

Blurred lines: On the U.S.'s new move in the Ukraine war

The U.S. **decision** to send **cluster munitions** to Ukraine **blurs** all **moral** lines

The Biden administration's **decision** to send cluster munitions to Ukraine to fight the Russian **invasion** **shows** both the challenges Kyiv and its **western allies** face in the **prolonged** war and the U.S.'s **readiness** to **escalate** it to **push back** the Russians. Cluster munitions are designed to **explode** on **impact**, but many remain "duds", which can explode later, causing **indiscriminate** harm — the reason why over 100 countries have banned them. **The U.S.**, though not a **signatory** to the **Convention** on Cluster Munitions, **had criticised** Russia in the recent past for using these munitions in the conflict as **amounting to** war crimes. But the U.S.'s **U-turn** now, as part of its 42nd **aid package** to Ukraine since the Russian invasion began, **points to** the **strains** Ukraine is facing on the **battlefield**. In a war dominated by **artillery**, Ukraine is **entirely** dependent on **the West** for weapons that include artillery **shells** and **ammunition**, while Russia's industrial base has **picked up**, ensuring an uninterrupted supply of weapons to the front lines. The **conventional war** has **strained** western **reserves**, leaving Ukraine at a **disadvantageous** position when compared to Russia's artillery **superiority**.

Before Ukraine began its **counteroffensive** a few weeks ago, the western calculation was that **swift** battlefield **victories** by Ukraine, like its **lightning counter-advances** in Kharkiv and Kherson last year, **would** change the **dynamics** and put Russia's President Vladimir Putin under pressure. But the **Russians**, over the last few months, **have** built strong defence **fortifications** along the over 1,000-km long front line, from Kherson in the south to the **outskirts** of Kharkiv in the northeast, which the Ukrainians have found extremely difficult to **break through**. Ukraine has made some minor **territorial** gains in southeast, but at a heavy cost, and is far from achieving its **perceived breakthrough** of **cutting off** Mr. Putin's landbridge in Zaporizhzhia, separating the Russian-controlled Donbas in the east from Crimea in the south. It is this reality of the battlefield that led the U.S. to take what President Biden called "the difficult decision" of sending cluster munitions. However, this would still raise **criticism**. The **alleged war crimes committed** by Russia in Ukraine **have** been well documented and **slammed** internationally. Kyiv is also being **accused** of targeting civilian centres in the Donbas. But the U.S. has tried to **draw a moral and ethical line**, no doubt thin, by saying it was helping Ukraine defend itself. This line gets blurred with the decision to send the civilian killer munitions to the battlefield. It also shows that no side is willing to make a **compromise** as yet, **irrespective of** their battlefield positions, as the **war**, even after 16 months of fighting, still **stays** in an **escalation spiral**. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Blame, indict, allege, fault, censure दोष लगाना
- **Slam** (verb) – Criticise, knock, condemn, slate निंदा करना

Vocabulary

1. **Blur the lines** (phrase) – To obfuscate or minimize the distinction or division between two or more different people, things, actions, etc
2. **Cluster munitions** (noun) – a weapon that disperses or releases explosive submunitions: small, unguided explosives or bomblets (each weighing less than 20 kg) that are designed to explode prior to, on or after impact, according to the global 'Convention on Cluster Munitions' (CCM)
3. **Moral** (adjective) – Ethical, good, right, honest, proper नैतिक
4. **Invasion** (noun) – Incursion, assault, attack, aggression, intrusion आक्रमण
5. **Western** (adjective) – Of or relating to U.S.A and other European countries पश्चिमी
6. **Ally** (noun) – a country that has an agreement to support another country, especially in a war मित्र
7. **Prolonged** (adjective) – Extended, protracted, lengthened, elongated, drawn-out लंबा
8. **Readiness** (noun) – Promptness, speediness, quickness, alacrity, तत्परता
9. **Escalate** (verb) – Increase, amplify, intensify, magnify, boost बढ़ाना
10. **Push back** (phrasal verb) – Resist, oppose, counter, fight against, stand up to प्रतिरोध करना
11. **Explode** (verb) – Detonate, blow up, burst, blast, ignite विस्फोट करना
12. **Impact** (noun) – a marked effect or influence. प्रभाव
13. **Dud** (noun) – a thing that fails to work properly or is otherwise unsatisfactory or worthless. व्यर्थ, बेकार
14. **Indiscriminate** (adjective) – Unrestricted, random, haphazard, unsystematic अंधाधुंध
15. **Signatory** (noun) – a party that has signed an agreement, especially a state that has signed a treaty. हस्ताक्षरकर्ता
16. **Convention** (noun) – Agreement, treaty, accord, pact, contract सम्झौता
17. **Criticise** (verb) – Condemn, denounce, disparage, censure, blame आलोचना करना
18. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) – equal, be equivalent to, correspond to, Add up to, come to, के बराबर होना
19. **U-turn** (noun) – Reversal, change of direction, volte-face, about-face, turnaround उलटाव

20. **Aid package** (noun) – money, equipment , or services that are provided for people, countries; financial help वित्तीय सहायता
21. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signal, denote, show इशारा करना
22. **Strain** (noun) – Pressure, burden, exertion, tension तनाव
23. **Battlefield** (noun) – War zone, battleground, combat zone, field of battle युद्ध क्षेत्र
24. **Artillery** (noun) – large-calibre guns used in warfare on land. तोपें
25. **Entirely** (adverb) – Completely, fully, totally, wholly, thoroughly पूरी तरह से
26. **The West** (noun) – It refers to U.S.A and other European countries
27. **Shell** (noun) – an explosive artillery projectile or bomb बम का गोली
28. **Ammunition** (noun) – Munitions, explosives, bombs, shells, bullets गोलाबारूद
29. **Pick up** (phrasal verb) – become better; improve. सुधरना
30. **Conventional war** (noun) – a form of warfare conducted by using conventional weapons and battlefield tactics between two or more states in open confrontation.
31. **Strain** (verb) – to cause too much of something to be used, especially money पर दबाव पड़ाना
32. **Reserve** (noun) – Funds कोष
33. **Disadvantageous** (adjective) – Unfavourable, detrimental, deleterious, harmful, damaging नुकसानदायक
34. **Superiority** (noun) – Supremacy, ascendancy, preeminence, dominance, श्रेष्ठता
35. **Counteroffensive** (adjective) – Retaliatory, reactive, responsive, resistive, counteractive जवाबी कार्रवाई
36. **Swift** (adjective) – Quick, fast, rapid, speedy, hasty तेज
37. **Victory** (noun) – Triumph, win, success, conquest, achievement विजय
38. **Lightning** (adjective) – Very quick, instant, fast, rapid, speedy तेज़
39. **Counter-advance** (noun) – a set of attacks that defend against enemy attacks प्रतिक्रिया
40. **Dynamics** (noun) – forces that produce movement or change गतिशीलता
41. **Fortification** (noun) – a defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack दुर्ग

42. **Outskirts** (noun) – the outer parts of a town or city बाहरी इलाके
43. **Break through** (phrasal verb) – achieve success in a particular area. सफलता प्राप्त करना
44. **Territorial** (adjective) – Geographic, regional, zonal, local, sectional क्षेत्रीय
45. **Perceived** (adjective) – Seen, viewed, regarded, considered, thought of as माना जाता
46. **Breakthrough** (noun) – Advance, progress, development, improvement, success सफलता
47. **Cut off** (phrasal verb) – Disconnect, sever, detach, disengage, separate अलग करना, कट कर देना
48. **Criticism** (noun) – Censure, condemnation, denunciation, disparagement, disapproval आलोचना
49. **Alleged** (adjective) – Supposed, claimed, professed, purported, asserted कथित
50. **Commit** (verb) – Do, perform, conduct, execute करना
51. **Draw a line** (phrase) – to put a limit on what you will do or allow to happen, esp. because you feel something is wrong
52. **Ethical** (adjective) – Moral, principled, honorable, upright, virtuous नैतिक
53. **Compromise** (noun) – Agreement, settlement, understanding, arrangement, deal समझौता
54. **Irrespective of** (phrase) – Regardless of, in spite of, notwithstanding, despite के बावजूद
55. **Escalation Spiral** (noun) – a situation in which the level of conflict or aggression between two or more parties continues to increase over time

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial discusses the U.S. decision to supply cluster munitions to Ukraine amidst the ongoing war with Russia.
2. Cluster munitions are controversial due to their potential to cause indiscriminate harm. Many don't explode on impact and become "duds" that could explode later.
3. Over 100 countries have banned cluster munitions, but the U.S., not a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, has decided to supply them to Ukraine.
4. The U.S. had previously criticized Russia for using these munitions, labeling it a war crime.
5. This reversal comes as part of the U.S.'s 42nd aid package to Ukraine since the Russian invasion began.
6. The decision highlights the challenges Ukraine and its Western allies face in the prolonged war.
7. The war is dominated by artillery, and Ukraine is entirely dependent on the West for weapons, whereas Russia has a steady supply from its industrial base.
8. The conventional war has strained Western reserves, leaving Ukraine at a disadvantage against Russia's artillery superiority.
9. Prior to Ukraine's recent counteroffensive, the West hoped for swift battlefield victories to put pressure on Russia's President, Vladimir Putin.
10. Russia has built strong defense fortifications along the over 1,000-km front line, which Ukrainians struggle to break through.
11. Ukraine has made minor territorial gains but at a high cost, and has failed to achieve a significant breakthrough.
12. These challenges on the battlefield led to the U.S.'s "difficult decision" to send cluster munitions.
13. This decision may raise criticism and blurs the moral and ethical lines that the U.S. has previously tried to uphold.
14. Accusations of war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine have been internationally condemned, and Ukraine also faces accusations of targeting civilian centers.
15. The decision demonstrates that neither side is currently willing to compromise, and the war remains in a state of escalation despite 16 months of conflict.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern based

1. Identify whether the given statements are **true or false**. [Editorial Page]
- A.** Cluster munitions are designed to explode on impact, but many remain “duds”, which can explode later, causing indiscriminate harm — the reason why over 100 countries have banned them.
- B.** The conventional war has strained western reserves, leaving Ukraine at an advantageous position when compared to Russia’s artillery superiority.
- A. A is true and B is false.
B. A is false and B is true.
C. Neither A nor B is true.
D. Both A and B are true.
2. **Which of the following best characterizes the U.S.'s decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine based on the given passage?**
- A. The U.S.'s decision is a necessary step in helping Ukraine maintain its defense against the ongoing Russian invasion, as these munitions will provide Ukraine with much needed artillery support.
- B. The U.S.'s decision shows an inconsistency in its stance on the usage of cluster munitions, as it has previously criticized Russia's use of such munitions in the conflict, deeming it as war crimes.
- C. The U.S.'s decision signifies a complete change in its foreign policy, abandoning all its previous commitments towards the non-proliferation of such harmful weapons.
- D. The U.S.'s decision is a compassionate action aimed at safeguarding civilian lives in Ukraine, as cluster munitions have a high probability of being defused without causing any collateral damage
3. **Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the U.S.'s involvement in the Ukraine war according to the provided passage?**
- A. The U.S. has decided to send cluster munitions to Ukraine in response to the Russian invasion.
- B. The U.S. has previously criticized Russia's use of cluster munitions in the conflict.
- C. The U.S.'s supply of cluster munitions to Ukraine marks its first aid package to the country since the Russian invasion.
- D. The conventional war has left Ukraine in a disadvantageous position when compared to Russia's artillery superiority.
4. **What can be inferred from the passage about the situation in Ukraine and the involvement of the U.S.?**
- A. The US has sent cluster munitions to Ukraine as a response to Ukraine's success in achieving swift battlefield victories against Russia and cutting off Mr. Putin’s landbridge in Zaporizhzhia.
- B. Despite the heavy costs and strong Russian fortifications, Ukraine has been consistently successful in making territorial gains, which has resulted in the US deciding to send cluster munitions to the battlefield.

- C. The US has sent cluster munitions to Ukraine as part of "the difficult decision", despite the potential criticism and ethical concerns, due to the ongoing stalemate on the battlefield and the failure of Ukraine to achieve a major breakthrough against Russian fortifications.
- D. The US, while defending its decision to send cluster munitions by drawing a thin moral and ethical line, has openly criticized both Ukraine and Russia for their alleged war crimes, marking a significant shift in its foreign policy.
5. Which of the following words is a synonym for "**prolonged**"?
- A. Brief
B. Shortened
C. Extended
D. Condensed
6. **What tone does the author use in the passage?**
- A. Satirical
B. Critical
C. Appreciative
D. Dispassionate
7. **What is the primary theme of the passage?**
- A. The economic impact of the war in Ukraine
B. The cultural aspects of the conflict in Ukraine
C. The political and military aspects of the ongoing war in Ukraine
D. The environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 has shown India slipping further to the 107th position out of 121 countries from last year's rank of 101 and being behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- Q. But GHI claims that it uses the data presented by India to the UN to measure the proportion of undernourishment in children under five through the indicators of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.
- R. Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, too, was reported to have said that India should not take the drop in its ranking seriously as the methodology used for the exercise was 'model-based' and not survey-based.
- S. Last year, too, when its rank had fallen as compared to that in 2020, India had slammed the report, saying that the basis of calculating the findings — prepared by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe — was divorced from ground reality and that the methodology used was unscientific.
- A. QSPR B. PSRQ C. QSRP D. PQSR
9. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. This staggering rate of downfall is yet another reaffirmation of the fact that our planet is in the throes of a biodiversity crisis.
- Q. It is crucial for the survival of all forms of life on Earth. Undoubtedly, rampant overexploitation of the limited natural resources over the past 50 years by humans — in the name of development — is the main driver of this humongous loss.

- R. At the same time, this acute disruption in the ecosystem should serve as a wake-up call to the world for taking a renewed pledge to redouble efforts for arresting the downward spiral and preventing the endangered species from going extinct.
- S. The World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Living Planet Report-2022 has shown a massive 69 per cent decline in wildlife populations across the globe during the 1970-2018 period.
- A. RQPS B.QPSR C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- It is nothing else than / sheer foolishness that / you have decided / to resign
- A. It is nothing else than
- B. sheer foolishness that
- C. you have decided
- D. to resign
11. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. He has observed that even the use of a smaller nuclear weapon will be 'a very serious thing, fundamentally changing the nature of the war in Ukraine, and of course that would have consequences'.
- Q. Though these drills are an annual affair, they will be subjected to intense scrutiny and suspicion this year amid the backdrop of the ongoing conflict. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that he would be crossing a 'very important line' if he were to order the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.
- R. The protracted war in Ukraine is set to enter a critical phase as both Russia and NATO are getting ready to hold nuclear exercises.
- S. Stoltenberg has announced that the NATO drills would go ahead as scheduled because cancelling them would have sent a 'very wrong signal'.
- A. PSQR B.PSRQ C.SQPR D.RQSP
12. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
- The president loved that lady.**
- A. That lady is love by the president.
- B. That lady was loved by the president.
- C. That lady is loved by the president.
- D. That lady was being loved by the president
13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. As the transparency law completes 17 years, the report card is troubling. Nearly 3.15 lakh appeals and complaints are pending across the country, up from 2.18 lakh in 2019.
- Q. According to an analysis, 12 information commissions have an estimated waiting period of a year or more to dispose of a matter. In 95 per cent of the cases where penalties could have been imposed, no such action was taken.
- R. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is called the sunshine legislation for good reason for it is a structured mechanism providing information to the citizenry about all public actions, while empowering people with the right to ask relevant questions.

- S. Indirectly, the signal being sent to government employees is that violation of the law will not fetch any severe consequence, undermining its effectiveness.
A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
His outstanding performance at the audition left the judges feeling _____.
A. perplexed
B. flabbergasted
C. cantankerous
D. calm
15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
P. The world body's corresponding figures for China for this year and the next one are 3.2 per cent and 4.4 per cent, taking into account the crippling impact of the series of lockdowns imposed under the country's harsh zero-Covid policy.
Q. Amid a worldwide economic slowdown triggered primarily by the Russia-Ukraine war, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has observed that India is 'doing better and is in a relatively bright spot compared to other countries in the region'.
R. In its World Economic Outlook, the IMF has projected India's pared-down growth rates of 6.8 per cent and 6.1 per cent for 2022 and 2023, respectively, as compared to 8.7 per cent in 2021.
S. According to the IMF, more than one-third of the global economy will contract next year; the three largest economies — the US, the European Union and China — will continue to struggle.
A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
16. Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom.
Out of the frying pan and into the fire
A. To escape from one danger and get caught in an even worse situation
B. To be unable to make a decision between two undesirable options
C. To be very skilled at cooking and baking
D. To be able to handle difficult situations with ease

Comprehension

The United States said earlier this week that it was rejoining the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In 2017, the Trump administration _____1_____ from the organisation after the Obama administration ceased funding, in 2011. The reason for the U.S.'s return is _____2_____ 'China', with senior U.S. administration officials _____3_____ that the U.S.'s absence had helped China gain "more influence" in setting the rules around artificial intelligence and the ensuing technological shifts. For a change, this is the first time that 'China' has been _____4_____ as a reason for the U.S.'s re-entry into, rather than its exit of, a multi-lateral treaty.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
A. Withdrew

- B. Withdraw
 - C. Withdrawl
 - D. Withdrawn
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
- A. Faithfully
 - B. Ostensibly
 - C. Potentially
 - D. Promptly
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
- A. Stating
 - B. State
 - C. Stated
 - D. States
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. Buffer
 - B. Proffered
 - C. Overpowered
 - D. Rendered

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) A is true and B is false**

A. This statement is true. Cluster munitions are designed to explode on impact and spread explosive bomblets over a wide area. However, many bomblets often do not explode immediately and can pose a threat to civilians long after a conflict has ended, functioning similarly to landmines. This indiscriminate harm and potential for civilian casualties is the reason why over 100 countries have banned their use through the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

B. This statement is false. According to the passage, Ukraine is in a **disadvantageous position** compared to Russia's artillery superiority. The conflict has strained Western reserves and Ukraine is largely dependent on Western aid for artillery shells and ammunition. Russia, on the other hand, has an industrial base that is able to ensure a continuous supply of weapons to the frontlines. **Therefore, it is incorrect to say that Ukraine is at an advantageous position in this context.**

2. **B) The U.S.'s decision shows an inconsistency in its stance on the usage of cluster munitions, as it has previously criticized Russia's use of such munitions in the conflict, deeming it as war crimes.**

The passage mentions that while the U.S. has not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it had previously criticized Russia's use of these weapons in the ongoing conflict. However, the recent decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine contradicts this earlier stance, demonstrating an inconsistency. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the passage. While the passage does touch on the challenges Ukraine faces and the potential escalation of the war, it does not specifically associate these issues with the U.S.'s decision to send cluster munitions.

3. **C) Option A is correct** as mentioned in the first and second lines of the passage. **Option B is also true** according to the passage which states that the U.S. had criticized Russia for using these munitions as it amounts to war crimes. **Option D is correct** as the passage mentions that the conventional war has left Ukraine at a disadvantage compared to Russia's artillery superiority. **However, option C is incorrect.** The passage states that the U.S.'s decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine is part of its **42nd aid** package to Ukraine since the Russian invasion began, not the first. Therefore, the correct answer is option C.

4. **C) The US has sent cluster munitions to Ukraine as part of "the difficult decision", despite the potential criticism and ethical concerns, due to the ongoing stalemate on the battlefield and the failure of Ukraine to achieve a major breakthrough against Russian fortifications.**

The passage reveals that despite Ukraine's attempts, the country has not been able to achieve a significant breakthrough against Russian fortifications. It also highlights that the US has taken

"the difficult decision" to send cluster munitions to the battlefield, anticipating potential criticism and ethical concerns. The other options either incorrectly interpret the situation on the ground or the US's actions or stance.

5. C) **Extended**

Prolonged (adjective) – extended, lengthy, protracted, long, lengthened लंबे समय तक

"Prolonged" is used in the context of the passage to describe a war or conflict that has been lengthened in time or extended.

6. B) **Critical**

The author adopts a critical tone, pointing out the controversial decisions by both the U.S. and Ukraine, such as the use of cluster munitions that can cause indiscriminate harm and are banned by over 100 countries. The author also highlights the civilian harm and potential war crimes committed by Russia, along with the dilemmas and contradictions faced by the U.S. in this conflict.

7. C) **The political and military aspects of the ongoing war in Ukraine**

The main theme of the passage revolves around the political and military aspects of the ongoing war in Ukraine. It discusses the strategies and actions of the U.S., Ukraine, and Russia, including the controversial use of cluster munitions and the balance of power on the battlefield. It also touches on the alleged war crimes, battlefield realities, and the unwillingness of the involved parties to compromise.

8. B) **PSRQ**

P: Sentence P sets up the problem by providing the current Global Hunger Index ranking for India. This is the main theme introduced.

S: Sentence S comes next because it refers to "last year" and the past criticism from India about the methodology, which ties back to the ranking mentioned in Sentence P. The pronoun "its" in Sentence S refers to India mentioned in Sentence P, demonstrating the noun-pronoun relationship

R: Sentence R follows as it expands on the criticism of the methodology introduced in Sentence S. This sentence brings a new perspective, that of Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee. He suggests that the methodology used by the GHI is flawed, which corroborates with India's criticism in Sentence S

Q: Sentence Q is last because it introduces the response from GHI to the criticism. The word "But" at the beginning of the sentence is a clear indicator that it's providing a contrasting point of view to the arguments mentioned in sentences R and S.

9. D) **SPRQ**

S: This sentence introduces a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), an acronym that provides an important piece of information that sets up the context for the rest of the sentences.

P: This sentence logically follows sentence S as it refers to the "staggering rate of downfall" that the WWF report mentions. The pronoun "This" in sentence P refers back to the "massive

69 per cent decline" in sentence S, so we know they are linked.

R: This sentence makes sense after sentence P, as it further elaborates on the "biodiversity crisis" mentioned in P and proposes a response to the problem

Q: Lastly, sentence Q provides a clear explanation of the root cause of the crisis, linking back to the problem discussed in sentence R ("the downward spiral") and providing a broader context by mentioning human overexploitation of resources. The pronoun "It" at the start of the sentence refers back to the effort to "arrest the downward spiral", giving the sentence a clear place in the order.

10. A) 'than' के बदले 'but ' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'else' के बाद जोड़ने वाले शब्द के रूप में सिर्फ 'but' का इस्तेमाल होता है!

- It is nothing else except pride that leads to one's downfall. (but)

11. **D) RQSP**

R: This sentence sets up the context for the entire paragraph. It introduces the main topic which is the critical phase of the war in Ukraine and both Russia and NATO preparing to hold nuclear exercises. Hence, R is the starting sentence.

Q: This sentence continues the context set up by R. It mentions the drills which are being prepared in sentence R, and adds more information about their potential implications. It introduces the key players - NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Russian President Vladimir Putin, making Q the logical next step after R.

S: Sentence S is connected to Q because it uses the pronoun 'he' referring to Stoltenberg, who was introduced in sentence Q. This follows the noun-pronoun relationship. It also continues the narrative on the drills and Stoltenberg's views, hence S comes after Q.

P: The last sentence P follows S. The pronoun 'He' here refers to Stoltenberg mentioned in the previous sentence. This is another instance of noun-pronoun relationship. The statement adds further to Stoltenberg's views regarding the situation in Ukraine, hence it logically comes after S.

12. B.) That lady was loved by the president

13. **A) RPQS**

R: This sentence provides an introduction to the topic, which is the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The Act is described in broad terms, indicating the start of the narrative. This is the first hint from the acronym "RTI" as it is explained in this sentence.

P: This sentence directly refers to the RTI Act (called the "transparency law" here), introduced in the previous sentence, via a pronoun-noun relationship. The act's age is given, which indicates a time sequence. The mention of a "report card" and some statistics shows the progression of the situation after the Act has been established.

Q: This sentence expands on the troubles mentioned in the previous sentence. The detailed issues about the information commissions and the failure to impose penalties are directly related to the complaints and appeals mentioned in Sentence P, maintaining the flow of the

argument.

S: This sentence logically follows sentence Q because it gives an interpretation of the situation outlined in sentences P and Q. The use of the word "Indirectly" is a clue that this sentence is analyzing or concluding from the previous data points (appeals, complaints, no penalties), providing a wrap-up to the discussion.

14. B. **flabbergasted**

- **perplexed** (adjective) – confused, baffled, bewildered, puzzled, mystified व्याकुल
- **flabbergasted** (adjective) – astonished, amazed, stunned, astounded, dumbfounded हैरत में डाला हुआ
- **cantankerous** (adjective) – irritable, grumpy, grouchy, bad-tempered, argumentative झगड़ालू

15. C) **QSRP**

Q: The paragraph starts by introducing the main topic of the passage, which is the worldwide economic slowdown and the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in analyzing this situation. It is the natural starting point as it introduces the IMF and sets the context of the entire passage.

S: In this paragraph, the reference to the 'IMF' connects to the first paragraph where the IMF was first mentioned. Also, it continues the narrative of the economic scenario painted by the IMF and therefore should come after 'Q'.

R: This paragraph is connected to the 'S' paragraph through the IMF and it goes further to detail the predictions of the IMF mentioned in 'S', specifically focusing on India. It also references a time sequence that fits after 'S', comparing the future years of 2022 and 2023 to the past year of 2021.

P: Lastly, paragraph 'P' refers to 'the world body', which is the IMF, introduced and mentioned in the preceding paragraphs. It provides an in-depth look into the situation in China, which was introduced in paragraph 'S' as one of the struggling economies, providing a logical conclusion.

16. A.) **Out of the frying pan and into the fire** (phrase) – To escape from one danger and get

caught in an even worse situation आसमान से गिरा खजूर में अटका

17. A) **Withdraw** (verb) – Leave, retract, pull out, remove, retreat, depart से अलग हो जाना

This is in the past tense to match the past tense context of the sentence. The other options are incorrect: "Withdraw" is in the present tense, "Withdrawl" is a spelling error (the correct spelling would be "withdrawal"), and "Withdrawn" is past participle form, which needs a helping verb (like "had" or "has") to be used correctly in this context.

18. B) **Ostensibly** (adverb) – Apparently, seemingly, supposedly, outwardly, superficially प्रकट रूप से

"B. **Ostensibly.**" This word is used to express something that is stated or appears to be true, but might not be the real reason. It fits the context of the sentence, which suggests that

'China' is the stated reason for the U.S.'s return to UNESCO, but subtly implies there might be more to it.

- **Faithfully** (adverb) – loyally, accurately, reliably, steadfastly, dutifully ईमानदारी से
- **Potentially** (adverb) – Possibly, Probably, Perhaps, Maybe, Conceivably संभवतया
- **Promptly** (adverb) – Immediately, without delay, quickly, swiftly, तत्परता से

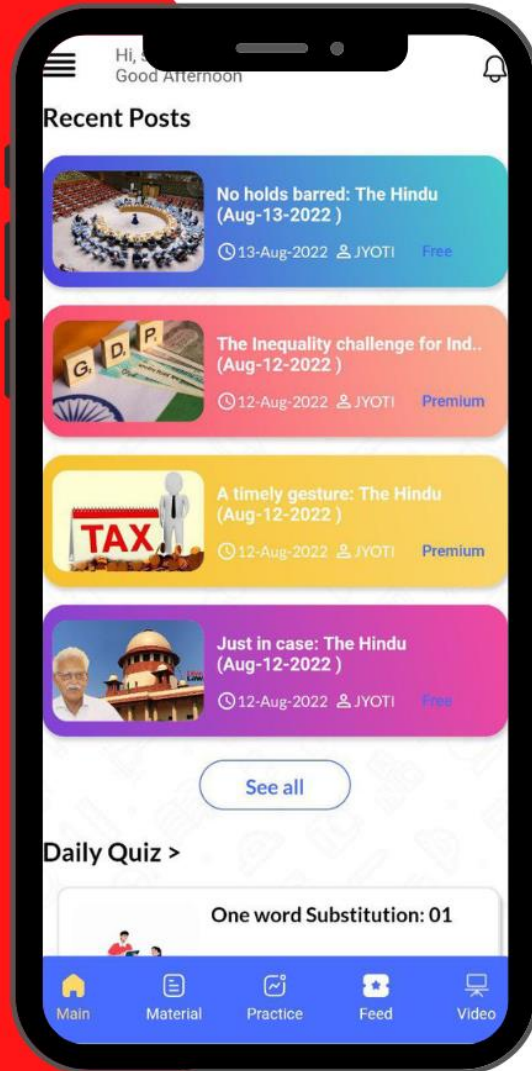
19. A) **State** (verb) – Declare, announce, proclaim, express, articulate कहना

- In this context, the blank is referring to what senior U.S. administration officials are doing: they are "stating" something. The word "stating" is in the present participle form, which is used to denote ongoing actions. It follows the word "officials" and is used here to introduce reported speech, indicating that these officials are currently expressing a viewpoint

20. B) **Proffer** (verb) – Offer, propose, present, extend, suggest प्रस्ताव करना

This verb means to put forward or offer for consideration, acceptance, or use. It's the most suitable option because it conveys that China has been presented as the reason for the U.S.'s re-entry into the treaty.

- **Buffer** (verb) – Protect, shield, safeguard, defend, सुरक्षित करना
- **Overpower** (verb) – Overwhelm, subdue, conquer, defeat, suppress प्रबल होना
- **Render** (verb) – Make, Cause to Be, Lead to, Bring About, Result in बनाना, कारण बनना



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