## Desperation in distress: On migration attempts by Indians to the developed world

The farming crisis is forcing youths to take to illegal migration
In a world where the movement of labour is curtailed and restricted, it is no surprise that people affected by distress in their homeland seek opportunities in the developed world despite the enormous risks during their journeys. The recent episode of the forced return of 303 Indians who were detained at a French airport is suspected to be another such instance, or worse, trafficking. About 20 of them sought asylum in France, while the rest returned to Mumbai on Tuesday. However, it is well-known now that an alarming number of Indians, nearly 1,00,000 and five times the number in the previous year, attempted to enter the U.S. between October 2022 and September this year, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data. More than half these attempts were through the heavily guarded Mexican border, with the rest being attempts to use the sparsely manned Canadian border. The rise of Indians risking the rather treacherous route to enter the U.S. through Mexico came to light when a sixyear old girl from Punjab was found dead in the Arizona desert in June 2019. This was about nine months before the COVID-19 pandemic, which led the Trump Administration to invoke the rarely used Title 42 of the U.S. Code that deals with public health, empowering border agencies to turn away asylum seekers even without a hearing. After the COVID-19 years and since the Biden Administration came to power, such migration attempts began to steadily rise again. That Indians are willing to take risks and bear enormous difficulties only to become illegal immigrants in the U.S. suggests that they are doing so either in desperation or are being misled.

Initial reports from the current incident also bear the tell-tale signs of what has been reported in the past about such cases - the majority of the air passengers were men from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat; about a dozen were unaccompanied minors. Immediate reasons for such migrations have been cited by some Sikhs as alleged religious persecution, while others cited the distress in farming. Regardless of the reasons, it is time the Indian government paid attention to the trafficking racket that appears to be widespread especially across parts of rural Punjab and Haryana, where gullible people fall prey to tall promises of a better future in the U.S. Their situation has been exacerbated by the crisis that they face in farming with plummeting incomes and overexploited and fragmented farmlands. A crackdown on exploitative middlemen in the labour market can only be the beginning.
[Practice]

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


## Vocabulary

1. Desperation (noun) - Frustration, hopelessness, despair, direness, urgency निराशा
2. Distress (noun) - Suffering, pain, anguish, hardship, adversity पीड़ा
3. Migration (noun) - Movement, relocation, emigration, travel, transference प्रवास
4. Curtail (verb) - Reduce, shorten, decrease, limit, truncate कम करना
5. Seek (verb) - Search for, pursue, look for, quest, aspire खोजना
6. Enormous (adjective) - Huge, immense, vast, colossal, tremendous विशाल
7. Detain (verb) - Arrest, hold, capture, confine, control हिरासत में लेना
8. Instance (noun) - Example, case, occurrence, illustration, incident उदाहरण
9. Trafficking (noun) - Illegal trade, smuggling, trafficking, dealing, black market तस्करी
10. Asylum (noun) - Refuge, sanctuary, shelter, haven, protection शरण
11. Alarming (adjective) - Disturbing, worrying, shocking, startling, ominous चिंताजनक
12. Sparsely (adverb) - Scarcely, thinly, meagerly, lightly, infrequently बिखरीबिखरी
13. Manned (adjective) - carrying, staffed, or performed by one or more people बसा हुआ
14. Treacherous (adjective) - Dangerous, hazardous, perilous, deceitful, untrustworthy धोखेबाज़
15. Come to light (phrase) - Become known, be revealed, be discovered, emerge, surface सामने आना
16. Invoke (verb) - to use a law in order to achieve something नियम, क़ानून आदि प्रयोग करना
17. Deals with (phrasal verb) - Handle, manage, address, tackle, confront निपटना
18. Empower (verb) - Authorize, enable, permit, allow, entitle अधिकारित करना
19. Seeker (noun) - Searcher, explorer, quester, hunter, inquirer खोजने वाला
20. Hearing (noun) - Trial, session, inquiry, examination, proceeding सुनवाई
21. Steadily (adverb) - Constantly, continuously, uniformly, consistently, unswervingly लगातार

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22. Bear (verb) - Endure, tolerate, sustain, carry, withstand सहना
23. Bear (verb) - take; to have something रखना
24. Telltale (adjective) - Revealing, indicative, suggestive, revealing, demonstrative व्यक्त करने वाला
25. Unaccompanied (adjective) - Alone, solitary, solo, single, unattended अकेला
26. Cite (verb) - Reference, mention, quote, refer to, allude to हवाला देना
27. Regardless of (phrase) - Irrespective of, notwithstanding, in spite of, despite, no matter की परवाह किए बिना
28. Pay attention to (phrase) - Focus on, heed, consider, observe, take notice of ध्यान देना
29. Racket (noun) - criminal activity, illegal enterprise, illegal scheme, fraud, fraudulent scheme गिरोह
30. Widespread (adjective) - Extensive, broad, common, prevalent, ubiquitous व्यापक
31. Gullible (adjective) - Naive, credulous, trusting, innocent, impressionable भोलाभाला
32. Fall prey to (phrase) - Become victim to, succumb to, be deceived by, be taken in by, be ensnared by शिकार होना
33. Exacerbate (verb) - Worsen, aggravate, intensify, increase, heighten बिगाड़ना
34. Plummeting (adjective) - Dropping, falling, declining, plunging, sinking गिरावट आना
35. Overexploited (adjective) - Overused, depleted, exhausted, drained, overworked अतिदोहित
36. Fragmented (adjective) - Broken up, divided, splintered, disintegrated, shattered खंडित
37. Crackdown on (noun) - Clampdown, suppression, restriction, control, enforcement कठोर कार्रवाई
38. Exploitative (adjective) - Unfair, abusive, manipulative, oppressive, using शोषणात्मक

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Widespread Illegal Migration: A significant increase in illegal migration attempts by Indians to developed countries, particularly the U.S.
2. Agricultural Crisis: The primary cause is the farming crisis in India, pushing youths towards illegal migration.
3. Recent Incident at French Airport: 303 Indians were detained at a French airport, highlighting the issue. A portion of them sought asylum in France, while others returned to India.
4. Rising Numbers: Around $1,00,000$ Indians attempted to enter the U.S. between October 2022 and September 2023, a fivefold increase from the previous year.
5. Routes Through Mexico and Canada: The majority attempted entry through the heavily guarded Mexican border, with others trying the Canadian border.
6. Tragic Outcomes: Instances like the death of a six-year-old girl from Punjab in the Arizona desert in 2019 underscore the risks involved.
7. Impact of COVID-19 and U.S. Policies: The Trump Administration's use of Title 42 during the pandemic to turn away asylum seekers worsened the situation.
8. Renewed Increase Post-COVID: Migration attempts have risen again with the Biden Administration, indicating continuing desperation.
9. Indications of Desperation and Misguidance: These risky journeys suggest either sheer desperation or misinformation among migrants.
10. Profile of Migrants: Majority are men from Punjab, Haryana, and Gujarat, including unaccompanied minors.
11. Diverse Causes for Migration: Reasons range from alleged religious persecution to agricultural distress.
12. Need for Indian Government Action: Urgent attention is required from the Indian government to address the underlying causes and trafficking rackets.
13. Exploitation in Rural Areas: Rural Punjab and Haryana are particularly affected, with many falling prey to false promises of a better life in the U.S.
14. Agricultural Crisis Details: Issues include plummeting incomes, overexploited lands, and fragmented farmlands in the agricultural sector.
15. Combatting Exploitation: A crackdown on exploitative middlemen in the labor market is crucial as a starting measure.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which of the following titles best captures the essence of the passage?
[Editorial Page]
A. "The Global Movement of Labor: Opportunities and Risks"
B. "The Desperate Journey of Indian Immigrants to the Developed World"
C. "The Economic Challenges of Rural India"
D. "US Immigration Policies and Their Impact"
2. Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the situation of the people from rural Punjab and Haryana?
A. They are primarily seeking better educational opportunities.
B. They are facing economic distress and are vulnerable to trafficking.
C. They are attracted by the lifestyle in the developed world.
D. They are mainly political refugees.
3. What is the tone of the statement "A crackdown on exploitative middlemen in the labour market can only be the beginning" from the passage?
A. Indifferent
B. Pessimistic
C. Assertive
D. Humorous
4. In the passage, which word is a synonym for "curtailed" as used in the first sentence?
A. Restricted
B. Extended
C. Broadened
D. Encouraged
5. In the context of the passage, what is an antonym for "exploitative" as used in the phrase "exploitative middlemen"?
A. Abusive
B. Deceptive
C. Manipulative
D. Beneficial
6. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.
From a recent research, evident is it that a lot more women have been opting for professional courses.
A. it is evident that more a lot women
B. it is evidently that a lot more women
C. it is evident that a lot more women
D. it is evidence that a lot more women
7. Select the most appropriate synonym of the word 'Bleak' from the given sentence.

He looked gloomy, frail, broken and slow after the sudden demise of his brother.
A. slow
B. gloomy
C. frail
D. Sudden
8. Select the correct spelling from the given options to fill in the blank.

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Mihika was one of the $\qquad$ in the Master Chef competition held in our society last year.
A. contextants
B. contestents
C. contestants
D. Kontestants
9. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Elusive
A. Explosive
B. Affordable
C. Definite
D. Rigid
10. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

The students must complete the assignment by Friday
A. The assignment must be completed by the students by Friday.
B. The assignment will be completed by the students by Friday.
C. The students will have completed the assignment by Friday.
D. The assignment must be complete by Friday by the students
11. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined group of words.
Kidney beans were boiled quickly when Nisha added a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction without being consumed by the reaction itself.
A. reactant
B. catalyst
C. enzyme
D. Solute
12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Sarah just gave $\qquad$ to a baby boy.
A. birth
B. breath
C. broth
D. Berth
13. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.
My mother asked my father to increase her personal use allowance.
A. pell mell
B. rank and file
C. pins and needles
D. pin money
14. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

Repeal
A. Approval

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B. Expense
C. Separation
D. Adversity
15. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.
(O) on a regular basis can improve
(P) engaging in physical activity
(Q) the risk of chronic diseases, and boost mental health
( R ) cardiovascular health, reduce
A. RPOQ
B. PROQ
C. PORQ
D. OQRP
16. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.
A) to his neighbours
B) first name is Adam
C) that no one even
D) he is so rude
E) knows that his
A. D, A, C, E, B
B. B, D, A, C, E
C. A, C, B, D, E
D. $C, E, B, A, D$
17. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
When I was in 5th grade, / I use to / ride on my / red bicycle.
A. red bicycle
B. I use to
C. When I was in 5th grade,
D. ride on my
18. Select the most appropriate idiom for the following statement.

The manager was punished for his negligence in work.
A. Bid defiance
B. Burn one's boats
C. Bolt from the blue
D. Bring to book
19. Select the most appropriate option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined segment in the following sentence.
As I walked through the old town, I couldn't help but feel a sentimental longing for the simpler times of my childhood.
A. affection

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B. homesickness
C. inertia
D. Nostalgia
20. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words. Collection of written or spoken texts
A. Data bank
B. Dictionary
C. Corpus
D. Circa

## 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.
The entertainment (1) $\qquad$ built by Walt Disney is sometimes called the 'House of Mouse' in acknowledgment of the leading role played by Disney's most famous creation, Mickey Mouse. Mickey's round mouse ears, either in silhouette or adorning a hat, have become one of the most (2) $\qquad$ corporate logos in the world. But if a few business decisions in the 1920s had gone differently, they could have been rabbit ears.
In the mid-1920s Disney was a young (3) $\qquad$ producing a series called the Alice Comedies, short films that combined live-action footage with animated images so that human actors appeared to interact with cartoon characters. But he had grown tired of the series and wanted to move on to making completely animated films. In 1927 he got his wish, (4) $\qquad$ a deal with Universal to produce a new series based on the adventures of a character called Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. Both the name and the species of the character had been picked by Universal—'Oswald' was (5) $\qquad$ picked out of a hat of names, and the character was made a rabbit because there were already too many cartoon cats on the market.
21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
A. empire
B. power
C. province
D. Country
22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.
A. visible
B. measurable
C. notifiable
D. Recognizable
23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.
A. artisan
B. craftsman
C. animator
D. Miniaturist
24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
A. striking

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B. crossing
C. bewitching
D. Possessing
25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5 .
A. apparently
B. anatomically
C. reasonably
D. outwardly

## Answers

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

## Explanations

1. B) The passage primarily focuses on the risks and desperation of Indian immigrants trying to enter the developed world, particularly the United States. This title encapsulates the main theme of the passage.
2. B) The passage mentions the crisis in farming, plummeting incomes, and exploitation in parts of rural Punjab and Haryana, leading people to become vulnerable to trafficking and false promises of a better future in the U.S. This points to economic distress as a primary driver of their situation.
3. C) The tone of this statement is assertive. It suggests a strong recommendation or a call to action, indicating that while taking action against exploitative middlemen is essential, it is merely the first step in a larger process. The statement conveys a sense of urgency and the necessity for further actions, which is characteristic of an assertive tone.
4. A) In the passage, "curtailed" means to reduce in extent or quantity; to impose a restriction on something. The word "restricted" is a synonym as it also means to put a limit on; to control the extent of something.
5. D) "Exploitative" refers to taking unfair advantage of someone, often for personal gain. Therefore, an antonym would be a word that conveys a positive or helpful impact. "Beneficial" fits this description as it means resulting in good; favorable or advantageous, which is the opposite of being exploitative.
6. C) it is evident that a lot more women' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही वाक्य संरचना और अर्थ को ध्यान में रखते हुए 'it is evident that' सही phrase है।

- 'it is evident that a lot more women' will be used because, considering the correct sentence structure and meaning, 'it is evident that' is the correct phrase.

7. B) Bleak (adjective) - Lacking warmth, life, or kindliness; grim, cold, cheerless, desolate. सुनसान/ उजाड़

Synonym: Gloomy (adjective) - Dark, dim, drearily dull, dismal, despondent. उदास

- Slow (adjective) - Moving or operating, or designed to do so, only at a low speed; not quick or fast. धीमा
- Frail (adjective) - Weak and delicate; easily damaged or broken. दुर्बल
- Sudden (adjective) - Occurring or done quickly and without warning; unexpected. अचानक

8. C) 'Contestants' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है। "Master Chef competition" में भाग लेने वाले लोगों को 'contestants' कहा जाता है।

- 'Contestants' should be used because it is the correct spelling. People participating in the "Master Chef competition" are referred to as 'contestants'. The other options are incorrect spellings.

9. C) Elusive (adjective) - Hard to pin down, evasive, difficult to find, catch, or achieve. टाल-मटोल वाला

Antonym: Definite (adjective) - Clearly stated or decided, unambiguous, specific. स्पष्ट

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- Explosive (adjective) - Prone to explode, volatile, combustible. विस्फोटक
- Affordable (adjective) - Reasonably priced, within one's budget, economical. सस्ता
- Rigid (adjective) - Unable to bend or be forced out of shape; stiff, inflexible. कठोर

10. A) The assignment must be completed by the students by Friday
11. B) Catalyst (noun) - A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. उत्प्रेरक

- Reactant (noun) - A substance that takes part in and undergoes change during a reaction. प्रतिक्रियाशील पदार्थ
- Enzyme (noun) - A protein produced by living organisms that acts as a catalyst to bring about specific biochemical reactions. एंजाइम
- Solute (noun) - A substance that is dissolved in a solution. विलीय पदार्थ

12. A) 'birth' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सारा के एक बच्चे को जन्म देने की चर्चा कर रहा है। "Sarah just gave $\qquad$ to a baby boy" इस sentence में, एक महिला के बच्चे को जन्म देने की सूचना दी जा रही है। इसलिए, "birth" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'birth' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing Sarah giving birth to a child. In the sentence "Sarah just gave $\qquad$ to a baby boy", it's informing about a woman giving birth to a child. Thus, "birth" would be the most appropriate choice.

13. D) Pin money (noun) - a small amount of money for incidental expenses, originally referring to an allowance given by a husband to his wife for her personal expenses. जेब खर्च के लिए पैसा

- Pell mell (adverb) - in a confused, rushed, or disorderly manner; haphazardly. अव्यवस्थित रूप से
- Rank and file (noun) - the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to its leaders. सामान्य सदस्य
- Pins and needles (noun) - a tingling sensation felt in a part of the body, often due to a temporary loss of blood flow. सुजन या झुनझुनी अनुभूति

14. A) Repeal (verb) - Cancel, annul, revoke, rescind, abrogate. निरस्त करना

Antonym: Approval (noun) - Agreement, endorsement, sanction, ratification. स्वीकृति

- Expense (noun) - Cost, expenditure, outlay. व्यय
- Separation (noun) - Detachment, disjunction, parting. अलगाव
- Adversity (noun) - Hardship, distress, misfortune, trouble. विपत्ति


## 15. C) PORQ

Engaging in physical activity on a regular basis can improve cardiovascular health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and boost mental health
16. A) D, A, C, E, B
he is so rude to his neighbours that no one even knows that his first name is Adam
17. B) 'I use to' के बदले 'I used to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस वाक्य में Past Habit की बात की गई है, इसलिए 'used to' का प्रयोग सही है।

- 'I used to' will be used instead of 'I use to' because the sentence talks about a past habit, hence 'used to' is the correct usage.

18. D) Bring to book (idiom) - To call someone to account or to reprimand/punish them for their actions or behavior. किसी को सज़ा देना

- Bid defiance (idiom) - To resist or challenge openly.
- Burn one's boats (idiom) - To commit oneself irrevocably to a course of action, making return or retreat impossible.
- Bolt from the blue (idiom) - A sudden and unexpected event or piece of news

19. D) Nostalgia (noun) - a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations. पुरानी यादें

- Affection (noun) - a gentle feeling of fondness or liking. स्नेह
- Homesickness (noun) - a feeling of longing for one's home during a period of absence from it. घर की याद
- Inertia (noun) - a tendency to do nothing or to remain unchanged. निष्क्रियता

20. C) Corpus (noun) - A collection of written or spoken texts. संग्रह

- Data bank (noun) - A store of information or data.
- Dictionary (noun) - A book or electronic resource that lists the words of a language and gives their meaning or the equivalent words in a different language. शब्दकोश
- Circa (preposition) - Approximately (often used to indicate that a date is approximate). लगभग

21. A) 'Empire' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "empire" का अर्थ होता है विस्तारित व्यापारिक या सांविदानिक संगठन जिसे किसी विशेष व्यक्ति या संगठन द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाता है। जबकि 'Power' का अर्थ है शक्ति या प्रभुत्व, 'Province' का अर्थ है प्रांत या क्षेत्र, और 'Country' का अर्थ है देश, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Empire' should be used because it refers to an extensive commercial or corporate network controlled by a particular individual or organization. Whereas, 'Power' implies authority or dominance, 'Province' means a region or territory, and 'Country' denotes a nation, which don't fit in this context.

22. D) 'Recognizable' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "recognizable" का अर्थ होता है आसानी से पहचाना जा सकने वाला। जबकि 'Visible' का अर्थ है हश्यमान, 'Measurable' का अर्थ है मापने योग्य, और 'Notifiable' का अर्थ है सूचित करने योग्य, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

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23. C) 'Animator' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "animator" का अर्थ होता है वह व्यक्ति जो चित्रों को जीवंत करता है, विशेष रूप से फिल्मों और टेलीविजन में। जबकि 'Artisan' का अर्थ है शिल्पकार, 'Craftsman' का अर्थ है शिल्पी, और 'Miniaturist' का अर्थ है छवि संकीर्णक, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Animator' should be used because it refers to a person who brings drawings to life, especially in films and television. Whereas, 'Artisan' means a skilled manual worker, 'Craftsman' means a skilled worker, and 'Miniaturist' implies a painter of miniature pictures, which don't fit in this context.

24. A) Striking' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "striking" का अर्थ होता है समझौता करना या समझौता करने में सफल होना। जबकि 'Crossing' का अर्थ है पार करना, 'Bewitching' का अर्थ है मोहित करना, और 'Possessing' का अर्थ है अधिकृत होना या प्राप्त करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- Striking' should be used because it means to reach or come to an agreement. Whereas, 'Crossing' means to go across, 'Bewitching' means to enchant, and 'Possessing' implies owning or having, which don't fit in this context

25. A) 'Apparently' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "apparently" का अर्थ होता है 'प्रतित होता है' या 'जैसा कि दिखता है'. जबकि 'Anatomically' का अर्थ है शारीरिक रचना से संबंधित, 'Reasonably' का अर्थ है समझदारी से, और 'Outwardly' का अर्थ है बाहरी रूप में, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Apparently' should be used because it means 'as it seems' or 'seemingly'. Whereas, 'Anatomically' refers to physical structure, 'Reasonably' means logically, and 'Outwardly' means externally, which don't fit in this context.


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