

## Reservation **ruse**: On women's quota and delimitation

Women's **empowerment** is an excuse to **undermine federal equity**

In a Parliament sitting **convened** from April 16, the Union government is **seeking** to advance women's empowerment, but as part of a wider **legislative** package: the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, and a companion Delimitation Bill. The **stated rationale is** the **operationalisation** of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam (the 106th Amendment of 2023), which reserves one-third of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats for women but was tied to a post-Census **delimitation**. The government's **insistence on** bundling women's reservation with delimitation **suggests** that the former is being used as political cover for the latter: a **sweeping reallocation** of Lok Sabha seats that would reshape the federal **composition** of Parliament to the advantage of States where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) enjoys electoral **dominance**, and **at the expense of** States where it has been historically weak.

When India's **decennial** Census was delayed for more than five years without a **definitive** or **rational** explanation from the BJP-led Union government, the political logic was not hard to **discern**. The 2021 Census was first postponed **citing** COVID-19, but no reason was offered for the successive **deferrals** that followed, until it was quietly announced that the exercise would be **carried out** in 2026-27. Under the Constitution, **the freeze** on inter-State distribution of Lok Sabha seats, **pegged** to the 1971 Census, **was set to** expire only after the first **Census** conducted after the year 2026 **was** published. This meant that **in the normal course**, delimitation would have been based on the 2031 Census. By delaying the Census to 2026-27, the government **ensured** that the delimitation exercise could be **initiated** on its preferred timeline, using the 2026-27 Census rather than one conducted in 2031. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Ruse** (noun) - trick, stratagem, gambit, deception, artifice चाल या छल
2. **Empowerment** (noun) - authorization, enablement, delegation, investment, sanction सशक्तिकरण
3. **Undermine** (verb) - weaken, sabotage, subvert, erode, दुर्बल करना
4. **Federal** (adjective) - confederate, allied, unified, combined, central संघीय
5. **Equity** (noun) - fairness, justice, impartiality, egalitarianism, objectivity न्यायसंगतता
6. **Convene** (verb) - summon, assemble, gather, convoke, muster बुलाना या आयोजित करना
7. **Seek** (verb) - attempt, endeavor, strive, aim, aspire प्रयास करना
8. **Legislative** (adjective) - lawmaking, judicial, constitutional, parliamentary, statutory विधायी
9. **Stated** (adjective) - declared, specified, fixed, announced, settled घोषित या कथित
10. **Rationale** (noun) - justification, reasoning, logic, grounds, basis तर्क या आधार
11. **Operationalisation** (noun) - implementation, execution, activation, realization, enforcement कार्यान्वयन
12. **Delimitation** (noun) - demarcation, boundary, definition, limitation, restriction परिसीमन
13. **Insistence on (something)** (phrase) - the act of demanding something or saying something very firmly and refusing to give up किसी बात पर जोर देना
14. **Sweeping** (adjective) - comprehensive, extensive, wide-ranging, broad, thorough व्यापक
15. **Reallocation** (noun) - redistribution, reassignment, allotment, reapportionment, shifting पुनर्वितरण
16. **Composition** (noun) - structure, formation, makeup, configuration, organization संरचना
17. **Dominance** (noun) - supremacy, authority, mastery, command, clout प्रभुत्व
18. **At the expense of** (phrase) - with loss or damage to one thing to benefit another की कीमत पर
19. **Decennial** (adjective) - ten-year, tenth, decenary दशकीय
20. **Definitive** (adjective) - conclusive, final, ultimate, decisive, absolute निर्णायक
21. **Rational** (adjective) - logical, sensible, coherent, lucid, reasonable तर्कसंगत
22. **Discern** (verb) - perceive, detect, recognize, identify, notice पहचानना या समझना
23. **Cite** (verb) - quote, mention, refer, instance, adduce हवाला देना
24. **Deferral** (noun) - postponement, delay, suspension, adjournment, moratorium स्थगन
25. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) - to do or complete something, especially something that you have been told to do or have planned to do पूरा करना या अंजाम देना
26. **Pegged** (adjective) - fixed, attached, linked, secured, fastened स्थिर किया हुआ

27. **Set to** (phrasal verb) - to be ready or about to do something marked by a certain start होने के लिए तैयार
28. **In the normal course** (phrase) - as part of the usual way that things happen or are done सामान्य रूप में
29. **Ensure** (verb) - guarantee, assure, secure, warrant, confirm सुनिश्चित करना
30. **Initiate** (verb) - start, begin, commence, launch, institute आरंभ करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Union government has convened a Parliament session starting April 16 to push key legislative changes.
2. It proposes the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 along with a Delimitation Bill.
3. These are linked to implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Amendment, 2023).
4. The Act provides for one-third reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
5. However, this reservation is conditional on a future Census and delimitation exercise.
6. The government is combining women's reservation with delimitation in one legislative package.
7. The editorial argues that women's empowerment is being used as a political cover.
8. The real objective is seen as restructuring parliamentary representation through delimitation.
9. Delimitation would redistribute Lok Sabha seats among States based on population changes.
10. This redistribution may benefit States where the ruling party (BJP) is politically strong.
11. Conversely, States where the BJP is weaker could lose relative representation.
12. The delay of the 2021 Census plays a crucial role in this strategy.
13. Initially postponed due to COVID-19, the Census was further delayed without clear justification.
14. It is now scheduled for 2026–27, altering the timeline for delimitation.
15. This shift allows delimitation to occur earlier than expected, potentially impacting federal balance and equity among States.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is the primary "stated rationale" for introducing the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026?**
  - A. To provide a definitive and rational explanation for the five-year delay in conducting the decennial Census.
  - B. To operationalise the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam which reserves seats for women in the Lok Sabha.
  - C. To ensure that the Bharatiya Janata Party can maintain its historical strength in the southern states.
  - D. To extend the freeze on the inter-State distribution of Lok Sabha seats that was pegged to the 1971 Census.
2. **Why does the author suggest that women's reservation is being used as "political cover" in this legislative package?**
  - A. Because the government wants to protect women from the sweeping reallocation of seats in the Parliament.
  - B. Because the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was originally intended to be implemented without any census data.
  - C. Because it allows for a reallocation of seats that benefits states where the ruling party is electorally dominant.
  - D. Because it prevents the government from initiating the delimitation exercise on their own preferred timeline.
3. **What was the constitutional requirement regarding the timing of the next delimitation exercise before the recent census delay?**
  - A. It was required to be initiated immediately following the conclusion of the 96-hour military conflict in 2025.
  - B. It could only be initiated based on the results of the first Census conducted and published after the year 2026.
  - C. It was mandated to use the 1971 Census data indefinitely to ensure federal stability across all Indian states.
  - D. It required the Union government to offer a definitive explanation for any postponement lasting over five years.
4. **How did the timing of the 2026-27 Census affect the government's ability to initiate delimitation?**
  - A. It forced the government to wait until the 2031 Census was published before any seats could be reallocated.
  - B. It resulted in a total collapse of the 131st Amendment Bill due to the lack of definitive population counts.
  - C. It ensured the exercise could be started earlier than the "normal course" which would have used the 2031 data.
  - D. It allowed the states where the BJP is weak to gain more seats in the Lok Sabha before the next election.
5. **Identify whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F) based on the passage:**
  - A. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was the 106th Amendment passed in the year 2023.

- B. The government provided COVID-19 as the reason for every census deferral between 2021 and 2026.
- A. 1-T, 2-T  
B. 1-F, 2-T  
C. 1-T, 2-F  
D. 1-F, 2-F
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Intent."**
- A. Purpose  
B. Portent  
C. Pillage  
D. Palpate
7. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
- A. Evanescence  
B. Evinescence  
C. Evanescense  
D. Evaneccesnse
8. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**  
A person who is unable to pay their debts.
- A. Debtor  
B. Bankrupt  
C. Pauper  
D. Insolvent
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Formidable."**
- A. Fecund  
B. Facile  
C. Fastidious  
D. Felicitous
10. **The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
1. However, this decimal experiment failed within a year because it was difficult to convert clocks and isolated France from its neighbors.
2. The French Republic attempted to change the structure of time in 1793 by introducing a decimal system with 10-hour days.
3. This revolutionary change aimed to rationalize the calendar and even included a new ten-day week to replace traditional schedules.
4. To understand why we still use 24 hours and 60 minutes today, we must look back 5,000 years to the earliest number systems.
- A. 2-3-1-4  
B. 2-1-3-4  
C. 4-2-3-1  
D. 2-3-4-1
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Fragile."**
- A. Inscrutable  
B. Insouciant

- C. Iniquitous  
D. Indomitable
12. **In the following, there are four different words, out of which only one word is correctly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.**
- A. Coddle  
B. Hudle  
C. Satisfes  
D. Protecat
13. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**  
You should have kept us informed about the progress of the investigation.
- A. We should be kept informed about the progress of the investigation by you.  
B. We should have been kept informed about the progress of the investigation by you.  
C. We should have been keeping informed about the progress of the investigation by you.  
D. We should have kept informed about the progress of the investigation by you.
14. **Change the following from active to passive:**  
Have the archivists digitized the medieval manuscripts yet?
- A. Were the medieval manuscripts digitized by the archivists yet?  
B. Have the medieval manuscripts been digitized by the archivists yet?  
C. Are the medieval manuscripts being digitized by the archivists yet?  
D. Had the medieval manuscripts been digitized by the archivists yet?
15. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank:**  
The ambitious startup managed to \_\_\_\_\_ a significant market share in the fintech industry despite the presence of established banking giants.
- A. Carry off  
B. Check out  
C. Clear out  
D. Carve out
16. **Choose the most appropriate option to fill the blank in the given sentence.**  
The tiny deer stood looking at them with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
- A. Stationary  
B. Arid  
C. Luminous  
D. Transparent
17. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**  
The main affect B. of the new policy C. will be an increase D. in productivity.
- A. The main affect  
B. of the new policy  
C. will be an increase  
D. in productivity.
18. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Give up the ghost"?**
- A. Continue working  
B. Improve condition  
C. Stop functioning; die  
D. Begin again

19. Select the most appropriate **SYNONYM** of the word "Buzzing."

- A. Baffling
- B. Bantering
- C. Bustling
- D. Blighting

20. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice.

The guide said, "We will be exploring the ruins all morning."

- A. The guide said that they would be exploring the ruins all morning.
- B. The guide said that they will be exploring the ruins all morning.
- C. The guide said that we would be exploring the ruins all morning.
- D. The guide said that they were exploring the ruins all morning.

### Comprehension

I stepped (1) \_\_\_ the cool salt water, wading through the shallows of Moonee Creek on Australia's eastern coast. Overhead, rainbow lorikeets chattered in the eucalyptus trees while red dragonflies buzzed past. I was in the heart of Gumbaynggirr Country, an Aboriginal nation spanning roughly 6,000 sq km between the Clarence and Nambucca rivers in New South Wales (NSW).

"We're the first paddleboarders in the world," said our Gumbaynggirr cultural guide, Troy Robinson. "We're only doing what our old ancestors have done since time (2) \_\_\_." As the tour's three other participants and I struggled to (3) \_\_\_ ourselves on our foam boards, Robinson glided along the mangroves lining the banks of his ancestral land, dreadlocks spilling from beneath his Akubra hat.

I followed his lead, making long strokes with my paddle as schools of small, almost (4) \_\_\_ mullet darted beneath my board and aquatic insects flitted across the creek's surface. Robinson, who had smeared white (5) \_\_\_ across his cheeks and forearms, explained that his people have traditionally used the paste as a natural sunscreen. I told him I was imagining his ancestors paddling alongside us, curious about the blue foam SUPs and plastic paddles. "They would've carved their vessels out of the trees though," he said, laughing.

21. What should come in the place of blank number (1)?

- A. upon
- B. amid
- C. across
- D. into

22. What should come in the place of blank number (2)?

- A. primordial
- B. bygone
- C. immemorial
- D. antiquity

23. What should come in the place of blank number (3)?

- A. brace
- B. steady
- C. poise
- D. anchor

24. What should come in the place of blank number (4)?

- A. iridescent
  - B. diaphanous
  - C. translucent
  - D. luminous
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. resin
  - B. ochre
  - C. silt
  - D. chalk

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

- B) To operationalise the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam which reserves seats for women in the Lok Sabha.**

The passage states the rationale is the "operationalisation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam... which reserves one-third of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats for women."

(A) : The passage notes that the government has not offered a rational explanation for the census delay.

(C) : The passage suggests the move favors states where the BJP is dominant, not where it has been "historically weak."

(D) : The bill seeks to advance delimitation, which would end the freeze rather than extend it.
- C) Because it allows for a reallocation of seats that benefits states where the ruling party is electorally dominant.**

The passage argues that bundling the two suggests the reservation is cover for a "sweeping reallocation of Lok Sabha seats... to the advantage of States where the BJP enjoys electoral dominance."

(A) : The "cover" refers to hiding a political strategy, not physically protecting a demographic from legislation.

(B) : The passage mentions the 2023 amendment was already "tied to a post-Census delimitation."

(D) : The author argues the opposite; the bundling helps the government achieve its preferred timeline.
- B) It could only be initiated based on the results of the first Census conducted and published after the year 2026.**

The passage explains that the freeze was set to expire "only after the first Census conducted after the year 2026 was published."

(A) : This uses context from a previous unrelated text (Operation Sindoor) which is not in this passage.

(C) : The passage says the freeze was set to expire, meaning it was never intended to be "indefinite."

(D) : While the author criticizes the lack of explanation, this was not a "constitutional requirement" for the timing of delimitation.
- C) It ensured the exercise could be started earlier than the "normal course" which would have used the 2031 data.**

The passage states that by delaying to 2026-27, the government ensured delimitation "could be initiated on its preferred timeline... rather than one conducted in 2031."

(A) : The delay specifically allows them to avoid waiting for the 2031 Census.

(B) : The passage indicates the bill is being "advanced," not that it has collapsed.

(D) : The author argues the reallocation would be at the "expense of States" where the BJP is weak.

5. C) **1-T, 2-F.**

Statement 1 is TRUE: The passage identifies it as the "106th Amendment of 2023."

Statement 2 is FALSE: The passage states COVID-19 was the reason for the first postponement, but "no reason was offered for the successive deferrals that followed."

6. A) **Intent** (noun) – The underlying aim, objective, or the state of mind with which an act is done. (इरादा)

Synonym: **Purpose** (noun) – The reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists. (उद्देश्य)

- **Portent** (noun): A sign or warning that something momentous or calamitous is likely to happen. (पूर्वसूचना)
- **Pillage** (verb): To rob a place using violence, especially during wartime or civil unrest. (loot/लूटपाट करना)
- **Palpate** (verb): To examine a part of the body by touch, especially for medical diagnosis. (स्पर्श द्वारा जाँचना)

7. A) The correctly spelt word is **Evanescence** which means "the process of fading away or vanishing" क्षीण होना / विलुप्त होना।

8. B) **Bankrupt** (noun/adjective) – legally declared unable to pay debts कानूनी रूप से दिवालिया घोषित

- **Insolvent** (noun/adjective) – a person who is unable to pay their debts कर्ज चुकाने में अक्षम / दिवालिया स्थिति में
- **Debtor** (noun) – a person who owes money धन-ऋणी
- **Pauper** (noun) – a very poor person अत्यंत गरीब व्यक्ति

9. B) **Formidable** (adjective) – Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. (दुर्जेय/डरावना)

Antonym: **Facile** (adjective) – Appearing neat and comprehensive only by ignoring the true complexities of an issue; superficial; or something easily achieved and therefore of little value. (सुगम/अति-सरल)

- **Fecund** (adjective): Producing or capable of producing an abundance of offspring or new growth; fertile. (उपजाऊ)
- **Fastidious** (adjective): Very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail. (अति-सावधान)
- **Felicitous** (adjective): Well chosen or suited to the circumstances; pleasing and fortunate. (उचित/आनंदमय)

10. A) Correct Answer: **A (2-3-1-4)**

Sentence 2, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह 1793 के उस "decimal experiment" की पहचान करता है जब फ्रांस ने समय बदलने की कोशिश की थी। यह रिपोर्ट को एक factual ground प्रदान करता है कि खबर किस ऐतिहासिक घटना के बारे में है।

Sentence 3, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" पेश करता है। यह पिछले वाक्य के बदलाव को उसके "rationalize" करने के उद्देश्य और 10-दिन के हफ़्ते (10-day week) से जोड़ता है। यह क्रांतिकारी बदलावों को समझने के लिए एक big test है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "test" या प्रयोग के फेल होने का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। जहाँ 3 में सिस्टम लागू करने की बात की गई है, वहीं Sentence 1 specific details देता है कि घड़ियाँ बदलना मुश्किल था और फ्रांस पड़ोसी देशों से अलग-थलग (isolated) पड़ गया था।

Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक conclusion देता है। फ्रांस की विफलता को समझने के बाद, 4 हमें वापस 5,000 साल पुराने इतिहास की ओर ले जाता है ताकि हम आज के 24-घंटे वाले सिस्टम का असली कारण (scale) समझ सकें।

- Sentence 2 comes at the beginning because it identifies the historical "decimal experiment" of 1793 when France tried to change time. It provides the essential factual ground by establishing the specific event the report is about.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the time change to the revolutionary goals of rationalizing the calendar and introducing a 10-day week. This serves as a critical test of the system's intended structure.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it elaborates on the nature of that "test" or experiment. While 3 describes the implementation, Sentence 1 provides specific details on why it failed, citing clock conversion issues and international isolation.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it serves as the logical conclusion for the narrative. After explaining the failed French attempt, it provides a wrap-up by pointing toward the 5,000-year-old origins that explain our current 24-hour scale.

11. D) **Fragile** (adjective) – (Of an object) easily broken or damaged; or (of a system) vulnerable and weak. (नाजुक)

Antonym: **Indomitable** (adjective) – Impossible to subdue or defeat; strong and resilient. (अजेय/मजबूत)

- **Inscrutable** (adjective): Impossible to understand or interpret. (रहस्यमय)
- **Insouciant** (adjective): Showing a casual lack of concern; indifferent. (बेपरवाह)
- **Iniquitous** (adjective): Grossly unfair and morally wrong. (अन्यायपूर्ण)

12. A) The correct spelling is **coddle**, which means to treat someone in an overprotective or indulgent manner.

अर्थ (Hindi): ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा लाड़-प्यार करना

13. B) **We should have been kept informed about the progress of the investigation by you.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb का Tense Passive रूप में बदलता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "should have kept" Modal + Perfect रूप है, इसलिए Passive में यह "should have been kept" बनता है। Active में Object "us" Passive में Subject "we" बन जाता है और Agent "by you" अंत में रखा जाता है। शेष भाग "about the progress of the investigation" यथावत रहता है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive form and the verb structure shifts accordingly. The active modal perfect "should have kept" becomes "should have been kept" in the

passive. The object "us" becomes "we," and the agent "by you" is added at the end while the remaining phrase stays unchanged.

14. B) Have the medieval manuscripts been digitized by the archivists yet?

Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense के Passive form में बदला जाता है।

Active वाक्य में "the archivists" Subject है, "have digitized" Verb (Present Perfect Tense) है और "the medieval manuscripts" Object है।

Passive में बदलने पर "the medieval manuscripts" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "have been digitized" (Present Perfect Passive) में बदला गया है, और "by the archivists" के रूप में Agent जोड़ा गया है। इसलिए यही वाक्य व्याकरणिक रूप से सही है।

The active sentence is in the Present Perfect tense:

Have + subject + V<sup>3</sup> (digitized)

The correct passive structure for Present Perfect is:

Have/Has + been + V<sup>3</sup>

So, "Have the archivists digitized..." →

"Have the medieval manuscripts been digitized..."

Option 2 preserves both the tense and the interrogative form correctly.

15. D) **Carve out** (phrasal verb): To create or establish something through hard work or legal provision. (अलग से बनाना)

The blank requires a phrasal verb meaning to establish a specific space; Carve out fits as it denotes creating a niche through effort.

- **Carry off** (phrasal verb): To succeed in doing something difficult or to win a prize. (सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करना)
- **Check out** (phrasal verb): To establish the truth or inform oneself about something. (जांच करना)
- **Clear out** (phrasal verb): To empty a place or to leave a place quickly. (साफ करना / चले जाना)

16. C) "**Luminous**" का अर्थ है चमकीला या रोशनी देने वाला। हिरण की बड़ी, चमकीली आँखें उसकी प्रमुख विशेषता होती हैं। "Stationary" = स्थिर; "Arid" = शुष्क; "Transparent" = पारदर्शी।

"Luminous" means bright or glowing. Deer are well-known for their large, shining eyes.

"Stationary" = not moving; "Arid" = dry (used for land); "Transparent" = see-through. None of these aptly describes a deer's eyes.

☑ Correct answer: Luminous

17. A) affect' के बदले '**effect**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ अर्थ result / outcome (परिणाम) का है और इस अर्थ में effect (noun) आता है, जबकि affect सामान्यतः verb (प्रभाव डालना) के रूप में प्रयोग होता है; जैसे—

The effect of the policy was remarkable.

- 'effect' will be used instead of 'affect' because the meaning here is result/outcome, and in this meaning effect is the correct noun, whereas affect is mainly used as a verb; Like—

The effect of the policy was remarkable.

18. C) "**Give up the ghost**" means stop working – काम बंद हो जाना.

19. C) **Buzzing** (adjective) – Full of excitement or activity; very busy. (चहल-पहल वाला)  
**Synonym: Bustling** (adjective) – (of a place) full of activity; moving or acting with a great show of energy. (हलचल वाला/सरगर्म)
- **Baffling** (adjective): Impossible to understand; perplexing. (रहस्यमय/चकरा देने वाला)
  - **Bantering** (verb/adj): Talking or exchanging remarks in a good-humored teasing way. (मजाक करना)
  - **Blighting** (verb/adj): Having a severely detrimental effect on something. (विनाशकारी)
20. A) **The guide said that they would be exploring the ruins all morning.**  
Direct से Indirect में बदलते समय Reporting Verb "said" के बाद "that" लगाया जाता है और Future Tense (will) को Past form (would) में बदल दिया जाता है। Direct वाक्य में "We" का प्रयोग है, जो Indirect में Speaker के संदर्भ से बदलकर "they" हो जाता है। इसलिए सही Indirect वाक्य होगा – "The guide said that they would be exploring the ruins all morning."
- To change from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "said" is followed by "that" and the future tense "will" changes to "would". The pronoun "we" in direct speech shifts to "they" in indirect speech based on context. Hence, the correct indirect form is – "The guide said that they would be exploring the ruins all morning."
21. D) [**into**] सही है क्योंकि जब आप किसी चीज़ (जैसे पानी) के अंदर गहराई में जाते हैं, तो "stepped into" का इस्तेमाल होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि author पानी के अंदर चलकर (wading) जा रहा है। Upon का मतलब surface (सतह) पर चलना होता है (जैसे बर्फ पर चलना)। Amid का मतलब 'बीच में' होता है, पर यह "stepped" के साथ fit नहीं होता। Across का मतलब पार करना होता है।
- [into] is correct because it implies entering the volume or depth of a 3D space (the water). The passage implies the author is physically immersing their feet/legs in the water by "wading". "Upon" means on the surface (you walk upon water only if it's frozen or you are doing a miracle). "Amid" means surrounded by, but doesn't fit the verb "stepped". "Across" means moving from one side to the other, which doesn't fit stepping into the shallows.
22. C) [**immemorial**] सही है क्योंकि "since time immemorial" English का एक fixed idiom है जिसका मतलब 'इतने पुराने समय से जिसे कोई याद भी नहीं रख सकता' होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि Aboriginal लोगों का इस ज़मीन से रिश्ता इतना पुराना है कि उसका कोई written record भी नहीं है। Primordial का मतलब दुनिया की शुरुआत से होता है, लेकिन phrase में यह fit नहीं होता। Bygone का मतलब बीता हुआ समय होता है। Antiquity एक noun है जिसका मतलब प्राचीन काल होता है।
- [immemorial] is correct because "since time immemorial" is a strict, fixed English idiom meaning 'for longer than anyone can remember' or 'since ancient history'. The passage implies that the Aboriginal connection to this land and practice is so ancient it predates written records. "Primordial" means existing at the beginning of time, but we do not say "time primordial". "Bygone" means belonging to the past (e.g., bygone days). "Antiquity" is a noun, not an adjective used in this phrase.
23. B) [**steady**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी हिलती हुई चीज़ पर खुद को balance करना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि tourists अपने boards पर balance बनाने के लिए संघर्ष (struggle) कर रहे हैं, जबकि local guide बहुत smoothly पानी पर चल रहा है। Brace का मतलब किसी झटके

(impact) के लिए शरीर को टाइट करना होता है। Poise का मतलब बहुत elegant और graceful posture में होना होता है। Anchor का मतलब पानी की तलहटी (bottom) में लंगर डालना होता है।

- [steady] is correct because it means to make something balanced, firm, and stop it from wobbling. The passage implies a contrast between the clumsy, unbalanced tourists struggling not to fall off their boards and the graceful, experienced local guide. "Brace" implies tensing muscles to prepare for a physical impact or crash. "Poise" means to hold yourself in a highly elegant, graceful position (which they are failing to do). "Anchor" means to secure firmly to the bottom of the sea, which is impossible since they are moving.

24. C) [translucent] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब 'पारभासी' (semi-transparent) होता है, जिसके आर-पार light जा सके (जैसे पानी में छोटी मछलियाँ)। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि पानी इतना साफ़ है और मछलियाँ इतनी delicate हैं कि उनके आर-पार हल्का-हल्का दिख रहा है। Iridescent का मतलब अलग-अलग रंग बदलने वाली चमक (rainbow जैसी) होता है। Diaphanous का इस्तेमाल सिर्फ हल्के कपड़ों (fabrics) के लिए होता है, जानवरों के लिए नहीं। Luminous का मतलब खुद रोशनी (glow) देने वाला होता है।

- translucent] is correct because it refers to a substance allowing light to pass through it, making it semi-transparent (like small, pale fish in water). The passage implies the water is so clear and the fish are so delicate that you can almost see right through them. "Iridescent" means showing luminous, shifting colors like a rainbow. "Diaphanous" also means light and delicate, but is strictly used for fabrics (like silk), not animals. "Luminous" means glowing in the dark or emitting its own light.

25. B) [ochre] सही है क्योंकि यह एक natural मिट्टी (earth pigment) होती है जिसे दुनिया भर के Indigenous (मूल निवासी) लोग सदियों से body paint की तरह इस्तेमाल करते हैं। Passage Aboriginal लोगों की अपनी ज़मीन से जुड़ी समझदारी को imply कर रहा है, जो मिट्टी को ही sunscreen बना लेते थे। Resin पेड़ों से निकलने वाला चिपचिपा गोंद होता है। Silt नदी के पानी में बहने वाली बारीक रेत होती है। Chalk सफ़ेद पत्थर (चूना) होता है, लेकिन यह Aboriginal culture का traditional paint नहीं है।

- [ochre] is correct because it is the specific natural earth pigment (clay) traditionally used by Indigenous peoples globally for body painting and art. The passage implies the deep, historical resourcefulness of the Aboriginal people, using the natural earth itself to protect their skin. "Resin" is sticky tree sap. "Silt" is fine sand or dirt carried by running water, not typically used as paint. "Chalk" is a soft white limestone, but it is not the traditional cultural paste associated with Aboriginal body art.



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