

Dangerous spiral

Only a **compromise** through talks **can** end the **hostilities** in Ukraine

The massive Russian **bombing** of cities across Ukraine that **followed** a blast at **the Kerch Strait** bridge linking the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula **suggests** that the Ukraine war is in a dangerous **escalatory** spiral with no **way out in sight**. Saturday's **attack** on the Russian-built bridge **was cheered** by many in Ukraine, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's adviser Mykhailo Podolyak calling it "just the beginning". But Russia **retaliated** the next day with its **broadest** missile strike on Ukraine since the war began on February 24, targeting military and **civilian infrastructure**. The missile attack has **demonstrated** not just Russia's firepower eight months into the war but also its little **regard** for civilian lives and infrastructure. It also **points to** the **desperation** of Russia whose forces have suffered a series of **setbacks** in recent weeks. But besides this show of strength punishing Ukraine's population, the attack has little **strategic value**. It has not improved Russia's **battlefield** positions. And it has not **weakened** the **resolve** of Ukraine and its **allies** to continue to **resist** the Russian **invasion** either. **On the contrary**, **the Group** of Seven industrialised countries **have vowed undeterred** support for Ukraine "as long as it takes".

Typically, conflicts **come to an end** either with an **outright** victory by one side or through a negotiated settlement. Both possibilities look **distant** at this point in the Ukraine war. Russia wants to **seize** at least Ukraine's eastern and southern provinces. It has made some **territorial gains** but its **advances** have been **stalled** by the Ukrainian troops with **backing** from **NATO**. Ukraine wants to **oust** the Russian **troops** from all captured territories, including Crimea, which appears to be **impractical**. And Russian President Putin's **unilateral decision** to **annex** four Ukrainian **provinces**, in **flagrant violation** of international laws and norms, **has** made the **prospects** for peace extremely difficult. But the alternative to talks is **continuation** of the conflict — Europe's most dangerous land war since the Second World War, with its human and economic costs and growing fears of a nuclear attack. That is the last thing the world wants now. Even in 1962, when Soviet nuclear missiles were in Cuba and U.S. warships had **quarantined** the Caribbean Sea, Kennedy and Khrushchev had talked to each other, exchanged letters and found a solution to the missile crisis that had pushed the world to the **brink** of a nuclear war. Mr. Putin should **back off** from his **maximalist** threats and offer some **concrete** proposals for talks. His **rivals** in **the West** should also work towards creating conditions for **negotiations** that could **bring** this conflict, which has already **wreaked havoc, to an end**. [Practice Exercise]

- **Distant** (adjective) – vague, faint, indistinct, hazy, obscure दूर/ धुंधला
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Spiral** (noun) – a situation gets worse and is difficult to control because one bad event causes another
2. **Compromise** (noun) – agreement, understanding, settlement, terms समझौता
3. **Hostility** (noun) – antagonism, unfriendliness, bitterness, malevolence, malice शत्रुता
4. **Bombing** (noun) – an attack or attacks on a place or area using bombs, or the activity of attacking in this way बम विस्फोट
5. **Follow** (verb) – Happen after के बाद होना
6. **Kerch Strait** (noun) – It connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, separating the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea in the west from the Taman Peninsula of Russia's Krasnodar Krai in the east. The strait is 3.1 kilometres to 15 kilometres wide and up to 18 metres deep
7. **Escalatory** (adjective) – tending to escalate/increase बढ़ते
8. **Way out** (noun) – Solution समाधान
9. **In sight** (phrase) – Imminent, approaching, impending, coming, about to happen
10. **Cheer** (verb) – encourage, hearten, cheerfulness, delight, applaud उत्साहित करना
11. **Retaliate** (verb) – Take revenge for a perceived wrong बदला लेना
12. **Broadest** (adjective) – Superlative degree of 'Broad'. विस्तृत
13. **Civilian** (adjective) – civil, citizen, noncombatant, civic, private citizen नागरिक
14. **Infrastructure** (noun) – The stock of basic facilities and capital equipment needed for the functioning of a country or area आधारभूत संरचना
15. **Demonstrate** (verb) – exhibit, display, show, illustrate, दिखाना
16. **Regard** (noun) – respect or admiration for someone or something ध्यान, लिहाज़
17. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, be evidence of, evidence, signal, signify इंगित करना
18. **Desperation** (noun) – despair, despondency, hopelessness, misery, anguish निराशा, मायूसी
19. **Setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue, hitch, complication, upset, नाकामयाबी, झटका
20. **Strategic value** (noun) – the degree to which a particular action or planned action is important or useful in relation to something that it wants to achieve

21. **Battlefield** (noun as modifier) – Battleground, arena, frontline, field, theater of war लड़ाई का मैदान
22. **Weaken** (verb) – undermine, diminish, lessen, reduce, impair कमज़ोर करना
23. **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, resolution, purpose दृढ़ निश्चय, संकल्प
24. **Ally** (noun) – A friendly nation मित्र
25. **Resist** (verb) – confront, counteract, rebuff. प्रतिरोध करना
26. **Invasion** (noun) – attack, incursion, offensive, assailing आक्रमण
27. **On the contrary** (phrase) – used to show that you think or feel the opposite of what has just been stated इसके विपरीत
28. **Vow** (verb) – pledge, promise, swear, guarantee, oath प्रतिज्ञा करना
29. **Undeterred** (adjective) – undiscouraged, fearless, undaunted, intrepid अडिग
30. **Come to an end** (phrase) – to reach an end खत्म हो जाना
31. **Outright** (adjective) – Absolute, complete, utter, total, entire संपूर्ण
32. **Seize** (verb) – Take hold of; grab जब्त करना
33. **Territorial** (adjective) – Of or relating to a territory क्षेत्रीय, प्रादेशिक
34. **Gain** (noun) – Win something through one's efforts लाभ
35. **Advance** (noun) – Progress, expansion, encroachment, spread आगे बढ़ना
36. **Stall** (verb) – obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, hamper रोकना
37. **Backing** (noun) – Support or help समर्थन
38. **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
39. **Oust** (verb) – expel, remove, eject, kick out, dismiss निकाल देना, हटा देना
40. **Troop** (noun) – A group of soldiers सेना
41. **Impractical** (adjective) – unrealistic, idealistic, dreamy, visionary अव्यावहारिक
42. **Unilateral** (adjective) – Involving only one part or side एकपक्षीय
43. **Annex** (verb) – add, append, attach, join जोड़ना
44. **Province** (noun) – Area, Sphere, Field, Jurisdiction, Domain, Authority प्रदेश
45. **Flagrant** (adjective) – blatant, glaring, gross, egregious, shameless खुल्लम-खुल्ला, घोर

46. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, infraction, contravention उल्लंघन
47. **Prospect** (noun) – outlook, expectation, view, perspective, possibility संभावना
48. **Continuation** (noun) – the act of continuing बने रहना
49. **Quarantine** (verb) – Isolate, seclude, separate, confine, set apart, cordon off
50. **Brink** (noun) – edge, verge, border, threshold कगार
51. **Back off** (phrasal verb) – retreat, withdraw, step back, back up, back down पीछे हटना
52. **Maximalist** (adjective) – of or denoting an extreme opinion. अधिकतमवादी
53. **Concrete** (adjective) – specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस
54. **Rival** (noun) – competitor, opponent, contestant, contender, प्रतिद्वंद्वी
55. **The West** (noun) – It include U.S and other European countries.
56. **Negotiation** (noun) – discussions, talks, consultation बातचीत
57. **Bring to an end** (phrase) – terminate, stop, end, halt, cease समाप्त करना
58. **Wreak havoc** (phrase) – to cause great damage कहर बरपाना

Practice Exercise

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

- its advances have been stalled by the Ukrainian troops with backing from NATO
 - Sacrilege
 - Obstruct
 - Construe
 - Periphery
- And Russian President Putin's unilateral decision to annex four Ukrainian provinces, in flagrant violation of international laws and norms, has made the prospects for peace extremely difficult
 - Scintillate
 - Sagacious
 - Complement
 - Blatant
- Only a compromise through talks can end the hostilities in Ukraine
 - Opulent
 - Bureaucracy
 - Decorous
 - Antagonism

4. Idioms & Phrase

The batsman staked a claim for a place in the side.

- To manage or take care of something or someone
- To declare that something belongs to you
- To form a relationship with someone
- To make someone feel worried or concerned about something

- 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.**
Tamil cinema got a major fillip at the recent 68th National Film Awards, where it bagged top honours.

P. other films such as Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum and Mandela also fetched their teams honour and acclaim.

Q. While Sudha Kongara's Soorai Pottru — starring Suriya and inspired by the life and times of Air Deccan founder Captain G.R. Gopinath — revolves around a man's desire to succeed and make even the common man fly,

R. Vasanth's Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum is a powerful anthology delving into the minds of women across three time periods.

S. Madonne Ashwin's Mandela is at another level: an impressive political satire that showcases how deep-seated caste is in the wider society.

T. The selections showcase the sheer variety Tamil cinema has offered to viewers in recent times.

U. While Soorai Potru hogged the limelight with multiple accolades, including in the 'Best Actor and Actress' categories,
Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

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

Direction (Q6 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. In about five minutes, they would (A)/ cover the distance from the road to the point (B)/ where the waves would (C)/ begin lick their feet. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. The devastating experiences (A)/ of many wars taught some countries (B)/ the necessary of pursuing peace (C)/ at the expense of nationalist egos. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Directions (8-9): In the following questions two columns are given containing three Sentences/phrases each. In first column, sentences/phrases are A, B and C and in the second column the sentences/phrases are D, E and F. A sentence/phrase from the first column may or may not connect with another sentence/phrase from the second column to make a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. Each question has five options, four of which display the sequence(s) in which the sentences/phrases can be joined to form a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. If none of the options given forms a correct sentence after combination, mark option (E), i.e. "None of these" as your answer.

8.

Column (1)	Column (2)
A. The former superstar recently has visited an orphanage,	D. healthy and young may help delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease.
B. According to a new study taking steps to remain	E. put in place to ensure that others were not affected by the dreaded virus.
C. A day after he was diagnosed with swine flue, preventive measures were	F. fueling speculation that she is planning to adopt a child.

- A. A-E B.B-D, C-E, A-F C.A-E, C-D D.B-D E. None of these

9.

Column (1)	Column (2)
A. The administrator has concluded that it is retailers	D. the change in conditions, but a lot more remains to be understood.
B. The assurance, unfortunately, remained on paper, as neither	E. who are responsible for upsetting the city's household budgets.
C. Sediment deposit along the coast may be the primary reason for	F. the Centre or the state initiated steps for the development of the backward region.

A. A-E, B-F

B.A-D

C.A-E, C-D

D.B-D

E. None of these

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Hygiene
- B. Amateur
- C. Bellwether
- D. Outragous

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Eat and learn – Sep 17, 2022)

Sometimes the ability **(A)**/ of a government to find resources **(B)**/ for a well scheme is only **(C)**/ limited by its intent. **(D)**

The Tamil Nadu government's launch of the free breakfast scheme for schoolchildren is an instance of a policy initiative with far-reaching consequences for school education and public health. As Chief Minister M.K. Stalin himself said at the launch of the scheme, provision of free breakfast is not a **freebie (A)**, but the **promontory (B)** duty of a government to ensure no child goes hungry. Mr. Stalin framed his words and **deeds(C)** from the **foremost (D)** of the progressive Dravidian model, which promises inclusive growth for all segments of the population. A key element is the welfare of children, which explains Tamil Nadu's early emphasis on feeding children in schools. The importance of a daily breakfast as the most important meal of the day is widely acknowledged. Multiple studies across the globe indicate that eating breakfast regularly _____ positive _____ on students, affecting their ability to focus, learn and retain information positively. School performance improves, as do behaviour and cognition, but a regular breakfast also takes care of diet quality, micronutrient sufficiency, anaemia and height and weight issues in children, and is even believed to _____ **11** _____ BMI scores for the future. The government has targeted providing schoolchildren an average of 293 calories and an average protein input of 9.85 gm per day. The mid-day meal that is already being provided to students in schools comes up to an average of 553 calories and 18 gm of protein, giving every student who takes the food supplied in school about 846 cal and nearly 28 gm of protein a day. The Centre's midday meal guidelines prescribe between 450-700 cals per child per day, and a protein _____ **12** _____ of 12-20 gm per day.

While the proposed menu for the Tamil Nadu government's breakfast scheme will take care of hunger, the _____ **13** _____, energy and micronutrient requirements of the children, with a diet rich in local preparations and vegetables, it also has to provide adequate attention to taste and quality parameters. The government, rich with its experience of dealing with the mid-day meal scheme over several decades, must avoid the errors of omission and commission — including _____ **14** _____, poor quality of food, delays in sanctioning funds, and caste-related disruptions — that have been **hurdles** in its path earlier. Other State governments would also do well to be inspired by Tamil Nadu, which has allowed its intent to triumph over the state of its finances, finding money to fund this very crucial aspect of nation building — ensuring the growth and development of children.

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

11. School performance improves, as do behaviour and cognition, but a regular breakfast also takes care of diet quality, micronutrient sufficiency, anaemia and height and weight issues in children, and is even believed to _____ BMI scores for the future.
- Faction
 - Ostensible
 - Monolithic
 - Sculpt
12. The Centre's midday meal guidelines prescribe between 450-700 cal per child per day, and a protein _____ of 12-20 gm per day.
- Acquiescing
 - Depravity
 - Antithesis
 - Intake
13. While the proposed menu for the Tamil Nadu government's breakfast scheme will take care of hunger, the _____, energy and micronutrient requirements of the children
- Promulgating
 - Calorific
 - Chimera
 - Admonishing
14. The government, rich with its experience of dealing with the mid-day meal scheme over several decades, must avoid the errors of omission and commission — including _____, poor quality of food, delays in sanctioning funds.
- Pensive
 - Pilferage
 - Gesticulating
 - Capricious
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.**
Sometimes the ability (A)/ of a government to find resources (B)/ for a well scheme is only (C)/ limited by its intent. (D)
- (A)
 - (B)
 - (C)
 - (D)
 - No Error
16. **Directions: The following question has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits in the context of the sentence.**
Multiple studies across the globe indicate that eating breakfast regularly _____ positive _____ on students, affecting their ability to focus, learn and retain information positively.
- Discusses, consults

- B. Convenes, Result
 - C. Award, Bestow
 - D. Confers , Outcomes
 - E. Grants, Withholds
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

HURDLE

- (i) The cost of this exercise is proving to be a major **hurdle**.
 - (ii) Getting a work permit was the first **hurdle** to overcome.
 - (iii) Do you think that look he gave you had any **hurdle**?
- 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.

As Chief Minister M.K. Stalin himself said at the launch of the scheme, provision of free breakfast is not a **freebie (A)**, but the **promontory (B)** duty of a government to ensure no child goes hungry. Mr. Stalin framed his words and **deeds(C)** from the **foremost (D)** of the progressive Dravidian model, which promises inclusive growth for all segments of the population.

- A. C – A
 - B. B – 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) You'll have to focus on your immediate surroundings.
 - (ii) On your computer screen
- A. Anyway
 - B. Although
 - C. Due to
 - D. Unless
 - E. Primarily

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Do not trespass _____ government land.

- A. On
- B. In
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Stake claim to something** (phrase) – to declare that something belongs to you

5. **UPTQRS**

Tamil cinema got a major fillip at the recent 68th National Film Awards, where it bagged top honours. While Soorarai Pottru hogged the limelight with multiple accolades, including in the 'Best Actor and Actress' categories, other films such as Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum and Mandela also fetched their teams honour and acclaim. The selections showcase the sheer variety Tamil cinema has offered to viewers in recent times. While Sudha Kongara's Soorarai Pottru — starring Suriya and inspired by the life and times of Air Deccan founder Captain G.R. Gopinath — revolves around a man's desire to succeed and make even the common man fly, Vasanth's Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum is a powerful anthology delving into the minds of women across three time periods. Madonne Ashwin's Mandela is at another level: an impressive political satire that showcases how deep-seated caste is in the wider society.

6. begin lick के बदले 'begin to lick' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "begin to do something" का प्रयोग होता है।

➤ 'begin to lick' will be used instead of begin lick because "begin to do something" is used

7. 'necessary' के बदले 'necessity' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'necessary' एक Adjective है जबकि 'necessity' एक Noun और teach somebody something का प्रयोग होता; जैसे-

i. I taught him mathematics.

ii. I taught him the art of singing.

➤ 'necessary' will be used instead of 'necessity' because 'necessary' is an Adjective whereas 'necessity' is a Noun and teach somebody something; like-

i. I taught him mathematics.

ii. I taught him the art of singing.

8. **Correct Option: B**

The former superstar recently has visited an orphanage, fueling speculation that she is planning to adopt a child.

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

According to a new study taking steps to remain healthy and young may help delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

A day after he was diagnosed with swine flue, preventive measures were put in place to ensure that others were not affected by the dreaded virus.

Fragment C of column 1 is not matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

9. **Correct Option: C**

The company reports that the demand for their computers is growing every day.

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

The assurance, unfortunately, remained on paper, as neither the Centre or the state initiated steps for the development of the backward region.

Fragment B of column 1 is not matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Correct is: The assurance, unfortunately, remained on paper, as neither the Centre nor the state initiated steps for the development of the backward region.

➤ 'or' के बदले 'nor' का प्रयोग होता क्योंकि 'neither... nor' का प्रयोग होता है।

Sediment deposit along the coast may be the primary reason for the change in conditions, but a lot more remains to be understood

Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

10. **Outrageous** (adjective) – exorbitant, shocking, extortionate, excessive अपमानजनक

11. **Sculpt** (verb) – create or represent (something) रूप देना

12. **Intake** (noun) – Consumption, eating, ingestion सेवन

13. **Calorific** (adjective) – relating to calories (= units of energy provided by food)

14. **Pilferage** (noun) – The act of stealing small amounts or small articles चोरी

15. 'well' के बदले 'good' का प्रयोग होता क्योंकि adjective should be used to qualify noun but not adverb where good is an 'adjective' and well is an 'adverb'.

16. **Confer** (on) (verb) – Bestow, present, grant, give प्रदान करना

Outcome (noun) – result, consequence, effect, upshot, conclusion परिणाम

17. **Hurdle** (noun) – obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, impediment बाधा

According to the given options only (i) and (ii) is contextually correct.

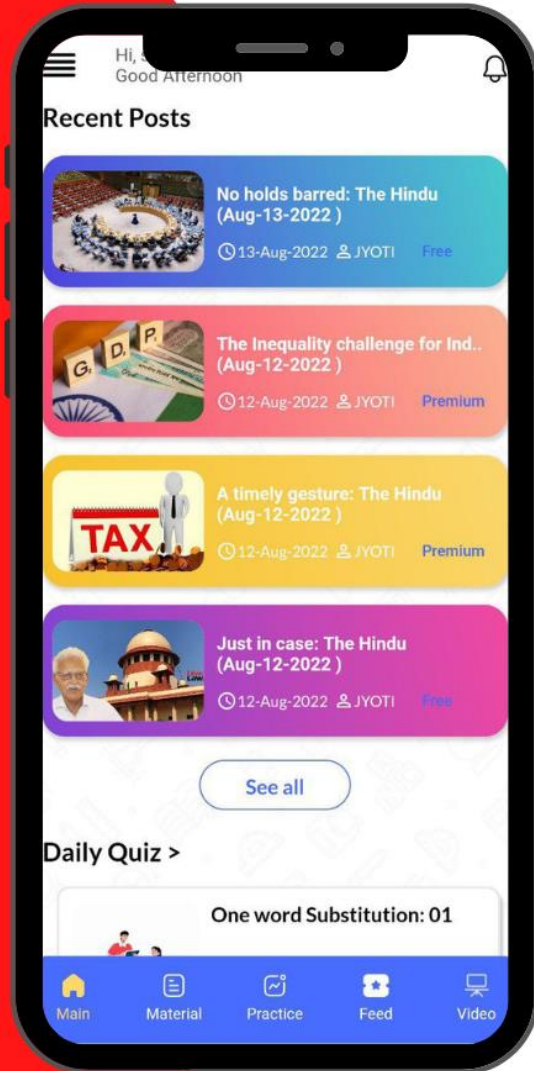
Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentence should be like
Do you think that look he gave you had any significance?

18. As Chief Minister M.K. Stalin himself said at the launch of the scheme, provision of free breakfast is not a freebie, but the foremost duty of a government to ensure no child goes hungry. Mr. Stalin framed his words and deeds from the promontory of the progressive Dravidian model, which promises inclusive growth for all segments of the population.

19. You'll have to focus on your immediate surroundings. **Primarily**, on your computer screen.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Sacrilege	noun	A violation of something sacred; blasphemy	अपवित्रीकरण
	Construe	verb	To interpret	शब्दानुवाद करना, अर्थ करना
	Periphery	noun	The outside edge of something	उपनगर
Q2	Scintillate	verb	To sparkle, either literally or figuratively	चमकना
	Sagacious	adjective	Discerning; shrewd; keen in judgment; wise	मेधावी
	Complement	verb	To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart	जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना
Q3	Opulent	adjective	Luxurious	धनी
	Bureaucracy	noun	A system of government administration consisting of numerous bureaus or offices, especially one run according to inflexible and inefficient rule.	नौकरशाही
	Decorous	adjective	Proper; in good taste; orderly	शिष्ट, औचित्यपूर्ण
Q11	Faction	noun	A group, usually a small part of larger group, united around some cause; disagreement within an organization.	गुट, दल
	Ostensible	adjective	Apparent; professed	दृश्यमान
	Monolithic	adjective	Massive, solid, uniform and unyielding	अखंड
Q12	Acquiesce	verb	To comply passively; to accept; to assent; to agree	संतुष्ट होना, चुपचाप स्वीकार कर लेना
	Depravity	noun	Extreme wickedness or corruption	भ्रष्टता
	Antithesis	noun	The direct opposite	विलोम, प्रतिपक्ष
Q13	Promulgate	verb	To proclaim; to publicly or formally declare something	घोषणा करना
	Chimera	noun	An illusion; a foolish fancy	काल्पनिक धारणा
	Admonish	verb	To scold gently; to warn	डॉटना, चेताना
Q14	Pensive	adjective	Thoughtful and sad	चिंताग्रस्त
	Gesticulate	verb	To make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking	इशारा करना
	Capricious	adjective	Unpredictable; likely to change at any moment	मनमौजी



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