

## Brand value: On IPL 2026

RCB helped IPL's latest edition **build on** previous successes

**Derided** for not matching **potential** with performance in the past, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) **emphatically put those old ghosts to rest**. Having won the Indian Premier League (IPL) title last year, RCB did one better this year, and retained the championship. A commanding **display** over Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday **ensured** that RCB **joined the likes of** Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians, teams that have won the title for two **consecutive** years. Ever since the league's **inception** in 2008, the Bengaluru **squad tended to flourish** in **spurts** and then **fade away**. Three finals were made too prior to 2025, and in all those **summit clashes**, RCB **choked**. Last year, however, a **turnaround** was **effected** but as Rajat Patidar's men **exulted**, the moment turned tragic with 11 fans losing their lives in a **stampede** outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. In the latest edition, RCB maintained **remarkable** consistency and while Patidar **marshalled** his resources, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Josh Hazlewood **chipped in**. **Fittingly**, Patidar dedicated the **triumph** to the 11 fans who **passed away**. **Meanwhile**, Titans led by Shubman Gill, ran into a stronger **outfit** in the final and could not **cash in on** the advantage of playing at their home ground.

Having **commenced** on March 28, the IPL with 10 teams and 74 matches, had a **bloated** air and **at times** viewer interest **dipped**. The cricket, though, was from the top-drawer of T20 cricket as batters **muscled** sixes. The leading star was Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who **belied** his 15 summers. The Rajasthan Royals' player is one for the future and there is talk of the selectors fast-tracking him into the national squad. Just as Sachin Tendulkar made his international debut at 16, Sooryavanshi too seems set to join that space of young talent **pursuing** higher **glory**. For now, a spot in T20I **beckons** even as the youngster is **keen** to play Tests too. Just as RCB, Titans, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals made it to the play-offs, legacy units such as CSK, Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders **fell by the wayside**. A **churn** is **on the cards** and Rishabh Pant has already **relinquished** his captaincy with the Lucknow Super Giants. **India**, the **reigning** T20 champion, **has** enough talent as was **evident** through the IPL. The **club** against country **debate** too **stirred up** as England **speedster** Jofra Archer's IPL contract **overlapped** with the one that he has with The England and Wales Cricket Board. The IPL is a **massive** sporting brand but it should not **cannibalise** traditional cricket. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Build** (verb) - develop, extend, augment, fortify, strengthen बनाना / विस्तार करना
2. **Deride** (verb) - mock, ridicule, scorn, disparage, taunt उपहास करना
3. **Potential** (noun) - capability, capacity, promise, aptitude, possibility क्षमता
4. **Emphatically** (adverb) - forcefully, assertively, decisively, strongly, categorically जोर देकर
5. **Put those old ghosts to rest** (phrase) - to stop being troubled by past problems, fears, or painful memories पुरानी विफलताओं को पीछे छोड़ देना
6. **Join the likes of** (phrase) - to become part of a group that includes famous, successful, or important people/things किसी के समकक्ष आना
7. **Consecutive** (adjective) - successive, sequential, continuous, uninterrupted, back-to-back लगातार
8. **Inception** (noun) - beginning, commencement, origin, birth, initiation शुरुआत
9. **Squad** (noun) - team, group, unit, contingent, faction दल
10. **Tend** (verb) - incline, lean, gravitate, prone, disposed प्रवृत्त होना
11. **Flourish** (verb) - thrive, prosper, bloom, burgeon, succeed फलना-फूलना
12. **Spurt** (noun) - burst, flare, gush, eruption, interval अचानक आई तेजी
13. **Fade away** (phrasal verb) - to gradually disappear or become weaker धीरे-धीरे कमजोर पड़ना या गायब होना
14. **Summit clash** (noun) - a high-stakes, championship match or grand final अंतिम मुकाबला
15. **Choke** (verb) - fail, falter, stumble, crumble, lose nerve दबाव में विफल होना
16. **Turnaround** (noun) - reversal, improvement, recovery, transition, shift बदलाव
17. **Outfit** (noun) - team, organization, group, establishment, association दल / संस्था
18. **Effect** (verb) - achieve, accomplish, execute, implement, realize हासिल करना / लागू करना
19. **Exult** (verb) - rejoice, triumph, celebrate, jubilate, gloat आनंद मनाना
20. **Stampede** (noun) - rush, crush, surge, panic, charge भगदड़
21. **Remarkable** (adjective) - extraordinary, notable, significant, outstanding, impressive उल्लेखनीय
22. **Marshal** (verb) - organize, assemble, gather, arrange, mobilize एकत्रित करना
23. **Chip in** (phrasal verb) - to contribute or help, especially by giving money, ideas, or effort योगदान देना
24. **Fittingly** (adverb) - appropriately, suitably, deservedly, properly, rightly उचित रूप से
25. **Triumph** (noun) - victory, success, conquest, win, achievement विजय

26. **Pass away** (phrasal verb) - to die (a polite way of saying someone died) मृत्यु हो जाना
27. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - simultaneously, concurrently, meantime, during, together साथ ही
28. **Cash in on** (phrasal verb) - to take advantage of a situation to gain money, benefit, or profit किसी अवसर का लाभ उठाना
29. **Commence** (verb) - begin, start, initiate, inaugurate, launch शुरू करना
30. **Bloated** (adjective) - swollen, excessive, expanded, enlarged, overextended फूला हुआ / अत्यधिक बढ़ा हुआ
31. **At times** (phrase) - sometimes; occasionally कभी-कभी
32. **Dip** (verb) - decline, decrease, drop, fall, slump कम होना
33. **Muscle** (verb) - force, power, push, shove, drive ताकत से आगे बढ़ाना
34. **Belie** (verb) - contradict, disguise, mask, conceal, disprove विरोधाभास होना
35. **Pursue** (verb) - chase, follow, seek, track, hunt पीछा करना / लक्ष्य रखना
36. **Glory** (noun) - fame, honor, renown, prestige, distinction गौरव
37. **Beckon** (verb) - invite, attract, summon, lure, entice बुलाना / आकर्षित करना
38. **Keen** (adjective) - eager, enthusiastic, sharp, interested, intense उत्सुक
39. **Fall by the wayside** (phrase) - to fail, be abandoned, or stop before being completed किसी दौड़ या प्रतियोगिता से बाहर हो जाना
40. **Churn** (noun) - turmoil, upheaval, agitation, disturbance, movement उथल-पुथल
41. **On the cards** (phrase) - likely to happen; expected in the future होने की संभावना
42. **Relinquish** (verb) - surrender, yield, abdicate, renounce, give up छोड़ना / त्यागना
43. **Reigning** (adjective) - ruling, dominant, presiding, champion, incumbent मौजूदा (विजेता)
44. **Evident** (adjective) - obvious, apparent, clear, manifest, visible स्पष्ट
45. **Debate** (noun) - argument, discussion, dispute, controversy, contention वाद-विवाद
46. **Stir up** (phrasal verb) - to cause or provoke a strong feeling, reaction, or trouble भड़काना
47. **Speedster** (noun) - fast bowler, quick, sprinter, racer, velocity expert तेज गेंदबाज
48. **Overlap** (verb) - coincide, intersect, overlay, superimpose, run together एक साथ होना
49. **Massive** (adjective) - huge, giant, immense, colossal, enormous विशाल
50. **Cannibalise** (verb) - consume, reduce, erode, undermine, exhaust किसी अन्य क्षेत्र के संसाधनों को नष्ट करना या हड़पना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Indian Premier League 2026 strengthened its reputation as one of the world's leading sporting leagues.
2. Royal Challengers Bengaluru successfully defended their title and won consecutive championships.
3. RCB's victory ended years of criticism about failing to convert potential into success.
4. The team joined elite IPL franchises that have achieved back-to-back titles, including Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians.
5. Captain Rajat Patidar played a major leadership role in maintaining consistency throughout the tournament.
6. Senior players including Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya, and Josh Hazlewood contributed significantly.
7. Patidar dedicated the victory to the 11 fans who died in the previous year's stadium stampede.
8. Gujarat Titans reached the final but could not capitalise on home advantage.
9. The tournament featured 10 teams and 74 matches, though some viewers felt the format was overly extended.
10. Despite concerns over length, the quality of T20 cricket remained high throughout the season.
11. Young talent Vaibhav Sooryavanshi emerged as one of the standout discoveries of the tournament.
12. Comparisons have been drawn between Sooryavanshi's early rise and the debut trajectory of Sachin Tendulkar.
13. Traditional powerhouse teams such as CSK, Mumbai Indians, and Kolkata Knight Riders failed to reach the play-offs.
14. Changes in team leadership and player movements suggest a transition phase within the league.
15. The editorial concludes that while the IPL remains a powerful global sporting brand and a source of cricketing talent, it must avoid overshadowing traditional international cricket formats.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements is false as it pertains to the information given in the passage?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. RCB is now part of an elite group of teams that have managed to defend their title in consecutive years.
  - B. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the youngest player to have ever played in the history of the Indian Premier.
  - C. Rishabh Pant has decided to step down from his leadership position with the Lucknow Super Giants team.
  - D. The current champion of the international T20 format possesses a significant depth of domestic talent.
2. **Based on information in the passage, each of the following statements is a plausible explanation of why "legacy units" failed EXCEPT:**
  - A. The teams were unable to adapt to the changing competitive dynamics or churn within the tournament.
  - B. The established squads were outclassed by the consistency and performance of the rising newer outfits.
  - C. The veteran players in these teams were unable to match the physical intensity of younger cricketers.
  - D. The traditional powerhouses lacked the momentum required to secure a spot in the final four positions.
3. **According to the passage, which of the following is most likely to be true about RCB's reputation prior to their 2024-2025 successes?**
  - A. The team was consistently viewed as an underachiever that failed to translate its talent into titles.
  - B. The team was regarded as a mid-table squad that lacked the star power to reach the final tournament.
  - C. The team was considered the dominant force in the league despite never winning any championships.
  - D. The team was known for its defensive tactical approach which often led to narrow defeats in the final.
4. **If the claims made in the passage are correct, how would traditional cricket purists be expected to react to the 74-match IPL schedule?**
  - A. They would extol it because the high volume of matches provides more opportunities for young talents
  - B. They would extol it because it ensures that the IPL remains the most valuable sporting brand globally.
  - C. They would criticise it because the extended duration threatens the survival of the classic game forms.
  - D. They would criticise it because the current format has failed to produce high-quality T20 performances.
5. **Which of the following best identifies the grammatical role of the phrase "Derided for not matching potential with performance in the past" in the sentence:**

"Derided for not matching potential with performance in the past, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) emphatically put those old ghosts to rest."

- A. Adjectival participial phrase modifying "Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)"
- B. Adverbial phrase modifying the verb phrase "put those old ghosts to rest"
- C. Gerund phrase functioning as the structural subject of the sentence
- D. Absolute phrase modifying the entire independent clause symmetrically

6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Overhaul."**

- A. Exculpation
- B. Restructuring
- C. Malignancy
- D. Tranquility

7. **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: The newly launched micro-drama application KadhaiShorts aims to fundamentally redefine content consumption by offering snackable, vertical episodic narratives specifically engineered for mobile-first audiences.

P: According to the network's leadership, this deliberate departure from conventional long-form broadcasting serves as a strategic maneuver to capitalize on the rapidly shifting behavioral habits of contemporary viewers.

Q: These severe structural duration constraints imply that content creators must carefully condense emotional continuity into hyper-compressed narrative arcs spanning fewer than five minutes per episode.

R: Surprisingly, despite such self-evident commercial viability in the digital arena, the initial rollout of their localized regional micro-series is proceeding much more conservatively than industry analysts anticipated.

S: Furthermore, compounding that unexpected operational delay, the platform's insistence on a strict micro-runtime format has introduced a fresh wave of creative anxiety regarding long-term viewer engagement.

S6: Ultimately, when these unprecedented aesthetic formatting constraints are coupled with volatile consumer spending patterns, the uncharacteristically calculated hesitation observed among major media conglomerates becomes entirely

- A. R P S Q
- B. P S R Q
- C. S Q P R
- D. R S P Q

8. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the idiom "Once bitten, twice shy."**

- A. To obtain a large amount of money very easily or quickly
- B. To improve or develop a specific skill through persistent work
- C. An unpleasant experience that makes a person very cautious
- D. To demand something forcefully as a firm condition of agreement

9. **Select the correct indirect form of the given sentence.**

"Do you suppose you know better than your own father?" jeered his angry mother.

- A. His angry mother jeered that did he suppose he knew better than his own father.  
B. His angry mother jeered and asked if you suppose you know better than your own father.  
C. His angry mother jeered and asked whether he had supposed he has known better than his own father.  
D. His angry mother jeered and asked whether he supposed he knew better than his own father.
10. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the phrase “The last leg of.”**  
A. To signify the initial stage of a complex plan  
B. To describe the final stage of a long journey  
C. To denote the middle portion of a financial cycle  
D. To detail the physical movement of a marathon runner
11. **Directions: The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a letter (A, B, C, D). Choose the most logical order from among the four given options.**  
A: However, when an individual loses the ability to voluntarily snap out of this internal cinema, the practice transitions into a disruptive condition known as maladaptive daydreaming.  
B: For most people, engaging in vivid, immersive fantasies is a controlled and highly enjoyable mental activity that researchers widely regard as a normal, beneficial human experience.  
C: According to psychiatrist Colin Ross, this extreme immersion can consume up to twelve hours a day, causing severe psychological distress and massive disruptions to daily life.  
D: This severe behavioral dysfunction forces individuals to spend more than half of their waking hours trapped inside highly intricate narratives that can span decades.  
A. BADC  
B. BCAD  
C. BDAC  
D. ADBC
12. **Find the correctly spelt word.**  
A. Fabulous  
B. Beautiful  
C. Marvelous  
D. Charmeng
13. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.**  
The lights get switched off every evening.  
A. They switch off the lights every evening.  
B. They are switching off the lights every evening.  
C. They switched off the lights every evening.  
D. They were switching off the lights every evening.
14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word “Foster.”**  
A. Castigate  
B. Cultivate  
C. Adumbrate  
D. Segregate
15. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word.**

The multinational conglomerate is \_\_\_\_\_ planning a major restructuring of its overseas digital infrastructure assets, though an official corporate statement has not yet been issued to stakeholders.

- A. Exogenously
- B. Parsimoniously
- C. Reportedly
- D. Ostentatiously

16. **Choose the best option to fill in the blank below.**

The Gupta family were \_\_\_\_\_ a trip to Agra when they met \_\_\_\_\_ an accident.

- A. in, on
- B. on, with
- C. with, on
- D. of, in

17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Alarming.”**

- A. Disquieting
- B. Reassuring
- C. Formidable
- D. Perplexing

18. **A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. In case Options A, B and C are not found suitable, choose Option D: “No Improvement Required.”**

The new policy was believing to have reduced corruption in the department.

- A. is believed to reduce
- B. was believed to have reduced
- C. is being believed to reduce
- D. No improvement required

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

But a person who is really sickly and is unduly solicitous about his health is a:

- A. Valedictorian
- B. Vegetarian
- C. Valetudinarian
- D. Dialectician

20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Nudge.”**

- A. Constrains
- B. Stimulates
- C. Reiterate
- D. Benefactor

**Comprehension:**

God tests the faithful and sports with them only to make them renowned among mankind. The life of Amarnethi Nayanar (1) \_\_\_\_\_ this. One of the servitors of Siva, he was renowned for his charitable work. A (2) \_\_\_\_\_ weaver and cloth merchant from Pazhayarai, he utilised his income in the service of Siva’s devotees, said P. Swaminathan.

Settling down with his family in Thirunallor, he was at the forefront of conducting all festivals on a grand scale. He established a dharmashala, where devotees were free to stay and were

well fed. Pleased with his work, Siva decided to exhibit his greatness to the world, but before that he also wanted to remove the speck of pride in the weaver. Accordingly, Siva arrived at Amarneethi's inn, in the guise of a sadhu, "bearing a staff to the top of which was tied a loin cloth, a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of sacred ash and a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of kussa grass (Periya Puranam)".

Welcoming the sadhu, Nayanar asked how he could be of service. The sadhu entrusted a loin cloth to him asking him to guard it carefully and to return it to him as soon as he returned from bathing in Ponni. Nayanar promised to do so, but his subconscious noted that it was a well-worn cloth. The sadhu (Siva) immediately made the loin cloth disappear. When he returned, Nayanar could not find the loin cloth left in his custody and offered to replace it with another, newer one. The sadhu was enraged. Finally, it was agreed that a tulabaram (offerings made on a balance as recompense) would be held. Nayanar placed a brand-new loin cloth, but the scale did not balance. After many attempts, the servitor plied the scale with gold, silver and other offerings, to no avail. Realising that he was in the presence of the Lord, he, along with his family members sat on the scale and humbly sought His pardon. A pleased Siva blessed him with (5) \_\_\_\_\_ vision, along with Parvati.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
  - A. preached
  - B. exemplifies
  - C. chronicles
  - D. personification
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
  - A. munificent
  - B. prosperous
  - C. mercenary
  - D. austere
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
  - A. vessel
  - B. bundle
  - C. sachet
  - D. collection
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
  - A. tuft
  - B. thicket
  - C. cluster
  - D. sheaf
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
  - A. beatific
  - B. mystical
  - C. prophetic
  - D. anagogical

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. B) **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the youngest player to have ever played in the history of the Indian Premier.**

(Line from Passage): "The leading star was Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who belied his 15 summers. The Rajasthan Royals' player is one for the future..." False. . While the passage states that he is a rising 15-year-old star who is being fast-tracked into the national squad, it never mentions that he is the youngest player in the history of the tournament.

Option A: Line from Passage: "Having won the Indian Premier League (IPL) title last year, RCB did one better this year, and retained the championship... ensured that RCB joined the likes of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians, teams that have won the title for two consecutive years." .True.The passage explicitly mentions that RCB won back-to-back titles, joining an exclusive group of legacy teams (CSK and Mumbai Indians) who have achieved the same feat.

Option C:Line from Passage: "A churn is on the cards and Rishabh Pant has already relinquished his captaincy with the Lucknow Super Giants." True. To "relinquish captaincy" directly translates to stepping down from his leadership position with the team.

Option D: Line from Passage: "India, the reigning T20 champion, has enough talent as was evident through the IPL." True. The passage directly states that India is the reigning (current) international T20 champion and holds a vast reservoir of talent showcased during the tournament.

2. C) **The veteran players in these teams were unable to match the physical intensity of younger cricketers.**

While the passage mentions a 15-year-old prodigy (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi) playing for Rajasthan Royals, it contains absolutely no information regarding the age, physical fitness, or intensity of the players within the "legacy units" (CSK, MI, KKR). This explanation relies on external assumptions and cannot be deduced from the passage

Option A: Line from Passage: "Just as RCB, Titans... made it to the play-offs, legacy units... fell by the wayside. A churn is on the cards..." Plausible. The author explicitly links the failure of these legacy teams to an ongoing "churn" (structural change or turnover) highlighting their inability to adapt and make the playoffs, making this a contextually supported and plausible explanation.

Option B: Line from passage: "Just as RCB, Titans, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals made it to the play-offs, legacy units such as CSK, Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders fell by the wayside." Plausible.The context reveals that rising teams (like RCB, Titans, etc.) successfully made the playoffs, which directly resulted in the legacy teams being eliminated.

Option D: Plausible. "Traditional powerhouses" refers to the legacy units, and "final four positions" is the definition of the "play-offs." Since the passage states they fell by the wayside while four other teams took those spots, this is a direct and plausible explanation.

3. A) **The team was consistently viewed as an underachiever that failed to translate its talent into titles.**

(Line from Passage): "Derided for not matching potential with performance in the past..." and "Three finals were made too prior to 2025, and in all those summit clashes, RCB choked." Correct. The words "derided" (mocked) and "not matching potential with performance" explicitly state they were seen as underachievers who failed to convert their promise into actual championship titles over their history.

Option B: Line from Passage: "Three finals were made too prior to 2025..." Incorrect. The passage explicitly states they reached three finals before 2025, which completely disproves the claim that they lacked what it took to reach the final stages of the tournament.

Option C: Line from the passage: "Ever since the league's inception in 2008, the Bengaluru squad tended to flourish in spurts and then fade away." Incorrect. A squad that "fades away" after brief moments of success cannot be interpreted as a dominant force in the league.

Option D: Line from Passage: "...in all those summit clashes, RCB choked." Incorrect. The passage attributes their past failures to "choking" (failing under pressure), it offers absolutely no details regarding their specific on-field tactics, defensive strategies, or the exact margins of their defeats.

4. C) **They would criticise it because the extended duration threatens the survival of the classic game forms.**

Line from Passage: "Having commenced on March 28, the IPL with 10 teams and 74 matches, had a bloated air and at times viewer interest dipped... The IPL is a massive sporting brand but it should not cannibalise traditional cricket." The passage explicitly states that a 74-match IPL schedule makes the tournament feel "bloated" and expresses a clear fear that it should not "cannibalise traditional cricket." Traditional cricket purists, who value classic game forms, would heavily criticise the extended and bloated nature of the event for threatening the survival of traditional cricket. Therefore, Choice C is the correct answer.

Option A: While the passage does note that the IPL provides opportunities for young talent (such as 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi), the question asks how purists would react to the 74-match schedule. The passage attributes the bloated schedule and extended duration to cannibalising traditional cricket.

Option B: Although the passage recognizes the IPL as a massive brand, Choice B is incorrect because traditional cricket purists would be focused on the negative consequences of a bloated schedule (cannibalisation of the classic game) rather than celebrating the financial/brand valuation

Option D: The passage explicitly praises the high quality of T20 cricket played during the tournament. Therefore, claiming that purists would criticise the format because it failed to produce high-quality performances directly contradicts the passage's evidence.

5. A) **Adjectival participial phrase modifying "Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)"**

The phrase begins with "Derided," which is the past participle. A participial phrase at the beginning of a sentence must describe (modify) the noun that immediately follows the comma.

The Sentence: "[Derided...] , Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) emphatically put..." It functions as a modifier describing the subject, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), by

explaining the team's condition or how they were perceived. Because the phrase provides descriptive information about a noun, its primary grammatical role is adjectival.

6. B) **Overhaul** (noun) - revamp, renovation, restructuring, repair, reorganization. (कायापलट)  
Synonym: **Restructuring** (noun) – The act of organizing something in a completely new way to make it operate more effectively. (पुनर्गठन / कायापलट)
- **Exculpation** (noun): The formal act of officially showing or declaring that someone is not guilty of a systemic wrongdoing. (दोषमुक्ति)
  - **Malignancy** (noun): A deeply hostile, dangerous, or malevolent state that tends to deliberately cause widespread destruction. (घातकता)
  - **Tranquility** (noun): A completely calm, peaceful, serene, and quiet state of existence that is entirely free from disturbance. (शांति)

7. A) **R P S Q**

Sentence R, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "such self-evident commercial viability" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'snackable, vertical episodic narratives specifically engineered for mobile-first audiences' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक विरोधाभास पेश करता है कि रोलआउट अनुमान से बहुत धीमा (proceeding much more conservatively) चल रहा है। Sentence P, Sentence R के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this deliberate departure" शब्द सीधे तौर पर R में बताई गई 'proceeding much more conservatively' गति की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो स्पष्ट करता है कि इस मंदा की मुख्य कारण दर्शकों के बदलते व्यवहार संबंधी बदलावों (behavioral habits) का लाभ उठाना है।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "that unexpected operational delay" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताए गए 'deliberate departure' और R में बताए गए 'conservative rollout' से जुड़ता है। यह बताता है कि इस देरी के अलावा, शॉर्ट रनटाइम फॉर्मेट (micro-runtime format) ने भी चिंता की एक नई लहर पैदा कर दी है।

Sentence Q, Sentence S के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "These severe structural duration constraints" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S में बताए गए 'micro-runtime format' से जुड़ता है। यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि इसके कारण कहानी को पांच मिनट से कम (fewer than five minutes per episode) में समेटना होगा, जो अंततः S6 के 'aesthetic formatting constraints' के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठता है।

- Sentence R comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "such self-evident commercial viability" creates an ironclad mandatory link pointing directly back to the vertical narratives introduced in S1. It sets up the central conflict: despite its obvious potential, the rollout is "proceeding much more conservatively."
- Sentence P follows R because the phrase "this deliberate departure" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the slowed-down strategy ("proceeding much more conservatively") mentioned in R. It gives the first reason: adapting to changing "behavioral habits."
- Sentence S follows P as it uses the phrase "that unexpected operational delay" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the tactical deceleration discussed in R and P. It introduces the second complication: the rigid "micro-runtime format."
- Sentence Q follows S as the final step before S6. It uses the phrase "These severe structural duration constraints" to create an unbreakable mandatory link directly back

to the "micro-runtime format" mentioned in S. It explains the practical effect ("fewer than five minutes per episode"), seamlessly bridging into S6's concluding summary about "aesthetic formatting constraints."

8. C) **Once bitten, twice shy** (idiom) – an experience that makes a person cautious about repeating it because it was unpleasant the first time. (दूध का जला छाछ भी फूंक-फूंक कर पीता है)
9. D) Interrogative sentence को indirect speech में: "jeered" reporting verb रहता है + "asked whether/if" जोड़ते हैं। Tense back-shift: "do suppose" → "supposed", "know" → "knew"। "Your own father" → "his own father" (pronoun change)।

- For indirect speech of a question: use "asked whether/if" + tense back-shift. "Do you suppose" → "he supposed"; "know" → "knew"; "your" → "his." The correct form is: "His angry mother jeered and asked whether he supposed he knew better than his own father."

☑ Correct sentence: His angry mother jeered and asked whether he supposed he knew better than his own father.

10. B) **The last leg of** (phrase) – The final stage or part of a long journey or process. (यात्रा का अंतिम पड़ाव)

11. A) **BCAD**

Sentence B पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (Opening Sentence) करेगा क्योंकि यह मुख्य विषय—daydreaming को एक सामान्य और नियंत्रित मानसिक गतिविधि (controlled and normal experience) के रूप में पेश करता है।

Sentence A, Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "However" (हालांकि) के साथ एक विरोधाभास (contrast) पेश करता है। इसमें मौजूद "this internal cinema" शब्द सीधे तौर पर B में बताई गई 'vivid, immersive fantasies' की ओर इशारा करते हैं और बीमारी (maladaptive daydreaming) को पेश करते हैं।

Sentence D, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This severe behavioral dysfunction" (यह गंभीर व्यावहारिक शिथिलता) शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में पेश की गई बीमारी 'maladaptive daydreaming' की ओर इशारा करते हैं और इसके समय लेने वाले स्वभाव को बताते हैं।

Sentence C, Sentence D के बाद आकर पैराग्राफ को समाप्त करेगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this extreme immersion" (यह अत्यधिक तल्लीनता) शब्द सीधे तौर पर D में बताए गए 'trapped inside highly intricate narratives' (कहानियों में फंसे रहने) की ओर इशारा करते हैं और कॉलिन रॉस के अनुसार इसके प्रभाव को समझाते हैं।

- Sentence B acts as the opening sentence because it introduces the foundational concept of daydreaming as a normal, healthy, and controlled human experience.
- Sentence A follows B because it uses the contrast marker "However" to shift the narrative. The phrase "this internal cinema" creates an absolute link pointing directly back to the 'vivid, immersive fantasies' described in B, introducing the concept of maladaptive daydreaming.
- Sentence D follows A because the phrase "This severe behavioral dysfunction" serves as a direct clinical label pointing back to the condition of 'maladaptive daydreaming' established in A.
- Sentence C follows D as the final concluding step because the phrase "this extreme immersion" creates an ironclad link pointing back to being 'trapped inside highly

intricate narratives' mentioned in D, summarizing the final diagnostic impact using the expert quote.

12. A) **Fabulous** — The correct spelling is fabulous, which means extremely good, impressive, or wonderful.

अर्थ (Hindi): शानदार, अद्भुत

13. A) **They switch off the lights every evening.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive sentence का Subject, Active sentence का Object बन जाता है। यहाँ “The lights” Passive sentence का Subject है। Verb “get switched off” Simple Present Passive sense को व्यक्त करता है, इसलिए Active Voice में यह “switch off” (Simple Present) बनेगा। क्योंकि doer sentence में स्पष्ट नहीं है, इसलिए सामान्य subject “they” प्रयोग किया जा सकता है। इसलिए सही Active form होगा — “They switch off the lights every evening.”

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. Here, “The lights” is the subject of the passive sentence. The verb “get switched off” expresses a Simple Present Passive sense, so in Active Voice it changes into “switch off” in the Simple Present tense. Since the doer is not clearly mentioned, a general subject like “they” can be used. Therefore, the correct active form is — “They switch off the lights every evening.”

14. B) **Foster** (verb) - encourage, promote, nurture, cultivate, support. (बढ़ावा देना)

Synonym: **Cultivate** (verb) – To try to acquire or develop a quality or skill. (विकसित करना)

- **Castigate** (verb): To reprimand someone severely or criticize harshly. (फटकारना)
- **Adumbrate** (verb): To represent vaguely or outline sketchily. (पूर्वाभास देना)
- **Segregate** (verb): To set someone or something apart from the rest. (अलग करना)

15. C) **Reportedly** (adverb) - allegedly, supposedly, reputedly, ostensibly, apparently. (कथित तौर पर)

The context implies an unconfirmed or unverified rumor ("though an official corporate statement has not yet been issued"), making "reportedly" the only logically fitting word.

- **Exogenously** (adverb): In a manner originating from outside an organism, system, or corporate body. (बाहरी रूप से)
- **Parsimoniously** (adverb): In a way that is very unwilling to spend money or use resources; stingily. (किफायत से)
- **Ostentatiously** (adverb): In a pretentious or showy way designed to impress or attract notice. (दिखावे के रूप में)

16. B) **'On, with'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि अंग्रेजी में “go on a trip” एक सही और प्रचलित expression है, जिसका अर्थ है यात्रा पर जाना। वहीं “meet with an accident” एक fixed phrase है, जिसका अर्थ है दुर्घटना का शिकार होना। इसलिए, “on, with” सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- ‘On, with’ should be used because “go on a trip” is the correct and commonly used expression meaning to travel somewhere. Similarly, “meet with an accident” is a fixed phrase meaning to suffer an accident. Thus, “on, with” would be the most appropriate choice.

17. B) **Alarming** (adjective) - disturbing, worrisome, concerning, unsettling, frightening. (चिंताजनक)

Antonym: Reassuring (adjective) - Serving or intended to remove someone's doubts or fears; restoring confidence completely. (आश्वासनपूर्ण / ढाढस बंधाने वाला)

- **Disquieting** (adjective): Inducing a distinct feeling of anxiety, worry, or unease; deeply disturbing. (चिंताजनक)
- **Formidable** (adjective): Inspiring fear, awe, or profound respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. (दुर्जेय)
- **Perplexing** (adjective): Completely baffling; highly confusing, intricate, or very difficult to understand logically. (पेचीदा)

18. B) 'was believing to have reduced' के बदले **'was believed to have reduced'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि believe का passive form believed होता है, न कि believing।

- 'was believed to have reduced' will be used instead of 'was believing to have reduced' because in passive voice, the correct past form is "believed", not "believing".

19. C) **Valetudinarian** (noun) – a person who is unduly anxious about their health. स्वास्थ्य के प्रति अत्यधिक चिंतित व्यक्ति

- **Valedictorian** (noun) – a student who delivers the farewell speech at a graduation ceremony. विदाई भाषण देने वाला छात्र
- **Vegetarian** (noun) – a person who does not eat meat or fish. शाकाहारी
- **Dialectician** (noun) – a person skilled in the logical debate. तर्कशास्त्री

20. A) **Nudge** (verb) – prompt, encourage, push, stimulate, influence. (प्रेरित करना)

Antonym: **Constrains** (verb) – to compel or force someone toward a particular course of action; to restrict. (विवश करना/रोकना)

- **Stimulates** (verb): To raise levels of physiological or nervous activity in the body. (उत्तेजित करना)
- **Benefactor** (noun): A person who gives money or other structural help to a person or an institutional cause. (मददगार)
- **Reiterate** (verb): To say something again or a number of times for emphasis. (दोहराना)

21. B) **exemplifies** (सिद्धांत या नियम का सटीक, जीवित और वास्तविक उदाहरण होना) सही है। पैसेज में अमरनीति नयनार (Amarneethi Nayanar) के जीवन चरित्र की बात हो रही है जो पहले वाक्य में दिए गए एक सामान्य आध्यात्मिक नियम ("God tests the faithful...") को साबित करता है। "exemplifies" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि जब किसी के पूरे जीवन को किसी नियम को साबित करने के लिए एक मिसाल या प्रत्यक्ष उदाहरण (living illustration) के रूप में दिखाया जाए, तो इसी singular transitive verb का प्रयोग होता है जो singular subject ("The life of Amarneethi Nayanar") से मैच करता है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी विकल्प गलत हैं: preaches का मतलब 'धार्मिक उपदेश या भाषण देना' है, जो एक जीवन (life) खुद नहीं कर सकती; chronicles का मतलब 'इतिहास को क्रमबद्ध रिकॉर्ड करना' है, जबकि उनका जीवन खुद एक इतिहास है, न कि उसे रिकॉर्ड करने वाला; और personifies का मतलब 'किसी अमूर्त गुण (abstract quality) को मानव रूप में दर्शाना' है, जिसके लिए डायरेक्ट किसी गुणवाचक शब्द (जैसे personifies humility) की आवश्यकता होती है, पूरे क्रियात्मक वाक्य की नहीं।

- The correct answer is "exemplifies" because it is a third-person singular transitive verb that perfectly agrees with the singular subject "The life of Amarneethi Nayanar" and denotes serving as a concrete, living illustration of the previously stated universal rule ("God tests the faithful..."). Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "preaches"

means to deliver a spoken sermon or moral advice, which a physical "life" cannot do; "chronicles" means to record historical events in a timeline order, whereas his life is the history rather than the recording mechanism; and "personifies" means to represent an abstract quality or concept in human form, which strictly requires a specific trait as its direct object (e.g., personifies humility) rather than a complete action-based statement.

22. B) **prosperous** (व्यापार या व्यवसाय में आर्थिक रूप से सफल और फलना-फूलना) सही है। पैसेज में उनके कपड़ा व्यापार और बुनकर के पेशे की बात हो रही है जिससे लगातार एक अच्छी "income" (आय) आ रही है। "prosperous" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि यह सीधे तौर पर एक फलते-फूलते, आर्थिक रूप से सफल व्यापारी या व्यवसाय को दर्शाता है जो आगे चलकर एक बड़ी चैरिटी धर्मशाला (inn) को फंड कर सकता है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी विकल्प गलत हैं: munificent का मतलब 'अत्यधिक दानवीर होना' है, जो उनके नैतिक चरित्र को तो बताता है, लेकिन यहाँ यह शब्द उनके प्रोफेशन ("weaver and cloth merchant") को मॉडिफाई कर रहा है जिससे आय आती है, न कि उनके खर्च करने के तरीके को; mercenary का मतलब 'सिर्फ पैसे के पीछे भागने वाला या लोभी' है, जो एक पवित्र संत के निस्वार्थ स्वभाव के बिल्कुल विपरीत है; और austere का मतलब 'अत्यधिक सादगी और बिना किसी सुख-सुविधा का जीवन जीना' है, जो भारी व्यावसायिक आय वाले बड़े कपड़ा व्यापारी के प्रोफाइल से तार्किक रूप से मेल नहीं खाता।

- The correct answer is "prosperous" because it is an adjective that directly modifies the compound noun "weaver and cloth merchant," accurately denoting financial success achieved through a flourishing business enterprise, which contextually accounts for his regular, ample "income." Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "munificent" means extremely generous or open-handed with money, which describes his moral character rather than explaining how his merchant trade generated wealth; "mercenary" means motivated purely by greed or material gain at the expense of ethics, which completely contradicts a holy saint's selfless nature; and "austere" means living a severely simple and self-denying life without comforts, which logically conflicts with a high-income grand merchant running large-scale textile operations.

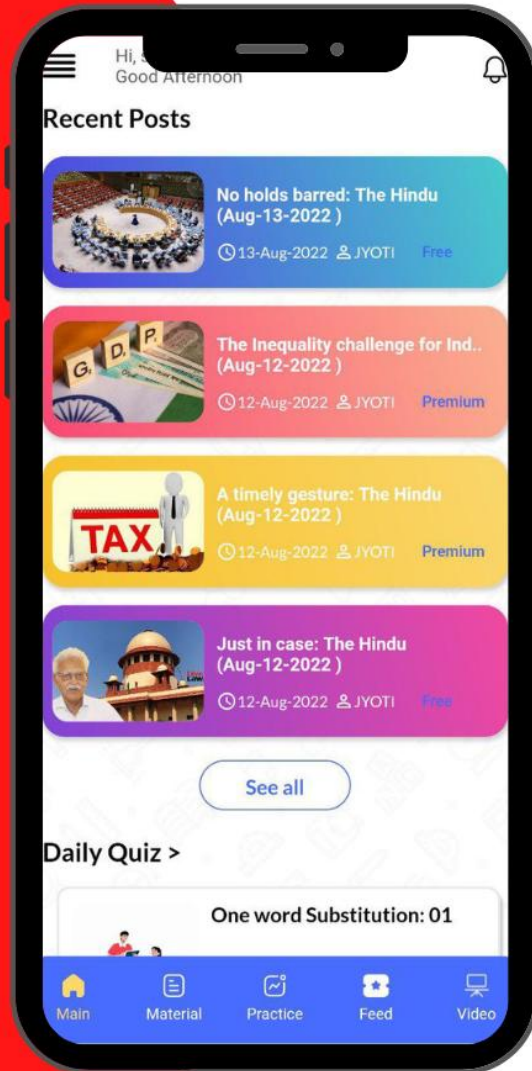
23. C) **sachet** (कपड़े या कागज़ की बनी एक बहुत ही छोटी, हल्की और मुलायम पुड़िया) सही है। पैसेज में पवित्र भस्म ("sacred ash") को रखने वाले एक छोटे कंटेनर की बात हो रही है। "sachet" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि वाक्य में दी गई भौतिक स्थिति ("tied to the top of a staff") के अनुसार, भस्म का पात्र इतना छोटा, हल्का और लचीला होना चाहिए जिसे एक साधु के लकड़ी के डंडे की नोक पर आसानी से बांधा जा सके। इसके विपरीत, बाकी विकल्प गलत हैं: vessel का मतलब 'एक कठोर और भारी पात्र (जैसे धातु का कटोरा, कप या घड़ा)' है, जिसे डंडे के शीर्ष पर इस तरह बांधना या टिकाना भौतिक रूप से असंभव है; bundle का मतलब 'गठरी' है, जो सूखी पाउडर जैसी बारीक चीज़ (भस्म) को बिना किसी आंतरिक थैली के सीधे संभाल नहीं सकती; और collection का मतलब 'चीज़ों का समूह या संग्रह' है, जो एक अमूर्त विचार (abstract concept) है, कोई फिजिकल ऑब्जेक्ट नहीं जिसे रस्सी से बांधा जा सके।
24. D) **sheaf** (कटी हुई लंबी घास या अनाज के डंडलों का एक साथ बंधा हुआ बंडल या गठरी) सही है। पैसेज में एक साधु द्वारा अपनी यात्रा के डंडे पर बांधकर ले जाई जाने वाली सामग्री के रूप में कटी हुई घास ("kussa grass") की बात हो रही है। "sheaf" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि स्टैंडर्ड इंग्लिश कॉलोकेशन में यह कटी हुई लंबी घास या डंडलों को सलीके से बांधकर बनाए गए बंडल के लिए फिक्स समूहवाचक संज्ञा (collective noun) है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी विकल्प गलत हैं: tuft का मतलब 'घास का छोटा सा गुच्छा' है जो जमीन पर अपनी जड़ों के साथ प्राकृतिक रूप से उग रहा हो, जिसे काटकर डंडे पर बंडल की

तरह नहीं ले जाया जा सकता; thicket का मतलब 'झाड़ियों या पेड़ों का घना और जंगली झुरमुट' है, जो एक प्राकृतिक लैंडस्केप फीचर है और उसे डंडे पर उठाना असंभव है; और cluster का मतलब 'समान चीज़ों का एक ढीला, बिखरा और असंगठित समूह' है, जो यहाँ यात्रा के सामान के रूप में की गई deliberate बाइंडिंग को व्यक्त नहीं कर पाता।

- The correct answer is "sheaf" because it is the precise, standard collective noun utilized as a unit for bound, long-stemmed harvested vegetation like "kussa grass," perfectly matching the context of an ascetic carrying traveling gear tied to his staff. Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "tuft" refers to a small clump of grass strands growing together naturally by their roots in the soil, which cannot apply to reaped material; "thicket" refers to a dense, tangled wild growth of shrubs and bushes in a landscape, making it impossible to carry; and "cluster" denotes a loose, unorganized grouping of similar objects, failing to depict the tight, intentional structural binding required for transport.

25. A) **beatific** (भगवान के साक्षात् दर्शन से मिलने वाला परम आनंद, शांति और मोक्ष) सही है। पैसेज के अंत में उस आध्यात्मिक क्लाइमेक्स (spiritual climax) की बात हो रही है जहाँ भक्त को भगवान शिव और पार्वती के साक्षात् दर्शन होते हैं और तुरंत मोक्ष मिलता है। "beatific" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक शब्दावली में "beatific vision" एक फिक्स theological collocation है, जिसका सीधा मतलब साक्षात् ईश्वर के दर्शन करना होता है जो आत्मा को अंतिम मुक्ति और स्वर्गीय आनंद देता है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी विकल्प गलत हैं: mystical का मतलब 'आंतरिक, गुप्त या रहस्यमयी मानसिक अनुभव' है, जो आँखों के सामने दिखने वाले साक्षात् दैवीय प्रकटीकरण (external manifestation) से मेल नहीं खाता; prophetic का मतलब 'भविष्य की भविष्यवाणी करने वाला' है, जो यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि यह दर्शन तुरंत मिलने वाला एक आध्यात्मिक पुरस्कार है, भविष्य का पूर्वानुमान नहीं; और anagogical का मतलब 'शास्त्रों या रहस्यों के छिपे हुए आध्यात्मिक अर्थ निकालने की एक शैक्षणिक या बौद्धिक पद्धति' है, कोई वास्तविक साक्षात् दर्शन नहीं।

- The correct answer is "beatific" because it forms the fixed theological collocation "beatific vision," which explicitly denotes the ultimate spiritual reward: a face-to-face visual encounter with the Divine that instantly grants supreme heavenly bliss, salvation, and liberation. Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "mystical" refers to an internal, subjective, or hidden spiritual state of mental realization rather than an objective, external physical manifestation of deities standing before a devotee; "prophetic" means foretelling or predicting future events, which does not fit an immediate present blessing and reward; and "anagogical" is a highly specialized academic term for the allegorical or mystical interpretation of sacred texts, describing a reading methodology rather than a direct visual encounter with Lord Siva and Goddess Parvati.



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