

A woman's hands are never empty. Here's why

A woman walks into her day with her hands full. Keys and phone, wallet and sunglasses, book and coffee, and other **minutiae** of life **clutched** in her hands **with the sort of effortless**ness that only comes from having perfected a job over long years of practice. This **phenomenon**, now **crowned** on social media as the “**claw grip**”, **has** become more than a meme or a visual send-up. It is a representation of how women **adapt to** environments that ignore their needs: **Clothes** that lack pockets, or which, when present, **are** more **symbolic** than **utilitarian**; **handbags** that sacrifice **functionality** for fashion, that **aren't** **roomy** enough for the **multitudes** that count as **essentials**. The claw grip **distills** the **essence** of multitasking in a world built on single-task defaults.

The **weight** of the literal, of course, **is** not the only thing **nestling** in a woman's hands. The claw grip also represents a kind of **unintentional** protest against an imbalance that **bleeds** into the broader **architecture** of daily life. From the **layout** of cities to the structure of working hours, women are constantly **negotiating** a world that wasn't built with them in mind. Consider, **for instance**, the temperature **settings** in offices. In the 1960s, Fanger's thermal comfort equation was put to use to **figure out** what might be the ideal air-conditioning setting in workplaces. One important **variable** that was **factored in** **was** the **metabolic rate** of an average 40-year-old man in a formal suit — a representation of the largely male employment **pool** of the time. But in the **decades** since, even as women have come to represent nearly half of the global workforce, office temperatures continue to be **set to** male metabolic comfort.

Against the **tyranny** of this quiet exclusion, the claw grip is both a symbol of **ingenuity** and a **coping mechanism** **masquerading** as a **quirk**. It **reflects** a larger truth — even when systems don't **accommodate** her, where the **chasm** between **ambition** and opportunity **continues** to be **deep**, a woman walks into her day with her hands full. Of **resilience**, and the power to reshape a world that still forgets to make **room** for her.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Minutiae** (noun) – details, particulars, fine points, niceties, trivia बारीकियाँ
2. **Clutch** (verb) – grasp, grip, clasp, seize, hold कसकर पकड़ना
3. **With the sort of** (phrase) – with the kind of, with the type of, with such, with that level of, with that degree of जिस तरह की/जैसी
4. **Effortlessness** (noun) – ease, fluency, facility, naturalness, smoothness सहजता
5. **Phenomenon** (noun) – occurrence, trend, development, happening, fad घटना/प्रवृत्ति
6. **Crown** (on) (verb) – dub, label, anoint, hail, christen (as) घोषित/खिताब देना
7. **Claw grip** (noun) – Carrying multiple items by hooking fingers around them in one hand, as a habitual workaround for no pockets एक हाथ में उंगलियों से कई चीज़ें फँसाकर उठाने की आदत/ढंग
8. **Adapt** (to) (verb) – adjust to, acclimate to, accommodate to, tailor to, modify for अनुकूलित होना/ढालना
9. **Symbolic** (adjective) – emblematic, representative, figurative, token, notional प्रतीकात्मक
10. **Utilitarian** (adjective) – practical, functional, pragmatic, serviceable, workmanlike व्यावहारिक
11. **Functionality** (noun) – usability, utility, operability, practicality, feature set कार्यक्षमता
12. **Roomy** (adjective) – spacious, capacious, commodious, ample, voluminous विशाल
13. **Multitude** (noun) – myriad, host, profusion, abundance, plethora असंख्य
14. **Essential** (noun) – necessity, basic, staple, must-have, fundamental आवश्यक वस्तु
15. **Distil** (verb) – extract, condense, refine, crystallize, boil down सार निकालना
16. **Essence** (noun) – core, gist, quintessence, heart, substance सार
17. **Nestle** (in) (verb) – tuck, snuggle, settle, lodge, rest सिमटना
18. **Unintentional** (adjective) – inadvertent, unwitting, accidental, unplanned, unintended अनजाना
19. **Bleed** (verb) – spill over, seep, pervade, diffuse, infiltrate (into) रिसना/फैल जाना
20. **Architecture** (noun) – structure, design, framework, configuration, setup संरचना

21. **Layout** (noun) – arrangement, plan, scheme, design, configuration रूपरेखा
22. **Negotiate** (verb) – navigate, manage, maneuver through, handle, traverse संभालना/निपटना
23. **For instance** (phrase) – for example, such as, to illustrate, like, as an example उदाहरण के लिए
24. **Setting** (noun) – adjustment, level, value, calibration, parameter (e.g., temperature) समायोजन/स्तर
25. **Figure out** (phrasal verb) – determine, work out, ascertain, decipher, compute समझना
26. **Variable** (adjective) – changeable, fluctuating, inconstant, mutable, adjustable परिवर्तनशील
27. **Factor in** (phrasal verb) – include, take into account, incorporate, consider, allow for ध्यान में रखना
28. **Metabolic rate** (noun) – The rate at which the body expends energy (calorie burn per unit time), e.g., BMR .
29. **Pool** (noun) – group, reservoir, cohort, body, aggregate समूह
30. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten-year period, दशक
31. **Set** (to) (verb) – adjust to, calibrate to, tune to, fix at, program to पर निर्धारित/समायोजित करना
32. **Tyranny** (noun) – oppression, despotism, authoritarianism, domination, subjugation अत्याचार
33. **Ingenuity** (noun) – inventiveness, resourcefulness, creativity, cleverness, originality सूझ-बूझ
34. **Coping** (adjective) – adaptive, stress-managing, self-soothing, compensatory, resilience-building सामना/अनुकूलनकारी
35. **Mechanism** (noun) – method, process, system, apparatus, device तंत्र/प्रक्रिया
36. **Masquerade** (verb) – pretend, pose as, disguise, pass off (as), feign भेस बनाना/दिखावा करना
37. **Quirk** (noun) – idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, foible अजीब आदत
38. **Reflect** (verb) – mirror, reveal, show, exemplify, indicate दर्शाना
39. **Accommodate** (verb) – cater to, make room for, adapt to, fit, meet (needs) समायोजित/ज़रूरतें पूरी करना
40. **Chasm** (noun) – gap, gulf, divide, rift, schism गहरी दरार

41. **Ambition** (noun) – aspiration, aim, drive,
goal, objective महत्वाकांक्षा

42. **Deep** (adjective) – profound, great, vast,
yawning, considerable गहरा/गंभीर/विस्तृत

43. **Resilience** (noun) – fortitude, tenacity,
endurance, elasticity, hardiness मज़बूती

44. **Room** (noun) – space, capacity, scope,
leeway, latitude गुंजाइश

Summary of the Editorial

1. The “claw grip” refers to the way women carry multiple items — keys, phone, wallet, sunglasses, coffee, etc. — with ease.
2. This skill comes from years of practice in adapting to daily needs.
3. Social media has popularised the claw grip as both a meme and a cultural symbol.
4. It reflects how women adapt to a world that often ignores their practical requirements.
5. Clothing for women often lacks functional pockets, or pockets are too small to be useful.
6. Handbags are frequently designed for fashion rather than practicality, limiting their storage capacity.
7. The claw grip encapsulates the essence of multitasking in a single-task-oriented environment.
8. It also symbolises a quiet protest against broader systemic imbalances.
9. Many aspects of daily life — from city planning to work schedules — have been designed without women’s needs in mind.
10. For example, office temperatures are still based on a 1960s formula that used the metabolic rate of a 40-year-old man in a suit.
11. Despite women making up nearly half of the global workforce today, such male-centric defaults persist.
12. These conditions reflect a deeper exclusion from decision-making and design processes.
13. The claw grip, therefore, is both a survival strategy and an inventive workaround.
14. It embodies resilience in the face of systemic neglect and limited accommodation.
15. Ultimately, it represents women’s capacity to reshape a world that still fails to make adequate space for them.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the writer characterize the “claw grip” as an “unintentional protest” rather than just a quirky habit?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Because women collectively and deliberately coordinate social-media campaigns each morning to stage the claw grip as a visible act of resistance aimed at corporate designers.
 - B. Because it arises from necessity in environments designed around male-default assumptions (pocket-less clothing, form-over-function handbags, single-task norms). As a coping mechanism that women perform without fanfare, it quietly resists exclusion while embodying multitasking ingenuity in a world that rarely accommodates them.
 - C. Because its primary goal is to replace handbags altogether by normalizing hand-carrying as the superior, minimalist way to move through cities.
 - D. Because it is a technique formally taught in workplace trainings to help employees carry more items and thus increase productivity.
2. **Which specific historical design choice does the passage use to show how male-centered assumptions still govern present-day settings, and what broader claim does that example support?**
 - A. Office air-conditioning targets derived from Fanger’s 1960s thermal comfort equation, calibrated to the metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man in a suit; this illustrates how legacy male defaults persist even though women now make up almost half the workforce, reinforcing the essay’s claim that women must adapt daily to systems never designed for them.
 - B. International handbag-capacity standards set by luxury fashion houses in the late twentieth century; this shows that fashion, not function, rightly dictates what counts as an “essential,” proving that personal taste drives women’s carrying choices more than design bias.
 - C. Smartphone screen-size baselines mandated by consumer-electronics boards in the 2000s; this proves that technology cycles, not gendered assumptions, explain why people carry more in their hands today.
 - D. Urban sidewalk regulations based on stroller widths established by European planners; this demonstrates that child-care infrastructure, not workplace norms, is the primary force behind women’s hand-carrying habits.
3. **Read the given claim carefully and decide whether it is True, False, Cannot be determined from the passage, or True but with a limited context according to the information and reasoning presented in the passage.**

Claim: “Current office air-conditioning norms still often reflect the comfort parameters of a historically male-dominated workplace, which helps illustrate why the ‘claw grip’ functions as a quiet protest.”

 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Cannot be determined from the passage
 - D. True, but only regarding clothing pockets, not office temperatures
4. **Which specific variable from the 1960s thermal comfort modeling is cited as shaping workplace temperatures in ways that may disadvantage women today?**
 - A. Average ambient humidity for tropical offices in the 1960s
 - B. The metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man in a formal suit

- C. The average body mass of a mixed-gender workforce sampled in the 1980s
D. The average clothing insulation values for women's business attire in open-plan offices
5. **Direction: For the given Assertion (A) and Reason (R), determine the correct relationship between them. Select your answer from the following:**
Assertion (A): The "claw grip" is presented as both a symbol of ingenuity and a coping mechanism within systems that neglect women's needs.
Reason (R): Because office temperatures continue to be set to male metabolic comfort, women prefer carrying multiple items by hand rather than using available storage solutions.
A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
B. A is false, but R is true
C. A is true, but R is false
D. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
6. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence**
His decision to hike up the treacherous mountain at night, without proper gear, was contrary to reason or common sense.
A. Preposterous
B. Sane
C. Shrewd
D. Sagacious
7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
(P) Taliban came to power four years ago.
(Q) Although the Taliban regime is non-inclusive, the law-and-order situation has improved.
(R) As it has consolidated its position in the absence of credible resistance, the international community, India included, has progressively engaged with Kabul's de facto authorities.
(S) The logic of engaging with Taliban is that isolating it is unlikely to moderate its actions
A. P, R, Q, S
B. Q, P, S, R
C. S, R, Q, P
D. R, P, S, Q
8. **Select the most appropriate phrasal verb to fill in the blank**
She tends to _____ every small detail before a big presentation, even when everything is well-prepared.
A. Rein in
B. Usher in
C. Fret about
D. Go rouge
9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a spelling error**
The famous playwright was indicted for his reckless behaviour during an occasion of public drunkenness, tarnishing his once-respected reputation.
A. The famous playwright was indicted for his reckless
B. behaviour during an occasion of

- C. drunkenness, tarnishing
- D. his once-respected reputation

10. **The following sentence has been split into segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**

NCR residents have been breathing “very poor” quality air since the past four days. / The problem, as the SC pointed out, stems from / an unfortunate lack of resolve from both the Centre and state governments.

- A. NCR residents have been breathing “very poor” quality air since the past four days.
- B. The problem, as the SC pointed out, stems from
- C. an unfortunate lack of resolve from both the Centre and state governments.
- D. No error

11. **Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank**

After the CEO's retirement, the vice president was ready to _____ and lead the company towards its next phase of growth.

- A. Take at face value
- B. Take effect
- C. Take the baton
- D. Take the gauntlet

12. **There is a spelling error in the given sentence. Select the option that contains the INCORRECTLY spelt word**

The fascinating display of fluorescent lights illuminated the firey colours of the foreign festival, creating a mesmerizing atmosphere for everyone present.

- A. fascinating
- B. firey
- C. fluorescent
- D. foreign

13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**

- A. However, he was forced to lift the ban after China retaliated with its own ban on rare earth exports to US.
- B. The latter had been halted by Trump in April as part of his trade tussle with Beijing.
- C. This effectively makes US govt a business partner to Nvidia and AMD, and comes after Washington allowed resumption of chip sales to China.
- D. The chip war between US and China is back on the table with Washington reportedly working out a deal to take 15% from the sale of Nvidia's and AMD's AI chips to China.

- A. D, C, B, A
- B. D, A, B, C
- C. B, D, C, A
- D. A, B, C, D

14. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence**

The ancient city faced complete obliteration after the devastating earthquake, leaving no trace of its former grandeur.

- A. Elimination

- B. Abolition
- C. Annihilation
- D. Purge

15. **The following sentence has been split into segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese leader, Xi Jinping and his participation in the expanded BRICS forum at Kazan, / Russia are generating expectations. But realists in Delhi are cautious / in assessing the long-term prospects of both bilateral ties with Beijing and herald a new global order with the BRICS.

- A. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese leader, Xi Jinping and his participation in the expanded BRICS forum at Kazan,
- B. Russia are generating expectations. But realists in Delhi are cautious
- C. in assessing the long-term prospects of both bilateral ties with Beijing and herald a new global order with the BRICS
- D. No error

16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word**

The import of his words became clear only after the meeting, as their true significance revealed the depth of the underlying issue.

- A. Worthlessness
- B. Weight
- C. Meaning
- D. Solemnity

17. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined segment.**

Once the judge delivered the final verdict, a decision had been made and could not be changed, sealing the fate of the defendant.

- A. The die is cast
- B. Take place
- C. Draw a line
- D. Turn the tide

18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word**

Her assertiveness in the boardroom allowed her to voice her opinions confidently, leading to more effective decision-making and increased respect from her colleagues.

- A. Confidence
- B. Brazenness
- C. Insolence
- D. Docile

19. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute to fill in the blanks for the given group of highlighted words.**

The _____ left the once-thriving village in a state of shock and mourning, with countless lives lost in the tragic event.

- A. Assassination
- B. Massacre
- C. Slaying
- D. Slaughter

20. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence and forms a meaningful sentence.

In a country where every life lost in / an aircraft accident should result in justice, transparency, and reform, (P)/ to obscure the truth (Q)/ we find ourselves, instead, battling a system (R)/ that is seemingly designed(S).

- A. P, S, R, Q
- B. P, R, S, Q
- C. R, Q, P, S
- D. Q, P, S, R

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.

Every year, we celebrate our nation's _____ (1) _____ of political freedom from British imperialism and reiterate our loyalty to the ideals that our founding fathers fought for. In that sense, August 15 stands as a strong reminder of the long journey that shaped our nation: a _____ (2) _____ struggle that united millions from diverse social, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds for a set of values and principles, including democracy, secularism, harmony and social progress. Celebrating Independence Day thus _____ (3) _____ an introspection of how we, as a nation, _____ (4) _____ evolved over the years, and how the _____ (5) _____ ideals of this constitutional republic have fared.

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

- A. deficiency
- B. pusillanimous
- C. attainment
- D. privation

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

- A. heroic
- B. craven
- C. timorous
- D. grave

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

- A. entail
- B. entailing
- C. entails
- D. entailed

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

- A. Have
- B. Has
- C. Was
- D. Were

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

- A. extraneous
- B. courteous
- C. frivolous
- D. essential

Answer

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

[Practice Exercise]**Explanations**

1. B) Because it arises from necessity in environments designed around male-default assumptions (pocket-less clothing, form-over-function handbags, single-task norms). As a coping mechanism that women perform without fanfare, it quietly resists exclusion while embodying multitasking ingenuity in a world that rarely accommodates them.
 The passage frames the claw grip as both “symbol of ingenuity” and “coping mechanism masquerading as a quirk,” directly tying it to systems “not built with [women] in mind.” It’s “unintentional” because it isn’t staged activism; it’s a habitual adaptation to design biases (pockets, handbags, single-task defaults), which makes it a quiet, embodied protest.
 A: Misstates intent—there’s no coordinated, deliberate protest described.
 C: The author never proposes replacing handbags; the point is compensating for their poor functionality.
 D: No mention of formal training; the behavior is learned informally over “long years of practice.”
2. A) Office air-conditioning targets derived from Fanger’s 1960s thermal comfort equation, calibrated to the metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man in a suit; this illustrates how legacy male defaults persist even though women now make up almost half the workforce, reinforcing the essay’s claim that women must adapt daily to systems never designed for them. The passage explicitly cites Fanger’s equation and explains that office temperatures still privilege male metabolic comfort despite workforce changes. The example functions as evidence of how historical male defaults quietly structure today’s daily environments, exactly the broader claim the essay advances.
 B: The passage critiques fashion trade-offs but mentions no formal “standards” or conclusion that taste overrides bias.
 C: Smartphones aren’t discussed as policy/standards, and the argument centers on gendered design, not tech cycles.
 D: Urban design is mentioned generally, but strollers/European regulations are never given as the example; the cited concrete case is office temperature.
3. A) True
 The passage explains that office temperatures were historically set using a model based on the metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man, and that many workplaces still default to that setting. It also frames the “claw grip” as an unintentional protest against broader design exclusions. Taken together, the claim aligns with the author’s argument.
 B (False): Incorrect because the passage explicitly connects legacy, male-oriented standards to present office temperatures and broader exclusion.
 C (Cannot be determined): Incorrect; the passage provides enough detail (historical model + persistence of male comfort settings) to support the claim.
 D (True, but only about pockets): Incorrect reduction. The passage links the protest symbol not only to clothing/pockets but also to wider systems (including temperature norms).

4. B) The metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man in a formal suit
The passage names “the metabolic rate of an average 40-year-old man in a formal suit” as a key variable embedded in Fanger’s equation that shaped default office temperatures.
A: Not mentioned in the passage.
C: Wrong decade and wrong population; the passage refers to the 1960s and a male reference subject, not a later mixed-gender average.
D: The passage does not say women’s attire parameters were used; it argues the opposite—settings followed male metabolic assumptions.
5. D) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
A is true: The passage explicitly calls the “claw grip” both ingenuity and coping.
R is true: The text states many offices still set temperatures to male comfort.
But R is not the correct explanation for A: The “claw grip” arises primarily from design exclusions like absent/ineffective pockets and fashion-over-function handbags, i.e., storage/design issues, not temperature settings. So R is a valid fact from the passage but not the causal explanation for the claw grip’s meaning.
A: Incorrect because the temperature point does not explain the carrying behavior directly; storage design does.
C: Incorrect because R is not false; the temperature claim is stated in the passage.
B: Incorrect because the assertion about the claw grip is central and affirmed by the passage.
6. A) **Preposterous** (adjective) – Contrary to reason or common sense; utterly absurd or ridiculous.
बेतुका
- **Sane** (adjective) – Having a sound mind; reasonable and sensible. समझदार
 - **Shrewd** (adjective) – Having sharp judgment, especially in practical matters. चतुर
 - **Sagacious** (adjective) – Showing keen mental discernment and good judgment; wise. विवेकशील
7. A) P, R, Q, S
P starts the paragraph with the clear subject “Taliban” and a time anchor “four years ago,” giving the basic who + when.
R follows P because it opens with the subordinator “As,” and its pronoun “it” anaphorically refers back to Taliban in P; it then adds the result clause (“the international community... has progressively engaged”), logically building on P’s context.
Q comes next as a full concessive complex sentence beginning with “Although,” which balances R by noting that despite a non-inclusive regime, law-and-order has improved—a nuance that qualifies the engagement mentioned in R.
S concludes the paragraph by stating the general thesis/rationale: “The logic of engaging with Taliban...,” which picks up the idea of engagement from R and rounds off the argument with a cause–effect claim (“isolating it is unlikely to moderate its actions”).
In Hindi:
P sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि इसमें subject “Taliban” और time marker “four years ago” दिया है—यही बेसिक who + when सेट करता है।

R, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि इसकी शुरुआत subordinator “As” से होती है और pronoun “it” सीधे Taliban (P) की ओर anaphoric reference देता है; आगे result दिखाता है—international community ने engagement बढ़ाया—जो P की पृष्ठभूमि पर logically build करता है।

Q इसके बाद concessive ढांचा लाता है—“Although” से शुरू होकर बताता है कि regime non-inclusive होने के बावजूद law-and-order improved है; यह बात R की engagement वाली सूचना को qualify/nuance करती है, यानी contrast + outcome जोड़ती है।

S अंत में thesis/rationale देता है—“The logic of engaging...” —जो R की engagement लाइन को pick up कर के cause–effect निष्कर्ष देता है कि isolation से moderation नहीं होगा, thus paragraph को coherently close करता है।

8. C) **Fret about** (phrasal verb) – To worry or become anxious about something, often excessively. चिंता करना

- **Rein in** (phrasal verb) – To control or limit something. काबू में रखना
- **Usher in** (phrasal verb) – To mark or cause the beginning of something new. शुरुआत करना
- **Go rogue** (phrasal verb) – To behave in an independent, uncontrollable, or rebellious way, often deviating from the norm. बागी/ दुष्ट हो जाना

9. C) The correct spelling of ‘drunkenness’ is ‘drunkenness’, which means “the state of being drunk or intoxicated” नशे की स्थिति.

10. A) Segment (A) में ‘since the past four days’ के बदले ‘for the past four days’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘since’ का प्रयोग किसी निश्चित समय बिंदु के लिए होता है, जबकि ‘for’ किसी निश्चित अवधि को दर्शाने के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— “She has been working here for five years.”

‘for the past four days’ will be used instead of ‘since the past four days’ because ‘since’ is used for a specific point in time, while ‘for’ is used to indicate a specific duration; Like— “She has been working here for five years.”

11. C) **Take the baton** (idiom) – To assume a responsibility or role, especially from someone who has previously held it, in order to continue progress. जिम्मेदारी संभालना

- **Take at face value** (idiom) – To accept something as it appears without deeper investigation. सतही रूप से लेना
- **Take effect** (idiom) – To start working or producing the desired outcome. प्रभाव में आना
- **Take the gauntlet** (idiom) – To accept a challenge or confront a difficult task. चुनौती स्वीकार करना

12. B) The correct spelling of ‘fiery’ is ‘fiery’, which means “consisting of fire or burning intensely” आग से संबंधित, उग्र. The word ‘fiery’ uses the order ‘ie’ instead of ‘ei’ to maintain the correct spelling.

13. A) D, C, B, A

D starts the paragraph because it introduces the main subject—"The chip war between US and China"—and sets the context for the discussion. It also mentions the US govt's deal regarding chip sales, which becomes the central theme

A follows D because it provides a contrast ("However") to the initial situation described in D, explaining how the US had to backtrack on its ban due to China's retaliation

B comes after A because it refers back to "the ban" mentioned in A, explaining what the ban was (Trump's halt on chip sales in April). This creates a logical flow from the retaliation to the original action.

C concludes the paragraph by connecting to B and D, explaining the current situation (US govt becoming a business partner) after the resumption of chip sales

In Hindi:

D पहले आता है क्योंकि यह main subject (chip war) और US-China deal को introduce करता है, जो paragraph का central theme है।

A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "However" से contrast देता है, बताता है कि US को अपना ban हटाना पड़ा क्योंकि China ने rare earth exports पर ban लगा दिया।

B, A के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "the latter" (ban) को refer करता है, जिससे पता चलता है कि Trump ने April में chip sales पर रोक लगाई थी।

C last में आता है क्योंकि यह current scenario बताता है—अब US govt, Nvidia और AMD का business partner बन गया है, जो D में बताए गए deal से connect होता है।

14. C) **Annihilation** (noun) – Complete destruction or obliteration, especially when nothing is left behind. संहार

- **Elimination** (noun) – The act of removing or getting rid of something, often gradually or selectively. समाप्ति
- **Abolition** (noun) – The act of formally putting an end to a system, practice, or institution. उन्मूलन
- **Purge** (noun) – The removal or cleansing of undesirable elements, often from a place or organization. शुद्धिकरण

15. C) Segment (C) में 'and herald a new global order with the BRICS' के बजाय 'and in heralding a new global order with the BRICS' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस हिस्से में conjunction 'and' के दोनों ओर समान grammatical structure होना चाहिए, अतः दोनों में 'ing' form का प्रयोग किया जाएगा; जैसे— "He is interested in reading books and in writing articles." 'and in heralding a new global order with the BRICS' will be used instead of 'and herald a new global order with the BRICS' because the conjunction 'and' requires both sides to have a parallel grammatical structure, so the 'ing' form should be used on both sides; Like— "He is interested in reading books and in writing articles."

16. A) **Import** (noun) – Significance or importance, especially in terms of meaning or impact. महत्व, अर्थ

Antonym: Worthlessness (noun) – Lack of value or importance, insignificance. महत्वहीनता

- **Weight** (noun) – Importance, seriousness, or influence. महत्व
- **Meaning** (noun) – What is meant by a word, text, concept, or action. अर्थ
- **Solemnity** (noun) – The state or quality of being serious and dignified. गंभीरता

17. A) **The die is cast** (idiom) – A decision has been made that cannot be changed, and events are now inevitable. निर्णय हो चुका है

- **Take place** (idiom) – To happen or occur. होना
- **Draw a line** (idiom) – To set a limit or boundary on what is acceptable. सीमा निर्धारित करना
- **Turn the tide** (idiom) – To cause a significant change in the course of events, usually to the opposite direction. स्थिति को पलटना

18. D) **Assertiveness** (noun) – The quality of being self-assured and confident without being aggressive. आत्मविश्वासपूर्ण

Antonym: Docile (adjective) – Easily managed or handled; submissive, compliant. आज्ञाकारी, विनम्र

- **Confidence** (noun) – A feeling of self-assurance arising from one's abilities or qualities. आत्मविश्वास
- **Brazenness** (noun) – Boldness without shame; overly forward or impudent. बेहयाई
- **Insolence** (noun) – Rude and disrespectful behavior. धृष्टता

19. B) **Massacre** (noun) – The act of killing a large number of people, often in a violent and indiscriminate manner. जनसंहार

- **Assassination** (noun) – The act of murdering an important person, typically for political or ideological reasons. हत्या
- **Slaying** (noun) – The act of killing someone, often in a brutal or violent way, typically referring to a single or few victims. वध
- **Slaughter** (noun) – The killing of animals for food; or the killing of many people in a violent way. वध

20. B) P, R, S, Q

P starts the sentence with a fronted context-setting clause “In a country where every life lost in an aircraft accident should result in justice, transparency, and reform,” which frames the situation before the main clause appears.

R follows “P” as it introduces the main clause with the subject “we” and the predicate “find ourselves, instead, battling a system,” establishing a clear subject–predicate relationship under the context set by P.

S comes next as a relative clause beginning with “that,” which directly modifies the noun “system” from R and adds the description “is seemingly designed,” tightly linking to the noun it qualifies.

Q concludes the sentence by supplying the infinitive of purpose “to obscure the truth,” which functions as the complement of “designed,” thereby completing the meaning initiated in S and delivering the final point of the argument.

In Hindi:

P sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह पूरा context देता है—“In a country... reform,” —जिससे पता चलता है किस परिस्थिति में बात हो रही है।

R, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यहाँ main clause आता है: subject “we” + predicate “find ourselves... battling a system”; यानी context के बाद actual statement present होता है।

S naturally R से जुड़ता है क्योंकि “that” से शुरू होने वाला relative clause सीधे “system” (R में आया noun) को qualify करता है और बताता है कि वह “is seemingly designed” है—यानी system की खासियत/प्रकृति।

Q end में आता है क्योंकि infinitive of purpose “to obscure the truth” “designed” का purpose/complement बताता है; इससे S में शुरू हुआ अर्थ पूरा होता है और पूरा वाक्य logically बंद हो जाता है।

21. C) 'Attainment' का use होगा क्योंकि "attainment" का अर्थ होता है किसी लक्ष्य या उपलब्धि को प्राप्त करना। passage में mention किया गया है कि हम ब्रिटिश साम्राज्यवाद से राजनीतिक स्वतंत्रता की प्राप्ति का जश्न मनाते हैं, इसलिए 'attainment' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Deficiency' का अर्थ है कमी, 'Pusillanimous' का अर्थ है कायर, और 'Privation' का अर्थ है अभाव, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Attainment' will be used because it means achieving a goal or milestone. The passage mentions celebrating political freedom from British imperialism, making 'attainment' fitting here. Whereas, 'Deficiency' means lack, 'Pusillanimous' means cowardly, and 'Privation' means deprivation, which don't fit in this context.
22. A) 'heroic' का use होगा क्योंकि "heroic" का अर्थ होता है वीरतापूर्ण या साहसिक। passage में mention किया गया है कि भारत की स्वतंत्रता के लिए एक संघर्ष हुआ जिसने विभिन्न पृष्ठभूमियों के लोगों को एकजुट किया, इसलिए 'heroic' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'craven' का अर्थ है कायर, 'timorous' का अर्थ है डरपोक, और 'grave' का अर्थ है गंभीर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'heroic' will be used because it means brave or courageous. The passage mentions a struggle for India's independence that united people from diverse backgrounds, making 'heroic' fitting here. Whereas, 'craven' means cowardly, 'timorous' means fearful, and 'grave' means serious, which don't fit in this context.
23. C) 'Entails' का use होगा क्योंकि "entails" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को आवश्यक बनाना या शामिल करना। यहाँ sentence में mention किया गया है कि स्वतंत्रता दिवस मनाना एक आत्मनिरीक्षण

(introspection) को आवश्यक बनाता है, इसलिए 'entails' यहाँ सही है। यह present tense में है क्योंकि यह एक सामान्य सत्य (general truth) को दर्शाता है।

- 'Entails' will be used because it means to involve something as a necessary part. The sentence states that celebrating Independence Day involves introspection, making 'entails' correct here. It is in the present tense because it expresses a general truth

'Entail' (A): Grammatically incorrect because the subject ("Celebrating Independence Day") is singular and requires a singular verb ('entails').

'Entailing' (B): Incorrect because it is a participle form and cannot act as the main verb in this sentence.

'Entailed' (D): Incorrect because the context is in the present tense, not past.

24. A) 'Have' का use होगा क्योंकि "have" का प्रयोग plural subject ("we, as a nation") के साथ present perfect tense में किया जाता है। यहाँ बात राष्ट्र के विकास की हो रही है जो एक सतत प्रक्रिया है, इसलिए present perfect tense सही है। जबकि 'Has' singular subject के साथ प्रयोग होता है, 'Were' past continuous tense में और 'Was' singular past tense में, जो इस context में गलत हैं।

- 'Have' will be used because it is used with plural subject ("we, as a nation") in present perfect tense. Here, the discussion is about the nation's evolution, which is an ongoing process, so present perfect tense is correct. Whereas, 'Has' is used with singular subjects, 'Were' in past continuous tense, and 'Was' in singular past tense, which are incorrect in this context.

25. D) 'Essential' का use होगा क्योंकि "essential" का अर्थ होता है आवश्यक या मूलभूत। passage में mention किया गया है कि हमें संवैधानिक गणराज्य के मूलभूत आदर्शों (जैसे लोकतंत्र, धर्मनिरपेक्षता) पर विचार करना है, इसलिए 'essential' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Extraneous' का अर्थ है बाहरी/अप्रासंगिक, 'Courteous' का अर्थ है शिष्ट, और 'F frivolous' का अर्थ है तुच्छ, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Essential' will be used because it means fundamental or necessary. The passage mentions reflecting on the core ideals (e.g., democracy, secularism) of the constitutional republic, making 'essential' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Extraneous' means irrelevant, 'Courteous' means polite, and 'F frivolous' means trivial, which are unsuitable in this context.