

Directions (1-8): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain parts are given in bold to answer some of the questions based on the passage.

We all are aware of the fact that nothing is permanent in this world, neither products nor technology. As day by day, improvements and updations are made in technology, leading to new inventions and innovations in every sphere of life. Invention refers to the creation of a brand new product or device. Conversely, innovation is an act of making changes to the existing product or the process by introducing new ways or ideas. At first sight, the two terms sound alike, but if you dig deeper, you will find that there is a fine line of difference between invention and innovation that lies in their connotations. While invention is all about creating or designing something, innovation is the process of turning a creative idea into reality. **[A] There is often a fine line between genius and insanity.** Innovation is not only important on the individual level, but can make or break a business as well.

Innovative businesses create dynamic products, adjust existing services, and/or implement new ideas. **[B] They are not afraid to color outside the lines and try something new, even if it is risky.** If a business is not innovative, they risk losing work to competitors. Lack of innovation also has indirect results such as losing staff and decreasing engagement. Therefore, innovation cannot be an afterthought, but rather a crucial element that is included in part of your strategy. It should be a cultural outlook that impacts thinking and improves problem solving. Many successful companies attribute their success to their innovative practices. That said, inventing and innovation are not one in the same. Invention focuses on creating new items or new ways to produce existing items. Very often, invention is a result of innovation, but it is not a requirement. Although invention can be beneficial to a business, the level of importance and necessity can vary according to the industry.

[C] The era of invention is not over, but they have definitely been pushed aside for an era of innovation.

While many people are still out there trying to come up with the next "big invention" that is going to improve humanity, businesses have discovered that innovation seems to not only trump invention in furthering a company's brand and profitability, but it can be far cheaper when all the framework is already completed. This can be seen from many major businesses that choose to innovate rather than invent, such as Apple and Sony. First, we must distinguish the difference between invention and innovation. Invention is the creation of a product or introduction of a new process, for example the Alternating Current induction motor is an invention created in 1888. An innovation occurs when someone improves on or makes a significant contribution to an item or process that has already been invented; the Apple

iPhone is an innovation of the cell phone. It seems that great inventors are smaller in number – perhaps business models are leaning towards enabling innovation.

Sony's influence in the technology market started with the invention of the first tape recorder, and through years of creativity and perseverance, became innovators of a variety of categories, from computing and electronics to entertainment. Sony shows corporations that for a business to thrive in today's market, a company cannot stay stagnant with on particular item – innovations are essential.

Innovation drives economic growth. Five combination patterns are what create innovation. These are, the production of a new good, a new method of production, a new market, acquiring a new source of raw minerals and the emergence of a new organization. **[D] A company does not need to invent to have a competitive edge in the market, but need to innovate and create a product that is based on the needs and desires of the consumer.**

Q1. With what example has the author described 'innovation' as a change that can even prove to be economically lucrative?

- (a) Since innovation is coming up with a fresh idea, it leads to research and development department of the organization.
- (b) Innovation is a result of invention and hence is economically feasible too.
- (c) It focuses on creating new items or new ways to produce existing items.
- (d) Innovation can make or break a business as well.
- (e) Innovation results in boosting up of economy as an idea for a product or process that has never been made before is highlighted.

Q2. How is innovation a crucial element that its absence impacts business strategy?

- (a) As the companies are destined to fail in its absence because of the stagnant growth.
- (b) Competitors could avail benefits over not so innovative businesses.
- (c) The lack of innovation has secondary impacts such as losing staff and decreasing engagement.
- (d) Both (a) and (b) (e) Both (b) and (c)

Q3. Which of the following statement/s infers that an era of invention has not been dissipated but instead pushed aside by that of innovation?

- (a) Innovation outclasses invention in enhancing a company's brand's name and profit.
- (b) Innovation is far cheaper than invention when all the framework is completed.
- (c) As business models are leading towards enabling new inventions which require scientific skills.
- (d) Both (a) and (b) (e) Both (b) and (c)

Q4. "Sony chose to innovate rather than invent". How has this helped its business to grow?

- (a) Sony made a significant contribution to the item by inventing products according to the needs of the consumer.
 (b) Sony needs to invent to have a competitive edge in the market.
 (c) Innovation helped Sony against staying stagnant with one item.
 (d) Business models like Sony are leaning towards enabling invention which has helped businesses to grow.
 (e) All of these.

Q5. What can be illustrated from statement [A] "There is often a fine line between genius and insanity."

- (a) One should be careful while innovating as a successful innovation can build a business while a failure can destabilize the business.
 (b) Genius and insane innovations cannot be separated through a thin line of difference.
 (c) Genius innovations can turn into insane outcomes if they fall within the line.
 (d) Insane innovations provide a line to develop genius innovations.
 (e) None of these

Q6. What can be inferred from statement [B] "They are not afraid to color outside the lines and try something new, even if it is risky"?

- (a) Businessmen innovates every colorful product even though it is risky for their enterprise.
 (b) Businessmen do not analysis the pros and cons while developing the new innovation.
 (c) Businessmen are ready to think or act in a way that does not conform to set rules even though it is quite risky for the business.
 (d) Businessmen set their minds to break the rules required to introduce a new innovation.
 (e) None of these

Q7. Statement [C] "The era of invention is not over, but they have definitely been pushed aside for an era of innovation" in the passage may not be grammatically or contextually correct. Choose the most suitable alternative that will replace the statement to adhere to the grammatical syntax of the paragraph.

- (a) The era of invention is not over, but it has definitely been pushed aside to an era of innovation.
 (b) The era of invention is not over, but it has definitely been pushed aside for an era of innovation.
 (c) The eras of invention is not over, but they have definitely been pushed aside for an eras of innovation.
 (d) The era of invention is not over, but they had definitely been pushed aside for an era of innovation.
 (e) None of these

Q8. According to the author, in reference with the statement [D] "A company does not need to invent to have a competitive edge in the market, but need to innovate and create a product that is based on the

needs and desires of the consumer", what should be the criteria for innovation?

- (a) Profits (b) Market trends (c) Competition
 (d) Customer satisfaction (e) None of these

Directions (9-15): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Compounding the **woes** for the solar power industry, Maharashtra's appellate authority for advance ruling (AAAR) has held that solar power projects are liable to 18% goods and services tax (GST) and not at the lower rate of 5% as claimed by power producers. With the appellate authority reinforcing similar rulings by some other state level authority for advance ruling including of Rajasthan and Maharashtra, this issue seems to be headed for a **prolonged** legal battle unless the government decides to step in and issue clarifications on the taxability of solar power projects. **[A] A rise in project cost could get reflected in the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions to win projects.** With electricity out of the goods and services tax (GST), the higher tax rate becomes an outright cost for the producers thus inflating the final price of the solar power. A government proposal to levy safeguard duty on imported solar panels that is meant to support domestic panel manufacturers is another factor that has brought some uncertainty to solar power project developers.

Solar power generation panels, which constitute around 60-70% of the cost of the solar power projects, are taxed at 5% GST. However, the AAARs have held that setting up of solar projects are covered under the classification of works contract as they consist of supply of goods and services packaged into an immovable property. They held that because of this, these projects are **liable** to be taxed at 18% that applies to works contracts. In the pre-GST era, only a small part of the total project cost, nearly a tenth of it, was covered by a service tax of 15%. The net tax effect on the solar power industry in a pre-GST regime was less than 5%, a reflection of the tax breaks it enjoyed across excise and value added tax.

The higher tax rates being levied on solar power projects is despite the NDA government's focused approach to promote solar power. The industry has sought government intervention to lower the tax burden on such projects.

[B] The solar industry may be about to face what imported coal-based power projects saw some years back --- an increase in production cost due to changes in law and the imposition of new tariffs. Due to a safeguards duty recently announced by the government, close to 7,000 MW of under-construction and recently bid solar projects will see their cost go up and would have to revise their tariff accordingly. Over the years, coal power projects have seen massive fluctuations in price and availability of coal. This led to high litigation cost and

increase in the power rate, landing several projects in debt trap. Industry executives fear that the same could happen in the solar sector if there is no stability on tariff and clarity on regulations. "A general consensus among various GST advance ruling authorities of 18% rate of GST on solar power projects is quite an aspect of worry for the solar industry players who believe that a 5% tax should be applicable," said Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY. "To end **apprehensions**, the government should consider issuing an explicit clarification on the rate of tax applicable to such projects," he said. India is pursuing a goal of having 100 giga watt (GW) of solar power capacity by 2022, up from 23 GW at present.

India has a renewable power generation capacity of over 70 GW currently, half of which comes from wind power. Intense competition in recent years have drove down solar power tariff discovered in project auctions. The factors that helped producers to bid projects aggressively include lower price of imported solar panels and efficient financial structuring of projects. Industry observers said that global developments like China limiting solar capacity addition making more panels available for imports are helping to counter-balance cost pressures building up in the country. "The solar industry is facing upward cost pressure locally from taxes and financing, but that is getting balanced by lower equipment costs due to global developments. So, for now, project profitability is secure," said Kameswara Rao, Partner, Grid, PwC India.

Q9. Why does the solar power project issue seems to be heading for a prolonged legal battle?

- (a) Because intense competition in recent years have drove down solar power tariff.
- (b) As India is pursuing a goal of having 100 giga watt (GW) of solar power capacity by 2022 and it is not getting enough support to do so.
- (c) As AAAR's has held that solar power projects are liable to 18% goods and services tax (GST) and not at the lower rate of 5%.
- (d) Since the government has issued explicit clarifications on the rate of tax applicable to solar projects.
- (e) All of these.

Q10. What is the factor among the given options that has brought uncertainty to solar power project developers?

- (a) Lower equipment costs due to global developments.
- (b) Unsecure project profitability of solar power projects.
- (c) Lowering down of solar power capacity from 23 GW.
- (d) Government's proposal to levy safeguard duty on imported solar panels.
- (e) High litigation cost.

Q11. How have AAAR's justified the liability of solar power projects withstanding under 18 % GST?

- (a) As under the previous regime, there were issues in tax treatment of works contract.

(b) As an abatement has been prescribed for works contract under the GST law.

(c) Setting up of solar projects are covered under the classification of works contract as they consist of supply of goods and services packaged into an immovable property.

(d) Both (b) and (c)

(e) Both (a) and (b)

Q12. What was the consequence of massive fluctuations in price and availability of coal?

(a) As coal is not easier to transport than oil or natural gas, the mining industry got impacted.

(b) Cost of extracting coal decreased.

(c) Decreased economic activity and demand for steel.

(d) High litigation cost and increase in the power rate.

(e) None of these.

Q13. What are the factors highlighted that helped solar power producers in aggressive bidding?

(a) Lower cost pressure from taxes and financing.

(b) Lower price of imported solar panels and efficient financial structuring of projects.

(c) Safeguards duty embedded in the imported solar panels helped solar power project developers.

(d) Dis-balance in equipment costs due to global developments.

(e) 5% tax reflection effect that it enjoyed across excise and value added tax.

Q14. Statement [A] "A rise in project cost could get reflected in the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions to win projects" in the passage may not be grammatically or contextually correct. Choose the most suitable alternative that will replace the statement to adhere to the grammatical syntax of the paragraph.

(a) A rise for project cost could get reflected in the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions to win projects.

(b) A rise with the project cost could get reflected in the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions to win projects.

(c) A rise with the project cost could reflects in the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions to win projects.

(d) A rise for the project cost could get reflected on the power tariffs that solar power developers offer in auctions for winning projects.

(e) None of these

Q15. Which of the following options is strengthening the statement [B] "The solar industry may be about to face what imported coal-based power projects saw some years back --- an increase in the production cost due to changes in law and the imposition of new tariffs." of the passage?

(a) The tariff and litigation cost are highly instable in solar industry.

(b) High litigation cost and increase in the power rate, landed several coal power projects in debt trap.

- (c) Electricity cost is not covered under GST, therefore the project costs increases.
(d) India is pursuing a goal of having 100 giga watt of solar power capacity. (e) None of these

Direction (16-20): In the following questions, a paragraph is divided into five parts with one of the parts been omitted. You must choose the most suitable alternative among the five that should fill the omitted part making the paragraph grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. If none of the given alternatives are appropriate to fill the blank, choose option (e) i.e. "none of these" as your answer choice.

Q96. The new possibility would be thwarted by the Supreme Court directive (a) / to make new car and two-wheeler owners purchase insurance covers (b) / _____, (c) / and the insurance regulator's fiat to general insurers (d) / to sell long-term third-party motor insurance covers for new cars and two-wheelers from September 1. (E)

- (a) to set prices just as they do on own-damage covers
(b) accident-proneness of routine travel regions, distance driven per month and so on
(c) to acquire the capacity to enforce the law and the stipulated penalty for its violation
(d) for at least three years and five years respectively, against the existing norm of one year,
(e) None of these

Q17. Recently, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) conducted the first-ever nationwide survey (a) / of the transgender community in India and found that (b) / _____. (c) / It is profoundly absurd that we think of ourselves as inhabiting a "modern" world, (d) / and yet there exists a sizeable community of people who are structurally ostracized and denied the fundamental right to a livelihood. (E)

- (a) as someone who is not of an established and accepted gender.
(b) 92% of the people belonging to the community are subjected to economic exclusion.
(c) it defined a transgender person; as neither a man nor a woman.
(d) what counts as discrimination against a transgender person.
(e) None of these

Q18. A backlog of 0.24 million unfilled posts in the public sector, (a) / _____ (b) / surrounding the National Democratic Alliance government's claim on job creation. (c) / With the public sector being the major contributor in formal sector employment in the country, (d) / historically, this backlog of vacancies speaks volumes about the nature of the jobs that the government claims to have created. (E)

- (a) as reported by the media recently, has escalated the contention
(b) seems to be in denial that this contemporary trend of informalisation

- (c) with presumably higher level of education and skill, is perplexing
(d) finds it difficult to match up to the central government pay-packages
(e) None of these

Q19. _____ (a) / as their currencies resume their prolonged slide against the U.S. dollar. (b) / The Indian rupee weakened past the 71 mark for the first time ever on Friday, (c) / registering a loss of about 10% of its value against the dollar since the beginning of the year. (d) / This makes the rupee the worst-performing currency in Asia. (E)

- (a) Investors who earlier put their money in emerging markets
(b) Emerging market currencies, most notably the Turkish lira have suffered much larger losses owing
(c) Emerging market economies continue to be in the spotlight for the wrong reasons
(d) Emerging market countries, which earlier benefited from the easing of monetary conditions,
(e) None of these

Q20. Kerala's unique topography of coastal plains (a) / and rolling hills between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats (b) / _____, (c) / landslides, flooding and coastal erosion being the most common. (d) / Incidents of flooding have become frequent, aided by human intervention. (E)

- (a) 70% of its coastal areas are prone to tsunamis and cyclones (b) is vulnerable to several natural hazards
(c) 60% of its landmass vulnerable to earthquakes
(d) 12% of its land to floods (e) None of these

Direction (21-23): Select the phrase/connector (STARTERS) from the given three options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same meaning as expressed in the statement sentences.

Q21. (I) Unmanned or remotely piloted aircraft, commonly known as drones, hold immense promise for various commercial applications,

(II) The government has done well to set up a regulatory framework for drone operations, including commercial use.

- (i) Given how unmanned...
(ii) Since unmanned or...
(iii) Provided that unmanned...
(a) Only (ii) (b) Only (iii) (c) Both (ii) and (iii)
(d) Both (i) and (ii) (e) All of these

Q22. (I) People have to be convinced to buy insurance for the expected life of the vehicle at the time of purchase, as in the case of road tax.

(II) This process of convincing interferes with the need to set premium based on data relating to safety and diligence of the driver, which would change over time.

- (i) Convincing people to buy...
 (ii) People are convinced to buy...
 (iii) The convincing process interferes...
 (a) Only (i) (b) Only (iii) (c) Both (ii) and (iii)
 (d) Both (i) and (ii) (e) All of these

Q23. (I) The country should find viable and sustainable replacements for its energy needs.

(II) International oil price movements will continue to be an important fault line in India's political economy without sustainable replacements for energy needs.

- (i) Unless the country finds...
 (ii) Except that the country finds...
 (iii) Considering the country finds...
 (a) Only (i) (b) Only (iii) (c) Both (ii) and (iii)
 (d) Both (i) and (ii) (e) All of these

Directions (24-27): In the following questions, a paragraph is given with three blanks, followed by six words. You have to choose the most suitable combination of words among the five four alternative options, that will fill the blank coherently, forming a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful paragraph. If none of the given combination is appropriate to fill the blank, mark option (e) i.e. "none of these" as your answer choice.

Q24. The term 'secularism' has meaning only if it assures the expression of any form of difference. This _____, both religious and regional, should not get _____ under the louder voice of the majority, the Commission said. At the same time, it said, discriminatory practices within a religion should not hide behind the cloak of that faith to gain _____.

- (i) Subsumed (ii) Socialism
 (iii) Invigorated (iv) Diversity
 (v) Legitimacy (vi) Astuteness
 (a) ii, iii, vi (b) iv, i, v (c) v, i, ii
 (d) ii, iv, v (e) None of these

Q25. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has made public its inquiry report into an incident involving a plane _____ Congress president Rahul Gandhi from Delhi to Karnataka in April. The _____ has revealed that there was a technical _____ in the plane, and as the response of the two pilots to the situation was delayed, the aircraft tilted sharply on one side and began to fall rapidly.

- (i) Gremlin (ii) Ferrying
 (iii) Advocacy (iv) Glitch
 (v) Barging (vi) Probe
 (a) ii, iii, i (b) iv, i, v (c) v, i, ii
 (d) ii, vi, iv (e) None of these

Q26. The government seems to be in denial that this _____ trend of informalisation of labour in India is policy-induced. By _____ the traditionally used National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO) employment-unemployment estimates, with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) database of inconsistent quality, the government is trying to sweep some _____ evidences under the carpet.

- (i) Disconcerting (ii) Posterior (iii) Superseding
 (iv) Contemporary (v) Bewildering (vi) Supplanting
 (a) ii, iii, i (b) iv, i, v (c) iv, vi, i
 (d) ii, vi, iv (e) None of these

Q27. While the Supreme Court has _____ the detention of the accused in jail, their house arrest is only a limited _____. The truth is that the accused will have to face a never-ending oppressive _____ process which, once initiated, consumes life and is destructive of one's pride and dignity.

- (i) disdain (ii) legitimate (iii) interdicted
 (iv) consolation (v) prosecutorial (vi) suppressed
 (a) ii, i, vi (b) iv, i, v (c) v, vi, i
 (d) iii, iv, v (e) None of these

Directions (28-30): Given below are six sentences (a) (b) (c) (d) (E) and (F). Answer the following questions after rearranging the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.

(A) Tests of Ganga water indicate it has fared better in Uttar Pradesh; but then, the clean-up plan for the river has received dedicated Central funding of Rs. 3,696 crore over three and a half years, compared to Rs.351 crore given to 14 States to conserve 32 rivers.

(B) The finding of the Central Pollution Control Board that the number of critically polluted segments of India's rivers has risen to 351 from 302 two years ago is a strong indictment of the departments responsible for environmental protection.

(C) Their problems are worsened by the poor infrastructure available in a large number of cities and towns located near rivers. It is notable that these results come from a CPCB audit that was carried out at the instance of the National Green Tribunal.

(D) The data show that the plethora of laws enacted to regulate waste management and protect water quality are simply not working.

(E) The failed efforts to control pollution are all too evident in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam, which account for a third of the degraded river segments.

(F) The study also underscores the failure of many national programmes run by the Centre for river conservation, preservation of wetlands, and water quality monitoring.

Q28. Considering statement (a) **“Tests of Ganga water indicate it has fared better in Uttar Pradesh; but then, the clean-up plan for the river has received dedicated Central funding of Rs.3,696 crore over three and a half years, compared to Rs.351 crore given to 14 States to conserve 32 rivers”** as the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph, then which among the following becomes the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?

- (a) F (b) C (c) E (d) D (e) B

Q29. Considering statement (a) **“Tests of Ganga water indicate it has fared better in Uttar Pradesh; but then, the clean-up plan for the river has received dedicated Central funding of Rs.3,696 crore over three and a half years, compared to Rs.351 crore given to 14 States to conserve 32 rivers”** as the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph, then which among the following becomes the LAST sentence after rearrangement?

- (a) F (b) C (c) E (d) D (e) B

Q30. Among the following pairs which one of them is formed with two consecutive statements after the rearrangement?

- (a) D – E (b) F – C (c) B – F
(d) A – D (e) B – D

Q31. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in the meaning to **SALUBRIOUS**.

- (a) Exorbitant (b) Quandary (c) Enigma
(d) Salutory (e) Outrageous

Q32. Choose the word which is most nearly the **OPPOSITE** of **CAMOUFLAGE**.

- (a) Debunk (b) Indignant (c) Vapid
(d) Anemic (e) Candid

Directions (33-35): In each of the following questions, a sentence is written in four different ways conveying the same meaning and following the correct grammar structure. Choose the sentence among the four options which is grammatically incorrect or carrying a grammatical/idiomatic error in it as the answer. If there is no error in any of the sentences, choose (e), i.e. **“All are correct”** as the answer.

Q33. (a) Two months ahead of the State Assembly elections, widespread discrepancies have been detected in the electoral rolls of Rajasthan with doubts that the names of many legitimate voters have been struck off the lists.

(b) Extensive inconsistencies have been found in the electoral register of Rajasthan with the doubts that the names of many legitimate voters have been removed from the voter lists when two months are left for the State Legislative Assembly.

(c) The doubts that the names of many legitimate voters have been struck off the lists have been precipitated due to the detection of widespread discrepancies in the electoral

rolls of Rajasthan just two months ahead of the State Assembly elections.

(d) Removal of names of a few legitimate voters from the voter lists have raised doubts about the widespread inconsistencies in the electoral rolls of Rajasthan.

(e) All are correct

Q34. (a) At the time as Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh emphasized on Monday that nobody involved in sacrilege cases would be spared, the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP combine has decided to meet the Governor over the ‘deteriorating law and order’ situation in the State of Punjab.

(b) The Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP combine has decided to meet the Governor over the ‘deteriorating law and order’ situation in the state of Punjab because Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh emphasized on Monday that nobody involved in sacrilege cases would be spared.

(c) While Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh insisted on Monday that nobody involved in sacrilege cases would be spared, the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP combine has decided to meet the Governor over the ‘deteriorating law and order’ situation in the State of Punjab.

(d) During the time that Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh insisted on Monday that nobody involved in sacrilege cases would be spared, the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP combine has decided to meet the Governor over the deteriorating law and order’ situation in the State of Punjab.

(e) All are correct

Q35. (a) The AAP, having made efforts to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”, has reached out to ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chootepur, two years after he was sacked on charges of taking bribe for allotting party tickets.

(b) The AAP, as part of its efforts to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”, has reached out to ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chhotepur, two years after he was sacked on charges of taking bribe for allotting party tickets.

(c) The AAP, with an intent to reconcile with “rebels” and “former leaders”, has approached ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chhotepur, two years after he was discharged on charges of taking suborn for allotting party tickets.

(d) The AAP, to reconcile with “rebels” and “former leaders”, has approached ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chhotepur, two years after he was dismissed against taking bribe for allotting party tickets.

(e) All are error

S1. Ans.(d)

Sol. Though the economic lucrativeness of innovation is described in the whole passage through the idea of success of business but being specific the answer can be derived from the first paragraph of the passage where it is mentioned that innovation is a process of turning a creative idea into reality. Innovation drives economic growth. "Innovation is not only important on the individual level, but can make or break a business as well."

S2. Ans.(e)

Sol. Both the options (b) and (c) are correct. Refer to paragraph 2 where it is given that if a business is not innovative, companies risk losing work to competitors. Furthermore the text is also quoted as, "Lack of innovation also has indirect results such as losing staff and decreasing engagement." Thus innovation cannot be an afterthought but rather a crucial element that is included in part of your strategy. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

S3. Ans.(d)

Sol. Options (a) and (b) are the statements which infer the meaning that has been asked in the given question. Refer to the third paragraph where the starting line of the paragraph itself is, "The era of invention is not over, but it has definitely been pushed aside for an era of innovation." It is also given that *businesses have discovered that innovation seems to not only trump invention in furthering a company's brand and profitability, but it can be far cheaper when all the framework is already completed.*

S4. Ans.(c)

Sol. The most appropriate answer here is option (c). Refer to the last paragraph of the passage where it is given Sony's influence in the technology market is through creativity and perseverance. Furthermore in the third paragraph it is mentioned that businesses like Apple and Sony choose to innovate rather than invent. The text is quoted as, "Sony shows corporations that for a business to thrive in today's market, a company cannot stay stagnant with on particular item – innovations are essential. Innovation drives economic growth."

S5. Ans. (a)

Sol. Option (a) articulates statement (a) in the most precise manner. To understand the given statement, hint from the following statement can be drawn "Innovation is not only important on the individual level, but can make or break a business as well" which explains the importance of innovations in a business. Therefore, one should be careful enough while developing a successful and worthy innovation. Thus, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

S6. Ans. (c)

Sol. Option (c) can be aptly inferred from the sentence [B] as the idiom "to color outside the lines" means to think or act in a way that does not conform to set rules. Therefore, in context to the passage it can be understood that innovations play a vital role in surviving the business in

the dynamic market. Therefore, the businessmen try to introduce new innovations even though it bears risks for the business. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

S7. Ans. (b)

Sol. Option (b) is the most appropriate sentence to replace the grammatically incorrect statement [C]. It is to be noted that determiners are words placed in front of a noun to make it clear what the noun refers to. Here, since the associated noun is singular [The era], the determiner [it] and the verb [has] should be in their singular form as well. Moreover, option (a) stands incorrect due to improper usage of the preposition "to". Hence, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

S8. Ans. (d)

Sol. The statement clearly mentions the driving factor for innovation i.e. customer satisfaction [...based on the needs and desires of the consumer]. All the other options are irrelevant. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

S9. Ans.(c)

Sol. The only correct answer here is option (c). Refer to paragraph 1 where it is mentioned that *Maharashtra's appellate authority for advance ruling (AAAR) has held that solar power projects are liable to 18% goods and services tax (GST) and not at the lower rate of 5% as claimed by power producers.* Thus, this issue seems to be headed for a prolonged legal battle unless the government decides to step in and issue clarity on the taxability on solar power projects. This statement also makes option (a) wrong making suitability of option (c) correct.

S10. Ans.(d)

Sol. Only option (d) is the most suitable choice. Refer to paragraph 1 where it is given that *government proposal to levy safeguard duty on imported solar panels that is meant to support domestic panel manufacturers is another factor that has brought some uncertainty to solar power project developers.*

S11. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (c) is the correct choice here. The answer can be deduced from the paragraph 2 where the text is quoted directly as, "The AAARs have held that setting up of solar projects are covered under the classification of works contract as they consist of supply of goods and services packaged into an immovable property." They held that because of this, these projects are liable to be taxed at 18% that applies to works contracts.

S12. Ans.(d)

Sol. The appropriate answer here is option (d). Refer to the third paragraph where it is given that over years, massive fluctuations have been observed in the prices and availability of coal which led to high litigation cost and increase in the power rate due to which several projects were landed in debt trap. Hence industry executives fear that the same could happen in the solar sector if there is no stability on tariff and clarity on regulations.

S13. Ans.(b)

Sol. Refer to the last paragraph where it is given that the intense competition in recent years has driven down the solar power tariff as discovered in the solar project auctions. Furthermore, the text is highlighted as, *“The factors that helped producers to bid projects aggressively include the lower price of imported solar panels and efficient financial structuring of projects.”*

S14. Ans. (e)

Sol. The given statement [A] is grammatically correct and contextually meaningful. Hence, it does not require any corrections. Therefore, option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

S15. Ans. (a)

Sol. The given statement [B] judges the future of the solar project industry by finding its similarities with the coal power industry in the policy formulation. Since, option (a) provides information on the instability of the tariff and cost in solar industry just like coal power industry, it strengthens the given statement. All the options are irrelevant in context of statement [B]. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

S16. Ans.(d)

Sol. The most appropriate clause that will complete the sentence to frame it in a correct contextual and grammatical manner is *“for at least three years and five years respectively, against the existing norm of one year”*. The sentence is describing about the Supreme Court directive to make the owners of new car and two wheeler purchase insurance covers. Since, it's a new directive, option (d) perfectly fits the blank as it describes the earlier as well as the improvised time period for which the insurance must be covered. All the other options are incoherent to the context of the sentence. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

S17. Ans.(b)

Sol. The most appropriate clause that will complete the paragraph is *“92% of the people belonging to the community are subjected to economic exclusion.”* The paragraph is describing about a survey conducted of the transgender community by the NHRC. Since the previous clause mentions “...found that”, the latter part must express the outcome or the findings of the survey. This rationale is satisfied by only option (b) . Options (a) and (c) are contextually incorrect while option (d) is grammatically incorrect. Therefore, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

S18. Ans.(a)

Sol. The most appropriate clause that will complete the paragraph is option (a) *“as reported by the media recently, has escalated the contention”* as the initial part of the paragraph has mentioned about the accumulated unfilled jobs in the public sector. Part (a) of the paragraph acts as a cause for the effect mentioned in option (a) . All the other options are either grammatically incorrect or

contextually meaningless. Hence, option (a) is the most suitable answer choice.

S19. Ans. (c)

Sol. The most appropriate clause that fills the blank of the paragraph is option (c) *“Emerging market economies continue to be in the spotlight for the wrong reasons”* as it acts as a perfect introduction for the paragraph. The paragraph is pointing out the devaluation of the rupee against the dollar; therefore, option (c) will aptly introduce the paragraph stating the fall of emerging market economies. However, option (a) and (d) are contextually meaningless, while, option (b) is grammatically incorrect. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

S20. Ans.(b)

Sol. The most appropriate phrase that completes the paragraph coherently is *“is vulnerable to several natural hazards”*, as the paragraph is describing about the about the geographical characteristics of Kerala which makes it vulnerable for several natural hazards. The latter part of the paragraph already states the hazards that are prone to Kerala, therefore, the phrase *“is vulnerable to several natural hazards”* aptly fits in the blank. All the other phrases are irrelevant to the context of the sentence. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

S21. Ans.(e)

Sol. All the three starters can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the intended meaning of the given sentences. Hence option (e) is the correct choice.

(i) Given how unmanned or remotely piloted aircraft, commonly known as drones, hold immense promise for various commercial applications, the government has done well to set up a regulatory framework for drone operations, including commercial use.

(ii) Since unmanned or remotely piloted aircraft, commonly known as drones, hold immense promise for various commercial applications, the government has done well to set up a regulatory framework for drone operations, including commercial use.

(iii) Provided that unmanned or remotely piloted aircraft, commonly known as drones, hold immense promise for various commercial applications, the government has done well to set up a regulatory framework for drone operations, including commercial use.

S22. Ans. (a)

Sol. Only starter (i) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third and second starter as they would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (a) is the correct choice.

(i) Convincing people to buy insurance for the expected life of the vehicle at the time of purchase, as in the case of road tax, interferes with the need to set premium based on data relating to safety and diligence of the driver, which would change over time.

S23. Ans.(d)

Sol. Both the starters (i) and (ii) can be used to frame a meaningful sentence without altering the exact meaning of the given sentences. However, it is not possible to construct a contextual sentence using the third starter as it would alter the intended meaning. Hence option (d) is the correct choice.

(i) Unless the country finds viable and sustainable replacements for its energy needs, international oil price movements will continue to be an important fault line in India's political economy.

(ii) Except that the country finds viable and sustainable replacements for its energy needs, international oil price movements will continue to be an important fault line in India's political economy.

S24. Ans.(b)

Sol. The most appropriate set of words that fills the blanks of the paragraph is "diversity, subsumed, legitimacy". "diversity" provides the precise context as it means a range of different things. Moreover, 'subsumed' means include or absorb (something) in something else; while 'legitimacy' means conformity to the law or to rules. All the other words are incoherent and fail to make the paragraph comprehensive. Hence, option (b) is the most suitable answer choice.

Socialism means a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.

Invigorated means give strength or energy to.

Astuteness means of keen penetration or discernment; sagacious: an astute analysis. clever; cunning; ingenious; shrewd

S25. Ans.(d)

Sol. The most appropriate set of words that fills the blanks of the paragraph is "ferrying, probe, glitch". "Ferrying" provides the precise context as it means transport from one place to another on short or regular trips. Moreover, 'probe' means a thorough investigation into a crime or other matter; while 'Glitch' means a sudden, usually temporary malfunction or fault of equipment. All the other words are incoherent and fail to make the paragraph comprehensive. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Gremlin means an imaginary mischievous sprite regarded as responsible for an unexplained mechanical or electronic problem or fault.

Barging means move forcefully or roughly.

S26. Ans.(c)

Sol. The most appropriate set of words that fills the blanks of the paragraph is "contemporary, supplanting, "disconcerting". "Contemporary" provides the precise context as it means belonging to or occurring in the present. Moreover, 'supplanting' means supersede and replace; while 'Disconcerting' means causing one to feel unsettled. All the other words are incoherent and fail to make the paragraph comprehensive. Hence, option (c) is the most suitable answer choice.

Posterior means coming after in time or order; later
Superseding means take the place of (a person or thing previously in authority or use); supplant.
Bewildering means confusing or perplexing.

S27. Ans.(d)

Sol. The most appropriate set of words that fills the blanks of the paragraph is "interdicted, consolation, prosecutorial". "interdicted" provides the precise context as it means prohibit or forbid (something). Moreover, 'consolation' means the comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment; while 'prosecutorial' means relating to the institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge. All the other words are incoherent and fail to make the paragraph comprehensive. Hence, option (d) is the most suitable answer choice.

Disdain means the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect.

Legitimate means conforming to the law or to rules.

Suppressed means forcibly put an end to.

S28. Ans.(d)

Sol. Drawing a hint from the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph, it can be understood that it is describing about a study which reveals the data reflecting the increased pollution in the rivers in the entire nation. It further mentions about the problems associated in controlling pollution.

It should be noted that statement (b) appropriately introduces the paragraph by providing the data about the increase in the segments of river pollution. Statement (d) follows statement (b) as it mentions about the data mentioned in the previous statement indicating that the laws have not been implemented properly. Sentence (F) begins with the phrase "The study also..." which indicates that in the previous sentence the study has been mentioned. Hence it should follow sentence (d). Sentence (a) is the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph. Next is sentence (E) as it logically connects with sentence (a). Sentence (c) stands as the concluding part of the rearranged paragraph. The phrase in the statement (c) "It is notable that these results..." provides a clue for the conclusion of the paragraph. Hence, the logical sequence thus formed is, BDFAEC. Since, statement (d) is the second sentence in the rearranged paragraph, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

S29. Ans.(b)

Sol. Drawing a hint from the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph, it can be understood that it is describing about a study which reveals the data reflecting the increased pollution in the rivers in the entire nation. It further mentions about the problems associated in controlling pollution.

It should be noted that statement (b) appropriately introduces the paragraph by providing the data about the increase in the segments of river pollution. Statement (d) follows statement (b) as it mentions about the data

mentioned in the previous statement indicating that the laws have not been implemented properly. Sentence (F) begins with the phrase “The study also...” which indicates that in the previous sentence the study has been mentioned. Hence it should follow sentence (d). Sentence (a) is the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph. Next is sentence (E) as it logically connects with sentence (a) . Sentence (c) stands as the concluding part of the rearranged paragraph. The phrase in the statement (c) “It is notable that these results...” provides a clue for the conclusion of the paragraph. Hence, the logical sequence thus formed is, BDFAEC. Since, statement (c) is the last sentence in the rearranged paragraph, option (b) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

S30. Ans. (e)

Sol. Drawing a hint from the fourth sentence of the rearranged paragraph, it can be understood that it is describing about a study which reveals the data reflecting the increased pollution in the rivers in the entire nation. It further mentions about the problems associated in controlling pollution. It should be noted that statement (b) appropriately introduces the paragraph by providing the data about the increase in the segments of river pollution. Statement (d) follows statement (b) as it mentions about the data mentioned in the previous statement indicating that the laws have not been implemented properly. Since, statements (b) and (d) forms a perfect pair, option (e) becomes the most suitable answer choice.

S31. Ans.(d)

Sol. Salubrious means (of a place) pleasant; not run-down while Salutary means (especially with reference to something unwelcome or unpleasant) producing good effects; beneficial. Since they both are synonyms of each other, option (d) becomes the most suitable answer choice. Exorbitant means (of a price or amount charged) unreasonably high.

Quandary means a state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation.

Enigma means a person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.

S32. Ans.(e)

Sol. CAMOUFLAGE means hide or disguise the presence of (a person, animal, or object) by means of camouflage while CANDID means truthful and straightforward; frank. Since, they both are antonyms of each other; option (e) is the most suitable answer choice.

Debunk means expose the falseness or hollowness of (an idea or belief).

Indignant means feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment.

Vapid means offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging; bland.

S33. Ans. (d)

Sol. Statements (a), (b) and (c) imply the following:

- (i) Two months are left for the State Assembly elections;
- (ii) Extensive inconsistencies or widespread discrepancies have been detected in the electoral rolls of Rajasthan.
- (iii) There are doubts that the names of *many* legitimate voters have been struck off the lists.

But first of all, there is a grammatical error in the statement (d) which is the following:

The subject of the sentence of the statement (d) is ‘removal of names of a few legitimate voters from the voter lists’ which is **Singular**. The subject, having **singular noun**, of the sentence is *followed* by the **auxiliary verb ‘have’**, which is used for a subject having **plural noun**.

Also, there are following contextual errors in the statement (d) :

- (i) Removal of the names of a few legitimate voters;
- (ii) widespread **consistencies** in the electoral rolls of Rajasthan.
- (iii) No mention of the phrase ‘two months ahead of the State Assembly elections’ or an equivalent to convey when would the Assembly elections would be held in Rajasthan. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer because it is the only **incorrect** sentence.

S34. Ans.(b)

Sol. The two events happening are:

- (i) The Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP combine has decided to meet the Governor over the ‘deteriorating law and order’ situation in the state of Punjab.
- (ii) Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh emphasized on Monday that nobody involved in sacrilege cases would be spared.

The statements (a), (c) and (d) starts with a conjunction or conjunction-phrase which are synonyms i.e., While, ‘At the time as’ and ‘During the time that’ are synonyms. They convey the same meaning that two events are occurring simultaneously.

But, the usage of the conjunction ‘because’ in the statement (b) implies that one event is causing another event to occur.

So, while the statements (a), (c) and (d) suggest that the events (i) and (ii) are occurring simultaneously and a sort of independently, the statement (b) suggests that the event (ii) has caused the event (i) to occur. So, contextually, statement (b) conveys a different meaning as compared to that conveyed by the statements (a), (c) and (d).

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

S35. Ans.(a)

Sol. The sentences (b), (c) and (d) are conveying the following:

- (i) The AAP has reached out to ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chhotepur.
- (ii) The AAP wishes to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”.
- (iii) Mr. Sucha Singh Chhotepur was being approached by AAP two years after he was sacked on charges of taking bribe for allotting party tickets.

The above sentences (sentences (b), (c) and (d)) are suggesting that meeting with Sucha Singh Chhotepur was a part of an effort to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”, but the sentence (a) suggests that AAP has already made (and completed) efforts to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”, or the AAP has reached out to ex-Punjab convener Sucha Singh Chootepur after making (all) the efforts to make peace with “rebels” and “former leaders”.

The meaning conveyed by the statement (a) is different from that conveyed by the statements (b), (c) and (d). Moreover, the sentence (a) has a grammatical error. The subject of the sentence is a singular noun ‘The AAP’ which is followed by an auxiliary verb ‘have’ which is used for plural noun.

Hence, the correct answer is the option (a).

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