

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

### Ultimate Xpress Mains Video Course & Mock Test Packages

#### Specially for All Bank & Insurance Exams

##### Features of this Course



Tips & Tricks



Practice PDFs  
on Each Video



Practice Quiz  
on Each Video



Weekly Live  
Doubt  
Clearing  
Session



Personal  
Guidance in  
Secret  
Telegram  
Group



Life Time  
Validity



Previous  
year Mains  
Recap  
Videos



**Subscribe Now**

### Reading Comprehension

#### Passage 1

Prices play a key role in affecting the incomes of farmers. Even during the Green Revolution, along with technology and associated packages, price factor was considered important. In the last two years, inflation in agriculture was much lower than overall inflation. The implicit price deflator for Gross Value Added (GVA) in agriculture was 1.1% while it was 3.2% for total GVA in 2017-18.

The advance estimates for 2018-19 show that the implicit deflator for GVA in agriculture is 0% and 4.8% for total GVA. In fact, agriculture GVA growth was at 3.8% for both nominal prices and constant prices in 2018-19, giving the price deflator of 0%. The consumer price index (CPI) also shows that the rise in prices for agriculture was much lower than general inflation in recent years. Market prices for several agricultural commodities have been lower than those of minimum support prices (MSP). All these trends show that the terms of trade to be moving against agriculture in the last two years.

When output increases well beyond the market demand at a price remunerative to producers, market prices decline. And in the absence of an effective price support policy, farmers are faced with a loss in income, depending on how much the price decline is. The 'farm distress' in recent years has

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

been partly on account of this situation, as the loss of income is beyond the ability, particularly of small farmers, to absorb. In a strange way, it is the success in increasing production that has resulted in this adverse consequence.

A few schemes have been suggested to address the problem of managing declining output prices when output increases significantly. The scheme of 'price deficiency compensation' is one such mechanism which amounts to paying the difference between market price and the MSP. At the other extreme is the 'open procurement system' that has been in vogue quite effectively in the case of rice and wheat, where procurement is open-ended at the MSP. Is there a middle way that may be effective in some crops? One of us had suggested the option of limited procurement for price stabilisation. A 'price deficiency' scheme may compensate farmers when prices decrease below a certain specified level. However, market prices may continue to fall as supply exceeds 'normal demand'. An alternative is the limited procurement scheme.

Under this scheme, the government will procure the 'excess', leaving the normal production level to clear the market at a remunerative price. Thus, procurement will continue until the market price rises to touch the MSP. The suggested 'limited procurement system' will not work if the MSP is fixed at a level to which the market price will never rise. There are costs involved which will go up as production increases above the average level. The government can sell the procured grain in later years or use them in welfare programmes. Some States have introduced farm support schemes, examples being the Rythu Bandhu Scheme (Telangana) and the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme (Odisha). One problem with the Telangana model is that it does not cover tenants, who are the actual cultivators. Basically, these schemes are income support schemes which will be in operation year after year. Thus, raising the MSP, price deficiency payments or income support schemes can only be a partial solution to the problem of providing remunerative returns to farmers. A sustainable solution is market reforms to enable better price discovery combined with long term trade policies favourable to exports. The creation of a competitive, stable and unified national market is needed for farmers to get better prices. Agricultural markets have witnessed only limited reforms. They are characterized by inefficient physical operations, excessive crowding of intermediaries, and fragmented market chains. Due to this, farmers are **deprived** (a) of a fair share of the price paid by final consumers. States have also not shown any urgency in reforming agricultural markets.

For better price for farmers, agriculture has to go beyond farming and develop a value chain comprising farming, wholesaling, warehousing, logistics, processing and retailing.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

**1. The writer wrote about negative trade about agriculture. Which of the following has/have been mentioned by the writer to support this?**

- I. The agriculture GVA growth was at 3.9% for both nominal process and constant prices in 2018-19, giving the price deflator of 0%.
  - II. Reduction in prices for agriculture was much lower than general inflation in recent years.
  - III. Market prices of agricultural products have been higher than those of minimum support price.
- a) Only I
  - b) All of the above
  - c) Both II and III
  - d) Only III
  - e) None of these

**2. What schemes has the writer mentioned in the paragraph to manage declining output prices?**

- I. PM Kisan Samriddhi Yojna.
  - II. Price deficiency compensation scheme.
  - III. Limited Procurement Scheme.
- a) Only I
  - b) Both I and II
  - c) Both II and III
  - d) Only III
  - e) All are correct

**3. What is the problem that has been discussed by the writer for implementing the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Telangana?**

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- I. This scheme will help only the farmers of bigger villages and will not be beneficial for farmers of small villages.
- II. This scheme does not cover tenants who are the real cultivators who actually need this scheme.
- III. The scheme still lacks providing fertilizers to farmers which in fact, is the major burden of expenditure on farmers.
- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only II
- e) All are correct
- 4. What solution has been suggested by the writer to provide remunerative returns to farmers?**
- I. States need to show urgency in reforming agricultural markets.
- II. A stable, competitive and unified national market is needed to be created for farmers to get better prices.
- III. To enable better price discovery combined with long term trade policies favourable to exports.
- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only III
- e) All are correct
- Q5. Which of the following has/have been suggested by writer for farmers beyond farming?**
- I. Retailing
- II. Poultry farming
- III. Fishing

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

IV. Warehousing

V. Cattle trading

- a) I and II
- b) II, III and IV
- c) I and IV
- d) Only III
- e) All are correct

**6. Which of the following is a synonym of the word underlined as (a) in the passage?**

I. Stripped

II. Escalated

III. Divested

IV. Ceased

- a) I and III
- b) II, III and IV
- c) II and III
- d) I, III and IV
- e) All are correct



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

### Passage 2

The dominant mood of the nation barely 100 days before the general election, reflects a sense of betrayal by its political chief executive who has failed to deliver on the promises made in 2014. Rising unemployment, acute agrarian distress, corruption in high places, rising social disparities, continuing marginalisation of Dalits and Adivasis, insensitivity to the plight of vulnerable sections and \_\_\_\_\_ (a) inequities of wealth at all have decisively demolished the Prime Minister's claim to good governance.

This election is about a contest of ideas, about the meaning of democracy and for galvanising maximum support for the dignitarian values that gave birth to the nation. It is about the rejection of "convenient moralities" in favour of allegiance to an ideal of a just, inclusive and compassionate society. It is about a campaign that must yield politics elevated beyond the assertion of subidentities towards a deepening of democracy that holds hope for all our people. Those who suggest that the campaign against the BJP should focus essentially on issues related to "*roti, kapda aur makaan*" underestimate the nation's passion for freedom and liberty. How else can we explain the crushing defeat of the Congress in 1977 under one of its tallest leaders? Freedom, national security and patriotism are not mutually incompatible. No reason, tactical or otherwise, can justify less than a frontal, sustained and vigorous censure of the ruling party's divisive, sectarian, exclusionary, antilibertarian and antidignity agenda of governance. It is \_\_\_\_\_ (b), however, to ensure an appropriate idiom to communicate a powerful appeal built around the assertion of the republic's core values. The politics of a free people wedded to the idea of accountable and restrained power must, forever lean on the side of freedom because **"the battle of freedom is never done, and the field never quiet"**.

Hopefully, the electoral mandate of 2019 will serve to strengthen the foundations of deliberative democracy and repel onslaughts on our liberties in the name of invented insecurities. The mandate must also serve to restore the credibility of political parties as protagonists of constitutional goals, and integral to the democratic process. We are entitled to expect that the outcome of the general election will vindicate national conscience so that freedom prevails over fear, inclusion over exclusion and secularism over communalism. We know that the triumph of democracy is anchored in the equality of citizens and is sustained through freedom and assertion. The French philosopher, Alexis De Tocqueville, reminded us years ago that "a liberal, wise and energetic government" cannot "spring from the suffrage of a subservient people" and that "no citizen is so obscure that it is not dangerous to allow him to be oppressed, no private rights are so unimportant that they can be surrendered with impunity to the caprices of a government".

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

The dismal track record of the BJP's rule, irretrievably diminished by suppression of free thought, persecution and intimidation of political opponents, citizens and students, will hopefully carry the burden of argument against the party's continuation in office. Finally, we cannot forget that the pledge in defence of liberty and dignity of our people that we took as a nation on the midnight of freedom is a continuing one since we are once again called upon to ensure "that the soul of a suppressed nation finds utterance". Therein lies the extraordinary significance of the electoral outcome this year.

**7. Which of the following has/have been mentioned in the passage as move to demolish the PM's claim to good governance?**

- I. Rising employment.
- II. Measures to take down corruption in the country.
- III. Insensitivity of the government to work on vulnerable sections.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only III
- e) All are correct

**8. What has the writer claimed the election to be of?**

- I. For galvanizing maximum support for the dignitarian values that gave birth to the nation.
- II. The meaning of democracy.
- III. Acceptance of convenient moralities in favour a just and compassionate society.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only III

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

e) All are correct

**9. What does the writer mean by the phrase “the battle of freedom is never done, and the field never quiet” in the passage?**

- I. There is still a chance that Englishmen can attack on us.
- II. The policies and schemes released by PM Modi have made the country poor and incapable to fight enemies.
- III. The battle of freedom is still alive in some parts of the country.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only III
- e) None of the above

**10. What will the mandate serve to the country as mentioned in the passage?**

- I. To restore the credibility of political parties as protagonists of constitutional goals.
- II. To induce onslaughts on our liberties in the name of invented insecurities.
- III. To strengthen the foundations of deliberative democracy

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and III
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only III
- e) None of the above

**11. What can be filled in the blanks (a) and (b) in the passage?**

- a) Galloping, Elated



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- b) Admonishing, Prone
- c) Glaring, Imperative
- d) Catalyst, Jeopardize
- e) None of the above

### Passage 3

In 2005, the Maharashtra government imposed a ban on dance performances in bars, with the exception of hotels rated three stars and above. The public rationale offered was that these performances were obscene, morally corrupt, and promoted prostitution. Dance performance licenses were cancelled with immediate effect, prompting affected parties to file petitions in the Bombay High Court. The High Court held against the government, resulting in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court affirmed the High Court's decision in July 2013, pursuing two lines of reasoning. One, the government could not discriminate between luxury hotels and other establishments seeking licenses for dance performances. Two, the ban had proven to be counterproductive, resulting in the unemployment of over 75,000 women, many of whom were forced by circumstances to engage in prostitution.

Rather than implementing the Supreme Court's decision, the government swiftly devised a strategy to sidestep it, imposing an outright ban on all dance performances, whether in street bars or up market hotels. Although the government's response addressed the court's first concern, it failed to address the second. This led to fresh proceedings in the Supreme Court. While the court saw through the government's attempt to circumvent its decision, it left room for the government to prohibit obscene dances with a view to protecting the dignity of the dancers.

Once again, the government responded in a matter of months. This time, the government's response was more sophisticated and took cues from the Supreme Court's decision. Rather than seeking to impose a ban on dance performances altogether, it only did so to the extent that these performances were obscene or overtly sexual. However, it imposed a number of other conditions on establishments seeking a license for such performances. Applicants were required to "possess a good character" with no criminal antecedents. The establishment could not be within one kilometer of an educational or religious institution. A CCTV camera would need to be fitted at the entrance. Customers could not be permitted to throw coins or currency notes on the dancers, but could add tips to the bill. The

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

permit room (where alcohol was served) and the dance room would need to be separated by a partition. The stage could not be smaller than a prescribed size. Some of these conditions were challenged in the Supreme Court on the basis that they were far too onerous.

On January 17, the court upheld a few of these conditions, but struck down others. For example, it noted that the CCTV requirement violated the right to privacy of the dancers and the patrons, the “good character” requirement was vague, the partition between the permit room and the dance room was unjustified, and the one kilometer distance requirement was impractical. However, what the court found especially revealing was that amongst the dozens of applications filed since the new rules were put in place, not a single one had been approved by the government. The court therefore saw the government’s most recent response as a ban on dance bars masquerading as an attempt to regulate them. The court would have none of it: The government is aiming to achieve something indirectly which it could not do directly. This cannot be countenanced. These developments yield insights on the institutional interaction between governments and the courts.

Through each iteration of this case the Maharashtra government has responded more swiftly to judicial decisions than the Supreme Court has to the government’s attempts to sidestep them. The final judicial decision in the first round took just short of eight years, while the government’s response took about 11 months. In the second round, the court took a year and three months to make its decision; the government responded in six months. In the third round, the court has taken just short of three years. The government’s response time is to be seen.

The practical implication of the government being more **nimble** than the courts is that even when government responses are imperfect, the court produces significant delays. This case outlines the vulnerability of what is otherwise seen as an all powerful Supreme Court, especially when it depends on the government to comply with its decisions in some positive way, such as by issuing dance bar licenses. Even when the courts exercise the **putatively** “negative” function of striking down legislation or rules, the level of compliance with their decisions often lies in the hands of the executive.

### 12. What made the Supreme Court affirm to the decision of the High Court for the ban imposed by Maharashtra Government?

- I. This step of Maharashtra Government may lead to huge economic losses to the country.
- II. The Government could not differentiate between luxury hotels and other establishments seeking licenses for dance performers.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

III. It resulted in unemployment of a large number of women who were forced to engage in prostitution.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only II
- e) All are correct

**13. Which of the following can be filled in the blank (P) as a coherent sentence to the paragraph?**

- a) The ministers of the state wanted the GOI to intervene and help the state in getting more funds for infrastructure.
- b) It informed the Supreme Court this time about the increasing terrorism in the state.
- c) Rather than seeking to impose a ban on dance performances altogether, it only did so to the extent that these performances were obscene or overtly sexual.
- d) It agreed to fully support the Supreme Court's decision.
- e) None of the above

**14. Which of the following is/are not in the conditions imposed by the state government for the next time mentioned in the passage?**

- I. A CCTV camera was required to be fitted at the entrance.
  - II. The establishment was decided to not be in the proximity of one kilometers of a religious or educational institution.
  - III. A prescribed minimum size was fixed for the stage.
- a) Only II
  - b) Only III
  - c) All of the above

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- d) Both I and III
- e) None of the above

**15. What motive did Maharashtra's government show when it came up with new conditions after the Supreme Court's verdict against it?**

- a) It completely followed the Supreme Court's Verdict.
- b) It wanted to fulfill its ambitions to raise great income from its conditions.
- c) It planned to challenge the Supreme Court's verdict in Lower House.
- d) It aimed to achieve something indirectly which it could not do directly.
- e) None of the above.

**16. Which of the following are the antonyms of the word marked as (a) and (b) respectively in the paragraph?**

- a) Gawky, Spry
- b) Clumsy, Veritable
- c) Vulnerable, Soothing
- d) Cues, Circumvent
- e) None of the above

### Passage 4

In the first parliamentary elections after the restoration of democracy in 1990, communists did not emerge as the biggest party in Nepal. But they made their first impressive presence - as people's representatives. One mass meeting, supplemented with cultural performances, was capable of turning a whole village into communist sympathisers. In the very early years of democratic restoration, however, communists were misconceived. Still remembered vividly for their Jhapa Naxalite movement, for lynching feudal landlords, there were many who feared them. But in the many rural villages of Nepal, many leftist cultural workers had mingled with people so well that even in night vigils after puja, people sang and danced to revolutionary songs. Local communist literature or works that had been translated into Nepali from other languages made for popular

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

reading. The popularity of the firebrand communist leader Madan Bhandari was soaring; at social gatherings, villagers played loud the recordings of the communist general secretary's speeches.

New leadership emerged after Bhandari's tragic, mysterious death in a car accident in his heyday. Meanwhile, for the Congress-led government, two-and-a-half years had made the party of prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala greatly unpopular. This turned the tide in favour of the Unified Marxists Leninists. The revered communist leader Manmohan Adhikari then became the prime minister. To counter popular misgivings, he introduced old-age allowances and implemented the immensely popular 'develop your own village' programme. This minority government of the largest party only lasted nine months but its fame lives till date, 25 years on. In fact, the impressions it made on the popular psyche have not been removed even by the communist government of today that commands a nearly two thirds majority in Parliament and has been around for more than two years. But today, the communists no longer inspire the masses. They have set all the bad examples. They are demonstrating the very traits that they had so painstakingly fought against during the party-less days. They have stopped living by the ideals they instilled in their followers. They have made a public mockery of their ideals and principles. Take for instance, how politicians, who were defeated in popular vote, were directly nominated for National Assembly seats one after another. Then there is the talk of amending the constitution so that the discredited Bamdev Gautam can go to the upper house and ultimately be appointed prime minister. Our communists today are embroiled in almost unimaginable crimes and malpractices – land scams, trade in education and health, commissions, corruption, immorality, indulgence in wealth, pomp and love for the rhetoric rather than work. While they get into controversies for all the wrong reasons, they have also grown highly intolerant of criticism. The very charismatic Puspa Kamal Dahal, or Prachanda, who could once mobilise masses with one speech, has perhaps been the biggest disappointment. His rebel militia, who would once have given their life for him during the decade-long Maoist insurgency, now views the same Prachanda with hatred for his life of luxury. Prachanda today roams around in a helicopter and takes refuge in resorts whenever he is in need of some solace after a hectic schedule. Prime Minister Oli's self proclaimed aversion to corruption only sounds like lip-service when he is widely perceived to be surrounded by a corrupt bunch of people who command party and state affairs. These activities have greatly discredited the Communist party, in which people showed great trust by giving it an overwhelming majority. Even party cadres are openly criticizing their leadership for this **blatant (a)** violation of principles. Our communist movement has been so badly exposed that even the ordinary farmer or factory worker can't trust the government. The common citizen is no longer assured that she can get their children good affordable education and they can have accessible healthcare. Since there is no investment in rural areas, people are being robbed of their livelihoods and compelled to



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

migrate. At this rate, should we redefine communist principles and politics or is our communist movement **doomed** (b) to failure? Have we spared the political process through which a little-known figure can rise and demonstrate great mobilising skills? Or will we revise our costly electoral system to save public faith in democracy? From grassroots level, people today are running after the Communist party not because they love its principles but because they have vested interests.

**17. For what reason were the communists able to convert people into sympathisers?**

- I. They interacted with people by doing mass meetings.
- II. They engrossed people through cultural performances.
- III. For the Jhapa Naxalite movement they led.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both II and III
- d) Only II
- e) All are correct

**18. The government of Manmohan Adhikari lasted for only nine months. Which of the following is not the reason for the government still being so popular among people?**

- I. Because of the sudden and mysterious death of its leader Bhandari.
- II. It implemented the 'develop your own village' programme.
- III. It introduced allowances to old aged people.

- a) Only I
- b) Both I and II
- c) Both I and III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

**19. Which of the following is/are reason (s) for why Communists are not inspiring people now?**

- I. They have stopped living by their ideals and principles.
  - II. They are embroiled in crimes and malpractices.
  - III. The opposition parties have spread fake news for disturbing the positive reputation of the Communists.
- a) Only III
  - b) Both II and III
  - c) Only II
  - d) Both I and II
  - e) None of the above

**20. What are the reasons mentioned in the passage for discontent among common people?**

- I. There is no assurance for affordable education and accessible healthcare.
  - II. The crime rate has been highest of ever now.
  - III. There is no investment in rural areas.
- a) All of the above
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only II
  - d) Both I and III
  - e) Both II and III

**21. What are the synonyms of the words highlighted in the paragraph and are marked as (a) and (b), respectively? Blatant, Doomed**

- a) Clamorous, Hoax
- b) Strident, Designated

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- c) Loud, Backing
- d) Clamant, Vested
- e) None of the above

### Passage 5

In what raises serious concerns about India's gender imbalance, data collated by the office of the Registrar General of India indicate a downward trend in sex ratio by birth. Even more worrying is a dramatic drop among southern states – barring Kerala – between 2007 and 2016. For example, Tamil Nadu is sixth from the bottom among bigger states, with its ratio falling from 935 in 2007 to 840 in 2016. Similarly, Karnataka went from a very healthy ratio of 1004 to 896 over the same period. Andhra Pradesh registered an even sharper drop in just one year, going from 971 in 2015 to 806 in 2016.

Given that most of these southern states have achieved near 100% registration of births, the drop should not be due to lack of registration of female births. But several experts contend while the trend is alarming and real, the southern ratios in 2016 are too low, suggesting some problem with the registration system. As the overall ratio for the country too has declined from 903 in 2007 to 877 in 2016, another likely explanation is that the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act is not serving as an effective deterrent against sex-selective abortions.

A 2016 review of the National Health Mission had noted that this is largely due to lack of witnesses and insufficient evidence that stymie prosecution. Often times the act itself is insufficiently used in drafting court complaints. Add to this other technical loopholes such as the Act being silent on how to dispose of old ultrasound machines which can be easily reused for sex determination. And with the social preference for the male child still intact, we are looking at a recipe for social and economic disaster. The law must be implemented in letter and spirit.

The government's Economic Survey last year had highlighted this gender crisis by updating Amartya Sen's estimate of 40 million missing women in India to 63 million. This is a huge loss of human resource, something that is also echoed in declining labour participation of women in India which dipped from 36% in 2005-06 to 24% in 2015-16. IMF Chief Christine Lagarde had said that increasing women's participation in the workforce to the level of men could boost the Indian economy by 27%. Unfortunately, social attitudes continue to be stubborn. **The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign needs more teeth to make a desirable dent here.**

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

**22. Which of the following is incorrect as mentioned in the passage?**

- I. Karnataka has improved from a falling 896 to 1004 over the period in Gender imbalance.
  - II. Andhra Pradesh has also aligned with the other states in the series of fall in maintaining healthy ratio.
  - III. Kerala is the state to have reported the maximum fall in the healthy sex ratio.
- a) Only I
  - b) Both I and II
  - c) Both I and III
  - d) Only II
  - e) All are correct

**23. What may be the reasons for the drop in female ratio?**

- I. Due to lack of registration of female births.
  - II. Failure of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act against sex selective abortions.
  - III. Due to lack of witnesses and insufficient evidence that obstruct prosecution.
- a) Both I and III
  - b) Only II
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both II and III
  - e) Both I and II

**24. What does the writer mean by “The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign needs more teeth to make a desirable dent here”?**

- I. To improve the registration system in different states.
- II. Loss of human resources should be what we should be worried for.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

III. The country needs more birth for making a real change in the health ratio.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**25. What has been recommended by IMF Chief Christine Lagarde for boosting Indian Economy?**

- a) The southern states should employ more people for a better survey.
- b) Making an effective deterrent against sex-selective abortions.
- c) Increasing the active participation of women in India.
- d) Improving the registration systems.
- e) Using technical objects to overcome the deficiency in system.

**26. Select the pair of words from the options which has a synonym and an antonym of 'Stymie'.**

- a) Prevent, Facilitate
- b) Hinder, Apparent
- c) Hollowness, Havens
- d) Bluster, Refuge
- e) None of the above



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

### Passage 6

If the novel coronavirus outbreak reduces China's growth, its impact will be greater than that of SARS, not only on China, but also Japan, the South Korea and East Asia as a whole, indeed the entire international community. During the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak in 2002-2003, China accounted for 4.3 percent of the world's GDP, which increased to 15.8 percent last year. While China's contribution to world economic development last year was 27.4 percent. So if the novel coronavirus outbreak reduces China's growth, its impact will be greater than that of SARS, not only on China, but also Japan, the Republic of Korea and East Asia as a whole, indeed the entire international community. Since the epidemic outbreak, the Chinese government has taken **unprecedented (A)** measures to prevent and control the disease, which while gradually yielding results have also temporarily frozen much of the domestic market and suspended the operation of many factories.

Thanks to the epidemic, global oil prices have fallen, global supply chains have been seriously hit, and many factories in China's neighboring countries have suspended production. And since Chinese tourists spent \$130 billion on overseas trips in 2018, the sudden drop in the number of Chinese traveling abroad will deal a serious blow to the global tourism industry and related sectors. The service sector now accounts for 54 percent of China's GDP, up from 42 percent in 2003, and consumption contributes more than 70 percent of the country's growth. This means that China's economy is much more dependent on services and consumption than it was at the time of the SARS outbreak. And given that consumer demand reaches its peak during Spring Festival, the epidemic outbreak just before the Spring Festival holiday has hit the Chinese economy hard. As 25 percent of the ROK's exports are destined for China, the ROK is likely to bear much of the impact of the epidemic in China. With consumption **shrinking (B)** and industrial production taking time to recover in China, the ROK's exports of intermediate and consumer materials to China will decline. As such, the businesses of ROK enterprises in China are expected to be severely hit. The ROK's industrial chain is closely linked to the Chinese economy, and once the supply of intermediate materials from China stops, the production of finished goods in the ROK too will be interrupted. And since China's share of the ROK's tourism revenue has increased from 14 percent in 2003 to 48 percent in 2019, a drastic reduction in the number of Chinese tourists to the ROK due to the epidemic will surely reduce the ROK's tourism sector revenue. If the outbreak in Japan worsens, the country's exports to China will decline, which will hurt the Japanese companies operating in China, because about 1,900 Japanese enterprises operating in China are mainly engaged in manufacturing, and China is the destination of 37 percent of the global exports of auto parts.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

**27. What are the impacts of novel corona virus shown by the writer in this passage?**

- I. Global Supply chain has grown unexpectedly.
  - II. Global oil prices have fallen.
  - III. Tourism industry has seen sudden drop
  - IV. Production of many industries has been suspended.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Both II and IV
  - c) II, III and IV
  - d) I, II and III
  - e) None of the above

**28. What are the consequences that China will have to face with the rise outbreak in Japan?**

- I. China will face decrease in import from Japan.
  - II. There will be global war of China with Japan.
  - III. China will stop investing in Japan in Future.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both II and III
  - e) None of the above

**29. Why will the world face a blow in tourism from Chinese travelers?**

- I. China will restrict its citizens to travel for 3 years.
- II. Chinese tourists make great deals when they travel abroad.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

III. Chinese tourists spent \$130 billion on overseas trips in 2018 and thus, the sudden drop will be a sudden blow to tourism industry.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

30. Which of the following can be replaced for (A) and (B) respectively in the paragraph?

- a) Flinching, Lullaby
- b) Unusual, Aghast
- c) Dwindling, Mournful
- d) Extraordinary, Diminishing
- e) None of the above

### Passage 7

In the third week of April that ended on the 19th, labour market conditions worsened. This was the fourth week of the lockdown. During the last week of March and in the first two weeks of April, the unemployment rate \_\_\_\_\_ (P) around 23- 24 per cent. In the first week, it was 23.8 per cent; in the second week it dropped a bit to 23.4 per cent but in the third week it bounced back to 24 per cent.

The variations were minor and collectively they confirmed that the unemployment rate had indeed risen to around 24 per cent following the lockdown. This is much higher than the 7-8 per cent rates seen before. This confirmation of such a sharp increase in the unemployment rate was important because weekly estimates can be volatile. It may be **volatility** (A) that we held back our first finding of a **rise** (B) in the unemployment **rate** (C) in the last week of March because of the fear of this **recalled** (D).

The large sample of CPHS does provide considerable comfort against such volatility. Yet, it is a deep \_\_\_\_\_ (Q) to accept an outcome just because it meets our a priori expectation. And so,

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

although the sharp increase in the unemployment rate did look plausible, we were not willing to accept it without a further confirmation — a second opinion, so to say. The second opinion was in the next week's results. Only a good confirmation of the second week's finding of a similar outcome gave us confidence that the unemployment rate had indeed shot up to such a high level. The third week's estimates cemented our confidence in the deterioration in the estimates of not only the unemployment rate but also the other important ratios — the labour participation rate and the employment rate.

Now, the third week of April shows a further deterioration. The unemployment rate has inched up a good 219 basis points over the earlier week's 24 per cent to 26.2 per cent. This is plausible. A prolonged lockdown can only worsen labour market conditions. The labour participation rate has similarly fallen further from 35.5 per cent to 35.4 per cent and, the employment rate has now fallen to 26.1 per cent compared to 27 per cent in the earlier week. The employment rate has fallen from 40 per cent in February to 26 per cent now. This is steep fall of 14 percentage points. This implies that 14 per cent of the working age population has lost employment. The working age population is of the order of a billion. This implies that of the order of 140 million or 14 crore people have lost employment in the lockdown. This is unprecedented. Labour markets have been stressed equally in rural and urban areas. Unemployment has risen in both areas and, labour participation rate and employment rate have declined in both. Yet, there are some surprises. The unemployment rate in rural India is higher at 26.7 per cent compared to urban India's 25.1 per cent. It is not common to see a higher unemployment rate in rural India compared to urban India. Usually, the urban unemployment rate is nearly 2 percentage points higher than rural unemployment rate. But, during the weeks ended April 12 and April 19, the rural unemployment rate has remained 1.4 percentage points higher than the urban unemployment rate. Even in the few instances in the past when the unemployment rate in rural India exceeded urban rates, the difference was never this big. The higher unemployment rate in rural India around this time could be because this is the rabi harvest time and people are keen to undertake this work but are unable to do so.

The second surprise was in the volatility of the unemployment rate in urban India. During the first and second weeks of the lockdown, the unemployment rate in urban India shot up to 30 and 31 per cent respectively. Then, in the following two weeks it fell rather sharply to 23 and 25 per cent. This is a rather sharp fall in the unemployment rate in urban India although it remains quite elevated.

In rural India, the unemployment rate in the first two weeks was 21 and 20 per cent respectively. Then it rose to 24 and 27 per cent. The direction is opposite of the one seen in urban India. Nevertheless, these movements have led to a convergence in the unemployment rate in rural and

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

urban regions in the last two weeks to around 25 per cent. Both rural and urban regions have seen a steep fall in labour participation and employment rates. The fall in labour participation rate in urban India is steeper than in rural India. This is particularly true in the last two weeks.

Volatility of estimates will increase as we get to more granular estimates. There are limits to granularity of estimates in both, time and space. It is \_\_\_\_\_ (R) for us to stick to the inference that in the weeks immediately following the lockdown, labour participation rates and employment rates, both fell very sharply and unemployment rates rose equally sharply in both rural and urban areas.

**31. What reasons has the writer mentioned for what led to worsening labour market conditions?**

- I. There was huge unemployment.
  - II. People had started to travel back to their native places thus, making a higher demand for labour.
  - III. The fourth week lockdown emerged to decrease labour participation rate.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both I and III
  - e) None of the above

**32. What has been the situation of rural areas after the lockdown?**

- I. The unemployment rate has been lower than urban areas.
  - II. Labour participation has increased drastically.
  - III. People have now switched to farming and other methods to earn a living.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**33. Few words are in bold letters numbered as (A), (B), (C) and (D) in the paragraph. They may or may not be contextually and grammatically correct in the sentence. From the following options, select an option that has a correct pair of words which need to be replaced to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct?**

- a) A-B
- b) B-D
- c) B-C
- d) A-D
- e) None of the above

**34. Which of the following states the analysis of third week of lockdown done by the writer in the paragraph?**

- I. The labour participation rate has fallen from 35.5 percent to 35.4 percent.
- II. The unemployment rate has inched up a good 219 basis points.
- III. The order of 140 billion people have lost employment.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**35. Which of the following can be filled in the blanks marked as (P), (Q) and (R) in the paragraph?**

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- a) Climbed, Truth, Higher
- b) Fell, Secret, Selective
- c) Hovered, Fallacy, Prudent
- d) Ravaged, Astonishment, Steeper
- e) None of the above

### Passage 8

The time taken for the doubling of Covid-19 cases has slowed to seven and a half days from an average of four-plus earlier. Many people have worked very hard to bring this about. While everyone may not agree with the government's approach, and some may argue that it went into an overdrive too late (about two weeks after the World Health Organization declared this a pandemic), it has to be recognised that it has scrambled since then to deal with the issue. While recognising this, India should not declare victory too early in the fight to control the disease, like George W Bush and his "Mission accomplished". India's numbers of those infected are still growing rapidly. From a base of over 17,000 as of Sunday night, there could be possibly two doublings over the next fortnight, when the second phase of the lockdown is scheduled to end. Over 60,000 cases by then will mean that governments will be **chary (A)** of any complete lifting of the lockdown even at that stage; it will have to be partial and in stages.

Keeping people **cooped up (B)** endlessly is not feasible, there will be psychological damage. Ways of allowing movement without increasing risk have to be thought of now and administratively worked out so as to avoid a repetition of the migrants' plight. The government cannot continue to enforce the world's severest lockdown beyond 40 days. India also needs to be alert to the fact that countries like Singapore have seen a second phase of infection, and China has seen a Covid outbreak in a completely new area. So this battle is far from over. It is also true that four times the number of cases, two weeks from now, will test the system's capacity to cope.

The government needs to continue to expand institutional capacity, as it has done so far with the production of masks, drugs, protective equipment, importing testing equipment, setting up field hospitals, and so on. There are other challenges as well. An extended lockdown will also increase the damage to the economy, and therefore heighten the need to focus on livelihood issues, which have been relatively neglected so far. The government will have to give up its minimalist approach, leaving the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to do the heavy lifting. The RBI has reduced the policy

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

rates and infused plenty of liquidity into the system. But this will not be enough. Beyond what the central bank has done, the government will have to step in to offer credit backstop and cash-flow support to keep businesses going and control unemployment, and ensure that the rabi harvest comes into *mandis* and is bought, transported, and stored. In the absence of government support, a large number of businesses may not be able to survive, resulting in mass unemployment. Economic damage of this scale in a country like India where a large part of the population works in the informal sector, with little or no savings to fall back upon, would cost lives (apart from causing hardship). Just because they can't be counted does not mean that they are not being lost. While both the Central and state governments are providing relief, state capacity in India is fairly limited. Therefore, the government should now prepare to save livelihoods.

### 36. Why has the writer asked India to not declare victory too early?

- I. India should instead help other countries to get victory.
  - II. The number of infected persons in India is increasing rapidly.
  - III. The other countries may get jealous of India by India's victory and stop their exports to India.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only II
  - d) Both II and III
  - e) None of the above

### 37. What are the methods suggested by the writer for easing lockdown?

- I. It needs to continue institutional capacity.
  - II. It should be prepared anytime learning from the example of Singapore which has seen a second phase of infection.
  - III. It needs to supply basic needs at every home in the country.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**38. What has the RBI done to help the GOI for this pandemic?**

- I. RBI has distributed loans on a personal level to people.
- II. RBI has infused plenty of liquidity into the system.
- III. RBI has reduced the policy rates.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**39. Instead of the efforts by RBI, the writer calls it not to be enough. What has the writer suggested after this that India needs to do?**

- I. Ensure that the movement of harvest remains unaltered and continuous.
- II. It has to do ways to control unemployment.
- III. It has to offer credit and cash-flow support to businesses going.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) All of the above

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

40. Which of the following can be replaced with the word highlighted in bold and marked as (A) and (B) in the passage?

- a) Scramble, Convergence
- b) Delusion, Fraternity
- c) Caution, Confined
- d) Adherence, Locked
- e) None of the above

### Passage 9

If even one death is one too many, the reported loss of 53 lives in the Delhi riots last month is a shameful national tragedy. But violence proves nothing beyond a capacity for **barbarity** (A). The sad — if unpopular — truth is that all those brave Muslim women, selfless young students, and intellectual idealists of all faiths or no faith at all who have been patiently, painfully and determinedly opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, are hopelessly in the wrong. The surrounding drama must not be allowed to distract attention from the central point that Hindus in what became Pakistan in 1947 deserve protection. We are not discussing the National Population Register or the National Register of Citizens, which can both arguably be misused.

We are discussing a change to the 1955 citizenship law permitting fast-track citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who came to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan before the end of 2014. We can think of several technical and procedural **liberal** (1) to the revision, but nothing to justify the **impassioned** (2) uproar at home, the concern of friendly **objections** (3) humanists abroad and certainly not the strictures of **austere** (4) Islamists. The CAA suffers from obvious flaws. First, we don't know how many stateless refugees already qualify for citizenship. Second, is the 2014 deadline final or is it likely to be revised to accommodate further victims of persecution? Third, why should Afghanistan be bracketed with former components of British India unless, of course, the saffron fantasists insist they are all units of an even earlier conglomerate like Ashoka's mythic empire? Fourth, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians didn't figure in British India's division between Hindus and Muslims, although Sikhs were a factor in the process.

However, neither singly nor collectively do these objections outweigh the debt that India — Pakistan's counterpoise, even if it isn't called "Hindustan" — has owed since 1947 to people in Pakistan who did not pass the litmus test of Pakistani nationhood. Nor have protesters in

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

Delhi's Shaheen Bagh or Kolkata's Park Circus advanced these arguments. Their complaint is that fast-track citizenship for Hindus will not only deprive Indian Muslims of their rights, but that the CAA is illegal.

Not a single protester has explained how citizenship for stranded and persecuted Hindus can disenfranchise entrenched Muslims. As for legality, a stroke of the pen can alter any man-made construct. The problem has been discussed since before Partition. An exchange of populations, as between Greece and Turkey, was once mooted. The 1950 Jawaharlal Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact tried to solve it by making the two governments accountable for minority welfare. When this failed, some people demanded a slice of Pakistani territory for a sovereign Hindu homeland. But never in all these years has India **faltered** (B) in its quiet de facto acceptance of responsibility for Hindus whom geopolitics had turned into aliens. Their relatively easy acceptance at the border was matched by the outrage with which the Custodian of Enemy Property reacted to my question in 1972 about proof for compensation. "These people have escaped with their lives in only the clothes they stood up in", he exclaimed, "and I'm going to ask them for documents?" There would have been no furore today, no European Parliament resolutions, no tantrums

in Iran and Indonesia, demonstrations in Britain or deaths in Delhi if the government had done it all on the quiet without the fanfare of the CAA. But parties are in politics for what they can get out of it. Whether or not stranded Hindus benefit, the BJP isn't giving up a chance of impressing voters by parading its Hindutva credentials.

**41. Which of the following are the flaws which the writer has mentioned in the passage for which CAA suffers?**

- I. The number of refugees that qualify for citizenship is not known to us.
  - II. Why should Afghanistan and Bangladesh be bracketed with former components of British India?
  - III. Will the 2014 deadline be accommodated for further victims of persecution?
- a) Both I and III
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both II and III
  - e) None of the above



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

**42. What are the complaints of protestors in various parts of India mentioned by the writer?**

- I. The fast track citizenship for Hindus will deprive Indian Muslims of their rights.
- II. They will be given scholarships which the Indian Muslims may not support for.
- III. They say that CAA is illegal.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both I and III
- e) None of the above

**43. What are the methods that were tried to ease the conflicts like these of Hindus and Muslims?**

- I. A territory was demanded by people in Pakistan for a sovereign Hindu homeland.
- II. The 1950 Jawaharlal Nehru - Liaquat Ali Pact that tried to solve it by making the two governments accountable for minority welfare.
- III. An exchange of population was once mooted.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) All of the above

**44. Few words are in bold letters numbered as (A), (B), (C) and (D) in the paragraph. They may or may not be contextually and grammatically correct in the sentence. From the following options, select an option that has a correct pair of words which need to be replaced to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct?**

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- a) 2-3
- b) 3-1
- c) 2-4
- d) 1-4
- e) None of the above

**45. What are the antonyms of the word underlined and bold marked as (A) and (B) in the paragraph?**

- a) Proximity, Alluring
- b) Benevolence, Proceeded
- c) Austerity, Conglomerate
- d) Inane, Outcast
- e) None of the above

### **Passage 10**

The Supreme Court has admitted a plea by the Election Commission of India to examine whether a directive could be issued to all political parties in India to refrain from fielding candidates with criminal records in any elections. Although pinning a criminal record on politicians is tricky as they are charged (and sometimes convicted) with various crimes like unlawful assembly and \_\_\_\_\_ (1), apart from defamation, when they are in opposition, there is need to prevent those who have a record of more serious crimes from contesting elections.

But will a directive from the Supreme Court be enough to rid Indian democracy of this ill? Unless Parliament amends the Representation of People's Act, 1951 (and related laws) people with criminal records cannot legally be prevented from being candidates in an election. But can the people expect anything from the current Lok Sabha in which more than 46 per cent of the MPs have a criminal record and 29 per cent have charges framed against them for crimes of very serious nature? And who will bell the cat? Every political party in India is guilty of fielding such candidates, only the percentages vary.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

This is a direct result of the fact that money and muscle have taken over the electoral system in India. Despite pontificating on the ill effects of both, no leader has the \_\_\_\_\_ (2) or the courage to bring in amendments to rectify the situation. Rajiv Gandhi had a brute majority in 1984 and talked about ridding the Congress of “power brokers” but nothing came out of it. Narendra Modi has an overwhelming majority now and can bring about a change but the government has shown it is not interested by introducing the opaque electoral bonds and the BJP fielding the highest number of candidates with criminal records.

A more serious question is why do people support such candidates? If a person has a criminal record, it is obvious that people in his or her area of operation know about it. Then why do they support such *bahubalis*? The first and obvious answer is due to fear. Then there is a matter of choosing the lesser evil as maybe all the candidates in the constituency have criminal records. The people also think someone who is powerful, regardless of being a criminal, will get their work done. They also vote for such candidates if he is put up by the party they support. Hence, it can be forcefully argued that if parties do not field tainted candidates, people will not be forced to vote for them. But that is unlikely to happen in the present scenario. All parties need money and muscle to run a campaign, and they are more likely to lean towards criminals who can provide both money and muscle than ideologues who can only provide ideas and speeches. It is a matter of commerce and political parties are beginning to increasingly resemble unethical and greedy corporations in this respect.

The Supreme Court had in the past issued many directives to clean up the electoral system. In 2013, the court removed the statutory protection granted to convicted legislators from immediate disqualification. Then in 2014, it directed that trials involving elected representatives must be completed within a year. In 2017, it asked the Centre to devise a scheme to have special courts to exclusively try cases against politicians. Again, in 2018, it asked political parties to publish pending criminal cases against their candidates.

All these directives have failed to work in the absence of a political will. All parties stand guilty of colluding to maintain the status quo in this respect. In fact, the NDA government had vehemently opposed a suggestion made by the Supreme Court in 2018 to give registration to political parties only if they agreed not to field tainted candidates. The government had argued that it was not for the judiciary to decide on such matters as it was the exclusive domain of Parliament. A five-judge bench of the court was hearing several pleas that sought to bar such candidates from contesting elections. The court had found merit in the suggestion by senior advocate Krishnan Venugopal that it issue a mandamus to the EC in this regard.

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

The court had then agreed that it indeed did not have the power to ask Parliament to enact a law on the subject but could issue a directive to the EC to prevent such persons from entering public life. Since the present plea is by the EC itself, it will be keenly watched how the government responds and how the court decides on the matter now.

**46. What are the incidents mentioned by the writer to show that no action for clearing the political system was done?**

- I. Rajiv Gandhi talked about clearing the Congress of corrupted and criminal members and associated persons.
  - II. PM Modi's government is not interested in to bring clean politicians and has highest number of corrupted members.
  - III. Congress has been procrastinating to bring strict rules and regulations for clean politics.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both II and III
  - e) None of the above

**47. What are the reasons mentioned by writer for which the people despite knowing the criminal records of candidates choose them to power?**

- I. The people are afraid of the powerful candidates.
  - II. The people want their work to get done.
  - III. The people vote for the party and not the candidates.
- a) Both I and II
  - b) Only I
  - c) Only III
  - d) Both II and III

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

e) All of the above

**48. What are the steps/directives taken by Supreme Court for clearing up the electoral system?**

- I. The court in 2012 removed the protection granted to convicted legislators from immediate disqualification.
- II. It directed for the trials of the convicted candidates to be completed within an year.
- III. It asked political parties to publish pending criminal cases against their candidates.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**49. What is the action that court can take failing to have the power to ask parliament to enact a law against candidates with bad records?**

- I. It could bar the candidates for a certain period and thus delay them to come to power.
- II. It could issue a directive to the EC to prevent such persons from entering public life.
- III. It could ask the police to finish the cases in an earliest time.

- a) Both I and II
- b) Only I
- c) Only III
- d) Both II and III
- e) None of the above

**50. Which of the following can be filled in the blanks marked as (1) and (2) in the paragraph?**

- a) Sedition, Sagacity

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

- b) Altruism, Audacity
- c) Monotony, Turbulence
- d) Autocracy, Valour
- e) None of the above

### Solution with Explanation:

1. The correct answer is **e – None of the above.**

None of the sentences are correct.

- Agriculture GVA growth was at 3.8% for both nominal prices and constant prices in 2018-19, giving the price deflator of 0%.
- The rise in prices for agriculture was much lower than general inflation in recent years.
- Market prices for several agricultural commodities have been lower than those of minimum support prices (MSP).

2. The correct answer is **c – Both II and III.** (See 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

3. The correct answer is **d – Only II** (See 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

4. The correct answer is **e – All are correct** (See 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

5. The correct answer is **c – I and IV** (See last paragraph)

6. The correct answer is **d – I, III and IV**

Deprived – Stripped, Divested and Ceased are synonyms.

7. The correct answer is **d – Only III** (See paragraph 1)

8. The correct answer is **b – both I and II** (See paragraph 2)

9. The correct answer is **d – Only III**

10. The correct answer is **b – Both I and III** (See paragraph 3)



## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

11. The correct answer is **d – Glaring, Imperative**

Meaning of words – Galloping - Extending, Elated – Full of high spirit, Admonishing - Scolding, Prone – Having a tendency, Glaring – Shine intensely, Imperative – Requiring attention, Catalyst – Something that causes an important event to happen, Jeopardize – Put at risk

12. The correct answer is **c – Both II and III (See paragraph 2)**

13. The correct answer is **c - Rather than seeking to impose a ban on dance performances altogether, it only did so to the extent that these performances were obscene or overtly sexual.**

14. The correct answer is **c – All of the above**

15. The correct answer is **d - It aimed to achieve something indirectly which it could not do directly (See last paragraph)**

16. The correct answer is **b – Clumsy, Veritable**

Meaning of words – Nimble - Quick, Putatively - Real, Gawky – Lacking grace in movement, Spry – Moving quickly, Clumsy – Lacking grace in movement, Veritable - Real, Vulnerable – Susceptible to attack, Soothing – Relieving, Cues – A stimulus that provides information, Circumvent – Beat through cleverness

17. The correct answer is **e – All are correct**

18. The correct answer is **d – Both II and III (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)**

19. The correct answer is **d – Both I and II (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)**

20. The correct answer is **d – Both I and III (See last paragraph)**

21. The correct answer is **b – Strident, Designated**

Meaning of words – Blatant – Offensively loud, doomed - Designated, Clamorous – Offensively Loud, Hoax - Deliberate trickery to gain an advantage, Strident – Offensively Loud, Clamant – Demanding attention, Vested – Provided with power and authority

22. The correct answer is **d – Only II (See 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)**

23. The correct answer is **d – Both II and III (See 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)**

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

24. The correct answer is **c – Only III** (See last paragraph)

25. The correct answer is **c - Increasing the active participation of women in India.** (See last paragraph)

26. The correct answer is **a – Prevent, Facilitate**

‘Stymie’ means preventing something to happen.

27. The correct answer is **c – II, III and IV.** (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

28. The correct answer is **b – Only I** (See last paragraph)

29. The correct answer is **c – Only III** (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

30. The correct answer is **d – Extraordinary, Diminishing**

Meaning of words – Unprecedented - Extraordinary, Shrinking - Diminishing, Flinching – Draw back with pain, Lullaby – A quiet song intended to make a child to sleep, Aghast – Struck with fear, Dwindling – Gradually decreasing, Mournful – Sorrowful

31. The correct answer is **d – I and III** (See 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

32. The correct answer is **b – Only I** (See 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

33. The correct answer is **d – A-D**

It may be **recalled** (A) that we held back our first finding of a **rise** (B) in the unemployment **rate** (C) in the last week of March because of the fear of this **volatility** (D).

34. The correct answer is **a – Both I and II**

The III sentence is wrong as the correct is “The order if 140 **million** have lost employment”.

35. The correct answer is **c – Hovered, Fallacy, Prudent**

Meaning of words – Hovered – Move to and fro, Fallacy – A misconception resulting from incorrect reasoning, Prudent – Careful, Ravaged – Having been destroyed, Astonishment – Surprise, Steeper – A sharp inclination

36. The correct answer is **c – Only II** (See 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)

37. The correct answer is **a – Both I and II** (See 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

38. The correct answer is **d – Both II and III** (See 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

39. The correct answer is **e – All of the above** (See 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

40. The correct answer is **c – Caution, Confined**

Meaning of words – Chary – Characterized by great caution, Cooped up - Confine, Scramble – To move hurriedly, Convergence - the occurrence of two or more things coming together, Delusion – A mistaken opinion, Fraternity – Brotherhood, Adherence – Faithfully following a program

41. The correct answer is **a – Both I and III** (See 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)

The correct sentence for II is “Why Afghanistan should be bracketed with former components of British India?”

42. The correct answer is **d – I and III** (See 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)

43. The correct answer is **e – All of the above** (See last paragraph)

44. The correct answer is **b – 3-1**

We can think of several technical and procedural **objections** to the revision, but nothing to justify the **impassioned** uproar at home, the concern of friendly **liberal** humanists abroad and certainly not the strictures of **austere** Islamists.

45. The correct answer is **b – Benevolence, Proceeded**

Meaning of words – Barbarity - Cruel, Faltered – Move hesitantly, Proximity – The property of being close together, Alluring – Highly attractive, Benevolence - Friendly, Austerity – The trait of self denial, Conglomerate – A group of diverse companies, Inane – Showing a lack of intelligence, Outcast – A person who is rejected from society

46. The correct answer is **a – Both I and II** (See 3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph)

47. The correct answer is **e – All of the above** (See 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

48. The correct answer is **e – All of the above** (See 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph)

49. The correct answer is **e – None of the above**

As only II is correct and is mentioned in the passage and no other. (See last paragraph)

## Expected Reading Comprehension for Mains Exam

50. The correct answer is **a – Sedition, Sagacity**

Meaning of words – Sedition – An illegal action, Sagacity – Judgement, Altruism – The quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others, Audacity - Daring, Monotony – Lack of variety, Turbulence – Instability, Autocracy – A political system governed by a single individual, Valour – The qualities of a hero

**[THE COMPLETE Static GK Capsule for Upcoming Exams](#)**

**[Check Here for Last 6 Months Current Affairs PDF](#)**

**[Click Here for More Expected Monthly Current Affairs Questions](#)**

**Monthly Current Affairs PDF 2020 - [Click Here to Download](#)**

**Monthly One Liner Current Affairs PDF - [Download Now](#)**

**[Click Here to Join Our What's App Group & Get Instant Notification on Study Materials & PDFs](#)**

**[Click Here to Join Our Official Telegram Channel](#)**