

Bad fences: On Marco Rubio's India visit

Marco Rubio's visit was an opportunity to **mend** economic and energy ties

Secretary of State Marco Rubio's four-day **visit** to India, his first since taking office in January 2025, **was** understood to have been aimed at **smoothing bilateral ties** that have been deeply **ruptured** over the past year. The problems have been **multifold**, ranging from the U.S.'s high tariffs and **cutting down** on visas, **immigration** and **outsourcing**; to **sanctions** on India's energy **procurement** and investment, its moves with China and Pakistan, and the **pejorative remarks** by President Donald Trump and his cabinet colleagues about India. Although the Modi government has not **criticised** the U.S. for its actions, there is no doubt that the U.S. attack on Iran on February 28, the wider regional conflict and the Hormuz Strait blockade, have caused **immense** economic worries for India as well. It was thus hoped that Mr. Rubio's **visit**, which combined the bilateral agenda alongside the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting, would **help** repair one of the worst phases in bilateral ties caused largely by Washington's **unilateral** moves. Mr. Rubio consistently held that the relationship was well and that "President Trump loves India", while responding to repeated questions on Mr. Trump's post that **amplified** anti-immigrant sentiments referring to India as a "**hell-hole**". New Delhi had no doubt **laid out the red carpet** for Mr. Rubio. In a **departure** from **protocol**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed him on his arrival and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spent much of the weekend in meetings with Mr. Rubio, including two U.S. Embassy receptions. On Sunday, Mr. Jaishankar attended a celebration **marking** the U.S.'s 250th Independence Day and Mr. Rubio's birthday. Mr. Rubio visited the Missionaries of Charity, in Kolkata, and went to Agra and Jaipur for **sightseeing**. In bilateral talks, the Foreign Ministers discussed the full **gamut** of ties, including trade, energy, civil nuclear technological and defence cooperation, as well as the regional and **geopolitical** conflicts.

However, apart from one agreement on **critical** minerals cooperation, which **replicates** their partnership within the **Quad** and the 15-nation Pax Silica, the visit's bilateral part ended with few **outcomes of note**. Mr. Rubio's **refusal** to **acknowledge** a problem in the relationship **indicates** that the U.S., once considered India's most trusted partnership, has failed to recognise New Delhi's concerns. It is hoped, however, that Mr. Rubio was informed of them, as both sides prepare for a possible Modi-Trump meeting at the G-7 Summit in Evian, France, in mid-June, where India is a special invitee. This will be the first time that the leaders have **come face to face** since Mr. Modi's February 2025 Washington visit and all that followed, and an opportunity to mend the relationship especially in the areas it has **frayed** the most — economic, energy and regional security. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Bad fence** (noun) - a situation that creates misunderstanding or poor relations between two parties; based on the proverb "good fences make good neighbours" खराब संबंध
2. **Mend** (verb) - repair, fix, improve, rectify, restore सुधारना
3. **Smoothe** (verb) - facilitate, ease, conciliate, pacify, moderate सुलझाना
4. **Bilateral** (adjective) - two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, interactive, two-party द्विपक्षीय
5. **Ties** (noun) - relations, bonds, links, connections, associations संबंध
6. **Ruptured** (adjective) - broken, severed, fractured, damaged, split टूटे हुए
7. **Multifold** (adjective) - manifold, multiple, numerous, various, many-sided अनेक
8. **Cut down** (phrasal verb) - to reduce or decrease कटौती करना
9. **Immigration** (noun) - migration, relocation, settlement, resettlement, movement आप्रवासन
10. **Outsourcing** (noun) - contracting out, subcontracting, external procurement, offshore sourcing आउटसोर्सिंग
11. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, restriction, embargo, punishment, prohibition प्रतिबंध
12. **Procurement** (noun) - acquisition, purchase, obtaining, sourcing, buying खरीद
13. **Pejorative** (adjective) - derogatory, disparaging, insulting, belittling, offensive अपमानजनक
14. **Remark** (noun) - comment, observation, statement, utterance, mention टिप्पणी
15. **Criticise** (verb) - condemn, censure, denounce, attack, blame आलोचना करना
16. **Immense** (adjective) - huge, vast, massive, enormous, tremendous बहुत बड़ा
17. **Unilateral** (adjective) - one-sided, independent, individual, separate, non-reciprocal एकतरफा
18. **Amplify** (verb) - increase, intensify, boost, heighten, expand बढ़ाना
19. **Hell-hole** (noun) - a very unpleasant, squalid, or miserable place नर्क जैसी जगह
20. **Lay out the red carpet** (phrase) - to provide a warm, lavish, or grand welcome भव्य स्वागत करना
21. **Departure** (noun) - deviation, shift, change, divergence, variation विचलन
22. **Protocol** (noun) - procedure, etiquette, code, convention, formality शिष्टाचार
23. **Mark** (verb) - commemorate, observe, celebrate, indicate, signal मनाना
24. **Sightseeing** (noun) - tourism, touring, visiting places of interest, exploration भ्रमण
25. **Gamut** (noun) - range, spectrum, scope, span, variety पूरी श्रृंखला
26. **Geopolitical** (adjective) - relating to politics and geography, regional power dynamics, strategic, territorial, international भू-राजनीतिक

27. **Critical** (adjective) - crucial, essential, vital, important, urgent महत्वपूर्ण
28. **Replicate** (verb) - copy, duplicate, reproduce, imitate, repeat दोहराना
29. **Quad** (noun) - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue; an informal strategic alliance involving the US, India, Australia, and Japan चतुर्भुज सुरक्षा संवाद
30. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence, conclusion, product, effect परिणाम
31. **Of note** (phrase) - important enough to be noticed or mentioned उल्लेखनीय
32. **Refusal** (noun) - rejection, denial, declination, unwillingness, dissent इनकार
33. **Acknowledge** (verb) - admit, recognize, accept, concede, grant स्वीकार करना
34. **Come face to face** (phrase) - to meet or confront someone or something directly, often unexpectedly आमने-सामने होना
35. **Frayed** (adjective) - strained, worn, ragged, tense, weakened तनावपूर्ण

Summary of the Editorial

1. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited India for four days in his first official trip since taking office in January 2025.
2. The visit was expected to improve strained India-U.S. relations that had worsened over the previous year.
3. Major tensions included high U.S. tariffs, visa restrictions, immigration issues, outsourcing concerns, and sanctions affecting India's energy interests.
4. India was also worried about U.S. reactions to its relations with China and Pakistan.
5. Remarks made by U.S. President Donald Trump and his cabinet about India created further diplomatic discomfort.
6. The U.S. attack on Iran and the blockade of the Hormuz Strait increased India's economic and energy security concerns.
7. The visit was combined with the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting and was viewed as a chance to repair bilateral ties.
8. During the visit, Mr. Rubio repeatedly claimed that India-U.S. relations remained strong and stated that President Trump "loves India".
9. The Modi government gave special diplomatic importance to the visit, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally welcoming Mr. Rubio.
10. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held several meetings and attended official events with Mr. Rubio.
11. Mr. Rubio also visited the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata and toured Agra and Jaipur.
12. Bilateral discussions covered trade, energy, civil nuclear cooperation, defence ties, and regional geopolitical conflicts.
13. Despite extensive discussions, the visit produced only one major agreement related to critical minerals cooperation.
14. The editorial argues that the U.S. failed to properly recognise or address India's concerns about the relationship.
15. The upcoming meeting between Narendra Modi and Donald Trump at the G7 Summit is seen as an important opportunity to rebuild trust, especially in economic, energy, and regional security matters.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be logically deduced from the passage?** [Editorial Pg.]
 - A. Diplomatic gestures and high-level hospitality tend to resolve underlying trade and energy disputes.
 - B. Unilateral policy shifts by a major global partner can create significant financial strains for India.
 - C. Structural economic collaborations within multi-nation groups generally result in substantial bilateral pacts.
 - D. Official responses from the Indian leadership have criticized recent American administrative steps.
2. **Which of the following best summarises the author's concluding argument?**
 - A. Structural alliances are likely to collapse due to persistent disagreements on regional security issues.
 - B. Global trade interactions should be suspended until immigration policies are mutually revised.
 - C. Future face-to-face leadership summits offer an opportunity to repair damaged economic and security ties.
 - D. Ceremonial diplomatic hospitality can serve as an effective substitute for formal strategic pacts.
3. **Which of the following statements can be logically inferred regarding the current state of India-U.S. relations?**
 - i. External regional instabilities in the Middle East have acted as a catalyst for increased economic vulnerability within the Indian domestic framework.
 - ii. There exists a discernible disconnect between the diplomatic rhetoric employed by Washington and the actual policy grievances felt by New Delhi.
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. Both I and II
 - D. Neither I Nor II
4. **The author's tone towards the current state of bilateral ties can best be described as:**
 - A. Indifferent yet analytical
 - B. Critical yet hopeful
 - C. Sarcastic and dismissive
 - D. Optimistic and celebratory
5. **In the sentence "...and an opportunity to mend the relationship especially in the areas it has frayed the most — economic, energy and regional security", what does the word "frayed" most likely refer to?**
 - A. The termination of diplomatic dialogue
 - B. The weakening of cooperative bonds
 - C. The separation of territorial borders
 - D. The cancellation of international events
6. **Directions: Given below are four jumbled sentences from a passage. Pick the option that gives their logically correct order.**

- A. From that temporarily marked point, a dedicated cable ship will proceed to lay the remaining line across the Atlantic to New York.
- B. If weather conditions are favourable today, the shore end of the world's greatest submarine cable is scheduled to be landed at Land's End.
- C. Manufactured at Woolwich, this incredible 4,000-mile-long infrastructure is expected to be the fastest in the world, capable of transmitting 500 words a minute.
- D. Already, three miles of this massive electric line have been laid seaward and marked by a floating buoy.
- A. 2 4 1 3
- B. 4 1 3 2
- C. 2 1 4 3
- D. 1 3 2 4
7. **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 Meteorology department has issued severe heat wave warnings across multiple Indian states, with temperatures expected to hit the 50-degree mark.
- P: The reason for this trapped warmth is that the concrete structures of these homes absorb heat during the day and release it slowly at night.
- Q: This extreme weather creates an immediate crisis for migrant labourers and itinerant workers who must work outdoors to survive.
- R: Such stifling conditions are particularly dangerous for pregnant women residing in these poorly ventilated buildings.
- S: However, even when these workers retreat indoors, their low-cost urban tenements offer no real relief from the scorching temperatures.
- S6: Consequently, they are exposed to prolonged heat stress with little opportunity for physical recovery, leading to severe health consequences.
- A. S Q R P
- B. P R Q S
- C. Q S P R
- D. Q P S R
8. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Transient."
- A. Ephemeral
- B. Pugnacious
- C. Indolent
- D. Capricious
9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Curtail."**
- A. Gainsay
- B. Diminish
- C. Vitate
- D. Furbish
10. **Select the most appropriate MEANING of the idiom "Silver lining."**

- A. To ignore a primitive element amidst a celebratory situation
B. To isolate a prohibitive element amidst a collaborative situation
C. To identify a positive element amidst a calamitous situation
D. To imitate a persuasive element amidst a contradictory situation
11. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
Throw spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks.
A. To be very active and energetic to the point of hyperactivity
B. To escape, flee, or abscond from prison
C. To make a large number of attempts or guesses, with the expectation that at least some of them will be correct or useful
D. In strictest confidence
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Proximate."**
A. Pungent
B. Specious
C. Taciturn
D. Distant
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Detract."**
A. Subvert
B. Truncate
C. Castigate
D. Augment
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
When the courtier had advanced to the highest position attainable, he was said to have reached the:
A. Vigil
B. Precipice
C. Threshold
D. Pinnacle
15. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Because the orator's speech was high-flown and pretentious, the reporters termed it:
A. Bombastic
B. Austere
C. Untruthful
D. Vituperative
16. **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".**
His altruestic nature made him volunteer for countless charity events.
A. altruistic
B. altrtrueistic
C. alltruistic
D. No replacement required
17. **Which sentence contains a misspelled word?**
A. We went to a new restuarant downtown.

- B. That restaurant serves delicious food.
C. Is there a restaurant nearby that's open late?
D. They own the oldest restaurant in town.
18. **Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'resolution'?**
A. A firm decision to do or not to do something
B. The quality of an image or screen, especially in terms of clarity
C. A written agreement between two companies involved in a merger
D. The act of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter
19. **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."**
It was a once-in-the-lifetime opportunity that many would consider invaluable, but very few got the chance to experience.
A. the once-in-a-lifetime
B. an once-in-a-lifetime
C. a once-in-a-lifetime
D. No improvement required
20. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
My younger brother will teaches english language to the graduate students.
A. will teach
B. can teach
C. could teach
D. would have teach

Comprehension

An enduring fiction about female friendship is that it is a leisure activity, an/ a (1) ___ that exists on the margins of real life. For adult Indian women, this real life is imagined as marriage, children, domestic work and caregiving, and in some cases, paid work too (and in rarer cases, perhaps even a career). If one does not understand how female friendship can be a lifeline, it is easy to (2) _____ the time spent sustaining it as wasteful. To appreciate the significance of female friendship, one must first understand the profound social isolation that defines the lives of countless Indian women. Aside from writing fiction, the author of this article builds human-centred technology products at a nonprofit working in maternal and child health. A lot of time in this line of work is spent talking to and learning about diverse women from different parts of the country in order to understand how they access information, make decisions and exercise agency, especially around health and nutrition. Through such conversations and research, the author realised how difficult it was for Indian women to maintain friendships after marriage, and as a consequence, how (3) _____ it is for married women to have close friends. According to a Gallup poll from 2004 (incidentally, the same year the popular sitcom Friends aired its last season), the average American woman had eight close friends. In contrast, more recent studies by the World Bank show that rural women in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand have between one and three close social connections outside the family. In many ways, this is not surprising; in most parts of the country, women move homes — sometimes even towns and States — after marriage, and while more women than ever before now own

smartphones, there are gatekeepers who supervise and (4) ____ their use of technology. Even if they (5)_____ to reside in the same village or town, it is not much easier for women to keep in touch with a friend.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
- A. conundrum
 - B. idiosyncrasy
 - C. indulgence
 - D. aberration
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
- A. emulate
 - B. dismiss
 - C. deride
 - D. castigate
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
- A. anomalous
 - B. uncommon
 - C. ubiquitous
 - D. sporadic
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
- A. adjudicate
 - B. pontificate
 - C. capitulate
 - D. dictate
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. was
 - B. are
 - C. were
 - D. had

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) **Unilateral policy shifts by a major global partner can create significant financial strains for India.**

Line from the Passage: ...the U.S. attack on Iran on February 28, the wider regional conflict and the Hormuz Strait blockade, have caused immense economic worries for India as well. The passage notes that unilateral actions by the U.S. (like the attack on Iran and resulting blockade) directly caused economic anxieties ("financial strains") for India.

A is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): "However, apart from one agreement on critical minerals cooperation... the visit's bilateral part ended with few outcomes of note." The passage shows that despite warm protocol and meetings, the core economic and energy issues remained unresolved, meaning hospitality does not tend to resolve these disputes.

C is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): ...apart from one agreement on critical minerals cooperation, which replicates their partnership within the Quad and the 15-nation Pax Silica, the visit's bilateral part ended with few outcomes of note. The passage states that the critical minerals pact merely copied an existing group framework and left the rest of the bilateral agenda with few substantial outcomes, meaning it did not result in a substantial bilateral pact.

D is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): "Although the Modi government has not criticised the U.S. for its actions..." The passage directly states that the Indian government did not criticize the U.S. actions, contradicting this option.

2. C) **Future face-to-face leadership summits offer an opportunity to repair damaged economic and security ties.**

(Line from the Passage): "This will be the first time that the leaders have come face to face... and an opportunity to mend the relationship especially in the areas it has frayed the most — economic, energy and regional security." This option accurately synthesizes the final lines of the passage, highlighting that the upcoming face-to-face meeting between the leaders provides a clear path to repair frayed economic and security segments.

A is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): ...an opportunity to mend the relationship especially in the areas it has frayed the most... The author looks forward to mending the relationship rather than projecting that it is likely to collapse.

B is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): ...both sides prepare for a possible Modi-Trump meeting at the G-7 Summit in Evian, France... The author looks forward to continued interaction at the G-7, not a suspension of trade.

D is INCORRECT: (Line from the Passage): "Mr. Rubio's refusal to acknowledge a problem in the relationship indicates that the U.S... has failed to recognise New Delhi's concerns." The author points out that ceremonial hospitality did not solve the lack of practical outcomes, so it cannot serve as an effective substitute.

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

Statement I is CORRECT: (Line from the Passage) "...the U.S. attack on Iran on February 28, the wider regional conflict and the Hormuz Strait blockade, have caused immense economic

worries for India as well." The external conflict and blockade in the Middle East are directly cited as a source of deep economic anxiety ("vulnerability") for India's internal framework. Statement II is CORRECT: (Line from the Passage): "Mr. Rubio consistently held that the relationship was well and that "President Trump loves India"... Mr. Rubio's refusal to acknowledge a problem in the relationship indicates that the U.S... has failed to recognise New Delhi's concerns." The passage highlights a clear, visible mismatch (discernible disconnect) between the nice, reassuring public statements used by the U.S. government (diplomatic rhetoric by Washington) and the heavy, painful problems and complaints felt by the Indian government (policy grievances by New Delhi).

4. B) **Critical yet hopeful**

(Line from the Passage): "Mr. Rubio's refusal to acknowledge a problem... indicates that the U.S... has failed to recognise New Delhi's concerns. It is hoped, however... [this is] an opportunity to mend the relationship..." The author is highly objective and pointedly highlights the current failures and deep strains in the relationship (critical), but ends the passage by looking toward the upcoming G-7 summit as a genuine opening to fix these issues (hopeful).

5. B) **The weakening of cooperative bonds**

(Line from the Passage): "...an opportunity to mend the relationship especially in the areas it has frayed the most — economic, energy and regional security." In the context of international ties, "frayed" describes a relationship that has become strained, stressed, and structurally weakened due to disagreements (like tariffs, visa cuts, and sanctions). Option (b) perfectly captures this concept of a weakening of cooperative bonds without overstating the damage.

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

Sentence 2, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह उस "factual ground" को तैयार करता है जो दुनिया के सबसे बड़े सबमरीन केबल (greatest submarine cable) के किनारे वाले हिस्से को जमीन पर उतारने की मुख्य घटना को introduce करता है। यह पूरे विषय का मुख्य आधार है।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this massive electric line" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 2 में दिए गए 'submarine cable' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि इस केबल का तीन मील का हिस्सा पहले ही समुद्र में बिछाया जा चुका है और उसे एक 'floating buoy' (तैरने वाले बोया) से मार्क किया गया है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "From that temporarily marked point" शब्द सीधे तौर पर 4 में बताए गए 'marked by a floating buoy' वाले हिस्से की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि उस मार्क किए गए बिंदु से जहाज बाकी की लाइन को अटलांटिक के पार बिछाएगा।

Sentence 3, Sentence 1 के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this incredible 4,000-mile-long infrastructure" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर 1 में न्यूयॉर्क तक बिछाई जाने वाली लाइन से जुड़ता है, और यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि यह केबल दुनिया में सबसे तेज गति से डेटा भेजने में सक्षम होगी।

- Sentence 2 comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground by introducing the primary subject: the scheduled landing of the shore end of the world's greatest submarine cable.
- Sentence 4 follows 2 because the phrase "this massive electric line" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'submarine cable' mentioned in 2. It provides an update on the progress, stating that three miles have been laid and marked by a floating buoy.

- Sentence 1 follows 4 as it uses the phrase "From that temporarily marked point" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the area 'marked by a floating buoy' introduced in 4. It explains the next step of the operation across the Atlantic.
- Sentence 3 follows 1 as the conclusion. It uses the phrase "this incredible 4,000-mile-long infrastructure" to create a mandatory link directly to the completed transatlantic line mentioned in 1, concluding with the cable's manufacturing origins, total length, and impressive transmission capabilities.

7. C) Q S P R

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This extreme weather" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में दिए गए 'severe heat wave warnings' और '50-degree mark' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि इस भीषण गर्मी का सबसे पहला शिकार बाहर काम करने वाले मजदूर (migrant labourers) होते हैं।

Sentence S, Sentence Q के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these workers" शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में दिए गए 'migrant labourers' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो बताता है कि जब ये मजदूर बाहर से घर के अंदर (retreat indoors) जाते हैं, तब भी उन्हें गर्मी से कोई राहत नहीं मिलती।

Sentence P, Sentence S के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this trapped warmth" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S में बताई गई घर के अंदर की भीषण गर्मी (no real relief) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस गर्मी का कारण घरों का कंक्रीट ढांचा (concrete structures) है जो रात में गर्मी छोड़ता है।

Sentence R, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "Such stifling conditions" का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर P में बताई गई रात की घुटन भरी गर्मी से जुड़ता है। यह गर्भवती महिलाओं (pregnant women) का जिक्र करता है, जो S6 (जिसमें Pronoun 'they' का प्रयोग हुआ है) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "This extreme weather" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'severe heat wave' and '50-degree mark' mentioned in S1. It establishes the factual ground of how this heat creates an immediate crisis for outdoor migrant labourers.

Sentence S follows Q because the phrase "these workers" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the 'migrant labourers' introduced in Q. It elaborates on the fact that even when they retreat indoors from their outdoor jobs, their urban tenements offer no relief.

Sentence P follows S as it uses the phrase "this trapped warmth" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the lack of relief indoors mentioned in S. It explains the scientific reason behind this: the concrete structures absorb and release heat.

Sentence R follows P as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "Such stifling conditions" to refer directly back to the trapped heat described in P. Crucially, it shifts the focus to "pregnant women", providing the exact antecedent for the pronoun "they" in S6, seamlessly bridging into the final outcome of prolonged heat stress.

8. A) **Transient** (adjective) – fleeting, ephemeral, temporary, short-lived, momentary. (क्षणिक या अस्थायी)

Synonym: **Ephemeral** (adjective) – Lasting for a very short time; transient or fleeting in nature. (अल्पकालिक / क्षणिक)

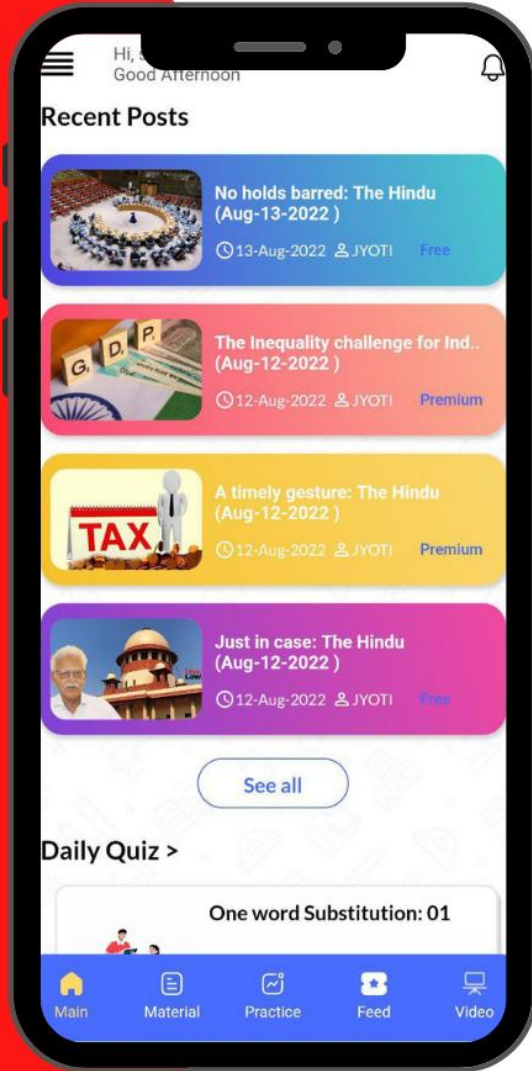
- **Pugnacious** (adjective): Eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight forcefully. (झगड़ालू)
 - **Indolent** (adjective): Wanting to avoid exertion; habitually lazy or inactive. (आलसी)
 - **Capricious** (adjective): Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior. (मनमौजी)
9. B) **Curtail** (verb) – reduce, diminish, decrease, lessen, trim. (कटौती करना)
Synonym: **Diminish** (verb) – To make or become less; to make someone or something seem less impressive or valuable. (कम करना)
- **Gainsay** (verb): To deny or contradict a fact or a statement; to speak against or to oppose someone in a very **formal** manner. (विरोध करना)
 - **Vitiate** (verb): To spoil or impair the quality or efficiency of something; to destroy the legal validity or force of an item. (बिगाड़ना)
 - **Furbish** (verb): To give a fresh look to something old; to renovate or to brighten up a specific physical object. (नवीनीकरण)
10. C) **Silver lining** (noun) – An advantage or something positive in every bad situation. (आशा की किरण)
11. C) “To make a large number of attempts or guesses, with the expectation that at least some of them will be correct or useful” – यह idiom का सही अर्थ है। Throw spaghetti at the wall and see what sticks – जब spaghetti (पास्ता) दीवार पर फेंकी जाती है, तो जो पकी होती है वह चिपक जाती है। इसलिए इस idiom का अर्थ है: बहुत सारे प्रयास या अनुमान लगाना यह उम्मीद करते हुए कि उनमें से कुछ सही निकलें। अनेक तरीके आजमाना।
- “To be very active and energetic to the point of hyperactivity” – Incorrect; यह idiom अत्यधिक ऊर्जावान होने से संबंधित नहीं है।
 - “To escape, flee, or abscond from prison” – Incorrect; जेल से भागने का इस idiom से कोई संबंध नहीं है।
 - “In strictest confidence” – Incorrect; यह अर्थ “off the record” या “in confidence” जैसे idioms का है, न कि इस idiom का।
12. D) **Proximate** (adjective) - immediate, direct, nearest, close, proximate. (प्रत्यक्ष या निकटतम)
Antonym: **Distant** (adjective) – Far away in space or time; remote. (दूरस्थ)
- **Pungent** (adjective): Having a sharply strong taste or smell. (तीखा)
 - **Specious** (adjective): Superficially plausible, but actually wrong. (दिखावटी/भ्रामक)
 - **Taciturn** (adjective): Reserved or uncommunicative in speech; saying little. (अल्पभाषी)
13. D) **Detract** (verb) - divert, distract, diminish, lessen, reduce. (कम करना / ध्यान भटकाना)
Antonym: **Augment** (verb) – Make something greater by adding to it; increase or enhance value. (बढ़ाना)
- **Subvert** (verb): Undermine the power and authority of an established system or institution. (पलट देना)
 - **Truncate** (verb): Shorten something by cutting off the top or the end section. (काटना)

- **Castigate** (verb): Reprimand someone severely; express severe disapproval of actions. (फटकारना)
14. D) **Pinnacle** (noun) – the highest point or level, especially of success or achievement शिखर
- **Vigil** (noun) – a period of keeping awake during the time usually spent asleep, especially to keep watch or pray जागरण
 - **Precipice** (noun) – a very steep rock face or cliff, especially a tall one खड़ी चट्टान
 - **Threshold** (noun) – the magnitude or intensity that must be exceeded for a certain reaction or result to take place सीमा
15. A) **Bombastic** (adjective) – High-sounding but with little meaning; inflated. (ऊंची-ऊंची बातें करने वाला, दिखावटी)
- **Austere** (adjective) – Severe or strict in manner or attitude. (कठोर, सख्त)
 - **Untruthful** (adjective) – Not expressing the truth; dishonest. (झूठा, अप्रामाणिक)
 - **Vituperative** (adjective) – Bitter and abusive. (गाली-गलौज से भरा, अपमानजनक)
16. A) The correct spelling of 'altruestic' is 'altruistic', which means "showing selfless concern for others" परोपकारी, निस्वार्थ।
17. A) **We went to a new restuarant downtown.**
The misspelled word is restuarant; the correct spelling is restaurant, which means "a place where meals are prepared and served to customers" भोजनालय / रेस्तरां.
18. C) **A written agreement between two companies involved in a merger**
resolution के अर्थ होते हैं – दृढ़ निर्णय, चित्र/स्क्रीन की स्पष्टता (image clarity), और समस्या या विवाद का समाधान।
लेकिन दो कंपनियों के बीच विलय का लिखित समझौता resolution का सामान्य अर्थ नहीं है। इसलिए यह गलत विकल्प है।
- The word resolution can mean a firm decision, image clarity, or the act of solving a dispute or problem.
It does not mean a written merger agreement between two companies — hence option C is correct.
19. C) "a once-in-the-lifetime" के स्थान पर "**a once-in-a-lifetime**" सही है। सही idiom "once-in-a-lifetime" है — इसमें "the" नहीं बल्कि "a" का प्रयोग होता है। विकल्प A में "the once-in-a-lifetime" गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ definite article "the" अनुचित है। विकल्प B में "an once-in-a-lifetime" गलत है क्योंकि "once" व्यंजन ध्वनि /w/ से शुरू होता है, अतः "a" प्रयुक्त होगा।
- "A once-in-a-lifetime" should replace "a once-in-the-lifetime." The correct idiom is "once-in-a-lifetime" (using "a," not "the"). Option A uses the definite article "the," which is incorrect. Option B uses "an" before "once," but since "once" begins with the consonant sound /w/, the article "a" is correct, not "an."
20. A) will teach
'will teach' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि modal auxiliary 'will' के बाद verb का base form आता है। इसलिए 'will teaches' grammatically incorrect है।
In English
'will teach' is correct because after a modal verb, the base form of the verb is used, making the sentence grammatically sound.

21. C) **indulgence** (शौक या मज़े के लिए की गई चीज़) सही है। पैसेज में दोस्ती को एक 'leisure activity' (फुर्सत और मज़े का काम) कहा गया है, इसलिए इसके साथ सिर्फ 'indulgence' ही सही बैठेगा। conundrum (उलझाने वाली पहेली), idiosyncrasy (अजीब आदत), और aberration (खराबी या आम नियम से हटकर कुछ बुरा होना) — ये तीनों शब्द मज़े या शौक से बिल्कुल अलग हैं और यहाँ पूरी तरह से गलत हैं।
- The correct answer is "indulgence" because it perfectly matches the preceding phrase "leisure activity," meaning something done for pleasure or luxury. "Conundrum" (a confusing problem), "idiosyncrasy" (a peculiar habit), and "aberration" (an abnormal, usually negative occurrence) have completely different meanings that cannot logically describe a fun, leisure activity.
22. B) **dismiss** (खारिज करना / फालतू समझना) सही है। वाक्य कह रहा है कि लोग दोस्ती में बिताए गए समय को 'wasteful' (बर्बाद या फालतू) मानते हैं। जब कोई चीज़ फालतू लगती है, तो उसे 'dismiss' ही किया जाता है। emulate (नकल करना) का समय को फालतू मानने से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है। deride (मज़ाक उड़ाना) और castigate (बुरी तरह डांटना) बहुत ही गुस्से वाले शब्द हैं जो किसी समय या काम के बजाय इंसानों या विचारों के लिए ज़्यादा आते हैं।
- The correct answer is "dismiss" because when people consider an activity "wasteful," they logically reject or ignore it (dismiss it). "Emulate" (to imitate) makes absolutely no logical sense here. "Deride" (to mock) and "castigate" (to reprimand severely) are overly aggressive verbs that do not fit the specific grammatical structure of rejecting time as wasteful.
23. B) **uncommon** (जो आम न हो / बहुत कम होने वाला) सही है। पैसेज में साफ बताया गया है कि महिलाओं का समाज से बहुत कटाव (social isolation) हो जाता है और उनके बहुत कम दोस्त होते हैं, इसलिए पक्के दोस्त होना बहुत कम (uncommon) है। ubiquitous (जो हर जगह मौजूद हो) इसका बिल्कुल उल्टा शब्द है। anomalous (नियम के खिलाफ या बहुत ही अजीब) एक कठिन शब्द है जो वैज्ञानिक या तकनीकी चीज़ों की खराबी के लिए आता है। sporadic (रुक-रुक कर होने वाला) बारिश या घटनाओं के लिए आता है, लोगों की स्थिति के लिए नहीं।
- The correct answer is "uncommon" because the entire passage highlights the social isolation of married Indian women and the rarity of them having close friends. "Ubiquitous" means found everywhere, which is the exact opposite. "Anomalous" means deviating from what is standard or normal (used for data/science). "Sporadic" refers to events occurring at irregular intervals, not the general rarity of a social situation.
24. D) **dictate** (हुक्म चलाना / पूरा कंट्रोल रखना) सही है। वाक्य में 'gatekeepers' (रोक-टोक करने वाले) की बात हो रही है जो महिलाओं के फोन चलाने पर नज़र (supervise) रखते हैं और हुक्म चलाते हैं (dictate)। adjudicate (कोर्ट में जज की तरह फैसला सुनाना), pontificate (खुद को बहुत बड़ा ज्ञानी समझकर उपदेश देना), और capitulate (हार मान लेना) का घर के माहौल में मोबाइल फोन के इस्तेमाल पर कंट्रोल करने से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।
- The correct answer is "dictate" because gatekeepers who supervise someone's technology use logically control and give strict orders (dictate) about it. "Adjudicate" means to make a formal judgment in a legal dispute. "Pontificate" means to express one's opinions in an annoyingly pompous way. "Capitulate" means to surrender. These distractors make no sense in the context of controlling phone usage.

25. C) **were** सही है। यह व्याकरण (grammar) का एकदम साफ नियम है। वाक्य में 'Even if' के बाद 'to reside' आया है, जो एक कल्पना (hypothetical situation) को दर्शाता है। इस बनावट (Even if they... to reside) में हमेशा 'were' आता है। 'they' बहुवचन (plural) है, इसलिए was सीधे गलत है। are के साथ 'to reside' वाली कल्पना की बनावट नहीं बनती। had के साथ 'to reside' का मतलब मज़बूरी (मज़बूरन रहना पड़ा) हो जाएगा, जो वाक्य का अर्थ बदल देगा।

- The correct answer is "were" due to a very specific, undeniable grammar rule. The structure "Even if [subject] [verb] to [infinitive]" is a conditional form used for hypothetical situations, and it strictly takes "were" (e.g., Even if they were to reside...). "Was" is grammatically wrong for the plural subject "they." "Are" does not fit this specific subjunctive structure. "Had" would imply compulsion (had to reside), completely changing the logical meaning.



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