

Halting the slide: On Biden-Xi meeting

The Biden-Xi meeting is only a first step towards **stabilising** a **fraught** relationship

The United States and China have agreed to more “responsibly” manage their increasingly **fractious** relations, **following** a meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. In their first **face-to-face** meeting, since Mr. Biden **assumed** the U.S. **presidency**, in Bali on November 14, 2022 **ahead of** the G20 summit, they appeared to agree that **the downward slide** in relations, especially **in the wake of** U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan in August, **suited** neither side. The biggest **takeaway** is an **agreement** that “competition should not **veer** into **conflict**” and that both must, as **the White House** put it in a statement, “manage the competition responsibly and maintain **open lines of communication**”. Mr. Xi **echoed** that **sentiment** by saying “relations should not be a **zero-sum game** where one side **out-competes** or **thrives at the expense of** the other”. **To that end**, both sides have reopened **dialogues** that remained **frozen** since Ms. Pelosi’s Taiwan visit, starting with working together on climate change, a key challenge that cannot be **addressed** without the world’s two biggest **polluters**. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will now travel to China, while other **suspended joint working groups**, including on global economic **stability**, **debt** relief, food security and health security, **are** likely to **resume**.

While the **resumption** in contact is **certainly** significant, it is, however, only a first and **tentative** step towards stabilising an increasingly fraught relationship; none of the **substantive differences** has been **resolved**. On trade, Mr. Xi noted China’s **opposition** to “starting a trade war or a technology war, building walls and **barriers**, **pushing for decoupling** and **severing supply chains**”, **reflecting** Beijing’s **displeasure** at Washington’s latest export controls on chips, which have **dealt a hammer blow** to its semiconductor **ambitions**. Human rights are another **sticking point**. Mr. Biden “raised concerns” about Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong, while Mr. Xi **retorted** that “no country has a perfect democratic system” and “just as the United States has American-style democracy, China has Chinese-style democracy”. **The biggest factor**, however, **remains** the Taiwan question. While Mr. Biden **assured** Mr. Xi that there was no change in the “one China policy”, the view in Beijing is that the U.S. has been **gradually “hollowing out”** its Taiwan **commitments**. Should Ms. Pelosi’s likely **successor**, Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, go ahead with his already declared plan to visit Taiwan, relations may yet again be **plunged** into crisis. While the **thaw** in **ties** between the world’s two biggest powers **will** be welcomed in most Asian capitals that are **wary** of a **brewing Cold War**, the **respite** may yet **turn out to be brief**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Halt** (verb) – stop, come to a standstill
रोकना
2. **Slide** (noun) – a continuous slow fall गिरावट
3. **Stabilise** (verb) – become stable, steady, calm स्थिर बनाना
4. **Fraught** (adjective) – tense, anxious, charged, stressed खराब/ तनावपूर्ण
5. **Fractious** (adjective) – tending to argue, fight, or complain, and hard to control अनियंत्रित/ झगड़ा लू
6. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
7. **Face-to-face** (adjective) – within each other's sight or presence आमने - सामने
8. **Assume** (verb) – accept, take on, take up (charge/position) ग्रहण करना
9. **Presidency** (noun) – the position of being president अध्यक्षता
10. **Ahead of** (phrase) –before, just before से पहले
11. **Downward slide** (noun) – something (relations) continuously decreases or gets worse
12. **In the wake of** (phrase) – after, following, as a result of, as a consequence of परिणामस्वरूप
13. **Suit** (verb) – to be right for a particular situation अनुकूल होना
14. **Takeaway** (noun) – conclusion; Important point, a key fact
15. **Agreement** (noun) – deal, accord, contract, arrangement, understanding समझौता
16. **Veer into** (phrasal verb) – To turn or swerve very suddenly and forcefully into someone or something, especially in a reckless manner. की तरफ जाना
17. **Conflict** (noun) – Battle, fight, war, struggle, skirmish, clash, encounter संघर्ष
18. **The White house** (noun) – the executive department of the U.S. government.
19. **Open lines of Communication** (noun) – the organization has effective communication around understanding, discussing, and reporting compliance concerns and issues.
20. **Echo** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate (someone's words or opinions), typically to express agreement. दोहराना
21. **Sentiment** (noun) – opinion, view, attitude भावना/ राय
22. **A Zero-sum game** (noun) – a situation in which an advantage that is won by one of two sides is lost by the other
23. **Outcompete** (verb) – to defeat, surpass (another) in competition प्रतिस्पर्धा करना

24. **Thrive** (verb) – Flourish, prosper, succeed, boom, increase फलना-फूलना
25. **At the expense/cost of** (phrase) – To achieve something at the loss of something. की कीमत पर
26. **To that end** (phrase) – For that reason, with that goal, intending to produce that result इसी कारणवश
27. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse, बातचीत, संवाद
28. **Frozen** (adjective) – Unfriendly, cold, unemotional, emotionless, disdainful रूखा
29. **Address** (verb) – tackle, see to, deal with, confront, grapple with सुलझाना, निपटाना
30. **Polluter** (noun) – a person or thing responsible for contaminating the environment with harmful or poisonous substances प्रदूषण फैलाने वाला
31. **Suspended** (adjective) – deferred, adjourned, put off, निलंबित
32. **Stability** (noun) – firmness, steadiness, solidity, secureness, strength स्थिरता
33. **Debt** (noun) – Loan, credit, finance ऋण
34. **Resume** (verb) – restart, renew, recommence, reopen फिर शुरू करना
35. **Resumption** (noun) – restart, restarting, recommencement, reopening, reinstatement पुनरारंभ
36. **Certainly** (adverb) – Surely, definitely, undoubtedly, absolutely निश्चित रूप से
37. **Tentative** (adjective) – hesitant, uncertain, cautious, unconfident, timid, हिचकिचाने वाला, ढुलमुल
38. **Substantive** (adjective) – substantial, essential, material, significant मूल
39. **Differences** (noun) – a disagreement, quarrel, or dispute. मतभेद
40. **Resolve** (verb) – Solve, settle, come to a decision समाधान करना
41. **Opposition** (noun) – resistance, antipathy, enmity, objection, dissent, criticism विरोध
42. **Barrier** (noun) – obstacle, hurdle, difficulty, impediment, hindrance, obstruction बाधा
43. **Push for** (phrasal verb) – to take strong action to try to make it happen जोर देना
44. **Decouple** (verb) – separate, disengage, or dissociate (something) from something else. अलगाना
45. **Sever** (verb) – Cut, split, separate, undo, disunite, dissolve, break तोड़ देना, अलगाना
46. **Supply chain** (noun) – a network of individuals and companies who are involved

- in creating a product and delivering it to the consumer
47. **Displeasure** (noun) – Anger, annoyance, irritation, disapproval, discontentment, discontent नाराजगी
48. **Deal a hammer blow** (phrase) – something that causes serious damage or harm झटका देना
49. **Ambition** (noun) – aspiration, goal, desire, objective महत्वाकांक्षा
50. **Sticking point** (noun) – an obstacle to progress towards an agreement or goal. बाधा, रोड़ा
51. **Retort** (verb) – Reply, response, riposte, angry reply, bite back करारा जवाब देना
52. **Assure** (verb) – Ensure, guarantee, confirm, secure, substantiate आश्वस्त करना
53. **Gradually** (adverb) – slowly, unhurriedly धीरे-धीरे
54. **Hollow out** (phrasal verb) – To remove the inside of something खोखला करना
55. **Commitment** (noun) – vow, promise, pledge, oath प्रतिबद्धता
56. **Successor** (noun) – A person or thing that succeeds another. उत्तराधिकारी
57. **Plunge** (into) (verb) – to suddenly experience a bad situation or unhappiness
58. **Thaw** (noun) – an increase in friendliness मित्रता में वृद्धि
59. **Ties** (noun) – connection, link, liaison, attachment, association संबंध
60. **Wary** (of) (adjective) – careful because you are uncertain or afraid of somebody/something सावधान (किसी व्यक्ति या वस्तु के प्रति अनिश्चय या भय के कारण), सतर्क, चौकन्ना, खबरदार
61. **Brewing** (adjective) – Developing, looming, threatening, growing आसन्न, उभरते
62. **Cold war** (noun) – a state/situation of conflict between nations that does not involve direct military action
63. **Respite** (noun) – a short period of rest from something that is difficult or unpleasant राहत, विराम, स्थगन
64. **Turn out to be** (phrase) – Emerge, transpire, come about, happen, become, come to pass उभरना, निकलना
65. **Brief** (adjective) – Short-lived, transitory, fleeting, short-term, ephemeral अल्पकालिक

Practice Exercise

Direction: (Q1-Q5): In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number. [Editorial]

The UIDAI has, however, been _____**1**_____ about the inherent dangers in the _____**2**_____ use of the Aadhaar number or the Aadhaar card by citizens, as evidenced in its series of _____**3**_____ on the issue even before this latest withdrawal notice. There seems to be a contradiction of views within the authority on the issue of potential misuse of the Aadhaar number. On the one hand, in statements advising caution and user _____**4**_____ in revealing one's Aadhaar number, it is seeking to treat these as sensitive information just like the biometrics provided by citizens to the authority. Yet, on the other, it has sought to universalise the open use of the Aadhaar as an identity document with missionary zeal and has downplayed the risks of doing so. This ambivalence does not help at all. The UIDAI must popularise the use of the masked Aadhaar facility as a start and rethink ways to tighten the scrutiny over how Aadhaar numbers are issued and utilised even as law enforcement agencies _____**5**_____ on data leaks and websites carrying unmasked Aadhaar-related information.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. A. Ambivalent | B. Tantamount | C. Brevity | D. Abysmal |
| 2. A. Consecrate | B. Indiscriminate | C. Slandered | D. Ambivalent |
| 3. A. Admonish | B. Unconscionable | C. Bastions | D. Flip-flops |
| 4. A. Peripatetic | B. Discretion | C. Rigorous | D. Intransigent |
| 5. A. Palpable | B. Moribund | C. Crack down | D. Antithesis |

Directions (6): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word. [Answer]

6. A. Presidancy
B. Presedenacy
C. Presidency
D. Presedincy

Directions (Q7): In the following questions, the passage/sentence is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence/passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

7. **P.** The Spaniard, after all, has a statue of himself at the site that is more than life-size, a rare tribute for a player still active.
Q. pulling him two clear of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in the all-time men's tally.
R. It is unthinkable that 14 was once Pete Sampras' record for overall Grand Slam trophies won.
S. Rafael Nadal's is an immortal presence at Roland-Garros
T. On Sunday, the 36-year-old showed why his is such a timeless existence by winning his 14th French Open crown that also gave him his 22nd Major,

- A. RSTPQ B. SPTRQ C. TQRSP D. SPTQR

Directions (8-9): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

8. The men had constructed the bridge.
- A. The bridge has been constructed by the men.
 - B. The bridge was constructed by the men.
 - C. The bridge was being constructed by the men.
 - D. The Bridge had been constructed by the men.
9. Do not inform the police about the robbery.
- A. The police do not be informed about the robbery.
 - B. Let not the police be informed about the robbery.
 - C. Let the police be informed about the robbery.
 - D. The police need to be informed by the robbery.

Directions (10-11): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech. [Answer]

10. She said, "I must have a computer to prepare a power point presentation."
- A. She said she had to have a computer to prepare a power point presentation.
 - B. She said she should have a computer to prepare a power point presentation.
 - C. She said she would have a computer to prepare a power point presentation.
 - D. She said she could have a computer to prepare a power point presentation.
11. "Don't hesitate to clear your doubts," the teacher said.
- A. The teacher warned me not to hesitate in clearing my doubts.
 - B. The teacher ordered me not to hesitate in clearing my doubts.
 - C. The teacher persuaded me not to hesitate in clearing my doubts.
 - D. The teacher requested me not to hesitate in clearing my doubts.

Directions (12-13): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

12. **Exiting for ever-without any beginning or ending**
- A. Eternal
 - B. Death-blow
 - C. Pawn
 - D. Indelible
13. **Unconsciousness or incapacity in resulting from a cerebral hemorrhage or stroke**
- A. Dubious
 - B. Apoplexy
 - C. Matins
 - D. Embroil

Directions (14-15): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase

14. **Throw one's weight behind**
- A. Acting in a way that shows that you expect somebody to attack or criticize you
 - B. To use one's influence or power to support or promote someone or something

- C. To be almost a certain thing or quality
- D. To have an effect on (something)

15. **Hue and cry**

- A. a noisy expression of public anger or disapproval
- B. To take advantage
- C. To incorporate or add in
- D. To be at the start of a new period

Directions (16-17): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

16. **ECHO**

- A. Diffident
- B. Repeat
- C. Kinetic
- D. Venerate

17. **RESUMPTION**

- A. Recommencement
- B. Evanescent
- C. Acrid
- D. Distinguish

Direction: (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

18. **TENTATIVE**

- A. Anecdote
- B. Tautological
- C. Robust
- D. Sure

19. **DISPLEASURE**

- A. Figurative
- B. Cerebral
- C. Happiness
- D. Exhort

Directions (20): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.

[Answer]

20. It is raining since the morning.

- A. Has been
- B. Had been
- C. Rained
- D. No Correction required

Directions (Q21– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

21. The speaker was (A)/ not only slow (B)/ but also inaudible as well. (C)/ no error(D)

22. The crowd surged forward (A)/ to catch a glimpse (B)/ of its favourite leader. (C)/ no error (D)
23. There is a distinct possibility (A)/ that he will leave the job (B)/ once the investigation is over.
(C)/ no error (D)
24. Many a star (A)/ are (B)/ twinkling in the sky. (C)/ no error(D)
25. We discussed the problem (A)/ so thoroughly that (B)/ I found it easy to work it out. (C)/ no error (D)

Answers

1. A 2. B 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. C 7. D 8. D 9. B 10. A 11. C 12. A 13. B 14. B
15. A 16. B 17. A 18. D 19. C 20. A 21. C 22. D 23. D 24. B 25. D **Practice Exercise**

Explanation

- Ambivalent** (adjective) – equivocal, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive अस्पष्ट
 - **Tantamount** (adjective) – Equivalent to समान
 - **Brevity** (noun) – A briefness संक्षिप्तता
 - **Abysmal** (adjective) – Extremely hopeless or wretched; bottomless अथाह, अति-गहन
- Indiscriminate** (adjective) – haphazard, random, unsystematic, unmethodical अंधाधुंध
 - **Ambivalent** (adjective) – Undecided; neutral; wishy-washy दुविधा में पड़ा हुआ, अनिर्णीत
 - **Consecrate** (verb) – To make or declare sacred पवित्र, प्रतिष्ठित
 - **Slander** (verb) – To speak badly about someone publicly; to defame; to spread malicious rumor बदनामी
- Flip-flop** (noun) – An abrupt reversal of policy.
 - **Admonish** (verb) – To scold gently; to warn डाँटना, चेताना
 - **Unconscionable** (adjective) – Not controlled by conscience; unscrupulous बेशरम
 - **Bastion** (noun) – Stronghold; fortress; fortified place गढ़
- Discretion** (noun) – choice, option, judgement, preference विवेक, निर्णय
 - **Peripatetic** (adjective) – Wandering; travelling continually itinerant पथिक
 - **Rigorous** (adjective) – Strict; harsh; severe कड़ा; कठोर
 - **Intransigent** (adjective) – Uncompromising; stubborn सैद्धांतिक
- Crack down on** (phrasal verb) – get tough on, take severe measures against पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करना
 - **Palpable** (adjective) – Capable of being touched; obvious; tangible स्पर्शनीय
 - **Moribund** (adjective) – Dying मरणासन्न
 - **Antithesis** (adjective) – The direct opposite विलोम, प्रतिपक्ष
- Presidency** (noun) – the position of being president अध्यक्षता
- SPTQR**
Rafael Nadal's is an immortal presence at Roland-Garros. The Spaniard, after all, has a statue of himself at the site that is more than life-size, a rare tribute for a player still active. On Sunday, the 36-year-old showed why his is such a timeless existence by winning his 14th French Open crown that also gave him his 22nd Major, pulling him two clear of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in the all-time men's tally. It is unthinkable that 14 was once Pete Sampras' record for overall Grand Slam trophies won.

12. **Eternal** – Existing for ever-without any beginning or ending सनातन
Death-blow – That destroys or puts an end to something घातक चोट
Pawn – Leave as a guarantee in return for money प्यादा
Indelible – Which cannot be erased or forgotten जो मिट न सके
13. **Dubious** – Open to doubt or suspicion संदिग्ध
Apoplexy – Unconsciousness or incapacity in resulting from a cerebral hemorrhage or stroke मूर्छा की बीमारी, मिरगी रोग
Matins – Morning prayer
Embroid – To involve (someone) deeply in an argument, conflict or difficult situation उलझाना
14. **Throw one's weight behind** (phrase) – To use one's influence or power to support or promote someone or something
15. **Hue and cry** (phrase) – a noisy expression of public anger or disapproval हुल्लड़, कोलाहल
16. **Echo** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate (someone's words or opinions), typically to express agreement. दोहराना
- **Diffident** (adjective) – Timid; lacking in self-confidence संकोचशील
 - **Kinetic** (adjective) – Having to do with motion; lively; active सक्रिय
 - **Venerate** (verb) – To revere; to treat as something holy, especially because of great age. सम्मानित करना, पूजना
17. **Resumption** (noun) – restart, restarting, recommencement, reopening, reinstatement पुनरांभ
- **Evanescence** (adjective) – Fleeting; vanishing; happening for only the briefest period क्षणभंगुर, अस्थायी
 - **Acrid** (adjective) – Harsh like acid कटु, कड़ुवा, उग्र
 - **Distinguish** (verb) – To tell apart; to cause to stand out अंतर करना, भेद करना
18. **Tentative** (adjective) – hesitant, uncertain, cautious, unconfident, timid, हिचकिचाने वाला, ढुलमुल
- **Anecdote** (noun) – A short account of a humorous or revealing incident छोटी सी कहानी, घटना
 - **Tautological** (adjective) – Redundant; circular अनुलापिक
 - **Robust** (adjective) – Strong and healthy; vigorous मजबूत
19. **Displeasure** (noun) – Anger, annoyance, irritation, disapproval, discontentment, discontent नाराजगी
- **Figurative** (adjective) – Based on figures of speech; expressing something in terms usually used for something else; metaphorical. आलंकारिक, औपचारिक

➤ **Cerebral** (adjective) – Brainy; intellectual refined मस्तिष्क का, दिमागी

➤ **Exhort** (verb) – To urge strongly; to give a serious warning to उकसाना, परमार्श देना

20. (A) 'is' के बदले 'has been' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'since + Point of Time' का प्रयोग होने पर वाक्य सामान्यतः Present Perfect Continuous Tense में होता है; जैसे-

It has been raining since 7 a.m.

(A) 'has been' will be used instead of 'is', because when 'since + Point of Time' is used, the sentence is generally in Present Perfect Continuous Tense; As-

A. It has been raining since 7 a.m.

21. (C) 'as well' का प्रयोग superfluous(अनावश्यक) है और इसे हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'not only' के साथ 'but also' का प्रयोग होता है।

22. (D) No error.

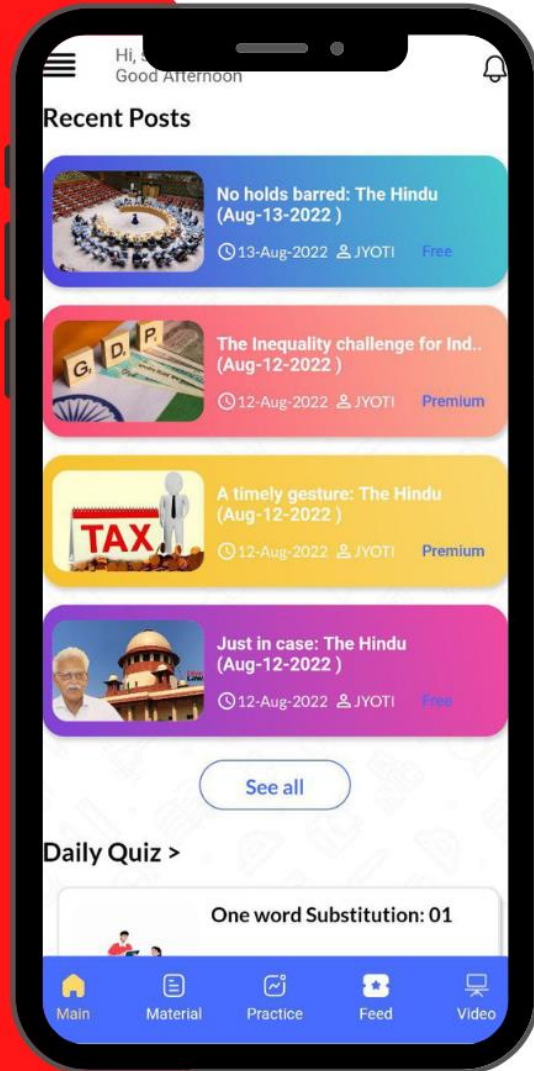
23. (D) No error.

24. (B) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'many a/an के साथ singular countable noun का प्रयोग होता है तथा singular verb का; जैसे-

i. Many a book is lying there.

ii. Many an apple is to be bought.

25. (D) No error.



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