

Express View: Indian farmers need income, not price support

The Narendra Modi government has raised the **minimum support price (MSP)** for the 2025-26 wheat crop by Rs 160 to Rs 2,585 per quintal. **The rise** — more than the Rs 150-per-quintal each of the last two crop years — **defies** economic logic. **Public wheat stocks**, at 33.3 million tonnes (mt) on September 1, **were** the highest for this date in four years. The 2024-25 crop was good, **reflected** in official **procurement** crossing 30 mt for the first time after 2021 and wholesale wheat prices now **ruling** lower than a year ago. **Given** the recharged groundwater **aquifers** and near-full reservoirs from the surplus monsoon rains, one can expect a bumper crop in the **ensuing** season (November-December **sowing** and April-May harvesting) as well. In short, there is no **dearth** of wheat either in government warehouses or in the open market to justify the **magnitude** of **MSP hike** that has been announced.

Supply side aside, the MSP increase decision also lacks any production cost-based **rationale**. The **Commission** for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) **has projected** the all-India average “A2+FL” cost — which includes all **paid-out expenses** on inputs **incurred** by the farmer and also an **imputed** value of unpaid family labour — for the 2025-26 wheat crop at Rs 1,239 per quintal. **The MSP** of Rs 2,585, then, **works out** almost 109 per cent higher than the estimated cultivation cost. That’s well above the minimum 50 per cent margin to be given as per the formula for **determination** of MSP. For comparison, **the MSPs** of other rabi season crops **have** been fixed at just 50 per cent over “A2+FL” cost for safflower, 58-59 per cent for barley and chana (chickpea), 89 per cent for masur (red lentil) and 93 per cent for mustard. **Simply put**, wheat farmers have been **favoured** over those growing pulses or oilseeds.

The policy **bias** extends even to procurement (government agencies buy wheat and paddy at the declared MSPs, which isn’t so with soyabean, chana or millets) and imports (wheat and rice attract 40-80 per cent duty, as against 0-10 per cent on pulses and 16.5 per cent on **crude** vegetable oils). The CACP’s MSP recommendations are **supposed** to also **factor in** inter-crop price **parity** and domestic and global market price trends. The latest wheat **MSP** of Rs 2,585/quintal, translating into over \$290 per tonne, **is** totally **out of sync** with current international prices of \$225-230. Indian farmers need income, not price support. The best way to deliver that is not through MSP and government procurement, but by direct per-hectare income transfers. The farmer should grow what the market wants, which is already the case with animal and **horticulture** products. It should be no different with field crops.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Minimum support price** (noun) – a guaranteed price announced by the government at which it will buy a crop from farmers. न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य
2. **Defy** (verb) – go against, contradict, flout, disregard, violate अवहेलना करना
3. **Reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, demonstrate, reveal, represent दर्शाना
4. **Procurement** (noun) – purchase, buying, acquisition, sourcing खरीद
5. **Rule** (verb) – be priced at, trade at, stand at, be at बने रहना (कीमत के संदर्भ में)
6. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, in view of, owing to को देखते हुए
7. **Aquifer** (noun) – an underground layer of water-bearing rock or sediment from which groundwater can be extracted. जलभृत
8. **Ensuing** (adjective) – following, subsequent, next, succeeding, coming after आगामी
9. **Sowing** (noun) – the process of planting seeds in the ground. बुवाई
10. **Dearth** (noun) – lack, scarcity, shortage, deficiency, insufficiency कमी
11. **Magnitude** (noun) – extent, scale, size, degree, amount परिमाण
12. **Hike** (noun) – increase, rise, boost, augmentation, upsurge वृद्धि
13. **Rationale** (noun) – reason, logic, basis, justification, grounds तर्काधार
14. **Project** (verb) – estimate, forecast, predict, calculate, anticipate अनुमान लगाना
15. **Paid-out expense** (noun) – actual cash expenditure, out-of-pocket cost, direct cost नकद व्यय
16. **Incur** (verb) – become subject to, bring upon oneself, sustain, experience उठाना (खर्च)
17. **Imputed** (adjective) – estimated, attributed, assigned, ascribed, presumed अंतर्निहित
18. **Determination** (noun) – calculation, fixing, setting, establishment, decision निर्धारण
19. **Simply put** (phrase) – in simple terms, to put it plainly, in a nutshell, basically सीधे शब्दों में
20. **Favour** (verb) – benefit, advantage, prefer, prioritize, show partiality to पक्ष लेना
21. **Bias** (noun) – prejudice, partiality, favoritism, inclination, leaning पूर्वाग्रह
22. **Crude** (adjective) – unrefined, raw, unprocessed, natural, in its natural state कच्चा

23. (be) **supposed** (to) (adjective) – expected to, required to, meant to, intended to माना जाता है

24. **Factor in** (phrasal verb) – include, take into account, consider, incorporate, allow for शामिल करना

25. **Parity** (noun) – equality, equivalence, similarity, consistency, uniformity समानता

26. **Out of sync** (phrase) – not synchronized, inconsistent, incompatible, mismatched, discordant असंगत

27. **Horticulture** (noun) – the art or practice of garden cultivation and management, including fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. बागवानी

Summary of the Editorial

1. The government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the 2025–26 wheat crop by ₹160, raising it to ₹2,585 per quintal.
2. This hike is larger than the previous two years' increase of ₹150 per quintal.
3. The editorial argues that the decision defies economic logic, given the ample availability of wheat.
4. Public wheat stocks stood at 33.3 million tonnes on September 1 — the highest in four years.
5. The 2024–25 wheat crop was strong, with official procurement exceeding 30 million tonnes for the first time since 2021.
6. Wholesale wheat prices are currently lower than last year, indicating no supply shortage.
7. With recharged groundwater and full reservoirs from surplus monsoon rains, a bumper wheat crop is expected in the upcoming season.
8. Therefore, the large MSP hike cannot be justified by either stock levels or production costs.
9. The CACP's estimated cost of production ("A2+FL") for wheat is ₹1,239 per quintal, while the new MSP is 109% higher, far above the mandated 50% margin.
10. In contrast, other rabi crops like safflower, barley, chana, masur, and mustard received much smaller MSP margins, showing a policy bias toward wheat farmers.
11. The bias continues in procurement policy, as the government mainly purchases wheat and paddy, not pulses, millets, or oilseeds.
12. Import duties also reflect imbalance — wheat and rice face 40–80% tariffs, while pulses have 0–10%, and crude vegetable oils 16.5%.
13. The CACP's MSP recommendations are meant to consider market trends and crop parity, yet the current wheat MSP is misaligned with global prices (\$290 per tonne vs. \$225–230).
14. The editorial emphasizes that farmers need stable income, not artificially high price supports through MSP.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial page]**

1. **The author's tone in the passage is best described as —**
 - A. Sardonic and polemical
 - B. Analytical and critical
 - C. Laudatory and supportive
 - D. Objective and purely descriptive
2. **Why does the author say the MSP increase “defies economic logic”?**
 - A. Because public wheat stocks are unusually low.
 - B. Because official procurement has fallen sharply this year.
 - C. Because stocks are high, wholesale prices are lower than last year, and a bumper crop is likely.
 - D. Because international wheat prices are much higher than the MSP.
3. **Which cost measure did the CACP project for the 2025–26 wheat crop in the passage?**
 - A. MSP (Minimum Support Price) estimate.
 - B. A2+FL (all paid-out costs + imputed family labour).
 - C. A1+FL (paid-out costs including rent + imputed family labour).
 - D. Total cost including overheads and depreciation (C2).
4. **Which inference is best supported by the passage?**
 - A. The author believes MSP and procurement are the best long-term ways to raise farmer incomes.
 - B. The author infers that policy shows bias favouring wheat over pulses and oilseeds.
 - C. The author infers international prices are the only determinant for MSP.
 - D. The author infers that farmers should be prevented from growing horticulture.
5. **Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?**
 - A. The passage states the latest wheat MSP translates into over \$290/tonne and is out of sync with international prices of \$225–230.
 - B. The passage states international wheat prices are over \$300/tonne, justifying the MSP.
 - C. The passage claims MSP for wheat is set at exactly 50% above A2+FL cost.
 - D. The passage says pulses attract import duties between 40% and 80%.
6. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

He has completed the report yesterday / but forgot to attach the annexures, / which caused a delay in the circulation of documents / among the committee members.

 - A. but forgot to attach the annexures
 - B. among the committee members
 - C. He has completed the report yesterday
 - D. which caused a delay in the circulation of documents
7. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
 - A. Some such common events that bring us happiness for a short time include passing an exam, getting a job, going on a vacation or buying a dream house.
 - B. Happiness is more difficult to achieve than peace as we keep striving for it daily.

C. Peace, on the other hand, is sustainable for many years, costs less energy, and doesn't depend on external events such as these.

D. Events that we struggle for in our daily lives to bring us happiness only come randomly, stay for a short time and subside.

A. BCAD

B. BACD

C. BDAC

D. ACDB

8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

GARBLE

A. Embroil

B. Clarify

C. Bowdlerize

D. Obfuscate

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

You, I and he will return back / all the borrowed books / that were issued last week / from the central library.

A. You, I and he will return back

B. all the borrowed books

C. that were issued last week

D. from the central library

10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Big ticket

A. Very less

B. Very costly

C. Very easy

D. Not much

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

SOMBRE

A. Atrabilious

B. Chatoyant

C. Eburnean

D. Winsome

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

PRIMORDIAL

A. Primeval

B. Plenary

C. Isomorphic

D. Marchpane

13. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**

A. He flew down, searched for her until he found her and then asked her to become his wife.

- B. A hawk flying about in the sky one day decided that he would like to marry a hen whom he often saw on earth.
- C. The hawk was delighted and flew away after giving her a ring as an engagement present, and telling her to take good care of it.
- D. She at once gave her consent on the condition that he would wait until she could grow wings like his, so that she might also fly high.

A. BCDA
B. BADC
C. BDCA
D. ADCB

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

Adversity always presents opportunities for the examination of one's own conscious thoughts and feelings.

A. introspection
B. judgement
C. evaluation
D. cognition

15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Up in arms

A. Very happy
B. Very satisfied
C. Very angry
D. Feeling fine

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Our school building is _____ dilapidated.

A. visibly
B. little
C. deeply
D. satisfactorily

17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

ALIEN

A. Peregrine
B. Indigenous
C. Uncouth
D. Extraneous

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Indian perspective of life informs that leading a life of greed _____ in unhappiness.

A. will lead
B. shall be
C. will result
D. would resulted

19. **Improve the underlined/bold part of the sentence. Choose 'No improvement' as an answer if the sentence is grammatically correct.**

The professor has been teaching in this university **during more than twenty years**, contributing to both research and administration.

- A. for more than twenty years
- B. over more than twenty years
- C. since more than twenty years
- D. No improvement

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

Willful destruction

- A. Disaster
- B. Combustion
- C. Calamity
- D. Sabotage

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.

By the time a young Indian crosses into the late twenties or early thirties, a familiar chorus begins to surround them. It comes in the form of well-meaning questions, family gossip, wedding invitations pinned with side-eyes, and WhatsApp forwards full of _____(1)_____ judgment. The question is not if you will get married, but when. And yet, behind the polite smiles and cleverly deflected responses, there is a rising anxiety many young Indians don't know how to articulate: what if I just don't want to? Contrary to how it may appear, the _____(2)_____ to marry is not always rooted in selfishness, arrogance or hedonism. For many, it comes from a deep fear. A fear of compromise that erases the self. A fear of _____(3)_____ the pain they witnessed in their parents' generation. A fear of financial _____(4)_____. A fear of emotional labour with no promise of _____(5)_____.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

- A. conspicuous
- B. palpable
- C. mythical
- D. subtle

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

- A. reluctance
- B. vehemence
- C. solace
- D. maxim

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

- A. to replicate
- B. replicates
- C. replicating
- D. replicated

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

- A. exemption

- B. entrapment
- C. emancipation
- D. exoneration

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

- A. lethargy
- B. peculiarity
- C. acrimony
- D. reciprocity

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) Analytical and critical

The passage marshals data (public stocks, procurement figures, CACP “A2+FL” cost, international prices) and uses evaluative language (“defies economic logic,” “totally out of sync,” “lacks any production cost-based rationale”) to critique the MSP hike and recommend policy alternatives. That combination of data-led reasoning and negative evaluation is characteristically analytical and critical.

A: The piece critiques policy but does not use biting mockery or rhetorical invective typical of sardonic polemic; its approach is evidence-based rather than merely scornful.

C: The passage clearly opposes the MSP increase and proposes alternatives, so it is not praising the policy.

D: Although factual data are presented, the author draws evaluative conclusions and policy prescriptions, so the tone is not purely neutral description.

2. C) Because stocks are high, wholesale prices are lower than last year, and a bumper crop is likely.

The passage cites high public stocks, lower wholesale prices and expectations of a bumper crop as the reasons the hike lacks economic logic.

A incorrect: Passage says public stocks were the highest for this date in four years (so not low).

B incorrect: Procurement crossed 30 mt (not fallen).

D incorrect: The passage actually says MSP is higher than international prices, not that international prices are higher.

3. B) A2+FL (all paid-out costs + imputed family labour).

The passage states CACP projected the all-India average “A2+FL” cost at Rs 1,239/quintal.

A incorrect: MSP is a price set by government, not the cost measure projected by CACP here.

C incorrect: The passage explicitly names A2+FL, not A1+FL.

D incorrect: C2/total cost is different and not the figure cited.

4. B) The author infers that policy shows bias favouring wheat over pulses and oilseeds.

The author compares margin percentages across crops, procurement rules and import duties to show wheat is favoured over pulses/oilseeds.

A incorrect: The author argues the opposite — that direct per-hectare income transfers are better than MSP/procurement.

C incorrect: The passage says CACP should factor international prices but does not claim international prices alone determine MSP.

D incorrect: The author praises market-driven choices (e.g., horticulture) — not restricting them.

5. A) The passage states the latest wheat MSP translates into over \$290/tonne and is out of sync with international prices of \$225–230.

The passage explicitly says the wheat MSP converts to over \$290/tonne and that current international prices are about \$225–230, calling the MSP out of sync.

B incorrect: International prices were given as \$225–230 (not over \$300).

C incorrect: Passage says wheat MSP is ~109% above estimated A2+FL cost (not 50%).

D incorrect: Passage reports wheat and rice attract 40–80% duty; pulses attract 0–10% (so this statement about pulses is false).

6. C) 'has completed ... yesterday' गलत है क्योंकि yesterday/last week/ago जैसे past time markers के साथ Present Perfect (has/have + V3) का प्रयोग नहीं होता। केवल Simple Past प्रयोग होता है।
Rule: Past time adverbs (yesterday, last week, ago) → use Simple Past, not Present Perfect.

✓ He completed the report yesterday.

Correct sentence:

He completed the report yesterday but forgot to attach the annexures...

7. C) **BDAC**

B starts the sentence with the subject "Happiness", introducing the main topic of discussion.

D follows B because it logically extends the idea by explaining what kind of events bring temporary happiness (connecting to "striving for it daily" in B).

A comes after D as it gives examples of the "events" mentioned in D (like passing an exam, getting a job). The phrase "some such common events" in A directly refers back to D.

C concludes by contrasting "peace" with happiness (using "on the other hand"), which ties back to the comparison introduced in B.

In Hindi:

- B का पहला sentence है क्योंकि यह subject "Happiness" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि आगे की discussion किसके बारे में है।
- D, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह बताता है कि कौन-सी events (जिनके लिए हम struggle करते हैं) happiness लाती हैं, जो B में mentioned "striving for it daily" से connect होता है।
- C sentence को खत्म करता है क्योंकि यह "peace" को happiness के साथ compare करता है ("on the other hand" का use करके), जो B में शुरू हुए comparison को complete करता है।
- A, D के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह examples देता है (जैसे exam पास करना, नौकरी मिलना) जो D में बताई गई "events" को support करते हैं। "Some such common events" (A) directly D से जुड़ता है।

8. B) **Garble** (verb) – To distort or mix up (a message); muddle. तोड़-मरोड़ कर पेश करना/गड़मड़ करना

Antonym: Clarify (adjective) – To make clear or intelligible. स्पष्ट करना

- **Embroid** – To involve in conflict or confusion. उलझाना/झगड़े में फँसाना
- **Bowlerize** – To censor by removing parts considered offensive. आपत्तिजनक अंश हटाना
- **Obfuscate** – To make obscure or unclear. भ्रमित/धुंधला करना

9. A) यहां दो errors हैं → pronoun order और superfluous pair।

Pronoun order (positive goodwill) होना चाहिए: You, he and I (2,3,1).

Return back गलत है → केवल Return।

Rule: Positive order → you, he, I. Avoid superfluous pairs (return back).

Correct sentence:

You, he and I will return all the borrowed books...

10. B) **Big ticket** (idiom) – **Very costly** बहुत महंगा

11. A) **Sombre** (adjective) – Dark, gloomy, or melancholy in mood or tone; serious.

उदास/मलिन/गंभीर।

Synonym: **Atrabilious** (adjective) – Melancholic; gloomy; morose (literally “black-bile”).

उदास/विषादपूर्ण।

- **Chatoyant** (adjective) – Showing a changeable, cat’s-eye sheen. बिल्ली-आँख जैसी चमक वाला।
- **Eburnean** (adjective) – Ivory-like; made of ivory. हाथी-दाँत सा/हाथी-दाँत निर्मित।
- **Winsome** (adjective) – Charming, engaging, innocently attractive. मनोहर/मनोहारिणी।

12. A) **Primordial** (adjective) – Existing from the beginning; original, fundamental. आदि/आदिकालीन; मूलभूत।

Synonym: **Primeval** (adjective) – Of the earliest ages; ancient and original.

आदिकालीन/प्राचीनतम।

- **Plenary** (adjective) – Full or complete in all respects. पूर्ण/सम्पूर्ण।
- **Isomorphic** (adjective) – Having the same form/structure (esp. in math/biology). समान-रूप/समआकृति।
- **Marchpane** (noun) – Marzipan; a confection of almond paste and sugar. मार्जिपैन/बादाम की मिठाई।

13. B) **BADC**

B starts the sentence with the subject “A hawk,” which introduces the main character and his action (flying in the sky).

A follows B because it continues the hawk’s action (“He flew down”) and logically connects to the previous sentence by showing the consequence of his decision (searching for the hen and proposing).

D comes next as it introduces the hen’s response (“She at once gave her consent”), which is a direct reaction to the hawk’s proposal in A. The condition she sets (“grow wings like his”) further develops the plot.

C concludes the sequence by describing the hawk’s reaction (“The hawk was delighted”) to the hen’s condition, completing the interaction with the engagement ring and his instruction.

In Hindi:

- B sentence की शुरुआत करता है, क्योंकि यह subject “A hawk” को introduce करता है और उसकी action (flying in the sky) को बताता है।
- A, B के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह hawk की next action (“He flew down”) को दिखाता है और पिछले sentence से logically जुड़ता है (hen को दूँदकर propose करना)।

- D, A के बाद fit होता है क्योंकि यह hen का response ("She at once gave her consent") introduce करता है, जो hawk के proposal का जवाब है। उसकी condition ("grow wings like his") story को आगे बढ़ाती है।
 - C sequence को complete करता है, क्योंकि यह hawk की reaction ("The hawk was delighted") describe करता है और engagement ring देकर उड़ जाता है, जो interaction को समाप्त करता है।
14. A) **Introspection** (noun) – the examination of one's own conscious thoughts and feelings. अंतरावलोकन
Cognition (noun) – The mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. अनुभूति
15. C) **Up in arms** (idiom) – Very angry बेहद क्रोधित
16. A) 'visibly' सही है: "visibly dilapidated" स्वाभाविक है। 'deeply' इस adjective के साथ सामान्य नहीं; 'little' (बिना a के) गलत; 'satisfactorily' अर्थविरुद्ध है।
- 'visibly dilapidated' is natural. 'deeply' doesn't collocate here; 'little' (without 'a') is wrong; 'satisfactorily' is illogical
17. B) **Alien** (adjective) – Foreign; unfamiliar; belonging to another place. विदेशी/अपरिचित
 Antonym: **Indigenous** (adjective) – Native; originating in a region. स्वदेशी/मूल
- **Peregrine** – Foreign; wandering. विदेशी/यायावर
 - **Uncouth** – Lacking good manners; crude. असभ्य/अकुशल
 - **Extraneous** – Irrelevant or coming from outside. बाहरी/गैर-ज़रूरी
18. C) **Will result** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में वाक्य जीवन के भारतीय दृष्टिकोण (Indian perspective of life) की चर्चा कर रहा है, जिसमें लोभपूर्ण जीवन का अंत दुख में होता है। वाक्य संरचना "leading a life of greed ____ in unhappiness" में सही भविष्यकालीन परिणाम (future consequence) दर्शाने के लिए "will result" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है। अन्य विकल्प या तो काल की दृष्टि से गलत हैं या व्याकरणिक रूप से असंगत।
- '**Will result**' should be used because the entire context is about the Indian perspective of life, which asserts that a greedy life ultimately brings unhappiness. The sentence structure "leading a life of greed ____ in unhappiness" requires a correct expression of future consequence. Therefore, "will result" is the most appropriate choice.
19. A) **for more than twenty years**
 for + duration → for two hours, for ten years.
 during + event/period → during the meeting, during the war.
 over + span/coverage → over the weekend, over a century.
 यहाँ time length है (twenty years) → सही usage है for more than twenty years.
20. D) **Sabotage** (noun) – Deliberate destruction of property or obstruction of normal operations, typically by dissenters; Willful destruction तोड़-फोड़
- **Disaster** (noun) – A sudden event, such as an accident or natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life. आपत्ति

- **Combustion** (noun) – The process of burning something. दहन
 - **Calamity** (noun) – An event causing great and often sudden damage or distress; a disaster. विपत्ति
21. D) **subtle** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “subtle” का अर्थ होता है not obvious or indirect – “सूक्ष्म या अप्रत्यक्ष।” Sentence में कहा गया है कि WhatsApp forwards full of _____ judgment, यानी ऐसे संदेश जिनमें निर्णय (judgment) तो है, लेकिन वह सीधा या खुलकर नहीं, बल्कि संकेतों में दिया गया है। इसलिए “subtle judgment” यहाँ सही है। जबकि “conspicuous” का अर्थ है “स्पष्ट रूप से दिखने वाला,” “palpable” का अर्थ है “स्पष्ट रूप से महसूस किया जा सके ऐसा,” और “mythical” का अर्थ है “काल्पनिक या अवास्तविक,” जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- **‘Subtle’** will be used because it means indirect or delicate. The sentence mentions WhatsApp forwards filled with judgment that is implied, not openly expressed, so ‘subtle’ fits perfectly here. Whereas ‘conspicuous’ means easily visible, ‘palpable’ means clearly felt, and ‘mythical’ means imaginary – all of which do not suit the context.
22. A) **‘Reluctance’** का use होगा क्योंकि “reluctance” का अर्थ होता है किसी कार्य को करने में अनिच्छा या झिझक। sentence में बताया गया है कि विवाह करने की इच्छा की कमी (reluctance to marry) स्वार्थ या अहंकार से नहीं आती बल्कि डर से आती है, इसलिए ‘reluctance’ यहाँ सही है। जबकि ‘Vehemence’ का अर्थ है तीव्रता या जोश, ‘Solace’ का अर्थ है सांत्वना, और ‘Maxim’ का अर्थ है कोई सिद्धांत या कहावत, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **‘Reluctance’** will be used because it means unwillingness or hesitation to do something. The sentence mentions that the hesitation to marry is not rooted in arrogance but fear, making ‘reluctance’ fitting here. Whereas, ‘Vehemence’ means intensity, ‘Solace’ means comfort, and ‘Maxim’ means a proverb or rule, which don’t fit in this context.
23. C) **‘Replicating’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ “a fear of (3) the pain” में preposition ‘of’ के बाद verb का gerund form (V+ing) आवश्यक है। इसलिए ‘replicating’ व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही है। इसका अर्थ है “दर्द को दोहराने का भय” – यानी वही दर्द फिर से अनुभव करने का डर। जबकि ‘to replicate’ (infinitive form) preposition ‘of’ के बाद नहीं आती, ‘replicates’ (simple present tense) subject की आवश्यकता रखता है, और ‘replicated’ (past participle) passive structure में प्रयुक्त होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।
- **‘Replicating’** will be used because after the preposition ‘of’, the verb should be in its gerund form (-ing). The phrase “a fear of replicating the pain” correctly means “fear of repeating or reliving the pain.” Whereas, ‘to replicate’ (infinitive) cannot follow ‘of’, ‘replicates’ (simple present) needs a subject, and ‘replicated’ (past participle) fits only in passive constructions – all grammatically incorrect here.
24. B) **‘Entrapment’** का use होगा क्योंकि “entrapment” का अर्थ होता है किसी कठिन या सीमित स्थिति में फँस जाना। sentence में “a fear of financial _____” कहा गया है, यानी आर्थिक रूप से फँस जाने या बँध जाने का भय। इसलिए ‘financial entrapment’ सही है क्योंकि यह इस बात को दर्शाता है कि व्यक्ति शादी के बाद आर्थिक रूप से जकड़ा महसूस कर सकता है। जबकि ‘Exemption’ का अर्थ है छूट या मुक्ति, ‘Emancipation’ का अर्थ है आज़ादी या स्वतंत्रता, और ‘Exoneration’ का अर्थ है दोषमुक्ति या निर्दोष ठहराना – जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- **‘Entrapment’** will be used because it means being trapped in a difficult or restrictive situation. The sentence talks about “a fear of financial _____,” referring to the fear of getting financially trapped after marriage. Thus, ‘financial entrapment’ fits perfectly. Whereas, ‘Exemption’ means freedom from obligation, ‘Emancipation’ means liberation, and ‘Exoneration’ means being declared innocent — none of which fit this context.

25. D) **Reciprocity** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “reciprocity” का अर्थ होता है पारस्परिकता या आपसी प्रतिदान — यानी जब एक व्यक्ति की भावनात्मक मेहनत का उत्तर दूसरा व्यक्ति भी समान रूप से देता है। sentence में कहा गया है “a fear of emotional labour with no promise of _____”, जिसका अर्थ है कि भावनात्मक श्रम करने के बाद भी यह गारंटी नहीं है कि दूसरा व्यक्ति भी वैसा ही प्रयास करेगा, इसलिए ‘reciprocity’ यहाँ सही है। जबकि ‘lethargy’ का अर्थ है सुस्ती, ‘peculiarity’ का अर्थ है अजीबपन, और ‘acrimony’ का अर्थ है कटुता, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- **‘Reciprocity’** will be used because it means mutual exchange or return of the same feeling or effort. The sentence mentions “a fear of emotional labour with no promise of _____,” which means there’s no assurance that the other person will reciprocate equally, hence ‘reciprocity’ fits here. Whereas ‘lethargy’ means laziness, ‘peculiarity’ means strangeness, and ‘acrimony’ means bitterness, which do not fit this context.