

## Crisis in Caucasus

Armenia and Azerbaijan must **work out** a **lasting ceasefire**

The violent border **clashes** between Armenia and Azerbaijan **have** raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. The countries had fought a **disastrous** weeks-long war in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia **forced** a ceasefire. Tensions remained with the **occasional flare-ups**, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. Armenia and Azerbaijan have **accused** each other of **provocation**, but the **fighting**, as per initial reports, **took place** on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier **casualties**. It may not be a **coincidence** that the crisis **broke out** at a time when **Russia**, Armenia's security **ally**, **has** been struggling to hold its gains in Ukraine. Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, whose **NATO-like charter stipulates** that an attack against one member could be treated as an attack against all. Armenia had turned to Russia for help, but Moscow's response was rather **cautious** — it called for **de-escalation** and claimed that it had **brokered** another ceasefire.

The **dispute** over Nagorno-Karabakh **goes back to** the **pre-Soviet era**. When the Soviet Union was formed, the Armenian majority **enclave** became part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. When the Soviet Union **collapsed** and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes **resurfaced**. Armenian **rebels** in Nagorno-Karabakh **fought off** the Azeri forces and joined Armenia. But Azerbaijan never **gave up** its claims; nor did the two countries reach any peace agreement over the enclave. **Unlike** in the 1990s, Azerbaijan now looks **economically** and politically stronger. In the 2020 conflict, it got military and diplomatic **assistance** from Turkey while Russia was **reluctant** to get **dragged into** the conflict on behalf of Armenia. Now, Russia's **ability** to **project** power in its **neighbourhood appears** to be further **limited on account of** Ukraine. On the other side, gas-rich **Azerbaijan**, which still has the **backing** of Turkey, **is** being **courted** by the EU for increased gas supplies. These regional **developments** seem to have **emboldened** Azerbaijan. But its **ambition** could be costly for everyone. Russia will find it difficult to retain its influence in Central Asia and Caucasus if it continues to ignore Armenia. At the same time, getting dragged into another **battlefront** would be challenging. A conflict in the Caucasus would further **destabilise** the global energy markets, hurting all **economies**, particularly **energy-starved** Europe. For Turkey, which is trying to balance between Russia and **the West** over Ukraine, **another war** in its neighbourhood **would** further **complicate** its foreign policy choices. **The last thing** the world needs now **is** another war. So, all sides should **enforce** a lasting ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ensure calm in the troubled mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Causality** (noun) – a person hurt or killed in a war or other destructive event
- **Red/blue** coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

1. **Work out** (phrasal verb) – To develop or formulate something, such as a plan, strategy, etc. तैयार करना
2. **Lasting** (adjective) – permanent, enduring, persistent, durable, stable टिकाऊ
3. **Ceasefire** (noun) – Suspension of active hostilities; a truce. संघर्ष विराम
4. **Disastrous** (adjective) – calamitous, catastrophic, ruinous, fatal, destructive विनाशकारी
5. **Force** (verb) – Compel, oblige, make ,drive, impose, coerce थोपना
6. **Occasional** (adjective) – Occurring from time to time प्रासंगिक
7. **Flare-ups** (noun) – an angry dispute; A sudden burst of anger or passion
8. **Accuse** (verb) – charge, blame, incriminate दोष लगाना
9. **Provocation** (noun) – Unfriendly behavior that causes anger or resentment उकसावा
10. **Take place** (phrase) – happen, occur, transpire, come to pass, घटित होना
11. **Coincidence** (noun) – accident, chance, concurrence, fluke, happenstance संयोग
12. **Break out** (phrasal verb) – Start abruptly अचानक शुरू होना
13. **Ally** (noun) – A friendly nation मित्र
14. **NATO** (noun) – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 30 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members.
15. **NATO-like** (adjective) – Of or relating to NATO
16. **Charter** (noun) – Contract, deed, agreement, constitution अधिकारपत्र
17. **Stipulate** (verb) – specify, condition, provide, require, शर्त लगाना, निर्दिष्ट करना
18. **Cautious** (adjective) – careful, prudent, circumspect, wary सतर्क
19. **De-escalation** (noun) – (war) a reduction in intensity (of a crisis or a war)
20. **Broker** (verb) – to arrange something such as a deal, agreement, etc. between two or more groups or countries
21. **Go back to** (phrase) – to start doing something again that you were doing before
22. **Pre-** (prefix) – before पूर्व
23. **Era** (noun) – period, age, time, युग
24. **Enclave** (noun) – territory, area, region विदेशी अन्तःक्षेत्र

25. **Collapse** (verb) – Break down, fall, disintegrate, fall down टूटना
26. **Resurface** (verb) – Appear again फिर से होना
27. **Rebel** (noun) – insurgent, revolt, mutiny, dissident, maverick विद्रोही
28. **Fight off** (phrasal verb) – defend oneself against an attack by someone or something; repel, repulse, खदेड़ देना
29. **Give up** (phrasal verb) – quit, abandon, surrender, relinquish, renounce छोड़ देना
30. **Unlike** (pre. / adj. ) – in contrast to; different from के विपरीत; से भिन्न
31. **Economically** (adverb) – Financially वित्तीय
32. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – involving the management of relationships between countries कूटनीतिक
33. **Assistance** (noun) – support, help, assist, सहायता
34. **Reluctant** (adjective) – unwilling, disinclined, hesitant अनिच्छुक
35. **Drag into** (phrasal verb) – to force someone to become involved in an unpleasant or difficult situation
36. **Project** (verb) – to show or represent प्रदर्शन करना
37. **Neighbourhood** (noun) – A surrounding or nearby region पड़ोसियां
38. **Limited** (adjective) – Restricted, controlled, checked, curbed सीमित
39. **On account of** (phrase) – because of, due to, by virtue of के कारण
40. **Backing** (noun) – support, assistance, patronage, समर्थन
41. **Court** (verb) – to try to gain somebody's support by paying special attention to him/her किसी पर विशेष ध्यान देकर या खुशामद कर उसका समर्थन प्राप्त करने की कोशिश करना
42. **Development** (noun) – Event, happening, occurrence घटनाक्रम
43. **Embolden** (verb) – Give encouragement to हौसला बढ़ाना
44. **Ambition** (noun) – aspiration, goal, desire, objective महत्वाकांक्षा
45. **Battlefront** (noun) – the place where opposing armies engage in combat. युद्ध का मोर्चा
46. **Destabilise** (verb) – Become unstable अस्थिर करना
47. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP. अर्थव्यवस्थाओं

48. **Energy-starved** (adjective) – Energy-deficient ऊर्जा की कमी से जूझ रहे

49. **The West** (noun) – It refers to U.S and Other European countries.

50. **Complicate** (verb) – confuse, perplex, muddle, obscure जटिल बनाना

51. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, impose, apply, force, compel लागू करना

## Practice Exercise

*(Reading & Comprehension question based on editorial will be resumed from tomorrow onwards)*

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

1. When the Soviet Union was formed, the Armenian majority **enclave** became part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic
  - A. Belligerent
  - B. Profound
  - C. Incongruous
  - D. Territory
2. Armenian **rebels** in Nagorno-Karabakh fought off the Azeri forces and joined Armenia.
  - A. Ebullient
  - B. Insurgent
  - C. Scintillate
  - D. Construe
3. These regional developments seem to have **emboldened** Azerbaijan
  - A. Alloy
  - B. Robust
  - C. Mandate
  - D. Encourage
4. **Idioms & Phrase**  
The team has several talented young players waiting **in the wings**.
  - A. Used to announce the beginning of a race.
  - B. Ready to do something or to be used at the appropriate time
  - C. In a difficult situation
  - D. Something that is very difficult to do
5. **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.**  
**The slogans raised by a child at a rally in Kerala's Alappuzha on May 21 were chilling not merely for the death threats that they make.**
  - P. It is merely using the democratic space and the prevailing environment of Hindutva upsurge to advance its dangerous, nihilistic communal agenda.
  - Q. At least five people have been killed in Kerala in SDPI-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) rivalry in the State in recent months.
  - R. Organisers of the rally, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), disowned the slogans, but not in any reassuring manner.
  - S. The Islamist group's claim that its rally was to save the Republic does not cut ice,
  - T. The fact that an innocent child could be indoctrinated and tutored such that he could call for violence portends a communal storm that is making landfall in the State.

U. considering its track record and the threatening posturing that it has engaged in, in recent years.

Which among the following will be the **Last** 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. There has not been any rainfall here for six months.  
B. The police investigated the matter.  
C. Now we come to the important question of where this great swarm of galaxies have come from.  
D. Ramchandra Murthy and his family have been in Guyana since 1985.  
E. All are correct
7. A. She has been working in this office for ten years.  
B. Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents, according to the experts' report on highway safety.  
C. If I were you I should tell him the truth.  
D. Patna is more populous than any other town in Bihar  
E. All are correct
8. If I were him (A)/ I would not have (B)/accepted the offer. (C)/ No error(D)
9. What the nation (A)/ needs (B)/ is people of character. (C)/ No error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**  
A. Grandiose  
B. Brandish  
C. Effulgence  
D. Diletory

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

**(The Hindu Editorial: A tryst with the past – Aug 15, 2022)**

Seventy-five years ago, on this day, India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made these remarks in his \_\_\_\_\_**11**\_\_\_\_\_ speech on India attaining freedom at midnight: "The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?" These words ring true even today just as when Independence **unshackled** India from British rule — a milestone that, in some cases, inspired the birth of other new nation-states across the world, freed from the yoke of colonialism. Independent India embarked upon a new journey, imbued with the vision of its freedom fighters and a mission set on course by the members of the Constituent Assembly who worked on its unique liberal democratic Constitution. There have been significant achievements — a constitutional scheme guaranteeing rights that included freedom of speech, religion and a secular state, implementation of universal adult franchise in periodic elections, a \_\_\_\_\_**12**\_\_\_\_\_ legislature, establishments allowing for a formal separation of powers, a quasi-

federal union of States that were reorganised on a linguistic basis, the building of institutions (industrial, educational, medical) that heralded progress, and the unleashing of knowledge and communication sectors that tied India beneficially to the world economy. There have also been missteps and failings — the **inability (A)** to eradicate extreme poverty and marginalisation even though these did come down dramatically since 1947, the **strains (B)** in implementing the constitutional order and values, **decentralization (C)** communal majoritarianism, which was decidedly rejected by both the freedom fighters as well as the framers of the Constitution, the incomplete nature of **burgeoning (D)** of power, and rising economic inequality. Today, on the one hand, India stands tall as one of the world's emerging economies with an advantageous demographic dividend, a \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ democracy that ensures enthusiastic participation in elections, a diverse polity, and a diversified economy. But it also faces humongous challenges. Its people live in a more \_\_\_\_\_ **14** \_\_\_\_\_ world where cooperation and liberal trade relations have taken a beating and where climate change is a challenge.

Also, the emergence and consolidation of **(A)** / a dominant political force that seeks to centralise power and homogenise the idea of India has **(B)**/ threatened to unravel the constitutional structure of recognition of diversity **(C)**/ and inclusion as the means for overall progress. **(D)**

Health care and thoroughgoing economic growth than other regions, an issue that requires careful deliberation in the near future. **(1)**/ Economic progress through inclusive growth — a process that was accelerated following comprehensive reforms in the early 1990s and **(2)**/ the institution of a rights-based approach towards welfare in the mid-2000s — has slowed down in the last few years. **(3)**/ Meanwhile, there is an exacerbation of inter-State disparities, with southern and western India delivering better outcomes in education **(4)**/

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

11. Seventy-five years ago, on this day, India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made these remarks in his \_\_\_\_\_ **11** \_\_\_\_\_ speech on India attaining freedom at midnight:
  - A. Denizen
  - B. Munificent
  - C. Stirring
  - D. Amenable
12. There have been significant achievements — a constitutional scheme guaranteeing rights that included freedom of speech, religion and a secular state, implementation of universal adult franchise in periodic elections, a \_\_\_\_\_ **12** \_\_\_\_\_ legislature, establishments allowing for a formal separation of powers.
  - A. Thriving
  - B. Civil
  - C. Bucolic
  - D. Utilitarian
13. Today, on the one hand, India stands tall as one of the world's emerging economies with an advantageous demographic dividend, a \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ democracy that ensures enthusiastic participation in elections, a diverse polity, and a diversified economy.

- A. Gesticulating  
B. Vibrant  
C. Amenable  
D. Debauchery
14. Its people live in a more \_\_\_\_\_ world where cooperation and liberal trade relations have taken a beating and where climate change is a challenge.
- A. Perennial  
B. Chaotic  
C. Infer  
D. Pragmatic
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.**  
Also, the emergence and consolidation of **(A)** / a dominant political force that seeks to centralise power and homogenised the idea of India has **(B)**/ threatened to unravel the constitutional structure of recognition of diversity **(C)**/ and inclusion as the means for overall progress. **(D)**
- A. (A)  
B. (B)  
C. (C)  
D. (D)  
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**  
Health care and thoroughgoing economic growth than other regions, an issue that requires careful deliberation in the near future. **(1)**/ Economic progress through inclusive growth — a process that was accelerated following comprehensive reforms in the early 1990s and **(2)**/ the institution of a rights-based approach towards welfare in the mid-2000s — has slowed down in the last few years. **(3)**/ Meanwhile, there is an exacerbation of inter-State disparities, with southern and western India delivering better outcomes in education **(4)**
- A. 2341  
B. 2314  
C. 1234  
D. 2143  
E. 3214
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
- UNSHACKLE**
- (i) More homebuyers want to **unshackle** themselves from their mortgages early.  
(ii) The press, once heavily censored, has managed to shake off its **unshackles**.  
(iii) The **unshackles** had begun to cut into his ankles.



- 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.

There have also been missteps and failings — the **inability (A)** to eradicate extreme poverty and marginalisation even though these did come down dramatically since 1947, the **strains (B)** in implementing the constitutional order and values, **decentralization (C)** communal majoritarianism, which was decidedly rejected by both the freedom fighters as well as the framers of the Constitution, the incomplete nature of **burgeoning (D)** of power, and rising economic inequality.

- 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) Journalistic freedom is inextricably and inalienably linked to good practices.
  - (ii) Some media houses publicize pointless news just to gain more TRP ratings.
- A. Whereas
  - B. Although
  - C. And
  - D. Unless
  - E. Even though

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

My classroom has been almost empty all week because one kid afflicted the others \_\_\_\_\_ chicken pox.

- A. Of
- B. From
- C. With
- D. To
- E. None of the above

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

4. **In the wings** (phrase) – ready to do something or to be used at the appropriate time. अपनी बारी का इंतज़ार करना

5. **TRSUPQ**

The slogans raised by a child at a rally in Kerala's Alappuzha on May 21 were chilling not merely for the death threats that they make. The fact that an innocent child could be indoctrinated and tutored such that he could call for violence portends a communal storm that is making landfall in the State. Organisers of the rally, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), disowned the slogans, but not in any reassuring manner. The Islamist group's claim that its rally was to save the Republic does not cut ice, considering its track record and the threatening posturing that it has engaged in, in recent years. It is merely using the democratic space and the prevailing environment of Hindutva upsurge to advance its dangerous, nihilistic communal agenda. At least five people have been killed in Kerala in SDPI-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) rivalry in the State in recent months.

6. 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Verb 'has come' का Subject 'this swarm' है और यह Singular है।

➤ 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject of the verb 'has come' is 'this swarm' and it is singular.

7. 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents' के बदले 'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'little' एक Quantitative Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'less' है, जबकि 'few' एक Numeral Adjective है जिसका Comparative 'fewer' है और 'rainfall' एक Uncountable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'little/little/very little, less' etc. का प्रयोग होगा जबकि 'accidents' एक Plural Countable Noun है जिसके पहले आवश्यकतानुसार 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. का प्रयोग होगा।

➤ 'Less rainfall means fewer traffic accidents' will be used instead of 'Fewer rainfall means less traffic accidents', because 'little' is a Quantitative Adjective whose Comparative is 'less', while 'few' is a Numeral Adjective whose Comparative is 'fewer' and 'rainfall' is an Uncountable Noun which is preceded by 'little/little/very little, less' etc. Where 'accidents' is a Plural Countable Noun preceded by 'few, a few, very few, fewer' etc. Will be used.

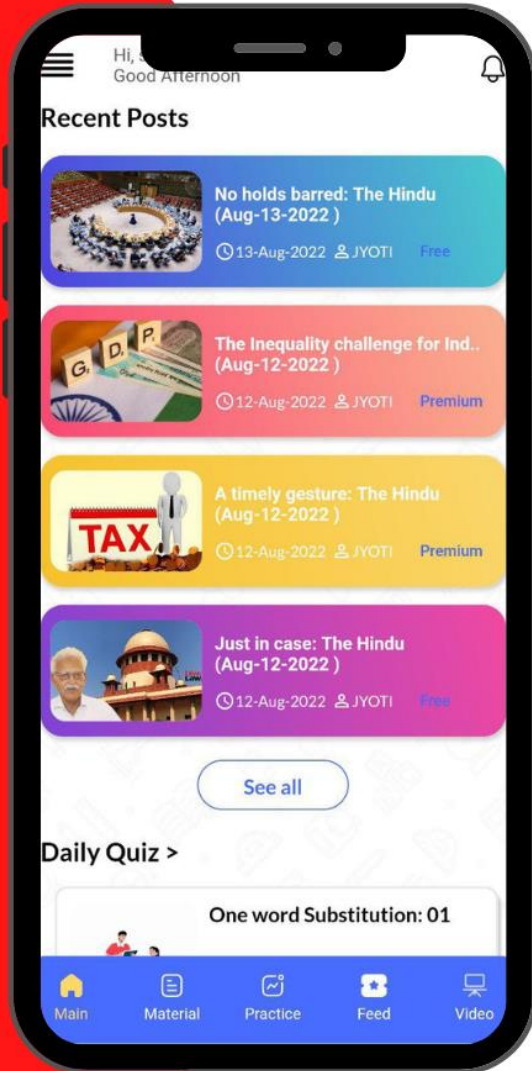
8. 'if I were him' के बदले 'if I were he' का प्रयोग होगा।

➤ 'if I were he' will be used instead of 'if I were him'.

9. 'is' के बदले 'are' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'what' का अर्थ यदि 'that which' हो, तो what के लिए Singular Verb, किन्तु 'what' का अर्थ यदि 'those which' हो तो 'what' के लिए Plural Verb का प्रयोग होता है;
- 'are' will be used instead of 'is' because if 'what' means 'that which', then Singular Verb for what, but if 'what' means 'those which' then the Plural Verb is used for 'what'.
10. **Dilatory** (adjective) – intended to cause delay. विलम्बकारी
11. **Stirring** (adjective) – exciting, thrilling, action-packed, gripping, riveting उत्तेजक
12. **Thriving** (adjective) – flourishing, prosperous, prospering, growing, developing, संपन्न
13. **Vibrant** (adjective) – resonant, sonorous, throbbing, pulsating, reverberating, जीवंत
14. **Chaotic** (adjective) – disorderly, disordered, in disorder, in chaos अराजक
15. (B), Replace 'Homonised' with 'Homonise' as the error of parallelism.  
When words connected with 'And' then the form of words must be same.
16. (A) **2314**  
Economic progress through inclusive growth — a process that was accelerated following comprehensive reforms in the early 1990s and the institution of a rights-based approach towards welfare in the mid-2000s — has slowed down in the last few years. Meanwhile, there is an exacerbation of inter-State disparities, with southern and western India delivering better outcomes in education, health care and thoroughgoing economic growth than other regions, an issue that requires careful deliberation in the near future.
17. **Unshackle** (verb) – Liberate; set free स्वतंत्र करना  
According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.  
Because the (ii) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like  
The press, once heavily censored, has managed to shake off its shackles.  
The shackles had begun to cut into his ankles.
18. There have also been missteps and failings — the inability to eradicate extreme poverty and marginalisation even though these did come down dramatically since 1947, the strains in implementing the constitutional order and values, burgeoning communal majoritarianism, which was decidedly rejected by both the freedom fighters as well as the framers of the Constitution, the incomplete nature of decentralisation of power, and rising economic inequality.
19. **Even though** Journalistic freedom is inextricably and inalienably linked to good practices, some media houses publicize pointless news just to gain more TRP ratings.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Belligerent</b>	adjective	Combative; Quarrelsome; waging war	लड़ाकू, युद्धकारी
	<b>Profound</b>	adjective	Deep (in several cases)	गहन
	<b>Incongruous</b>	adjective	Not harmonious; not consistent; not appropriate; not fitting in	बेमेल
Q2	<b>Ebullient</b>	adjective	Boiling; bubbling with excitement; exuberant	उत्तेजित, जोशीला
	<b>Scintillate</b>	verb	To sparkle, either literally or figuratively	चमकना
	<b>Construe</b>	verb	To interpret	शब्दानुवाद करना, अर्थ करना
Q3	<b>Alloy</b>	noun	A combination of two or more things, usually metals	मिश्र धातु
	<b>Robust</b>	adjective	Strong and healthy; vigorous	मजबूत
	<b>mandate</b>	noun	A command or authorization to do something; the will of voters as expressed by the result of an election.	शासनादेश
Q11	<b>Denizen</b>	noun	Inhabitant	निवासी
	<b>Munificent</b>	adjective	Very generous; lavish	उदार
	<b>Amenable</b>	adjective	Obedient; willing to give in to the wishes of another; agreeable	उत्तरदायी, जिम्मेदार
Q12	<b>Civil</b>	adjective	Polite; civilized; courteous	विनम्र
	<b>Bucolic</b>	adjective	Charmingly rural; rustic; country like	ग्राम्य
	<b>Utilitarian</b>	adjective	stressing usefulness or utility above all other qualities; pragmatic	उपयोगी
Q13	<b>Gesticulate</b>	verb	To make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking	इशारा करना
	<b>Amenable</b>	adjective	Obedient; willing to give in to the wishes of another; agreeable	उत्तरदायी, जिम्मेदार
	<b>Debauchery</b>	noun	Wild living; excessive intemperance	ऐयाशी, भ्रष्ट आचरण
Q14	<b>Perennial</b>	adjective	Continual; happening again and again or year after year	चिरस्थायी
	<b>Infer</b>	verb	To conclude; to deduce	अनुमान करना
	<b>Pragmatic</b>	adjective	Practical; down to earth; based on experience rather than theory	व्यावहारिक



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

