

## Perfect storm: On illicit liquor in India

Weak **enforcement** and poor regulation **sustain** illicit liquor among the poor

India has suffered multiple **mass** deaths due to consuming illicit liquor, across Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra. The Malwani **incident** in 2015, which left over 100 people dead, **prompted** official promises of systemic reform that never fully **materialised** — neither there nor elsewhere. The Pune-Pimpri-Chinchwad tragedy **unfolded** last week with more than a dozen victims of working-class backgrounds in poor neighbourhoods. Preliminary investigation has revealed a better than **ad hoc** supply chain with industry-grade methanol — the **toxin** behind most **hooch** tragedies— brought from outside the State and mixed with ethanol to produce a highly **potent** country liquor. The **demand** for licensed alcohol **faces** high State taxes, encouraging low-income individuals to **turn to** illicit liquor. On the other hand, **adding** industrial methanol **increases** the batch volume at **negligible input cost**, **dramatically** improving **margins**, although some **people** under investigation **have** also said during official questioning that it is not in the interest of ‘regular’ vendors to **poison** their ‘customers’. **Nonetheless**, such operations are typically semi-visible local **economies** that get by on tolerance rather than secrecy, and so **allegations** of police and local authorities’ **complicity** must be investigated. Early **enforcement following** most deadly incidents only **arrests** retail vendors; investigations into **upstream suppliers** and **alleged kingpins** have frequently proved **uneven** or **inconclusive**.

Indeed, these tragedies **recur** due to a perfect storm of factors that are able to repeatedly come together. One major regulatory **gap** in efforts to track methanol downstream **is** how easily it is **pilfered** and diverted for illicit liquor. Most victims are daily-wage labourers, and scholars have argued that the physical **toll** of manual labour **creates** a demand for cheap relief that, together with economic **precarity** and addiction, **outweighs** the **wariness** of poisonous substances. Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the **sustained** political **will** needed to implement reforms — including better methanol accounting and **affordable** alcohol alternatives, required to **break the cycle** — **is** often **lacking**. In a 2024 analysis, public health experts found that higher prices for legal liquor push the poorest consumers toward the illicit market, which **accounts for** an estimated 40% of alcohol consumption in India. **Likewise**, total **bans** as in Bihar and Gujarat **could deflect** the market to criminal **syndicates**, where quality control is optional and **oversight** is poor. Finally, legal reviews have **concluded** that while the **big fish** are rarely caught, even those arrested are rarely **convicted**. Without these improvements, regulatory **loopholes** and weak **enforcement** will sustain illicit liquor as a public health crisis.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Will** (noun) – a feeling of strong determination इच्छाशक्ति

## Vocabulary

1. **Perfect storm** (noun) - a critical or disastrous situation created by a powerful combination of adverse factors एक विनाशकारी स्थिति
2. **Illicit** (adjective) - illegal, unlawful, banned, prohibited, forbidden अवैध
3. **Enforce** (verb) - implement, apply, impose, execute, administer लागू करना
4. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, support, continue, endure, uphold बनाए रखना
5. **Mass** (adjective) - large-scale, widespread, wholesale, extensive, major व्यापक
6. **Prompt** (verb) - incite, spur, encourage, provoke, trigger प्रेरित करना
7. **Materialise** (verb) - happen, occur, unfold, appear, manifest साकार होना
8. **Unfold** (verb) - develop, evolve, emerge, happen, occur सामने आना
9. **Ad hoc** (adjective) - temporary, improvised, spontaneous, impromptu, makeshift तदर्थ/अस्थायी
10. **Toxin** (noun) - poison, venom, bane, contaminant, pollutant विष
11. **Hooch** (noun) - illicit liquor, bootleg alcohol, moonshine, spirits, firewater कच्ची शराब
12. **Potent** (adjective) - powerful, strong, effective, influential, intense शक्तिशाली
13. **Turn to** (phrasal verb) - to seek help from someone/something or to start doing/using something का सहारा लेना
14. **Negligible** (adjective) - trivial, insignificant, tiny, minimal, slight नगण्य
15. **Input cost** (noun) - the expense incurred to produce a good or service उत्पादन लागत
16. **Dramatically** (adverb) - significantly, drastically, substantially, markedly, noticeably नाटकीय रूप से
17. **Margin** (noun) - profit, surplus, gain, benefit, leeway लाभ का अंतर
18. **Poison** (verb) - contaminate, kill, infect, taint, harm जहर देना
19. **Nonetheless** (adverb) - nevertheless, however, yet, still, nonetheless फिर भी
20. **Economy** (noun) - countries in term of GDP. अर्थव्यवस्था
21. **Allegation** (noun) - accusation, claim, charge, assertion, indictment आरोप
22. **Complicity** (noun) - collusion, conspiracy, involvement, partnership, intrigue मिलीभगत
23. **Follow** (verb) - pursue, succeed, track, trace, shadow अनुसरण करना
24. **Upstream supplier** (noun) - the primary source or producer in a supply chain मूल आपूर्तिकर्ता
25. **Allege** (verb) - claim, assert, charge, maintain, profess आरोप लगाना
26. **Kingpin** (noun) - leader, boss, chief, mastermind, ringleader सरगना
27. **Uneven** (adjective) - inconsistent, irregular, patchy, imbalanced, erratic असमान

28. **Inconclusive** (adjective) - indecisive, uncertain, unresolved, indefinite, unsettled  
अनिर्णायक
29. **Recur** (verb) - repeat, happen again, reappear, persist, return दोहराना
30. **Pilfer** (verb) - steal, filch, swipe, thief, embezzle चोरी करना
31. **Toll** (noun) - cost, damage, casualty, impact, price नुकसान/मूल्य
32. **Precarity** (noun) - insecurity, instability, vulnerability, uncertainty, risk अनिश्चितता
33. **Outweigh** (verb) - exceed, surpass, override, compensate, offset से अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होना
34. **Wariness** (noun) - caution, care, vigilance, alertness, guardedness सावधानी
35. **Sustained** (adjective) - consistent, continuous, prolonged, steady, constant निरंतर
36. **Affordable** (adjective) - cheap, economical, reasonable, accessible, inexpensive किफायती
37. **Break the cycle** (phrase) - to stop a repeating pattern of behavior or events चक्र को तोड़ना
38. **Account for** (phrasal verb) - to explain the reason for something / to constitute or make up a part of something का हिस्सा होना
39. **Lack** (verb) - need, require, want, miss, be short of कमी होना
40. **Deflect** (verb) - divert, redirect, turn, avert, shift भटकाना
41. **Syndicate** (noun) - organization, association, cartel, group, band संघ/गैंग
42. **Oversight** (noun) - supervision, management, scrutiny, surveillance, control देखरेख
43. **Conclude** (verb) - infer, decide, determine, finalize, resolve निष्कर्ष निकालना
44. **Big fish** (phrase) - an important or influential person in a group/crime बड़े अपराधी/प्रभावशाली व्यक्ति
45. **Convict** (verb) - sentence, condemn, find guilty, declare guilty, judge दोषी ठहराना
46. **Loophole** (noun) - flaw, gap, defect, escape clause, deficiency खामी
47. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, imposition, application, administration लागूकरण/प्रवर्तन

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India continues to witness repeated mass deaths caused by the consumption of illicit liquor.
2. Such tragedies have occurred across several States including Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra.
3. Earlier incidents, such as the Malwani tragedy of 2015, led to promises of reform but produced limited long-term change.
4. The recent Pune–Pimpri-Chinchwad incident again exposed weaknesses in regulation and enforcement.
5. Preliminary investigations suggest organised supply chains rather than isolated illegal production.
6. Industrial methanol, the main toxic substance in hooch deaths, was reportedly mixed with ethanol to produce country liquor.
7. High taxes on legal alcohol make illicit liquor an attractive option for poorer consumers.
8. Mixing methanol greatly lowers production costs and increases illegal profits.
9. Such illicit networks often operate openly and may survive through local tolerance rather than secrecy.
10. Allegations of police or local administrative complicity require thorough investigation.
11. Enforcement actions usually target small retail sellers while larger suppliers and kingpins often escape accountability.
12. Weak tracking and regulation of methanol allow diversion into illegal alcohol production.
13. Victims are frequently daily-wage workers and economically vulnerable communities seeking cheaper alternatives.
14. Studies suggest that high legal alcohol prices and prohibition policies can unintentionally strengthen illegal markets and criminal networks.
15. The editorial concludes that stronger regulation, better methanol monitoring, affordable alternatives, and effective conviction of major offenders are necessary to address illicit liquor as a public health crisis.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements about enforcement and investigations following hooch tragedies can be correctly inferred from the passage?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Early enforcement actions are structurally biased toward securing long-term convictions rather than making immediate arrests.
  - B. Upstream kingpins are typically the first to be apprehended due to thorough and consistent early investigations.
  - C. Local authorities and police are free from complicity since these operations rely heavily on absolute secrecy.
  - D. Post-incident legal operations result in uneven outcomes against top suppliers and fail to secure high conviction rates.
2. **It can be inferred from the passage that the failure to secure structural reforms in the tracking of methanol is:**
  - A. directly caused by the strategic capacity of upstream kingpins to evade early police tracking networks.
  - B. closely linked to a deficit in political urgency stemming from the marginalized social standing of the victims.
  - C. driven by the technical inability of public health experts to properly trace downstream industrial pilferage.
  - D. rooted in conflicting legal evaluations regarding the specific metrics of criminal guilt for retail sellers.
3. **The author mentions the "physical toll of manual labour" primarily in order to:**
  - A. demonstrate that economic precarity can be easily neutralized by providing affordable, licensed alcohol alternatives.
  - B. refute the claim made by public health experts that higher prices push consumers toward illicit markets.
  - C. explain the underlying socio-physical demand that drives vulnerable consumers to prioritize cheap relief over safety risks.
  - D. illustrate how industry-grade methanol is physically integrated into the legitimate supply chain by daily-wage workers.
4. **According to the passage, the primary economic incentive for regular vendors to introduce industrial-grade methanol into country liquor is that it:**
  - A. creates a highly potent blend that ensures long term customer retention despite existing legal alternatives.
  - B. minimizes the overall visibility of local distribution networks to protect complicit administrative officials
  - C. balances the heavy burden of state taxes by transferring operational risks to criminal syndicates.
  - D. expands total batch volume with a minimal financial layout, thereby dramatically improving profit margins.
5. **Which of the following best describes the grammatical structure of the sentence:**  
"Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms — including better methanol accounting and affordable alcohol alternatives, required to break the cycle — is often lacking."?

- A. It represents a clean simple sentence.  
B. It functions as a compound sentence.  
C. It is classified as a complex sentence.  
D. It forms a compound-complex sentence.
6. **Directions: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**

S1: For families across the sport-crazy region of Kerala, the quadrennial FIFA World Cup traditionally functions as a profound, month-long ritual that briefly revives fading friendships amid the exhaustion of everyday life.

P: According to local fan clubs, this highly unusual delay in festivities is primarily a consequence of the intense political wave that completely swept through the state during the recent Assembly elections.

Q: These severe logistical time-zone hurdles mean that die-hard fans will be forced to sacrifice their sleep to catch the late-night matches spread across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

R: Surprisingly, despite such deeply ingrained cultural devotion to the sport, the celebratory wheels for the upcoming June 11 tournament are currently grinding into motion much slower than usual.

S: Furthermore, compounding that exhausting domestic political distraction, the tournament's placement in a less-than-ideal North American time zone has severely dampened the enthusiasm for live viewing.

S6: Ultimately, when these logistical viewing challenges are combined with ongoing global geopolitical tensions, the historically subdued build-up among the fervent fanbase becomes entirely understandable.

- A. P S R Q  
B. R P S Q  
C. S Q P R  
D. R S P Q
7. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences from a passage. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**
1. This surprising intellectual expansion occurred because they regularly conversed with professional care workers from various diverse nations, allowing the couple to vicariously experience distant cultures without ever leaving their house.
  2. Consequently, instead of embarking on those anticipated international adventures, her entire existence abruptly shrank to endlessly looping the ground floor of their home as his dedicated full-time carer.
  3. Upon her retirement in 2022, Sarah Geeson-Brown's long-held aspirations to travel the globe with her husband, Michael, were permanently derailed after he suffered a sequence of highly debilitating strokes.
  4. However, despite navigating the immense grief of this severe physical confinement, she eventually realized that while their tangible surroundings had tightened around them, their world had paradoxically expanded in other ways.

A. 2 1 4 3

- B. 3 4 2 1  
C. 4 1 3 2  
D. 3 2 4 1
8. **In the given question, a sentence is divided into four parts and given in the alternatives (A), (B), (C), and (D). There is an error in one part. Choose the alternative containing that part of the sentence that has the error. Choosing the alternative with the error will be the answer.**  
In their study, they tried to find out the relationship among an organism, its habitat, and the predators present there.
- A. In their study, they tried to  
B. find out the relationship  
C. among an organism, its habitat,  
D. and the predators present there.
9. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**  
They are cutting down trees \_\_\_\_\_ the tune of 1000 tons a month.
- A. on  
B. of  
C. by  
D. to
10. **A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. If you feel Options A, B, or C do not improve the sentence, then choose Option D: "No improvement required."**  
She enjoys hiking in the mountains, swimming in the ocean, and to ride her bike in the park every weekend.
- A. and ride her bike in the park  
B. and to ride her bike around the park  
C. and riding her bike in the park  
D. No improvement required
11. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**  
The novel's omniscient narrator revealed the innermost thoughts of every character.
- A. omnescent  
B. omniscent  
C. omnisceant  
D. No replacement required
12. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Ressilience  
B. Resillience  
C. Resilence  
D. Resilience
13. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Horrible.**
- A. Terrible  
B. Awful

- C. Dreadful  
D. Pleasant
14. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**  
A. Ocurrance  
B. Occurrence  
C. Occurence  
D. Occurance
15. **Choose the correct sentence where the homonym "date" means a fruit.**  
A. He asked her out on a dinner date.  
B. The date on the coin is from 1947.  
C. We bought a box of sweet dates from the market.  
D. What's the date today?
16. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "delighted".**  
A. Elated  
B. Jubilant  
C. Displeased  
D. Overjoyed
17. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**  
The detective uncovered the criminal's nefarious scheme to defraud the elderly.  
A. nifarious  
B. nafarious  
C. naferious  
D. No replacement required
18. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Grabbed.**  
A. Release  
B. Snatched  
C. Seized  
D. Clutched
19. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**  
A person who rejects all types of governments.  
A. Anarchist  
B. Patriot  
C. Democrat  
D. Socialist
20. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**  
They will announce the results tomorrow.  
A. The results are announced tomorrow.  
B. The results will announced tomorrow.  
C. The results will be announced tomorrow.  
D. The results were announced tomorrow.

**Comprehension:**

We, the common people, are deeply entangled in worldly activities and continue to suffer in this (1)\_\_\_ world. Out of grace, God grants us an opportunity to liberate ourselves from this (2)\_\_\_\_\_ and endless ocean of worldly existence. Sri Desika Srinivasa Tathacharya Swami explained the significance of the divine name Mahakramaha, which occurs as the 676th name in the Vishnu Sahasranama and appears in the 72nd śloka. The word Mahakramaha means “the One who proceeds through a great and systematic order.” In his celebrated (3)\_\_\_\_\_ on the Vishnu Sahasranama, Sri Parasara Bhattar explains that the Lord follows a definite sequence in extending His divine grace and connection toward bound souls. This spiritual progression unfolds through seven important stages. The first step is Advesha — not developing hatred or animosity towards God. The second stage is Astikyam — cultivating firm faith that God truly exists and that He alone protects and guides us through life. The third stage is Abhimukhyam — directing one’s thoughts, words, and actions towards God and gradually turning inward toward spiritual life. The fourth is Anuvartanam — following and associating with the devotees of God. Noble company refines the mind and leads one toward (4)\_\_\_\_\_ and devotion. From such association arises the fifth stage, Jnanam — true knowledge about God, His auspicious qualities, compassion, and supremacy. When knowledge matures, the sixth stage, Bhakti, naturally blossoms. Devotion becomes steady, loving, and continuous. Finally comes Visrambham, the stage of complete trust and total absorption in God. This culminates in Parama Bhakti, the highest form of devotion, in which the devotee longs only for union with the Lord and ultimately (5)\_\_\_\_\_ Him. Thus, the compassionate Lord Himself gently elevates the soul step by step toward liberation through this magnificent divine order called Mahakramaha.

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

- A. sacrosanct
- B. celestial
- C. transient
- D. ineffable

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

- A. beatific
- B. redemptive
- C. unfathomable
- D. clairvoyant

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

- A. incantation
- B. commentary
- C. liturgy
- D. prophecy

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

- A. iconoclasm
- B. hedonism
- C. nihilism
- D. righteousness

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

- A. attains

- B. transmigrate
- C. incarnates
- D. excommunicates

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. D) **Post-incident legal operations result in uneven outcomes against top suppliers and fail to secure high conviction rates.**

(Line from Passage): "...investigations into upstream suppliers and alleged kingpins have frequently proved uneven or inconclusive." "Finally, legal reviews have concluded that while the big fish are rarely caught, even those arrested are rarely convicted." This options takes two explicit textual facts and synthesizes them perfectly. The phrase "uneven outcomes against top suppliers" precisely mirrors the passage's point that investigations into upstream suppliers are "uneven." The phrase "fail to secure high conviction rates" directly matches the finding that even arrested individuals are "rarely convicted."

Option A: The passage establishes that early enforcement is a reactive measure that "only arrests retail vendors." This directly contradicts the option's claim that early actions are designed or biased toward securing long-term judicial outcomes.

Option B: This option reverses the facts. Low-level street sellers are caught first, whereas investigations into the high-level kingpins are described as inconsistent ("uneven") and unresolved ("inconclusive").

Option C: Because the trade is "semi-visible" and based on "tolerance," the author suggests that police complicity is a strong possibility that must be investigated, rather than something they are free from.

2. B) **closely linked to a deficit in political urgency stemming from the marginalized social standing of the victims.**

Line from Passage: "Since the victims are often from marginalised communities, the sustained political will needed to implement reforms — including better methanol accounting and affordable alcohol alternatives, required to break the cycle — is often lacking." The passage notes that the political drive ("sustained political will") to implement systemic chemical tracking measures ("better methanol accounting") is missing because the people dying ("the victims") belong to disadvantaged demographic groups ("marginalised communities"). Option (B) accurately translates this into: a deficit in political urgency stemming from the marginalized social standing of the victims.

Option A: While the passage notes that investigations into kingpins are "uneven," it does not cite their "strategic capacity to evade networks" as the primary reason why structural reforms in methanol tracking are not being secured.

Option C: The passage describes a "regulatory gap," but it never suggests that public health experts lack the technical ability or expertise to track it. The failure is attributed to a lack of political implementation rather than a lack of scientific knowledge.

Option D: the passage does not say reforms are failing because of "conflicting evaluations" or debates over "metrics of guilt." It simply states that current legal enforcement is weak and convictions are rare.

3. C) **explain the underlying socio-physical demand that drives vulnerable consumers to prioritize cheap relief over safety risks.**

(Line from Passage): ...scholars have argued that the physical toll of manual labour creates a demand for cheap relief that, together with economic precarity and addiction, outweighs the wariness of poisonous substances. "Socio-physical demand" accurately summarizes the combination of physical exhaustion ("physical toll") and systemic poverty ("economic precarity"). "Drives vulnerable consumers" matches the profile of the "daily-wage labourers" and "marginalised communities."

Option A: The passage explicitly states that affordable alcohol alternatives are lacking, meaning they do not currently exist as a functioning solution. Furthermore, the passage never claims that providing alternatives can "easily neutralize" deep-seated issues like economic precarity.

Option B: The author does not use the manual labor argument to "refute" (disprove) the public health experts. Instead, both ideas work in harmony. High prices push consumers away from legal markets, while the physical toll of labor simultaneously pulls them toward finding any immediate, cheap physical escape. The two points complement each other rather than conflict.

Option D: The passage identifies workers as the victims and consumers, not the ones who integrate industrial chemicals into the supply chain.

4. D) **expands total batch volume with a minimal financial layout, thereby dramatically improving profit margins.**

Line from Passage: "...adding industrial methanol increases the batch volume at negligible input cost, dramatically improving margins..." Correct. This option perfectly captures the passage's explanation. "Expands total volume" matches "increases batch volume," "minimal financial layout" matches "negligible input cost," and "increasing profitability" matches "improving margins."

Option A: While the passage mentions that methanol creates a "highly potent" drink, it does not state that "customer retention" is the primary economic incentive. The text emphasizes profit margins rather than customer loyalty as the main driver for using the toxin.

Option B: The passage actually suggests the opposite: these operations are "semi-visible" and rely on tolerance. Methanol is an additive for volume, not a tool for hiding distribution networks or protecting authorities.

Option C: High taxes encourage consumers to buy illicit liquor, but the passage does not suggest that adding methanol is a way to "transfer financial risk" to syndicates. The use of methanol is a production choice, not a risk-transfer mechanism.

5. C) **It is classified as a complex sentence.**

A complex sentence contains exactly one independent clause (a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence) and at least one dependent clause (a subordinate clause that cannot stand alone).

Dependent Clause: "Since the victims are often from marginalised communities" -- This is an adverbial clause of cause/reason, introduced by the subordinating conjunction "Since". It cannot stand alone as a complete thought.

Independent Clause: "the sustained political will... is often lacking." (This has one subject, "will," and one verb, "is," and can stand alone as a complete thought).

"needed to implement reforms" and "required to break the cycle" are modifying phrases, not independent clauses.

Because the sentence contains exactly one independent main clause and one dependent subordinate clause, it is classified as a Complex Sentence.

6. B) R P S Q

Sentence R, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "such deeply ingrained cultural devotion" (खेल के प्रति ऐसी गहरी सांस्कृतिक भक्ति) शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'profound, month-long ritual' (गहरे, एक महीने लंबे अनुष्ठान) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक विरोधाभास (Surprisingly) पेश करता है कि हमेशा वर्ल्ड कप को लेकर इतने उत्साहित रहने वाले केरल में इस बार (11 जून के टूर्नामेंट के लिए) तैयारियां सामान्य से बहुत धीमी (slower than usual) चल रही हैं। Sentence P, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this highly unusual delay" (यह अत्यधिक असामान्य देरी) शब्द सीधे तौर पर R में बताई गई 'slower than usual' (सामान्य से धीमी गति) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory pair) बनाता है जो स्पष्ट करता है कि स्थानीय फैसलें क्लबों के अनुसार इस देरी का मुख्य कारण हाल ही में हुए 'Assembly elections' (विधानसभा चुनाव) हैं।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "that exhausting domestic political distraction" (वह थका देने वाला घरेलू राजनीतिक भटकाव) शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताए गए 'Assembly elections' और 'political wave' से जुड़ता है। यह बताता है कि इस राजनीतिक चुनाव के अलावा, नॉर्थ अमेरिकन टाइम-ज़ोन (North American time zone) ने भी लोगों के उत्साह को कम कर दिया है।

Sentence Q, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "These severe logistical time-zone hurdles" (समय-क्षेत्र की ये गंभीर रसद बाधाएं) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर S में बताए गए 'North American time zone' से जुड़ता है। यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि इन बाधाओं के कारण फैसलें को देर रात (late-night) के मैच देखने के लिए अपनी नींद का बलिदान देना होगा, जो अंततः S6 (जिसमें बताया गया है कि इन्हीं 'logistical viewing challenges' के कारण उत्साह कम है) के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठता है।

- Sentence R comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "such deeply ingrained cultural devotion" creates an ironclad mandatory link pointing directly back to the traditional "month-long ritual" of fandom introduced in S1. It sets up the central conflict: despite their usual love for the game, this year's preparations are moving "slower than usual."
- Sentence P follows R because the phrase "this highly unusual delay" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the "slower than usual" start mentioned in R. It gives the first major reason for the delay: the distraction of the recent "Assembly elections."
- Sentence S follows P as it uses the phrase "that exhausting domestic political distraction" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the "Assembly elections" discussed in P. It introduces the second major problem ruining the hype: the "North American time zone."
- Sentence Q follows S as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "These severe logistical time-zone hurdles" to create an unbreakable mandatory link directly back to the "North American time zone" mentioned in S. It explains the practical effect of this hurdle (sacrificing sleep for late-night matches in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico),

seamlessly bridging into S6's concluding summary about how these "logistical viewing challenges" have killed the fanbase's hype.

7. D) 3 2 4 1

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह एकमात्र पूरी तरह से स्वतंत्र (independent) वाक्य है। यह किसी भी सर्वनाम (pronoun) पर निर्भर नहीं है और सीधे तौर पर मुख्य विषयों—सारा जीसन-ब्राउन और उनके पति माइकल—का परिचय देता है। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि सारा के रिटायरमेंट के बाद दुनिया घूमने की उनकी योजनाएँ (aspirations to travel the globe) माइकल को आए स्ट्रोक के कारण बर्बाद हो गईं।

Sentence 2, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "those anticipated international adventures" (वे प्रतीक्षित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय रोमांच) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 3 में दिए गए 'aspirations to travel the globe' (दुनिया घूमने की आकांक्षाओं) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory pair) बनाता है जो 'Consequently' (परिणामस्वरूप) का उपयोग करके बताता है कि विदेश घूमने के बजाय, उनका जीवन केवल अपने घर के ग्राउंड फ्लोर तक सिमट कर रह गया (shrank to endlessly looping the ground floor)।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this severe physical confinement" (यह गंभीर शारीरिक कैद) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 2 में बताई गई 'endlessly looping the ground floor' वाली स्थिति की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस शारीरिक कैद (confinement) के बावजूद, सारा ने महसूस किया कि उनका जीवन एक अलग तरीके से अप्रत्याशित रूप से विस्तृत (paradoxically expanded) हो गया था।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "This surprising intellectual expansion" (यह आश्चर्यजनक बौद्धिक विस्तार) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताए गए 'paradoxically expanded' (विरोधाभासी रूप से विस्तारित) से जुड़ता है। यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि यह विस्तार इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि वे घर बैठे ही अलग-अलग देशों से आए केयर वर्कर्स के माध्यम से दुनिया भर की संस्कृतियों का अनुभव (vicariously experience distant cultures) कर रहे थे।

- Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it is completely independent. It properly introduces the subjects (Sarah and Michael) and establishes the factual ground: their long-held plans to travel the world were ruined by his debilitating strokes.
- Sentence 2 follows 3 because the phrase "those anticipated international adventures" creates an ironclad mandatory link pointing directly back to the "aspirations to travel the globe" mentioned in 3. It details the tragic consequence: instead of travelling, her world shrank to just the ground floor of their home.
- Sentence 4 follows 2 as it uses the phrase "this severe physical confinement" to create a strict mandatory link pointing directly to her existence shrinking to the ground floor mentioned in 2. It introduces the profound realization that despite this confinement, their world had "paradoxically expanded."
- Sentence 1 follows 4 as the grand conclusion. It uses the phrase "This surprising intellectual expansion" to create an unbreakable mandatory link directly back to the fact that their world "paradoxically expanded" in 4. It neatly resolves the paragraph by explaining how this expansion happened: through their conversations with international care workers.

8. C) among an organism, its habitat' के बदले **'between an organism, its habitat'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि between का प्रयोग स्पष्ट और विशिष्ट इकाइयों (distinct elements) के बीच संबंध दिखाने के लिए किया जाता है, जबकि among सामान्य समूह के लिए प्रयोग होता है।
- 'between an organism, its habitat, and the predators present there' will be used instead of 'among an organism, its habitat' because "between" is used for relationships involving clearly defined and separate entities, whereas "among" is used for a general group.
9. D) **To'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "to the tune of" एक निश्चित phrase है, जिसका अर्थ होता है "की दर से / के हिसाब से"। यहाँ "1000 tons a month" एक मात्रा या दर को दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए "to the tune of" सही प्रयोग है। अतः "to" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'To' should be used because "to the tune of" is a fixed phrase meaning "at the rate of". Here, "1000 tons a month" indicates a quantity or rate, so "to the tune of" is the correct usage. Thus, "to" would be the most appropriate choice.
10. C) to ride her bike' के बदले **'riding her bike'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में parallel structure बनाए रखना आवश्यक है। पहले से ही 'hiking' और 'swimming' gerund form में हैं, इसलिए तीसरा भी उसी रूप में होना चाहिए।
- 'and riding her bike in the park' will be used instead of 'and to ride her bike' because for correct parallelism, all items in the series must be in the same form (hiking, swimming, riding).
11. D) The correct spelling of 'omniscient' is **'omniscient'**, which means "having complete or unlimited knowledge" सर्वज्ञ, सब कुछ जानने वाला।
12. D) The correct spelling of 'Resilience / Resillience / Resilence' is **'Resilience'**, which means "the ability to recover quickly from difficulties" लचीलापन, कठिनाइयों से उबरने की क्षमता।
13. D) **Horrible** (adjective) – Terrible, awful, dreadful, unpleasant, ghastly भयानक  
**Antonym: Pleasant** (adjective) – Nice, enjoyable, agreeable, delightful, pleasing सुखद
- **Terrible** (adjective) – Horrible, awful, dreadful भयानक
  - **Awful** (adjective) – Horrible, terrible, dreadful भयानक
  - **Dreadful** (adjective) – Horrible, terrible, awful भयानक
14. B) The correct spelling of 'Ocurrence / Occurence / Occurance' is **'Occurrence'**, which means "an event or something that happens" घटना, घटित होने वाली बात।
15. C) यहाँ Date शब्द का मतलब एक मीठा फल यानी खजूर है। इस वाक्य में "sweet" और "market" जैसे शब्दों का इस्तेमाल हुआ है, जिससे साफ पता चलता है कि यहाँ किसी खाने वाली चीज़ की बात हो रही है। Date एक homonym है क्योंकि इसकी spelling एक ही है, लेकिन इसके multiple meanings निकलते हैं। जैसे विकल्प 2 और 4 में इसका मतलब "calendar date" (तारीख) है और विकल्प 1 में इसका मतलब "social meeting" है। सिर्फ तीसरे वाक्य में ही यह एक fruit के रूप में इस्तेमाल हुआ है।  
The correct answer is Option 3: "We bought a box of sweet dates from the market."  
  - In this sentence, the word "date" refers to the edible fruit of a palm tree. The context clues like "sweet" and "market" make it clear that the word is being used as a food item. Because the word "date" has the same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings—such as a calendar day (Options 2 and 4) or a social meeting (Option 1)—it is a perfect example of a homonym. Only Option 3 uses the word to describe the fruit.
16. C) **Delighted** (adjective) – Happy, joyful, elated, overjoyed, pleased प्रसन्न

Antonym: **Displeased** (adjective) – Unhappy, dissatisfied, annoyed, displeased अप्रसन्न

- **Elated** (adjective) – Very happy, overjoyed, delighted अत्यंत प्रसन्न
- **Jubilant** (adjective) – Joyful, cheerful, delighted हर्षित
- **Overjoyed** (adjective) – Extremely happy, delighted अत्यंत प्रसन्न

17. D) **No replacement required**

18. A) **Grabbed** (verb) – Snatched, seized, clutched, grasped, caught पकड़ लिया

Antonym: **Release** (verb) – Let go, free, discharge, liberate, loosen छोड़ देना

- **Snatched** (verb) – Grabbed, seized, took quickly झपट लेना
- **Seized** (verb) – Grabbed, captured, took forcibly पकड़ लेना
- **Clutched** (verb) – Grabbed, held tightly कसकर पकड़ना

19. A) **Anarchist** (noun) – A person who rejects all forms of government अराजकतावादी

- **Patriot** (noun) – A person who loves and supports their country देशभक्त
- **Democrat** (noun) – A supporter of democracy लोकतंत्र समर्थक
- **Socialist** (noun) – A person who believes in social ownership of resources समाजवादी

20. C) **The results will be announced tomorrow.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "They" Subject है, "will announce" Verb (Simple Future) है और "the results" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The results" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "will be announced" (Simple Future Passive) में बदला गया है और "by them" understood है (optional)। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा – "The results will be announced tomorrow."

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed into passive form with the correct tense. In this case, "They" (Subject), "will announce" (Verb in Simple Future), and "the results" (Object) are transformed into "The results" (Subject), "will be announced" (Passive Verb in Simple Future), and the agent "by them" is optional. Therefore, the correct sentence is – "The results will be announced tomorrow."

21. C) **transient** (नाशवान / कुछ ही समय तक रहने वाला) सही है। पैसेज कह रहा है कि हम इस दुनिया में फँसकर दुख सहते हैं, जो कि नाशवान (transient) है। sacrosanct का मतलब है 'इतना पवित्र कि उसमें कोई बदलाव न किया जा सके'। celestial का मतलब है 'स्वर्ग का या दिव्य', जो दुखों वाली दुनिया के लिए नहीं आता। ineffable का मतलब है 'इतना महान जिसे शब्दों में बयां न किया जा सके (जैसे ईश्वर की कृपा)'।

- The correct answer is "transient" because it describes the temporary, short-lived nature of the worldly life in which people suffer. All distractors are spiritual adjectives: "Sacrosanct" refers to a principle or place regarded as too important or sacred to be interfered with. "Celestial" means belonging to heaven. "Ineffable" refers to something too great to be expressed in words.

22. C) **unfathomable** (अथाह / जिसकी गहराई मापी न जा सके) सही है। संसार को एक ऐसा महासागर बताया गया है जिसकी गहराई मापी नहीं जा सकती (unfathomable ocean)। clairvoyant का मतलब है 'भविष्य देखने की ताकत रखने वाला'। redemptive का मतलब है 'पापों से तारने वाला या मुक्ति देने वाला'।

जबकि संसार का यह महासागर हमें तारता नहीं है, बल्कि इससे हमें मुक्ति चाहिए। beatific का मतलब है 'परम आनंद या ईश्वर की कृपा से भरी हुई खुशी', जो संसार के दुखों वाले सागर के लिए एकदम गलत है।

- The correct answer is "unfathomable" because it describes an ocean of existence that is unimaginably deep and impossible to measure. "Clairvoyant" refers to someone who can foresee the future. "Redemptive" means acting to save someone from error or evil (the ocean of existence is what we need redemption from, it is not redemptive itself). "Beatific" means blissfully happy.

23. B) **commentary** (टीका / किसी धार्मिक ग्रंथ की गहराई से की गई व्याख्या) सही है। श्री पराशर भट्टर ने विष्णु सहस्रनाम पर एक बहुत मशहूर व्याख्या (commentary) लिखी थी। incantation का मतलब होता है 'जादू-टोने का मंत्र या तांत्रिक जप'। liturgy का मतलब होता है 'चर्च या मंदिर में पूजा करने का फिक्स तरीका या कर्मकांड'। prophecy का मतलब होता है 'भविष्यवाणी'।

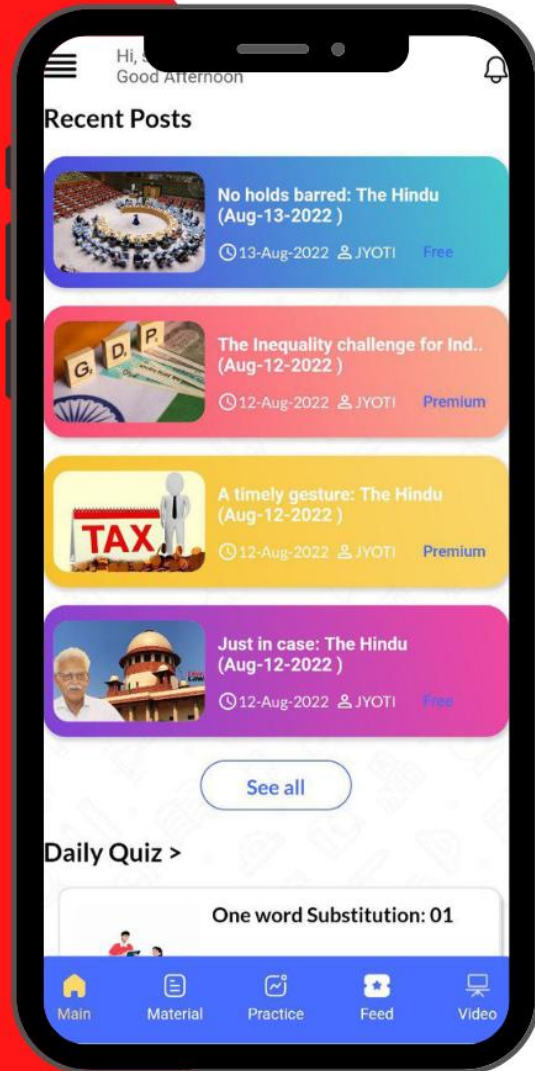
- The correct answer is "commentary" because it refers to a written explanation or interpretation of a scripture (like the Vishnu Sahasranama). All distractors are religious nouns: "Incantation" is a series of words said as a magic spell or charm. "Liturgy" is a customary public worship performed by a religious group. "Prophecy" is a prediction of what will happen in the future.

24. D) **righteousness** (धर्म / नेकी / सच्चाई का रास्ता) सही है। पैसेज बता रहा है कि अच्छे लोगों की संगति हमें धर्म (righteousness) और भक्ति की ओर ले जाती है। hedonism का मतलब है 'सिर्फ सांसारिक सुखों और मज़े के पीछे भागना', जो अध्यात्म का एकदम उल्टा है। iconoclasm का मतलब है 'पुरानी धार्मिक मान्यताओं या मूर्तियों को तोड़ना', जो यहाँ बिल्कुल गलत है। nihilism का मतलब है 'यह मानना कि जीवन का कोई अर्थ नहीं है और धर्म-कर्म सब बेकार है', जो भक्ति के एकदम खिलाफ है।

- The correct answer is "righteousness" because it refers to the quality of being morally and spiritually right, which is the result of noble company. All distractors are philosophical concepts representing the opposite of devotion: "Hedonism" is the pursuit of sensual pleasure. "Iconoclasm" is the attacking of religious beliefs or institutions. "Nihilism" is the rejection of all religious and moral principles.

25. A) **attains** (पा लेता है / ईश्वर को प्राप्त कर लेता है) सही है। पैसेज के अंत में बताया गया है कि परम भक्ति की अवस्था में भक्त अंत में भगवान को पा लेता है (attains)। यहाँ grammar का नियम देखें तो subject 'devotee' singular है, इसलिए verb में 's' लगा है (attains)। transmigrate (आत्मा का दूसरे शरीर में जाना) एक plural verb है (इसमें 's' नहीं है), इसलिए यह grammar के हिसाब से सीधे कट गया। incarnates का मतलब है 'अवतार लेना या शरीर धारण करना', यह काम भगवान करते हैं, भक्त नहीं। excommunicates का मतलब है 'किसी को अपने धर्म या समाज से बाहर निकाल देना'।

- The correct answer is "attains" because it means the devotee finally reaches or achieves union with the Lord. Grammatically, the singular subject "devotee" strictly requires a singular verb (ending in 's'). "Transmigrate" is a plural verb form and is grammatically impossible here. "Incarnates" means to embody in flesh (God incarnates, not the devotee). "Excommunicates" means to officially exclude someone from participation in a religious community.



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