

Widening divide: On how little has changed in Manipur

Peace in Manipur cannot be restored by half-measures

Six months after a violent **conflagration set in motion** an **ethnic** conflict in Manipur, little has changed in **bridging the divide** between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities and in reducing the **hostility**. Every few days there is a violent **occurrence** or a **provocative** move from **partisans** on either side of the conflict, which **heightens** tensions and widens the divide even further with nothing being done to reverse the course and bring back **normalcy** to areas most **prone to** violence. The **announcement**, on Wednesday, by the **Indigenous** Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), which represents Kuki-Zo groups, that it is **pursuing** “self-rule” with a separate “chief minister” in districts dominated by the tribal community, **points to** yet another hardening of **stances** that has **prolonged** the conflict. Such a **move**, which has no legal basis, **is** also **bound to enrage** Meiteis, especially those whose key **grievances** include the special land ownership rights to tribals in the State’s hill districts. **That** the announcement came just a week after an Intelligence Bureau team and Ministry of Home Affairs officials held meetings in Churachandpur **is** an indication that the Union government is **losing the plot** in Manipur. The government has tried to keep a **tenuous** peace **going by** not **enacting** any change in the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State government even after its failures in maintaining law and order. A leadership change has been a key demand by the Kuki-Zo community representatives besides others. The Union government has **meanwhile relied upon** paramilitary forces to **quell** the violence in areas **adjoining** the Imphal valley and the hill areas. It has **taken a recourse to** provisions of Article 355 to maintain peace, despite denying its **imposition** in the State.

This **ploy** has **ostensibly** been **undertaken** to retain the support of Meitei partisans who have refused to allow any change of leadership in the State government and also to **address** the Kuki-Zo people’s **distrust** of the State police. Yet, the **outcome** has been a sharpening of the divide with partisans on either side **raging** against these half-measures. In the absence of a clear **détente** and the beginning of a dialogue process to rebuild an **enduring** peace and **fraternal** relations between the communities that would **facilitate** the return of people, even **sporadic** incidents have **exacerbated** the situation, making peace-building **daunting**. Unless the BJP’s central leadership changes its **stubborn** strategy of maintaining a **discreet** silence while using administrative ploys to **contain** the conflict, the **festering** in Manipur **is** bound to continue. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Indigenous** (adjective) – Native, local, domestic, autochthonous, endemic स्वदेशी
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Widen** (verb) – Expand, broaden, enlarge, stretch, extend **विस्तार करना**
2. **Restore** (verb) – Reestablish, rejuvenate, renew, revive, reinstate **पुनर्स्थापित करना**
3. **Half-measure** (noun) – Incomplete solution, partial measure, halfway effort, insufficient step, makeshift arrangement **आधा-अधूरा उपाय**
4. **Conflagration** (noun) – Large fire, blaze, inferno, holocaust, bonfire **विशाल आग**
5. **Set in motion** (phrase) – Initiate, start, trigger, activate, commence **शुरु करना**
6. **Ethnic** (adjective) – Racial, cultural, tribal, ethnological, ancestral **जातीय**
7. **Bridge the divide** (phrase) – Overcome differences, reconcile, unite, connect, close the gap **मतभेदों को कम करना**
8. **Hostility** (noun) – Aggression, antagonism, enmity, animosity, opposition **शत्रुता**
9. **Occurrence** (noun) – Event, incident, happening, situation, episode **घटना**
10. **Provocative** (adjective) – Inciting, stimulating, aggravating, inflammatory, instigative **उकसाने वाला**
11. **Partisan** (noun) – Supporter, follower, advocate, enthusiast, adherent **समर्थक**
12. **Heighten** (verb) – Intensify, increase, amplify, escalate, magnify **बढ़ाना**
13. **Normalcy** (noun) – Normality, regularity, ordinariness, usualness, standard condition **सामान्य स्थिति**
14. **Prone** (to) (adjective) – Susceptible, liable, inclined, predisposed, vulnerable **प्रवृत्त होना**
15. **Pursue** (verb) – Follow, chase, seek, strive for, go after **पीछा करना**
16. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signify, denote, imply **संकेत करना**
17. **Stance** (noun) – Position, standpoint, attitude, posture, approach **दृष्टिकोण**
18. **Prolong** (verb) – Extend, lengthen, continue, stretch out, protract **लम्बा करना**
19. **Bound** (to) (adjective) – very likely to do something **बहुत संभावना है**
20. **Enrage** (verb) – Anger, infuriate, incense, madden, provoke **क्रोधित करना**
21. **Grievance** (noun) – Complaint, problem, objection, issue, discontent **शिकायत**
22. **Lose the plot** (phrase) – Become confused, lose focus, stray from the point, miss the main issue, get sidetracked **मुख्य बिंदु से भटकना; भ्रमित हो जाना**

23. **Tenuous** (adjective) – Weak, insubstantial, flimsy, fragile, slight कमजोर
24. **Go by** (phrasal verb) – to base an opinion, decision, or judgment on something
25. **Enact** (verb) – Legislate, decree, pass, establish, implement पारित करना
26. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – Interim, meantime, during this time, concurrently, simultaneously इस बीच
27. **Rely** (upon/on) (verb) – Depend on, trust in, count on, bank on, lean on निर्भर करना
28. **Quell** (verb) – Suppress, subdue, put down, extinguish, crush शांत करना, कुचलना
29. **Adjoin** (verb) – Abut, border, neighbor, attach, butt सटना; जुड़ा होना
30. **Take a recourse to** (phrase) – Resort to, turn to, make use of, employ, utilize सहारा लेना
31. **Imposition** (noun) – Enforcement, infliction, introduction, levy, institution थोपना
32. **Ploy** (noun) – Maneuver, tactic, strategy, ruse, trick चाल
33. **Ostensibly** (adverb) – Apparently, seemingly, on the surface, outwardly, superficially प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
34. **Undertake** (verb) – Embark on, engage in, commence, initiate, start आरंभ करना
35. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, attend to, concentrate on, focus on निपटना
36. **Distrust** (noun) – Suspicion, mistrust, doubt, skepticism, disbelief अविश्वास
37. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, upshot, aftermath, effect परिणाम
38. **Rage** (verb) – Fume, storm, seethe, boil, bristle क्रोध करना
39. **Détente** (noun) – Easing of tension, thawing, relaxation, rapprochement, reconciliation शांति बनाए रखना
40. **Enduring** (adjective) – Lasting, durable, long-lasting, abiding, permanent स्थायी
41. **Fraternal** (adjective) – Brotherly, congenial, amicable, friendly, cordial भाई जैसा
42. **Facilitate** (verb) – Ease, assist, help, aid, expedite सुगम बनाना
43. **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occasional, infrequent, irregular, periodic, scattered छिटपुट
44. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, increase, heighten बिगाड़ना
45. **Daunting** (adjective) – Intimidating, disconcerting, discouraging, formidable, dismaying भयभीत करने वाला

46. **Stubborn** (adjective) – Obstinate, unyielding, inflexible, intransigent, adamant अडियल

47. **Discreet** (adjective) – intentionally unobtrusive. विचारशील

48. **Contain** (verb) – Control, restrain, hold back, check, curb नियंत्रित करना

49. **Festering** (noun) – Rankling, smoldering, gnawing, irritation, bitterness बदतर होना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Persistent Ethnic Conflict:** Six months after a violent event, the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in Manipur remains unresolved.
2. **Regular Violence and Provocations:** Violent incidents and provocative actions continue, escalating tensions and widening the community divide.
3. **Self-Rule Announcement by ITLF:** The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), representing Kuki-Zo groups, declared their pursuit of "self-rule" with a separate "chief minister" in tribal-dominated districts, a move with no legal basis.
4. **Meitei Grievances Intensified:** This announcement has aggravated the Meiteis, especially regarding tribal land ownership rights in hill districts.
5. **Union Government's Apparent Misteps:** The announcement followed meetings with Intelligence Bureau and Ministry of Home Affairs officials, suggesting a failure of the Union government's strategies in Manipur.
6. **No Change in State Leadership:** Despite law and order challenges, there has been no leadership change in the BJP-led State government, contrary to demands by Kuki-Zo representatives.
7. **Use of Paramilitary Forces:** The Union government has deployed paramilitary forces in areas near Imphal and hill regions, while denying the imposition of Article 355.
8. **Balancing Meitei and Kuki-Zo Interests:** The government's approach seems to be aimed at maintaining Meitei support and addressing Kuki-Zo distrust of state police.
9. **Deepening Divides:** These measures have led to an increased divide, with both communities expressing dissatisfaction.
10. **Lack of Dialogue and Detente:** Absence of meaningful dialogue and steps towards peace have hindered the rebuilding of relations between the communities.
11. **Exacerbation by Sporadic Incidents:** Even minor incidents have worsened the situation, making peace-building efforts more challenging.
12. **BJP's Central Leadership's Role:** The editorial criticizes the BJP's central leadership for maintaining silence and relying on administrative tactics rather than addressing the root issues.
13. **Continued Unrest:** Without a change in strategy, the unrest in Manipur is likely to persist.
14. **Need for Leadership Change:** A key demand is the change in the State government leadership to address the crisis effectively.
15. **Strategic Stubbornness:** The central government's reluctance to openly address the conflict and its reliance on indirect methods is seen as a major obstacle to resolving the conflict.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Political leadership and governance
 - B. Ethnic conflict and division in Manipur
 - C. Economic development in Manipur
 - D. Cultural diversity in India
2. **What is the tone of the passage discussing the situation in Manipur?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Critical
 - D. Praise-worthy
3. **What can be inferred about the effectiveness of the Union government's approach to resolving the conflict in Manipur?**
 - A. The Union government's approach has been highly effective in maintaining peace.
 - B. The government's reliance on paramilitary forces and Article 355 suggests a temporary and forceful approach rather than a long-term solution.
 - C. The government's approach has led to the complete resolution of ethnic tensions.
 - D. The Union government's measures have increased the autonomy of local communities.
4. **Based on the passage, what is a likely consequence of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum's announcement for self-rule?**
 - A. It will likely bring an immediate end to the conflict.
 - B. It could further enrage the Meitei community and exacerbate tensions.
 - C. It will ensure legal recognition of the tribal community's demands.
 - D. The announcement will have no significant impact on the current situation.
5. **What strategy has been employed by the BJP's central leadership to manage the conflict in Manipur, as mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Openly negotiating with the Meitei partisans.
 - B. Maintaining a discreet silence and using administrative ploys.
 - C. Initiating a clear détente and dialogue process with Kuki-Zo people.
 - D. Completely changing the State government leadership.
6. **According to the passage, what sequence of events is exacerbating the situation in Manipur?**
 - A. Détente and dialogue → Partisan rage → Exacerbated situation.
 - B. Exacerbated situation → Half-measures by leadership → Partisan rage.
 - C. Partisan rage → Half-measures by leadership → Exacerbated situation.
 - D. Half-measures by leadership → Partisan rage → Exacerbated situation.
7. **In the passage, the word "conflagration" most nearly means:**
 - A. Agreement

- B. Fire
C. Resolution
D. Reconciliation
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. Political parties in India have traditionally been averse to any sort of public scrutiny
B. Of the sources and applications of their funds
C. These can only come from Big Business, and as a quid pro quo
D. The astronomical sums needed to finance their processes and operations cannot be raised from party cadres and altruistic donors
- A. BDAC
B. CABD
C. BCAD
D. ABDC
9. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
A person who conforms to accepted behaviour or established practices.
- A. Psychologist
B. Conformist
C. Socialist
D. Rebelist
10. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the following sentence.
The fields remained barren despite the efforts of the local administration and agricultural scientists.
- A. Sterile
B. Unforgiving
C. Damp
D. Fertile
11. Identity the correct spelling of the underlined word.
It is considered a great phenamina in the field of economics.
- A. phinomina
B. fenomena
C. phynamena
D. Phenomena
12. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Serendipity
- A. Tangibility
B. Misfortune
C. Permanency
D. Tranquillity
13. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Glad

- A. Jive
- B. Innocent
- C. Sad
- D. Haunt

14. 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 included a carbon tax on fossil fuels and incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt green practices.

B. The new policy aimed to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy sources.

C. However, supporters of the policy argued that it was necessary to address the urgent threat of climate change and create a sustainable future for the planet.

D. The policy faced opposition from some industries and political groups who argued that it would hurt the economy.

- A. BADC
- B. BCAD
- C. DABC
- D. DACB

15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the underlined segment.

The music filled the room with a lot of happiness, expressing joyful melodies that brought smiles to everyone's faces.

- A. surprise
- B. joy
- C. excitement
- D. Fear

16. Select the option that expresses the following sentence in active voice.

A play is being staged by our group this evening.

- A. A play staged our group this evening.
- B. Our group stages a play this evening.
- C. Our group is staging a play this evening.
- D. Our group staged a play this evening.

17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Grave

- A. Native
- B. Frivolous
- C. Foreign
- D. Serious

18. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.

The constitutional right to vote

- A. Franchise
- B. Polling
- C. Voting
- D. Buttoning

19. Select the most appropriate **idiom** for the given situation.

Aurangzeb, the famous Mughal ruler, found that he had caught someone more powerful than him in the form of the brave Maratha, Shivaji.

- A. Nipping in the bud
- B. Changing the hands
- C. Catching a tartar
- D. Blazing the trail

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

I don't think he can dance as wellest Elena.

- A. weller than
- B. wellest
- C. as well as
- D. well than

Comprehension

Mizoram, India's second least populated State, where civil society predominates politics like, arguably, no other in the country, is _____1_____ to see a three-cornered battle in the Assembly elections scheduled in November. Unlike other States, Mizoram's political contestation is less dependent on money and muscle power, as social service, public standing and the backing of religious and social organisations are key conditions for candidature. The ruling Mizo National Front has to _____2_____ not only with its traditional _____3_____, the Indian National Congress, but also the Zoram Peoples' Movement (ZPM), _____4_____ has presented it a tough challenge this time. It is also facing desertion from its ranks with the Speaker, Lalrinliana Sailo, _____5_____ the Bharatiya Janata Party. Chief Minister Zoramthanga, a seasoned leader of the formerly insurgent MNF, has played the ethnic card to win support from the Mizo electorate.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.

- A. Shrink
- B. Poised
- C. Contract
- D. Track

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.

- A. Bulwark
- B. Contend

- C. Outlook
- D. Potential

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.

- A. Certainty
- B. Footing
- C. Omnibus
- D. Rival

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.

- A. Whose
- B. Whom
- C. Who
- D. Which

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.

- A. Under a cloud
- B. Headwind
- C. latching on to
- D. Promise

Answers

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

Explanations

1. B) Ethnic conflict and division in Manipur

The main theme of the passage is the ongoing ethnic conflict and division in Manipur, particularly between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. The passage focuses on the complexities of the situation, including violent incidents, political decisions, and the government's efforts to manage the conflict, all of which revolve around the central issue of ethnic division and tension in the region.

2. C) Critical

The tone of the passage is critical. This is evident from the way the author describes the ongoing ethnic conflict, the lack of progress in resolving tensions, and the half-measures employed by the government. The use of phrases like "little has changed," "provocative move," and "losing the plot" underscores a tone of criticism towards the handling of the situation

3. B) The passage indicates that the Union government has relied on paramilitary forces and provisions of Article 355 to maintain peace, which suggests a more forceful and temporary approach rather than addressing the underlying causes of the conflict or working towards a sustainable resolution. Options A, C, and D are incorrect as the passage does not support these inferences; it suggests ongoing tensions and the ineffectiveness of the current approach.

4. B) The passage implies that the announcement for self-rule by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum, especially with no legal basis, is likely to enrage the Meitei community, whose grievances include special land ownership rights. This could potentially exacerbate the existing tensions. Options A, C, and D are incorrect as the passage does not suggest that the announcement would lead to an immediate end to the conflict, ensure legal recognition, or have no impact.

5. B) Maintaining a discreet silence and using administrative ploys.

The passage explicitly states that the BJP's central leadership has adopted a strategy of maintaining a discreet silence while employing administrative ploys to manage the conflict in Manipur. This strategy contrasts with initiating open negotiations, starting a clear détente and dialogue process, or changing the state government's leadership.

6. D) Half-measures by leadership → Partisan rage → Exacerbated situation.

The passage indicates that the leadership's half-measures, aimed at addressing the concerns of both the Meitei partisans and the Kuki-Zo people, have led to an increased divide and rage from partisans on both sides. This sequence of events, starting with the leadership's actions, followed by the partisan response, has further exacerbated the situation in Manipur.

7. B) Fire

"Conflagration" is used in the passage to describe a violent and intense conflict. In a broader context, it literally means a large, destructive fire.

8. D) ABDC

A: This sentence introduces the topic by mentioning the aversion of political parties in India towards public scrutiny.

B: This sentence adds detail to the topic introduced in Sentence A by specifying what the parties are averse to public scrutiny of: "the sources and applications of their funds." It logically follows Sentence A as it elaborates on the type of public scrutiny mentioned.

D: It explains why there might be aversion to scrutiny. The mention of "astronomical sums" needed for financing ties back to the scrutiny of funds mentioned in Sentence B. This sentence provides a reason for the aversion, making a logical progression from A to B to D.

C: It concludes the paragraph by explaining the source of these funds ("These" refers back to the "astronomical sums" in Sentence D). The pronoun "These" serves as a connector, linking back to the subject of financing in Sentence D.

9. B) **Conformist** (noun) – A person who conforms to accepted behaviour or established practices.

समानुशारी

- **Psychologist** (noun) – a professional or expert in the scientific study of the mind and its functions. मनोविज्ञानी
- **Socialist** (noun) – a person who advocates or practices socialism, a political and economic theory advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods. समाजवादी
- **Rebelist** (noun) – Though "Rebelist" is not a standard term in English, it could be inferred as someone who rebels or goes against the norm. विद्रोही

10. D) **Barren** (adjective) – Unproductive, infertile, unfruitful, sterile. बंजर

Antonym: Fertile (adjective) – Capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops, fruitful, productive. उपजाऊ

- **Sterile** (adjective) – Not able to produce children or young, infertile, barren. बाँझ
- **Unforgiving** (adjective) – Harsh, severe, relentless. कठोर, अक्षमाशील
- **Damp** (adjective) – Slightly wet, moist. गीला

11. D) The correct spelling of '**phenamina**' is 'Phenomena' which means "a fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen, especially one whose cause or explanation is in question." घटना, प्रकृति या विषेषता की एक विशेष तथ्य या उदाहरण.

12. B) **Serendipity** (noun) – The occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way, fortuitous, accidental luck. सौभाग्य

Antonym: Misfortune (noun) – Bad luck, bad fate, ill luck, disaster. दुर्भाग्य

- **Tangibility** (noun) – The quality of being perceptible by touch, palpability, touchableness. स्पर्शता

- **Permanency** (noun) – The state or quality of lasting or remaining unchanged indefinitely, stability, durability. स्थायीता
- **Tranquillity** (noun) – The quality or state of being tranquil, calmness, peace, quietness. शांति

13. C) **Glad** (adjective) – Feeling pleasure or happiness, joyful, delighted, pleased. खुशी

Antonym: **Sad** (adjective) – Feeling or showing sorrow, unhappy, sorrowful, downcast. उदास

- **Jive** (noun) – A lively style of dance or a type of music associated with it, often jazz. नृत्य
- **Innocent** (adjective) – Not guilty of a crime or offense, harmless, blameless. मासूम
- **Haunt** (verb) – To visit a place frequently, or to continually appear in the form of a ghost. परेशान करना

14. A) **BADC**

The new policy aimed to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy sources. It included a carbon tax on fossil fuels and incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt green practices. The policy faced opposition from some industries and political groups who argued that it would hurt the economy. However, supporters of the policy argued that it was necessary to address the urgent threat of climate change and create a sustainable future for the planet.

15. B) **Joy** (noun) – A feeling of great pleasure and happiness. आनंद

- **Surprise** (noun) – An unexpected or astonishing event, fact, or thing. अचानक परिस्थिति
- **Excitement** (noun) – A feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness. उत्साह
- **Fear** (noun) – An unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat. डर

16. C) Our group is staging a play this evening.

17. B) **Grave** (adjective) – Serious, solemn, somber, earnest. गंभीर

Antonym: **Frivolous** (adjective) – Not having any serious purpose or value, light-hearted, flippant.

हल्का

- **Native** (adjective) – Belonging to a particular place by birth, indigenous, local. स्वदेशी
- **Foreign** (adjective) – Of, from, or characteristic of a country or language other than one's own. विदेशी
- **Serious** (adjective) – Grave, solemn, earnest, grave. गंभीर

18. A) **Franchise** (noun) – The constitutional right to vote प्रतिष्ठानिक मताधिकार

- **Polling** (noun) – the recording of votes of a body of people
- **Voting** (noun) – the action or process of indicating choice or preference in an election मतदान

- **Buttoning** (noun) – The action of fastening something with buttons; not related to voting
बटन बंद करना

19. C) **Catching a tartar** (idiom) – To catch or confront someone who is unexpectedly troublesome or hard to manage.

- **Nipping in the bud** (idiom) – To suppress or destroy something in its early stages.
- **Changing the hands** (idiom) – This isn't a standard English idiom.
- **Blazing the trail** (idiom) – Being the first to do something and establishing a path for others to follow.

20. C) 'as well as' के बदले 'as well as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि संदर्भ में दो व्यक्तियों के बीच तुलना की जा रही है और यहाँ 'as well as' का प्रयोग सही है; जैसे— She sings as well as Alia.

- 'as well as' will be used instead of 'as well as' because a comparison is being made between two individuals and here 'as well as' is the correct usage; Like— She sings as well as Alia.

21. B) 'Poised' का use होगा क्योंकि 'poised' का अर्थ होता है किसी घटना या स्थिति के लिए तैयार या संतुलित होना। Sentence में उल्लेखित है कि Mizoram चुनावी मुकाबले के लिए तैयार है, इसलिए 'poised' यहाँ सही बैठता है। 'Shrink' का अर्थ है सिकुड़ना, 'Contract' का अर्थ है संकुचित होना, और 'Track' का अर्थ है पथ या मार्ग, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Poised' should be used because it means ready or balanced for a particular situation or event. The sentence implies that Mizoram is ready for the electoral battle, making 'poised' the correct choice here. 'Shrink' means to reduce in size, 'Contract' means to decrease in size, and 'Track' means a path or course, none of which fit appropriately in this context

22. B) 'Contend' का use होगा क्योंकि "contend" का अर्थ होता है किसी चुनौती या प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करना। इस sentence में उल्लेख किया गया है कि Mizo National Front को अपने प्रतिद्वंद्वियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जो 'contend' के अर्थ के अनुरूप है। दूसरी ओर, 'Bulwark' का अर्थ होता है सुरक्षा प्रदान करना, 'Outlook' का अर्थ है दृष्टिकोण या नजरिया, और 'Potential' का अर्थ है संभावना या क्षमता, जो इस context में सही नहीं बैठते।

- 'Contend' should be used because it means to face or deal with challenges or competition. The sentence indicates that the Mizo National Front has to face its competitors, aligning with the meaning of 'contend'. On the other hand, 'Bulwark' means to provide protection, 'Outlook' refers to a point of view or perspective, and 'Potential' signifies possibility or capability, which do not fit appropriately in this context.

23. D) 'Rival' का use होगा क्योंकि 'rival' का अर्थ होता है किसी का प्रतिद्वंद्वी या प्रतिस्पर्धी होना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Mizo National Front को अपने पारंपरिक 3 से निपटना है, और यहाँ 'rival' शब्द उस पार्टी का वर्णन करता है जिससे MNF को प्रतिस्पर्धा करनी है, जो Indian National

Congress है। जबकि 'Certainty' का अर्थ है निश्चितता, 'Footing' का अर्थ है आधार या स्थिति, और 'Omnibus' का अर्थ है व्यापक या समग्र, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Rival' should be used because it refers to a competitor or adversary. The sentence indicates that the Mizo National Front has to deal with its traditional 3, and here 'rival' aptly describes the party they are competing against, which is the Indian National Congress. Whereas, 'Certainty' means sureness, 'Footing' refers to a position or basis, and 'Omnibus' implies comprehensive or collective, which are not appropriate in this context.

24. D) "Which" का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "which" एक relative pronoun होता है जिसका प्रयोग किसी वस्तु, व्यक्ति, या विचार को विशेष बनाने के लिए होता है जब उसकी पहचान पहले से ज्ञात हो। वाक्य में "Zoram Peoples' Movement (ZPM)," के बारे में बताया गया है, जिसने इस बार कड़ी चुनौती पेश की है, इसलिए 'which' यहाँ सही है।

- "Which" should be used because it is a relative pronoun that refers to a previously mentioned object, person, or idea to specify which one is being talked about. The sentence refers to the "Zoram Peoples' Movement (ZPM)," which has posed a tough challenge this time, making 'which' appropriate here.

25. C) 'latching on to' होगा। 'latching on to' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ या विचार को दृढ़ता से पकड़ लेना या उससे जुड़ जाना। यहाँ पर sentence के अनुसार, Speaker, Lalrinliana Sailo ने Bharatiya Janata Party के साथ जुड़ने का निर्णय लिया है, जो कि 'latching on to' से मेल खाता है। अन्य विकल्प 'Under a cloud' का अर्थ होता है संदेह की स्थिति में होना, 'Headwind' का अर्थ होता है विरोधी परिस्थितियाँ, और 'Promise' का अर्थ होता है वादा या संकल्प, जो कि इस context में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- 'latching on to'. 'Latching on to' means to grasp or become attached to something. According to the sentence, the Speaker, Lalrinliana Sailo, decided to join the Bharatiya Janata Party, which aligns with the meaning of 'latching on to'. The other options 'Under a cloud' implies being in a state of suspicion, 'Headwind' means facing adverse conditions, and 'Promise' refers to a commitment or pledge, which do not fit in this context.