

Addressing India's jobs crisis

The employment question is not **merely** economic — it is deeply linked to **dignity** and **aspiration** of the youth and affects national confidence

Any **nation** that **aspires** to be a superpower must **be backed** by its youth that is meaningfully employed and has a positive mindset. **Indeed**, India is one of the youngest nation of the world has a sizable youthful energy. But if it is not engaged in **constructive** work there is a high chance of it **going wayward**. **In keeping with** his **commitment** to provide jobs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi **presided** over the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela, distributing appointment letters to over 51,000 freshly recruited government employees across 47 locations nationwide. The ceremony was warm. The intent, no doubt, is genuine. But the **arithmetic is brutal**. India adds roughly a million young people to its workforce every single month. Fifty-one thousand government **posts**, distributed once every few months, **is a gesture** — not a solution. Youth **unemployment** in India **stood** at 15.2 per cent as of March 2026, up from lows of 13.8 per cent just a year earlier, with young women **faring** far worse at nearly 18 per cent. The **Centre** for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), an independent body, **has consistently** placed unemployment between 7–8 per cent — more than double the government's own survey figures — **reflecting a chasm** between how joblessness is measured and how it is experienced. Behind every **statistic** is a graduate sending out hundreds of applications, a young person cycling between **gig stints**, a family waiting on one **steady** income that never seems to arrive. Over 30 lakh vacancies remain unfilled in central government departments alone — even as Rozgar Melas distribute letters in the tens of thousands. The PM's original 2014 **promise** of two crore jobs a year now **reads** as a **stark** reminder of the distance between ambition and delivery. **None** of this **is** to say the Rozgar Mela is without value. For the 51,000 individuals who received their letters on Friday, this is life-changing. A government job in India remains a rare, **coveted** thing — stable, pensioned, **insulated** from the **chaos** of informal work that **employs** the vast majority of Indians. Every vacancy filled is a family's circumstances **altered**. That matters.

But the deeper crisis is structural, and ceremonial hiring **drives** cannot fix it. India's private **sector** — particularly manufacturing — **has** failed to **absorb** the **demographic dividend at scale**. The Production Linked Incentive scheme **holds promise**, and PM Modi's recent agreements with the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy in semiconductors, AI, and advanced manufacturing could, over time, seed high-quality employment. The keyword is time. Youth cannot wait a **decade**. **The way forward** demands three urgent shifts. First, a serious and **transparent** accounting of vacancies — not as political **ammunition**, but as a national **obligation**. If 30 lakh posts are empty in central government, they must be filled. Second, invest massively in quality skilling under PMKVY and **allied** programmes so that the millions outside government employment can compete in formal private sector jobs. Third, make it genuinely easier for small and medium enterprises to hire, expand, and formalise — because that is where the **bulk** of India's employment must **ultimately come** from. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Address** (verb) - tackle, deal with, handle, confront, process सुलझाना, निपटाना
2. **Merely** (adverb) - only, simply, just, purely, solely केवल
3. **Dignity** (noun) - the quality of being worthy of respect and honor गरिमा
4. **Aspiration** (noun) - ambition, desire, goal, hope, target आकांक्षा
5. **Aspire** (verb) - aim, desire, strive, seek, yearn आकांक्षी होना
6. **Back** (verb) - support, endorse, champion, assist, uphold समर्थन करना
7. **Indeed** (adverb) - actually, really, certainly, truly, in fact वास्तव में
8. **Constructive** (adjective) - useful, productive, helpful, beneficial, practical रचनात्मक
9. **Go wayward** (phrase) - become uncontrollable, deviate from the right path पथभ्रष्ट होना
10. **In keeping with** (phrase) - in accordance with के अनुरूप
11. **Commitment** (noun) - dedication, pledge, promise, devotion, obligation प्रतिबद्धता
12. **Preside** (verb) - lead, oversee, chair, conduct, officiate अध्यक्षता करना
13. **Arithmetic** (noun) - calculation, computation, math, numbers, figures गणित
14. **Brutal** (adjective) - harsh, severe, cruel, ruthless, fierce क्रूर या कठोर
15. **Gesture** (noun) - signal, action, sign, indication, token संकेत
16. **Fare** (verb) - perform, manage, progress, cope, succeed काम करना या स्थिति होना
17. **Consistently** (adverb) - regularly, steadily, constantly, uniformly, invariably लगातार
18. **Reflect** (verb) - show, indicate, display, demonstrate, exhibit दर्शाना
19. **Chasm** (noun) - gap, divide, rift, split, gulf अंतर
20. **Statistic** (noun) - figure, data, number, record, index आंकड़े
21. **Gig** (noun) - temporary job, short-term work, freelance task, side job, project अस्थायी काम
22. **Stint** (noun) - period, spell, duration, term, phase अवधि
23. **Steady** (adjective) - stable, constant, fixed, regular, secure स्थिर
24. **Stark** (adjective) - clear, sharp, distinct, harsh, grim स्पष्ट
25. **Coveted** (adjective) - desired, sought-after, envied, craved, wished-for बहुप्रतीक्षित
26. **Insulate** (verb) - protect, shield, safeguard, isolate, cushion सुरक्षित रखना
27. **Chaos** (noun) - disorder, confusion, mess, turmoil, mayhem अराजकता
28. **Employ** (verb) - hire, recruit, engage, appoint, enlist रोजगार देना
29. **Alter** (verb) - change, modify, adjust, transform, vary बदलना

30. **Drive** (noun) - campaign, effort, initiative, crusade, movement अभियान
31. **Absorb** (verb) - include, incorporate, assimilate, take in, integrate समाहित करना
32. **Demographic dividend** (noun) - economic growth potential from a favorable shift in the age structure of a population जनसंख्या के आयु ढांचे में बदलाव से मिलने वाला आर्थिक लाभ
33. **At scale** (phrase) - on a large scale, extensively, widely, comprehensively, mass-produced बड़े पैमाने पर
34. **Hold promise** (phrase) - show potential, be promising, look hopeful उम्मीद जगाना
35. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
36. **The way forward** (phrase) - the path ahead, plan for progress आगे का रास्ता
37. **Transparent** (adjective) - clear, open, honest, explicit, candid पारदर्शी
38. **Ammunition** (noun) - fuel, evidence, material, arguments, resources (for an argument) हथियार या तर्क
39. **Obligation** (noun) - duty, responsibility, commitment, liability, burden कर्तव्य
40. **Allied** (adjective) - related, connected, associated, linked, affiliated संबंधित
41. **Ultimately** (adverb) - finally, eventually, at last, in the end, in the long run अंततः

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that employment is not only an economic issue but also linked to dignity, aspiration, and national confidence.
2. India's large youth population can become a major strength only if provided meaningful employment opportunities.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently distributed appointment letters to over 51,000 recruits under the Rozgar Mela initiative.
4. While symbolically important, such recruitment drives are insufficient compared to the scale of India's employment challenge.
5. Around one million young people enter India's workforce every month.
6. Youth unemployment rose to 15.2% in March 2026, with young women facing even higher unemployment levels.
7. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy estimates unemployment rates much higher than official government figures.
8. Behind unemployment statistics lie millions of frustrated graduates and insecure gig workers.
9. More than 30 lakh government vacancies remain unfilled despite periodic recruitment events.
10. Government jobs remain highly valued because they provide stability, pensions, and protection from informal-sector insecurity.
11. The editorial stresses that the real jobs crisis is structural rather than temporary.
12. India's manufacturing and private sectors have failed to absorb the country's demographic dividend adequately.
13. Schemes like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme may create future employment but will take time.
14. The article recommends filling all government vacancies, improving skill development programmes like PMKVY, and supporting MSMEs.
15. The editorial concludes that sustainable job creation must come largely through expansion and formalisation of small and medium enterprises.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be logically deduced from the passage?** [Editorial Pg.]

The current scale of government recruitment drives is disproportionately small compared to the monthly influx of new entrants into the Indian labor market.
There exists a significant statistical divergence between independent economic assessments and official government narratives regarding the unemployment rate.

 - a. I only
 - b. II only
 - c. Both I and II
 - d. None of I and II
2. **Which of the following statements is/are consistent with the author's view regarding the resolution of the employment crisis?**
 - I. Fostering a conducive environment for the expansion and formalization of small and medium enterprises is a prerequisite for sustainable job creation.
 - II. Strategic international collaborations in cutting-edge technology will provide relief required to stabilize the rising youth unemployment rate.
 - A. II only
 - B. I only
 - C. Both I and II
 - D. None of I and II
3. **What best captures the shift in perception regarding India's employment landscape as presented in the passage?**
 - A. From a period of high stability in informal labor to an era of precarious dependency on sporadic government recruitment.
 - B. From a hopeful projection of massive annual job creation to a sobering reality of incremental and symbolic hiring milestones.
 - C. From a reliance on traditional agricultural employment to a rapid transition toward high-tech manufacturing and AI-driven roles.
 - D. From a focus on quantitative expansion of the workforce to a qualitative emphasis on skilling and vocational excellence.
4. **What best captures the structural contrast between public sector ceremonial drives and the reality of state vacancies as articulated in the passage?**
 - A. A highly organized administrative framework that successfully fills all positions versus a sudden nationwide decline in young applicants seeking steady work.
 - B. A localized bureaucratic delay in processing official paperwork versus a total abandonment of public welfare projects by central authorities.
 - C. A well-intentioned but numerically limited distribution of appointment letters versus a massive and unresolved deficit of over thirty lakh unfilled vacancies.
 - D. An over-funded institutional surplus of available public sector employment versus a lack of educated candidates capable of clearing state criteria.
5. **Which tense is mainly used in the passage?**
 - A. Past Perfect
 - B. Future Continuous

- C. Present Simple
D. Present Perfect
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: The purely mathematical approach of comparing expected investment returns with loan interest rates often ignores a critical real-world factor: income variability.
P: For instance, imagine your current employment is in an industry that has recently faced massive technological disruptions because of AI.
Q: In such a volatile situation, if you naturally feel anxious about the stability of your future income, you will likely be uncomfortable carrying a heavy loan.
R: Alongside this discomfort with debt, your financial anxiety also makes it highly unlikely that you will invest your unexpected cash aggressively.
S: As a result of playing it safe, you would lean towards secure bonds, where expected returns are generally lower than the interest rate on your loan.
S6: Consequently, under these specific circumstances, choosing to prepay the loan becomes the most financially sound and emotionally optimal decision.
- A. Q R S P
B. P Q R S
C. P S R Q
D. R Q P S
7. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**
- A. A major catalyst for this sharp rise has been the recent LPG supply crisis, which severely disrupted operations across the entire food industry.
B. From middle-class families to IT professionals dependent on daily takeaways, people across the state report that the cost of putting food on the table has risen sharply.
C. Unable to absorb the mounting operational costs any longer, smaller roadside eateries have recently followed suit and revised their rates upward too.
D. During this crisis, larger food chains managed better due to their scale, yet they were ironically the first to increase menu prices and reduce portion sizes.
- A. B D A C
B. B A D C
C. A D B C
D. D B C A
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
The archaeologist stumbled _____ an ancient manuscript buried beneath the ruins.
- A. across
B. into
C. upon
D. over
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Fine-tune."**
- A. Desiccate

- B. Calibrate
C. Propagate
D. Fabricate
10. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Scourge."**
A. Affliction
B. Prudence
C. Quiescence
D. Veracity
11. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
Cast the first stone.
A. To be the first to criticize someone or something
B. To be the first to give a comment on an Instagram post
C. To be the first to invent something
D. To be the first to invite someone
12. **From the given alternatives, choose the correct meaning of the idiom.**
What goes around comes around.
A. People's actions have consequences that will eventually return to them
B. People's pets will eventually return home if they go out
C. If you throw a stone up, it will fall down
D. A drunkard will eventually return home
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Persist."**
A. Enjoin
B. Foment
C. Desist
D. Garner
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Vital."**
A. Magnanimous
B. Punctilious
C. Inconsequential
D. Tenacious
15. **What does the word "gourmand" mean?**
A. A person who loves and enjoys food
B. A person who avoids food
C. A type of exotic food
D. A type of cooking technique
16. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**
Ravi often expressed his disdain for humanity, distancing himself from social interactions and embracing solitude.
A. Misanthrope
B. Misogynist
C. Cynic
D. Narcissist
17. **Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:**

Suhani said to the clerk, "I phoned the officer to sign this document, but he just passed it to you."

- A. Suhani told the clerk that she phoned the officer to sign that document, but he had just passed it to him.
- B. Suhani told the clerk that she had phoned the officer to sign that document, but he just passed it to him.
- C. Suhani told the clerk that she had phoned the office to sign that document, but he had just passed it to him.
- D. Suhani told the clerk that she phoned the office to sign that document, but he just passed it to him.
18. **Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:**
The man said to his wife, "What have I done to you that you are treating me so cruelly?"
- A. The man asked his wife that what he did to her that she was treating him so cruelly.
- B. The man asked his wife what he had done to her that she treated him so cruelly.
- C. The man asked his wife what he had been doing to her that she was treating him so cruelly.
- D. The man asked his wife what he had done to her that she was treating him so cruelly.
19. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error. She has committed (A) / not one but many (B) / mischiefs. (C) / No error (D)**
- A. She has committed
- B. not one but many
- C. mischiefs.
- D. No error
20. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error. The first inning (A) / is going to over (B) / now. (C) / No error (D)**
- A. The first inning
- B. is going to over
- C. now.
- D. No error

Comprehension

Do you remember when you really wanted to go somewhere but could not because none of your friends agreed to go with you? Or when you wanted to watch a movie but none of your friends was interested in it, so you didn't watch it either? Or that time when your eyes were filled with tears for one or two months because the person you considered your everything left you? Or those moments when you were deeply troubled about something and called your friends for emotional comfort, but they were busy, which made you (1) ___ even more upset? In all these situations, one thing is common: your sadness. And if you look closely, the reason for your sadness is also the same: giving more importance to others than your own happiness. You are sacrificing your happiness for others. You like a movie and really want to go out and watch it, but you don't go because none of your friends is going with you. Your happiness becomes (2) ___ on others because you are not able to be happy on your own. You are unable to find happiness within yourself, which makes others a necessity for you, and you don't even realise it.

There is nothing wrong with seeking the company of friends. Humans are called social animals, and interaction is necessary. Having friends (3) ___ important, but the problem arises when

you become heavily dependent on them for your happiness. It is like handing over the key to your happiness to someone else, which is quite (4)____. Make friends, but keep the key to your happiness with yourself. This will happen when you are happy in your own company, when you realise that your friends are a (5)____, not a necessity.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**

- A. feeling
- B. felt
- C. to feel
- D. feel

22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**

- A. anchored
- B. contingent
- C. dependent
- D. subservient

23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. has

24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**

- A. confusing
- B. calamitous
- C. problematic
- D. detrimental

25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**

- A. reward
- B. bonus
- C. choice
- D. gift

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **Both I and II**

Statement I: "India adds roughly a million young people to its workforce every single month. Fifty-one thousand government posts... is a gesture — not a solution." Correct. The comparison between 1 million new seekers and 51,000 jobs confirms a massive disproportion. Statement II: "The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)... has consistently placed unemployment between 7–8 per cent — more than double the government's own survey figures..." Correct. This directly points to a "chasm" or divergence between independent (CMIE) and official (government) data.

2. B) **I only**

Statement I: Line from the passage: "Third, make it genuinely easier for small and medium enterprises to hire, expand, and formalise — because that is where the bulk of India's employment must ultimately come from." Correct. This aligns with the author's view that SMEs are the primary engine for "bulk" job creation.

Statement III: Line from the passage: "Modi's recent agreements with the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy in semiconductors, AI, and advanced manufacturing could, over time, seed high-quality employment. The keyword is time. Youth cannot wait a decade." Incorrect. the author explicitly states these tech agreements take "time" and are not an "immediate" solution.

3. B) **From a hopeful projection of massive annual job creation to a sobering reality of incremental and symbolic hiring milestones.**

Line from Passage: "The PM's original 2014 promise of two crore jobs a year now reads as a stark reminder of the distance between ambition and delivery... Fifty-one thousand government posts... is a gesture — not a solution." This captures the core narrative arc of the passage. It contrasts the initial massive "ambition" (2 crore jobs) with the current "sobering reality" where hiring events, though helpful to individuals, are statistically "incremental" (51,000) compared to the 1 million monthly seekers.

Option A: The passage describes informal work as "chaos" from which government jobs provide "insulation." It never suggests that there was ever a period of "high stability" in the informal sector; therefore, no such shift exists in the passage.

Option C: The passage explicitly states that such a transition requires "time" (a decade) and is not "rapid." Furthermore, it notes that the manufacturing sector has currently "failed" to absorb workers, contradicting the idea of a successful transition.

Option D: The passage highlights that the "quantitative" aspect (the brutal arithmetic of 1 million seekers vs. 51k jobs) is the primary crisis. While it recommends skilling as a solution later, the shift in landscape described is about the failure to meet quantity, not a move away from it.

4. C) **A well-intentioned but numerically limited distribution of appointment letters versus a massive and unresolved deficit of over thirty lakh unfilled vacancies.**

Line from Passage: "The intent, no doubt, is genuine. But the arithmetic is brutal... Over 30 lakh vacancies remain unfilled in central government departments alone..." This is correct as it accurately reflects the author's acknowledgment of the "genuine" but small-scale drive compared to the "massive" backlog of 30 lakh vacant posts.

Option A: This is incorrect because the passage confirms jobs are "unfilled" and highly "coveted," contradicting the claim that the system "successfully fills" roles or that applicants are declining.

Option B; This is incorrect because the author defines the problem as a "structural crisis" rather than a minor "paperwork delay," and there is no mention of abandoning "welfare projects."

Option D: This is incorrect because the passage highlights an oversupply of "graduates sending out hundreds of applications," which negates the claim that there is a "lack of educated candidates."

5. C) **Present Simple**

The Present Simple is the dominant tense because the passage focuses on general truths, current statistical facts, and the existing state of the economy. Verbs like aspires, is, has, adds, remains, and demands form the backbone of the author's argument and descriptions.

Line from Passage: "Any nation that aspires to be a superpower must be backed by its youth... India adds roughly a million young people to its workforce every single month... The way forward demands three urgent shifts."

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

Sentence P, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "For instance" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'income variability' (आय की अस्थिरता) का एक सटीक उदाहरण (AI disruption) पेश करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि आय कैसे प्रभावित हो सकती है।

Sentence Q, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "In such a volatile situation" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताई गई 'massive technological disruptions' वाली स्थिति की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इस अस्थिरता के कारण व्यक्ति को भविष्य की आय (future income) को लेकर चिंता (anxiety) होगी।

Sentence R, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "Alongside this discomfort with debt" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए 'uncomfortable carrying a heavy loan' (कर्ज को लेकर असहजता) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस चिंता के कारण व्यक्ति आक्रामक तरीके से निवेश (invest aggressively) भी नहीं कर पाएगा।

Sentence S, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "As a result of playing it safe" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर R में बताए गए 'not investing aggressively' (सुरक्षित खेलने) से जुड़ता है, और बॉन्ड्स से मिलने वाले कम रिटर्न का गणित समझाकर S6 (जिसमें लोन चुकाने को सबसे सही फैसला बताया गया है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence P comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "For instance" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the concept of 'income variability' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground by providing a concrete example (AI disruption) of this variability.

Sentence Q follows P because the phrase "In such a volatile situation" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'massive technological disruptions' described in P. It elaborates on how this disruption naturally causes anxiety about future income.

Sentence R follows Q as it uses the phrase "Alongside this discomfort with debt" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the feeling of being 'uncomfortable carrying a heavy loan' mentioned in Q. It transitions from the discomfort of debt to the reluctance to invest aggressively.

Sentence S follows R as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "As a result of playing it safe" to refer directly back to the reluctance to take risks mentioned in R, explaining the mathematical consequence (lower returns from bonds), which seamlessly bridges into the final recommendation to prepay the loan mentioned in S6.

7. B) **BADC**

Sentence B, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "factual ground" को तैयार करता है जो आम लोगों (middle-class families and IT professionals) के लिए खाने की बढ़ती कीमतों (risen sharply) की मुख्य समस्या को introduce करता है। यह पूरे विषय का मुख्य आधार पेश करता है।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this sharp rise" शब्द सीधे तौर पर B में दिए गए 'risen sharply' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इस भारी उछाल का मुख्य कारण हालिया 'LPG supply crisis' (एलपीजी आपूर्ति संकट) है।

Sentence D, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "During this crisis" शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में बताए गए 'LPG supply crisis' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस संकट के दौरान बड़ी फूड चेन्स ने सबसे पहले अपने 'menu prices' (खाने के दाम) बढ़ाए।

Sentence C, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "followed suit" (वही करना जो दूसरे ने किया) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर D में बड़ी कंपनियों द्वारा दाम बढ़ाने (increase menu prices) के एक्शन से जुड़ता है, और यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि अब छोटे भोजनालयों ने भी दाम बढ़ा दिए हैं।

Sentence B comes at the beginning because it identifies the factual ground by introducing the primary subject: the widespread problem of the cost of food having 'risen sharply' for everyday people.

Sentence A follows B because the phrase "this sharp rise" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the fact that food costs have 'risen sharply' mentioned in B. It introduces the primary cause of this inflation: the 'LPG supply crisis'.

Sentence D follows A as it uses the phrase "During this crisis" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the 'LPG supply crisis' introduced in A. It details how larger food chains reacted to this specific situation by being the first to 'increase menu prices'.

Sentence C follows D as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "followed suit" to create a mandatory link directly to the action of increasing prices mentioned in D, concluding that smaller eateries have now copied the larger chains by revising their rates upward, thereby completing the logical flow.

8. C) 'upon' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि phrasal expression stumble upon का अर्थ होता है — किसी चीज़ पर अनायास या अचानक पहुँच जाना या मिल जाना। यहाँ archaeologist ने ruins के नीचे से manuscript discover किया है, इसलिए context में अचानक मिलने का अर्थ व्यक्त हो रहा है, जो stumble upon से सबसे सही तरीके से व्यक्त होता है।

- **'upon' should be used because the phrasal verb "stumble upon" means to unexpectedly find or come across something. In the sentence, the archaeologist discovers a manuscript buried beneath the ruins, which implies an accidental discovery. Thus, "stumbled upon" is the most appropriate choice.

9. B) **Fine-tune** (verb) – adjust, tweak, refine, optimize, calibrate. (सटीक सुधार करना या अनुकूल बनाना)

Synonym: **Calibrate** (verb) – Carefully assess, set, or adjust something for precision. (जाँचना या सटीक बनाना)

- **Desiccate** (verb): To remove the moisture from something; cause to become dry. (सुखाना)
- **Propagate** (verb): To spread and promote an idea or theory widely. (प्रसार करना)
- **Fabricate** (verb): To invent or concoct something, typically with deceitful intent. (गढ़ना)

10. A) **Scourge** (noun) – affliction, curse, bane, plague, torment. (विपत्ति / अभिशाप)

Synonym: **Affliction** (noun) – something that causes pain or suffering; a great misfortune. (यातना / कष्ट)

- **Prudence** (noun): The quality of being prudent; cautiousness and wisdom in practical affairs. (सावधानी)
- **Quiescence** (noun): A state or period of inactivity or dormancy; being quiet or still. (निश्चलता)
- **Veracity** (noun): Conformity to facts; accuracy; the quality of being habitually truthful. (सत्यता)

11. A) "Cast the first stone" का अर्थ है किसी की आलोचना करने वाला पहला व्यक्ति होना। यह बाइबिल से लिया गया idiom है जहाँ कहा गया है कि दूसरों पर दोष लगाने से पहले खुद को देखें। विकल्प B (Instagram), C (invent), और D (invite) सभी गलत अर्थ हैं।

- "Cast the first stone" means to be the first to criticize or condemn someone. This phrase originates from the Bible, cautioning one to examine oneself before judging others. Options B (Instagram comment), C (invent something), and D (invite someone) are all incorrect meanings.

☑ Correct answer: To be the first to criticize someone or something

12. A) "What goes around comes around" का अर्थ है कि लोगों के कार्यों के परिणाम होते हैं जो अंततः उन पर वापस लौटते हैं। यह एक सार्वभौमिक नैतिक सिद्धांत है जो बताता है कि अच्छे कार्य अच्छे परिणाम लाते हैं और बुरे कार्य बुरे परिणाम। विकल्प B (pets), C (stone), और D (drunkard) सभी इस मुहावरे के गलत अर्थ हैं।

- "What goes around comes around" means that people's actions have consequences that will eventually return to them. It is a universal moral principle — good deeds bring good results and bad deeds bring bad results. Options B (pets returning), C (stone falling), and D (drunkard returning) are all incorrect interpretations of this idiom.

☑ Correct answer: People's actions have consequences that will eventually return to them

13. C) **Persist** (verb) – continue, endure, remain, last, persevere. (बने रहना / जारी रहना)

Antonym: **Desist** (verb) – to stop doing something; to cease or abstain from an action. (रुकना / छोड़ देना)

- **Enjoin** (verb): To instruct or urge someone to do something; to prescribe a course of action. (आदेश देना)
- **Foment** (verb): To instigate or stir up an undesirable or violent sentiment or course of action. (भड़काना)
- **Garner** (verb): To gather or collect something, especially information or approval, with effort. (इकट्ठा करना)

14. C) **Vital** (adjective) – Crucial, essential, critical, key, indispensable. (अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण)

Antonym: **Inconsequential** (adjective) – Not important or significant; completely irrelevant. (महत्वहीन)

- **Magnanimous** (adjective): Very generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person. (उदार)
- **Punctilious** (adjective): Showing great attention to detailed rules, formal protocol, or correct behavior. (अति-नियमनिष्ठ)
- **Tenacious** (adjective): Tending to keep a firm hold of something; clinging or adhering closely. (दृढ़)

15. A) **Gourmand** (noun) – A person who loves and enjoys food भोजन प्रिय/खानपान रसीया

- **Abstainer** (noun) – A person who avoids food or drink परहेज करने वाला
- **Exotic food** (noun) – Food that is unusual or foreign विदेशी/अनोखा भोजन
- **Culinary technique** (noun) – A method of cooking पाक-कौशल विधि

16. A) **Misanthrope** (noun) – A person who dislikes and avoids human society मनुष्य-द्वेषी/समाज से दूर रहने वाला

- **Misogynist** (noun) – A person who dislikes or is prejudiced against women नारी-द्वेषी

- **Cynic** (noun) – A person who believes people are motivated by self-interest
निंदक/संशयवादी
- **Narcissist** (noun) – A person with excessive self-love or self-admiration
आत्ममग्न/अहंकारी

17. C) Suhani told the clerk that she had phoned the officer to sign that document, but he had just passed it to him.

Direct से Indirect Narration में बदलते समय Reporting Verb, Pronoun, Tense और Demonstrative/Time words में परिवर्तन किया जाता है।

Direct वाक्य में "Suhani said to the clerk" Reporting Verb है, "I phoned" और "he just passed" Past Tense में हैं, "this document" Demonstrative है और "you" Pronoun है।

Indirect में बदलने पर said to → told, Pronoun I → she, you → him, Demonstrative this → that, और Past Tense phoned → had phoned, just passed → had just passed (sequence of tense) में बदल जाता है। साथ ही officer शब्द वही रहता है।

While converting Direct to Indirect Narration, changes occur in the reporting verb, pronouns, tense, and demonstratives. Here, "said to" becomes "told", "I" changes to "she", "you" to "him", "this" to "that", and the past tense verbs "phoned" and "just passed" change to past perfect forms to maintain the sequence of tense. The word officer must remain unchanged.

18. D) The man asked his wife what he had done to her that she was treating him so cruelly.

Active से Passive Voice बदलने की तरह Direct से Indirect में बदलते समय भी वाक्य की संरचना बदलती है। यहाँ Direct Speech प्रश्नवाचक रूप में है और Reporting Verb "said to" को Indirect में "asked" में बदला जाता है। साथ ही प्रश्नवाचक रूप में प्रयुक्त सहायक शब्द हटाकर वाक्य को सामान्य कथन क्रम में रखा जाता है। Pronouns और Tense भी बदले जाते हैं: "have done" (Present Perfect) → "had done" (Past Perfect) और "are treating" → "was treating" में बदल जाता है। इसलिए सही Indirect वाक्य वह होगा जिसमें इन सभी बदलावों का सही प्रयोग हो।

- To change Direct Speech into Indirect in an interrogative structure, the reporting verb "said to" is changed into "asked," the interrogative form is converted into statement order, and auxiliary question words are retained without inversion. Pronouns and verb tenses are shifted accordingly: "have done" (Present Perfect) becomes "had done" (Past Perfect) and "are treating" becomes "was treating." The correct option will reflect all these changes accurately.

19. C) 'mischiefs' के बदले 'acts of mischief' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'mischief' एक uncountable noun है और इसका plural form नहीं होता। Individual incidents को express करने के लिए partitive structure 'act/acts of mischief' का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

- 'acts of mischief' will be used instead of 'mischiefs' because 'mischief' is an uncountable noun with no plural form. To express individual instances, the partitive structure 'act/acts of mischief' must be used. Correct sentence: She has committed not one but many acts of mischief.

20. B) 'going to over' के बदले 'going to be over' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'be going to' structure में जब adjective या adverb (जैसे 'over') follow करता है, तो बीच में auxiliary verb 'be' जरूरी होता है। 'Over' यहाँ verb नहीं है, इसलिए 'be' के बिना यह grammatically incorrect है।

- 'going to be over' will be used instead of 'going to over' because when 'be going to' is followed by an adjective or adverb like 'over', the auxiliary 'be' is mandatory. Since 'over' is not a verb here, 'be' must come before it. Correct sentence: The first inning is going to be over now.

21. D) **feel** (महसूस करना) सही है। यह English का एक नियम है। जब वाक्य में 'make' या 'made' का इस्तेमाल किसी से कुछ करवाने (causative verb) के लिए होता है (जैसे 'made you...'), तो उसके बाद हमेशा verb की (base form / bare infinitive) आती है, बिना 'to' के। feeling, felt (बीता हुआ समय), और to feel English grammar के इस नियम के हिसाब से सीधे गलत हो जाते हैं।

- The correct answer is "feel" because of a strict grammar rule regarding causative verbs. When "make" or "made" is used to indicate causing an action (e.g., "made you feel"), it must be followed by a bare infinitive (the base form of the verb without "to"). "Feeling," "felt," and "to feel" are all grammatically incorrect in this sentence structure.

22. C) **dependent** (निर्भर होना / किसी पर टिके होना) सही है। पैसेज में आगे चलकर भी 'heavily dependent' का इस्तेमाल हुआ है, जो इसका सबसे बड़ा (clue) है। contingent (शर्त पर टिके होना) के साथ भी 'on' आता है, लेकिन यह आमतौर पर शर्तों या नियमों (conditions) के लिए आता है, इंसान की भावनाओं के लिए नहीं। anchored (बंधा होना) और subservient (गुलाम होना) के साथ व्याकरण के अनुसार 'to' आता है, 'on' नहीं।

- The correct answer is "dependent" because it naturally fits the emotional context, and the passage literally gives a clue by using the phrase "heavily dependent" in the very next paragraph. "Contingent" takes "on" but is typically used for conditions or rules rather than human emotions. "Anchored" and "subservient" are grammatically incorrect because they strictly require the preposition "to," not "on."

23. B) **is** (है) सही है। यहाँ subject 'friends' नहीं है, बल्कि 'Having friends' (दोस्त होना) है। यह एक पूरी बात (gerund phrase) है जो हमेशा singular मानी जाती है, इसलिए इसके साथ 'is' आएगा। are और were plural हैं, इसलिए ये grammar के हिसाब से सीधे गलत हो जाते हैं। has (पास होना) का यहाँ कोई अर्थ नहीं है।

- The correct answer is "is" because of a strict grammar rule. The subject of the sentence is not the plural noun "friends," but the gerund phrase "Having friends," which acts as a singular subject and requires a singular verb. "Are" and "were" are plural verbs and are grammatically incorrect here. "Has" does not fit the sentence structure at all.

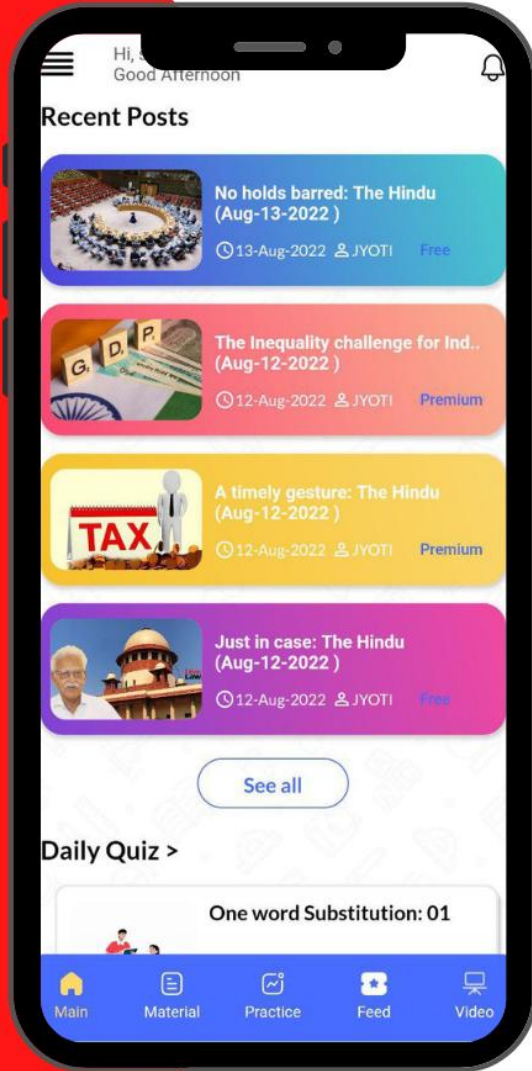
24. C) **problematic** (परेशानी खड़ी करने वाला) सही है। पैसेज बता रहा है कि अपनी खुशी दूसरों को देना आगे चलकर आपके लिए दिक्कत पैदा करता है। calamitous (तबाही लाने वाला) बहुत ही ज्यादा भारी शब्द (extreme word) है जो एक आम परेशानी के लिए बहुत बड़ा है। detrimental (हानिकारक) के साथ आम तौर पर 'to' आता है (detrimental to you)। confusing (उलझाने वाला) देखने में सही लग सकता है,

लेकिन यह स्थिति सिर्फ उलझन वाली नहीं, बल्कि असल में नुकसान और परेशानी देने वाली (problematic) है।

- The correct answer is "problematic" because it perfectly describes a behavioral situation that creates complications. "Calamitous" is an extreme adjective that is far too intense for a common psychological issue. "Detrimental" typically requires the preposition "to" (e.g., detrimental to you), making it structurally awkward here. "Confusing" might look correct, but the situation described causes actual harm and trouble (problematic), not just a lack of understanding.

25. B) **bonus** (फायदे की अतिरिक्त चीज़ / जो एक्स्ट्रा मिल जाए) सही है। वाक्य का मतलब है कि दोस्त ज़िंदगी में एक 'एक्स्ट्रा' अच्छी चीज़ हैं, कोई मजबूरी या ज़रूरत (necessity) नहीं। reward (इनाम) किसी मेहनत के बदले मिलता है। gift (तोहफा) कोई आम भौतिक चीज़ (physical object) होती है। choice (पसंद) का 'necessity' (ज़रूरत) के साथ वह सटीक विरोधी अर्थ (contrast) नहीं बनता जो 'bonus' का बनता है।

- The correct answer is "bonus" because it establishes a perfect contrast with "necessity," showing that friends are a wonderful extra addition to a complete life. "Reward" implies compensation for hard work. "Gift" usually refers to a physical object. "Choice" fails to create the strong, precise contrast with "necessity" that the author intends.



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