

Promising Bill: On the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023

Rajasthan's **initiative** to **set up** a gig workers' welfare board **heralds** good **tidings**

With an **estimated** eight million people employed in an industry built **on the back of** the smartphone **revolution**, “gig” work has become a major source of jobs for youth in India. It **goes without saying** that in a country where informal labour and unemployment have defined the nature of the jobs market in the last **decade**, the gig economy has been a beneficial **outlet** of employment. This is especially true of youth and migrant workers, as they **seek** a ready and quick **means** of securing finances and flexible hours — an option used by **informal workers** who have used **gigs** for **moonlighting**. With growing smartphone use and a **reliance** on apps for daily needs and purposes, the gig economy is only **set to flourish** in terms of usage and opportunities. Yet, increased competition among platforms and the availability of a **cheap** labour force have **led to** a lowering of **incentives** for gig workers even as their workload and **uncertainty** of work hours have increased **significantly relative** to pay, which has also become insufficient for many. Adding this to the fact that gig workers are not recognised as “workers” but partners by most **aggregating platforms** and that they lack any **social security** or related benefits **due** to them as “workers”, working conditions have become increasingly **harsh** in an industry that is no longer a **fledgling** one. This is now **evident** in growing **flash strikes** by gig workers.

Seen in this light, the **decision** by the Rajasthan government, to deliver a Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, **should** be welcomed, even if it will be introduced before the Assembly elections later this year. While the draft Bill **envisages** a “welfare board” that will design welfare policies and hear **grievances** of gig workers **on a piece rate basis**, the **specificities** of the policies and how they might benefit the workers **are** still unclear. The board is expected to work towards a social welfare **corpus** which will be **financed** by a **cess** on the digital transactions made by consumers on the platforms that utilise the gig worker labour. This **schema** is not **unfamiliar** — **platform workers** in the transport sector in Thailand and Malaysia, **for instance**, **benefit** from health and accident insurance as well as social security that is financed by a deduction of 2% for every ride. Recently, the Union government passed the **Code** on Social Security (one of four labour codes), which also allowed for some social security for gig workers, but the scheme only remains on paper without proper implementation. If Rajasthan's **pioneering** draft Bill **takes off**, other States could be **compelled** to utilise similar measures to **ensure** the welfare of gig workers. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Promising** (adjective) – Encouraging, hopeful, auspicious, propitious, आशाजनक
2. **Gig worker** (noun) – An individual who engages in temporary, flexible, and independent work arrangements, often facilitated by digital platforms, in order to earn an income.
3. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, organize, institute, स्थापित करना
4. **Herald** (verb) – Announce, proclaim, signal, indicate, संकेत करना
5. **Tidings** (noun) – News, information, message, report, समाचार, सूचना
6. **Estimated** (adjective) – Approximated, projected, calculated, anticipated, अनुमानित
7. **On the back of** (phrase) – As a result of, on the strength of, thanks to, due to, के बल पर
8. **Revolution** (noun) – Radical change, transformation, upheaval, innovation, क्रांति
9. **Go without saying** (phrase) – Be self-evident, be obvious, be clear, be understood, स्पष्ट हो जाना
10. **Decade** (noun) – Ten years, 10-year period, दशक
11. **Outlet** (noun) – Means of expression, channel, avenue, opportunity, उपाय
12. **Seek** (verb) – Look for, search for, try to find, aim for, खोजना
13. **Means** (noun) – Method, way, technique, approach, साधन
14. **Informal worker** (noun) – Unregistered worker, unorganized laborer, nonstandard worker, अनौपचारिक कामगार
15. **Gig** (noun) – Job, assignment, task, project, अस्थायी काम
16. **Moonlighting** (noun) – Working a second job, holding multiple jobs, working extra, दूसरे काम की कमाई
17. **Reliance** (on) (noun) – Dependence, trust, confidence, faith, निर्भरता
18. **Set** (to) (verb) – Prepare, get ready, be poised, तैयार होना
19. **Flourish** (verb) – Thrive, prosper, grow, succeed, फलना-फूलना
20. **Cheap** (adjective) – Inexpensive, low-cost, economical, affordable, सस्ता
21. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, give rise to, वजह बनना
22. **Incentive** (noun) – Motivation, stimulus, encouragement, inducement, प्रोत्साहन
23. **Uncertainty** (noun) – Ambiguity, doubt, unpredictability, insecurity, अनिश्चितता

24. **Significantly** (adverb) – Considerably, notably, markedly, substantially, महत्वपूर्ण रूप से
25. **Relative** (adjective) – Comparative, related, respective, तुलनात्मक
26. **Aggregating platform** (noun) – A digital platform or app that brings together various gig workers, service providers, or suppliers and connects them with customers or users seeking their services or products.
27. **Due** (adjective) – owed, entitled to, in arrears प्राप्य, देय
28. **Harsh** (adjective) – Severe, stern, austere, कठोर
29. **Fledgling** (adjective) – Emerging, nascent, developing, उभरते
30. **Evident** (adjective) – Obvious, apparent, manifest, स्पष्ट
31. **Flash strike** (noun) – A sudden, unannounced, and typically short-lived strike or work stoppage by a group of workers, often organized spontaneously to protest against working conditions or grievances.
32. **Seen in this light** (phrase) – Considering this, in this context, from this perspective, इस दृष्टिकोण से
33. **Envisage** (verb) – Foresee, anticipate, contemplate, परिकल्पना करना
34. **Grievance** (noun) – Complaint, dissatisfaction, protest, शिकायत
35. **On a piece rate basis** (noun) – A method of compensation in which workers are paid a fixed amount for each unit of work completed or item produced, rather than receiving an hourly wage or salary.
36. **Specificity** (noun) – Precision, exactness, accurateness, विशेषता
37. **Corpus** (noun) – The principal or capital sum of a financial or investment fund, often used to generate income or support specific activities or programs.
38. **Finance** (verb) – Fund, support, back, वित्तीय सहायता देना
39. **Cess** (noun) – Levy, tax, duty, कर
40. **Schema** (noun) – Blueprint, framework, structure, योजना
41. **Unfamiliar** (adjective) – Strange, foreign, unknown, अपरिचित
42. **For instance** (phrase) – As an example, for example, such as, उदाहरण के लिए
43. **Code** (noun) – Regulation, set of rules, guidelines, नियम
44. **Pioneering** (adjective) – Innovative, trailblazing, groundbreaking, अग्रणी
45. **Take off** (phrasal verb) – become successful or popular. सफल होना

46. **Compel** (verb) – Force, require, oblige,
बाध्य करना

47. **Ensure** (verb) – Guarantee, secure, assure,
सुनिश्चित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Gig work has become a major source of employment in India, particularly for youth and migrant workers.
2. The gig economy offers flexible hours and quick means of securing finances.
3. Smartphone use and app reliance have led to the gig economy's growth.
4. Increased competition and cheap labor have resulted in lower incentives for gig workers.
5. Workload and uncertainty of work hours have increased for gig workers relative to pay.
6. Gig workers lack social security or related benefits as they are not recognized as "workers" by most platforms.
7. Growing flash strikes indicate worsening working conditions for gig workers.
8. The Rajasthan government plans to introduce the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023.
9. The draft bill proposes a "welfare board" to design policies and address gig workers' grievances.
10. Specific policies and benefits for gig workers under the bill are still unclear.
11. The board is expected to work towards a social welfare corpus funded by a cess on digital transactions.
12. Similar schemes have been implemented in the transport sector in Thailand and Malaysia.
13. The Union government passed the Code on Social Security, but it remains unimplemented.
14. If successful, Rajasthan's draft bill could inspire other states to adopt similar measures.
15. The bill has the potential to improve welfare and working conditions for gig workers.

SSC Based - Practice Exercise

1. **What does the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 aim to address?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Encouraging the growth of the smartphone industry
 - B. Ensuring better working conditions and social security for gig workers
 - C. Lowering the workload and work hours for gig workers
 - D. Reducing the number of migrant workers in the gig economy
2. Which of the following statements about the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 is **CORRECT**?
 - A. The Bill aims to decrease the number of gig workers in the industry.
 - B. The Bill has already been implemented in the states of Thailand and Malaysia.
 - C. The Bill seeks to establish a welfare board for gig workers in Rajasthan.
 - D. The Bill will eliminate the need for gig workers to rely on smartphones for their work.
3. **What is the primary aim of the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, as described in the passage?**
 - A. To implement the Code on Social Security
 - B. To provide health and accident insurance for transport sector workers
 - C. To establish a welfare board for gig workers and create a social welfare corpus
 - D. To impose a 2% deduction on every ride for platform workers in the transport sector
4. **What is the tone of the given passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Sarcastic
 - D. Indifferent
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The current challenges faced by gig workers in India
 - B. The role of smartphones in the growth of the gig economy
 - C. The significance of the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023
 - D. Comparison of labor policies between India and other countries
6. **Which idiom best describes the situation of gig workers in India as presented in the editorial?**
 - A. A picture is worth a thousand words
 - B. A wolf in sheep's clothing
 - C. Walking on eggshells
 - D. A double-edged sword
7. Which of the following words is a synonym for "**fledgling**" as used in the passage?
 - A. Established
 - B. Mature
 - C. Nascent
 - D. Declining

8. Which of the following words is a synonym for "evident" as used in the passage?
- A. Concealed
 - B. Obscure
 - C. Apparent
 - D. Confusing
9. What is an antonym for the word "compel" as used in the passage?
- A. Persuade
 - B. Discourage
 - C. Urge
 - D. Coerce
10. Which of the following words is an antonym for "flourish" as used in the passage?
- A. Prosper
 - B. Thrive
 - C. Wither
 - D. Boom

Comprehension

The UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, has come down strongly on the U.K. Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak's plan to pass a new "Illegal Migration Law" that effectively stops the granting of _____1_____ to migrants who reach the U.K. illegally. Mr. Sunak, while standing at a _____2_____ marked "Stop the Boats", said the government is worried about the numbers of those attempting to travel to the U.K. and applying for asylum while on British soil, at considerable cost to the _____3_____. Instead, as Home Secretary Suella Braverman explained while introducing the Bill this week, asylum seekers who try to enter illegally would either be returned to their own countries or a "third country", presumably Rwanda, that has entered into an agreement to provide processing facilities for them. They also face a lifetime ban on citizenship and re-entry to the U.K. According to the UNHCR, the law would _____4_____ international laws, including the 1951 Refugee Convention that Britain is a signatory to. To start with, those who flee their homes and countries often do so without proper paperwork, as they are forced to leave to save their lives. Many of the estimated 45,000 who came to the U.K. on "small boats" last year would have been economic refugees rather than political asylum seekers, and it is problematic that the British government does not make a _____5_____ between the two.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.
- A. Consistent
 - B. Asylum
 - C. Transparent
 - D. Donation
12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.
- A. Era
 - B. Cocktail
 - C. Dais

- D. Confrontation
13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.
- A. Exchequer
 - B. Openings
 - C. Implication
 - D. Tiding
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.
- A. Variation
 - B. Battering
 - C. Practice
 - D. Contravene
15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.
- A. Ties
 - B. Stability
 - C. Distinction
 - D. Surveillance
16. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.
- P. Towards the end of his life, in the 1950s, when US's relationship with Cuba was fast deteriorating,
 - Q. Things lost had a way of upending the life of American Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway
 - R. In December 1922, during his Paris years, his first wife Hadley Richardson had inadvertently lost a suitcase full of manuscripts at the Gare de Lyon railway station
 - S. Hemingway was known to have worried about the cache of manuscripts he had left behind in a bank vault in Cuba and could no longer access because of the political crisis
- A. RSPQ B.QRPS C.RSQP D.PRQS
17. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.
- P. This was long overdue.
 - Q. In the past, the government, by and large, attempted to deal with the problem by using punitive measures.
 - R. According to the National Criminal Records Bureau data, around 1.5 lakh people die every year on the country's roads.
 - S. The tragic deaths of former chairperson of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry, and KPMG group's Global Strategy Director Jehangir Pandole, in a car crash earlier this month, have brought road safety issues into sharp focus.
- A. RSPQ B.QPSR C.QSRP D.SPRQ
18. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.
- P. Many individuals embrace their individuality in an almost apologetic manner, some in a challenging and defiant manner and others with grace and aplomb.
 - Q. I believe that a life filled with self-determined purpose without the pressure of living up to the expectations of others is one you can you call your own.

- R. We all dream of the freedom and autonomy of being in control of our choices and being able to fulfil our own needs, dreams, desires and passions without any dependence or fear of societal expectations and external pressures.
- S. Are you willing to step outside your comfort zone in order to live your life the way you want to?
- A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ

19. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. The beauty of life is that every single day gives you the opportunity to rescript your life.
- Q. We all make our own choices as to what direction we would like our lives to go in.
- R. It outweighed the option of you taking steps, perhaps uncomfortable ones, for yourself and letting others choose for you seemed the easier route to take, even if it wasn't your ideal script for yourself.
- S. Even those of you who say you are helpless, and choices were made for you must accept that to give someone the power to decide for you, was also a choice.
- A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D. PQSR

20. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

- P. Shit happens, but what determines your road ahead is how you respond to the situation.
- Q. Let's face it, we've all been in relationships where the other person wasn't completely honest with us.
- R. Maybe they lied about their past, their current situation, or even something as simple as where they were last night.
- S. It's painful to realize that someone you trusted has been lying to you, but it's important to recognize that it's not your fault and to also get out of a victim mindset.
- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D. PRQS

Answers

1. B 2.C 3.C 4. B 5. C 6. D 7. C 8.C 9.B 10.C 11.B
12. C 13.A 14.D 15.C 16.B 17.D 18.C 19.C 20.A

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. Answer: B. Ensuring better working conditions and social security for gig workers

Explanation: The passage highlights that the gig economy has become a major source of employment in India, especially for youth and migrant workers. However, gig workers face issues such as lowered incentives, increased workload, and a lack of social security due to being considered partners rather than workers by aggregating platforms. The Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023 aims to address these concerns by setting up a gig workers' welfare board to improve their working conditions and ensure social security.

2. Correct Answer: C) The Bill seeks to establish a welfare board for gig workers in Rajasthan.

Explanation: The passage states that the Rajasthan government has decided to introduce the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, which envisions a welfare board to design policies and address grievances of gig workers. The board will work towards a social welfare corpus financed by a cess on digital transactions made by consumers on platforms utilizing gig worker labor. This initiative is unique to Rajasthan and is not mentioned to be implemented in other countries like Thailand and Malaysia. The passage does not suggest that the Bill aims to decrease the number of gig workers, nor does it imply that it will eliminate the need for gig workers to rely on smartphones for their work.

3. Explanation: The passage describes the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, which aims to create a welfare board for gig workers. The board is intended to design welfare policies and hear grievances of gig workers on a piece rate basis. Additionally, the board will work towards creating a social welfare corpus financed by a cess on digital transactions made by consumers on platforms that utilize gig worker labor. Therefore, the correct answer is C. Establish a welfare board for gig workers and create a social welfare corpus.

4. Answer: B) Optimistic

Explanation: The passage has an optimistic tone, as it discusses the potential positive impact of the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023. The author believes that the initiative could lead to better working conditions and welfare for gig workers and might encourage other states to adopt similar measures

5. Answer: c) The significance of the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023

Explanation: The main theme of the passage is the significance of the Rajasthan Platform-based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill, 2023, which aims to improve the welfare and working conditions of gig workers in the state. The passage provides some context on the gig economy and its challenges, as well as briefly comparing the proposed bill to similar

measures in other countries, but the primary focus is on the potential benefits and impact of the Rajasthan Bill.

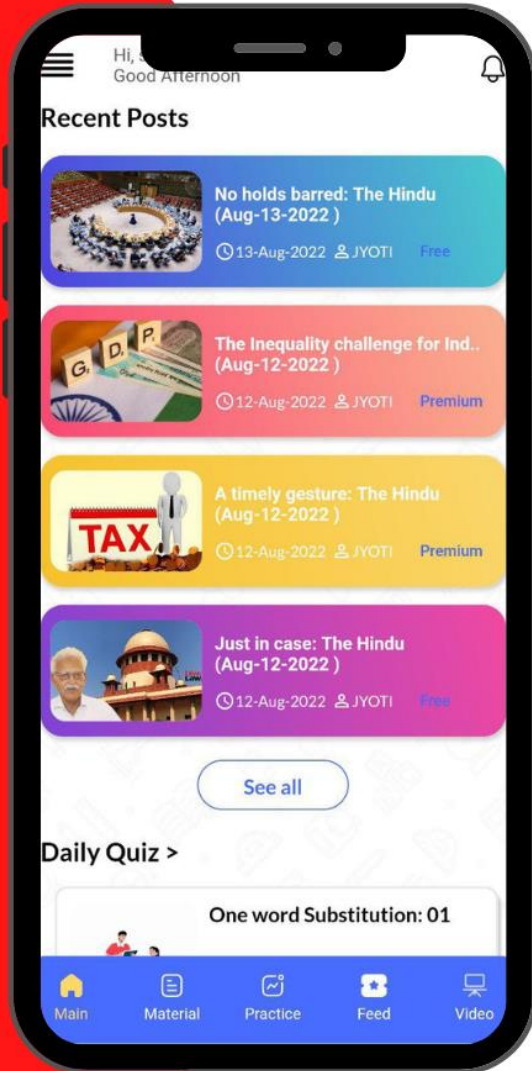
6. **Answer: D) A double-edged sword** (phrase) – a situation or course of action having both positive and negative effects. (ऐसी स्थिति जिसमें सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक दोनों प्रभाव हों।)
Explanation: The idiom "a double-edged sword" best describes the situation of gig workers in India as presented in the editorial. Gig work has become a significant source of employment, offering flexibility and opportunities for financial stability. However, the lack of recognition as "workers" and the absence of social security or related benefits have led to increasingly harsh working conditions, making the gig economy a double-edged sword with both advantages and drawbacks.
7. **Answer: C) Nascent**
Fledgling (adjective) – emerging, developing, growing, nascent, budding उभरते
Explanation: The passage mentions that the gig industry is no longer a fledgling one, meaning it is no longer in its early stages. Thus, "nascent" is a synonym for "fledgling."
8. **Answer: C. Apparent**
Evident (adjective) – obvious, apparent, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible स्पष्ट
Explanation: The word "evident" means easily seen, recognized, or understood; it is clear or obvious. The synonym for "evident" in this context is "apparent," which also means clearly visible or understood.
9. **Answer: B. Discourage**
Compel (verb) – force, induce, require, coerce, oblige विवश/ मजबूर करना
Explanation: The word "compel" means to force or oblige someone to do something. The antonym for "compel" in this context is "discourage," which means to cause someone to lose confidence or enthusiasm or to persuade someone not to do something.
10. **Answer: C) Wither**
Flourish (verb) – thrive, prosper, bloom, grow, blossom फलना-फूलना/सफल होना
Explanation: The passage states that the gig economy is set to flourish in terms of usage and opportunities, meaning it will grow or thrive. An antonym for "flourish" is "wither," which suggests a decline or deterioration.
11. **Asylum** (noun) – the protection granted by a state to someone who has left their home country as a political refugee. आश्रयस्थान
- **Consistent** (adjective) – persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
 - **Transparent** (adjective) – obvious, explicit, unambiguous, unmistakable, apparent पारदर्शी/स्पष्ट
 - **Donation** (noun) – contribution, grant, gift, present, offering दान
12. **Dais** (noun) – a raised platform, usually at end of a room for speakers or guests of honour मंच
- **Cocktail** (noun) – a mixture of different things/substances.

- **Confrontation** (noun) – discord, dissension, clash, conflict, disagreement, altercation टकराव
 - **Era** (noun) – Period, age, time युग
13. **Exchequer** (noun) – funds, coffers, resources, money, finances सरकारी खजाना
- **Openings** (noun) – an opportunity to achieve something.
 - **Implication** (noun) – effect, consequence, result, repercussion, knock-on effect प्रभाव
 - **Tiding** (noun) – news, information, message समाचार, खबर
14. **Contravene** (verb) – Break, flout, breach, disobey, disregard, infringe उल्लंघन करना
- **Variation** (noun) – change, difference, variance, alteration, deviation विभिन्नता
 - **Battering** (noun) – damage caused by an action or event क्षति, नुकसान
 - **Practice** (noun) – habit, custom, tradition, way, system, routine प्रथा, कार्य
15. **Distinction** (noun) – difference, contrast, dissimilarity, dissimilitude, divergence अंतर
- **Ties** (noun) – connection, link, liaison, attachment, association संबंध
 - **Stability** (noun) – permanence, constancy, balance, solidity, firmness स्थिरता
 - **Surveillance** (noun) – observation, scrutiny, watch, view, inspection निगरानी
16. **QRPS**
 Things lost had a way of upending the life of American Nobel laureate Ernest Hemingway. In December 1922, during his Paris years, his first wife Hadley Richardson had inadvertently lost a suitcase full of manuscripts at the Gare de Lyon railway station. Towards the end of his life, in the 1950s, when US's relationship with Cuba was fast deteriorating, Hemingway was known to have worried about the cache of manuscripts he had left behind in a bank vault in Cuba and could no longer access because of the political crisis.
17. **SPRQ**
 The tragic deaths of former chairperson of Tata Sons, Cyrus Mistry, and KPMG group's Global Strategy Director Jehangir Pandole, in a car crash earlier this month, have brought road safety issues into sharp focus. This was long overdue. According to the National Criminal Records Bureau data, around 1.5 lakh people die every year on the country's roads. In the past, the government, by and large, attempted to deal with the problem by using punitive measures.
18. **SRQP**
 Are you willing to step outside your comfort zone in order to live your life the way you want to? We all dream of the freedom and autonomy of being in control of our choices and being able to fulfil our own needs, dreams, desires and passions without any dependence or fear of societal expectations and external pressures. I believe that a life filled with self-determined purpose without the pressure of living up to the expectations of others is one you can call your own. Many individuals embrace their individuality in an almost apologetic manner, some in a challenging and defiant manner and others with grace and aplomb.
19. **QSRP**

We all make our own choices as to what direction we would like our lives to go in. Even those of you who say you are helpless, and choices were made for you must accept that to give someone the power to decide for you, was also a choice. It outweighed the option of you taking steps, perhaps uncomfortable ones, for yourself and letting others choose for you seemed the easier route to take, even if it wasn't your ideal script for yourself. The beauty of life is that every single day gives you the opportunity to rescript your life.

20. **QRSP**

Let's face it, we've all been in relationships where the other person wasn't completely honest with us. Maybe they lied about their past, their current situation, or even something as simple as where they were last night. It's painful to realize that someone you trusted has been lying to you, but it's important to recognize that it's not your fault and to also get out of a victim mindset. Shit happens, but what determines your road ahead is how you respond to the situation.



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