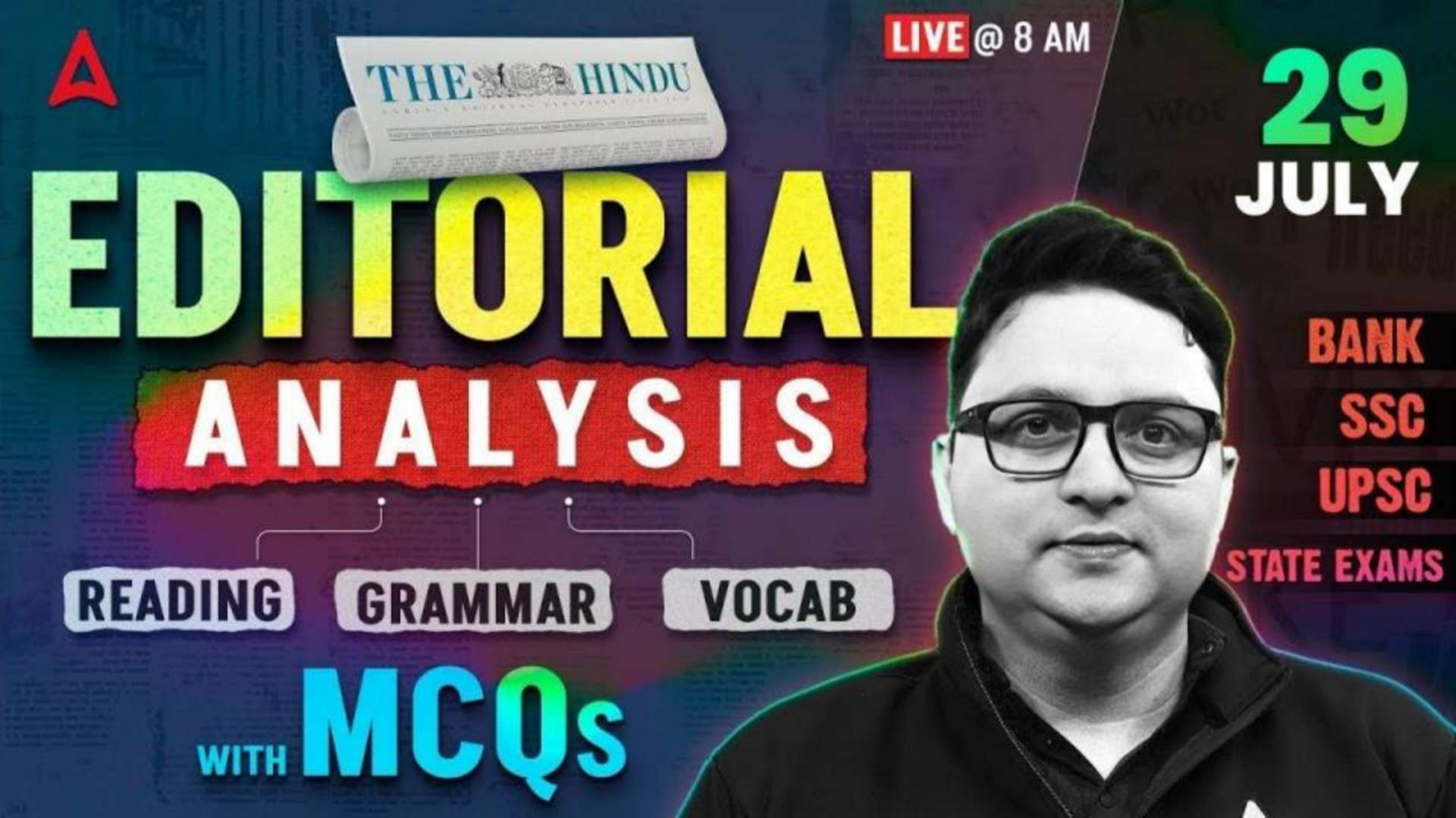
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English

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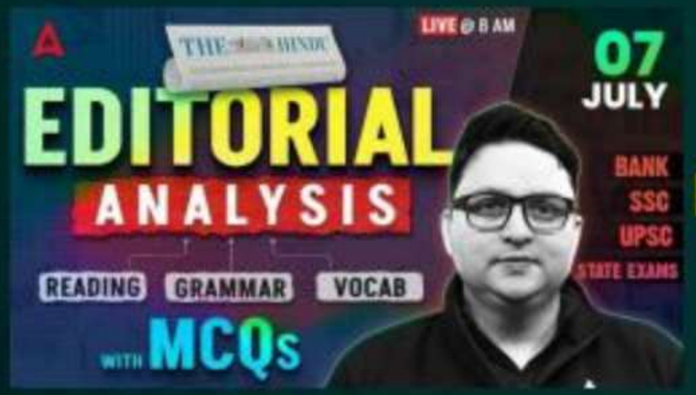

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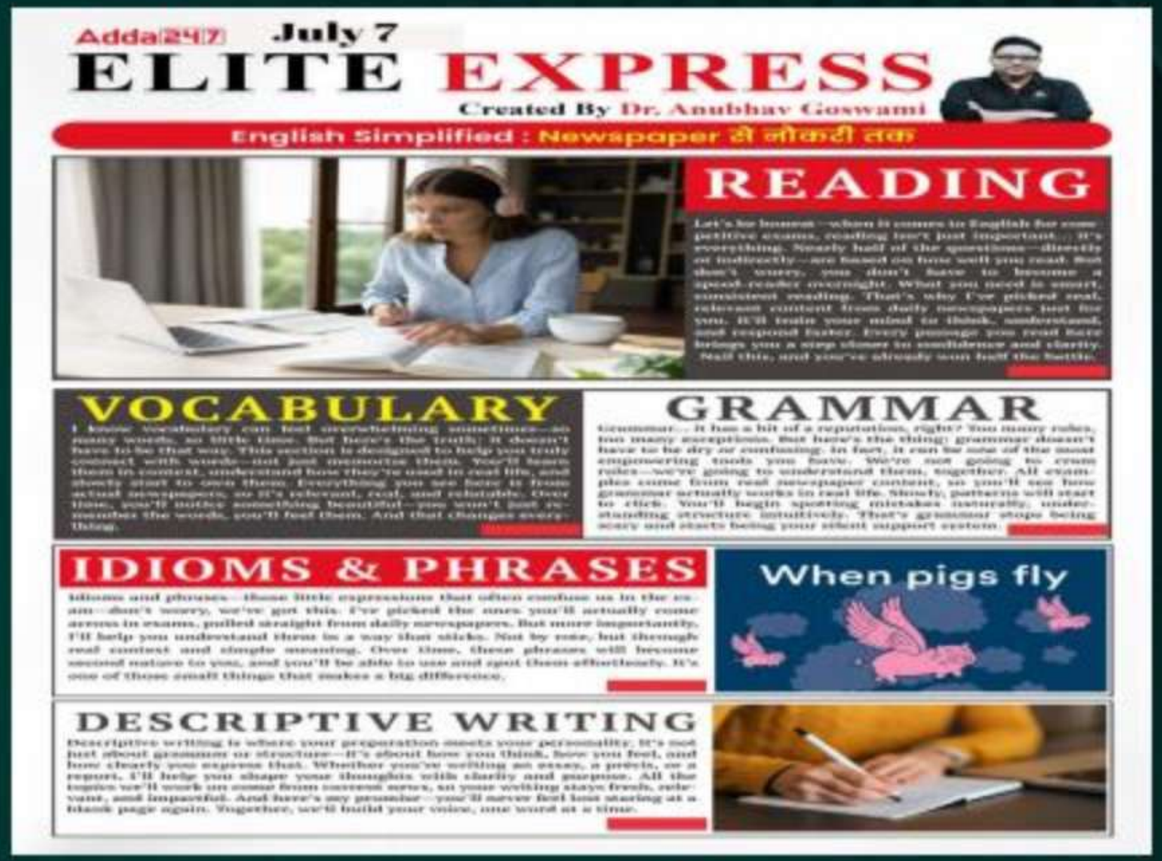

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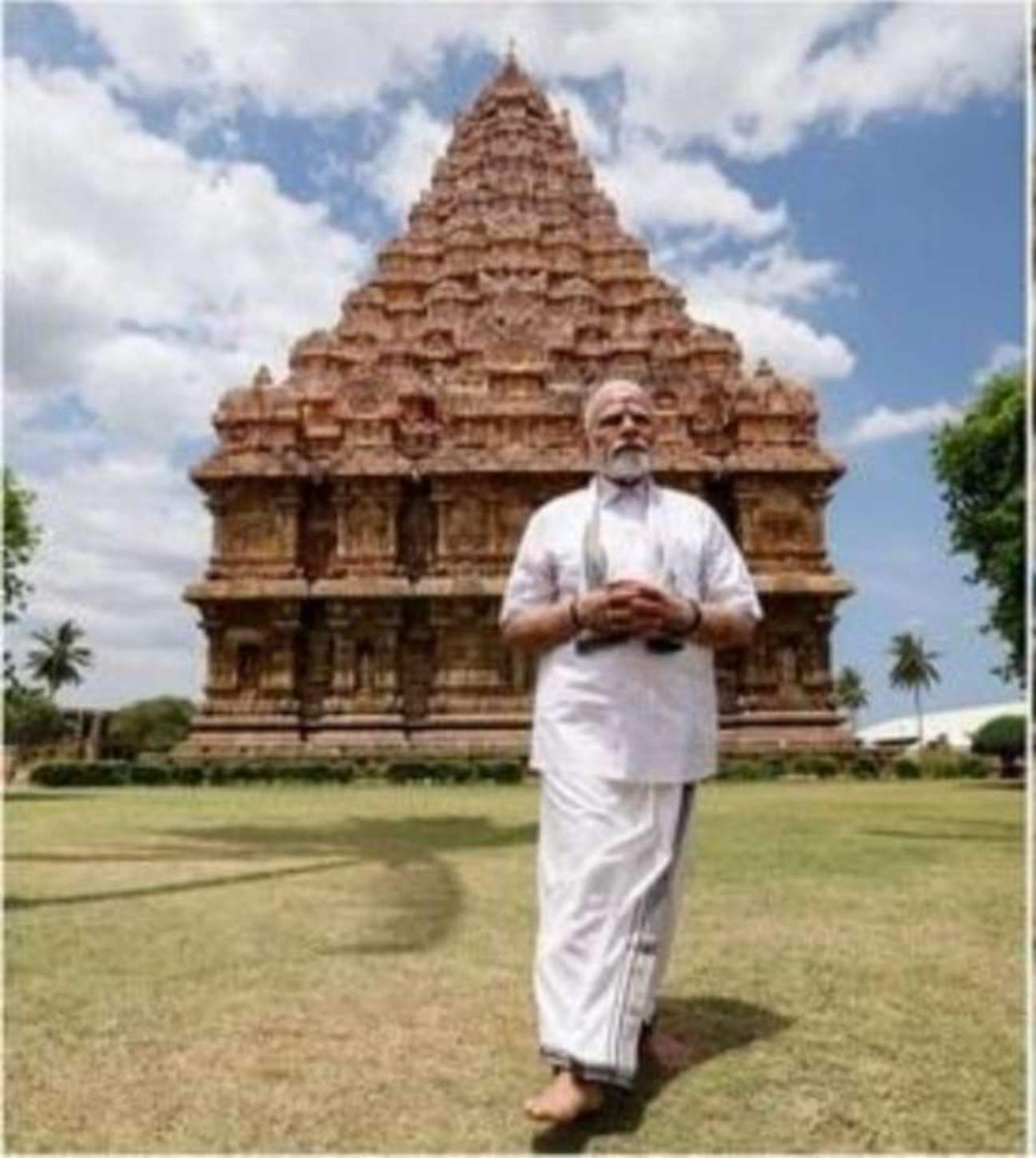
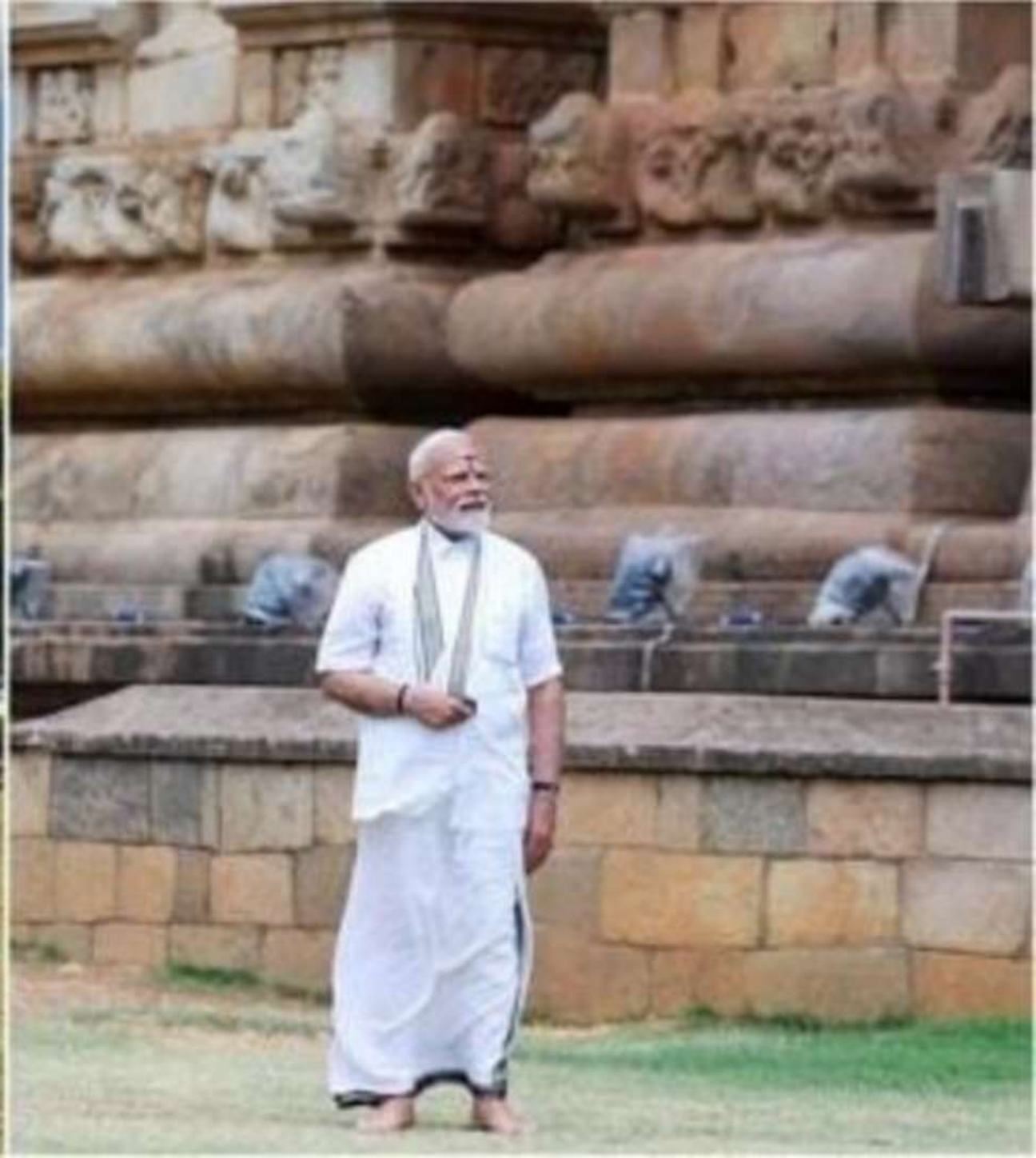
NBC
18
6 DEAD IN MANSA DEVI
TEMPLE STAMPEDE





ENDURE

सहन करना (Verb)

to put up with (something painful or difficult)

SYNONYMS

- Sustain
- Abide
- Capitulate
- Withstand

Persist
weather
Bear
weather the storm

ANTONYMS

- Repudiate
- Evade
- Circumvent
- Succumb

Relinquish
Surrender

FORMS

Noun-(endurance)
(2) Enduring
(3) Endurance

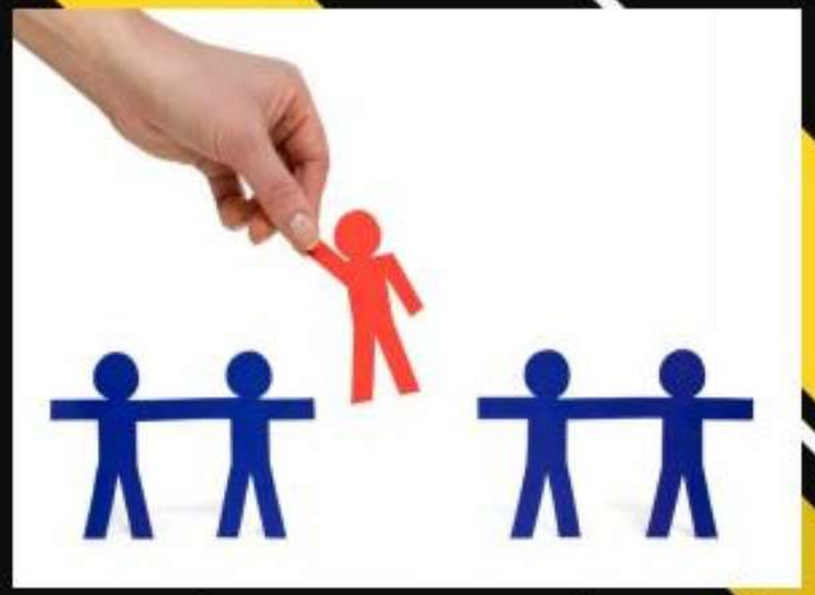
He left a/ an _____ legacy in the field of science.

REDUNDANT

अनावश्यक

being over what is needed

(Adj)



SYNONYMS

- Superfluous
- Extraneous
- Bountiful
- Gratuitous
- Pleonastic

Spare

Surplus

ANTONYMS

- Vital
- Crucial
- Indispensable
- Meager

FORMS

Noun-(redundancy)

I can will SP (S.F)

The committee removed redundant information to keep only the _____ facts in the report.

EARMARKED

निर्धारित

VOC

to keep or intend for a special purpose

SYNONYMS

- Allocate
- Consign
- Consecrate
- Bestow

ANTONYMS

- Ambiguity
- Revoke
- Release
- Withdraw

open available

FORMS

Noun-(earmark)

The government _____ ₹5,000 crores for rural development projects.

SUBTLE

गूढ (Adj)

clever at attaining one's ends by indirect and often deceptive means

SYNONYMS

- Deceptive
- Fraudulent
- Shrewd
- Beguiling
- Astute

ANTONYMS

- Ingenuous
- Candid
- Patent
- Innocent

Benevolent
Innocuous
Benign
Genuine
Frank
Clarity

FORMS

Noun-(subtlety)

Rational | Lexical | pragmatic | Sagacious | Prudent

The _____ of his argument impressed the judges.

MUNDANE

सांसारिक

having to do with life on earth especially as opposed to that in heaven

SYNONYMS

- Temporal
- Terrestrial
- Sublunary
- Prosaic
- Routine

Boring
Dull
Bland

ANTONYMS

- Celestial
- Supernal
- Elysian
- Sublime

FORMS

Noun-(mundaneness)

The _____ of daily chores often pushes artists to seek inspiration elsewhere.

RESILIENCE

लचीलापन

Strength

the ability to withstand or adjust to challenges

Sturdiness

N

SYNONYMS

- Tenacity
- Potency
- Buoyancy
- Endurance

Robustness

H

ANTONYMS

- Frailty
- Fragility
- Susceptibility
- reliance

FORMS

Adjective-(resilient)

Adj

Children are often more _____ than adults in adapting to change.

ACUMEN

कुशाग्र बुद्धि

exceptional discernment and judgment especially in practical matters

SYNONYMS

Wisdom

- Sagacity — Prudent
- Discernment — Rationale
- Perspicacity
- Penetration

Pragmatism — Intelligence

ANTONYMS

Naive

- Obtuseness
- Vacuity
- Naivety
- Ineptitude

ept — Foolishness | Incompetence

FORMS

Adjective-(acute)

He has an _____ understanding of human behavior.

OPINE

राय होना (Verb)

to make a statement of one's opinion

SYNONYMS

- Pronounce
- Deem
- Postulate
- Profess

Declare
Suggest
Express
Think

ANTONYMS

opinion

- Suppress
- Refrain
- Conceal
- Reserve

FORMS

Noun-(opinion)

Experts _____ that the new law would improve transparency in governance.

RESTIVE

अडियल

given to resisting authority or another's control

SYNONYMS

- Defiant
- Recalcitrant
- Obstreperous
- Skittish

ANTONYMS

- Docile
- Placid
- Amiable
- Deferential
- Decorous

FORMS

Noun-(restiveness)

_____ students demanded immediate reforms in the examination system.

PROFLIGATE

अपव्ययी

given to spending money freely or foolishly

SYNONYMS

- Extravagant
- Prodigal
- Squandering
- Philanthropical

ANTONYMS

- Frugal
- Thrifty
- Parsimonious
- Penurious

FORMS

Noun-(profligacy)

The resources were _____ wasted during the celebration.

OSTRACIZE

निष्कासित करना

to not allow (someone) to be included in a group; to exclude (someone) from a group

(Verb)

SYNONYMS

- Denounce
- Boycott
- Decry
- Repudiate

ANTONYMS

- Reintegrate
- Enfold
- Embrace
- Involve

FORMS

Noun-(ostracism)

While society ostracized the reformer for his radical ideas, future generations would _____ him as a visionary.

IDIOMS

- **In the line of fire** – In a position to receive criticism or blame.
Example: The spokesperson was in the line of fire after the company's data breach.

- **A wake-up call** – An event that alerts people to an important issue or problem.
Example: The sudden illness was a wake-up call for him to start taking his health seriously.

- **Pass the buck** – To shift responsibility to someone else.
Example: Instead of admitting his mistake, he passed the buck to his assistant.

- **Learn the ropes** – To understand how to do a new job or activity.
Example: It took her a few weeks to learn the ropes, but now she handles everything smoothly.

PHRASAL VERBS

- **Play down** – To minimize the importance or seriousness of something.

Example: He tried to play down his role in the failed negotiations.

- **Carry out** – To perform or complete a task or duty.

Example: The team carried out the experiment under strict laboratory conditions.

- **Fall back on** – To rely on a secondary plan or support system.

Example: After losing his job, he had to fall back on his savings to survive.

Root Word: "vor" (Latin – to devour, eat greedily)

(Often seen in words related to eating, consumption, or destruction)

1. Voracious *(adjective)* – Having an insatiable appetite for food or an activity
Example: She was a voracious reader who finished five books a week.

2. Carnivorous *(adjective)* – Meat-eating; feeding on flesh
Example: Tigers are carnivorous animals that rely on hunting to survive.

3. Herbivorous *(adjective)* – Plant-eating
Example: Most dinosaurs were herbivorous, surviving on vegetation alone.

4. Omnivorous *(adjective)* – Eating both plant and animal matter
Example: Humans are omnivorous by nature, capable of digesting a wide range of foods.

5. Devour *(verb)* – To eat or consume something eagerly or destructively
Example: The fire devoured the wooden cabin within minutes.

A day apart, two pilgrimages in North India have **endured** chaos. Eight people died on the steep stairway to Haridwar's Mansa Devi shrine on July 27, 2025 after a rumour spread that a snapped power line was live. The next day, at Avsaaneshwar temple in Barabanki, monkeys reportedly damaged an overhead cable, sparking panic that killed two persons. Both incidents were triggered by fears of electrocution. Such hazards at temples are not new; makeshift wiring draped over stalls and overloaded transformers are common sights at melas. However, neither shrine had an automatic power cutoff or a public-address system capable of debunking misinformation. The Haridwar probe will almost certainly reiterate older recommendations such as underground cabling and real-time voltage monitoring. However, the threat is incidental. Except for two major stampedes in recent memory (in Bengaluru and Hyderabad), all such tragedies have occurred at religious mass gatherings or in the course of attending them. They occur despite multiple guidelines and court orders due to authorities' collective desensitisation to risk. On paper, Uttarakhand has a crowd-management manual for the Char Dham and the NDMA's guidelines say that every event must calculate carrying capacity, stagger entry, maintain **redundant** escape routes, and hold drills. Yet, at Mansa Devi, the stairway that doubles as entry and exit was used without scheduling, and the only alternative route had much lower carrying capacity.

In Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the response centred on compensation rather than structural reform. The NDMA norms need to be legally binding, with severe consequences for persons, enterprises or businesses that fail to protect lives. At present, States choose provisions from the norms and temple trusts often treat them as optional because pilgrim facilities fall under charitable exemptions in many building codes. Routine 'darshan' does not require safety certification even when daily footfall exceeds that of a sports stadium. States also bank on ad hoc volunteers and under-trained guards to manage surges. However, annual drills mandated under the Disaster Management Act are rarely held for regular worship, while funds **earmarked** for permanent infrastructure are often diverted to festivals. The time has come to eradicate the notion of a simply planned or cheap mass gathering event, religious or otherwise. When footfall exceeds a preset threshold, a single incident-command structure must come into effect. Authorities must deploy overhead LiDAR and AI cameras to calculate crowd density, with real-time alerts to help divert or throttle traffic. Finally, States must ensure that venues publish capacity charts at entrances, conduct and livestream quarterly drills to normalise a safety culture, and certify volunteers in basic life support and crowd psychology.

$\frac{6}{10}$ $\frac{5-9}{10}$

1. [Inference based]

What can be reasonably inferred from the author's attitude toward the current implementation of NDMA guidelines?

A. The author argues that guidelines must become legally enforceable to be effective.
B. The author suggests that the guidelines are inherently flawed and need restructuring.
C. The author believes that the guidelines are sufficient but poorly enforced.
D. The author implies that structural reforms should be led by temple trusts, not the state.
E. The author supports leniency toward charitable trusts due to their spiritual nature.

2. [True- False Question]

Which of the following statements are supported by the passage?

1. Routine darshan is excluded from mandatory safety certification even if footfall is high.
2. Most disasters at religious gatherings occur despite the availability of specific guidelines.
3. States often prioritise temporary festival arrangements over long-term safety infrastructure.
4. Crowd control in religious spaces is often managed by trained military forces.

A. Only 1 and 2
B. Only 1, 2, and 3
C. Only 2 and 4
D. All of the above
E. Only 2 and 3

3. [True – False Pattern 2]

Which of the following issues are portrayed as contributing factors to disasters at pilgrimage sites?

A. Structural inadequacies and poor power infrastructure
B. Optional treatment of safety norms by temple trusts
C. Absence of real-time crowd monitoring technology
D. Legal prosecution of negligent officials

A. Only 1 and 2
B. Only 1, 2, and 3
C. Only 2 and 4
D. All of the above
E. Only 3 and 4

4. [Vocab - Based]

What is the most appropriate meaning of the word "**desensitisation**" as used in the context: *"due to authorities' collective desensitisation to risk"*?

A. Increased ability to recognize danger
B. Gradual loss of concern or responsiveness
C. Training aimed at improving risk management
D. Disinterest arising from repeated failure
E. Unawareness caused by lack of knowledge

5. [Logical Reasoning]

Which of the following interventions align most precisely with the author's explicitly stated recommendations in the passage?

1. Religious sites should conduct and livestream periodic emergency drills to help inculcate a culture of safety among pilgrims.
2. Authorities must ensure that accurate and updated capacity metrics are displayed prominently at all public access points of venues.
3. Real-time crowd movement and density analysis should be facilitated through the deployment of overhead LiDAR and AI-integrated surveillance systems.
4. Aerial monitoring via drones should be mandated to provide bird's-eye footage and reduce dependency on ground-level crowd control mechanisms.

A. Only 1 and 3
B. Only 1, 2, and 3
C. Only 2 and 4
D. All of the above
E. Only 1 and 2

Pattern 6 : Assertion Reason Question

Assertion (A):
Despite the existence of comprehensive safety guidelines and manuals, stampedes and tragedies continue to occur at religious mass gatherings.

Reason (R):
Authorities and temple trusts consistently implement legally binding disaster management protocols and ensure scheduled drills.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
B. Both A and R are true, but R is *not* the correct explanation of A.
C. A is true, but R is false.
D. A is false, but R is true.
E. Both A and R are false.

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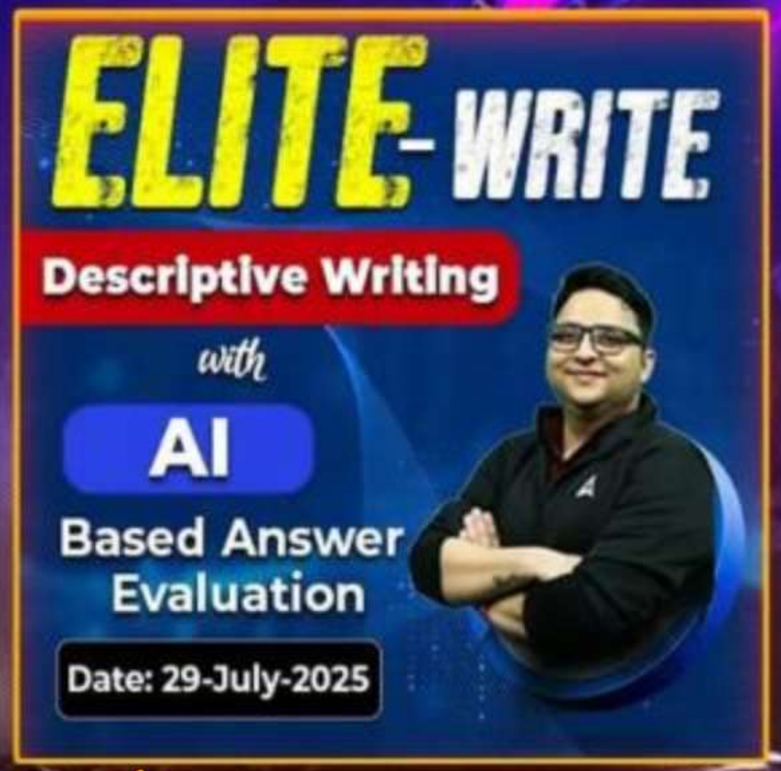

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The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tamil Nadu had a subtle political message. In his address at the valediction of the annual Aadi Thiruvathirai festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram to mark the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I, he focused on the legacy of the Chola emperor and his father Rajaraja Chola I to underline that contemporary India would be as enterprising as ancient India under the imperial Cholas, in expanding trade, and in guarding India's sovereignty. The festival was also organised to commemorate 1,000 years of the maritime expedition of Rajendra Chola to south-east Asia as well as the construction of the iconic temple, a World Heritage Site. The grandeur of the Chola dynasty is fascinating to recall, but there are other mundane facets of the Chola rule which are of modern relevance — its water management, tax and land revenue collection, and democratic processes.

In creating infrastructure, especially, the Cholas hold many lessons. In recent months, there have been fatal accidents involving civic structures. The resilience of the Brihadisvara temples, which have stood tall for over 1,000 years, could provide learnings. Studies show that the southern peninsula was the epicentre of several earthquakes in the last 200-odd years. Archaeologists are of the view that the superstructure of the temples holds the key to modern building techniques when it comes to seismic resilience. A close study of the temples for structural stability can be of immense value in the contemporary context.

Apart from focusing on the heritage and culture of the Cholas, India could try and replicate their success in administration. Management of water resources, especially, could be an important learning. The Cauvery delta, where Gangaikonda Cholapuram is located, may experience floods, with a large volume of water draining into the sea without being harnessed for periods of scarcity. More than 30 years have passed since the adoption of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, but a large number of local bodies, even in the major cities, are functioning without elected representatives. The celebration is an opportunity for an analysis of the functioning of grassroots-level democratic bodies. Mr. Modi announced that the Centre would install the statues of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola to remind the country of its historical consciousness. But this exercise would have greater purpose if it reminds the country of the administrative acumen of the Cholas, and nudges those in governance to address many of the chronic flaws and problems.

7. [Understanding context]

According to the passage, which aspect of the Chola dynasty is highlighted as particularly relevant to modern India?

A. The Chola's emphasis on military expansion
B. The Chola dynasty's methods of collecting taxes and land revenue
C. The Chola empire's cultural festivals
D. The Chola dynasty's alliance with Southeast Asian nations
E. The military prowess of Rajendra Chola I

8. [Logical understanding]

Which of the following is mentioned as a reason for the installation of the statues of Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola by the Centre?

A. To remind citizens of the Chola rulers' military might
B. To celebrate the economic prosperity of the Chola dynasty
C. To enhance national consciousness of India's historical legacy and administration
D. To attract international tourists to Tamil Nadu
E. To promote regional elections in Tamil Nadu

9. [Tone Based Question]

What is the tone of the passage?

A. Informative and analytical
B. Nostalgic and celebratory
C. Critical and sarcastic
D. Humorous and light-hearted
E. Pessimistic and discouraged

10. Vocab Based

In the passage, the word "**mundane**" is used to describe certain aspects of the Chola rule. What does "**mundane**" mean in this context?

A. Extraordinary and unique
B. Simple and routine.
C. Boring and Dull
D. Complex and intricate
E. Mysterious and enigmatic

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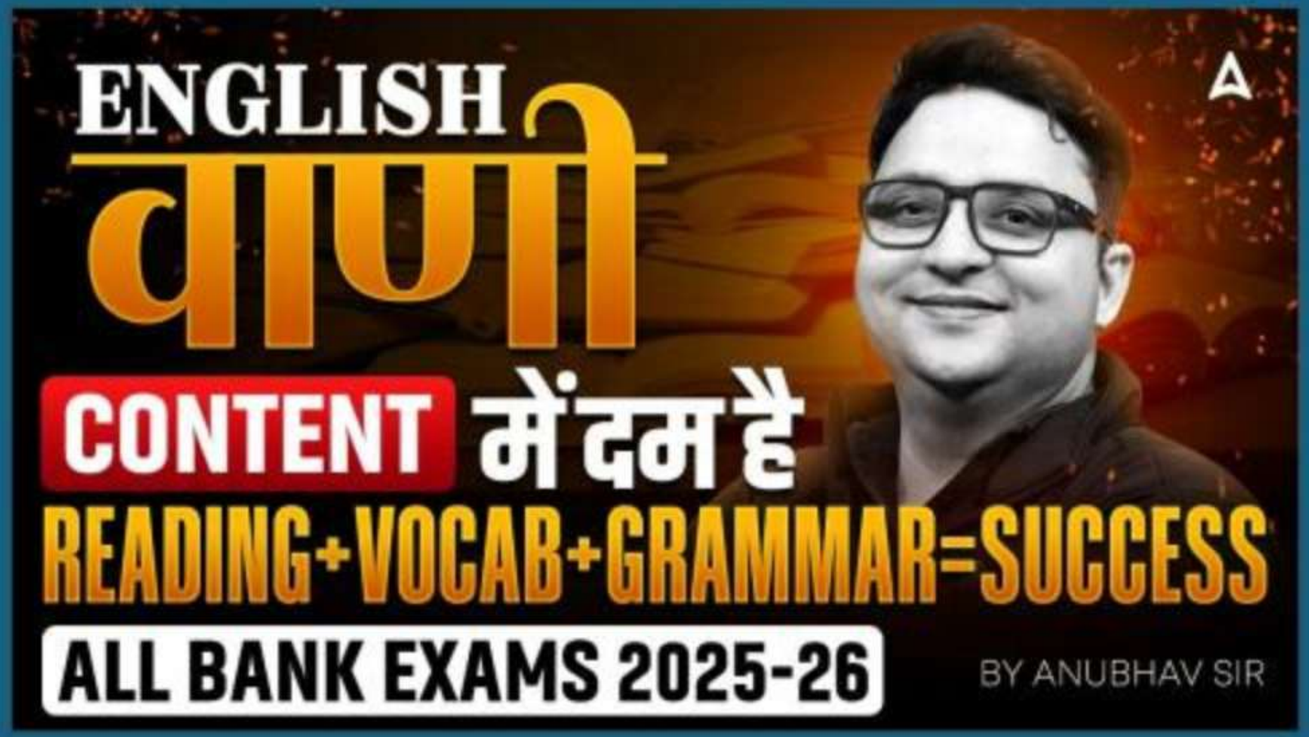

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