

Lessons from the past: On the Chola legacy

The Chola **legacy** includes good **governance**, not just **grand** temples

The **visit** of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tamil Nadu **had** a **subtle** political message. In his **address** at the **valediction** of the annual Aadi Thiruvathirai festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram to **mark** the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I, he focused on the legacy of the Chola **emperor** and his father Rajaraja Chola I to **underline** that **contemporary** India would be as **enterprising** as ancient India under the **imperial** Cholas, in **expanding** trade, and in **guarding** India's **sovereignty**. The festival was also organised to **commemorate** 1,000 years of the **maritime expedition** of Rajendra Chola to south-east Asia as well as the construction of the **iconic** temple, a World Heritage Site. The **grandeur** of the Chola dynasty **is fascinating** to **recall**, but there are other **mundane facets** of the Chola rule which are of modern **relevance** — its water management, tax and land revenue collection, and democratic processes.

In creating **infrastructure**, especially, the Cholas **hold** many **lessons**. In recent months, there have been **fatal** accidents involving civic structures. The **resilience** of the Brihadisvara temples, which have **stood tall** for over 1,000 years, **could** provide learnings. Studies show that the southern **peninsula** was the **epicentre** of several earthquakes in the last 200-odd years. **Archaeologists** are of the view that the **superstructure** of the temples **holds the key** to modern building techniques **when it comes to seismic** resilience. A close **study** of the temples for structural **stability** **can** be of **immense** value in the contemporary **context**. Apart from focusing on the heritage and culture of the Cholas, India could try and **replicate** their success in **administration**. **Management** of water resources, especially, **could** be an important learning. **The Cauvery delta**, where Gangaikonda Cholapuram is located, **may** experience floods, with a large volume of water draining into the sea without being **harnessed** for periods of **scarcity**. More than 30 years have passed since the **adoption** of the 73rd and 74th **Amendments** to the Constitution, but **a large number** of local bodies, even in the major cities, **are functioning** without elected representatives. The celebration is an opportunity for an analysis of the functioning of **grassroots-level** democratic bodies. Mr. Modi announced that the Centre would install the **statues** of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola to **remind** the country of its historical **consciousness**. But this **exercise** would have greater purpose if it reminds the country of the administrative **acumen** of the Cholas, and **nudges** those in governance to **address** many of the **chronic flaws** and problems.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Legacy** (noun) – heritage, inheritance, tradition, bequest, endowment – विरासत
2. **Governance** (noun) – administration, management, control, rule, authority – शासन
3. **Grand** (adjective) – magnificent, splendid, majestic, impressive, stately – भव्य
4. **Subtle** (adjective) – delicate, understated, indirect, nuanced, faint – सूक्ष्म
5. **Address** (noun) – speech, talk, discourse, lecture, oration – भाषण
6. **Valediction** (noun) – farewell, goodbye, send-off, parting, leave-taking – विदाई
7. **Mark** (verb) – commemorate, observe, celebrate, denote, signify – उत्सव मनाना
8. **Emperor** (noun) – monarch, ruler, sovereign, king, overlord – सम्राट
9. **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, reinforce – ज़ोर देना
10. **Contemporary** (adjective) – modern, current, present-day, recent, up-to-date – समकालीन
11. **Enterprising** (adjective) – ambitious, resourceful, innovative, daring, proactive – उद्यमशील
12. **Imperial** (adjective) – royal, regal, majestic, sovereign, kingly – शाही
13. **Expand** (verb) – grow, extend, enlarge, spread, broaden – विस्तार करना
14. **Guard** (verb) – protect, defend, shield, secure, safeguard – रक्षा करना
15. **Sovereignty** (noun) – autonomy, independence, authority, supremacy, self-rule – संप्रभुता
16. **Iconic** (adjective) – symbolic, emblematic, representative, legendary, renowned – प्रतिष्ठित
17. **Grandeur** (noun) – magnificence, splendor, majesty, glory, nobility – भव्यता
18. **Fascinating** (adjective) – captivating, enchanting, intriguing, engaging, spellbinding – आकर्षक
19. **Recall** (verb) – remember, recollect, call to mind, reminisce, retrieve – याद करना
20. **Mundane** (adjective) – ordinary, routine, dull, everyday, unremarkable – सामान्य
21. **Facet** (noun) – aspect, side, feature, angle, component पहलू
22. **Relevance** (noun) – significance, importance, pertinence, connection, bearing – प्रासंगिकता
23. **Infrastructure** (noun) – framework, foundation, facilities, base, support system – आधार संरचना

24. **Hold lesson** (phrase) – offer insight, provide guidance, give teaching, teach, demonstrate – सबक देना
25. **Fatal** (adjective) – deadly, lethal, mortal, catastrophic, life-threatening – घातक
26. **Resilience** (noun) – toughness, strength, endurance, elasticity, adaptability मज़बूती
27. **Stand tall** (phrase) – endure, remain strong, be proud, survive, hold firm – मजबूती से खड़ा रहना
28. **Peninsula** (noun) – headland, promontory, cape, landmass, coastal extension – प्रायद्वीप
29. **Epicentre** (noun) – focal point, hub, core, heart, center – केंद्रबिंदु
30. **Archaeologist** (noun) – historian, excavator, prehistorian, researcher, antiquarian – पुरातत्वविद्
31. **Hold the key** (phrase) – be essential, be crucial, unlock, provide solution, determine – मुख्य रहस्य होना
32. **When it comes to** (phrase) – regarding, concerning, about, in the case of, with respect to – जब बात आती है
33. **Seismic** (adjective) – earthquake-related, tectonic, geologic, tremorous, vibrational – भूकंपीय
34. **Stability** (noun) – firmness, strength, steadiness, balance, durability – स्थिरता
35. **Immense** (adjective) – huge, vast, enormous, tremendous, massive – अत्यधिक
36. **Context** (noun) – setting, background, circumstances, situation, framework – संदर्भ
37. **Replicate** (verb) – copy, duplicate, reproduce, imitate, clone – दोहराना
38. **Administration** (noun) – management, governance, organization, supervision, control – प्रशासन
39. **Harness** (verb) – utilize, exploit, control, channel, employ – उपयोग करना
40. **Scarcity** (noun) – shortage, lack, deficiency, insufficiency, dearth – कमी
41. **Adoption** (noun) – acceptance, implementation, approval, ratification, endorsement – अंगीकरण
42. **Amendment** (noun) – modification, change, revision, alteration, correction – संशोधन
43. **Functioning** (noun) – operation, performance, working, execution, running – कार्यप्रणाली
44. **Grassroots-level** (adjective) – local, community-based, foundational, base-level, ground-up – जमीनी स्तर का
45. **Statue** (noun) – sculpture, figure, effigy, monument, idol – मूर्ति

46. **Remind** (of) (verb) – prompt, jog memory, recall, evoke, bring to mind – याद दिलाना
47. **Consciousness** (noun) – awareness, mindfulness, recognition, perception, understanding – चेतना
48. **Exercise** (verb) – implement, carry out, apply, employ, enact – प्रयोग करना
49. **Acumen** (noun) – insight, shrewdness, wisdom, sharpness, discernment – तीव्र बुद्धिमत्ता
50. **Nudge** (verb) – encourage, push, urge, prompt, prod – प्रेरित करना
51. **Address** (verb) – deal with, tackle, confront, resolve, focus on – समाधान करना
52. **Chronic** (adjective) – persistent, long-term, prolonged, continual, habitual – दीर्घकालिक
53. **Flaw** (noun) – defect, fault, imperfection, shortcoming, error – दोष

Summary of the Editorial

1. **PM Modi's Visit to Tamil Nadu** – The Prime Minister visited Gangaikonda Cholapuram, emphasizing the legacy of Chola emperors Rajaraja and Rajendra Chola I.
2. **Political Messaging** – The speech subtly linked ancient Chola achievements with modern India's potential in trade expansion and sovereignty protection.
3. **Festival Context** – The visit coincided with the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, commemorating Rajendra Chola's 1,000-year-old maritime expedition and temple construction.
4. **Focus on Heritage** – The grandeur of Chola temples and architecture, especially the UNESCO World Heritage temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram, was highlighted.
5. **Beyond Temples** – The editorial urges attention beyond architectural feats to administrative strengths like water management and democratic institutions.
6. **Chola Infrastructure Excellence** – The structural resilience of Chola temples like Brihadisvara, which have withstood centuries and earthquakes, offers lessons for modern construction.
7. **Relevance of Earthquake Resilience** – Archaeological studies suggest the Chola temple superstructures provide insights into seismic-resistant architecture.
8. **Water Management Insights** – The Cholas had advanced systems to harness water in flood-prone regions like the Cauvery delta—relevant for modern resource planning.
9. **Modern Civic Failures** – The editorial contrasts the Cholas' effective civic planning with recent fatal civic structure accidents in India.
10. **Democratic Legacy of Cholas** – The Cholas had functioning local governance systems, which modern India struggles to replicate despite constitutional amendments.
11. **Local Body Governance Issues** – Despite the 73rd and 74th Amendments, many local bodies today lack elected representatives, weakening grassroots democracy.
12. **Administrative Acumen** – The editorial stresses that the Cholas excelled not just in culture and warfare but in administration, which modern leaders should emulate.
13. **Statues Announcement** – PM Modi's announcement to install statues of Rajaraja and Rajendra Chola aims to revive national historical consciousness.
14. **Need for Meaningful Remembrance** – Honouring the Cholas should involve learning from their governance, not just symbolic gestures.
15. **Call to Action** – The celebration of Chola legacy must inspire today's leaders to fix chronic administrative and infrastructural issues in India.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Satirical
 - B. Reverential
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Alarmist
2. **Why does the author emphasize the administrative practices of the Cholas, such as water management and democratic processes, in the context of modern India**
 - A. To glorify ancient Indian rulers and their cultural achievements only
 - B. To highlight that modern India lacks any historical understanding of governance
 - C. To suggest that ancient Chola governance can offer insights for solving present-day civic and administrative challenges
 - D. To prove that modern infrastructure is superior to ancient structures in resilience and design
3. **What specific modern problem does the author link to Chola-era temple architecture and its seismic resilience?**
 - A. Preservation of religious monuments and icons
 - B. Earthquake prediction using ancient tools
 - C. Fatal civic structure failures and need for improved infrastructure design
 - D. The lack of advanced engineering knowledge in ancient India
4. **According to the passage, which of the following is NOT explicitly mentioned as an area where the Cholas demonstrated administrative excellence?**
 - A. Trade expansion
 - B. Tax and land revenue collection
 - C. Development of military aircraft
 - D. Water management
5. **Which of the following statements best reflects the author's nuanced suggestion regarding how modern India should approach the Chola legacy?**
 - A. India should celebrate its cultural icons solely through symbolic acts like erecting statues.
 - B. The primary focus should be on military expansion just as the Cholas conquered South-East Asia.
 - C. Political leaders should use historical narratives only to promote national pride during festivals.
 - D. Studying and implementing Chola-era administrative and infrastructural practices could help fix current governance and civic issues.
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains an error.**

Stephan, however, contrived / to put away / his departure / for eighteen months.

- A. to put away
B. stephan,however,contrived
C. for eighteen months
D. his departure
7. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
He is the healthy person I have ever met in life
A. healthier
B. healthiest
C. most healthy
D. more healthy
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Extensive
A. Expensive
B. Concrete
C. Limited
D. Abstract
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Once in a blue moon
A. A frequent event
B. A pleasant surprise
C. A rare occurrence
D. A regular activity
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
I could make out from my son's voice that he was _____ as his exam did not go well
A. sad
B. rejected
C. abrogated
D. confused
11. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
You know that I am fond of reading / and also that all books are my favourite / but you don't know that this is one of / my favourite book.
A. my favourite book.
B. and also that all books are my favourite
C. but you don't know that this is one of
D. you know that I am fond of reading
12. **Select the grammatically correct sentence from the options given**
A. Neither a boy nor a mother could identify the man.
B. Neither the boy nor a mother could identify a man.
C. Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.

D. Neither a boy nor the mother could identify a man.

13. **Select the option with the correct spelling to replace the underlined word in the given sentence.**

Development does not take place in a vaccum

- A. vacuum
- B. vaccim
- C. vakum
- D. vacuuem

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.**

Chetan's room is clean / than Ram's room because / Chetan cleans it more often than Ram.

- A. Chetan's room is clean
- B. Than Ram's room because
- C. No error
- D. Chetan cleans it more often than Ram

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Vague

- A. Dissimilar
- B. Distinct
- C. Indefinite
- D. Intact

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks.**

Our _____ has so many magnificent tourist destinations, with unimaginable potential, yet to _____ fully explored.

- A. national; have
- B. state; been
- C. country; be
- D. land; has

17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

The space or room that is at the top of a building or just below the main roof

- A. Attic
- B. Ceiling
- C. Dome
- D. Stairs

18. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word**

- A. Accentuation
- B. Phytoplankton
- C. Supperannuation
- D. Suppressant

19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Expand

- A. Shrink
- B. Network
- C. Protect
- D. Inflate

20. 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.

Her decision, / given the complex circumstances, / was too impulsively made

- A. was too impulsively made.
- B. no error
- C. her decision,
- D. given the complex circumstances,

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.

She went on a quest for ancient things ___(1)___ could have a soul of their own, something ___(2)___ Aladdin's lamp that was home to a genie. She searched flea markets, met with art dealers and even went to excavation sites. She ___(3)___ searching for something that would have seen some ancient history when an ___(4)___, ___(5)___, ___(6)___ apothecary table caught her attention. It was perhaps owned by a ___(7)___, ___(8)___, ___(9)___ woman who was a wise medic but was deemed a witch.

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

- A. that
- B. which
- C. whose
- D. who

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

- A. upstairs
- B. like
- C. of
- D. by

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

- A. has been
- B. was
- C. were
- D. is

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blanks numbered 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

- A. antique; chestnut brown; heavy
- B. chestnut brown; antique; heavy
- C. antique; heavy; chestnut brown

D. heavy; antique; chestnut brown

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blanks numbered 7, 8 and 9 respectively**

- A. hunch-backed; old; small
- B. old; small; hunch-backed
- C. small; old; hunch-backed
- D. small; hunch-backed; old

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Reverential

The author treats the Chola legacy with admiration and respect, especially highlighting their contributions in trade, temple architecture, administration, and water management. The tone is reverential, aiming to draw lessons from their achievements for modern India.

A. The passage is not mocking or using irony; there's no humor or sarcasm aimed at any institution or figure.

C. The author is deeply engaged with the topic and urges action based on Chola practices; there's no sign of emotional detachment.

D. Though civic failures and seismic threats are mentioned, the passage does not use fear-mongering language or exaggeration to incite panic

2. C) To suggest that ancient Chola governance can offer insights for solving present-day civic and administrative challenges

The author draws parallels between Chola-era water management, local democratic bodies, and architectural resilience with today's administrative and civic issues. The intent is to extract learnings from Chola practices for modern governance and infrastructure resilience.

A is incorrect because the focus isn't just cultural glorification but practical application.

B is an overstatement; the article doesn't claim total ignorance of history.

D is factually wrong; the passage praises ancient resilience over some modern structures.

3. C) Fatal civic structure failures and need for improved infrastructure design

The author mentions recent fatal accidents involving civic structures and suggests that the structural stability of Chola temples like Brihadisvara, which have survived earthquakes, can teach us valuable modern engineering lessons.

A is incorrect — preservation is not the focus; it's about modern learning from ancient resilience.

B is unrelated — no reference to earthquake prediction tools.

D contradicts the passage — the author praises ancient engineering skill, not dismisses it.

4. C) Development of military aircraft

A: Correctly mentioned in the passage as a hallmark of Chola achievement.

B: Explicitly cited as one of the mundane but relevant features of Chola administration.

C: Not mentioned anywhere in the passage. This is the correct answer as it's factually inaccurate within the passage context.

D: Clearly highlighted as an area where Cholas excelled and from which India can learn today.

5. **D) Studying and implementing Chola-era administrative and infrastructural practices could help fix current governance and civic issues.**

The author draws attention to practical lessons like seismic resilience in temples, water conservation, and local governance.

A: Incorrect – The author criticizes symbolic gestures unless paired with meaningful administrative reforms.

B: Incorrect – Military expansion is not suggested; instead, the focus is on infrastructure, water management, and democracy.

C: Incorrect – The author warns against using heritage merely for political optics and calls for functional emulation of past governance.

6. A) 'to put away' के बदले 'to put off' का use होगा क्योंकि 'put off' का अर्थ होता है 'टालना' या 'स्थगित करना', जबकि 'put away' का अर्थ 'संग्रह करना' या 'रख देना' होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है; जैसे— Stephan, however, contrived to put off his departure for eighteen months.

'to put off' will be used instead of 'to put away' because 'put off' means 'to postpone,' which is the correct meaning in this context; Like— Stephan, however, contrived to put off his departure for eighteen months.

7. B) 'healthy' के स्थान पर '**healthiest**' का use होगा क्योंकि किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु को सर्वाधिक गुणों वाला बताने के लिए Superlative Degree का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— He is the tallest boy in the class.

'**healthiest**' will be used instead of 'healthy' because when we compare one individual to all others, we use the Superlative Degree; Like— He is the tallest boy in the class.

8. C) **Extensive** (adjective) – Covering or affecting a large area; very large in amount, scope or range. व्यापक, विशाल

Antonym: Limited (adjective) – Restricted in size, amount, or scope; confined within boundaries. सीमित

- **Expensive** (adjective) – Costing a lot of money, high-priced, costly. महंगा
- **Concrete** (adjective) – Existing in a material or physical form; real or solid; not abstract. ठोस
- **Abstract** (adjective) – Existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence; theoretical. अमूर्त

9. C) **Once in a blue moon** (idiom) – A rare occurrence (एक दुर्लभ घटना)

Something that happens very rarely or infrequently बहुत कम या दुर्लभ रूप से होने वाली घटना

10. A) **Sad** का use सही है क्योंकि यह भावनात्मक स्थिति को व्यक्त करता है जब कोई निराश या दुःखी होता है। वाक्य में संकेत दिया गया है कि बेटे का स्वर उसकी परीक्षा ठीक न होने

के कारण उसकी निराशा को दर्शाता है। 'Rejected' का अर्थ होता है अस्वीकृत करना, जो इस वाक्य के भाव से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Abrogated' का अर्थ है रद्द करना या समाप्त करना, जो भावनात्मक स्थिति के लिए उपयोग नहीं होता। 'Confused' का अर्थ है भ्रमित, लेकिन यहाँ बेटे की भावना स्पष्ट रूप से दुःख को दर्शा रही है, न कि भ्रम।

The use of '**sad**' is appropriate as it conveys an emotional state of being unhappy or disappointed. The sentence implies that the son's tone indicated disappointment due to his exam not going well. 'Rejected' means to be dismissed or not accepted, which does not fit the context of emotional expression. 'Abrogated' means to abolish or annul, which is unrelated to emotional states. 'Confused' implies being uncertain or unclear, but the son's tone clearly reflects sadness, not confusion.

11. A) 'book' के बदले '**books**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'this is one of' के बाद उस Noun को Plural में use किया जाता है; जैसे— This is one of my favourite books.

'**books**' will be used instead of 'book' because after 'this is one of' the Noun is always used in Plural form; Like— This is one of my favourite books.

12. C) '**Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.**

'Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.' सही है क्योंकि 'Neither ... nor' का प्रयोग करते समय parallel nouns का प्रयोग आवश्यक होता है, और यहाँ 'the boy' तथा 'the mother' स्पष्ट रूप से विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों को संदर्भित करते हैं।

जैसे— Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.

• 'Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.' is correct because 'Neither ... nor' requires parallel nouns, and 'the boy' and 'the mother' properly refer to specific people; Like— Neither the boy nor the mother could identify the man.

13. A) The correct spelling of '**vaccum**' is '**vacuum**', which means "a space entirely devoid of matter" निर्वात, शून्यस्थान.

14. A) 'clean' के स्थान पर '**cleaner**' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यहाँ दो चीजों (Chetan का कमरा और Ram का कमरा) की तुलना की जा रही है। तुलना करने के लिए adjective का comparative form (cleaner) प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे—Chetan's room is cleaner than Ram's room.

'clean' will be replaced by '**cleaner**' because a comparison is being made between two items (Chetan's room and Ram's room). For comparison, the comparative form of the adjective (cleaner) is used; e.g.—Chetan's room is cleaner than Ram's room.

15. C) **Vague** (adjective) – Unclear, indefinite, hazy, imprecise, not clearly expressed or understood. धुंधला

Synonym: Indefinite (adjective) – Not clearly defined, vague, indistinct, uncertain. अनिश्चित, अस्पष्ट

- **Dissimilar** (adjective) – Not alike, different. भिन्न
- **Distinct** (adjective) – Clearly noticeable, definite, unmistakable. स्पष्ट
- **Intact** (adjective) – Untouched, undamaged, complete, unbroken. अक्षत

16. C) **Country** और 'be' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि वाक्य में यह संदर्भ दिया गया है कि हमारा देश अभी तक पूरी तरह से खोजा नहीं गया है। 'Country' का अर्थ है देश और 'be' passive voice में potential को दर्शाता है जो अभी तक पूरी तरह से explore नहीं किया गया। 'National' का अर्थ राष्ट्रीय होता है, लेकिन यह वाक्य में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यह एक noun की आवश्यकता को पूरा नहीं करता। 'State' का अर्थ राज्य है, लेकिन वाक्य में broader context (देश) को व्यक्त करना सही होगा। 'Land' भौगोलिक संदर्भ में सही हो सकता है, लेकिन 'has' का उपयोग grammar के अनुसार यहां उपयुक्त नहीं है।

Country and 'be' will be used because the sentence refers to our nation not yet being fully explored. 'Country' refers to a nation, and 'be' aligns with the passive voice, indicating the potential that has not yet been fully realized. 'National' means related to a nation but doesn't fulfill the noun requirement here. 'State' means a province or region, but the broader context of the sentence suggests 'country' is more appropriate. 'Land' may fit geographically, but 'has' does not grammatically suit the construction of this sentence.

17. A) **Attic** (noun) – The space or room that is at the top of a building or just below the main roof. अटारी

- **Ceiling** (noun) – The upper interior surface of a room. छत
- **Dome** (noun) – A rounded vault forming the roof of a building or structure, typically with a circular base. गुम्बद
- **Stairs** (noun) – A set of steps leading from one floor of a building to another. सीढ़ियां

18. C) The correct spelling of '**Supperannuation**' is '**Superannuation**' which means "the payment given upon retirement from a fund or pension plan." अवकाश प्राप्ति पर निधि का भुगतान.

19. A) **Expand** (verb) – To become larger or more extensive, increase in size, enlarge. फैलना, बढ़ना
Antonym: Shrink (verb) – To become or make smaller in size or amount, contract, reduce. सिकुड़ना

- **Network** (noun) – A group or system of interconnected people or things, web, chain. जाल
- **Protect** (verb) – Keep safe from harm or injury, shield, guard. बचाना, रक्षा करना

- **Inflate (verb)** – To fill with air or gas; to increase (something) by a large or excessive amount. फूलना, फुलाना

20. A) 'was too impulsively made' के बदले 'was made too impulsively' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि adverb 'too impulsively' को verb 'made' के बाद रखा जाना चाहिए ताकि correct word order बना रहे; जैसे— Her decision, given the complex circumstances, was made too impulsively.

'was made too impulsively' will be used instead of 'was too impulsively made' because the adverb 'too impulsively' should follow the verb 'made' for correct word order; Like— Her decision, given the complex circumstances, was made too impulsively.

21. A) **'That'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह restrictive clause को introduce करता है। 'That' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को specify करना या define करना। यहाँ 'ancient things' को define किया जा रहा है, जो एक आत्मा रख सकती हैं। 'Which' का उपयोग non-restrictive clauses के लिए होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ जानकारी जरूरी है। Whose' का अर्थ है 'जिसका,' जो possession दिखाता है, लेकिन यह संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'Who' का उपयोग व्यक्तियों के लिए होता है, जबकि यहाँ चीज़ों ('things') का जिक्र है।

'That' will be used because it introduces a restrictive clause, providing essential information about the 'ancient things.' The sentence specifies the type of ancient things that could have a soul, making 'that' the correct choice. 'Which' is used for non-restrictive clauses, which is not applicable here since the information is essential. 'Whose' indicates possession, which is not relevant in this context. 'Who' refers to people, and here the subject is 'things,' making it inappropriate.

22. B) **'Like'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह "Aladdin's lamp" के समान किसी चीज़ का संदर्भ देने के लिए उपयोग किया गया है। "like" का अर्थ है "के समान" या "जैसा," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट बैठता है क्योंकि वाक्य यह व्यक्त कर रहा है कि वह ऐसी प्राचीन वस्तुओं की तलाश में थी जो "Aladdin's lamp" जैसी हो। Upstairs': इसका अर्थ है "ऊपर की ओर," जो यहाँ संदर्भ से संबंधित नहीं है। 'Of': इसका अर्थ है "का/की/के," जो वस्तु के स्वामित्व या संबंध को व्यक्त करता है। यहाँ समानता की बात हो रही है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है। 'By': इसका अर्थ है "द्वारा," जो किसी कर्ता या माध्यम को दर्शाता है। यह यहाँ अप्रासंगिक है।

"Like" is the correct choice because it is used to express similarity, which fits the context of the sentence. The sentence refers to her search for ancient things that were similar to Aladdin's lamp—something extraordinary and magical. The word "like" perfectly connects "something" to "Aladdin's lamp" in terms of resemblance. "Upstairs": Refers to direction (above), which does not fit the idea of similarity here. "Of": Indicates possession or belonging, which is not

the intended meaning. "By": Indicates the agent or medium, which is irrelevant to the comparison.

23. B) 'Was' का use होगा क्योंकि यह past tense का सही रूप है और पूरा passage past tense में लिखा गया है। यहाँ बताया गया है कि वह प्राचीन चीजें खोज रही थी, जो एक completed action है। 'Has been' का उपयोग present perfect tense में होता है, जो ongoing या recent actions को व्यक्त करता है, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'Were' plural subjects के लिए उपयोग होता है, जबकि यहाँ subject singular है - 'she'। 'Is' present tense में होता है, जबकि passage past tense में है।

'Was' will be used because it is the correct form of the past tense, and the entire passage is written in the past tense. The sentence describes her search for ancient things as a completed action. 'Has been' is used in the present perfect tense, which indicates ongoing or recent actions, making it incorrect. 'Were' is used for plural subjects, but the subject here is singular - 'she'. 'Is' is in the present tense, whereas the passage is in the past tense

24. C) 'Antique' का प्रयोग पहले किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह किसी वस्तु की आयु/पुरातनता को दर्शाता है (Age adjective पहले आता है)। 'Heavy' को दूसरे स्थान पर रखा जाएगा क्योंकि यह वस्तु का भार/विशेषता बताता है, जो आमतौर पर आयु के बाद आता है। 'Chestnut brown' को अंतिम में रखा जाता है क्योंकि यह वस्तु का रंग बताता है, और रंग (color) वाले adjective आमतौर पर अंत में आते हैं।

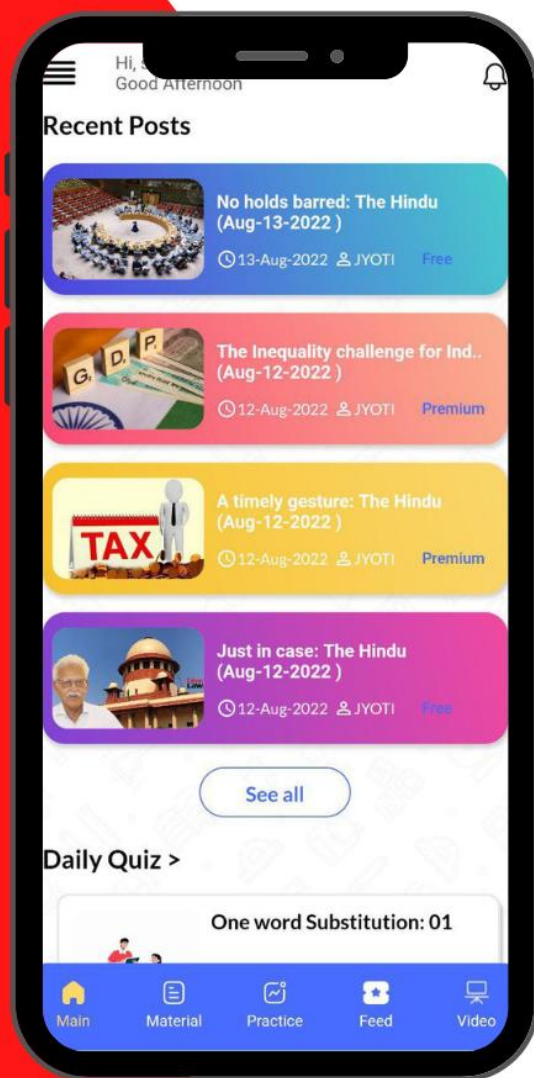
'Antique' is used first to indicate the age of the object (the age adjective typically comes first). 'Heavy' is placed second because it describes the object's weight/physical characteristic, which usually follows the age adjective. 'Chestnut brown' comes last as it describes the color of the object, and color adjectives typically come after age and weight descriptors.

25. D) 'hunch-backed; old; small' का use होगा क्योंकि Adjective Order is

Size (small) → Age (old) → Physical Condition (hunch-backed)

"small, old, hunch-backed" का इस्तेमाल होगा क्योंकि English में adjectives को सामान्यतः आकार (size), फिर उम्र (age) और फिर आकृति (shape) के क्रम में लिखा जाता है। इस संदर्भ में 'small' (आकार), 'old' (उम्र) और 'hunch-backed' (आकृति) का क्रम natural and grammatically से सही है।

"small, old, hunch-backed" will be used because, in English, adjectives typically follow the order of size, then age, then shape. In this context, 'small' (size), 'old' (age), and 'hunch-backed' (shape) is the most natural and grammatically correct sequence. The other options do not follow this standard adjective order.



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