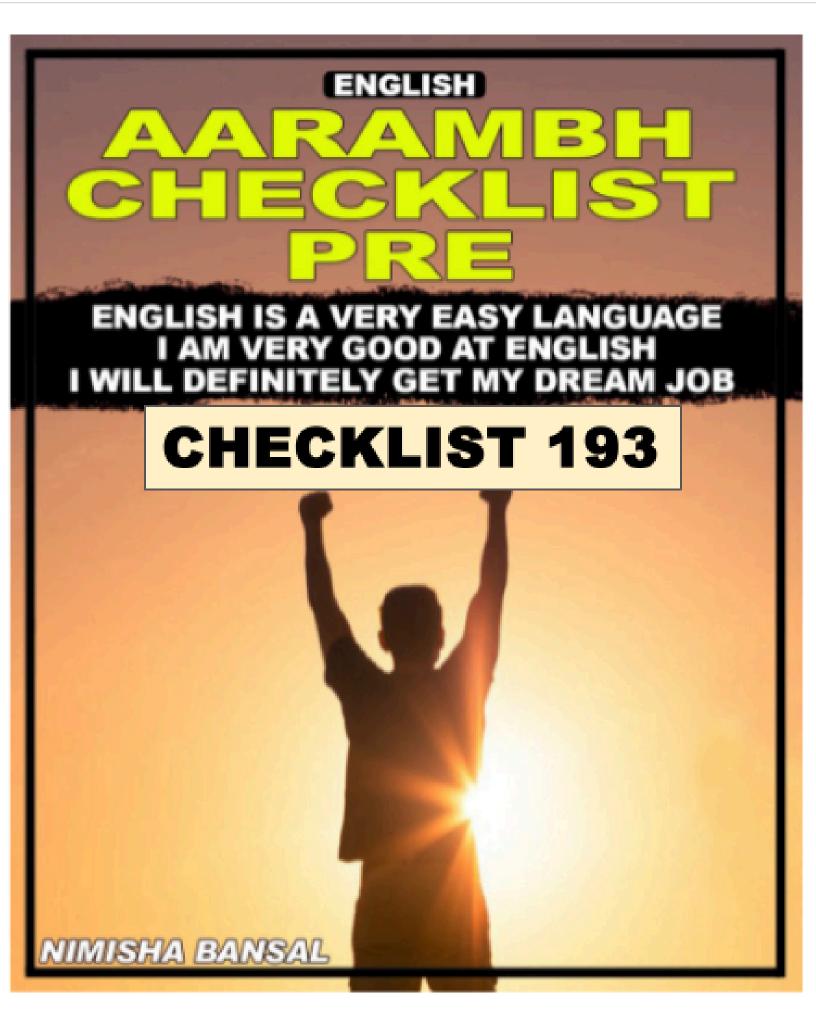
ENGLISH WITH NIMISHA BANSAL

1



Reading Comprehension

Directions (1-10): Read the following passage to answer the given questions.

Nothing has transformed our lives in the recent past as the internet. However, today, it is artificial intelligence (AI) that is becoming a vital part of our daily lives and workplaces. AI is the ability of machines and software to simulate human intelligence. It can understand, reason, learn, and assist with decision-making. Its transformative impact is profound, in **myriad** ways.

Sometime ago, DeepSeek of China had created a stir among existing global platforms like ChatGPT. Now India is coming up with the country's first indigenous AI large language model platform (LLM), Sarvam, which is based in Bengaluru. It is the first start-up chosen for full support by the government under the Rs 10,370-crore IndiaAl Mission, with the model to be ready within six months. Al is adding to the world economy significantly, with efficiency and productivity. According to a 2024 report by PwC, Al is expected to contribute over \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, with India get a significant share. It is also not replacing jobs; however, we need to reskill our youth. In fact, AI is expected to create over 20 million new jobs in India. What is a "voice-first AI agent"? It is a personalised human-like virtual assistant one can talk to — like a colleague or assistant — and in one's own language. There is no need to type any text, one can simply speak and the Al understands and responds to it instantly. These systems are powered by LLMs, a new class of AI that allows machines to understand language, context, tone, and even emotions. Unlike older chatbots, voice-first AI agents can hold meaningful conversations in a human language such as English or Hindi. India has 22 official languages, 121 languages, and over 19,500 dialects, making it the most multilingual country in the world. For a country like ours, voice-first Al agents can make a lot of sense. A vast majority of the population is more comfortable speaking than typing. The internet can also become more voice-enabled, and there will be many more people accessing it using voice commands. India has over 900 million active Internet users, but nearly half of them remain offline. Many among them are illiterate and non-tech-savvy, therefore they may find it easier to interact with AI through speech rather than text. Think of voice-first AI agents as your digital co-worker — available 24×7. For instance, a farmer seeking information about crop diseases or weather updates could simply ask his personal Al assistant in his local dialect instead of navigating through text. Similarly, people looking for health advice, government schemes, or educational content could use this tool. These agents can be used in several ways. Manufacturing and industry: Factory managers ask voice AI to check machine health or inventory while walking the floor. They get instant updates. Banking and financial services: Customers speak to Al agents to check account balance or apply for loans. Relationship managers use voice tools for details or compliance updates. Healthcare and telemedicine: Doctors dictate prescriptions, and the Al transcribes and stores them. Voice bots remind patients to take medicines or help schedule appointments. Government officials are increasingly using AI to summarise policy updates and draft regulatory documents, with several players active in this space. For instance, Al LifeBOT creates

customisable voice-first agents for HR, finance, education, and compliance; Perplexity AI provides a voice-based search tool offering reliable, conversational answers; and CoRover develops secure voice agents tailored for defence, aerospace, and critical sectors. Importantly, organisations do not need to be tech companies to leverage these solutions, as many are available as services accessible to small and mid-sized firms. These tools can automate internal queries related to HR, payroll, and compliance, enhance call centre operations by resolving routine issues swiftly, guide field teams through tasks or safety protocols via voice instructions, and offer voice-powered dashboards to deliver hands-free updates to leadership. Nonetheless, while adopting these innovations, it is essential to uphold data privacy and transparency as mandated by the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, ensuring that platforms are chosen carefully and robust cybersecurity measures are in place. As we march toward Viksit Bharat, AI can play a vital role, empowering millions of micro-entrepreneurs with voice tools, helping rural citizens access digital services in their own language, making education and healthcare systems more inclusive, and training a new generation of Al-ready professionals to make them employable. However, this also requires us to modernise our education system, build Al capacity, and upskill our youth in areas such as data ethics, digital operations, and automation. Let us not fear Al. Let us shape and develop it responsibly, use it wisely, and prepare our people to grow with it.

Question 1:

Which of the following is true about India's approach to AI development through the launch of Sarvam under the IndiaAI Mission?

- (A) India is attempting to compete with China's DeepSeek on global AI benchmarks.
- (B) The government sees AI as a sector requiring heavy foreign investment to thrive.
- (C) India is prioritising the localisation and self-reliance of AI technologies.
- (D) The primary aim of Sarvam is to make India a manufacturing hub for AI hardware.
- (E) The IndiaAl Mission is intended only for supporting private multinational tech firms.

Question 2:

What does the author imply by highlighting India's multilingual diversity in the context of voice-first Al agents?

- (A) Text-based AI agents are still more efficient than voice-based agents.
- (B) Language diversity poses a major challenge to AI development in India.
- (C) People in rural areas should first be taught to type in order to use AI tools effectively.
- (D) Voice-first AI tools can improve accessibility for a broader Indian population.
- (E) Al platforms need to be restricted to fewer official languages to ensure success.

Question 3:

Based on the passage, what is a likely consequence of AI integration in banking and healthcare sectors?

- (A) A dramatic reduction in the workforce employed in these sectors.
- (B) Increased reliance on written documentation over verbal communication.
- (C) Decreased customer satisfaction due to machine interactions.
- (D) Enhanced efficiency and improved service delivery through automation.
- (E) Replacement of professionals like doctors and bankers with Al bots.

Question 4:

Why might voice-first Al agents be particularly transformative for rural India, based on the author's perspective?

- (A) The government plans to offer free smartphones with these agents pre-installed.
- (B) These agents overcome literacy and language barriers through natural spoken interactions.
- (C) Rural populations are more tech-savvy than their urban counterparts.
- (D) Such agents will reduce the demand for traditional education in rural areas.
- (E) None of these

Question 5:

What does the author suggest is necessary alongside the deployment of AI systems like Sarvam?

- (A) Eliminating the need for regulatory oversight on private AI companies.
- (B) Mandating that all citizens learn how to build Al models.
- (C) Ensuring robust data privacy, upskilling of citizens, and reform in education.
- (D) Increasing dependency on global platforms for AI development support.
- (E) Reducing budget allocation for other sectors like agriculture and defence.

Question 6:

Why does the author mention that organisations do not need to be tech companies to use voice-first Al tools?

- (A) To downplay the importance of having technical skills in modern businesses.
- (B) To highlight the limited scope of voice-first AI tools outside the tech industry.
- (C) To argue that AI tools are only useful for start-ups, not for traditional firms.
- (D) To stress that AI solutions are increasingly accessible and democratized.
- (E) To suggest that tech companies are no longer leading innovation in Al.

Question 7:

Which of the following best reflects the author's attitude toward the rise of AI in India?

- (A) Cautiously optimistic, urging regulation and delayed implementation.
- (B) Fearful of technological disruptions to traditional employment.
- (C) Encouraging and forward-looking, with a focus on inclusive and responsible use.
- (D) Skeptical of the benefits promised by AI in multilingual and rural contexts.
- (E) Both B and C

Question 8:

What could be a logical reason behind the comparison of voice-first AI agents to digital co-workers in the passage?

- (A) To suggest that AI agents will soon demand salaries and labor rights.
- (B) To emphasize the limited technical ability of voice-first agents.
- (C) To position AI agents as collaborators that support and enhance human tasks.
- (D) To warn users about over-reliance on AI for critical tasks.
- (E) To indicate that AI tools are only relevant for office environments.

Question 9:

According to a 2024 report by PwC, A	AI is expected	l to contribute over \$15.7	' trillion to the global
economy by 2030, with India	_(A)	_ get a significant share.	

Which of the following phrasal verbs will fit the blank appropriately?

- (A) poised to
- (B) carry out

(C) break down
(D) run into
(E) come up with
Question 10:
Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to "myriad" as used in the passage.
(A) Transitory(B) Finite(C) Sporadic(D) Meager(E) Multifarious

ANSWER

1. Ans: C

Explanation:

The passage clearly indicates that **Sarvam** is **India's first indigenous large language model (LLM)** and has been **chosen for full government support under the IndiaAl Mission**. This implies a strong focus on **developing local Al capabilities** rather than relying on foreign platforms. The emphasis is on **self-reliance and localisation**, especially with voice-first Al agents that cater to India's multilingual population.

Incorrect options:

- (A) Competing with DeepSeek is mentioned, but India's focus is on self-reliance, not rivalry.
- **(B)** The government is funding Sarvam, so foreign investment isn't the focus.
- (D) Sarvam is a **software-based Al model**, not about hardware or manufacturing.
- (E) The mission supports Indian start-ups, not just multinational firms

2. Ans: D

Explanation: The author emphasizes India's **multilingual diversity** — 22 official languages, 121 languages, and over 19,500 dialects — to show that **voice-first Al agents** can help **people who are more comfortable speaking than typing**, especially those who are **illiterate or non-tech-savvy**. This means such tools **enhance access** for a wider segment of the population.

Other Options:

- (A) The passage promotes voice-first AI as more efficient for many Indians, not text-based ones.
- (B) Diversity is shown as an opportunity, not a challenge.
- **(C)** The author suggests **speech**, **not typing**, is easier for rural users.
- **(E)** There's **no suggestion** to restrict languages; the idea is to **embrace diversity**.

3. Ans: D

Explanation:

The passage provides **specific examples** of how AI is used in **banking** (e.g., customers checking balances or applying for loans via voice) and **healthcare** (e.g., doctors dictating prescriptions, bots

reminding patients). These examples highlight how **AI enhances productivity, streamlines processes, and supports professionals** — not replaces them — leading to **better service delivery**.

Other Options:

- **(A)** Incorrect: The passage says AI is **not replacing jobs**, but creating new ones.
- **(B)** Incorrect: It emphasizes **verbal** (**voice**) **communication**, not written documentation.
- **(C)** Incorrect: All is shown to **improve interactions**, not worsen customer satisfaction.
- (E) Incorrect: Al assists, not replaces, doctors and bankers.

4. Ans: B

Explanation: The author highlights that many rural Indians are illiterate or non-tech-savvy, and prefer speaking over typing. Voice-first AI agents, which understand local dialects and languages, allow these users to access digital services easily through natural speech, making them transformative for rural India.

Other Options:

- (A) Incorrect: No mention of free smartphones is made.
- (C) Incorrect: Rural users are described as less tech-savvy, not more.
- **(D)** Incorrect: The goal is **empowerment**, not replacing education.
- **(E)** Incorrect: Option (B) is clearly supported by the passage.

5. Ans: C

Explanation: The author clearly states that Al deployment must go hand in hand with data privacy (Digital Personal Data Protection Act), reskilling/upskilling the youth, and modernising the education system to prepare for an Al-driven future. These are described as essential steps for responsible and inclusive Al growth.

Other Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The author emphasizes the **importance of regulatory oversight**, not its elimination.
- **(B)** Incorrect: The focus is on **AI readiness and upskilling**, not everyone building models.
- (D) Incorrect: The goal is **self-reliance**, not increased dependence on global platforms.
- (E) Incorrect: There's **no suggestion** to reduce funding for other sectors.

6. Ans: D

Explanation: The author mentions that even **small and mid-sized firms** and **non-tech organisations** can now use voice-first Al tools because many are available **as services**. This underscores the idea that **Al is becoming more accessible and inclusive**, not restricted to big tech companies.

Other Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The author doesn't dismiss technical skills but shows that tools are user-friendly.
- **(B)** Incorrect: The scope is **broad**, including HR, finance, education, and more.
- **(C)** Incorrect: The tools are meant for **all types of firms**, not just start-ups.
- (E) Incorrect: There's **no claim** that tech companies aren't leading Al innovation.

7. Ans: C

Explanation: The author adopts an **optimistic** and **forward-looking** attitude toward AI, emphasizing its potential to **empower rural populations**, create jobs, and **improve accessibility** through responsible development. The focus is on **inclusive use** and **responsible deployment**, as seen in the calls for data privacy, education reform, and upskilling.

Other Options:

- (A) Incorrect: The author is **optimistic**, not cautious or advocating for delays.
- **(B)** Incorrect: The author acknowledges **AI creating jobs**, not replacing them.
- (D) Incorrect: The author sees AI as a **solution** for multilingual and rural challenges, not a problem.
- (E) Incorrect: The author is **optimistic**, not fearful or skeptical.

8. Ans: C

Explanation: The author compares **voice-first Al agents to digital co-workers** to highlight that these agents are **assistive tools** designed to **support human tasks** (e.g., helping farmers with crop disease information or providing health advice). This suggests that Al agents are collaborators, not replacements, enhancing human productivity and efficiency.

Other Options:

- (A) Incorrect: There's **no mention** of Al agents demanding salaries or labor rights.
- (B) Incorrect: The author emphasizes the **benefits** and capabilities of Al agents, not limitations.
- (D) Incorrect: The passage doesn't focus on over-reliance, but on the positive impact of AI.

(E) Incorrect: The passage shows that **voice-first Al tools** are used across various sectors, not just office environments.

9. Ans: A

Explanation: The phrase **"poised to"** means **ready or prepared to** do something, which fits the context here. The sentence suggests that India is **ready or positioned** to receive a significant share of the AI contribution to the global economy.

Other Options:

- (B) carry out: Refers to performing or executing something, not suitable here.
- **(C)** break down: Means to analyze or dismantle something, which doesn't fit the context.
- (D) run into: Refers to encountering something unexpectedly, not relevant here.
- (E) come up with: Refers to generating an idea or solution, not appropriate for this context.

10. Ans: E

Explanation: The word "myriad" means a large number or variety of things. In the context of the sentence, it refers to many different ways in which AI has a transformative impact. "Multifarious" means having many different parts or aspects, which aligns with this meaning.

Other Options:

- (A) Transitory: Means temporary or fleeting, which doesn't fit the idea of numerous ways.
- (B) Finite: Means limited or having an end, the opposite of "myriad."
- (C) Sporadic: Means occurring irregularly or infrequently, which doesn't fit the context.
- (D) Meager: Means insufficient or lacking, which is the opposite of "myriad."







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