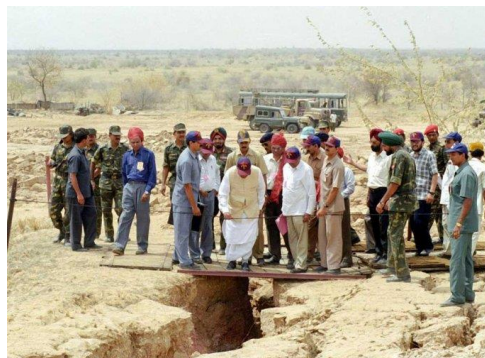


India marks 25th anniversary of Pokhran N-tests

THE 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests sent a message to the world that **although** India is a peace-loving nation, it would not **let** anyone to harm its **sovereignty, integrity** and unit, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday on the 25th anniversary of the tests. India conducted five nuclear tests of advanced weapon designs between May 11 and 13 at Rajasthan's Pokhran **desert** that **propelled** the country into a select group of nations having capabilities to develop nuclear weapons. **The tests, carried out** during the then Atal Behari Vajpayee-led Government, **were** the **culmination** of a **committed** team effort and **backed** by the **development** of the necessary **know-how** and **expertise** over **decades**.

The tests **triggered** strong reactions from many countries. India **maintained** that it carried out the tests to have '**credible** minimum **deterrence**' and it will follow the approach of "no first use", **noting** that it would not be the first one to launch a nuclear weapon.

In 2003, India officially came out with its nuclear **doctrine** that clearly **elaborated** on the 'no first use' policy. The Defence Minister spoke about the 1998 nuclear tests at an event organised to mark their 25th anniversary. Singh **asserted** that the tests gave a message to the world that although India is a peace-loving nation that believes in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) and 'Ahimsa Paramo Dharma' (non-violence is the best religion), it will not let anyone to harm its sovereignty, integrity and unity.



"India has not only wished for **peace** for itself, but **given** the message to the world. **Visionaries** like Lord Buddha and father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi **are** India's gift to the world," he said. "We have never **invaded** any country nor **enslaved** it. But, the Pokhran tests gave a message that we will give a **befitting** reply to every step taken against our **dignity**," he said. The department of atomic energy had said that the tests were fully successful in terms of achieving their scientific objectives and the capability to build **fission** and **thermonuclear weapons** with **yields** up to 200 kt (kilotons.) The 1998 tests were the second **instance** of nuclear testing by India. The first was carried in May 1974.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Mark** (verb) – Celebrate, commemorate, keep, observe मनाना
2. **Anniversary** (noun) – Jubilee, Centenary, Biennial, Recurrence, Milestone वर्षगांठ
3. **Although** (adverb) – Despite, Even though, Albeit, Notwithstanding, Whilst हालांकि
4. **Let** (verb) – Allow, Permit, Authorize, Enable, Grant होने देना
5. **Sovereignty** (noun) – Autonomy, Independence, Self-rule, Supremacy, Dominion संप्रभुता
6. **Integrity** (noun) – Honesty, Uprightness, Morality, Virtue, Righteousness अखंडता
7. **Desert** (noun) – Wilderness, Wasteland, Barren, Badland, Hinterland मरुस्थल
8. **Propel** (verb) – Drive, Push, Force, Thrust, Impel प्रेरित करना, ठेलना
9. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – Execute, Perform, Accomplish, Implement, Fulfill कार्यान्वयन करना
10. **Culmination** (noun) – Climax, Pinnacle, Peak, Apex, Zenith पराकाष्ठा, चरम बिंदु
11. **Committed** (adjective) – Dedicated, Devoted, Loyal, Faithful, Steadfast प्रतिबद्ध
12. **Back** (verb) – Support, Endorse, Uphold, Advocate, Champion समर्थन करना
13. **Development** (noun) – Progress, Advancement, Growth, Evolution, Expansion विकास
14. **Know-how** (noun) – Expertise, Skill, Proficiency, Competence, Mastery तकनीकी जानकारी
15. **Expertise** (noun) – Skill, Ability, Proficiency, Competence, Aptitude विशेषज्ञता
16. **Decade** (noun) – Ten years, Decennium दशक
17. **Trigger** (verb) – Spark, Cause, Instigate, Initiate, Generate प्रेरित करना
18. **Maintain** (verb) – claim, insist, assert, hold, declare, Argue कहना
19. **Credible** (adjective) – Believable, Trustworthy, Reliable, Dependable, Plausible - विश्वसनीय
20. **Deterrence** (noun) – Prevention, Discouragement, Dissuasion, Check, Restraint रोकथाम
21. **Note** (verb) – Observe, Notice, Mark, Acknowledge, Recognize ध्यान देना
22. **Doctrine** (noun) – Belief, Principle, Tenet, Precept, Dogma सिद्धांत
23. **Elaborate** (verb) – Expand, Develop, Detail, Amplify, Enlarge विस्तार करना

24. **Assert** (verb) – Declare, Affirm, State, Proclaim, Announce दृढ़ता से कहना
25. **Peace** (noun) – Harmony, tranquility, serenity, calm, quiet शांति
26. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, granting, assuming, accepting, taking into account देखते हुए
27. **Visionary** (noun) – Prophet, seer, forecaster, predictor, futurist दूरदर्शी
28. **Invade** (verb) – Attack, assault, intrude, encroach, trespass आक्रमण करना
29. **Enslave** (verb) – Subjugate, oppress, dominate, subdue, control गुलाम बनाना
30. **Befitting** (adjective) – Appropriate, suitable, proper, fitting, apt उपयुक्त
31. **Dignity** (noun) – Respect, honor, pride, self-esteem, self-worth सम्मान
32. **Fission** (noun) – Fission occurs when a neutron slams into a larger atom, forcing it to excite and split into two smaller atoms
33. **Thermonuclear weapon** (noun) – Hydrogen bomb, H-bomb, fusion bomb परमाणु बम
34. **Yield** (noun) – Output, production, return, result उत्पादन
35. **Instance** (noun) – Example, case, occurrence, event उदाहरण

Summary of the Editorial

1. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commemorated the 25th anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests on Thursday, stating that the tests were a message to the world about India's commitment to its sovereignty.
2. He emphasized that while India is a peace-loving nation, it will not allow anyone to threaten its unity and integrity.
3. India conducted five nuclear tests between May 11 and 13 in 1998 at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan.
4. The tests marked India's entry into a select group of nations capable of developing nuclear weapons.
5. These tests were carried out during the government led by then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.
6. The successful tests were the result of a committed team effort and the accumulation of technical knowledge and expertise over several decades.
7. The nuclear tests drew significant international reaction, with many countries expressing strong disapproval.
8. Despite international pressure, India maintained its stance, stating the tests were necessary for maintaining a 'credible minimum deterrence'.
9. India adheres to a 'no first use' policy, meaning it will not be the first to launch a nuclear weapon.
10. The 'no first use' policy was officially documented in India's nuclear doctrine in 2003.
11. Singh highlighted the tests in a speech marking their 25th anniversary.
12. He reiterated the country's belief in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) and 'Ahimsa Paramo Dharma' (non-violence is the best religion).
13. Singh stated that India has not only sought peace for itself but has also advocated for it globally, citing the influence of figures like Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi.
14. The Department of Atomic Energy stated that the tests successfully achieved their scientific objectives, demonstrating India's ability to build fission and thermonuclear weapons with yields up to 200 kilotons.
15. The 1998 Pokhran tests were the second instance of nuclear testing by India, the first test having been conducted in May 1974.

Practice Exercise: SSC Based

1. Which of the following best encapsulates the central purpose of India's 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, according to the passage? [Editorial Page]
 - A. To demonstrate its technological expertise to the world
 - B. To establish a policy of 'first use' of nuclear weapons
 - C. To join a select group of nations having capabilities to develop nuclear weapons and affirm its policy of credible minimum deterrence
 - D. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of previous nuclear tests
2. Which of the following statements about the Pokhran nuclear tests is INCORRECT?
 - A. India conducted five nuclear tests of advanced weapon designs between May 11 and 13 in Rajasthan's Pokhran desert.
 - B. The tests were carried out during the then Atal Behari Vajpayee-led Government.
 - C. India carried out the tests to showcase its nuclear prowess and declared a policy of "first use".
 - D. The 25th anniversary of the Pokhran N-tests was marked in 2023.
3. What is the tone of the passage?
 - A. Patriotic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Apologetic
 - D. Melancholic
4. The main theme of the passage is:
 - A. India's aggressive nuclear policy
 - B. The scientific achievements of India's nuclear program
 - C. India's policy of 'no first use' in the context of nuclear weaponry
 - D. Criticism of India's nuclear tests
5. What is a synonym for "**deterrence**" as mentioned in the passage?
 - A. Aggression
 - B. Pacification
 - C. Intimidation
 - D. Submission
6. Which of the following is an antonym for the term "**propelled**" in the context of the passage?
 - A. Accelerated
 - B. Hindered
 - C. Boosted
 - D. Expedited
7. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.
 - P. Military coups usually end in instant success or instant failure.
 - Q. The Resistance forces consisting of the National Unity Government (erstwhile National League for Democracy and Peoples Defence Forces allied with Ethnic Armed Organisations) are putting up a stiff fight.
 - R. The coup in Myanmar has lasted more than two years and has reached a stalemate.

- S. They appear to have some external support.
A.SPQR B.QRPS C.SQPR D.PRQS
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Over the years, the sport gained popularity among the locals so much so that their relationship with the game has become natural now.
- Q. The sport was started in eastern Ladakh around 50 years ago by the Indian Army as a downtime game for army men.
- R. Children growing up in Ladakh have many fond memories of holidays where playing on ice has been a key part of their winter activity routine.
- S. At an elevation of over 3,000 meters above sea level, Ladakh is an ideal place for the region's favourite winter sport – ice hockey.
A.SQPR B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
9. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Then there are publicity seekers who make remarks just for the heck of it.
- Q. The Supreme Court's concern over the increasing prevalence of hate speech is laudable.
- R. Such prevalence is the direct consequence of declining standards of public debate.
- S. There are politicians and public figures who don't believe in moderation; they make deplorable statements that end up offending the sensibilities of a lot of people, often resulting in anger, further triggering similar statements.
A.SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ
10. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. It is anticipated that the implementation of NEP 2020 would bring about substantial changes to the educational ecosystem to allow a holistic learning experience for the holistic development of students.
- Q. The higher education system in India is transforming as a result of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020).
- R. The focus is on developing "good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals."
- S. Integrating Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education into the educational system is one of the NEP's fundamental initiatives.
A.QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

Comprehension

Mandatory NOC from the police. Concertina wires on boundary walls. CCTVs at all gates, including hostel entrances. These are some of the measures that, as per the 17-point advisory issued by the University of Delhi on April 13, colleges and departments must implement when organising festivals and other events. The advisory has come in the wake of alleged security _____1_____ during the Indraprastha College for Women's annual fest — intruders scaled the boundary walls of the institution and allegedly harassed women students — and _____2_____ protests by students who accused the college administration of failing to protect them. There is no arguing against the need for greater safety of students. But the university's response to this latest instance of a security lapse — a similar incident had occurred during Miranda House's Diwali Mela in October last year and at Gargi College's annual fest in 2020 —

raises concerns about how exactly this safety will be ensured. Will it shift the _____ 3 _____ onto the students themselves? Will it come at the cost of their privacy and freedoms? It's not incidental that the three campuses on which the incidents occurred are all women's campuses. This makes it even more necessary for authorities to tread sensitively, and not be heavy-handed in the name of women's safety and security. For many students in an all-women institution, the campus is a place of openness and a refuge from the confines and constraints of home, family and community. It is a place where they can, away from censoring eyes and _____ 4 _____ stares, explore new ways of being. They can question and discover, study and socialise in an enabling environment that is also a safe space. When there is a threat to _____ 5 _____ safety, however, the response cannot be the all-too-common one of asking the women to retreat from their freedoms, by barricading them in their hostels or monitoring their every move through the CCTV.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. Arise
- B. Lapses
- C. Clause
- D. Exercise

12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. Worsening
- B. Lingering
- C. Dithering
- D. Ensuing

13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. Envious
- B. Onus
- C. Equipoised
- D. Pleasant

14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. Pluralistic
- B. Voyeuristic
- C. Holistic
- D. Prominent

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**

- A. Their
- B. Its
- C. His
- D. Whose

16. **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.**

- A. Absense

- B. Absentse
- C. Absence
- D. Abcense

17. 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.

- A. Accidentelly
- B. Accidentally
- C. Accidentaly
- D. Accidantelly

Directions (18 – 20): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

18. In the light of

- A. Pass into a specified state, situation, or position
- B. make known to everyone
- C. as a result of that action
- D. taking into consideration

19. Turn the tables

- A. to retire from work, use, or relevance, especially on a positive note or after a long and successful period of activity
- B. To change or reverse something dramatically
- C. Prepare the conditions for (the occurrence or beginning of something)
- D. To become less careful/vigilant.

20. A clean sweep

- A. situation in which one person wins everything
- B. With little warning or time for preparation
- C. The course of action to be followed in future
- D. Make or become more active or energetic

Answers

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

Explanations

- Option A is incorrect as the passage does not indicate that the purpose was to show off technological prowess, although it does mention the tests were backed by significant expertise. Option B is incorrect as the passage explicitly states that India adopted a policy of 'no first use', not 'first use'. Option D is misleading; the 25th anniversary is a current event, not a purpose of the 1998 tests. **The correct answer is option C. According to the passage, the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests were conducted to enable India to join a select group of nations with nuclear capabilities and to establish its policy of 'credible minimum deterrence', meaning it seeks to deter others from aggression without intending to be the first to use nuclear weapons.**
- C) India carried out the tests to showcase its nuclear prowess and declared a policy of "first use".**
 The incorrect statement is "**India carried out the tests to showcase its nuclear prowess and declared a policy of 'first use'**". According to the passage, India conducted the tests to have a 'credible minimum deterrence', not to showcase its nuclear prowess. Also, India declared a policy of "no first use", which means that it would not be the first one to launch a nuclear weapon, contradicting the "first use" policy mentioned in the statement.
- A) Patriotic**
 The tone of the passage is patriotic, given the emphasis on India's commitment to its sovereignty, integrity, and unity, and the pride expressed in its nuclear capabilities. The passage discusses the Pokhran nuclear tests in a positive light, underscoring the message it sent to the world and the country's commitment to peace despite its military advancements
- C) India's policy of 'no first use' in the context of nuclear weaponry**
 The main theme of the passage is India's policy of 'no first use' in the context of nuclear weaponry. The passage discusses the Pokhran nuclear tests, India's commitment to peace, and the 'no first use' policy as a part of its nuclear doctrine. Although the passage does mention the scientific achievements of the nuclear program and the importance of the tests for India's sovereignty and integrity, these are secondary to the main theme of India's 'no first use' policy.
- C) Intimidation**
Deterrence (noun) – disincentive, intimidation, prevention, deterrent, deterrent
"Deterrence" in the passage refers to the act of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. Therefore, "intimidation", which refers to the act of frightening or threatening someone, is a synonym.
- B) Hindered**
Propel (verb) – push, move forwards, push forwards, move आगे बढ़ाना

In the passage, "**propelled**" refers to the act of driving or pushing forward. Thus, "hindered", meaning to obstruct or impede, is an antonym of "propelled".

7. **PRQS**

Military coups usually end in instant success or instant failure. The coup in Myanmar has lasted more than two years and has reached a stalemate. The Resistance forces consisting of the National Unity Government (erstwhile National League for Democracy and Peoples Defence Forces allied with Ethnic Armed Organisations) are putting up a stiff fight. They appear to have some external support.

8. **SQPR**

At an elevation of over 3,000 meters above sea level, Ladakh is an ideal place for the region's favourite winter sport – ice hockey. The sport was started in eastern Ladakh around 50 years ago by the Indian Army as a downtime game for army men. Over the years, the sport gained popularity among the locals so much so that their relationship with the game has become natural now. Children growing up in Ladakh have many fond memories of holidays where playing on ice has been a key part of their winter activity routine.

9. **QRSP**

The Supreme Court's concern over the increasing prevalence of hate speech is laudable. Such prevalence is the direct consequence of declining standards of public debate. There are politicians and public figures who don't believe in moderation; they make deplorable statements that end up offending the sensibilities of a lot of people, often resulting in anger, further triggering similar statements. Then there are publicity seekers who make remarks just for the heck of it.

10. **QSRP**

The higher education system in India is transforming as a result of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). Integrating Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education into the educational system is one of the NEP's fundamental initiatives. The focus is on developing "good, thoughtful, well-rounded, and creative individuals." It is anticipated that the implementation of NEP 2020 would bring about substantial changes to the educational ecosystem to allow a holistic learning experience for the holistic development of students.

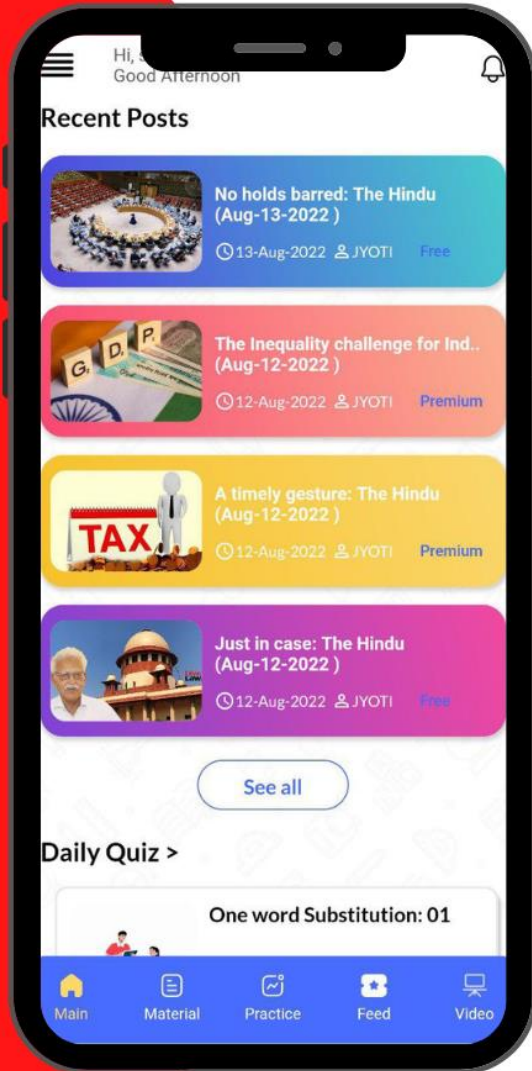
11. **Lapse** (noun) – failure, oversight, neglect, mistake चूक

- **Arise** (verb) – Emerge, occur, come up, spring up, develop उठना
- **Clause** (noun) – Provision, stipulation, requirement, condition धारा
- **Exercise** (verb) – Carry out, perform, implement, apply प्रयोग करना

12. **Ensuing** (adjective) – occurring afterwards or as a result. आगामी, बाद का

- **Worsening** (adjective) – deteriorating, declining, degrading बिगड़ते हुए
- **Lingering** (adjective) – persistent, prolonged, protracted, lasting मंडराता
- **Dithering** (noun) – Hesitation, indecision, vacillation, wavering संकोच, हिचकिचाहट

13. **Onus** (noun) – responsibility, burden, obligation, duty दायित्व
- **Envious** (adjective) – Jealous, resentful, covetous, desirous, green-eyed ईर्ष्या करने वाला
 - **Equipoised** (adjective) – Balanced, even, equal, steady, symmetrical संतुलित
 - **Pleasant** (adjective) – Agreeable, enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, delightful सुखद
14. **Voyeuristic** (adjective) – prying, intrusive, inquisitive, snooping दूसरों के काम में दखल देनेवाला
- **Pluralistic** (adjective) – diverse, multicultural, multiethnic बहुलवादी
 - **Holistic** (adjective) – Comprehensive, integrated, all-encompassing समग्र
 - **Prominent** (adjective) – Noticeable, conspicuous, obvious, blatant, pronounced प्रमुख
15. The correct answer for blank 5 is A "**their**". In this context, "their" is a plural possessive pronoun that refers back to the "students in an all-women institution". The sentence is discussing a potential threat to the safety of these students, so "their safety" is the correct phrase.
- B. "**Its**" - This is a singular possessive pronoun usually used to refer to an inanimate object, not people. The reference here is clearly to the students, who are human, so "its" would be incorrect.
- C. "**His**" - This is a singular possessive pronoun used to refer to a male individual. Since we're discussing students in an all-women institution, "his" is not appropriate.
- D. "**Whose**" - This is a possessive relative pronoun, used to link one clause to another.
16. **Absence** (noun) – The state of being away from a place or person. अनुपस्थिति
17. **Accidentally** (adverb) – unintentionally, by chance, unexpectedly, incidentally अकस्मात्
18. **In the light of** (phrase) – In view of, taking into consideration, considering, taking into account को ध्यान में रखते हुए
19. **Turn the tables** (phrase) – To change or reverse something dramatically. बाजी पलटना
20. **A clean sweep** (phrase) – situation in which one person wins everything



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

