात को बताता है। b) To be arrest: यह टूटा हुआ infinitive है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि passive infinitive में past participle "arrested" चाहिए, base form "arrest" नहीं। c) Got arrested: यह informal passive वाला finite verb phrase है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि finite verb किसी sentence का subject नहीं बन सकता; subject के रूप में "Getting arrested" आता। d) Arresting: यह active gerund है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होगा कि Shyam ने किसी को arrest किया, जो वास्तव में हुई बात का उल्टा है।



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