

Original sin: on the attack on Israel and the occupation of Palestine

Israeli **occupation** of Palestine territories **must** end for **lasting** peace

The **unprecedented** surprise **attack** by Hamas on Israel on Saturday, killing some 700 people, **should** serve as a reminder of the **unsustainability** of the situation in the occupied and **blockaded** Palestinian territories and the dangers that **non-state actors** such as Hamas **pose** to Israel, no matter how strong their military and intelligence agencies are. Tensions have been **flaring** in the West Bank for months, but nobody expected such a **coordinated**, low-tech yet **lethal incursion** from Gaza. **The West Bank** has seen violence on a daily basis in recent months. Before Saturday's attack, some 200 Palestinians and 30 Israelis were killed this year alone. The Benjamin Netanyahu government largely ignored the violence, and went ahead with its other policy preferences, including the **overhaul** of the judiciary. The Israeli military described the situation in Gaza as "**stable instability**", noting that **the situation**, though **volatile**, **was** under control. And then came the Hamas attack, **reminiscent** of the 1973 Yom Kippur war when Egypt and Syria shook Israel. **Hamas**, an Islamist militant organisation that **carried out** suicide attacks in the 1990s and early 2000s, **showed** no **distinction** between civilians and soldiers, **dealing the bloodiest blow to** Israel in recent history.

The attack raises moral and **pragmatic** questions. Hamas's **indiscriminate violence** against Israeli civilians **is repugnant** and is not going to help the Palestinian cause in any way. **On the contrary**, it will put more Palestinian lives at risk as Israel, equally **disregarding** civilian **casualties**, is **pounding** the **besieged enclave**. But at the same time, **Palestinian territories**, **under the yoke** of the longest occupation in modern history, **have** been a **fuming volcano**. There is no peace process. Israel has continued to build **settlements** in the West Bank, raising security barriers and checkpoints, **limiting** Palestinian movements, and never hesitating to use force or **collective punishment** to **keep** organised Palestinians **under check**. This **status quo** has only turned Palestinians more **radical** and Hamas even stronger. Israel has now declared war. But past **attacks** — ground **invasions** and air strikes — **have** done little to weaken Hamas. West Asia has also **witnessed geopolitical realignments** in recent years — from the Israel-Arab **reconciliation** to the Iran-Saudi **détente**. But these changes have **conveniently sidestepped** the occupation of Palestine, West Asia's original sin, **letting** the status quo **prevail**. But the status quo cannot prevail without consequences. If Israel and other regional and international players want lasting peace and stability in the region, their focus must turn to finding a solution to the question of Palestine. **The military operations** without **addressing** the **core** issue **would** only be **cosmetic** interventions.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sin** (noun) – misdemeanor, wrongdoing, transgression, iniquity, misdeed पाप
2. **Occupation** (noun) – annexation, conquest, takeover, seizure, possession कब्जा
3. **Lasting** (adjective) – enduring, permanent, long-term, stable, persistent स्थायी
4. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – unparalleled, unheard-of, unique, novel, unmatched अभूतपूर्व
5. **Unsustainability** (noun) – unviability, impracticability, non-viability अस्थिरता
6. **Blockade** (verb) – barricade, seal off, enclose, obstruct नाकाबंदी करना
7. **Non-state** (adjective) – non-governmental, unofficial, informal गैर-सरकारी
8. **Actor** (noun) – participant, player, agent, operative, doer कार्यकर्ता
9. **Pose** (verb) – present, constitute, create, represent खड़ा करना (चुनौती)
10. **Flare** (verb) – (of a situation) suddenly become intense or violent. उग्र होना
11. **Coordinated** (adjective) – organized, synchronized, integrated, structured समन्वित
12. **Lethal** (adjective) – deadly, fatal, mortal, killer घातक
13. **Incursion** (noun) – invasion, intrusion, raid, infringement हमला
14. **The West Bank** (noun) – A landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan and the Dead Sea to the east and by Israel to the south, west, and north.
15. **Overhaul** (noun) – makeover, revamp, reform, renovation सुधार
16. **Stable** (adjective) – steady, secure, unchanging, constant स्थिर
17. **Instability** (noun) – unpredictability, unreliability, inconsistency अस्थिरता
18. **Volatile** (adjective) – unpredictable, changeable, variable, erratic अस्थिर
19. **Reminiscent** (adjective) – evocative, suggestive, reminiscent of, indicative of याद दिलाने वाला
20. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – execute, perform, accomplish, implement अंजाम देना
21. **Distinction** (noun) – difference, differentiation, contrast, variance अंतर
22. **Deal blow to** (phrase) – harm, damage, hurt, impair नुकसान पहुंचाना
23. **Bloodiest** (adjective) – most violent, most brutal, most savage सबसे खूनी

24. **Pragmatic** (adjective) – practical, realistic, sensible, down-to-earth व्यावहारिक
25. **Indiscriminate** (adjective) – random, haphazard, unselective, non-selective अंधाधुंध
26. **Repugnant** (adjective) – offensive, revolting, repellent, disgusting, repulsive घिनौना
27. **On the contrary** (phrase) – in opposition, contrarily, oppositely विपरीत में
28. **Disregard** (verb) – ignore, overlook, neglect, bypass अवज्ञा करना
29. **Casualty** (noun) – victim, fatality, mortality, injured person घायल व्यक्ति
30. **Pound** (verb) – hammer, batter, beat, pummel पर हमला करना
31. **Besieged** (adjective) – surrounded, encircled, under siege घेरा हुआ
32. **Enclave** (noun) – territory, sector, region क्षेत्र
33. **Under the yoke** (phrase) – in subjugation, oppressed, dominated अधीनता में
34. **Fuming** (adjective) – raging, infuriated, seething क्रोधित
35. **Settlement** (noun) – colony, outpost, establishment बस्ती
36. **Limit** (verb) – restrict, confine, restrain सीमित करना
37. **Collective punishment** (noun) – group penalty सामूहिक दंड
38. **Keep something under check** (phrase) – control, regulate, restrain नियंत्रण में रखना
39. **Status quo** (noun) – existing state, current situation, present state यथास्थिति
40. **Radical** (adjective) – extreme, revolutionary, extremist उग्र
41. **Invasion** (noun) – incursion, assault, attack आक्रमण
42. **Witness** (verb) – observe, see, behold देखना
43. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to politics influenced by geographic factors भू-राजनीतिक
44. **Realignment** (noun) – repositioning, rearrangement, shift पुनर्संरक्षण
45. **Reconciliation** (noun) – resolution, settlement, compromise सुलह
46. **Détente** (noun) – Easing of tension, relaxation, lessening of hostility, truce शांति बनाए रखना
47. **Conveniently** (adverb) – suitably, advantageously, appropriately सुविधाजनक रूप से
48. **Sidestep** (verb) – avoid, evade, bypass टालना
49. **Let** (verb) – allow, permit, enable होने देना

50. **Prevail** (verb) – Exist, reign, be present मौजूद
होना

51. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, manage,
handle, confront सुलझाना, निपटाना

52. **Core** (adjective) – central, main, primary
मुख्य

53. **Cosmetic** (adjective) – superficial, surface,
skin-deep बाहरी

Summary of the Editorial

1. Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, resulting in 700 casualties.
2. The attack emphasized the volatile situation in the occupied and blockaded Palestinian territories.
3. Tensions have been rising in the West Bank, with violence occurring daily.
4. Prior to the recent attack, 200 Palestinians and 30 Israelis were killed in this year alone.
5. The Netanyahu government overlooked the increasing violence, focusing instead on internal policies like overhauling the judiciary.
6. Israel's military perceived the situation in Gaza as manageable, terming it “stable instability”.
7. The sudden Hamas attack recalls the unexpected nature of the 1973 Yom Kippur war.
8. Hamas’s use of violence, without distinction between civilians and soldiers, is deeply concerning.
9. The attack prompts both moral and pragmatic concerns, questioning the efficacy and morality of such violence.
10. While Hamas's actions are reprehensible, the Israeli occupation and suppression have contributed to growing radicalization.
11. Israel's counter-actions, often equally disregarding of civilian life, further exacerbate the situation.
12. Previous Israeli military efforts have failed to weaken Hamas substantially.
13. Recent geopolitical shifts in West Asia, such as Israel-Arab reconciliation and Iran-Saudi détente, have overlooked the core issue of Palestine's occupation.
14. The status quo, if maintained, will inevitably result in further consequences.
15. Lasting peace in the region requires addressing the fundamental issue of the Palestinian occupation, rather than mere military interventions.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following best captures the Israeli military's perception of the situation in Gaza before the Hamas attack?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The situation in Gaza was highly unstable and unpredictable.
 - B. Gaza was on the brink of a major attack.
 - C. The situation in Gaza was described as "stable instability," meaning volatile yet under control.
 - D. The Israeli military had no indication of any threat from Gaza.
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements is true regarding the Palestinian territories?**
 - A. The Palestinian territories have witnessed peace and stability for the last few years.
 - B. Israel has been supportive of the Palestinian movement, with no usage of force.
 - C. The Palestinian territories have been described as a "fuming volcano," signifying a buildup of tension.
 - D. Israel has halted all construction activities in the West Bank.
3. **Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage concerning the solution for lasting peace in West Asia?**
 - A. The military operations will suffice to ensure peace and stability.
 - B. Focusing on ground invasions and air strikes is the best approach to deal with Hamas.
 - C. West Asia's geopolitical realignments have successfully addressed the issue of the occupation of Palestine.
 - D. To ensure lasting peace, there must be a shift in focus towards finding a solution to the Palestine issue.
4. **Based on the second paragraph, which of the following best describes the tone?**
 - A. Neutral and Observational
 - B. Sympathetic towards Israel
 - C. Sympathetic towards Hamas
 - D. Critical and Concerned
5. **Based on the passage, what is the main theme?**
 - A. The historical account of Hamas's attacks on Israel
 - B. The unsustainability of the status quo in Palestine and the need for a comprehensive solution
 - C. The military prowess of Israel
 - D. The geopolitical realignments in West Asia
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. The Unlock 4 guidelines of the Home Ministry allowing all but a few activities that attract large crowds, with supportive measures by States, reflect deep economic distress

- B. India resorted to the world's most rigorous lockdown early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, when infection spread had just begun; there were just over 600 cases on March 25. It has now liberalised most activities, restricting only those that witness gatherings in excess of 100 people
- C. This comes at a time when daily infections are scaling new highs — 78,512 on Monday — and growing at a rate faster than in the U.S. and Brazil, which have held the top spots globally
- D. Resumption of economic activity, including Metro and other public transport services, will ease the pain for many, and prevent a further precipitous decline in earnings and spending, but if it is not accompanied by rigorous infection control, a major public health penalty could lie ahead
- E. Successful unlocking requires enabling movement, including international travel, within a scientific regime of identification, testing and inexpensive quarantine where needed. When the pandemic was unfolding, a major concern was that of a wildfire spread overwhelming a lopsided health-care system, in which intensive care is meagre, urban-centric and expensive even for the middle class
- A. DACBE
B. CBADE
C. BDACE
D. ABCDE
7. **Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**
1. By upholding notifications intending to acquire agricultural land for the proposed Chennai-Salem greenfield highway, the Supreme Court has both paved the way for completing the land acquisition process and sought to ensure that environmental clearances are obtained before its construction
- A. It would be at the stage of entertaining objections that questions such as whether the project was truly a 'public purpose' could be dealt with. However, the land could be taken over and construction begun only after the competent authorities give their clearances, along with measures for mitigating and remedying possible environmental damage
- B. It has ruled that it will be premature to expect the authorities to obtain environmental approvals at the stage of identifying the land linked to the proposed alignment of a highway, but, once the land was notified for acquisition and surveyed for feasibility, they would have to apply for all statutory clearances
- C. The High Court had shown greater sensitivity to possible livelihood and ecological concerns.
- D. The judgment of the Madras High Court, which had taken a nuanced position in favour of environmental protection, agriculture and preservation of rural livelihoods over the economic benefits of a new highway on virgin land, has been set aside in the process.

2. It had favoured early judicial intervention, relying on judgments from the U.S. that spoke out against letting projects advance to such a stage that there is irreversible commitment of resources.
- A. DACB
 - B. CABD
 - C. BADC
 - D. ABCD
8. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, who has been in the forefront of public communication on all matters COVID-19, described the ongoing situation as going from “bad to worse”. The Health Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan, has also reiterated in the last two weeks that urgent action must be taken. On March 1, concerns of a spike were still on the horizon.
 - B. What is apparent is that the States registering a high number of cases — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh — are also those where many are signing up for their first dose. A notable exception is Punjab. The government is also bearing down on local vaccine companies to prioritise delivery to India over their international commitments as several other vaccine candidates line up emergency approvals from regulators. So, vaccine hesitancy is not India’s most pressing problem.
 - C. In a month, however, the situation appears catastrophic. The number of new active cases added on March 1, around 3,000, has now become nearly nine-fold. Daily deaths too have, in that interval, skyrocketed three-fold — from around 112 to 354. As of this month, India has administered nearly 6.3 crore doses of Covaxin and Covishield and since March 20, has been inoculating a little over 2 million every day.
 - D. The rise in COVID-19 cases as part of India’s ‘second wave’ has the government and public health authorities truly worried. In many ways, the concern is larger than during last year when there were several more cases.
- A. ABCD
 - B. CBDA
 - C. DABC
 - D. DACB
9. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Treble
 - B. Nozzle
 - C. Allmost
 - D. Moisture
10. **Identify the option that defines the homonyms 'gate' and 'gait' most appropriately.**
- A. Gate means to achieve or receive, and gait means a person's manner of walking.
 - B. Gate means a hinged barrier used to close an opening in a wall, fence or hedge, and gait means a person's manner of walking.

- C. Gate means general agreement on tariff and excise, and gait means a person's manner of talking.
- D. Gate means a hinged barrier used to close an opening in a wall or fence, and gait means a cloth or leather leg covering reaching from the instep to above the ankle or to the mid-calf or knee.
11. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
- She was waiting for a opportunity to start her own business.
- A. own business
- B. to start her
- C. for a opportunity
- D. She was waiting
12. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
- The players distributed the reward between themselves
- A. between them
- B. among themselves
- C. between their selves
- D. amongst their self
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A.** It was the night before the day fixed for his coronation, and the young King was sitting alone in his beautiful chamber.
- B.** And, indeed, it was the hunters who had found him, coming upon him almost by chance as, bare-limbed and pipe in hand, he was following the flock of the poor goat herd who had brought him up, and whose son he had always fancied himself to be.
- C.** The lad-for he was only a lad, being but sixteen years of age-was not sorry at their departure, and had flung himself back with a deep sigh of relief on the soft cushions of his embroidered couch, lying there, wild-eyed and open-mouthed, like a brown woodland Faun, or some young animal of the forest newly snared by the hunters.
- D.** His courtiers had all taken their leave of him, bowing their heads to the ground, according to the ceremonious usage of the day, and had retired to the Great Hall of the Palace, to receive a few last lessons from the Professor of Etiquette; there being some of them who had still quite natural manners, which in a courtier is, I need hardly say, a very grave offence.
- A. ADCB
- B. CBDA
- C. ACDB
- D. CDBA

14. **Parts of the following sentence have been underlined and given as options. Select the option that contains a spelling error.**

If more is desired than the instantaneous impact on the mind, the advertising value of the poster falls sharply, within limits of outdoor publicity, however it is at present unchallenged.

- A. unchallenged
 - B. instantanious
 - C. desired
 - D. Advertising
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

Wedding invitations will be sent by them.

- A. They will be sent wedding invitations.
 - B. He will sent wedding invitations.
 - C. They will send wedding invitations.
 - D. He will be send wedding invitations.
16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

Her room looks very messy.

- A. Untidy
 - B. Chaotic
 - C. Disordered
 - D. Organised
17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

A perfect storm

- A. Pretty good judgement
 - B. Healing from trauma
 - C. The worst possible situation
 - D. Appropriate for all occasions
18. **Select the sentence that has the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Bad blood

- A. She is so scared of cockroaches that she fainted when she saw them crawling near her foot.
 - B. The doctor dropped the bad news to Ravi as he was suffering from a serious disease.
 - C. The gangster had some bitter relations with a local activist so he warned him to stay out of his business.
 - D. Sushant always gets in trouble for telling lies but he never learns anything.
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.**

After my first visit to Boston, I spent almost every winter in the North. Once I went on a visit to a New England village with its frozen lakes and vast snow fields.

- A. minimal
- B. shallow

- C. extensive
- D. solid

20. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Hardly we had boarded the train when it started to move.

- A. will we boarded
- B. we are boarded
- C. is we boarded
- D. had we boarded

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The basic elements of computers that (1) _____ our world are explained in an interactive manner. The book has a (2) _____ approach of colourful and creative picture-based activities. The puzzles, activities and mazes (3) _____ the students to develop critical thinking, logical and motor skills. After every lesson, (4) _____ exercises are incorporated to (5) _____ the conceptual understanding of the students.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. empower
- B. negate
- C. empowers
- D. Negates

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. difficult
- B. complex
- C. trivial
- D. Unique

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. help
- B. helped
- C. helps
- D. had helped

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. brainstorming
- B. superficial
- C. baffling
- D. Irrational

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. evolving

- B. evolved
- C. evolution
- D. evolve

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. C) The passage states that "The Israeli military described the situation in Gaza as "stable instability", noting that the situation, though volatile, was under control." This indicates that option C is the most accurate representation of the Israeli military's perception.
2. C) The passage mentions, "But at the same time, Palestinian territories, under the yoke of the longest occupation in modern history, have been a fuming volcano." This makes option C the correct choice.
3. D) The passage emphasizes, "If Israel and other regional and international players want lasting peace and stability in the region, their focus must turn to finding a solution to the question of Palestine." This makes option D the most accurate conclusion based on the passage.
4. D) The tone of the second paragraph is critical and concerned. The paragraph starts by highlighting the repugnant nature of Hamas's actions but then goes on to shed light on the difficult conditions under which the Palestinian territories operate. It points out the lack of a peace process, the construction of Israeli settlements, the restriction of Palestinian movements, and the frequent use of force. The repeated mention of these factors indicates concern about the ongoing situation. The paragraph also critiques the negligence of the core issue by various geopolitical changes, showcasing a critical stance towards the current handling of the situation.
5. B) The passage underscores the urgency of addressing the volatile situation in Palestine, citing the surprising and deadly attack by Hamas as a symptom of a much deeper issue. It highlights the ongoing violence, the lack of peace processes, the continued construction of Israeli settlements, and the overall neglect of the core issue of Palestine's occupation. By describing the status quo as unsustainable and by emphasizing the need to address the "question of Palestine", the main theme revolves around the unsustainable nature of the current situation and the importance of finding a lasting solution.
6. D) **ABCDE**
 - Sentence A: It introduces the topic about the "Unlock 4 guidelines" and how they have been implemented reflecting the economic distress.
 - Sentence B: Provides context to why the Unlock 4 guidelines were needed by explaining the initial strict lockdown measures that India undertook early in the pandemic and how it has now shifted its stance.
 - Sentence C: Presents the current scenario, indicating that even as the country is opening up, the infections are at their peak, which creates contrast and tension.
 - Sentence D: Discusses the consequences and benefits of the resumption of economic activity, shedding light on the immediate benefits and potential risks.

- Sentence E: Outlines the requirements for a successful reopening (or unlocking) and revisits the concerns from earlier in the pandemic, tying together the full implications and challenges of the Unlock 4 guidelines.
7. C) **BADC**
- B.** "It has ruled that it will be premature to expect the authorities to obtain environmental approvals at the stage of identifying the land linked to the proposed alignment of a highway, but, once the land was notified for acquisition and surveyed for feasibility, they would have to apply for all statutory clearances."
- This sentence is a continuation from the introduction. The Supreme Court has given a ruling and this sentence gives a detailed explanation of that ruling. This is why B should come after the introductory sentence.
- A.** "It would be at the stage of entertaining objections that questions such as whether the project was truly a 'public purpose' could be dealt with. However, the land could be taken over and construction begun only after the competent authorities give their clearances, along with measures for mitigating and remedying possible environmental damage."
- A provides further information about the timing of certain actions after land has been notified for acquisition. It flows naturally from B, which discussed the same topic of statutory clearances.
- D.** "The judgment of the Madras High Court, which had taken a nuanced position in favour of environmental protection, agriculture and preservation of rural livelihoods over the economic benefits of a new highway on virgin land, has been set aside in the process."
- D brings in a contrast, referencing the Madras High Court's earlier judgment, which was in favour of environmental protection.
- C.** "The High Court had shown greater sensitivity to possible livelihood and ecological concerns."
- C continues the context set by D, further explaining the position of the High Court in relation to environmental concerns.
8. D) **DACB**
- D.** "The rise in COVID-19 cases as part of India's 'second wave' has the government and public health authorities truly worried. In many ways, the concern is larger than during last year when there were several more cases."
- Introduces the main topic of the paragraph, which is the concern about the rise in COVID-19 cases as a part of India's second wave.
- A.** "V.K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, who has been in the forefront of public communication on all matters COVID-19, described the ongoing situation as going from "bad to worse". The Health Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan, has also reiterated in the last two weeks that urgent action must be taken. On March 1, concerns of a spike were still on the horizon."
- Expands on the concern introduced in D by quoting authorities on the severity of the situation. It also gives a temporal cue with "On March 1."

C. "In a month, however, the situation appears catastrophic. The number of new active cases added on March 1, around 3,000, has now become nearly nine-fold. Daily deaths too have, in that interval, skyrocketed three-fold — from around 112 to 354. As of this month, India has administered nearly 6.3 crore doses of Covaxin and Covishield and since March 20, has been inoculating a little over 2 million every day."

- Builds upon the situation described in A by elaborating on how it worsened over a month. The reference to "March 1" creates a temporal connection between A and C.

B. "What is apparent is that the States registering a high number of cases — Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh — are also those where many are signing up for their first dose. A notable exception is Punjab. The government is also bearing down on local vaccine companies to prioritise delivery to India over their international commitments as several other vaccine candidates line up emergency approvals from regulators. So, vaccine hesitancy is not India's most pressing problem."

- Focuses on the distribution of the vaccine and the specific states registering a high number of cases. This sentence is slightly more detailed and specific compared to the general context set by the previous sentences.

9. C) The incorrectly spelled word is 'Allmost'. The correct spelling is 'Almost', which means "nearly; very nearly" लगभग, करीब करीब.

10. B) 'gate' का अर्थ है एक ढक्कन, जो दीवार, बाड़, या झील में एक खुलाव को बंद करने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है, और 'gait' का अर्थ है व्यक्ति की चाल का तरीका। इसलिए, 'Gate' means a hinged barrier used to close an opening in a wall, fence or hedge, and 'gait' means a person's manner of walking.

11. C) 'a opportunity' के बदले '**an opportunity**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'opportunity' शब्द vowel (vowel) sound से शुरू होता है, और जब भी कोई शब्द vowel sound से शुरू होता है, तो 'an' का प्रयोग करते हैं; जैसे— She was waiting for an opportunity to start her own business.

- '**an opportunity**' will be used instead of 'a opportunity' because the word 'opportunity' starts with a vowel sound, and when a word starts with a vowel sound, 'an' is used; Like— She was waiting for an opportunity to start her own business.

12. B) 'between themselves' के बदले '**among themselves**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'between' दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच में संबंध को दर्शाने के लिए प्रयोग होता है, जबकि 'among' तीन या उससे अधिक व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं के बीच में संबंध को दर्शाता है। यहाँ पर 'players' बहुसंख्यक हैं, इसलिए '**among**' का प्रयोग सही है; जैसे— The rewards were distributed among the players.

- '**among themselves**' will be used instead of 'between themselves' because 'between' is used to indicate a relationship between two people or things, while 'among' is used to

indicate a relationship between three or more people or things. Here, 'players' are in plural, hence 'among' is the correct usage; Like— The rewards were distributed among the players.

13. A) **ADCB**

It was the night before the day fixed for his coronation, and the young King was sitting alone in his beautiful chamber. His courtiers had all taken their leave of him, bowing their heads to the ground, according to the ceremonious usage of the day, and had retired to the Great Hall of the Palace, to receive a few last lessons from the Professor of Etiquette; there being some of them who had still quite natural manners, which in a courtier is, I need hardly say, a very grave offence. The lad—for he was only a lad, being but sixteen years of age—was not sorry at their departure, and had flung himself back with a deep sigh of relief on the soft cushions of his embroidered couch, lying there, wild-eyed and open-mouthed, like a brown woodland Faun, or some young animal of the forest newly snared by the hunters. And, indeed, it was the hunters who had found him, coming upon him almost by chance as, bare-limbed and pipe in hand, he was following the flock of the poor goat herd who had brought him up, and whose son he had always fancied himself to be.

14. B) 'instantaneous' की जगह '**instantaneous**' होना चाहिए, क्योंकि 'instantaneous' गलत spelling (spelling) है। सही spelling '**instantaneous**' है, जिसका अर्थ होता है 'तुरंत होने वाला' या 'शीघ्र'.

- 'instantaneous' will be used instead of 'instantaneous' because 'instantaneous' is a spelling error. The correct spelling is 'instantaneous', which means occurring or done in an instant or instantly.

15. C) They will send wedding invitations

16. D) **Messy** (adjective) – Disordered, cluttered, untidy, chaotic. अव्यवस्थित

Antonym: Organised (adjective) – Arranged in a systematic way, orderly, neat, tidy. व्यवस्थित

- **Untidy** (adjective) – Not arranged neatly and in order, messy, cluttered. असुव्यवस्थित
- **Chaotic** (adjective) – Completely disordered and confused, disorganized, anarchic. अराजक
- **Disordered** (adjective) – Lacking organization; untidy, chaotic, confused. अव्यवस्थित

17. C) **perfect storm** (idiom) – The worst possible situation सबसे खराब संभावित स्थिति

18. C) **Bad blood** (idiom) – Bitter relations between people कट्टर दुश्मनी

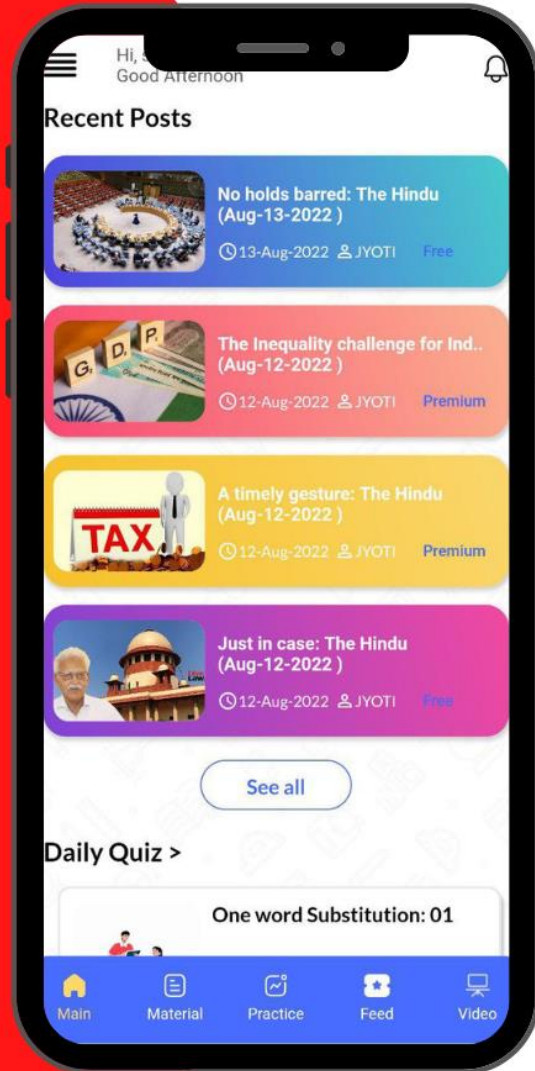
19. C) **Vast** (adjective) – Of very great extent or quantity; immense. विशाल

Synonym: Extensive (adjective) – Covering or affecting a large area; wide-ranging. व्यापक

- **Minimal** (adjective) – Of a minimum amount, quantity, or degree; negligible. न्यूनतम
- **Shallow** (adjective) – Of little depth; not deep. उथला

- **Solid** (adjective) – Firm and stable in shape; not liquid or fluid. ठोस
20. D) '**had we boarded**' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'Hardly' से शुरू होने वाले वाक्यों में inversion का प्रयोग होता है, जिसमें helping verb subject के पहले आती है; जैसे— Hardly had we boarded the train when it started to move.
- 'had we boarded' will be used because in sentences beginning with 'Hardly', inversion is used, where the helping verb comes before the subject; Like— Hardly had we boarded the train when it started to move.
21. A) 'Empower' should be used because the subject "The basic elements of computers" is plural, thus requiring a plural verb. Whereas 'Negate' means to deny or contradict, which doesn't fit in this context.
- 'Empower' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "empower" का अर्थ होता है शक्ति प्रदान करना या सक्षम करना। जबकि 'Empowers' सिंगुलर रूप में है और इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है, 'Negate' का अर्थ है नकारना या अस्वीकार करना, और 'Negates' भी इसी अर्थ को दर्शाता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
22. D) **Unique**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "unique" का अर्थ होता है अद्वितीय या अनूठा। इस पैसेज में बताया गया है कि किताब में रंगीन और रचनात्मक चित्र-आधारित गतिविधियों का एक अनूठा दृष्टिकोण है। जबकि 'Difficult' का अर्थ है कठिन, 'Complex' का अर्थ है जटिल, और 'Trivial' का अर्थ है तुच्छ या महत्वहीन, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- '**Unique**' should be used because it means being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. In this passage, it is mentioned that the book has a unique approach of colourful and creative picture-based activities. Whereas, 'Difficult' means hard to do, 'Complex' means having many related parts, and 'Trivial' means of little value or importance, which don't fit in this context.
23. A) 'Help' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य present tense में है और दिए गए वाक्य का subject (i.e. The puzzles, activities and mazes) plural है, जिसके लिए plural verb का प्रयोग होना चाहिए। इसलिए, उपलब्ध विकल्पों में से केवल विकल्प A सही है।
- 'Help' should be used because the tense is in the present and the subject of the given sentence (i.e. The puzzles, activities, and mazes) is plural, which requires a plural verb. Thus, the only appropriate choice among the available options is A.
24. A) 'Brainstorming' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "brainstorming" का अर्थ होता है विचार संचार या नई आइडियाँ जन्माना। जबकि 'Superficial' का अर्थ है उपरी या सतही, 'Baffling' का अर्थ है उलझन में डाल देना, और 'Irrational' का अर्थ है अतर्कसंगत, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Brainstorming' should be used because it means generating new ideas or discussions. Whereas, 'Superficial' means surface-level or shallow, 'Baffling' means to confuse, and 'Irrational' means illogical, which don't fit in this context.
25. D) 'Evolve' should be used because the infinitive form (i.e., "to" + V1) is required here. Whereas, 'Evolving' means it is in the process of developing, 'Evolution' denotes development or a process, and 'Evolved' means it has already developed, which don't fit in this context.



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