Contentious criteria: On PM-USHA and cooperative federalism

The Centre must revisit the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) and take on board dissenting States

By mandating States and Union Territories to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt contentious academic criteria in order to avail funds under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), the Ministry of Education (MoE) appears to have made the central scheme exclusivist. The guidelines for the scheme — an improvised version of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 1 and 2) to ensure increased access, equity and excellence in the State higher education system with central funding — were released in June. Only 22 States and Union Territories have joined the PM-USHA, which requires a memorandum of understanding to be signed between the State and the Department of Higher Education (MoE). West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are among 14 States and Union Territories which have refused to get on board. Apart from embracing the NEP 2020, the memorandum of understanding, includes, inter alia, commitment from States on adopting guidelines for the National Credit Framework and Choice Based Credit System for Four Year Undergraduate Programme. Without agreeing to these conditions, States cannot avail of a share in the funds, an outlay of ₹12,926.10 crore between 2023-24 and 2025-26, earmarked to improve State-run higher education. This despite the fact that 40% of funding has to be **borne** by the respective State governments.

Over the past several years, a few States have strongly opposed NEP 2020, both at the draft and implementation stages. Some such as Tamil Nadu have initiated measures to draft their own State Education Policy. There are demands to restore 'education' to the State List from the Concurrent List, where it was moved without debate during the Emergency. Against this backdrop, it would appear that the conditions for the PM-USHA have been tailored to impose NEP 2020 through the backdoor. The scheme also requires adoption of the multiple entry and exit options in degree programmes and National Higher Education Qualifications Framework guidelines. This, when academic stakeholders and administrators have expressed serious concerns about the multiple entry and exit options possibly triggering more dropouts from the higher education system. The emphasis on a four-year undergraduate programme has also evoked concerns as to whether socially and economically backward students could afford the money and the time, to pursue an extra year in college to acquire a degree. Besides, even a State supporting the NEP 2020, Meghalaya, has called for a revisit of the funding criteria and an increase in the number of **beneficiary** units, since its State university is in the initial stage of being operational. Under these circumstances, it would be prudent for the Ministry of Education to negotiate better terms with the dissenting States, respecting the essence of cooperative federalism.

[Practice Exercise]

- Beneficiary (noun) Recipient, receiver, heir, payee, legatee हिताधिकारी
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicate subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

- Contentious (adjective) debatable, arguable, touchy, litigious विवादास्पद
- 2. **Cooperative** (adjective) collaborative, joint, combined, team-based सहयोगी
- 3. **Federalism** (noun) a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country संघवाद
- Revisit (verb) reassess, re-evaluate, review, look over again पुनर्विचार करना
- 5. **Take on board** (phrase) Understand, consider, take into account, acknowledge, accept समझना या स्वीकार करना
- 6. **Dissenting** (adjective) —disagreeing, differing, opposing, non-conforming असहमत
- 7. **Mandate** (verb) Mandate, command, instruct, direct, order आदेश देना
- 8. **In order to** (phrase) To, for the purpose of, so as to, in an effort to ताकि
- 9. **Avail** (verb) Utilize, use, take advantage of, exploit, benefit from उपयोग करना, लाभ लेना
- 10. **Exclusivist** (adjective) elitist, discriminatory, cliquish, selective विशेषाधिकारवादी
- 11. **Improvised** (adjective) makeshift, spontaneous, extempore, off-the-cuff अनयोजित

- 12. **Memorandum of understanding** (MoU) (noun) – Agreement, accord, contract, pact, treaty समझौता ज्ञापन
- 13. **Get on board** (phrase) Accept and participate with an idea or project. स्वीकार करना
- 14. **Embrace** (verb) accept, welcome, adopt, espouse अपनाना
- 15. **Inter alia** (phrase) Among other things अन्य चीज़ों के बीच
- 16. **Commitment** (noun) pledge, promise, assurance, vow प्रतिबद्धता
- 17. **Outlay** (noun) Expenditure, expense, spending, disbursement खर्च
- 18. **Earmark** (verb) Allocate, designate, set aside, reserve विशेष रूप से आवंटित करना
- 19. **State-run** (adjective) Governmentoperated, publicly-owned, state-owned, government-run सरकारी
- 20. **Bear** (verb) Carry, support, hold up, sustain, shoulder सहन करना या उठाना
- 21. **Restore** (verb) reinstate, return, bring back, reestablish पुनः स्थापित करना
- 22. **Concurrent list** (noun) A list of items (subjects) on which both the State and the Union Governments can make laws समवर्ती सूची

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- 23. **Against the backdrop** (phrase) In the context of, in relation to, in light of के संदर्भ
- 24. **Tailor** (verb) Adapt, modify, customize, shape, mold अनुकूल बनाना
- 25. **Impose** (verb) Enforce, inflict, foist, levy, exact थोपना
- 26. **Through the backdoor** (phrase) Secretly, surreptitiously, covertly, underhandedly, stealthily चुपके से
- 27. **Adoption** (noun) Acceptance, endorsement, embrace, espousal, taking on स्वीकृति
- 28. **Stakeholder** (noun) Interested party, shareholder, investor, holder, participant हितधारक
- 29. **Trigger** (verb) Initiate, spark, provoke, activate, stimulate प्रेरित करना
- 30. **Dropout** (noun) Quitter, defector, deserter, leaver स्कूल छोड़ देने वाला

- 31. **Emphasis** (noun) Importance, stress, accent, significance, prominence महत्व
- 32. **Evoke** (verb) Elicit, induce, arouse, bring forth, conjure up पैदा करना
- 33. **Pursue** (verb) engage in (an activity or course of action). करना
- 34. **Call for** (phrase) Require, demand, necessitate, need मांग करना
- 35. **Revisit** (noun) Reexamination, reconsideration, reassessment, rethink प्नर्विचार
- 36. **Prudent** (adjective) Wise, sensible, judicious, thoughtful, sagacious विवेकी
- 37. **Negotiate** (verb) Discuss, talk, parley, confer, bargain समझौता करना
- 38. **Terms** (noun) Conditions, stipulations, provisions, clauses, requirements शर्ते
- 39. **Essence** (noun) Core, heart, substance, quintessence, spirit सार

Summary of the editorial

- 1. The Centre has mandated States and Union Territories to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for funds under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA).
- 2. This approach by the Ministry of Education seems to make PM-USHA exclusivist.
- 3. PM-USHA is an improved version of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 1 and 2) aimed at enhancing State higher education with central funding.
- 4. Guidelines for PM-USHA were released in June.
- 5. Only 22 States and Union Territories have joined the PM-USHA. An MoU has to be signed with the Department of Higher Education.
- 6. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, among others, have declined to participate.
- 7. To join PM-USHA, States must agree to adopt the National Credit Framework and Choice Based Credit System for a Four-Year Undergraduate Programme.
- 8. Without agreeing, States cannot access funds designated to improve State-run higher education. 40% of these funds must be borne by the respective State governments.
- 9. Some States have opposed the NEP 2020 and sought their own State Education Policies.
- 10. There are demands to move 'education' back to the State List from the Concurrent List.
- 11. The conditions of PM-USHA seem to impose NEP 2020 indirectly.
- 12. Concerns arise over the scheme's insistence on multiple entry and exit options in degree programmes, with fears of increased dropouts.
- 13. The focus on a four-year undergraduate programme raises worries about its feasibility for socially and economically backward students.
- 14. Even States supporting the NEP 2020, like Meghalaya, have expressed concerns over the funding criteria.
- 15. The editorial suggests that the Ministry of Education should renegotiate terms with dissenting States, upholding the principles of cooperative federalism.

Practice Exercise: Banking pattern Based

- 1. Based on the passage, why is the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) considered to be exclusivist by some states and territories?
 - A. The PM-USHA is only available to states with a high literacy rate.
 - B. To avail funds under PM-USHA, states must implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt specific academic criteria.
 - C. The PM-USHA allows all states to participate without any specific conditions.
 - D. The PM-USHA only provides funding for primary education.
 - E. The PM-USHA requires states to fully fund the scheme without support from the central government.
- Which one of the following statements, if true, could be an accurate inference from the first paragraph of the passage?
 - A. The PM-USHA is a completely new initiative with no prior versions.
 - B. The PM-USHA scheme is intended to make funds available to states without any conditions.
 - C. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have agreed to the conditions of the PM-USHA.
 - D. States must adopt specific academic criteria outlined in NEP 2020 to receive funds under PM-USHA.
 - E. All states and union territories have joined the PM-USHA.
- 3. What is the main theme of the passage?
 - A. The benefits of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
 - B. The detailed features of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA)
 - C. The contentious criteria of PM-USHA and the need for cooperative federalism
 - D. The improvement of state-run higher education in India
 - E. None of the these
- 4. Which of the following best summarizes the author's position on the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) and cooperative federalism?
 - (i) The author supports the PM-USHA and believes it is a move towards stronger federalism.
 - (ii) The author criticizes the PM-USHA for being an exclusivist scheme that mandates strict adherence to the NEP 2020 and specific academic criteria for States and Union Territories to avail central funding.
 - (iii) The author believes that the PM-USHA is a perfect example of cooperative federalism and has been wholeheartedly adopted by all States and Union Territories.
 - (iv) The author is neutral and does not express any opinion on the PM-USHA or cooperative federalism.
 - A. Only i
 - B. Only ii
 - C. Only iii
 - D. Both c and d
 - E. All of the above
- 5. Based on the passage, we can infer that the author would be most supportive of:

(ii) Enacted

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- A. Strict adherence by States to the guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in order to receive central funding.
- B. The Ministry of Education imposing uniform academic criteria across all States and Union Territories through PM-USHA.
- C. A reevaluation of the PM-USHA terms by the Ministry of Education, in consultation with dissenting States, in line with the principle of cooperative federalism.
- D. The current exclusivist nature of the PM-USHA, wherein only States agreeing to the set terms can avail of central funds.
- E. Allowing states to independently decide on the adoption of the National Credit Framework and Choice Based Credit System without any linkage to central funding.

| and Choice Based Credit System without any linkage to central funding. |
|--|
| Direction (Q6- Q9): Read the passage given below and answer the following questions. |
| Even as the Indian economy is growing at a healthy rate, and the RBI expects growth |
| at 8 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the ongoing financial year, more and more |
| individuals/households are seeking work under the rural employment guarantee scheme. In June, the |
| number of households that(b)work under the scheme touched 3.04 crore. This is 10 per |
| cent more than those who did so over the same period last year. In fact, as reported in this paper, this |
| is only the third time since April 2014 that the monthly number of households has crossed three crore. |
| Some have attributed this sharp rise(c) the uneven rainfall pattern in June which could |
| have affected kharif sowing. However, the data also points to a steady rise in the number of individuals |
| seeking and availing work under the scheme over the years. This is a worrying sign. In 2015-16, the |
| number of individuals who worked under MGNREGA stood at 7.2 crore. By 2019-20, this number had |
| risen to 7.88 crore. Demand for work under the scheme surged during the pandemic years, of course, |
| touching 11.19 crore in 2020-21 and 10.61 crore in 2021-22. However, while it fell thereafter to 8.76 |
| crore in 2022-23, it remained higher than the pre-pandemic level, pointing towards a trend of more and |
| more individuals(d) the scheme. |
| Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words |
| ••• |
| 6. Even as the Indian economy is growing at a(a) healthy rate, and the RBI expects |
| growth at 8 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the ongoing financial year, more and more |
| individuals/households are seeking work under the rural employment guarantee scheme |
| Fill the most appropriate option in (a) |
| (i) Exactly |
| (ii) Potentially |
| (iii) Conceivably |
| (iv) Seemingly |
| A. Only (i) B. Only (iv) C. Only (iii) D. Both (ii) and (iv) E. None of the above |
| 7. In June, the number of households that (b) work under the scheme touched 3.04 |
| crore. |
| Fill the most appropriate option in (b) |
| (i) Adopted |
| • • • • • |

number of households has crossed three crore. Some have attributed this sharp rise (c) the uneven rainfall pattern in June which could have affected kharif sowing.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

- (i) In
- (ii) By
- (iii) To
- (iv) For
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii)
- D. Both (i) and (ii)
- E. None of the above
- 9. However, while it fell thereafter to 8.76 crore in 2022-23, it remained higher than the pre-pandemic level, pointing towards a trend of more and more individuals (d) the scheme.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

- (i) Reflecting on
- (ii) Indicate on
- (iii) Relying on
- (iv) Reflect on
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (iv)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

Direction: In each question below, a sentence is given with a part of it printed in bold type. That part contains a phrase that may be correct or erroneous. Find out which is the correct phrase that should replace the error in bold, if there is any, and which makes the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No improvement required', mark option E 'No improvement required' as the answer.

- 10. Despite of the fact that he studied hard for the exam, he could not achieve the grades he was hoping for. Maybe, he was not studying into the right direction, or perhaps his efforts were misguided.
 - A. he was not studying in the right direction
 - B. he was not studying into a right direction
 - C. he was not study in the right direction
 - D. he not studying in the right direction
 - E. No improvement required

Directions (Q11 – Q14): Five sentences P, Q, R, S, and T are given below, you need to rearrange the sentences so that the five sentences can together form a meaningful paragraph.

- P. Village folks walked on the embankment to reach our small town; so did we children when we accompanied our senior friends who went fishing to the lake.
- **Q.** As a child, I used to be in awe of this pristine, laid-back village with isolated houses nestled in lush paddy fields.

- **R.** It was a quaint village, with thatched houses sparsely spread across the lake, about three miles off the town where I spent a few years of my childhood.
- **S.** The village appeared farther than it actually was, thanks to the lake.
- **T.** There was neither a motorable road nor vehicles.
- 11. Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 12. Which of the following should be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 13. Which of the following should be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 14. Which of the following should be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?
 - A. (P)
 - B. (Q)
 - C. (R)
 - D. (S)
 - E. (T)
- 15. Direction: In the following questions, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), (D). These words may or may not be placed in their places. Four options with different arrangements of these words are given. Mark the option with the correct arrangements the answer. If no change is required, mark 'No arrangement required' as your answer.

While writing his dissertation(A) on the fierceness(B) of cultural norms, the researcher encountered a divergence(C) of opinion among various groups, leading some to infringe(D) upon the rights of others in their heated debates.

- A. ACBD
- B. ACDB
- C. DBCA
- D. ABDC
- E. No arrangement required

Directions (Q16 – Q17): In the following sentence, four words are given in bold, out of which one word is misspelled. Find the misspelled word

- 16. Even though it was exilerating(A), he completed the marathon(B) with great enthusiasm(C) and felt a profound sense of achievement(D).
 - A. (A)
 - B. (B)
 - C. (C)
 - D. (D)
 - E. None of the above
- 17. She showed great perseverance(A) in her studies(B), but her grammer(C) was still a point of weakness(D)
 - A. (A)
 - B. (B)
 - C. (C)
 - D. (D)
 - E. None of the above

Direction: Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option E 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

18. ENVISAGE

- (i) Although the composer envisaged smaller forces and an electronic instrument, the piece loses nothing by its present expansion.
- (ii) The outer site, we **envisage**, may last much longer than the inner, as the masterplan is likely to take 25 years to complete.
- (iii) Train fare increases of 15 percent are **envisaged** for the next year.
 - A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. All of the above
 - D. (i), (iii)
 - E. None of the above

Direction (Q19 – Q20): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

- 19. The society for animal welfare has (A)/ urged people to keep an eye out (B)/ injured birds (C)/ during the forthcoming festival. (D)/ No Error. (E)
- 20. In the afternoon (A)/ devotees organised a programme (B)/ in which the name of the deity (C)/was chanted one lakh times. (D) / No Error. (E)

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Answers

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

Explanations

1. B. To avail funds under PM-USHA, states must implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt specific academic criteria.

The passage mentions that the Ministry of Education (MoE) has mandated that states and Union Territories implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt contentious academic criteria to avail funds under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA). This requirement creates conditions that some states and territories are unwilling to agree to, and as a result, they have not joined the PM-USHA scheme. These conditions, imposed as prerequisites for the states to get a share in the central funding, are considered exclusivist because they effectively exclude states and territories that do not wish to or cannot comply with these conditions. Therefore, the correct answer is option B.

- 2. D) The passage mentions that, to avail funds under the PM-USHA, states must implement the NEP 2020 and adopt contentious academic criteria, which are specified in a memorandum of understanding. Therefore, this statement could be an accurate inference from the passage
 - A) The passage mentions that the PM-USHA is an improvised version of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 1 and 2), so it is not a completely new initiative. Hence, this statement is incorrect.
 - B) The passage clearly states that states and Union Territories have to meet certain conditions, including adopting the NEP 2020 and specific academic criteria, to avail funds under PM-USHA. Thus, this statement is incorrect.
 - C) The passage explicitly states that West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala are among 14 States and Union Territories which have refused to get on board with PM-USHA. Hence, this statement is incorrect.
 - E) The passage mentions that only 22 States and Union Territories have joined the PM-USHA, indicating that not all states and union territories have joined. Thus, this statement is incorrect.
- 3. C) The contentious criteria of PM-USHA and the need for cooperative federalism

 The main theme of the passage is 'The contentious criteria of PM-USHA and the need for cooperative federalism'. The passage is centered around the disagreement between the central government and various states and union territories regarding the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA). It focuses on the criticism that the conditions for PM-USHA are tailored in a way that effectively imposes the NEP 2020 on states, and it advocates for a reconsideration of this approach in the spirit of cooperative federalism.
- **4.** B.) The passage indicates that the author is critical of the PM-USHA scheme, referring to it as "exclusivist". The author points out that the scheme mandates States and Union Territories to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt specific academic criteria to

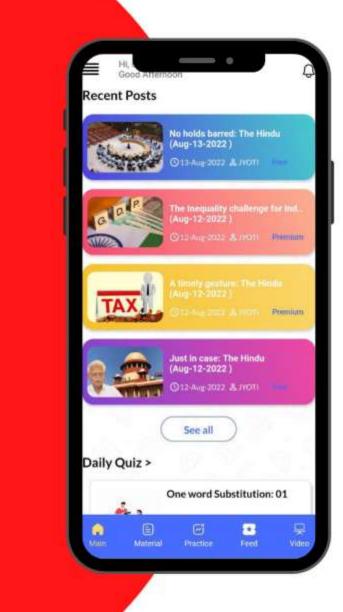
avail funds under this scheme. The author also mentions that only 22 States and Union Territories have joined the PM-USHA, and some have refused to get on board, emphasizing the divisive nature of the scheme. This suggest that the author does not view this scheme as a good example of cooperative federalism. Options A, C, and D, are not consistent with the author's position as portrayed in the passage.

- 5. C) A reevaluation of the PM-USHA terms by the Ministry of Education, in consultation with dissenting States, in line with the principle of cooperative federalism.
 - The passage strongly suggests that the author is critical of the current guidelines of PM-USHA, describing them as "contentious" and the scheme as "exclusivist." The author highlights the concerns raised by some States and academic stakeholders regarding the NEP 2020 and the terms of the PM-USHA, as well as the difficulties these terms could impose, particularly on socially and economically backward students. Moreover, the author implies that the PM-USHA's terms may be an attempt to impose the NEP 2020 "through the backdoor," rather than through more collaborative means. Given these critiques, it is reasonable to infer that the author would be most supportive of a reevaluation of the PM-USHA terms by the Ministry of Education in a manner that respects the principles of cooperative federalism, negotiating with and considering the perspectives of dissenting States (Option C). Options A, B, and D are contradictory to the author's apparent stance, while Option E reflects a stance that the passage does not provide enough information to support or refute.
- 6. B) 'Seemingly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "Seemingly" का अर्थ होता है जैसा दिखाई देता है, और यहाँ यह इंगीत कर रहा है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था स्वस्थ दर से बढ़ रही है। 'Exactly', 'Potentially', और 'Conceivably' का अर्थ इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - Option (iv) 'Seemingly' should be used because it means as it appears to be, and here it is suggesting that the Indian economy is growing at a healthy rate. 'Exactly', 'Potentially', and 'Conceivably' do not fit in this context.
- 7. C) 'Availed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "Availed" का अर्थ होता है लाभ उठाना, और यहाँ यह संदर्भित कर रहा है कि घरेलू इस योजना का लाभ उठा रहे हैं। 'Adopted', 'Enacted', और 'Reverberated' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
 - Option (iv) 'Availed' should be used because it means to take advantage of, and here it refers to households availing the benefit of the scheme. 'Adopted', 'Enacted', and 'Reverberated' do not fit in this context. So, the answer is C. Only (iv).
- 8. C) 'To' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इसे specifically uneven rainfall pattern में तेजी से वृद्धि से जोड़ा जा रहा है। 'In', 'By', और 'For' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
 - Option (iii) 'To' should be used because it is specifically linking the sharp increase in numbers to the uneven rainfall pattern. 'In', 'By', and 'For' do not fit in this context. So, the answer is C. Only (iii).

- 9. C) 'Relying on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "Relying on" का अर्थ होता है निर्भर होना, और यहाँ यह संकेत दे रहा है कि और अधिक व्यक्ति इस योजना पर निर्भर हो रहे हैं। 'Reflecting on', 'indicate on', और 'Reflect on' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
 - Option (iii) 'Relying on' should be used because it means to depend on, and here it is indicating that more and more individuals are relying on the scheme. 'Reflecting on', 'indicate on', and 'Reflect on' do not fit in this context. So, the answer is C. Only (iii).
- 10. A. he was not studying in the right direction In the sentence, the preposition "into" is incorrectly used. The correct preposition is "in." The phrase "studying in the right direction" means to study or work towards a specific goal or purpose. Options B, C, and D are grammatically incorrect due to either the wrong preposition or verb form.
 - sentence में, preposition "into" का गलत उपयोग किया गया है। सही preposition "in" है। phrase
 "studying in the right direction" का तात्पर्य किसी विशेष लक्ष्य या उद्देश्य की ओर पढ़ाई या काम
 करना है।
- **11.** C) R: R gives us an introduction to a quaint village and sets the scene where the speaker spent some years of their childhood.
- **12. D) S:** S explains a perception related to the village's distance, referring back to the lake mentioned in R.
- **13. E) T:** T provides information about the lack of a motorable road or vehicles, which would be a feature of the village described.
- **14. B) Q:** Q is the author's personal reflection on the village, adding a childhood memory. This should follow the detailed description of the village.
 - P describes the way people including the author would reach the small town from the village. So the correct sequence is **RSTQP**
- **15.** A) While writing his dissertation on the divergence of cultural norms, the researcher encountered a fierceness of opinion among various groups, leading some to infringe upon the rights of others in their heated debates.
- **16.** A) exilerating (The correct spelling is "exhilarating")
- 17. C) grammer (The correct spelling is "grammar")
- 18. C) Envisage (verb) Foresee, predict, anticipate कल्पना करना

According to the given options only all are contextually correct.

- 19. (B) 'out' के बदले 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'keep an eye on' का अर्थ है 'पर नजर रखना'
 - i. Keep an eye on your new servant.
 - ii. He keeps an eye on his peon's activities.
 - 'on' will be used instead of 'out' because 'keep an eye on' means 'to keep an eye on'
- 20. (D) 'time' के बदले 'times' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'on lakh' के बाद Plural Noun का प्रयोग होता है।
 - 'times' will be used instead of 'time' because 'on lakh' is followed by Plural Noun.



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