End the secrecy: On the actions of Indian agencies abroad

India must respond meaningfully to allegations against its agents

India's decision to resume e-visas for Canadian citizens worldwide is a significant step towards restoring travel ties with Canada, which were snapped in September during the diplomatic stand-off following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that Indian government agents had masterminded the assassination of a Khalistani leader. While India had restored certain categories of the visa last month, e-visa and tourist visas remained under suspension due to the threat to Indian diplomats from Khalistani groups. According to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, the restoration of visas for Canadians was due to the "situation becoming more secure". However, the step does not necessarily mean a restoration of normal ties. After India cancelled visas for Canadians and demanded that Canada cut down its diplomatic strength by two-thirds for "parity purposes", Canada had flown out more than 40 of its diplomats and their family members and reduced its visa issuance capacity as well. With travel visas curtailed on both sides, business and investment ties too suffered, especially as Canada had already suspended talks for a Free Trade Agreement after the killing of the Khalistani leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. While Mr. Jaishankar and the Canadian Foreign Minister met each other in the U.S. in September, political ties have virtually shut down.

In addition, a new controversy, sparked by Washington, has emerged over a report that Indian government agencies were plotting to target another Khalistani leader, Sikhs for Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in the U.S. Like Nijjar, Pannun, a U.S.-Canadian dual national, is wanted in India for inciting violence against Indians and Indian diplomats, and for recently issuing a "warning" to travellers not to take "Air India" flights after November 19. This menacing statement harks back to the bombing of Air India Flight 182 out of Montreal, which killed all 329 on board, in 1985. A White House statement confirmed news reports that U.S. officials had raised the issue during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in June. This indicates that the issue over Khalistani separatists is far from dying down, despite New Delhi's conversations with western partners at the 2+2 dialogues with the U.S. and Australia, respectively, and Mr. Jaishankar's recent visit to the U.K. In sharp contrast to the recent past, the government, which had rejected the Canadian allegations as "absurd and motivated", has been surprisingly accommodating of the U.S.'s allegations. The External Affairs Ministry issued a statement that said India is examining the "U.S. inputs" and would take "necessary follow-up action". While these are no doubt matters of national security, it is time the government shed some of the secrecy surrounding its dual responses and crafted its future course of action more coherently. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

- Allegation (noun) Accusation, Charge, Claim, Assertion, Imputation आरोप
- Restore (verb) Reestablish, Revive, Reconstitute, Reinstate, Reinstigate पुनर्स्थापित करना
- 3. **Ties** (noun) Relations, Bonds, Connections, Links, Associations संबंध
- 4. **Snap** (verb) Break, Sever, Fracture, Split, Tear तोडना
- Diplomatic (adjective) Tactful, Political, Strategic, Statesmanlike, Negotiatory क्टनीतिक
- 6. **Stand-off** (noun) Deadlock, Stalemate, Impasse, Standstill, Dead end गतिरोध
- Following (preposition) After, Subsequent to, In the wake of, Post, Pursuing के बाद
- 8. **Mastermind** (verb) Plan, Engineer, Orchestrate, Devise, Scheme योजना बनाना
- 9. **Assassination** (noun) Murder, Killing, Homicide, Execution, Slaying हत्या
- 10. **Suspension** (noun) Interruption, Stoppage, Halt, Pause, Discontinuance ਜਿਕਂਭਰ
- 11. **Diplomat** (noun) Ambassador, Envoy, Emissary, Delegate, Representative राजनयिक

- 12. **Restoration** (noun) Reinstatement, Reestablishment, Reconstruction, Revival, Renewal पुनर्स्थापना
- 13. **Necessarily** (adverb) Inevitably, Invariably, Unavoidably, Indubitably, Without fail अनिवार्य रूप से
- 14. **Cut down** (phrasal verb) Reduce, Decrease, Lessen, Diminish, Curtail कम करना
- 15. **Parity** (noun) the state of being equal, especially in relation to pay and position समानता
- 16. **Diplomat** (noun) Ambassador, Envoy, Emissary, Delegate, Representative राजनियक
- 17. **Curtail** (verb) Reduce, Trim, Lessen, Shorten, Cut back कम करना
- 18. **Suspend** (verb) Halt, Stop, Discontinue, Interrupt, Postpone লटकाना
- 19. Free Trade Agreement (noun) treaties between two or more countries designed to reduce or eliminate certain barriers to trade and investment, and to facilitate stronger trade and commercial ties between participating countries. व्यापार संधि
- 20. **Virtually** (adverb) Practically, Essentially, Effectively, Almost, Nearly लगभग

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- 21. **Shut down** (phrasal verb) Close, Discontinue, Cease, Stop, Terminate बंद करना
- 22. **In addition** (phrase) Furthermore, Moreover, Also, Additionally, Besides इसके अतिरिक्त
- 23. **Spark** (verb) Ignite, Trigger, Provoke, Stir up, Incite भड़काना
- 24. **Plot** (verb) Scheme, Plan, Conspire, Devise, Hatch षड्यंत्र रचना
- 25. **Incite** (verb) Provoke, Stir up, Urge, Encourage, Instigate उकसाना
- 26. **Menacing** (adjective) Threatening, Intimidating, Frightening, Alarming, Ominous धमकी भरा
- 27. **Hark back to** (phrase) Recall, Remember, Revert to, Reflect on, Think back to याद करना
- 28. **On board** (phrase) Aboard, In or on a ship, plane, or other vehicle में सवार
- 29. **Separatist** (noun) Secessionist, Divisionist, Disunionist, Splittist, Autonomist अलगाववादी

- 30. **Die down** (phrasal verb) Decrease, Diminish, Lessen, Subside, Abate कम होना
- 31. **In contrast to** (phrase) As opposed to, In comparison with, Unlike, Contrary to के विपरीत
- 32. **Absurd** (adjective) Ridiculous, Preposterous, Ludicrous, Foolish, Irrational बेत्का
- 33. **Accommodate** (verb) Adjust, Adapt, Fit, Suit, Conform अन्कूल बनाना
- 34. **Examine** (verb) Inspect, Scrutinize, Analyze, Study, Investigate जांच करना
- 35. **Input** (noun) Contribution, Feedback, Information, Data, Advice
- 36. **Follow-up action** (noun) Subsequent measure, Next step, Further procedure, Continuation, Progression अन्वर्ती कार्रवाई
- 37. **Shed** (verb) Discard, Cast off, Drop, Jettison, Get rid of त्यागना
- 38. **Craft** (verb) Create, Construct, Design, Fabricate, Forge तैयार करना
- 39. **Coherently** (adverb) Logically, Consistently, Systematically, Rationally, Clearly सुसंगत रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

- 1. **Resumption of E-Visas**: India has resumed issuing e-visas to Canadian citizens globally, a move towards mending travel ties with Canada.
- 2. **Background of Visa Suspension**: The suspension was a response to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claims that Indian agents were behind the assassination of a Khalistani leader.
- 3. **Visa Restoration**: The decision follows the partial restoration of visas last month, excluding evisa and tourist visas due to threats to Indian diplomats.
- 4. **External Affairs Minister's Statement**: S. Jaishankar noted the situation has become more secure, leading to the visa restoration.
- 5. **Diplomatic Tensions**: The move doesn't fully normalize ties, as India had previously demanded Canada reduce its diplomatic presence in India.
- 6. **Impact on Diplomats and Visa Processing**: Canada withdrew over 40 diplomats and family members, affecting visa processing capabilities.
- 7. **Effect on Business and Investment**: The visa issues and the suspension of Free Trade Agreement talks have strained business and investment relations between the two countries.
- 8. **Political Relations Status**: Despite meetings between officials, political ties between India and Canada remain largely inactive.
- 9. **New Controversy in the U.S.**: Allegations have surfaced in Washington about Indian agencies planning to target Sikhs for Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the U.S.
- 10. **Pannun's Background**: Pannun, a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen, is wanted in India for inciting violence and has recently made threatening statements against Air India.
- 11. **U.S. Involvement**: The White House confirmed discussions about these concerns during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington.
- 12. **Continued Khalistani Separatist Issues**: Despite dialogues with western countries, issues related to Khalistani separatism persist.
- 13. **Indian Government's Response**: India, which had dismissed Canada's allegations, is more receptive to the U.S.'s concerns, promising to examine the inputs and take necessary actions.
- 14. **Call for Transparency**: The editorial suggests the Indian government should be more open about its handling of these international issues.
- 15. **Need for Coherent Strategy**: It emphasizes the need for India to develop a more coherent strategy in dealing with such sensitive national security matters.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- 1. What was the main reason behind India suspending e-visas and tourist visas for Canadian citizens? [Editorial page]
 - A. Disagreements over a Free Trade Agreement.
 - B. Allegations of Indian agents being involved in an assassination.
 - C. Threats to Indian diplomats from Khalistani groups.
 - D. Canada's reduction of its diplomatic staff in India.
- 2. Which of the following events occurred first in the sequence of events described in the passage?
 - A. Canada reducing its visa issuance capacity.
 - B. India resuming e-visas for Canadian citizens.
 - C. Cancellation of visas for Canadians by India.
 - D. Canada flying out more than 40 of its diplomats and their family members.
- 3. What can be inferred about the Indian government's response to the U.S. and Canadian allegations regarding Khalistani separatists?
 - A. The Indian government has been consistent in its response to both U.S. and Canadian allegations.
 - B. The Indian government has been more accommodating to U.S. allegations than to Canadian ones.
 - C. The Indian government has completely ignored the U.S. allegations.
 - D. The Indian government has taken a more aggressive stance towards the U.S. than towards Canada.
- 4. Which of the following statements about India's international relations and actions regarding Khalistani separatist activities is CORRECT?
 - A. India has permanently suspended all visa services for Canadian citizens due to the diplomatic stand-off with Canada.
 - B. The Indian government has openly admitted to plotting against Khalistani leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the U.S.
 - C. India's decision to resume e-visas for Canadian citizens is a significant step towards restoring travel ties with Canada.
 - D. The U.S. has shown no concern over India's alleged actions against Khalistani separatists.
- 5. What is the tone of the passage, especially evident in the statement, "While these are no doubt matters of national security, it is time the government shed some of the secrecy surrounding its dual responses and crafted its future course of action more coherently"?
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Critical
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Supportive

6. What is the main theme of the passage?

- A. The importance of international trade
- B. Diplomatic tensions and security concerns between India, Canada, and the U.S.
- C. The history of Khalistani movements
- D. The role of e-visas in international relations
- 7. What is a synonym for "menacing" as used in the passage?
 - A. Comforting
 - B. Threatening
 - C. Welcoming
 - D. Pleasing
- 8. Choose the antonym of the word "inciting" as used in the passage.
 - A. Calming
 - B. Agitating
 - C. Provoking
 - D. Stimulating
- 9. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

His wife was killed by him.

- A. Him kills his wife.
- B. He has killed his wife.
- C. He killed his wife.
- D. He kills his wife.
- 10. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.

One's relatives or family, related

- A. Kilt
- B. Kindle
- C. Kin
- D. Kine
- 11. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

She is not as cleverest as John.

- A. as clever as
- B. clever
- C. cleverest
- D. cleverer by
- 12. Identify the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the following sentence and select its correct spelling from the given options.

The preview version will give you a glimpse of the entaire book.

- A. glimse
- B. preveiw

- JOIN TELEGRAM CHANNEL: ENGLISH MADHYAM November 25, 2023 C. varsion D. Entire 13. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word. Camouflage A. Sabotage B. Execute C. Gigantic D. Disguise 14. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word. Conspicuous A. Opaque B. Unnoticeable C. Obvious D. Effective 15. Select the option that expresses the following sentence in passive voice. The storm uprooted a large number of trees yesterday. A. Large number of trees were uprooted by the storm yesterday. B. A large number of trees was uprooted by the storm yesterday. C. Trees was uprooted yesterday in a large number by the storm. D. A large number of trees were uprooted by the storm yesterday.
- 16. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.
 - P. provided it is technologically accessible, economically feasible
 - Q. which can be used to satisfy our needs
 - R. and culturally acceptable can be termed as 'Resource'
 - S. everything available in our environment
 - A. SPRQ
 - B. SQPR
 - C. ORSP
 - D. OSPR
- 17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Fierce

- A. Sore
- B. Gentle
- C. Vast
- D. Noisy
- 18. Select the most appropriate **idiom** to fill in the blank.

Her son came from Europe to meet her _____ after 20 years.

A. blowing off the steam

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

A. deriving
B. caring
C. driving

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A. broughtB. takenC. lookedD. Sought

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- D. Diverting
- 24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
 - A. outcoming
 - B. within
 - C. surrounding
 - D. Without
- 25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.
 - A. pass on
 - B. put on
 - C. hold on
 - D. grow on

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) Threats to Indian diplomats from Khalistani groups.

The passage states that India's suspension of e-visas and tourist visas for Canadian citizens was due to threats to Indian diplomats from Khalistani groups. This decision was not directly related to the Free Trade Agreement, the involvement of Indian agents in an assassination, or Canada's reduction of its diplomatic staff.

2. C) Cancellation of visas for Canadians by India.

The passage outlines a sequence of events that began with a diplomatic stand-off. The initial action in this series of events was India's cancellation of visas for Canadians, which then led to a series of retaliatory actions, including Canada reducing its visa issuance capacity and flying out its diplomats.

3. B) The Indian government has been more accommodating to U.S. allegations than to Canadian ones.

The passage mentions that the Indian government, which previously dismissed Canadian allegations as "absurd and motivated", has shown a surprisingly accommodating stance towards the U.S.'s allegations. This contrast in responses suggests a more receptive attitude towards the U.S. concerns.

4. C) India's decision to resume e-visas for Canadian citizens is a significant step towards restoring travel ties with Canada.

The passage indicates that India's decision to resume e-visas for Canadian citizens is a positive step towards mending travel ties, which had been strained following allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and subsequent diplomatic tensions. The other options are incorrect: A is false as India has resumed certain categories of visas for Canadians; B is incorrect as there is no admission from the Indian government about plotting against Pannun, only allegations discussed; and D is false as the U.S. has shown concern, as indicated by the discussions during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington.

5. B) Critical

The tone of the passage, particularly in the highlighted sentence, is critical. This is evident from the way the author urges the government to be more transparent and coherent in its approach to national security issues and its diplomatic relations with Canada and the U.S. The use of phrases like "shed some of the secrecy" and "crafted its future course of action more coherently" implies a critique of the current state of affairs and suggests a need for improvement in government actions and policies.

6. B) Diplomatic tensions and security concerns between India, Canada, and the U.S.

The main theme of the passage is the diplomatic tensions and security concerns involving India, Canada, and the U.S., particularly in the context of Khalistani separatist movements and the allegations of Indian government involvement in targeting Khalistani leaders. The passage discusses various aspects of this theme, including the suspension and restoration of e-visas, the impact on diplomatic and business ties, and the contrasting responses of the Indian government to allegations from Canada and the U.S. The theme is woven throughout the passage, linking various events and responses to the overarching issue of diplomatic relations and national security.

- 7. B) Threatening
 In the passage, "menacing" is used to describe a warning issued by a Khalistani leader. The context suggests a threatening or intimidating nature, making "threatening" the correct synonym.
- 8. A) Calming

The word "inciting" in the passage is used in the context of "inciting violence against Indians and Indian diplomats." This implies that the word is used to denote actions or words that stir up, provoke, or stimulate unrest or violence.

- 9. C) He killed his wife
- 10. C) **Kin** (noun) One's relatives or family, related परिवार/संबंधी
 - Kilt (noun) a type of skirt traditionally worn by men in Scotland. स्कॉटिश स्कर्ट
 - Kindle (verb) to light or set on fire; to arouse or inspire (an emotion or feeling). आग लगाना/ प्रेरित करना
 - Kine (noun) archaic term for cows collectively. गार्थों का समूह
- 11. A) 'cleverest' के बदले 'as clever as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि positive degree में comparative degree का सही रूप 'as + Positive degree + as' होता है; जैसे— She is not as tall as John.
 - 'as clever as' will be used instead of 'cleverest' because the correct form for comparative degree is 'as + Positive degree + as'; Like— She is not as tall as John.
- 12. D) The incorrectly spelt word in the given sentence is 'entaire'. The correct spelling is 'Entire' from option D. संपूर्ण,
- 13. D) **Camouflage** (noun) The use of any combination of materials, coloration, or illumination for concealment, either by making animals or objects hard to see, or by disguising them as something else. छद्मावरण
 - Synonym: **Disguise** (noun) give (someone or oneself) a different appearance in order to conceal one's identity. वेश बदलना, भेस बदलना
 - Sabotage (noun) The act of destroying or damaging something deliberately so that it does not work correctly. तोड-फोड

- Execute (verb) To carry out or put into effect; to make or produce something, especially by following a plan or design. कार्यवाही करना
- Gigantic (adjective) Very large; huge. विशाल
- 14. C) **Conspicuous** (adjective) Easily seen or noticed, clearly visible, evident, prominent. **स्पष्ट** Synonym: **Obvious** (adjective) Easily perceived or understood, clear, self-evident, noticeable.
 - Opaque (adjective) Not able to be seen through, not transparent, unclear. अपारदर्शी
 - Unnoticeable (adjective) Not easily seen or noticed, not conspicuous. अदृश्य
 - **Effective** (adjective) Successful in producing a desired or intended result, efficacious. ਸ਼ੁਮਾਰੀ
- 15. D) A large number of trees were uprooted by the storm yesterday.
- 16. B) **SQPR**

प्रत्यक्ष

Everything available in our environment which can be used to satisfy our needs provided it is technologically accessible, economically feasible and culturally acceptable can be termed as 'Resource'

- 17. B) **Fierce** (adjective) Intense, strong, aggressive, ferocious. **उग्र Antonym: Gentle** (adjective) Mild in temperament or behavior, kind, tender, soft. संवेदनशील
 - Sore (adjective) Painful, tender, aching. दर्दनाक
 - Vast (adjective) Of very great extent or quantity; immense. विशाल
 - Noisy (adjective) Making or given to making a lot of noise. शोरशराबा
- 18. C) **out of the blue** (idiom) unexpectedly, without any warning अचानक से
 - Blowing off the steam (idiom) to release pent-up emotions or frustrations. अपनी
 भड़ास निकालना
 - Like a cakewalk (idiom) something very easy to accomplish. बहुत आसान
 - **Stepping up his game** (idiom) to improve or increase one's effort or performance. अपनी प्रदर्शन को बेहतर बनाना
- 19. C) The incorrectly spelt word is "Jewelerry". The correct spelling is "Jewellery आभूषण
- 20. A) 'braver than intelligent' के बदले 'more brave than intelligent' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब दो गुणवत्ताओं की तुलना की जाती है और उसमें से एक गुणवत्ता दो या दो से अधिक स्वरों वाले शब्द से बताई जाती है, तो 'more' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— She is more beautiful than wise.

- 'more brave than intelligent' will be used instead of 'braver than intelligent' because
 when comparing two qualities and one of the qualities is represented by a word of two
 or more syllables, 'more' is used; Like— She is more beautiful than wise.
- 21. A) Parcel' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में "part and parcel" एक प्रचलित वाक्यांश है जिसका अर्थ होता है अभिन्न हिस्सा या महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा। जबिक 'Member' का अर्थ है सदस्य, 'Mate' का अर्थ है साथी, और 'Colleague' का अर्थ है सहकर्मी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - **Parcel'** should be used because in this context "part and parcel" is a common phrase that means an essential or integral component. Whereas, 'Member' means a person belonging to a particular group, 'Mate' means a partner or companion, and 'Colleague' implies a co-worker, which don't fit in this context.
- 22. C) **'Looked'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "looked after" का अर्थ होता है किसी की देखभाल करना। जबिक 'Brought' का अर्थ है लाना, 'Taken' का अर्थ है लेना और 'Sought' का अर्थ है खोजना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Looked' should be used because it is part of the phrase "looked after," which means to take care of someone. Whereas, 'Brought' means to bring, 'Taken' means to take, and 'Sought' means to search, which don't fit in this context.
- 23. C) **Driving'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "driving" का अर्थ होता है प्रेरित करनेवाला या मुख्य प्रभावकारक। जबिक 'Deriving' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना या निष्कर्ष पारित करना, 'Caring' का अर्थ है ध्यान देना या चिंता करना, और 'Diverting' का अर्थ है भटकाना या मोड़ना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Driving' should be used because it refers to the main influencing factor or force.

 Whereas, 'Deriving' means to obtain or deduce, 'Caring' means showing concern or compassion, and 'Diverting' implies changing direction or distracting, which don't fit in this
- 24. B) 'Within' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "within" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज के अंदर या उसके भीतर। इस संदर्भ में, सम्मान और प्रेम जो बड़ों के प्रति दिखाया जाता है, वह व्यक्ति के भीतर से आता है और यह कृत्रिम नहीं होता। जबिक 'Outcoming' का अर्थ होता है परिणाम या प्रतिसाद, 'Surrounding' का अर्थ है चारों ओर से घेरा होना, और 'Without' का अर्थ है बिना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Within' should be used because it refers to something inside or inherent. In this
 context, the love and respect shown towards the elders come from inside a person and
 are not artificial. Whereas, 'Outcoming' means result or response, 'Surrounding' means
 encompassing or encircling, and 'Without' means lacking or not having, which don't fit
 in this context.

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- 25. A) 'Pass on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "pass on" का अर्थ होता है किसी जानकारी, आदत, या संस्कृति को आगे देना। जबिक 'Put on' का अर्थ है पहनना या डालना, 'Hold on' का अर्थ है धैर्य रखना या पकड़ना, और 'Grow on' का अर्थ है धीरे-धीरे पसंद आना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Pass on' should be used because it means to transmit information, habits, or culture to another. Whereas, 'Put on' means to wear or place, 'Hold on' means to wait or grasp, and 'Grow on' means to gradually become liked or appreciated, which don't fit in this context.