

A different Slam

Alcaraz and Swiatek have emerged on top from a slow **churn** in tennis

The US Open **defies** tradition. It was the first **Major** to introduce a **final-set tiebreak way back** in 1970. It was the first to award men and women equal prize money in 1973. This year, it became the first to introduce coaching during matches. There is also **non-conformity** of a different kind; **Flushing Meadows** is no single male player's **fiefdom**. Since January 2006, the Australian Open, **Roland-Garros** and Wimbledon have collectively seen just five different winners. In the same time **span**, US Open has had 10, the last of which is Spanish **sensation** Carlos Alcaraz, **crowned** the king of New York on Sunday after a four-set victory over Norway's Casper Ruud. The **triumph** has taken Alcaraz, 19, to the **pinnacle** of ATP rankings, making him the youngest man to reach the top. He is also the first **teenager** to win a Grand Slam tournament since Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open. The title run was Alcaraz's **baptism by fire**. **Prior to** the final, he had spent over 20 hours on **court** and had to **battle** through three tough five-setters that finished well past midnight. **Ruud**, known for his consistency and court coverage, **had** past experience of a Major final (2022 French Open). But Alcaraz did not **suffer** a **letdown**, **displaying** the same spirit he had in **clinching** the Madrid Masters in May by defeating Alexander Zverev after having recorded back-to-back victories over Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Circumstances **played a role in** Alcaraz's **ascent**. Djokovic not being awarded any points for his Wimbledon win and then being **barred** from entering the United States of America because of his unvaccinated status eased his path. While he undoubtedly plays first-strike tennis of the highest order, there may yet be **contemporary** equals. **Jannik Sinner**, after all, **had** a match-point in the fourth set of their quarterfinal. But **no player** in recent memory **has** combined as many good **traits** — shot-selection, **temperament** and a complete absence of big-match **nerves** — into such a **wholesome** package like Alcaraz. Even as the **Spaniard ushers in** the churn at the top of the men's game, the women's side seems to be **settling down**, with both a **dominant** force and a **pecking order** emerging. **Iga Swiatek**, the **unquestionable** World No.1 since the first week of April, **captured** her **maiden** US Open — second Grand Slam title in 2022 after Paris and third overall — while Ons Jabeur made her second **straight** final. Though Naomi Osaka has a higher Slam count (four), Swiatek's **awe-inspiring** all-court **proWess** makes her the ideal candidate to be the next **figurehead**. As Serena Williams **heads** into retirement — the third-round defeat in New York appears to be her **last stand** — it finally feels like the **passing of the baton**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Slam** (noun) – The Grand Slam in tennis is the achievement of winning all four major championships in one discipline in the same calendar year, also referred to as the "Calendar-year Grand Slam" or "Calendar Slam"
2. **Churn** (noun) – turmoil, agitation, uproar, mayhem उथल-पुथल, खलबली
3. **Defy** (verb) – resist, challenge, disobey, flout, oppose विरोध करना, चुनौती देना
4. **Major** (noun) – The Grand Slam tournaments, also referred to as majors, are the world's four most important annual professional tennis tournaments.
5. **Final-set tiebreak** (noun) – In a tiebreak set, a player or team needs to win six games wins a set. If the score gets to 5-5 (5-all), one player must win the next two games to win the set. If the score reaches 6-6 (6-all) in the set, a tiebreak game is played.
6. **Way back** (phrase) – long ago. बहुत पहले
7. **Non-conformity** (noun) – mismatch, discrepancy, disparity, imbalance, incongruity गैर-अनुरूपता
8. **Flushing Meadow** (noun) – Tennis court hosting the U.S. Championships Grand Slam tournament.
9. **Fiefdom** (noun) – domain, realm; an area or type of activity that is controlled by someone जागीर
10. **Roland-Garros** (noun) – The French Open also known as Roland-Garros is a major tennis tournament held over two weeks at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.
11. **Span** (noun) – extent, period, stretch, time अवधि
12. **Sensation** (noun) – a state of widespread public excitement: सनसनी
13. **Crown** (verb) – to have or put something on the top of something मुकुट पहनाना
14. **Triumph** (noun) – success, victory, succeed, win, prevail विजय
15. **Pinnacle** (noun) – peak, summit, acme, height, zenith शिखर
16. **Teenager** (noun) – adolescent, teen, youth किशोर
17. **Baptism by fire** (phrase) – a difficult introduction to a new job or activity.
18. **Prior to** (phrase) – before से पहले
19. **Court** (noun) – Tennis playground टेनिस खेल का मैदान
20. **Battle** (verb) – fight, struggle, combat, संघर्ष करना
21. **Suffer** (verb) – endure, bear, tolerate, stand, experience भुगतना, झेलना

22. **Letdown** (noun) –disappointment, anticlimax, bummer, comedown, fiasco निराशा
23. **Display** (verb) – show, exhibit, demonstrate, reveal, दिखाना
24. **Clinch** (verb) – to manage to win or achieve something प्राप्त करना, जीतना
25. **Play a part/role in** (phrase) – to be involved in भूमिका निभाना
26. **Ascent** (noun) – rise, mounting, climb उदय, चढ़ाव
27. **Bar** (verb) – block, hindrance, stop, exclude, prohibit रोकना
28. **Contemporary** (adjective) – current, modern, coeval, contemporaneous, present समकालीन
29. **Trait** (noun) –quality, feature, characteristic, attribute, विशेषता
30. **Temperament** (noun) – nature, character, personality, disposition स्वभाव
31. **Nerve** (noun) – courage, boldness, audacity, guts, bravery साहस
32. **Wholesome** (adjective) – salubrious, good, beneficial
33. **The Spaniard** (noun) – Carlos Alcaraz, Spanish tennis player.
34. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) – introduce, herald, inaugurate, initiate आरंभ करना
35. **Settle down** (phrasal verb) –To become calm or composed. शान्त होना
36. **Dominant** (adjective) – predominant, chief, principal, leading, foremost प्रमुख
37. **Pecking order** (noun) – order of power within group; hierarchy पदानुक्रम
38. **Unquestionable** (adjective) – indisputable, undeniable, incontrovertible, certain, indubitable निर्विवाद, बेशक
39. **Maiden** (adjective) –first, inaugural पहला
40. **Straight** (adjective) – consecutive, successive, in a row
41. **Awe-inspiring** (adjective) –astonishing, overwhelming, impressive, breathtaking प्रेरणादायक
42. **Prowess** (noun) –skill, courage, mastery, ability, expertise कौशल
43. **Figurehead** (noun) – someone who has the position of a leader but who has no real power:
44. **Head** (verb) – to go for something
45. **Someone's last stand** (phrase) – any final effort to defend something or oppose someone in order to succeed or maintain one's position. अंतिम प्रयास
46. **Pass of the baton** (phrase) –hand over a particular duty or responsibility. सौंपना (कर्तव्य या जिम्मेदारी)

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. The US Open defies tradition.
 - A. Chronicle
 - B. Tenuous
 - C. Assuage
 - D. Disobey
2. There is also non-conformity of a different kind; Flushing Meadows is no single male player's **fiefdom**
 - A. Labyrinth
 - B. Debacle
 - C. Gesticulate
 - D. Realm
3. Swiatek's awe-inspiring all-court **prowess** makes her the ideal candidate to be the next figurehead.
 - A. Ability
 - B. Forgo
 - C. Proselytize
 - D. Mellifluous
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

After getting such a major promotion at work, Sally really **has the wind in her sails** these days.

 - A. To be in a position of great success or good fortune, which can help generate further success by giving one confidence, optimism, and determination.
 - B. To perform, achieve, or do something at a level that is considered beyond one's abilities, talents, or personal attributes
 - C. To do something in a simple or straightforward way, bypassing a more complex alternative.
 - D. To keep talking about a subject that has already been discussed or decided
5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 apparently to stop NATO's further expansion into its neighbourhood.

 - P. Last week, the Prime Minister and President of Finland, which has stayed neutral since the end of the Second World War, said they hoped their country would apply for NATO membership "without delay".
 - Q. But in less than three months, the same invasion has pushed two countries in that neighbourhood to consider NATO membership.
 - R. Particularly alarming for Russia is the case of Finland, with which it has a hostile past. Stalin invaded Finland in 1939 demanding more territories.

S. If these two countries now formally apply for membership, it would be the biggest strategic setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin whose most important foreign policy focus has been on weakening NATO.

T. Though the Red Army struggled in the initial phase of the war, it forced Finland to sign the Moscow Peace Treaty, ceding some 9% of its territory.

U. Sweden, which has stayed out of military alliances for 200 years, stated that NATO membership would strengthen its national security and stability in the Baltic and Nordic regions.

Which among the following will be the **Fourth** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

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

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. In science the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurs.
B. It is only after a war is over that people realise how bad it was.
C. Of the two answers, this is definitely, the better
D. He is unfortunate enough to lose the few friends he made during his stay at Bhopal.
E. All are correct
7. A. There were a number of pretty girls in the party but it was ragini who remained the centre of attraction.
B. I have been informed that Dr. Pooja visits Bhopal the following Month.
C. He is the best artist of the time but unfortunately the least recognised.
D. He said that he felt nervous because a friend of his had given him very bad news.
E. All are correct
8. No sooner she had realized (A)/ her blunder than she began (B)/ to take corrective measures. (C)/ No error(D)
9. Let's spend a few minutes (A)/ in the park, (B)/ can we? (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Buoyant
B. Advisable
C. Visious
D. Underrate

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Factoring in the risk – Aug 23, 2022)

Monsoon rainfall over India is 8% more than what is usual for this time of the year. While this might bode well for agriculture in some regions, it also means floods and _____**11**_____ downpours with devastating consequences. At least 25 people were killed over the weekend as _____**12**_____ rains triggered flash floods and landslips in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Several _____**13**_____ roads were blocked by debris, as currents washed away bridges and vehicles. The

toll was higher in Himachal Pradesh with 21 killed and 12 injured. At least six are missing due to chaos following the downpour. Mandi, Kangra and Chamba were the worst-affected districts in the State. While death and damage to property are the surface manifestation of these rains, there are a range of secondary effects with long-term downstream impact. Schools and transport facilities, for instance, are immediately put out of action, leading to loss of productive hours. Cattle and saplings are left to _____**14**_____, which in turn destroys livelihoods, debilitates family finances and strains the finances of the state exchequer. The monsoon **waters (A)** around 75% of India's annual rainfall into four months and **unevenly (B) compresses (C)** the country's highly diverse **terrain (D)**. It is, therefore, inevitable that some spots are far more vulnerable and bear a disproportionate impact of climate fury. A recent report released by Himachal Pradesh's Department of Environment, Science and Technology underlines that mountain areas are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, where development over the years has compounded the problem by upsetting the ecological balance of various physical processes.

While hill States such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have certain unique challenges, the threats from the **vagaries** of climate are not unique to them.

Monsoon rain patterns are being disrupted leading **(A)/** to a rise in cloudburst-like events as well as a rise in **(B)/** the frequency of high-energy cyclones and droughts. One strategy adopted by the government **(C)/** has been to improving the system of early warning forecasts. **(D)**

Within these are integrated warnings about flash floods and lightning. **(1)/** In recent years, improvements in early warnings for incoming cyclones have helped state agencies evacuate and rehabilitate the most vulnerable, but such success has not been observed for floods. **(2)/** Not all of these are accurate and often, they are not provided early enough for authorities to prepare themselves. **(3)/** The India Meteorological Department now provides fortnightly, weekly and even three-hourly weather forecasts to districts. **(4)/** While the inherent risk of infrastructure development in hills and unstable terrain is well understood, these are often elided by authorities in the name of balancing the demands of the people for better infrastructure and services. The increased risk and cost to such projects and infrastructure should be factored in when they are tendered out by the government, and scientific advice regarding development ought to be strictly adhered to.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. While this might bode well for agriculture in some regions, it also means floods and _____**11**_____ downpours with devastating consequences.
 - A. Concentrated
 - B. Glut
 - C. Enormity
 - D. Stagnation
12. At least 25 people were killed over the weekend as _____**12**_____ rains triggered flash floods and landslips in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
 - A. Expatriating
 - B. Debilitating

- C. Torrential
D. Magnanimous
13. Several _____13_____ roads were blocked by debris, as currents washed away bridges and vehicles.
- A. Fabrication
B. Arterial
C. Coercing
D. Complacent
14. Cattle and saplings are left to _____14_____, which in turn destroys livelihoods, debilitates family finances and strains the finances of the state exchequer.
- A. Perish
B. Appeasing
C. Static
D. Elusive
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**
Monsoon rain patterns are being disrupted leading **(A)/** to a rise in cloudburst-like events as well as a rise in **(B)/** the frequency of high-energy cyclones and droughts. One strategy adopted by the government **(C)/** has been to improving the system of early warning forecasts.
(D)
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
Within these are integrated warnings about flash floods and lightning. **(1)/** In recent years, improvements in early warnings for incoming cyclones have helped state agencies evacuate and rehabilitate the most vulnerable, but such success has not been observed for floods. **(2)/** Not all of these are accurate and often, they are not provided early enough for authorities to prepare themselves. **(3)/** The India Meteorological Department now provides fortnightly, weekly and even three-hourly weather forecasts to districts. **(4)/**
- A. 1234
B. 4132
C. 4321
D. 2143
E. 2314
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

VAGARY

- (i) He has dealt with human **vagaries** for many years.
- (ii) A coat as a provision against the **vagaries** of the weather his fairly wide experience of women's vagaries.
- (iii) His wealth fluctuates with the **vagaries** of the stock market.
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. (i), (ii)
- D. (ii), (iii)
- E. All are correct
18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.
- The monsoon **waters (A)** around 75% of India's annual rainfall into four months and **unevenly (B) compresses (C)** the country's highly diverse **terrain (D)**.
- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement
19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.
- (i) Many in the strategic community rightly blame politicians and bureaucrats for their reluctance to appoint a Chief of Defence Staff
- (ii) They often overlook resistance to jointness within the services
- A. Moreover
- B. Although
- C. While
- D. Unless
- E. None of the above
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks
- He grieved _____ the loss of money in business.
- A. Of
- B. From
- C. Over
- D. To
- E. None of the above

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Have the wind in your sail** (phrase) – To be in a position of great success or good fortune, which can help generate further success by giving one confidence
5. **QPUSRT**
 Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 apparently to stop NATO's further expansion into its neighbourhood. But in less than three months, the same invasion has pushed two countries in that neighbourhood to consider NATO membership. Last week, the Prime Minister and President of Finland, which has stayed neutral since the end of the Second World War, said they hoped their country would apply for NATO membership "without delay". Sweden, which has stayed out of military alliances for 200 years, stated that NATO membership would strengthen its national security and stability in the Baltic and Nordic regions. If these two countries now formally apply for membership, it would be the biggest strategic setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin whose most important foreign policy focus has been on weakening NATO. Particularly alarming for Russia is the case of Finland, with which it has a hostile past. Stalin invaded Finland in 1939 demanding more territories. Though the Red Army struggled in the initial phase of the war, it forced Finland to sign the Moscow Peace Treaty, ceding some 9% of its territory.
8. 'she had' के बदले 'had she' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'no sooner, hardly, scarcely, rarely, seldom, never before' से शुरू होने वाले वाक्यों में Inversion (अर्थात् auxiliary + subject) का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे -
- i. Hardly had he reached the station when the train started.
 - ii. Rarely does Mohan come here.
- 'had she' would have been used instead of 'she had' because inversion (ie auxiliary + subject) was used in sentences beginning with 'no sooner, hardly, scarcely, rarely, seldom, never before' Is; like -
- i. Hardly had he reached the station when the train started.
 - ii. Rarely does Mohan come here.
9. 'can we' के बदले 'shall we' या 'shan't we' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'let's या 'let us' से शुरू होने वाले वाक्यों के question tag में 'shall we' या 'shan't we' का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे -
- i. Let us go there, shall we?
 - ii. Let us go there, shan't we?

- 'shall we' or 'shan't we' will be used instead of 'can we' because in sentences beginning with 'let's or 'let us' the question tag In 'shall we' or 'shan't we' is used, like –
- Let us go there, shall we?
 - Let us go there, shan't we?

10. **Vicious** (adjective) – deliberately cruel or violent दुष्ट

11. **Concentrated** (adjective) – condensed, thick, thickened, dense केन्द्रित, सघन

12. **Torrential** (adjective) – copious, severe, heavy, rapid, relentless मूसलधार

13. **Arterial** (adjective) – Denoting an important route in a system of roads, railroad lines, or rivers.

14. **Perish** (verb) – die, lose one's life, be killed, fall, expire मरना, तबाह होना

15. Replace 'Improve' with 'Improving' as 'To + V¹' is used.

16. (B) **4132**

The India Meteorological Department now provides fortnightly, weekly and even three-hourly weather forecasts to districts. Within these are integrated warnings about flash floods and lightning. Not all of these are accurate and often, they are not provided early enough for authorities to prepare themselves. In recent years, improvements in early warnings for incoming cyclones have helped state agencies evacuate and rehabilitate the most vulnerable, but such success has not been observed for floods.

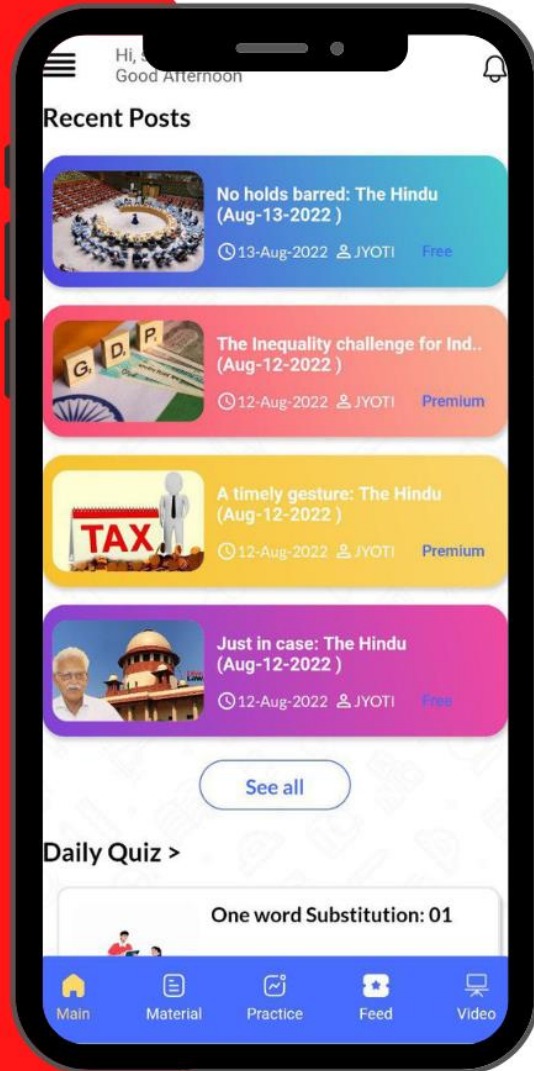
17. **Vagary** (noun) – peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, unpredictability, fluctuation. अनिश्चितता
According to the given options all options are contextually correct.

18. The monsoon compresses around 75% of India's annual rainfall into four months and unevenly waters the country's highly diverse terrain.

19. **While** many in the strategic community rightly blame politicians and bureaucrats for their reluctance to appoint a Chief of Defence Staff, they often overlook resistance to jointness within the services.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Chronicle	noun	A record of event in order of time; a history	इतिवृत्त, इतिहास
	Tenuous	adjective	Flimsy; extremely thin	तुच्छ
	Assuage	verb	To soothe; to pacify; to ease the pain of; to relieve	शांत करना
Q2	Labyrinth	noun	A maze; something like a maze.	भूलभुलैया
	Debacle	noun	Violent Breakdown; sudden overthrow	पराजय, शिकस्त
	Gesticulate	verb	To make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking	इशारा करना
Q3	Forgo	verb	To do without; to forbear	त्यागना, छोड़ देना, न लेना
	Proselytize	verb	To convert from one religion or doctrine to another; to recruit converts to a religion or doctrine.	फुसलाना
	Mellifluous	adjective	Sweetly flowing	मधुर
Q11	Glut	noun	Surplus; an overabundance	भरमार, आधिक्य
	Enormity	noun	Extreme evil, a hideous offense; immensity.	दुष्टता
	Stagnation	noun	Motionless; inactivity	स्थिरता
Q12	Expatriate	verb	To throw out of his or her native land; to emigrate	देश-निकाला देना
	Debilitate	verb	To weaken; to cripple	दुर्बल करना
	Magnanimous	adjective	Forgiving; unresentful ; noble in spirit; generous	उदार
Q13	Fabrication	noun	A lie; something made up	छलरचना
	Coerce	verb	To force someone to do or not to do something	जबरन कराना
	Complacent	adjective	Self-satisfied; overly pleased with oneself; contented to fault	आत्मसंतुष्ट
Q14	Appease	verb	To soothe; to pacify by giving in to	मनाना, शांत करना,
	Static	adjective	Stationary; not changing or moving	स्थिर
	Elusive	adjective	Hard to pin down; evasive	मायावी, कपटपूर्ण



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

