

Changed reality: On India and the Strait of Hormuz

India must reduce its dependence on the Strait of Hormuz

Nations **rise to power** on the strength of their **economies** and, **by extension**, trade. Historically, **countries** such as the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and China **have** combined economic **prosperity** with maritime **dominance**. India's weak shipping sector **reflects** its **geopolitical** position. Yet, its **seafarers** generate billions of dollars in foreign exchange while facing risks from **piracy** and geopolitical tensions. The recent **conflict** with Iran **showed** that **control** of **strategic** waterways can **be** as **consequential** as economic **sanctions**. By **leveraging** the Strait of Hormuz, Iran **exposed** a **critical vulnerability** in the global economy. **Disruptions** to energy flows **imposed** costs far beyond the battlefield and the economic consequences appear to have played a significant role in shaping the U.S. response. From a shipping **perspective** and its Hormuz stakes, Iran may have secured strategic gains despite the heavy damage **inflicted on** it by Israeli and U.S. Even as the attacks on Lebanon **cast a shadow** over the peace deal, Iran has announced that the Persian Gulf Strait Authority it **set up** during the war will be the **sole** authority that will handle Strait of Hormuz **transits**.

The **memorandum** of understanding **envisages** lifting sanctions on Iran and on ships serving Iranian trade. It also **mandates** Iranian talks with Oman and other Gulf states on **maritime** administration in the Strait of Hormuz. Previously, vessels **transiting** the Strait neither paid tolls nor reported to Iran or Oman. Whether or not the new framework **results in** transit fees is less important than the reality: that shipping companies must now **account for** Iran as a **decisive stakeholder** in the Strait of Hormuz. For India, the conflict has exposed a major strategic weakness. Despite the Strait of Hormuz being **vital** to its energy security, the disruption exposed the absence of a **credible contingency** plan for such **eventualities**. India's LPG strategy **relies heavily on** imports moving through the Strait of Hormuz, supported by a limited fleet of Indian-flagged carriers and a tightly scheduled supply chain with little long-term **cavern** storage. Similar vulnerabilities affected other fuel supplies too. Many countries are now **reassessing** their dependence on the Strait of Hormuz. The United Arab Emirates is **pursuing** a "zero Hormuz dependency" strategy by **strengthening** alternative infrastructure and routes. India must **draw lessons** from the crisis. **Diversifying** supply chains, investing in alternative maritime and land **corridors**, and strengthening strategic partnerships should become priorities. **Projects** such as Chabahar **offered precisely** such an opportunity but India **gave up** on it. For India, **reducing** dependence on the Strait of Hormuz **is** no longer just an economic goal; it is a strategic **necessity**.

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Vocabulary

1. **Rise to power** (phrase) - to achieve a position of significant influence or control
सत्ता में आना
2. **Economy** (noun) - a system where living organisms and their physical environment interact with each other अर्थव्यवस्था
3. **By extension** (phrase) - as a consequence of the previously mentioned point
परिणामस्वरूप
4. **Prosperity** (noun) - affluence, success, wealth, welfare, fortune समृद्धि
5. **Dominance** (noun) - supremacy, command, authority, control, preeminence
प्रधानता/वर्चस्व
6. **Reflect** (verb) - show, indicate, demonstrate, mirror, display दर्शाना
7. **Geopolitical** (adjective) - relates to how geography and political factors influence relations between countries and international affairs भू-राजनीतिक
8. **Seafarer** (noun) - sailor, mariner, navigator, seaman, boatman नाविक
9. **Piracy** (noun) - robbery, looting, hijacking, brigandage, marauding समुद्री डकैती
10. **Strategic** (adjective) - tactical, calculated, planned, crucial, pivotal रणनीतिक
11. **Consequential** (adjective) - significant, important, momentous, influential, substantial महत्वपूर्ण
12. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, restriction, embargo, punishment, prohibition प्रतिबंध
13. **Leverage** (verb) - exploit, utilize, capitalize, manipulate, maximize लाभ उठाना
14. **Expose** (verb) - reveal, disclose, uncover, unmask, display उजागर करना
15. **Critical** (adjective) - vital, crucial, essential, pivotal, urgent अति आवश्यक/गंभीर
16. **Vulnerability** (noun) - weakness, susceptibility, fragility, risk, defenselessness संवेदनशीलता/कमजोरी
17. **Disruption** (noun) - disturbance, interruption, turmoil, stoppage, chaos व्यवधान
18. **Impose** (verb) - inflict, enforce, levy, dictate, mandate थोपना
19. **Perspective** (noun) - viewpoint, outlook, angle, stance, orientation दृष्टिकोण
20. **Inflict on** (phrasal verb) - to cause something unpleasant to be suffered by someone थोपना/भुगतना
21. **Cast a shadow** (phrase) - to spoil or darken a situation or event निराशा पैदा करना/धुंधला करना

22. **Set up** (phrasal verb) - to establish, arrange, or create something स्थापित करना
23. **Sole** (adjective) - only, single, exclusive, unique, individual एकमात्र
24. **Transit** (noun) - passage, movement, transport, crossing, carriage पारगमन
25. **Mandate** (verb) - order, authorize, command, require, prescribe आदेश देना
26. **Maritime** (adjective) - nautical, oceanic, seafaring, naval, marine समुद्री
27. **Transit** (verb) - cross, traverse, pass, travel, move गुजरना
28. **Result in** (phrasal verb) - to cause or lead to an outcome परिणाम निकलना
29. **Account** (for) (verb) - to consider or recognize something as a factor ध्यान में रखना
30. **Decisive** (adjective) - critical, conclusive, definitive, pivotal, determining निर्णायक
31. **Stakeholder** (noun) - party, partner, participant, investor, shareholder हितधारक
32. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, critical, fundamental, necessary महत्वपूर्ण
33. **Credible** (adjective) - reliable, believable, trustworthy, plausible, dependable विश्वसनीय
34. **Contingency** (noun) - alternative, emergency, possibility, backup, plan आकस्मिक योजना
35. **Eventuality** (noun) - possibility, outcome, contingency, prospect, occurrence संभावित स्थिति
36. **Rely on** (phrasal verb) - to depend on or trust in something निर्भर रहना
37. **Cavern** (noun) - cave, cavity, pit, chamber, hollow गुफा/बड़ी जगह
38. **Reassess** (verb) - reevaluate, reconsider, review, rethink, reexamine पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना
39. **Pursue** (verb) - follow, chase, seek, attempt, prosecute अनुसरण करना/पीछा करना
40. **Strengthen** (verb) - reinforce, fortify, bolster, consolidate, invigorate मजबूत करना
41. **Draw lessons** (phrase) - to learn from past experiences सीखना
42. **Diversify** (verb) - vary, expand, branch out, spread, enlarge विविध बनाना

43. **Corridor** (noun) - passage, path, lane, channel, route गलियारा

44. **Precisely** (adverb) - exactly, accurately, definitely, strictly, correctly सटीक रूप से

45. **Give up** (phrasal verb) - to abandon or stop doing something त्याग देना

46. **Necessity** (noun) - requirement, need, essential, compulsion, must आवश्यकता

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that economic strength and maritime power are closely connected in determining a nation's global influence.
2. Countries such as the UK, Japan, the US, and China strengthened their economies through strong maritime and trade capabilities.
3. India's relatively weak shipping sector reflects a strategic vulnerability despite its growing economic ambitions.
4. Indian seafarers contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings but continue to face piracy and geopolitical risks.
5. The recent conflict involving Iran highlighted how control over strategic waterways can influence global economics and politics.
6. By leveraging the Strait of Hormuz, Iran demonstrated that energy routes can become powerful geopolitical tools.
7. Disruptions in energy shipments affected economies globally and influenced international diplomatic responses.
8. Iran has announced a new maritime arrangement through the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, increasing its role in managing Hormuz transit.
9. The proposed framework includes easing sanctions and discussions with Gulf countries on maritime administration.
10. Whether transit fees emerge or not, shipping companies must now recognise Iran as a major stakeholder in Hormuz operations.
11. For India, the crisis exposed a serious weakness — heavy dependence on imports passing through the Strait of Hormuz.
12. India's LPG and fuel supply chains remain vulnerable because of limited Indian shipping capacity and insufficient long-term storage.
13. Other countries, especially the United Arab Emirates, are already pursuing strategies to reduce dependence on Hormuz.
14. India should respond by diversifying supply chains, investing in alternative maritime and land corridors, and strengthening strategic partnerships.
15. The editorial concludes that projects such as Chabahar and broader energy diversification are no longer optional but essential for India's long-term strategic and economic security.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, why is Iran considered to have secured strategic gains despite suffering heavy military damage?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It successfully forced the U.S. to lift economic sanctions.
 - B. It established sole authority over critical global maritime transits.
 - C. It signed a binding peace deal with Israel and the state of Lebanon.
 - D. It blocked neighbors from using alternative trade routes.
2. **What does the phrase "zero Hormuz dependency" communicate in the context of the passage?**
 - A. eradication of a nation's reliance on maritime trade routes.
 - B. Refusing to pay transit fees or report to the Persian Gulf Authority.
 - C. Active development of alternative infrastructure to bypass a waterway.
 - D. Achieving self-reliance in domestic energy and LPG production.
3. **Which of the following factors has primarily exposed India's major strategic weakness during the conflict?**
 - A. Complete dependency on foreign-flagged carriers for all of its LPG imports.
 - B. The absence of a dependable contingency framework and storage capacity.
 - C. Sudden drop in foreign exchange earnings from its global seafaring community.
 - D. Over-dependence on the domestic infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates.
4. **According to the author, what is the most important structural shift that shipping companies must now accept regarding the Strait of Hormuz?**
 - A. The mandatory imposition of high transit fees on all commercial vessels.
 - B. The necessity of obtaining clearance from both Iran and Oman before sailing.
 - C. Acknowledging Iran as a decisive stakeholder in the region's administration.
 - D. Transitioning completely from maritime routes to land corridors for transport.
5. **Which of the following is NOT true in the context of the passage?**
 - A. Historically, global dominance has been achieved by linking economies to naval power.
 - B. Prior to the war, ships moving through the Strait faced strict rules by Oman.
 - C. The disruption of energy flows through tactical waterways can influence diplomacy.
 - D. India abandoned a strategic opportunity to reduce dependency via the Chabahar project.
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Stance."**
 - A. Standpoint
 - B. Aberration
 - C. Obscurity
 - D. Quagmire
7. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrase "At the forefront."**
 - A. marking the end of an old period or regime
 - B. something that diverts attention from issues
 - C. happening as a natural or expected process
 - D. in the leading or most important position
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice:**
My mother said, "I will help you with your homework."
 - A. My mother said that she would help me with my homework.
 - B. My mother said that she will help me with my homework.

- C. My mother said that she would have helped me with my homework.
D. My mother said that she helped me with my homework.
9. **Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.**
The soldiers had to _____ the heavy load up the hill.
A. bare
B. bear
C. bier
D. beer
10. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
A. Judicial standardizations subsequently elevated bodily autonomy to a fundamental right, introducing strict proportionality checks against compelled genetic disclosures.
B. Supreme Court precedents traditionally prioritized the social protection of legitimacy over forensic curiosity by restricting routine paternity testing.
C. Scientific infallibility ultimately serves justice only when judicial mandates position forensic confirmation as a verified last resort.
D. Reliable scientific proof conversely overrode legal fictions whenever existing material records completely failed to resolve identity disputes.
A. 2-4-1-3
B. 2-1-4-3
C. 4-2-1-3
D. 1-4-2-3
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Vital."**
A. Commendable
B. Perspective
C. Inessential
D. Entitlement
12. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Nations that do not trust each other look upon each other:
A. Calmly
B. Hopefully
C. Askance
D. Retrospectively
13. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**
Think on one's feet.
A. To try or start something
B. To become comfortable with a particular situation
C. To be able to think clearly in times of stress, especially when forming a solution to a pressing problem
D. To gain confidence in a new job
14. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
The meeting turned chaotic due to his _____ remarks.
A. vittuperative
B. vituperative

- C. vitupirative
D. vituparative
15. **Choose the correct spelling to complete the sentence:**
"It was an honor and a _____ to work with her."
A. privillage
B. privilege
C. privelige
D. privilege
16. **Which sentence contains a misspelled word?**
A. It's necessary to double-check your work.
B. She packed all the necessary documents.
C. Only bring what is truly necessary.
D. Is this information really necessary?
17. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct passive voice of the following sentence.**
The leader is thinking about the condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality.
A. The condition of the people in the imminent famine is thought about by the leader in the locality.
B. The condition of the people in the imminent famine has been thought about by the leader in the locality.
C. The condition of the people in the imminent famine was thought about by the leader in the locality.
D. The condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality is being thought about by the leader.
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Outspoken."**
A. Vigilant
B. Eloquent
C. Reticent
D. Dogmatic
19. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
1. Aggressive digital marketing campaigns intentionally highlight selective healthy attributes like baking to project an artificial impression of nutritional wholesomeness.
2. Rampant commercial promotion of highly engineered, addictive dietary products continues entirely unchecked across modern mass media networks.
3. Comprehensive statutory advertising restrictions remain increasingly unavoidable as medical consensus links these obscured risks to severe public health harms.
4. Selective promotional disclosures systematically obscure deep underlying chemical risks such as extreme sodium concentrations and refined carbohydrates.
A. 2-4-1-3
B. 2-1-4-3
C. 1-4-3-2
D. 2-1-3-4
20. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Suffer."**
A. Perform

- B. Address
- C. Undergo
- D. Resolve

Passage:

After a long wait, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) 2026 prelims results (1) _____ last week. Neha (name changed), 23, a humanities student, did not clear it. She is (2) _____, she says, but was not banking on clearing the civil services examination in her first attempt. UPSC is one of India's most (3) _____ competitive examinations for recruiting senior government administrators, and has long been tied (4) _____ prestige, social mobility and job security. The success rate is below 1% — which is why entire neighbourhoods, such as Old Rajinder Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar in Delhi, came up around its preparation.

Today, increasingly, aspirants like Neha are preparing for the UPSC (which has three stages: preliminary, main and interview) by themselves. The reasons are many, from circumventing expensive coaching fees to creating hyper-personalised study material. Neha didn't want to leave her Nagpur home to enrol in a coaching centre, so she paid over ₹1 lakh to enrol in a year-long online classroom by a well-known Delhi-based institute. It didn't add any (5) _____ value though, and she often found it difficult to schedule a weekly one-on-one session with her mentor. So, she left the course midway and turned to self-study and a new coach: books, downloadable material, short-form explainer videos, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

- A. are released
- B. release
- C. released
- D. were released

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

- A. nonchalant
- B. upset
- C. ecstatic
- D. unflappable

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

- A. notorious
- B. prestigious
- C. obscure
- D. lacklustre

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.

- A. with
- B. from
- C. against
- D. to

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.

- A. superfluous
- B. residual
- C. incremental
- D. detrimental

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **It established sole authority over critical global maritime transits.**
 "...Iran has announced that the Persian Gulf Strait Authority it set up during the war will be the sole authority that will handle Strait of Hormuz transits."
 The passage explicitly highlights that establishing the Persian Gulf Strait Authority as the "sole authority" for transits constitutes a strategic gain.
 (a) Incorrect: The passage mentions a memorandum that envisages lifting sanctions, but does not state Iran has already successfully forced a lifting.
 (c) Incorrect: The passage states that "attacks on Lebanon cast a shadow over the peace deal," meaning it is compromised or uncertain, not successfully finalized.
 (d) Incorrect: The passage notes the UAE is actively pursuing alternative infrastructure, not that Iran blocked them.
2. C) **Active development of alternative infrastructure to bypass a waterway.**
 "The United Arab Emirates is pursuing a 'zero Hormuz dependency' strategy by strengthening alternative infrastructure and routes." The passage directly defines the strategy as strengthening alternative infrastructure and routes to avoid reliance on the Strait.
 (a) Incorrect: It refers specifically to bypassing the Strait of Hormuz, not abandoning maritime trade.
 (b) Incorrect: This describes past historical shipping behavior ("Previously, vessels transiting the Strait neither paid tolls nor reported..."), not the zero-dependency strategy.
 (d) Incorrect: The strategy focuses on diversifying logistics and routes, not internal production of energy.
3. B) **The absence of a dependable contingency framework and storage capacity.**
 "...the disruption exposed the absence of a credible contingency plan for such eventualities. India's LPG strategy relies heavily on imports moving through the Strait of Hormuz, supported by a limited fleet of Indian-flagged carriers and a tightly scheduled supply chain with little long-term cavern storage." The passage explicitly identifies two main vulnerabilities: the "absence of a credible contingency plan" and "little long-term cavern storage."
 (a) Incorrect: The passage says India uses a "limited fleet of Indian-flagged carriers," meaning it does not rely completely on foreign-flagged ones.
 (c) Incorrect: The passage states that seafarers generate billions of dollars in foreign exchange; it doesn't state these earnings dropped due to the conflict.
 (d) Incorrect: The UAE is mentioned for its own strategic choices, not as a point of dependence for India.
4. C) **Acknowledging Iran as a decisive stakeholder in the region's administration.**
 Passage Link: "Whether or not the new framework results in transit fees is less important than the reality: that shipping companies must now account for Iran as a decisive stakeholder in the Strait of Hormuz." This perfectly match with the passage assertion of what is truly important for shipping operators.

- (a) Incorrect: The passage explicitly states that whether fees are implemented is "less important" than the shift in stakeholder reality.
- (b) Incorrect: While Iran must talk with Oman, the primary definitive reality for shipping companies is recognizing Iran's decisive role.
- (d) Incorrect: The passage recommends diversifying into land corridors for India, but does not state shipping companies must abandon maritime routes entirely.
5. B) **Prior to the war, ships moving through the Strait faced strict rules by Oman.**
 "Previously, vessels transiting the Strait neither paid tolls nor reported to Iran or Oman."
 (b) False / Correct Answer: The passage states vessels neither paid tolls nor reported to Oman, making statement (b) factually incorrect according to the passage
 (a) True: The passage states: "Historically, countries such as the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and China have combined economic prosperity with maritime dominance."
 (c) True: The passage notes that economic consequences "played a significant role in shaping the U.S. response."
 (d) True: The passage mentions: "Projects such as Chabahar offered precisely such an opportunity but India gave up on it."
6. A) **Stance** (noun) – position, standpoint, attitude, viewpoint, approach. (दृष्टिकोण)
 Synonym: **Standpoint** (noun) – A set of beliefs or ideas from which opinions and decisions are formed. (नजरिया)
- **Aberration** (noun): A departure from what is normal, usual, or expected, typically an unwelcome one. (विपथन)
 - **Obscurity** (noun): The state of being unknown, inconspicuous, or unimportant in a particular field. (अस्पष्टता)
 - **Quagmire** (noun): An awkward, complex, or hazardous situation that is difficult to get out of. (नाजुक स्थिति)
7. D) **At the forefront** (phrase) – in the leading or most important position. (सबसे आगे)
8. A) **My mother said that she would help me with my homework.**
 Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को Passive संरचना में बदला जाता है। यहाँ परिवर्तन Direct Speech से Indirect Speech में किया जा रहा है। दिए गए Direct वाक्य में "I will help you..." Future Simple में है। Indirect में Reporting Verb said Past में है, इसलिए Future will को would में बदला जाता है और you को संदर्भानुसार me में बदलते हैं। संरचना में that जोड़कर Reported Speech को Statement रूप में बदल दिया जाता है।
- To change from Active to Passive, the object becomes the subject and the verb structure changes. In this context, the transformation is from Direct to Indirect Speech. The Direct form "will help" changes to "would help" in the Indirect form due to backshifting after a past reporting verb. The pronoun you changes to me according to the speaker-listener relation, and that is inserted to introduce the reported statement.
9. B) **'Bear'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "bear" का अर्थ होता है किसी भारी वस्तु को उठाना, सहन करना या ढोना। यहाँ sentence में सैनिकों द्वारा भारी बोझ को पहाड़ी पर ले जाने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए "bear" सबसे उपयुक्त शब्द होगा।

- 'Bear' should be used because "bear" means to carry, support, or endure something heavy. In this sentence, the soldiers are carrying a heavy load up the hill, so "bear" is the most appropriate word.

10. A) 2-4-1-3

Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह पूरी तरह Independent है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ या तुलना के इतिहास की शुरुआती कानूनी स्थिति को प्रस्तुत करता है—कि अदालतें 'forensic curiosity' (फॉरेंसिक जिज्ञासा) के खिलाफ सामाजिक 'legitimacy' (वैधता) को बचाती थीं।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आया। Sentence 2 में जहां विज्ञान पर कानूनी रोक (restricting testing) की बात थी, वहीं Sentence 4 का शब्द "conversely" (इसके विपरीत) इतिहास के अगले मोड़ को दिखाता है—कि जब रिकॉर्ड पूरी तरह फेल हो गए, तब वैज्ञानिक सबूतों ("Reliable scientific proof") ने कानूनी मान्यताओं को पलट दिया। (2-4 एक अनिवार्य वैचारिक विरोधाभास युग्म - Mandatory Contrast Pair है)।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आया। Sentence 4 में जब वैज्ञानिक जांच को हावी होते दिखाया गया, तो उसके बाद के दौर ("subsequently") में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने प्राइवैसी और 'bodily autonomy' (शारीरिक स्वायत्तता) को मौलिक अधिकार बनाकर इस बेलगाम वैज्ञानिक जांच पर 'proportionality checks' (कड़े नियंत्रण) लागू कर दिए। (4-1 एक अकाट्य क्रमिक विकास - Chronological Evolution है)।

Sentence 2, Sentence 1 के बाद अंतिम निष्कर्ष (Conclusion) के रूप में आया। Sentence 1 का अंत जिस अनुवांशिक खुलासे पर नियंत्रण ("checks against compelled genetic disclosures") पर हुआ था, Sentence 3 ठीक उसी बात को अंतिम दर्शन के रूप में समेटता है कि विज्ञान कितना भी अचूक ("Scientific infallibility") क्यों न हो, वह न्याय तभी करेगा जब अदालतें उसे सिर्फ एक अंतिम रास्ता ("last resort") मानेंगी

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph because it is completely Independent. It establishes the historical status quo of the judiciary without requiring any prior context: prioritizing social legitimacy over forensic testing.
- Sentence 4 follows 2. Using the comparative pivot "conversely," it presents the direct historical shift where the law moved away from the restrictions of Sentence 2 to allow "Reliable scientific proof" to override legal fictions when existing material records failed. (2-4 forms an unbreakable conceptual contrast pair).
- Sentence 1 follows 4. Moving forward into the next constitutional era ("subsequently"), it shows the legal system's counter-response to unchecked scientific testing by elevating bodily autonomy and enforcing strict proportionality checks.
- Sentence 3 concludes the paragraph. It perfectly resolves the tension introduced in Sentence 1 regarding genetic disclosures, declaring that despite "Scientific infallibility," forensic science must only be deployed as a highly controlled, verified "last resort" to serve true justice.

11. C) **Vital** (adjective) – essential, crucial, critical, pivotal, fundamental. (महत्वपूर्ण)

Antonym: **Inessential** (adjective) – Not absolutely necessary; peripheral or of little importance. (अनावश्यक/गैर-ज़रूरी)

- **Commendable** (adjective): Deserving praise; admirable or laudable. (सराहनीय)
- **Perspective** (noun): A particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view. (दृष्टिकोण)
- **Entitlement** (noun): The fact of having a right to something; a privilege. (अधिकार)

12. C) **Askance** (adverb) – with a side glance; with suspicion or disapproval तिरछी नज़र से
- **Calmly** (adverb) – without agitation or strong emotion शांतिपूर्वक
 - **Hopefully** (adverb) – in a hopeful way आशापूर्वक
 - **Retrospectively** (adverb) – looking back on past events भूतपूर्व दृष्टि से
13. C) Think on one's feet (idiom) – To think clearly and respond quickly in a difficult or stressful situation तुरंत और समझदारी से सोचना
14. B) **Vituperative** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द कटु, अपमानजनक या गाली-गलौज से भरी हुई भाषा (bitterly abusive or harshly critical speech) के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। Sentence में बताया गया है कि उसकी टिप्पणियों के कारण बैठक अव्यवस्थित (chaotic) हो गई, इसलिए "vituperative remarks" सबसे उपयुक्त अभिव्यक्ति है। साथ ही, "vituperative" ही इसकी सही spelling है।
- 'Vituperative' should be used because it means harshly abusive, insulting, or bitterly critical in speech or writing. In the sentence, the meeting became chaotic because of his offensive and abusive remarks. Therefore, "vituperative" is the correct spelling and the most appropriate word.
15. D) **Privilege** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यही शब्द की सही spelling है। "Privilege" का अर्थ होता है विशेष सम्मान, अधिकार या सौभाग्य। यहाँ sentence में किसी के साथ काम करना सम्मान और सौभाग्य बताया गया है, इसलिए "privilege" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'Privilege' should be used because it is the correct spelling of the word. "Privilege" means a special honor, right, or advantage. In this sentence, working with her is described as an honor and a special opportunity, so "privilege" is the most appropriate choice.
16. B) **She packed all the necessary documents.**
The sentence "She packed all the necessary documents." contains a misspelled word.
The correct spelling is "necessary" which means needed, required, essential आवश्यक / ज़रूरी।
17. D) **The condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality is being thought about by the leader.**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलते समय Active sentence का Object, Passive sentence का Subject बन जाता है। यहाँ "the condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality" मुख्य Object है, जो Passive में Subject बन गया। Verb "is thinking about" Present Continuous tense में है, इसलिए Passive Voice में यह "is being thought about" बनेगा। साथ ही doer "the leader" को "by the leader" के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाएगा। इसलिए सही sentence होगा – "The condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality is being thought about by the leader."
 - To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. Here, "the condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality" is the main object, which becomes the subject in Passive Voice. The verb "is thinking about" is in the Present Continuous tense, so in Passive Voice it changes into "is being thought about." The doer "the leader" is used as "by the leader." Therefore, the correct sentence is – "The condition of the people in the imminent famine in the locality is being thought about by the leader."
18. C) **Outspoken** (adjective) – frank, candid, blunt, forthright, vocal. (स्पष्टवादी)
Antonym: **Reticent** (adjective) – Not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily. (अल्पभाषी / कम बोलने वाला)

- **Vigilant** (adjective): Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. (जागरूक)
- **Eloquent** (adjective): Fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing clearly. (सुवक्ता)
- **Dogmatic** (adjective): Inclined to lay down principles as undeniably true. (कट्टर)

19. B) 2-1-4-3

Sentence 2 paragraph start करेगा क्योंकि यह पूरी तरह Independent है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे मुख्य विषय को स्थापित करता है—कि आधुनिक मीडिया नेटवर्क पर अत्यधिक प्रोसेस्ड और एडिक्टिव खाद्य पदार्थों का बेहिसाब प्रचार ("Rampant commercial promotion") जारी है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 2 के ठीक बाद आया। Sentence 2 में जिस व्यापक प्रचार (promotion) की बात हुई थी, Sentence 1 उसी का एक विशिष्ट और व्यावहारिक तरीका दिखाता है कि कैसे आक्रामक डिजिटल मार्केटिंग अभियान ("Aggressive digital marketing campaigns") जानबूझकर चुनिंदा गुणों (जैसे 'baked') को उजागर करके एक नकली स्वास्थ्य छवि प्रोजेक्ट करते हैं। (2-1 एक Concept-to-Execution Pair है)।

Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आया। Sentence 1 का अंत जिस नकली स्वास्थ्य छवि ("artificial impression of nutritional wholesomeness") पर हुआ था, Sentence 4 ठीक उसके पीछे छिपे हुए कड़वे सच को सामने लाता है। यह बताता है कि ये चुनिंदा प्रचार वास्तव में भारी मात्रा में नमक और रिफाइंड कार्ब्स जैसे गहरे रासायनिक खतरों को व्यवस्थित रूप से छुपाते ("systematically obscure deep underlying chemical risks") हैं। (1-4 एक Appearance vs Reality Link है)।

Sentence 3, Sentence 4 के बाद अंतिम निष्कर्ष (Conclusion) के रूप में आया। Sentence 4 का अंत जिस कड़वे सच और छुपे हुए खतरों ("obscured risks") पर हुआ था, Sentence 3 ठीक उसी शब्द को अपना प्रस्थान बिंदु बनाता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि चूंकि मेडिकल रिसर्च इन छुपे हुए खतरों (obscured risks) को सीधे जन स्वास्थ्य नुकसान से जोड़ती है, इसलिए अब विज्ञापन पर व्यापक कानूनी प्रतिबंध लगाना ("Comprehensive statutory advertising restrictions") पूरी तरह अपरिहार्य हो चुका है।

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph because it is completely Independent. It requires no prior context and directly establishes the baseline macro theme: the unchecked, widespread commercial promotion of engineered food products across media networks.
- Sentence 1 follows 2. It operationalizes the general promotion described in Sentence 2 by detailing the specific strategy used by advertisers: launching "Aggressive digital marketing campaigns" that manipulate selective attributes to construct a false veneer of healthfulness. (2-1 forms a solid macro-to-micro conceptual pair).
- Sentence 4 follows 1. It directly exposes the dark flip-side of the "artificial impression of wholesomeness" generated in Sentence 1, explaining that these selective promotional disclosures are deliberately deployed to "systematically obscure deep underlying chemical risks."
- Sentence 3 concludes the paragraph. The terminal phrase "obscured risks" from Sentence 4 acts as an airtight lexical hook that connects directly into the subject of Sentence 3, which closes the narrative by declaring that legally mandated advertising restrictions are now completely unavoidable to prevent documented public health harms.

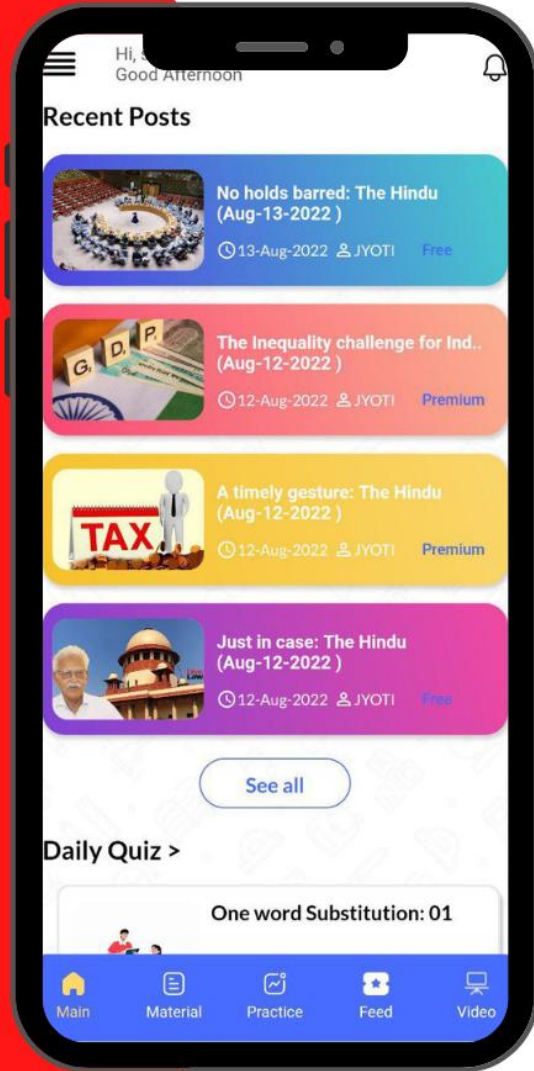
20. C) **Suffer** (verb) – endure, experience, undergo, bear, tolerate. (भुगतना / कष्ट सहना)

Synonym: **Undergo** (verb) – To experience or be subjected to something, typically something unpleasant or arduous. (झेलना / भुगतना)

- **Perform** (verb): To carry out, deliver, or fulfill a specific action, duty, or professional obligation. (प्रदान करना)
 - **Address** (verb): To confront and direct one's attention toward tackling or dealing with a specific issue. (सुलझाना)
 - **Resolve** (verb): To conclude a complex situation or settle a problem through a firm and definitive decision. (समाधान करना)
21. D) The subject "results" is plural, and the time marker "last week" indicates the past tense. Additionally, since results do not release themselves, the sentence requires a passive voice structure. "(were released)" correctly uses the plural past passive form. Option (A) "are released" is present tense. Option (C) "released" is active voice. Option (D) "release" is present tense and active voice.
- यहाँ subject "results" plural है और time "last week" (past tense) है। चूँकि results खुद को release नहीं करते, इसलिए sentence passive voice में होना चाहिए। "(were released)" सही plural past passive form है। Option (A) "are released" present tense है। Option (C) "released" active voice है। Option (D) "release" present tense active voice है।
22. B) The passage mentions Neha "did not clear it," so a negative emotional response is expected. "(upset)" perfectly captures her disappointment. Option (A) "nonchalant" means feeling casually calm and unconcerned. Option (C) "ecstatic" means overwhelmingly happy, which is illogical here. Option (D) "unflappable" means showing calmness in a crisis, which does not fit because she admits she is feeling a negative emotion.
- Passage में बताया गया है कि Neha ने exam "clear नहीं किया", इसलिए उसका reaction negative होगा। "(upset)" उसकी disappointment (निराशा) को सही तरह से दिखाता है। Option (A) "nonchalant" का मतलब बेपरवाह (careless) है। Option (C) "ecstatic" का मतलब बहुत खुश होना है। Option (D) "unflappable" का मतलब मुश्किल समय में शांत (calm) रहना है।
23. B) The passage describes UPSC in a highly positive light, associating it with "prestige, social mobility and job security." "(prestigious)" means inspiring respect and admiration. Option (A) "notorious" means famous for a bad quality or deed. Option (C) "obscure" means unknown or not discovered. Option (D) "lacklustre" means lacking in vitality or uninspiring.
- Passage UPSC को बहुत positive तरीके से describe करता है और इसे "prestige, social mobility और job security" से जोड़ता है। "(prestigious)" का मतलब high status और respect वाला होता है। Option (A) "notorious" का मतलब बुरी बात के लिए famous (बदनाम) होना है। Option (C) "obscure" का मतलब unknown है। Option (D) "lacklustre" का मतलब dull या boring है।
24. D) The phrase "tied to" is the correct English collocation meaning linked, connected, or associated with something (in this case, prestige). Therefore, "(to)" is the correct preposition. Option (A) "with", Option (C) "from", and Option (D) "against" are grammatically incorrect in this context and do not form the right meaning.
- "Tied to" एक सही English collocation है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ से जुड़ा (linked) होना है (यहाँ prestige से)। इसलिए "(to)" सही preposition है। Option (A) "with", Option (C) "from" और Option (D) "against" grammar के हिसाब से गलत हैं और यहाँ सही meaning नहीं बनाते।

25. C) The passage states that the ₹1 lakh online course did not provide any extra, step-by-step added value to her preparation. "(incremental)" means increasing or adding on gradually, which perfectly fits the context of "adding value". Option (A) "superfluous" means unnecessary or extra. Option (C) "residual" means remaining after the greater part has gone. Option (D) "detrimental" means tending to cause harm.

- Passage बताता है कि ₹1 लाख के online course ने उसकी preparation में कोई extra value add नहीं की। "(incremental)" का मतलब धीरे-धीरे (gradually) बढ़ना या extra value जुड़ना है, जो यहाँ "value add" के context में एकदम सही है। Option (A) "superfluous" का मतलब unnecessary (फालतू) है। Option (C) "residual" का मतलब बचा हुआ (leftover) है। Option (D) "detrimental" का मतलब harmful (नुकसानदायक) है।



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