

Hunker down: On Cyclone Arnab, its landfall

Proactive governance kept the casualties low after Cyclone Arnab

Cyclone Arnab, the first named storm of the North Indian Ocean cyclone season this year, **intensified** rapidly before making landfall as a 'very **severe** cyclonic storm' on October 28. This particular **rapidity** is a challenge for **forecasters** and some models did fail to **anticipate** how strong Arnab would become. It also moved faster than expected towards the **coast**, before **stalling** for a time and beginning the landfall process several hours before the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had **predicted** it would, in the middle of the night, leaving many district authorities with a **potentially** narrower **window** to **evacuate** high-risk **settlements**. With core wind speeds of 125-135 kilometres per hour, it delivered more than 100 mm of rain over parts of Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Kalingapatnam, Kakinada and Machilipatnam, in Andhra Pradesh. But even though it has completed landfall, southern Odisha **likely** faces a greater threat only hence. Early reports **claimed** no loss of life in Andhra Pradesh or Odisha, which has been **attributed to** the disaster management operations in both States; the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, said there were five deaths in Andhra Pradesh. **Regrettably**, the **suspension** of transport services, including road connectivity and flights, closure of schools and offices, and power cuts to minimise risks **posed** by loose wires remains an **essential** part of saving lives, **entailing** other social and economic disruptions that the States must **account for**, and **address**, in their post-storm **assessments**.

Odisha may have to **brace for** rainfall and waters due to moisture in the storm's outer circulation, which will arrive over land that has recovered in **patches** from the fourth wettest monsoon in the State's history. **Extreme** rainfall after repeated flooding may face soil that has not **drained** fully, raising the risk of more flooding **following** even lower levels of rainfall, and slope failures in hilly **terrain**. **Farmers** in Ganjam and Puri **have** already **voiced** worries about the risk of **prolonged inundation** destroying paddy crops, **compounding** the already **considerable** financial consequences of the southwest monsoon; Ganjam alone had lost 33% of crops by October. In Sundargarh, however, farmers hope that Arnab will relieve moisture stress in standing crops after a dry month. The IMD has already issued alerts in the Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Kalahandi districts, before the rainbelt extends further north. The relatively low **figure** of deaths **will** be a **testament to** proactive governance. However, it is past time that States adopted a zero-disruption approach, especially since property and **infrastructure** were damaged, and the risk of people being pushed into **poverty** over lost **possessions** and **livelihoods** persists.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Hunker down** (phrasal verb) - to prepare yourself to stay in a particular place or situation for a long time सुरक्षित स्थान पर रुकना
2. **Landfall** (noun) - arrival, landing, touchdown, approach, appearance तट पर पहुंचना
3. **Proactive** (adjective) - preemptive, anticipatory, energetic, driven, enterprising अग्रसक्रिय
4. **Governance** (noun) - administration, management, rule, control, authority शासन
5. **Casualty** (noun) - victim, fatality, loss, sufferer, dead हताहत
6. **Intensify** (verb) - escalate, increase, strengthen, heighten, boost तेज होना
7. **Severe** (adjective) - intense, extreme, harsh, acute, fierce गंभीर
8. **Rapidity** (noun) - speed, swiftness, quickness, fastness, velocity तेजी
9. **Forecaster** (noun) - predictor, weathercaster, analyst, prognosticator, oracle पूर्वानुमान लगाने वाला
10. **Anticipate** (verb) - expect, foresee, predict, forecast, envision अनुमान लगाना
11. **Coast** (noun) - shoreline, shore, beach, seaboard, coastline तट
12. **Stall** (verb) - halt, pause, delay, stop, hesitate रुकना
13. **Predict** (verb) - forecast, foresee, anticipate, project, foretell भविष्यवाणी करना
14. **Potentially** (adverb) - possibly, probably, conceivably, plausibly, likely संभावित रूप से
15. **Window** (noun) - opportunity, opening, timeframe, chance, period अवसर (या समयावधि)
16. **Evacuate** (verb) - clear, empty, abandon, vacate, remove बाहर निकालना
17. **Settlement** (noun) - community, colony, habitation, village, outpost बस्ती
18. **Likely** (adverb) - probably, presumably, doubtlessly, apparently, seemingly संभवतः
19. **Claim** (verb) - assert, declare, state, profess, maintain दावा करना
20. **Attribute to** (phrasal verb) - to say or believe that something is the result of a particular thing का कारण मानना (या श्रेय देना)
21. **Regrettably** (adverb) - unfortunately, sadly, unhappily, woefully, alas खेदजनक रूप से
22. **Suspension** (noun) - interruption, halt, stoppage, pause, cessation निलंबन
23. **Pose** (verb) - present, create, cause, produce, generate खड़ा करना
24. **Essential** (adjective) - crucial, vital, necessary, indispensable, important आवश्यक

25. **Entail** (verb) - involve, require, demand, necessitate, encompass शामिल होना
26. **Account for** (phrasal verb) - to consider or include something when making plans ध्यान में रखना
27. **Address** (verb) - tackle, confront, handle, manage, approach समाधान करना
28. **Assessment** (noun) - evaluation, appraisal, judgment, review, rating मूल्यांकन
29. **Brace** (for) (verb) - to prepare for something difficult or unpleasant के लिए तैयार रहना
30. **Patch** (noun) - area, spot, plot, tract, piece हिस्सा
31. **Extreme** (adjective) - severe, intense, excessive, utmost, drastic अत्यधिक
32. **Drain** (verb) - empty, flow, seep, bleed, clear पानी निकलना
33. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding, post, behind के बाद
34. **Terrain** (noun) - land, ground, topography, landscape, territory इलाका
35. **Voice** (verb) - express, state, utter, articulate, vent व्यक्त करना
36. **Prolonged** (adjective) - lengthy, extended, continuous, sustained, enduring लंबा
37. **Inundation** (noun) - flood, deluge, overflow, submergence, tide जलभराव (या बाढ़)
38. **Compound** (verb) - worsen, exacerbate, aggravate, complicate, intensify और खराब करना
39. **Considerable** (adjective) - substantial, significant, sizable, ample, meaningful पर्याप्त
40. **Testament to** (phrase) - clear proof or evidence of a fact or situation का प्रमाण
41. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, base, foundation, setup, groundwork बुनियादी ढांचा
42. **Poverty** (noun) - destitution, penury, impoverishment, hardship, need गरीबी
43. **Possession** (noun) - belonging, property, asset, ownership, holding संपत्ति
44. **Livelihood** (noun) - income, living, sustenance, employment, job आजीविका
45. **Persist** (verb) - continue, remain, endure, linger, last बने रहना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **First Storm of the Season:** Cyclone Arnab is the North Indian Ocean cyclone season's first named storm this year.
2. **Rapid Intensification:** The cyclone intensified rapidly prior to making landfall on October 28 as a "very severe cyclonic storm."
3. **Forecasting Challenges:** The storm's rapid intensification posed significant challenges for forecasters, with some models failing to anticipate its true strength.
4. **Unexpected Movement:** Arnab moved faster than expected toward the coast before stalling and starting its landfall process several hours earlier than the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted.
5. **Reduced Evacuation Window:** The early midnight landfall left district authorities with a potentially narrower window to evacuate high-risk settlements.
6. **High Winds and Rainfall:** The storm featured core wind speeds of 125–135 km/h and dropped over 100 mm of rain across several regions in Andhra Pradesh, including Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, and Machilipatnam.
7. **Ongoing Threat to Odisha:** Although the storm completed its landfall, southern Odisha faces a prolonged threat from subsequent moisture and rainfall.
8. **Low Initial Casualties:** Early reports indicated no loss of life in Andhra Pradesh or Odisha, though the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister later confirmed five deaths in the State.
9. **Role of Disaster Management:** The minimal loss of life has been widely attributed to proactive disaster management operations carried out by both State governments.
10. **Socio-Economic Disruptions:** Essential life-saving measures—such as suspended transport services, closed schools and offices, and power cuts—caused significant social and economic disruptions that require post-storm assessment and addressing.
11. **Saturation and Flooding Risks in Odisha:** Odisha faces heightened risks of flooding and slope failures because the storm's moisture arrives on soil that has not fully drained following the State's fourth wettest monsoon.
12. **Crop Damage Concerns:** Farmers in districts like Ganjam and Puri worry that prolonged inundation will destroy paddy crops, compounding earlier heavy financial losses from the southwest monsoon.
13. **Mixed Agricultural Impacts:** In contrast, farmers in Sundargarh hope that the storm will relieve moisture stress in standing crops following a dry month.
14. **IMD Alerts Issued:** The IMD issued active alerts across several districts including Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Kalahandi before the rainbelt extends further north.
15. **The Need for a Zero-Disruption Approach:** While proactive governance successfully kept casualties low, the editorial emphasizes that it is time for States to adopt a "zero-disruption approach" to protect property, infrastructure, and livelihoods from pushing vulnerable populations into poverty.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What constitutes a primary operational concern regarding post-storm conditions in hilly areas of southern Odisha?** [Editorial page]
 - A. Saturated soils from repeated flooding increase vulnerabilities to slope failures when exposed to outer circulation precipitation.
 - B. Core wind speeds exceeding one hundred twenty-five kilometres per hour threaten to destroy standing crops in Sundargarh.
 - C. Preemptive electrical shutdowns prevent district authorities from tracking moisture arriving over partially recovered inland administrative districts.
 - D. Conflicting casualty figures submitted by regional disaster management teams delay the restoration of transport connectivity across districts.
2. **How did preceding climatic conditions in Ganjam district affect local farmers' vulnerability to Cyclone Arnab?**
 - A. A prolonged dry spell had generated acute moisture stress, causing farmers to welcome cyclonic outer band precipitation.
 - B. Exceptional drainage across coastal soils insulated standing paddy crops from inundation, eliminating financial consequences from southwest monsoon.
 - C. Prior monsoon flooding had already destroyed one-third of regional crops, magnifying financial risks from subsequent cyclonic rainfall.
 - D. Emergency relief measures deployed during the fourth wettest monsoon compensated agricultural producers for all structural property losses.
3. **The author's tone toward the disaster management response and the prevailing strategy of preventive disruptions is best described as:**
 - A. Appreciative and prescriptive
 - B. Objective and contemplative
 - C. Cautious and inquisitive
 - D. Critical and speculative
4. **In the context of the passage, the word "TESTAMENT" most nearly means:**

"The relatively low figure of deaths will be a testament to proactive governance."

 - A. Narrative
 - B. Evidence
 - C. Rebuttal
 - D. Contract
5. **What is the author's primary goal in highlighting the conflicting casualty figures reported from Andhra Pradesh?**
 - A. To prove that disaster management agencies fabricated casualty figures to present proactive governance before municipal transport services resumed operations.
 - B. To argue that the suspension of road connectivity prevented rural healthcare centres from submitting timely mortality statistics to district authorities.
 - C. To show that coastal district administrations in Andhra Pradesh managed evacuation operations less efficiently than disaster management teams in Odisha.
 - D. To demonstrate that initial claims of zero fatalities overlooked actual casualties confirmed by state leadership during ongoing post-landfall assessments.

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. An 18-day excavation in Poompuhar, Tamil Nadu, has uncovered further evidence of the Cholas' overseas trade.

- A. A torpedo jar was historically used to transport liquid cargo such as wine and olive oil across oceanic trade routes; this is perhaps the clearest evidence of Poompuhar's maritime connections with West Asia and the Mediterranean world.
- B. While the early Cholas flourished between the first and fourth centuries CE, the later Cholas rose to prominence in the ninth century.
- C. Among the key discoveries are a West Asian "torpedo jar", four terracotta ring wells, and more than 250 ceramic fragments.
- D. One of the most powerful dynasties in South India, the Cholas ruled over parts of present-day Tamil Nadu, including the regions around Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli.

S6. Military expeditions, naval power, and overseas trade were among the defining features of their rule.

- A. C-D-A-B
- B. C-A-D-B
- C. D-B-C-A
- D. D-C-A-B

7. **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. The day was February 14, 1850.

- A. Major General Sir Henry Marion Durand, then serving as a political agent in Bhopal, welcomed a baby boy.
- B. Afghan authorities accused Pakistan of carrying out airstrikes on Kabul.
- C. More than a century later, the line still bleeds.

D. The child, Henry Mortimer Durand, would later be remembered for several reasons, but primarily for his role in negotiating the 1893 boundary between British India and Afghanistan — the Durand Line — which would go down in history as one of South Asia's most unstable borders.

S6. On October 12, the Taliban launched a counterattack on Pakistan's Frontier Corps positions along the Durand Line.

- A. C-D-A-B
- B. A-C-D-B
- C. C-A-D-B
- D. A-D-C-B

8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Observe

- A. Ignore
- B. Watch
- C. Deserve

- D. Clarify
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Yield
A. Defy
B. Bring
C. Produce
D. Build
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Up in arms
A. Unable to do something
B. Standing tall
C. Ready to fight
D. Doing exercise
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the following sentence.**
After having worked on the study non-stop for twenty-three years, Harvey finally called it a day last week
A. Started a new job
B. Stopped working on something
C. Decided to revise
D. Honed a new skill
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Absolve
A. Gratify
B. Resolve
C. Pardon
D. Condemn
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
General
A. Specific
B. Mixture
C. Composite
D. Common
14. **What is the one-word substitute for "A poem of mourning"?**
A. Ballad
B. Ode
C. Elegy
D. Sonnet
15. **Choose the one which can be substituted for the given sentence.**
A political disorder and absence of government
A. Plutocracy
B. Monarchy
C. Anarchy
D. Oligarchy

16. Which of the following words correctly demonstrates proper suffix rules without any spelling error?
- A. Accomplishment
 - B. Acomplishment
 - C. Accomplishment
 - D. Accomplishmant
17. Select the option with the correct spelling.
- A. Harasment
 - B. Harassment
 - C. Harrasment
 - D. Harrassment
18. Direction: Read the sentence to find the grammatical error. The sentence has been split into four parts: (A), (B), (C), and (D). Select the option that contains the error.
- Despite the intense media speculation, (A) / it was him who ultimately provided (B) / the crucial anonymous tip that led (C) / to the arrest of the syndicate leader. (D)
- A. Despite the intense media speculation,
 - B. it was him who ultimately provided
 - C. the crucial anonymous tip that led
 - D. to the arrest of the syndicate leader
19. Direction: Read the sentence to find the grammatical error. The sentence has been split into four parts: (A), (B), (C), and (D). Select the option that contains the error.
- Being worked as a senior cryptanalyst (A) / for over a decade, she immediately (B) / recognized the underlying pattern (C) / in the intercepted hostile transmission. (D)
- A. Being worked as a senior cryptanalyst
 - B. for over a decade, she immediately
 - C. recognized the underlying pattern
 - D. in the intercepted hostile transmission
20. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word "Defend."
- A. Imperil
 - B. Host
 - C. Imminent
 - D. Equitable

Directions: Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.

It was a warm Tuesday afternoon at the Airforce Complex Ground in Palam. (A)___ Bengal wrapped up a 60-run victory over Services on the stroke of what should have been the scheduled tea interval in the second round of the 2026-27 Ranji Trophy, the journalists present, a significant number for a domestic encounter at a quaint venue in the national capital, hovered outside the winning team's dressing room. An interaction with Mohammed Shami was unanimously sought.

Shami hadn't even taken part in the Ranji fixture, but he was clearly the star attraction at the culmination of the game. Two days before the commencement of the encounter, the veteran pacer's name (B)___ from India's squads for the ODI and Test series against New Zealand next month.

It has been a theme for the last year. Shami has been keen to prove his detractors wrong and (C)___ doubts over his fitness by playing regularly for Bengal – he played in seven of nine matches in the State's Ranji semifinal exit last season – in the domestic circuit, but the wise men of Indian cricket have repeatedly looked in a different direction.

His last assignment for the country was the ICC Champions Trophy in March 2025. He had returned to the Indian set-up just ahead of the tournament after a lengthy lay-off due to a knee injury and ankle surgery following the 2023 ODI World Cup. Over the course of the eight-team Champions Trophy, where spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was missing in (D)___ because of a lower back injury, Shami stepped up ably, scalping nine victims in five matches in India's undefeated march to glory.

Yet, Shami's yearning (E)___ a return to the bright lights of international cricket hasn't materialised.

21. **Fill in the blank (A) with the correct conjunction to fit the context.**

- A. Even though
- B. Lest
- C. As soon as
- D. No sooner

22. **Choose the grammatically correct option to fill in the blank (B).**

- A. had again been omitted
- B. was again omitting
- C. has again been omitted
- D. had again omitted

23. **Fill in the blank (C) with the word that means "to reduce or put to rest a fear or doubt."**

- A. corroborate
- B. allay
- C. exacerbate
- D. harbour

24. **Fill in the blank (D) with the correct word to complete the idiom**

- A. combat
- B. service
- C. duty
- D. action

25. **Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank (E).**

- A. of
- B. for
- C. with
- D. to

Answers

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

[Practice exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Saturated soils from repeated flooding increase vulnerabilities to slope failures when exposed to outer circulation precipitation.**

passage: "Extreme rainfall after repeated flooding may face soil that has not drained fully, raising the risk of more flooding following even lower levels of rainfall, and slope failures in hilly terrain."---Odisha has just had one of its wettest monsoons, so the soil is still full of water. When the rain from the storm's outer circulation arrives, this soil cannot absorb it. This raises the risk of floods and slope failures (landslides) in the hills. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.

- Option B: Incorrect. The option says strong core winds threaten to destroy standing crops in Sundargarh, but the passage says the core wind speeds of 125-135 km/h applied at landfall in Andhra Pradesh, and in Sundargarh farmers actually hope Ar nab will relieve moisture stress in standing crops, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says power shutdowns stop authorities from tracking moisture over inland districts, but the passage says power cuts are done to reduce the risk from loose wires and to save lives. It never links them to tracking moisture, hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says conflicting casualty figures delay restoring transport links, but the passage mentions only a small difference in early death reports (no loss of life versus five deaths in Andhra Pradesh), and it never says this delayed transport, hence incorrect.

2. C) **Prior monsoon flooding had already destroyed one-third of regional crops, magnifying financial risks from subsequent cyclonic rainfall.**

passage: "Farmers in Ganjam and Puri have already voiced worries about the risk of prolonged inundation destroying paddy crops, compounding the already considerable financial consequences of the southwest monsoon; Ganjam alone had lost 33% of crops by October."---Ganjam had already lost 33% (one-third) of its crops by October because of the earlier monsoon. Farmers were now worried that more water from the cyclone would destroy their paddy crops too. So the earlier losses made the new risk heavier. Option C says exactly this, so it is correct.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says a long dry spell made Ganjam farmers welcome the cyclone's rain, but the passage says it is the farmers in Sundargarh who hope Ar nab will relieve moisture stress after a dry month, while Ganjam farmers are worried about prolonged inundation, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says very good drainage protected paddy crops and removed the monsoon's financial losses, but the passage says the soil "has not drained fully," and Ganjam's farmers fear inundation and have already lost 33% of crops, hence incorrect.

- Option D: Incorrect. The option says relief measures during the wettest monsoon repaid farmers for all property losses, but the passage never mentions any such compensation. It says property and infrastructure were damaged and people risk being pushed into poverty, hence incorrect.

3. A) **Appreciative and prescriptive**

“Appreciative” means showing praise or thanks. “Prescriptive” means telling people what they should do. The author praises the governments for keeping deaths low, calling it “a testament to proactive governance.” The author then says States should adopt a “zero-disruption approach” and must “account for, and address” the social and economic disruptions. Praise followed by clear advice is an appreciative and prescriptive tone. This matches option A.

- Option B: Incorrect. “Objective” means neutral and fact-based, and “contemplative” means deeply thoughtful, but the passage openly praises proactive governance and says it is “past time” for States to change their approach, which is a clear opinion and not neutral reporting, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. “Cautious” means careful and avoiding risk, and “inquisitive” means curious and asking questions, but the passage asks no questions and gives a firm recommendation (a zero-disruption approach), hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. “Critical” means pointing out faults, and “speculative” means based on guesses, but the passage mainly praises the response, calling the low death toll “a testament to proactive governance.” Its remarks on disruption are advice and are backed by facts such as damaged property and infrastructure, hence incorrect.

4. B) **Evidence.**

In the given sentence, the correct option is **B. Evidence.**

Contextual Meaning: In this context, “a testament to” means serving as tangible proof or strong evidence of something’s quality, success, or presence. The low death toll serves as clear **evidence** that proactive governance took place and worked effectively.

❑ **A. Narrative:** Refers to a spoken or written account of connected events; a story. It does not mean proof.

❑ **C. Rebuttal:** Means a contradiction, counter-argument, or refutation. This is the opposite of supporting proactive governance.

❑ **D. Contract:** Refers to a formal, legally binding written agreement between two parties, which does not fit the context.

5. D) **To demonstrate that initial claims of zero fatalities overlooked actual casualties confirmed by state leadership during ongoing post-landfall assessments.**

passage: “Early reports claimed no loss of life in Andhra Pradesh or Odisha, which has been attributed to the disaster management operations in both States; the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, said there were five deaths in Andhra Pradesh.”---The passage first says early reports claimed no deaths. It then adds that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister confirmed five deaths. The author shows this gap so readers know the early “zero loss of life” claim was not fully correct. Even so, the author still calls the low figure “a testament to proactive governance.” Option D says the early claim missed deaths that the state leadership later confirmed, so it is correct.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says agencies made up casualty figures to show proactive governance, but the passage says early reports were simply updated by the Chief Minister, and it never accuses anyone of fabricating anything, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says road closures stopped rural health centres from sending death statistics, but the passage says the suspension of transport is a life-saving measure with social and economic costs, and it never links it to delays in reporting deaths, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect. The option says Andhra Pradesh managed evacuations worse than Odisha, but the passage says both States' disaster management operations are credited for the low toll, and it makes no comparison of their efficiency, hence incorrect.

6. B) C-A-D-B

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C S1 के तुरंत बाद आया और S1-C का सीधा संबंध बनाया। S1 में मिले "evidence" को स्पष्ट करते हुए C प्रमुख खोजों की सूची प्रस्तुत करता है—"Among the key discoveries are a West Asian 'torpedo jar'..."।
- Sentence A Sentence C के ठीक बाद आया और C-A का mandatory noun-pair बनाया। C में पहली बार आए शब्द "torpedo jar" को A में "A torpedo jar was historically used..." कहकर विस्तार से समझाया गया है कि इसका उपयोग शराब और जैतून के तेल जैसे तरल पदार्थों को समुद्री मार्गों से लाने-ले जाने के लिए किया जाता था।
- Sentence D पुरातात्विक खोजों के बाद व्यापक ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि में प्रवेश कराता है—"One of the most powerful dynasties in South India, the Cholas ruled over parts of present-day Tamil Nadu..."।
- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आया और D-B का कालानुक्रमिक (chronological) क्रम पूरा करेगा। D में स्थापित साम्राज्य के बाद B आरंभिक चोल (1st–4th century CE) और उत्तरवर्ती चोल (9th century) के उत्थान का कालखंड स्पष्ट करता है। इसके तुरंत बाद S6 ("Military expeditions, naval power, and overseas trade were among the defining features of their rule.") उनके शासन की विशिष्टताओं को जोड़ते हुए गद्यांश को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C directly follows S1 (S1-C), detailing the tangible evidence unearthed during the excavation (a West Asian "torpedo jar", ring wells, ceramic fragments).
- Sentence A forms an essential, unbroken referential pair with Sentence C (C-A). Sentence C introduces the specific artifact ("torpedo jar"), and Sentence A immediately defines its historical utility in oceanic transport of wine and olive oil.
- Sentence D smoothly pivots from the specific site discoveries to the geopolitical powerhouse behind them—introducing the Cholas as one of the most powerful dynasties in South India ruling over Tamil Nadu.
- Sentence B follows Sentence D, establishing the timeline of the dynasty across early (1st–4th centuries CE) and medieval (9th century) epochs (D-B). Finally, S6 neatly synthesizes the timeline by summarizing the hallmark traits of Chola dominance (military expeditions, naval power, and overseas trade).

7. D) A-D-C-B

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence A S1 ("The day was February 14, 1850.") के ठीक बाद आया और S1-A का सीधा कालानुक्रमिक संबंध बनाया। यह बताता है कि उस विशिष्ट तारीख को मेजर जनरल सर हेनरी मैरियन डूरंड के घर एक बेटे का जन्म हुआ था।
- Sentence D Sentence A के ठीक बाद आया और A-D का noun-noun pair बनाया। Sentence A के "a baby boy" को Sentence D सीधे "The child, Henry Mortimer Durand" के रूप में संबोधित करता है और 1893 में 'डूरंड रेखा' (Durand Line) के निर्धारण का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ जोड़ता है।
- Sentence C Sentence D को फॉलो करेगा। 1893 की ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि के बाद Sentence C समय को आधुनिक काल में लाता है—"More than a century later, the line still bleeds."
- Sentence B Sentence C के बाद आया और सीमा पर भड़के हालिया तनाव का विशिष्ट कारण बताया कि अफगान अधिकारियों ने पाकिस्तान पर काबुल में हवाई हमले करने का आरोप लगाया। इसके तुरंत बाद S6 ("On October 12, the Taliban launched a counterattack...") उस तनाव के जवाब में की गई सैन्य कार्रवाई का उल्लेख करते हुए गद्यांश को तार्किक रूप से पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence A directly follows S1 (S1-A), grounding the opening calendar date ("February 14, 1850") with the actual historical event: the birth of a baby boy to Major General Sir Henry Marion Durand.
 - Sentence D follows Sentence A to form an unbroken referential pair (A-D), transitioning from "a baby boy" in A to "The child, Henry Mortimer Durand" in D, while establishing his historical landmark—the demarcation of the 1893 Durand Line.
 - Sentence C follows Sentence D, employing a temporal leap ("More than a century later") to bridge the 19th-century negotiation to contemporary border volatility.
 - Sentence B follows Sentence C, detailing the trigger behind the modern flare-up (allegations of Pakistani airstrikes on Kabul). Finally, S6 provides the direct counter-action on the ground—detailing the Taliban's counterattack on Pakistan's Frontier Corps positions along that very border.
8. B) **Observe** (verb) – To notice or perceive something and register it as being significant; to watch carefully, especially with attention to details or behavior for the purpose of arriving at a judgment. ध्यान से देखना
 Synonym: **Watch** (verb) – To look at or observe attentively over a period of time; to keep under careful, protective, or secret observation. देखना
- **Ignore** (verb) – Refuse to take notice of or acknowledge; to deliberately overlook or disregard. अनदेखा करना
 - **Deserve** (verb) – To do something or have or show qualities worthy of (a reaction which rewards or punishes as appropriate). योग्य होना
 - **Clarify** (verb) – To make (a statement or situation) less confused and more clearly comprehensible; to clear up. स्पष्ट करना
9. C) **Yield** (verb) – To produce or provide something, for example a profit, result, or crop. उत्पन्न करना

Synonym: **Produce** (verb) – To create or manufacture a physical product, to bring something into existence. निर्मित करना

- **Defy** (verb) – To openly resist or refuse to obey a person, request, or rule. विरोध करना
- **Bring** (verb) – To carry something to a place, especially towards someone. लाना
- **Build** (verb) – To construct something by putting parts or material together. बनाना

10. C) **Up in arms** (idiom) – Ready to fight लड़ने के लिए तैयार

- **Unable to do something** (phrase) – Incapable of performing or completing a task. कुछ करने में असमर्थ
- **Standing tall** (phrase) – Being proud and confident. गर्वित और आत्मविश्वासी होना
- **Doing exercise** (phrase) – Engaging in physical activity to maintain or enhance health and fitness. व्यायाम कर रहा है

11. B) **Called it a day** (idiom) – Stopped working on something काम पर समाप्ती

12. D) **Absolve** (verb) – Forgive, free from blame, acquit. दोषमुक्त करना

Antonym: **Condemn** (verb) – Blame, censure, convict. निंदा करना

- **Gratify** (verb) – Please, satisfy. संतुष्ट करना
- **Resolve** (verb) – Decide firmly, settle. संकल्प लेना
- **Pardon** (verb) – Forgive. क्षमा करना

13. A) **General** (adjective) – Common, widespread, overall. सामान्य

Antonym: **Specific** (adjective) – Particular, precise, definite. विशिष्ट

- **Mixture** (noun) – A blend or combination. मिश्रण
- **Composite** (adjective) – Made up of several parts. मिश्रित
- **Common** (adjective) – Usual, ordinary. आम

14. C) **Elegy** (noun) – a poem of mourning, especially for the dead शोकगीत

- **Ballad** (noun) – a narrative poem or song, often telling a story लोकगीत / कथा-कविता
- **Ode** (noun) – a lyrical poem expressing praise or deep emotion स्तुतिगान
- **Sonnet** (noun) – a 14-line poem with a fixed rhyme scheme चौदह पंक्तियों की कविता

15. C) **Anarchy** (noun) – a state of political disorder and absence of government अराजकता

- **Plutocracy** (noun) – government by the wealthy धनिकतंत्र
- **Monarchy** (noun) – government by a king or queen राजतंत्र
- **Oligarchy** (noun) – government by a few people or a small group अल्पतंत्र

16. A) **The correct spelling is Accomplishment (Option A).**

It is formed by taking the base transitive verb root accomplish (a-c-c-o-m-p-l-i-s-h – containing double 'c' and single 'm') and attaching the standard nominal suffix -ment: A-c-c-o-m-p-l-i-s-h-m-e-n-t.

Accomplishment (noun) – achievement, success, attainment, triumph, feat; something that has been achieved successfully. (उपलब्धि / सिद्धि / सफलता)

17. B) The correct spelling is (b) **Harassment**.

Harassment (noun) – persecution, intimidation, pestering, torment, botheration. (उत्पीड़न)

18. B) The sentence incorrectly uses the objective pronoun "him" after the phrase "it was". In standard English grammar, the phrase "It is" or "It was" functions as an equation, and the pronoun that directly follows it must be in the subjective (nominative) case, because it refers

back to the subject of the sentence. Therefore, "it was him who" must be corrected to "it was he who".

यह sentence "It is / It was" के बाद गलत Pronoun Case का उपयोग करता है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण के अनुसार, "It is" या "It was" के तुरंत बाद आने वाला Pronoun हमेशा Subjective रूप (जैसे he, she, I, they) में होना चाहिए, Objective रूप (जैसे him, me, them) में नहीं। इसलिए, "it was him who" को बदलकर "it was he who" किया जाना चाहिए।

19. A) **The sentence uses an illogical passive participle phrase ("Being worked") for an action the subject performed themselves.** To show that an active action was completely finished before the main action of the sentence occurred, the active Perfect Participle structure ("Having + 3rd form") must be used. Therefore, "Being worked" must be corrected to "Having worked".

यह sentence एक ऐसे कार्य के लिए Passive Voice ("Being worked") का प्रयोग कर रहा है जो कर्ता ने स्वयं किया है। जब कोई एक काम पूरी तरह खत्म होने के बाद दूसरा काम शुरू होता है, तो पहले काम को दर्शाने के लिए Active Voice में Perfect Participle ("Having + Verb 3rd form") का प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए, "Being worked" को बदलकर "Having worked" किया जाना चाहिए।

20. A) **Defend** (verb) – protect, guard, secure, shield, safeguard. (बचाव करना)
 Antonym: **Imperil** (verb) – put at risk of being harmed, injured, or destroyed. (खतरे में डालना)
Host (verb) – act as a host to (an event or a person). (आयोजित करना)
Imminent (adjective) – about to happen. (आसन्न)
Equitable (adjective) – fair and impartial. (न्यायसंगत)

21. C) **As soon as**

Blank (A) needs a time conjunction showing that the journalists gathered right after the match ended — the moment Bengal "wrapped up a 60-run victory," they "hovered outside the winning team's dressing room." a) Even though: introduces a contrast or concession, violating the requirement since there is nothing surprising about journalists gathering after a win — the link is one of time, not contrast. b) Lest: means "for fear that," violating the requirement since the journalists were not trying to prevent anything. c) As soon as: means "immediately when," matching the journalists heading to the dressing room the moment the match ended. d) No sooner: also means "immediately after," but violates the requirement since it needs inversion and "than," as in "No sooner had Bengal wrapped up ... than the journalists hovered."

Hindi:

- Blank (A) में time बताने वाला conjunction चाहिए जो दिखाए कि match खत्म होते ही journalists इकट्ठा हो गए — जैसे ही Bengal ने "wrapped up a 60-run victory," वो "hovered outside the winning team's dressing room।" a) Even though: यह contrast या concession बताता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि जीत के बाद journalists का इकट्ठा होना कोई surprising बात नहीं — यहाँ relation time का है, contrast का नहीं। b) Lest: इसका meaning है "इस डर से कि," जो violate करता है क्योंकि journalists कुछ रोकने का try नहीं कर रहे थे। c) As soon as: इसका meaning है "जैसे ही," जो match खत्म होते ही dressing room की ओर पहुँचे journalists से match करता है। d) No sooner: इसका meaning भी "तुरंत बाद" है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि इसके साथ inversion और "than" चाहिए, जैसे "No sooner had Bengal wrapped up ... than the journalists hovered।"

22. A) **had again been omitted**

Blank (B) needs a past perfect passive verb, since the selectors left the name out ("omitted" is done to the name, not by it) at a time earlier than the match-day events already told in the past — "Two days before the commencement of the encounter." a) had again been omitted: is the past perfect passive, matching an action completed by the selectors before the match day described. b) was again omitting: is active and continuous, violating the requirement on both counts — the name does no omitting, and leaving it out was a single completed decision, not an ongoing action. c) has again been omitted: is present perfect, violating the requirement since it cannot go with a specific past time like "Two days before the commencement of the encounter." d) had again omitted: is active, violating the requirement since it would make the name the one doing the omitting, while the selectors left the name out.

Hindi:

- Blank (B) में past perfect passive verb चाहिए, क्योंकि selectors ने नाम को बाहर किया (omit नाम के साथ हुआ, नाम ने नहीं किया), और यह match वाले दिन की past में बताई गई घटनाओं से पहले हुआ — "Two days before the commencement of the encounter।" a) had again been omitted: यह past perfect passive है, जो match वाले दिन से पहले selectors के पूरे किए गए action से match करता है। b) was again omitting: यह active और continuous है, जो दोनों तरह से violate करता है — नाम कुछ omit नहीं करता, और बाहर करना एक बार का पूरा decision था, लगातार चलने वाला काम नहीं। c) has again been omitted: यह present perfect है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह "Two days before the commencement of the encounter" जैसे तय past time के साथ नहीं आ सकता। d) had again omitted: यह active है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इससे नाम ही omit करने वाला बन जाता है, जबकि नाम को selectors ने बाहर किया।

23. B) allay

Blank (C) needs a base verb, parallel with "prove," meaning "to reduce or put to rest," since Shami plays regularly for Bengal to quiet worries about his fitness. a) corroborate: means to confirm with evidence, violating the requirement since confirming the doubts would prove his critics right, the opposite of his aim. b) allay: means to reduce or put to rest a fear or doubt, matching Shami playing regularly to quieten worries about his fitness. c) exacerbate: means to make a problem worse, violating the requirement since Shami wants to ease doubts about his fitness, not deepen them. d) harbour: means to keep a feeling in one's mind, as in "harbour doubts," violating the requirement since that is what his detractors do — Shami is trying to remove those doubts.

Hindi:

- Blank (C) में "prove" जैसा base verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "कम करना या शांत करना," क्योंकि Shami अपनी fitness की चिंताओं को शांत करने के लिए Bengal के लिए लगातार खेल रहे हैं। a) corroborate: इसका meaning है evidence से पक्का करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि doubts को पक्का करना उनके critics को सही prove कर देगा, जो उनके aim का उल्टा है। b) allay: इसका meaning है डर या doubt को कम या शांत करना, जो fitness की चिंताएँ दूर करने के लिए लगातार खेलते Shami से match करता है। c) exacerbate: इसका meaning है किसी problem को और बिगाड़ना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि Shami fitness के doubts कम करना चाहते हैं, बढ़ाना नहीं। d) harbour: इसका meaning है मन में कोई feeling बनाए रखना, जैसे

"harbour doubts," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह तो उनके critics करते हैं — Shami उन doubts को दूर करने का attempt कर रहे हैं।

24. D) action

Blank (D) needs the word that completes the idiom "missing in ____," which describes Bumrah's absence from the tournament because of a lower back injury. a) combat: sounds close to the idiom's military origin, violating the requirement since the fixed idiom is "missing in action," not "missing in combat." b) service: means work or use, as in "in service," violating the requirement since "missing in service" is not an expression. c) duty: goes with "on duty" or "off duty," violating the requirement since "missing in duty" is not an idiom. d) action: completes "missing in action," originally a military term for soldiers unaccounted for and now used for anyone absent, matching Bumrah's absence from the Champions Trophy.

Hindi:

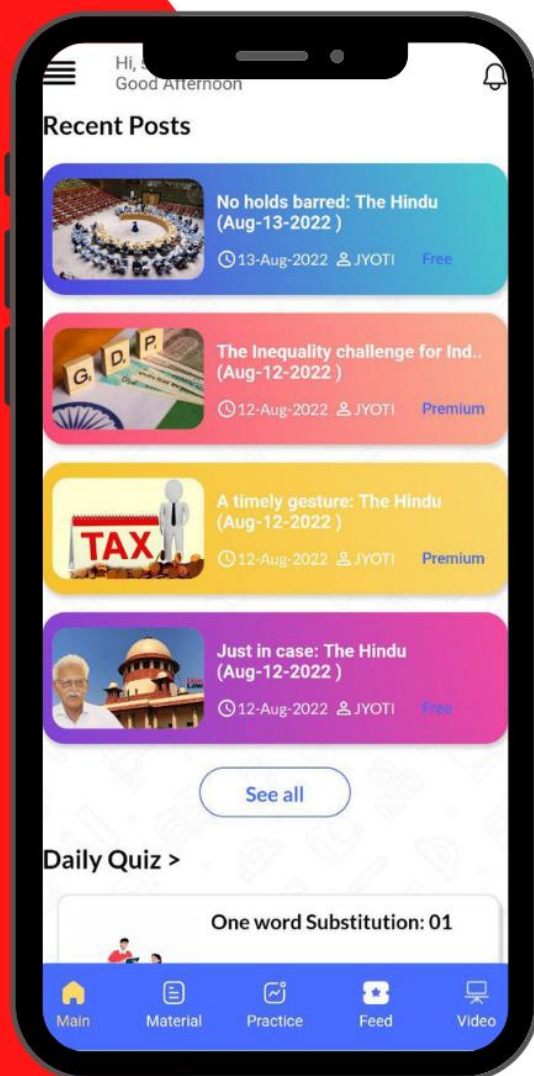
- Blank (D) में वो word चाहिए जो idiom "missing in ____" को पूरा करे, जो lower back injury के कारण tournament से Bumrah के absent रहने को बताता है। a) combat: यह idiom के military origin के करीब लगता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि fixed idiom "missing in action" है, "missing in combat" नहीं। b) service: इसका meaning है काम या use, जैसे "in service," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "missing in service" कोई expression नहीं है। c) duty: यह "on duty" या "off duty" के साथ आता है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "missing in duty" कोई idiom नहीं है। d) action: यह "missing in action" बनाता है, जो पहले military term था उन soldiers के लिए जिनका पता ना हो, और अब किसी के भी absent होने के लिए use होता है, जो Champions Trophy से Bumrah की absence से match करता है।

25. B) for

Blank (E) needs the preposition that follows the noun "yearning" to name what is longed for — here, "a return to the bright lights of international cricket." a) of: would make "a return" the one doing the yearning, violating the requirement since it is Shami who longs for the return. b) for: forms "yearning for," the fixed pairing for a deep longing for something, matching Shami's longing to play for India again. c) with: does not pair with "yearning" at all, violating the requirement since "yearning with a return" makes no sense. d) to: is used when "yearning" is followed by a verb, as in "yearning to return," violating the requirement since a noun, "a return," follows here.

Hindi:

- Blank (E) में वो preposition चाहिए जो noun "yearning" के बाद आकर बताए कि किस चीज़ की चाह है — यहाँ "a return to the bright lights of international cricket।" a) of: इससे "a return" ही चाहने वाला बन जाएगा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि return की चाह Shami को है। b) for: यह "yearning for" बनाता है, जो किसी चीज़ की गहरी चाह के लिए fixed जोड़ी है, जो India के लिए फिर से खेलने की Shami की चाह से match करता है। c) with: यह "yearning" के साथ आता ही नहीं, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "yearning with a return" का कोई मतलब नहीं बनता। d) to: यह तब आता है जब "yearning" के बाद verb हो, जैसे "yearning to return," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ noun "a return" आ रहा है।



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