

Sports and politics: On India, Pakistan and sports

India's **policy** on playing Pakistan in sports **is** illogical

Ever since its **inception** in 1984, the Asia Cup has often been **caught in the diplomatic crossfire** which **engulfs** all talk **pertaining to** India and Pakistan. The **imminent one commencing** in the United Arab Emirates on September 9 **is** no exception. A **fiery debate** has commenced over whether India should play against Pakistan **following** the Pahalgam **massacre** and the **resultant** Operation Sindoor exercise across the border. The **decision** not to play **bilaterals**, but **okaying** tournaments, **makes** no sense. While the Board of Control for Cricket in India **deals with** the political **slugfest**, the Indian team was announced at a **rain-battered** Mumbai on Tuesday (August 19, 2025). With Suryakumar Yadav leading the unit, the surprise **quotient** rose when Test **skipper** Shubman Gill was **roped in** as the vice-captain. He had done a similar **venture** earlier under Suryakumar before being **shunted out**. **Gill**, who rose to Test captaincy **in the wake of** Rohit Sharma's retirement, **had** a **spectacular yield** in the recent series in England, **amassing** 754 runs and leading his men to a 2-2 draw. The **recency bias** over his form **swayed** the selectors led by Ajit Agarkar and obviously coach Gautam Gambhir must have given his input. It could also be a **hint** about Gill becoming an all-format captain in the near future, while for now he leads in Tests, Suryakumar in T20Is and Rohit remains the ODI skipper.

A Test captain, **often** seen as the first among equals when it comes to leading across formats, **playing second fiddle** to another star in T20Is does look awkward. However, Indian cricket has had various **twists and turns** when it comes to the leadership hot seat. At one point, Virat Kohli was leading in Tests, ODIs and T20Is before Rohit was **gradually** made the captain in the shorter formats and being promoted in Tests too. In the past, be it Mohammed Azharuddin or M.S. Dhoni, they had to deal with a **string** of former captains **under their watch**. Among the rest, with Rishabh Pant **ruled out** due to injury, Sanju Samson may get a chance to **reiterate** his **credentials** both with the bat and wicket-keeping gloves. **All** through his career, Samson has **been in the shadows** as Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Pant and Ishan Kishan, **were** the preferred stumpers. **It also remains to be seen** if Jitesh Sharma would be fast-tracked **bypassing** Samson. The **squad** also gets **the booster shot** of having Jasprit Bumrah in the **fold**, and he along with Suryakumar, Gill and Hardik Pandya, will form the **nucleus** of the team. As **defending champion**, India gets another opportunity to reiterate its **continental dominance** even as the **face-off** against Pakistan and the **omission** of Shreyas Iyer will dominate **prime-time discourse**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Commence** (verb) – Start, begin, instigate, initiate, प्रारंभ करना

Vocabulary

1. **Illogical** (adjective) – irrational, inconsistent, unreasonable, untenable, nonsensical
तर्कहीन
2. **Inception** (noun) – beginning, commencement, outset, genesis, launch
आरंभ
3. **Catch in the crossfire** (phrase) – be caught between, be trapped amid, be embroiled in, be in the line of fire, become collateral to
बीच के टकराव में फँसना
4. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – tactful, foreign-policy, statecraft-related, conciliatory, strategic
कूटनीतिक
5. **Engulf** (verb) – envelop, swallow, consume, overwhelm, inundate
घेर लेना
6. **Pertain** (to) (verb) – relate to, concern, be about, refer to, bear on
संबंधित होना
7. **Imminent** (adjective) – impending, forthcoming, looming, approaching, oncoming
आसन्न
8. **Fiery** (adjective) – heated, intense, blazing, passionate, incendiary
उग्र
9. **Debate** (noun) – discussion, argument, discourse, deliberation, contention
बहस
10. **Following** (preposition) – after, subsequent to, in the wake of, pursuant to, post के बाद
11. **Massacre** (noun) – slaughter, carnage, bloodbath, butchery, atrocity
नरसंहार
12. **Resultant** (adjective) – consequent, ensuing, resulting, subsequent, derivative
परिणामी
13. **Bilaterals** (noun) – two-nation fixtures, head-to-head series, bilateral ties, two-sided contests, home-and-away series
द्विपक्षीय मुकाबले
14. **Okay** (verb) – approve, clear, sanction, authorize, greenlight
मंजूरी देना
15. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – handle, address, tackle, manage, contend with
निपटना
16. **Slugfest** (noun) – brawl, dogfight, war of words, bruising contest, mudslinging
घमासान
17. **Rain-battered** (adjective) – rain-lashed, rain-soaked, storm-hit, weather-beaten, drenched
बारिश से जर्जर
18. **Quotient** (noun) – measure, level, degree, index, factor
माप
19. **Skipper** (noun) – captain, leader, team head, captaincy holder, helmsman
कप्तान
20. **Rope in** (phrasal verb) – enlist, recruit, bring in, co-opt, sign up
शामिल करना
21. **Venture** (noun) – undertaking, endeavor, attempt, foray, enterprise
उपक्रम/ कार्य, काम

22. **Shunt out** (phrasal verb) – sideline, oust, remove, drop, push out बाहर कर देना
23. **In the wake of** (phrase) – following, after, in the aftermath of, subsequent to, as a consequence of के बाद
24. **Spectacular** (adjective) – outstanding, remarkable, stunning, dazzling, stellar शानदार
25. **Yield** (noun) – output, return, haul, tally, harvest परिणाम
26. **Amass** (verb) – accumulate, pile up, garner, rack up, collect संग्रह करना
27. **Recency bias** (noun) – a cognitive bias that favors recent events over historic ones हालिया-पक्षपात
28. **Sway** (verb) – influence, affect, tilt, swing, shape प्रभावित करना
29. **Hint** (noun) – suggestion, indication, signal, clue, intimation संकेत
30. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
31. **Play second fiddle** (phrase) – have a subordinate role to someone or something; be treated as less important than someone or something किसी अन्य व्यक्ति की तुलना में कम महत्वपूर्ण या कमज़ोर स्थिति में होना
32. **Twists and turns** (phrase) – ups and downs, fluctuations, vicissitudes, convolutions, zigzags उतार-चढ़ाव
33. **Gradually** (adverb) – slowly, steadily, progressively, little by little, step by step धीरे-धीरे
34. **String** (noun) – series, run, sequence, streak, line सिलसिला
35. **Under one's watch** (phrase) – during one's tenure, on one's watch, under one's charge, in one's time, while in command निगरानी में
36. **Rule out** (phrasal verb) – exclude, discount, eliminate, preclude, disallow खारिज करना
37. **Reiterate** (verb) – repeat, restate, reaffirm, echo, iterate दोहराना
38. **Credential** (noun) – qualification, track record, bona fides, certification, résumé योग्यता
39. **Be in the shadow** (phrase) – be overshadowed, be eclipsed, be sidelined, stay behind, be under the shadow छाया में रहना
40. **It remains to be seen** (phrase) – uncertain yet, time will tell, yet to be determined, still unclear, to be seen देखना बाकी है
41. **Bypass** (verb) – sidestep, skip, circumvent, pass over, override दरकिनार करना

42. **Squad** (noun) – team, lineup, roster, contingent, unit दल
43. **The booster shot** (noun) – shot in the arm, big boost, injection of strength, morale boost, uplift ज़ोरदार बढ़ावा
44. **Fold** (noun) – ranks, camp, setup, group, circle खेमे
45. **Nucleus** (noun) – core, center, backbone, hub, heart केंद्र
46. **Defending champion** (noun) – title holder, reigning champion, current champion, holders, reigning titleist मौजूदा चैंपियन
47. **Continental** (adjective) – pan-regional, continent-wide, inter-regional, trans-continental, across-continent महाद्वीपीय
48. **Dominance** (noun) – supremacy, ascendancy, sway, control, pre-eminence वर्चस्व
49. **Face-off** (noun) – showdown, clash, head-to-head, encounter, duel आमना-सामना
50. **Omission** (noun) – exclusion, leaving out, absence, dropping, oversight छोड़ दिया जाना
51. **Prime-time** (noun) – in television and radio broadcasting, the time of day when the largest number of people are watching or listening प्राइम-टाइम
52. **Discourse** (noun) – discussion, narrative, debate, conversation, public talk विमर्श

Summary of the Editorial

- The Asia Cup, since its start in 1984, has often been overshadowed by political and diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan.
- The upcoming edition in the UAE from September 9, 2025, is again caught in political debates.
- The controversy intensified after the Pahalgam massacre and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor across the border.
- India's policy of avoiding bilateral matches with Pakistan but allowing tournament encounters is seen as illogical.
- The BCCI has been caught in the middle of political debates while managing team matters.
- The Indian squad for the Asia Cup was announced in rain-hit Mumbai on August 19, 2025.
- Suryakumar Yadav was appointed captain, surprising many as Shubman Gill was named vice-captain.
- Gill, recently made Test captain after Rohit Sharma's retirement, impressed with 754 runs in England, earning selectors' confidence.
- His vice-captaincy in T20Is may signal a possible future as all-format captain.
- The dual leadership roles appear awkward, as the Test captain is often seen as the primary leader across formats.
- Indian cricket has witnessed leadership transitions before — Kohli, Rohit, Dhoni, and Azharuddin all managed overlapping captaincy phases.
- With Rishabh Pant injured, Sanju Samson may finally get a chance to prove himself as wicketkeeper-batsman.
- Jitesh Sharma's selection prospects could challenge Samson's opportunities.
- The squad's strength is boosted by Jasprit Bumrah's return, alongside key players like Suryakumar, Gill, and Hardik Pandya.
- As defending champions, India aims to retain continental dominance, though the Pakistan clash and Shreyas Iyer's omission dominate discussions.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. In the sentence "The decision not to play bilaterals, but okaying tournaments, makes no sense," what is the part of speech of okaying? [Editorial Page]
 - A. Present participle used adjectivally modifying "tournaments."
 - B. Finite verb in a coordinate clause, parallel to "makes."
 - C. Gerund (verbal noun) heading the noun phrase "okaying tournaments," functioning inside an appositive that elaborates "The decision."
 - D. Infinitive verb parallel to "not to play," maintaining perfect grammatical parallelism.
2. Why is Shubman Gill's appointment as T20I vice-captain most plausibly justified in the passage?
 - A. Because he captained India to a T20 World Cup win in 2024, proving T20 leadership pedigree
 - B. Because his spectacular recent Test form in England created recency bias, the selectors (led by Ajit Agarkar) and coach Gautam Gambhir likely see him as being groomed for future all-format leadership
 - C. Because BCCI policy requires the Test captain to serve as deputy in the shortest format
 - D. Because Rohit Sharma's injury forced a temporary reshuffle in the T20I leadership
3. Which inference is most defensible given the passage?
 - A. The selectors are hedging leadership risk by using split captaincy now while stress-testing Gill for a possible all-format role later.
 - B. The BCCI has settled the India–Pakistan question by committing strictly to bilateral series.
 - C. Sanju Samson's spot is secure because all rival wicketkeepers are unavailable.
 - D. Jasprit Bumrah's inclusion signals that senior pacers will be rested for the Asia Cup.
4. What strategic message does the announced leadership mix (Suryakumar as T20I captain, Gill as vice-captain, Rohit as ODI skipper) most plausibly convey?
 - A. Immediate end to split captaincy: BCCI is shifting to a single, all-format leader now
 - B. A deliberate, transitional split-captaincy phase that simultaneously grooms Gill toward eventual all-format leadership, leveraging his current purple patch and alignment between selectors and coach
 - C. Test cricket is being deprioritized, evidenced by the Test captain being "demoted" to a T20I deputy
 - D. The selection is a reactive public-relations move to quell outrage over the Pahalgam massacre
5. Fill in the blank: "The selectors' choice of Shubman Gill as T20I vice-captain, coming right after his prolific Test series, most plausibly reflects a _____ toward his recent form."
 - A. status quo bias
 - B. confirmation bias
 - C. recency bias
 - D. survivorship bias
6. Q. Identify the error in the number of sentences given below and select the option which shows how many sentences are incorrect. If all sentences are correct, then select option (D), All are correct.
 - (i). This task is being undertaken for the benefit of young people in needed at the instance of the Chief of the Group.
 - (ii). If I am the principal of the school I would abolish all examinations.
 - (iii). My mother is thinking that I should stop drinking.
 - (iv). The students have a good time in the class today.
 - A. 3
 - B. 2
 - C. 4
 - D. All are correct
7. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Our school building is _____ dilapidated.

 - A. visibly
 - B. little

- C. deeply
D. satisfactorily
8. **Direction: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Given below each sentence has four sequences, namely (A), (B), (C) and (D). You are required to re-arrange the Jumbled parts of the sentence and mark your response accordingly.**
which has a total outlay of over Rs 2 lakh crore, (P)/ in a balancing act, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema has focused on education and health (Q)/ in the state's 2024-25 Budget, (R)/ while again refraining from imposing new taxes (S)
A. RQPS
B. QPSR
C. QRPS
D. PQRS
9. **Identify the error in the number of sentences given below and select the option which shows how many sentences are incorrect. If all sentences are correct, then select option (D), All are correct.**
(i) More than thirty lakh people were inoculated against COVID-19 on March 15th.
(ii) LIC was found on September 1, 1956 via the Life Insurance Corporation Act.
(iii) Full many a flower are born to blush unseen.
(iv) I shall be glad to help every one of my boys in their studies.
A. 3
B. 2
C. 4
D. All are correct
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
VALUABLE
A. Priceless
B. Palatial
C. Nugatory
D. Regnant
11. **Select the part of speech from the given options of the underlined word in the sentence.**
This year marks the quincentenary of Columbus's voyage to America.
A. Noun
B. Adjective
C. Adverb
D. Article
12. **Select the part of speech from the given options of the underlined word in the sentence.**
The conclusions that they came to are highly questionable.
A. Noun
B. Adjective
C. Adverb
D. Gerund
13. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
It is a perelous journey through the mountains.
A. perilous
B. perillous
C. perelious
D. perelus
14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**

- The actor narrated the story in a (resonant) voice.
- A. soft
 - B. harsh
 - C. deep
 - D. quivering
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
ABSOLUTE
- A. Unalloyed
 - B. Categorical
 - C. Qualified
 - D. Sheer
16. **Examine the four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options, pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A. Our first impression was that both seemed a bit depressed.
 - B. It was much later that they became our close friends and confided about their son's tragic death.
 - C. The Mehrahs were newcomers to the neighbourhood.
 - D. My wife and I called on them to enquire if they needed any help.
- A. CDAB
 - B. ACDB
 - C. DBAC
 - D. BDAC
17. **Direction: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Given below each sentence has four sequences, namely (A), (B), (C) and (D). You are required to re-arrange the Jumbled parts of the sentence and mark your response accordingly.**
- recently are a shining example (P)/ the Indian Navy to free the merchant vessel MV Ruen from pirates in the Arabian Sea (Q)/ the joint efforts made by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and (R)/ of effective maritime security measures and inter-service collaboration (S)
- A. PQRS
 - B. QPSR
 - C. QRPS
 - D. RQPS
18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
The ship has sailed
- A. The matter is carried over
 - B. The matter is decided
 - C. The opportunity has passed
 - D. Seeking new opportunities
19. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**
Our teacher told us not to be verbose while writing.
- A. exaggerate
 - B. short
 - C. informal
 - D. succinct
20. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
His visits to the village are sparodic and unplanned.
- A. sporadic
 - B. sparodic

C. sporadick

D. sporradic

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.

In a recent judgment on a custodial death case from Chhattisgarh, the Chhattisgarh High Court ____ (1) ____ an observation that should ____ (2) ____ anyone who believes in the rule of law. The High Court noted that the police officers involved in the death of a man in custody appeared to have ____ (3) ____ “to teach a lesson” to the victim for misbehaving in public. The facts of the case are as troubling as the language used. In this case, a Dalit man, arrested for alleged public misbehaviour, died in custody just hours after a medical check found no injuries. However, the postmortem revealed 26 wounds. Four police officers were convicted ____ (4) ____ murder by the trial court, but the High Court reduced it to ____ (5) ____ homicide, citing lack of intent but knowledge that the assault could cause death.

21. **What should come in the place of 1?**

- A. makes
- B. made
- C. making
- D. make

22. **What should come in the place of 2?**

- A. unsettle
- B. placate
- C. appease
- D. fabricate

23. **What should come in the place of 3?**

- A. spontaneous
- B. fortuitous
- C. exonerated
- D. intended

24. **What should come in the place of 4?**

- A. at
- B. on
- C. of
- D. to

25. **What should come in the place of 5?**

- A. exculpated
- B. remitted
- C. voracious
- D. culpable

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- C) **Gerund** (verbal noun) heading the noun phrase “okaying tournaments,” functioning inside an appositive that elaborates “The decision.”

“Okaying” is a gerund forming the noun phrase “okaying tournaments.” The whole bracketed bit—“not to play bilaterals, but okaying tournaments”—acts as an appositive restating/explaining “The decision.”
- B) Because his spectacular recent Test form in England created recency bias, the selectors (led by Ajit Agarkar) and coach Gautam Gambhir likely see him as being groomed for future all-format leadership

The passage says Gill amassed 754 runs in England, the “recency bias” swayed selectors, Gambhir likely gave input, and it “could also be a hint” of Gill as an all-format captain in future—together forming the most coherent reason for his vice-captaincy.

A: No World Cup win or prior T20I captaincy success by Gill is stated.

C: No such BCCI rule is mentioned; in fact, the piece stresses India’s fluid/split captaincy.

D: Rohit is cited as ODI skipper and retired from Tests; no injury-forced change is mentioned.
- A) The selectors are hedging leadership risk by using split captaincy now while stress-testing Gill for a possible all-format role later.

The passage says Gill currently leads Tests, Suryakumar T20Is, Rohit ODIs, and adds it “could be a hint about Gill becoming an all-format captain in the near future.” That combination—split leadership now plus a stated hint—supports a risk-managed audition for Gill.

B. The policy is called “illogical,” and the piece contrasts no bilaterals with okay tournaments—hardly “settled,” and certainly not “strictly bilateral.”

C. Only Pant is ruled out; the passage explicitly pits Samson against Jitesh Sharma, so security is not implied.

D. Bumrah’s presence is described as a “booster shot,” which strengthens—not rests—the attack.
- B) A deliberate, transitional split-captaincy phase that simultaneously grooms Gill toward eventual all-format leadership, leveraging his current purple patch and alignment between selectors and coach

The passage frames Gill’s vice-captaincy as influenced by recency bias, selector-coach alignment, and “a hint” at him becoming an all-format captain later—precisely a managed, transitional strategy.

A: The passage explicitly maintains split captaincy now (Gill in Tests, Suryakumar in T20Is, Rohit in ODIs), not a single leader “now.”

C: Calling it a “demotion” misreads the article; it notes the awkwardness but situates it within India’s history of complex leadership transitions—not devaluing Tests.

D: The Pahalgam/Operation Sindoor context fuels the India-Pakistan play debate, not the leadership choices; the passage does not tie squad leadership to public outrage management.
- C) **recency bias**

The passage explicitly notes that Gill's superb recent Test returns "swayed the selectors," which aligns with overweighting the most recent evidence.

A. status quo bias: Prefers existing arrangements; here the setup is changing (Gill's elevation), not preserving the status quo.

B. confirmation bias: Seeking data that affirms a prior belief; the trigger cited is timely performance, not belief-matching.

D. survivorship bias: Drawing conclusions only from visible "survivors"; nothing in the context implies ignoring failed cases.

6. D) 4

(i) Correction: This task is being undertaken for the benefit of young people in need at the instance of the Chief of the Group.

Solution) in need एक स्थिर मुहावरा है जिसका अर्थ "ज़रूरतमंद/आवश्यकता में" होता है; यहाँ needed (V3/adj.) गलत है।

- Use the fixed phrase in need (not in needed) to mean "needy/requiring help." Example — Funds were raised for families in need.

(ii) Correction: If I were the principal of the school, I would abolish all examinations.

काल-संगति (Second Conditional) में यदि वर्तमान में अवास्तविक/काल्पनिक स्थिति हो तो if-clause में past/subjunctive "were" और main clause में would + V1 आता है।

- For unreal present: If + were, would + V1. Example — If I were you, I would rest.

(iii) Correction: My mother thinks (that) I should stop drinking.

Solution) think/know/believe जैसे stative verbs मत/विश्वास दर्शाते हैं; सामान्य राय के लिए Present Simple प्रयोग होता है, is thinking that अप्राकृतिक है।

- Use thinks/believes for opinions. Progressive only for temporary deliberation with a different pattern: She is thinking of quitting.

(iv) Correction: The students had a good time in class today.

"today" के भीतर जो घटना पूरी हो चुकी है, उसके लिए Simple Past (had) उचित है: "They had a good time in class today." यहाँ "enjoyed oneself" का भाव है।

- Use Simple Past for a finished event earlier today: I had lunch at 1 pm today.

7. A) 'visibly' सही है: "visibly dilapidated" स्वाभाविक है। 'deeply' इस adjective के साथ सामान्य नहीं; 'little' (बिना a के) गलत; 'satisfactorily' अर्थविरुद्ध है।

'visibly dilapidated' is natural. 'deeply' doesn't collocate here; 'little' (without 'a') is wrong; 'satisfactorily' is illogical

8. C) QRPS

Q) "in a balancing act, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema has focused on education and health" - This part introduces the subject of the sentence, which is the focus of Punjab's Finance Minister on education and health.

R) "in the state's 2024-25 Budget," - This part provides context for where the focus on education and health is being implemented, which is in the state's 2024-25 Budget.

P) "which has a total outlay of over Rs 2 lakh crore," - This part gives additional information about the budget mentioned in part R, specifying its total outlay.

S) "while again refraining from imposing new taxes" - This part adds further information about the budgetary approach, indicating that no new taxes have been imposed.

9. A) 3

(i) More than thirty lakh people were inoculated against COVID-19 on March 15th.

Correct

Passive past form "were inoculated" + finished time "on March 15th" सही है; वाक्य स्वाभाविक और व्याकरणतः ठीक है।

- Simple Past passive with a specific past date is correct.

(ii) LIC was found on September 1, 1956 via the Life Insurance Corporation Act.

Correction: LIC was founded on September 1, 1956 under the Life Insurance Corporation Act.

Solution) 'found' (पाना/खोजना) नहीं, founded (स्थापित किया) चाहिए; संस्थाओं के लिए found/founded प्रयोग होता है. "via" के स्थान पर औपचारिक under/by उपयुक्त है।

- Use founded for establishing institutions; prefer under/by an Act.

(iii) Full many a flower are born to blush unseen.

Correction: Full many a flower is born to blush unseen.

Solution) "many a + singular noun" को singular verb चाहिए; इसलिए is सही है।

- Rule: many a + N (sg.) → verb (sg.).

(iv) I shall be glad to help every one of my boys in their studies.

Correction (formal/exam): I shall be glad to help every one of my boys in his studies.

Alternative (make both plural): I shall be glad to help all my boys in their studies.

Solution) "every/every one" एकवचन भाव देता है, इसलिए singular pronoun (his/her) लें; आधुनिक प्रयोग में singular they चलता है, पर परीक्षा-मानक में his अपेक्षित है।

- With every/every one, use a singular pronoun in formal grammar.

10. C) **Valuable** (adjective) – Having great worth or importance. मूल्यवान/कीमती

Antonym: **Nugatory** (adjective) – Of no value or importance; trifling, worthless. निरर्थक/तुच्छ

- **Priceless** – Extremely valuable; beyond price. अमूल्य
- **Palatial** – Resembling a palace; magnificent. भव्य/महलनुमा
- **Regnant** – Reigning; predominant. शासनकर्ता/प्रभुत्वशाली

11. A) **Noun**

'quincentenary' एक noun है क्योंकि यह किसी विशेष घटना (Columbus की यात्रा की 500वीं वर्षगांठ) को दर्शा रहा है। यह वाक्य में verb 'marks' का object है।

जैसे— The nation celebrated the quincentenary of the great king's birth.

- 'quincentenary' is a noun because it names an event (the 500th anniversary). In the sentence, it functions as the object of the verb 'marks'.

Example— The museum organized an exhibition for the quincentenary of Shakespeare's death.

12. B) **Adjective**

'questionable' एक adjective है क्योंकि यह noun 'conclusions' को qualify कर रहा है। इसका अर्थ है "जिस पर संदेह किया जा सके"।

जैसे— His honesty is questionable. (उसकी ईमानदारी संदिग्ध है)।

- 'questionable' is an adjective because it qualifies the noun 'conclusions'. Its meaning is "something that can be doubted or suspected".

For example— His honesty is questionable. (This means his honesty can be doubted or is not entirely reliable).

13. A) The correct spelling of '**perelous**' is perilous, which means "dangerous, hazardous, risky, treacherous, precarious" जोखिमपूर्ण/संकटपूर्ण.
14. C) **Resonant** (adjective) – deep, rich, sonorous, ringing, full-bodied गूँजता/गंभीर स्वर
 Synonym: **Deep** (adjective) – low-pitched, full-toned, sonorous. गंभीर/गूँजदार
 • **soft** (adjective) – gentle or not loud; fullness/echo implied by "resonant" is missing. मुलायम/धीमा
 • **harsh** (adjective) – grating, strident; tone quality opposite to rich and pleasant. कर्कश
 • **quivering** (adjective/participle) – trembling or shaking; describes stability, not timbre. कांपता/थरथराता
15. C) **Absolute** (adjective) – Complete, unconditional, not limited or relative. पूर्ण/निरपेक्ष
 Antonym: **Qualified** (adjective) – Limited or modified in some way; conditional. सीमित/शर्तयुक्त
Unalloyed – Pure; not mixed or qualified. शुद्ध/अमिश्रित
Categorical – Explicit and direct; unconditional. स्पष्ट/निरपेक्ष
Sheer – Complete; utter. पूर्ण/एकदम
16. A) **CDAB**
 C starts the sentence with the subject "The Mehras," introducing the main characters of the passage.
 D follows C because it introduces the action taken by the narrator and his wife ("My wife and I called on them"), logically following the introduction of the Mehras.
 A comes next as it describes the first impression of the narrator and his wife after meeting the Mehras, which naturally follows the act of visiting them.
 B concludes the sequence by explaining a later realization, providing context for why the Mehras initially seemed depressed.
 In Hindi:
 C sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject "The Mehras" को introduce करता है, जो passage के main characters हैं।
 D, C के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह narrator और उसकी wife द्वारा की गई action ("My wife and I called on them") को बताता है, जो logically Mehras के introduction के बाद आता है।
 A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह narrator और उसकी wife का first impression describe करता है, जो Mehras से मिलने के बाद naturally follow करता है।
 B sequence को conclude करता है, क्योंकि यह एक later realization को explain करता है, जो Mehras के initially depressed लगने का कारण बताता है।
17. D) **RQPS**
 R is first because it introduces the subject of the sentence, which is the joint efforts made by the IAF and the Indian Navy.

Q comes after R because it continues the description of the joint efforts, specifying the action taken (freeing the merchant vessel MV Ruen from pirates in the Arabian Sea).

P follows Q as it provides a temporal context (recently) and leads into the conclusion of the sentence.

S comes last as it concludes the sentence by stating what these efforts are an example of (effective maritime security measures and inter-service collaboration).

18. C) **The ship has sailed** (idiom) – The opportunity has passed अवसर निकल चुका है
19. D) **Verbose** (adjective) – wordy, long-winded, prolix, loquacious, garrulous. वाचाल/शब्दबहुल
Antonym: **Succinct** (adjective) – concise, brief, terse, laconic, pithy. संक्षिप्त/सारगर्भित
exaggerate (verb) – overstate, magnify; अतिशयोक्ति करना – क्रिया है, “verbose” (विशेषण) का विलोम नहीं।
short (adjective) – small in length; छोटा/कम लंबा – नज़दीकी अर्थ है, पर शैलीगत “संक्षिप्त और सारगर्भित” के लिए सटीक शब्द **succinct** है।
informal (adjective) – casual style; अनौपचारिक – रजिस्टर बताता है, शब्दाडंबर (wordiness) के विपरीत नहीं।
20. A) The correct spelling of ‘**sparodic**’ is ‘**sporadic**’ which means “occurring occasionally or irregularly” कभी-कभी होने वाला।
21. B) **'Made'** का use होगा क्योंकि "made" past tense है और sentence में "In a recent judgment" लिखा है, जो बीती हुई घटना को दर्शाता है। High Court ने यह observation पहले ही दी थी, इसलिए 'made' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'makes' का अर्थ है present tense, 'making' continuous/participle रूप है, और 'make' base form है—ये तीनों context में fit नहीं होते। **'Made'** will be used because it is the past tense form, and the sentence talks about a recent judgment (already completed action). The High Court already gave the observation, so 'made' is correct. Whereas, 'makes' means present tense, 'making' is a participle/continuous form, and 'make' is base form—all incorrect here.
22. A) **'Unsettle'** का use होगा क्योंकि "unsettle" का अर्थ है किसी को परेशान, विचलित या अस्थिर कर देना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि High Court की observation किसी भी व्यक्ति को जो कानून के शासन में विश्वास रखता है, चौंका देगी या विचलित करेगी, इसलिए 'unsettle' सही है। जबकि 'placate' का अर्थ है शांत करना, 'appease' का अर्थ है खुश करना या तुष्ट करना, और 'fabricate' का अर्थ है गढ़ना या झूठी रचना करना—ये context में फिट नहीं होते। **'Unsettle'** will be used because it means to disturb, upset, or make someone feel troubled. The sentence says that the High Court's observation should disturb anyone who believes in the rule of law, hence 'unsettle' is correct. Whereas 'placate' means to calm down, 'appease' means to satisfy or pacify, and 'fabricate' means to invent or falsify—all of which don't fit the context.
23. D) **'Intended'** का use होगा क्योंकि "intended" का अर्थ है जानबूझकर योजना बनाना या नीयत रखना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि पुलिस ने पीड़ित को सबक सिखाने के लिए ऐसा जानबूझकर किया था, इसलिए 'intended' सही है। जबकि 'spontaneous' का अर्थ है स्वतःस्फूर्त, 'fortuitous' का अर्थ है संयोगवश हुआ, और 'exonerated' का अर्थ है दोषमुक्त करना—ये context में सही नहीं हैं।

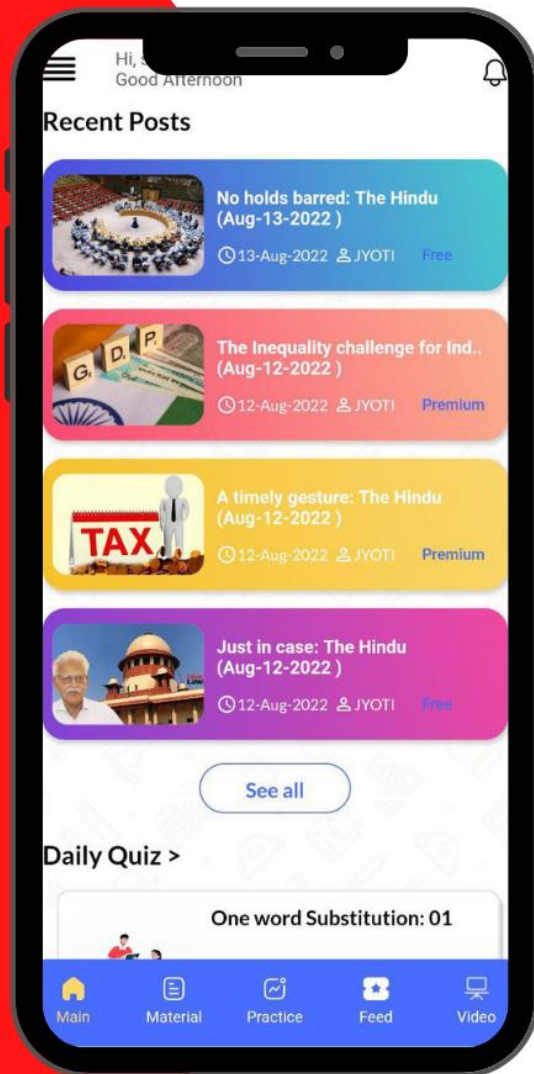
'**Intended**' will be used because it means planned or done deliberately. The sentence mentions that the police acted deliberately to teach a lesson, hence 'intended' fits correctly. Whereas 'spontaneous' means unplanned, 'fortuitous' means accidental or by chance, and 'exonerated' means freed from blame—all of which don't match the context.

24. C) '**Of**' का use होगा क्योंकि "convicted of" एक fixed grammatical combination है, जिसका अर्थ है किसी अपराध का दोषी ठहराया जाना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि पुलिसकर्मी murder के दोषी ठहराए गए, इसलिए 'of' सही है। जबकि 'at' का अर्थ है स्थान पर, 'on' प्रीपोज़िशन स्थिति या सतह दर्शाता है, और 'to' दिशा/लक्ष्य के लिए प्रयोग होता है—ये context में सही नहीं हैं।

'**Of**' will be used because "convicted of" is the correct collocation, meaning found guilty of a crime. The sentence says the police officers were convicted of murder, hence 'of' is correct. Whereas 'at' refers to place, 'on' indicates surface/position, and 'to' shows direction—none of which fit the legal context here.

25. D) '**Culpable**' का use होगा क्योंकि "culpable homicide" एक कानूनी शब्द (legal term) है, जिसका अर्थ है ऐसा अपराध जिसमें हत्या का इरादा न हो लेकिन मृत्यु होने की संभावना का ज्ञान हो। Sentence में High Court ने murder को कम करके culpable homicide माना है, इसलिए 'culpable' सही है। जबकि 'exculpated' का अर्थ है दोषमुक्त करना, 'remitted' का अर्थ है घटाना/माफ करना, और 'voracious' का अर्थ है अत्यधिक भूखा या लालची—ये context में सही नहीं हैं।

'**Culpable**' will be used because "culpable homicide" is a legal expression meaning killing without intent to murder but with knowledge that death could result. The sentence clearly refers to this, so 'culpable' fits. Whereas 'exculpated' means freed from blame, 'remitted' means reduced/forgiven, and 'voracious' means excessively greedy or hungry—all incorrect in this legal context.



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