

### Cloze test 1:

While there are many refreshing improvements in NITI Aayog's 'Strategy for New India @ 75' from the **(1) Planning Commission's** plans, there are also concerns about some of the strategies recommended. The **(2) to change** the approach to planning from preparations of plans and budgets to the creation of a mass movement for development in which "every Indian recognises her role and experiences the tangible benefits" is laudable. It will be **(3) for** NITI Aayog to get feedback from stakeholders on whether it has improved the process of consultation substantially or not. The strategy emphasises the need to improve implementation of policies and service delivery on the ground, which is what matters to citizens. Its resurrection of the 15 reports of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission and recommendation that they must be implemented **(4) are welcome**. The previous government had taken its eye off the ball. It did not put its weight behind the implementation of these well-thought-out recommendations, which had the **(5) of all political parties**, by a Commission it had supported. Employment and labour reforms, the second chapter in the strategy, have rightly been given the highest priority, which was not the case in the previous plans. The employment-generating capacity of the economy is what matters more to citizens than the overall GDP growth rate. There is no joy for citizens if India is the fastest-growing economy and yet does not provide jobs and incomes. The growth of industry and manufacturing is **(6) to create** more employment, and to provide bigger opportunities to Indians who have been too dependent on agriculture so far. Here, too, it is not the size of the manufacturing sector that matters but its shape. Labour-intensive industries are required for job creation. If the manufacturing sector is to grow from 16% to 25% of the GDP, which the strategy states as the goal, with more capital **(7) industries**, it will not solve the employment problem. The strategy does say that labour-intensive industries must be promoted, but the overall goal remains the size of the sector. What one measures, one manages. The strategy **(8) the urgency** of increasing the tax base to provide more resources for human development.

The strategy on labour laws appears pedestrian compared with the ambitious strategy of uplifting the lives of millions of Indians so that they share the fruits of economic growth. It recommends complete codification of central labour laws into four codes by 2019. While this will enable easier navigation for investors and employers through the Indian regulatory maze, what is required is a fundamental reorientation of the laws and regulations — they must fit **(9) social** and economic realities. First, the nature of work and employment is changing, even in more developed economies. It is moving towards more informal employment, through contract work and self-employment, even in formal enterprises. In such a scenario, social security systems must provide for all citizens, not only those in formal employment. Indeed, if employers want more flexibility to improve

competitiveness of their enterprises, the state will have to provide citizens the fairness they expect from the economy. The NITI Aayog strategy suggests some **(10) of a universal** social security system. These must be sharpened

1. 1. Bygone 2. forgone 3. erstwhile  
4. once 5. No change required
2. 1. Rapt 2. Intent 3. attentive  
4. veracity 5. No change required
3. 1. Voluble 2. Lucrative 3. expedient  
4. worthwhile 5. No change required
4. 1. Explosively 2. lustily  
3. vigorously 4. sorely  
5. No change required
5. 1. Endorsement 2. appropriation  
3. condoning 4. patronus  
5. No change required
6. 1. Needy 2. essential  
3. compelled 4. obligation  
5. No change required
7. 1. Strenuous 2. tardy  
3. grueling 4. intensive  
5. No change required
8. 1. Apogee 2. zeniths  
3. highlights 4. crudes  
5. No change required
9. 1. Digressing 2. emerging  
3. emulating 4. officiating  
5. No change required
10. 1. Figuration 2. contours  
3. perceptions 4. delineation  
5. No change required

### Cloze Test 2:

The cleansing of the statute books of provisions that criminalise **(1) relations** among adults continues, with the Supreme Court finally striking down a colonial-era law that made adultery punishable with a jail term and a fine. In four separate but **(2) opinions**, a five-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, finally **(3) India into** the company of countries that no longer consider adultery an offence, only a ground for divorce. They have removed provisions related to adultery in the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to Section 497 of the IPC, which now stands struck down, a man had the right to initiate criminal proceedings against his wife's lover. In treating women as their husband's property, as individuals bereft of agency, the law was **(4) gender-discriminatory**; aptly, the Court also struck down Section 198(2) of the CrPC under which the husband alone could complain against adultery. Till now, only an adulterous woman's husband could prosecute her lover, though she could not be punished; an adulterous man's wife had no such right. In a further comment on her lack of sexual freedom and her commodification under the 158-year-old law, her affair with another would not **(5) to adultery** if it had the consent of her husband. "The history of Section 497 reveals that the law on adultery was for the benefit of the husband, for him to secure ownership over the sexuality of his wife," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud wrote. "It was

aimed at preventing the woman from exercising her sexual agency.”

But the challenge before the court was not to **(6) the right** to file a criminal complaint, by allowing a woman to act against her husband’s lover. It was, instead, to give the IPC and the CrPC a good dusting, to **(7) it of Victorian-era morality**. It is only in a **(8) legal landscape** that individual rights flourish — and with the decriminalisation of adultery India has taken another step towards rights-based social relations, instead of a state-imposed moral order. That the decriminalisation of adultery comes soon after the Supreme Court judgment that read down Section 377 of the IPC to decriminalise homosexuality, thereby enabling diverse gender identities to be unafraid of the law, is heartening. However, it is a matter of concern that refreshing the statute books is being left to the judiciary, without any proactive role of Parliament in amending **(9) laws**. The shocking message here is not merely that provisions such as Section 497 or 377 remained so long in the IPC, it is also that Parliament failed in its legislative responsibility to **(10) them**.

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|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | 1. Accordant<br>3. united<br>5. No change required         | 2. consensual<br>4. agreed       |
| 2.  | 1. Clashing<br>3. concurring<br>5. No change required      | 2. synchronised<br>4. coexisting |
| 3.  | 1. Incorporated<br>3. assimilated<br>5. No change required | 2. transported<br>4. integrated  |
| 4.  | 1. Raucous<br>3. boisterously<br>5. No change required     | 2. blatantly<br>4. rowdy         |
| 5.  | 1. Represent<br>3. measure<br>5. No change required        | 2. responsive<br>4. amount       |
| 6.  | 1. Compare<br>3. equalize<br>5. No change required         | 2. adjust<br>4. emulate          |
| 7.  | 1. Eradicate<br>3. divest<br>5. No change required         | 2. rid<br>4. exonerate           |
| 8.  | 1. Dynamic<br>3. reformist<br>5. No change required        | 2. radical<br>4. progressive     |
| 9.  | 1. Reverting<br>3. regressive<br>5. No change required     | 2. backsliding<br>4. relapsing   |
| 10. | 1. Approach<br>3. bespeak<br>5. No change required         | 2. address<br>4. spout           |

#### Cloze Test 3:

As international oil prices head higher, India will have to **(1) itself** for the economic risks of expensive energy. Brent crude oil futures were trading at about \$70 a barrel on Friday, marking a four-year high and a price increase of close to 6% since the start of the year. The rise in international prices has been particularly sharp given that oil had been selling at below \$45 in June. This is a rally of about 55% in a matter of just months. Oil price **(2) have** often been explained by changes in the supply outlook **(3) by** the decisions of major oil producers. Oil trading at \$70 should offer some **(4) to** traditional oil producers like the OPEC members, which have suffered the **(5) of** U.S. shale producers. According to the IMF, last year, for instance, Saudi Arabia would break even on its budget with oil at \$70. The recent spurt in oil prices,

however, seems to be more the result of a weakening of the U.S. dollar than anything else. The dollar has been gradually weakening against major global currencies since the beginning of last year. But the trend was given a new push following comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in favour of a weak-dollar policy. At Davos this week, Mr. Mnuchin noted that a weaker dollar would be good for American trade. However, given that the U.S. is right in the middle of a monetary tightening cycle, it is unlikely that the dollar will continue to boost oil prices, unless the Federal Reserve slows the projected pace of interest rate increases.

Consumers in India are already beginning to feel the pinch as petrol and diesel prices have hit multi-year highs. The retail selling price of both petrol and diesel in Delhi, for instance, has risen by close to ₹3 a litre since the **(6) of** 2018. The rise in domestic fuel prices is on expected lines given the policy of dynamic daily pricing of petrol and diesel **(7) by** the Centre. But as rising oil prices put pressure on domestic consumers, the government will have to **(8) from (9) to** subsidies to ease the pain. It should work towards rationalising taxes on petrol and diesel to bring down retail prices. This will help consumers without **(10) an** undue burden on the oil marketing companies.

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|-----|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | 1) adynamic<br>3) backward<br>5) brace        | 2) aegis<br>4) armor            |
| 2.  | 1) barricade<br>3) dynamics<br>5) protection  | 2) redoubt<br>4) rampart        |
| 3.  | 1) palisade<br>3) bastille<br>5) finished     | 2) parapet<br>4) influenced     |
| 4.  | 1) bastion<br>3) native<br>5) resume          | 2) consummate<br>4) respite     |
| 5.  | 1) bulwark<br>3) national<br>5) onslaught     | 2) conclude<br>4) restart       |
| 6.  | 1) buttress<br>3) preserving<br>5) completing | 2) beginning<br>4) local        |
| 7.  | 1) munitions<br>3) endured<br>5) immunity     | 2) deterrence<br>4) adopted     |
| 8.  | 1) fortress<br>3) dike<br>5) desist           | 2) fortification<br>4) continue |
| 9.  | 1) garrison<br>3) frustrate<br>5) fence       | 2) resorting<br>4) withholding  |
| 10. | 1) embankment<br>3) citadel<br>5) deny        | 2) imposing<br>4) refusing      |

#### Cloze Test 4:

The loss of at least 14 lives in the fire in a Mumbai rooftop restaurant on Thursday night must **(1) impede** a **(2) sympathetic** campaign for safety in buildings. Earlier this week, in another tragedy in the city, at least 12 **(3) stopover** labourers were killed in a fire in an industrial area. This is a catastrophe that can befall anyone, which is why the fires in the upmarket building in the Kamala Mills compound and the **(4) snacks** shop in Saki Naka in India’s financial capital need to become examples: of fixing of accountability of owners, managers and official agencies; punishment for those guilty of

