

From black to grey: on the Sample Registration System – Statistical Report, 2024

India needs to prepare for a future with an **ageing** population

If India wanted proof of its shifting demographic status, then the latest SRS bulletin, 2024 has provided just that. The **figures** from the Sample Registration System – Statistical Report, 2024, **offer incontrovertible** proof — falling **fertility rate**, low **crude birth rate** — to show that India's **pace** of population growth is **considerably** slowing down. While the **pundits predict** at least three **decades** of population growth for the country, the **plunging fertility rate** certainly **commands** pause for **contemplation** and forward planning, for India to **crest** a crisis that several nations are struggling to manage. India's **Total Fertility Rate** has dropped to 1.9, lower than the replacement level of 2.1, **aided, in large**, by a falling birth rate. As per the latest SRS data, India's birth rate fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024; while death rate marginally went down from 6.7 to 6.4. The country is well on its way from population 'explosion' to one of ageing population and **shrinking workforce expansion**. India might still **reap** its **demographic dividend** — the median age in India is 29.2 years, **in stark contrast to** China (median age of 40.2), and several other European nations. In 2026, India has approximately 370 to 380 million youth, aged 15-29 years, representing roughly 27% of the country's population. Estimates also put India's below 35 years population at over 65% of the total, making it one of the world's youngest **cohorts**.

In demographic terms, falling birth rate **reflects** a decline in fertility, linked to factors such as **urbanisation**, better education, access to **contraception**, and the desire for smaller families. India's high life **expectancy** at birth (72 years) and **dipping death rate** **offer** the other side of the **transition paradigm, implying** better access to health care. India needs to **reassess** the path ahead and **pivot** to prepare for the needs of a future greying nation, when the demographic dividend disappears. The SRS **data**, however, **flags** a more immediate concern too — one of **vast** regional and rural/urban **disparities**. Overall, **performance** in rural areas **is** not **on a par with** the urban centres, and the southern States continue to stay ahead of the northern States. Overall, child survival improvements are real (the **Infant Mortality Rate** has fallen to 24) but high-burden **States** in the north **are** still at a much higher IMR. States and areas that **lag** will need targeted **interventions**, whether it is access to health care, awareness or education facilities to **effect** a national **convergence**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ageing** (adjective) - aging, senescent, doddering, declining, maturing वृद्ध होना
2. **Incontrovertible** (adjective) - indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, unassailable, categorical अकाट्य
3. **Fertility rate** (noun) - the ratio of live births in an area to the population of that area प्रजनन दर
4. **Crude birth rate** (noun) - the number of live births occurring among the population of a given geographical area during a given year, per 1,000 mid-year total population of the given geographical area during the same year कच्चे जन्म दर
5. **Pace** (noun) - speed, rate, tempo, velocity, momentum गति
6. **Considerably** (adverb) - significantly, substantially, appreciably, markedly, greatly काफी हद तक
7. **Pundits** (noun) - experts, authorities, specialists, scholars, savants विशेषज्ञ
8. **Predict** (verb) - forecast, foresee, prophesy, prognosticate, envision भविष्यवाणी करना
9. **Decade** (noun) - period of ten years दशक
10. **Plunging** (adjective) - plummeting, diving, dropping, falling, sinking तेजी से गिरता हुआ
11. **Contemplation** (noun) - reflection, deliberation, consideration, meditation, thought चिंतन
12. **Crest** (verb) - peak, climax, summit, crown, top शिखर पर पहुँचना
13. **Total fertility rate** (noun) - the average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime कुल प्रजनन दर
14. **Aid** (verb) - assist, help, support, facilitate, succor सहायता करना
15. **In large**(phrase) - largely, mainly, mostly, primarily, to a great extent काफी हद तक
16. **Shrinking** (adjective) - diminishing, contracting, dwindling, decreasing, lessening सिकुड़ता हुआ
17. **Expansion** (noun) - growth, enlargement, proliferation, extension, development विस्तार
18. **Reap** (verb) - harvest, obtain, gain, derive, secure लाभ उठाना
19. **Demographic dividend** (noun) - the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश
20. **In stark contrast to**(phrase) - totally different from, completely opposite to, diametrically opposed to, unlike, divergent from के विपरीत
21. **Cohorts** (noun) - groups, categories, segments, bands, sets समूह
22. **Reflect** (verb) - indicate, show, manifest, demonstrate, display दर्शाना
23. **Urbanisation** (noun) - the process by which more people move to towns and cities, leading to the growth of urban areas शहरीकरण

24. **Contraception** (noun) - birth control, family planning, prophylaxis, prevention, antifertility गर्भनिरोधक
25. **Dipping** (adjective) - falling, dropping, declining, sinking, decreasing गिरता हुआ
26. **Transition** (noun) - change, shift, conversion, metamorphosis, transformation संक्रमण
27. **Paradigm**(noun) - model, pattern, framework, archetype, standard प्रतिमान
28. **Imply** (verb) - suggest, insinuate, indicate, denote, signify संकेत देना
29. **Reassess** (verb) - reevaluate, reconsider, review, rethink, re-examine पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना
30. **Flag** (verb) - signal, highlight, indicate, identify, mark चिह्नित करना
31. **Disparities** (noun) - inequalities, imbalances, discrepancies, gaps, variations असमानताएँ
32. **On a par with** (phrase) - equal to, level with, matching, comparable to, equivalent to के बराबर
33. **Infant mortality rate** (noun) - the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births शिशु मृत्यु दर
34. **Lag**(verb) - trail, fall behind, straggle, linger, delay पिछड़ना
35. **Intervention** (noun) - interference, involvement, mediation, arbitration, stepping in हस्तक्षेप
36. **Effect** (verb) - achieve, accomplish, bring about, execute, carry out कार्यान्वित करना
37. **Convergence**(noun) - union, meeting, intersection, merging, coming together अभिसरण

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial discusses India's changing demographic pattern based on the *Sample Registration System – Statistical Report, 2024*.
2. India's population growth is slowing significantly due to a sharp decline in fertility and birth rates.
3. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen to 1.9, which is below the replacement level of 2.1.
4. The birth rate declined from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024.
5. The death rate also slightly decreased from 6.7 to 6.4 during the same period.
6. These trends indicate that India is moving from a phase of population explosion to an ageing population.
7. A shrinking expansion of the workforce may become a future challenge for the country.
8. Despite this transition, India still possesses a strong demographic dividend because of its young population.
9. India's median age is 29.2 years, much lower than countries like China and many European nations.
10. Around 370–380 million Indians are in the 15–29 age group, forming nearly 27% of the total population.
11. More than 65% of India's population is below 35 years of age, making India one of the youngest nations globally.
12. Falling fertility is linked to urbanisation, improved education, better access to contraception, and preference for smaller families.
13. Increased life expectancy (72 years) and lower death rates reflect improvements in healthcare facilities.
14. The editorial warns that India must prepare for the future needs of an ageing or "greying" population before the demographic dividend disappears.
15. The report also highlights serious regional and rural-urban disparities, especially in healthcare and child survival rates, requiring targeted government interventions in lagging States.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which of the following statement(s) can be logically deduced from the passage? [Editorial] [Pg.]
 - i. Socioeconomic progress and shifting lifestyle preferences contribute to the reduction in national reproduction rates.
 - ii. Internal imbalances in key health indicators necessitate regional administrative focus to achieve uniform progress.
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. Both I and II
 - D. None of I and II
2. Which of the following statements is TRUE regarding India's current demographic situation as per the passage?
 - A. The marginal decline in the death rate suggests that the country is successfully enhancing its healthcare accessibility.
 - B. The reduction in the Total Fertility Rate to 1.9 indicates that India has reached a state of population stability.
 - C. The current median age of the population ensures that India will maintain its competitive edge over China for many decades.
 - D. High life expectancy combined with falling birth rates reflects a shift toward a more developed societal structure
3. What is the underlying implication of the demographic trends mentioned in the SRS 2024 report?
 - A. The reduction in fertility rates suggests that the socio-economic factors influencing family size are becoming uniform across different geographical and social sectors.
 - B. The current demographic dividend provides a window of opportunity that allows the nation to delay the implementation of complex social security reforms.
 - C. The improvement in national health indicators indicates that the existing regional disparities are a result of historical factors rather than current policy gaps.
 - D. The falling birth rate signifies a transition where the focus of public policy might need to shift from controlling growth to managing structural change.
4. According to the author, what should be the primary focus for India's "forward planning"?
 - A. Developing infrastructure and systems that cater to the requirements of an increasingly elderly population.
 - B. Implementing targeted health interventions in rural areas to bring them on par with urban demographic standards.
 - C. Utilizing the current window of a young workforce to strengthen the economy before the demographic shift occurs.
 - D. Enhancing access to contraception and education to maintain the current downward trend in fertility rates.
5. Identify the grammatical role of "but" in the line:
"Overall, child survival improvements are real (the Infant Mortality Rate has fallen to 24) but high-burden States in the north are still at a much higher IMR."

- A. Subordinating Conjunction
B. Coordinating Conjunction
C. Adversative Preposition
D. Intransitive Adverb
6. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
Be up to the minute.
A. At the last possible instant or opportunity
B. To wait or pause
C. To be as current as is possible
D. At a very rapid pace
7. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
A. Compitetor
B. Compititor
C. Compettitor
D. Competitor
8. **Match the word with its closest synonym. Word: Cautious**
A. Reckless
B. Careful
C. Quick
D. Confident
9. **Choose the misspelt word from the given options.**
A. Occurrence
B. Apparent
C. Privilage
D. Parallel
10. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "grin".**
A. Cry
B. Shout
C. Smile
D. Yawn
11. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.**
The witness gave a credible statement, free from ambiguities, and consistant with established precedents.
A. credible
B. ambiguities
C. consistant
D. precedents
12. **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. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**
S1: Mount Tokachi erupted suddenly with a tremendous roar, which was heard twenty miles away.

P: The physical damage to the settlement is already severe, with official reports stating that sixty houses have been buried under lava.

Q: In response to this terrifying sound, the inhabitants of Miye town, located at the foot of the volcano, fled in panic.

R: Alongside this structural destruction, the immediate human cost is alarming, as one hundred and twenty miners are missing inside the local sulphur mine.

S: Consequently, this town is now considered seriously endangered, and all train services to it have been completely suspended.

S6: Adding to the tragedy of these trapped miners, later messages from Hokkaido state that thousands of farmers are also missing amidst varying casualty reports.

A. S Q P R

B. P R S Q

C. Q S P R

D. Q P R S

13. **Which sentence is correct?**

A. He wrote a long later to his friend.

B. He wrote a long litter to his friend.

C. He wrote a long latter to his friend.

D. He wrote a long letter to his friend.

14. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to “amusing”.**

A. Humorous

B. Boring

C. Entertaining

D. Witty

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

A person who spends too much.

A. Miser

B. Spendthrift

C. Generous

D. Philanthropist

16. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences from a passage. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**

i. Responding to this terrifying situation, authorities immediately pressed multiple SDRF and Army rescue teams into service.

ii. After six hours of relentless effort, these deployed teams successfully ensured the safe evacuation of every single person.

iii. A sudden technical fault at the Gulmarg cable car suspended services, leaving over 300 tourists dangling mid-air in their cabins.

iv. Panic quickly gripped these stranded individuals as the weather turned inclement, with strong winds and heavy rains lashing the region.

A. 3 4 1 2

B. 3 1 4 2

C. 4 3 2 1

D. 1 2 4 3

17. Choose the word that is the antonym of Forbidden.

- A. Prohibited
- B. Allowed
- C. Restricted
- D. Barred

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

My neighbour is envious _____ me for my new car.

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

19. Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:

They are building a new shopping mall.

- A. A new shopping mall has been built by them.
- B. A new shopping mall is being built by them.
- C. A new shopping mall is built by them.
- D. A new shopping mall was being built by them.

20. A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. In case Options A, B and C are not found suitable, choose Option D: "No Improvement Required."

The speaker warned that the economy would hang on a thin thread if corruption continued unchecked.

- A. hang by a thin thread
- B. hang upon a thin thread
- C. hang with a thin thread
- D. No improvement required

Comprehension

As I sat in the balcony of my third floor flat, chilling out with a hot cuppa and watching the construction of a building in the diagonally opposite plot of land, I cannot help wondering how much time, manpower, precision and skill goes into the job of creating something new, be it anything from concrete to canvas.

Destruction, in contrast, seems to occur easily and fast. Nature's ways of destruction happen on its own terms and it is beyond our comprehensive abilities; and the destruction caused by humans themselves — deliberate devastations caused by (1) _____ nations — seems to happen with so much abandon and (2) _____.

From time to time, (3) _____ events, historic upheavals and wars have caused mammoth destructions and unimaginable trauma and have led the world and humanity almost to a teetering state of collapse. (4) _____, the world and the human tribe have stood their ground.

When I was young, whenever a global calamity of unforeseen and unpredictable nature occurred, my grandparents used to make a (5) _____ statement: "Time for end of the world is nearing!" I used to get befuddled and frightened by this apocalyptic statement and used to think of numerous possibilities of how the world could end. Notwithstanding all these, the world and the human tribe have stood their ground.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
- A. conciliatory
 - B. belligerent
 - C. magnanimous
 - D. reticent
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
- A. compunction
 - B. solicitude
 - C. altruism
 - D. callousness
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
- A. cataclysmic
 - B. quotidian
 - C. serendipitous
 - D. ephemeral
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
- A. consequently
 - B. notwithstanding
 - C. nevertheless
 - D. moreover
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. innocuous
 - B. propitious
 - C. sanguine
 - D. sinister

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Both I and II

Statement I is CORRECT: Passage Line: "...falling birth rate reflects a decline in fertility, linked to factors such as urbanisation, better education, access to contraception, and the desire for smaller families." The passage explicitly connects the decline in fertility (reduction in reproduction rates) to structural improvements like urbanization and better education ("socioeconomic progress") as well as the deliberate choice for smaller households ("shifting lifestyle preferences").

Statement II is correct: Passage: "The SRS data, however, flags a more immediate concern too — one of vast regional and rural/urban disparities... States and areas that lag will need targeted interventions... to effect a national convergence." The author flags internal imbalances ("regional and rural/urban disparities") in baseline health metrics like the Infant Mortality Rate. The passage states that lagging areas need customized support ("targeted interventions") to achieve country-wide balance ("national convergence").

2. A) The marginal decline in the death rate suggests that the country is successfully enhancing its healthcare accessibility.

Line from Passage: "...death rate marginally went down from 6.7 to 6.4... India's high life expectancy at birth (72 years) and dipping death rate offer the other side of the transition paradigm, implying better access to health care."

Option A: It accurately reflects the author's inference that lower death rates and higher life expectancy imply better healthcare access.

B is Incorrect: The passage says India is "well on its way," but reaching 1.9 doesn't mean stability is achieved; the population is still predicted to grow for three decades.

C is Incorrect: The passage says India "might" reap the dividend, not that it "ensures" a competitive edge. Furthermore, it warns that this dividend is temporary and will eventually "disappear," contradicting the idea of it lasting for "many decades" without intervention.

D is Incorrect: While the passage links these changes to urbanization and education, it characterizes the situation as a "transition paradigm" leading toward an "ageing population." The phrase "developed societal structure" is a broad external conclusion not specifically used by the author to define this shift.

3. D) The falling birth rate signifies a transition where the focus of public policy might need to shift from controlling growth to managing structural change.

Line from Passage: "The figures from the Sample Registration System... offer incontrovertible proof... to show that India's pace of population growth is considerably slowing down... well on its way from population 'explosion' to one of ageing population." (CORRECT): The SRS report provides the "proof" that the "explosion" (growth) is over and the "ageing" (structural change) has begun. Understanding this proof leads to the logical implication that policy must shift its focus. It is directly based on the "shifting demographic status" the report provides.

Option A (Incorrect): This option is factually contradicted by the report's findings. The SRS data explicitly "flags" that performance is "not on a par," meaning the factors influencing these trends are not consistent or uniform across the country.

Option B (Incorrect): The understanding of the SRS data (the plunging fertility) leads the author to say it "commands" planning. Therefore, implying that the data allows for a "delay" in reforms is a misunderstanding of the report's significance as described in the passage.

Option C (Incorrect): The report "flags" these disparities as an "immediate concern." An understanding of this "flag" suggests that there are current "lags" needing "interventions" (policy action), which contradicts the idea that the report implies these are merely "historical factors" beyond the reach of current policy.

4. A) **Developing infrastructure and systems that cater to the requirements of an increasingly elderly population.**

Passage: "...the plunging fertility rate certainly commands pause for contemplation and forward planning... India needs to reassess the path ahead and pivot to prepare for the needs of a future greying nation..." (CORRECT): The author explicitly links "forward planning" to the fact that India is moving toward an "ageing population." The term "greying nation" refers to the elderly, and the author suggests that the primary shift (pivot) in planning must be toward their future needs.

Option B: (INCORRECT): While the author advocates for "targeted interventions," this is described as an "immediate concern." In the context of the passage, "forward planning" refers to the long-term structural demographic shift (the greying nation) rather than the immediate task of fixing regional gaps.

Option C: (INCORRECT): Reaping the dividend is a current opportunity, but the "forward planning" is specifically triggered by the "plunging fertility rate." The author's warning is about the "crisis" that comes after the dividend disappears, making the elderly the primary focus of that planning.

Option D: (INCORRECT): The author notes that the fertility rate is already below the replacement level. The "forward planning" is not about maintaining or accelerating the decline, but about managing the consequences (an aging population) of the decline that has already occurred.

5. B) **Coordinating Conjunction**

A coordinating conjunction joins two independent clauses of equal grammatical rank. In this sentence, "Overall, child survival improvements are real" and "high-burden States in the north are still at a much higher IMR" are both complete sentences that could stand alone. The word "but" is acting as a coordinating conjunction to link these two complete ideas while introducing a contrast.

(A) Subordinating Conjunction: Subordinating conjunctions (like although, because, or since) join a dependent clause to an independent clause. "But" never functions as a subordinating conjunction

(c) Adversative Preposition: While "but" can act as a preposition it must be followed by a noun or pronoun object.

(d) Intransitive Adverb: An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. In this context, "but" modifies neither the verb nor the adjective.

6. C) **Be up to the minute** – idiom meaning to have or incorporate the most current, latest information or developments; to be completely up to date. एकदम अद्यतन / नवीनतम जानकारी रखना |
7. D) The correct spelling is '**Competitor**', which means a person or organisation that competes against others. प्रतिद्वंद्वी / प्रतियोगी | • single
8. B) **Cautious** (adjective) – careful to avoid potential problems or dangers; not taking unnecessary risks. सतर्क / सावधान।
Synonym: **Careful** (adjective) – making sure of avoiding potential danger or problems by thinking about things beforehand. सावधान।
- **Reckless** (adjective) – without thinking or caring about the consequences; opposite in meaning to cautious. लापरवाह।
 - **Quick** (adjective) – moving or doing something fast; unrelated to the meaning of cautious. तेज।
 - **Confident** (adjective) – feeling or showing certainty; unrelated to the meaning of cautious. आत्मविश्वासी।
9. C) The correct spelling of 'Privilage' is 'Privilege', which means a special right, advantage, or immunity granted to a particular person or group. विशेषाधिकार।
10. C) **Grin** (verb/noun) – to smile broadly, showing the teeth. चौड़ी मुस्कान।
Synonym: **Smile** (verb/noun) – to form one's features into a pleased or kind expression; to grin. मुस्कराना।
- **Cry** (verb) – to shed tears; expressing sadness or pain – opposite in emotional tone to grin. रोना।
 - **Shout** (verb) – to speak or call out very loudly; unrelated to facial expression. चिल्लाना।
 - **Yawn** (verb) – to open the mouth wide due to tiredness or boredom; unrelated to smiling. जम्हाई लेना।
11. C) The correct spelling of 'consistant' is 'consistent', which means acting or done in the same way over time; not contradictory. सुसंगत / एकसमान।
12. C) **Q S P R**

Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this terrifying sound" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'tremendous roar' (भयानक गर्जना) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस डरावनी आवाज को सुनकर Miye town के लोग घबराकर भाग गए।
Sentence S, Sentence Q के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this town" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में दिए गए 'Miye town' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि लोगों के भागने के बाद यह शहर खतरे में है और वहाँ टेन सेवा रोक दी गई है।

Sentence P, Sentence S के बाद आया क्योंकि यह S में बताए गए शहर के खतरे (endangered) का एक सीधा भौतिक प्रमाण (physical damage) पेश करता है, यह बताते हुए कि साठ घर लावे के नीचे पूरी तरह दब गए हैं।

Sentence R, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "structural destruction" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर P में घरों के दबने से जुड़ता है, और खदान में फंसे मजदूरों का जिक्र करके S6 (जिसमें इन 'trapped miners' के साथ-साथ अन्य लापता किसानों की बात है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "this terrifying sound" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'tremendous roar' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground of how the inhabitants of Miye town instinctively reacted to the eruption.

Sentence S follows Q because the phrase "this town" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to 'Miye town' introduced in Q. It elaborates on the consequence of the situation, stating that the town is endangered and train services are suspended.

Sentence P follows S as it provides concrete evidence of the danger mentioned in S, detailing the physical destruction where sixty houses have been buried under lava.

Sentence R follows P as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "structural destruction" to refer directly back to the buried houses in P, shifting the narrative focus to the human cost (missing miners), which seamlessly bridges into the broader casualty reports about the "trapped miners" detailed in S6.

13. D) 'He wrote a long letter to his friend.'

later / litter / latter' के स्थान पर 'letter' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि letter का अर्थ पत्र होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही है।

- 'He wrote a long letter to his friend' is correct because "letter" means a written message, whereas "later" (बाद में), "litter" (कूड़ा), और "latter" (दूसरा/अंतिम) इस संदर्भ में गलत हैं।

14. B) **Amusing** (adjective) – causing laughter or providing entertainment; pleasantly interesting. मनोरंजक।

Antonym: **Boring** (adjective) – not interesting; tedious and dull. उबाऊ।

- **Humorous** (adjective) – causing laughter; funny – a synonym of amusing, not its antonym. हास्यपूर्ण।
- **Entertaining** (adjective) – providing amusement or enjoyment – also a synonym of amusing, not its antonym. मनोरंजक।
- **Witty** (adjective) – showing quick and inventive verbal humour – also related to amusing in meaning, not its antonym. चतुर / विनोदी।

15. B) **Spendthrift** – a person who spends money in an extravagant, irresponsible way; directly matches the given definition. फिजूलखर्च / अपव्ययी।

- **Miser** – a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible; the opposite of a spendthrift. कंजूस।
- **Generous** – a person who is willing to give more than is necessary; not specifically one who overspends. उदार।
- **Philanthropist** – a person who donates to charitable causes to promote the welfare of others; not the same as one who spends too much on themselves. परोपकारी / दानवीर।

16. A) **3 4 1 2**

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "factual ground" को तैयार करता है जो मुख्य घटना को पेश करता है: गुलमर्ग केबल कार में अचानक आई तकनीकी खराबी (technical fault) जिसके कारण 300 से अधिक पर्यटक हवा में लटक गए। यह पूरे विषय का मुख्य आधार है।

Sentence 4, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these stranded individuals" (ये फंसे हुए लोग) शब्द सीधे तौर पर 3 में दिए गए हवा में लटके हुए पर्यटकों (tourists dangling) की ओर इशारा करते

हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि खराब मौसम के कारण इन फंसे हुए लोगों में दहशत फैल गई।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this terrifying situation" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताई गई खराब मौसम और दहशत (panic) वाली स्थिति की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस भयानक स्थिति को देखते हुए अधिकारियों ने बचाव टीमों (rescue teams) को काम पर लगाया। Sentence 2, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "these deployed teams" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 1 में बताई गई बचाव टीमों से जुड़ता है, और छह घंटे की कड़ी मेहनत के बाद सभी को सुरक्षित बाहर निकालने (safe evacuation) की बात कहकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground by introducing the primary event: the technical fault at the Gulmarg cable car that left over 300 tourists dangling in mid-air.
- Sentence 4 follows 3 because the phrase "these stranded individuals" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the dangling tourists mentioned in 3. It elaborates on how panic set in among them as the weather worsened.
- Sentence 1 follows 4 as it uses the phrase "this terrifying situation" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the combination of mid-air suspension, panic, and bad weather described in 4. It explains the immediate official response of dispatching rescue teams.
- Sentence 2 follows 1 as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "these deployed teams" to create a mandatory link directly to the SDRF and Army units mentioned in 1, concluding with the successful outcome of the six-hour safe evacuation, thereby completing the logical flow.

17. B) **Forbidden** (adjective) – not permitted; prohibited by law, rule, or authority. वर्जित / निषिद्ध।

Antonym: **Allowed** (adjective) – permitted; not forbidden or restricted. अनुमत / अनुमति प्राप्त।

- **Prohibited** (adjective) – officially forbidden; a synonym of forbidden, not its antonym. प्रतिबंधित।
- **Restricted** (adjective) – limited or controlled; similar in meaning to forbidden, not its antonym. प्रतिबंधित।
- **Barred** (adjective) – prevented or excluded; also a synonym of forbidden, not its antonym. रोका गया / वर्जित।

18. C) of का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "envious" एक ऐसा adjective है जिसके बाद हमेशा "of" preposition आता है। वाक्य में व्यक्ति किसी की चीज़ से जलन या ईर्ष्या व्यक्त कर रहा है — "envious of someone for something" सही संरचना होती है। इसलिए, "of" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'of' should be used because "envious" is an adjective that is always followed by the preposition "of". In the sentence, the person is expressing jealousy towards someone for something — the correct structure is "envious of someone for something". Thus, "of" would be the most appropriate choice.

19. B) **A new shopping mall is being built by them.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense के Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "They are building a new shopping mall" में "They" Subject है, "are building" Verb (Present Continuous) है

और "a new shopping mall" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "A new shopping mall" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को is being built (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by them" के रूप में Agent जोड़ा जाता है।

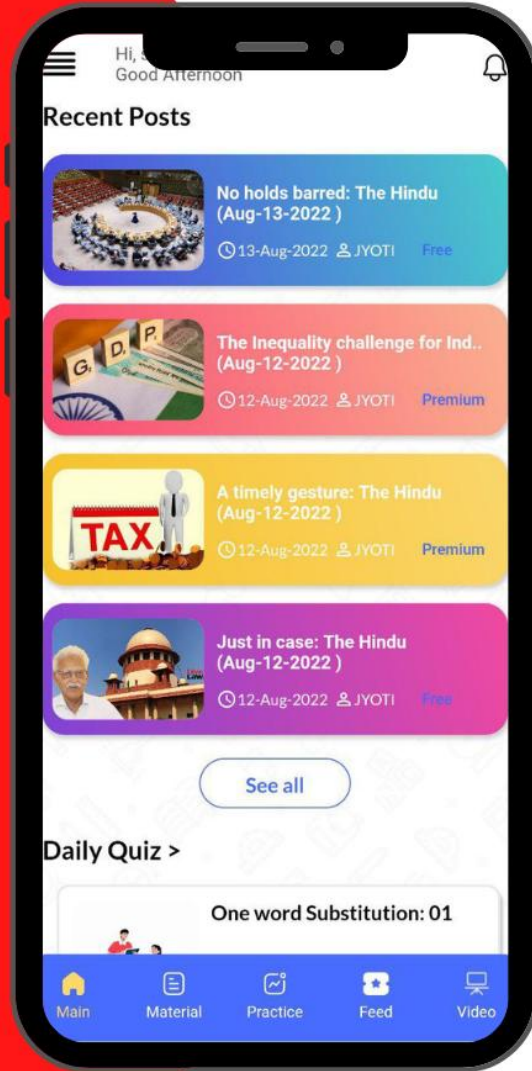
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence and the verb is transformed into the passive form of the same tense. In this case, "They" (Subject), "are building" (Verb in Present Continuous), and "a new shopping mall" (Object) become "A new shopping mall" (Subject), "is being built" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by them" (Agent).
20. A) 'hang on a thin thread' के बदले 'hang by a thin thread' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "hang by a thread" एक fixed idiom है जिसमें "by" preposition का प्रयोग होता है; इसका अर्थ है किसी अत्यंत नाजुक या अनिश्चित स्थिति में होना।
- 'hang by a thin thread' should be used because "hang by a thread" is a fixed English idiom meaning to be in an extremely precarious or uncertain situation; the correct preposition is "by," not "on."
21. B) **belligerent** (लड़ाकू / युद्ध करने वाला) सही है। पैसेज में उन देशों की बात हो रही है जो जानबूझकर तबाही (devastation) मचाते हैं। conciliatory (सुलह कराने वाला), magnanimous (उदार / बड़े दिल वाला), और reticent (चुप रहने वाला) का युद्ध और तबाही मचाने से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।
- The correct answer is "belligerent" because it refers to hostile and aggressive nations engaged in war or conflict, which fits the context of causing deliberate destruction. "Conciliatory," "magnanimous," and "reticent" are advanced words that mean peacemaking, generous, and reserved respectively, completely contradicting the aggressive context.
22. D) **callousness** (बेहमी / दूसरों के दुख की परवाह न करना) सही है। युद्ध और तबाही बिना किसी दया के, पूरी बेहमी (callousness) से की जाती है। compunction (पछतावा), solicitude (चिंता या परवाह), और altruism (दूसरों का भला चाहना) बहुत ही अच्छे और सकारात्मक (positive) शब्द हैं, जो तबाही (destruction) के साथ बिल्कुल नहीं जुड़ते।
- The correct answer is "callousness" because it perfectly describes the cruel disregard for human suffering during destruction. "Compunction" (guilt or regret), "solicitude" (care or concern), and "altruism" (selfless concern for others) are highly positive advanced words that represent the exact opposite of the cruelty described.
23. A) **cataclysmic** (भारी तबाही लाने वाला) सही है। पैसेज में ऐसे भयानक हादसों की बात हो रही है जिनसे दुनिया खत्म होने की कगार पर आ गई (state of collapse)। quotidian (रोज़ होने वाला / आम), serendipitous (किस्मत से कुछ अच्छा मिल जाना), और ephemeral (बहुत कम समय तक रहने वाला) यहाँ अर्थ के हिसाब से एकदम गलत हैं।
- The correct answer is "cataclysmic" because it describes violently destructive events that cause massive upheaval. "Quotidian" (ordinary/daily), "serendipitous" (occurring by happy chance), and "ephemeral" (short-lived) completely fail to convey the massive scale of trauma and destruction mentioned in the passage.
24. C) **nevertheless** (फिर भी / इसके बावजूद) सही है। वाक्य का मतलब है कि इतनी भारी तबाही के 'बावजूद', दुनिया और इंसान डटे रहे। notwithstanding (Preposition) देखने में सही लग सकता है, लेकिन वाक्यों की बनावट के अनुसार इसके ठीक बाद कोई नाम (noun) आना चाहिए (जैसे

notwithstanding the problems), जबकि 'nevertheless' के बाद कॉमा (comma) लगाकर पूरी बात कही जा सकती है। consequently (नतीजे के तौर पर) और moreover (इसके अलावा) का यहाँ अर्थ नहीं बनता।

- The correct answer is "nevertheless" because it introduces a strong contrast, showing that despite the trauma, humanity survived. "Notwithstanding" is structurally incorrect as it is a preposition that needs a noun object right after it, whereas "nevertheless" is an adverb correctly followed by a comma. "Consequently" and "Moreover" do not create the required contrast.

25. D) **sinister** (डरावना / बुरे संकेत देने वाला) सही है। दुनिया खत्म होने की बात सुनकर लेखक को डर लगता था (frightened), इसलिए यह एक डरावनी (sinister) बात है। innocuous (जिससे कोई नुकसान न हो), propitious (शुभ या अच्छे संकेत देने वाला), और sanguine (उम्मीद से भरा हुआ) एकदम अच्छे (positive) शब्द हैं, जो दुनिया खत्म होने जैसी डरावनी बात के लिए पूरी तरह गलत हैं।

- The correct answer is "sinister" because the grandparents' statement about the end of the world is dark, threatening, and causes the author to feel frightened. "Innocuous" (harmless), "propitious" (favorable), and "sanguine" (optimistic) are positive advanced words that completely contradict the apocalyptic tone of the statement.



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