

People count: On the Census and the shadow of politics

The **Census** is too important to be delayed for political reasons

Census collects population data that is **crucial** to planning and development, and the exercise is rarely **devoid** of political **intent** or consequence. India has conducted the Census every 10 years since 1881, but in 2020, the **decennial exercise** for the 2021 Census **had** to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Restrictions** related to the pandemic **have ceased** and the **state machinery** is ready to start the exercise anytime, but the BJP government at the Centre continues to **withhold** political clearance. On September 20, Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha that the Census will **take place** after the 2024 general election. That still avoids any clear mention of the date or year, allowing **speculation** about the government's intent. A possible **reason** why the Centre is **eager** to delay it until 2024 **is** the **clamour** for **enumeration** of caste, a question that the BJP is trying to **evade**. A Census after 2026 will become the basis of the next **delimitation** of Lok Sabha seats, which will involve inter-State **redistribution** of representation. The BJP may have **incentives** to wait until then. In the last few years, **changes** in the Citizenship Act, and **conflict** between some States and the Centre regarding the National Population Register (NPR), **have** further **muddied** the discussions on Census.

The **proposed** 33% **reservation** for women in Parliament and Assemblies **is** linked to the next Census and delimitation, which adds an additional **import**. The next one will also be the first digital census giving citizens an opportunity to “**self-enumerate**”. During **self-enumeration**, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected. Around 30 lakh government officials including schoolteachers will be **assigned** as **enumerators** and each will be assigned the responsibility to collect details of about 650-800 people through both online and offline modes covering an estimated population of more than 140 crore. **In normal course**, **completion** of both the phases of the Census **takes** at least 11 months. **Meanwhile**, the quality and **mechanism** of population level data collection are **evolving** fast, **thanks to** technology. The **Registration** of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 that will **come into effect** on October 1 **will** help a **centralised** population register, electoral register, Aadhaar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases. The centrally stored data will be updated real time without human interface **leading to** addition and deletion from **electoral roll** when an individual turns 18 and after death, respectively. Rather than trying to **weaponise categorisation** and counting of people, the government must take States and parties into confidence on all the issues around the Census.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Shadow** (noun) – threat, gloom, gloominess, blight साया
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **(+) denotes ‘Positive word’, (-) denotes ‘negative words’**

Vocabulary

1. **Census** (noun) – population count, survey, headcount, enumeration, tally जनगणना
2. **Crucial** (to) (adjective) – very important, of great consequence, of the essence, critical, high-priority महत्वपूर्ण (+)
3. **Devoid** (of) (adjective) – lacking, empty, free, bereft, sans से रहित (-)
4. **Intent** (noun) – purpose, aim, objective, intention, goal उद्देश्य
5. **Decennial** (adjective) – Relating to or lasting for ten years. दस वर्ष में एक बार
6. **Cease** (verb) – stop, halt, end, terminate, discontinue समाप्त होना
7. **State Machinery** (noun) – The organized institutions, structures, and resources of a state or government through which it operates and implements its policies. राज्य तंत्र
8. **Withhold** (verb) – retain, hold back, keep back, reserve रोक लेना
9. **Take place** (phrase) – occur, happen, come about, transpire होना
10. **Speculation** (noun) – conjecture, supposition, theory, guesswork, surmise अनुमान
11. **Eager** (to) (adjective) – keen, anxious, willing, enthusiastic, avid उत्सुक (+)
12. **Clamour** (for) (noun) – outcry, uproar, demand, hue and cry, commotion कोलाहल/ शोर मचाना (-)
13. **Enumeration** (noun) – listing, tallying, counting, itemization, detailing गिनती
14. **Evade** (verb) – avoid, escape, dodge, elude, circumvent टालना (-)
15. **Delimitation** (noun) – The act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. सीमा निर्धारण
16. **Redistribution** (noun) – reallocation, reapportionment, rearrangement, reshuffling पुनर्वितरण
17. **Incentive** (noun) – motivation, encouragement, inducement, stimulus प्रोत्साहन, प्रलोभन (+)
18. **Conflict** (noun) – clash, disagreement, dispute, contention टकराव
19. **Muddy** (verb) – make (something) hard or harder to understand; obscure, confuse, obfuscate, blur, cloud उलझना (-)
20. **Proposed** (adjective) – suggested, planned, intended, designed प्रस्तावित
21. **Import** (noun) – significance, meaning, implication, consequence महत्व (+)
22. **Self-enumerate** (verb) – To count or list oneself, typically referring to the act of

- providing one's own details in a census or survey. स्वयं गिनना
23. **Self-enumeration** (noun) – The process by which individuals count or list themselves in a census or survey, typically by providing their own details. स्वयं की गिनती
24. **Assign** (verb) – allocate, allot, designate, appoint, attribute सौंपना
25. **Enumerator** (noun) – counter, recorder, tallyman, census taker गिनने वाला
26. **In normal course** (phrase) – usually, typically, under regular circumstances, as a general rule, customarily सामान्य रूप से
27. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – in the meantime, concurrently, simultaneously, at the same time, for now इसी दौरान
28. **Mechanism** (noun) – method, system, procedure, process, means प्रक्रिया
29. **Evolve** (verb) – develop, progress, advance, transform, mature विकसित होना (+)
30. **Thanks to** (phrase) – due to, because of, on account of, owing to की वजह से (+)
31. **Come into effect** (phrase) – become operational, start, begin, be applied, be enacted प्रभाव में आना (+)
32. **Centralised** (adjective) – concentrated, unified, consolidated, amalgamated केंद्रीभूत
33. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, bring about, result in, produce वजह बनना
34. **Electoral roll** (noun) – voter list, voter registration, list of voters मतदाता सूची
35. **Weaponise** (verb) – To convert or adapt something into a weapon or use it as a weapon. हथियार बनाना (-)
36. **Categorisation** (noun) – classification, grouping, arrangement, designation वर्गीकरण

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial discusses the importance of the Census in India, emphasizing that it's crucial for planning and development.
2. The Census exercise has taken place every 10 years in India since 1881.
3. The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the government has not yet given clearance to start the exercise, even though pandemic-related restrictions have been lifted.
4. Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the Census will be conducted after the 2024 general election, but did not specify a date, fueling speculation about the government's intentions.
5. The delay may be due to the BJP government's reluctance to address the question of caste enumeration.
6. The next Census will impact the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, involving inter-State redistribution of representation, giving the BJP potential incentives to delay.
7. Changes in the Citizenship Act and disagreements about the National Population Register (NPR) between some States and the Centre have complicated discussions.
8. The proposed 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assemblies is linked to the Census and the next delimitation, adding another layer of importance to the exercise.
9. The upcoming Census is planned to be digital and allows for "self-enumeration."
10. Mandatory collection of Aadhaar or mobile numbers is part of the new Census approach.
11. About 30 lakh government officials will be responsible for collecting data from 650-800 people each, covering over 140 crore people.
12. The Census usually takes at least 11 months to complete both phases.
13. Technological advances are changing the quality and mechanism of data collection, such as the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023.
14. This Act will centralize various databases like the population register, electoral register, Aadhaar, ration card, and so on.
15. The editorial argues that the government should not weaponize the Census for political purposes and should consult with States and parties on all related issues.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What would be an appropriate title for the passage?**
 - A. A Brief History of Census in India
 - B. The Digital Age of Census
 - C. The Politics and Challenges of Census in India
 - D. The Role of School Teachers in Census
- 2. What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Technological advancements in data collection
 - B. Census as a means for women empowerment
 - C. Political influences on the Census in India
 - D. The history and evolution of the Census
- 3. What is the appropriate tone of the given below statement "The proposed 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assemblies is linked to the next Census and delimitation, which adds an additional import."?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Optimistic
 - D. Urgent
- 4. What is the likely reason for the BJP government to withhold the Census until after the 2024 general election?**
 - A. The government is unsure about how to conduct the Census in the digital age, given that the next Census will be the first digital one, collecting Aadhaar or mobile numbers as mandatory information.
 - B. The delay is primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions, which have made it challenging for the government to organize and execute the Census.
 - C. The BJP government may be eager to delay the Census until 2024 to avoid questions surrounding the enumeration of caste, an issue they are not keen to address.
 - D. The BJP government is waiting for the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 to come into effect, which will centralize various databases and make data collection easier.
- 5. What implications could a delay of the Census until after 2024 have for the representation of different states in the Lok Sabha?**
 - A. A delay will not impact the representation of states in the Lok Sabha as delimitation is not dependent on Census data.
 - B. Delaying the Census until after 2024 will mean that the next delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, which involves inter-state redistribution of representation, would likely be based on a Census conducted after 2026.

- C. A delay in the Census will make it easier for the government to implement a proposed 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assemblies, as this reservation is not linked to Census or delimitation.
- D. The delay is beneficial for states as it will give them more time to prepare and influence the results of the Census to secure greater representation in the Lok Sabha.
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. While a few more rate hikes may well be in the offing, the debate within these central banks is likely to now shift to how long interest rates will remain high for.
- B. However, the projections accompanying the Fed meeting indicate the possibility of a rate hike this year — as per the Fed dot plot, 12 of the 19 members of the Fed Open Market Committee expect the interest rates to be hiked by another 25 basis points.
- C. In developed economies such as the US, UK and Eurozone, interest rates have either reached their peak levels, or are about to.
- D. Earlier this month, the European Central Bank hiked interest rates for the 10th consecutive time to its highest level since the Euro was launched. The ECB, though, has signaled that this would be the last rate hike for now. On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve voted to keep its policy rate unchanged. The federal funds rate stands at 5.25-5.5 per cent.
- E. And on Thursday, the Bank of England, in a split decision, voted to keep interest rates unchanged at 5.25 per cent.
- A. CDBEA
B. BCDAE
C. CDABE
D. DABCE
7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. Something has changed in India's politics from the time the Women's Reservation Bill was repeatedly stalled in Parliament after it was first tabled in 1996, and passed only in Rajya Sabha in 2010 amid uproar and unruly scenes.
- B. Four hundred and fifty-four for, two against. That was the vote tally on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, in Lok Sabha Wednesday.
- C. That change — immensely welcome and enormously for the better — was reflected in the Bill's smooth sailing on Wednesday. It is not just that, now, for the first time, the legislation to give 33 per cent reservation to women in state assemblies and Lok Sabha enjoys the backing of a party with a decisive majority.
- D. It is also — and more — that the opponents have laid down their arms before an idea whose time has finally come.
- A. ABCD
B. BDCA

- C. CADB
D. BACD
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**
- A. Leaving behind dingy arcades in shopping streets and scoldings of parents for squinting into dimly lit screens, esports is scheduled to make a mammoth entry into public consciousness, by becoming a medal sport at the Asian Games in Hangzhou.
- B. A glitzy sci-fi spaceship-like arena over 80,000 sq metres was built specifically for this grand debut.
- C. Tickets were sold by lottery system and were priced as high as USD 137, higher than most other events.
- D. Seven game titles, including League of Legends, DOTA 2, and Honor of Kings, which belong to the multiplayer online battle arena game genre, and Street Fighter, which is MMA on screen, will test strategy, teamwork, and the individual skill of participants.
- A. DBAC
B. ACBD
C. ABCD
D. BCDA
9. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- P. a man in a maroon colour flannel shirt
Q. rounded a corner and walked into the middle of the main street of Yellow Sky
R. which had been purchased for purposes of decoration
S. and made principally by some Jewish women on the East side of New York.
- A. PRQS
B. PRSQ
C. PSRQ
D. PQRS
10. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word.
He wore a bizarre outfit for the party
- A. Normal
B. Usual
C. Weird
D. Familiar
11. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
She detests capsicum so much that she would prefer going empty stomach.
- A. prompts
B. marvels
C. rebels
D. Loathes
12. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined words in the given sentence.**

He was alone and knew the dangers ahead during his journey, but he tried to keep up his confidence

- A. whistled in the dark
- B. made a sterner stuff
- C. stepped up his game
- D. wouldn't be caught dead

13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

Timid

- A. Magical
- B. Honest
- C. Fearless
- D. 4. Nervous

14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.

This route cannot get more _____ (simplified) than it already is.

- A. uniform
- B. convoluted
- C. homogenous
- D. Unvaried

15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.

A particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social group.

- A. Singular
- B. Slang
- C. Dialect
- D. Referendum

16. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**

Varun is handsome than his brother.

- A. much handsome to
- B. most handsome than
- C. more handsome than
- D. more handsome to

17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

The GDP of the country has growth rapidly since independence.

- A. had been grow rapidly
- B. has grown rapidly
- C. have grown been rapidly
- D. had grow rapidly

18. **Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

The letter was written by the author and mailed to the publisher.

- A. The letter was written and mailed to the publisher by the author.
- B. The author wrote the letter and mailed it to the publisher.

- C. The publisher received the letter written by the author.
D. The letter was being written by the author and mailed to the publisher.
19. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Proposal
A. Filling
B. Scheme
C. Refusal
D. Addition
20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

The politician used a/an **mild and indirect word** to describe the controversial policy, in order to soften the blow.

- A. oxymoron
B. metaphor
C. euphemism
D. Hyperbole

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

India will host an international summit on Buddhism here on April 20 and 21. Delegates from 30 countries will participate, a notable exception (1) _____ China. Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is also unlikely to attend the two-day conclave. The maiden conference being organised by the Union Culture Ministry and the International Buddhist Confederation will discuss (2) _____ global issues through a Buddhist perspective. Over 170 delegates from countries such as Mexico, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Japan and 150 from India will participate in the summit to be held in the national capital. The delegates (3) _____ prominent scholars, monks, diplomats and members of Buddhist organisations across the globe. The largest number of delegates are from Sri Lanka (20) and Vietnam (30). Abhijit Haldar, Director General of International Buddhist Confederation, said that while no delegate had been confirmed from China, there would be two participants from Taiwan. "The invitations (4) _____ sent to various Buddhist institutions and not to governments," Mr. Haldar added. He also mentioned that the Dalai Lama (5) _____ not attend the event due to health issues.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
A. been
B. being
C. be
D. Are
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. classical
B. contemporary
C. old

D. Ancient

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

A. included

B. include

C. including

D. Includes

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**

A. had

B. were

C. has

D. Was

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

A. ought to

B. might

C. used to

D. dare

Answers

1. C 2. C 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. A 7. D 8. C 9. B 10. C 11.D 12.A
13. D 14.B 15.C 16.C 17.B 18.B 19.B 20.C 21.B 22.B 23.B 24.B
25. B

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. C) The passage mainly discusses the political implications, delays, and challenges surrounding the Census exercise in India. It delves into how governmental decisions have affected the timing and aims of the Census.
2. C) The main focus of the passage is on how political decisions are influencing the Census. It talks about the postponement of the Census and how the government's actions have political intent and consequences, such as issues related to caste enumeration and delimitation of Lok Sabha seats
3. B) The statement is presenting a factual connection between the proposed 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assemblies and the next Census. It mentions that this linkage "adds an additional import" but does not express an opinion, urgency, or criticism. The tone is neutral, as it is simply relaying information.
4. C) The passage suggests that the BJP government is possibly delaying the Census until after the 2024 general election due to the clamor for enumeration of caste. This is an issue the government is trying to evade, thus indicating that political intent may be behind the delay. The COVID-19 pandemic is mentioned, but the passage states that the restrictions related to the pandemic have ceased and that the state machinery is ready to conduct the Census. Option A and D may be plausible reasons, but they are not mentioned as factors for the delay in the passage.
5. B) The passage states that a Census conducted after 2026 will become the basis for the next delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, involving inter-state redistribution of representation. This implies that a delay until after 2024 could potentially push the next delimitation to be based on post-2026 Census data, affecting the representation of states in the Lok Sabha. Option A is incorrect as the passage mentions that delimitation is based on Census data. Option C is not relevant to the question about state representation, and the passage states that the 33% reservation is linked to the next Census and delimitation. Option D is speculative and not supported by the passage.
6. A) **CDBEA**
 - Sentence C sets the stage by discussing the general trend in developed economies regarding interest rates.
 - Sentence D offers specific examples from the US, the Eurozone, and their respective central banks to substantiate the point made in Sentence C.
 - Sentence E adds another example from the UK, providing a more comprehensive view.

- Sentence B discusses projections from the Fed, which keeps the reader's attention on possible future actions, adding complexity to the narrative.
- Sentence A concludes the paragraph by indicating what the next debate within these central banks might be, wrapping up the overall narrative.

7. D) **BACD**

- Sentence B provides specific information about the recent vote tally on a constitutional amendment bill. This sentence sets the context, highlighting a current legislative development.
- Sentence A references a shift in India's politics concerning women's reservation and gives a brief history of the Women's Reservation Bill, which contrasts with the recent developments mentioned in Sentence B.
- Sentence C further explains the change mentioned in Sentence A and provides additional context on the recent developments in legislation for women's reservation, expanding on the content mentioned in Sentence B.
- Sentence D concludes the paragraph by stating the finality and acceptance of the idea of women's reservation, summarizing the overall change and the current status of opposition to the bill.

8. C) **ABCD**

To form a coherent and logically flowing paragraph from the given sentences, consider the subject matter and linkage between the sentences. Sentence A introduces esports making a significant entry into public consciousness by becoming a medal sport at the Asian Games. Sentence B, talking about a specifically built arena, seems to provide details about the preparations and can be logically placed after A. Sentence C, which discusses the ticket system and pricing, can follow B as it continues detailing the aspects of the event. Lastly, sentence D provides specifics on the games to be included and can be positioned at the end as it gives more precise information regarding the event.

9. B) **PRSQ**

A man in a maroon colour flannel shirt. which had been purchased for purposes of decoration and made principally by some Jewish women on the East side of New York rounded a corner and walked into the middle of the main street of Yellow Sky

10. C) **Bizarre** (adjective) – Very strange, unusual, atypical, eccentric. अजीब

Synonym: Weird (adjective) – Unusual, strange, uncanny, supernatural. अजीब

- **Normal** (adjective) – Standard, usual, typical, ordinary. सामान्य
- **Usual** (adjective) – Habitual, customary, traditional, typical. सामान्य
- **Familiar** (adjective) – Well-known, common, customary, recognized. परिचित

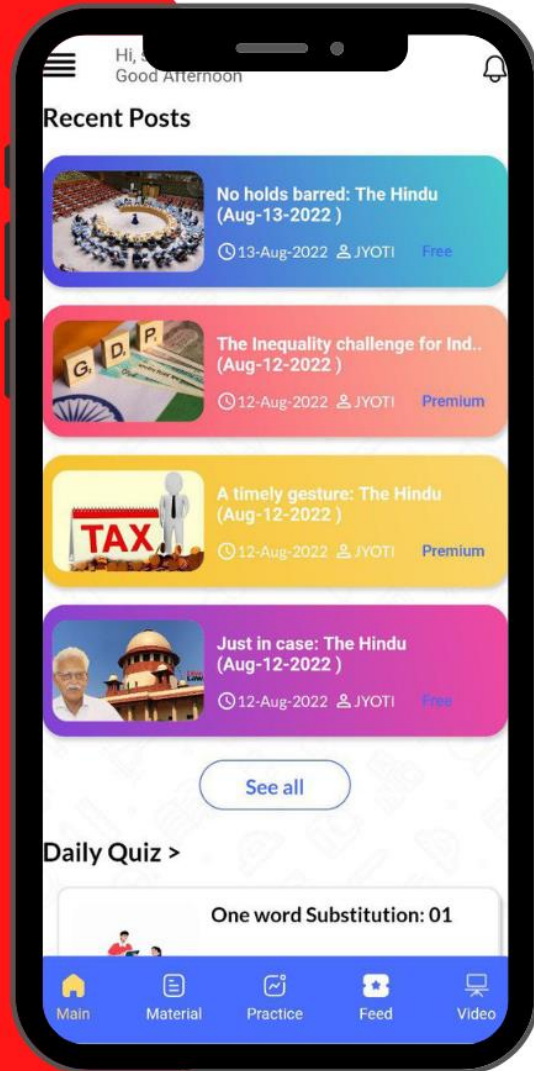
11. D) **Detest** (verb) – Dislike intensely; feel aversion to or profound loathing for. घृणा करना

Synonym: Loathe (verb) – Feel intense dislike or disgust for. नफरत करना

- **Prompts** (verb) – Cause or bring about (an action or feeling); inspire, provoke. प्रेरित करना
 - **Marvels** (noun) – A wonderful or astonishing person or thing. अद्भुत
 - **Rebels** (verb) – Rise in opposition or armed resistance to an established government or ruler; revolt, mutiny. विद्रोह करना
12. A) **whistled in the dark** (idiom) – tried to keep up his confidence आत्मविश्वास में बने रहना
- **Made of sterner stuff** (idiom) – to be emotionally or mentally stronger than other people; to be tough or determined.
 - **Stepped up his game** (idiom) – to begin to perform at a higher level of competence or enthusiasm.
 - **Wouldn't be caught dead** (idiom) – used to express strong dislike for something or a situation; to be unwilling to do something under any circumstances.
13. D) **Timid** (adjective) – Showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened. डरपोक
- Synonym: Nervous** (adjective) – Anxious, edgy, jumpy, apprehensive. चिंतित
- **Magical** (adjective) – Relating to or using magic. जादुई
 - **Honest** (adjective) – Free of deceit; truthful and sincere. ईमानदार
 - **Fearless** (adjective) – Lacking fear; brave. निर्भीक
14. B) **Simplified** (adjective) – Made simpler or easier, clear, straightforward, uncomplicated. सरल
- Antonym: Convoluted** (adjective) – Complex, intricate, complicated. जटिल
- **Uniform** (adjective) – Consistent; the same in all cases and at all times. समान
 - **Homogenous** (adjective) – Of the same kind, alike. समरूपी
 - **Unvaried** (adjective) – Not changing or different in any way. अपरिवर्तित
15. C) **Dialect** (noun) – A particular form of a language which is peculiar to a specific region or social group. उपभाषा
- **Singular** (adjective) – Exceptionally good or great; remarkable. अद्वितीय
 - **Slang** (noun) – A type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people. अशिष्ट भाषा
 - **Referendum** (noun) – A general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision. जनमत संग्रह
16. C) '**handsome than**' के बदले '**more handsome than**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि comparison के लिए '**more**' का प्रयोग किया जाता है जब दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं को तुलना की जाती है; जैसे— He is more intelligent than his friend.

- 'more handsome than' will be used instead of 'handsome than' because 'more' is used for comparison when comparing two people or things; Like— He is more intelligent than his friend
17. B) '**has growth rapidly**' के बदले 'has grown rapidly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'growth' एक noun है और इस संदर्भ में हमें verb form 'grown' की जरूरत है। यहां 'has' के साथ तीसरे रूप का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The plant has grown tall.
- has grown rapidly' will be used instead of 'has growth rapidly' because 'growth' is a noun and in this context, we need the verb form 'grown'. With 'has', we use the third form of the verb; Like— The plant has grown tall.
18. B) The author wrote the letter and mailed it to the publisher.
19. B) **Proposal** (noun) – A plan or suggestion, especially a formal or written one, put forward for consideration or discussion. प्रस्ताव
- Synonym: Scheme** (noun) – A large-scale systematic plan or arrangement for attaining some particular object or putting a particular idea into effect. योजना
- **Filling** (noun) – A quantity of material that fills or is used to fill something. भरावट
 - **Refusal** (noun) – The action of declining or rejecting a proposal, request, or offer. अस्वीकार
 - **Addition** (noun) – The action or process of adding something to something else. जोड़
20. C) **Euphemism** (noun) – A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt. संवेदनशील शब्द
- **Oxymoron** (noun) – A figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. विरोधाभासी अभिवादन
 - **Metaphor** (noun) – A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. रूपक
 - **Hyperbole** (noun) – Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. अतिशयोक्ति
21. B) '**Being**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य को सही अर्थ में प्रस्तुत करने के लिए "being" शब्द की आवश्यकता है, जिससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि चीन उस विशेष जो भाग लेंगे में सम्मिलित नहीं होगा। जबकि 'Been' का अर्थ है भूतकाल में किसी क्रिया को पूरा हो चुका होना, 'Be' का अर्थ है होना, और 'Are' का अर्थ है हैं, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- '**Being**' should be used because it gives the correct meaning to the sentence, indicating that China is the exception among those who will participate. Whereas, 'Been' implies an action that has been completed in the past, 'Be' means to exist, and 'Are' means are, which don't fit in this context.

22. B) **Contemporary**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "contemporary" का अर्थ होता है वर्तमान समय का या समकालीन। जब बात ग्लोबल मुद्दों की हो रही होती है, तो यह आमतौर पर वर्तमान समस्याओं या घटनाओं के संदर्भ में होती है। 'Classical', 'Old', और 'Ancient' इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये शब्द पुराने समय या परंपराओं के संदर्भ में होते हैं।
- **'Contemporary'** should be used because it means of the current time or era. When discussing global issues, it usually pertains to present-day problems or events. 'Classical', 'Old', and 'Ancient' are not suitable in this context as they refer to past times or traditions.
23. B) **'Include'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में वर्तमान काल में बताया जा रहा है कि प्रतिनिधियों में कौन-कौन शामिल हैं। 'Included' भूतकाल में होता है, 'Including' अतिरिक्त जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए होता है और 'Includes' वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि subject 'delegates' plural है।
- **'Include'** should be used because the sentence is conveying in the present tense who the delegates comprise of. 'Included' is in past tense, 'Including' is used to provide additional information, and 'Includes' doesn't fit the context as the subject 'delegates' is plural.
24. B) **'Were'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां बात हो रही है अनेक निमंत्रणों की जिन्हें विभिन्न बौद्ध संस्थानों को भेजा गया था। 'Were' प्लुरल संख्या के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है। जबकि 'Had' का अर्थ होता है पारित आकलन, 'Has' वर्तमान समय के आकलन का प्रयोग होता है, और 'Was' सिंगुलर संख्या के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Were'** should be used because the reference is to multiple invitations that were sent to various Buddhist institutions. 'Were' is used for plural number. Whereas, 'Had' implies past perfect, 'Has' is used in the present perfect tense, and 'Was' is used for singular number, which don't fit in this context.
25. B) **'Might'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "might" का अर्थ होता है संभावना हो सकती है। जबकि 'ought to' का अर्थ है चाहिए, 'used to' का अर्थ है पहले आदत थी, और 'dare' का अर्थ है साहसिकता दिखाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Might'** should be used because it indicates a possibility. Whereas, 'ought to' implies should, 'used to' means had a habit in the past, and 'dare' means to show bravery, which don't fit in this context.



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