

Indians abroad: On the 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Absence of opportunities **remains** the main **driver** of **migration**

At the **inauguration** of the 18th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Indian **diaspora** as India's "**ambassadors** to the world", having "**seamlessly assimilated**" into the local society, **served** the community, and contributed to India's growth and **prosperity**. The **strength** of the India-origin community worldwide of over 35 million — about 15.85 million NRIs and 19.57 million PIOs, who are foreign nationals — **is** their ability to **adapt** and **thrive in** different fields, including in politics, where Indian-origin people have become leaders of more than 30 other countries. Where they retain their Indian passports, the diaspora is known for its **distinguished** services in many professional **spheres**. The PBD's purpose is to celebrate this success and discuss issues of importance; President Droupadi Murmu **handed out** about 27 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards. The **event**, which was first held in 2003, **is** organised around January 9, when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. The latest **event**, held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, **brought** more than 3,000 **delegates** from across 70 countries, with much of the focus on how the diaspora can help in developing India (Viksit Bharat programme).

The **achievements** of the Indian diaspora **are**, no doubt, a matter of pride for all Indians, but it is important that the event is not limited to a simple **self-congratulatory** or **laudatory** exercise. The **issues** for the diaspora, particularly for those who are still Indian nationals, **are** more **acute** now. The **increase** in **far-right populist** governments, particularly in the West, **is** making visa and entry conditions for Indians more difficult, and it is important for the government to **address** such issues. **Intractable** global conflicts, especially in West Asia where more than nine million Indians live and work, are also putting lakhs of Indians **in peril**, and the PBD engagement would benefit from discussions between the community on how best to increase awareness and enhance **safeguards** for them. **Given** the broad spread of the diaspora, it is necessary to ensure that India's **ties** with its diaspora be **inclusive**, and **non-partisan** on political issues. Recent **actions** by the government to deny or **revoke** OCI cards for those **perceived** to be critical of the government **bely** this **necessity**. Above all, it is important to **acknowledge** that **one** of the biggest drivers of Indians **migrating is** the lack of economic opportunities within India. While there are no easy fixes for this, the **loss** to India of some of its most talented people **must** be counted, even as the country celebrates their **incredible** success and impact on the global stage. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Driver** (noun) – Factor, impetus, catalyst, motivator प्रेरक तत्व
2. **Migration** (noun) – Movement, relocation, resettlement, exodus प्रवासन
3. **Inauguration** (noun) – Opening, launch, commencement, unveiling उद्घाटन
4. **Diaspora** (noun) – Expatriate community, overseas population, migrant group, scattered population प्रवासी समुदाय
5. **Ambassador** (noun) – Representative, envoy, emissary, spokesperson राजदूत
6. **Seamlessly** (adverb) – Smoothly, effortlessly, flawlessly, without visible gaps सुगमता से
7. **Assimilated** (adjective) – Integrated, merged, absorbed, adapted समाहित
8. **Prosperity** (noun) – Wealth, success, affluence, well-being समृद्धि
9. **Adapt** (verb) – Adjust, modify, acclimatize, alter अनुकूलित होना
10. **Thrive in** (phrasal verb) – Flourish in, excel at, succeed, prosper in फलना-फूलना
11. **Distinguished** (adjective) – Eminent, notable, esteemed, renowned विशिष्ट
12. **Sphere** (noun) – Field, domain, area, realm क्षेत्र
13. **Hand out** (phrasal verb) – Distribute, present, give out, confer बाँटना
14. **Delegate** (noun) – Representative, envoy, participant, emissary प्रतिनिधि
15. **Self-congratulatory** (adjective) – Self-praising, self-laudatory, smug, complacent आत्म-प्रशंसात्मक
16. **Laudatory** (adjective) – Praising, commendatory, admiring, approving प्रशंसात्मक
17. **Acute** (adjective) – Severe, intense, critical, pressing तीव्र
18. **Far-right** (adjective) – Ultra-conservative, extreme right-wing, radical right अतिदक्षिणपंथी
19. **Populist** (adjective) – Popular, people-centric, demagogic लोकलुभावन
20. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, attend to, tackle, respond to समाधान करना
21. **Intractable** (adjective) – Unmanageable, difficult, stubborn, resistant जटिल
22. **In peril** (phrase) – In danger, at risk, under threat खतरे में
23. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, in view of देखते हुए
24. **Safeguard** (noun) – Protection, defense, shield, security सुरक्षा

25. **Ties** (noun) – Relations, connections, links, associations संबंध
26. **Inclusive** (adjective) – All-encompassing, all-embracing, broad, non-exclusive समावेशी
27. **Non-partisan** (adjective) – Neutral, unbiased, impartial, objective गैर-पक्षपातपूर्ण
28. **Revoke** (verb) – Cancel, withdraw, rescind, annul रद्द करना
29. **Perceived** (adjective) – Seen, regarded, viewed, considered समझा गया
30. **Belie** (verb) – Contradict, misrepresent, disguise, distort खंडन करना
31. **Necessity** (noun) – Requirement, essential need, prerequisite, imperative आवश्यकता
32. **Acknowledge** (verb) – Recognize, accept, admit, appreciate स्वीकार करना
33. **Migrate** (verb) – Move, relocate, emigrate, shift स्थानांतरण करना
34. **Incredible** (adjective) – Amazing, astonishing, extraordinary, remarkable आश्चर्यजनक

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Event Overview:** The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrated the Indian diaspora as India's "ambassadors to the world."
2. **Diaspora Strength:** Over 35 million people of Indian origin live abroad, including 15.85 million NRIs and 19.57 million PIOs.
3. **Global Contributions:** The diaspora excels across fields, including politics, with leaders of Indian origin in over 30 countries.
4. **PBD Purpose:** The event recognizes diaspora achievements and addresses issues, with President Droupadi Murmu presenting 27 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards.
5. **Historical Significance:** The PBD is held around January 9, marking Mahatma Gandhi's return to India in 1915.
6. **Participation:** The 2024 edition in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, hosted 3,000 delegates from 70 countries.
7. **India's Development Focus:** Discussions included the diaspora's role in India's "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) programme.
8. **Need for Inclusivity:** The event should go beyond self-congratulatory exercises to address critical issues facing the diaspora.
9. **Challenges Abroad:** Far-right populism in the West has led to stricter visa and entry conditions for Indians.
10. **Global Conflicts:** Millions of Indians in West Asia face risks due to geopolitical conflicts, requiring awareness and safeguards.
11. **Political Neutrality:** India's engagement with its diaspora must be non-partisan, fostering inclusivity.
12. **OCI Controversies:** Government actions like revoking OCI cards for critics highlight the need for more inclusive policies.
13. **Economic Drivers of Migration:** The lack of opportunities in India remains a significant cause of migration.
14. **Talent Drain:** The migration of talented Indians represents a loss for India, despite the diaspora's global success.
15. **Constructive Discussions:** PBD should focus on practical solutions to diaspora issues, promoting both India's growth and the welfare of Indians abroad.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which group is being celebrated during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) event?** [Editorial]
 - A. Foreign tourists visiting India
 - B. Indian diaspora, including NRIs and PIOs
 - C. Indian politicians attending international summits
 - D. Local communities in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
2. **Why is the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas organised around January 9 each year?**
 - A. It marks the establishment of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards.
 - B. It commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915.
 - C. It coincides with India's Republic Day celebrations.
 - D. It is the anniversary of the Indian Constitution being adopted.
3. **What is one key challenge mentioned for the Indian diaspora in the passage?**
 - A. Lack of interest in participating in Indian events
 - B. Limited success in international politics
 - C. Increasing visa and entry restrictions in certain countries
 - D. Decline in remittances sent back to India
4. **What can be inferred about the relationship between the Indian government and the diaspora?**
 - A. The Indian government celebrates the diaspora's success but faces criticism for being selective in its engagement.
 - B. The Indian government has consistently maintained a non-partisan and inclusive approach toward the diaspora.
 - C. The Indian diaspora is uninterested in engaging with India's developmental programs.
 - D. The government has focused solely on addressing visa issues for the diaspora.
5. **What can be inferred about the Indian diaspora's contributions to global politics?**
 - A. The diaspora has minimal impact on international politics.
 - B. The diaspora avoids engaging in political activities abroad.
 - C. Indian-origin politicians primarily focus on Indian issues in foreign nations.
 - D. Indian-origin individuals have achieved significant leadership roles in various countries.
6. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Someone who dishonestly pretends to deceive under an assumed character
 - A. Imposter
 - B. Imitator
 - C. Explorer
 - D. Imbecile
7. **Select the grammatically correct sentence.**
 - A. Today is sixth day of our workshop. All the participants are highly enthusiastic.
 - B. Today is a sixth day of our workshop. All the participants are highly enthusiastic.
 - C. Today is the sixth day of our workshop. All the participants are highly enthusiastic.

- D. Today is sixth day of our workshop. All participants are highly enthusiastic.
- A. D
B. C
C. B
D. A
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
Was the conference not attended by them?
A. Did they not attend the conference?
B. Does they not attend the conference?
C. Do they not attend the conference?
D. Do they attend the conference?
9. **Select the option that express the given sentence in active voice.**
Was the beggar not being beaten by her?
A. Was not she beating the beggar?
B. Was she beating the beggar?
C. Was the beggar beaten by her?
D. Was she not beating the beggar?
10. **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'.**
Neither John nor Simon are coming to the meeting,
A. were coming to the meeting
B. No substitution
C. are coming to meeting
D. is coming to the meeting
11. **The given sentence has some words with incorrect spellings. Select the most appropriate option that corrects the spellings.**
Being a milionaire, he is leading a luxurius life.
A. Being a millionneire, he is leading a luxrious life.
B. Being a millionaire, he is leading a luxurious life.
C. Being a millionaire, he is leeding a luxurous life.
D. Being a millinaire, he is leading a luxurious life.
12. **Select the option that is similar in meaning to the given word.**
Hapless
A. Happy
B. Unfortunate
C. Fortunate
D. Distasteful
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
I find that students nowadays are not interested in _____ letters by hand.
A. righting
B. rioting
C. rating

- D. Writing
14. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Consultancy
 - B. Constitution
 - C. Conspirasy
 - D. Configuration
15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.**
Waver between different opinions or actions
- A. Sway
 - B. Viaduct
 - C. Thrifty
 - D. Vacillate
16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
One who looks at the negative side of everything
- A. Optimist
 - B. Activist
 - C. Racist
 - D. Pessimist
17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Taking a bull by the horns
- A. Wearing a skull cap
 - B. To decapitate a bull for beef
 - C. To make a stupid decision thinking it to be daring
 - D. To deal with a difficult situation in a very direct or confident way
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
Heavy outfits make the movement of trekkers sluggish.
- A. Active
 - B. Distorted
 - C. Eye catching
 - D. Comfortable
19. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
The family is neither interested in selling the house or rebuilding it.
- A. yet rebuilding
 - B. not only rebuilding
 - C. nor rebuilding
 - D. but also rebuilding
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym for the underlined word in the given sentence.**
She had the temerity to call her teacher a liar.
- A. impudence
 - B. tedious
 - C. taciturn

D. Trenchant

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 (1) _____ of climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events and melting ice caps are just a few of the (2) _____ of a changing climate. To combat this, many countries have pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, but progress has been slow. In addition, some people are still sceptical of the (3) _____ of climate change or believe that it's a natural occurrence that humans can't do much about. However, scientists agree that urgent action is needed to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. This includes not only reducing emissions but also adapting to the changes that have already (4) _____. This might involve building sea walls to protect against rising sea levels, planting drought-resistant crops or developing new technologies to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Ultimately, addressing climate change will require a (5) _____ effort from individuals, governments and businesses around the world.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. advantage
- B. challenge
- C. solution
- D. Aspect

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. benefits
- B. advancements
- C. consequences
- D. Improvements

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. fiction
- B. myth
- C. reality
- D. Deception

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. ceasing
- B. reversing
- C. occurred
- D. Stabilizing

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. joint
- B. individual
- C. solitary
- D. separate

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

- B) The passage highlights that the PBD event celebrates the achievements and contributions of the Indian diaspora, which includes over 35 million people of Indian origin, both NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) and PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin).
- B) The passage mentions that the PBD event is held around January 9 to honor the date when Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa, a turning point in India's freedom movement.
- C) The passage notes that far-right populist governments, particularly in the West, are making visa and entry conditions more challenging for Indians, which is a pressing issue for the diaspora.
- A) While the passage highlights the government's celebration of the diaspora's success through events like PBD, it also mentions concerns about selective engagement, such as revoking OCI cards for those critical of the government. This suggests a mixed relationship.
- D) The passage states that Indian-origin people have become leaders in over 30 countries, showcasing their notable influence in global politics.
- A) **Imposter** (noun) – Someone who dishonestly pretends to be someone else, deceiving under an assumed character. धोखाधड़ी करनेवाला
 - Imitator** (noun) – Someone who mimics or copies the behavior or actions of another. अनुकरण करनेवाला
 - Explorer** (noun) – A person who explores an unfamiliar area; an adventurer. अन्वेषक
 - Imbecile** (noun) – A person of moderate to severe intellectual disability having a mental age of from three to seven years. मूर्ख
- B) '**Today is a sixth day**' के बदले 'Today is the sixth day' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'sixth' एक specific sequence को दर्शाता है और इसके साथ definite article 'the' का प्रयोग होता है।
 - 'Today is the sixth day' will be used instead of 'Today is a sixth day' because 'sixth' indicates a specific sequence and is used with the definite article 'the'.
- A) Did they not attend the conference?
- D) Was she not beating the beggar?
- D) '**are coming**' के बदले 'is coming' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब 'Neither...nor' का प्रयोग दो subjects के साथ किया जाता है तो verb दूसरे subject के अनुसार होती है और यहां पर दूसरा subject 'Simon' singular है।

- 'is coming' will be used instead of 'are coming' because when 'Neither...nor' is used with two subjects, the verb agrees with the second subject, and here the second subject 'Simon' is singular.
11. B) **milionaire**' के बदले 'millionaire' का प्रयोग होगा और 'luxurius' के बदले 'luxurious' का प्रयोग होगा।
- 'milionaire' will be corrected to 'millionaire' and 'luxurius' will be corrected to 'luxurious'.
12. B) **Hapless** (adjective) – Unlucky, unfortunate, ill-fated, doomed. दुर्भाग्यशाली
- Synonym: Unfortunate** (adjective) – Having or marked by bad fortune; unlucky. अभाग्यशाली
- **Happy** (adjective) – Feeling or showing pleasure or contentment, delighted, pleased. प्रसन्न
 - **Fortunate** (adjective) – Favored by or involving good luck or fortune, lucky. भाग्यशाली
 - **Distasteful** (adjective) – Causing dislike or aversion; unpleasant, disagreeable. अप्रिय
13. D) 'Writing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "writing" का अर्थ होता है हाथ से पत्र या किसी अन्य विषय को लिखना। जबकि 'Righting' का अर्थ है सही करना, 'Rioting' का अर्थ है दंगा फैलाना, और 'Rating' का अर्थ है मूल्यांकन करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- 'Writing' should be used because it means to pen down letters or any other subject by hand. Whereas, 'Righting' means to correct, 'Rioting' implies causing a riot, and 'Rating' means to evaluate, which don't fit in this context.
14. C) The INCORRECTLY spelt word is 'Conspiracy'. The correct spelling is 'Conspiracy' which means "a secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful" साजिश, षड्यंत्र.
15. D) **Vacillate** (verb) – To waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive. अनिश्चितता में होना
- **Sway** (verb) – To move or cause to move slowly or rhythmically backward and forward or from side to side. डोलना
 - **Viaduct** (noun) – A long bridgelike structure, typically a series of arches, carrying a road or railway across a valley or other low ground. पुल
 - **Thrifty** (adjective) – Using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully. मितव्ययी/ किफायती
16. D) **Pessimist** (noun) – A person who tends to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen. निराशावादी
- **Optimist** (noun) – A person who is hopeful and confident about the future. आशावादी

- **Activist** (noun) – A person who campaigns to bring about political or social change. कार्यकर्ता
- **Racist** (noun) – A person who believes in racism, the idea that one race is superior to others. जातिवादी

17. D) **Taking a bull by the horns** (idiom) – To deal with a difficult situation in a very direct or confident way कठिन परिस्थिति का सामना करना।

18. A) **Sluggish** (adjective) – Lacking energy or alertness, slow-moving, lethargic, inactive. धीमा

Antonym: Active (adjective) – Engaged in action, energetic, lively, alert. सक्रिय

- **Distorted** (adjective) – Pulled or twisted out of shape, misrepresented, deformed. विकृत
- **Eye catching** (adjective) – Visually appealing, striking, attractive. आकर्षक
- **Comfortable** (adjective) – Providing a feeling of physical well-being or relief, cozy, snug. सुविधाजनक

19. C) 'or rebuilding' के बदले 'nor rebuilding' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'neither' का उपयोग होते हुए 'or' का नहीं होता; 'neither' और 'nor' साथ में प्रयुक्त होते हैं। जैसे— He neither eats meat nor drinks wine.

- 'nor rebuilding' will be used instead of 'or rebuilding' because when 'neither' is used, 'or' is not used; 'neither' and 'nor' are used together. Like— He neither eats meat nor drinks wine.

20. A) **Temerity** (noun) – Excessive confidence or boldness; audacity. साहस

Synonym: **Impudence** (noun) – The quality of being impudent; impertinence, audacity. धृष्टता

- **Tedious** (adjective) – Too long, slow, or dull; tiresome or monotonous. थकाऊ
- **Taciturn** (adjective) – (of a person) reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little. अल्पभाषी
- **Trenchant** (adjective) – Vigorous or incisive in expression or style; sharp, clear-cut. मर्मभेदी

21. B) 'Challenge' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "challenge" का अर्थ होता है कोई कठिन समस्या जिसका समाधान करना आवश्यक है। जबकि 'Advantage' का अर्थ है लाभ, 'Solution' का अर्थ है समाधान, और 'Aspect' का अर्थ है दृष्टिकोण या पहलू, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- **Challenge** should be used because it refers to a difficult problem that needs to be addressed. In contrast, 'Advantage' means a benefit, 'Solution' means a resolution, and 'Aspect' refers to a perspective or facet, which are not appropriate in this context.

22. C) '**Consequences**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "consequences" का अर्थ होता है परिणाम। जबकि 'Benefits' का अर्थ है फायदा, 'Advancements' का अर्थ है प्रगति या उन्नति, और 'Improvements' का अर्थ है सुधार या बेहतरी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Consequences**' should be used because it means outcomes or results of a particular action or situation. Whereas, 'Benefits' means advantages, 'Advancements' implies progress or development, and 'Improvements' signifies betterment or enhancement, which don't fit in this context.

23. C) '**Reality**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "reality" का अर्थ होता है वास्तविकता या सच्चाई। जबकि 'Fiction' का अर्थ होता है कल्पित कथा, 'Myth' का अर्थ है मिथक, और 'Deception' का अर्थ है धोखा या छल, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

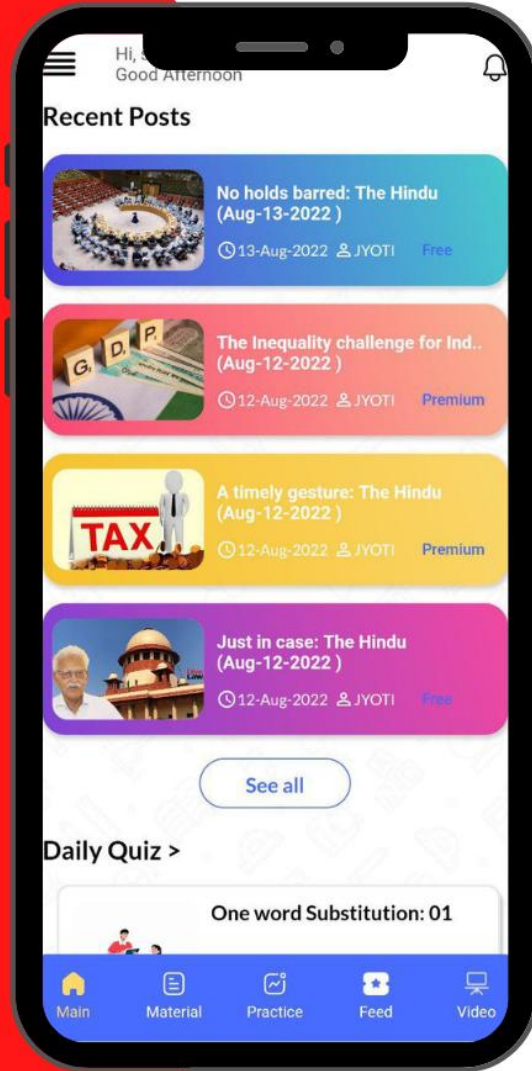
- '**Reality**' should be used because it refers to a state of things as they actually exist. Whereas, 'Fiction' means something that is imagined, 'Myth' refers to a traditional or legendary story, and 'Deception' means misleading or tricking, which don't fit in this context.

24. C) '**Occurred**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "occurred" का अर्थ होता है किसी घटना का होना या सम्भव होना। जबकि 'Ceasing' का अर्थ है रुकना, 'Reversing' का अर्थ है उलटना, और 'Stabilizing' का अर्थ है स्थिर करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- '**Occurred**' should be used because it refers to an event or situation that has taken place. Whereas, 'Ceasing' means to stop, 'Reversing' means to turn back, and 'Stabilizing' implies making steady, which don't fit in this context.

25. A) '**Joint**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "joint" का अर्थ होता है संयुक्त या मिलकर किया जाने वाला। पाठ में बताया गया है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन को संबोधित करने के लिए व्यक्तिगत, सरकारों, और व्यवसायों के संयुक्त प्रयास की आवश्यकता है। 'Individual' का अर्थ होता है व्यक्तिगत, 'Solitary' का अर्थ होता है अकेला और 'Separate' का अर्थ है अलग, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'**Joint**' should be used because it means combined or undertaken by two or more parties. The passage suggests that addressing climate change will need collaborative efforts from individuals, governments, and businesses. Whereas, 'Individual' means personal, 'Solitary' means alone, and 'Separate' means distinct, which don't fit in this context.



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