

The Western Ghats: A decade of delay

The Western Ghats have been **mapped** and studied for over a decade, yet there is no **consensus** on how much of this **landscape** must be protected, and at what cost?

On July 27, the Union Environment Ministry issued its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats — **proposing** 56,825 square kilometres across six states where mining, **quarrying**, thermal power plants and **large-scale** construction would be restricted or banned. That it has taken seven drafts tells its own story: a policy first proposed in 2011 remains, in 2026, still **unresolved**.

The **stakes** are not **abstract**. The Ghats are one of the world's eight richest biodiversity **hotspots**, home to more than 7,000 species, and the source of the Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri River systems that **sustain** peninsular India's agriculture. They also shape the monsoon, and their **degradation** can cost lives.

Research shows the range's evergreen forest cover **shrank** from 16 per cent in 1985 to barely 11 per cent by 2018, even as construction and farmland **crept upward** — a **trajectory** that makes disasters like Wayanad more likely, not less.

Yet Kerala, Karnataka and Goa remain **unpersuaded**, even as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu now have accepted it. **Karnataka**, which carries the largest share at 20,668 sq km, **objects** less to conservation itself than to the absence of compensation: the Kasturirangan committee had recommended states be paid for economic activity **forgone**, a promise never kept. Kerala wants roughly 1,200 sq km excluded, arguing the notification threatens tourism **livelihoods** in Wayanad and Idukki, where critics say even a modest **resort** risks being classed a polluting industry.

Goa fears it will **halt** the conversion of farmland into real estate, and wants iron-rich Sattari taluka excluded altogether. These are not **frivolous** objections — mining revenue, plantation **economies** built on coffee, tea and spices, and tourism receipts are real **livelihoods**, not **abstractions**. But the **framing** of ecology versus economy **is** largely false. Studies find villages near **intact** forest report double the agricultural **yield** of those without; and the **ecosystem** services the Ghats provide — flood control, water security, carbon storage — **dwarf** in value what a shrinking pool of quarries and townships could generate, while benefiting a population far larger than the six Ghats states alone.

The way forward does not require choosing between the two. It requires the Centre to finally operationalise the compensation **mechanism** it has promised for over a decade, through payment-for-ecosystem-services rather than **platitudes**. It requires **precise, ground-truthed**, village-level mapping to end boundary disputes fed as much by **misinformation** as by fact. And it requires **distinguishing**, as experts have long **urged**, between genuinely **destructive** activity — mining, quarrying, unregulated

construction — and the **sustainable** agriculture and eco-tourism that can **coexist** with protection. The Sanjay Kumar committee now has until 2027 to settle this.

Another missed deadline will not be **neutral**: **given** what fragmentation is already doing to this landscape, it will be a decision dressed up as indecision. India has **weighed** the Western Ghats' **fate** for fifteen years. It cannot afford fifteen more.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Decade** (noun) - ten-year period दशक (दस साल की अवधि)
2. **Map** (verb) - chart, survey, plot, delineate, plan नक्शा तैयार करना
3. **Consensus** (noun) - agreement, accord, harmony, concord, general consent आम सहमति
4. **Landscape** (noun) - scenery, terrain, environment, topography, view भौगोलिक परिवेश
5. **Propose** (verb) - suggest, submit, put forward, recommend, advance प्रस्ताव रखना
6. **Quarrying** (noun) - the process of removing rock, sand, gravel or other minerals from the ground in order to use them to produce materials for construction or other uses खदान से पत्थर निकालना
7. **Large-scale** (adjective) - extensive, massive, wide-ranging, major बड़े पैमाने पर
8. **Unresolved** (adjective) - unsettled, undecided, pending, unanswered, open अनसुलझा
9. **Stake** (noun) - risk, hazard, interest, concern, wager दांव
10. **Abstract** (adjective) - theoretical, conceptual, intangible, non-material अमूर्त
11. **Hotspot** (noun) - is a biogeographic region that has a very high number of unique species and faces severe habitat loss संवेदनशील क्षेत्र (जैव विविधता का केंद्र)
12. **Sustain** (verb) - support, maintain, nourish, uphold, bear पोषित करना
13. **Degradation** (noun) - deterioration, decline, ruin, decay, depletion क्षरण
14. **Shrink** (verb) - contract, dwindle, decrease, lessen, shrivel सिकुड़ना
15. **Creep upward** (phrasal verb) - if the value or amount of something creeps up, it slowly increases धीरे-धीरे ऊपर की ओर बढ़ना
16. **Trajectory** (noun) - path, course, track, direction, line मार्ग
17. **Unpersuaded** (adjective) - unconvinced, doubtful, skeptical, reluctant अप्रभावित
18. **Forgone** (adjective) - sacrificed, relinquished, given up, surrendered त्यागा हुआ
19. **Livelihood** (noun) - living, subsistence, sustenance, income आजीविका
20. **Resort** (noun) - a place where a lot of people go to on holiday पर्यटन स्थल
21. **Halt** (verb) - stop, pause, cessation, standstill, check रोकना
22. **Frivolous** (adjective) - trivial, superficial, flippant, petty, unimportant तुच्छ
23. **Economy** (noun) - financial system, wealth production, commerce अर्थव्यवस्था
24. **Abstraction** (noun) - theoretical idea, concept, notion, generality अमूर्त विचार
25. **Intact** (adjective) - undamaged, unblemished, whole, complete, unbroken सुरक्षित

26. **Yield** (noun) - output, harvest, return, production, produce उपज
27. **Ecosystem** (noun) - a community of living organisms and their environment interacting with each other पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
28. **Dwarf** (verb) - overshadow, diminish, tower above, outshine बौना साबित करना
29. **The way forward** (phrase) - future course of action आगे की राह
30. **Mechanism** (noun) - procedure, system, apparatus, machinery, process तंत्र
31. **Platitude** (noun) - cliché, banal statement, commonplace remark, trite phrase घिसी-पिटी बात
32. **Precise** (adjective) - exact, accurate, specific, meticulous, definite सटीक
33. **Ground-truthed** (adjective) - verified on the ground, field-validated, empirically checked जमीनी स्तर
34. **Misinformation** (noun) - disinformation, false information, distortion गलत जानकारी
35. **Distinguish** (verb) - differentiate, discriminate, tell apart, separate अंतर करना
36. **Urge** (verb) - encourage, press, exhort, advocate, push जोर देना
37. **Destructive** (adjective) - damaging, ruinous, devastating, harmful, catastrophic विनाशकारी
38. **Sustainable** (adjective) - eco-friendly, viable, enduring, green, renewable टिकाऊ
39. **Coexist** (verb) - live together, subsist simultaneously, occur together सह-अस्तित्व में होना
40. **Neutral** (adjective) - impartial, unbiased, objective, non-aligned, uncommitted तटस्थ
41. **Given** (preposition) - considering, taking into account, in view of को देखते हुए
42. **Weigh** (verb) - assess, evaluate, consider, ponder विचार करना
43. **Fate** (noun) - destiny, lot, doom, outcome, fortune भाग्य

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **Western Ghats** have been studied and mapped for more than a decade, but there is still no consensus on the extent of land that should receive ecological protection.
2. The Union Environment Ministry has made its **seventh attempt** since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in the Western Ghats.
3. The latest proposal seeks to protect **56,825 sq km** across six States, restricting or banning activities such as mining, quarrying, thermal power plants and large-scale construction.
4. The issue has remained **unresolved since 2011**, despite repeated committees, proposals and draft notifications.
5. The stakes are extremely high because the Western Ghats are among the world's **eight major biodiversity hotspots**, containing more than **7,000 species**.
6. The Ghats are also the source of major river systems such as the **Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri**, which support agriculture across peninsular India.
7. The mountain range plays an important role in shaping the **monsoon**, while its environmental degradation can increase the risk of disasters.
8. Evergreen forest cover in the Western Ghats declined from about **16% in 1985 to only 11% in 2018**, while construction and farmland expanded.
9. States such as **Kerala, Karnataka and Goa** remain opposed to the proposed notification, whereas **Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu** have accepted it.
10. **Karnataka**, which has the largest proposed ESA area of **20,668 sq km**, is mainly concerned about the lack of financial compensation for economic activities that would be sacrificed for conservation.
11. **Kerala** wants around **1,200 sq km** excluded, arguing that restrictions could threaten tourism-based livelihoods in areas such as Wayanad and Idukki.
12. **Goa** fears that the notification could restrict the conversion of agricultural land into real estate and therefore seeks the exclusion of **Sattari taluka**.
13. The editorial argues that the conflict between **environment and economy is misleading**, because healthy forests provide valuable ecosystem services such as flood control, water security and carbon storage.
14. The way forward is to establish a genuine **compensation mechanism**, conduct precise village-level mapping, and distinguish between destructive activities such as mining and unregulated construction and sustainable activities such as agriculture and eco-tourism.
15. The editorial concludes that India has already spent **15 years** debating the fate of the Western Ghats. Further delays could cause irreversible ecological damage, so the government must act decisively rather than allowing **indecision to become a policy choice**.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best captures the primary tension described in the passage?**
 - A. The tension between urgent ecological preservation and the immediate economic interests of states
 - B. The tension between federal environmental mandates and the specific developmental priorities of regions
 - C. The tension between long-term biodiversity benefits and the immediate profitability of local industries
 - D. The tension between scientific necessity for protection and the lack of viable financial compensation
2. **Why does the author argue that the perceived conflict between ecological protection and economic interest is a "false framing"?**
 - A. Because the states have already received enough financial aid to fully transition into purely green economies.
 - B. Because the long-term value of the natural ecosystem services significantly outweighs the gains from extraction.
 - C. Because the local communities have unanimously agreed to prioritize forest protection over their personal incomes.
 - D. Because the current degradation of the landscape has no measurable impact on the agricultural yields of the area.
3. **The word "platitudes" as used in the passage most nearly means:**
 - A. rigorous scientific assessments
 - B. administrative delay tactics
 - C. unfulfilled superficial statements
 - D. rigid legal classifications
4. **Why does Karnataka object to the proposed Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notification according to the passage?**
 - A. It fears the restriction on iron mining in Sattari taluka will reduce revenue
 - B. It seeks monetary reimbursement for the economic opportunities given up
 - C. It worries that minor resort developments will be labelled as polluting units
 - D. It aims to preserve agricultural land from being converted into real estate
5. **Convert the following sentence from the passage into the passive voice:**

"The Union Environment Ministry issued its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats."

 - A. Its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats was issued by the Union Environment Ministry.
 - B. Its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats is issued by the Union Environment Ministry.
 - C. Its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats had been issued by the Union Environment Ministry.
 - D. Its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats has been issued by the Union Environment Ministry.

6. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- S1. There is a specific kind of policy whiplash defining the American study abroad conversation in 2026.
- A. And before the legal dust has settled, a new version of essentially the same idea resurfaces through a different regulatory door.
- B. Courts intervene.
- C. A rule gets announced.
- D. Universities and students spend months absorbing it.
- S6. That is precisely what is happening right now with the six-figure price tag increasingly attached to the right to work in America after earning an American degree.
- A. D-B-C-A
- B. C-B-D-A
- C. C-D-B-A
- D. A-C-D-B
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. The defining moment came in his final assignment, when Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina carried him on their shoulders after India lifted the 2011 Cricket World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.
2. Kirsten looks back on those years with fondness, even as he now finds himself in the opposition camp.
3. As Sri Lanka head coach, he will be plotting India's downfall when the two-match Test series begins at Galle on Saturday.
4. Gary Kirsten guided India to some of its greatest achievements during his three-year tenure as head coach.
- A. 4-1-2-3
- B. 4-2-1-3
- C. 1-4-2-3
- D. 2-3-4-1
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word to fill in the blank.**
- Your words seemed more like a demand rather than a _____ (request).
- A. contract
- B. order
- C. compromise
- D. plea
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
- The young fellow was innocent and without guile.
- A. Deceit
- B. Morality
- C. Pride
- D. Greed
10. **Select the correct direct form of the given sentence.**

Meena said that her parents were getting divorced

- A. Meena said, "My parents are getting divorced."
- B. Meena said, "My parents were getting divorced."
- C. Meena said, "My parents will be getting divorced."
- D. Meena said, "My parents get divorced"

11. **Choose the incorrectly spelt word.**

- A. Subsistance
- B. Aggravate
- C. Knight
- D. Benchmark

12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

Social economics is a meta-discipline in which economics is entrenched in social, political and cultural behaviours

- A. Transient
- B. Startling
- C. Averted
- D. Entrusted

13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

They flew a kite in the evening.

- A. A kite was being flown by them in the evening.
- B. In the evening, a kite have been flown by them.
- C. A kite was flown by them in the evening.
- D. A kite has been flown by them since evening

14. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

One of the major challenges / he faced during his / undergraduate days were / the shortage of money.

- A. One of the major challenges
- B. the shortage of money
- C. undergraduate days were
- D. he faced during his

15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

The singer complained to the police that she was purportedly attacked back stage immediately after the concert.

- A. Severely
- B. Impossibly
- C. Dramatically
- D. Maliciously

16. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Musk
- B. External
- C. Angel
- D. Decide

17. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.

The students usually asks / for a bonus time of / thirty minutes for / completing their projects.

- A. thirty minutes for
 - B. The students usually asks
 - C. completing their projects
 - D. for a bonus time of
18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
- I felt _____ elated at the news.
- A. strangely
 - B. customarily
 - C. typically
 - D. commonly
19. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.
- The students were warned on coming late to school
- A. warned at
 - B. warned with
 - C. warned in
 - D. warned against
20. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.
- He drank a lot of coffee before the marathon
- A. A lot of coffee was drunk by him before the marathon.
 - B. A lot of coffee was drunken by him before the marathon.
 - C. A lot of coffee had been drunk by him before the marathon.
 - D. A lot of coffee is drunk by him before the marathon

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

When India (1) ____ its 80th Independence Day, its men's hockey team will open its World Cup campaign against Wales in Amstelveen, aiming to end a 51-year medal drought. (2) ____ hockey's emotional connection with Indians, the wait has been agonising for the eight-time Olympic champion. It won its last medal when the Ajit Pal Singh-led side lifted the trophy in Kuala Lumpur in 1975 during the pre-synthetic turf era. Trust in the present Harmanpreet Singh-captained side (3) ____ after India broke a 41-year Olympic jinx with bronze in Tokyo in 2021 and retained it in Paris 2024. Under coach Craig Fulton, the team won Asian Games gold in 2023, Olympic bronze in 2024, and the Asia Cup in 2025, with the last one helping it qualify for the World Cup. Despite finishing eighth in the FIH Pro League 2025-26, India showed positive signs by beating World champion Germany and Olympic champion the Netherlands. After experiencing experimentation, defeats and two controversies — involving most-capped player Manpreet Singh, and the unwarranted decision to change the jersey from the familiar blue to saffron, the squad has regrouped for its first World Cup following the retirement of legendary (4) ____ P.R. Sreejesh. After Wales, the eighth-ranked side faces a formidable England and traditional (5) ____ Pakistan in the pool.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):

A. celebrates

- B. celebrate
 - C. celebrated
 - D. celebrating
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
- A. Because of
 - B. In spite of
 - C. since
 - D. Provided
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
- A. has grown
 - B. has been growing
 - C. grew
 - D. grow
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**
- A. custodian
 - B. spectator
 - C. referee
 - D. commentator
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**
- A. rival
 - B. ally
 - C. sponsor
 - D. bystander

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **The tension between urgent ecological preservation and the immediate economic interests of states**

Passage: The entire passage balances the critical, urgent necessity to preserve the Western Ghats ("one of the world's eight richest biodiversity hotspots," "source of major river systems," "degradation can cost lives") against the immediate economic anxieties of individual states ("mining revenue, plantation economies built on coffee, tea and spices, and tourism receipts are real livelihoods"). This option best synthesizes the federal government's urgent push to protect a vital ecosystem (preservation) versus the resistance from state governments (Kerala, Karnataka, Goa) who fear the loss of revenue from mining, tourism, and land (economic interests).

Option B (Incorrect): While federal notifications and regional objections exist in the narrative, framing the core issue purely as a federalism/jurisdictional power struggle ignores the central theme of the passage: the fundamental conflict between ecological degradation vs. economic livelihoods.

Option C (Incorrect): The passage addresses broader macroeconomic issues—such as state-level compensation, agricultural yields, monsoon patterns, and regional economic stability—rather than just the immediate profits of specific "local industries."

Option D (Incorrect): The lack of financial compensation (the unkept promise of payment for ecosystem services) is merely one specific factor underlying Karnataka's objection. It is a secondary detail rather than the overarching primary tension described across the entire passage.

2. B) **Because the long-term value of the natural ecosystem services significantly outweighs the gains from extraction.**

The passage explicitly addresses this false dichotomy in the sixth paragraph: "But the framing of ecology versus economy is largely false. Studies find villages near intact forest report double the agricultural yield of those without; and the ecosystem services the Ghats provide — flood control, water security, carbon storage — dwarf in value what a shrinking pool of quarries and townships could generate..." The author demonstrates that natural ecosystem services provide immense value (such as doubling agricultural yields, controlling floods, and securing water) that far exceeds ("dwarfs") the localized economic gains from extractive and destructive activities like quarrying, mining, and real estate.

option A: The passage states that financial compensation has not been provided to the states: "...the Kasturirangan committee had recommended states be paid for economic activity forgone, a promise never kept."

option C: The passage nowhere states that local communities have unanimously agreed to prioritize forest protection over income. On the contrary, it highlights that state governments (representing local interests in tourism, farming, and mining) are actively objecting due to fears over livelihoods and real estate conversion:

option D: This is contradicted by the passage, which shows that landscape health and intact forests directly impact agricultural yields positively: "Studies find villages near intact forest report double the agricultural yield of those without..."

3. C) **unfulfilled superficial statements**

A platitude is a remark or statement that is used so often that it has lost its meaning. It is usually a moralistic or "feel-good" statement that sounds significant but is actually empty, unoriginal, or lacks any real action or depth. Synonyms: Cliché, empty talk, lip service, banality. In the context of the passage, the word "platitudes" refers to the empty promises or cliché statements the government has made for over a decade regarding compensation for the states. The author contrasts "platitudes" with the need for a concrete "payment-for-ecosystem-services" mechanism.

4. B) **It seeks monetary reimbursement for the economic opportunities given up**

Line: "Karnataka, which carries the largest share at 20,668 sq km, objects less to conservation itself than to the absence of compensation: the Kasturirangan committee had recommended states be paid for economic activity forgone, a promise never kept." The passage explicitly states that Karnataka does not oppose conservation principles per se; rather, its primary grievance is the lack of promised financial compensation for the economic income/opportunities it must sacrifice ("economic activity forgone"). Option (b) accurately reflects this core requirement through "monetary reimbursement for economic opportunities given up."

option A: The restriction on iron-rich Sattari taluka is a specific demand put forward by Goa, not Karnataka.

option C: The anxiety over minor resort developments being designated as polluting industries belongs strictly to Kerala, not Karnataka.

option D: The issue regarding farmland conversion into real estate is raised by Goa, not Karnataka. Furthermore, Goa desires farmland conversion for real estate, whereas option (d) falsely frames the concern as aiming to prevent real estate conversion.

5. A) **Its seventh attempt since 2014 to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats was issued by the Union Environment Ministry.**

The verb in the original sentence ("issued") is in the Simple Past Tense. (Active: Subject + V2 + Object → The Union Environment Ministry + issued + its seventh attempt...)

Following the passive voice rule, Simple Past transforms into: Object + was + V3 + by + Subject - Its seventh attempt + was issued + by the Union Environment Ministry.

issued = Simple Past. Passive of Simple Past = was/were + V3. Singular subject "attempt" → was issued. So, (a) is grammatically correct.

option (b) is issued = Simple Present Passive. But the original verb "issued" is Simple Past.

option (c) had been issued = Past Perfect Passive. The original sentence does not use Past Perfect; it uses Simple Past (issued). So, the tense is unnecessarily changed.

option (d) has been issued = Present Perfect Passive. The original issued is Simple Past, not Present Perfect. Hence, the tense does not match.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में "policy whiplash" (नीतिगत उथल-पुथल) की बात की गई है, और Sentence C इस उथल-पुथल के चक्र का पहला कदम (first step) बताता है कि एक नियम की घोषणा होती है (A rule gets announced)।
- Sentence D Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "it" सीधे तौर पर Sentence C में घोषित किए गए "rule" (नियम) को refer करता है, जिसे समझने में विश्वविद्यालयों और छात्रों को महीनों लग जाते हैं।
- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि नियम की घोषणा और उसे समझने की प्रक्रिया के बाद, कालक्रम (chronological order) में अगला कदम अदालतों का दखल देना (Courts intervene) है।
- Sentence A Sentence B के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। Sentence B में अदालतों (Courts) के दखल की बात है, और Sentence A "legal dust" (कानूनी विवाद) का संदर्भ देकर उसी बात को आगे बढ़ाता है। S6 बिल्कुल सही तरीके से इस पूरे हिस्से को समाप्त (conclude) करता है। S6 में इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "That" सीधे तौर पर Sentence C से A तक बताए गए इस पूरे चक्र को refer करता है और बताता है कि यह बिल्कुल वही है जो वर्तमान में काम करने के अधिकार के मुद्दे पर हो रहा है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows S1 immediately because S1 introduces the overarching concept of a "policy whiplash," and Sentence C provides the very first step of this cyclical process: "A rule gets announced."
- Sentence D follows Sentence C because the pronoun "it" directly refers back to the "rule" introduced in Sentence C, describing how universities and students spend months reacting to it.
- Sentence B follows Sentence D because it represents the next chronological step in this sequence of events: after the rule is introduced and absorbed, the "Courts intervene."
- Sentence A comes after Sentence B and connects perfectly to S6. Sentence A directly builds on the court intervention from Sentence B by referring to the "legal dust" settling. S6 then acts as the exact logical conclusion for this block. The pronoun "That" in S6 directly refers back to the entire four-step cycle (C-D-B-A), applying it to the current real-world situation regarding the right to work in America.

7. A) 4-1-2-3

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह passage का introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पिछले संदर्भ के सीधे गैरी कस्टन (Gary Kirsten) और भारत के मुख्य कोच के रूप में उनके सफल कार्यकाल का विषय पेश करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 4 में बताई गई "greatest achievements" (सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धियों) का विस्तार करता है और उस कार्यकाल के "defining moment" (2011 विश्व कप जीत) का सटीक उदाहरण देता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ शब्द "those years" (उन वर्षों) सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 और 1 में बताए गए उस ऐतिहासिक कार्यकाल और विश्व कप के समय को refer करता है। साथ ही, यह "opposition camp" (विपक्षी खेमे) का जिक्र करके कहानी में एक नया मोड़ (transition) लाता है।

- Sentence 3 Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह इस 4-वाक्यों के हिस्से का conclusion है। यह Sentence 2 में बताए गए "opposition camp" (विपक्षी खेमे) को पूरी तरह से स्पष्ट करता है कि वह अब 'श्रीलंका के मुख्य कोच' (Sri Lanka head coach) हैं और भारत के खिलाफ आगामी सीरीज की रणनीति बना रहे हैं। यह पूरे दृश्य को वर्तमान समय में लाकर बिल्कुल सही तरीके से समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 4 starts the paragraph because it acts as the introductory sentence. It clearly establishes the core subject (Gary Kirsten) and the overarching theme of his successful tenure as India's head coach.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it directly expands on the "greatest achievements" mentioned in Sentence 4, providing the specific "defining moment" of that coaching tenure (the 2011 World Cup victory).
 - Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 because the phrase "those years" directly refers back to the three-year tenure and the World Cup period described in Sentences 4 and 1. It also introduces a shift in the narrative by mentioning he is now in the "opposition camp."
 - Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 2 because it acts as the conclusion for this block of text. It directly clarifies what the "opposition camp" from Sentence 2 is, specifying his current role "As Sri Lanka head coach" and describing his upcoming tactical plans against India, wrapping up the sequence perfectly.
8. D) **Request** (noun) – An act of asking politely or formally for something. अनुरोध
Synonym: **Plea** (noun) – An earnest request or appeal, entreaty, petition, supplication. याचिका
- **Contract** (noun) – A written or spoken agreement, especially one concerning employment, sales, or tenancy, that is intended to be enforceable by law. संविदा
 - **Order** (noun) – An authoritative command, direction, or instruction. आदेश
 - **Compromise** (noun) – An agreement or settlement of a dispute that is reached by each side making concessions. समझौता
9. A) **Guile** (noun) – Cunning, sly intelligence, craftiness, artfulness, deceit. चालाकी.
Synonym: **Deceit** (noun) – The act of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth. धोखा
- **Morality** (noun) – Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior. नैतिकता
 - **Pride** (noun) – A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of one's close associates, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired. गर्व
 - **Greed** (noun) – Intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food. लालच
10. A) **Meena said, "My parents are getting divorced."**
जब हमें indirect speech (Reported Speech) से direct speech (Narration) में बदलना होता है, तो हमें उल्टा नियम अपनाना पड़ता है — यानी जो tense backshift indirect speech बनाते समय होता है, उसे direct speech बनाते समय वापस पलटना (reverse) होता है। यहाँ reported sentence में "were getting divorced" (Past Continuous) है। जब कोई present tense की बात indirect speech में की जाती है, तो सामान्यतः वह एक tense पीछे खिसक जाती है (backshift of tense) — जैसे Present

Continuous ("are getting"), indirect में बदलकर Past Continuous ("were getting") बन जाता है। इसलिए direct speech में वापस जाते समय हमें उसे उसके मूल रूप, यानी Present Continuous ("are getting divorced") में लौटाना होगा।

Option 2 गलत है क्योंकि वह tense को backshift ही रखता है, उसे उल्टा नहीं करता।

Option 3 ("will be getting") गलत है क्योंकि यह tense बदलकर पूरी तरह अलग अर्थ (future) दे देता है, जो मूल वाक्य में नहीं था।

Option 4 ("get divorced" — Simple Present) भी गलत है क्योंकि यह Continuous aspect को हटा देता है, जबकि मूल वाक्य में क्रिया जारी रहने (getting) का भाव है।

- When converting Indirect Speech (Reported Speech) into Direct Speech (Narration), we apply the reverse of the tense-backshift rule — whatever tense shift happens when forming indirect speech must be undone when forming direct speech. Here, the reported sentence uses "were getting divorced" (Past Continuous). When a present-tense statement is reported in indirect speech, it typically shifts one tense back — Present Continuous ("are getting") becomes Past Continuous ("were getting") in the indirect form. So when converting back to direct speech, we must restore it to its original form, Present Continuous ("are getting divorced").
- Option 2 is incorrect because it simply keeps the backshifted tense instead of reversing it.
- Option 3 ("will be getting") is wrong because it changes the meaning entirely by introducing a future sense that wasn't present in the original sentence.
- Option 4 ("get divorced" — Simple Present) is also incorrect because it drops the continuous aspect, while the original sentence clearly conveys an ongoing action ("getting").

11. A) The incorrectly spelled word among the options is 'A. Subsistence.' The correct spelling is '**Subsistence**,' जीवन निर्वाह

12. A) **Entrenched** (adjective) – Firmly established and difficult or unlikely to change; ingrained, rooted. गहराई से स्थापित

Antonym: **Transient** (adjective) – Lasting only for a short time; temporary, ephemeral, fleeting. अस्थायी

- **Startling** (adjective) – Very surprising, astonishing, or remarkable. चौंकाने वाला
- **Averted** (verb) – Turned away, avoided, prevented. टाल दिया
- **Entrusted** (verb) – Given the responsibility of doing something or of caring for someone or something. सौंप दिया

13. C) **A kite was flown by them in the evening.**

"They flew a kite in the evening" Simple Past Tense में है (Subject + V2 + Object)।

Simple Past को Passive Voice में बदलने का नियम है: Object + was/were + V3 (Past Participle) + by + Subject।

"kite" एकवचन (singular) है, इसलिए helping verb "was" प्रयोग होगी, "were" नहीं।

"fly" का Past Participle (V3) है "flown", न कि "flew" (जो V2 है)।

समय दर्शाने वाला वाक्यांश "in the evening" वैसे ही वाक्य के end में रहता है।

Option 1 wrong है क्योंकि "was being flown" Past Continuous Passive है, जो मूल Simple Past Tense से मेल नहीं खाता।

Option 2 और 4 wrong हैं क्योंकि इनमें "have/has been" प्रयोग हुआ है, जो Present Perfect Passive को दर्शाता है — यह भी मूल Simple Past Tense से मेल नहीं खाता।

In English:

The original sentence "They flew a kite in the evening" is in Simple Past Tense (Subject + V2 + Object).

The rule for converting Simple Past to Passive Voice is: Object + was/were + V3 (Past Participle) + by + Subject.

"Kite" is singular, so the helping verb used must be "was", not "were".

The Past Participle (V3) of "fly" is "flown", not "flew" (which is the V2 form).

This gives us the correct sentence: "A kite was flown by them in the evening."

Option 1 is incorrect because "was being flown" is Past Continuous Passive, which doesn't match the original Simple Past Tense.

Options 2 and 4 are incorrect because they use "have/has been," which indicates Present Perfect Passive — this also doesn't match the original Simple Past Tense.

14. C) 'Were' के बदले '**was**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'One of the major challenges' Subject है और यह Singular है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular होनी चाहिए; जैसे— One of the students is always late. 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because the subject here is 'One of the major challenges', which is singular, so the verb should also be singular; Like— One of the students is always late
15. B) **Purportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, ostensibly, seemingly. संभवतः
Antonym: Impossibly (adverb) – Not capable of being done, occurring, or being true; not possible, unfeasible, impracticable. असंभव
- **Severely** (adverb) – Strictly, harshly, sternly, rigorously. कठोरता से
 - **Dramatically** (adverb) – In a manner that is striking or greatly impressive, theatrically, spectacularly. नाटकीय रूप से
 - **Maliciously** (adverb) – In a manner that is full of malice, spiteful, malevolent, vindictive. द्वेषपूर्ण
16. B) The incorrectly spelt word in the given options is 'Extarnal' The correct spelling is '**External**', बाहरी
17. B) asks' के बदले '**ask**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject 'The students' Plural है, इसलिए verb भी Plural होनी चाहिए। जैसे— The students usually ask for a bonus time of thirty minutes for completing their projects.
 ask' will be used instead of 'asks' because the subject 'The students' is plural, so the verb should also be plural. Like— The students usually ask for a bonus time of thirty minutes for completing their projects
18. A) 'Strangely' का use होगा क्योंकि "strangely" का अर्थ होता है असामान्य या अप्रत्याशित तरीके से। Sentence में, खबर सुनने पर व्यक्ति की प्रतिक्रिया का वर्णन है, जो अप्रत्याशित या असामान्य है, इसलिए 'strangely' यहाँ सही है। दूसरी तरफ, 'Customarily' का अर्थ होता है रिवाज के अनुसार, 'Typically' का अर्थ है सामान्यतः, और 'Commonly' का अर्थ होता है आमतौर पर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- Strangely' should be used because it means in an unusual or unexpected manner. In the sentence, it describes the person's reaction to hearing the news, which is unusual or unexpected, making 'strangely' fitting here. On the other hand, 'Customarily' means according to custom, 'Typically' means in a usual way, and 'Commonly' means ordinarily, which don't fit in this context

19. D) '**warned against**' का प्रयोग 'warned on' के बदले होगा क्योंकि जब किसी को किसी विशेष कार्य को न करने के लिए चेतावनी दी जाती है, तो 'warn against' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The students were warned against coming late to school.

- 'warned against' will be used instead of 'warned on' because when someone is cautioned not to do a particular action, 'warn against' is used; Like— The students were warned against coming late to school.

20. A) **A lot of coffee was drunk by him before the marathon.**

"He drank a lot of coffee before the marathon" Simple Past Tense में है (Subject + V2 + Object)।

Simple Past को Passive Voice में बदलने का नियम है: Object + was/were + V3 (Past Participle) + by + Subject।

"coffee" के साथ helping verb "was" प्रयोग होगी (uncountable/singular treatment)।

"drink" का Past Participle (V3) है "drunk", न कि "drank" (जो V2 है)।

Option 2 गलत है क्योंकि "drunken" गलत रूप है — यह कोई मानक Past Participle नहीं है (सही रूप "drunk" ही है); "drunken" एक adjective के रूप में प्रयोग होता है (जैसे "drunken behaviour"), verb form के रूप में नहीं।

Option 3 गलत है क्योंकि "had been drunk" Past Perfect Passive दर्शाता है, जो तभी सही होता जब वाक्य में दो past actions के बीच क्रम (sequence) दिखाना होता — यहाँ ऐसा कोई संकेत नहीं है।

Option 4 गलत है क्योंकि "is drunk" Present Tense दर्शाता है, जबकि मूल वाक्य Past Tense में है।

In English:

The original sentence "He drank a lot of coffee before the marathon" is in Simple Past Tense (Subject + V2 + Object).

The rule for converting Simple Past to Passive Voice is: Object + was/were + V3 (Past Participle) + by + Subject.

The helping verb used with "coffee" is "was" (treated as singular/uncountable).

The Past Participle (V3) of "drink" is "drunk", not "drank" (which is the V2 form).

Option 2 is incorrect because "drunken" is not the standard past participle form — the correct form is "drunk"; "drunken" functions as an adjective (e.g., "drunken behaviour"), not as a verb form here.

Option 3 is incorrect because "had been drunk" indicates Past Perfect Passive, which would only be correct if the sentence needed to show a sequence between two past actions — there's no such indication here.

Option 4 is incorrect because "is drunk" indicates Present Tense, while the original sentence is in Past Tense.

21. A) **celebrates**

The sentence describes a future event introduced by a time conjunction (When India...). Blank (1) needs a simple present tense verb that agrees in subject-verb number with the singular subject "India." a) celebrates: is the singular simple present verb form that correctly pairs with the singular noun "India" in a time clause. b) celebrate: is a plural verb form, violating subject-verb agreement. c) celebrated: is a past tense verb, which contradicts the future timeframe

(will open). d) celebrating: is a continuous participle that cannot serve as the main verb without an auxiliary.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence future event को time clause (When India...) से introduce करता है। Blank (1) को एक ऐसे word की आवश्यकता है जो singular subject "India" के साथ grammar rule को follow करे। a) celebrates: यह singular simple present tense verb है जो "India" के साथ perfectly fit होता है। b) celebrate: यह plural verb form है। c) celebrated: यह past tense verb है। d) celebrating: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के main verb नहीं बन सकता।

22. A) Because of

The sentence establishes a cause-and-effect relationship explaining why the 51-year medal drought was so painful for fans. Blank (2) needs a prepositional phrase followed by a noun phrase (hockey's emotional connection). a) Because of: is a prepositional phrase meaning "on account of," which logically links hockey's deep emotional value as the reason behind the agonizing wait. b) In spite of: means "despite," which creates a logical contradiction (emotional connection makes a wait more agonizing, not less). c) since: is a conjunction requiring a full clause (subject + verb), making it grammatically incorrect before a plain noun phrase. d) Provided: is a conditional conjunction meaning "if," which makes no logical sense in this context.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence हॉकी के emotional connection को 51-year long wait के दर्द का reason (cause) मानकर describe करता है। Blank (2) को एक ऐसे word की आवश्यकता है जो noun phrase से पहले cause show करे। a) Because of: इसका meaning 'due to' (on account of) होता है, जो sentence के logic में perfectly fit होता है। b) In spite of: इसका meaning 'despite' होता है, जो contradiction create करता है। c) since: इसको complete clause (subject + verb) चाहिए होता है, इसलिए सिर्फ Noun phrase से पहले यह grammatically wrong है। d) Provided: इसका meaning 'if' या condition के लिए होता है।

22. A) has grown

The passage highlights a completed milestone (after India broke a 41-year Olympic jinx) to explain the current state of public confidence. Blank (3) needs the Present Perfect tense to denote a completed change that yields a present result. a) has grown: is the Present Perfect tense, correctly expressing the completed rise in trust following historic victories. b) has been growing: is the Present Perfect Continuous tense, which implies an ongoing action rather than a state reached as a result of past milestones. c) grew: is the Simple Past tense, which isolates the event to the past without connecting it to the present context of the upcoming World Cup. d) grow: is a plural base verb form, violating subject-verb agreement with the singular uncountable noun "Trust."

In Hindi:

- यह sentence Olympic medal जीतने जैसे milestone के बाद create हुए present trust को describe करता है। Blank (3) को एक ऐसे word की आवश्यकता है जो past action के present result (Present Perfect) को दिखाए। a) has grown: यह Present Perfect tense है, जो history create करने के बाद 'trust build हो जाने' के result को perfectly fit करता है। b) has been

growing: यह continuous action को दिखाता है, जो specific milestone के बाद के result के लिए कम accurate है। c) grew: यह सिर्फ past tense बनाता है जिसका present से connection कट जाता है। d) grow: यह plural verb है जो singular uncountable subject "Trust" के साथ wrong है।

23. A) **custodian**

The sentence refers to P.R. Sreejesh, who played a specific on-field position in field hockey prior to his retirement. Blank (4) needs the precise sports noun used for a goalkeeper. a) custodian: is a well-established sports term specifically used to denote a goalkeeper protecting the goalpost in hockey/football. b) spectator: means a person who watches a game, whereas Sreejesh was a star player. c) referee: means an official who enforces rules during a match, not a team player. d) commentator: means a journalist/analyst providing commentary on a broadcast.

In Hindi:

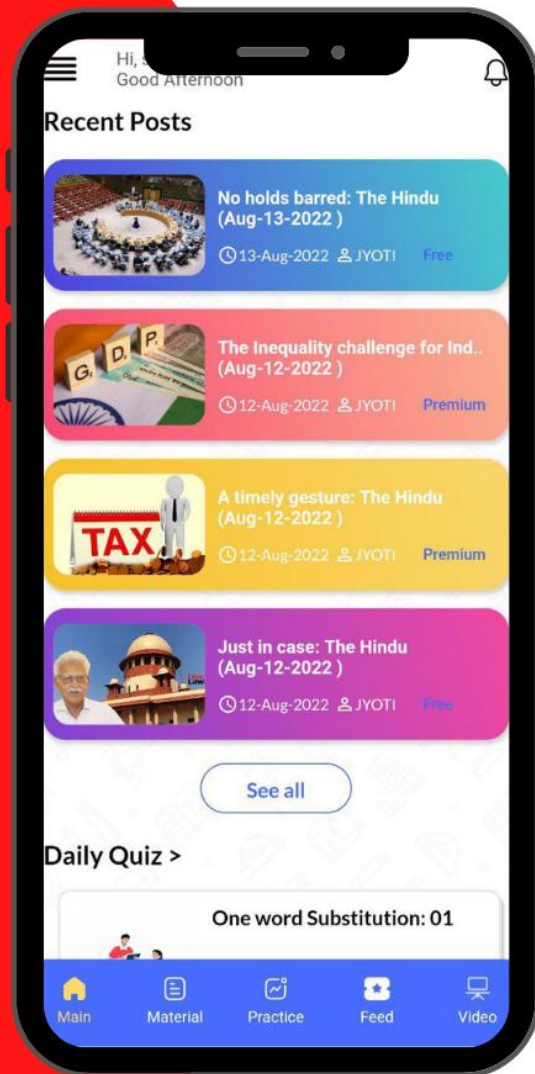
- यह sentence legendary player P.R. Sreejesh की field पर position को describe करता है। Blank (4) को एक ऐसे word की आवश्यकता है जो 'goalkeeper' के लिए use होने वाले correct sports term का काम करे। a) custodian: इसका meaning sports terminology में 'goalkeeper' होता है, जो Sreejesh के context में perfectly fit होता है। b) spectator: इसका meaning viewer या audience होता है। c) referee: इसका meaning match umpire होता है। d) commentator: इसका meaning commentary करने वाला होता है।

24. A) **rival**

The sentence discusses Pakistan's status as India's historic and traditional sporting competitor in field hockey pool matches. Blank (5) needs a noun representing a long-time athletic competitor. a) rival: refers to a long-standing competitor or opponent in sports (traditional rival Pakistan). b) ally: means a friend or cooperative partner, which contradicts competitive sports opponents in a tournament pool. c) sponsor: means a financial backer of an event or team, which Pakistan is not. d) bystander: means an uninvolved observer who stands nearby, which is impossible for an active competing team in the same pool.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence हॉकी history में Pakistan के साथ India की competition को describe करता है। Blank (5) को एक ऐसे word की आवश्यकता है जो sports में traditional opponent को दिखाए। a) rival: इसका meaning 'competitor' होता है, जो "traditional rival Pakistan" के रूप में perfectly fit होता है। b) ally: इसका meaning partner या friend nation होता है।



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