

Missed call: On India and the southwest monsoon

India must **brace** itself **for** a **deficient** southwest monsoon

The southwest monsoon reached Kerala on June 4, three days **past** its normal date and four days behind the India Meteorological Department's own **forecast**. This is the first time since 2015 that the agency has **misjudged** the onset beyond its **margin of error**. A late arrival, **in itself**, is no **calamity**. The date on which the rains touch the Kerala coast **has little statistical bearing on** how much falls over the four months that follow. Many times in the past, the monsoon has begun early and failed, and also begun late and recovered. It is what the monsoon **has in store** over the next four months that is **unsettling**. The India Meteorological Department has **pegged** seasonal rainfall at 90% of **the long-period average**, with a 60% probability of an **outright** deficient year — its most **pessimistic** pre-season call in a **decade**. Only the northeast is expected to see normal rain; the **northwest, central India, the peninsula** and the **monsoon core zone** that waters most of the country's **rain-fed** farmland **are** all forecast to **fall short**. As monsoon watchers have **often cautioned**, it is the distribution — the sudden long **dry spells**, sown crops that then face the danger of being unwatered — that **matters**. Every monsoon is **consequential** for India. This one is **exceptionally** so, because it arrives atop an input crisis. The West Asia conflict and the **disruption** at the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year **throttled** energy supply and fertilizer production.

History offers little comfort. Around 60% of **El Niño years** since 1951 **have** brought deficient or below-normal rains; 2002, 2009 were the severest droughts of the century with **significant** shortfalls in 2014 and 2015. With El Niño now near-certain through **the heart of the season**, the government must not **count on** a late, **redeeming swing** of the **Indian Ocean Dipole**. That means activating the Agriculture Ministry, Jal Shakti and Consumer Affairs Ministries **on a war footing** along with the disaster management authorities, with **advisories steering** farmers toward short-duration pulses, oilseeds and millets over **thirsty** paddy. **Disciplined** groundwater and reservoir management are necessary and crop insurance and relief provisioning must be **readied**. India will also have to **brave** more days of severe heat, which a **parched landscape** will only **sharpen**. The **government** as recently as last week **claimed** to deliver a record kharif production. While hoping for the best, it must prepare for the worst. A weak monsoon would **fall on** a farm economy whose nutrients and fuel are both already **scarce and dear**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Missed call** (phrase) - a failed or incorrect prediction or judgment. गलत अनुमान
2. **Brace** (for) (verb) - prepare, ready, fortify, strengthen, equip. तैयार होना
3. **Deficient** (adjective) - inadequate, insufficient, scarce, wanting, meager. अपर्याप्त
4. **Past** (adverb) - beyond, after, later than, surpassing, over. बाद में
5. **Forecast** (noun) - prediction, prognosis, projection, estimate, calculation. पूर्वानुमान
6. **Misjudge** (verb) - miscalculate, overestimate, underestimate, misconceive, err. गलत अनुमान लगाना
7. **Margin of error** (noun) - the range within which a prediction may be slightly inaccurate. त्रुटि की संभावना
8. **In itself** (phrase) - considered alone, by its very nature, intrinsically. अपने आप में
9. **Calamity** (noun) - disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, adversity, misfortune. आपदा
10. **Have bearing on** (phrase) - to have an effect or influence on something. प्रभाव डालना
11. **Have in store** (phrase) - to be prepared for or waiting to happen in the future. भविष्य में होना
12. **Unsettling** (adjective) - disturbing, disquieting, alarming, unsettling, worrying. चिंताजनक
13. **Peg** (verb) - fix, set, establish, assign, determine. निर्धारित करना
14. **The long-period average** (noun) - the mean value of rainfall calculated over many years. दीर्घकालिक औसत
15. **Outright** (adjective) - absolute, complete, total, categorical, downright. पूर्ण या सीधा
16. **Pessimistic** (adjective) - negative, gloomy, cynical, defeatist, hopeless. निराशावादी
17. **Decade** (noun) - ten-year period. दशक
18. **Fall short** (phrase) - to fail to reach an expected amount or standard. कम पड़ जाना
19. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, many times, habitually. अक्सर
20. **Caution** (verb) - warn, advise, alert, notify, forewarn. चेतावनी देना
21. **Dry spell** (noun) - period of time with little or no rain. सूखा पड़ने का समय
22. **Matter** (verb) - count, signify, carry weight, mean, be important. महत्व रखना
23. **Consequential** (adjective) - significant, important, momentous, influential, major. महत्वपूर्ण
24. **Exceptionally** (adverb) - remarkably, unusually, extraordinarily, significantly, notably. असाधारण रूप से
25. **Disruption** (noun) - disturbance, interruption, disorder, breakdown, interference. व्यवधान
26. **Throttle** (verb) - restrict, choke, suppress, curb, stifle. रोकना या गला घोटना
27. **El Niño** (noun) - a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface

- waters in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. अल नीनो
28. **Significant** (adjective) - substantial, considerable, meaningful, notable, important. महत्वपूर्ण
29. **The heart of the season** (phrase) - the most intense or central part of the season. मौसम का मध्य भाग
30. **Count on** (phrasal verb) - to rely or depend on someone or something. भरोसा करना
31. **Redeeming** (adjective) - compensatory, salvaging, saving, improving, corrective. सुधारने वाला
32. **Swing** (noun) - fluctuation, oscillation, change, shift, variation. उतार-चढ़ाव
33. **Indian Ocean Dipole** (noun) - an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean. हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव
34. **On a war footing** (phrase) - in a state of high alert and urgent preparation, like in wartime. युद्ध स्तर पर
35. **Advisory** (noun) - warning, bulletin, notification, guidance, recommendation. सलाह या चेतावनी
36. **Steer** (verb) - guide, direct, lead, conduct, channel. दिशा दिखाना
37. **Thirsty** (adjective) - parched, dry, dehydrated, arid, water-deficient. प्यासा (सूखा)
38. **Disciplined** (adjective) - controlled, regulated, systematic, orderly, organized. अनुशासित या व्यवस्थित
39. **Ready** (verb) - prepare, arrange, equip, organize, prime. तैयार करना
40. **Brave** (verb) - endure, face, withstand, confront, encounter. सामना करना
41. **Parched** (adjective) - dried-out, scorched, arid, thirsty, dehydrated. सूखा हुआ
42. **Landscape** (noun) - terrain, topography, environment, scenery, geography. भू-दृश्य
43. **Sharpen** (verb) - intensify, heighten, aggravate, exacerbate, increase. तेज करना या बढ़ाना
44. **Claim** (verb) - assert, declare, state, profess, maintain. दावा करना
45. **Fall on** (phrasal verb) - to happen to or be experienced by someone or something. (किसी पर) पड़ना
46. **Scarce** (adjective) - rare, sparse, limited, insufficient, scant. दुर्लभ या कमी होना
47. **Dear** (adjective) - expensive, costly, high-priced, precious, pricey. महंगा

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **southwest monsoon reached Kerala on June 4**, arriving **three days later than normal** and behind the forecast of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. This is the **first time since 2015** that the IMD's monsoon onset forecast missed beyond its expected margin of error.
3. A delayed onset alone is not necessarily harmful because the arrival date does not determine total seasonal rainfall.
4. Historical patterns show that monsoons can begin early and weaken later or begin late and still recover.
5. The major concern this year is the **overall rainfall outlook for the four-month season**, not the start date.
6. The IMD has forecast seasonal rainfall at only **90% of the Long Period Average (LPA)**.
7. There is a **60% probability of a deficient monsoon year**, making this the most pessimistic forecast in a decade.
8. Only **northeast India** is expected to receive normal rainfall.
9. Rainfall shortages are expected across **northwest India, central India, peninsular India, and the monsoon core agricultural zone**.
10. The editorial stresses that **rainfall distribution matters more than total rainfall**, especially long dry spells after sowing.
11. This year's monsoon becomes more critical because agriculture is already facing **fertiliser and energy supply pressures** linked to disruptions in West Asia.
12. Historical evidence shows that **El Niño years frequently lead to weak monsoons**, with severe drought examples in **2002 and 2009**.
13. With El Niño expected to persist, the government should not rely on a later recovery through the **Indian Ocean Dipole**.
14. Authorities should prepare through **crop advisories, promotion of short-duration crops, groundwater management, reservoir planning, crop insurance, and disaster readiness**.
15. The editorial concludes that India should **hope for better rainfall but prepare immediately for a deficient monsoon**, as weak rainfall could worsen pressures on agriculture, food production, and inflation.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be inferred or concluded as true in the context of the above lines?** [Editorial Page]
- a) A delayed onset of the southwest monsoon is an accurate indicator of a prolonged agricultural drought over the monsoon core zone.
 - b) Historically, an early arrival of the monsoon guarantees a surplus in seasonal cumulative rainfall across rain-fed farmlands.
 - c) The absolute volume of precipitation received over the entire season operates independently of the precise calendar date of the monsoon's initial landfall.
- A. Only a
B. Only b
C. Only c
D. Only b and c
2. **Which of the following statement(s) regarding the structural challenges confronting the upcoming monsoon season can be verified as TRUE according to the passage?**
- A. The core agricultural zones of the country are projected to experience an ideal distribution of rainfall, neutralizing the effects of the late onset.
 - B. The contemporary threat to Indian agriculture is compounded because the ecological risks of a weak monsoon converge with pre-existing geopolitical disruptions in global supply chains.
- A. only a
B. only b
C. both a and b
D. Neither a nor b
3. **Which of the following governmental interventions directly aligns with the "war footing" contingency strategy advocated by the author in the passage?**
- A. Mandating state-backed financial institutions to aggressively disburse crop insurance and preparing relief provisions for vulnerable rural sectors.
 - B. Directing the Ministry of Jal Shakti and local disaster management authorities to implement stringent, disciplined oversight of reservoir levels and groundwater depletion.
- C. Both option a and option b
D. Neither option a nor option b
4. **Based on the overall tone and arguments presented in the passage, which of the following option would the author most likely AGREE with?**
- A. The government's recent claims of achieving record kharif production should translate into structural complacency, as the farm economy is insulated against future climate shocks.
 - B. In managing a high-stakes monsoon under the shadow of El Niño, official policy must pivot away from passive optimism and embrace proactive, worst-case scenario administrative preparedness.
 - C. The India Meteorological Department's recent pre-season forecast represents its most optimistic and confident outlook concerning nationwide rainfall distribution in the last ten years.
- D. All a, b and c

5. Which of the following best identifies the grammatical role of the phrase "with a 60% probability of an outright deficient year" in the sentence:

"The India Meteorological Department has pegged seasonal rainfall at 90% of the long-period average, with a 60% probability of an outright deficient year — its most pessimistic pre-season call in a decade."

- A. Adverbial modifier characterizing the action of how the rainfall was "pegged"
B. Adjectival phrase modifying the noun phrase "long-period average"
C. Prepositional phrase functioning as a coordinate clause conjunction
D. Absolute construction acting as a noun phrase subject for the subsequent dash
6. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) between S1 and S6 to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.

S1. A palace in the middle of a lake is rare, but one with four floors underwater is even rarer.

P. Instead of floating, the actual building remains deeply submerged beneath the surface, with only its top floor remaining visible.

Q. For more than 200 years, this extraordinary underwater landmark, known as Jal Mahal, has been a repository of Rajasthan's history.

R. This specific state of being partially submerged gives the structure the stunning illusion of magically emerging directly from the lake.

S. Contrary to what you might initially assume when looking at its position in the lake, the palace does not actually float on the water.

S6. Today, it stands not just as a symbol of the state's historical mystique and grandeur, but also as a famous tourist spot.

- A. Q P S R
B. S Q P R
C. Q S P R
D. R Q S P
7. Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.
- A. The Madras Club once removed writer Khushwant Singh for wearing sandals, and the Calcutta Swimming Club expelled musician Anand Shankar for appearing in traditional Indian attire.
- B. This rapid spread naturally raises the question of how a distinctly British institution became so deeply woven into a country that already had its own long history of associational life, like sabhas and addas.
- C. Yet the ease with which clubs could enforce such dress codes points to a larger story: clubs were not a familiar feature of South Asian life before British rule.
- D. Within little more than a century, however, they had spread across the subcontinent, becoming one of the most influential forms of association in colonial public life.
- A. C D A B
B. A C D B
C. A D C B
D. C A B D

8. **Fill in the blank in the following sentence with the correct idiom selecting from the given alternatives.**
Digvijay is going to ask his mother to ascertain which course he should pursue. He is still _____.
- A. tied to her apron string
 - B. tied to her silver string
 - C. tied to her saree
 - D. tied to her neck
9. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
Cross one's palm with silver.
- A. To salute a person in position
 - B. To pay one, especially as a bribe
 - C. Wear a silver bracelet
 - D. Take something precious secretly
10. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
- A. Millionnaire
 - B. Milionaire
 - C. Millionaire
 - D. Millionare
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 office was full of sychopants eager to flatter the boss.
- A. sycopants
 - B. sycopahnts
 - C. sycophants
 - D. No replacement required
12. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.**
The project faced delays due to bureaucratic hurdles, lack of co-ordination , and the inconsistant approach of the contractors.
- A. bureaucratic
 - B. inconsistant
 - C. approach
 - D. contractors
13. **Choose the misspelt word from the given options.**
- A. Confession
 - B. Dimension
 - C. Precision
 - D. Aberrasion
14. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate antonym of the word "angry".**
- A. Serene
 - B. Enraged
 - C. Mad

D. Irritated

15. Match the words with their correct meanings.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brake | a) To stop motion |
| 2. Break | b) Gap or violation |
| 3. Breach | c) Past tense of break |
| 4. Broke | d) To shatter or damage |

- A. 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a
B. 1-a, 2-d, 3-b, 4-c
C. 1-d, 2-a, 3-b, 4-d
D. 1-c, 2-b, 3-d, 4-a

16. Choose the word that is the antonym of Former.

- A. Previous
B. Current
C. Past
D. Earlier

17. Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.

The main antagonist in a movie.

- A. Hero
B. Protagonist
C. Villain
D. Sidekick

18. Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.

A false name used by an author instead of their real one.

- A. Sobriquet
B. Pseudonym
C. Epithet
D. Cognomen

19. Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.

Sheela is always busy _____ some work or the other.

- A. at
B. with
C. for
D. about

20. Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition/prepositional phrase in the following sentence.

Some officers, _____ managers and directors, will attend the marriage ceremony of the clerk.

- A. including
B. beside
C. not only
D. either

Passage:

In a small pocket of Delhi, where the azaan from Jama Masjid echoes through crowded bazaars and narrow lanes, an / a (1) _____ preserves a fading chapter of India's visual heritage. The craft of Bollywood-style hand-painted hoardings and film posters has largely yielded to the digital age. Yet one artist continues to keep the tradition alive, preserving an art form on the brink of disappearance.

Meet Kafeel Ahmed Ansari, better known as Painter Kafeel, a 70-year-old veteran artist who once hand-painted hoardings and posters for Bollywood re-runs such as *Deewaar* (1975), *Pakeezah* (1972), *Mughal-e-Azam* (1960), and *Ram Aur Shyam* (1967), among many others. Born in the small town of Aonla in Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh, Kafeel's journey has been shaped by devotion (2) _____ art. His father, a shopkeeper, encouraged his artistic ambitions from an early age. Kafeel's journey into painting began in school, where he learned (3) _____ under his teacher, Niamatullah Ansari. In the evenings, he would spend hours watching local painter Shabir Raza Khan at work, observing his techniques and styles. A turning point came in 1980, when Kafeel lost his father and the family business collapsed, leaving him without financial support. Carrying only Rs 1,000, he travelled nearly 268 kilometres from Bareilly to Delhi in search of work and opportunity. After arriving in Delhi, he stayed with relatives in Jamnapar. Armed with brushes, paints, and a bicycle, he roamed the city looking for work. He later (4) _____ under artist Faiz Siddiqui for 19 years, refining his craft. In 1999, Kafeel opened his own studio in Matia Mahal near Jama Masjid. Over time, his work gained (5) _____ across the city, ranging from commercial signboards to cinema billboards.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. enclave
 - B. labyrinth
 - C. thoroughfare
 - D. alley
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. of
 - B. for
 - C. to
 - D. into
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. typography
 - B. iconography
 - C. calligraphy
 - D. lithography
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. toiled
 - B. collaboration
 - C. apprenticed
 - D. matriculate
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. recognition
 - B. notoriety

- C. monopoly
- D. patronage

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **Only c**

"Absolute volume of precipitation received over the entire season" perfectly maps to "how much falls over the four months that follow."

"Precise calendar date of the monsoon's initial landfall" perfectly maps to "the date on which the rains touch the Kerala coast."

Saying two variables have "little statistical bearing" means the outcome of one does not depend on the other. Therefore, stating they operate "independently" is a logically sound inference.

Statement A: Incorrect. The statement claims a late arrival is an "accurate indicator" of drought. The passage explicitly contradicts this by stating it has "little statistical bearing" on subsequent rainfall volume. Because there is no strong mathematical correlation, a delay cannot logically serve as a reliable or accurate predictive indicator.

Statement B: Incorrect. The statement introduces an absolute, deterministic condition: "guarantees a surplus." The passage provides direct historical counter-evidence, noting that early monsoons have "failed" in the past. Failure completely invalidates the logical claim of a "guarantee."

2. B) **Only b**

Line from passage: "Every monsoon is consequential for India. This one is exceptionally so, because it arrives atop an input crisis. The West Asia conflict and the disruption at the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year throttled energy supply and fertilizer production. Correct. The passage verifies that the threat to Indian agriculture is compounded. The structural, ecological risks of a weak monsoon directly converge with pre-existing global geopolitical issues (the West Asia/Strait of Hormuz conflict) that have already disrupted supply chains for energy (fuel) and fertilizer (nutrients).

Statement a: Line from passage: "...the northwest, central India, the peninsula and the monsoon core zone that waters most of the country's rain-fed farmland are all forecast to fall short. As monsoon watchers have often cautioned, it is the distribution — the sudden long dry spells, sown crops that then face the danger of being unwatered — that matters. Incorrect. The passage states that the core zone is forecast to "fall short" rather than experience an "ideal distribution." Furthermore, it explicitly highlights the threat of poor distribution ("sudden long dry spells"), meaning nothing is being neutralized.

3. C) **Both option a and option b**

Option A: Line from passage: "...and crop insurance and relief provisioning must be readied." Correct. The author explicitly includes the preparation of crop insurance and relief frameworks as an essential component of the proactive response needed to counter the poor monsoon forecast.

Option B: Line from passage: "That means activating the Agriculture Ministry, Jal Shakti and Consumer Affairs Ministries on a war footing along with the disaster management

authorities... Disciplined groundwater and reservoir management are necessary..." Correct. The passage directly links the activation of the Jal Shakti ministry and disaster management authorities on a war footing to the critical requirement of executing "disciplined groundwater and reservoir management."

4. B) **In managing a high-stakes monsoon under the shadow of El Niño, official policy must pivot away from passive optimism and embrace proactive, worst-case scenario administrative preparedness.**

Line from the passage: "While hoping for the best, it must prepare for the worst... That means activating the Agriculture Ministry, Jal Shakti and Consumer Affairs Ministries on a war footing along with the disaster management authorities..." This option perfectly matches the author's tone and primary argument. The entire second half of the passage is a call to action for administrative machinery to stop relying on passive hopes (like a redeeming Indian Ocean Dipole) and actively implement contingency measures on a war footing

Option A: Incorrect. The option claims the economy is "insulated" and advises "structural complacency." This directly contradicts the author's argument, which warns that the farm economy is vulnerable due to a fuel/nutrient crisis and explicitly tells the government to avoid complacency by preparing for the worst.

Option C: Incorrect. The statement incorrectly describes the forecast as the "most optimistic and confident outlook." The passage states the exact opposite, noting that it is the most pessimistic pre-season call seen in a decade.

5. A) **Adverbial modifier characterizing the action of how the rainfall was "pegged"**

The phrase "with a 60% probability of an outright deficient year" begins with the preposition "with." This phrase provides specific circumstantial detail regarding the verb "pegged" (which means to fix or categorize at a certain level). It explains the statistical context or the "manner" of the prediction. Because the phrase provides additional information about the action (the "pegging" of the forecast) rather than describing a specific noun, it functions as an adverbial modifier. It characterizes the state or condition of the assessment.

6. C) **Q S P R**

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this extraordinary underwater landmark" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'palace... with four floors underwater' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस दुर्लभ महल का असली नाम Jal Mahal है और इसका इतिहास 200 साल से भी पुराना है।

Sentence S, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "its position in the lake" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए Jal Mahal के झील में होने की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि महल की स्थिति को देखकर लोगों को क्या गलतफहमी (float on the water) होती है।

Sentence P, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "Instead of floating" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S में बताए गए पानी पर तैरने (float) के भ्रम का खंडन करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि महल तैरने के बजाय पानी की सतह के नीचे डूबा हुआ (submerged) है।

Sentence R, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "partially submerged" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर P में बताए गए 'deeply

submerged beneath the surface' से जुड़ता है, और यह बताता है कि इसी वजह से महल के झील से बाहर निकलने का भ्रम पैदा होता है, जो S6 (जिसमें इसके आज एक प्रसिद्ध पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में खड़े होने की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "this extraordinary underwater landmark" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'palace... with four floors underwater' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground of revealing the true identity (Jal Mahal) and the 200-year history of this rare structure.
- Sentence S follows Q because the phrase "its position in the lake" creates a mandatory link, directly referring to Jal Mahal's placement introduced in Q. It introduces the common misconception that observers have when seeing it, clarifying that it does not actually float on the water.
- Sentence P follows S as it uses the phrase "Instead of floating" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the mistaken belief described in S. It clarifies the reality that the building remains deeply submerged with only its top floor visible.
- Sentence R follows P as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "partially submerged" to refer directly back to the fact that it 'remains deeply submerged' described in P, explaining that this creates the stunning visual illusion of emerging from the lake, which seamlessly bridges into its current status as a famous tourist spot mentioned in S6.

7. B) A C D B

Sentence A, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि औपनिवेशिक काल के दौरान क्लबों में कितने कड़े नियम थे, और यह जाने-माने लोगों (Khushwant Singh और Anand Shankar) के निष्कासन (expulsion) का उदाहरण देता है। यह स्पष्ट रूप से विषय का परिचय देता है।

Sentence C, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "such dress codes" शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में बताए गए 'sandals' और 'traditional Indian attire' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इन नियमों को लागू करना एक बड़ी कहानी (larger story) की ओर इशारा करता है कि क्लब ब्रिटिश शासन से पहले यहाँ के सामाजिक जीवन का हिस्सा नहीं थे।

Sentence D, Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "Within little more than a century, however," शब्द सीधे तौर पर C में बताए गए 'before British rule' के ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ को आगे बढ़ाते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि पहले परिचित न होने के बावजूद, ये क्लब बहुत तेजी से पूरे उपमहाद्वीप (subcontinent) में फैल गए।

Sentence B, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "This rapid spread" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर D में बताए गए 'spread across the subcontinent' से जुड़ता है, और यह महत्वपूर्ण सवाल उठाता है कि एक ब्रिटिश संस्था उस देश में कैसे घुल-मिल गई जहाँ पहले से ही 'sabhas' और 'addas' जैसी सभाओं की लंबी परंपरा थी, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence A comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground of the paragraph, introducing specific historical examples of famous individuals (Khushwant Singh and Anand Shankar) facing strict rules in colonial clubs.
 - Sentence C follows A because the phrase "such dress codes" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the specific clothing issues ('sandals' and 'traditional Indian attire') mentioned in A. It introduces the larger historical context that these clubs were not initially native to South Asia.
 - Sentence D follows C as it uses the transitional phrase "Within little more than a century, however," to create a mandatory link contrasting the unfamiliarity mentioned in C. It clarifies that despite not being a familiar feature originally, they quickly spread across the subcontinent.
 - Sentence B follows D as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "This rapid spread" to refer directly back to how they 'spread across the subcontinent' described in D, raising a concluding question about how this British import blended into India's existing traditions like 'sabhas' and 'addas', which seamlessly finalizes the logical flow of the narrative.
8. A) 'tied to her apron string' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में यह बताया जा रहा है कि Digvijay अपने निर्णय स्वयं नहीं ले पा रहा है और अपनी माँ पर निर्भर है। "tied to her apron string" का अर्थ होता है — किसी व्यक्ति का अत्यधिक रूप से (विशेषकर माँ पर) निर्भर होना। इसलिए यह idiom यहाँ पूरी तरह सटीक बैठता है।
- 'tied to her apron string' should be used because the sentence indicates that Digvijay is unable to make his own decisions and is dependent on his mother. The idiom "tied to her apron string" means being overly dependent on someone (especially one's mother). Thus, it is the most appropriate choice.
9. B) **Cross one's palm with silver** (idiom) – To pay someone, especially as a bribe रिश्वत देना
10. C) The correct spelling of 'Millionnaire / Milionaire / Millionare' is '**Millionaire**', which means "a person who has a million units of currency" करोड़पति, धनी व्यक्ति।
11. C) The correct spelling of 'sychopants' is '**sycophants**', which means "people who flatter others for personal gain" चापलूस, खुशामदी व्यक्ति।
12. B) The correct spelling of 'inconsistant' is '**inconsistent**', which means "not staying the same; lacking uniformity" असंगत, अस्थिर।
13. D) The correct spelling of 'Aberrasion' is '**Aberration**', which means "a deviation from what is normal or expected" विचलन, असामान्यता।
14. A) **Angry** (adjective) – Mad, enraged, irritated, furious, annoyed गुस्से में
Antonym: **Serene** (adjective) – Calm, peaceful, tranquil, composed, relaxed शांत
- **Enraged** (adjective) – Extremely angry, furious, infuriated अत्यधिक क्रोधित
 - **Mad** (adjective) – Angry, furious, annoyed गुस्से में
 - **Irritated** (adjective) – Slightly angry, annoyed, bothered चिड़चिड़ा
15. B) 1-a, 2-d, 3-b, 4-c

16. C B) **Former** (adjective) – Previous, earlier, past, preceding पूर्व / पहले वाला
Antonym: **Current** (adjective) – Present, existing, ongoing, now, recent वर्तमान
- **Previous** (adjective) – Former, earlier, preceding पहले का
 - **Past** (adjective) – Former, gone by, earlier बीता हुआ
 - **Earlier** (adjective) – Former, prior, previous पहले का
17. C) **Villain** (noun) – The main antagonist or evil character in a story/movie खलनायक
- **Hero** (noun) – The main good character नायक
 - **Protagonist** (noun) – The central character of a story मुख्य पात्र
 - **Sidekick** (noun) – A supporting companion character सहायक पात्र
18. B) **Pseudonym** (noun) – A false name used by an author instead of their real one उपनाम (लेखक का छद्म नाम)
- **Sobriquet** (noun) – A nickname or familiar name उपनाम / पुकार का नाम
 - **Epithet** (noun) – A descriptive phrase expressing a quality विशेषणात्मक उपाधि
 - **Cognomen** (noun) – A family name or surname कुलनाम / उपनाम
19. B) **With** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में “busy with” एक fixed collocation है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी काम में व्यस्त होना। यहाँ “Sheela is always busy _____ some work” में यह दर्शाया जा रहा है कि वह किसी न किसी काम में लगी रहती है। इसलिए “with” सबसे उपयुक्त preposition है।
- ‘With’ should be used because “busy with” is a standard collocation meaning engaged in some work. Here, in “Sheela is always busy _____ some work,” it indicates that she is occupied with some task or another. Thus, “with” would be the most appropriate choice.
20. A) **Including** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में “Some officers, _____ managers and directors” के माध्यम से officers के अंतर्गत आने वाले specific पदों (managers और directors) को जोड़ा जा रहा है। यहाँ “including” का अर्थ होता है “को शामिल करते हुए”, जो context के अनुसार बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है। इसलिए “including” सही विकल्प है।
- ‘Including’ should be used because the sentence adds specific categories (managers and directors) within the group of officers. “Including” means “comprising as part of the whole,” which fits perfectly in the given context. Thus, “including” would be the most appropriate choice.
21. D) The blank requires a noun representing a physical location that aligns with the "narrow lanes" mentioned just before it. "(alley)" is the exact physical description of a narrow passageway between buildings. A) enclave: Refers to a distinct cultural or social territory, which is too broad and conceptual compared to the physical description of narrow lanes. B) labyrinth: Means a confusing maze; while lanes can be maze-like, the passage talks about a specific location preserving heritage, not the confusion of getting lost. D) thoroughfare: Means a main road for heavy traffic, which is the exact opposite of a narrow lane.

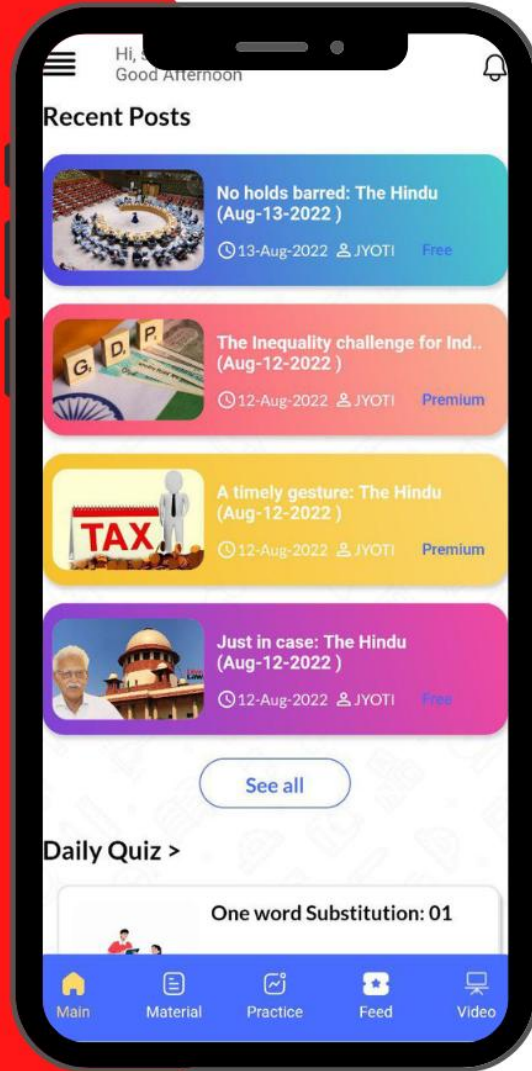
- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो एक physical location को represent करे और ठीक पहले mention की गई "narrow lanes" के साथ align हो। "(alley)" buildings के बीच एक संकरे रास्ते (narrow passageway) का सटीक physical description है। A) enclave: यह एक cultural या social territory को refer करता है, जो narrow lanes के physical description की तुलना में बहुत broad है। B) labyrinth: इसका अर्थ एक confusing maze (भूलभुलैया) है; passage एक specific location की बात कर रहा है जो heritage को preserve करता है, खो जाने के confusion की नहीं। D) thoroughfare: इसका अर्थ भारी traffic वाली main road है, जो narrow lane का बिल्कुल opposite है।
22. C) The blank requires a preposition that grammatically follows the noun "devotion" to show loyalty or deep commitment to something. The fixed prepositional phrase is always "devotion (to)". A) of: Grammatically incorrect here; "devotion of art" would imply the art itself possesses devotion. B) for: Grammatically incorrect; we say "passion for," but "devotion to." D) into: Completely grammatically incorrect in this context.
- Blank को एक preposition की आवश्यकता है जो loyalty या deep commitment दिखाने के लिए noun "devotion" के बाद grammatically सही बैठे। Fixed prepositional phrase हमेशा "devotion (to)" होता है। A) of: यहाँ grammatically गलत है; "devotion of art" का मतलब होगा कि art के पास खुद devotion है। B) for: Grammatically गलत है; हम "passion for" कहते हैं, लेकिन "devotion to" कहते हैं। D) into: इस context में पूरी तरह से grammatically गलत है।
23. C) The blank requires a noun referring to a specific visual art form involving lettering that a poster artist would learn in school. "(calligraphy)" is the artistic practice of beautiful handwriting and hand-lettering, which forms the foundation of poster making. A) typography: This is the style and appearance of printed or digital text, not the hand-painted art form Kafeel learned. B) iconography: The visual images and symbols used in a work of art or the study of them, not the physical practice of lettering. D) lithography: A specific mechanical printing process using stone or metal plates, not a hand-painting skill learned in a basic school setting.
- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो lettering से जुड़े एक specific visual art form को refer करे जिसे एक poster artist school में सीखेगा। "(calligraphy)" सुंदर handwriting और hand-lettering की artistic practice है, जो poster making का foundation है। A) typography: यह printed या digital text का style है, न कि वह hand-painted art form जो Kafeel ने सीखा। B) iconography: यह art में इस्तेमाल होने वाले symbols की study है, lettering की physical practice नहीं। D) lithography: यह stone या metal plates का उपयोग करने वाला एक mechanical printing process है, hand-painting skill नहीं।
24. C) The blank requires a past tense verb that takes the preposition "under" and describes a young person learning a trade from an experienced master. "(apprenticed)" is the precise professional term for working for someone in order to learn their trade. A) toiled: Means to work extremely hard, but it misses the essential meaning of "learning a craft" from a teacher. B) collaboration: This is a noun, but the sentence structure grammatically requires a verb

describing his action. D) matriculate: This is a present tense verb meaning to enroll in a college, which does not fit the past tense narrative ("later") or the context of practically learning under a local artist.

- Blank को एक past tense verb की आवश्यकता है जो preposition "under" के साथ आए और एक young person द्वारा experienced master से trade (कला) सीखने का वर्णन करे। "(apprenticed)" किसी से उनका trade सीखने के लिए काम करने का precise professional term है। A) toiled: इसका अर्थ बहुत कड़ी मेहनत करना है, लेकिन इसमें teacher से कला सीखने का essential meaning नहीं है। B) collaboration: यह एक noun है, जबकि sentence structure को grammatically एक verb की आवश्यकता है। D) matriculate: यह एक present tense verb है जिसका अर्थ college में enroll होना है, जो past tense narrative और artist के under practically सीखने के context में fit नहीं होता।

25. A) The blank requires a noun indicating that his work became widely known, respected, and seen by the public across the city. "(recognition)" perfectly means the acknowledgment of an achievement or the state of being widely known for one's work. A) notoriety: Means the state of being famous or well-known for some bad quality or deed. B) patronage: Refers to financial support given by clients or sponsors. While he did get clients, "gained patronage across the city" doesn't fit the context of his work (billboards) being visually acknowledged. D) monopoly: Means the exclusive possession or control of a trade, which is an economic term and logically incorrect here.

- Blank को एक noun की आवश्यकता है जो यह indicate करे कि उनका काम पूरे शहर में public द्वारा जाना गया, respect किया गया और देखा गया। "(recognition)" का सही अर्थ किसी achievement का acknowledgment या अपने काम के लिए widely known होना है। A) notoriety: इसका अर्थ किसी बुरी quality या काम के लिए famous होना है। B) patronage: यह clients द्वारा दिए गए financial support को refer करता है। हालाँकि उन्हें clients मिले, लेकिन "gained patronage" उनके work (billboards) के visually acknowledge होने के context में fit नहीं बैठता। D) monopoly: इसका अर्थ किसी trade पर exclusive control होना है, जो एक economic term है और यहाँ logically गलत है।



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