

Coming of age: On the IPL, its 18th edition

The Indian Premier League is setting new standards in cricket's shortest format

Indian cricket's summer **spectacle** is entering its eighteenth season. **The Indian Premier League** (IPL), which **debuted** on a warm night at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in 2008, **has** evolved into a global sporting **juggernaut** with immense commercial **clout**. The **sheer** volume and **pace** of matches may **render** individual moments **fleeting**, yet the tournament has deep roots and an **ardent** fan base. When **defending champions** Kolkata Knight Riders face Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Eden Gardens on Saturday night, the commentary box will **inevitably amplify** the **hype**. Over the next two months, **culminating** on May 25, 10 teams will **criss-cross** India, battling for T20 **supremacy**. While similar leagues **thrive** in Australia and **elsewhere**, the IPL remains the gold standard. Beyond the on-field drama, the IPL continues to be a game-changer, with other cricketing nations struggling to retain their stars as **freelance** players increasingly prioritise IPL contracts. While the league runs on high **stakes** and intense performances, the Indian government's recent **move** to ban alcohol and tobacco companies from **leveraging** IPL telecasts for **surrogate advertising** **is** a welcome decision. **Given** the tournament's massive youth **following**, such restrictions are both necessary and responsible.

Once, the Ranji Trophy was the primary **gateway** to India's national team; today, the IPL serves as an **escalator**, fast-tracking talent into the international **arena**. From R. Ashwin in the early years to Hardik Pandya now, the league has been a **launch pad** for future stars. The **once-daunting experience** of sharing a dressing room with global icons **has diminished**, as young Indian cricketers now arrive at the highest level fully prepared. **Longevity**, too, is a **hallmark** of the tournament — **stalwarts** including M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma have been part of the IPL since its **inception**. At 43, Dhoni may be playing his final season for Chennai Super Kings, but with him, retirement predictions often **go awry**. While big-hitting batters dominate headlines, **enigmatic** spinners and **lethal** pacers command attention too. More than just watching Jasprit Bumrah in Mumbai Indians' colours, fans will be **eager** to see when the injured speedster can make a **full-fledged** return. The same **scrutiny** will follow Pat Cummins and other key players, as the IPL not only **sets the tone for** the cricketing calendar but also provides crucial **insights** into the form and fitness of the game's biggest names when the time comes for performance on the international stage.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

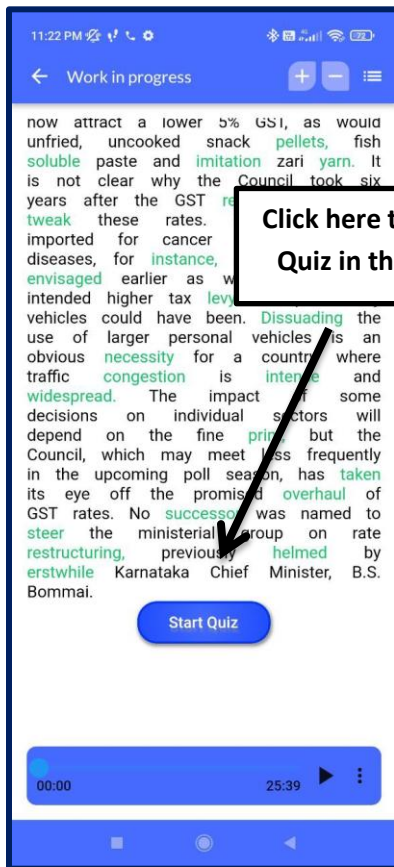
1. **Coming of age** (phrase) – Maturing, growing up, blossoming, evolving, ripening
परिपक्व होना
2. **Spectacle** (noun) – Show, extravaganza, display, event, phenomenon तमाशा
3. **Debut** (verb) – Launch, begin, start, premiere, initiate शुरुआत करना
4. **Juggernaut** (noun) – a very large and powerful company, organization, or industry
5. **Clout** (noun) – Influence, authority, power, sway, impact प्रभाव
6. **Sheer** (adjective) – Pure, absolute, utter, complete, total पूर्ण
7. **Pace** (noun) – Speed, tempo, rate, rhythm, momentum गति
8. **Render** (verb) – Make, cause, turn, transform, present प्रस्तुत करना
9. **Fleeting** (adjective) – something which lasts only for a very short time क्षणिक
10. **Ardent** (adjective) – Passionate, enthusiastic, fervent, zealous, devoted उत्साही
11. **Defending champion** (noun) – Titleholder, incumbent, reigning winner, current victor, previous conqueror वर्तमान विजेता
12. **Inevitably** (adverb) – Unavoidably, certainly, surely, necessarily, predictably अनिवार्य रूप से
13. **Amplify** (verb) – Increase, boost, enhance, magnify, intensify बढ़ाना
14. **Hype** (noun) – Excitement, buzz, promotion, publicity, fervor उत्साह
15. **Culminate** (verb) – Conclude, end, finish, peak, climax समाप्त होना
16. **Criss-cross** (verb) – move or travel around (a place) by going back and forth repeatedly. सफ़र करना
17. **Supremacy** (noun) – Dominance, superiority, mastery, preeminence, control प्रभुत्व
18. **Thrive** (verb) – Flourish, prosper, succeed, grow, bloom फलना-फूलना
19. **Elsewhere** (adverb) – Somewhere else, abroad, elsewhere, in other places, afar कहीं और
20. **Freelance player** (noun) – a cricketer who is not under a central contract with their national or state board, but instead works on a per-match or per-tournament basis, often playing in various leagues or tournaments स्वतंत्र खिलाड़ी
21. **Stake** (noun) – Interest, investment, share, risk, involvement दांव

22. **Leverage** (verb) – Utilize, exploit, harness, use, capitalize लाभ उठाना
23. **Surrogate advertising** (noun) – a marketing technique that promotes a product by advertising another product made by the same company
24. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, in view of, due to, because of, granted देखते हुए
25. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, succeeding, post, later than के बाद
26. **Gateway** (noun) – Entrance, portal, doorway, access, path
27. **Escalator** (noun) – Lift, accelerator, elevator, booster, fast-track तेज़ मार्ग
28. **Arena** (noun) – Stage, field, platform, domain, battleground मंच
29. **Launch pad** (noun) – something that provides you with the opportunity to follow a particular plan of action
30. **Once-daunting** (adjective) – Formerly intimidating, previously challenging, earlier formidable, once fearsome, past overwhelming पूर्व में भयावह
31. **Diminish** (verb) – Reduce, decrease, lessen, weaken, fade कम करना
32. **Longevity** (noun) – Durability, endurance, permanence, long life, persistence दीर्घायु
33. **Hallmark** (noun) – Trademark, characteristic, feature, signature, distinction विशेषता
34. **Stalwart** (noun) – a loyal, reliable, and hard-working supporter of or participant in an organization or team. दिग्गज
35. **Inception** (noun) – Beginning, start, origin, commencement, initiation शुरुआत
36. **Go awry** (phrase) – Fail, go wrong, misfire, derail, falter गलत होना
37. **Enigmatic** (adjective) – Mysterious, puzzling, cryptic, intriguing, baffling रहस्यमयी
38. **Lethal** (adjective) – Deadly, fatal, dangerous, devastating, killer घातक
39. **Eager** (adjective) – Keen, excited, enthusiastic, anxious, impatient उत्सुक
40. **Full-fledged** (adjective) – Complete, total, fully developed, mature, thorough पूर्ण
41. **Scrutiny** (noun) – Examination, inspection, analysis, observation, review जांच
42. **Set the tone for** (phrase) – Establish the mood, define the pace, shape the atmosphere, lay the groundwork, influence the direction माहोल बनाना
43. **Insight** (noun) – Understanding, perception, awareness, knowledge, revelation अंतर्दृष्टि

Summary of the Editorial

1. **IPL's 18th Edition:** The Indian Premier League (IPL) is entering its 18th season, solidifying its status as a global cricketing phenomenon.
2. **Global Sporting Juggernaut:** Since its debut in 2008, the IPL has grown into a massive commercial and sporting powerhouse with a dedicated fan base.
3. **Tournament Structure:** Ten teams will compete over two months, culminating in the final on May 25, with matches held across India.
4. **Gold Standard of T20 Leagues:** While other T20 leagues exist, the IPL remains the benchmark for quality and popularity.
5. **Freelance Player Priority:** The IPL's financial allure has made it a priority for freelance cricketers, often overshadowing commitments to national teams.
6. **Surrogate Advertising Ban:** The Indian government's ban on alcohol and tobacco companies using IPL telecasts for surrogate advertising is a responsible move, given the league's youth audience.
7. **Talent Escalator:** The IPL has replaced the Ranji Trophy as the primary platform for young Indian cricketers to fast-track into the national team.
8. **Launch Pad for Stars:** Players like R. Ashwin and Hardik Pandya have used the IPL as a springboard to international success.
9. **Youth Preparedness:** Young Indian cricketers now enter the international arena well-prepared, thanks to their IPL experiences.
10. **Longevity of Legends:** Iconic players like M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli, and Rohit Sharma have been part of the IPL since its inception, showcasing its enduring appeal.
11. **Dhoni's Potential Farewell:** At 43, M.S. Dhoni may be playing his final IPL season for Chennai Super Kings, though retirement predictions about him have often been wrong.
12. **Bowlers in the Spotlight:** While batters dominate headlines, spinners and pacers like Jasprit Bumrah also draw significant attention.
13. **Injury Watch:** Fans are eager to see the return of injured players like Jasprit Bumrah and how key players like Pat Cummins perform.
14. **Form and Fitness Indicator:** The IPL serves as a crucial platform to assess the form and fitness of players ahead of international tournaments.
15. **Cultural Impact:** Beyond cricket, the IPL continues to influence sports, entertainment, and youth culture, setting new standards for T20 cricket globally.

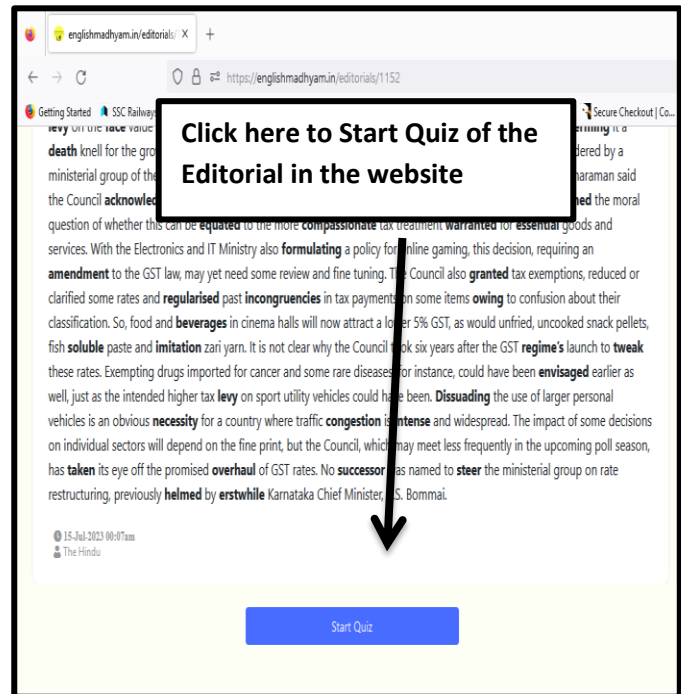
Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based



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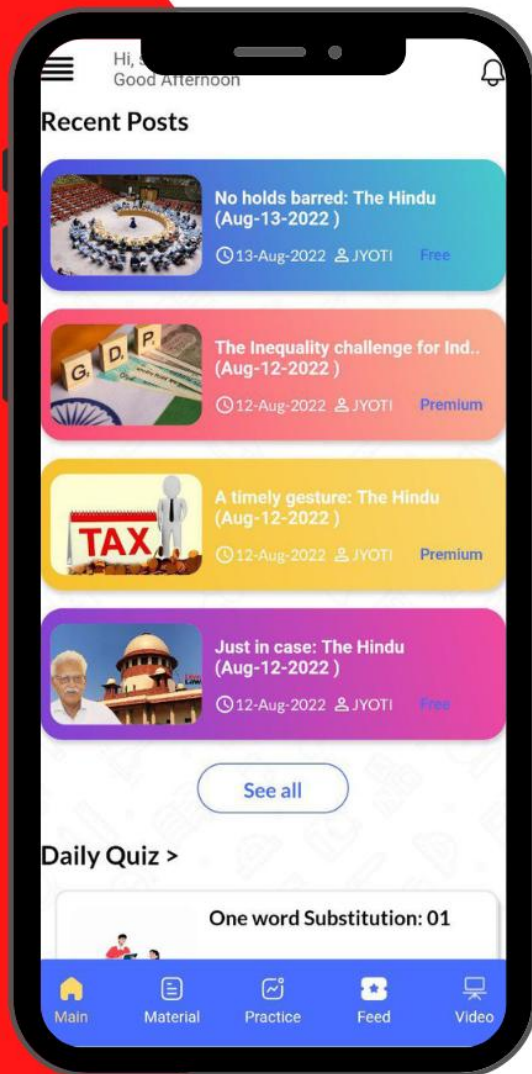
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