

**Directions (1-8): Read the given passage and answer the following questions based on the passage.**

Last month, the United Nations released the 26th revision of World Population Prospects and forecast that India will overtake China as the most populous country by 2027. The only surprise associated with this forecast is the way it was covered by the media. We have known for a long time that India is destined to be the most populous country in the world. Population projections are developed using existing population and by adjusting for expected births, deaths and migration. For short-term projections, the biggest impact comes from an existing population, particularly women in childbearing ages. Having instituted a one-child policy in 1979, China's female population in peak reproductive ages (between 15 and 39 years) is estimated at 235 million (2019) compared to 253 million for India. Thus, even if India could institute a policy that reduces its fertility rate to the Chinese level, India will overtake China as the most populous country.

The element of surprise comes from the date by which this momentous event is expected. The UN revises its population projections every two years. In 2015, it was predicted that India would overtake China in 2022, but in the 2019 projections it is 2027. The UN has revised India's expected population size in 2050 downward from 1,705 million in 2015 projections to 1,639 million in 2019 projections. This is due to faster than expected fertility decline, which is good news by all counts. Like it or not, India will reign as the most populous country throughout most of the 21st century. Whether we adjust to this demographic destiny in a way that contributes to the long-term welfare of the nation or not depends on how we deal with three critical issues. First, do we need to adopt stringent population control policies? History tells us that unless the Indian state can and chooses to act with the ruthlessness of China, the government has few weapons in its arsenal. Almost all weapons that can be used in a democratic nation, have already been deployed. These include restriction of maternity leave and other maternity benefits for first two births only and disqualification from panchayat elections for people with more than two children in some States along with minor incentives for sterilization.

As demographer Judith Blake noted, people have children, not birth rates and few incentives or disincentives are powerful enough to overcome the desire for children. Ground-level research by former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Nirmala Buch found that individuals who wanted larger families either circumvented the restrictions or went ahead regardless of the consequences. As one of her informants noted, "The sarpanch's post is not going to support me during my old age, but my son will. It does not really matter if I lose the post of sarpanch." Second, if punitive actions won't work, we must encourage people to have smaller families voluntarily. There are sharp differences in fertility among different socio-economic groups.

In western societies, low fertility is associated with the conflict that working women face between work and child rearing and the individual's desire to enjoy a child-free life. Not so for Indian couples. In India, couples with one child do not consume more nor are women in these families more likely to work. My research with demographer Alaka Basu from Cornell University shows that it is a desire to invest in their children's education and future prospects that seems to drive people to stop at one child. Richer individuals see greater potential for ensuring admission to good colleges and better jobs for their children, inspiring them to limit their family size. Thus, improving education and ensuring that access to good jobs is open to all may also spur even poorer households into having fewer children and investing their hopes in the success of their only daughter or son. Provision of safe and easily accessible contraceptive services will complete this virtuous cycle. Third, we must change our mindset about how population is incorporated in broader development policies.

**Q1. According to the given passage, where does the biggest impact come from for short-term projection?**

- (a) Existing population especially from women who are in an age of child bearing.
- (b) Adjustment of migration, deaths and expected births.
- (c) getting it covered by media
- (d) Instituting a one-child policy.
- (e) none of the above

**Q2. As per the given passage, what is/are the cause(s) of India's expected population size in 2050 getting downwards?**

- (a) Due to UN's prediction that India would overtake China.
- (b) Declination of expected fertility rate faster than usual.
- (c) Revision of population projection by UN every two years
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) None of the above

**Q3. What is/are the weapons government has deployed to act with ruthlessness of China?**

- (a) restriction of maternity leave for first two births only
- (b) Maternity benefits for first two births only
- (c) Disqualifying people with more than two children from panchayat elections
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of these

**Q4. According to the demographer Judith Blake, what is sufficient to overcome the desire for children?**

- (a) Few incentives or disincentives
- (b) Restricting all the benefits
- (c) Disqualifying people from major roles of society
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) None of these

**Q5. What is the cause of low fertility rate in western societies?**


- (a) Life of women getting stuck between work and child rearing
- (b) Restricting individual's desires to enjoy a life without children
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Children are considered as a financial burden
- (e) none of these

**Q6. How can even poorer households be spurred to have fewer children?**

- (a) Improving education
- (b) Ensuring access of good jobs is open to all
- (c) Granting medical facilities for only one child.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) All of the above

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**Q7. Which of the following words is most similar in meaning with STRINGENT highlighted in the given passage?**

- (a) Strict
- (b) Lenient
- (c) Flexible
- (d) Convincing
- (e) Compressed

**Q8. Which of the following is the most opposite in meaning with RUTHLESSNESS highlighted in the passage?**

- (a) tyrannical
- (b) Compassionate
- (c) Barbarous
- (d) Relentless
- (e) Abominable

**Directions (9-15): In each of the questions given below four words are given in bold. These four words may or may not be in their correct position. The sentence is then followed by options with the correct combination of words that should replace each other in order to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. Find the correct combination of the words that replace each other. If the sentence is correct as it is then select option (e) as your choice.**

**Q9.** The **jubilant** (A) in parts of the country **contrast** (B) the **supposed** (C) abrogation of Article 370 was in **following** (D) to the gloom in the Kashmir Valley.

- (a) A-B
- (b) A-C
- (c) B-D
- (d) C-D
- (e) None of these.

**Q10.** The England cricket team **promised** (A) on Thursday the customized WWE Championship belt which was **received** (B) to them **following** (C) their maiden World Cup **victory** (D) at the Lord's on July 14.

- (a) A-B
- (b) B-C
- (c) A-D
- (d) C-D
- (e) None of these.

**Q11.** A two-member **reserved** (A) headed by Justice R. Banumathi and **comprising** (B) Justice A.S. Bopanna also **bench** (C) the pronouncement of the order to **until** (D) 5 September.

- (a) A-B
- (b) A-C
- (c) A-D
- (d) B-D
- (e) None of these.

**Q12.** The material cannot be used by the court to **ascertain** (A) whether an **accused** (B) person should be **corroborative** (C) as it is a **arrested** (D) evidence only.

- (a) A-B
- (b) B-C
- (c) A-D
- (d) C-D
- (e) None of these.

**Q13.** Recent data points **mode** (A) that our **lives** (B) are set to change **faster** (C). This puts entrepreneurship in fast- forward **indicate** (D).

- (a) B -D
- (b) B -C
- (c) A -D
- (d) C -D
- (e) None of these.

**Q14.** The tragedy **ceremony** (A) when people were **returning** (B) after watching the "Ravan Vadh" **occurred** (C) at the Bihar capital's main Dussehra event at Gandhi Maidan where a huge crowd had **gathered** (D) to witness the event

- (a) A-B
- (b) B-C
- (c) A-D
- (d) A-C
- (e) None of these.

**Q15.** The Jalan **latter** (A) also makes the **distinction** (B) between the **sovereign** (C) and the RBI's balance sheet very clear, giving a separate place of importance for the **committee** (D).

- (a) A-B
- (b) B-C
- (c) A-D
- (d) C-D
- (e) None of these.

**Directions (16-20):** In the questions given below few sentences are given which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Connect them by the word given above the statements in the best possible way without changing the intended meaning. Choose your answer accordingly from the options to form a correct, coherent sentence.

**Q16. AS THOUGH**

- (A) She gazes toward, but beyond the viewer with a slightly wan and wistful smile,
- (B) As we descended, my behind bounced off each log we passed
- (C) I were a piece of laundry being scrubbed on a washboard.
- (D) She has a secret somewhere deep inside.

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- (a) Only A-B
- (b) Both A-C and D-B
- (c) Both A-D and B-C
- (d) Only A-D
- (e) None of these

**Q17. UNTIL**

- (A) The team will continue with their drill
  - (B) Everyone thought she was well
  - (C) The coach is satisfied with their performance
  - (D) A sudden relapse sent her back to the hospital
- (a) Both A-B and C-D
  - (b) Both A-C and B-D
  - (c) Both A-D and B-C
  - (d) Only A-D
  - (e) None of these

**Q18. HOWEVER**

- (A) India has the potential to grow at a much faster rate
  - (B) Declan did a good job running the event
  - (C) All-round mismanagement by the Modi government has resulted in this slowdown
  - (D) He should have been tougher on the slow players in my opinion.
- (a) Both A-B and C-D
  - (b) Both A-C and B-D
  - (c) Both A-D and B-C
  - (d) Only A-D
  - (e) None of these

**Q19. AS IF**

- (A) The article showed the people's pictures with captions beneath singing the band's praises
  - (B) He pointed to a spot on the weapon's surface which had been worn down a bit
  - (C) Someone had tried to scrape something off the surface.
  - (D) It were taken from their press kit.
- (a) Both A-B and C-D
  - (b) Both A-C and D-B
  - (c) Both A-D and B-C
  - (d) Only A-D
  - (e) None of these

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**Q20. NEITHER NOR**

- (A) The State government and many political parties have promised to offer legal help to those excluded  
(B) Such assistance has been forthcoming from the time the updating exercise was rolled out on the ground in 2015.  
(C) Do they plan to resolve the massive problem they have created  
(D) They aren't even ready to acknowledge it  
(a) Both A-B and C-D  
(b) Both A-C and D-B  
(c) Both A-D and B-C  
(d) Only A-D  
(e) None of these

**Directions (21-25): Answer the following questions after rearranging the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.**

- (A) The near zero% growth of the manufacturing sector proved that it had not fully recovered from the "blunders of demonetization and a hastily implemented GST".  
(B) Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Sunday said the 5% growth in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) signaled a prolonged slowdown.  
(C) In a video statement, he said the state of the economy was "deeply worrying".  
(D) To deal with this slowdown, he asked the government to engage with "thinking minds by shunning vendetta politics to take the economy out of a man-made crisis".  
(E) Dr. Singh also attacked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government for eroding the autonomy of the independent institutions and credibility of government data.  
(F) It is particularly distressing that the manufacturing sector's growth is tottering at 0.6%."

**Q21. What should be the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?**

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

**Q22. What should be the THIRD sentence after rearrangement?**

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

**Q23. What should be the LAST sentence after rearrangement?**

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

**Q24. What should be the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?**

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

**Q25. What should be the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?**

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

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