

STORY TO READ – 11TH March 2026

Title: Seat Number 36

(WE WILL HAVE QUIZ AT 11AM)

The Howrah–Delhi Express rolled steadily through the dark countryside as passengers settled into their berths for the night. Inside sleeper coach S5, seat number 36 was occupied by a young man named Kabir, who sat with a notebook open on his lap while the rest of the compartment slowly drifted into conversation and laughter.

Kabir, however, was focused on a page filled with English vocabulary and reasoning questions.

Only a few months earlier, he had been working in a private marketing firm in Noida. The job paid reasonably well, yet the schedule was exhausting and unpredictable. Long hours, constant travel, and endless targets had left him with a

strange feeling of stagnation. One evening, after returning home unusually late, Kabir realised that although he was busy every day, he was not truly progressing.

That night he spoke to his mother. She listened carefully while he explained his desire to prepare for bank examinations. After a moment of silence, she simply asked whether he was ready for the discipline such preparation required. Kabir replied with quiet confidence that he was prepared to try.

From the following week, his routine changed completely.

Early mornings were devoted to reading newspaper editorials and noting unfamiliar words. During lunch breaks he revised grammar concepts and quantitative formulas.

Even while travelling for work assignments, Kabir carried practice sets inside his bag. On many journeys, seat number 36 became his moving classroom.

A fellow passenger once asked him why he chose to study in such a crowded train compartment.

Kabir smiled politely and replied that time should never be wasted when a dream depended on it.

Months passed with steady preparation, occasional frustration, and gradual improvement.

Then one afternoon Kabir checked the results of the SBI Probationary Officer examination on his phone. For a moment he stared at the screen in disbelief. His name appeared in the final selection list.

When he boarded the train again a few weeks later for document verification, seat number 36 looked exactly the same. Yet for Kabir it represented the place where persistence quietly transformed ambition into achievement.

— **Kinjal Ma'am** ✨

