27th September

Double Fillers

1. Doc Vijayan grew up in Kerala and was not prepared to face the ____ climate of the Sikkim ________.  
   a. Freshwater, summer  
   b. gelid, winter  
   c. compendious, autumn  
   d. subsidiary, spring  
   e. improvident, summer

2. Marvin’s ____ prevented him from finishing his work and was ___________ in his large phone bills.  
   a. Loquacity, evidenced  
   b. Heroism, visible  
   c. Decadence, supported  
   d. Depreciation, hidden  
   e. Rescission, clandestine

3. The graph clearly showed the company reaching the ____ in profits during the 1980s when the economy was in a ________ period.  
   a. Narthex, flourishing  
   b. gullet, down  
   c. gamut, recession  
   d. quiescence, doom  
   e. vertex, boom

New Pattern Cloze Test
The Economist – 1st July

Conglomerates sometimes sell their least promising units, hereby ginning up returns for the remaining empire. But groups _______(1)_______[puzzled] with huge debts do not have that luxury; only by disposing of the most profitable parts can they raise enough funds to satisfy creditors. Such is the story of the Essar Group, which is in the final stages of selling its crown jewel, India’s second-biggest private oil refinery, to a _______(2)_______[acquarium] led by Rosneft, a Russian oil titan. The slimming of what was once the country’s third-largest diversified corporate group is a welcome signal that an era of powerful industrialists running rings round their creditors is ending. The purchase by Rosneft (along with a Russian investment fund and Trafigura, a trading firm) of the giant Vadinar refinery in the state of Gujarat for $12.9bn will be the largest-ever foreign investment in India. It has been a long time coming. It was first ______(3)_______(brooded) over two years ago and jointly announced with fanfare in October by India’s Narendra Modi and Russia’s Vladimir Putin. The deal includes an Indian port and a network of coveted petrol stations. Most analysts approve of Rosneft’s initiative as a way of diversifying away from upstream activities in Russia. But what is most telling is why the assets came up for sale in the first place. Essar, whose interests span power plants, steel, infrastructure and shipping, says that it saw a good opportunity to monetise an asset it has nurtured for years. It may have had little ______(4)_______(voice). An investment splurge starting in 2011 has left various Essar operating entities, along with a holding company based in the Cayman Islands, with a combined debt of around $20bn. Although the company does not disclose updated financials (it is privately held by the Mumbai-based Ruia family) few firms in its various industries make the sort of money it would need to pay down such a debt. In the past, bosses at Indian state-run banks (which conduct over two-thirds of all lending) could easily be convinced to overlook trifles such as a debtor’s inability to repay loans. It takes over four years for an insolvency process to return a meager 26 cents on the dollar to creditors, so bankers often preferred to behave as if even the most distressed company might somehow find a way of repaying a loan. A bad-loan crisis followed. Around one in five loans made by state-owned banks are either set to default or have already done so. The central bank is pushing bankers to get tough on ______(5)_______[big] borrowers. In recent weeks it has threatened to push a dozen firms with huge debts into insolvency unless deals to refinance their debts could be reached quickly. One was Essar Steel.

1. (a) saddled (b) cradled (c)middle (d) riddled (e) No Change  
2. (a) moratorium (b) consortium (c) gang (d) company (e) No Change  
3. (a) rooted (b) muted (c) mooted (d) uprooted (e) No Change  
4. (a) choice (b) money (c) problem (d) idea (e) No Change  
5. (a) new (b) old (c) errant (d) weak (e) No Change
Parajumble – SE370 (the economist)

A. Cholera spreads, with over 200,000 new cases reported.

B. “Our best-seller is pralines,” says one of the managers, who last month served more than 16,000 customers.

C. Since the war erupted, the company has added a new branch to the five it already has in the capital.

D. Government salaries were last paid a year ago.

E. Malnutrition is rife.

F. But the customers keep coming at the local franchise of Baskin-Robbins, an American ice cream brand, in Sana’a, Yemen’s rebel-held capital.

Preposition

71. She remarried ____ the sake of her children.
   A) for  B) at  C) with  D) from

72. He could swim ____ the age of five.
   A) on  B) at  C) in  D) _

73. She was ____ the point of leaving when I arrived.
   A) with  B) in  C) at  D) on

74. The car had been left ____ the side of the road.
   A) on  B) with  C) at  D) in

75. He’s sitting ____ the front of the car.
   A) at  B) on  C) over  D) in

76. They found it ____ the bottom of the sea.
   A) at  B) in  C) on  D) upon

77. She’s genius ____ telling the wrong thing ____ the wrong time.
   A) in / at  B) for / on  C) at / at  D) at / on

78. What’s more important ____ you, independence or security?
Common Error – Non-finite

1. Taken into consideration of (a)/ the advice of his (b)/ friends, he decided (c)/ to stay here. (d)/ NE
2. Carry a bag (a)/ in his hand (b)/ he slipped (c)/ out unnoticed. (d)/ NE
3. Suraj said that (a)/ he would rather (b)/ fail than copying (c)/ in the examination. (d)/ NE
4. I have told Sushil (a)/ that it will not be possible (b)/ for me carry on (c)/ this kind of work. (d)/ NE
5. In the absence of (a)/ clear instructions (b)/ one cannot be expected (c)/ to be functioned effectively. (d)/ NE
6. All his relatives (a)/ expect his daughter (b)/ have gone on (c)/ a month’s vacation tour. (d)/ NE
7. Amita was to about (a)/ tell her teacher (b)/ the truth when her (c)/ friend interrupted her. (d)/ NE
8. The firemen could not (a)/ succeed in rescue the (b)/ child although they (c)/ could put out the fire. (d)/ NE
9. He could make (a)/ them accepted his proposal (b)/ because he was quite (c)/ familiar with their practice. (d)/ NE
10. What was his response (a)/ when you tried (b)/ to got some (c)/ information from him? (d)/ NE

Answers –

Double Fillers – BAE
Parajumble – aedfcb
Cloze Test - 71-A 72-B 73-D 74-C 75-D 76-A 77-C 78-B 79-A 80-C

Common Error –

1. A. Having taken into consideration
2. A. Carrying a bag
3. C. Than copy
4. C. For me to carry on
5. D. To function
6. C to go in place of have gone
7.B. about to tell
8. C in rescuing
9. B. Accept in place of accepted
10. No Error
Power Problem – on Saubhagya scheme

Universal access to electricity has been a familiar and long-standing promise of governments at the Centre. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has signalled he is serious about providing this by owning responsibility for its realisation. Success, however, will require more than just budgetary fund allocation; it will depend largely on addressing structural issues that plague the broken power sector. The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, or the ‘Saubhagya’ scheme, launched by Mr. Modi aims to make electricity accessible to every household by the end of 2018. Under the scheme, expected to cost a little over 16,000 crore, poor households that have no access to electricity will be provided electricity connections free of cost. This builds on previous work carried out under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana launched in 2015, and the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana launched in 2005, both of which also aimed to provide free electricity connections to the poor. In particular, it hopes to improve electricity access within villages that are already classified as “electrified”, according to the criterion that 10% of households enjoy access to electricity. However, the Saubhagya scheme does very little to address the real problem of affordability. In fact, by failing to account for illegal connections taken by households which find it difficult to afford legal access to power, government data on electricity accessibility understate penetration.

A free electricity connection can ease the financial burden on the poor to some degree, but it will not address the recurring burden of power bills. The aim of improving affordability would require that supply be increased drastically to lower the price paid by retail consumers. Paradoxically, amidst the government’s claims that India is a power-surplus nation, the power generation utilities remain vastly under-utilised. The plant load factor (PLF) of coal and lignite-based plants, an indicator of capacity utilisation of power generation units, has dropped consistently over the decade from 77.5% in 2009-10 to 59.88% in 2016-17, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority. This is due to demand for electricity from State distribution companies dropping in tandem with their deteriorating financial status. The Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), introduced two years ago to restructure the debt of State distribution agencies, has failed to make enough of a difference to this state of affairs. The outcome is not surprising, given that UDAY has failed to address the root problem of populism in the pricing of electricity. In the absence of the freedom to sell at a profitable price, distribution agencies have had very little incentive to demand more electricity from power generators, as evident in the constantly falling PLF. This in turn holds back investment in power generation units. Saubhagya, unfortunately, does very little to address the fundamentals of India’s crippling power problem.

Daily Vocab – The Hindu (27th Sep)
Power Problem – on Saubhagya Scheme

Plague – परेशानी trouble
Understate – कम आंकना to state that sth is less serious than it really is.
Penetration – पहुंच reach
Burden – बोझ a duty that causes worry
Paradoxically – विरोधाभासी a person, thing or situation that has two opposite features
Surplus – आवश्यकता से अधिक extra, more than one need
In Tandem with – साथ काम करना work together or happen at the same time
Deteriorating – गिरावट to become worse
Crippling – अशक्त कर देना वाला damaged