

Eastern hedge: On the need for India to stay closely engaged with ASEAN members

India needs to build closer **ties** with ASEAN for economic and strategic reasons

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **whistle-stop** summit **sojourn** to the Indonesian capital of Jakarta earlier this week **was** primarily aimed at **deepening** India's **engagement** with the **economically** significant grouping of 10 Southeast Asian nations. Coming **on the eve of** India's **hosting** of the G-20 summit in New Delhi as the current holder of the **bloc's presidency**, Mr. Modi's **presence** at the annual ASEAN-India summit was an opportunity to **cement** traditional ties with the **neighbouring** Asian **economies** at a time of **heightened** global trade **uncertainty**. As the trade **facilitation** body **UNCTAD** noted in its June 21 'Global Trade Update', the **'outlook** for global trade in the second half of 2023 **is pessimistic** as negative factors' including **downgraded** world economic **forecasts**, **persistent inflation**, financial **vulnerabilities** and **geopolitical** tensions **dominate**. **Against this backdrop**, the joint leaders' **statement** on 'Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises' at the ASEAN-India summit **underscores** the shared vulnerability the region **perceives in the face of** the **ongoing** heightened global food insecurity, which has been **exacerbated** by the war in Ukraine, climate change and national policy responses to **inflationary** pressures. India's recent **curbs** on export of rice **have triggered** some **alarm**, with the prices of the regional **staple reportedly** nearing a 15-year high. The **onset** of an El Niño, which is historically **associated** with **disruptive** weather events, **queers** the **ground** further, and ASEAN leaders are justifiably **wary**.

Mr. Modi's **pitch**, **laying stress** on the need for a rules-based post-COVID-19 world **order** and a free and open Indo-Pacific, **was** clearly directed at members among the Asian bloc who are increasingly **disquieted** by China's recent **muscle flexing** and claims over the South China Sea. The Prime Minister's **not-so-veiled message** to the ASEAN members **is** that India is a more **reliable** long-term **strategic** and economic partner, which has no territorial **ambitions** that could **discomfit** them. India also **sought** to position itself as a voice to **amplify** the **concerns** of the **Global South**, stressing that it would be mutually beneficial for all. For India, **grappling** as it is with an **underwhelming free trade agreement** (FTA) with the 10-nation grouping, **trade ties** with the eastern economies **have** grown in volume but **asymmetrically**, with imports far **outpacing** the country's exports. The widening **trade deficit** and the **perception** that Chinese goods are taking advantage of lower **tariffs** under the FTA to find their way into the Indian market, **have** among other factors **precipitated** a review of the **pact** that is likely to be completed in 2025. **In the meantime**, India needs to stay closely engaged with the ASEAN members both as a trade hedge against the **slowdown** in its main western markets and to **highlight** its **significance** as an **all-weather ally**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Hedge** (noun) – a strategy or method used to protect against potential losses in trading, especially due to price fluctuations
2. **Ties** (noun) – connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
3. **Whistle-stop** (adjective) – brief, fleeting, rapid, swift, quick संक्षेप/त्वरित
4. **Sojourn** (noun) – stay, visit, stopover, temporary stay, residency ठहराव
5. **Deepen** (verb) – intensify, amplify, reinforce, augment, escalate गहराई बढ़ाना
6. **Engagement** (noun) – involvement, participation, commitment, occupancy, undertaking साझेदारी
7. **Economically** (adverb) – financially, monetarily, fiscally, commercially, budgetarily आर्थिक रूप से
8. **On the eve of** (phrase) – the period or day before an important event के ठीक पहले
9. **Hosting** (noun) – providing space or opportunity, accommodating, entertaining मेजबानी
10. **Bloc** (noun) – coalition, alliance, federation, confederation, union गुट
11. **Presidency** (noun) – the position of being the president, the administration, the executive, leadership अध्यक्षता
12. **Cement** (verb) – strengthen, fortify, consolidate, reinforce, stabilize मज़बूती देना
13. **Neighbouring** (adjective) – adjacent, adjoining, nearby, bordering पड़ोसी
14. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाओं
15. **Heightened** (adjective) – increased, intensified, escalated, amplified बढ़ा हुआ
16. **Uncertainty** (noun) – doubt, unpredictability, instability, variability अनिश्चितता
17. **Facilitation** (noun) – the process of making things easy or easier, enabling, assistance सुगमता
18. **UNCTAD** (noun) – The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues.
19. **Outlook** (noun) – perspective, viewpoint, point of view, attitude दृष्टिकोण
20. **Pessimistic** (adjective) – negative, cynical, gloomy, bleak निराशावादी
21. **Downgraded** (adjective) – devalued, lowered in status, diminished, reduced in importance कम किया हुआ
22. **Forecast** (noun) – prediction, projection, estimation, prognosis पूर्वानुमान

23. **Persistent** (adjective) – constant, continuous, relentless, non-stop लगातार/दृढ़
24. **Inflation** (noun) – price rise, price increase, escalation मुद्रास्फीति
25. **Vulnerability** (noun) – weakness, helplessness, defenselessness, debility दुर्बलता
26. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Political geography, global politics, international politics, international relations भूराजनीतिक
27. **Dominate** (verb) – Rule, control, command, overshadow, prevail हावी होना
28. **Against the backdrop** (phrase) – In the context of, in light of, considering the background के संदर्भ में
29. **Strengthen** (verb) – Fortify, reinforce, bolster, intensify मजबूती देना
30. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, stress, underline जोर देना
31. **Perceive** (verb) – Recognize, discern, detect, observe समझना
32. **In the face of** (phrase) – Despite, notwithstanding, in spite of, regardless of के बावजूद
33. **Ongoing** (adjective) – Continuing, in progress, underway चल रहे
34. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, amplify, intensify बढ़ाना/ बिगाड़ देना
35. **Inflationary pressure** (noun) – the demand and supply-side pressures that can cause a rise in the general price level.
36. **Curb** (noun) – Restraint, check, control, limitation रोक
37. **Trigger** (verb) – Activate, spark, initiate, set off उत्पन्न करना
38. **Alarm** (noun) – Fear, apprehension, terror, fright, panic, unease, anxiety भय, खलबली
39. **Staple** (noun) – main food or foods eaten regularly
40. **Reportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, apparently कथित रूप से
41. **Onset** (noun) – Beginning, start, commencement प्रारंभ
42. **El Nino** (noun) – A climate phenomenon characterized by the periodic warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific.
43. **Associated** (with) (adjective) – Connected, related, linked संबंधित
44. **Disruptive** (adjective) – Chaotic, disturbing, unsettling विघटनकारी
45. **Queer** (verb) – To spoil, ruin, thwart बिगाड़ना

46. **Ground** (noun) – Basis, foundation, reason
आधार
47. **Wary** (adjective) – Cautious, watchful,
vigilant सतर्क/ सावधान
48. **Pitch** (noun) – Proposal, offer, presentation,
Speech भाषण
49. **Lay stress on** (phrase) – Emphasize,
highlight, underscore पर जोर देना
50. **Order** (noun) – System, arrangement,
organization व्यवस्था
51. **Disquiet** (verb) – Disturb, unsettle, agitate
अशांत करना/ होना
52. **Muscle flexing** (noun) – Display of power or
strength, posturing, showing off शक्ति
प्रदर्शन
53. **Not-so-veiled** (adjective) – Evident, clear,
obvious स्पष्ट
54. **Reliable** (adjective) – Trustworthy,
dependable, steady विश्वसनीय
55. **Strategic** (adjective) – Tactical, calculated,
planned रणनीतिक
56. **Ambition** (noun) – Aspiration, goal,
objective महत्वाकांक्षा
57. **Discomfit** (verb) – Embarrass, discomfort,
unsettle परेशान करना
58. **Seek** (verb) – Try, aim, attempt, endeavour,
strive for, प्रयास करना
59. **Amplify** (verb) – Enhance, magnify,
intensify बढ़ाना
60. **Concern** (noun) – Issue, matter, subject
चिंता
61. **Global south** (noun) – the poor developing
countries (of Asia, Africa, South America,
amongst others). विकासशील देश
62. **Grapple** (With) (verb) – struggle, wrestle,
contend with, tackle से जूझना
63. **Underwhelming** (adjective) – disappointing,
unsatisfactory, mediocre, lackluster
असंतोषजनक
64. **Asymmetrically** (adverb) – unevenly,
lopsidedly, disproportionately असमान रूप
से
65. **Outpace** (verb) – surpass, exceed, outstrip,
overtake पार करना
66. **Trade deficit** (noun) – the amount by which
the cost of a country's imports exceeds the
value of its exports व्यापार घाटा
67. **Perception** (noun) – viewpoint,
understanding, interpretation, impression
धारणा
68. **Tariff** (noun) – tax, duty, charge, rate शुल्क
69. **Precipitate** (verb) – to make something,
especially something bad, happen suddenly

- or sooner than it should किसी घटना को
(विशेषतः प्रतिकूल घटना को) अचानक या समय
से पूर्व घटित करना या होने देना
70. **Pact** (noun) – agreement, treaty, accord,
contract समझौता
71. **In the meantime** (phrase) – meanwhile, in
the interim, in the intervening period इस
दौरान
72. **Slowdown** (noun) – decrease, reduction,
slump, recession मंदी
73. **Highlight** (verb) – emphasize, underscore,
stress, spotlight प्रमुखता देना
74. **Significance** (noun) – importance,
consequence, relevance, value महत्त्व
75. **all-weather ally/friend** (phrase) – steadfast
ally, constant support, reliable partner
सदाबहार दोस्त

Summary of the Editorial

1. India should strengthen its relationship with ASEAN for economic and strategic benefits.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jakarta aimed at enhancing India's ties with the 10-nation ASEAN bloc.
3. The visit comes ahead of India's G-20 summit hosting, emphasizing its role in the global economic scenario.
4. The global trade outlook for H2 2023 is bleak due to various negative factors like economic downturns, inflation, and geopolitical tensions.
5. The ASEAN-India summit released a joint statement on addressing food security and nutrition amidst global crises.
6. Factors such as the Ukraine war, climate change, and inflationary responses have heightened global food insecurity.
7. Recent restrictions by India on rice exports raised concerns as regional rice prices approach a 15-year peak.
8. The possible onset of El Niño threatens further disruptions, increasing ASEAN's caution.
9. Modi emphasized the necessity of a rules-based order post-COVID-19 and a free Indo-Pacific region.
10. The emphasis aims to address concerns regarding China's assertive stance, especially in the South China Sea.
11. Modi subtly conveyed India's stance as a reliable partner without territorial ambitions, contrasting with China.
12. India portrays itself as a representative of the Global South, advocating mutual benefits.
13. Despite an FTA with ASEAN, India's imports from the bloc exceed exports, leading to a trade deficit.
14. Concerns arise that Chinese goods might exploit the FTA's lower tariffs to enter India.
15. It's crucial for India to maintain close ties with ASEAN to safeguard against western market downturns and emphasize its role as a reliable partner.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following reasons best explains India's need to strengthen its ties with ASEAN members?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. To showcase India's leadership in the G-20 summit
 - B. To address concerns regarding global trade uncertainty and shared regional vulnerabilities
 - C. To promote India's cultural connections with Southeast Asian nations
 - D. To resolve issues related to the El Niño weather event
2. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the current global situation?**
 - A. There is a positive outlook for global trade in the second half of 2023.
 - B. The situation in Ukraine has had no impact on global food insecurity.
 - C. ASEAN leaders are unconcerned about potential disruptive weather events.
 - D. Global trade uncertainty and issues like climate change and geopolitical tensions are affecting food security.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the difference in trade dynamics between India and the ASEAN 10-nation grouping?**
 - A. India's imports and exports with ASEAN are growing at an equal pace.
 - B. India's trade ties with eastern economies are diminishing.
 - C. India's imports from ASEAN are growing faster than its exports.
 - D. India has a favorable trade balance with the ASEAN 10-nation grouping.
4. **Which statement is true according to the passage?**
 - A. Mr. Modi emphasized the importance of a closed and restricted Indo-Pacific.
 - B. India is trying to present itself as a territorial threat to ASEAN countries.
 - C. China's goods are taking advantage of lower tariffs under the FTA to enter the Indian market.
 - D. The review of the trade pact between India and ASEAN was completed in 2020
5. **Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Euphoric
 - B. Cynical
 - C. Informative
 - D. Satirical
6. Which word from the passage is a synonym for "concern"?
 - A. Pitch
 - B. Quietness
 - C. Disquieted
 - D. Serenity
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Extinct
 - A. Vibrant
 - B. Vanished
 - C. Active
 - D. Living

8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Glorify

- A. Simplify
- B. Stupefy
- C. Praise
- D. Strengthen

9. **Select the grammatically correct sentence.**

- A. It was a hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchases and a couple of meetings.
- B. It was a hectic day for Susan with the lot of purchase and a couple of meetings.
- C. It was a hectic day for Susan with the lot of purchase and an couple of meetings.
- D. It was the hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchase and the couple of meetings

10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

Each member of the literary club submitted various literary works for the magazine.

- A. Various literary works had been submitted by each member of the literary club for the magazine.
- B. Various literary works are submitted by each member of the literary club for the magazine.
- C. Various literary works were submitted by each member of the literary club for the magazine.
- D. Various literary works were being submitted by each member of the literary club for the magazine.

11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**

Winning that prestigious award was certainly ***a feather in her cap.***

- A. A disgraceful downfall
- B. Contributing to someone's praise
- C. A special achievement or honor
- D. To answer directly

12. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. The response in the 30 years since has been short on urgency and long on processes.
- Q. The world got a wake-up call in 1993 about tuberculosis (TB) when the World Health Organization declared it a global health emergency.
- R. The 1993 World Development Report labelled TB treatment for adults as the best buy among all developmental interventions.
- S. The current goal is to end TB by 2030, but clarity on definitions of 'end' and the means of verification are not fully in place.

- A. QRPS B. QPSR C. SRQP D. PRQS

13. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. It was a West Indies attempting to rebuild with a younger side led by Clive Lloyd.
- Q. Garry Sobers and Rohan Kanhai had played the previous Test against England, in Trinidad, but were no longer part of the team.
- R. The visitors were going through a dip then.
- S. The first Test I watched from the first ball to the last was India v West Indies in Bengaluru in November 1974.

A. RPQS B.RSPQ C.SRQP D.SPRQ

14. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. Darshan Solanki, an undergraduate student of chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, ended his life on February 12, 2023.
- Q. He was a Dalit.
- R. The report said, "It appears from the marks obtained in various courses that the performance of Darshan Solanki deteriorated specifically in the second half of the autumn semester.
- S. The institute formed a 12-member committee to conduct an investigation, which submitted its report on March 2.

A. RQSP B.RPQS C.QSRP D.PQSR

15. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. NITI Aayog is piloting the project and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Q. In unprecedented haste, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has cleared the decks for a mega project
- R. Integrated Development Corporation is the project proponent
- S. At the cost of about ₹70,000 crore at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR

16. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

- P. These include the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic hardships, international conflicts, food insecurity, poverty, climate change, land degradation, water pollution and biodiversity loss.
- Q. Humanity today faces numerous global challenges.
- R. Forests contribute significantly in addressing many of the challenges mentioned above.
- S. The world is now looking for solutions that are cost-effective, equitable and can be easily implemented.

A. QSPR B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.QPSR

Comprehension

An Indian Express analysis of employment data sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has shown that India's workforce has _____1_____ aged over the past seven years. Data shows that the share of India's youth – defined as those between ages 15 and 29 – has fallen from 25 per cent in 2016-17 to just 17 per cent at the end of 2022-23. Further, even the share of those falling in the next 15-year age bracket (30 to 44 years) has fallen from 38 per cent to 33 per cent over the same period. _____2_____ the share of these two categories has shrunk, that of the oldest _____3_____ 45 years and above – has grown from 37 per cent to 49 per cent. In other words, just in the past seven years, India's workforce has aged so much that the share of people 45 years and older has gone from one-third to almost one-half. Another way to look at this result is that the Indian youth is increasingly getting _____4_____ of the job market. In fact, the one cohort that seems to be doing the best, both in terms of proportion as well as absolute numbers, is the age bracket of 55 to 59 years.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**
 - A. Rapidly
 - B. Notably
 - C. Unlikely
 - D. Panoply
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**
 - A. When
 - B. While
 - C. Like
 - D. Where
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**
 - A. Representative
 - B. Incident
 - C. Cohort
 - D. Spectrum
20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
 - A. Driven out
 - B. Point out
 - C. Carry out
 - D. Break out

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) To address concerns regarding global trade uncertainty and shared regional vulnerabilities.**

The passage mentions that India seeks to deepen its engagement with the ASEAN nations during times of heightened global trade uncertainty. It also discusses the shared vulnerabilities the region perceives due to global food insecurity, geopolitical factors, and inflationary pressures. While the G-20 summit, cultural connections, and the El Niño event are mentioned in the passage, they aren't the primary reasons India is looking to strengthen its ties with the ASEAN members.

2. **D) Global trade uncertainty and issues like climate change and geopolitical tensions are affecting food security.**

The passage mentions that the "outlook for global trade in the second half of 2023 is pessimistic" due to several negative factors including "downgraded world economic forecasts, persistent inflation, financial vulnerabilities and geopolitical tensions." It also references the ongoing heightened global food insecurity exacerbated by factors like the war in Ukraine, climate change, and national responses to inflation. The El Niño event, which is known for disruptive weather, is also highlighted, making it clear that global uncertainties and various challenges are impacting food security.

3. C) The passage states that "trade ties with the eastern economies have grown in volume but asymmetrically, with imports far outpacing the country's exports."
 4. C) The passage mentions that "The Prime Minister's not-so-veiled message to the ASEAN members is that India is a more reliable long-term strategic and economic partner, which has no territorial ambitions that could discomfit them." This disproves option B. It also mentions that "Mr. Modi's pitch...was clearly directed at members among the Asian bloc" which focused on "a free and open Indo-Pacific," disproving option A. The passage does state that "Chinese goods are taking advantage of lower tariffs under the FTA to find their way into the Indian market," which makes option C true. Lastly, the review of the pact "is likely to be completed in 2025," disproving option D.

5. **C) Informative**

The passage provides detailed information about India's relations with ASEAN, the significance of the Prime Minister's visit, and the context of global trade situations and uncertainties. The information is presented in a straightforward manner without an overly positive or negative slant, making the tone informative.

6. **C) Disquieted**

The word "disquieted" in the context of the passage means "to make uneasy or worried." This is a synonym for "concern," which also implies a sense of unease or worry about something.

7. B) **Extinct** (adjective) – No longer in existence, gone, disappeared, wiped out. विलुप्त
Synonym: **Vanished** (adjective) – Disappeared, gone, evaporated, faded away. गायब
- **Vibrant** (adjective) – Full of energy and life, lively, energetic, animated. जीवंत
 - **Active** (adjective) – Engaged, busy, lively, energetic. सक्रिय
 - **Living** (adjective) – Alive, breathing, existing, functioning. जीवित
8. C) **Glorify** (verb) – To honor with praise, admiration, or worship; to extol, exalt, elevate. महिमा गाना
Synonym: **Praise** (verb) – Expressing approval, commendation, admiration, lauding. प्रशंसा करना
- **Simplify** (verb) – Make something simpler or easier to do or understand. सरल करना
 - **Stupefy** (verb) – To astonish, shock, or make numb or stunned. चौंका देना
 - **Strengthen** (verb) – Make or become stronger, reinforce, fortify. मजबूत बनाना
9. A) 'the lot of purchase' के बदले 'a lot of purchases' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'a lot of' एक common phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है 'बहुत सारा' और 'purchases' यहाँ पर plural form में है, जो की सही है। इसलिए, सही वाक्य है:
- A. It was a hectic day for Susan with a lot of purchases and a couple of meetings.
- 'a lot of purchases' will be used instead of 'the lot of purchase' because 'a lot of' is a common phrase meaning 'many', and 'purchases' is correctly used in the plural form.
10. C) Various literary works were submitted by each member of the literary club for the magazine.
11. C) **Feather in one's cap** (phrase) – a special achievement or honor: विशेष उपलब्धि या सम्मान
12. A) **QRPS**
Q: This sentence provides an initial event — a "wake-up call" in 1993. Hence, it seems logical to start the paragraph with a statement that sets the historical context.
R: The mention of "1993" directly connects this sentence to sentence Q. The year provides a time sequence which makes it easy to place R after Q. This sentence gives additional information about an event or a perspective from 1993 concerning TB, continuing the narrative started in Q.
P: The phrase "30 years since" logically refers back to the 1993 event. Given that 2023 is exactly 30 years after 1993, P is referring to the time elapsed since the events of Q and R.
S: This sentence discusses the "current goal" and a future date "2030". Given the flow, it makes sense for this to come after we've discussed the past (1993) and the subsequent 30-year response. Hence, it should follow P.
13. C) **SRQP**

S: This sentence is an introductory statement. It refers to a specific event (a Test match in 1974)

R: "The visitors" refers to a team. From the context, it is most likely referring to the West Indies. The word "then" also indicates it is a continuation from a previous sentence which refers to a specific time, like the 1974 match mentioned in sentence S.

Q: This sentence gives information about two players who had played in a match prior to the event described in S but were no longer in the team. This relates to the "dip" mentioned in sentence R, offering an explanation for it.

P: "It" likely refers to the West Indies team described in the previous sentences. This sentence further expands on the reason for the "dip" and why some players were no longer part of the team.

14. **D) PQSR**

P: It introduces the main subject of the paragraph, Darshan Solanki, and provides crucial information regarding his unfortunate event and background.

Q: Sentence Q provides an additional detail about the main subject introduced in sentence P. The pronoun "He" refers to Darshan Solanki, whom we got to know about in Sentence P.

S: Sentence S introduces a new development regarding the main event (Darshan Solanki's unfortunate end)

R: Sentence R offers specific details or findings from the investigation mentioned in Sentence S. The term "The report" in Sentence R naturally refers to the report mentioned in Sentence S, making S the immediate precursor to R.

15. **A) QSPR**

Q: As mentioned, the phrase "In unprecedented haste" suggests a starting point, introducing a "mega project" that was quickly approved.

S: Sentence S gives further details about the project, mainly its cost and location, which is usually presented after the introduction of the main idea.

P: Once we know about the project and its details, the next logical piece of information is who is piloting or leading the project. In this case, it is the NITI Aayog in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

R: After knowing who is piloting the project, it's relevant to know who proposed the project or who stands behind it, which is provided by sentence R.

16. **D) QPSR**

A. QSPR: This sequence starts correctly with Q, but P should directly follow Q due to the noun-pronoun relationship. So, this can be eliminated. Sentence P starts with "These include", which implies it is referring back to a noun or idea that has been previously introduced. So, Sentence P should follow Q

B. PSRQ: This doesn't start with Q, which introduces the main topic. So, this option can be eliminated.

C. QSRP: This starts well with Q, but, as mentioned, P should directly follow Q. This doesn't follow the noun-pronoun relationship, so this can be eliminated.

D. QPSR: This starts with Q introducing the topic, followed by P elaborating on the challenges, followed by R linking the challenges to how forests can address them, and finally, S suggesting that the world is seeking solutions

17. A) 'rapidly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "rapidly" का अर्थ होता है तेजी से। sentence में उल्लेख किया गया है कि भारत का श्रमिक वर्ग पिछले सात वर्षों में कितनी तेजी से बढ़ा हुआ है, इसलिए 'rapidly' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Notably' का अर्थ है विशेष रूप से, 'Unlikely' का अर्थ है असंभावित और 'Panoply' का अर्थ है पूरी सीरी या संग्रह, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Rapidly' should be used because it means quickly. The sentence describes how fast India's workforce has aged over the past seven years, making 'rapidly' fitting here. Whereas, 'Notably' means particularly, 'Unlikely' means improbable, and 'Panoply' implies a complete series or collection, which don't fit in this context.

18. B) 'While' का use होगा क्योंकि इस context में दो विपरीत स्थितियों की तुलना की जा रही है। Sentence में बताया गया है कि जब दो वय समूहों की प्रतिशत में गिरावट हुई, उसी समय तीसरे समूह की प्रतिशत में वृद्धि हुई। इसलिए 'While' यहाँ सही है। 'When', 'Like', और 'Where' इस context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे विपरीत स्थितियों की तुलना करने के अर्थ में नहीं आते।

- 'While' should be used because it is indicating a contrast between two situations. The sentence is contrasting the decline in the percentage of two age groups with the increase in another. 'While' is appropriate in this context. On the other hand, 'When', 'Like', and 'Where' don't convey the sense of contrasting situations as required here.

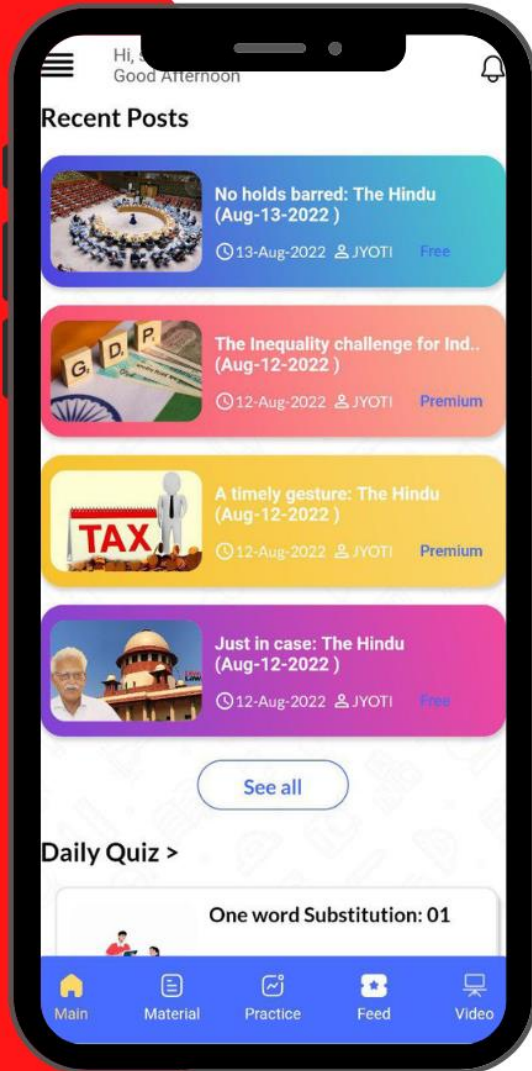
19. C) 'Cohort' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "cohort" का अर्थ होता है एक विशेष समूह या जनसंख्या जिसे विशेष उम्र, समय अवधि, या गुणों के आधार पर परिभाषित किया जाता है। Sentence में उल्लेख किया गया है कि विशेष आयु समूह का प्रतिनिधित्व बढ़ रहा है, इसलिए 'cohort' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Representative' का अर्थ होता है प्रतिनिधि, 'Incident' का अर्थ होता है घटना, और 'Spectrum' का अर्थ होता है विस्तार, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Cohort' should be used because it means a specific group or population defined by particular age, time duration, or characteristics. The sentence mentions a particular age group witnessing a rise in representation, making 'cohort' fitting here. Whereas, 'Representative' means a delegate, 'Incident' means an event, and 'Spectrum' implies a range, which don't fit in this context.

20. A) 'Driven out' का use होगा क्योंकि "driven out" का अर्थ होता है किसी से बाहर किया जाना या उसे बाहर भेज दिया जाना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारतीय युवा काम की बाजार से दूर हो रहे हैं, इसलिए 'driven out' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Point out' का अर्थ है ध्यान दिलाना, 'Carry out' का अर्थ है

किसी कार्य को पूरा करना और 'Break out' का अर्थ है अचानक प्रकट होना या प्रारंभ होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Driven out' should be used because it means to be forced or pushed out. The sentence mentions that Indian youth is moving away from the job market, making 'driven out' the most fitting choice here. Whereas, 'Point out' means to draw attention to, 'Carry out' means to execute or perform a task, and 'Break out' implies suddenly happening or starting, which don't fit in this context



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