

## Europe's shift to centre of Delhi's frame is welcome

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **trip** to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy **underscores** how far India's **perception** of, and engagement with, Europe has evolved. **Throughout** the **Cold War**, India's **approach** to Europe **was** shaped largely by its close economic and defence ties with the Soviet Union and its **rivalry** with the West. A **prolonged** neglect is now **giving way to** expanding cooperation. **Buoyed** by the India-EU FTA signed in January this year, **following** the 2024 India-EFTA agreement, Europe has been increasingly entering India's strategic imagination despite the friction around Russia's **invasion** of Ukraine. The shift comes at a time when traditional **alignments** are under growing **strain** — an **unpredictable** American president, an ever-deepening partnership between India's ally Russia and competitor China, and a **fragile détente** between Beijing and Washington, **reflected** in the Trump-Xi **summit**.

Europe is now **central** to India's **pursuit** of export markets, capital, advanced technology and green-energy partnerships. The PM's tour **itinerary** reflects the **enormous** potential that collaboration with some of the continent's smaller but highly capable **economies** can unlock. The **Netherlands**, with a population of just 18 million, **is** a **pivotal** player in the global chip race because of ASML, the **sole manufacturer** of the advanced **lithography** machines **needed** to produce the most advanced semiconductors. The **deal** between ASML and Tata Electronics **will** support **scaling up** of the latter's fabrication plant in Dholera. In defence, India **seeks** to diversify **procurement** away from Russia, and in renewable energy, it requires both technological expertise and capital. Europe also offers opportunities for India's youth as the **diaspora** across the continent continues to expand, driven by highly skilled workers and students. For Europe, **meanwhile**, India is a critical partner in its efforts to **de-risk** from a rising China.

While the EU functions as a **bloc** of 27 member states, each country **retains** its own strategic priorities and foreign policy **outlook**. Europe's **sub-regions**, too, **differ** sharply in their perceptions of external powers. India already enjoys strong partnerships with key western European powers such as France, the Netherlands and Germany, and it has moved to **deepen** engagement with the **Nordic countries** while **strengthening** ties with Italy in the Indo-Mediterranean. More must be done to engage with these sub-regions and **cultivate** cross-linkages for **mutual** gains. With geopolitical **realignments**, a **fraying** rules-based order, and the decreasing **relevance** of international institutions, India's **ties** with Europe can no longer be **peripheral** to its foreign policy. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Underscore** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, underline रेखांकित करना
2. **Perception** (noun) - impression, understanding, view, awareness, discernment दृष्टिकोण
3. **Throughout** (preposition) - during, through शुरुआत से अंत तक
4. **Cold War** (noun) - a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare शीत युद्ध
5. **Rivalry** (noun) - competition, contention, opposition, conflict, friction प्रतिद्वंद्विता
6. **Prolonged** (adjective) - extended, protracted, elongated, sustained, extensive दीर्घकालिक
7. **Give way to** (phrasal verb) -: to be replaced or superseded by something else का स्थान लेना / रास्ता देना
8. **Buoy** (verb) - encourage, uplift, hearten, inspire, cheer उत्साहित करना
9. **Following** (preposition) - after, post, succeeding के बाद
10. **Invasion** (noun) - incursion, onslaught, assault, raid, intrusion आक्रमण
11. **Alignment** (noun) - alliance, affiliation, association, agreement, coalition गठबंधन
12. **Strain** (noun) - tension, pressure, stress, burden, friction तनाव
13. **Unpredictable** (adjective) - erratic, volatile, mercurial, fickle, capricious अस्थिर
14. **Fragile** (adjective) - delicate, tenuous, flimsy, brittle, vulnerable कमजोर
15. **Détente** (noun) - the easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries संबंधों में सुधार
16. **Reflect** (verb) - manifest, indicate, display, demonstrate, reveal दर्शाना
17. **Summit** (noun) - conference, meeting, conclave, parley, assembly शिखर सम्मेलन
18. **Central** (adjective) - pivotal, crucial, essential, core, focal मुख्य
19. **Pursuit** (noun) - quest, search, chase, seeking, endeavor तलाश
20. **Itinerary** (noun) - travel plan, schedule, route, agenda, program यात्रा कार्यक्रम
21. **Enormous** (adjective) - massive, colossal, immense, vast, gigantic विशाल
22. **Economy** (noun) - the system by which goods and services are produced, distributed, and used in a country or region अर्थव्यवस्थाएं
23. **Pivotal** (adjective) - crucial, critical, vital, decisive, central केंद्रीय / अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
24. **Sole** (adjective) - exclusive, single, lone, unique, solitary एकमात्र
25. **Lithography** (noun) -: a printing process or method used in microchip manufacturing to print circuit patterns on silicon wafers शिलामुद्रण (चिप निर्माण तकनीक)
26. **Scale up** (phrasal verb) -: to increase the size, amount, or production level of something बढ़ाना

27. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, desire, strive, solicit, request चाहना / तलाश करना
28. **Procurement** (noun) - acquisition, obtaining, sourcing, securing, purchasing खरीद
29. **Diaspora** (noun) -: the dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland प्रवासी नागरिक
30. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - simultaneously, concurrently, in the interim, meantime, at the same time इसी बीच
31. **De-risk** (verb) -to take steps to mitigate or reduce financial or geopolitical risk. जोखिम कम करना
32. **Bloc** (noun) - alliance, coalition, league, federation, faction गुट
33. **Retain** (verb) - maintain, keep, preserve, hold, conserve बनाए रखना
34. **Outlook** (noun) - viewpoint, perspective, attitude, stance, angle दृष्टिकोण
35. **Differ** (verb) - diverge, vary, deviate, contrast, disagree भिन्न होना
36. **Deepen** (verb) - intensity, strengthen, reinforce, heighten, augment गहरा करना
37. **Nordic countries** (noun) - a geographical and cultural region in northern europe and the north atlantic, including denmark, finland, iceland, norway, and sweden नॉर्डिक देश
38. **Strengthen** (verb) - reinforce, fortify, consolidate, bolster, intensify मजबूत करना
39. **Cultivate** (verb) - foster, nurture, develop, promote, cherish विकसित करना
40. **Mutual** (adjective) - reciprocal, shared, interactive, cooperative, joint आपसी
41. **Realignment** (noun) - reorganization, restructuring, repositioning, adjustment, reshuffle पुनर्गठन
42. **Fray** (verb) - strain, weaken, erode, unravel, wear कमजोर होना
43. **Relevance** (noun) - significance, importance, pertinence, applicability, bearing प्रासंगिकता
44. **Ties** (noun) - bonds, relations, links, connections, associations संबंध
45. **Peripheral** (adjective) - secondary, marginal, auxiliary, minor, tangential गौण / कम महत्वपूर्ण

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to several European countries reflects India's growing strategic engagement with Europe.
2. During the Cold War, India's Europe policy was shaped mainly by ties with the Soviet Union and rivalry with the West.
3. India had long neglected Europe, but this approach is now changing significantly.
4. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the earlier India-EFTA agreement have strengthened economic ties.
5. Europe is increasingly becoming important in India's strategic and economic planning.
6. The shift comes amid global geopolitical uncertainty, including changing U.S. policies and growing Russia-China cooperation.
7. Europe is now central to India's search for export markets, technology, investment, and green-energy partnerships.
8. Smaller European nations also offer important opportunities for cooperation.
9. The Netherlands is strategically significant because ASML produces advanced semiconductor lithography machines.
10. Collaboration between ASML and Tata Electronics will support India's semiconductor ambitions in Dholera.
11. India is also seeking to diversify defence procurement away from Russia through European partnerships.
12. Europe offers opportunities in renewable energy technology and investment.
13. Expanding Indian diaspora communities in Europe create additional educational and employment opportunities.
14. Europe sees India as an important partner in reducing dependence on China.
15. The editorial concludes that India's relationship with Europe must become a central pillar of its foreign policy in a changing global order.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be inferred about India's current foreign policy trajectory?** [Editorial page]
  - I. India's strategic pivot towards Europe is a reactive measure to the diminishing reliability of the United States and the Russia-China axis.
  - II. The historical "Cold War" mindset has been eradicated, leading to a seamless consensus on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
  - III. India is moving away from treating Europe as a monolithic entity by recognizing the distinct technological and strategic strengths of its sub-regions.
  - A. I and II only
  - B. II and III only
  - C. I and III only
  - D. All I, II and III
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following best describes the "reciprocal" nature of the India-Europe relationship?**
  - I. While India seeks technological ingress and capital, Europe views India as a strategic hedge against Chinese economic dominance.
  - II. India's demographic dividend serves as a solution to Europe's labor needs, while European markets offer a destination for Indian exports.
  - A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. None of I and II
  - D. Both I and II
3. **Why does the author characterize Europe as "entering India's strategic imagination"?**
  - A. Because India has historically viewed Europe as the primary architect of the rules-based order that is now undergoing a significant fraying.
  - B. Because Europe has shifted from a neglected entity in Indian diplomacy to a central pillar for high-tech, energy, and security requirements.
  - C. Because the signing of the India-EU FTA has rendered all other trade partnerships, including those with the US, secondary to regional growth.
  - D. Because the Indian diaspora in Europe has now become the single largest contributor to the nation's foreign exchange reserves and total wealth.
4. **Which of the following best describes the grammatical structure of the sentence:** "In defence, India seeks to diversify procurement away from Russia, and in renewable energy, it requires both technological expertise and capital."
  - A. Simple sentence
  - B. Compound sentence
  - C. Complex sentence
  - D. Compound-complex sentence
5. **What is the closest meaning of "détente" in the context of the passage?**
  - A. A strategic military alliance formed against a common enemy
  - B. A period of intense economic competition and trade wars
  - C. A relaxation of strained relations and hostility between nations

D. The breakdown of diplomatic and political communication

6. **Directions: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**

S1: To enter the award-winning garden, visitors must navigate a slightly crooked path and step over steel water rills.

P: As they walk, they must also avoid stepping on small plants that have been deliberately placed in their way as obstacles.

Q: Commenting on these specific physical hurdles, project manager Clarissa Freeman noted that life itself is not always a straight line.

R: After successfully navigating this tricky route, visitors are led into a sunken, communal seating area.

S: This central space is heavily surrounded by dense and lush planting to create a comforting feeling of being enclosed.

S6: Consequently, this enclosed green space acts like a "hug," which is known to be highly beneficial to the mental health of vulnerable teenagers.

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

7. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**

One who takes part in an activity for pleasure and not professionally.

- A. Novice
- B. Apprentice
- C. Amateur
- D. Veteran

8. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "reliable".**

- A. Trustworthy
- B. Uncertain
- C. Untrue
- D. False

9. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**

The political imbroglio that arose over the new law left everyone confused.

- A. imbragilo
- B. Imbregilo
- C. imbriglio
- D. No replacement required

10. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "concentrate".**

- A. Focus
- B. Consolidate
- C. Assemble

- D. Disperse
11. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**  
A person who studies fossils.  
A. Archaeologist  
B. Palaeontologist  
C. Geologist  
D. Historian
12. **In the given question, a sentence is divided into four parts and given in the alternatives (A), (B), (C), and (D). There is an error in one part. Choose the alternative containing that part of the sentence that has the error. Choosing the alternative with the error will be the answer.**  
It was rude about the / professor's daughter to have / rejected the red rose which was / being given by the young student.  
A. It was rude about the  
B. professor's daughter to have  
C. rejected the red rose which was  
D. being given by the young student.
13. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**  
Sirisa balked \_\_\_\_\_ cleaning the bathroom floor.  
A. in  
B. for  
C. against  
D. at
14. **A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. If you feel Options A, B, or C do not improve the sentence, then choose Option D: "No improvement required."**  
Since the people who gave me a ride decided to leave the concert early, so I had to take a bus home.  
A. so I had taken a bus home  
B. I had to take a bus home  
C. so I had to get a bus home  
D. No improvement required
15. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to "Delay".**  
A. Hasten  
B. Postpone  
C. Defer  
D. Procrastinate
16. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**  
The street musician is playing a haunting tune on his flute.  
A. A haunting tune is being played by the street musician.  
B. A haunting tune is played by the street musician.  
C. A haunting tune was being played by the street musician.  
D. A haunting tune is playing by the street musician.

17. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**

They are cutting down trees \_\_\_\_\_ the tune of 1000 tons a month.

- A. on
- B. of
- C. by
- D. to

18. **Choose the misspelt word from the given options.**

- A. Essential
- B. Industrial
- C. Profesional
- D. Sensational

19. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "benevolent".**

- A. Cruel
- B. Harsh
- C. Kind
- D. Greedy

20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct voice.**

My friend told me that she had been thinking about quitting her job but that she had not made a final decision yet.

- A. My friend said to me, "I was thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet."
- B. My friend said to me, "I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet."
- C. My friend said to me, "I had been thinking about quitting my job, but I had not made a final decision yet."
- D. My friend said to me, "I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I did not make a final decision yet."

### **Comprehension**

In the 21st century, a woman can (1) \_\_\_ the human genome, lead a boardroom, or draft national policy. Yet, upon returning home, her entire intellectual and professional worth is often reduced to a single, archaic litmus test: Can she cook? Can she draw a kolam? Can she (2) \_\_\_ flowers? Society loves to congratulate itself (3)\_\_\_ "allowing" women into the workforce, but the yardstick we use to measure them remains rusted and stuck in the past. We have created a world where women are expected to (4) \_\_\_ the public sphere while remaining perfectly submissive to the private one. We don't just want women to succeed; we demand they succeed twice.

I was recently reminded of this absurdity during a casual visit from a relative. When I admitted I didn't know how to string flowers, the response wasn't a shrug - it was a sarcastic, disappointed barb: "Don't be proud of that." In that one sentence, my degrees, my research, and my professional labor evaporated. I wasn't a person with a career; I was a "failure" of a woman because I lacked a specific, decorative domestic skill. The irony? This judgment often comes from other women, the primary enforcers of a patriarchal code that serves no one. Let's be honest: the "Double Shift" isn't an accident; it's a design flaw. Society applauds the "Modern

Woman” but quietly ensures the domestic workload remains her shadow. We have rebranded “burden” as “multitasking” and “exhaustion” as “strength.” The problem isn’t the traditions themselves - there is beauty in a kolam and artistry in traditional cooking. The problem is when these skills transition from choices to compulsory markers of worth. When a woman’s (5)\_\_\_\_\_ in the lab or the office is invalidated by a burnt meal or a bare doorstep, we aren’t practicing culture; we are practicing control.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
- A. read
  - B. draw
  - C. map
  - D. make
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
- A. tie
  - B. string
  - C. sew
  - D. join
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
- A. for
  - B. in
  - C. about
  - D. on
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
- A. succeed
  - B. beat
  - C. conquer
  - D. fight
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. success
  - B. power
  - C. competence
  - D. behavior

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

### 1. C) I and III only

Statement I (Correct): Line from the Passage: "The shift comes at a time when traditional alignments are under growing strain — an unpredictable American president, an ever-deepening partnership between India's ally Russia and competitor China..." The passage explicitly links the "shift" in India's focus to Europe with the instability of old allies (US/Russia), making this a valid inference.

Statement II (Incorrect): Line from the Passage: "...Europe has been increasingly entering India's strategic imagination despite the friction around Russia's invasion of Ukraine." The word "friction" indicates that there is disagreement or tension, not a "seamless consensus."

Statement III (Correct): Line from the Passage: "India already enjoys strong partnerships with... western European powers... and it has moved to deepen engagement with the Nordic countries while strengthening ties with Italy..." The passage mentions specific outreach to the Nordics and the Indo-Mediterranean (Italy), confirming a sub-regional strategy.

### 2. D) Both I and II

Statement I (Correct): Line from the Passage: "Europe is now central to India's pursuit of... advanced technology... For Europe, meanwhile, India is a critical partner in its efforts to de-risk from a rising China." This highlights the "give-and-take" where both sides satisfy a strategic need through the other.

Statement II (Correct): Line from the Passage: "Europe also offers opportunities for India's youth... driven by highly skilled workers and students... Europe is now central to India's pursuit of export markets..." This identifies a mutual economic benefit involving human capital and trade.

### 3. B) Because Europe has shifted from a neglected entity in Indian diplomacy to a central pillar for high-tech, energy, and security requirements.

"A prolonged neglect is now giving way to expanding cooperation. ... Europe has been increasingly entering India's strategic imagination despite the friction around Russia's invasion of Ukraine." The passage explicitly describes a transition. The phrase "strategic imagination" refers to how India's foreign policy priorities have shifted from "prolonged neglect" to seeing Europe as "central" for technology (chips), energy, and capital. Option B captures this transition perfectly.

A is incorrect because while the passage mentions a "fraying rules-based order," it never identifies Europe as its "primary architect."

C is incorrect because the passage mentions the FTA as a booster ("buoyed by"), but never suggests it makes the US or other partners "secondary."

D is incorrect because while the diaspora is mentioned as an "opportunity," there is no claim that they are the "single largest contributor" to foreign exchange.

### 4. B) Compound sentence

A compound sentence consists of two or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (such as "and," "but," or "or").

Independent clause 1: "India seeks to diversify procurement away from Russia"

Coordinating conjunction: "and"

Independent clause 2: "it requires both technological expertise and capital"

5. C) **A relaxation of strained relations and hostility between nations**

Line from the Passage: "...and a fragile détente between Beijing and Washington, reflected in the Trump-Xi summit."

a "détente" refers to the easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries. The passage uses it to describe a "fragile" improvement in the relationship between the US and China, evidenced by a summit meeting.

6. A) **P Q R S**

Sentence P, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "As they walk" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'navigate a slightly crooked path' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि रास्ते में छोटे पौधों (obstacles) से भी बचना होता है।

Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these specific physical hurdles" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में दिए गए 'obstacles' (रास्ते की रुकावटों) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो इन रुकावटों की तुलना जीवन से करता है।

Sentence R, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this tricky route" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P और Q में बताए गए मुश्किल रास्ते की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस रास्ते को पार करने के बाद visitors एक 'sunken, communal seating area' में पहुंचते हैं।

Sentence S, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "This central space" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर R में बताए गए 'seating area' से जुड़ता है, जो S6 (जिसमें enclosed green space के फायदों की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence P comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "As they walk" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the action of 'navigating a path' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground by introducing the 'obstacles' on this path.
- Sentence Q follows P because the phrase "these specific physical hurdles" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'obstacles' mentioned in P. It provides the metaphorical meaning behind these hurdles.
- Sentence R follows Q as it uses the phrase "this tricky route" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the difficult path discussed in P and Q. It transitions the journey from the path to the 'sunken, communal seating area'.
- Sentence S follows R as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "This central space" to refer directly back to the 'seating area' introduced in R, describing its lush planting which seamlessly bridges into the benefits of this enclosed space mentioned in S6.

7. C) **Amateur** – A person who engages in an activity for pleasure and not professionally. शौकिया

- **Novice** – A person who is new to a subject or activity; a beginner. नवसिखुआ
- **Apprentice** – A person who learns a trade or skill under a skilled employer. प्रशिक्षु
- **Veteran** – A person with long experience in a particular field. अनुभवी

8. A) **reliable** (adjective) – Consistently good in quality; able to be trusted or depended upon. विश्वसनीय, भरोसेमंद  
 Synonym: **Trustworthy** (adjective) – Able to be relied on as honest or truthful. भरोसेमंद
- **Uncertain** (adjective) – Not known, definite, or sure; unpredictable. अनिश्चित
  - **Untrue** (adjective) – Not based on fact; false or incorrect. असत्य
  - **False** (adjective) – Not genuine; wrong or incorrect. झूठा
9. D) वाक्य में प्रयुक्त शब्द "imbroglia" पहले से ही सही spelling में है। इसका अर्थ है "एक जटिल, उलझन भरी या कठिन स्थिति।" विकल्प C (imbriglio) गलत spelling है क्योंकि इसमें "o" की जगह "i" लिखा गया है। चूँकि मूल शब्द पहले से सही है, अतः "No replacement required" सही उत्तर है।  
 D) The word "imbroglia" in the sentence is already correctly spelled. It means a complicated, confusing, or embarrassing situation. Option C (imbriglio) is a misspelling — "o" has been replaced with "i" incorrectly. Since the original spelling is correct, "No replacement required" is the right answer.
10. D) **Concentrate** (verb) – To focus attention, efforts, or resources in one place. केंद्रित करना  
 Antonym: **Disperse** (verb) – To scatter or spread things over a wide area in different directions. बिखेरना/फैलाना
- **Focus** (verb) – To concentrate attention or energy on something. ध्यान केंद्रित करना
  - **Consolidate** (verb) – To make something stronger or more solid; to combine. मजबूत/संयुक्त करना
  - **Assemble** (verb) – To gather together in one place. एकत्रित होना
11. B) **Palaeontologist** – A scientist who studies the history of life on Earth through fossils. जीवाश्मविज्ञानी
- **Archaeologist** – A scientist who studies human history through excavation of sites and artefacts. पुरातत्ववेत्ता
  - **Geologist** – A scientist who studies the physical structure, rocks, and processes of the Earth. भूवैज्ञानिक
  - **Historian** – A person who researches and writes about past events. इतिहासकार
12. A) वाक्य में "rude about" का प्रयोग गलत है। जब किसी व्यक्ति के व्यवहार का वर्णन किया जाता है, तो "rude of" का प्रयोग होता है। सही वाक्य होगा: "It was rude of the professor's daughter..."
- The error is in part A: "rude about" is incorrect. When expressing that someone's action was impolite, we use "rude of someone to do something." Correct sentence: "It was rude of the professor's daughter to have rejected the red rose which was being given by the young student."
13. D) "**Balked at**" सही preposition phrase है। "Balk at" का अर्थ है किसी काम को करने में हिचकिचाना या मना करना, विशेष रूप से जो अप्रिय या कठिन हो।
- The correct preposition is "at." "Balk at" means to be reluctant or unwilling to do something unpleasant or difficult. Example: "He balked at the idea of working overtime." Other prepositions (in, for, against) are not collocated with "balk."
14. B) so I had to take a bus home' के बदले '**I had to take a bus home**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में पहले से ही "Since" (because) दिया हुआ है, जो कारण (reason) को व्यक्त करता है। इसलिए "so" (result) का प्रयोग करना redundant (अनावश्यक) हो जाता है।

- 'I had to take a bus home' will be used instead of 'so I had to take a bus home' because "Since" already shows the reason, so using "so" again makes the sentence repetitive and grammatically incorrect.
15. A) **Delay** (verb) – Postpone, defer, procrastinate, stall, put off विलंब करना  
Antonym: **Hasten** (verb) – Hurry, accelerate, expedite, speed up, rush जल्दी करना / शीघ्र करना
- **Postpone** (verb) – Delay, defer, put off स्थगित करना
  - **Defer** (verb) – Postpone, delay, put off टालना
  - **Procrastinate** (verb) – Delay, postpone, put off काम टालना
16. A) A haunting tune is being played by the street musician.  
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "The street musician" Subject है, "is playing" Verb (Present Continuous) है और "a haunting tune" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "A haunting tune" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "is being played" (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the street musician" के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed into the passive form while keeping the correct tense. Here, "The street musician" (Subject), "is playing" (Present Continuous Verb), and "a haunting tune" (Object) are converted into "A haunting tune" (Subject), "is being played" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by the street musician".
17. D) **To'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "to the tune of" एक निश्चित phrase है, जिसका अर्थ होता है "की दर से / के हिसाब से"। यहाँ "1000 tons a month" एक मात्रा या दर को दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए "to the tune of" सही प्रयोग है। अतः "to" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'To' should be used because "to the tune of" is a fixed phrase meaning "at the rate of". Here, "1000 tons a month" indicates a quantity or rate, so "to the tune of" is the correct usage. Thus, "to" would be the most appropriate choice.
18. C) The correct spelling of 'Profesional' is '**Professional**', which means "relating to a job that requires special training or skill" पेशेवर, व्यावसायिक।
19. C) **Benevolent** (adjective) – Kind, generous, compassionate, charitable, well-meaning दयालु / परोपकारी  
Synonym: **Kind** (adjective) – Benevolent, gentle, caring, compassionate, considerate दयालु
- **Cruel** (adjective) – Harsh, brutal, unkind, merciless क्रूर
  - **Harsh** (adjective) – Severe, rough, strict कठोर
  - **Greedy** (adjective) – Selfish, avaricious, acquisitive लालची
20. B) **My friend said to me, "I have been thinking about quitting my job, but I have not made a final decision yet."**  
The given sentence is in indirect speech. Because the reporting verb "told" is in the past, the tenses were backshifted. The phrase "had been thinking" is the backshifted form of "have been thinking" (present perfect continuous). When we change the sentence back into direct speech, this backshifting is removed, so "had been thinking" becomes "have been thinking." Similarly,

“had not made a final decision yet” changes back to “have not made a final decision yet.” Therefore, option 2 correctly expresses the sentence in direct speech.

- दिया गया वाक्य indirect speech में है। क्योंकि reporting verb “told” past tense में है, इसलिए tenses को backshift किया गया है। “Had been thinking”, “have been thinking” (present perfect continuous) का backshifted form है। जब हम वाक्य को वापस direct speech में बदलते हैं, तो यह backshifting हटा दी जाती है और “had been thinking” फिर से “have been thinking” बन जाता है। इसी तरह “had not made a final decision yet” बदलकर “have not made a final decision yet” हो जाता है। इसलिए option 2 सही है।
21. C) **map** (नक्शा बनाना / बारीकी से समझना) सही है। विज्ञान के आम उपयोग (standard usage) में “human genome” (मानव डीएनए) की संरचना को समझने और चार्ट करने की प्रक्रिया को हमेशा 'map' करना कहा जाता है। draw (चित्र बनाना) कागज़ पर होता है, डीएनए का नहीं। read (पढ़ना) और make (बनाना) बहुत ही आसान शब्द हैं, जो इस गहरे वैज्ञानिक संदर्भ (scientific context) में पूरी तरह गलत हैं।
- The correct answer is "map" because in standard scientific usage, the process of charting or analyzing the structure of DNA is always referred to as "mapping the human genome." "Draw" implies sketching on paper. "Read" and "make" are overly simplistic verbs that fail to match the advanced scientific context of the sentence.
22. B) **string** (धागे में पिरोना / गूंथना) सही है। फूलों की माला बनाने या फूलों को धागे में पिरोने के लिए अंग्रेज़ी में हमेशा 'string' शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। tie (बांधना) का मतलब सिर्फ एक साधारण गांठ लगाना होता है। sew (सिलना) कपड़ों के लिए आता है, और join (जोड़ना) लकड़ी या धातु जैसी चीज़ों के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है।
- The correct answer is "string" because threading flowers together to make a garland is specifically called stringing flowers. "Tie" just means to fasten with a knot. "Sew" is strictly used for fabrics and clothing, and "join" is used for connecting solid objects like wood or metal, making them all contextually incorrect for flowers.
23. D) **on** (पर) सही है। अंग्रेज़ी के आम उपयोग (standard usage) में, जब हम किसी को बधाई देते हैं या खुद पर गर्व करते हैं, तो verb "congratulate" के साथ हमेशा preposition 'on' का इस्तेमाल होता है (congratulate someone on something)। for बोलने में सही लग सकता है, लेकिन वाक्यों की बनावट के हिसाब से यह पूरी तरह गलत है। in और about भी व्याकरण के नियमों के खिलाफ हैं।
- The correct answer is "on" because of a strict grammatical rule. In standard English usage, the verb "congratulate" is always followed by the preposition "on" (e.g., congratulate someone on their success). "For" is a very common grammar trap that sounds correct to many but is grammatically wrong here. "In" and "about" are also incorrect prepositions for this structure.
24. C) **conquer** (जीतना / पूरी तरह कब्ज़ा या फतह करना) सही है। वाक्य का अर्थ है कि समाज चाहता है कि औरतें बाहरी दुनिया (public sphere) पर पूरी तरह विजय प्राप्त करें और हावी हों। succeed (सफल होना) एक बड़ा व्याकरण का जाल है; यदि यहाँ 'succeed' आता, तो उसके ठीक बाद preposition 'in' का होना ज़रूरी था (succeed in the public sphere)। beat (हराना) किसी इंसान या विरोधी के लिए आता है। fight (लड़ना) का मतलब सिर्फ संघर्ष करना है, पूरी तरह जीतना नहीं।
- The correct answer is "conquer" because it accurately describes successfully dominating or mastering a broad area like the "public sphere." "Succeed" is a grammatical trap; it requires the preposition "in" (succeed in the public sphere) to fit

the sentence structure correctly. "Beat" requires a specific opponent to defeat. "Fight" only means to struggle or battle, which doesn't convey absolute mastery.

25. C) **competence** (क्षमता / काबलियत / काम करने की योग्यता) सही है। वाक्य का संदर्भ (context) दफ्तर या लैब में औरत की काम करने की योग्यता और उसके पेशेवर हुनर की बात कर रहा है। success (सफलता) एक नतीजा है, जबकि यहाँ रोज़मर्रा के काम करने के तरीके (competence) को नकारा जा रहा है। power (ताकत) और behavior (व्यवहार) बहुत ही आसान शब्द हैं, जो पेशेवर योग्यता (professional ability) को बिल्कुल नहीं दर्शाते।

- The correct answer is "competence" because the context discusses a woman's professional capability, skill, and qualification in her workplace. "Success" is the end result, not the skill itself. "Power" and "behavior" are simplistic words that completely fail to capture the specific idea of professional ability and expertise being invalidated.