

US IT **salvo** opens new **front** for India

The US government's **decision** to **suspend** major Indian IT firms from the PERM programme — which provides a **pathway** to permanent residency — **is** part of the administration's larger **agenda** to **crack down on** foreign labour and **curtail immigration**. It follows the administration's move last year to introduce a \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas, **deepening** the **uncertainty** for companies that **rely more on** skilled foreign workers. While the immediate **impact** of the recent decision could **be muted** — Indian IT firms **accounted for** less than 2 per cent of the 1,17,849 PERM applications filed between October 2024 and September 2025, according to a report by ICICI Securities — the action is **likely** to **sour sentiment**. **Moreover**, as the report says, “any extension into broader work-visa restrictions would **pose** a more **material** risk”. India's software, business and other services exports — a major source of foreign exchange for the country — stood at \$221 billion in 2025-26. Washington's latest action thus opens another front in a **tumultuous** India-US relationship.

The White House's fresh salvo comes only weeks after the passing of a new law that **paves the way for** the US to **impose tariffs** of up to 100 per cent on countries like China and India that are top energy buyers from Russia. The **pattern** in the US administration's moves **is** hard to miss. Trump has, for some time now, been **prodding** India to reduce its purchases of Russian oil — between December 2022 and August 2026, China accounted for roughly half of Russia's crude exports, followed by India at 37 per cent, as per the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air — even as he announced a deal with Russia only a few days ago to supply diesel to US and global markets.

In the midst of these **developments**, statements from both sides appear to be less **sanguine** about the conclusion of the much delayed India-US trade deal. A few days ago, the US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, said that a trade agreement was not “**imminent**”, followed by India's Finance Minister saying that “both the sides have **reached a plateau** beyond which giving or taking might be very very difficult”. With the **outcome** of trade **negotiations** with Washington uncertain, the **pressure** on multiple fronts — energy, services exports, and **labour mobility** — **is** mounting. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Salvo** (noun) - barrage, volley, burst, onslaught, bombardment अचानक हमला
2. **Front** (noun) - battleground, arena, domain, field, sphere मोर्चा या क्षेत्र
3. **Suspend** (verb) - halt, pause, interrupt, delay, bar निलंबित करना
4. **Pathway** (noun) - route, avenue, channel, course, passage मार्ग
5. **Agenda** (noun) - schedule, plan, programme, itinerary, scheme कार्यसूची
6. **Crack down on** (phrasal verb) - to take severe measures against someone or something कड़ी कार्रवाई करना
7. **Curtail** (verb) - reduce, diminish, decrease, lessen, cut कम करना
8. **Immigration** (noun) - migration, relocation, settlement, resettlement, colonization आप्रवास
9. **Deepen** (verb) - intensify, escalate, increase, compound, magnify गहरा करना या बढ़ाना
10. **Uncertainty** (noun) - doubt, ambiguity, unpredictability, dubiety, scepticism अनिश्चितता
11. **Rely on** (phrasal verb) - to depend on or trust someone or something पर निर्भर होना
12. **Muted** (adjective) - subdued, quiet, restrained, hushed, understated धीमा या कम
13. **Account for** (phrasal verb) - to form a particular amount or part of something का हिस्सा होना
14. **Sour** (verb) - spoil, ruin, embitter, damage, impair खराब करना
15. **Sentiment** (noun) - feeling, attitude, opinion, view, emotion भावना या दृष्टिकोण
16. **Moreover** (adverb) - furthermore, additionally, besides, further, likewise इसके अलावा
17. **Pose** (verb) - present, create, cause, produce, constitute खड़ा करना या उत्पन्न करना
18. **Material** (adjective) - significant, substantial, considerable, meaningful, major महत्वपूर्ण या वास्तविक
19. **Tumultuous** (adjective) - stormy, turbulent, volatile, chaotic, tempestuous अशांत या उथल-पुथल भरा
20. **Pave the way for** (phrase) - to create a situation in which it is easier for someone to do something or something to happen का मार्ग प्रशस्त करना
21. **Impose** (verb) - levy, exact, charge, apply, enforce थोपना या लगाना
22. **Tariff** (noun) - tax, duty, toll, levy, charge सीमा शुल्क
23. **Prod** (verb) - urge, push, prompt, stimulate, encourage उकसाना या प्रेरित करना

24. **In the midst of** (phrase) - in the middle of
or during a particular situation के बीच में
25. **Development** (noun) - event, occurrence,
incident, happening, situation घटनाक्रम या
विकास
26. **Sanguine** (adjective) - optimistic, hopeful,
positive, confident, buoyant आशावादी
27. **Imminent** (adjective) - impending,
approaching, looming, forthcoming,
upcoming आसन्न या करीब
28. **Reach a plateau** (phrase) - to reach a state
or level of little or no growth or decline
स्थिरता की स्थिति में पहुंचना
29. **Outcome** (noun) - result, consequence,
conclusion, upshot, effect परिणाम
30. **Negotiation** (noun) - discussion, talks,
dialogue, consultation, parley बातचीत
31. **Labour mobility** (noun) - the ability of
workers to change jobs or relocate to find
employment श्रम गतिशीलता
32. **Mount** (verb) - increase, grow, rise,
escalate, build बढ़ना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **US Immigration Restrictions:** The US government has suspended major Indian IT firms from the PERM programme, which provides a pathway to permanent residency.
2. **Anti-Immigration Agenda:** The decision reflects the Trump administration's broader agenda to crack down on foreign labour and curtail immigration.
3. **H-1B Visa Fee:** The earlier introduction of a \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas has increased uncertainty for companies dependent on skilled foreign workers.
4. **Limited Immediate Impact:** According to ICICI Securities, Indian IT firms accounted for less than 2% of the 1,17,849 PERM applications filed between October 2024 and September 2025.
5. **Negative Business Sentiment:** Although the immediate impact may be limited, the decision is likely to weaken business confidence and create uncertainty in the Indian IT sector.
6. **Risk of Wider Restrictions:** Any extension of US restrictions to broader work visas could pose a much more significant threat to Indian IT companies.
7. **Importance of Services Exports:** India's software, business and other services exports reached \$221 billion in 2025–26, making them an important source of foreign exchange.
8. **Strained Bilateral Relations:** The latest US action has opened another front of tension in an already turbulent India–US relationship.
9. **Potential Russian Oil Tariffs:** A new US law paves the way for tariffs of up to 100% on countries, including India and China, that are major buyers of Russian energy.
10. **Pressure to Reduce Russian Oil Imports:** President Donald Trump has been pressuring India to reduce its purchases of Russian oil.
11. **India's Position in Russian Oil Trade:** Between December 2022 and August 2026, China accounted for roughly half of Russia's crude exports, while India accounted for 37%, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.
12. **Contradictory US Approach:** While pressuring India over Russian oil purchases, Trump has also announced a deal with Russia to supply diesel to US and global markets.
13. **Trade Deal Uncertainty:** The prospects of concluding the long-delayed India–US trade agreement remain uncertain, with the US Trade Representative stating that a deal is not imminent.
14. **Difficult Negotiations:** India's Finance Minister indicated that both countries had reached a plateau in negotiations, making further concessions increasingly difficult.
15. **Mounting Economic Pressure:** India faces growing pressure on multiple fronts, including energy imports, services exports, labour mobility and trade negotiations. The editorial highlights the need to navigate these challenges carefully to protect India's economic interests.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary purpose behind citing the services export valuation of \$221 billion for 2025-26?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. To underline the high macroeconomic exposure of the domestic economy to potential escalations in foreign visa curbs.
 - B. To prove that software revenues expanded rapidly following the enactment of the steep surcharge on guest worker permits.
 - C. To demonstrate that information technology enterprises have diversified beyond Western markets to reduce tariff risks.
 - D. To show that foreign exchange generation through services trade exceeds domestic expenditure on imported crude energy.
2. **In the passage, the word "SALVO" is used. Which of the following is the most appropriate SYNONYM for "SALVO" in this context?**
 - A. Onslaught
 - B. Consensus
 - C. Remission
 - D. Oversight
3. **Why does the author view the suspension from the PERM system as a catalyst for souring market sentiment?**
 - A. It immediately disqualifies the majority of technical workers currently stationed overseas under corporate visa sponsorship.
 - B. It prompts domestic fiscal authorities to impose reciprocal levies on international commercial services firms in India.
 - C. It signals an intensifying regulatory push that could foreshadow broader statutory curbs on foreign skilled professionals.
 - D. It invalidates existing trade treaties that protect information technology vendors from sudden cross-border fee revisions.
4. **What does the phrase "opens another front" imply in the context of the passage?**
 - A. Creating a fresh bilateral trade channel to circumvent protectionist legislation governing physical goods
 - B. Introducing an additional dimension of administrative contention to an already strained bilateral relationship
 - C. Establishing a specialized dispute settlement panel to adjudicate sudden modifications to migration statutes
 - D. Diverting software services exports toward alternative developed economies to minimize exposure to North America
5. **What is the author's attitude toward the prospect of an immediate breakthrough in the bilateral trade agreement?**
 - A. Realistic and circumspect
 - B. Disparaging and cynical
 - C. Optimistic and confident
 - D. Carefree and unconcerned
6. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**

The meeting will begin **by 3 PM**.

- A. on
- B. from
- C. at
- D. around

7. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Alarming

- A. Ethical
- B. Fictional
- C. Historic
- D. Soothing

8. **Direction: In the following question, the first sentence is given in its correct position, followed by four sentences marked A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the four sentences in the correct order to form a coherent paragraph.**

The potter's wheel hums softly beneath the pines.

- A. Fingers press, steady and sure, as the soft clay turns into a cup, a pot or a small keepsake: a new experience at Araku Pinery.
- B. Nearby, birds trade their morning calls as tall trees sway to a breeze carrying a trace of mist.
- C. Pottery is the latest addition to this pine-lined retreat in the Araku Valley. The activity, started recently, gives visitors a chance to sit down, work with clay and take home something they have made themselves.
- D. At the wheel, a lump of clay slowly takes shape.

- A. D B C A
- B. A C B D
- C. B D A C
- D. B A D C

9. **Choose the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

She is senior than me by five years.

- A. She is
- B. senior than
- C. me by five years
- D. No error

10. **The following sentence has been divided into four parts, namely A, B, C and D, which are given in the alternatives. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.**

The antique grandfather clock in the hallway have not worked properly for over a decade now, which is a real shame for the family.

- A. The antique grandfather clock in
- B. the hallway have not worked
- C. properly for over a decade now,
- D. which is a real shame for the family.

11. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**

Ensure

- A. Warrant

- B. Distinguish
- C. Accuse
- D. Expel

12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

To turn over a new leaf

- A. To change one's behaviour or attitude for the better; to start afresh
- B. To fall from a tree
- C. To read a new book
- D. To search for something in a field

13. **Direction: In the following question, the first sentence is given in its correct position, followed by four sentences marked A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the four sentences in the correct order to form a coherent paragraph.**

Roundglass Sustain's short film A Spring Against All Odds opens with a poignant couplet by 18th-century Urdu poet Mir Taqi Mir: "My heart and my Delhi may both be in ruins; There are still some delights in this ravaged home."

- A. Based on a story and script by Radhika Raj and directed and edited by Samreen Farooqui, both associated with Roundglass Sustain, the film captures the three years Radhika spent obsessing over the red silk cotton tree, or semal, outside her window in her Delhi home.
- B. Opening in 2021, when Radhika and Saptak move into a new home overlooking this tree, the film shows how the tree becomes a constant witness to multiple crises, including a mismanaged pandemic, a winter thick with pollution, a monsoon of floods, an oppressive summer, a political shift, and a personal loss, as the film's release states.
- C. Centuries later, the words still ring true, setting the tone for this layered, deeply introspective film, one of the 48 films selected for Film SouthAsia (FSA), an international documentary film festival to be held in Kathmandu from November 27–29, 2026.
- D. A Spring Against All Odds features an eclectic cast: Radhika, her partner Saptak, house help Swati, and cats Chutney and Chikki, plus the semal tree itself and the pair of grey hornbills who inhabit it.

- A. A D C B
- B. C A D B
- C. C D A B
- D. B C A D

14. **The following sentence has two blanks. Choose the most suitable set of prepositions from the given options to fill in the blanks and complete the sentence meaningfully.**

The new intern was entrusted ____ critical files and tasked ____ compiling the monthly report.

- A. with, with
- B. in, to
- C. on, by
- D. of, of

15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Inadequate

- A. Disingenuous
- B. Retaliatory
- C. Copious

D. Paradoxical

16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A loud appeal or demand.

A. Gambit

B. Clamour

C. Protest

D. Entourage

17. **Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.**

A. temperature

B. meticulously

C. preliminary

D. castigait

18. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**

The new theory is said to have been developed over decades.

A. They say that the new theory has been developed over decades.

B. They say that the new theory was developed over decades.

C. Someone is said to have developed the new theory over decades.

D. The new theory developed over decades.

19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**

Exploitation

A. Stability

B. Manipulation

C. Anomaly

D. Non-compliance

20. **Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:**

The Brahmin said to the beggar, "Why don't you work in a sweatshop and earn a few bucks and manage your family rather than begging?"

A. The Brahmin asked the beggar why he had not worked in a sweatshop and earned a few bucks and manage his family rather than begging.

B. The Brahmin asked the beggar why he not worked in a sweatshop and earned a few bucks and manage his family rather than begging.

C. The Brahmin asked the beggar why he didn't work in a sweatshop and earn a few bucks and manage his family rather than begging.

D. The Brahmin asked the beggar why he is not working in a sweatshop earning a few bucks and managing his family rather than begging.

Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

Life is full of surprises. Mine, this time, is a green one. And it has a lot to do with the (1)____

'One generation plants a tree, and another enjoys its (2)____'. My maternal grandfather, a

bishop, possessed a (3)____, as manifested through a majority of the trees in my garden.

Some of these, including the guava trees, the mulberry trees, the fig trees, and the mango tree, still exist and produce fruit in due season. Others, however, succumbed (4)____ time. This is also true of one of the many lemon trees that he planted in his lifetime.

This particular variety was known for enormous fruit, only one of which could be held in one hand at a time. It would hardly fit into the squeezer and had to be cut up into small pieces. One lemon could (5)___ three or four glasses of yummy lemonade.

These trees, too, withered over the years, leaving us with sweet and sour memories. However, the roots of the righteous revive again even after staying dormant for centuries — a belief rooted in the Holy Bible. "The root of the righteous yieldeth fruit," says the Book of Proverbs 12:12. I know this is true as I have seen it unfold.

Having lain dormant for more than a decade, the roots of this lemon tree revived a couple of years ago. We rarely anticipated that what we had lost would someday reappear unexpectedly.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):

- A. parable
- B. epitaph
- C. adage
- D. riddle

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):

- A. bark
- B. shade
- C. thorns
- D. wither

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):

- A. black thumb
- B. silver tongue
- C. heavy hand
- D. green thumb

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):

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

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):

- A. churn up
- B. churn over
- C. churn out
- D. churn through

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **To underline the high macroeconomic exposure of the domestic economy to potential escalations in foreign visa curbs.**

Passage: “Moreover, as the report says, ‘any extension into broader work-visa restrictions would pose a more material risk’. India’s software, business and other services exports — a major source of foreign exchange for the country — stood at \$221 billion in 2025-26.

Washington’s latest action thus opens another front in a tumultuous India-US relationship.”-----

The passage first says the PERM suspension may have a small effect now, but wider visa restrictions would be a bigger risk. Then it gives the \$221 billion figure and calls services exports “a major source of foreign exchange.” This shows how much India’s economy depends on this sector. So if the US puts more limits on work visas, India has a lot to lose.

Option A says this exactly.

- Option B is incorrect because the option says software revenues grew fast after the \$100,000 H-1B fee, but the passage only gives the 2025-26 export figure. It does not compare it with earlier years or say anything about growth after the fee.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says IT firms have spread beyond Western markets to reduce tariff risks, but the passage does not talk about markets outside the West. The figure is used to show risk, not diversification.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says services earnings are higher than the cost of imported crude, but the passage never compares the two. Oil is mentioned only in connection with Russian purchases and US pressure.

2. D) **Onslaught**

Passage: “The White House’s fresh salvo comes only weeks after the passing of a new law that paves the way for the US to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries like China and India...”--A “salvo” is a sudden, strong attack or burst of action. Here, it means the White House has made another aggressive move against India, after the earlier tariff law. “Onslaught” means a strong, forceful attack, so it is the closest synonym.

- Option B is incorrect because the option says “consensus” (general agreement), but the passage describes a hostile move by the US. The passage even says the trade talks have reached a plateau, so there is no agreement.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says “remission” (a reduction or easing), but the passage describes new pressure being added, such as the PERM suspension and tariff threats. Nothing is being eased.
- Option A is incorrect because the option says “oversight” (supervision, or a mistake made by not noticing something), but the passage describes a deliberate action by the White House, not a careless mistake or supervision.

3. C) **It signals an intensifying regulatory push that could foreshadow broader statutory curbs on foreign skilled professionals.**

Passage: “While the immediate impact of the recent decision could be muted — Indian IT firms accounted for less than 2 per cent of the 1,17,849 PERM applications... — the action is likely to sour sentiment. Moreover, as the report says, ‘any extension into broader work-visa restrictions would pose a more material risk’.”----The passage says the direct impact is small, because Indian IT firms file very few PERM applications. But the action still hurts sentiment because it shows the US is getting stricter. People fear this could lead to wider limits on work visas, which would be a much bigger risk. Option C says this exactly.

- Option A is incorrect because the option says the suspension immediately disqualifies most overseas technical workers, but the passage says the immediate impact is “muted” and Indian firms made less than 2 per cent of PERM applications.
- Option B is incorrect because the option says India’s tax authorities would impose reciprocal levies on foreign services firms, but the passage never mentions India taking any such step. It only describes US actions.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says the suspension cancels existing trade treaties for IT vendors, but the passage says no trade deal has even been concluded. The suspension affects the PERM residency pathway, not treaties.

4. B) Introducing an additional dimension of administrative contention to an already strained bilateral relationship.

Passage: “Washington’s latest action thus opens another front in a tumultuous India-US relationship.” Also: “...the pressure on multiple fronts — energy, services exports, and labour mobility — is mounting.”---“Opens another front” is a phrase taken from war. It means a new area of conflict has started. The passage says India and the US already have problems over oil, tariffs and the trade deal. The PERM suspension adds one more problem, this time about workers and visas. So the phrase means a new point of disagreement has been added to an already tense relationship. Option B says this.

- Option A is incorrect because the option says a new trade channel is created to get around protectionist laws, but the passage says “front” means a new area of conflict, not a new route for trade. The passage also says the trade deal is stuck.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says a special panel is set up to settle disputes about migration rules, but the passage does not mention any panel. It only says the US suspended Indian IT firms from PERM.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says India is moving its software exports to other countries, but the passage does not say this. It describes US actions and the risks to India, not any change in where India sells its services.

5. A) Realistic and circumspect

Passage: “statements from both sides appear to be less sanguine about the conclusion of the much delayed India-US trade deal. A few days ago, the US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, said that a trade agreement was not ‘imminent’... India’s Finance Minister saying that ‘both the sides have reached a plateau...’”---The author does not expect a quick deal. The author points out that both sides have said a deal is not close and that talks have reached a plateau. The author reports this calmly and carefully, without anger or mockery, and says the outcome is “uncertain.” This is a realistic and careful view, so (a) fits.

- Option (B) is incorrect because the option says the author is disparaging and cynical (mocking or scornful), but the passage reports the facts in a plain, measured way. The author does not ridicule either side or the talks.
 - Option (C) is incorrect because the option says the author is optimistic and confident, but the passage says both sides are “less sanguine” (less hopeful) and the outcome is “uncertain.” There is no sign of confidence about a quick breakthrough.
 - Option (D) is incorrect because the option says the author is carefree and unconcerned, but the passage ends by saying “the pressure on multiple fronts... is mounting.” That shows concern, not a relaxed attitude.
6. C) ‘by 3 PM’ के बदले ‘at 3 PM’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी specific time के साथ preposition ‘at’ का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे –

The meeting will begin at 3 PM.

- ‘at’ should be used because “at + specific time” is the correct preposition for a fixed point in time (at 3 PM, at noon, at midnight).
 - ‘on’ – Incorrect; ‘on’ is used with days and dates (on Monday, on 5th July), not clock times.
 - ‘from’ – Incorrect; ‘from’ indicates a starting point in a range (from 3 PM to 5 PM), not a single scheduled time.
 - ‘by’ – Incorrect; ‘by 3 PM’ means “no later than 3 PM” — implies a deadline, not a scheduled start time.
 - ‘around’ – Incorrect; ‘around’ implies approximation; the sentence requires a precise scheduled time.
7. D) **Alarming** (adjective) – frightening, disturbing, worrying, shocking, daunting. (चिंताजनक / डरावना)
Antonym: **Soothing** (adjective) – having a gently calming, curative, or relieving effect; therapeutic. (शांत करने वाला / सुखदायक)

- **Ethical** (adjective) – relating to moral principles or the rules of conduct. (नैतिक)
- **Fictional** (adjective) – invented or imagined; not real. (काल्पनिक)
- **Historic** (adjective) – famous or important in history. (ऐतिहासिक)

8. C) B D A C

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B opening sentence के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि opening sentence pine trees के नीचे चल रहे चाक (potter's wheel) का दृश्य दिखाता है, और Sentence B उसी atmospheric setting को expand करता है—“Nearby, birds trade their morning calls as tall trees sway to a breeze...”।
- Sentence D Sentence B को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह background scenery (चिड़ियों और पेड़ों) से focus वापस potter's wheel पर लेकर आता है—“At the wheel, a lump of clay slowly takes shape.”
- Sentence A Sentence D के तुरंत बाद आएगा और एक मजबूत mandatory pair (D-A) बनाएगा। Sentence D में चाक पर मिट्टी का आकार लेना बताया गया है, और Sentence A ठीक उसी action

को continue करते हुए दिखाता है कि उंगलियों के दबाव से वही clay एक कप या बर्तन में बदल जाती है—"Fingers press, steady and sure, as the soft clay turns into a cup..."।

- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आएगा और paragraph को conclude करेगा। Visual action पूरा होने के बाद Sentence C activity का general context देता है कि pottery अराकू वैली के इस retreat का latest addition है और visitors खुद बनाई चीजें घर ले जा सकते हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B directly follows the introductory sentence by expanding the immediate sensory environment; while the opening sentence situates the wheel beneath the pines, Sentence B adds the ambient morning calls of birds and the mist-laden breeze.
 - Sentence D shifts focus back from the ambient surroundings to the physical craft itself via the transitional phrase "At the wheel...", noting that a lump of clay is beginning to take form.
 - Sentence A forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence D (D-A). It directly continues the physical process described in D, showing how precise finger pressure molds that spinning clay into a finished cup, pot, or keepsake.
 - Sentence C follows Sentence A to conclude the passage by panning out from the specific artisan moment to the broader tourist context, explaining that pottery is the latest experiential addition to the Araku Valley retreat.
9. B) 'senior than' के बदले 'senior to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Senior, Junior, Superior, Inferior, Prior, Anterior, Posterior जैसे Latin Comparatives के बाद 'than' नहीं बल्कि 'to' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— He is junior to me by two years.
'senior to' will be used instead of 'senior than' because Latin Comparatives like Senior, Junior, Superior, Inferior, Prior, Anterior and Posterior are followed by 'to', not 'than'; Like— He is junior to me by two years.
10. B) 'have not worked' के बदले 'has not worked' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject 'The antique grandfather clock' Singular है; 'in the hallway' केवल prepositional phrase है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular ('has') होगा; जैसे— The book on the shelves has been damaged.
- 'has not worked' will be used instead of 'have not worked' because the subject 'The antique grandfather clock' is singular; 'in the hallway' is only a prepositional phrase, so the verb must be singular ('has'); Like— The book on the shelves has been damaged.
11. A) **Ensure** (verb) – guarantee, secure, assure, confirm, warrant. (सुनिश्चित करना)
Synonym: **Warrant** (verb) – justify or necessitate a certain course of action; officially affirm. (गारंटी देना / सुनिश्चित करना)
- **Distinguish** (verb) – differentiate, identify, separate. (भेद करना)
 - **Accuse** (verb) – charge, blame, allege. (आरोप लगाना)
 - **Expel** (verb) – deport, banish, oust. (निष्कासित करना)
12. A) **To change one's behaviour or attitude for the better; to start afresh**

The idiom "to turn over a new leaf" means to make a fresh start by changing one's behaviour or attitude for the better.

"To turn over a new leaf" का अर्थ है – अपने जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाना, नई शुरुआत करना।
जैसे: "परीक्षा में फेल होने के बाद उसने अपनी पुरानी आदतें बदल दीं।"

13. B). C A D B

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C starting sentence के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि opening sentence 18th-century के poet मीर तक़ी मीर के couplet ("My heart and my Delhi...") का reference देता है। Sentence C में प्रयुक्त phrase "Centuries later, the words still ring true..." सीधे उसी couplet और उसके शब्दों को point करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि film के general introduction के बाद यह film के creators (story, script, director) और core theme का परिचय देता है, जहाँ पहली बार Radhika Raj और खिड़की के बाहर मौजूद "red silk cotton tree, or semal" का mention होता है।
- Sentence D Sentence A को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह film की पूरी cast list सामने रखता है— Radhika, her partner Saptak, house help Swati, cats, और semal tree। यहाँ पहली बार Saptak को Radhika के partner के रूप में introduce किया गया है।
- Sentence B Sentence D के बाद आएगा और paragraph को end करेगा। Sentence D में Saptak का introduction मिलने के बाद, Sentence B timeline की शुरुआत करता है—"Opening in 2021, when Radhika and Saptak move into a new home overlooking this tree..."। इसलिए D-B एक clear mandatory pair बनाता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C directly links to the opening sentence: the lead sentence quotes the couplet by 18th-century poet Mir Taqi Mir, and Sentence C immediately validates it through chronological reference: "Centuries later, the words still ring true..."
- Sentence A follows Sentence C by shifting from festival selections to the core production credits and premise, introducing Radhika Raj, director Samreen Farooqui, and her obsession with the "red silk cotton tree, or semal".
- Sentence D follows Sentence A by expanding the dramatis personae, outlining the eclectic cast and formally introducing her partner "Saptak" alongside the domestic animals and the semal tree.
- Sentence B forms a logical mandatory pair with Sentence D (D-B), anchoring the plot progression to 2021 when "Radhika and Saptak" move into the home overlooking the tree, showing how it witnessed successive seasonal and political crises.

14. A) 'with' और 'with' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "entrusted with" (किसी को कोई ज़िम्मेदारी सौंपना) और "tasked with" (किसी को कोई काम देना) दोनों fixed prepositional combinations हैं; जैसे— He was entrusted with the keys and tasked with locking the office. अन्य options के prepositions इन verbs के साथ प्रयोग नहीं होते।

- 'with' and 'with' should be used because "entrusted with" (given responsibility for) and "tasked with" (assigned a task) are both fixed prepositional combinations; Like— He was

entrusted with the keys and tasked with locking the office. The other prepositions do not collocate with these verbs.

15. C) **Inadequate** (adjective) – insufficient, deficient, scarce, sparse, lacking. (अपर्याप्त)

Antonym: **Copious** (adjective) – abundant in supply or quantity; plentiful, ample, profuse. (प्रचुर / पर्याप्त)

Disingenuous (adjective) – insincere, deceitful, dishonest, hypocritical, deceptive. (कपटी)

Retaliatory (adjective) – revengeful, reciprocal, counterattacking, punitive. (प्रतिशोधात्मक)

Paradoxical (adjective) – contradictory, puzzling, ironic, absurd, conflicting. (विरोधाभासी)

16. B) **Clamour** (noun) – A loud appeal or demand शोर

- **Gambit** (noun) – A device, action, or opening remark, typically one entailing a degree of risk, that is calculated to gain an advantage. चाल
- **Protest** (noun) – An expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent. विरोध
- **Entourage** (noun) – A group of people attending or surrounding an important person. परिचारक मंडली

17. D) The correct spelling of 'castigait' is '**castigate**' which means "to reprimand someone severely" कड़ी फटकार लगाना।

18. A) Solution: A) They say that the new theory has been developed over decades.

जब Passive वाक्य "is said to have been + V3" structure में हो, तो Active में "They say that + clause" का प्रयोग होता है। Passive वाक्य में "The new theory" Subject है और "is said to have been developed" Verb है, जिसमें "is said" (Simple Present) और Perfect Infinitive "to have been developed" है। Active में बदलने पर "They" Subject बन गया है, "is said" को "say that" (Simple Present) में बदला गया है और Perfect Infinitive को that-clause में "has been developed" (Present Perfect) के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।

When a passive sentence has the structure "is said to have been + V3", the active form uses "They say that + clause". In this case, "The new theory" (Subject) and "is said to have been developed" (Verb with "is said" in Simple Present and the Perfect Infinitive "to have been developed") from the passive voice have been transformed into "They" (Subject), "say that" (Verb in Simple Present), and the that-clause "the new theory has been developed" (Present Perfect).

19. B) **Exploitation** (noun) – misuse, abuse, manipulation, oppression, overutilization. (शोषण)

Synonym: **Manipulation** (noun) – the action of manipulating something in a clever or unscrupulous way. (हेरफेर / चालाकी / शोषण)

- **Stability** (noun) – steadiness, firmness, constancy. (स्थिरता)
- **Anomaly** (noun) – irregularity, abnormality, deviation. (विसंगति)
- **Non-compliance** (noun) – disobedience, defiance, breach. (नियमों की अवहेलना)

20. C) Direct Speech का wh-question ('Why don't you...?') Indirect में 'asked' और wh-word 'why' से जुड़ता है तथा Assertive क्रम में लिखा जाता है। Reporting Verb Past में है, इसलिए 'don't you work' → 'he didn't work' (Simple Present → Simple Past), और 'did not' के बाद V1 (work, earn, manage)

आते हैं; 'you/your' → 'he/his'। सही उत्तर: The Brahmin asked the beggar why he didn't work in a sweatshop and earn a few bucks and manage his family rather than begging. Option A में Past Perfect और B में 'he not worked' गलत हैं, D में Tense बदल गया है।

A wh-question ('Why don't you...?') is reported with 'asked' and 'why' in assertive order. As the reporting verb is in the past, 'don't you work' becomes 'he didn't work', and 'did not' is followed by V1 (work, earn, manage); 'you/your' → 'he/his'. Hence: The Brahmin asked the beggar why he didn't work in a sweatshop and earn a few bucks and manage his family rather than begging. Option A wrongly uses the Past Perfect, B ('he not worked') is ungrammatical, and D changes the tense.

21. C) **adage**

Blank (1) needs a noun naming the kind of expression that follows — "'One generation plants a tree, and another enjoys its shade'" — a short, traditional saying that states a general truth. a) parable: means a simple story used to teach a moral lesson, like the parables in the Bible, violating the requirement since a parable is a narrative with characters and events, while the quoted line is a one-sentence saying, not a story. b) epitaph: means words written on a gravestone in memory of the person buried there, violating the requirement since nothing suggests the line is carved on a grave; it is offered as a general truth that applies to everyone. c) adage: means an old, well-known saying that expresses a general truth, matching the short, time-tested line about one generation planting and another benefiting. d) riddle: means a puzzling question or statement that has to be solved, violating the requirement since the quoted line poses no puzzle — its meaning is plain, and the writer's own story illustrates it. Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो आगे आए expression — "'One generation plants a tree, and another enjoys its shade'" — की type बताए, यानी एक छोटी, पुरानी कहावत जो कोई general सच बताती है। a) parable: इसका meaning है moral सीख देने वाली एक simple कहानी, जैसे Bible के parables, जो violate करता है क्योंकि parable में characters और घटनाएँ होती हैं, जबकि यहाँ quote की गई line एक sentence की कहावत है, कोई कहानी नहीं। b) epitaph: इसका meaning है किसी के gravestone पर उसकी याद में लिखे शब्द, जो violate करता है क्योंकि कहीं नहीं लगता कि यह line किसी grave पर लिखी है; इसे सब पर लागू होने वाले general सच की तरह बताया गया है। c) adage: इसका meaning है कोई पुरानी, जानी-मानी कहावत जो general सच बताती है, जो एक generation के पेड़ लगाने और दूसरी के benefit उठाने वाली छोटी, time-tested line से match करता है। d) riddle: इसका meaning है कोई उलझन भरा सवाल या बात जिसे सुलझाना पड़े, जो violate करता है क्योंकि quote की गई line में कोई पहेली नहीं है — उसका meaning साफ है, और लेखक की अपनी कहानी उसे समझा देती है।

22. B) **shade**

Blank (2) needs a noun after "its," naming the benefit a fully grown tree gives to the people who come after the planter — the cool, sheltered area beneath its branches. a) bark: means the rough outer covering of a tree's trunk, violating the requirement since bark is not something a later generation rests under or enjoys; the saying is about the comfort a grown tree offers, not its outer skin. b) shade: means the cool area sheltered from the sun beneath a tree, matching the saying's picture of a later generation resting under a tree someone else planted. c) thorns: means the sharp, pointed growths on a stem or branch — lemon trees often have them —

violating the requirement since thorns prick and hurt, so no one "enjoys" a tree's thorns, while the saying is about a comfort a grown tree gives later generations. d) wither: is a verb meaning to dry up and die, echoing "withered" later in the passage, but violating the requirement since the possessive "its" must be followed by a noun, and dying is the opposite of something one "enjoys."

Hindi:

Blank (2) में "its" के बाद ऐसा noun चाहिए जो उस benefit को बताए जो पूरा बढ़ा हो चुका पेड़ उसे लगाने वाले के बाद आने वाले लोगों को देता है — यानी उसकी branches के नीचे की ठंडी, sheltered जगह। a) bark: इसका meaning है पेड़ के तने का खुरदुरा बाहरी हिस्सा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि bark ऐसी चीज़ नहीं जिसके नीचे बाद की generation आराम करे या जिसका मज़ा ले; कहावत बड़े हुए पेड़ से मिलने वाले comfort की बात करती है, उसकी बाहरी skin की नहीं। b) shade: इसका meaning है पेड़ के नीचे धूप से बची ठंडी जगह, जो कहावत की उस picture से match करता है जिसमें बाद की generation किसी और के लगाए पेड़ के नीचे आराम करती है। c) thorns: इसका meaning है तने या टहनियों पर उगने वाले नुकीले काँटे — lemon के पेड़ों पर अक्सर होते हैं — जो violate करता है क्योंकि काँटे चुभते हैं और दर्द देते हैं, इसलिए कोई पेड़ के काँटों को "enjoy" नहीं करता, जबकि कहावत उस comfort की बात करती है जो बढ़ा पेड़ आने वाली generations को देता है। d) wither: यह verb है जिसका meaning है सूखकर मर जाना, जो passage के आगे वाले "withered" को दोहराता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि possessive "its" के बाद noun चाहिए, और मर जाना किसी "enjoy" करने वाली चीज़ का उल्टा है।

23. D) green thumb

Blank (3) needs an idiom completing "possessed a _____," naming the quality "manifested through a majority of the trees in my garden" — trees the grandfather planted that "still exist and produce fruit" — so it must mean a natural talent for growing plants. a) black thumb: "a black thumb" means a knack for killing plants, the opposite of a green thumb, violating the requirement since the guava, mulberry, fig and mango trees he planted "still exist and produce fruit in due season." b) silver tongue: "a silver tongue" means a gift for persuasive, eloquent speech — fitting for a bishop's sermons — but violating the requirement since the evidence offered is "the trees in my garden," which can prove gardening skill, not eloquence. c) heavy hand: "a heavy hand" means a harsh or clumsy way of handling things, as in "ruling with a heavy hand," violating the requirement since trees that still bear fruit decades later point to skill and care, not clumsiness or harshness. d) green thumb: "a green thumb" means a natural talent for growing plants, matching the thriving trees in the garden that the grandfather planted.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "possessed a _____" को पूरा करने वाला ऐसा idiom चाहिए जो उस quality को बताए जो "manifested through a majority of the trees in my garden" — यानी नानाजी के लगाए वो पेड़ जो "still exist and produce fruit" — इसलिए इसका meaning पौधे उगाने का natural talent होना चाहिए। a) black thumb: "a black thumb" का meaning है पौधों को मार देने की आदत, यानी green thumb का उल्टा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि उनके लगाए guava, mulberry, fig और mango के पेड़ "still exist and produce fruit in due season." b) silver tongue: "a silver tongue" का meaning है persuasive, eloquent तरीके से बोलने का talent — bishop के sermons के लिए fit — पर violate करता है क्योंकि evidence के तौर पर "the trees in my garden" दिए गए हैं, जो gardening का skill साबित कर सकते हैं, बोलने की कला नहीं। c) heavy hand: "a heavy hand" का meaning है चीज़ों को सख्ती से या भद्दे तरीके

से संभालना, जैसे "ruling with a heavy hand," जो violate करता है क्योंकि decades बाद भी फल देने वाले पेड़ skill और care दिखाते हैं, भद्दापन या सख्ती नहीं। d) green thumb: "a green thumb" का meaning है पौधे उगाने का natural talent, जो नानाजी के लगाए, आज भी फलते-फूलते पेड़ों से match करता है।

24. A) to

Blank (4) needs the preposition that always follows "succumbed," the verb for giving way to a stronger force — here, the passing years that killed some of the trees. a) to: forms "succumb to," meaning to give way to a superior force, as in "succumbed to the disease," matching the trees that gave way to time. b) against: marks opposition and belongs to the phrase "race against time," which makes it tempting, but violates the requirement since giving way is the opposite of racing against something, and "succumbed against time" is not English. c) by: marks the doer in a passive sentence, as in "destroyed by time," violating the requirement since "succumb" is not a passive verb; it takes "to" for whatever one gives way to, so "succumbed by time" mixes up the passive pattern. d) from: marks a cause or source, as in "suffered from drought," violating the requirement since "succumb" never takes "from"; "succumbed from time" mixes it up with "suffer from."

Hindi:

Blank (4) में वो preposition चाहिए जो हमेशा "succumbed" के बाद आता है, जो किसी ज़्यादा powerful force के आगे हार मान लेने का verb है — यहाँ, बीतते सालों के आगे, जिनसे कुछ पेड़ मर गए। a) to: यह "succumb to" बनाता है, जिसका meaning है किसी ज़्यादा powerful force के आगे झुक जाना, जैसे "succumbed to the disease," जो समय के आगे हार मानने वाले पेड़ों से match करता है। b) against: यह विरोध बताता है और "race against time" वाले phrase से आता है, इसलिए tempting लगता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि हार मान लेना किसी चीज़ के खिलाफ race करने का उल्टा है, और "succumbed against time" English में बनता ही नहीं। c) by: यह passive sentence में काम करने वाले को बताता है, जैसे "destroyed by time," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "succumb" passive verb नहीं है; जिस चीज़ के आगे हार मानी जाए उसके लिए यह "to" लेता है, इसलिए "succumbed by time" passive वाले pattern से confuse करता है। d) from: यह कारण या source बताता है, जैसे "suffered from drought," जो violate करता है क्योंकि "succumb" के साथ कभी "from" नहीं आता; "succumbed from time" इसे "suffer from" से confuse कर देता है।

25. C) churn out

Blank (5) needs a "churn" phrasal verb in its base form after the modal "could," meaning to produce a large quantity quickly and easily, since a single giant lemon yielded "three or four glasses of yummy lemonade." a) churn up: means to stir something violently so that it becomes disturbed, as in "The boat churned up the muddy water," or to stir up feelings, as in "The letter churned up old memories," violating the requirement since it describes disturbing something that already exists, not producing something new — the lemon yields lemonade, it does not stir it. b) churn over: means to turn a thought over and over in the mind, as in "She churned over the problem all night," violating the requirement since it describes worrying or thinking, which a lemon cannot do; the sentence is about how much lemonade one lemon yields. c) churn out: means to produce something in large amounts, quickly and easily, matching one huge lemon yielding several glasses of lemonade. d) churn through: means to use up or process a large amount quickly, as in "The printer churned through a whole ream of paper," violating the

requirement since it points the wrong way — the subject would be consuming the glasses rather than producing them, while the lemon is the source of the lemonade.

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में modal "could" के बाद base form वाला "churn" का ऐसा phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो जल्दी और आसानी से ज़्यादा मात्रा में कुछ बनाना, क्योंकि एक अकेले बड़े lemon से "three or four glasses of yummy lemonade" बन जाते थे। a) churn up: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को ज़ोर से हिलाकर disturb कर देना, जैसे "The boat churned up the muddy water," या feelings जगा देना, जैसे "The letter churned up old memories," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह पहले से existing किसी चीज़ को disturb करने की बात करता है, कुछ नया बनाने की नहीं — lemon lemonade देता है, उसे हिलाता नहीं। b) churn over: इसका meaning है किसी बात को मन में बार-बार सोचते रहना, जैसे "She churned over the problem all night," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह worry करने या सोचने को बताता है, जो lemon कर ही नहीं सकता; sentence इस बारे में है कि एक lemon से कितनी lemonade बनती है। c) churn out: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ को जल्दी और आसानी से बड़ी मात्रा में बनाना, जो एक बड़े lemon से कई glasses lemonade बनने से match करता है। d) churn through: इसका meaning है बड़ी मात्रा में किसी चीज़ को जल्दी-जल्दी use कर लेना या process करना, जैसे "The printer churned through a whole ream of paper," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उल्टी दिशा दिखाता है — subject glasses को produce करने के बजाय consume करने लगेगा, जबकि lemon तो lemonade का source है।