

## Dry days: On rainfall deficit forecast

As India faces a **rainfall deficit**, it must make preparations for the worst

After **the crest**, the **trough** is **inevitable**. **Following** two years of surplus rainfall, India is **likely staring at** a significant shortfall in the coming monsoon. **The India Meteorological Department** (IMD) in its April **forecast has predicted** an 8% deficit, or “below normal” rainfall, coming June-September. There is a 5% margin of error in this **estimate** but going by IMD’s track record, there are many more times it has expected a ‘normal’ monsoon only for India to **end up** with a **drought** than it has **forecast** a drought and been proved wrong. In fact, when IMD warns of a deficit in April, history shows that India often experiences a drought. The **agency**, in its official **lexicon**, never **uses** the term ‘drought’ and only refers to a deficit below 90% as “**deficient**.” In the April of 2015, IMD issued a “below normal monsoon” forecast for the 2015 southwest monsoon season, **predicting** seasonal rainfall at 93% of the long-term average, again, ‘below normal.’ India ended up much worse at 86% **Long Period Average (LPA)**. IMD expects a **depressed** monsoon this time in the second crucial half of the monsoon (August and September) **on the back of** weather models indicating an **El Nino**, the **cyclical phenomenon** where a heating of the central equatorial Pacific Ocean beyond 1 degree Celsius has **corresponded** nine out of 16 times since 1950 to a deficient monsoon.

The **timing** of an El Nino **matters**. If the temperature rise happens outside of the monsoon months, its **impact** on the monsoon **is** not as **threatening**. In 2019, **for instance**, the IMD expected less than normal rainfall in April because El Nino-like conditions were **on the horizon**. **Paradoxically**, India ended up with above normal rainfall because that heating was not as strong as expected. This year too, the IMD expects the **Indian Ocean Dipole** would counter the **desiccating** impact of the El Nino. In a year where the most **concerning** clouds as of now are the war-like ones over West Asia, shortage of gas and fertilizer could **worsen** farmer **sentiment on top of** the weak rains. The government should immediately begin preparations to **shore up** fertilizer stocks, **equitable** water distribution, particularly in **reservoirs** that are likely to be **stressed**, and provide timely advisories to farmers on **optimal sowing** practices. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Dry days** (noun) - periods or days when it does not rain सूखा दिन
2. **Forecast** (verb) - predict, prophesy, augur, foretell, envision भविष्यवाणी करना
3. **Rainfall deficit** (noun) - a situation where the actual rainfall is less than the normal or expected amount वर्षा की कमी
4. **Crest** (noun) - peak, pinnacle, summit, zenith, apex शिखर
5. **Trough** (noun) - bottom, hollow, depression, dip, low point गर्त
6. **Inevitable** (adjective) - unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, certain, fated अनिवार्य
7. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding, post, behind के बाद
8. **Likely** (adverb) - probably, presumably, conceivably, doubtlessly, expectedly संभवतः
9. **Stare** (at) (phrasal verb) - meaning: to look at something or a situation directly, often an unpleasant one किसी स्थिति का सामना करना
10. **Predict** (verb) - forecast, foresee, divine, portend, anticipate भविष्यवाणी करना
11. **Estimate** (noun) - assessment, appraisal, evaluation, projection, calculation अनुमान
12. **End up** (phrasal verb) - to eventually reach or arrive at a particular state or place अंततः किसी स्थिति में पहुँचना
13. **Drought** (noun) - aridity, dryness, dehydration, famine, waterlessness सूखा
14. **Lexicon** (noun) - vocabulary, terminology, glossary, dictionary, jargon शब्दावली
15. **Deficient** (adjective) - inadequate, insufficient, meager, scanty, wanting कम या अपूर्ण
16. **Long Period Average (LPA)** (noun) - the average rainfall recorded over a particular region for a long period (usually 30 or 50 years) दीर्घकालिक औसत वर्षा
17. **Depressed** (adjective) - weakened, slumped, lowered, diminished, stagnant सुस्त या कम
18. **On the back of** (phrase) - as a result of or following closely after something else के परिणामस्वरूप
19. **El Nino** (noun) - a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean एक जलवायु घटना
20. **Cyclical phenomenon** (noun) - an event that repeats itself in a regular pattern or cycle चक्रीय घटना
21. **Correspond** (verb) - correlate, match, accord, coincide, harmonize मेल खाना
22. **Threatening** (adjective) - menacing, ominous, daunting, intimidating, sinister डरावना या खतरनाक
23. **For instance** (phrase) - as an example उदाहरण के लिए
24. **On the horizon** (idiom) - likely to happen or exist in the near future निकट भविष्य में होने वाला

25. **Paradoxically** (adverb) - contradictorily, inconsistently, incongruously, strangely, ironically विरोधाभासी रूप से
26. **Indian Ocean Dipole** (noun) - an ocean-atmosphere phenomenon in the Indian Ocean that affects climate हिंद महासागर की एक जलवायु घटना
27. **Desiccating** (adjective) - dehydrating, parching, withering, drying, evaporating सुखाने वाला
28. **Concerning** (adjective) - alarming, troubling, disturbing, worrying, unsettling चिंताजनक
29. **Worsen** (verb) - aggravate, exacerbate, deteriorate, decline, degenerate बदतर होना
30. **Sentiment** (noun) - attitude, feeling, outlook, opinion, view भावना या विचार
31. **On top of** (phrase) - in addition to something, especially something unpleasant के अलावा
32. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) - to support or strengthen something that is weak or failing सहारा देना या मजबूत करना
33. **Equitable** (adjective) - impartial, unbiased, fair, just, objective न्यायसंगत
34. **Reservoir** (noun) - basin, cistern, tank, store, pond जलाशय
35. **Stressed** (adjective) - strained, pressured, taxed, burdened, overloaded तनावपूर्ण या दबाव में
36. **Optimal** (adjective) - ideal, superlative, peak, finest, quintessential सर्वोत्तम
37. **Sowing** (noun) - seeding, planting, scattering, propagation, plantation बुआई

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India is likely to face a **rainfall deficit** after two consecutive years of surplus monsoon.
2. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast an **8% below-normal rainfall** for the June–September monsoon.
3. The forecast includes a **margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$** , but past trends suggest caution.
4. Historically, IMD has often **underestimated drought conditions** when predicting normal rainfall.
5. When IMD predicts a deficit early (April), **actual outcomes often turn worse**, sometimes leading to drought.
6. IMD avoids using the term “drought” and instead uses “**deficient**” for rainfall below 90% of average.
7. Example: In 2015, IMD predicted 93% rainfall, but actual rainfall dropped to **86% (severe deficit)**.
8. The **second half of the monsoon (August–September)** is expected to be particularly weak this year.
9. A key reason is the possible development of El Niño, which usually weakens monsoon rainfall.
10. Historically, El Niño has led to deficient monsoon in **9 out of 16 cases since 1950**.
11. However, the **timing and intensity of El Niño** are crucial in determining its impact.
12. In 2019, despite El Niño-like conditions, India received **above-normal rainfall** due to weaker intensity.
13. The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** may partially offset the negative effects of El Niño this year.
14. External challenges like **West Asia tensions** may cause shortages of gas and fertilizers, worsening agricultural stress.
15. The government must **prepare in advance** by ensuring fertilizer availability, managing water resources, and guiding farmers on sowing strategies.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is the historical trend regarding the IMD's "below normal" April forecasts?** [Editorial page]
  - A. The agency has a track record of being proven wrong every time it predicts a drought.
  - B. Historical data shows that when the IMD warns of a deficit, a drought often occurs.
  - C. The IMD frequently uses the term 'drought' in its official lexicon to warn farmers.
  - D. Past forecasts show that India always ends up with exactly 93% of the average rain.
2. **What is the "El Niño" phenomenon and how does it specifically impact the Indian monsoon?**
  - A. It is the cooling of the Indian Ocean which always results in a surplus of rainfall.
  - B. It involves a heating of the central equatorial Pacific that often leads to a deficit.
  - C. It is a cyclical wind pattern that only occurs during the months of June and July.
  - D. It is a war-like cloud formation over West Asia that restricts the supply of gas.
3. **Why did India end up with "above normal" rainfall in 2019 despite the IMD's early warning?**
  - A. Because the Indian Ocean Dipole failed to counter the desiccating impact of El Niño.
  - B. Because the government successfully shored up the stocks of fertilizers and gas.
  - C. Because the heating in the Pacific was not as strong as the weather models expected.
  - D. Because the IMD decided to change its official lexicon to exclude the term drought.
4. **What compounding factors does the author identify that could worsen farmer sentiment this year?**
  - A. Shortage of gas and fertilizer due to the ongoing war-like situation in West Asia.
  - B. The sudden surplus of rainfall after two years of drought and excessive fertilizer.
  - C. The decision by the IMD to use weather models that have a 100% margin of error.
  - D. A significant increase in equitable water distribution across all Indian reservoirs.
5. **Which of the following best describes the "Indian Ocean Dipole" as per the passage?**
  - A. A cyclical phenomenon in the Pacific that heating beyond 1 degree Celsius.
  - B. A weather phenomenon expected to counter the drying effects of the El Niño.
  - C. A government policy aimed at shoring up fertilizer stocks for the farmers.
  - D. A term used by the IMD to describe rainfall that is exactly 86% of the LPA.
6. **Direction: The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them (1, 2, 3, 4) in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
  1. It reveals a profound truth that intelligence in nature does not always require complex brains or great size.
  2. While most insects navigate using smell or sunlight, this tiny creature follows the Milky Way like a digital map.
  3. High above the African deserts at night, the dung beetle performs an extraordinary feat of navigation.
  4. This unique behavior highlights how even the smallest insects have evolved sophisticated systems to find their way.
  - A. 3-2-4-1
  - B. 3-4-2-1
  - C. 1-3-2-4
  - D. 3-2-1-4
7. **Select the correct Synonym of "EXASPERATE".**

- A. Distract  
B. Annoy  
C. Calm  
D. Inspire
8. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**  
A. Neither of the two B. proposals were approved C. because the committee found D. both of them to be unsatisfactory.  
B. Neither of the two  
C. proposals were approved  
D. because the committee found  
E. both of them to be unsatisfactory.
9. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**  
A. He is B. not only intelligent C. and hardworking, D. but also very kind.  
A. He is  
B. not only intelligent  
C. . and hardworking,  
D. but also very kind
10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**  
The defendant was charged \_\_\_\_\_ colluding with foreign agents to influence the outcome of the election.  
A. of  
B. for  
C. with  
D. about
11. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:**  
He has a lot of potential, \_\_\_\_\_ his lack of discipline may hinder his growth.  
A. whereas  
B. unless  
C. because  
D. albeit
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**  
A. Anniversary  
B. Aniversary  
C. Anniversarry  
D. Annivessary
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**  
A. Emenical  
B. Enemical  
C. Inimical  
D. Enimical
14. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: All hands on the deck**  
A. Everyone working together  
B. Someone in charge of the deck  
C. A distraction on the deck

- D. A difficult task
15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Profuse**
- A. Copious
  - B. Abundant
  - C. Scarce
  - D. Plentiful
16. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**  
A person who is trained to care for animals
- A. Zoologist
  - B. Biologist
  - C. Veterinarian
  - D. Ecologist
17. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**  
A stain caused by a discoloring substance.
- A. Blot
  - B. Smudge
  - C. Mark
  - D. Spot
18. **Which sentence contains a misspelled word "address"?**
- A. He didn't know the recipient's address, so the parcel was returned.
  - B. The speaker's adres during the ceremony was inspiring.
  - C. Please ensure the return address is clearly visible.
  - D. She updated her mailing address after she moved.
19. **Rearrange the following sentence parts to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph:**
- P. The perfect gift appeared on her screen, so she clicked to add it to her cart.
  - Q. She typed in her address and credit card details, then checked out.
  - R. With a final click, her order was placed and confirmed.
  - S. Now she waits for the package to arrive at her doorstep.
- A. P,Q,R,S
  - B. S,Q,P,S
  - C. Q,R,P,S
  - D. S,P,R,Q
20. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**  
The undercover officer managed to \_\_\_\_\_ a confession about the gang's \_\_\_\_\_ activities.
- A. elicit, illicit
  - B. illicit, elicit
  - C. solstice, solicit
  - D. solicit, solstice

### Comprehension

With fuel prices soaring and service stations running dry, you might find yourself taking a second look at that old bike gathering dust in the back of the garage. Cycling may not be a suitable replacement for all car trips but, with more than half of Australian motorists cutting down (1) \_\_\_ driving due to the crisis, it's a very (2) \_\_\_ (and very fun) tool to have in your (3)

\_\_\_ for a quick trip to the shops, a leisurely weekend joyride or the first or last leg of your commute.

Even if you don't already own a bike, cycling can be among the cheapest modes of transport around. While many a Lycra-clad speed demon will try to (4) \_\_\_ you that the only bike worth riding is one that costs more than some new cars, older bikes are not only easier to repair, they're also less tempting to thieves. If you scroll through Facebook Marketplace you'll find (5) \_\_\_ 80s and 90s workhorses for the price of a tank of fuel – just make sure to check the frame isn't cracked or bent. There are also volunteer-run workshops all over Australia (such as the Ceres Bike Shed in Melbourne or Cycle Re-cycle Club in Sydney) selling refurbished secondhand bikes.

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

- A. out
- B. off
- C. on
- D. with

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

- A. ergonomic
- B. handy
- C. viable
- D. lucrative

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

- A. inventory
- B. repertoire
- C. arsenal
- D. fleet

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

- A. solicit
- B. mandate
- C. brainwash
- D. convince

25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**

- A. invincible
- B. indestructible
- C. immortal
- D. bulletproof

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

- B) Historical data shows that when the IMD warns of a deficit, a drought often occurs.**  
 The passage states, "In fact, when IMD warns of a deficit in April, history shows that India often experiences a drought."  
 (A) : The passage says there are many more times it expected "normal" only to end up with a drought, but its drought warnings are usually accurate.  
 (B) : The passage explicitly says the agency "never uses the term 'drought'" and only refers to it as "deficient."  
 (D) : The passage mentions 93% was only the specific forecast for the year 2015, which actually ended up at 86%.
- B) It involves a heating of the central equatorial Pacific that often leads to a deficit.**  
 The passage defines El Niño as the "heating of the central equatorial Pacific Ocean beyond 1 degree Celsius" which has corresponded to a deficient monsoon.  
 (A) : El Niño refers to "heating," not cooling, and usually results in a "deficient" monsoon rather than a surplus.  
 (C) : The passage states that its timing matters, but it does not say it only occurs in June or July.  
 (D) : The passage mentions West Asia separately as a geopolitical concern affecting fertilizer, not as the definition of El Niño.
- C) Because the heating in the Pacific was not as strong as the weather models expected.**  
 The passage notes that in 2019, "India ended up with above normal rainfall because that heating was not as strong as expected."  
 (A) : In 2019, the heating was weak; the Indian Ocean Dipole is mentioned as a potential counter-factor for the current year.  
 (B) : Fertilizer stocks are a management response for farmers, not a factor that changes the physical amount of rainfall.  
 (D) : The lexicon used by the IMD describes the weather but does not physically influence the outcome of the monsoon
- A) Shortage of gas and fertilizer due to the ongoing war-like situation in West Asia.**  
 The passage states, "shortage of gas and fertilizer could worsen farmer sentiment on top of the weak rains" due to West Asia conflicts.  
 (B) : The passage says the country is facing a "shortfall" (deficit), not a surplus, following two years of surplus rain.  
 (C) : The passage states there is a "5% margin of error," not 100%.  
 (D) : Equitable water distribution is a "suggested action" for the government, not a negative factor currently hurting sentiment.
- B) A weather phenomenon expected to counter the drying effects of the El Niño.**  
 The passage states, "the IMD expects the Indian Ocean Dipole would counter the desiccating impact of the El Niño."

(A) : This description refers to El Niño, which occurs in the Pacific, not the Indian Ocean Dipole.

(C) : The Dipole is a natural weather phenomenon, not a government policy or initiative.

(D) : 86% was the specific result of the 2015 monsoon; the Dipole is a mechanism mentioned in the context of the current forecast.

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

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह इस पूरी घटना के मुख्य पात्र (dung beetle) और स्थान (African deserts) की पहचान करता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक factual ground प्रदान करता है कि हम किस जीव और उसके असाधारण काम के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं।

Sentence 2, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" पेश करता है। यह पिछले वाक्य में बताए गए "extraordinary feat" को सीधे उसकी नेविगेशन तकनीक (Milky Way का इस्तेमाल) से जोड़ता है। यह अन्य कीड़ों से इसकी तुलना करने के लिए एक big test है।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "test" या व्यवहार का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। जहाँ 2 में सितारों के इस्तेमाल की बात की गई है, वहीं Sentence 4 specific details देता है कि कैसे यह व्यवहार छोटे कीड़ों के विकसित (evolved) सिस्टम को दर्शाता है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक conclusion देता है। इस पूरी कुदरती घटना को समझाने के बाद, 1 इस बात का अंतिम निचोड़ (profound truth) देता है कि बुद्धिमानी के लिए हमेशा बड़े दिमाग की ज़रूरत नहीं होती।

- Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it identifies the main subject (dung beetle) and the setting (African deserts). It provides the essential factual ground by establishing which creature we are discussing and its remarkable activity.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the "extraordinary feat" to the beetle's specific navigation method using the Milky Way. This serves as a critical test by contrasting it with how other insects function.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because it provides an elaboration on that behavior. While 2 explains the "how," Sentence 4 provides specific details regarding the evolutionary sophistication of such a small insect.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it serves as the logical conclusion for the entire scenario. After detailing the natural phenomenon, it provides a wrap-up by offering a profound philosophical truth about the nature of intelligence.

7. B) **Exasperate** (verb) – To irritate, provoke, or annoy greatly. चिढ़ाना, परेशान करना

Synonym: **Annoy** (verb) – To irritate, bother, or disturb. परेशान करना, चिढ़ाना

- **Distract** (verb) – To divert attention, sidetrack. ध्यान भटकाना
- **Calm** (verb/adjective) – To soothe, make peaceful or quiet. शांत करना / शांत
- **Inspire** (verb) – To motivate or encourage. प्रेरित करना

8. B) 'proposals were approved' के बदले **'proposals was approved'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Neither of the + plural noun के साथ verb singular आती है। यहाँ Neither subject है और singular मानकर verb का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

- 'proposals was approved' will be used instead of 'proposals were approved' because with Neither of + plural noun, the verb is considered singular. Here, Neither acts as a singular subject, so the verb must also be singular.

9. C) 'and hardworking' के बदले '**but also hardworking**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Not only ... but also के साथ parallel structure में दोनों parts को balance किया जाता है। यहाँ not only के बाद intelligent है तो but also के बाद भी सीधे adjective hardworking आना चाहिए, बीच में and का प्रयोग गलत है।
- 'but also hardworking' will be used instead of 'and hardworking' because with Not only ... but also, both parts must follow a parallel structure. Here, after not only we have intelligent, so after but also we should have hardworking directly, without and.
10. C) with का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "charged with" एक स्थापित कानूनी संरचना है, जिसका प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब किसी पर औपचारिक रूप से किसी अपराध या गलत कार्य का आरोप लगाया गया हो। यहाँ संदर्भ चुनाव में हस्तक्षेप के लिए विदेशी एजेंटों के साथ मिलकर साज़िश करने का है, जो एक स्पष्ट कानूनी आरोप है। इसलिए "charged with" सही और स्वाभाविक संयोजन है।
- "with" should be used because "charged with" is a fixed legal collocation used when someone is formally accused of a crime or wrongdoing. In the given sentence, the defendant is formally accused of colluding with foreign agents to influence an election, which is a clear legal context. Therefore, "charged with" is the most appropriate and grammatically correct choice.
11. D) **albeit** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में दो विपरीत विचारों को एक ही कथन में जोड़ना है — एक तरफ संभावनाएँ (potential) और दूसरी तरफ एक ऐसी बाधा (lack of discipline) जो उसके विकास को रोक सकती है। **albeit** एक concessive conjunction के रूप में प्रयोग होता है, जो किसी सकारात्मक कथन के साथ उसके विपरीत या सीमित करने वाले तत्व को जोड़ता है। इसलिए यह सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- "albeit" should be used because the sentence contrasts a positive trait (having potential) with a limiting factor (lack of discipline). "Albeit" works as a concessive conjunction to introduce a qualifying or contrasting clause without breaking the statement structure. Hence, it is the most appropriate choice here.
12. A) The correctly spelt word is Anniversary which means "the yearly recurrence of a date or event" वर्षगाँठ / सालगिरह।
13. C) The correctly spelt word is Inimical which means "harmful or hostile" हानिकारक / शत्रुतापूर्ण।
14. A) **All hands on the deck**(Idiom) - Everyone working together सबका मिलकर काम करना / सबकी आवश्यकता होना
15. C) **Profuse** (adjective) – Plentiful, abundant, copious, excessive. प्रचुर / बहुतायत  
Antonym: **Scarce** (adjective) – Insufficient, rare, limited, scanty. दुर्लभ / अल्प
- **Copious** (adjective) – Profuse, abundant, plentiful. प्रचुर
  - **Abundant** (adjective) – Plentiful, ample, bountiful. बहुतायत
  - **Plentiful** (adjective) – Abundant, copious, ample. प्रचुर / पर्याप्त
16. C) **Veterinarian** (noun) – a person trained to care for or treat animals पशु-चिकित्सक / पशु-चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञ
- **Zoologist** (noun) – studies animals scientifically प्राणी-विज्ञानी
  - **Biologist** (noun) – studies living organisms जीव-विज्ञानी
  - **Ecologist** (noun) – studies relationships between organisms and environment पर्यावरण-विज्ञानी
17. A) **Blot** (noun) – a dark mark made by ink or liquid स्याही का दाग / बड़ा धब्बा
- **Spot** (noun) – a stain caused by a discoloring substance दाग / दाग का निशान

- **Smudge** (noun) – a blurred dirty mark धुंधला दाग / लकीर
- **Mark** (noun) – a general sign or impression निशान / चिह्न

**18. B) The speaker's address during the ceremony was inspiring.**

The word address is misspelled; the correct spelling is address which means “the particulars of the place where someone lives or an event happens” पता / पता विवरण।

**19. A) P,Q,R,S**

The perfect gift appeared on her screen, so she clicked to add it to her cart. She typed in her address and credit card details, then checked out. With a final click, her order was placed and confirmed. Now she waits for the package to arrive at her doorstep.

Sentence P comes first because it introduces the main action: she sees the perfect gift on her screen. “The perfect gift” is a noun (subject) and “appeared” is the verb showing the initial event. This sets the context for what happens next — the start of her shopping process.

Sentence Q comes after P because it describes the next logical step in the process. She enters her address and credit card details and completes checkout. Here, “She” is the subject and “typed... then checked out” are the verbs showing sequential actions. This builds on P by showing what she does after adding the gift to the cart.

Sentence R follows Q because it narrates the final confirmation step. “Her order” is the subject, and “was placed and confirmed” is the passive verb showing the outcome of the previous actions. This logically comes after checkout is completed.

Sentence S comes last because it concludes the paragraph by showing the result: she waits for the package. “She” is the subject and “waits” is the verb showing the final state. This serves as the natural ending, completing the story.

- Sentence P सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह main action को introduce करता है: उसने अपनी screen पर perfect gift देखा। यहाँ “The perfect gift” noun (subject) है और “appeared” verb है, जो initial event दिखाता है। यह अगले steps के लिए context set करता है — यानी shopping process की शुरुआत।
- Sentence Q, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह अगले logical step को बताता है। उसने अपनी address और credit card details type की और checkout complete किया। यहाँ “She” subject है और “typed... then checked out” verbs हैं जो sequential actions दिखाते हैं। यह P को आगे बढ़ाता है, यानी cart में item add करने के बाद वह क्या करती है।
- Sentence R, Q के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह final confirmation step को बताता है। यहाँ “Her order” subject है और “was placed and confirmed” passive verb है जो previous actions का outcome दिखाता है। यह logically checkout के बाद आता है।
- Sentence S paragraph का last sentence है क्योंकि यह final result दिखाता है: वह package के आने का इंतजार करती है। यहाँ “She” subject है और “waits” verb है जो final state दिखाता है। यह paragraph का natural conclusion है।

**20. A) ‘elicit, illicit’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence यह बताता है कि undercover officer ने confession “निकालने” या “उगलवाने” में सफलता पाई — जिसका अर्थ elicit से व्यक्त होता है। वहीं दूसरी ओर, confession gang की “illegal / unlawful” activities के बारे में है — जिसका अर्थ illicit से व्यक्त होता है। इसलिए यह pair सबसे उचित विकल्प है।**

- ‘elicit, illicit’ should be used because in the entire context, the sentence indicates that the officer managed to draw out or obtain a confession, which aligns with elicit.

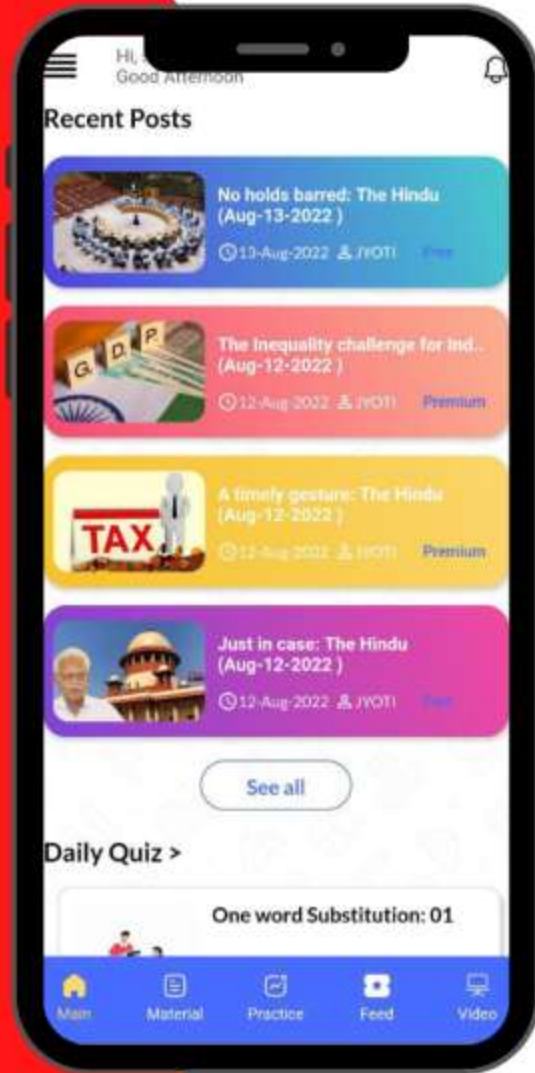
Meanwhile, the confession pertains to the gang's illegal or unlawful activities, which corresponds to illicit. Thus, option A is the most appropriate choice.

21. C) [on] सही है क्योंकि "cut down on" एक fixed phrasal verb है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ का इस्तेमाल (usage) कम करना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि fuel crisis की वजह से लोग मजबूरी में अपनी car driving को 'कम' कर रहे हैं (पूरी तरह छोड़ नहीं रहे)। Cut out का मतलब किसी चीज़ को पूरी तरह से बंद कर देना या जड़ से खत्म कर देना होता है। Cut off का मतलब connection काट देना या अलग कर देना होता है।
- [on] is correct because "cut down on" is a fixed English phrasal verb meaning to reduce the consumption or usage of something. The passage implies that regular people are being financially forced to reduce their car usage because of the fuel crisis. "Cut out" means to completely eliminate or stop eating/doing something. "Cut off" means to disconnect or physically sever. "Cut with" is literally slicing an object with a tool.
22. B) [handy] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब बहुत ही useful, convenient और आसानी से काम आने वाली चीज़ होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि छोटी trips के लिए bicycle एक बहुत ही practical और मज़ेदार option है जो हमेशा घर में ready रहता है। Ergonomic का मतलब physical comfort के लिए design की गई चीज़ (जैसे office की कुर्सी) होता है। Viable का मतलब successful होने लायक (capable) होता है। Lucrative का मतलब बहुत ज़्यादा पैसा कमाने वाला (profitable) होता है।
- [handy] is correct because it means extremely useful, convenient, and ready to use for immediate tasks. The passage implies that a bicycle is a highly practical, stress-free option sitting right in your garage, perfect for short, everyday trips. "Ergonomic" strictly means designed for physical human comfort (like an office chair). "Viable" means capable of succeeding, but "handy tool" is the natural collocation here. "Lucrative" means producing a great deal of profit (making money).
23. C) [arsenal] सही है क्योंकि "tool in your arsenal" एक fixed idiom है जिसका मतलब किसी मुश्किल से निपटने के लिए आपके पास मौजूद resources या options का collection होता है (जैसे हथियारों का जखीरा)। Passage यह imply करता है कि fuel के बढ़ते दामों की समस्या से लड़ने के लिए bicycle आपके 'हथियारों' (options) में से एक बेहतरीन हथियार है। Inventory का मतलब business में रखा गया stock (माल) होता है। Repertoire का मतलब किसी artist (singer/dancer) के skills की list होता है। Fleet गाड़ियों के group को कहते हैं, लेकिन idiom के हिसाब से यह गलत है।
- [arsenal] is correct because "a tool in your arsenal" is a fixed idiom meaning a collection of resources or options available to tackle a specific problem. The passage implies that in the battle against rising fuel prices, having multiple transport options is like having different "weapons" at your disposal. "Inventory" is a business term for stock in a warehouse. "Repertoire" refers to a list of skills or pieces an artist can perform. "Fleet" means a group of vehicles, but it breaks the "tool in your..." idiom.
24. D) [convince] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी को अपनी बात मनवाना या persuade करना होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि महंगे कपड़े पहनने वाले elite cyclists (speed demons) अक्सर नए लोगों के दिमाग में यह बात डालने की कोशिश करते हैं कि सिर्फ महंगी bikes ही अच्छी होती हैं। Brainwash बहुत extreme word है (जैसे किसी cult में दिमागी control करना)। Mandate का मतलब कानूनी रूप से order देना होता है। Solicit का मतलब किसी से पैसे या business मांगना होता है।
- [convince] is correct because it means to persuade someone to firmly believe a specific idea or fact. The passage implies that elite, expensive-gear-wearing cyclists actively try

to influence beginners into believing that only highly expensive bikes are good enough. "Brainwash" is too extreme and implies psychological cult-like control. "Mandate" means to legally order or require something by law. "Solicit" means to ask for or try to obtain money or business from someone.

25. B) [indestructible] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब ऐसी physical चीज़ होता है जिसे तोड़ा या नष्ट (destroy) न किया जा सके। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि 80s और 90s की पुरानी bikes इतनी मज़बूत धातु (heavy metal) की बनी होती थीं कि वे आज भी बिना टूटे बेहतरीन काम करती हैं। Invincible का मतलब वह इंसान या टीम होता है जिसे युद्ध या खेल में हराया न जा सके (unbeatable)। Immortal हमेशा ज़िंदा रहने वाले जीवों (living things) के लिए आता है। Bulletproof का मतलब गोलियां रोकने वाला या बिना गलती वाला plan होता है।

- [indestructible] is correct because it literally means impossible to physically destroy or break. The passage implies that these old, heavy metal bikes from the 80s and 90s were built so solidly that they can survive decades of rough use without breaking. "Invincible" means too powerful to be defeated or overcome in a battle or competition (used for people/teams). "Immortal" means living forever (never dying), used for living beings. "Bulletproof" usually means literally stopping bullets or metaphorically referring to a flawless plan, not a bike frame.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

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