

On the edge: On the Poland missile incident and the Ukraine conflict

Russia should create conditions for a **constructive dialogue** with Ukraine

The missile incident in Poland, in which two people were killed, **should** serve as a warning: the Ukraine conflict could **potentially spill over** into a wider war between **nuclear-armed** Russia and **NATO**. The Russian **invasion** of its **neighbouring** country and NATO's **decision** to **back** Ukraine with military supplies **have** brought the two sides to an **eyeball-to-eyeball** situation, with only a **spark** needed for a **conflagration**. Immediately after the missile **exploded** inside **Polish territory**, which is a part of NATO, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blamed Russia, calling it an attack on the **West's** collective security and a significant **escalation**. Russia quickly **distanced itself from** the incident, but at least for a few hours, the world was on edge **amid** fears of this incident **triggering** an open war between Russia and NATO. But **NATO leaders**, including U.S. President Joe Biden, **responded firmly** and responsibly. **Mr. Biden**, who was in Bali to attend the G20 meeting, publicly **refuted** Mr. Zelenskyy's claim, saying it was **unlikely** that the missile came from Russia, which Polish and NATO authorities confirmed later. What hit Poland was a Russian-made S300 defence missile, most likely fired by Ukraine against a Russian missile, they said. While their **sober** response avoided a **showdown**, the incident has **highlighted** the risks of this **hair-trigger** situation.

Mr. Zelenskyy's comment was irresponsible. His anger towards Russia is justifiable **given** that his country is being **bombarded** on a daily basis, but as the President of Ukraine, what he says will have **consequences**, and he should wait for the facts and respond **cautiously** when it comes to NATO-Russia tensions. Russia should understand that Ukraine is now a **tinderbox**. To **overcome** its battlefield failures, Russia is now **deliberately** targeting Ukrainian **infrastructure** with repeated missile attacks. A **misfire** could turn the **nightmare** into reality. **All stakeholders**, primarily Russia which started the war, **have** the responsibility to **put in place** the **guardrails** against escalation. They should turn the **diffusion** of the Polish crisis into an opportunity for open dialogue. As the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark A. Milley, **pointed out**, the conflict could enter a **frozen** stage during winter. Despite Ukraine's territorial gains, it is unlikely its forces will be able to **expel** Russians from all captured territories through force, he said, **making his case for** talks. **Mr. Zelenskyy**, **reportedly** under U.S. pressure, **changed** his earlier position that he would not **hold talks** with Mr. Putin. So, there is a small **window** for **de-escalation**. Russia must respond with **concrete** proposals and create conditions for a constructive dialogue. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **On the edge** (phrase) – Very close to doing something or of having some imminent event happen, especially that which is bad or disastrous. के कगार पर
2. **Constructive** (adjective) – Positive, helpful, productive, beneficial उपयोगी
3. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse बातचीत/ वार्ता
4. **Potentially** (adverb) – Probably, possibly संभावित
5. **Spill over** (phrasal verb) – (of a bad situation) reach a point at which it can no longer be controlled or contained. (एक बुरी स्थिति का) फैल जाना, पहुँचना
6. **Nuclear-armed** (adjective) – be equipped with nuclear weapon परमाणु हथियारों से लैस
7. **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
8. **Invasion** (noun) – attack, incursion, offensive, assailing आक्रमण
9. **Neighbouring** (adjective) – adjacent, nearby, bordering पड़ोसी
10. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sanction, approve of समर्थन करना
11. **Eyeball to eyeball** (phrase) – face to face with someone, especially in an aggressive way. के साथ आमने-सामने
12. **Spark** (noun) – Stimulus, catalyst, spur, trigger; ember, flash, sparkle, glint चिंगारी
13. **Conflagration** (noun) – Fire, blaze, inferno, bushfire आग
14. **Explode** (verb) – Blast, burst, shatter, blow up फटना
15. **Polish** (adjective) – relating to Poland, its inhabitants, or their language.
16. **Territory** (noun) – Country, land, state, province, region
17. **West** (noun) – It include U.S and other European countries.
18. **Escalation** (noun) – a situation in which something becomes greater or more serious वृद्धि, गहरा हो जाना
19. **Distance oneself from** (phrase) – Declare that one is not connected with or a supporter of (someone or something) से दूरी बनाना
20. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of. के बीच

21. **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, start, prompt, activate, cause, spark off, set off शुरू करना
22. **Firmly** (adverb) – steadfastly, securely, firm, strongly मजबूती से
23. **Refute** (verb) – Disprove, contest, rebut, counter, repudiate, prove false झूठ ठहराना, खंडन करना
24. **Unlikely** (adjective) – improbable, implausible, doubtful, unbelievable, incredible संभावना नहीं
25. **Sober** (adjective) – Serious, sensible, and solemn. शांत, संयमी
26. **Showdown** (noun) – Fight, confrontation, head-to-head, quarrel, row, conflict आमना-सामना, लड़ाई
27. **Highlight** (verb) – underline, underscore, call attention to, focus attention on, stress, emphasize प्रमुखता से दिखाना
28. **Hair-trigger** (adjective) – denoting something that is quickly and easily activated or provoked.
29. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
30. **Bombard** (verb) – attack (a place or person) continuously with bombs, shells, or other missiles गोलाबारी करना
31. **Consequence** (noun) – result, effect, outcome, upshot परिणाम
32. **Cautiously** (adverb) – In a way that deliberately avoids potential problems or dangers. सावधानी से
33. **Tinderbox** (noun) – a situation or place where sudden violence is likely
34. **Overcome** (verb) – Succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty) दूर करना
35. **Deliberately** (adverb) – Purposely, intentionally, consciously, knowingly, purposefully जानबूझकर
36. **Infrastructure** (noun) – the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organization बुनियादी ढाँचा, अवसंरचना
37. **Misfire** (noun) – a failure of a gun or missile to fire correctly.
38. **Nightmare** (noun) – a frightening or unpleasant dream. बुरा सपना
39. **Stakeholder** (noun) – A person with an interest or concern in something हितधारक
40. **Put in place** (phrase) – working or ready to work; established. स्थापित करना
41. **Guardrail** (noun) – Safety barrier, A protective railing, सुरक्षात्मक रेलिंग
42. **Diffusion** (noun) – Dispersal, dispersion, circulation, transmission, flow, spread प्रसार, फैलाव

43. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – indicate, mention, note, highlight, emphasize इशारा करना
44. **Frozen** (adjective) – incapable of being changed or moved or undone स्थिर
45. **Expel** (verb) – Eject, oust, force out, dismiss, fire निकालना
46. **Make a case for** (phrase) – To state the reasons why something should be done or should be the case.
47. **Reportedly** (adverb) – supposedly, seemingly, apparently, allegedly कथित तौर पर
48. **Hold talk** (phrase) – to have formal or official discussions about an issue or a situation.
49. **Window** (noun) – opportunity, opportune time, suitable time, right moment, chance अवसर, मौका
50. **De-escalation** (noun) – (war) a reduction in intensity (of a crisis or a war) तनाव कम करना
51. **Concrete** (adjective) – specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस

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.

While this piecemeal _____**1**_____ would be welcomed by the residents in these areas in particular, the popular demand for the repeal of the Act in full from the three States remains unfulfilled. Despite the vociferous protests from security forces for the _____**2**_____ of the Act, human rights organisations, sections of civil society and committees including the five-member committee led by retired Supreme Court judge B.P. Jeevan Reddy in 2005, have steadfastly called _____**3**_____ its repeal. The committee in particular had suggested that the Act had created an impression that the people of the northeast States were being targeted for hostile treatment and that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act could instead be suitably amended to tackle terrorism. The Supreme Court-appointed Justice N. Santosh Hegde committee, in 2013, which investigated “encounter” killings in Manipur, suggested that the Act must be properly reviewed every six months to see if its implementation is necessary, but extensions of the purview of the Act have proceeded as routine affairs. In 2016, the Supreme Court had also ruled that the armed forces could not be immune from investigation for excesses committed during the discharge of their duties even in “disturbed areas”, in effect _____**4**_____ the conditions in which the immunity is applied. These _____**5**_____ the question again — why should the Act remain in the statute?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. Burlesque | B. Polemic |
| C. Temerity | D. Gesture |
| 2. A. Levity | B. Chasm |
| C. Collusion | D. Retention |
| 3. A. For | B. On |
| C. Out | D. At |
| 4. A. Vilifying | B. Circumscribing |
| C. Relegating | D. Stymying |
| 5. A. Beg | B. Request |
| C. Plead | D. Solicit |

Directions (6-7): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the **Rightly** spelt word.

6. A. Neighbaring
 B. Neighbouring
 C. Naighbouring

- D. Neighbouring
7. A. Consaquence
B. Consequance
C. Consequence
D. Consaquance

Directions (8): In the following questions, the passage/sentence is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, S and T. 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.

8. **P.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said at a Confederation of Indian Industry event on March 21
- Q.** When seen in the context of gross NPA share falling to 6.9% of all loans, according to RBI's Financial Stability Report released in December 2021 — the latest number is 6.5% — the comments are not surprising
- R.** Non-performing assets (NPA) or bad loans of banks have come down to their lowest levels,
- S.** The fall in NPA ratio is accompanied by an improvement in capital adequacy of banks and interest coverage ratio of companies.
- T.** Deterioration in these two factors led to the twin balance sheet (TBS) crisis in India's financial system in the last decade.

A. RQPST

B. RPQST

C. PQRST

D. TQPSR

Directions (9-10): 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.

9. We should not encourage indiscipline
- A. Indiscipline should have not encouraged by us.
B. Indiscipline should not be encouraged by us.
C. Indiscipline should not being encouraged.
D. Indiscipline should not been encouraged.
10. Our Almighty will bless wise men.
- A. Wise men will be blessed by our Almighty.
B. Wise men should be blessed by our Almighty.
C. Wise men have been blessed by our Almighty.
D. Wise men would be blessed by our Almighty.

Directions (11-12): 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.

11. The Chief Guest said, "It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning."
- A. The Chief Guest said that that gave me great pleasure to be there that morning.
B. The Chief Guest said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that morning.
C. The Chief Guest said that it gives him great pleasure to be here that morning.
D. The Chief Guest said that it gives him great pleasure to be there that morning.
12. He said, "What a lovely voice she has!"
- A. He exclaimed that she had a very lovely voice.

- B. He exclaimed that she has a very lovely voice.
- C. He exclaimed that she did not have a lovely voice.
- D. He exclaimed that she does not have a lovely voice.

Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. A mild or indirect expression substituted for an offensive or harsh one
- A. Informant
 - B. Euphemism
 - C. Pawn shop
 - D. Walkaway
14. One who has unreasoning enthusiasm for the glorification of one's country
- A. Foster child
 - B. Effluents
 - C. Chauvinism
 - D. Ecology

Directions (15-16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. **Take one's foot off the pedal**
- A. To make less effort and start to relax
 - B. To put (someone or something that may be changed later) on a schedule, list, etc
 - C. To accomplish something that most would deem impossible
 - D. To overcome or defeat someone
16. **Run with the hare and hunting with the hounds**
- A. To become calm or composed
 - B. To try to support both sides in an argument or conflict, in order to make your own life easier.
 - C. To make someone do something because they feel guilty
 - D. To use far more force than is necessary to do something

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

17. **CONSTRUCTIVE**
- A. Destructive
 - B. Placate
 - C. Malinger
 - D. Allocate
18. **SOBER**
- A. Vestige
 - B. Frivolous
 - C. Deluge
 - D. Static

Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. **CONFLAGRATION**
- A. Inveterate

- B. Concurrent
- C. Blasphemy
- D. Inferno

20. **EXPEL**

- A. Extricate
- B. Engage
- C. Comprehensive
- D. Matriculate

Directions (21): 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 E 'No Correction required' as the answer.

21. He has played for the national team in 65 matches so far.

- A. is playing
- B. have plays
- C. playing
- D. play
- E. No correction required

Directions (Q22-25): Find out the error, if any –

22. Instead of being (A)/ helpful he was (B)/ being hindrance (C)/ No Error (D)

23. Where (A)/ have I (B)/ to deposit fees? (C)/ No Error.(D)

24. By the time she finished her work (A)/ I had nearly given up (B)/ all hope of arriving at the party in time. (C)/ No Error. (D)

25. Some categorically suspected (A)/ having seen the (B)/ guard and thief together. (C)/ No Error(D)

Answers

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

Explanation

1. **Gesture** (noun) - action, deed, act, move कार्य, कदम
Burlesque (noun) - A ludicrous, mocking or exaggerated imitation कार्टून
Polemic (noun) - A powerful argument made in refutation of something विवादात्मक
Temerity (noun) - Boldness; recklessness; audacity उतावलापन
2. **Retention** (noun) - The continued possession, use, or control of something. प्रतिधारण
Levity (noun) - Lightness; frivolity; unseriousness हल्कापन
Chasm (noun) - A deep, gaping hole; a gorge खाई, दरार
Collusion (noun) - Conspiracy; secret cooperation मिलीभगत, कपटसंधि
3. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - Demand, Necessitate, require, need, ask, cry out for मांग करना
4. **Circumscribe** (verb) - restrict, limit, impose limits on, set limits on, पाबंदी लगाना
Vilify (verb) - To say vile thing about; to defame गाली देना
Relegate (verb) - To banish; to send away बाहर निकाल देना
Stymie (verb) - To thwart; to get in the way of; to hinder गतिरोध
5. **Beg the question** (phrase) - (of a fact or action) raise a point that has not been dealt with; invite an obvious question. सवाल खड़ा करना
6. **Neighbouring** - next to or very near another place; adjacent. पड़ोसी, नजदीक
7. **Consequence** - a result or effect, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant. परिणाम
8. **RPQST**
Non-performing assets (NPA) or bad loans of banks have come down to their lowest levels, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said at a Confederation of Indian Industry event on March 21. When seen in the context of gross NPA share falling to 6.9% of all loans, according to RBI's Financial Stability Report released in December 2021 - the latest number is 6.5% - the comments are not surprising. The fall in NPA ratio is accompanied by an improvement in capital adequacy of banks and interest coverage ratio of companies. Deterioration in these two factors led to the twin balance sheet (TBS) crisis in India's financial system in the last decade.
13. **Informant** - A person who gives information मुखबिर

Euphemism – A mild or indirect expression substituted for an offensive or harsh one प्रियोक्ति

Pawn shop – A shop where loans are made with personal security वह स्थान जहाँ कोई महाजन लोगों की चीज़ें गिरवी रख कर उन्हें ब्याज पर रुपया उधार देता है

Walkway – A passage raised above ground for people to walk रास्ता, उद्यानपथ

14. Foster child – A child brought up by person who are not his parents धाय पालित संतान

Effluents – Liquid waste that flows out from a factory अपशिष्ट पदार्थ

Chauvinism – One who has unreasoning enthusiasm for the glorification of one's country अंध-देशभक्ति

Ecology – A scientific study of the relationship between plants and their environment पारिस्थितिकी

15. Take one's foot off the pedal (Phrase) – To make less effort and start to relax

16. Run with the hare and hunting with the hounds (phrase) – To try to support both sides in an argument or conflict, in order to make your own life easier.

17. Constructive (adjective) – Positive, helpful, productive, useful, beneficial उपयोगी

➤ **Placate** (verb) – To pacify; to appease; to soothe शांत करने के लिए

➤ **Malingering** (verb) – To pretend to be sick to avoid doing work रोग का बहाना करना

➤ **Allocate** (verb) – To distribute; to assign; to allot बांटना, ठहराना

18. Sober (adjective) – Serious, sombre, solemn, thoughtful शांत, संयमी, गंभीर

➤ **Vestige** (noun) – Remaining bit of something; a last trace शेष

➤ **Deluge** (noun) – a flood; an inundation बाढ़

➤ **Static** (adjective) – Stationary; not changing or moving स्थिर

19. Conflagration – Fire, blaze, inferno, bushfire

➤ **Inveterate** (adjective) – Habitual; firm in habit; deeply rooted. कट्टर, आदत में दृढ़

➤ **Concurrent** (adjective) – Happening at the same time; parallel समवर्ती

➤ **Blasphemy** (noun) – Irreverence; an insult to something held sacred; profanity ईश-निंदा, ईश्वर-निंदा

20. Expel (verb) – Eject, oust, banish, exorcize, dismiss, drive out निकालना

➤ **Extricate** (verb) – To free from a difficulty हल करना, समाधान करना

➤ **Comprehensive** (adjective) – Covering or including everything व्यापक, विस्तृत

➤ **Matriculate** (verb) – To enroll, especially at a college

21. (E) No correction required.

22. (C) 'hindrance' के पहले 'a' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि प्रश्न में 'hindrance' एक Singular Countable Noun है। 'Hindrance' का अर्थ है 'बाधा, अड़चन, अवरोध' और यह Countable तथा Uncountable Noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है। जब यह Singular Countable Noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है तब यह अपने पहले Article 'a' लेता है किन्तु जब यह Uncountable Noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है तब यह अपने पहले Article 'a' नहीं लेता है;

(C) 'a' will be used before 'hindrance' because 'hindrance' is a Singular Countable Noun in the question. 'Hindrance' means 'obstruction' and it is used as Countable and Uncountable Noun. When it is used as a Singular Countable Noun it takes its first Article 'a' but when it is used as an Uncountable Noun it does not take its first Article 'a';

23. (C) 'deposit' के बदले 'pay' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'deposit' का अर्थ है 'जमा करना' और 'pay' का अर्थ है 'अदा करना, भुगतान करना', और 'deposit' का प्रयोग पैसा या सामान किसी बैंक या तिजोरी में जमा करने के अर्थ में होता है जबकि 'pay' का प्रयोग 'fees, salary' के लिए होता है; जैसे-

1. He has deposited fifty thousand rupees with the bank.
2. She is unable to pay the doctor's fees.
3. Where will he pay the advocate's fees?

(C) 'deposit' shall be substituted by 'pay' as 'deposit' shall be used for money or 'pay' is used for 'fees, salary'; As-

- ii. He has deposited fifty thousand rupees with the bank.
- iii. She is unable to pay the doctor's fees.
- iv. Where will he pay the advocate's fees?

24. (C) 'all hope' के बदले 'all my hopes' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'all' के साथ 'hope' का प्रयोग Countable Noun के रूप में Plural रूप में होता है और 'hopes' के पहले 'I' के अनुसार Possessive Adjective 'my' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे-

1. He has lost all his hopes of getting this money back.

(C) 'all my hopes' will be used instead of 'all hope' because 'hope' is used with 'all' in plural form and 'I' before 'hopes' According to the Possessive Adjective 'my' will be used; As-

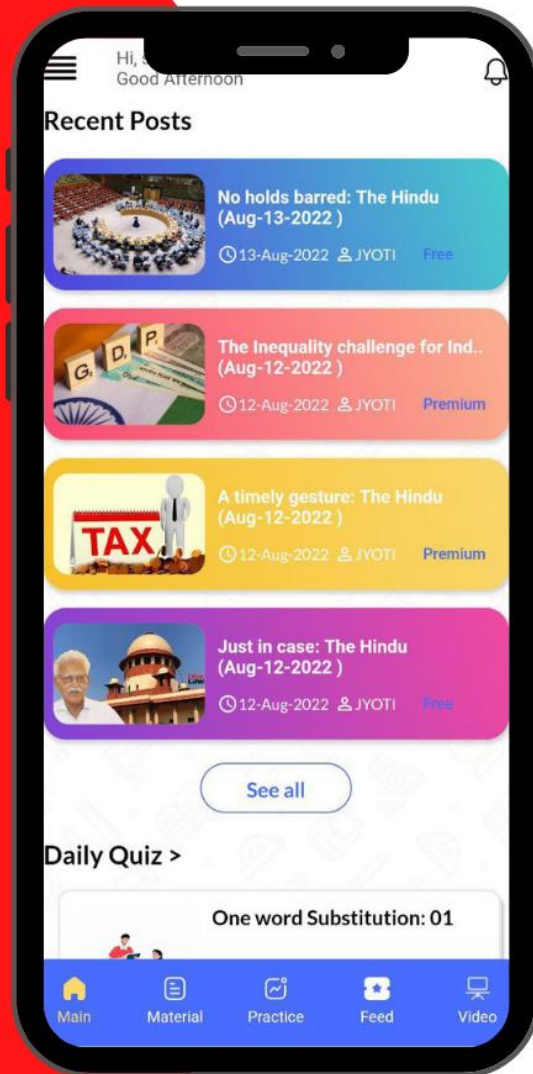
He has lost all his hopes of getting this money back.

25. (B) 'having seen' के बदले 'saw' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य के Part (A) में एक ही Subject का प्रयोग है जिसके लिए Main Verb का प्रयोग होगा, न कि Perfect Participle (having +v3) का , और Main Verb 'saw' का Object Part (C) में हैं; जैसे-

1. I saw him. [Not: having seen]

(B) 'saw' will be used instead of 'having seen' because only one subject is used in Part (A) of the sentence for which Main Verb will be used, not Perfect Participle (having +v3), and Main Verb 'saw' in Object Part (C); like-

A. I saw him. [Not: having seen]



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