

Root causes: On India's youth crisis

India's youth crisis is about the absence of jobs, not just examination reform

It has been a few weeks since the youth **agitation** forced the resignation of then Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The government **conceded** the students' demands for examination reform, which found an **echo** in the Prime Minister's Independence Day **address**, when he announced free online coaching for competitive examinations using India's digital public **infrastructure**. MoSPI's survey data **bears out** why this would be welcome to students — private coaching costs 16% of what an Indian family spends on a child's education, against 12.5% in 2018, and nearly **a quarter of** that budget by the higher secondary years which is when the student prepares for competitive exams. Cheaper coaching is of **limited** value as quality professional education remains **confined to a handful of** institutions. **For instance**, over 22 lakh candidates appeared in this year's medical entrance exam for about 1.4 lakh undergraduate seats with fewer than 10,000 of them at the top 50 colleges. The situation is similar to the Joint Entrance Examination for engineering colleges. That is **perhaps** why, for the first time since the **All India Survey** on Higher Education **began** in 2011, undergraduate **enrolment** fell by 93,322 in 2023-24, particularly among young men. The fall was the **sharpest** in Uttar Pradesh, where The Hindu's analysis found undergraduate enrolment down 1.53 lakh even as diploma enrolment rose 1.38 lakh. An **analysis** of Periodic Labour Force Survey unit-level data **found** that of every 100 graduates aged 15 to 29 in 2025, only 26 were in regular salaried employment, and just four had a salaried job with a contract and **social security**. The youth employment **crisis** therefore **has** two **ends** — in the preparation for jobs, and in jobs themselves. Mere free coaching would address neither.

The **structural problems** in the Indian economy, despite the government's **touting** of 6%-6.5% growth, **are** now too obvious to ignore. **Manufacturing**, the job sector best placed to absorb India's college graduates, **remains** at around a sixth of **gross value added**, **nowhere near** the quarter of the economy the government has long promised. **Meanwhile**, the private sector has been **retreating** from its task as corporate investment has fallen from 17.3% of GDP in 2007-08 to 10.3% in 2024-25, unmoved by the cut in corporate tax from 30% to 22% in 2019. The steps required of the Union government are clear: public investment in industrial capacity, support for industry **disciplined** by export performance rather than domestic protection, and **tempering** a regulatory and **enforcement zeal** that seems to selectively target enterprises, affecting the **jobs-catering** medium-sized companies **in particular**. This route has a better chance of delivering jobs for the youth **at the scale** needed and as countries such as Vietnam have shown.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Agitation** (noun) - protest, demonstration, uprising, unrest, revolt विरोध प्रदर्शन
2. **Concede** (verb) - admit, yield, grant, surrender, acknowledge स्वीकार करना
3. **Echo** (verb) - reflect, resonate, mirror, repeat, reverberate प्रतिध्वनि होना
4. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, deal with, confront, resolve संबोधित करना
5. **Infrastructure** (noun) - framework, foundation, base, structure, facilities बुनियादी ढांचा
6. **Bear out** (phrasal verb) - to confirm, substantiate, or corroborate साबित करना
7. **A quarter of** (phrase) - one fourth (1/4 or 25%) of a whole amount एक चौथाई
8. **Limited** (adjective) - restricted, confined, finite, bounded, scant सीमित
9. **Confine** (to) (verb) - to limit an activity, person, or problem in some way तक सीमित रखना
10. **A handful of** (phrase) - a few, a small number कुछ गिने-चुने
11. **For instance** (phrase) - for example उदाहरण के लिए
12. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, conceivably, perchance, hypothetically शायद
13. **Enrolment** (noun) - registration, admission, enlistment, recruitment, entering नामांकन
14. **Sharpest** (adjective) - most acute, steepest, most intense, most pronounced सबसे तेज या गहरा
15. **Social security** (noun) - a system of payments made by the government to people who are ill, poor, or who have no job सामाजिक सुरक्षा
16. **End** (noun) - extremity, goal, objective, target, terminal छोर
17. **Structural** (adjective) - fundamental, organic, systemic, foundational, architectural संरचनात्मक
18. **Tout** (verb) - promote, publicize, trumpet, peddle, hype प्रचार करना
19. **Gross value added** (noun) - an economic measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry, or sector, calculated by taking total output and subtracting the cost of intermediate inputs सकल मूल्यवर्धन
20. **Nowhere near** (phrase) - not close in distance, time, amount, or quality के आसपास भी नहीं
21. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - meantime, in the interim इस बीच
22. **Retreat** (verb) - withdraw, pull back, recede, retrocede, yield पीछे हटना
23. **Disciplined** (adjective) - regulated, controlled, trained, ordered, governed अनुशासित
24. **Temper** (verb) - moderate, soften, mitigate, restrain, attune नरम करना
25. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, execution, imposition, application, compulsion प्रवर्तन

26. **Zeal** (noun) - fervor, enthusiasm, passion, ardor, eagerness उत्साह

27. **Jobs-catering** (adjective) - employment-providing, job-oriented, work-generating, labor-friendly रोजगार देने वाला

28. **In particular** (phrase) - especially, specifically विशेष रूप से

29. **At the scale** (phrase) - on the magnitude, at the level व्यापक पैमाने पर

Summary of the Editorial

1. India's youth crisis is fundamentally a **job crisis**, not merely a problem of examination reforms.
2. Recent **youth agitation** forced the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and pushed the government to accept demands for examination reform.
3. The government has proposed **free online coaching** for competitive examinations using India's digital public infrastructure.
4. This could reduce the financial burden on families, as private coaching now accounts for **16% of education spending**, rising to nearly a quarter during higher secondary education.
5. However, cheaper coaching cannot solve the deeper problem of **limited access to quality professional education**.
6. Competition for professional courses is extremely intense, with over **22 lakh candidates** competing for about **1.4 lakh medical seats**, and fewer than 10,000 seats in the top 50 colleges.
7. Similar competition exists for engineering education, contributing to declining participation in higher education.
8. For the first time since 2011, **undergraduate enrolment fell by 93,322 in 2023-24**, particularly among young men.
9. In Uttar Pradesh, undergraduate enrolment fell sharply, while **diploma enrolment increased**, indicating a shift toward alternative forms of education.
10. The employment situation is equally serious: in 2025, only **26 out of every 100 graduates aged 15-29** had regular salaried employment.
11. Only **four out of 100 graduates** had salaried employment with both a contract and social security, highlighting the poor quality of available jobs.
12. Thus, India's youth employment crisis has **two dimensions** — inadequate preparation for employment and inadequate employment opportunities themselves.
13. Free coaching alone cannot address these structural problems because India's economic growth has not generated enough **quality jobs**, especially for graduates.
14. Manufacturing, which could absorb large numbers of educated young people, remains at only about **one-sixth of gross value added**, while private corporate investment has declined significantly.
15. The government should increase **public investment in industrial capacity**, support export-oriented industries rather than protectionism, and reduce excessive regulatory pressure on job-creating medium-sized firms to generate employment on the scale needed, as countries such as **Vietnam** have demonstrated.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why does the author suggest that the government's proposal for free online coaching is an insufficient solution?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. It does not address the lack of digital literacy required to access online study materials.
 - B. It fails to expand the extremely limited number of seats available in prestigious colleges.
 - C. It ignores the preference of modern students for physical classrooms over digital learning.
 - D. It cannot lower the high tuition fees charged by the private medical and engineering hubs.
2. **What does the MoSPI data reveal about the financial landscape of education for Indian households?**
 - A. The cost of primary schooling has decreased while the cost of higher education has risen.
 - B. Households in Uttar Pradesh spend more on diploma courses than on university level degrees.
 - C. The proportion of a family's educational budget spent on coaching has increased over time.
 - D. Most families now prioritize spending on digital infrastructure over traditional books and tools.
3. **According to the labor data mentioned, what is the most critical deficiency in the job market?**
 - A. There is a significant mismatch between the skills taught in colleges and industrial needs.
 - B. The majority of graduates are into self-employment due to a lack of corporate roles.
 - C. Most available salaried positions lack the protection of legal contracts and social benefits.
 - D. The unemployment rate is disproportionately high among women compared to their male peers.
4. **How does the author evaluate the performance of the manufacturing sector against government claims?**
 - A. It has successfully modernized its technology but failed to hire enough graduate employees.
 - B. It has failed to reach the specific economic contribution level that was originally targeted.
 - C. It has become too dependent on domestic protectionism to compete in the global market.
 - D. It is growing at a rate that is too slow to compensate for the decline in the service sector.
5. **What does the author mean by stating that the youth employment crisis has "two ends"?**
 - A. The government is focusing on primary education while neglecting the university system.
 - B. There are systemic failures in both the training for careers and the availability of work.
 - C. The crisis is equally severe in both the urban industrial hubs and the rural agricultural zones.
 - D. There is a conflict between the high expectations of the youth and the reality of the market.
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. The list includes some of the country's biggest packaged-food and beverage companies, including Nestlé India, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola India, Abbott India, Red Bull India, Danone India, Mondelez India, Ferrero India and Kenvue.

2. Mondelez India's decision to withdraw health and nutrient-comparison claims around Bournvita is more than a correction involving one familiar malted drink.
3. The regulator said it has issued more than 150 notices to food companies in recent months over misleading advertisements, false claims and labelling non-compliance.
4. It is part of a broader regulatory push by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to make food companies substantiate what they put on labels, advertisements and online product listings.
 - A. 2-1-4-3
 - B. 4-2-3-1
 - C. 2-4-3-1
 - D. 1-2-4-3
7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Bulk
 - A. Handful
 - B. Brunt
 - C. Staple
 - D. Heavy
8. **Select the correct active form of the given sentence.**
A terrible disaster was witnessed by our country
 - A. Our country had witnessed a terrible disaster.
 - B. Our country witnesses a terrible disaster.
 - C. Our country witnessed a terrible disaster.
 - D. Our country is witnessing a terrible disaster
9. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the following sentence.**
The outcome of the survey was a critical intervention to the questionnaire prepared by Suraj and his committee
 - A. questionnaire
 - B. outcome
 - C. intervention
 - D. committee
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Loyal
 - A. Ardent
 - B. Fickle
 - C. Stupid
 - D. Tragic
11. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A room where dead bodies are kept until burial
 - A. Museum
 - B. Mortuary
 - C. Safari
 - D. Sanatorium
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
The dacoits ravaged the bungalow in the absence of its owner.

- A. Demolished
 - B. Sealed
 - C. Exploded
 - D. Restored
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
She became frustrated with her poor health and began to lose _____ of her recovery
- A. money
 - B. idea
 - C. weight
 - D. hope
14. **Select the sentences that contains no spelling errors.**
- A. The hippopotamus, also known as 'river horse', lives throughout sub Saharan Africa.
 - B. The hippopotamus, also known as 'river horse', lives throughout sub Saharan Africa.
 - C. The hippopotmaus, also known as 'river horse', lives throughout sub Saharan Africa.
 - D. The hipopotamus, also known as 'river horse', lives throughout sub Saharan Africa
15. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
She has / a habit of / spending against / her means
- A. her means
 - B. She has
 - C. a habit of
 - D. spending against
16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words/phrase.**
Fail to notice; ignore; condone (an offence etc.)
- A. Overlook
 - B. Overlie
 - C. Overlong
 - D. Overly
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
The natural environment is in contrast with the 'built environment' which refers to areas that have been fundamentally transformed and influenced by human activity, such as cities, towns, substructures and so on.
- A. Bipartisan
 - B. Inimical
 - C. Hackneyed
 - D. Interested
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
She frankly confessed that she couldn't _____ to purchase a car then.
- A. spend
 - B. afford
 - C. tolerate
 - D. stand

19. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.

When I was your age, I was working two jobs to provide for my family.

- A. for provide to
- B. on providing
- C. No substitution
- D. to providing for

20. Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

- 1. More than four lakh of these have already been created by app users since its release last week.
 - 2. 'One Crore Pookkalam' by Manglish Keyboard is perfect for these times when we have very little time or space to create the beautiful pookkalam of our memories.
 - 3. The initiative invites Malayalis to create their own pookkalam, with a dash of creativity, by choosing patterns, flowers, and colours in their own style.
 - 4. It is as simple as logging on to the app and creating your own pookkalam digitally.
- A. 2-1-4-3
 - B. 2-4-1-3
 - C. 4-2-1-3
 - D. 1-2-4-3

Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

The _____ A _____ (restoration) of the Buckingham Canal (B'Canal) and other water courses of Chennai has yet again occupied the attention of the authorities after the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government came to power nearly three and a half months ago. Sections of the media have reported that the State government is _____ B _____ a ₹876.35-crore plan to make a 7.2-km-long stretch of the central portion of the B'Canal — from Napier Bridge over the beach road to the Adyar river over Greenways Road in R.A. Puram — navigable again, with passenger boats, floating restaurants, and cargo movement. Originally constructed in 1806 by Basil Cochrane and privately owned and operated by him, the waterway was then called Cochrane Canal. Initially, the length of the waterway was a little less than 18 km, with the Canal cutting through strips of land and _____ C _____ (shallow) backwaters from Chennai to the Ennore estuary. Subsequently, it was extended to Pulicat Lake, opening up navigation for small craft over a distance of 40 km north of Chennai. Taken _____ D _____ by the government in 1837, the waterway was named the East Coast Canal and extended in 1857 to Dugarajapatnam (in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh, around 135 km north of Chennai). In 1878, it _____ E _____ (acquired) the present name, Buckingham Canal, after the Governor of Madras, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

21. Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (A): (restoration).

- A. deterioration
- B. renovation
- C. destruction
- D. stagnation

22. Fill in blank (B) with the correct present participle form of the verb to complete the continuous tense.

- A. examine
 - B. examined
 - C. examining
 - D. examines
23. **Choose the antonym of the word in (C): (shallow).**
- A. superficial
 - B. profound
 - C. deep
 - D. hollow
24. **Fill in blank (D) with the correct preposition to complete the phrasal verb meaning "to assume control of."**
- A. in
 - B. out
 - C. off
 - D. over
25. **Choose the most appropriate meaning of the word in (E): (acquired).**
- A. forfeited
 - B. obtained
 - C. surrendered
 - D. dismissed

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **It fails to expand the extremely limited number of seats available in prestigious colleges.**

"Cheaper coaching is of limited value as quality professional education remains confined to a handful of institutions. For instance, over 22 lakh candidates appeared in this year's medical entrance exam for about 1.4 lakh undergraduate seats with fewer than 10,000 of them at the top 50 colleges." The passage explicitly states that free/cheap coaching is "of limited value" because the real bottleneck is the scarcity of seats in quality institutions — not the cost or availability of coaching itself. The medical and JEE examples (22 lakh candidates for 1.4 lakh seats, with barely 10,000 at top-50 colleges) are given precisely to illustrate this seat-scarcity problem. Making coaching free doesn't create more seats — it only helps more students compete for the same limited number of spots. This directly matches option B

option A: The passage does not mention lack of digital literacy as a barrier. The author's criticism is about the limited availability of quality professional education and jobs.

option C: The passage does not say students prefer physical classrooms. The author's objection is not about the online format, but about the deeper structural shortage of quality education and employment.

Option D: The issue is not the tuition fees of medical or engineering colleges. The author focuses on the shortage of quality seats and later on the shortage of suitable jobs..

2. C) **The proportion of a family's educational budget spent on coaching has increased over time.**

"MoSPI's survey data bears out why this would be welcome to students — private coaching costs 16% of what an Indian family spends on a child's education, against 12.5% in 2018, and nearly a quarter of that budget by the higher secondary years which is when the student prepares for competitive exams." The MoSPI data directly shows a rise in the share of household education spending going toward private coaching — from 12.5% in 2018 to 16% currently, climbing further to nearly 25% by the higher secondary years. This is a clear, explicit trend of an increasing proportion of the education budget being consumed by coaching over time, which is exactly what option (c) states.

option A: The passage makes no comparison between the cost trends of primary schooling and higher education. MoSPI data cited here is specifically about coaching costs, not a primary-vs-higher-education cost comparison

option B: The UP statistic in the passage refers to enrolment numbers (undergraduate enrolment down 1.53 lakh, diploma enrolment up 1.38 lakh), not household spending.

option D: The passage does not mention any household spending on digital infrastructure versus books/tools.

3. C) **Most available salaried positions lack the protection of legal contracts and social benefits.**

"An analysis of Periodic Labour Force Survey unit-level data found that of every 100 graduates aged 15 to 29 in 2025, only 26 were in regular salaried employment, and just four had a salaried job with a contract and social security." The data shows a sharp drop-off between

graduates in "regular salaried employment" (26 out of 100) and those with secure salaried employment — i.e., a job with a formal contract and social security (just 4 out of 100). This means that of the 26 who do have salaried jobs, the vast majority (22 out of 26) lack contractual protection and social security benefits. This points to precarious, informal, or unprotected employment as the most critical deficiency highlighted by the labour data — matching option (c).

(a) Incorrect — The passage does not mention a skills–industry mismatch.

(b) Incorrect — It does not say that most graduates are forced into self-employment.

(d) Incorrect — The passage does not compare graduate unemployment between men and women.

4. **B) It has failed to reach the specific economic contribution level that was originally targeted.**

"Manufacturing, the job sector best placed to absorb India's college graduates, remains at around a sixth of gross value added, nowhere near the quarter of the economy the government has long promised." The author directly contrasts manufacturing's actual contribution to gross value added (around one-sixth, i.e., roughly 16-17%) against the government's long-standing promise/target of a quarter (25%) of the economy. This is a clear, explicit statement that manufacturing has fallen short of its officially promised target — precisely what option (b) describes. The comparison is stated as a factual shortfall, reinforcing the broader argument that despite government claims of 6%-6.5% growth, the structural problems (like manufacturing underperformance) remain "too obvious to ignore."

(a) Incorrect — The passage says nothing about technological modernization or failure to hire graduates specifically

(c) Incorrect — The author recommends supporting industry through export performance rather than domestic protection, but does not say manufacturing itself has become too dependent on protectionism.

(d) Incorrect — The passage does not compare manufacturing's growth with a decline in the service sector.

5. **B) There are systemic failures in both the training for careers and the availability of work.**

"The youth employment crisis therefore has two ends — in the preparation for jobs, and in jobs themselves. Mere free coaching would address neither." The author explicitly defines the "two ends" as (1) "preparation for jobs" — referring to the earlier discussion of coaching costs, limited quality seats in colleges (medical/engineering), and falling undergraduate enrolment — and (2) "jobs themselves" — referring to the PLFS data showing poor employment outcomes even among graduates (only 26/100 in regular salaried jobs, just 4/100 with contract and social security). This is a direct statement that the crisis is systemic on both fronts: the training/preparation pipeline and the job market itself fail young people. This matches option (b) precisely, and the author underlines it by noting that free coaching — which only touches the "preparation" end — "would address neither" fully.

(a) Incorrect — The passage does not compare primary education with university education.

(c) Incorrect — The passage does not divide the crisis into urban and rural areas.

(d) Incorrect — The author does not define the two ends as youth expectations vs market reality.

6. **C) 2-4-3-1**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे तौर पर बॉर्नविटा (Bournvita) को लेकर मोंडेलेज़ इंडिया (Mondelez India) द्वारा स्वास्थ्य और पोषण संबंधी दावों को वापस लेने के मुख्य विषय को पेश करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम (pronoun) "It" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में मोंडेलेज़ इंडिया द्वारा लिए गए निर्णय को refer करता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह कदम भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) द्वारा कंपनियों पर अपने दावों को साबित करने के व्यापक नियामक दबाव का हिस्सा है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त संज्ञा "The regulator" (नियामक) सीधे तौर पर Sentence 4 में पेश की गई संस्था FSSAI को refer करती है। यह नियामकीय कार्रवाई के आंकड़े प्रस्तुत करते हुए बताता है कि भ्रामक विज्ञापनों और गलत दावों को लेकर हाल के महीनों में कंपनियों को 150 से अधिक नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा और क्रम का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें प्रयुक्त वाक्यांश "The list" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 3 में उल्लिखित नोटिस पाने वाली कंपनियों की सूची को refer करता है, जिसमें नेस्ले, पेप्सिको और कोका-कोला जैसी देश की सबसे बड़ी पैकेज्ड-फूड कंपनियों के नाम शामिल हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the opening line of the provided passage. It independently establishes the core news event: Mondelez India withdrawing health and nutrient-comparison claims for Bournvita.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the pronoun "It" directly refers back to Mondelez's decision, explaining that this move is part of a larger regulatory initiative spearheaded by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
 - Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4 because the noun phrase "The regulator" explicitly refers back to the FSSAI introduced in Sentence 4. It provides concrete enforcement data by revealing that over 150 notices have been issued to food companies for false claims and non-compliance.
 - Sentence 1 comes after Sentence 3 as the logical conclusion. The noun phrase "The list" directly refers back to the recipients of the 150+ notices mentioned in Sentence 3, naming the prominent multinational and domestic corporations targeted by the regulator.
7. A) **Bulk** (noun) – A large mass or shape, for example, of a building or a heavy body, the greater part of something. थोक
- Antonym: **Handful** (noun) – A small number or quantity, a quantity that fills the hand. मुट्ठी भर
- **Brunt** (noun) – The worst part or chief impact of a specified action. मुख्य आघात
 - **Staple** (noun/adjective) – A basic or principal element or feature, main or important, especially in terms of consumption. मुख्य, आधारभूत
 - **Heavy** (adjective) – Of great weight, difficult to lift or move. भारी
8. C) **Our country witnessed a terrible disaster.**
9. A) The correct spelling for the incorrectly spelled word 'questionnaire' is '**questionnaire**' प्रश्नावली.

10. B) **Loyal** (adjective) – Faithful, devoted, staunch, true-hearted, steadfast, committed, dedicated. वफादार

Antonym: **Fickle** (adjective) – Changeable, fluctuating, variable, capricious, mercurial, unpredictable. चंचल

- **Ardent** (adjective) – Enthusiastic or passionate. उत्साही
- **Stupid** (adjective) – Lacking intelligence or common sense. मूर्ख
- **Tragic** (adjective) – Causing or characterized by extreme distress or sorrow. दुःखद

11. B) **Mortuary** (noun) – A room or building where dead bodies are kept until burial or cremation. शवगृह

- **Museum** (noun) – A building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited. संग्रहालय
- **Safari** (noun) – An expedition to observe or hunt animals in their natural habitat, especially in East Africa. सफारी
- **Sanatorium** (noun) – A medical facility for the long-term illness, typically associated with the treatment of tuberculosis in the pre-antibiotic era. क्षयरोग संस्थान

12. D) **Ravaged** (verb) – Severely damaged; devastated. लूटना

ANTONYM: **Restored** (verb) – Bring back to a state of health, soundness, or vigor. मरम्मत करना

- **Demolished** (verb) – Completely destroy, especially a building, structure, or vehicle. ध्वस्त
- **Sealed** (verb) – Fasten or close securely. मुहर लगाना
- **Exploded** (verb) – Burst or shatter violently and noisily as a result of rapid combustion, excessive internal pressure, or other process. विस्फोट होना

13. D) **Hope** का use होगा क्योंकि "hope" का अर्थ होता है आशा या उम्मीद। Sentence के context में यह दिखाया गया है कि वह अपनी खराब सेहत से निराश हो गई और उसने अपने सुधार की उम्मीद खोनी शुरू कर दी, इसलिए 'hope' सबसे उचित शब्द है। 'Money' का अर्थ पैसा होता है, 'Idea' का अर्थ विचार होता है, और 'Weight' का अर्थ वजन होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठते।

- Hope' should be used because it signifies expectation or desire for a certain thing to happen. The context of the sentence suggests she is becoming despondent due to her poor health and is starting to lose her optimism about recovering, making 'hope' the correct fit. 'Money' refers to currency, 'Idea' refers to a thought or concept, and 'Weight' refers to the measure of heaviness, which do not align with the context here.

14. A) **The hippopotamus, also known as 'river horse', lives throughout sub Saharan Africa.**

15. D) 'spending against' के बदले **'spending beyond'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब खर्च किसी की आय से अधिक होता है तो 'beyond one's means' कहते हैं। 'Against' यहाँ पर उचित preposition नहीं है; जैसे— He always spends beyond his means, which has put him in debt.

- spending beyond' will be used instead of 'spending against' because when expenditure exceeds someone's income, we say 'beyond one's means'. 'Against' is not the correct preposition in this context; Like— He always spends beyond his means, which has put him in debt.

16. A) **Overlook** (verb) – Fail to notice; ignore; condone (an offence etc.) ध्यान न देना

- **Overlie** (verb) – to lie over or upon, as a covering or stratum. किसी चीज पर परत की तरह होना

- **Overlong** (adj) – excessively long. अत्यधिक लंबा
 - **Overly** (adv) – excessively; in an excessive manner. अत्यधिक
17. A) **Influenced** (verb) – To have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or to affect or change how someone or something develops, behaves, or thinks. प्रभावित
- Antonym: **Bipartisan** (adjective) – Involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies. द्विदलीय
- **Inimical** (adjective) – Tending to obstruct or harm; unfriendly or hostile. शत्रुतापूर्ण
 - **Hackneyed** (adjective) – Lacking significance through having been overused; unoriginal and trite. घिसा-पिटा
 - **Interested** (adjective) – Showing curiosity or concern about something or someone; having a feeling of interest. रुचि
18. B) **afford** का use होगा क्योंकि "afford" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के लिए पर्याप्त धन या साधन होना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि वह स्पष्ट रूप से मानती है कि उसके पास तब कार खरीदने के लिए पैसे नहीं थे, इसलिए 'afford' यहाँ सही शब्द है। 'Spend' का मतलब खर्च करना है, 'Tolerate' का मतलब सहन करना है, और 'Stand' का मतलब खड़ा होना या सहन करना है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- **afford** should be used because it means having enough money or resources to do something. The sentence indicates she openly admitted her inability to have enough money to buy a car then, so 'afford' is the correct word here. 'Spend' means to pay out money, 'Tolerate' means to accept or endure, and 'Stand' can mean to bear, tolerate, or be in an upright position, none of which are appropriate in this context.
19. C) **No substitution**
20. B) **2-4-1-3**
- Explanation:
- Hindi Explanation
- Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे तौर पर मैंग्लिश कीबोर्ड (Manglish Keyboard) द्वारा शुरू की गई 'One Crore Pookkalam' पहल और सीमित समय व स्थान वाले आधुनिक दौर में इसकी उपयोगिता का मुख्य विषय पेश करता है।
 - Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम (pronoun) "It" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में वर्णित 'One Crore Pookkalam' पहल को refer करता है। यह बताता है कि इस डिजिटल पूककलम को बनाना ऐप पर लॉग इन करने जितना ही आसान और सरल है।
 - Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त वाक्यांश "these" (इनका) Sentence 4 में वर्णित 'digital pookkalams' को refer करता है। यह पहल की त्वरित सफलता और आंकड़ों को रेखांकित करते हुए बताता है कि पिछले हफ्ते लॉन्च होने के बाद से अब तक उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा चार लाख से अधिक पूककलम बनाए जा चुके हैं।
 - Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और क्रम का conclusion बनेगा। इसमें प्रयुक्त संज्ञा वाक्यांश "The initiative" सीधे तौर पर 'One Crore Pookkalam' अभियान को refer करता है। यह प्रतिभागियों के लिए उपलब्ध रचनात्मक विकल्पों (पैटर्न, फूल और रंगों का चयन) का विवरण देकर पैसेज को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the opening line of the provided text. It independently establishes the core subject: the 'One Crore Pookkalam' initiative by Manglish Keyboard designed for contemporary times where space and time are limited.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the pronoun "It" directly refers back to the initiative introduced in Sentence 2, explaining the straightforward digital process of participating through the app.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the demonstrative pronoun "these" directly refers back to the digital pookkalams mentioned in Sentence 4, providing concrete user engagement figures (over four lakh created since the prior week's launch).
- Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 1 as the logical conclusion. The noun phrase "The initiative" directly refers back to the ongoing campaign, wrapping up the sequence by detailing the creative mechanics and customisation options (patterns, flowers, and colours) offered to participants.

21. B) renovation

The passage discusses revitalizing, repairing, and bringing the Buckingham Canal back to its functional state ("The restoration of the Buckingham Canal"). The question asks for the most appropriate synonym for "restoration" (which means the act of returning something to a former, better condition). a) deterioration: means the process of becoming progressively worse (antonym). b) renovation: means the process of restoring, repairing, or renewing something to a good state of repair, serving as the direct synonym of "restoration." c) destruction: means the action or process of causing so much damage that something no longer exists. d) stagnation: means the state of not flowing or developing.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence बकिंघम नहर के जीर्णोद्धार और उसे पुनः उपयोगी बनाने की प्रक्रिया ("restoration") को describe करता है। Question में "restoration" (पुनरुद्धार/जीर्णोद्धार) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) deterioration: इसका meaning बिगड़ना या क्षय होना (antonym) होता है। b) renovation: इसका meaning 'नवीनीकरण, जीर्णोद्धार या सुधार' (restoring/repairing) होता है, जो "restoration" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। c) destruction: इसका meaning विनाश होता है। d) stagnation: इसका meaning ठहराव होता है।

22. C) examining

The sentence describes the ongoing action of the State government actively evaluating and studying a revival proposal (the State government is _____ a ₹876.35-crore plan). Following the present tense auxiliary "is", the present continuous tense strictly requires the present participle form (V1 + -ing). a) examine: is the base form, which violates the present continuous construction. b) examined: is the past participle form, which would form a passive voice and make the government the entity being examined. c) examining: is the correct present participle form (is examining) denoting actively reviewing a plan. d) examines: is the third-person singular present form.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence राज्य सरकार द्वारा योजना की समीक्षा और जांच करने की निरंतर प्रक्रिया को describe करता है। Helping verb "is" के बाद present continuous tense के नियम के अनुसार present participle (V1 + -ing) की आवश्यकता है। a) examine: यह base form है। b)

examined: यह past form है जो passive voice बना देगा। c) examining: यह present participle form है जो "is" के साथ मिलकर (is examining - समीक्षा कर रही है) active present continuous में perfectly fit होता है। d) examines: यह singular present form है।

23. C) deep

The passage describes the physical depth of the coastal backwaters through which the canal was dug ("shallow backwaters"). The question asks for the antonym of "shallow" (which means of little physical depth from the surface to the bottom). a) superficial: means situated or occurring on the skin/surface, serving as a figurative synonym for shallow. b) profound: means very great, intense, or intellectually deep (used for philosophical thoughts or emotions), not the literal physical depth of water. c) deep: specifically denotes extending far down from the top or surface, serving as the direct physical antonym of "shallow." d) hollow: means having a hole or empty space inside.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence बैकवॉटर्स की कम पानी की गहराई ("shallow backwaters") को describe करता है। Question में "shallow" (उथला/कम गहरा) का direct physical antonym पूछा गया है। a) superficial: इसका meaning सतही होता है (synonym)। b) profound: इसका meaning वैचारिक रूप से 'गहन या गंभीर' होता है (विचारों के लिए), जो जल की भौतिक गहराई के लिए नहीं आता। c) deep: इसका physical meaning 'गहरा' (extending far down) होता है, जो जल की गहराई के संदर्भ में "shallow" का direct antonym है। d) hollow: इसका meaning खोखला होता है।

24. D) over

The sentence explains that the private canal was acquired and brought under state control by the government in 1837 (Taken _____ by the government in 1837). Blank (D) requires the preposition that forms the phrasal verb meaning to assume control or management of something. a) in: "taken in" means deceived or absorbed. b) out: "taken out" means removed or escorted. c) off: "taken off" means removed clothing or became airborne. d) over: forms the established phrasal verb "take over" (past participle: taken over), meaning to assume control, ownership, or management of a venture.

In Hindi:

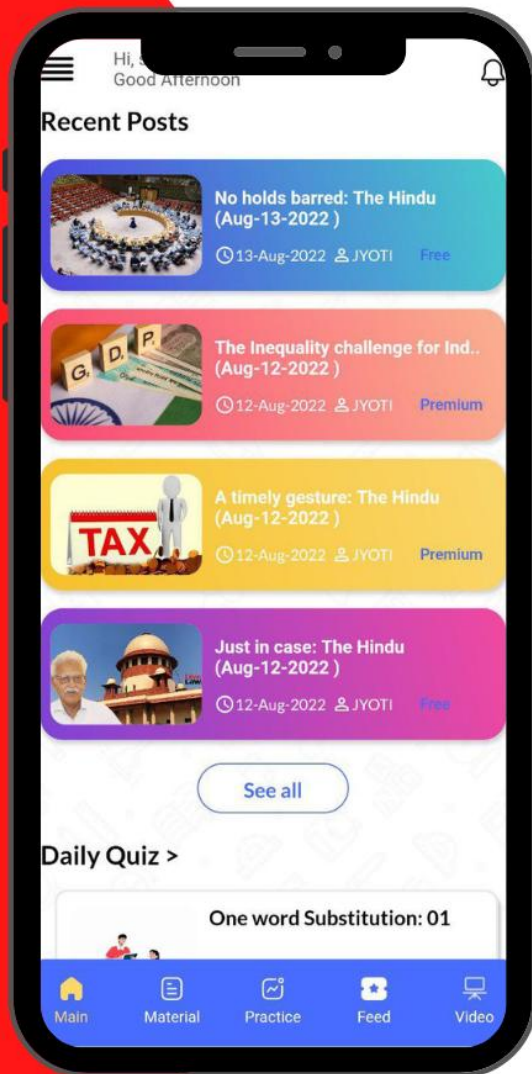
- यह sentence 1837 में सरकार द्वारा नहर का स्वामित्व और नियंत्रण अपने हाथ में लेने को describe करता है। Blank (D) को 'नियंत्रण लेना' दर्शाने वाले phrasal verb की आवश्यकता है। a) in: "taken in" का meaning धोखा खाना या समाहित करना होता है। b) out: "taken out" का meaning बाहर निकालना होता है। c) off: "taken off" का meaning उड़ान भरना या उतारना होता है। d) over: यह "taken" के साथ मिलकर fixed phrasal verb "taken over" (अधिकार/नियंत्रण में लिया गया) बनाता है, जो सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रण संभालने के संदर्भ में perfectly fit होता है।

25. B) obtained

The passage describes the canal formally receiving, gaining, or coming to have its modern official name in 1878 ("it acquired the present name"). The question asks for the most appropriate meaning of "acquired." a) forfeited: means lost or surrendered as a penalty for wrongdoing (antonym). b) obtained: means gained, received, or came to possess, perfectly matching the contextual meaning of "acquired." c) surrendered: means gave up control or handed over to another. d) dismissed: means ordered or allowed to leave.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence 1878 में नहर द्वारा अपना नया आधिकारिक नाम प्राप्त करने ("acquired the present name") को describe करता है। Question में "acquired" (प्राप्त किया/धारण किया) का सबसे सटीक meaning पूछा गया है। a) forfeited: इसका meaning जब्त होना या खो देना (antonym) होता है। b) obtained: इसका meaning 'प्राप्त किया या ग्रहण किया' (gained/received) होता है, जो नाम प्राप्त करने के संदर्भ में perfectly match करता है। c) surrendered: इसका meaning आत्मसमर्पण किया होता है। d) dismissed: इसका meaning खारिज किया होता है।



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