

Lost **flair**: On India and its Test cricket

India is no longer at its best in Test cricket

This Independence Day, India would launch a fresh **quest for relevance** in Test cricket. Having lost **at home** to New Zealand and South Africa in the past, Shubman Gill's men **no longer** sport **an invincible air in their backyard**. Now having flown past Palk Strait, the two-Test series **commencing** against Sri Lanka at Galle on Saturday offers India a chance to revive its **flagging fortunes** in the ICC World Test Championship. Currently, India is placed fifth and Sri Lanka sixth in the rankings, which **reflects** the **middling** form of these two **outfits**. **The Men in Blue** have done **reasonably** well in limited overs cricket but when **clad** in whites the results have been **erratic**. **India**, though, **will draw** some heart from the way it held host England to a 2-2 draw last year; home **triumphs** against the West Indies and Afghanistan were expected **outcomes**. Against their **rivals** from the **Emerald Isle**, the Indians will be **up against** spin on pitches **tailor-made** for the **purveyors** of the slow art. History reveals that Sri Lankan spinners like Muttiah Muralitharan and Ajantha Mendis **at times** have **ambushed** Indian batters. Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya needs to be **countered** at Galle and Colombo. Indian batsmanship has declined against spin over the years.

Coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Gill are **shepherding** a unit **dealing with** transition in Tests. Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, and R. Ashwin have retired. While the selectors **overlooked** **pacer** Mohammed Shami, the **injury-enforced** **absence** of Jasprit Bumrah **is** a **blow**. Much would **rest on** Mohammed Siraj leading a raw pace attack, and spinner Kuldeep Yadav should get the necessary support. **Veteran** Ravindra Jadeja and **seasoned** batter K.L. Rahul remain the few links to a time when India was at its best in Tests. **Maverick** Rishabh Pant could play a key role while the batting will **lean on** Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rahul. Under Dhananjaya de Silva, Sri Lanka would be hoping to **spring an upset**. With a few good batters such as Dinesh Chandimal, and some **keen** spinners, the host would aim to **punch above its weight** and **humble** the neighbour. **This happened** first when Kapil Dev's men visited in 1985, and **has** been **replicated** a few times over the last four **decades**. For India, the latest overseas **venture** presents an **appraisal-window** to **analyse the likes of** Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain. The coming months would offer tougher **scrutiny**, especially with Australia **turning up** in early 2027. India has to find its winning flair now.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Flair** (noun) - style, natural talent, aptitude, knack, finesse चमक या विशिष्ट शैली
2. **Quest** (for)(noun) - search, pursuit, hunt, expedition, exploration तलाश
3. **Relevance** (noun) - applicability, pertinence, significance, relation, pertinence प्रासंगिकता
4. **At home** (phrase) - in one's own country, domestically, locally घरेलू मैदान पर
5. **No longer** (phrase) - not anymore अब और नहीं
6. **Invincible air** (phrase) - an unshakeable vibe or aura of being totally unbeatable, supreme, or bulletproof अजेय होने का माहौल
7. **In one's backyard** (phrase) - on one's home territory, locally अपने घर
8. **Commence** (verb) - begin, start, initiate, launch, set off, inaugurate शुरू होना
9. **Flagging** (adjective) - weakening, declining, fading, failing, drooping कमजोर पड़ता हुआ
10. **Fortune** (noun) - luck, destiny, fate, prosperity, success भाग्य, किस्मत
11. **Reflect** (verb) - mirror, indicate, show, demonstrate, reveal दर्शाना
12. **Middling** (adjective) - average, mediocre, moderate, ordinary, fair साधारण
13. **Outfit** (noun) - team, group, organization, squad, unit दल
14. **The Men in Blue** (noun) - Indian cricket team भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम (नीली जर्सी वाले)
15. **Reasonably** (adverb) - fairly, moderately, tolerably, acceptably, suitably उचित रूप से
16. **Clad** (adjective) - dressed, attired, arrayed, draped, covered पहने हुए (जैसे सफेद कपड़े पहनना)
17. **Erratic** (adjective) - inconsistent, unpredictable, irregular, variable, unstable अनियमित
18. **Draw heart** (phrase) - take encouragement/confidence from हौसला/प्रोत्साहन लेना
19. **Triumph** (noun) - victory, win, success, conquest, achievement जीत
20. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, aftermath, effect, conclusion परिणाम
21. **Rival** (noun) - opponent, adversary, competitor, challenger, contender प्रतिद्वंदी
22. **Emerald Isle** (noun) - Sri Lanka श्रीलंका (पन्ने जैसा हरा-भरा द्वीप)

23. **Up against** (idiom) - to have a difficult opponent का सामना कर रहा होना
24. **Tailor-made** (adjective) - custom-made, perfectly suited, ideal, appropriate, specially designed पूरी तरह अनुकूल
25. **Purveyor** (noun) - provider, supplier, dispenser, vendor, distributor प्रदाता (यहाँ स्पिन गेंदबाजी करने वाले)
26. **At times** (phrase) - from time to time, now and then कभी-कभी
27. **Ambush** (verb) - trap, surprise attack, waylay, pounce upon, surprise घात लगाकर पकड़ना
28. **Counter** (verb) - oppose, parry, neutralise, check, resist, thwart मुकाबला करना
29. **Shepherd** (verb) - guide, lead, mentor, direct, escort, steer मार्गदर्शन करना
30. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) - to take action to solve a problem, handle a task, manage situation, or discuss a specific subject निपटना
31. **Transition** (noun) - change, shift, transformation, passage, evolution बदलाव
32. **Overlook** (verb) - ignore, miss, pass over, disregard, neglect, omit नजरअंदाज करना
33. **Pacer** (noun) - fast bowler, speedster, pace bowler, quick तेज गेंदबाज
34. **Injury-enforced** (adjective) - caused by injury, forced due to injury चोट के कारण मजबूर होने वाली स्थिति
35. **Blow** (noun) - shock, setback, disaster, hit, setback बड़ा झटका
36. **Rest on** (phrasal verb) - to depend, rely or be based on निर्भर होना
37. **Veteran** (noun) - experienced, seasoned, expert, long-serving, accomplished अनुभवी
38. **Seasoned** (adjective) - experienced, veteran, weathered, hardened, skilled तजुर्बेकार
39. **Maverick** (noun) - nonconformist, unorthodox, independent, rebel, unconventional लीक से हटकर चलने वाला
40. **Lean on** (phrasal verb) - to use someone or something to help you, especially in a difficult situation पर निर्भर रहना
41. **Spring an upset** (phrase) - cause a surprise defeat, achieve an unexpected victory उलटफेर करना
42. **Keen** (adjective) - sharp, eager, enthusiastic, intense, avid उत्सुक
43. **Punch above one's weight** (phrase) - perform above expected capacity अपनी क्षमता से बढ़कर प्रदर्शन करना
44. **Humble** (verb) - defeat, humiliate, conquer, crush, subdue हरा देना

45. **Replicate** (verb) - repeat, duplicate, copy, reproduce, recreate दोहराना
46. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक (दस साल की अवधि)
47. **Venture** (noun) - enterprise, undertaking, expedition, trip, project अभियान
48. **Appraisal-window** (noun) - evaluation period, assessment phase, review period, evaluation window मूल्यांकन का अवसर
49. **Analyse** (verb) - examine, evaluate, scrutinize, assess, investigate विश्लेषण करना
50. **The likes of** (phrase) - such as, people like, examples of जैसे लोग
51. **Scrutiny** (noun) - inspection, examination, analysis, close observation, investigation सूक्ष्म जांच
52. **Turn up** (phrasal verb) - to arrive; to appear उपस्थित होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **India is struggling to maintain its dominance in Test cricket**, especially after recent home defeats against New Zealand and South Africa.
2. The upcoming **two-Test series against Sri Lanka** provides India with an opportunity to regain confidence and improve its position in the **ICC World Test Championship**.
3. India and Sri Lanka are currently ranked **fifth and sixth**, respectively, reflecting the inconsistent form of both teams.
4. India has performed reasonably well in **limited-overs cricket**, but its Test performances have been **erratic**.
5. India can take some confidence from its **2-2 Test series draw in England**, although its home victories against the West Indies and Afghanistan were largely expected.
6. The Sri Lankan pitches are likely to favour **spin bowling**, making India's ability to handle spinners a major challenge.
7. Sri Lankan spinners such as **Muttiah Muralitharan and Ajantha Mendis** have historically troubled Indian batsmen, while **Prabath Jayasuriya** is expected to pose a fresh threat.
8. A major concern for India is the **decline in its batting against spin**, which could become decisive in Sri Lanka.
9. India is undergoing a major **transition in Test cricket** following the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and R. Ashwin.
10. India's bowling attack has also weakened because **Mohammed Shami was overlooked by selectors** and **Jasprit Bumrah is unavailable due to injury**.
11. The responsibility will therefore fall heavily on **Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja**, with the younger bowling unit needing to prove itself.
12. In batting, **Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul and Rishabh Pant** will be crucial to India's chances of success.
13. **Sri Lanka will aim to cause an upset** under captain Dhananjaya de Silva, relying on experienced batsmen such as Dinesh Chandimal and a strong spin attack.
14. The Sri Lankan series will also give India an important **assessment window** to evaluate emerging players such as Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain before tougher challenges arrive.
15. With **Australia's tour coming in early 2027**, India needs to rediscover its **winning flair and consistency in Test cricket** before facing stronger opposition.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what does the author mean by referring to the Sri Lanka tour as an "appraisal-window" for India?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It is an opportunity to rebuild confidence lost in home series
 - B. It is a platform to assess combinations against turning tracks abroad
 - C. It is a chance to test emerging players before sterner challenges arrive
 - D. It is a window to evaluate senior players before their careers end
2. **According to the passage, what does the author suggest is the primary basis for India's cautious optimism heading into the series, despite its inconsistent home record?**
 - A. A drawn series against a stronger opponent played away from home
 - B. A settled batting order built around experienced senior campaigners
 - C. A bowling attack strengthened by the return of key frontline pacers
 - D. A historical dominance over Sri Lanka in away Test contests
3. **According to the passage, why does the author regard India's decline against spin as a particularly pressing concern for this specific series?**
 - A. Because the retired core included batters known for handling turning tracks
 - B. Because the host's bowling attack is built around left-arm spin on responsive surfaces
 - C. Because the replacement batting unit lacks any experience of subcontinent conditions
 - D. Because the away conditions favour spin more than India's recent home pitches did
4. **According to the passage, which factor does the author identify as most responsible for Sri Lanka's realistic chance of springing an upset, despite being ranked below India?**
 - A. A settled captaincy with a proven history of masterminding upsets over India
 - B. A modest core of specialist batters paired with capable home spinners
 - C. A ranking advantage that reflects the host's sustained recent dominance
 - D. A pace-heavy attack tailored to exploit India's transitional batting order
5. **How does the author characterize the primary value of the Sri Lanka tour for India, according to the passage?**
 - A. By serving as an assessment period for fringe talent
 - B. By acting as a proving ground for new tactics abroad
 - C. By offering a pathway to secure top WTC rankings
 - D. By creating a platform to rebuild the bowling attack
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. Yes, Jasprit Bumrah had captained in Rohit's absence in England in 2022, and was his deputy on the tour of Australia, leading the country in the first Test in Perth which Rohit missed as he was away on paternity leave, as well as in the fifth and final Test in Sydney from which the Mumbaier sat himself out on grounds of poor form.
 2. Starting with the first of two Tests against Sri Lanka, at the picturesque Galle International Stadium.
 3. Test captaincy has sat agreeably on Shubman Gill's slender shoulders thus far, but his biggest examinations lie ahead of him.
 4. Gill wasn't a surprise choice as skipper when Rohit Sharma announced his Test retirement in May last year.

A. 2-3-4-1

- B. 4-1-3-2
C. 3-4-1-2
D. 3-2-4-1
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
P. But parts of Greenland, Iceland and Spain experienced the complete darkness and spectacle of a total eclipse.
Q. The UK and Europe have enjoyed their most dramatic solar eclipse for nearly 30 years, with millions thought to have witnessed the once-in-a-generation event.
R. Large crowds at viewing sites across the UK and Europe reacted with gasps and cheers, with astronomy enthusiasts saying it served as a reminder of how "amazing" the universe is.
S. Those watching the astronomical phenomenon from the UK were treated to a partial eclipse, which peaked shortly after 19:00 BST, when most saw more than 90% of the Sun covered by the Moon.
A. Q-S-P-R
B. S-R-P-Q
C. P-Q-R-S
D. R-S-Q-P
8. **Select the sentence with the appropriate use of preposition**
A. The lion and the unicorn fought up the crown.
B. The lion and the unicorn fought between the crown.
C. The lion and the unicorn fought for the crown.
D. The lion and the unicorn fought by the crown
9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the context of the given sentence.**
You should donate your old clothes to the poor.
A. modern
B. young
C. new
D. fresh
10. **Select the sentences that contains no spelling errors.**
A. India has started the largest inokulation drive in the world against Covid.
B. India has started the largest inocultaion drive in the world against Covid.
C. India has started the largest inculation drive in the world against Covid.
D. India has started the largest inoculation drive in the world against Covid.
11. **Identify the spelling error in the given sentence and select the option that rectifies the error.**
Success is the continious journey towards the achievement of predetermined goals.
A. sucess
B. continuous
C. gaols
D. achievement
12. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Making of a false document with a false signature
A. Ruse

- B. Forgery
C. Deception
D. Insincerity
13. **A sentence has been given with a blank to be filled with an appropriate word. Choose the correct alternative.**
To make your own gargle, _____ half a teaspoon of salt in a glass of lukewarm or partly cooled boiled water.
A. dissolve
B. cease
C. cast
D. consolidate
14. **Select the most appropriate synonym for the underlined word in the given sentence.**
You also worked with another eccentric genius.
A. Elusive
B. Ecological
C. Middle
D. Peculiar
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Incoherent
A. Apparent
B. Gloomy
C. Pensive
D. Rational
16. **Select the option that is similar in meaning to the underlined word.**
He declined the offer to join the Board of Directors.
A. Delayed
B. Rejected
C. Deferred
D. Modified
17. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrasal verb "Align with."**
A. to remove the effects of seasonal variations from statistical data
B. to think deeply about, consider, contemplate, ponder
C. to coordinate or match smoothly with something else
D. to cause something to happen or result in a particular outcome
18. **Change the following from active to passive:**
Legal analysts had consistently scrutinized the wording of the statute since its inception.
A. The wording of the statute had been consistently scrutinized by legal analysts since its inception.
B. The statute wording was being scrutinized since its inception by analysts.
C. Legal wording had been scrutinized by legal analysts since its inception.
D. The wording had been under scrutiny by legal analysts since its inception.
19. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
He was not able to adopt himself to the new environment of the hostel

- A. able to adopt himself with
- B. able for adopt himself to
- C. able to adept himself to
- D. able to adapt himself to

20. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Not only is my brother intelligent though hard working too.

- A. or hard working
- B. so hard working
- C. yet hard working
- D. but hard working

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

Last week, in preparation for Madras Week, Rajiv Kripalani of ChennaiLive 104.8 FM invited me to a podcast. I made it clear that I do not want to talk about my journey in heritage, or about place names or pin codes. And so, in revenge, he asked me about AI, about which I know next to nothing. That led to a discussion on how the city's development (3) ____ moulded by technology. And as I pondered over it, I found patterns.

Technology is defined as scientific knowledge and/or equipment needed for a particular industry. And my narrative below is based on this. Weaving was the first technology that our city (1) possessed and for which the colonials came. The centres of weaving were more in the hinterland but with time, Chintadripet, Colletpet (Kaladipettai), Saidapet, Mylapore, and Mambalam became strategic locations too. The various mints of Madras brought (5) _____ their own tech requirements, and Tankasalai/Mint (now Thangasalai) Street commemorates the last of them. Interestingly, though the mint here never printed notes, it was printing technology that became the (2) mainstay of Mint Street for almost a century. Numerous printing presses of the typesetting variety (4) _____ here, resulting in most of the city's famed publications beginning life here.

21. The word "possessed" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. lacked
- B. owned or held
- C. abandoned
- D. rejected

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "mainstay" as used in the passage: (2)

- A. backbone
- B. foundation
- C. pillar
- D. minor aspect

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. was
- B. were
- C. is
- D. are

24. Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence: (4)

- A. flourish
- B. flourished
- C. flourishing
- D. flourishes

25. Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)

- A. in
- B. at
- C. on
- D. with

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) It is a chance to test emerging players before sterner challenges arrive

The passage explicitly links the "appraisal-window" to the need to "analyse the likes of Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain." These are new or emerging players being brought into the team during a transition phase. The author further clarifies this by stating that the coming months will bring "tougher scrutiny," specifically mentioning the series against Australia in 2027. Therefore, the Sri Lanka tour serves as a period to evaluate these newer players to see if they are ready for more difficult future challenges.

Option A (Incorrect): While rebuilding confidence is mentioned as a general goal for the tour, the passage specifically defines the term "appraisal-window" as a way to analyze specific emerging players, not as a general confidence-builder.

Option B (Incorrect): Facing spin/turning tracks is mentioned in the passage, but it is not what the author specifically defines as the "appraisal-window."

Option D (Incorrect): The passage explicitly states that senior players like Kohli, Rohit, and Pujara have already retired, and the appraisal is for new, emerging players—not evaluating seniors before their careers end.

2. A) A drawn series against a stronger opponent played away from home

The question asks what gives India "optimism" (hope). The passage says: "India, though, will draw some heart from the way it held host England to a 2-2 draw last year..." "Held host England to a 2-2 draw" = A drawn series against a stronger opponent away from home.

(b): The passage says the team is in "transition" because stars like Kohli, Rohit, and Pujara have retired. The batting is young and new, not "settled with seniors."

(c): The passage says the pace attack is "raw" (inexperienced) because Bumrah is injured and Shami was overlooked. There are no "frontline pacers" returning; they are missing.

(d): The passage actually warns that Sri Lanka has "humbled" India many times since 1985 and that Indian batters now struggle against spin. There is no mention of "dominance."

3. B) Because the host's bowling attack is built around left-arm spin on responsive surfaces

The passage identifies a specific player that India must face: "Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya needs to be countered at Galle and Colombo." This matches the "left-arm spin" mentioned in option (b). The author notes that the pitches in Sri Lanka will be "tailor-made for the purveyors of the slow art" (meaning pitches designed for spinners). This matches the term "responsive surfaces" in option (b). The author mentions the decline in India's ability to play spin and immediately follows it with the warning about these specific conditions and bowlers in Sri Lanka. This makes it a "pressing concern" for this specific tour.

(a): While the passage mentions that senior players like Kohli and Rohit have retired, it never states that they were particularly "known for handling turning tracks." In fact, it says "Indian batsmanship has declined against spin over the years," suggesting the problem existed even while some of those seniors were still playing.

(c): The passage does not say the new players lack experience in subcontinent conditions. Most of these players (like Jaiswal and Gill) have played extensively in India. The concern is their declining skill/technique against spin, not their lack of experience in the region.

(d): The passage mentions that India lost at home to New Zealand and South Africa, but it does not compare the quality of home pitches to Sri Lankan pitches. It simply states that the Sri Lankan pitches are "tailor-made" for spin.

4. **B) A modest core of specialist batters paired with capable home spinners**

The passage explicitly identifies the components of Sri Lanka's strength that could lead to an upset: The author mentions, "With a few good batters such as Dinesh Chandimal..." (This aligns with "a modest core of specialist batters"). The author adds, "...and some keen spinners, the host would aim to punch above its weight and humble the neighbour." (This aligns with "capable home spinners").

By combining these two specific elements, the author explains how Sri Lanka (the lower-ranked team) intends to "punch above its weight."

(a): While the passage mentions the captain (Dhananjaya de Silva), it does not say he has a "proven history" of masterminding upsets. The history of upsets mentioned refers to the Sri Lankan team in general (starting in 1985), not the current captain's personal record.

(c): The passage states that India is 5th and Sri Lanka is 6th. Therefore, Sri Lanka does not have a "ranking advantage."

(d): The passage emphasizes Sri Lanka's spin attack (mentioning Prabath Jayasuriya and the "slow art"), not a "pace-heavy attack." In fact, it is India's pace attack that is described as "raw."

5. **A) By serving as an assessment period for fringe talent**

The author specifically characterizes the tour's value using the term "appraisal-window." The author uses this window to "analyse the likes of Auqib Nabi, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain." These players are new to the squad or trying to establish themselves, which makes them "fringe talent" (players on the edge of the main team being tested for the future).

(b): While the team is playing abroad, the passage focuses on evaluating individuals rather than testing "new tactics" (strategies/game plans).

(c): The passage mentions that the series offers a chance to "revive" WTC fortunes, but it characterizes the primary value or specific purpose of this particular venture as an appraisal of the new players before the tougher Australia series.

(d): While some of the players mentioned are bowlers, the "appraisal-window" is a general look at the new unit in transition. Option (a) is a more accurate reflection of the author's specific language regarding the "analysis" of the new names.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे शुभमन गिल (Shubman Gill) और उनकी टेस्ट कप्तानी का विषय पेश करता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 3 में बताई गई "biggest examinations" (सबसे बड़ी परीक्षाओं) की शुरुआत को विस्तार से बताता है कि यह श्रीलंका के खिलाफ टेस्ट से शुरू हो रही है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह गिल की कप्तानी के संदर्भ को थोड़ा पीछे ले जाता है, यह बताते हुए कि रोहित शर्मा के रिटायरमेंट के बाद गिल का कप्तान बनना कोई चौंकाने वाला फैसला (surprise choice) नहीं था।

Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। यह Sentence 4 में उठी बात (कि गिल का कप्तान बनना सरप्राइज़ क्यों नहीं था) का जवाब "Yes" से देता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि जसप्रीत बुमराह ने पहले कप्तानी की थी, लेकिन फिर भी गिल स्वाभाविक विकल्प थे, जिससे यह हिस्सा बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence 3 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It establishes the core subject, Shubman Gill, and the overarching theme of his Test captaincy without needing prior context.

Sentence 2 follows Sentence 3 because it directly expands on the "biggest examinations" mentioned in Sentence 3, specifying that these tests start with the upcoming match against Sri Lanka.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because it provides historical context to Gill's captaincy, stating that his appointment was not a "surprise choice" following Rohit Sharma's retirement.

Sentence 1 comes after Sentence 4 because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. The word "Yes" acknowledges the implied counterpoint to Sentence 4 (that Jasprit Bumrah had prior captaincy experience), explaining the alternative options that existed before settling on Gill, wrapping up the sequence perfectly.

7. A) Q-S-P-R

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence Q paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे यूके और यूरोप (UK and Europe) में आए सूर्य ग्रहण (solar eclipse) की मुख्य घटना को पेश करता है।
- Sentence S Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "the astronomical phenomenon" सीधे तौर पर Sentence Q में बताए गए "solar eclipse" को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि यूके (UK) में दिखने वाला ग्रहण आंशिक (partial) था।
- Sentence P Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "But" (लेकिन) से शुरू होकर एक विरोधाभास (contrast) दिखाता है। Sentence S में यूके के 'आंशिक' (partial) ग्रहण की बात थी, जबकि Sentence P बताता है कि इसके उलट ग्रीनलैंड, आइसलैंड और स्पेन के कुछ हिस्सों में 'पूर्ण' (total) ग्रहण का अंधेरा देखा गया।
- Sentence R Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। अलग-अलग जगहों पर ग्रहण के प्रकार बताने के बाद, यह वाक्य बताता है कि पूरे यूके और यूरोप में देखने वाले लोगों (Large crowds) की इस अद्भुत घटना पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया (gasps and cheers) रही, जिससे यह हिस्सा बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence Q starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly establishes the core subject—the dramatic solar eclipse in the UK and Europe—without needing any prior context.

- Sentence S follows Sentence Q because the phrase "the astronomical phenomenon" directly refers back to the "solar eclipse" introduced in Sentence Q. It details exactly what viewers in the UK experienced (a partial eclipse).
 - Sentence P follows Sentence S because the word "But" introduces a direct contrast. While Sentence S describes the "partial" eclipse seen in the UK, Sentence P highlights that regions like Greenland, Iceland, and Spain experienced a "total" eclipse.
 - Sentence R comes after Sentence P because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. After contrasting the types of eclipses seen in different regions, it summarizes the overall human reaction (gasps and cheers) from the crowds across the UK and Europe, wrapping up the sequence perfectly
8. C) **The lion and the unicorn fought for the crown.**
9. C) Old (adjective) – Having been used for a long time; not new or fresh, possibly worn out. पुराना
Antonym: **New** (adjective) – Recently created or purchased, not used or worn before, up-to-date. नया
- **Modern** (adjective) – Relating to the present or recent times as opposed to the remote past, contemporary. आधुनिक
 - **Young** (adjective) – Having lived or existed for only a short time; not old. युवा
 - **Fresh** (adjective) – Not previously known or used; new or different. ताज़ा
10. D) **India has started the largest inoculation drive in the world against Covid.**
11. B) The correct spelling of '**continious**' in the given sentence is 'continuous' अविराम, अनवरत
12. B) **Forgery** (noun) – The act of making, adapting, or imitating objects, statistics, or documents with the intent to deceive. जालसाजी
- **Ruse** (noun) – A trick or stratagem intended to deceive or outwit someone. चाल
 - **Deception** (noun) – The act of deceiving or misleading. धोखा
 - **Insincerity** (noun) – The quality of not expressing genuine feelings; dishonesty. असत्यनिष्ठा
13. A) '**Dissolve**' का use होगा क्योंकि "dissolve" का अर्थ होता है किसी ठोस पदार्थ को द्रव में घोलना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि नमक को गर्म पानी में घोलना है, जो 'dissolve' के अर्थ से मेल खाता है। 'Cease' का अर्थ होता है बंद करना, 'Cast' का अर्थ है फेंकना या डालना, और 'Consolidate' का अर्थ है मजबूत करना या एकजुट करना, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- 'Dissolve' should be used because it means to cause a solid substance to mix with a liquid and become part of it. The sentence indicates that salt is to be mixed in warm water, aligning with the meaning of 'dissolve'. On the other hand, 'Cease' means to stop, 'Cast' means to throw or put something, and 'Consolidate' means to make something stronger or unified, which are not appropriate in this context.
14. D) **Eccentric genius.** refers to someone who is unconventional, unusual, or deviating from the norm. विलक्षण व्यक्ति
Synonym: Peculiar (adjective) – Characteristic of only one person, group, or thing; different from the usual or normal; odd, unusual, or eccentric. विचित्र
- **Elusive** (adjective) – Difficult to find, catch, or achieve; difficult to remember or recall. अप्राप्य

- **Ecological** (adjective) – Relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings. पारिस्थितिकी संबंधी
 - **Middle** (adjective) – Equidistant from the extremities of something; central. मध्य
15. D) **Incoherent** (adjective) refers to something expressed in an incomprehensible or confusing way; lacking clarity or organization. It is often used to describe speech or writing that is disjointed or lacks a logical sequence. बेतुका
- ANTONYM: **Rational** (adjective): Based on or in accordance with reason or logic. It implies being clear, coherent, and logical. तार्किक
- **Apparent** (adjective): Clearly visible or understood; obvious. However, this does not directly relate to coherence or logic. स्पष्ट
 - **Gloomy** (adjective): Dark or poorly lit, especially so as to appear depressing or frightening. This word is unrelated to the idea of coherence or rationality. उदास
 - **Pensive** (adjective): Engaged in, involving, or reflecting deep or serious thought. While this can involve clarity of thought, it doesn't necessarily imply coherence in expression. चिंतनशील
16. B) **Declined** (verb) - Politely refuse an invitation or offer, turn down, reject, spurn. अस्वीकार करना
- SIMILAR MEANING: **Rejected** (verb) - Dismiss as inadequate, inappropriate, or not to one's taste, refuse, turn down, spurn. अस्वीकार करना
- **Delayed** (verb) - Make (someone or something) late or slow, postpone, put off, defer. विलंबित
 - **Deferred** (verb) - Put off (an action or event) to a later time; postpone, delay, put off. स्थगित
 - **Modified** (verb) - Make partial or minor changes to (something), alter, change, adjust. संशोधित
17. C) **Align with** (phrasal verb) – to coordinate, match. (के अनुरूप बनाना)
- to coordinate or match smoothly with something else
18. A) '**Legal analysts had consistently scrutinized the wording of the statute since its inception.**' का Passive Voice होगा 'The wording of the statute had been consistently scrutinized by legal analysts since its inception.' क्योंकि Past Perfect Active (had + V3) को Passive में (had been + V3 + by + Agent) में बदला जाता है; adverb "consistently" और time phrase "since its inception" अपनी जगह रहते हैं।
- Rule: Active (Subject + had + V3 + Object) → Passive (Object + had been + V3 + by + Subject).
B is incorrect – "was being scrutinized" gives Past Continuous Passive, not Past Perfect Passive; and it incorrectly drops "legal analysts".
C is incorrect – "Legal wording" incorrectly changes "The wording of the statute"; the original object must be preserved.
D is incorrect – "had been under scrutiny" changes the verb to a prepositional phrase, altering the grammatical structure and omitting "by legal analysts" properly.
19. D) 'adopt himself to' के बदले 'adapt himself to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'adopt' का अर्थ है 'अपनाना' या 'स्वीकार करना', जबकि 'adapt' का अर्थ है 'अनुकूल बनाना' या 'ढलना'. यहाँ संदर्भ 'नए परिवेश में'

ढलने' का है, इसलिए 'adapt' उपयुक्त शब्द है। जैसे— He quickly adapted to the new work environment.

- adopt himself to' should be replaced with 'adapt himself to' because 'adopt' means 'to take up' or 'to accept', whereas 'adapt' means 'to adjust' or 'to conform'. The context here is about adjusting to a new environment, hence 'adapt' is the appropriate word. Like— He quickly adapted to the new work environment.

20. D) '**but hard working**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'Not only... but also' की संरचना का प्रयोग होता है जो कि दो विशेषणों या वाक्य भागों को जोड़ने के लिए प्रयुक्त होती है। वाक्य में 'though' का प्रयोग गलत है क्योंकि 'though' का अर्थ 'हालांकि' होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Not only' के बाद 'but also' आता है ताकि सही अर्थ प्रकट हो सके; जैसे— Not only is my brother intelligent but also hard working.

- 'but hard working' will be used because the correct structure is 'Not only... but also', which is used to join two adjectives or parts of a sentence. The use of 'though' in the sentence is incorrect because 'though' means 'although', which is not appropriate here. After 'Not only', 'but also' should follow to convey the correct meaning; Like— Not only is my brother intelligent but also hard working.

21. B) **owned or held**

The sentence describes the historical technology of the city. Word (1) needs a term that shows how weaving acted as an asset that the city had in its control. a) owned or held: means to have, hold, or possess a property, skill, or feature. This perfectly fits the context of the city having weaving technology. b) lacked: means to be without something, which contradicts the sentence since colonials came specifically for weaving. c) abandoned: means to give up completely, which is historically and contextually incorrect here. d) rejected: means to dismiss or refuse, which makes no sense in this context.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence शहर की ऐतिहासिक तकनीक को describe करता है। Word (1) को एक ऐसे word की ज़रूरत है जो दिखाए कि weaving तकनीक शहर के पास एक संपत्ति के रूप में कैसे मौजूद थी। a) owned or held: इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ का स्वामित्व होना या पास होना (possessed) होता है। यह शहर के पास बुनाई तकनीक होने के संदर्भ में perfectly fit होता है। b) lacked: इसका मतलब कमी होना होता है, जो पैसेज के अर्थ के विपरीत है। c) abandoned: इसका मतलब छोड़ देना होता है। d) rejected: इसका मतलब खारिज कर देना होता है।

22. D) **minor aspect**

The sentence describes the chief support of Mint Street. Question asks for an antonym that shows how printing technology did not act as a major pillar. a) minor aspect: means a small or unimportant part of something. This is the exact opposite (antonym) of "mainstay" (chief support). b) backbone: means the chief support or main pillar, which is a synonym of mainstay. c) foundation: means the central basis, which is a synonym of mainstay. d) pillar: means a principal supporter or feature, which is a synonym of mainstay.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence मिंट स्ट्रीट के मुख्य आधार को describe करता है। Question को एक ऐसे antonym word की ज़रूरत है जो दिखाए कि printing technology एक प्रमुख स्तंभ के रूप में कैसे कार्य नहीं करती थी। a) minor aspect: इसका मतलब एक छोटा या गौण पहलू होता है। यह "mainstay" (मुख्य सहारा) के opposite context में perfectly fit होता है। b)

backbone: इसका मतलब मुख्य आधार होता है (synonym)। c) foundation: इसका मतलब नींव या मुख्य आधार होता है (synonym)। d) pillar: इसका मतलब मुख्य स्तंभ होता है (synonym)।

23. A) was

The sentence describes a past historical process. Blank (3) needs a word that shows how "development" acted as a singular past event shaped by technology. a) was: is the singular past tense verb that correctly agrees with the singular uncountable subject "development" in a past narrative frame (development was moulded). b) were: is a plural past tense verb, which violates subject-verb agreement with singular "development." c) is: is a present tense verb, which fails to match the past reflection context. d) are: is a plural present tense verb, violating both subject agreement and past tense context.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence शहर के अतीत में हुए विकास को describe करता है। Blank (3) को एक ऐसे word की ज़रूरत है जो दिखाए कि singular uncountable subject "development" अतीत की एक घटना के रूप में तकनीक द्वारा कैसे moulded हुआ था। a) was: यह singular past tense verb है जो "development" (एकवचन) के साथ 'was moulded' के रूप में perfectly fit होता है। b) were: यह plural verb है, जो singular subject के साथ नियम का उल्लंघन करती है। c) is: यह present tense verb है, जो अतीत के विवरण से मेल नहीं खाती। d) are: यह plural present tense verb है।

24. B) flourished

The sentence describes the growth of printing presses over the past century. Blank (4) needs a word that shows how "numerous printing presses" acted in a past period to grow successfully. a) flourished: is the simple past tense verb that matches the past timeframe of the passage (numerous printing presses flourished here). b) flourish: is the base present tense form, which violates the historical narrative context. c) flourishing: is a present participle that cannot function as the main verb without an auxiliary verb. d) flourishes: is the third-person singular present tense form, violating both tense and plural subject agreement.

In Hindi:

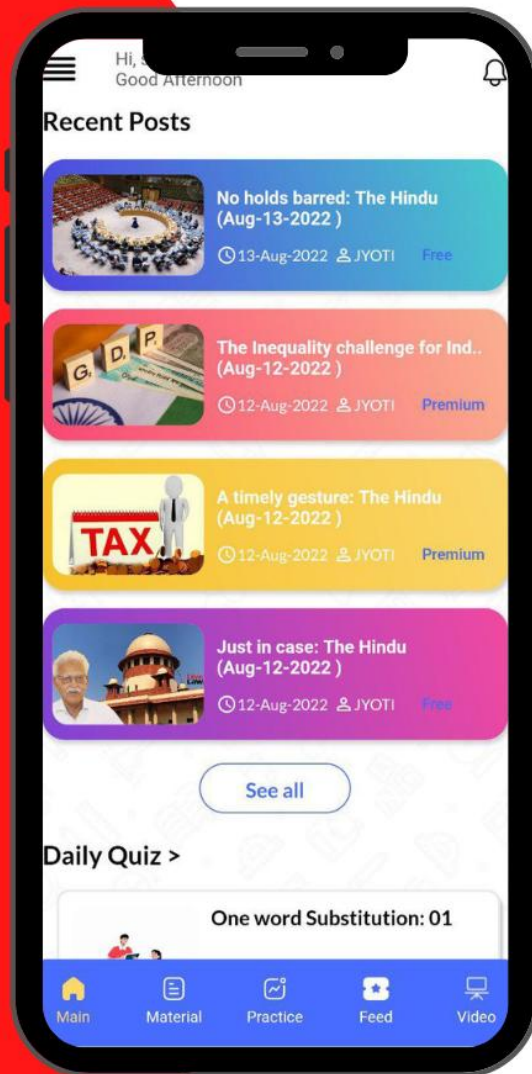
- यह sentence पिछले दौर में मिनट स्ट्रीट पर प्रिंटिंग प्रेसों की वृद्धि को describe करता है। Blank (4) को एक ऐसे word की ज़रूरत है जो दिखाए कि "numerous printing presses" अतीत में सफलतापूर्वक कैसे विकसित हुईं। a) flourished: यह simple past tense verb है जो भूतकाल के विवरण (printing presses flourished) में perfectly fit होता है। b) flourish: यह base present tense है, जो अतीत के संदर्भ के विपरीत है। c) flourishing: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के मुख्य क्रिया नहीं बन सकता। d) flourishes: यह singular present tense है, जो plural subject ("presses") के साथ भी गलत है।

25. A) in

The sentence describes how the mints introduced new requirements. Blank (5) needs a word that completes a phrasal verb showing how mints introduced "their own tech requirements." a) in: completes the idiomatic phrasal verb "bring in," which means to introduce or bring along as a requirement/feature. b) at: does not form a meaningful phrasal verb with "brought" in this context. c) on: forms "brought on," which means to cause an illness or negative reaction, unsuitable here. d) with: forms "brought with," which requires a direct object before it rather than linking directly as a transitive phrasal verb.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence मिनट द्वारा अपनी आवश्यकताओं को पेश करने के क्रियाकलाप को describe करता है। Blank (5) को एक ऐसे word की ज़रूरत है जो दिखाए कि mints ने अपनी "tech requirements" को एक नई व्यवस्था के रूप में कैसे शामिल किया। a) in: यह "bring in" phrasal verb बनाता है, जिसका अर्थ किसी नई चीज़ या आवश्यकता को 'शामिल करना/लाना' होता है। यह यहाँ perfectly fit होता है। b) at: यह "brought at" कोई सही अर्थ नहीं बनाता। c) on: "brought on" का अर्थ किसी बीमारी या नकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया को बढ़ाना होता है। d) with: "brought with" के लिए वाक्य की संरचना अलग होनी चाहिए।



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