

Farming consensus: On the government and the farmers on protest

The Centre must **address grievances** of farmers through talks

Farmers from Punjab, in their thousands, **have assembled** at three points along the border with Haryana, where they have been stopped from **marching** to Delhi. The **protesters** are demanding legally guaranteed MSP for crops, **debt waiver**, cancellation of international agreements impacting the agriculture sector, and a minimum pension of ₹5,000 for farmers and agriculture labour. Some of these demands were raised during their earlier protest in 2021-22, which was **called off** after the BJP-led central government withdrew three controversial laws that had **sought** to reform the agriculture sector. The protest now is **spearheaded** by the SKM (non-political), a **splinter** group of the body that had led the earlier protest. The split signifies **fissures** in the interest groups across Haryana, Punjab and western U.P. and Rajasthan. There are at least three other **strands** of protests gathering strength. **Farmers** in western U.P. affected by the Jewar airport project and Yamuna Expressway **are up in arms**. In Haryana's Sonipat, farmers are protesting land **acquisition** for power cables. The original SKM and several trade unions have **called for** a national rural and industrial **strike** on February 16, with **overlapping** and additional demands that include the **repeal** of four labour **codes**.

The government has opened talks with the Punjab farmers, but a legal guarantee of MSP appears **unlikely**. The **police** in Haryana and Delhi **have** stopped the farmers more than 200 km away from Delhi as they are **resolute** that the farmers will not be allowed near the border of the national capital where they had **laid siege** in 2021-22. The MSP-based **procurement** by the FCI has been the **bedrock** of food security, but the case for its reform is strong. Surplus producers of grain have benefited from the MSP scheme, but the scheme **bypasses subsistence** farmers in poorer regions. This **uneven geographical** spread of procurement has also **led to unsustainable** farm practices in some areas, while farmers in other regions of the country are always **on the edge of penury**. All this calls for a **revamping** of the public support for farming, which is essential for reasons that include national food security. This can be achieved better through wide political consultation and by encouraging the beneficiaries of the current system to diversify production and increase productivity. The political **undertones** of the protest **on the eve of** the Lok Sabha election also **cannot** be **overlooked**. The farm sector needs a new model of public support. It cannot **be left to the mercy of** the market. The government should lead the efforts to create a national consensus on this question. [\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

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

Vocabulary

1. **Consensus** (noun) – Agreement, concord, harmony, concurrence, accord सहमति
2. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, attend to, confront, approach सुलझाना, निपटाना
3. **Grievance** (noun) – Complaint, objection, protest, grumble, grievance शिकायत
4. **Assemble** (verb) – Gather, congregate, convene, muster, rally इकट्ठा होना
5. **Marching** (noun) – Advance, progression, movement, progress, mobilization कूच करना
6. **Protestor** (noun) – Demonstrator, objector, dissenter, agitator, activist प्रदर्शनकारी
7. **Debt waiver** (noun) – Debt forgiveness, debt relief, debt cancellation, loan forgiveness, loan waiver कर्ज माफी
8. **Call off** (phrasal verb) – Cancel, abort, annul, abandon, suspend रद्द करना
9. **Seek** (verb) – try, aim, endeavour, effort, attempt प्रयास करना
10. **Spearhead** (verb) – Lead, head, direct, guide, pioneer अगुवाई करना
11. **Splinter** (noun) – Fragment, shard, sliver, chip, piece टुकड़ा
12. **Fissure** (noun) – a state of incompatibility or disagreement. असहमति, मतभेद
13. **Strand** (noun) – Element, aspect, component, thread, part पहलु
14. **Up in arms** (phrase) – Angry, outraged, indignant, incensed, infuriated गुस्से में
15. **Acquisition** (noun) – Procurement, purchase, buying, obtaining, acquiring अधिग्रहण
16. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, require, necessitate, entail, mandate मांग करना
17. **Strike** (noun) – Walkout, stoppage, protest, industrial action, work stoppage हड़ताल
18. **Overlapping** (adjective) – Intersecting, coinciding, overlapping, covering, overlaying समवर्ती
19. **Repeal** (noun) – Revocation, cancellation, annulment, nullification, abolition निरसन
20. **Code** (noun) – Regulation, rule, law, ordinance, statute नियम
21. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, doubtful, questionable, unlikely, implausible असंभावित
22. **Resolute** (adjective) – Determined, firm, unwavering, steadfast, unyielding दृढ़ संकल्प

23. **Lay seize** (phrase) – Occupy, take control of, capture, take over, seize घेरा डालना
untenable, unsupportable अस्थिर; टिकाऊ नहीं होना
24. **Procurement** (noun) – Acquisition, purchasing, buying, obtaining, procurement खरीद
25. **Bedrock** (noun) – Foundation, base, cornerstone, keystone, underpinning आधार
26. **Bypass** (verb) – Avoid, evade, ignore, skirt, sidestep दरकिनार करना
27. **Subsistence farmer** (noun) – a farmer who consumes most of the produce he or she grows, leaving little or nothing to be marketed
28. **Uneven** (adjective) – Irregular, unequal, lopsided, uneven, unbalanced असमान
29. **Geographical** (adjective) – Spatial, regional, topographical, geographic, locational भौगोलिक
30. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Cause, result in, bring about, give rise to, वजह बनना
31. **Unsustainable** (adjective) – Unmaintainable, unviable, indefensible,
32. **On the edge of** (phrase) – On the brink of, on the verge of, close to, nearing, approaching कगार पर
33. **Penury** (noun) – Poverty, destitution, indigence, impoverishment, neediness दरिद्रता
34. **Revamping** (noun) – Overhaul, renovation, refurbishment, modernization, improvement सुधार
35. **Undertone** (noun) – an underlying quality or feeling.
36. **On the eve of** (phrase) – Just before, on the verge of, prior to, preceding, leading up to के ठीक पहले
37. **Overlook** (verb) – Ignore, disregard, neglect, omit, overlook अनदेखा करना
38. **Be left to the mercy of something** (phrase) – Be vulnerable to, be exposed to, be subject to, be dependent on किसी चीज की दया पर छोड़ दिया जाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Thousands of farmers from Punjab have assembled at the border with Haryana, demanding legally guaranteed MSP, debt waiver, cancellation of international agreements impacting agriculture, and a minimum pension for farmers and labor.
2. Some demands were raised during their earlier protest in 2021-22, which ended after the central government withdrew three controversial farm laws.
3. The current protest is led by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a non-political splinter group from the earlier protest.
4. The split in the protest groups signifies fissures in interest groups across Haryana, Punjab, western U.P., and Rajasthan.
5. There are other strands of protests, including those affected by the Jewar airport project and land acquisition for power cables in Sonipat, Haryana.
6. The original SKM and several trade unions have called for a national rural and industrial strike on February 16, with additional demands including the repeal of four labor codes.
7. The government has opened talks with Punjab farmers, but a legal guarantee of MSP appears unlikely.
8. Police in Haryana and Delhi have stopped farmers more than 200 km away from Delhi to prevent them from reaching the national capital's border, where they had previously laid siege.
9. The MSP-based procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been crucial for food security, but there is a strong case for its reform.
10. The MSP scheme benefits surplus grain producers but bypasses subsistence farmers in poorer regions, leading to an uneven geographical spread of procurement and unsustainable farm practices in some areas.
11. There is a need for revamping public support for farming to ensure national food security, which can be achieved through wide political consultation and encouraging diversification and increased productivity.
12. The political undertones of the protest, on the eve of the Lok Sabha election, cannot be overlooked.
13. The farm sector needs a new model of public support and cannot be left to the mercy of the market.
14. The government should lead efforts to create a national consensus on reforming the agricultural sector.
15. Addressing the grievances of farmers through talks and finding a middle ground is crucial for resolving the ongoing protests and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the agriculture sector.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the line "This can be achieved better through wide political consultation and by encouraging the beneficiaries of the current system to diversify production and increase productivity."?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Critical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Pessimistic
 - D. Indifferent
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The economic impact of farming policies
 - B. The political dynamics of farmer protests
 - C. The need for reform in agricultural support systems
 - D. The environmental consequences of farming practices
3. **What is the primary demand of the farmers protesting along the border with Haryana?**
 - A. Implementation of new agricultural laws
 - B. Increase in the price of agricultural products
 - C. Legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops
 - D. Expansion of agricultural land
4. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme EXCEPT that:**
 - A. It has been the foundation of food security in India.
 - B. It uniformly benefits all farmers across the country.
 - C. It has led to surplus production of grains in some regions.
 - D. It has contributed to unsustainable farming practices in certain areas.
5. **Based on the passage, we can infer that the author would be most supportive of:**
 - A. Abolishing the MSP scheme altogether.
 - B. Maintaining the status quo regarding public support for farming.
 - C. Reforming the MSP scheme to address its current shortcomings.
 - D. Leaving the farm sector to the forces of the market.
6. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Eventually
 - A. Initially
 - B. Primarily
 - C. Originally
 - D. Ultimately
7. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A tank for fish or water plants
 - A. Reservoir
 - B. Aviary
 - C. Aquarium
 - D. Museum
8. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
An image of a God used for worship
 - A. Model

- B. Idol
C. Icon
D. Temple
9. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.**
A. Finally, it can be termed as the channel for all trade, and what is more important, of all ideas.
B. It also provides framework to all economic development.
C. It is the road which determines the site of many cities and the growth and nourishment of all.
D. The road is one of the great fundamental institutions of mankind.
- A. CABD
B. DCBA
C. BDAC
D. DBAC
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Athens was / a most luminous / of all city-states / of ancient Greece
A. Athens was
B. of all city-states
C. of ancient Greece
D. a most luminous
11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
They catch whale sharks commercially in some places around the world
A. Whale sharks were caught commercially in some places around the world.
B. Whale sharks are being caught commercially in some places around the world.
C. Whale sharks have been caught commercially in some places around the world.
D. Whale sharks are caught commercially in some places around the world.
12. **Select the correct active voice form of the given sentence**
A cartoon film is being watched by Praveen
A. Praveen would like to watch a cartoon film.
B. Praveen had been watching a cartoon film.
C. Praveen is watched a cartoon film.
D. Praveen is watching a cartoon film.
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**
She said to her, "Will you ready my suit tomorrow?"
A. She asked her if she would ready her suit tomorrow.
B. She asked her if she would ready her suit the next day.
C. She asked her that if she would ready her suit tomorrow
D. She said her if she would ready her suit tomorrow
14. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

- We ordered a Pizza / which are one of / my favourite foods.
- A. which are one of
B. No error
C. my favourite foods
D. We ordered a Pizza
15. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
We thought / there was a good idea / to wear snow boots / before we stepped out.
- A. We thought
B. before we stepped out
C. to wear snow boots
D. there was a good idea
16. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Deceive
B. Leisure
C. Believe
D. Wellfare
17. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Trendy
- A. Common
B. Foreign
C. Popular
D. Familiar
18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
None of the boys was willing to admit that he was in the wrong.
- A. No substitution required
B. willing to admitting
C. ready to admitting
D. admit
19. Select the most appropriate meaning of the following **idiom**.
Nip in the bud
- A. To destroy early
B. To cut the buds
C. To destroy late
D. Not to destroy
20. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.**
You are welcome to partake this light refreshment
- A. No improvement required
B. to partake of
C. for partaking

D. in partaken

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

There is always something so fascinating about trains and journeys. There (1) _____ certain symbols and signages inside and outside of the train. The (2) _____ of most of them might not be known to everyone. (3) _____ you are a frequent traveller or not, you may have (4) _____ the letter X or a cross mark on the back of the last (5) _____ of the train.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

- A. were
- B. are
- C. had been
- D. will be

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

- A. senses
- B. charge
- C. worth
- D. meanings

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

- A. Whether
- B. Whichever
- C. Whatever
- D. However

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.

- A. distinguished
- B. recognised
- C. noticed
- D. known

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.

- A. booth
- B. coach
- C. bus
- D. rail

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B) Optimistic**
 The tone of the line is optimistic as it suggests a positive outcome through collaboration and improvement in practices. It implies that through political consultation and encouraging diversification and productivity, the goals can be achieved more effectively.
- C) The need for reform in agricultural support systems**
 The main theme of the passage is the need for reform in agricultural support systems. This is highlighted by the discussion on the farmers' demands for legally guaranteed MSP, debt waiver, and other support measures, as well as the call for a revamp in public support for farming to ensure national food security and sustainable practices.
- C) Legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops**
 The passage clearly states that the protesters are demanding legally guaranteed MSP for crops, among other things. This demand was a significant part of their protest, indicating that a legal guarantee of MSP is their primary concern.
- B) It uniformly benefits all farmers across the country.**
 The passage states that the MSP scheme benefits surplus producers of grain, but bypasses subsistence farmers in poorer regions. This indicates that the benefits of the MSP scheme are not uniform across all farmers in the country, option b the correct answer.
- C) Reforming the MSP scheme to address its current shortcomings.**
 The passage suggests that the MSP scheme has been crucial for food security but also has significant flaws, such as bypassing subsistence farmers and leading to unsustainable practices. The author calls for revamping public support for farming and creating a new model of public support, implying that reforming the MSP scheme to address its shortcomings would be the most supported approach.
- D) Eventually (adverb) – In the end, especially after a long delay, dispute, or series of problems. अंत में**
 Synonym: **Ultimately (adverb) – Finally, in the end. अंततः**

 - Initially (adverb) – At the beginning, firstly. प्रारंभ में**
 - Primarily (adverb) – For the most part; mainly. मुख्य रूप से**
 - Originally (adverb) – At first, initially, in the beginning. मूल रूप से**
- C) Aquarium (noun) – A tank or pool or bowl filled with water for keeping live fish and underwater animals. जलजीवन संग्रहालय**

 - Reservoir (noun) – A large natural or artificial lake used as a source of water supply. जलाशय**
 - Aviary (noun) – A large cage, building, or enclosure for keeping birds in. पक्षीशाला**
 - Museum (noun) – A building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited. संग्रहालय**

8. B) **Idol** (noun) – An image or representation of a god used as an object of worship. **प्रतिमा**
- **Model** (noun) – A three-dimensional representation of a person or thing, typically on a smaller scale than the original. **मॉडल**
 - **Icon** (noun) – A person or thing regarded as a representative symbol or as worthy of veneration. **प्रतीक**
 - **Temple** (noun) – A building devoted to the worship, or regarded as the dwelling place, of a god or gods or other objects of religious reverence. **मंदिर**
9. B) **DCBA**
- The road is one of the great fundamental institutions of mankind It is the road which determines the site of many cities and the growth and nourishment of all. It also provides framework to all economic development Finally, it can be termed as the channel for all trade, and what is more important, of all ideas.
10. D) 'a most luminous' के बदले 'the most luminous' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ superlative degree का उपयोग किया जा रहा है, और superlative degree के साथ 'the' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— Everest is the highest peak in the world.
- 'the most luminous' will be used instead of 'a most luminous' because a superlative degree is being used here, and 'the' is used with the superlative degree; Like— Everest is the highest peak in the world.
11. D) Whale sharks are caught commercially in some places around the world.
12. D) Praveen is watching a cartoon film.
13. B) She asked her if she would ready her suit the next day.
14. A) **'Pizza' singular** है, इसलिए 'is' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए 'are' के बदले में, क्योंकि 'Pizza' के अनुसार verb को adjust किया जाएगा। जैसे— Pizza is one of my favourite foods.
- 'which is' will be used instead of 'which are' because the noun 'Pizza' is singular, so the verb should also be singular; Like— Pizza is one of my favourite foods.
15. D) 'there was a good idea' के बदले 'it was a good idea' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'it' का उपयोग introductory subject के रूप में होता है; जैसे— It is important to read books.
- 'it was a good idea' will be used instead of 'there was a good idea' because 'it' is used as an introductory subject here; Like— It is important to read books.
16. D) The incorrect spelling among the given options is 'Welfare'. The correct spelling is '**Welfare**'.
स्वास्थ्य, खुशहाली.
17. C) **Trendy** (adjective) – Fashionable, stylish, in vogue, modish. **फैशनेबल**
- Synonym: **Popular** (adjective) – Liked or admired by many people, well-liked, in demand. **लोकप्रिय**
- **Common** (adjective) – Occurring frequently, widespread, general, ordinary. **सामान्य**
 - **Foreign** (adjective) – Strange, unfamiliar, not native. **विदेशी**
 - **Familiar** (adjective) – Well known, recognized, accustomed. **परिचित**

18. A) No substitution required

19. A) **Nip in the bud** (idiom) – To destroy early प्रारंभ में ही समाप्त कर देना

20. B) '**partake**' के बाद 'of' का प्रयोग होता है जब यह वाक्य में 'consume' या 'take a portion of' के अर्थ में प्रयोग हो। जैसे— You are welcome to partake of this light refreshment.

- to partake of' will be used instead of 'to partake' when referring to consuming or taking a portion of something in a sentence. Like— You are welcome to partake of this light refreshment.

21. B) **Are**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह sentence वर्तमान समय के context में बता रहा है कि ट्रेनों में कुछ निशान होते हैं। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि ट्रेनों में और ट्रेनों के बाहर कुछ सिंबल और संकेत हैं, इसलिए 'are' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'were' भूतकाल में use होता है, 'had been' भूतकाल की समाप्त स्थितियों के लिए और 'will be' भविष्य के लिए use होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Are**' should be used because the sentence is talking about a current, ongoing scenario, that there are certain symbols in and on trains. The sentence mentions that there are certain symbols and signages inside and outside of the train, making 'are' fitting here. Whereas, 'were' is used in past tense, 'had been' indicates a past completion and 'will be' is used for the future, which don't fit in this context.

22. D) **Meanings**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ चर्चा संकेतों और प्रतीकों की हो रही है जिनका अर्थ आम लोगों को नहीं पता होता। sentence में बताया गया है कि अधिकतर संकेतों का अर्थ सभी को पता नहीं होता, इसलिए 'Meanings' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'senses' का अर्थ है अनुभूतियाँ, 'charge' का अर्थ है शुल्क या जिम्मेदारी, और 'worth' का अर्थ है मूल्य या अहमियत, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Meanings**' should be used because the passage discusses symbols and signs whose meanings might not be known to the general public. The sentence highlights that the meanings of most of these symbols are not known to everyone, making 'Meanings' appropriate here. Whereas, 'senses' implies perceptions or feelings, 'charge' means fee or responsibility, and 'worth' denotes value or importance, which don't fit in this context.

23. A) **Whether**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द दो संभावनाओं को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है।

Sentence में उल्लेख किया गया है कि आप अक्सर यात्रा करते हैं या नहीं, आपने ट्रेन की आखिरी डिब्बे पर X अक्षर या क्रॉस चिह्न को देखा हो सकता है, इसलिए 'Whether' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Whichever' और 'Whatever' विकल्प या चयन के संकेत के रूप में प्रयुक्त होते हैं, और 'However' विरोधाभास या संकेत दर्शाने के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

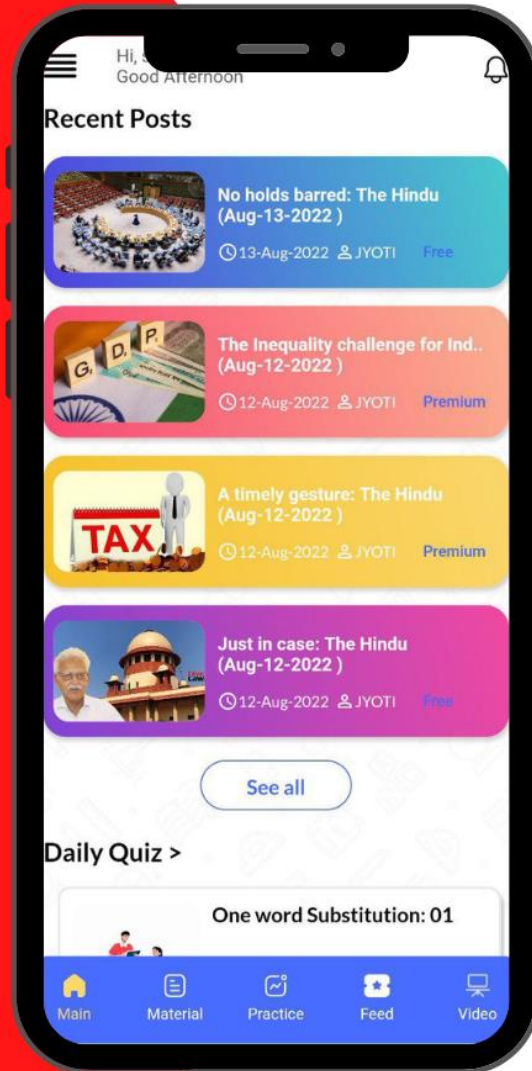
- **Whether**' should be used as it introduces two possibilities. The sentence mentions that regardless of whether you frequently travel or not, you might have noticed the letter X or a cross mark on the back of the train's last compartment, making 'Whether' fitting here. On the other hand, 'Whichever' and 'Whatever' imply a choice or selection, and 'However' is used to indicate contrast or exception, which doesn't fit in this context.

24. C) **Noticed**' का use होगा क्योंकि "noticed" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय या चीज़ को देखना या समझना। Passage में इशारा किया गया है कि यात्री ट्रेन के आखिरी डिब्बे पर एक चिह्न को देख सकते हैं, इसलिए 'noticed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Distinguished' का अर्थ है अलग पहचानना, 'Recognised' का अर्थ है पहचानना जिसे आप पहले देख चुके हैं, और 'Known' का अर्थ है जानते हैं, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Noticed**' should be used because it means to observe or become aware of something. The passage hints that passengers may see a symbol on the back of the last car of the train, making 'noticed' the correct fit. Whereas, 'Distinguished' means to perceive as being different or distinct, 'Recognised' means to identify from having encountered it before, and 'Known' implies being familiar with, which don't fit in this context.

25. B) **Coach**' का use होगा क्योंकि "coach" का अर्थ होता है रेलगाड़ी का वह हिस्सा जिसमें यात्री सवार होते हैं। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि ट्रेन के अखिरी हिस्से पर X या cross mark होता है, इसलिए 'coach' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Booth' का अर्थ है एक छोटा कमरा या स्थान, 'Bus' एक प्रकार की वाहन है, और 'Rail' ट्रैक का हिस्सा होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Coach**' should be used because it refers to the part of a train where passengers are seated. The sentence refers to a mark on the last part of the train, making 'coach' the most fitting choice. Whereas, 'Booth' refers to a small room or space, 'Bus' is a type of vehicle, and 'Rail' pertains to the track, which are not fitting in this context.



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