

Supreme Court **safeguards** for live-in partners are much-needed and **long-overdue**

The Supreme Court's **decision** to extend the protection against domestic **cruelty** to women in live-in relationships that are "in the nature of marriage" **is** a welcome attempt to bring criminal law in step with **evolving** social realities. By holding that Section 498A of the **erstwhile** Indian Penal Code — and its **equivalent**, Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita — can apply where the relationship is founded on a genuine **intent** to marry, the SC has adopted an expansive reading of the law. It **acknowledges** that domestic **abuse derives** its force from unequal power and **coercion**, that it does not become less **devastating** because a relationship lacks formal **solemnisation**. While **women** in live-in relationships already **have recourse** to civil **remedies** under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the judgment makes clear that the absence of a formally **solemnised** marriage cannot, by itself, deny them the protection of criminal law. In doing so, the Court **reinforces** the principle that legal protection must respond to the **substance** of **intimate** relationships rather than their form.

Violence in intimate relationships **remains** one of India's most **pervasive** yet under-reported crimes. The recent NFHS found that over 22 per cent of ever-married women have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence at the hands of their partners. Yet, financial and social **compulsions** mean that only a small minority **seeks redressal**. **Women** in live-in relationships **often face** additional legal, procedural and social burdens. In the present case, for instance, the **accused sought to quash** criminal proceedings initiated by his partner, arguing that because he was already married, their relationship could not **amount to** a valid marriage and therefore could not attract the offence of cruelty.

In cases such as D Velusamy v D Patchaiammal (2010) and Indra Sarma v VKV Sarma (2013), the SC had **laid out** the factors, including whether the couple has lived together for a **considerable** period, and whether the relationship **possesses** the **requisite permanence** and commitment, to be considered in case of live-in relationships in the nature of marriage. By adding further **guardrails** — the judgment has **mandated** the **safeguards** in Armesh Kumar vs Bihar to be followed in such cases — the Court has **struck** a careful and necessary **balance**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Safeguard** (noun) - protection, defense, buffer, guard, shield सुरक्षा कवच
2. **Long-overdue** (adjective) - belated, delayed, long-delayed, late, overdue लंबे समय से लंबित
3. **Cruelty** (noun) - brutality, harshness, atrocity, abuse, mistreatment क्रूरता
4. **Evolve** (verb) - develop, progress, advance, unfold, mature विकसित होना
5. **Erstwhile** (adjective) - former, previous, past, one-time, late भूतपूर्व
6. **Equivalent** (noun) - counterpart, match, equal, parallel, peer समकक्ष
7. **Intent** (noun) - intention, purpose, aim, objective, motive इरादा
8. **Acknowledge** (verb) - admit, recognize, accept, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
9. **Abuse** (noun) - mistreatment, exploitation, harm, ill-treatment, cruelty दुर्व्यवहार
10. **Derive** (verb) - obtain, extract, draw, gain, deduce प्राप्त करना
11. **Coercion** (noun) - duress, force, compulsion, intimidation, pressure ज़बरदस्ती
12. **Devastating** (adjective) - destructive, ruinous, disastrous, catastrophic, crippling विनाशकारी
13. **Solemnisation** (noun) - the formal and legally recognized performance of a marriage ceremony औपचारिक विवाह संपन्नता
14. **Recourse** (noun) - option, resort, remedy, refuge, alternative सहारा
15. **Remedy** (noun) - solution, cure, redress, relief, answer उपचार
16. **Solemnise** (verb) - perform, celebrate, formalize, sanctify, conduct विधिवत संपन्न करना
17. **Reinforce** (verb) - strengthen, fortify, bolster, support, underline मजबूत करना
18. **Substance** (noun) - essence, core, weight, reality, meaning सार
19. **Intimate** (adjective) - close, personal, private, deep, cherished अंतरंग
20. **Pervasive** (adjective) - widespread, prevalent, ubiquitous, extensive, rampant व्यापक
21. **Compulsion** (noun) - pressure, necessity, force, obligation, constraint मजबूरी
22. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, request, solicit, look for, aim for मांगना
23. **Redressal** (noun) - remedy, relief, reparation, justice, satisfaction निवारण
24. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly अक्सर
25. **For instance** (phrase) - for example, as an illustration उदाहरण के लिए
26. **Accused** (noun) - defendant, suspect, respondent, culprit, offender आरोपी
27. **Seek** (verb) - try, attempt, strive, endeavor, aim प्रयास करना

28. **Quash** (verb) - annul, void, nullify, cancel, invalidate रद्द करना
29. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to equal, constitute, represent or correspond के बराबर होना
30. **Lay out** (phrasal verb) - to arrange something on a flat surface निर्धारित करना
31. **Considerable** (adjective) - substantial, significant, sizeable, large, appreciable काफी
32. **Possess** (verb) - have, own, hold, contain, display रखना
33. **Requisite** (adjective) - required, necessary, essential, mandatory, indispensable आवश्यक
34. **Permanence** (noun) - durability, stability, continuity, lastingness, endurance निरंतरता
35. **Guardrail** (noun) - safety measure, safeguard, protection, boundary, guideline सुरक्षा कवच
36. **Mandate** (verb) - direct, order, command, require, authorize अनिवार्य करना
37. **Safeguard** (noun) - protection, shield, safety measure, defense, precaution सुरक्षा उपाय
38. **Strike a balance** (phrase) - to achieve a reasonable compromise between two opposing needs, interests, or situations संतुलन बनाना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **Supreme Court** has ruled that women in certain **live-in relationships** can receive protection against domestic cruelty under criminal law.
2. The Court held that **Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)** and its equivalent **Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** apply to live-in relationships that are “**in the nature of marriage.**”
3. The judgment recognises that **domestic violence arises from unequal power and coercion**, regardless of whether the relationship is formally solemnised.
4. The Court adopted an **expansive interpretation of criminal law** to reflect changing social realities and modern relationship patterns.
5. Women in live-in relationships already have civil remedies under the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005**, but this judgment extends access to **criminal protection** as well.
6. The ruling makes it clear that **the absence of a formal marriage alone cannot deprive women of legal protection** against domestic cruelty.
7. The Court emphasised that **the substance of a relationship is more important than its legal form** when determining entitlement to protection.
8. The editorial highlights that **intimate partner violence remains one of India’s most widespread yet under-reported crimes.**
9. According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**, **over 22% of ever-married women** have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from their partners.
10. Many victims fail to seek justice because of **financial dependence, social stigma, and family pressures.**
11. Women in **live-in relationships face additional legal, procedural, and social challenges**, making access to justice even more difficult.
12. In the present case, the accused argued that because **he was already legally married**, the live-in relationship could not qualify as a marriage-like relationship, and therefore the offence of cruelty should not apply.
13. The Supreme Court relied on principles established in **D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal (2010)** and **Indra Sarma v. V.K.V. Sarma (2013)**, which identified factors such as **long-term cohabitation, permanence, and commitment** to determine whether a live-in relationship resembles marriage.
14. At the same time, the Court directed that the safeguards laid down in **Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar** must be followed, ensuring that criminal proceedings are not misused through unnecessary arrests.
15. The editorial concludes that the judgment strikes an **appropriate balance between protecting women from domestic abuse and preventing misuse of criminal law**, making it a timely and progressive step in aligning legal protections with contemporary social realities.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **The primary purpose of the passage is to** [Editorial Page]
- A. explain how new evidence on domestic violence rates justifies stronger legal action for women
 - B. argue that civil remedies alone fail to protect women in informal domestic partnerships
 - C. discuss how the Supreme Court has broadened criminal protection for live-in couples with due safeguards
 - D. critique the added safeguards the Supreme Court imposed on cruelty cases in informal relationships
2. **It can be inferred that the author references the cases of D Velusamy v D Patchaiammal and Indra Sarma v VKV Sarma in the third paragraph primarily in order to**
- A. establish the legal precedent from which the present judgment's expanded reasoning builds
 - B. contrast the outdated reasoning of earlier courts with the present, more progressive ruling
 - C. provide an example of a point on which the Court and the accused were already in agreement
 - D. illustrate how earlier rulings failed to anticipate the safeguards later added in Arnesh Kumar vs Bihar
3. **Which of the following correctly identifies the tense used predominantly in the first paragraph?**
- A. Past simple
 - B. Present simple
 - C. Past perfect
 - D. Present perfect
4. **According to the passage, which of the following is NOT cited as a burden or barrier affecting victims of intimate partner violence?**
- A. Structural gender dynamics involving unequal authority and coercion
 - B. Monetary dependence and societal pressure preventing formal complaints
 - C. Systematic refusal of lower courts to hear unsolemnised civil disputes
 - D. Extra procedural and legal hurdles specific to non-traditional relationships
5. **What does the word "quash" most nearly mean as used in the passage?**
- A. Postpone indefinitely
 - B. Nullify formally
 - C. Publicise widely
 - D. Intensify gradually
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- 1. She was the Player of the Series when England won both the ODI and T20 World Cups in 2009.
 - 2. She studied mathematics at Oxford and left a well-paying job at P&G to be a full-time cricketer when there was no money in the women's game.
 - 3. She remains the highest scorer, male or female, in an ODI at Lord's.
 - 4. Claire Taylor is the first woman to be named Wisden's Cricketer of the Year.
- A. 4-1-3-2

- B. 4-3-1-2
C. 3-4-2-1
D. 2-3-4-1
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- A. When the rains arrived, they were intense, with cities such as Mumbai and Surat receiving a month's rainfall in a matter of days.
B. Similar conditions have recently affected large swathes of China's provinces, particularly Guangxi, Shaanxi and Gansu.
C. This year, El Niño delayed the monsoon in India.
D. Regions in Assam and Odisha have experienced severe flooding, resulting in loss of life and damage to infrastructure.
- A. C-A-D-B
B. C-D-A-B
C. A-C-D-B
D. D-A-C-B
8. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**
- It take her a /long time to get over /her failure in the examination. /No error
- A. long time to get over
B. her failure in the examination
C. No error
D. It take her a
9. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.**
- The inflation rate raised up 8% last month.
- A. rose to
B. No Improvement
C. rise to
D. raise up
10. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
- Morose
- A. Cranky
B. Cheerful
C. Prudent
D. Solemn
11. **Choose the most appropriate word that can substitute the given group of words.**
- The state of growing to maturity.
- A. Immigrant
B. Innocence
C. Adolescence
D. Apartheid
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
- To pull someone's legs

- A. Of a kind and sympathetic nature
B. To use all possible methods
C. To play a joke on someone
D. Not a serious information
13. Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.
Don't worry, /there is less time /for the train to arrive. /No error
A. Don't worry,
B. there is less time
C. No error
D. for the train to arrive
14. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.
A study suggests that woman is good at handling emotions than men.
A. women is better
B. No Improvement
C. woman are best
D. women are better
15. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.
Loiter
A. Loaf
B. Hasten
C. Dawdle
D. Repel
16. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No Improvement.
MS Dhoni has no immediate plans to retire.
A. plan to retirement
B. plans retiring
C. planning for retire
D. No Improvement
17. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.
Tangled
A. Orderly
B. Regulated
C. Knotted
D. Organized
18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
He _____ for a week when his father came
A. has been ill
B. had been ill
C. is being ill
D. is ill
19. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

The air-conditioner has made ceiling fans a little _____ in today's world.

- A. extinct
- B. absurd
- C. additional
- D. redundant

20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

As clear as a bell

- A. To have a tinkling sound
- B. At a very low price
- C. To get fooled
- D. Readily understood

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

If we were to leap out of the pages of the epic, the best place to start would be the one from whom the story is said to have first emerged. Homer. The author of the Odyssey is a being of many mysteries. One of the greatest mysteries lies in the very existence of Homer! Scholars have grown puzzled about the true identity of Homer for centuries, and have constantly debated the (2) conundrum of whether Homer was a single author, a group of people, or even a name used by a lineage of writers. Samuel Butler, an author from the early 19th Century, even theorised that Homer was not a man but a young Sicilian woman! This mystery, and the journey to study and uncover it, came _____ (5) be known as the Homeric question.

Famed scholars and critics of history, including Richard Bentley, the founder of historical philology, and Friedrich August, the founder of modern philology, _____ (3) emphasised and spoken upon the fluid-like nature of the text, which gave it the structure of an oral narrative. Aspects like repeated phrases and the manner in which the text is delivered formulated the theory that the Odyssey, alongside the Iliad, was a product of oral-formulaic composition. This is where oral poets _____ (4) and create poetry through repetitions and ready-made or established phrases. Two (1) pioneers in the study and research of Homeric epics, Milman Parry and Albert Lord, pointed out that the repetitions found in these kinds of epics were inherited from the poet's ancestors, and were known as "formulas".

21. The word "pioneers" in the passage is closest in meaning to:

- A. followers
- B. innovators
- C. spectator
- D. imitator

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "conundrum" as used in the passage:

- A. enigma
- B. resolution
- C. dilemma
- D. paradox

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank:

- A. has
- B. had
- C. have

D. having

24. **Choose the correct verb to complete the sentence:**

A. improvise

B. improvises

C. improvised

D. improvising

25. **Select the correct preposition to fill in the blank:**

A. to

B. for

C. into

D. with

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **discuss how the Supreme Court has broadened criminal protection for live-in couples with due safeguards**

Central Theme: The passage focuses on the Supreme Court's decision to extend Section 498A (protection against domestic cruelty) to women in live-in relationships that are "in the nature of marriage." It explains how the Court moved beyond the "form" of marriage to the "substance" of the relationship, ensuring that criminal law—not just civil law—protects these women. The final paragraph specifically mentions that the Court added "further guardrails" (referencing the Armesh Kumar safeguards) to strike a "careful and necessary balance."

option A borrows the NFHS statistic from the passage but wrongly makes it the reason for the judgment, when the passage uses it only as background context for why the issue matters.

Option B mentions civil remedies, but the passage is more about the expansion of criminal law rather than a specific argument against the efficacy of civil law.

Option D is incorrect because the passage supports the safeguards as a "necessary balance" rather than critiquing them.

2. A) **establish the legal precedent from which the present judgment's expanded reasoning builds**

The third paragraph states that in these cases (Velusamy and Sarma), the Supreme Court "had laid out the factors" (such as duration of living together, permanence, and commitment) that define a relationship "in the nature of marriage." The author mentions these cases to show that the legal definition of which live-in relationships deserve protection wasn't invented just now. The current judgment takes those established definitions (the precedent) and applies them to a new area: criminal law (Section 498A). It shows a logical evolution of the law rather than a sudden change.

Option 2: The author does not describe the earlier rulings as "outdated"; rather, they are presented as the essential criteria used to identify valid live-in relationships today.

Option 3: There is no indication that the accused agreed with these precedents; in fact, the second paragraph states the accused tried to quash the proceedings by arguing the relationship wasn't a valid marriage.

Option 4: The passage mentions the Armesh Kumar safeguards are being applied now to strike a balance, but it does not frame the older cases as "failures" for not including them at the time.

3. B) **Present simple**

In Paragraph 1, the author uses the Present Simple tense as the predominant grammatical structure to state ongoing principles, observations, and interpretations of the law: The author is discussing the current implications of a recent judgment, expressing current opinions, and stating general truths (such as how domestic abuse derives its force). While the present perfect ("has adopted") is used once to describe the action taken, the vast majority of the paragraph uses the present simple to explain what the law is and what it means right now.

1. "The Supreme Court's decision... is a welcome attempt..." (Present simple) 2. "...where the relationship is founded on a genuine intent... the SC has adopted an expansive reading..." (Present simple passive and Present perfect). 3. "It acknowledges that domestic abuse derives its force... it does not become less devastating..." (Present simple). 4. "...women... already have recourse... the judgment makes clear that the absence... cannot... deny them..." (Present simple). 5. "In doing so, the Court reinforces the principle..." (Present simple).

4. C) **Systematic refusal of lower courts to hear unsolemnised civil disputes**

The passage actually states the opposite regarding civil disputes. Paragraph 1 says, "While women in live-in relationships already have recourse to civil remedies under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005..." There is no mention of lower courts systematically refusing to hear these civil cases; the passage's focus is on the previous lack of criminal protection under Section 498A.

Option (a) is cited: Paragraph 1 states that domestic abuse derives its force from "unequal power and coercion." This refers to the structural dynamics mentioned in the option.

Option (b) is cited: Paragraph 2 mentions that "financial and social compulsions mean that only a small minority seeks redressal." "Monetary dependence" is a form of financial compulsion, and "societal pressure" aligns with social compulsions.

Option (d) is cited: Paragraph 2 explicitly states that "Women in live-in relationships often face additional legal, procedural and social burdens."

5. B) **Nullify formally**

In the second paragraph, the passage mentions: "...the accused sought to quash criminal proceedings initiated by his partner..." In a legal context, when a person tries to "quash" a proceeding, an indictment, or a warrant, they are asking the court to void it, set it aside, or make it legally invalid. The accused was arguing that the law didn't apply to him. Therefore, he wanted the court to nullify or cancel the charges against him entirely, not just delay them or make them public.

(a) Postpone indefinitely: To postpone (stay) is temporary; to quash is to end the legal action permanently by declaring it invalid.

(c) Publicise widely: "Quash" relates to the legal validity of the case, not its media coverage.

(d) Intensify gradually: This is the opposite of what an accused person would want to do to criminal proceedings against themselves.

6. B) **4-3-1-2**

English Explanation:

Sentence 4 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly introduces "Claire Taylor" by name and her major achievement without needing any outside context. (As requested, it is the exact first line of the source text).

Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4 because it continues the list of her on-field cricket achievements mentioned in Sentence 4, adding her scoring record at Lord's.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it adds another major cricket milestone to her list of achievements (the 2009 World Cups).

Sentence 2 comes after Sentence 1 because it acts as the conclusion. It shifts the focus from her on-field cricket records to her personal background and the sacrifices she made (leaving her P&G job), wrapping up the paragraph perfectly.

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे "Claire Taylor" का नाम लेकर उनकी सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि के बारे में बताता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 4 में बताई गई उनकी क्रिकेट की उपलब्धियों को आगे बढ़ाते हुए बताता है कि वह Lord's में सबसे ज्यादा रन बनाने वाली खिलाड़ी हैं।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उनकी क्रिकेट की उपलब्धियों (achievements) की सूची में एक और बड़ी बात (2009 World Cups) जोड़ता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह उनके ऑन-फील्ड आँकड़ों से हटकर उनके निजी जीवन के संघर्ष (Oxford की पढ़ाई, P&G की नौकरी छोड़ना) के बारे में बताता है, जिससे passage पूरी तरह समाप्त होता है।

7. A) **C-A-D-B**

English Explanation:

Sentence C starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly introduces the topic of "El Niño" delaying the monsoon in India without needing any outside context. (As requested, it is the exact first line of the source text).

Sentence A follows Sentence C because it continues the timeline introduced in Sentence C, describing what happened right after the delay ("When the rains arrived") and how intense they were.

Sentence D follows Sentence A because it provides further examples of the intense rainfall's impact mentioned in Sentence A, specifically discussing the severe flooding in Assam and Odisha.

Sentence B comes after Sentence D because it is the conclusion for this block of text. The words "Similar conditions" directly refer back to the intense rain and flooding described in Sentences A and D, shifting the comparison to China and wrapping up the sequence perfectly.

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे "El Niño" और भारत में मानसून की देरी के बारे में बात शुरू करता है। (निर्देशानुसार यह passage का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है)।
- Sentence A Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence C में बताई गई मानसून की देरी के बाद बारिश के आने ("When the rains arrived") और उसके बहुत तेज़ (intense) होने की बात को आगे बढ़ाता है।
- Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence A में बताई गई भारी बारिश के असर को ही और विस्तार से समझाता है, और असम-ओड़िशा में आई भयंकर बाढ़ (severe flooding) का उदाहरण देता है।
- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "Similar conditions" (एसी ही परिस्थितियाँ) सीधे तौर पर Sentence A और D में बताई गई भारी बारिश और बाढ़ को refer करते हैं, और इसकी तुलना चीन के हालात से करके इस हिस्से को बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त करते हैं।

8. D) 'take' के बदले '**takes**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject 'It' singular है, अतः verb भी singular present tense में होगा; जैसे— It takes her a long time to get over her failure in the examination.

'take' will be used instead of 'takes' because the subject 'It' is singular, so the verb also should be in singular present tense; Like — It takes her a long time to get over her failure in the examination.

9. A) सही उत्तर '**rose to**' है। मुद्रास्फीति दर में वृद्धि का वर्णन करने के लिए 'rose to' का प्रयोग किया जाता है, 'raised up' का नहीं। क्रिया 'raise' आमतौर पर एक वस्तु की आवश्यकता होती है (कोई व्यक्ति या कुछ जिसे उठाया जा रहा हो), जबकि 'rise' का उपयोग तब किया जाता है जब वाक्य का कर्ता स्वयं बढ़ता है या ऊपर जाता है। इसलिए, सही वाक्य होगा: "मुद्रास्फीति दर पिछले महीने 8% तक बढ़ गई।"
- The correct answer is A. 'rose to'. The correct form to describe an increase in the inflation rate is 'rose to', not 'raised up'. The verb 'raise' typically requires an object (someone or something being raised), whereas 'rise' is used when the subject of the sentence increases or goes up by itself. Therefore, the corrected sentence should read: "The inflation rate rose to 8% last month."
10. B) **Morose** (adjective) – Sullen, gloomy, moody, brooding, melancholy. उदास
Antonym: **Cheerful** (adjective) – Noticeably happy and optimistic, jovial, merry, bright. प्रसन्न
- Cranky** (adjective) – Irritable, bad-tempered, grumpy, grouchy. चिड़चिड़ा
 - Prudent** (adjective) – Acting with or showing care and thought for the future, wise, judicious, sagacious. विवेकी
 - Solemn** (adjective) – Formal and dignified, serious, earnest, grave. गंभीर
11. C) **Adolescence** (noun) – The state of growing to maturity. किशोरावस्था
- Immigrant** (noun) – a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. आप्रवासी
 - Innocence** (noun) – lack of guilt, with respect to any kind of crime, or wrongdoing; also can refer to the state of being naive or inexperienced. निर्दोषता
 - Apartheid** (noun) – a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race. नस्लीय भेदभाव
12. C) **To pull someone's legs** (idiom) – To play a joke on someone मजाक करना
13. B) त्रुटि B, "**there is less time**" भाग में है। 'less' के स्थान पर 'little' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए क्योंकि हम थोड़े समय की बात कर रहे हैं, जिसे संख्याओं में मापा नहीं जा सकता। 'Less' का उपयोग दो मापनीय वस्तुओं के बीच तुलनात्मक प्रयोजनों के लिए किया जाता है, जबकि 'little' का उपयोग किसी अमापनीय चीज की थोड़ी मात्रा व्यक्त करने के लिए किया जाता है। इस प्रकार, सही वाक्य होगा: "Don't worry, there is little time for the train to arrive."
- The error is in part B, "there is less time". Instead of 'less', 'little' should be used because we are referring to a small amount of time, which is not quantifiable in numbers. 'Less' is used for comparative purposes between two quantifiable items, whereas 'little' is used to express a small amount of something unquantifiable. Thus, the corrected sentence should be: "Don't worry, there is little time for the train to arrive."
14. D) **women are better** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य के अनुसार 'women' को Plural Subject के रूप में और 'better' को Comparative Degree के रूप में उपयोग किया जाना चारित्रिक है जो कि इमोशन्स को हैंडल करने में पुरुषों से बेहतर होने की बात को व्यक्त करता है; जैसे— Studies suggest that women are better at handling emotions than men

- 'women are better' will be used because according to the sentence 'women' should be used as a Plural Subject and 'better' as a Comparative Degree which signifies that women are better at handling emotions than men; Like — Studies suggest that women are better at handling emotions than men
15. B) **Loiter** (verb) – Stand or wait around idly or without apparent purpose, dawdle, linger. व्यर्थ में समय गवाना
 Antonym: **Hasten** (verb) – Be quick to do something, accelerate, hurry. जल्दी करना
- **Loaf** (verb) – Spend one's time in an aimless, idle way, dawdle, lounge. आलस्य में समय बिताना
 - **Dawdle** (verb) – Waste time, be slow, linger, loiter. देर करना
 - **Repel** (verb) – Drive or force (an attack or attacker) back or away, repulse, deter. विरोध करना
16. D) **No Improvement**
17. C) **Tangled** (adjective) – Twisted together, entangled, knotted, complicated. उलझा हुआ
 Synonym: **Knotted** (adjective) – Tied with or as if with a knot, having knots, tangled. गाँठदार
- **Orderly** (adjective) – Neatly and methodically arranged, organized, tidy. सुव्यवस्थित
 - **Regulated** (adjective) – Controlled or managed according to rules or regulations, standardized. विनियमित
 - **Organized** (adjective) – Arranged in a systematic way, especially on a large scale, coordinated. संगठित
18. B) **had been ill** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ past perfect continuous tense की आवश्यकता है। 'had been ill' का अर्थ है कि वह बीमार होने की स्थिति में था और यह स्थिति उस समय तक जारी रही जब तक कि उसके पिता नहीं आ गए। यह एक पिछले समय की घटना को और भी पिछले समय से जोड़ता है, जो इस context में सही है। 'has been ill' present perfect continuous tense का प्रयोग है, जो इस स्थिति के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ बात पिछले समय की हो रही है। 'C. is being ill' present continuous tense का प्रयोग है, जो इस context में गलत है क्योंकि यह वर्तमान काल को दर्शाता है। 'D. is ill' simple present tense है, जो इस स्थिति के लिए सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह एक चल रही स्थिति को नहीं दर्शाता।
- had been ill' should be used because it requires the past perfect continuous tense. 'Had been ill' means he was in the state of being ill, and this condition continued until his father arrived. It connects an event to a point in the past, which is appropriate in this context. 'has been ill' uses the present perfect continuous tense, which is not suitable here because the context refers to a past situation. 'C. is being ill' employs the present continuous tense, which is incorrect in this context as it indicates the present tense. 'D. is ill' is the simple present tense, which does not fit this situation as it doesn't indicate an ongoing condition.
19. D) **Redundant** का use होगा क्योंकि "redundant" का अर्थ होता है अतिरिक्त या अनावश्यक होना, जिसकी वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में जरूरत नहीं होती। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि air-conditioner के आने से ceiling fans की उपयोगिता कम हो गई है, इसलिए 'redundant' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Extinct' का अर्थ है विलुप्त होना, जो इस्तेमाल न होने की अत्यधिक स्थिति को दर्शाता है; 'Absurd' का अर्थ है बेतुका या अव्यावहारिक; और 'Additional' का अर्थ है अतिरिक्त, परन्तु इस context में नकारात्मक भाव नहीं दर्शाता।

- 'Redundant' should be used because it means no longer needed or useful; superfluous, especially through being more than enough. The sentence suggests that the advent of air-conditioners has diminished the utility of ceiling fans, making 'redundant' fitting here. Whereas, 'Extinct' means no longer in existence, indicating a state of complete disuse; 'Absurd' means wildly unreasonable or illogical; and 'Additional' means more than what is needed or expected, but it doesn't convey a negative connotation in this context

20. D) **As clear as a bell** (idiom) – Readily understood सहज में समझा जा सके

21. B) innovators

Innovators is the closest synonym for "pioneers." A pioneer is a person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area, or the first to apply a new method or area of study (an innovator). Milman Parry and Albert Lord were the first to develop this new field of study. Followers is an antonym, meaning people who come after and copy someone else. Spectator (an onlooker) and Imitator (someone who copies) are grammatically incorrect as they are singular, whereas "pioneers" is plural, and their meanings do not fit the context of groundbreaking research.

- यहाँ Innovators सही है क्योंकि इसका meaning 'नवप्रवर्तक' या 'नई खोज करने वाला' होता है, जो "pioneers" (अग्रणी/मार्गदर्शक) का सबसे सटीक समानार्थी (synonym) है। ये दोनों विद्वान इस विषय पर रिसर्च करने वाले पहले व्यक्ति थे। Followers का मतलब 'अनुयायी' (पीछे चलने वाले) होता है, जो इसका विलोम है। Spectator (दर्शक) और Imitator (नकल करने वाला) singular हैं और इनका अर्थ भी संदर्भ के अनुसार बिल्कुल गलत है।

22. B) resolution

Resolution is the correct answer because the question asks for an antonym (opposite word). A "conundrum" is a confusing and difficult problem or question (a mystery). A "resolution" is a firm decision to do or not to do something, or the action of solving a problem or dispute (a solution). Therefore, a solution/resolution is the exact opposite of a confusing problem. Enigma, Dilemma, and Paradox are all synonyms or related concepts to a conundrum, describing puzzling situations or difficult choices.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Resolution सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Conundrum" का meaning 'पहेली', 'समस्या' या 'उलझन' होता है। "Resolution" का meaning 'समाधान' या 'हल' होता है, जो इसका सटीक विलोम है। Enigma (रहस्य), Dilemma (दुविधा), और Paradox (विरोधाभास) सभी conundrum के समानार्थी (synonyms) या उससे जुड़े हुए शब्द हैं।

23. C) have

Have is the correct auxiliary verb because the subject of the sentence, "Famed scholars and critics of history," is a plural noun phrase. In the present perfect tense, a plural subject requires the auxiliary verb "have" followed by the past participle ("have emphasised"). Has is singular and would be grammatically incorrect. Had is past perfect, but the present perfect is needed here to show that their past actions (emphasizing) continue to have relevance to the present understanding of the text. Having is a participle and cannot serve as the main auxiliary verb in this sentence structure.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Have का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि वाक्य का subject "Famed scholars and critics" plural (बहुवचन) है। Present perfect tense में plural subject के साथ हमेशा 'have' आता है (have emphasised)। Has singular subject के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है। Had past perfect tense है, जबकि यहाँ present perfect की ज़रूरत है क्योंकि विद्वानों की उस बात का प्रभाव आज भी है। Having बिना किसी अन्य helping verb के यहाँ इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकता।

24. A) improvise

Improvise is correct because it maintains subject-verb agreement and parallel structure. The subject is "oral poets," which is a plural noun, so it takes a plural verb (a verb without an 's'). Furthermore, the sentence uses the conjunction "and" to connect two actions: "[blank] and create." Since "create" is in the simple present tense plural form, the preceding verb must also be in the simple present tense plural form ("improvise"). Improvises is singular. Improvised is past tense. Improvising is a continuous participle.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Improve का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "oral poets" plural (बहुवचन) है। Grammar के नियम के अनुसार, plural subject के साथ verb में 's' या 'es' नहीं लगता। इसके अलावा, वाक्य में "and" के बाद "create" (present tense plural verb) लिखा है, इसलिए "and" से पहले भी उसी form का verb (improvise) आएगा। Improvises singular है। Improvised past tense है। Improvising continuous form है, जो यहाँ व्याकरण के अनुसार गलत है।

25. A) to

To is the correct preposition because it is part of a standard, fixed idiomatic phrase in English: "came to be known as." This structure (come + infinitive 'to be') is universally used to describe how something acquired a name, title, or reputation over a period of time. Using for, into, or with breaks this fixed grammatical structure entirely.

In Hindi:

यहाँ To का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि अंग्रेज़ी व्याकरण (grammar) में "came to be known as" एक तय मुहावरा (fixed phrase) है, जिसका मतलब होता है 'इस नाम से जाना जाने लगा'। जब भी यह बताया जाता है कि समय के साथ किसी चीज़ का क्या नाम पड़ गया, तो हमेशा "came to be" का इस्तेमाल होता है। For, Into, और With का प्रयोग इस वाक्य संरचना (sentence structure) में पूरी तरह से गलत है।