

## End of a dream run: On the World Cup final

India **came up short** against Australia despite starting as the favourites

Two **decades** apart, India again ran into Australia in a World Cup final and the result was the same. In the 2003 edition's **climax** at Johannesburg, Ricky Ponting's men were an **overwhelming** opposition. The latest **summit clash** at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium **proved** no different as Pat Cummins and his men remained equally **indomitable**. In both championships, the force seemed to be with India until the final hurdle. Sourav Ganguly then, Rohit Sharma now, are the **anguished** captains. **The Men in Blue** were in terrific form all through this World Cup, the batters and bowlers had this **aura of invincibility**, 10 matches were won **on the trot** and even Australia was **vanquished** in the early part of the campaign. To defeat all rivals in a round-robin league phase **reflected** India's consistency but as Australia showed yet again, finals of multi-team ICC events **throw up** unique challenges. The men from **Down Under** have now won six World Cups and Cummins, their current **skipper**, has grown **in stature**. Sunday's final on a **sluggish** pitch with dry spots affected India's free-flowing batters. Even if Rohit, Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul scored, the others found their timings **going awry**. A total of 240 was not enough to test the Australians later at night especially with the dew **kicking in**.

Reducing Australia to 47 for three, India had a **window of opportunity** but Travis Head shut that door, with one of the finest **tons** in the history of World Cup finals. The southpaw's 137 will be spoken about for long. But **perhaps** the game's turning point was when he took a diving catch to end Rohit's **belligerent knock**: India froze. Australia's great win **leaned** heavily **on** its **incredible** fielding. When Allan Border lifted the World Cup at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 1987, it signalled a new phase of Australian **dominance**. With Cummins doing the same, it just **reiterated** his nation's leading position in cricket. **Meanwhile**, Kohli found no **consolation** in winning the Player of the Tournament award and coach Rahul Dravid spoke about emotions **running high** in the Indian dressing room. Playing that 2003 final, and having now observed how his **wards** ran into the Aussies all over again, Dravid was full of **empathy**. This World Cup could be the last for a golden generation of Indian stars as Rohit, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin and a few others are **unlikely** to be around for the 2027 edition at South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. India's ICC title **drought** since 2013 **continues** but there was no shame in the latest defeat as the better team won.

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Come up short** (phrase) – Fall short, be insufficient, not succeed, fail to reach, lack  
अपर्याप्त होना
2. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
3. **Climax** (noun) – Final match
4. **Overwhelming** (adjective) – Unstoppable, powerful, irresistible, formidable, dominant  
भारी, बहुत बड़ा
5. **Summit clash** (noun) – Final match
6. **Indomitable** (adjective) – Unconquerable, invincible, unbeatable, unstoppable, unyielding अदम्य
7. **Anguished** (adjective) – Distressed, tormented, pained, aggrieved, sorrowful  
दुखी
8. **The Men in Blue** (noun) – Indian cricket team भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम
9. **Aura** (noun) – Ambiance, atmosphere, halo, presence, essence आभा
10. **Invincibility** (noun) – Unbeatability, impregnability, invulnerability, indestructibility, immortality अपराजेयता
11. **On the trot** (phrase) – Consecutively, successively, continuously, in a row, one after another लगातार
12. **Vanquish** (verb) – Defeat, conquer, overcome, subdue, triumph over पराजित होना
13. **Reflect** (verb) – Indicate, show, demonstrate, manifest, signify दर्शाना
14. **Throw up** (phrasal verb) – Produce, generate, yield, create, bring about उत्पन्न करना
15. **Down Under** (noun) – Australia ऑस्ट्रेलिया
16. **Skipper** (noun) – Captain, leader, commander, chief, head कप्तान
17. **Stature** (noun) – Status, standing, prestige, reputation, prominence प्रतिष्ठा
18. **Sluggish** (adjective) – Slow, lethargic, inactive, listless, torpid सुस्त
19. **Go awry** (phrase) – Go wrong, fail, misfire, backfire, not go as planned गलत हो जाना
20. **Kick in** (phrasal verb) – Start, begin, initiate, activate, come into effect प्रभाव में आना
21. **Window of opportunity** (phrase) – Chance, opening, possibility, moment, opportunity सुनहरा अवसर
22. **Tons** (noun) – Century in cricket
23. **Perhaps** (adverb) – Maybe, possibly, potentially, conceivably, perchance शायद

24. **Belligerent** (adjective) – Aggressive, hostile, combative, warlike, contentious आक्रामक
25. **Knock** (noun) – an innings, especially of an individual batter.
26. **Lean on** (phrasal verb) – Rely on, depend on, count on, trust, bank on निर्भर करना
27. **Incredible** (adjective) – Unbelievable, astonishing, amazing, extraordinary, remarkable अविश्वसनीय
28. **Dominance** (noun) – Supremacy, control, power, authority, ascendancy प्रभुत्व
29. **Reiterate** (verb) – Repeat, restate, recapitulate, echo, reaffirm दोहराना
30. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – In the meantime, simultaneously, concurrently, while, during this time इसी बीच
31. **Consolation** (noun) – Comfort, solace, relief, reassurance, condolence सांत्वना
32. **Run high** (phrase) – Be intense, be strong, escalate, be fervent, be passionate उत्तेजित होना
33. **Ward** (noun) – Here it refers to Indian team under the leadership of Dravid.
34. **Empathy** (noun) – Understanding, compassion, sympathy, sensitivity, insight सहानुभूति
35. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, not likely, implausible, questionable असंभावित
36. **Drought** (noun) – Here it refers to scarcity or lack of ICC trophy.

## Summary of the Editorial

1. **India vs Australia Final:** India faced Australia in a World Cup final, reminiscent of their encounter two decades earlier in 2003.
2. **Dominant Australian Teams:** In both 2003 and the latest final, Australian teams, led first by Ricky Ponting and now by Pat Cummins, proved to be formidable opponents.
3. **Consistent Performance by India:** Throughout the tournament, India showed remarkable consistency, winning 10 matches in a row, including a victory over Australia in the earlier stages.
4. **Finals Challenge:** Despite their consistency, India struggled in the final, a common challenge in ICC multi-team events.
5. **Australian Dominance:** Australia's victory marked their sixth World Cup win, showcasing their continued dominance in cricket.
6. **Pitch Conditions:** The final was played on a sluggish pitch in Ahmedabad, which affected the performance of India's batters.
7. **India's Inadequate Total:** India set a total of 240, which was insufficient against the Australians, especially with the dew factor in the evening.
8. **Brief Opportunity for India:** India reduced Australia to 47 for three, opening a potential comeback window.
9. **Travis Head's Performance:** Travis Head scored a memorable 137, including a critical catch that dismissed Rohit Sharma, shifting the momentum towards Australia.
10. **Australia's Fielding:** The victory was significantly aided by Australia's exceptional fielding skills.
11. **Continuation of Australian Era:** The win underlined the ongoing era of Australian cricket dominance, a legacy since Allan Border's captaincy in 1987.
12. **Indian Players' Emotions:** The Indian team, including coach Rahul Dravid and player Virat Kohli, experienced heightened emotions, with Kohli expressing disappointment despite winning the Player of the Tournament award.
13. **End of an Era for Indian Stars:** This World Cup might be the last for several Indian cricketing legends like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who may not play in the 2027 World Cup.
14. **India's ICC Title Drought:** India's failure to win an ICC title since 2013 continues, despite their strong performance in the tournament.
15. **Acknowledgment of a Deserved Win:** The editorial concludes that there was no shame in India's defeat, acknowledging that the better team won the final.

### Practice Exercise: Banking Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred about Australia's performance in World Cup finals against India?**

[Editorial page]

- (i) Australia consistently demonstrates a high level of play in World Cup finals.
  - (ii) Australia's experience in finals gives them an advantage over India.
  - (iii) The Australian team adapts well to different playing conditions.
  - (iv) Australia's success is mainly due to individual players' performances.
  - (v) Australia's strategy in finals seems to counter India effectively.
- A. i, ii, and iii only
  - B. ii, iii, and iv only
  - C. i, iv, and v only
  - D. iii, iv, and v only
  - E. i, ii, iii, iv, and v
2. **Which of the following statements is true based on the passage?**
- (i) India defeated Australia in the early part of the World Cup campaign.
  - (ii) India had a 10-match winning streak in this World Cup.
  - (iii) The final match was played on a pitch favorable to fast bowlers.
  - (iv) Dew in the evening affected the Australian batting line-up.
  - (v) Rohit Sharma and Sourav Ganguly showed remarkable performance in the finals.
- A. i, ii, and iii only
  - B. ii, iii, and iv only
  - C. i, iv, and v only
  - D. iii, iv, and v only
  - E. i, ii, iii, iv, and v
3. **Which player's performance was a critical turning point in the World Cup final described in the passage?**
- A. Virat Kohli
  - B. Rohit Sharma
  - C. Travis Head
  - D. R. Ashwin
  - E. Pat Cummins
4. **In the context of the passage, what is a synonym for the word "belligerent" as used in "Rohit's belligerent knock"?**
- A. Defensive
  - B. Aggressive
  - C. Cautious
  - D. Uninterested
  - E. Passive
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
- A. Optimistic
  - B. Nostalgic

- C. Analytical
- D. Pessimistic
- E. None of the above

**Direction (Q6- Q9): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

Libraries symbolize the progress of civilization," Droupadi Murmu, President of India. Every year National Librarian's Day is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_\_the birth anniversary of Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India. He was the \_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_of library science in India who developed the systematic classification of books, the colon classification and also \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_ the five laws of library science. The five laws he developed - Books are for use, Every reader, his book, Every book, its reader, Save the time of the reader; and A library is a growing organism, form the fundamental tenet of a library. Very often most of our librarians forget these principles and behave in an unwelcoming manner towards the readers. They often forget that books are for the use of readers. This is more evident in libraries managed by schools, colleges and research institutions. The culture being followed in most of our schools and colleges \_\_\_\_\_(d)\_\_\_\_\_ how to make students keep away from the readers.

**Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words**

6. Libraries symbolize the progress of civilization," Droupadi Murmu, President of India. Every year National Librarian's Day is celebrated \_\_\_\_\_(a)\_\_\_\_\_the birth anniversary of Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, the father of Library Science in India.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (a)**

- (i) Commencing
- (ii) Commemorating
- (iii) Underlying
- (iv) Banquet

- A. Only (i)    B. Both (ii) and (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Only (ii)    E. None of the above

7. He was the \_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_of library science in India who developed the systematic classification of books

**Fill the most appropriate option in (b)**

- (i) Didactic
- (ii) Anew
- (iii) Doyen
- (iv) Morals

- A. Only (iii)    B. Both (ii) and (iv)    C. Only (iv)    D. Only (ii)    E. None of the above

8. The colon classification and also \_\_\_\_\_(c)\_\_\_\_\_ the five laws of library science.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (c)**

- (i) Trained
- (ii) Penned
- (iii) Constrained
- (iv) Revived

- A. Only (i)    B. Only (ii)    C. Both (i) and (iv)    D. Only (iii)    E. None of the above

9. The culture being followed in most of our schools and colleges \_\_\_\_\_(d)\_\_\_\_\_ how to make students keep away from the readers.

**Fill the most appropriate option in (d)**

- (i) Were
- (ii) Was
- (iii) Are
- (iv) Is

A. Only (i)    B. Only (iv)    C. Only (iii)    D. Both (iii) and (ii)    E. None of the above

**Direction: In each question below, a sentence is given with a part of it printed in bold type. That part contains a phrase that may be correct or erroneous. Find out which is the correct phrase that should replace the error in bold, if there is any, and which makes the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No improvement required', mark option E 'No improvement required' as the answer.**

10. Rahul, along with his friends, **are planning to visit the new amusement park** next week.

- A. is planned to visiting the new amusement park
- B. are plans to visit the new amusement park
- C. is planning to visit the new amusement park
- D. are planned for visiting new amusement park
- E. No improvement required

**Directions (Q11 – Q14): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.**

- P.** An average Indian's sodium consumption is more than double the physiological need and dramatically exceeds
- Q.** Excessive sodium intake contributes to the rise of hypertension, heart disease, and stroke.
- R.** The seemingly innocuous act of consuming salt can have dangerous repercussions when taken in excess.
- S.** The dangers often lurk undetected, warranting urgent attention and a reevaluation of our dietary choices.
- T.** The World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended daily intake of <5 g of salt for adults.

11. Which of the following should be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

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

12. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

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

13. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

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

14. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

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

15. **Direction:** In the following questions, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A),(B), (C), (D). These words may or may not be placed in their places. Four options with different arrangements of these words are given. Mark the option with the correct arrangements the answer. If no change is required, mark 'No arrangement required' as your answer.

The University Grants Commission's **decision(A)** to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India could **milieu(B)** long **overdue(C)** transformations in the country's higher educational **herald(D)**.

- A. ADCB
- B. ACDB
- C. DBCA
- D. ABDC
- E. No arrangement required

**Directions (Q16 – Q17):** In the following sentence, four words are given in bold, out of which one word is misspelled. Find the misspelled word

16. The **congregation(A)** was in a **panicky(B)** state due to the **erroneous(C)** prediction that was made, even though a sage had tried to **foretell(D)** a different outcome

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. None of the above

17. The village's **scarceness(A)** of resources led to **discontentment(B)** among the people, making them **lethargic(C)** and in dire need of **intercession(D)**.

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. None of the above



**Direction:** 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 E 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

**18. Catchword**

- (i) Since governance has become something of a **catchword** in political (science) circles, its usage has been both loose and universalising.
  - (ii) The children were all **catchwords** for attention.
  - (iii) In the absence of all argument in support of the measure we have had recourse to **catchwords**.
- A. Only (i)
  - B. Only (ii)
  - C. Only (iii)
  - D. (i), (iii)
  - E. None of the above

**Direction (Q19 – Q20):** Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

19. Motivating the youth (A)/ of the nation is (B)/ the central theme (C)/ of the book. (D)/ No Error. (E)
20. He have faced (A)/ failures and (B)/ disappointments without (C)/ feeling defeated. (D)/ No Error. (E)

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

- A)** (i, ii, iii) is correct because the passage indicates Australia's consistent high-level performance in finals (i), their advantage possibly due to their finals experience (ii), and their adaptability to different conditions like the sluggish pitch (iii). Options iv and v are less supported by the passage, as it focuses more on the team's overall capability rather than individual performances or specific strategies against India.
- A) (i, ii, iii)**  
 The passage confirms India's victory over Australia in the early part of the campaign (i) and mentions their 10-match winning streak (ii). However, the pitch condition (iii) described in the passage is 'sluggish with dry spots', which does not explicitly favor fast bowlers. Options iv and v are not supported by the passage, as it does not discuss the evening dew affecting the Australian team or specific performances by Rohit Sharma and Sourav Ganguly in the finals.
- C) Travis Head**  
 The passage highlights Travis Head's significant contribution to the Australian team's victory. It states that Head's century ("one of the finest tons in the history of World Cup finals") and his diving catch to dismiss Rohit Sharma were pivotal in the match. This underlines Head's critical role in turning the game in Australia's favor.
- B) Aggressive**  
**Belligerent** (adjective) – Aggressive, hostile, confrontational, quarrelsome, pugnacious  
 आक्रामक, जुझारू  
 The term "belligerent" in this context refers to Rohit Sharma's playing style during his knock in the cricket match. It implies a combative, aggressive approach to batting. The closest synonym among the options is "aggressive," which conveys a similar sense of forcefulness and assertiveness in the context of a cricket innings.
- C) Analytical**  
 The passage presents a detailed analysis of two cricket World Cup finals involving India and Australia, discussing strategies, key moments, and the performance of players. It maintains a factual and evaluative tone, carefully assessing the events without emotional bias, which is indicative of an analytical tone.
- D) 'Commemorating' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "commemorating" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष घटना या व्यक्ति की याद में मनाना। वाक्य में National Librarian's Day का उल्लेख है जो Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan की जन्मतिथि पर मनाया जाता है, इसलिए 'commemorating' यहाँ सही है। 'Commencing' का अर्थ होता है शुरू होना, 'Underlying' का अर्थ है आधारित होना और 'Banquet' का अर्थ है भोज, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।**
  - 'Commemorating' should be used because it means to mark or celebrate a specific event or person. The sentence mentions the National Librarian's Day celebrated in the memory

of Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan's birth anniversary, making 'commemorating' fitting here. Whereas, 'Commencing' means to begin, 'Underlying' means to be the basis of, and 'Banquet' means a large meal or feast, which don't fit in this context.

7. A) 'Doyen' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Doyen' का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष क्षेत्र में अत्यधिक अनुभवी या प्रमुख व्यक्ति। वाक्य में पद्मश्री डॉ. एस. आर. रंगनाथन को भारत में पुस्तकालय विज्ञान के पिता के रूप में संदर्भित किया गया है, इसलिए 'doyen' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Didactic' का अर्थ है शिक्षाप्रद, 'Anew' का अर्थ है फिर से, और 'Morals' का अर्थ है नैतिक मूल्य, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Doyen' should be used because it refers to the most respected or prominent person in a particular field. The sentence refers to Padmashri Dr. S. R. Ranganathan as the father of library science in India, making 'doyen' the right choice. On the other hand, 'Didactic' means instructive, 'Anew' means again, and 'Morals' refers to ethical values, which don't fit in this context.
8. B) 'Penned' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "penned" का अर्थ होता है लिखना। पैसेज में दिखाया गया है कि Dr. S. R. Ranganathan ने पुस्तकालय विज्ञान के पाँच नियम विकसित किए, इसलिए उसने उन्हें 'लिखा' होगा। जबकि 'Trained' का अर्थ है प्रशिक्षित करना, 'Constrained' का अर्थ है प्रतिबंधित करना, और 'Revived' का अर्थ है पुनर्जीवित करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Penned' should be used because it means to write. The passage indicates that Dr. S. R. Ranganathan developed the five laws of library science, implying that he 'wrote' them. Whereas, 'Trained' means to instruct, 'Constrained' means to limit, and 'Revived' means to bring back to life, which are not appropriate in this context.
9. B) "The culture" is a singular subject, and hence it requires a singular verb, which is "is."  
"The culture" एक singular subject है, इसलिए इसे singular verb "is" की आवश्यकता है।
- (i) "Were" is a plural verb in the past tense. The subject "The culture" is singular, so "were" doesn't match with it.
- (ii) "Was" is a singular verb but in the past tense. The context here is present, so "was" is not appropriate.
- (iii) "Are" is the present tense verb, but it is plural. Since "The culture" is singular, "are" cannot be used.
10. **C) is planning to visit the new amusement park**  
The subject 'Rahul' is singular, and when we use phrases like "along with," the verb agrees with the first noun or pronoun. Therefore, the verb should be in the singular form "is" and not "are". Out of the options, the phrase "is planning to visit" is the most grammatically correct and fits the sentence appropriately.
- Subject 'Rahul' singular है, और जब हम "along with," जैसे phrases का उपयोग करते हैं, तो verb पहले noun या pronoun के साथ मेल खाती है। इसलिए, verb को "is" के रूप में होना

चाहिए और "are" नहीं। options में, "is planning to visit" phrase सबसे grammatically रूप से सही है और sentence में उचित रूप से फिट होता है।

11. **C. (R)**

Sentence R introduces the topic of the dangers of consuming excessive salt.

12. **B. (Q)**

Sentence Q elaborates on what specifically those dangerous repercussions mentioned in R are: hypertension, heart disease, and stroke

13. **D. (S)**

Sentence S adds further emphasis on the unseen dangers of high sodium intake and suggests the need for a change in dietary habits.

14. **A. (P)**

Sentence P provides a specific fact about the sodium consumption of an average Indian, which is more than double the physiological need.

15. **A) ADCB**

The University Grants Commission's decision to allow foreign universities to set up campuses in India could herald long overdue transformations in the country's higher educational milieu

16. **C) The correct spelling is "erroneous."**

17. **E) All the words in the sentence are spelled correctly.**

18. **D) Catchword** (noun) –Motto, watchword, slogan, tag, catchphrase, नारा

According to the given options only (i) AND (iii) are contextually correct.

Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

The children were all clamouring for attention.

19. **(E) No error.**

20. **(A) 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject 'He' है जिसके लिए Verb हमेशा Singular होता है।**

- 'Has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject of the sentence is 'He' for which Verb is always Singular.