



LIVE

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THE HINDU EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

- **VOCAB** (*Phrasal Verb*)
- **GRAMMAR**
- **SPOKEN ENGLISH**



4 MAY 2021 | 7:30 AM



① ✓✓✓ } = } ⇒ ①

✓✓ (Studies) → → Lockdown
✓✓

"An obstacle
is often a
stepping stone."

⊕
✓
use it in
an advantageous
way.

- by Prescott Bush with Our willpower

TOPICS WE WOULD COVER

- ✓✓• Discussion of articles (daily)
(+4)
- Check your progress *Sy + Ant*
(from previous articles)
- { **TUESDAY SPECIAL-**
PHRASAL VERBS ✓✓

1) transient – temporary ✓✓

2) heartening – encouraging ✓✓

3) surpassing – remarkable ✓✓
increase

4) tandem – back-to-back

5) bolstered – supported ✓✓

IS (x) ✓✓✓

IF one evades tax - strict measures
are being imposed.

ARTICLE 1

A (transient) high

Record GST inflows are heartening, but major risks lie ahead

India's GST regime could not have hoped for a better start to its fifth year. Revenues from the tax hit an all-time high of ₹1,41,384 crore in April, surpassing the previous month's record of about ₹1.24 lakh crore. After a disastrous period for the economy following last year's national lockdown, GST revenues hit ₹1.05 lakh crore in October and have shown a steady uptick since then, in tandem with hopes of a sustained recovery. April's numbers, which are essentially driven by the transactions in March, were bolstered by heightened economic activity, no doubt. The spectre of rising COVID-19 cases and the fear of an impending lockdown could also have driven people to make advance purchases in anticipation. Moreover, firms in the process of closing annual accounts may have remitted higher GST based on audit advice, while a gradual tightening of the compliance regime, and pro-active co-ordinated probes against taxpayers using fake bills to evade liabilities, have played no small part.

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*uptick = upward trend.

(Sarcastic)

9:30

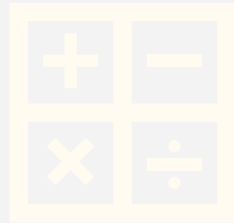
2

A transient high

Record GST inflows are heartening,
but major risks lie ahead

India's GST regime could not have hoped for a better start to its fifth year. Revenues from the tax hit an all-time high of ₹1,41,384 crore in April, surpassing the previous month's record of about ₹1.24 lakh crore. After a disastrous period for the economy following last year's national lockdown, GST revenues hit ₹1.05 lakh crore in October and have shown a steady uptick since then, in tandem with hopes of a sustained recovery. April's numbers, which are essentially driven by the transactions in March, were bolstered by heightened economic activity, no doubt. The spectre of rising COVID-19 cases and the fear of an impending lockdown could also have driven people to make advance purchases in anticipation. Moreover, firms in the process of closing annual accounts may have remitted higher GST based on audit advice, while a gradual tightening of the compliance regime, and pro-active co-ordinated probes against taxpayers using fake bills to evade liabilities, have played no small part. In April 2020, GST collections had dipped to a mere ₹32,172 crore after all activity ground to a halt at four hours' notice in late March. Economic activity may not yet be as badly affected amidst the pandemic's second wave.

So far, going by the restrictions imposed in several States, supply chain disruptions are not expected to be as challenging. However, weakening demand will trigger a recalibration of production and investment plans, some of which has begun to kick in. Consider some indicators – major two-wheeler producers saw sales plummet by around a third in April, compared to March. Plant shutdowns have gradually begun to reduce inventory build-ups. In a report, 'Wall of Worry', Crisil has warned of several indicators sliding since mid-April, including GST e-way bills which fell by over 6%, two weeks in a row. Manufacturing orders' growth hit an eight-month low in April, as per IHS Markit. And the pandemic surge and desperate shortage of health infrastructure have prompted industry leaders to pitch for a stringent lockdown. It would be foolhardy now to expect GST and other tax revenues to stay robust till the government gets a better grip on infections and vaccinations. With the Assembly polls over, the Centre must urgently convene the GST Council. To add to what is already pending – rationalisation of GST rate slabs, a rejig of rates on critical pandemic supplies and the prickly issue of bringing fuel under GST – the Council must begin gearing up early for shortfalls in GST compensation to States that may arise this year. India can ill-afford a repeat of the 2020 face-off between the Centre and States that almost upended the very spirit of co-operative federalism the GST emerged from.



6) deterrence – discouragement ✓

7) congressional–legislative

8) steer–drive

9) summitry–summit meetings collectively

ARTICLE 2

The nuclear challenge

North Korea's economic worries and the U.S.'s nuclearisation concerns need addressing

President Joe Biden's call for "stern deterrence" in response to North Korea's nuclear programme and Pyongyang's angry reaction, accusing the Biden administration of being "hostile", suggest that both countries are headed towards a diplomatic showdown. In his first congressional address last week, Mr. Biden said the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea posed a "serious threat to America's security and world security" and promised to respond through "diplomacy and stern deterrence". His administration has also completed a review of the U.S.'s North Korea policy. Biden is likely to steer between Barack Obama's "strategic patience" and Donald Trump's top-level summitry in dealing with the North Korean nuclear challenge. North Korea has remained an unresolved foreign policy puzzle for all post-War American Presidents.

stone for brick

tension

posed
create

The nuclear challenge

North Korea's economic worries and the U.S.'s nuclearisation concerns need addressing

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In theory, the Trump administration and North Korea had agreed to a complete de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, but failed to agree on its formula. In the 2019 Trump-Kim summit at Hanoi, the U.S. proposed removal of sanctions for de-nuclearisation, but North Korea rejected it. Pyongyang had taken a phased approach and sought sanctions removal in return. Ever since, there has been no improvement in ties. After Mr. Biden assumed office, North Korea had conducted short-range missile tests, which the U.S. saw as a provocation. Mr. Biden does not have many good options in dealing with North Korea. The U.S.'s key goal in north-eastern Asia is the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. And the only practical way to achieve this is through diplomacy as a military strike on North Korea, a nuclear power, is out of the question. Though the Trump-Kim summits did not lead to any breakthrough, they have still created a diplomatic momentum for engagement. Despite its threats to expand its nuclear programme, North Korea sticks to the self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range ballistic missile tests. The North, as acknowledged by Mr. Kim recently, is going through a tough economic crisis and is open to talks. Mr. Biden should seize this opportunity and try to reach common ground with Mr. Kim that addresses both North Korea's economic worries and the U.S.'s nuclear concerns. That should be the focus of the Biden administration's new North Korean strategy.

10) gauge – scale ✓

11) ravaging– devastating

mortality

12) fatality– death ✓

ARTICLE 3

Under-reporting ^{emphasize} does hurt the COVID fight (v1)

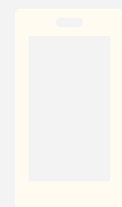
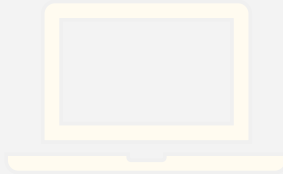
Without good data, accurate projections are impossible, making it difficult to gauge the true state of the pandemic ✓

India, now home to the world's worst ongoing coronavirus pandemic, is currently reporting nearly a million new cases and 10,000 deaths every three days, according to data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (covid19india.org). The true extent of the second wave now ravaging India is likely much worse than official numbers suggest... }

secret

In a recent study, epidemiological models attempt to capture covert infections by accounting for unreported, but infectious individuals. Expected deaths are then estimated from the estimated number of infections and assumed infection fatality rates based on historical data...

Tone



Under-reporting does hurt the COVID fight

Without good data, accurate projections are impossible, making it difficult to gauge the true state of the pandemic

BHRAMAR MUKHERJEE,
SOUMIK PURKAYASTHA,
MAXWELL SALVATORE &
SWAPNIL MISHRA

India, now home to the world's worst ongoing coronavirus pandemic, is currently reporting nearly a million new cases and 10,000 deaths every three days, according to data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (covid19india.org). The true extent of the second wave now ravaging India is likely much worse than official numbers suggest.

The reasons

Is it a problem noted only in India? Not capturing all COVID-19 cases and COVID-19-related deaths is not unique to India. Research on the behavioural dynamics of COVID-19 (<https://bit.ly/337iW75>) from a group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology estimates the global under-reporting factor for cumulative cases around 7 and for deaths 1.4 as of December, 2020. Researchers further note that these factors vary substantially across nations. In India, this problem seems to be particularly acute during the second wave based on empirical evidence and epidemiological models.

Why is it hard to capture all COVID-19 infections and related deaths? There could be several reasons why we cannot capture all COVID-19 infections such as silent asymptomatic infections, barriers to testing due to cost and travel time, reluctance to get tested due to COVID-19 associated stigma, limited availability of tests, obtaining a false negative test (remember that diagnostic tests are not perfect) and alike. Deaths related to COVID-19 that are missed often consist of deaths that happened outside health-care facilities at home, and post-COVID-19 deaths where the cause of death is listed as a pre-existing comorbidity such as heart disease or kidney failure. India also has a poor and delayed infrastructure for reporting of deaths and certifying the cause of death in general, particularly in the rural areas. In a 2017 estimate, one out of five deaths was medically reported.

How do we estimate this under-reporting from epidemiological models? For modelling growth of an epidemic, what we observe are deaths, cases or hospitalisations. However, what really defines an epidemic is not exactly the growth of these observed quantities but the infections, which in turn become these outcomes (deaths, cases, hospitalisations) with some de-



Figure 1. Description of daily cases and tests during COVID-19 surges in India (March 28-April 27) and the U.S. (November 1-February 15). The bar plots are overlaid with the test-positive rate observed over the time period, the orange (grey) bars are the number of tests and the green (red) shaded part represents the number of cases.

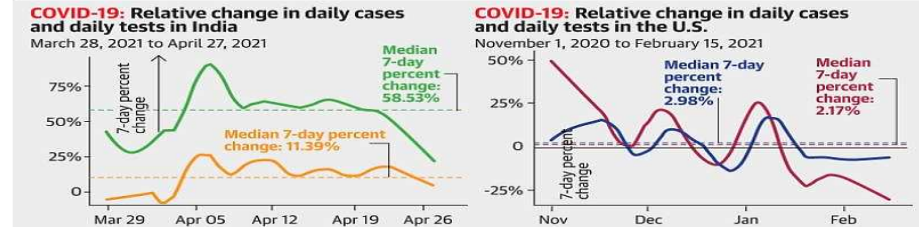


Figure 2. Trailing 7-day relative change in daily cases and tests during COVID-19 surge in India (March 28-April 27) and the U.S. (November 1-February 15). The dashed line corresponds to the median value observed over the entire period.

Sources: covid19india.org; COV-IND-19 StudyGroup; JHUCSSE GitHub (cases); The COVID Tracking Projects (tests); COV-IND-19 StudyGroup

lay, and not all infections get converted to these observed quantities. What proportion of people die from an infection is a very important quantity as it allows us to know how dangerous a disease is. Another important quantity is how many infections a health system identifies, that is, how many of these will actually end up being reported as cases. A high number of infections being caught by the health system shows a successful surveillance strategy.

On epidemiological models

In a recent study (<https://bit.ly/3x13uFO>), epidemiological models attempt to capture covert infections by accounting for unreported, but infectious individuals. Expected deaths are then estimated from the estimated number of infections and assumed infection fatality rates based on historical data. Such models (<https://bit.ly/3nG5Ou6>) indicate the under-reporting factor for cases between 10 and 20 and for deaths between two and five based on data from the first wave for India.

Can we validate what the models are saying? How do we validate the extent of unreported cases? We can cross-check under-reporting of infections directly with serosurveys carried out in India. The third serosurvey

(<https://bbc.in/3eMDPdb>) conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (from December 17, 2020 till January 8, 2021) reports that 21.5% of all Indians above the age of 18 have antibodies present that indicate SARS-CoV-2 infection in the past. Approximately 59% of India's 1.36 billion citizens are above the age of 18. This implies nearly 173 million adults infected. Factoring in the nearly 11 million COVID-19 cases reported by January 8 (assuming most cases are adults), this points to an implied under-reporting factor of roughly 16 for infections. In other words, only 6% of India's COVID-19 infections are reported. Hence, the question of "missing infections" in India is undeniable and not contingent on a belief in the legitimacy of mathematical models – it is evident based on figures released by the Indian government/bodies alone.

Mortality data

To validate the extent of unreported deaths: During wave 1 (<https://bbc.in/2RlZDZS>), a group of volunteers collected every reported death from obituaries in newspapers and reported almost twice the number of deaths than officially reported. During this recent surge, a recent report in *The New York Times* ([\[times.com/3xExudK2\]\(https://nytimes.com/3xExudK2\)\) noted that authorities in Gujarat reported between 73 and 121 COVID-related deaths each day in mid-April. The report added that one of Gujarat's leading newspapers, *Sandesh*, sent reporters to cremation and burial grounds across the State and reported that the number was several times higher, around 600 each day. The extent of this under-reporting is higher than our past model estimates. This current increased case-fatality is not only due to clinical lethality of the virus, but more patients are dying due to not receiving adequate medical care. A way to capture the holistic effect of COVID-19 \(direct and indirect impact on mortality\) will be to perform a proper excess death calculation where demographers can take the number of people who die from any cause in a given region and period and compare the same with a historical trend based on the past few years and come up with a difference of observed and expected number of deaths. This method of investigating excess deaths is something various nations have explored, such as the United States \(<https://bit.ly/3eafKh8>\); 22% excess deaths in 2020 and 72% of these attributed to COVID\). India has not made historical mortality data and data from 2020 publicly available,](https://ny-</p>
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making this calculation infeasible at this point.

Is India testing enough during wave 2? Lack of adequate testing could be one of the causes of missing infections.

Testing in India

To understand India's scale of testing, let us look at the U.S. during its highest surge in January (November 1-February 15) and India during this recent surge (March 28-April 27) in terms of testing. The bar plots show that India has a maximum daily test positivity ratio (TPR) around 25% and the U.S. had a maximum daily TPR around 15%. More interesting is Figure 2 showing seven-day growth rate in cases versus testing. While testing and cases have grown at a comparable rate in the U.S., in India the growth in reported cases on an average has been nearly five times higher than the growth in testing. India is not testing enough.

How does under-reporting matter? Right now, the country is reeling from skyrocketing infection and death counts. This surge has thrown our health-care systems off balance. Crucial medical supplies run dangerously low and hospitals are forced to turn away patients. These forecasting models are used to predict the need for oxygen, hospital beds, intensive care unit care needs, the peak and duration of the pandemic. Without having more informative data, accurate projections are impossible. Knowing the truth is better for both public and policymakers to gauge the true state of the pandemic.

Finally, the exact extent of under-reporting is debatable, but we should never forget that these numbers represent people. The official system can fail to capture the deceased and the deceased, but families cannot. The tragedies that have unfolded in thousands of families in India, with an astounding number of people that are currently sick and grieving for the dead, can never be captured through the reported staggering numbers and the ones that were missed.

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13) circumvents—avoid

ARTICLE 4

animals — Species
✓ ()

anthropo

Root

✓ A 'One Health' approach that targets people, animals → (equally) (Zoo)

The battle against COVID-19 should also be used as an opportunity to meet India's 'One Health' targets

✓ Studies indicate that more than two-thirds of existing and emerging (infectious diseases) are zoonotic, or can be transferred between animals and humans, and vice versa, when the pathogen in question originates in any life form but circumvents the species barrier. Another category of diseases, "anthropozoonotic" infections, gets transferred from humans to animals. The transboundary impact of viral outbreaks in recent years such as the Nipah virus, Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Avian Influenza has further reinforced the need for us to consistently document the linkages between the environment, animals, and human health.

go through

Tone



A 'One Health' approach that targets people, animals

The battle against COVID-19 should also be used as an opportunity to meet India's 'One Health' targets



ATUL CHATURVEDI

The father of modern pathology, Rudolf Virchow, emphasised in 1856 that there are essentially no dividing lines between animal and human medicine. This concept is ever more salient as the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions that took place around World Veterinary Day, on April 24, 2021, focused on acknowledging the interconnectedness of animals, humans, and the environment, an approach referred to as "One Health".

Across the species barrier

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India's framework, plans

India's 'One Health' vision derives its blueprint from the agreement between the tripartite-plus alliance comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – a global initiative supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank under the overarching goal of contributing to 'One World, One Health'.

In keeping with the long-term objectives, India established a National Standing Committee on Zoonoses as far back as the 1980s. And this year, funds were sanctioned for setting up a 'Centre for



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

One Health' at Nagpur. Further, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched several schemes to mitigate the prevalence of animal diseases since 2015, with a funding pattern along the lines of 60:40 (Centre: State); 90:10 for the Northeastern States, and 100% funding for Union Territories. Hence, under the National Animal Disease Control Programme, ₹13,343 crore have been sanctioned for Foot and Mouth disease and Brucellosis control. In addition, DAHD will soon establish a 'One Health' unit within the Ministry.

Additionally, the government is working to revamp programmes that focus on capacity building for veterinarians and upgrading the

animal health diagnostic system such as Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (AS-CAD). In the revised component of assistance to States/Union Territories, there is increased focus on vaccination against livestock diseases and backyard poultry. To this end, assistance will be extended to State biological production units and disease diagnostic laboratories.

WHO estimates that rabies (also a zoonotic disease) costs the global economy approximately \$6 billion annually. Considering that 97% of human rabies cases in India are attributed to dogs, interventions for disease management in dogs are considered crucial. DAHD has partnered with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the National Action Plan for Eliminating Dog Mediated Rabies. This initiative is geared towards sustained mass dog vaccinations and public education to render the country free of rabies.

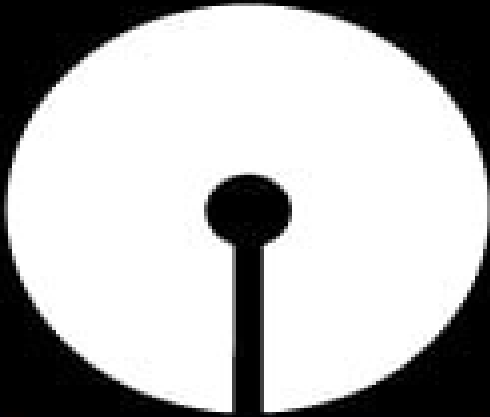
Need for coordination

Scientists have observed that there are more than 1.7 million viruses circulating in wildlife, and many of them are likely to be zoonotic, which implies that unless there is timely detection, India risks facing

many more pandemics in times to come. To achieve targets under the 'One Health' vision, efforts are ongoing to address challenges pertaining to veterinary manpower shortages, the lack of information sharing between human and animal health institutions, and inadequate coordination on food safety at slaughter, distribution, and retail facilities. These issues can be remedied by consolidating existing animal health and disease surveillance systems – e.g., the Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health (<https://bit.ly/2SqNHlr>), and the National Animal Disease Reporting System (<https://bit.ly/3aVTPbq>) – developing best-practice guidelines for informal market and slaughterhouse operation (e.g., inspections, disease prevalence assessments), and creating mechanisms to operationalise 'One Health' at every stage down to the village level. Now, as we battle yet another wave of a deadly zoonotic disease (COVID-19), awareness generation, and increased investments toward meeting 'One Health' targets is the need of the hour.

Atul Chaturvedi is Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The views expressed are personal

TEST SERIES Bilingual



9:30 ✓

SBI CLERK 2021 ✓

Course Highlights

- ✓ 200+ Total Tests with Detailed Solutions
- ✓ Full Length Mocks with Video solutions
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- ✓ eBooks



200+ Total Tests | E-Books

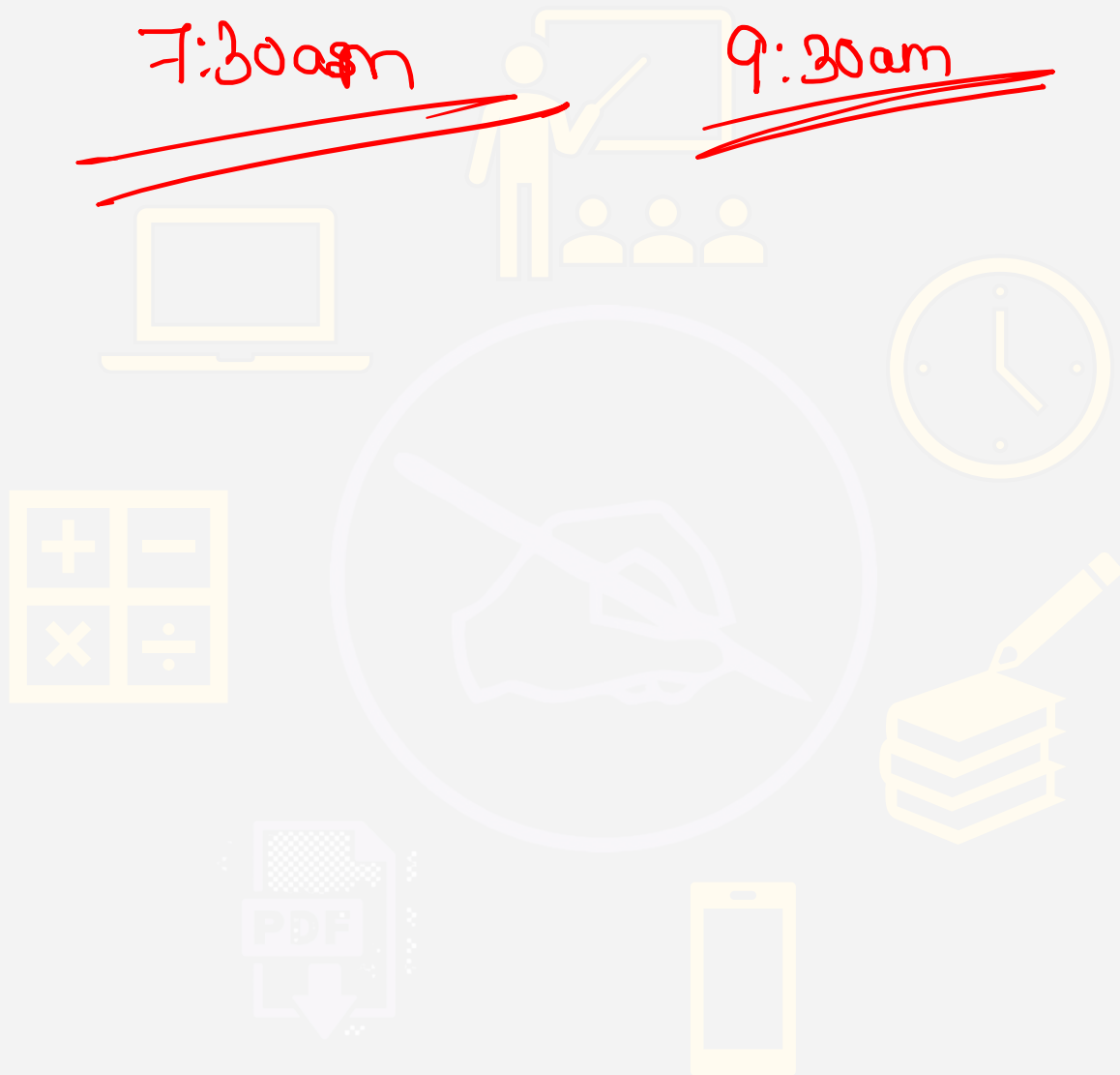
<https://www.mahendras.org/store/item/SBI-Clerk-Mock-Test-2021>

7:30am

9:30am

Read?

CHECK YOUR
PROGRESS



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

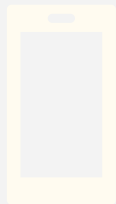
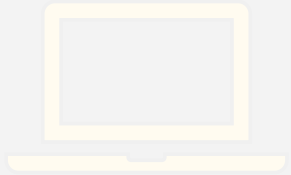
1) He **augmented** his summer income by painting houses.

Meaning: increase (verb)

Synonyms: add to, supplement

Antonyms: decrease

0:30



→ Advertisement ? ✓✓

✓✓ CHECK YOU PROGRESS

2) A product claiming to help you get ripped abs in a few hours is mendacious advertising.

0:30

Meaning: ✓✓ lying (adj)

Synonyms: untruthful, dishonest

Antonyms: truthful / honest / valid
✓✓ Credible

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

3) He found his boss's utterances too cryptic.

Coded

Meaning: enigmatic (adj)

Synonyms: mysterious, confusing

Antonyms: straightforward

0:30

MIC

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

4) No wonder he looked so dour.

0:30

Meaning: stern (adj)

Synonyms: unsmiling, unfriendly

Antonyms: cheerful

Idiom = Cold Fish



TUESDAY SPECIAL- PHRASAL VERB

PHRASAL VERB

1) Put your shoes _____ it's too cold to walk around barefoot.

0:30

A) Down

~~B) On~~

☒ C) Up

put on - wear.

PHRASAL VERB

2) You must get ____ now or you will be late for school.

0:30

A) Down

B) On

~~C) Up~~

wake up

PHRASAL VERB

3) Sit _____, please. I'll be with you in a minute.

☒ A) Down — having a seat.
B) On
C) Up

0:30

PHRASAL VERB

4) Could you write this word ____ for me, please?

0:30

~~A) Down~~ — write down

B) On

C) Up

to make note on paper.

PHRASAL VERB

5) Don't give _____ singing. You are very talented.

A) Down

B) On

~~C) Up~~

0:30

give up = withdraw
→ lose hope



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(CGL & CHSL)

03:00 PM to 05:00 PM

✓✓
**LIVE PREMIUM
GREEN CARD**
(IBPS PO & CLERK)

BILINGUAL

Q.30 \Rightarrow Verb(2)
(Syntax)

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(srayamahendras)





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