

## Are foreign universities best bet for better education?

Foreign university campuses in India may be good for many reasons but improvement of higher education is not one of them

With the latest UGC notification regarding the regulations for foreign universities to be **set up** in India, **getting** a degree from a reputed foreign university **may** not be difficult for the **privileged** class. In recent times, there has been an **exodus** of Indian students to foreign countries for higher studies and jobs. In states like Kerala and Punjab, this trend is increasing daily. The trend is so **alarming** that even after schooling, students leave the mother country, and many **foresee** a generation of oldage couples living in **posh** houses.

Why are people moving to **alien** countries? Is it due to the lack of quality education in our country? Is it a lack of poor **infrastructure** in our educational institutions? Or Is it the **colonial** mindset that made us look at foreign countries as better than our homeland? If we analyze the issues behind this exodus, we find that there are multiple issues, and it is challenging to **pinpoint** one problem.

**One main issue** in our higher education **is** the unnecessary administrative procedures followed in our public sector universities and colleges. It's more challenging to tackle the administrative people of these institutions than to learn complicated subjects.

Half of the **productive** time of students doing doctoral degrees in these institutions is wasted on tackling the people in the administration. Students must get no objection certificates from different sections, even sections unrelated to their course. Even after awarding the PhD degree, if the student wants a NET exemption certificate, they have to repeat the complete cycle of paperwork.

What is the need for these complicated administrative procedures? Is it to protect the job of jobless staff members? Few new generation public sector universities like the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) have **streamlined** these complicated procedures, reducing the paperwork and completing the work within the **stipulated** timeline on their website. However, the majority still follow the old culture. Many students move to foreign countries to complete their degree within the specified time without hassles.

The second **reason** for the mass exodus **is** their **lucrative** salary in foreign countries. Gone are the days when students worked jobs as service. Nowadays, for even minor assistance, a student expects **remuneration**. When we were students, we used to help our teachers to maintain departmental libraries and gardens.

Only **people** from the **affluent** class **could** get admission to these universities because of the higher tuition fees. More than that, even if a student receives a degree from a foreign university having a campus in India, it won't have the same weightage as studying in their main campus in the respective countries. The culture of a university is directly related to the culture followed in society. So, even if a

foreign university tries to follow an alien culture, the native societal culture is bound to **reflect** on their campuses.

Even though starting foreign university campuses is a welcome step, it won't bring long-term benefits. Instead, we must improve the quality of education and research in our public sector universities and attract international students to India. The **presence** of international students on our campuses **will enhance** our academic quality and bring money to the public **exchequer**. Since the Indus Valley civilization, education and learning have been deeply **ingrained** in the Indian subcontinent. Our ancient **universities**, like Takshashila and Nalanda, **have** attracted students from around the globe. We have to **envision** the day when students from foreign countries visit our public sector universities, and we start our university campuses in other countries. As a **driving force**, this will also help **propagate** Indian values and philosophy across the globe.

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Bet** (noun) – Wager, Stake, Speculation, Gamble, Punt दांव
2. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, Organize, Found, Arrange, Initiate स्थापित करना
3. **Privileged** (adjective) – Favoured, Entitled, Empowered, Fortunate, Exclusive विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त
4. **Exodus** (noun) – Departure, Migration, Flight, Emigration, Escape पलायन
5. **Alarming** (adjective) – Disturbing, Worrying, Frightening, Shocking, Perturbing चिंताजनक
6. **Foresee** (verb) – Predict, Anticipate, Expect, Foretell, Project भविष्यवाणी करना
7. **Posh** (adjective) – Luxurious, Elegant, Stylish, Chic, Exclusive आलीशान
8. **Alien** (adjective) – Foreign, Unfamiliar, Exotic, Strange, Outsider विदेशी
9. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, Facilities, Structure, Base, System बुनियादी ढांचा
10. **Colonial** (adjective) – Of or relating to British empire
11. **Pinpoint** (verb) – Identify, Locate, Detect, Discover, Determine सटीक निर्धारित करना
12. **Productive** (adjective) – Fruitful, Efficient, Effective, Profitable, Constructive उपयोगी
13. **Streamline** (verb) – Simplify, Modernize, Optimize, Improve, Refine सुव्यवस्थित करना
14. **Stipulated** (adjective) – Specified, Agreed, Contracted, Prescribed, Defined निर्धारित
15. **Lucrative** (adjective) – Profitable, Rewarding, Beneficial, Advantageous, Worthwhile लाभकारी
16. **Remuneration** (noun) – Payment, Compensation, Salary, Wage, Earnings मेहनताना
17. **Affluent** (adjective) – Wealthy, Rich, Prosperous, Welloff, Opulent संपन्न/समृद्ध
18. **Reflect** (verb) – Mirror, Indicate, Show, Express, Demonstrate दर्शाना
19. **Enhance** (verb) – Improve, Augment, Boost, Elevate, Enrich बढ़ाना
20. **Exchequer** (noun) – Treasury, Finance, Funds, Revenue, Coffer राजकोष
21. **Ingrain** (verb) – Instill, Implant, Embed, Infuse, Entrench अंतर्निहित करना
22. **Envision** (verb) – Visualize, Imagine, Conceive, Foresee, Anticipate कल्पना करना
23. **Driving force** (noun) – The impetus, power, or energy behind something in motion

24. **Propagate** (verb) – Spread, Disseminate,  
Broadcast, Circulate, Promote प्रसारित

करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. **UGC Notification on Foreign Universities:** The latest University Grants Commission (UGC) notification allows foreign universities to set up campuses in India, making degrees from these institutions more accessible to the privileged class.
2. **Student Exodus Trend:** There's a growing trend of Indian students going abroad for higher studies and jobs, especially noticeable in states like Kerala and Punjab.
3. **Reasons for Moving Abroad:** This migration raises questions about the quality of education, infrastructure, and a possible colonial mindset that views foreign countries as superior.
4. **Administrative Hurdles in Indian Education:** A significant issue in Indian higher education is cumbersome administrative procedures in public universities and colleges.
5. **Impact on Doctoral Students:** Doctoral students waste much time on administrative processes, including obtaining various no-objection certificates.
6. **Need for Streamlined Administration:** Some new-generation public universities have simplified these procedures, but most still adhere to outdated, bureaucratic systems.
7. **Attraction of Foreign Salaries:** Another reason for the exodus is the higher salaries offered abroad. The cultural shift towards expecting remuneration for all forms of work contributes to this trend.
8. **Access and Value of Foreign Degrees:** Admission to these foreign university campuses in India is limited to affluent students due to high tuition fees, and degrees from these campuses may not hold the same value as those from the main campuses abroad.
9. **Cultural Influence on Education:** The cultural aspects of a university are influenced by the society in which it operates, so foreign universities in India will likely reflect Indian societal norms.
10. **Limitations of Foreign Campuses:** While welcoming foreign universities in India is positive, it may not bring long-term benefits to the overall improvement of higher education.
11. **Improving Indian Education:** There's a need to enhance the quality of education and research in Indian public universities and to attract international students to India.
12. **Benefits of International Students in India:** International students can enhance academic quality and contribute financially to public universities.
13. **Historical Precedence:** India's historical role in education, exemplified by ancient universities like Takshashila and Nalanda, highlights its deep-rooted tradition in learning and attracting global students.
14. **Vision for Indian Universities:** The goal should be to reach a point where students from other countries seek education in Indian universities and India establishes campuses abroad.
15. **Promotion of Indian Values:** Such global engagement in education can serve as a platform to propagate Indian values and philosophy worldwide.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic and hopeful
  - B. Concerned
  - C. Neutral
  - D. Enthusiastic and supportive
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The advantages of foreign universities in India
  - B. The need for administrative reform in Indian universities
  - C. The trend of Indian students studying abroad and its implications
  - D. The historical significance of Indian education
3. **According to the passage, what has been identified as a key issue in the higher education system of India?**
  - A. The primary concern is the lack of technological advancements in Indian universities compared to foreign institutions.
  - B. It is the unnecessary and complex administrative procedures prevalent in public sector universities and colleges.
  - C. The issue lies in the overall quality of teaching staff, which is considered inferior to that in foreign universities.
  - D. The main problem is the lack of diversity and international exposure in Indian educational institutions.
4. **What is the implication of the latest UGC notification regarding foreign universities setting up campuses in India, as per the passage?**
  - A. It will lead to a drastic improvement in the quality of higher education in India.
  - B. This move is primarily beneficial for the privileged class who can access degrees from reputed foreign universities easily.
  - C. The notification will reduce the trend of Indian students going abroad for higher studies.
  - D. It signifies a shift in the Indian education policy towards a more globally integrated approach that will benefit all students.
5. **Which of the following best infers the author's perspective on the impact of foreign university campuses in India?**
  - A. They are essential for the global exposure of Indian students.
  - B. They are beneficial for improving the administrative procedures of Indian universities.
  - C. They might not significantly contribute to the improvement of higher education in India.
  - D. They are primarily focused on attracting students from affluent classes.
6. **What can be inferred about the author's view on the role of Indian public sector universities in global education?**
  - A. They should primarily focus on emulating foreign educational models.
  - B. They should reduce their administrative complexities to attract more students.
  - C. They should enhance their quality to attract international students and establish campuses abroad.
  - D. They are currently on par with foreign universities in terms of educational quality.
7. **Identify the antonym of 'lucrative' as it is used in the context of the passage.**
  - A. Profitable
  - B. Unrewarding
  - C. Beneficial
  - D. Advantageous
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

It is a misconception that the more you learn, the more likely you are to succeed.

  - A. Illusion
  - B. Hallucination
  - C. Fallacy
  - D. Certainty

9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**  
All the employees feel that continuing working there is perilous to their careers.  
A. Convenient  
B. Dangerous  
C. Helpful  
D. Suitable
10. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. One of them may contain an error. Select the option that contains the error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**  
Nobody from the gathering of odd people could guess the accident occurring blast.  
A. the accident occurring blast  
B. Nobody from the gathering  
C. No error  
D. of odd people could guess
11. **Select the most appropriate homonym in the context of the following sentence to fill in the blank.**  
The key was hanging on a \_\_\_\_\_ by the door.  
A. nail: to catch someone, especially when they are doing something wrong, or guilty  
B. nail: a small metal spike, driven into wood to join things together or to serve as a hook  
C. nail: a thin, hard area that covers the upper side of the end of each finger and each toe  
D. nail: to do something successfully
12. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**  
A. Obdurate  
B. Cryptic  
C. Surrugocy  
D. Drastic
13. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**  
(P) and the impact of their  
(Q) the authors' journey of self-discovery  
(R) the memoir explores  
(S) upbringing on their identity  
A. RQPS  
B. RQSP  
C. QPSR  
D. SPRQ
14. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
I have read that / a Leaning Tower of Pisa is a / popular tourist attraction / in the world.  
A. I have read that  
B. a Leaning Tower of Pisa is a  
C. popular tourist attraction  
D. in the world
15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**  
P) God's most wonderful gift to all species on earth is breath.  
Q) It has become a luxury.  
R) Pollution is a great war that mankind is fighting.  
S) In today's times, we are gasping for breath.  
A. QSPR  
B. PSQR  
C. QSRP  
D. PQSR

**Comprehension**

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 \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ opposition. The latest summit clash at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium proved no different as Pat Cummins and his men remained equally \_\_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_. In both championships, the force seemed to be with India until the final hurdle. Sourav Ganguly then, Rohit Sharma now, are the \_\_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_\_ captains. The Men in Blue were in terrific form all through this World Cup, the batters and bowlers had this \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ of invincibility, 10 matches were won on the trot and even Australia was \_\_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_\_ in the early part of the campaign.

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
  - A. Overwhelming
  - B. Alarming
  - C. Warming
  - D. Prospering
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
  - A. Accountable
  - B. Indomitable
  - C. Accountable
  - D. Culpable
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
  - A. Anguished
  - B. Enriched
  - C. Augmented
  - D. Far-fetched
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
  - A. Blunt
  - B. Immense
  - C. Ode
  - D. Aura
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
  - A. Unrestrained
  - B. Specified
  - C. Affiliated
  - D. Vanquished



## Answers

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

## Explanation

### 1. B) Concerned

- The passage adopts a tone that is concerned. The author expresses concern over the administrative procedures, the brain drain, and the effectiveness of foreign campuses in improving the Indian higher education system

### 2. C) The trend of Indian students studying abroad and its implications

- The main theme of the passage revolves around the trend of Indian students pursuing education abroad and the related implications. It discusses the reasons for this trend, such as perceived shortcomings in Indian higher education, the allure of foreign education, and the administrative challenges in Indian universities. The passage also touches upon the potential impact of foreign university campuses in India and the importance of improving domestic higher education to reverse this trend.

### 3. B) It is the unnecessary and complex administrative procedures prevalent in public sector universities and colleges.

- The passage explicitly mentions that one of the main issues in Indian higher education is the "unnecessary administrative procedures followed in our public sector universities and colleges." This indicates that the administrative complexities, rather than technological advancements, teaching quality, or lack of diversity, are a significant concern in the current system.

### 4. B) This move is primarily beneficial for the privileged class who can access degrees from reputed foreign universities easily.

- The passage suggests that with the UGC notification, getting a degree from a reputed foreign university in India may become easier for the privileged class. This implies that the benefit might be skewed towards those who are already privileged, rather than leading to a broad improvement in the quality of higher education or reducing the trend of students going abroad.

### 5. C) They might not significantly contribute to the improvement of higher education in India.

- The passage suggests that while the presence of foreign university campuses in India is a welcome step, it may not significantly contribute to the enhancement of higher education. This is inferred from the initial statement, "Foreign university campuses in India may be good for many reasons but improvement of higher education is not one of them."

6. C) The author emphasizes improving the quality of education and research in Indian public sector universities to attract international students and even suggests the establishment of Indian university campuses abroad. This reflects a vision of making Indian universities a global hub for education, akin to ancient universities like Takshashila and Nalanda.

### 7. B) Unrewarding

- In the passage, 'lucrative' describes the attractive salary in foreign countries. The antonym 'unrewarding' is the most fitting as it suggests not providing satisfaction or monetary gain.

8. D) **Misconception** (noun) – A view or opinion that is incorrect because it is based on faulty thinking or understanding. भ्रान्ति/ गलतफहमी

**Antonym: Certainty** (noun) – A firm conviction that something is the case; complete confidence in or assurance of something. निश्चितता

- Illusion** (noun) – A thing that is or is likely to be wrongly perceived or interpreted by the senses. भ्रम

- Hallucination** (noun) – A perception in the absence of external stimulus that has qualities of real perception; often occurring in psychiatric conditions. मतिभ्रम

- Fallacy** (noun) – A mistaken belief, especially one based on unsound arguments. भ्रान्ति

9. B) **Perilous** (adjective) – Full of danger or risk, hazardous, unsafe, treacherous. खतरनाक

**Synonym: Dangerous** (adjective) – Likely to cause harm or injury, not safe, risky, perilous. खतरनाक

- **Convenient** (adjective) – Fitting in well with a person's needs, activities, and plans; easy to use. सुविधाजनक
- **Helpful** (adjective) – Giving or ready to give help, useful, beneficial, assisting. सहायक
- **Suitable** (adjective) – Right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation. उपयुक्त

10. A) इस वाक्य में 'the accident occurring blast' भाग में error है। सही रूप में इसे "the blast that occurred accidentally" के रूप में लिखा जा सकता है।

- The error is in "the accident occurring blast." It would be more grammatically accurate to phrase it as "the blast that occurred accidentally."

11. B) nail: a small metal spike, driven into wood to join things together or to serve as a hook

12. C) The incorrect spelling among the given options is 'Surrugocy'. The correct spelling is 'Surrogacy', which refers to the practice where a woman (the surrogate mother) becomes pregnant and gives birth to a baby in order to give it to someone who cannot have children. बच्चा पैदा करने के लिए किसी और महिला को गर्भवती बनाने का अभ्यास

13. A) **RQPS**

- The memoir explores the authors' journey of self-discovery and the impact of their upbringing on their identity

14. B) 'a Leaning Tower of Pisa' के बदले 'the Leaning Tower of Pisa' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' विशेष और विशिष्ट है, इसलिए यहां निर्दिष्ट अर्थ में 'the' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— The Taj Mahal is a popular monument in India.

- 'the Leaning Tower of Pisa' will be used instead of 'a Leaning Tower of Pisa' because 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' is specific and unique, so 'the' will be used in a definite sense here; Like— The Taj Mahal is a popular monument in India

15. B) **PSQR**

**P:** Sentence P introduces the topic by talking about 'breath' as a gift to all species. This is a broad, introductory statement, making it a natural starting point for the paragraph.

**S:** Sentence S builds directly on P. While P talks about breath as a gift, S introduces a contrast by mentioning the current situation where we are "gasping for breath." This progression from a general statement about breath to a specific current situation makes logical sense.

**Q:** Sentence Q provides further explanation to S. After establishing that we are gasping for breath in today's times (S), Q explains that breath has become a luxury. The use of the pronoun "It" in Q refers back to the idea of breath from S

**R:** Finally, R gives a reason for the situation described in S and Q. The statement about pollution being a great war that mankind is fighting explains why breath has become a luxury and why we are gasping for breath in current times.

16. A) Overwhelming' क्योंकि "overwhelming" का अर्थ होता है अत्यधिक शक्तिशाली या मजबूत, जो यहाँ ऑस्ट्रेलिया की क्रिकेट टीम के प्रदर्शन का सही वर्णन करता है। Sentence में यह दर्शाया गया है कि ऑस्ट्रेलिया की टीम बहुत मजबूत थी, इसलिए 'overwhelming' यहाँ सही फिट बैठता है। जबकि 'Alarming' का अर्थ होता है चिंताजनक, 'Warming' का अर्थ होता है गर्म होना या उत्साहजनक, और 'Prospering' का अर्थ होता है सफलतापूर्वक बढ़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- Overwhelming' because "overwhelming" means extremely strong or dominant, accurately describing the performance of the Australian cricket team here. The sentence portrays the Australian team as very strong, making 'overwhelming' the right fit. Whereas, 'Alarming' means

causing concern, 'Warming' means becoming warm or encouraging, and 'Prospering' means succeeding or thriving, which are not appropriate in this context.

17. B) 'Indomitable' होगा। 'Indomitable' का अर्थ होता है अजेय या अदम्य, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है क्योंकि यह वर्णन करता है कि कैसे ऑस्ट्रेलिया की टीम बहुत मजबूत और अजेय थी। अन्य विकल्पों की तुलना में, 'Accountable' और 'Culpable' दोनों का अर्थ जिम्मेदारी या दोषी होने से संबंधित है, जो कि इस संदर्भ में उचित नहीं है।

- In the context of this sentence, the correct word would be "B. Indomitable". 'Indomitable' means unconquerable or invincible, which is appropriate here as it describes how Australia's team was very strong and unbeatable. Compared to the other options, both 'Accountable' and 'Culpable' relate to being responsible or guilty, which aren't suitable in this context.

18. A) 'Anguished' का अर्थ होता है गहरी निराशा या दुःख। इस context में, जहाँ दोनों कप्तानों की टीमों फाइनल तक अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने के बावजूद हार गई, 'anguished' शब्द उनकी भावनाओं को सही तरीके से व्यक्त करता है। अन्य विकल्पों में, 'Enriched' का मतलब होता है समृद्ध करना, 'Augmented' का अर्थ होता है बढ़ाना, और 'Far-fetched' का अर्थ होता है अतिशयोक्तिपूर्ण, जो इस स्थिति में सही नहीं बैठते।

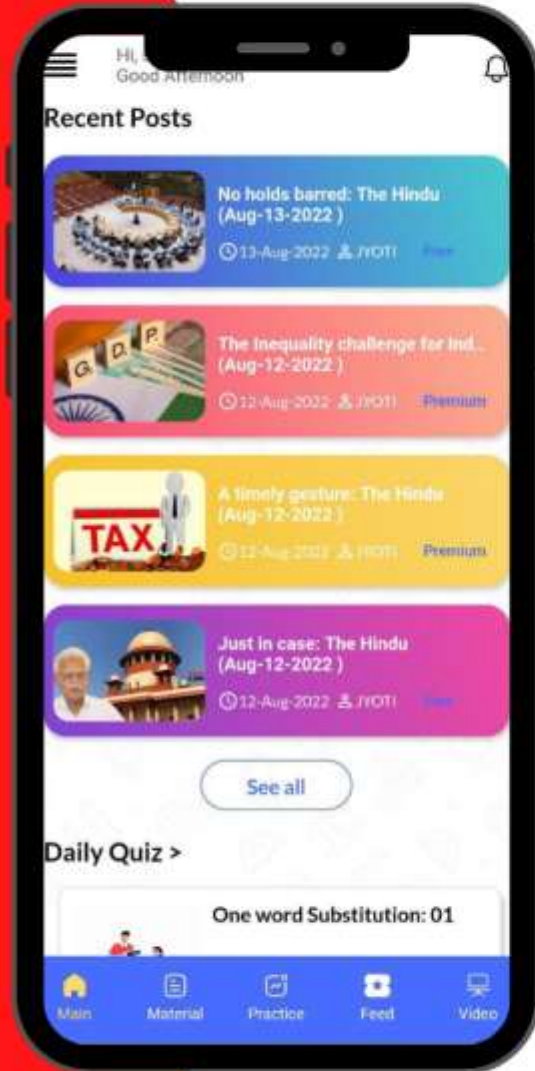
- 'Anguished' should be used as it means deep distress or sorrow. In this context, where both captains' teams lost in the finals despite performing well throughout, 'anguished' aptly reflects their feelings. The other options, 'B. Enriched' meaning to improve, 'C. Augmented' meaning to increase, and 'D. Far-fetched' meaning highly exaggerated, do not fit appropriately in this scenario.

19. D) 'Aura' का use होगा क्योंकि 'Aura' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ का एक विशेष गुण या वातावरण जो उसे अन्य से अलग बनाता है। वाक्य में बल्लेबाजों और गेंदबाजों की अद्वितीय क्षमता और अजेयता का जिक्र है, इसलिए 'Aura' यहाँ सही शब्द है। जबकि 'Blunt' का अर्थ होता है कुंद या निष्क्रिय, 'Immense' का अर्थ होता है विशाल या बहुत बड़ा, और 'Ode' का अर्थ होता है स्तुति कविता, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- In this context, the word 'Aura' should be used because it refers to a unique quality or atmosphere that distinguishes something from others. The sentence discusses the unique capabilities and invincibility of the batsmen and bowlers, making 'Aura' the right choice here. Whereas, 'Blunt' means dull or ineffective, 'Immense' means vast or very large, and 'Ode' refers to a poem of praise, which do not fit in this context.

20. D) 'Vanquished' का use होगा क्योंकि "vanquished" का अर्थ होता है किसी को हराना या पराजित करना। sentence में बताया गया है कि भारतीय टीम ने इस World Cup में लगातार 10 मैच जीते और ऑस्ट्रेलिया को भी पहले भाग में हराया, इसलिए 'vanquished' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Unrestrained' का अर्थ है अनियंत्रित, 'Specified' का अर्थ है विशेष रूप से उल्लेख करना, और 'Affiliated' का अर्थ है सम्बद्ध होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Vanquished' should be used because it means to defeat or conquer. The sentence indicates that the Indian team won 10 matches in a row in this World Cup and also defeated Australia in the earlier part of the campaign, making 'vanquished' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Unrestrained' means uncontrolled, 'Specified' means particularly mentioned, and 'Affiliated' means being in association, which don't fit in this context.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

