

## The Tribune: College sans infra

**DEFYING** logic, new colleges are being opened without **requisite infrastructure** and staff **in place**. **Unsuspecting** students are being **enrolled**. Rather than learning a lesson from this **unethical** practice that **jeopardises** the careers of students, the authorities responsible for giving **clearances** to such institutes **seem** to be **turning a blind eye to** the problem. A college in Himachal Pradesh and another in Punjab **exemplify** the **sorry state of affairs**.

As many as 72 students were admitted in the first year of the bachelor's degree course at Government Degree College in Kupvi, Shimla. **Lacking** teachers, and with the storeroom of a nearby government school as a classroom, the students cannot be blamed for fearing a poor result in the just-**concluded** exams. The **authorities concerned** **have** a lot to answer for **letting** this situation **prevail**. Even as five peons and a clerk had been recruited, the **plea** that teachers from the nearby Nerwa college had been **deputed** to teach in the Kupvi college **is specious**. The Nerwa college itself is short of teaching staff, and it would have been **unfair** to its students had they been **deprived** of teachers. **Exhibiting** a similar **lackadaisical** attitude are those in charge of Chintpurni Medical College, Pathankot. On finding serious **deficiencies** in faculty, patient load and infrastructure, the National Medical Commission has **prohibited** it from admitting MBBS students for the 2023-24 session. **The lack** of proper facilities in this case **is** particularly **appalling** as earlier too — in 2017-18 and 2018-19 — the college had been **debarred** from taking fresh batches of students and the current **pupils** were **accommodated** in other colleges. The college has **apparently** failed to fill the infrastructural gaps.



It is a matter of **grave concern** that colleges are **functioning** without **complying** with the **statutory** regulations. Urgent **corrective** action is a **must**. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Sans** (preposition) – Without, lacking, के बिना
2. **Defy** (verb) – Disobey, rebel, resist, flout, disregard अवहेलना करना
3. **Requisite** (adjective) – Necessary, Essential, Required, Obligatory, Mandatory आवश्यक
4. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Facilities, Structure, System, Services, Framework आधारभूत संरचना
5. **In place** (phrase) – Established, Set up, Organized, Implemented, Arranged स्थापित
6. **Unsuspecting** (adjective) – Unaware, Innocent, Unwitting, Naive, Unprepared अनभिज्ञ, बेखबर
7. **Enroll** (verb) – Register, Sign up, Join, Apply, Enter पंजीकृत करना
8. **Unethical** (adjective) – Immoral, Dishonest, Unprincipled, Wrong, Unfair अनैतिक
9. **Jeopardise** (verb) – Endanger, Threaten, Risk, Imperil, Compromise खतरे में डालना
10. **Clearance** (noun) – Authorization, Approval, Consent, Permission, Sanction मंजूरी
11. **Seem** (verb) – Appear, Look, Come across as, Give the impression प्रतीत होना
12. **Turn blind eye to** (phrase) – Ignore, Overlook, Disregard, Neglect, Oversee अनदेखा करना
13. **Exemplify** (verb) – Demonstrate, Illustrate, Show, Represent, Embody उदाहरण स्वरूप होना
14. **Sorry state of affair** (phrase) – Unhappy condition, Unfortunate situation, Dire situation, Miserable condition, Disheartening situation खेदजनक स्थिति
15. **Lack** (verb) – Miss, Be without, Fall short, Be deficient, Be inadequate कमी होना
16. **Concluded** (adjective) – Finished, Completed, Ended, Finalized, Accomplished समाप्त
17. **Concerned** (adjective) – Involved, related, affected, related to संबंधित
18. **Let** (verb) – Allow, Permit, Enable, Give permission होने देना
19. **Prevail** (verb) – Dominate, Predominate, Overrule, Reign, Rule प्रबल होना
20. **Plea** (noun) – Appeal, Petition, Request, Claim, Entreaty अपील

21. **Depute** (verb) – Appoint, Assign, Designate, Commission, Entrust कार्यस्थान पर नियुक्त करना
22. **Specious** (adjective) – Misleading, Deceptive, False, Untruthful, Feigned भ्रामक
23. **Unfair** (adjective) – Biased, Unjust, Partial, Discriminatory, Prejudiced अनुचित
24. **Deprive** (of) (verb) – Dispossess, Strip, Deny, Withhold, Remove from वंचित करना
25. **Exhibit** (verb) – Display, Show, Demonstrate, Present, Manifest दिखाना
26. **Lackadaisical** (adjective) – Apathetic, careless, lazy, lethargic, indifferent उदासीन
27. **Deficiency** (noun) – Shortage, lack, scarcity, dearth, inadequacy कमी
28. **Prohibit** (verb) – Forbid, ban, bar, interdict, outlaw रोकना
29. **Appalling** (adjective) – Horrifying, dreadful, shocking, awful, terrible भयावह
30. **Debar** (verb) – Exclude, prevent, forbid, disallow, ostracize वर्जित करना
31. **Pupil** (noun) – Student, learner, scholar, disciple, trainee छात्र
32. **Accommodate** (verb) – Adapt, fit, suit, reconcile, adjust समायोजन करना
33. **Apparently** (adverb) – Seemingly, ostensibly, evidently, speciously, superficially प्रकट रूप से
34. **Grave** (adjective) – Serious, severe, critical, solemn, consequential गंभीर
35. **Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry, unease, apprehension, fear चिंता
36. **Function** (verb) – Operate, work, perform, run काम करना
37. **Comply** (with) (verb) – Abide by, adhere to, conform to, follow, obey का पालन करना
38. **Statutory** (adjective) – Legal, lawful, constitutional, sanctioned, authorized वैधानिक
39. **Corrective** (adjective) – Remedial, restorative, curative, rectifying सुधारात्मक
40. **Must** (noun) – Requirement, necessity, essential, prerequisite, need ज़रूरत

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Many new colleges are being established without appropriate infrastructure or staff.
2. Unaware students are being admitted into these ill-equipped institutions.
3. The editorial criticizes the authorities responsible for approving such colleges, accusing them of ignoring these issues.
4. It provides two case studies: a college in Himachal Pradesh and another in Punjab.
5. The Government Degree College in Kupvi, Shimla, accepted 72 students but lacks the necessary faculty and facilities.
6. The students have been forced to use the storeroom of a nearby school as a classroom.
7. The authorities have tried to justify the situation by claiming that teachers from another college (Nerwa) have been deputed to teach at Kupvi.
8. However, this solution is flawed, as Nerwa college is also experiencing a shortage of teaching staff.
9. The second case, Chintpurni Medical College in Pathankot, has been prohibited from admitting students for the 2023-24 session due to deficiencies in faculty, patient load, and infrastructure.
10. This is not the first time that Chintpurni has faced such issues; it was barred from admitting students in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years as well.
11. Despite these past issues, the college has not addressed the infrastructural problems.
12. The editorial expresses serious concern about colleges operating without adhering to necessary regulations.
13. It emphasizes the need for urgent corrective action to resolve these issues.
14. The current state of affairs jeopardizes the educational futures of the students enrolled in these institutions.
15. The editorial argues for better oversight and accountability in the establishment and operation of higher education institutions.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following demonstrates a failure in critical thinking by the authorities responsible for college clearances?** [Editorial page]
  - A. The authorities are not aware of the state of affairs in the new colleges.
  - B. The authorities are neglecting the issue of colleges lacking adequate infrastructure and staff.
  - C. The authorities are focusing on other areas of college development.
  - D. The authorities are unaware of the unethical practices in some colleges.
2. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the new colleges EXCEPT that:**
  - A. They have all the necessary infrastructure in place before opening.
  - B. They enroll students without having sufficient resources.
  - C. The authorities are ignoring the issue of the colleges lacking in infrastructure and staff.
  - D. They potentially jeopardize the careers of students
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Joyful
  - B. Indignant
  - C. Optimistic
  - D. Unconcerned
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The importance of having qualified teachers in colleges
  - B. The unethical practices of opening colleges without proper infrastructure and staff
  - C. The thriving education system in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab
  - D. The need for more medical colleges in India
5. **What is a synonym for the word 'defying' in the context of the passage?**
  - A. Complying
  - B. Flouting
  - C. Cooperating
  - D. Respecting
6. **Which of the following words is a synonym for the term 'appalling' as used in the passage?**
  - A. Terrifying
  - B. Exhilarating
  - C. Astonishing
  - D. Delightful
7. **What is the antonym for the word 'unethical' based on the passage?**
  - A. Dishonorable
  - B. Unprincipled
  - C. Moral
  - D. Corrupt
8. **Select the correct homonym from the given options to fill in the blank**

If he wants \_\_\_\_\_ information, send him to me

  - A. Farther

- B. Father  
C. Further  
D. Faraway
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct/indirect speech**  
Saaransh said he had solved the crossword the previous day.  
A. Saaransh said, "I have solved the crossword the previous day."  
B. Saaransh said, "He has solved the crossword the previous day."  
C. Saaransh said, "I solved the crossword yesterday."  
D. Saaransh said, "He have solved the crossword yesterday."
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice.**  
Your lunch box has been packed by mother.  
A. Mother had packed your lunch box.  
B. Mother is packing your lunch box.  
C. Mother has packed your lunch box.  
D. Mother will pack your lunch box.
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**  
P. The urban-rural divide in the field of education, exacerbated during the pandemic, has again been brought to the fore by the incident at Lehal Khurd village of Sangrur district, where residents locked up the local government primary school to protest against a shortage of teachers.  
Q. They insisted that the school would not be allowed to function till it had the required number of teachers.  
R. The school has just two teachers for 200 pupils, raising doubts over the attention being paid to improve the quality of education in the village.  
S. Government schools had come under scrutiny after the Covid-19 lockdown forced millions of migrant workers and their families to return from cities to small towns and villages.  
A. PQRS                      B.QRPS                      C.SQPR                      D.PRQS
12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**  
P. Though India is the largest importer of weapons and military equipment in the world, according to the globally renowned Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the country's arms imports fell by 21 per cent during 2017-21 in comparison to the 2012-16 period.  
Q. THE 'Make in India' programme in the defence sector is on the right track, with the share of imports in the overall acquisition of military equipment gradually declining in recent years.  
R. The embargo on the import of hundreds of items is also spurring the development of indigenous technologies.  
S. This trend shows that the emphasis on innovation and indigenisation is producing positive outcomes.  
A. RSQP                      B.QPSR                      C.RSPQ                      D.SPRQ
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. Those with a certificate of completion of the course can now take the Foreign Medical Graduation Examination, but upon qualifying will have to undergo a two-year instead of the existing one-year Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) to make up for the clinical training which they could not physically attend.
- Q. The relaxation has got the approval of the Supreme Court, which on April 29 had directed the regulatory body to find a way out after ruling against provisional registration for foreign MBBS degree holders to finish their internship in India without completing the clinical training in the physical form.
- R. They will be eligible for registration only after completing the CRMI.
- S. THE one-time offer drafted by the National Medical Commission (NMC) ends the uncertainty being faced by final-year Indian students of the undergraduate medicine course who left their institutes abroad due to Covid-19 or the Russia-Ukraine war.
- A. SRPQ      B.QRSP      C.SRQP      D.SPRQ

**14. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that in order to 'avoid unhealthy competition' among students, it would stop releasing merit lists for the Class X and XII exam results.
- Q. The board has also decided to issue merit certificates to the top 0.1% of the students, and to stop classifying them in the first, second and third divisions.
- R. On the face of it, and analysed in isolation, the decision is progressive because the pressure — self-imposed or extraneous — to score high in the CBSE exams causes great mental stress to students, many of whom are not equipped to deal with it at that stage in their lives.
- S. CBSE's decision would also allow Class XII students to prioritise the core subject they wish to pursue at the undergraduate level, instead of focusing on all subjects in order to attain a high aggregate score.
- A. QRSP      B.PSRQ      C.QSRP      D.PQRS

**15. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. The government had earlier stepped in to bail out the telco in 2019; among the steps initiated were reducing the expenditure incurred on the staff through a voluntary retirement scheme for employees aged 50 years or above and debt restructuring by the raising of sovereign guarantee bonds.
- Q. The Union government has come up with an ambitious plan to make loss-making telecom PSU Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) financially viable.
- R. Bharat Broadband Network Ltd, credited with creating the BharatNet fibre network, will be merged with BSNL.
- S. The revival package of Rs 1.64 lakh crore includes a cash component of Rs 43,964 crore; the key measures intended to bring about a turnaround are financial support, converting dues into equity and allocation of spectrum.
- A. QRSP      B.QSRP      C.PSQR      D.PRQS

**Comprehension**

Medical science is so advanced today, it has extended \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ and enhanced quality of life in ways thought impossible in the past, and yet, life must end in death. For those who \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ someone dear to them, there is anger, disbelief and lack of acceptance, and this is sometimes unleashed on the hospital, doctors and nurses. This is why Kerala's move to amend the Kerala Healthcare Service Persons and Healthcare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property) Act, to fortify defences against attacks on health-care institutions and workers is not only welcome \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ is also essential intervention. The death of a young house surgeon, Vandana Das, at the hands of an 'inebriated' patient during a routine medical examination in Kerala has not only shocked the community but \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ also revived fear among health-care workers about their own safety. Doctors have organised protests across the country, condemning this attack and urging authorities to ensure protection. While this particular incident might have been an outlier in terms of how it occurred, recent history in the country is \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ with instances of co-ordinated assaults on health-care workers by irate patients or their attendees disappointed with health outcomes.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

16. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.

- A. Infirmary
- B. Hasty
- C. Presumably
- D. Longevity

17. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.

- A. Loose
- B. Lose
- C. loosed
- D. lost

18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.

- A. However
- B. Then
- C. But
- D. Except

19. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.

- A. Has
- B. Have
- C. Is
- D. Has been

20. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.

- A. Initiate
- B. Replete
- C. Advocate
- D. Renounce



## Answers

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

## Explanations

- 1. B) The authorities are neglecting the issue of colleges lacking adequate infrastructure and staff.**  
The passage mentions that the authorities are turning a blind eye to the problem of new colleges opening without the necessary infrastructure and staff. This implies that they are neglecting this issue, thus, demonstrating a failure in critical thinking. They should be recognizing and addressing this problem, rather than ignoring it, to ensure the well-being and successful education of students. **Options A, C, and D might be plausible assumptions, but based on the information provided in the passage, they are not necessarily correct.** The passage doesn't explicitly state the authorities are not aware, focusing on other areas, or unaware of the unethical practices, but it does clearly state they are neglecting the issue.
- 2. A.)** The passage clearly states that new colleges are being opened without the necessary infrastructure and staff. Therefore, the statement that they have all the necessary infrastructure in place before opening is not true, according to the passage. The other options are all verified by - colleges are enrolling students (Option B), the authorities are turning a blind eye to the problem (Option C), and these practices could jeopardize students' careers (Option D).
- 3. B)** The tone of this passage is indignant. The author is expressing strong displeasure at the unethical practices of opening colleges without proper infrastructure and staff, and the lack of action by the responsible authorities. The other options do not fit because the author is neither expressing happiness (Joyful), optimism (Optimistic), nor indifference (Unconcerned) to the situation.
- 4. B)** The main theme of this passage is 'The unethical practices of opening colleges without proper infrastructure and staff'. The author discusses the issues related to this practice and how it impacts the students and the overall education system. Option A) is a part of the problem discussed but not the main theme. Options C) and D) are not aligned with the main point that the author is trying to make in this passage.
- 5. B)** In the context of the passage, 'defying' refers to openly resisting or refusing to obey. Thus, 'flouting' is the most appropriate synonym since it also refers to openly disregarding a rule or law.
- 6. A)** The term 'appalling' in the context of the passage refers to something that is extremely bad or unpleasant, invoking a sense of fear or horror, making 'terrifying' a suitable synonym.
- 7. C)** The word 'unethical' refers to not adhering to proper rules of conduct or moral principles. Therefore, the antonym is 'moral', which means adhering to the rules of right and wrong, as it is the opposite of 'unethical'.

8. C) 'further' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Farther' का अर्थ होता है at or to a greater distance (अधिक दूर) जो की वाक्य के संदर्भ के हिसाब से गलत है!

अतः सही उत्तर है 'Further' – more; additional अधिक/ अतिरिक्त

9. C) Saaransh said, "I solved the crossword yesterday."

10. C) Mother has packed your lunch box

11. A) **PQRS**

**P:** This sentence tells us about a problem - a divide in education between cities and villages. It mentions a specific incident in a village called Lehal Khurd, where a school was locked up by the local people because they were unhappy about the number of teachers

**Q:** This sentence is directly connected to P, as it explains what the villagers want. They won't let the school open until it has more teachers.

**R:** This sentence gives more information about why the villagers are upset. It tells us there are only two teachers for 200 students at the school

**S:** This sentence gives some background information. It tells us why government schools are being talked about a lot - because many people had to return to their home towns and villages from cities due to Covid-19.

12. B) **QPSR**

**Q:** This sentence introduces a topic about the 'Make in India' program, which is making the country rely less on imported military equipment.

**P:** This sentence supports the previous one by giving evidence that India is indeed importing fewer weapons.

**S:** This sentence talks about the positive impact of this change.

**R:** The last sentence introduces an additional reason for the decline in imports - an embargo, or a ban, on certain items.

13. D) **SPRQ**

The order of the sentences is SPRQ because it starts with the problem (**S**), explains the solution (**P**), what happens after the solution is implemented (**R**), and then how the solution got approved (**Q**)

The one-time offer drafted by the National Medical Commission (NMC) ends the uncertainty being faced by final-year Indian students of the undergraduate medicine course who left their institutes abroad due to Covid-19 or the Russia-Ukraine war. Those with a certificate of completion of the course can now take the Foreign Medical Graduation Examination, but upon qualifying will have to undergo a two-year instead of the existing one-year Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) to make up for the clinical training which they could not physically attend. They will be eligible for registration only after completing the CRMI. The relaxation has got the approval of the Supreme Court, which on April 29 had directed the regulatory body to find a way out after ruling against provisional registration for foreign MBBS

degree holders to finish their internship in India without completing the clinical training in the physical form.

14. D) **PQRS**

**P:** This is the first sentence. It tells us what the big decision CBSE has made - they're not going to release merit lists for the exams

**Q:** This should come next, because it gives us more information about the new decisions. CBSE will give merit certificates to the top students and stop putting them in divisions

**R:** After we know what the decision is, this sentence explains why it's a good idea. It says that the old way of doing things was causing a lot of stress for students.

**S:** This is the last sentence. It tells us another benefit of the decision - it lets students focus on the subject they like the most, instead of trying to get high scores in every subject.

15. B) **QSRP**

**Q:** is the opening statement because it introduces the main topic of the paragraph - the Union government's plan to improve BSNL's financial situation.

**S:** follows Q because it gives more details about the plan mentioned in Q. It tells us what is included in the "revival package" - how much money is involved and the major actions to be taken

**R:** follows S because it describes a specific action being taken as part of the plan mentioned in S - the merging of Bharat Broadband Network Ltd with BSNL

**P:** is the final sentence because it adds information about previous efforts to help BSNL. It provides context for the new plan described in QSR, making it clear why a new plan is needed

16. **D) Longevity** (noun) – Lifespan, endurance, durability, life duration, survival दीर्घायु

The word longevity refers to long life or the length of a person's life. In this context, it's used to show that medical science has advanced to the point where it has extended people's lives significantly, which fits perfectly with the surrounding content

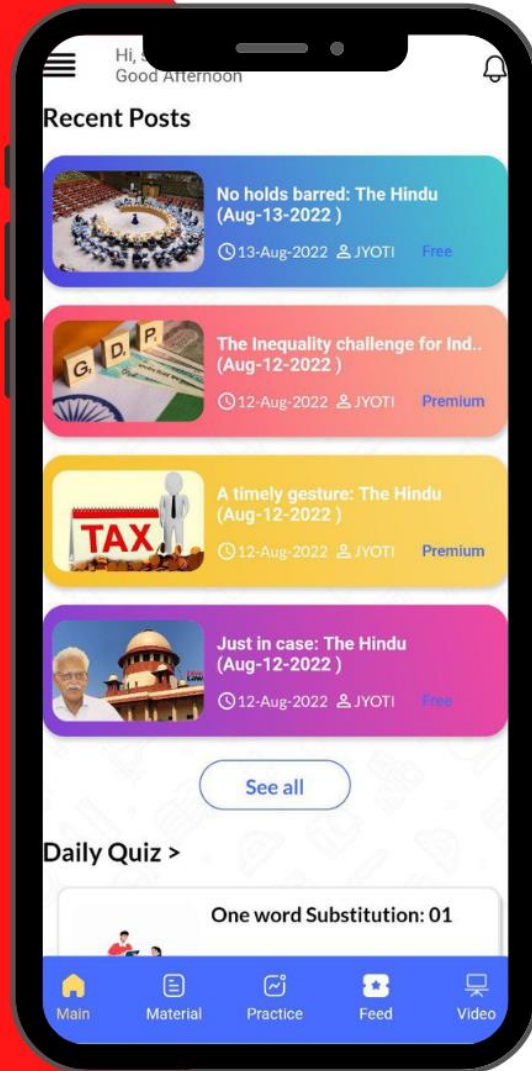
- **Infirmity** (noun) – Weakness, vulnerability, frailty, deficiency, shortcoming दुर्बलता
- **Hasty** (adjective) – Quick, speedy, hurried, swift; injudicious, thoughtless, rash जल्दबाजी
- **Presumably** (adverb) – Probably, likely, in all likelihood, doubtlessly शायद

17. **B) Lose someone to something** (phrase) – experience death of someone because of something. किसी चीज के कारण किसी की मृत्यु होना

"Lose" means to no longer have something because it has disappeared or been taken away. In this context, it refers to people who lose someone dear to them, meaning someone dies or is otherwise lost to them.

- **"Loose"** is an adjective meaning not tightly fastened, fixed, or held, which doesn't make sense in this context.
- **"Lost"** is the past participle of the verb to lose, it's grammatically incorrect

- "Loosed" is the past participle of the verb to loose, meaning to set free or release, and it's grammatically incorrect in this context
18. C) The conjunction "**but**" is used here to indicate a contrast between two clauses. The first clause describes how Kerala's decision to amend the act is welcome, and "but" introduces a contrasting point that it is not only welcome but is also an essential intervention.
19. A) The subject of the verb in this blank is the singular noun "**the death of a young house surgeon, Vandana Das,**" which requires a singular verb. Therefore, "has" is the appropriate choice. "Have" would be used with a plural subject, "is" would require the following word to be an adjective or a noun (which "also" is not), and "has been" would need to be followed by a past participle, not an adverb like "also".
- Both "not only" and "but also" should be parallel in grammatical structure.**
- The death of a young house surgeon, Vandana Das, at the hands of an 'inebriated' patient during a routine medical examination in Kerala has not only shocked the community but has also revived fear among health-care workers about their own safety.
20. **B) Replete** (with) (adjective) – Full of, filled with, abundant, brimming with से भरा हुआ  
The country's recent history is filled with instances of co-ordinated assaults. The word "replete" is the most appropriate option because it means "filled" or "well-supplied", indicating a large number of such instances.
- **Initiate** (verb) – Begin, commence, start, launch प्रारंभ करना
  - **Advocate** (verb) – Support, promote, champion, endorse, recommend समर्थन करना
  - **Renounce** (verb) – Reject, disown, abandon, relinquish, give up त्यागना



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