Cloze Test

Directions (Qs. 1 - 10): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Over the last decade, India has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from a nation focused on financial and digital inclusion to one emerging as a global leader in technology and innovation. The government's push for inclusive development began with the launch of the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, which **..... (1) .....** millions of previously unbanked citizens into the formal economy. This financial inclusion laid the foundation for a broader digital revolution, enabling the creation of platforms that **..... (2) .....** public services at an unprecedented scale and efficiency. The introduction of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) further accelerated the digital payments ecosystem, making India one of the fastest adopters of cashless transactions in the world. Over time, the nation began to transition from being a consumer of global technologies to becoming a **..... (3) .....** of homegrown digital infrastructure. Initiatives like Digital India and Startup India created an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation, attracting both domestic and international investment. This growth was particularly visible in sectors such as fintech, agritech, and healthtech, where startups began offering solutions **..... (4) .....** to Indian problems. Crucially, India also recognized the importance of building digital public goods. Platforms like Aadhaar, CoWIN, and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) became models of scalable, inclusive tech. These platforms are not only transforming governance but also being **..... (5) .....** globally as examples of effective digital public infrastructure. Alongside, the government invested heavily in developing STEM talent, launching coding and AI-focused educational programs to equip the next generation with future-ready skills. However, the journey was not without its challenges. Issues such as digital literacy, connectivity gaps, and data privacy concerns **..... (6) .....** the pace of innovation in rural and semi-urban regions. Despite these hurdles, India remained committed to building a robust digital ecosystem that balances innovation with accessibility and inclusiveness. Today, India is not just a passive participant in the global tech economy; it is actively shaping it. The country's advancements in fields like artificial intelligence, space technology, and semiconductor manufacturing signal a shift towards high-value, deep-tech innovation. As global trust in India's technological capabilities grows, the country is increasingly being viewed as a trusted . **.... (7) .....** in global digital supply chains. With a strong demographic advantage and government-backed

digital policy frameworks, India is well-positioned to lead the next wave of innovation. It now needs to focus on strengthening regulatory institutions, promoting ethical AI, and encouraging research that can deliver scalable, secure, and sustainable solutions. The path ahead may be complex, but India's progress over the past ten years provides a solid **..... (8) .....** to build upon. In essence, India's tech journey from grassroots inclusion to global innovation is a testament to its **..... (9) .....** resilience, forward-thinking policy, and the collaborative spirit of its people. The coming years will be crucial in determining whether the country can convert its digital infrastructure into long-term economic and social **..... (10) .....** for all its citizens.

1. A) excluded   B) integrated
C) rejected   D) discouraged
2. A) delay   B) disrupt
C) deliver   D) reduce
3. A) creator   B) follower
C) barrier   D) critic
4. A) irrelevant   B) hostile
C) copied   D) tailored
5. A) imported   B) dismissed
C) replicated   D) ignored
6. A) accelerated   B) hampered
C) eliminated   D) predicted
7. A) ally   B) rival
C) experiment   D) follower
8. A) interruption   B) shortcut
C) illusion   D) foundation
9. A) strategic   B) fragile
C) accidental   D) chaotic
10. A) burden   B) gain
C) debt   D) threat

KEY

1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D, 5-C, 6-B, 7-A, 8-D, 9-A, 10-B.