

## Women's world: On India's victory in the World Cup

The World Cup win came after a long struggle **on and off the field**

At the midnight hour on a magical Sunday, Harmanpreet Kaur and her incredible women made their **tryst with destiny**. India was finally **crowned** world champions in women's cricket. It was a journey **marked by** a long history of **angst** and joy, **shaped** by the **sweat and dreams** of pioneers such as Shantha Rangaswamy, Diana Edulji, Mithali Raj, and Jhulan Goswami. In a **high-stakes** final **befitting** an ICC World Cup, India **prevailed over** South Africa by 52 runs at Navi Mumbai's D.Y. Patil Stadium, which turned into a **teeming mass** of **raucous** energy. This moment is as **epochal** as it was for Kapil Dev and his men in 1983 when they seized the World Cup at Lord's. That caused a **seismic shift** in the way cricket was **perceived** and administered and **paved the way** for India to become a **commercial behemoth**. A similar **turn of events awaits** Harmanpreet and company, and women's cricket **at large**. The coach, Amol Muzumdar, too **had his moment**. A domestic **giant**, he never got a chance to play for the senior men's team as his career ran **parallel to** the **likes of** Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Harmanpreet's **feisty** women **ensured** that their mentor finally understood what it means to **prosper** at the highest level.

Having **flattered** in the 2005 and 2017 World Cup finals, India also had to **contend with** the pressure of playing at home. When three league matches were lost **on the trot** against South Africa, Australia, and England, **the knives were out** on social media. Still, the team **persevered** and every game produced a new star — Pratika Rawal, for instance. In the final, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma **turned in an all-round show**, while Smriti Mandhana was as **solid** as ever. Earlier, the **turn towards glory** happened in the semifinal when Jemimah Rodrigues **anchored** an **astounding** chase against defending champions Australia. Her unbeaten 127 is one of the greatest **knocks** in Indian cricketing history. If India performed **the giant killing act** towards the **climactic** phase, so too did South Africa, as England discovered in the semifinal. In skipper Laura Wolvaardt, the Proteas have a splendid batter and her two tons in the semifinal and final were **high on class** and **pugnacity**. But the biggest **takeaway** is this: Indian women have found their place on cricket's biggest stage.

### 1. On and off the field (idiom)

Meaning: Both during the game (on the field) and outside it (in other aspects of life or management).

Synonyms: everywhere, universally, comprehensively, holistically

Antonyms: selectively, partially, narrowly, incompletely

### 2. Tryst with destiny (noun phrase)

Meaning: A historic or fateful meeting with one's destiny; a defining moment in history.

Synonyms: rendezvous with fate, moment of reckoning, turning point, destiny's call

Antonyms: accident, coincidence, diversion, digression

### 3. Crowned (past participle verb)

Meaning: Officially declared as champions or victors.

Synonyms: proclaimed, anointed, enthroned, exalted

Antonyms: dethroned, deposed, demoted, stripped

### 4. Marked by (phrasal verb)

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Meaning: Characterised or defined by a certain feature or quality.  
Synonyms: distinguished by, characterised by, typified by, defined by  
Antonyms: devoid of, lacking in, free from, uncharacterised by

5. Angst (noun)

Meaning: A deep feeling of anxiety or emotional struggle.  
Synonyms: disquiet, apprehension, turmoil, unease  
Antonyms: composure, serenity, calmness, equanimity

6. Shaped (past participle verb)

Meaning: Influenced or determined the development of something.  
Synonyms: moulded, sculpted, fashioned, defined  
Antonyms: distorted, ruined, disfigured, misdirected

7. Sweat and dreams (phrase)

Meaning: Symbolic of hard work and aspiration behind achievement.  
Synonyms: toil and ambition, effort and vision, labour and hope, perseverance and desire  
Antonyms: idleness and apathy, lethargy and indifference, sloth and despair, negligence and aimlessness

8. High-stakes (adjective)

Meaning: Involving great risk or significant consequences.  
Synonyms: critical, momentous, perilous, consequential  
Antonyms: trivial, minor, low-risk, insignificant

9. Befitting (adjective)

Meaning: Appropriate or suitable for a particular situation.  
Synonyms: apt, congruous, fitting, commensurate  
Antonyms: inappropriate, incongruous, unsuitable, unseemly

10. Prevailed over (phrasal verb)

Meaning: Defeated or triumphed against opponents.  
Synonyms: triumphed over, vanquished, overcame, bested  
Antonyms: succumbed to, yielded to, surrendered, lost to

11. Teeming (adjective)

Meaning: Full of life, activity, or people; overflowing.  
Synonyms: brimming, swarming, bustling, abounding  
Antonyms: empty, barren, desolate, depleted

12. Mass (noun)

Meaning: A large crowd or collection of people.

Synonyms: multitude, throng, horde, congregation

Antonyms: individual, handful, fragment, minority

### 13. Raucous (adjective)

Meaning: Loud, energetic, and slightly disorderly in a cheerful way.

Synonyms: boisterous, uproarious, clamorous, vociferous

Antonyms: subdued, hushed, tranquil, serene

### 14. Epochal (adjective)

Meaning: Of great historical or momentous significance.

Synonyms: monumental, groundbreaking, transformative, seminal

Antonyms: trivial, negligible, unremarkable, insignificant

### 15. Seismic shift (noun phrase)

Meaning: A dramatic and far-reaching change.

Synonyms: upheaval, revolution, paradigm shift, transformation

Antonyms: stagnation, continuity, persistence, stability

### 16. Perceived (past participle verb)

Meaning: Seen, regarded, or understood in a particular way.

Synonyms: regarded, discerned, construed, apprehended

Antonyms: ignored, overlooked, misinterpreted, misconceived

### 17. Paved the way (idiom)

Meaning: Created the conditions or foundation for something to happen later.

Synonyms: facilitated, enabled, ushered in, laid the groundwork for

Antonyms: hindered, obstructed, impeded, prevented

### 18. Commercial (adjective)

Meaning: Relating to trade or business, especially for profit.

Synonyms: mercantile, corporate, profit-oriented, market-driven

Antonyms: non-profit, charitable, altruistic, philanthropic

### 19. Behemoth (noun)

Meaning: Something of enormous power, size, or influence.

Synonyms: colossus, titan, leviathan, giant

Antonyms: dwarf, weakling, minnow, lightweight

## 20. Turn of events (noun phrase)

Meaning: A change in circumstances, especially unexpected.

Synonyms: twist, development, reversal, transformation

Antonyms: constancy, uniformity, stability, predictability

## 21. Awaits (verb)

Meaning: Is destined or scheduled to happen in the future.

Synonyms: beckons, looms, approaches, anticipates

Antonyms: passes, eludes, retreats, withdraws

## 22. At large (idiom)

Meaning: In general; referring to the whole group or society.

Synonyms: broadly, collectively, generally, universally

Antonyms: specifically, individually, narrowly, exclusively

## 23. Had his moment (idiom)

Meaning: Finally received recognition or success after a long time.

Synonyms: gained acclaim, found glory, achieved prominence, basked in success

Antonyms: was overlooked, remained obscure, faded, faltered

## 24. Giant (noun)

Meaning: A person or entity of great stature, importance, or achievement.

Synonyms: luminary, titan, colossus, stalwart

Antonyms: novice, minor, underdog, lightweight

## 25. Parallel to (prepositional phrase)

Meaning: Happening at the same time or under similar circumstances.

Synonyms: concurrent with, simultaneous with, coinciding with, alongside

Antonyms: divergent from, separate from, distinct from, disconnected from

## 26. Likes of (phrase)

Meaning: People similar to or of the same category as.

Synonyms: kind of, category of, calibre of, league of

Antonyms: unlike, dissimilar to, opposite of, contrast of

## 27. Feisty (adjective)

Meaning: Energetic, spirited, and determined, especially in a challenging situation.

Synonyms: spirited, plucky, vivacious, tenacious

Antonyms: timid, docile, submissive, languid

## 28. Ensured (past tense verb)

Meaning: Made certain that something happened.

Synonyms: guaranteed, secured, assured, safeguarded

Antonyms: jeopardised, endangered, undermined, neglected

## 29. Prosper (verb)

Meaning: To succeed or flourish, especially financially or professionally.

Synonyms: flourish, thrive, advance, blossom

Antonyms: decline, deteriorate, wither, languish

## 30. Faltered (past participle verb)

Meaning: Hesitated or lost strength or confidence temporarily.

Synonyms: wavered, hesitated, stumbled, vacillated

Antonyms: persisted, advanced, prevailed, persevered

## 31. Contend with (phrasal verb)

Meaning: To struggle to deal with a difficult situation.

Synonyms: grapple with, confront, withstand, face

Antonyms: avoid, evade, dismiss, ignore

## 32. On the trot (idiom)

Meaning: Consecutively, one after another without a break.

Synonyms: consecutively, successively, sequentially, in succession

Antonyms: sporadically, intermittently, occasionally, irregularly

## 33. The knives were out (idiom)

Meaning: People were ready to criticise or attack someone fiercely.

Synonyms: hostility arose, criticism mounted, opposition intensified, backlash erupted

Antonyms: support grew, praise followed, goodwill prevailed, unity strengthened

## 34. Persevered (past tense verb)

Meaning: Continued steadily despite obstacles or difficulties.

Synonyms: persisted, endured, persisted doggedly, soldiered on

Antonyms: gave up, relented, surrendered, quit

## 35. Turned in (phrasal verb)

Meaning: Delivered or performed a particular kind of effort or result.

Synonyms: produced, presented, executed, rendered

Antonyms: withheld, failed, neglected, omitted

36. An all-round show (noun phrase)

Meaning: A performance that demonstrated excellence in multiple aspects (batting, bowling, fielding).

Synonyms: versatile display, complete performance, multifaceted effort, comprehensive contribution

Antonyms: one-dimensional act, limited display, partial effort, narrow contribution

37. Solid (adjective)

Meaning: Reliable and consistently strong.

Synonyms: steadfast, dependable, consistent, unflinching

Antonyms: shaky, unreliable, erratic, wavering

38. Turn towards glory (phrase)

Meaning: The decisive moment leading to triumph or fame.

Synonyms: path to victory, ascent to greatness, stride toward success, moment of triumph

Antonyms: downfall, collapse, defeat, failure

39. Anchored (past tense verb)

Meaning: Provided stability or led from the front, especially in a long effort or innings.

Synonyms: steadied, grounded, upheld, sustained

Antonyms: destabilised, weakened, unsettled, disrupted

## Summary for Bank Mains Descriptive Practice:

India's triumph in the Women's Cricket World Cup marked a defining moment in the country's sporting history. The victory was the culmination of years of perseverance, marked by challenges both on and off the field. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, the team's success reflected the dedication of past pioneers such as Shantha Rangaswamy, Diana Edulji, Mithali Raj, and Jhulan Goswami, whose contributions laid the foundation for women's cricket in India. The win against South Africa in a high-intensity final at Navi Mumbai's D.Y. Patil Stadium symbolised not only sporting excellence but also the growing stature of women's cricket. The journey was not without setbacks, including earlier defeats and public criticism, but the players displayed remarkable resilience. Key performances from Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Smriti Mandhana, and Jemimah Rodrigues played crucial roles in the campaign. The victory is expected to transform the perception and popularity of women's cricket in India, similar to the impact of the 1983 men's World Cup win, paving the way for greater recognition and investment in the women's game.

## Student-Friendly Summary for Easy Understanding:

India's women's cricket team created history by winning the World Cup after years of effort and struggle. Under captain Harmanpreet Kaur, the team overcame earlier disappointments and tough competition to defeat South Africa in the final. The win is seen as a result of the hard work of past legends like Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, who helped build women's cricket in India. Players such as Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali

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Verma, Deepti Sharma, and Smriti Mandhana performed brilliantly throughout the tournament. Despite facing losses and criticism, the team stayed strong and united. This victory is expected to change how women's cricket is viewed in the country and could inspire more support, just as the 1983 World Cup win did for men's cricket.

#### Tone Analysis:

The tone of the passage is celebratory and inspiring. It shows happiness and pride over India's women's cricket team winning the World Cup after years of effort. The author celebrates the players' hard work, teamwork, and determination, while also showing respect for the past players who built the foundation for women's cricket in India.

At the same time, the tone is respectful and hopeful: it recognises the struggles the team faced and suggests that this victory can bring big changes for women's cricket in the country. Overall, the article sounds proud, positive, and encouraging, making readers feel inspired by the team's success and the progress of women in sports.

## Descriptive Exercise: Report Writing

You are the Branch Manager of LIC's LMN Branch. A recent internal review was conducted to assess the discipline, attendance, and punctuality of the employees in your branch. Write a report in about 140–180 words to be submitted to the Head Office, highlighting the findings and steps taken to improve staff discipline.

Answer:

Date: October 8, 2025

To: Head Office, LIC

From: Branch Manager, LMN Branch

Subject: Report on Staff Discipline and Punctuality Review

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

A review of staff discipline and punctuality was conducted at the LMN Branch during the first week of October 2025 to assess adherence to office timings and behavioural standards. Attendance registers, biometric logs, and performance records were carefully examined to evaluate staff compliance.

It was observed that the majority of employees displayed exemplary conduct, punctuality, and commitment towards their work. However, a few instances of habitual late reporting and irregular attendance were noticed. Counselling sessions were held with such employees to emphasise the importance of discipline in maintaining operational efficiency and team morale.

To ensure continued compliance, a daily monitoring system has been introduced, and monthly recognition will be given to staff members maintaining perfect attendance. Employees were also reminded of the need for professional decorum while interacting with customers and colleagues. These measures are expected to improve workplace discipline and contribute to overall branch productivity.