

India's exit from the World Cup: Hockey heartbreak

Indian hockey fans may be **immune** to heartbreak, but even so, Sunday's shock **defeat** to New Zealand in the **play-off** match for a spot in the quarterfinal of the World Cup **will rankle**. For, it brings the sport, which had taken **giant strides** forward, **back to square one** and makes the team's return to the Olympic **podium** feel like a long time ago. The **premature exit** from the World Cup also **gives** an **impression** that the **bronze** at the Tokyo Games **was** an **aberration**.

A serious **post-mortem** of the **shambolic** exit must **take place**. And one can hope that **Hockey India**, under the leadership of former India captain Dilip Tirkey, **will** not **resort to** its **go-to, kneejerk** strategy of making the coach the **scapegoat**. If India has learnt lessons from the past, then it will do well to **address** the larger **systemic** issues, from reviving the sport in its former traditional **pockets** to having a strong domestic league. **The latter**, especially, is an absolute must. India is the only major hockey-playing nation not to have a **robust** domestic structure. It is not a **coincidence** that Indian hockey's best years in recent times came during, and immediately after, the Hockey India League, an IPL-style tournament that attracted the world's best coaches and players.



In that sense, the Olympic medal seems like a missed opportunity. It was an ideal moment for Indian hockey to **cash in**, quite literally, on the sentimental high and restart the league which was discontinued due to the financial burden on **franchise** owners. Instead, Hockey India got **embroiled** in **governance** issues and court battles, which saw an **upheaval** within the **federation** and the **elevation** of Tirkey as president. Tirkey has made it his priority to focus on structural problems and restart **the HIL**. He needs to **walk the talk**. Else, Indian hockey fans must **brace** themselves for more heartbreak. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Heartbreak** (noun) – overwhelming distress बड़ा शोक
2. **Immune** (to) (adjective) – not affected by something; exempt, absolved मुक्त होना/ बचा हुआ
3. **Defeat** (noun) – the act of losing or not being successful (किसी से) हार, पराजय
4. **Play-off** (noun) – an additional match played to decide the outcome of a contest.
5. **Rankle** (verb) – irritate, annoy, fester, irk, gnaw, gall, needle, rile, infuriate क्रुद्ध करना, सताना
6. **Giant strides** (phrase) – important progress that has been made.
7. **Back to square one** (phrase) – to start working on a plan from the beginning because your previous attempt failed completely दोबारा से शुरू करना
8. **Podium** (noun) – the position of first, second, or third place in a sports competition मंच
9. **Premature** (adjective) – untimely, early, too soon, too early, before time समय से पहले
10. **Impression** (noun) – feeling, notion, idea, perception, opinion धारणा
11. **Aberration** (noun) – Deviation, abnormality, anomaly, irregularity, peculiarity, eccentricity, oddness सामान्य से विचलन
12. **Post-mortem** (noun) – analysis, investigation, examination, review, inquisition, enquiry विश्लेषण
13. **Shambolic** (adjective) – chaotic, disorganized, confused, cluttered, disordered बेतरतीब, अस्त-व्यस्त
14. **Take place** (phrase) – happen, occur, come about, transpire, come to pass घटित होना
15. **Resort** (to) (verb) – employ, use, utilize; have recourse to सहारा लेना
16. **Go-to** (adjective) – extremely dependable
17. **Kneejerk** (adjective) – automatic and unthinking; hasty, immediate, imprudent, thoughtless, unconsidered विचारहीन
18. **Scapegoat** (noun) – someone who is blamed or punished for another's faults or actions: बलि का बकरा
19. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना

20. **Systemic** (adjective) – relating to a system, especially as opposed to a particular part
21. **Pocket** (noun) – a small, isolated group or area क्षेत्र, इलाका
22. **The latter** (noun) – Here it refers to 'having a strong domestic league'.
23. **Robust** (adjective) – strong, vigorous, sturdy, मजबूत
24. **Coincidence** (noun) – chance, concurrence, fluke, happenstance संयोग
25. **Cash in on** (phrasal verb) – take advantage of or exploit a situation. लाभ उठाना
26. **Franchise** (noun) – a professional sports team
27. **Embroid in** (phrasal verb) – involve (someone) deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation. उलझना
28. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन
29. **Upheaval** (noun) – turmoil, disturbance, turbulence, disorder, convulsion उथल-पुथल
30. **Federation** (noun) – a group of organizations, states, etc., that have united to form a larger organization or government: संघ
31. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
32. **HIL** (noun) – Hockey India League is a professional field hockey league in India. The league is organized by Hockey India, the governing body for the sport in India.
33. **Walk the talk** (phrase) – To do what one said one could do, or would do
34. **Brace** (verb) – prepare mentally or emotionally for something unpleasant. अपने आप को संभालना

Practice Exercise

Direction: In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number.

India's ____1____ dominance in cricketing jousts at home was further reiterated at the conclusion of the Test series against Sri Lanka. If the earlier T20Is were ____2____ 3-0, the longer format proved no different as the host won at 2-0 with the triumphs in both Tests being registered in three days each. These emphatic victories emphasised the vast gulf in quality ____3____ the rivals split by the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. India last failed in a home Test series during 2012 when Alastair Cook's England prevailed at 2-1. Subsequently for nearly a decade, India proved to be a tough opponent in its backyard, maximising home advantage and thriving on an array of diverse stars who could bat, spin and bowl reverse-swing on dry pitches under a harsh sun. That template was evident through the last fortnight. The positive results may hint at a smooth leadership transition from Virat Kohli to Rohit Sharma but prior to the series, the incumbent had his ____4____ of headaches. The middle order was recast with Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane making way for Hanuma Vihari and Shreyas Iyer while an injured opener K.L. Rahul was ruled out. The batting needed reassurance while the losses in South Africa continued to haunt. Those worries were gradually erased as despite Rohit and Kohli's lukewarm yield, Vihari and Shreyas revealed their ____5____.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. A. Manageable | B. Staggering | C. Equitable | D. Flagging |
| 2. A. Swept | B. Deflate | C. Reflect | D. Split |
| 3. A. Between | B. Either | C. Both | D. Among |
| 4. A. Impart | B. Whole | C. Share | D. Harsh |
| 5. A. Sentiment | B. Imminent | C. Chunk | D. Mettle |

Directions: In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is wrongly spelt. Find the wrongly spelt word.

6. A. Scapegoat
B. Systemic
C. Coincidence
D. Upheval

Directions: In the following questions, the passage/sentence is split into four parts and named A, B, C and D. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence/passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

7. P. The Ningthou and Leima, on their part, never stopped thinking about their meeyam, their people.
Q. The people were not the only ones who loved their Ningthou and Leima.
R. "Our meeyam should be happy," they said.
S. They were loved dearly by the people.
T. Long, long ago, in the land of Kangleipak in Manipur, there lived a Ningthou and a Leima.

A.PQRST

B.TSPRQ

C.TSRPQ

D. QTRSP

Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

8. I shall post these letters tomorrow.
- A. These letters would be posted tomorrow.
 - B. These letters will be posted tomorrow.
 - C. These letters are to be posted tomorrow.
 - D. These letters have to be posted tomorrow.
9. A massive search operation has been launched to nab the suspects.
- A. The police had launched a massive search operation to nab the suspects.
 - B. The police have launched a massive search operation to nab the prospects.
 - C. The police launched a massive search operation to nab the suspects.
 - D. The police had been launched a massive search operation to nab the suspects.

Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

10. The Priest said, "May God pardon this sinner!"
- A. The priest prayed that God would pardon this sinner.
 - B. The priest prayed that God might pardon that sinner.
 - C. The priest prayed if God will pardon that sinner.
 - D. The priest said that God might pardon the sinner.
11. Ashmita advised me to go and see a doctor.
- A. "Shouldn't you go and see a doctor?" asked Ashmita.
 - B. "You should go and see a doctor," said Ashmita.
 - C. Ashmita asked me, "Will you go and see a doctor?"
 - D. Ashmita told me, "Go and see a doctor."

Directions: In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

12. **One who is a dabbler in arts, science, literature**
- A. Pedagogue
 - B. Pantry
 - C. Dilettante
 - D. Internment
13. **A small group of people formed to fulfill own interest**
- A. Coterie
 - B. Congregation
 - C. Oviparous
 - D. Hostess

Directions: Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

14. **Wear something on one's sleeve**

- A. To informally discuss something, typically a plan or idea.
- B. To meet the requirements or expectations of
- C. To openly display or make known one's belief, value, emotion, or sentiment
- D. To start an activity or do something which other people will join in with later

15. **Wreak havoc**

- A. To prepare for everything possible
- B. To cause great damage
- C. To be a matter about which very little is known or understood
- D. To be lucky in having a particular thing

Directions: choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

16. **IMMUNE**

- A. Pristine
- B. Susceptible
- C. Abhor
- D. Machination

17. **RANKLE**

- A. Condescend
- B. Sporadic
- C. Proselytize
- D. Soothe

Direction: In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

18. **ABERRATION**

- A. Digress
- B. Reciprocal
- C. Sequester
- D. Anomaly

19. **SHAMBOLIC**

- A. Chaotic
- B. Disinterested
- C. Address
- D. Proscribe

Directions: In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.

20. I requested my friend To come and shopping with me.
- A. Or shopping with me
 - B. And shop with me
 - C. And shop with myself
 - D. No correction required

21. The passage is **more difficult that** I am unable to comprehend it.
- A. So difficult that
 - B. More difficulty that
 - C. So difficult than
 - D. No correction required

Directions: Find out the error, if any –

22. He asked her that (A)/ whether she knew (B)/ what had happened the previous week (C) / when she was on leave. (D)/
23. Until you do not go (A)/ to the station (B)/ to receive him (C)/ I can hardly feel at ease. (D)
24. I did not know (A)/where they were going (B)/ nor could I understand(C)/why had they left so soon. (D)
25. The distinguished visitor said that he had great pleasure to be with us for some time (A)/ and that the pleasure was all the greater (B)/ because his visit afforded him an opportunity to study the working (C)/ of an institution of such eminence as ours. (D)/

Answers

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

Explanation

1. **Staggering** (adjective) – Deeply shocking; astonishing. चौंका देने वाला
 - **Manageable** (adjective) – easy or possible to deal with नियन्त्रणीय
 - **Equitable** (adjective) – fair, just, impartial समान
 - **Flagging** (noun) – Sign, indication, augury संकेत
2. **Sweep** (verb) – to win all the series of a competition जीतना
 - **Deflate** (verb) – go down, dispirit, collapse, dismay, discourage, dishearten निराश करना
 - **Reflect** (verb) – show, manifest, indicate, signify, exhibit दिखाना
 - **Split** (verb) – Divide, separate, part, break up विभाजन होना
3. **Between** is usually used with two — but sometimes more than two — separate and distinct things. For example:
The treasure is between the palm tree and the hut.
What is the difference between hate, loathing, and disdain?
"Among" is used to portray the idea of being in a group or in the midst of a group. For example:
 - (i) I want to live among like-minded people.
 - (ii) Share these sweets among yourselves.
4. **Have one's share of** (phrase) – To have a sufficient amount of something
5. **Mettle** (noun) – courage, bravery, gallantry, intrepidity, fearlessness बहादुरी/काबिलियत
 - **Sentiment** (noun) – opinion, view, attitude भावना
 - **Imminent** (adjective) – impending, coming, forthcoming, close, near आगामी
 - **Chunk** (noun) – A significant amount of something. हिस्सा
6. **Upheaval** (noun) – turmoil, disturbance, turbulence, disorder, convulsion उथल-पुथल
7. **TSPRQ**
Long, long ago, in the land of Kangleipak in Manipur, there lived a Ningthou and a Leima. They were loved dearly by the people. The Ningthou and Leima, on their part, never stopped thinking about their meeyam, their people. "Our meeyam should be happy," they said. The people were not the only ones who loved their Ningthou and Leima.
12. **Dilettante** – One who is a dabbler in arts, science, literature अनुरागी, प्रेमी, शौकीन
 - **Pedagogue** – One who likes teaching शिक्षक

- **Pantry** – A place where food is kept भण्डारा
 - **Internment** – Detaining and confining someone नजरबंदी
13. **Coterie** – A small group of people formed to fulfill own interest मंडली
- **Congregation** – An assembly of worshippers सभा
 - **Oviparous** – Laying eggs and not young ones अण्डज
 - **Hostess** – A woman who entertains guests
14. **Wear something on one's sleeve** (phrase) – To openly display or make known one's belief, value, emotion, or sentiment
15. **Wreak havoc** (phrase) – to cause great damage कहर बरपाना
16. **Immune** (to) (adjective) – not affected by something; exempt, absolved मुक्त होना/ बचा हुआ
- **Pristine** (adjective) – Original; unspoiled; pure प्राचीन
 - **Abhor** (verb) – To hate very, very much; to detest घृणा करना
 - **Machination** (noun) – Scheming Activity for an evil purpose चालबाज़ी
17. **Rankle** (verb) – irritate, annoy, fester, irk, gnaw, gall, needle, rile, infuriate क्रुद्ध करना, सताना
- **Condescend** (verb) – To stoop to someone else's level, usually in an offensive way; to patronize झुकना, दबना
 - **Sporadic** (adjective) – Stopping and starting; scattered; occurring in bursts every once in a while. छिटपुट
 - **Proselytize** (verb) – To convert from one religion or doctrine to another; to recruit converts to a religion or doctrine. धर्मांतरण करना
18. **Aberration** (noun) – Deviation, abnormality, anomaly, irregularity, peculiarity, eccentricity, oddness सामान्य से विचलन
- **Digress** (verb) – To stray from the main subject पीछे हटना, विषयान्तर
 - **Reciprocal** (adjective) – Mutual; shared; interchangeable पारस्परिक
 - **Sequester** (verb) – To set or keep apart पृथक, एकांत में रहना
19. **Shambolic** (adjective) – chaotic, disorganized, confused, cluttered, disordered बेतरतीब, अस्त-व्यस्त
- **Disinterested** (adjective) – Not taking sides; unbiased उदासीन, स्वार्थरहित
 - **Address** (verb) – To speak to; to direct one's attention to बोलना; संबोधित करना
 - **Proscribe** (verb) – To outlaw; to prohibit देश से निकालना

20. 'shopping' के बदले 'shop' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'to come' एक Infinitive है और इसके बाद Conjunction 'and' से जुड़ा हुआ शब्द 'shopping' एक Gerund है जबकि इसे भी Infinitive ही होना चाहिए; जैसे-

- i. She likes swimming and playing.
- ii. She wants to sing and dance.[dance= to dance]

21. 'more' के बदले 'so' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि बनावट 'so that' पर आधारित है जिसमें 'so' वाला Clause में 'कारण' तथा 'that' वाला Clause में 'परिणाम' होता है; जैसे-

- i. The question is so difficult that I cannot answer it.

22. (A) Part (A) में 'that' का प्रयोग नहीं होगा क्योंकि Indirect Question के Reported Speech में 'if/whether' का प्रयोग होता है यदि Reported Speech में Yes/NO-Question हो अर्थात् Reported Speech में कोई Interrogative word नहीं हो बल्कि केवल Auxiliary Verb हो।

- 'that' will not be used in Part (A) because 'if/whether' is used in Reported Speech of Indirect Question if there is Yes/NO-Question in Reported Speech i.e. no Interrogative word in Reported Speech, but only Auxiliary Verb.

23. (A) 'until you do not go' के बदले 'until you go' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'until, unless' में 'not' का भाव मौजूद होता है। अतः इनसे शुरू वाले Clause में 'not' जोड़कर इन्हें Double Negative नहीं बनाया जाता है; जैसे-

- i. Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.
- ii. If you do not work hard, you will not succeed.

- 'until you do not go' will be replaced with 'until you go' because 'until, unless' has the meaning of 'not'. Therefore, by adding 'not' to the clauses starting with them, they are not made Double Negative; As-

- i. Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.
- ii. If you do not work hard, you will not succeed.

24. (D) 'why had they' के बदले 'why they had' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Part (D) में Question नहीं है बल्कि Part (C) में प्रयुक्त 'understand' क्रिया का Object है, और 'why' से शुरू होने वाला Clause एक Noun Clause होगा जो Object का काम करेगा। Question में 'Interrogative Word + Auxiliary + Subject...' का प्रयोग होता है, जबकि Clause में 'Interrogative Word + Subject + Verb' का; जैसे-

- i. Why is he crying ? [Question]
- ii. I do not understand/know why he is crying.

'यहाँ (ii) वाक्य में 'why he is crying' एक Noun Clause है।

- 'why had they' will be replaced with 'why they had' because the part (D) does not contain the question but the object of the verb 'understand' used in the part (C), and clause starting with 'why' will be a Noun Clause which will act as Object. 'Interrogative

Word + Auxiliary + Subject...' is used in the Question, while in the Clause 'Interrogative Word + Subject + Verb'; As-

(i) Why is he crying? [Question]

(ii) I do not understand/know why he is crying.

25. (C) 'afford' के बदले 'offered' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'afford' का अर्थ है 'have money or time to be able to buy or to do something' अर्थात् 'कोई चीज खरीदने या करने में सक्षम होना' जबकि 'offer' का अर्थ है 'provide the opportunity for something' अर्थात् 'किसी चीज के लिए अवसर प्रदान करना'; जैसे-

i. He cannot afford a new car.

ii. I offered him a job.

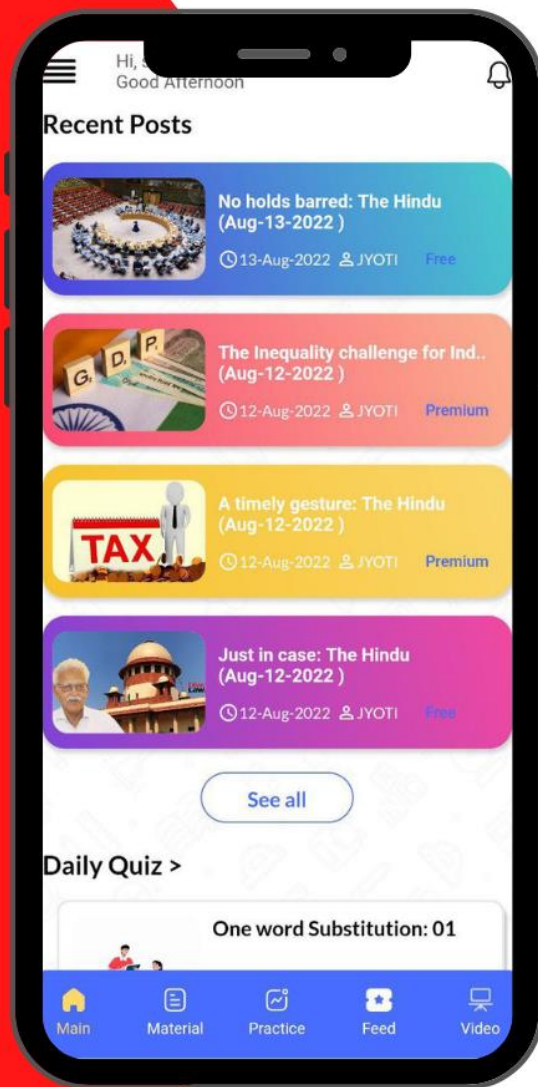
iii. This job does not offer any prospects for promotion.

➤ 'offered' shall be used instead of 'afford' because 'afford' means 'have money or time to be able to buy or to do something' whereas 'offer' means 'provide the opportunity for something'; As-

i. He cannot afford a new car.

ii. I offered him a job.

iii. This job does not offer any prospects for promotion.



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