



Tone → Grammar

LIVE

THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

- VOCAB
- GRAMMAR
- SPOKEN ENGLISH

13 APRIL 2021 | 7:30 AM





**OPPORTUNITIES
DON'T HAPPEN. ✓
✓ YOU CREATE
THEM.**

— We need to work hard ————





TOPICS WE WOULD COVER

- Discussion of articles (daily) ✓✓
- { ✓✓ (backseat) Check your progress ✓✓ (Voc)
- ✓✓ Tuesday special – (phrasal verb)
✓✓ 10 Questions



1) **resolute** - determined ✓

✓ 2) **akin** - related ✓

→ similar in a way.

ARTICLE 1

7:30am
Share

Designing a resolute COVID-19 response ✓ *respond quickly.*

Control has to be quick and the damage being caused (contained) as the pandemic has resurfaced in a fully open society ✓

✓ "The virus has gone." That was in January 2021.
"No, it hasn't. It is back with more family members to attack us with greater force." This is in April 2021. These scene changes are akin to what happens in village feuds or urban brawls that feature in news reports across India....



Tone?

- a) Informative ✓ → (+)
- b) Laudatory ✓ → (+)
- c) Dogmatic ✓ → (-)
- d) Acerbic ✓ → (-)
- e) Critical ✓ → (Neutral)

Designing a resolute COVID-19 response

Control has to be quick and the damage being caused contained as the pandemic has resurfaced in a fully open society



K. SRINATH REDDY

"The virus has gone." That was in January 2021. "No, it hasn't. It is back with more family members to attack us with greater force." This is in April 2021. These scene changes are akin to what happens in village feuds or urban brawls that feature in news reports across India. While leaders are debating whether India is experiencing a second wave or Delhi is experiencing a fourth wave, the virus is spreading rapidly across the country, helped by the more infectious variants that arrived from abroad or emerged at home as a 'double mutant'.

Changes, a year on

There are several differences from the pandemic which we experienced in 2020, both in its spread and in our response. The virus affected relatively small numbers by March 2020, by the time the lockdown was announced. The long nationwide lockdown gave governments across the land time to strengthen the health system capacity, streamline administrative coordination, power up procurement and production processes for essential equipment and supplies, educate people on the dangers posed by the virus and advise personal protection measures that needed to be adopted. Release from the lockdown was phased, limiting transmission even as society gradually opened up. Large cities and neighbouring districts were more affected, with urban crowding and mobility driving the transmission. Rural areas and less developed States were mostly protected. This time, the pandemic has resurfaced in a fully open so-

ciety. There was unrestricted movement, markets were crowded, domestic and international travel was brisk, election campaigns were boisterously run for local bodies and assemblies, religious gatherings received state support and cricket matches were celebrated as a joyful advertisement of return to normalcy as rest of the world was still struggling with the pandemic. Masks were mandated notionally and the public decided to follow the leaders and celebrities who disdained to wear them in public. The virus had an open road for its travel, with only the welcome arches missing.

We now need to proceed beyond reflections and remonstrations on what went wrong, to design and deliver a resolute response that can help us to rapidly regain control and limit the damage. This has to incorporate several strategic components, cohesively connected and collectively implemented, to have a sustained impact. They are:

First step is decentralisation

Decentralise the response to district level. Knowledge of existing and evolving local conditions matters, for the design and the delivery of an effective response. Local data gathering and analysis provide real time intelligence for rapid response. Local community networks are important channels for information dissemination and for partnering the administration in implementation. We need consultative policymaking at the national level, inter-departmental planning at the State level, and data-driven decentralised decision making for situation adaptive implementation at the district level. The district collector must coordinate health-care services across all facilities in the district and be empowered to commandeer hospitals, hotels and transport facilities as needed.

Prevent super spreader events and mandate masks. Testing num-

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



bers are again being projected as the best measure of an efficient and effective response. This is incorrect. While tests are indeed an important component of the strategy, we cannot test asymptotically infected persons and mildly symptomatic persons who do not report themselves. These constitute a very large number at any time, as we know from antibody surveys. We cannot randomly and repeatedly test large proportions of the population to detect virus presence in such potentially infective persons. Masks, if worn well and regularly in public and even in indoor gatherings, will greatly reduce risk of transmission from any infected person, known or unknown. Even the more infectious variants will be blocked by effective masks, even where physical distancing is not possible.

Stop the events

What is absolutely essential is preventing super spreader events. Crowding, whether indoor or outdoor, offers the virus an opportunity to seed itself among many exposed persons who then carry it elsewhere to perpetuate the chain of transmission. There should be a ban on large gatherings, for at least the next eight weeks. Travel restrictions too must be imposed during this period. The notion that all of India has acquired or will soon acquire herd immunity must be dispelled with clear messaging for some months to come.

Use smart testing and tracing, but case detection needs more. The past year has taught us that vi-

ral tests are useful but have limitations. A single RT-PCR test can miss between 30%-40% cases, due to limitations posed by swab collection, transport efficiency and laboratory competency apart from testing too early or too late during the infection when a replicating virus is not detectable.

We need to detect possible cases through household surveillance of symptomatic individuals by primary health-care teams supported by citizen volunteers. All suspect cases and household contacts must be tested. Positive cases must be isolated and provided home or hospital care depending on severity. Symptomatic but negative persons and household contacts should be re-tested three to five days later but wear masks and observe distance even at home till the re-test result too is negative and the infected person has recovered. Genomic analyses must be performed in at least 5% of test positive samples. Contact tracing, for persons from whom the case may have acquired the infection and to whom the case may have passed it on, needs to be conducted with speed and efficiency. Local networks help in early case detection and contact tracing. The use of just apps will not do.

Step up vaccine rollout

Speed up vaccine rollout, recognising value and limitations. The benefit of currently available vaccines is to provide protection against severe disease, not infection *per se*. This information must be clearly conveyed to the public, politicians and the media so that wrong expectations of complete protection against infection do not lead to laxity in behaviour or an outcry of vaccine failure.

Given this objective, available vaccines must be prioritised for vulnerable persons. Initially, the aim must be to immunise all persons above 35 years of age and all younger persons with at-risk health disorders. We must get

more vaccines quickly into the supply chain by incentivising greater production volumes of already approved vaccines and waiving the requirement of a bridging trial for domestic manufacture of vaccines approved by credible international regulators, subject to submissions of full trial data to our regulators. We must train more vaccinators for delivery closer to home, stepping up daily administration rates at more centres.

Social support is key

Involve people, not just instruct. Citizen engagement is critical for a successful pandemic response. Formal and informal networks that exist at the local level must be activated and supported to educate people and motivate them for adopting COVID-19-appropriate behaviours, symptom reporting, providing contact information and registering for vaccination, while providing social support to affected families. Masks can be produced at the State or district level, for free distribution to households by community-based organisations. People partnered public health must become the credo and lasting legacy of the COVID-19 campaign.

Provide empathetic social support. District authorities must identify vulnerable persons and families who may suffer hardships due to loss of income, shelter or incur high health-care costs. Proactive support must be provided from public financing, as state policy, even as philanthropy is mobilised to supplement. Children must be supported for education at home or in the neighbourhood, through voluntary agencies, to overcome the digital divide of online teaching. Social solidarity must become the soul of our pandemic response.

Prof. K. Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). The views expressed are personal



3) consensus - ^{Idiom} Agreement ^(get green light)

SI Re-attempt

4) deadlock - a situation, typically one involving opposing parties, in which no progress can be made/stand-off

checkmate

ARTICLE 2

Sachi (Ready)
Nepa

A second chance for Nepal's young democracy

An all-party consensus government seems the only way to break the deadlock and ensure stability

brought made

Change

It can be said that the only constant in Nepali politics is 'unpredictability'. Nepal's democratic transition has been shaped through the efforts and sacrifices of common citizens and leaders and the expectation was that the forgotten Nepali would soon get something better than the discriminatory political culture.....



Discriminatory
to make difference

Tone — Analytical

A second chance for Nepal's young democracy

An all-party consensus government seems the only way to break the deadlock and ensure stability



ATUL K. THAKUR

It can be said that the only constant in Nepali politics is 'unpredictability'. Nepal's democratic transition has been shaped through the efforts and sacrifices of common citizens and leaders and the expectation was that the forgotten Nepali would soon get something better than the discriminatory political culture that started way back in 2015 with the new Constitution and selective political manoeuvrings.

While it was time to deepen the footprints of the key institutions of democracy, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli succeeded in making himself a bigger institution than the Constitution and Parliament. It was never possible for Mr. Oli to grow beyond a permissible stature in a functional democracy without misinterpreted nationalism, vulnerable Presidential, federal system and flawed decision-making processes.

Supported by the President Bidya Devi Bhandari, which was a surprise, Mr. Oli briskly dissolved the Lower House of the federal Parliament on December 20, 2020, which only undermined the democratic spirit and dampened the prospects of stability and equitable growth in the country

even further. Even when the Supreme Court reinstated the dissolved Parliament on February 23, 2021 and disputed the legal status of Nepal Communist Party (a merged entity of Communist Party of Nepal-ML and Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre), Mr. Oli continues to survive in the new age of Nepali politics where accountability is seldom seen as a virtue.

The obsession with the positioning of India and China, more so with the abolition of the monarchy, has been a survival game in Nepali politics. The tendency to raise the bogey of the "hostile" neighbour has weakened politics and has failed the idea of representing constituent interests. It would be helpful to reckon the present round of serious institutional crisis as the culmination of an accountability-free political culture and the misunderstood institutional processes — where the successes or failures of decisions are attributed to outsiders — instead of opting for probity in public life and owning the outcomes.

Constitutional provisions

Among the key factors of the ongoing political stalemate in Nepal are certain rigid constitutional provisions that have made it possible for Mr. Oli to take cover behind a shield and continue, as getting into election phase or looking for the possibility of a caretaker coalition government is a very difficult proposition. Instead of incorporating the provision of a no-confidence



motion in its true spirit as a multi-party democracy, Nepal gets an unusual clause (Article 100(4)) in its new Constitution that allows a no-confidence motion only two years after the formation of the government — and even this can happen only when one fourth of the total number of existing members of the House of Representatives may table a motion of no-confidence in writing that the House has no confidence in the Prime Minister. Article 100(5) is even more perplexing which necessitates the motion of no-confidence shall also indicate the name of a member proposed for the Prime Minister.

Overcoming such arduous challenges is surely very tough for the three leading parties (Nepali Congress, Maoist Centre and Janata Samajbadi Party) seen in the race to bring the Oli government down. Even to exercise the choice of a no-confidence motion, two parties of these three have to be on the same front for getting the magical number of 68 Parliamentarians. With no consensus or ethical obligations among the wary political parties, the hiatus is likely to sustain itself.

The three major parties opposing Mr. Oli's continuance as the Prime Minister have 142 seats in Parliament, a number that is well sufficient to end the deadlock, enter into a post-Oli era and form a new government.

However, Mr. Oli has astutely managed to outwit his political opponents both within his party and the Opposition by playing on their differences. While the Nepali Congress is facing an endemic limitation with the decision-making process, its leadership has not shown any clear temptation to explore the possibility of playing any significant role in the ongoing crucial phase in Nepali politics.

The Baburam Bhattarai-led Janata Samajbadi Party was expected to be playing an active role in coalition experiments with the Maoist Centre, Nepali Congress and Madhes-based parties, however, no such action was noticed from this camp as well. Maoist Centre Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Baburam Bhattarai and former Co-Chair with Mr. Oli in the erstwhile Nepal Communist Party formed an informal alliance with Madhav Kumar Nepal as they both wanted Mr. Oli to be unseated in the wake of his decision to dissolve the House of Representatives on December 20 and demanded his resignation. Their demands were limited only to Mr. Oli's resignation and were not oriented toward the building of an alternate front, which gave a much needed respite to Mr. Oli.

After the Supreme Court of Ne-

pali reinstated Parliament in February this year, it came out with the next historic verdict on March 7 in which the top court had scrapped the legal status of the ruling Nepal Communist Party. This led to a formal division in the united communist alliance, besides ensuring a split in the Dahal-Nepal faction. Mr. Nepal, along with other UML leaders loyal to him, was left with no option but to return to the old party. Mr. Dahal had to revert to his old party, the Maoist Centre, even as four of its law makers defected to Mr. Oli's UML. Mr. Dahal has also missed taking a political step, in playing safe.

A way out

The political muddle apart, this is no time for elections, especially with a second wave of COVID-19 infections. Nepal also stares at a lack of sufficient numbers of vaccines which has left the population vulnerable. Also, good governance cannot be ensured by a government that is caught up in survivalist compulsions.

The best way forward would be in giving democracy a good chance. For now, this can be made possible by the political parties alone. They have to aspire to ensure peace, progress and stability; the easiest option would be to work towards a consensus government with all the major parties joining hands and running it collectively.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy analyst and columnist



5) **Salvaging** –
rescue/recover.

2020

ARTICLE 3

{ must
should }

Salvaging strategy

6) **Scaled up** – increase

Rational safety measures and scaled up
vaccinations can rein in COVID-19

7) **exuberance** –
cheerfulness

(to limit / control) — idiom → Put bridle
to one's tongue

India's ^{violent} aggressive second wave of coronavirus
infections marked by over 1,50,000 cases a day
and many deaths is clearly the result of irrational
exuberance early in the new year. After
prematurely assuming that COVID-19 was
virtually over, governments made rash decisions
to allow large religious gatherings and political
campaigns with little regard for disease control.



Salvaging strategy

Rational safety measures and scaled up vaccinations can rein in COVID-19

India's aggressive second wave of coronavirus infections marked by over 1,50,000 cases a day and many deaths is clearly the result of irrational exuberance early in the new year. After prematurely assuming that COVID-19 was virtually over, governments made rash decisions to allow large religious gatherings and political campaigns with little regard for disease control. The lapse is now threatening a nascent economic recovery. Rather than view the crisis as a political setback, the government should focus on a mitigation strategy that will not hobble the economy, while stopping the wildfire spread of the virus. A key intervention would be to protect the labour force through a scaling up of vaccinations in industry and workplaces. Employers must also be encouraged to retain or opt for staggered working hours and work-from-home protocols. The national vaccination strategy, however, remains inscrutable and non-transparent, since more vaccines, including WHO-approved ones, remain unavailable to Indians for unspecified reasons. Allowing all proven vaccines to be offered in cities with suitable cold chain capacity at prices comparable to European or U.S. acquisitions – typically under \$20 a dose for m-RNA vaccines – would be as much a decision on the economy as on public health, making more Covishield and Covaxin doses available to priority recipients. This cannot, of course, be a silver

bullet, given the big population that remains to be covered, the fast pace of virus spread enabled in part by variants and younger age groups showing symptomatic disease. At present, the social vaccine – masking, healthy distancing and public etiquette – is vitally important, more so because the health system is not equipped to handle severe disease countrywide.

The scientific view of pandemic fatigue is that people see the opportunity cost of prolonged adherence to demanding restrictions as too high, considering the value of things lost. That includes access to education, meeting with loved ones, performing life rituals, and the conflict of both work and home confined to the same space. This universal experience is made worse in India by deficits in housing, mobility options and good living conditions. It is important for the government, therefore, to come up with rational activity curbs, keep them stable and incentivise people, including through financial rewards. These initiatives can lower the perception of lost opportunities and compensate workers in the affected sectors such as the travel, food and hospitality industries. This road map can be reviewed when vaccines become widely available and cases decline, although a return to a carefree past is a long way off. Political communication on the state of the pandemic lacked a clear sense of purpose during festivals and poll campaigns. Now, the COVID-19 strategy can avert costly partial or full lockdowns only with public cooperation, and that calls for building credibility and trust.

Tone — Acerbic



ARTICLE TO BE
DISCUSSED IN
DETAIL
ARTICLE 4



8) unilaterally –
one-sided ✓

Save the deal

U.S. and Iran should rebuild the lost trust and resolve the nuclear crisis before time runs out

The Vienna talks between the remaining members of the Iran nuclear deal — China, Russia, the U.K., France, Germany and Iran — have raised hopes for the revival of the agreement from which then President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. in May 2018.

After the initial round of talks, European and Iranian diplomats have said efforts to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as the deal is officially called, are on “the right track”.

then
former ✓

discussion

recovery

proper



9) envoy –
representative ✓

10) enrichment –
improvement ✓

11) centrifuge –
separator ✓

An American delegation, led by Robert Malley, the White House special envoy for Iran, is also in Vienna, though the Americans and the Iranians would not hold direct talks. All sides agree that bringing the deal back on track is ideal, but who will blink first? The U.S. wants Iran to end its uranium enrichment and centrifuge development programmes and return to the 2015 agreement, while Tehran has demanded the U.S. lift all sanctions imposed by Mr. Trump and still enforced by President Joe Biden.

put the first effort / break the ice.

Like ✓
→ Share



12) agenda –
programme/schedule ✓

13) Road map – a plan
or strategy intended to
achieve a particular
goal.

The agenda at Vienna, therefore, is to produce a
road map for the revival of the JCPOA by
addressing these two critical issues – Iran's
nuclear enhanced programme and American
sanctions.

Phrasal Verb

M – Test
T – P.V
W – G
Th – O
F – I
S – D



The Biden administration has displayed flexibility in its approach towards Iran. The President appointed a special envoy, ended the U.S.'s support for Saudi Arabia's war against the Houthis, Iran-backed militants, in Yemen and promised to lift sanctions if Tehran returns to the JCPOA terms. The administration has also reportedly made an offer to Iran to release \$1 billion of Iranian money frozen in South Korea as part of the sanctions in exchange for ending its 20% uranium enrichment. But a wary Iran, which was fully compliant with the agreement when Mr. Trump abandoned it and slapped back sanctions, has rejected the offer, seeking more concrete measures from the U.S. The challenge both sides are facing is a lack of time. Iran holds its presidential polls in June.



If the U.S.'s best chance to address Iran's nuclear programme is through the revival of the JCPOA, the best possibility of reviving the agreement is to do it (or at least agree on a road map) before the presidential election. There are external dangers as well. Iran-backed Shia militias in Iraq continue to target U.S. forces and bases in Iraq. The Israel-Iran shadow conflict is now being fought inside Syria and on the seas. Last week, an Iranian ship was attacked in the Red Sea. If security tensions rise in the region involving Iran and its proxies, it could derail the diplomatic efforts. The U.S. and Iran should exercise restraint, stay focused on talks and rebuild the lost trust, and take measures to get the deal back on track that would resolve the nuclear crisis in return for dismantling the sanctions regime.



Primarily, the U.S. naval actions maybe a message to China, whose maritime claims are increasingly coming into conflict with those of the U.S. and its allies, but Washington is attempting to send a broader message that it will not tolerate any other country's claims. As New Delhi contends with this new reality, it must seek answers from Washington about how their newly intensified Quad partnership, especially their stated objective to cooperate on keeping a "free and open Indo-Pacific", can co-exist with the open challenge the U.S. Navy has posed.



— check your progress (back seat) x



TUESDAY SPECIAL

PHRASAL VERBS



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q1. I have to —my notes once again to make sure I have learned all important details before the exam.

- (a) stand for
- (b) put up with
- (c) take after
- (d) pull down
- ✓ (e) go over

0:30

✓ go through

— Debasish



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q2. My check-up results indicate that I have to —- all my bad habits at once.

- (a) keep on
- (b) let down
- (c) give up
- (d) put across
- (e) bring up

0:30

Stop doing



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q3. We haven't been able to decide on who is going to — our baby while we are on the business trip next week.

(a) fall out

(b) come to

(c) get by

☒ (d) look after — take care.

(e) go on

0:30

Vikalp



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q4. Today, there is a tendency in our culture to —- the people who haven't been to a university.

- (a) take off
- (b) show off
- (c) turn over
- ☒ (d) look down on
- (e) run out

0:30

Debarish



→ 1st

✓ (Bell) ✓

EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q5. The soldier will be brought to trial because he is thought to have — state secrets to the enemy.

- (a) backed up
- ✓ (b) given away
- (c) broken out
- (d) turned off
- (e) run over

0:30

Dropita



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q6. In order not to lose its market share, our company must —- the latest technological developments. ✓

- (a) hold up
- (b) drop in
- (c) fall apart
- (d) wear out

0:30

Debatish

✓ (e) keep up with — to be aware of something.



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q7. It is obvious that the new law has --- some revolutionary changes in the current tax system but there are still some points to be revised.

- ☒ (a) brought about
- (b) broken away
- (c) taken in
- (d) pulled out
- (e) come at

0:30

make something
happen.



9:30am

14- Dec



→ use

→ regular
st

→ Analyses

→ Once
a week

Grammar

EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q8. If it weren't for the loan I got from the bank, it would have been impossible for me to — my own business.

(a) ~~set up~~

(b) cross out

(c) drop off

(d) take down

(e) throw up

0:30

Debarish



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EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

Q9. Though he loved his fiancée very much, the boy acted in accordance with his parent's wishes and -- with her.

- (a) set out
- (b) turned out
- (c) made up
- (d) broke up
- (e) looked in

0:30

Aspita



EXERCISE ON PHRASAL VERB

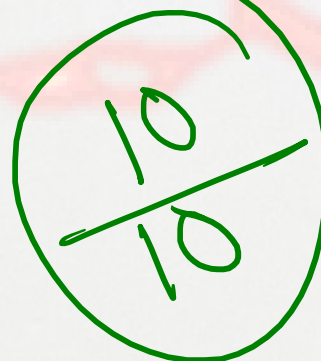
① Debasish
Itishree
Gaurav

Q10. The fact that the inflation rate has — in recent months indicates that the government isn't following a reliable economic policy

- (a) put forward
- (b) come down with
- (c) given off
- (d) gone up
- (e) put out

0:30

Arpit



mahendras.org

208717

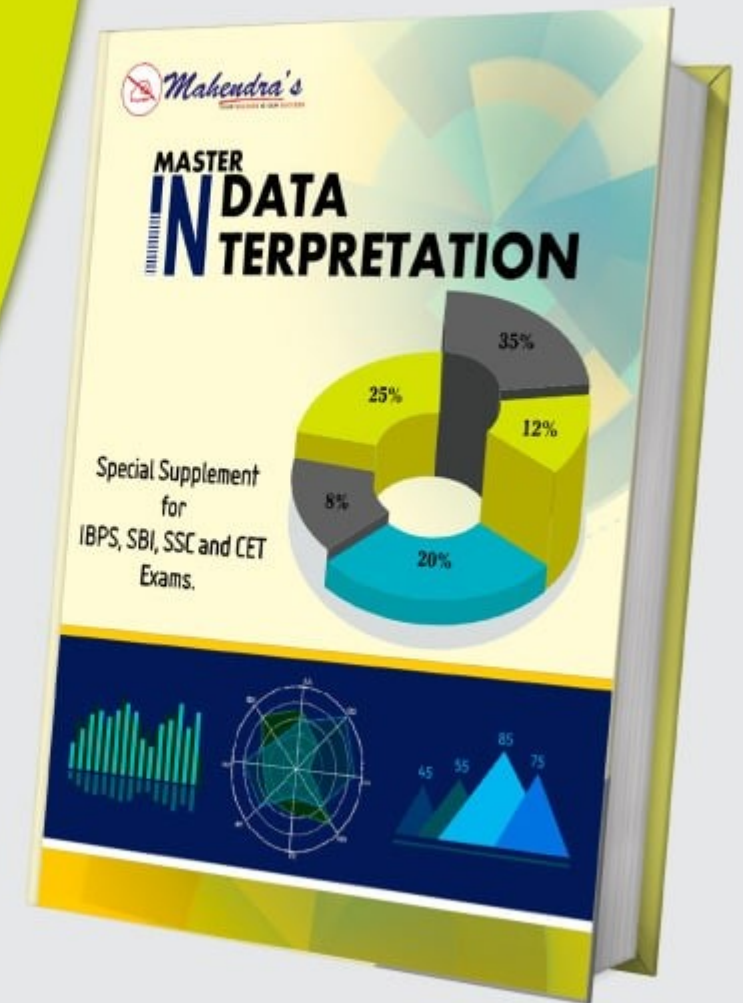
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