

Dangers of brinksmanship

India will need to **assess** the security **implications** of another **Taiwan Strait** crisis

The **shooting down** of a Chinese drone by Taiwan's military on September 1 **has marked** a new phase in the already **simmering** tensions across the Taiwan Strait, **highlighting** the growing risks of **escalation**, even if unintended. Over recent weeks, China's military has **carried out unprecedented** military drills surrounding Taiwan, **following** the visit last month of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Some **manoeuvres** crossed the **median** of the Taiwan Strait and were declared by China's military to have also **taken place** in territorial waters claimed by Taiwan. Taiwan **soberly** chose not to **engage** the **PLA vessels**. **In the wake of** the drills, the Chinese military has subsequently **sought** to continue **asserting** Beijing's territorial claims by sending drones into Taiwan's airspace. **Photographs** taken up close of Taiwan military personnel **were** subsequently shared on social media, **apparently** to **demonstrate** Beijing's capabilities, but in the process raising pressure on **Taipei** to show a response. Taiwan's military said it took the decision to shoot down what it called an unidentified **civilian** drone over its airspace in Shiyu Island after delivering several warnings. **Shooting down** a military drone **may** have **elicited** a different response from China, which has **so far played down** the incident. While the Chinese military **reportedly** has been **deploying** both military and civilian-use drones, so have ordinary residents in Fujian right across the strait, raising the risks of **miscalculation triggering** a serious incident.

The **deployment** of drones has added a further layer of **unpredictability** to an already tense situation. The past month's **developments** have **certainly** served a **reminder** to the region of the **fragility** of the current **status quo**, and particularly of China's willingness to change it. While most observers expect that a Chinese **invasion** remains too risky a **prospect** for the Communist Party leadership in the immediate future, an unintended escalation no longer remains a **remote** possibility. Most **countries**, including India, **have** preferred to stay out of the Taiwan issue, **considering** the One China Policy and the needs of the **complicated** relations with China. But **sooner rather than later**, they will need to assess the implications to their own security interests of a serious crisis. Taiwan's **status** as a **lynchpin** in the global semiconductor industry **is a case in point**. While India's recent **reference** to the "militarisation" of the strait **is** not a **reflection** of a major change in its approach, New Delhi has appeared to show greater willingness to do more with Taiwan particularly in the economic **realm**, such as **setting up** an alternative base for semi-conductor manufacturing in India. These are, even if long **overdue**, steps in the right direction. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Engage** (verb) – to attack or begin to fight someone
- **Development** (noun) – Event, Happening, Occurrence, Change, Incident घटनाक्रम

Vocabulary

1. **Brinkmanship** (noun) – the activity, especially in politics, of trying to get what you want by saying that if you do not get it, you will do something dangerous:
2. **Assess** (verb) – evaluate, appraise, judge, measure, estimate आंकना
3. **Implication** (noun) – effect, consequence, result, repercussion, knock-on effect निहितार्थ; निहितार्थ
4. **Taiwan Strait** (noun) – The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer (110 mi; 97 nmi)-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia. The strait is part of the South China Sea and connects to the East China Sea to the north.
5. **Shoot down** (phrasal verb) – bring down an aircraft or missile by shooting at it.
6. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, Denote, Show, Demonstrate, Exhibit चिह्नित करना
7. **Simmering** (adjective) – boiling, stewing, burning उबलते
8. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, stress, underline प्रमुखता से दिखाना
9. **Escalation** (noun) – a situation in which something becomes greater or more serious वृद्धि, गहरा हो जाना
10. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – perform, execute, implement, conduct, accomplish कार्यान्वित करना
11. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – unparalleled, novel, singular, unusual, exceptional अभूतपूर्व
12. **Following** (preposition) – after, next, subsequent, later, ensuing के बाद
13. **Manoeuvre** (noun) – something clever that you do in order to win something, trick somebody, etc. कुछ हासिल करने, किसी को ठगने आदि के लिए चालाकी भरी हरकत; चालबाजी
14. **Median** (noun) – the middle point माध्यिका
15. **Take place** (phrase) – happen, occur, transpire, come to pass घटित होना
16. **Soberly** (adverb) – coolly; calmly; gravely; seriously. संयम से
17. **PLA** (noun) – The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the principal military force of the People's Republic of China and the armed wing of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
18. **Vessel** (noun) – ship, boat, watercraft जहाज़
19. **In the wake of** (phrase) – as a result of, as a consequence of, after a while परिणामस्वरूप
20. **Seek** (verb) – Try, attempt, endeavour, effort, strive for प्रयास करना

21. **Assert** (verb) – declare, affirm, state, claim, aver दावा करना, हर्क जमाना
22. **Apparently** (adverb) – seemingly, evidently, it seems, it appears, ostensibly स्पष्ट रूप से
23. **Demonstrate** (verb) – show, prove, display, manifest दिखाना
24. **Taipei** (noun) – capital of taiwan
25. **Civilian** (adjective) – civil, citizen, noncombatant, civic, private citizen नागरिक
26. **Elicit** (verb) – Provoke, Cause, Produce, Occasion, Prompt; Draw, Extract, Obtain निकालना, प्राप्त करना
27. **So far** (phrase) – thus far अभी तक
28. **Play down** (phrasal verb) – Understate the importance or quality of; minimize, downplay, belittle, diminish, trivialize कम करके दिखाना
29. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, supposedly, apparently, putatively, purportedly कथित तौर पर
30. **Deploy** (verb) – Place troops or weapons in battle formation तैनात करना
31. **Miscalculation** (noun) – misjudgment, misconception, blunder गलत अनुमान
32. **Trigger** (verb) – provoke, activate, cause, spark off, set off उत्पन्न करना
33. **Deployment** (noun) – placement, deploy, stationing, distribution, disposition तैनाती
34. **Unpredictability** (noun) – capriciousness, volatility, instability, uncertainty, variability अनिश्चितता
35. **Certainly** (adverb) – surely, definitely, clearly, undoubtedly, sure निश्चित रूप से
36. **Reminder** (noun) – A message that helps you remember something अनुस्मारक
37. **Fragility** (noun) – delicacy, weakness, frailty, infirmity, debility कमजोरी
38. **Status quo** (noun) – current situation, existing situation, present state of affairs, यथास्थिति
39. **Invasion** (noun) – onslaught, attack, intrusion आक्रमण
40. **Prospect** (noun) – outlook, expectation, view, perspective, possibility संभावना
41. **Remote** (adjective) – distant, aloof, isolated, detached अल्प, दूरवर्ती
42. **Considering** (preposition) – taking into account, bearing in mind ध्यान में रखते हुए
43. **Complicated** (adjective) – complex, difficult, intricate, involved, hard जटिल
44. **Sooner rather than later** (phrase) – as quickly as possible, at the earliest possible time जितनी जल्दी हो सके

45. **Lynchpin** (noun) – keystone, mainstay, backbone, Cornerstone, Fulcrum मुख्य आधार
46. **A case in point** (phrase) – An example that is used to justify similar occurrences at a later time
47. **Reflection** (noun) – Indication, Sign, Manifestation, Suggestion संकेत
48. **Realm** (noun) – domain, province, kingdom, sphere, area क्षेत्र, दायरा
49. **Setting up** (noun) – establishment, creation, inauguration, set up, institution स्थापना
50. **Overdue** (adjective) – late, delayed, delinquent, belated, unpaid विलंबित

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

- The past month's developments have certainly served a reminder to the region of the **fragility** of the current status quo, and particularly of China's willingness to change it.
 - Delicacy
 - Perennial
 - Conventional
 - Perquisite
- Taiwan's status as a **lynchpin** in the global semiconductor industry is a case in point.
 - Stymie
 - Kingpin
 - Integral
 - Inaugurate
- Shooting down a military drone may have **elicited** a different response from China, which has so far played down the incident
 - Fortuitous
 - Synthesis
 - Sardonic
 - Prompt
- Idioms & Phrase**

In the next few days we will see if the ambassador can **weather the political storm** caused by his remarks.

 - To act with deliberate slowness
 - Similar to or suggestive of a particular person or thing
 - To be able to continue doing something despite serious problems
 - A very difficult task or challenge
- Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**

In yet another disturbing and dastardly act that is now part of a pattern in much of North India, two tribal men were beaten to death by alleged activists of the Bajrang Dal in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, on the suspicion that they were slaughtering cows.

P. Reminiscent of the murder of a dairy farmer, Pehlu Khan, after he and his sons were attacked by self-described "cow vigilantes" in April 2017 in Rajasthan,

Q. In another pattern, there has been a certain acuity in the implementation of cattle slaughter laws which is missing in trying and bringing those involved in lynch mobs to justice.

R. Apart from tribal people, Muslims and Dalits in particular have borne the brunt of these senseless acts of mob violence and murders.

S. the two men, Sampatlal Vatti and Dhansai Invati, were attacked by nearly 20 men; both died of injuries.

T. The police have arrested 13 people for their alleged involvement; at least six of them were members of the Bajrang Dal, according to the family members.

U. An insinuation by the police that one of the dead men was involved in a “cow slaughter” case has shown yet again where the priorities of law enforcement lie in such cases.

Which among the following will be the **Fourth** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P B.T C.U D.Q E.R

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. Dickens' novels, like those of many writers, are largely autobiographical.
B. She was as pretty as, if not prettier than any other girl at the party.
C. Never have I seen such breath taking scenery.
D. Since his engagement, he has spent a lot of money on his would be wife.
E. All are correct
7. A. He was brought to book for stealing money.
B. A leader must be taken to task for telling lies.
C. Shortly after arrival in Turkey Lisa became very ill.
D. I answered the questions as best as I could.
E. All are correct
8. The accident was averted (A)/ as the driver brought (B)/ his car to a sudden stop (C)/ No Error (D)
9. The teacher (A)/ reviewed and corrected the answer (B)/in a systematical way. (C)/ No Error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Disonant
B. Irreconcilable
C. Appraise
D. Successive

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Meeting India’s aspirations – Aug 16, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rightly described independent India’s 75-year journey as one of “ups and downs” in his ninth speech from the stately Red Fort on Monday. Praising those who fought for India’s freedom, the Prime Minister pointed to the country’s achievements even as he acknowledged the challenges of fulfilling the _____**11**_____ needs of an ever-aspirational society, tugging at the seams of government.

National pride and self-esteem were dominant themes as he urged the country to rid itself of the need to look for approval from abroad. **(1)/** Though Mr. Modi provided no context to these remarks, his comments could indicate his unhappiness with international criticism directed at his government on governance and human rights’ issues. **(2)/** Asking the question about how long India could go on living on “certificates” from abroad, the Prime Minister wondered why India could not develop its

own “markers”. **(3)/** Successive Prime Ministers have used their Independence Day speeches as a stock-taking of their government’s record and as an insight to what the nation might face. **(4)/** With two years left for the general election, the Prime Minister was in an _____**12**_____ mood, taking up issues of women’s safety, energy self-reliance, celebrating the diversity of India, the need to respect all languages, and promising an all-out war against corruption and “parivarvad”, or the **pernicious** influence of dynasty. The Prime Minister asked the people to give him their “blessings” as the battle against corruption enters a _____**13**_____ phase where even the big fish will not be spared.

Even as he dwelt over governance issues, Mr. Modi laced his speech **(A)/** with a political appeal. Mr. Modi was silent about his promises made in 2016 **(B)/** to double the income of farmers by the time the country celebrated its 75th Independence Day. **(C)/** However, he did lay out his vision for an “amrit kaal”, or developed age, in the next 25 years, the 100th year of India’s independence, in 2047. **(D)**

Details of how the country would reach the objective were scanty, apparently kept for another day. In keeping with the Bharatiya Janata Party’s new status as the natural party of governance, the Prime Minister **underlined (A)** that India had got a **stable (B)** government after many decades, resulting in speedy decision-making. There was little in his 82-minute speech about the strategic challenges before the country in the wake of tensions at the borders and **turbulence (C)** in the international order following the Russian **invasion (D)** of Ukraine. To achieve its full potential, India must not only be able to overcome many obstacles that hold it back but also sail with the rest of the world in meeting the benchmarks of democratic rights, equitable distribution of wealth and access to health and education. India might not need approval from other countries, but it needs to do better on rights and freedoms, welfare and justice, growth and development, and in building a more _____**14**_____ society.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. Praising those who fought for India’s freedom, the Prime Minister pointed to the country’s achievements even as he acknowledged the challenges of fulfilling the _____**11**_____ needs of an ever-aspirational society, tugging at the seams of government.
 - A. Innate
 - B. Sublime
 - C. Propensity
 - D. Pressing
12. With two years left for the general election, the Prime Minister was in an _____**12**_____ mood, taking up issues of women’s safety, energy self-reliance, celebrating the diversity of India
 - A. Expansive
 - B. Trepidation
 - C. Colloquial
 - D. Congenital
13. The Prime Minister asked the people to give him their “blessings” as the battle against corruption enters a _____**13**_____ phase where even the big fish will not be spared.

- A. Abdicating
B. Decisive
C. Ambiguous
D. Banal
14. India might not need approval from other countries, but it needs to do better on rights and freedoms, welfare and justice, growth and development, and in building a more _____ society.
- A. Promulgating
B. Decorous
C. Egalitarian
D. Consonant
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**
Even as he dwelt over governance issues, Mr. Modi laced his speech **(A)**/ with a political appeal. Mr. Modi was silent about his promises made in 2016 **(B)**/ to double the income of farmers by the time the country celebrated its 75th Independence Day. **(C)**/ However, he did lay out his vision for an “amrit kaal”, or developed age, in the next 25 years, the 100th year of India’s independence, in 2047. **(D)**
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
National pride and self-esteem were dominant themes as he urged the country to rid itself of the need to look for approval from abroad. **(1)**/ Though Mr. Modi provided no context to these remarks, his comments could indicate his unhappiness with international criticism directed at his government on governance and human rights’ issues. **(2)**/ Asking the question about how long India could go on living on “certificates” from abroad, the Prime Minister wondered why India could not develop its own “markers”. **(3)**/ Successive Prime Ministers have used their Independence Day speeches as a stock-taking of their government’s record and as an insight to what the nation might face. **(4)**
- A. 4321
B. 1324
C. 1234
D. 2143
E. 2134
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

PENICIOUS

- (i) The bill faces **pernicious** from a number of key stakeholders, including the California Chamber of Commerce.
- (ii) The plot of the film was too **pernicious**- I couldn't understand it.
- (iii) The cuts in government funding have had a **pernicious** effect on local health services.
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)
18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.
- In keeping with the Bharatiya Janata Party's new status as the natural party of governance, the Prime Minister **underlined (A)** that India had got a **stable (B)** government after many decades, resulting in speedy decision-making. There was little in his 82-minute speech about the strategic challenges before the country in the wake of tensions at the borders and **turbulence (C)** in the international order following the Russian **invasion (D)** of Ukraine.
- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement
19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.
- (i) With a relationship that is more open, India has also decided to have a more honest conversation with Israel on the peace process this time
- (ii) The Modi-Netanyahu meeting in July 2017 had practically brushed aside the Israel-Palestine peace process.
- A. Whereas
- B. While
- C. As
- D. Unless
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks
- The poor man was trapped down here and obviously perished _____ hunger.
- A. Of
- B. From
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

1. A 2. B 3. D 4. C 5. B 6. E 7. D 8. D 9. C 10. A 11. D 12. A
 13. B 14. C 15. A 16. B 17. C 18. E 19. B 20. C **[Practice Exercise]**

Explanations

4. **Weather the storm** (phrase) – to be able to continue doing something despite serious problems डटकर मुकाबला करना.

5. **RPSTUQ**

In yet another disturbing and dastardly act that is now part of a pattern in much of North India, two tribal men were beaten to death by alleged activists of the Bajrang Dal in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, on the suspicion that they were slaughtering cows. Apart from tribal people, Muslims and Dalits in particular have borne the brunt of these senseless acts of mob violence and murders. Reminiscent of the murder of a dairy farmer, Pehlu Khan, after he and his sons were attacked by self-described “cow vigilantes” in April 2017 in Rajasthan, the two men, Sampatlal Vatti and Dhansai Invati, were attacked by nearly 20 men; both died of injuries. The police have arrested 13 people for their alleged involvement; at least six of them were members of the Bajrang Dal, according to the family members. An insinuation by the police that one of the dead men was involved in a “cow slaughter” case has shown yet again where the priorities of law enforcement lie in such cases. In another pattern, there has been a certain acuity in the implementation of cattle slaughter laws which is missing in trying and bringing those involved in lynch mobs to justice.

7. 'as best as' के बदले 'as well as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'as/ so /too/comparatively / relatively + Positive Degree' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- i. She is as tall as her mother.
- ii. She weather is comparatively good today

➤ 'as well as' shall be substituted for 'as best as' because 'as/ so /too/comparatively / relatively + Positive Degree' is used; As-

- i. She is as tall as her mother.
- ii. She weather is comparatively good today

9. 'systematical' के बदले 'systematic' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'system' एक है Noun जिसका अर्थ है 'प्रणाली, तंत्र, व्यवस्था, योजना' और इसका Adjective 'systematic' होता है जिसका अर्थ है 'योजनाबद्ध, सुव्यवस्थित, नियमित होता है, और 'Systematical' जैसा कोई शब्द नहीं है।

➤ 'Systematic' will be used instead of 'systematical' because 'system' is a Noun which means 'arrangement, plan' and its Adjective is 'systematic' which means 'planned,' and there is no such word as 'systematical'.

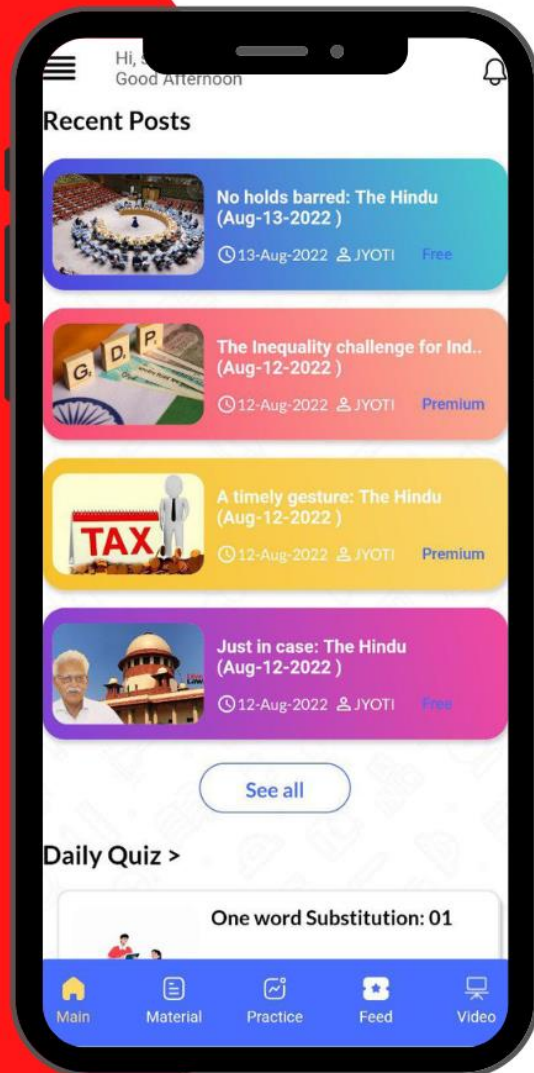
10. **Dissonant** (adjective) – incongruous, anomalous, irreconcilable, inconsistent विभिन्न, असंगत

11. **Pressing** (adjective) – urgent, critical, crucial, acute, desperate, serious अत्यावश्यक

12. **Expansive** (adjective) – (of a person or their manner) open, demonstrative, and communicative. मिलनसार
13. **Decisive** (adjective) – deciding, conclusive, determining, final, निर्णयक
14. **Egalitarian** (adjective) – fair, just समानाधिकारवादी
15. Replace 'Dwell on' with 'Dwell over'
Dwell on something (phrasal verb) – to keep thinking or talking about something, especially something bad or unpleasant:
16. (B) **1324**
 National pride and self-esteem were dominant themes as he urged the country to rid itself of the need to look for approval from abroad. Asking the question about how long India could go on living on “certificates” from abroad, the Prime Minister wondered why India could not develop its own “markers”. Though Mr. Modi provided no context to these remarks, his comments could indicate his unhappiness with international criticism directed at his government on governance and human rights’ issues. Successive Prime Ministers have used their Independence Day speeches as a stock-taking of their government’s record and as an insight to what the nation might face.
17. **Pernicious** (adjective) – harmful, damaging, destructive, injurious हानिकारक, घातक
 According to the given options only (iii) is contextually correct.
 Because the (i) and (ii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
 The bill faces **opposition** from a number of key stakeholders, including the California Chamber of Commerce
 The plot of the film was too **involved** - I couldn't understand it.
18. In keeping with the Bharatiya Janata Party’s new status as the natural party of governance, the Prime Minister underlined that India had got a stable government after many decades, resulting in speedy decision-making.
19. With a relationship that is more open, India has also decided to have a more honest conversation with Israel on the peace process this time **while** the Modi-Netanyahu meeting in July 2017 had practically brushed aside the Israel-Palestine peace process.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Perennial	adjective	Continual; happening again and again or year after year	चिरस्थायी
	Conventional	adjective	Common; customary; unexceptional	पारंपरिक
	Perquisite	noun	A privilege that goes along with a job; a perk	रिआयत
Q2	Stymie	verb	To thwart; to get in the way of; to hinder	गतिरोध
	Integral	adjective	Essential	आवश्यक
	Inaugurate	verb	To begin officially; to induct formally into office	अभिषेक करना
Q3	Fortuitous	adjective	Accidental; occurring by chance	आकस्मिक
	Synthesis	noun	The combining of parts to form whole	संश्लेषण
	Sardonic	adjective	Mocking; scornful	तिरस्कारपूर्ण
Q11	Innate	adjective	Existing since birth; inborn; inherent	जन्मजात
	Sublime	adjective	Awesome; extremely exalted; lofty; majestic	अति उत्तम
	Propensity	noun	Natural inclination or tendency; a predilection	झुकाव
Q12	Trepidation	noun	Fear; apprehension; nervous; trembling	घबराहट, आशंका; बेचैन
	Colloquial	adjective	Conversational; informal in language	बोल-चाल का
	Congenital	adjective	A trait or condition acquired between conception and birth; innate	पैदाइशी, जन्मज
Q13	Abdicate	verb	To Step down from position of power of responsibility	त्यागना
	Ambiguous	adjective	Unclear in meaning; confusing; capable of being interpreted in different way.	अस्पष्ट
	Banal	adjective	Unoriginal; ordinary	साधारण, मामूली
Q14	Promulgate	verb	To proclaim; to publicly or formally declare something	घोषणा करना
	Decorous	adjective	Proper; in good taste; orderly	शिष्ट, औचित्यपूर्ण
	Consonant	adjective	Harmonious; in agreement	अनुरूप, अनुकूल



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