

Brave new world: On the India-European Free Trade Association agreement and IPR

India must invest in fundamental research to be able to develop reliable **drugs**

Expectations are high that a **free trade agreement** involving India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) **is** close to **fruition**. However, a **bone of contention** relates to **intellectual property rights**, and has **persisted** as an issue since 2008. **Switzerland and Norway**, which are **prominent** members of EFTA, **host** several of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies that are responsible for several of the drugs and therapeutics that **underpin** health care globally. The **nature** of the pharma industry — it costs much to discover a useful effective drug and relatively little to make **generic** copies of it — with demand that is far **disproportionate** to **affordability**, **means** that there is a constant **tussle** between the inventors and the generic-drug companies. **Patenting**, or an exclusive **monopoly** for a fixed number of years to originators and a **reciprocal** right by governments to issue directions for ‘compulsory licensing,’ **thereby** selectively breaking such monopolies in the interest of public health, **has brokered** the peace and **sustained** the global pharma industry for **decades**. But new legal **innovations** such as data **exclusivity continue** to **inveigle** themselves in free trade negotiations. Under this provision, all the clinical-trial data that concerns the safety and **efficacy** of a drug generated by the originator firm becomes **proprietary** and **out of bounds** for a minimum period of six years. Permission to make a generic is possible if a country’s regulator can **rely on** supplied clinical trial data to approve a drug. For this, generic makers usually rely on the originator’s published data.

The principle of data exclusivity is present among European countries as well as in agreements involving many developing countries. Were it to **take effect** in India, it could significantly **hinder** India’s drug industry which is also a major exporter of **affordable** drugs. Indian officials have rejected data exclusivity as a point of negotiations in the FTA, though leaked drafts of the agreement suggest that it is **alive**. However, India’s **rise** up the drug manufacturing chain in the last few decades **means** that it must invest in an **ecosystem** that can conduct ethical drug trials and make new molecules and therapeutics **from scratch**. The **paradigm** that drug development will always be expensive and **confined to the West** need not be permanent, as **was** seen in the development of several **novel** technology approaches to developing vaccines in India during the COVID-19 pandemic. But as preparation, India must invest **substantially** more in fundamental research to **incubate** the local drug industry into the future.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Host** (verb) – Have, hold, provide, lay on, arrange रखना

Vocabulary

1. **Brave new world** (phrase) – used to refer, often ironically, to a new and hopeful period in history resulting from major changes in society.
2. **Drug** (noun) – Medication, medicine, pharmaceutical, remedy, cure दवा
3. **Free trade agreement** (noun) – A pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them स्वतंत्र व्यापार समझौता
4. **Fruition** (noun) – Realization, achievement, completion, fulfilment, actualization साकार होना
5. **Bone of contention** (phrase) – Subject of dispute, point of disagreement, matter of contention, issue, problem विवाद का कारण
6. **Intellectual property rights** (IPR) (noun) – The rights given to persons over the creations of their minds; they usually give the creator an exclusive right over the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
7. **Persist** (verb) – Continue, endure, remain, last, persevere बने रहना
8. **Prominent** (adjective) – Leading, important, main, notable, distinguished प्रमुख
9. **Underpin** (verb) – Support, reinforce, strengthen, fortify, bolster मजबूती प्रदान करना
10. **Generic** (adjective) – Non-branded, universal, common, standard, general सामान्य
11. **Disproportionate** (adjective) – Unequal, unbalanced, inordinate, excessive, unreasonable असमान
12. **Affordability** (noun) – The state of being affordable; inexpensive, reasonably priced किफायत
13. **Tussle** (noun) – Struggle, fight, battle, conflict, skirmish संघर्ष
14. **Patenting** (noun) – The process of obtaining a patent, which is a set of exclusive rights granted by a sovereign state to an inventor or assignee for a limited period of time in exchange for detailed public disclosure of an invention.
15. **Monopoly** (noun) – Exclusive control, domination, command, ascendancy, supremacy एकाधिकार
16. **Reciprocal** (adjective) – Mutual, corresponding, complementary, equivalent, matching पारस्परिक
17. **Thereby** (adverb) – As a result of that, by that means, thus, therefore इसके द्वारा

18. **Broker** (verb) – Negotiate, arrange, mediate, facilitate, manage मध्यस्थता करना
19. **Sustain** (verb) – Maintain, continue, keep up, uphold, support बनाए रखना
20. **Decade** (noun) – A period of ten years दशक
21. **Exclusivity** (noun) – The state of being exclusive; a privilege or right to be the only one to have, do, or enjoy something विशेषाधिकार
22. **Inveigle** (verb) – Persuade, entice, lure, seduce, tempt फुसलाना
23. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency, potency, power, capability प्रभावकारिता
24. **Proprietary** (adjective) – Owned, private, patented, exclusive, trademarked स्वामित्व/ मालिकाना
25. **Out of bounds** (phrase) – Forbidden, prohibited, off-limits, restricted, banned प्रतिबंधित
26. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, count on, bank on, trust, lean on निर्भर करना
27. **Take effect** (phrase) – Begin to operate, become active, come into force, apply, be applied लागू होना
28. **Hinder** (verb) – Obstruct, impede, inhibit, hamper, block बाधा डालना
29. **Affordable** (adjective) – Economical, inexpensive, reasonable, budget-friendly, cost-effective सस्ती
30. **Alive** (adjective) – Living, existent, active, operational, functioning जीवित
31. **Ecosystem** (noun) – A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
32. **From scratch** (phrase) – From the beginning, from the start, from nothing, anew, afresh शुरू से
33. **Paradigm** (noun) – Model, pattern, example, standard, prototype प्रतिमान
34. **Confine** (to) (verb) – Limit, restrict, keep within limits, constrain, bind सीमित करना
35. **The West** (noun) – Referring to the Western world, typically including cultures and countries in Europe and North America पश्चिम देश
36. **Novel** (adjective) – New, original, innovative, fresh, unique नवीन
37. **Substantially** (adverb) – Significantly, considerably, greatly, largely, markedly काफी
38. **Incubate** (verb) – To develop or grow under favorable conditions; in business, it often refers to supporting startups until they become viable

Summary of the Editorial

1. A free trade agreement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is nearing completion.
2. Intellectual property rights (IPR) have been a contentious issue in negotiations since 2008.
3. EFTA members like Switzerland and Norway are home to key pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.
4. The pharmaceutical industry's cost structure (high development costs, low generic production costs) leads to conflicts between original drug inventors and generic drug manufacturers.
5. Patents and compulsory licensing have historically balanced the interests of original drug producers and public health needs.
6. New legal concepts, such as data exclusivity, are complicating free trade discussions.
7. Data exclusivity makes clinical trial data proprietary, limiting generic drug production for at least six years.
8. European countries and some developing nations already implement data exclusivity.
9. Implementing data exclusivity in India could impact its drug industry and its role as a major exporter of affordable drugs.
10. Indian officials have opposed data exclusivity in the FTA negotiations, though leaked drafts indicate it's still under consideration.
11. India's pharmaceutical industry has evolved to a significant global position, necessitating investment in drug development infrastructure.
12. The assumption that drug development is exclusively expensive and Western can be challenged, as shown by India's COVID-19 vaccine development.
13. India needs to invest more in fundamental research to support local drug development.
14. The editorial suggests that investing in an ecosystem for ethical drug trials and new molecule development is crucial for India.
15. The future of India's pharmaceutical industry depends on its ability to innovate and produce drugs and therapeutics from scratch.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the main issue that has persisted in the free trade agreement negotiations between India and the EFTA since 2008?** Editorial Page
 - A. Trade tariffs
 - B. Intellectual property rights
 - C. Labor laws
 - D. Environmental standards
2. **Why is the principle of data exclusivity a concern for India's drug industry?**
 - A. It increases the cost of drug development.
 - B. It promotes unethical drug trials.
 - C. It restricts access to clinical trial data for generic drug makers.
 - D. It limits the export of affordable drugs.
3. **Which of the following best describes the role of patenting in the pharmaceutical industry, according to the passage?**
 - A. It discourages investment in drug research.
 - B. It provides a temporary monopoly to drug originators while allowing for compulsory licensing in public interest.
 - C. It completely eliminates competition from generic drug companies.
 - D. It ensures the permanent dominance of Western countries in drug development.
4. **What is the tone of the passage regarding the issue of data exclusivity and intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical industry?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Enthusiastic
5. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The economic benefits of free trade agreements
 - B. The role of government in regulating drug prices
 - C. The challenges and implications of intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical industry
 - D. The importance of investing in healthcare infrastructure
6. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
Such was his performance that the audience gave a standing ovation
 - A. So was
 - B. Much was
 - C. No substitution required
 - D. Such as
7. **Select the correct passive voice form of the given sentence.**

- The children are doing hard work.
- A. Hard work is being done by the children.
 - B. Hard work is done by the children.
 - C. Hard work had been done by the children.
 - D. Hard work was being done by the children.
8. Select the option that gives the most appropriate meaning of the underlined **idiom**.
The new electrician is a green horn, but will learn fast.
- A. Efficient
 - B. Proficient
 - C. Professional
 - D. Inexperienced
9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Several minutes passed / before she returned / carry milk / for the dog
- A. carry milk
 - B. Several minutes passed
 - C. for the dog
 - D. before she returned
10. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error.**
Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.
It has been / raining intermittently / since two days.
- A. raining intermittently
 - B. It has been
 - C. No error
 - D. since two days
11. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.
Sticky fingers
- A. An inclination to steal
 - B. A habit of licking fingers
 - C. A tendency to interfere
 - D. A tendency to forget
12. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them contains an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options.**
The Taj Mahal / is one of / the most beautiful / creation in the world
- A. The Taj Mahal
 - B. the most beautiful
 - C. creation in the world
 - D. is one of
13. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A person who travels on foot

- A. Pedestrian
B. Rover
C. Dweller
D. Flyer
14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Spacious
A. Cramped
B. Extensive
C. Boundless
D. Roomy
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
I am expected to follow all your instructions, _____?
A. isn't it
B. am I
C. aren't I
D. is it
16. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
A. Ensure
B. Adjourn
C. Purity
D. Exhaust
17. **Given below are four sentences which are jumbled. Pick the option that gives their correct order.**
A. It also wants to know how many students have been provided nutritious food and improved their overall health.
B. The Midday Meal Scheme, that aims to provide free food to children, is in focus again.
C. About 1.3 million government schools are covered under this welfare program of children.
D. The Government now wants to take stock of the implementation of the program
A. BCDA
B. ADBC
C. BACD
D. ADCB
18. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Arrest the thief
A. Let the thief is arrested.
B. The thief is arrested.
C. The thief has been arrested.
D. Let the thief be arrested.
19. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Commute
A. Consume

- B. Convert
- C. Condense
- D. Conserve

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

In the olden days, many people use to think that the earth was flat

- A. people used to think
- B. people were used to think
- C. people were thinking
- D. No substitution required

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

There is so much (1) _____ and confusion in life today because the goal of human beings is not clear. Each person (2) _____ to fulfil his desires and dreams without (3) _____ the interest of the other. When we have a (4) _____ motive, we lose the sense of the higher objective of attaining happiness. Therefore, there is lot of (5) _____ in our life.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**

- A. certainty
- B. positivity
- C. uncertainty
- D. Reliability

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. has want
- B. want
- C. have want
- D. Wants

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

- A. considering
- B. disregarding
- C. excluding
- D. Describing

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

- A. selfless
- B. selfish
- C. humane
- D. Noble

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

- A. strife
- B. concord
- C. peace
- D. harmony

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

- B) The passage states that "a bone of contention relates to intellectual property rights, and has persisted as an issue since 2008."
- C) The passage explains that data exclusivity makes the clinical-trial data proprietary and out of bounds for a minimum period of six years, which hinders the ability of generic drug makers to use the originator's data for approval.
- B) The passage states that patenting grants an exclusive monopoly for a fixed number of years to originators and allows governments to issue directions for compulsory licensing in the interest of public health, thus maintaining a balance between inventors and generic-drug companies.
- B) The passage presents a critical view of the challenges and concerns related to data exclusivity and intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in the context of the free trade agreement negotiations and their impact on India's drug industry.
- C) The passage primarily discusses the issues related to intellectual property rights, such as data exclusivity and patenting, and their impact on the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in the context of free trade agreement negotiations and the development of affordable drugs in India.
- C) No substitution required
- A) Hard work is being done by the children.
- D) **A green horn** (idiom) – Inexperienced **अनुभवहीन**
- A) **carry milk'** के बदले 'carrying milk' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर Present Participle का प्रयोग उचित रहेगा, क्योंकि यह 'returned' शब्द के साथ Continuous action को दर्शाता है; जैसे— She returned carrying the milk.
 - 'carrying milk' will be used instead of 'carry milk' because the Present Participle is appropriate here to denote a continuous action associated with the word 'returned'; Like— She returned carrying the milk.
- D) **since two days'** के बदले 'for two days' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग किसी Specific Point of Time के लिए होता है जबकि 'for' का प्रयोग Duration के लिए होता है; जैसे— It has been raining intermittently for two days.
 - 'for two days' will be used instead of 'since two days' because 'since' is used for a specific point in time whereas 'for' is used for a duration; Like— It has been raining intermittently for two days.
- A) **Sticky fingers** (idiom) – An inclination to steal **चोरी करने की प्रवृत्ति**
- C) **'creation'** के बदले 'creations' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब 'one of' का प्रयोग किसी वाक्य में किया जाता है, तो उसके बाद आने वाला Noun Plural होता है; जैसे— The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful creations in the world.

- 'creations' will be used instead of 'creation' because when 'one of' is used in a sentence, the noun following it should be in plural form; Like— The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful creations in the world.
13. A) **Pedestrian** (noun) - A person who travels on foot **पैदल यात्री**
- **Rover** (noun) – a person who wanders from place to place; nomad **भ्रमणशील व्यक्ति**
 - **Dweller** (noun) – a person or animal that lives in a certain place **निवासी**
 - **Flyer** (noun) – someone who pilots or travels by airplane **विमान यात्री**
14. A) **Spacious** (adjective) – Having ample space, roomy, capacious, expansive. **विशाल**
Antonym: **Cramped** (adjective) – Limited in space, tight, constricted, restricted. **संकुचित**
- **Extensive** (adjective) – Covering a large area; vast, expansive, wide-ranging. **व्यापक**
 - **Boundless** (adjective) – Unlimited or immense, infinite, unbounded. **असीम**
 - **Roomy** (adjective) – Spacious, capacious, with plenty of room. **बड़ा**
15. C) 'aren't I' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'I am' के साथ negative question tag की जरूरत है, और 'aren't I' इसके लिए सही विकल्प है। Sentence positive है, इसलिए tag negative होना चाहिए। जबकि 'isn't it' और 'is it' तब use होते हैं जब subject 'it' होता है, और 'am I' यहाँ negative नहीं है।
- aren't I' should be used because a negative question tag is needed after 'I am', and 'aren't I' is the correct form to use. The sentence is positive, hence the tag must be negative. While 'isn't it' and 'is it' are used when the subject is 'it', and 'am I' is not negative here.
16. D) The correct spelling for the word 'Exhaust' is '**Exhaust**,' **'निकास'**,
17. A) **BCDA**
The Midday Meal Scheme, that aims to provide free food to children, is in focus again. About 1.3 million government schools are covered under this welfare program of children The Government now wants to take stock of the implementation of the program It also wants to know how many students have been provided nutritious food and improved their overall health.
18. D) Let the thief be arrested.
19. B) **Commute** (verb) – To change one thing into another, especially to change a penalty to one that is less severe, or the act of making the same journey regularly between work and home. **परिवर्तित करना**
Synonym: **Convert** (verb) – To change something into a different form or so that it can be used in a different way. **परिवर्तित करना**
- **Consume** (verb) – To use up a resource or consume something, especially food or drink. **खपत करना**
 - **Condense** (verb) – To make something that is spoken or written shorter, by using fewer words to give the same information, or to change from a gas or vapor to a liquid. **संघनित करना**
 - **Conserve** (verb) – To protect something and prevent it from changing or being damaged. **संरक्षित करना**

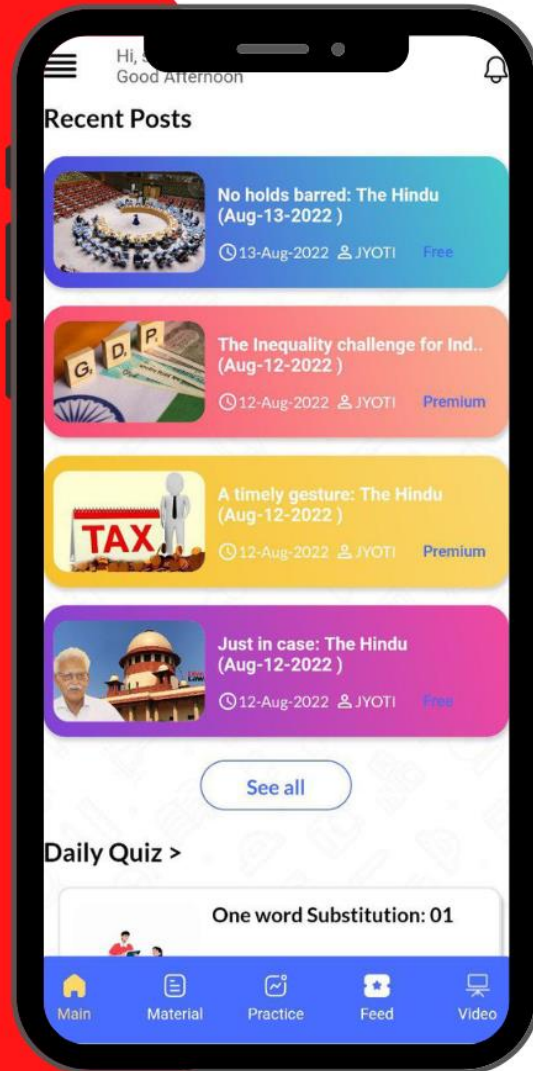
20. A) **people use to think'** के बदले 'people used to think' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ क्रिया का Past Habitual Action दिखाया गया है और 'used to' का प्रयोग अतीत की आदतों या नियमित क्रियाओं को व्यक्त करने के लिए होता है; जैसे— When I was a child, I used to play in the park.
- 'people used to think' will be used instead of 'people use to think' because the phrase is indicating a Past Habitual Action and 'used to' is used to express past habits or regular actions; Like— When I was a child, I used to play in the park.
21. C) **'Uncertainty'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बताया जा रहा है कि जीवन में अस्पष्टता और भ्रम की स्थिति है। जब goals स्पष्ट नहीं होते, तो अनिश्चितता होती है। 'Certainty' का मतलब निश्चितता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि context नकारात्मक है। 'Positivity' और 'Reliability' भी नहीं बैठते क्योंकि वे सकारात्मक पहलुओं को दर्शाते हैं।
- **'Uncertainty'** should be used because the passage suggests a state of confusion and lack of clarity in life. When goals are not clear, uncertainty prevails. 'Certainty' implies assurance which is not suitable here since the context is negative. 'Positivity' and 'Reliability' are also incorrect as they suggest positive aspects, which do not align with the description of the situation being discussed.
22. D) **Wants'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ subject 'Each person' singular है और present simple tense में third person singular के साथ verb 'want' का सही रूप 'wants' होता है। 'Has want' और 'have want' grammatically incorrect हैं क्योंकि 'want' के साथ 'has' या 'have' का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता। 'Want' अकेला नहीं आ सकता क्योंकि वह plural subjects के लिए होता है और यहाँ singular subject है।
- **Wants'** should be used because the subject 'Each person' is singular and in the present simple tense, the correct form of the verb 'want' for the third person singular is 'wants'. 'Has want' and 'have want' are grammatically incorrect as 'has' or 'have' is not used with 'want'. 'Want' cannot stand alone here because it is used with plural subjects and the subject here is singular.
23. A) **Considering'** का use होगा क्योंकि "considering" का अर्थ होता है किसी अन्य व्यक्ति या चीज के बारे में सोचना या ध्यान रखना। Sentence के context में बात की जा रही है कि हर व्यक्ति अपनी इच्छाओं और सपनों को पूरा करने में लगा है बिना दूसरों के हितों को ध्यान में रखे, इसलिए 'considering' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। 'Disregarding' का अर्थ होता है अनदेखा करना, जो कि sentence में विरोधाभास पैदा करेगा क्योंकि फिर sentence का अर्थ होगा कि हर व्यक्ति दूसरों के हितों को अनदेखा कर रहा है जबकि हमें उन्हें ध्यान में रखने की बात करनी है। 'Excluding' का अर्थ होता है बाहर करना, और 'Describing' का अर्थ होता है वर्णन करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं बैठते।
- **Considering'** should be used because it means to think about or take into account another person or thing. In the context of the sentence, it's being said that each person is trying to fulfil his desires and dreams without taking into consideration the interests of others, so 'considering' is appropriate here. 'Disregarding' means to ignore, which would contradict the context as it would imply everyone is ignoring the interests of others when the context is about considering them. 'Excluding' means to leave out, and 'Describing' means to depict, neither of which fits this context.

24. B) **selfish**' का use होगा क्योंकि "selfish" का अर्थ होता है स्वार्थी होना। Passage के अनुसार, यह समझा जा सकता है कि व्यक्तिगत लक्ष्यों और इच्छाओं को पूरा करते समय दूसरों की रुचि को नजरअंदाज करने का नतीजा आत्मकेंद्रित व्यवहार में होता है, जो कि 'selfish' को सही बनाता है। 'Selfless' का मतलब होता है निस्वार्थ, 'Humane' का मतलब होता है मानवीय या दयालु, और 'Noble' का मतलब होता है उदार या महान, जो कि इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- , **'selfish'** should be used because it means being concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself. The passage suggests that focusing on individual goals and desires to the exclusion of others' interests leads to self-centered behavior, which aligns with the meaning of 'selfish.' 'Selfless' means having little or no concern for oneself, 'Humane' means showing compassion or benevolence, and 'Noble' means having high moral qualities, none of which are appropriate in this context.

25. A) **Strife**' का इस्तेमाल होगा क्योंकि 'strife' का अर्थ होता है संघर्ष या विवाद। Passage में यह बताया गया है कि जब लोग केवल अपनी इच्छाओं को पूरा करने में लगे रहते हैं और उच्चतर लक्ष्य को भूल जाते हैं, तो जीवन में कठिनाई और भ्रम की स्थिति उत्पन्न होती है। इस संदर्भ में, 'strife' यह दर्शाता है कि विवाद और संघर्ष की स्थिति है।

- **'Strife'** should be used because it means conflict or struggle. The passage indicates that when individuals focus solely on fulfilling their own desires, neglecting the greater goal, it results in difficulties and confusion in life. 'Strife' appropriately conveys the idea of conflict and struggle present in such a scenario.



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