

Homeward bound: On the release of the eight former Indian naval personnel from Qatar

Quiet **diplomacy** without **brinkmanship** **helped** India's case in Qatar

The **release** of all eight former Indian naval personnel from Qatar, just about three months after they were ordered a shocking death sentence, **is** a matter of great relief. Ever since **the eight men** — seven senior retired naval officers, and a **sailor** — who worked for the Qatar-based Dahra technologies, **were** arrested in 2022, **the details** of their case **have** been **sparse**. While their families denied reports that the men had been **accused** of **espionage**, possibly for a third country, namely Israel, the charges must have been serious enough to have **invoked** the death penalty. An appeals court did, in December, **commute** the death penalty to **imprisonment** terms, but **upheld** the **conviction**. **It is to the government's credit** that it was able to **bring about** the release of all the eight, seven of whom have now returned. The success seems **attributable** to the strategies New Delhi **employed**: to **pursue** the case in court, showing respect to the Qatari legal system, while providing the accused with full legal support and counsel; avoid all **escalatory rhetoric** and public **sparring**; and, to take the case to the highest levels, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing it with the Qatari Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, during a meet in Dubai in December. **That** Mr. Modi announced an unscheduled **leg** of travel to Doha on Wednesday, after his ongoing trip to the United Arab Emirates, **signifies** his personal involvement and his desire to **thank** the Qatari Amir.

The Qatar case is a timely reminder of the importance of quiet **diplomacy** at a time of brinkmanship and **geopolitical** conflict, particularly when it comes to relationships where so much else is **at stake**. For India, Qatar is an important West Asian power, with increased **heft** during the Israel-Gaza conflict as an important **interlocutor** between the West and Hamas. For Qatar, ties with India are historic and dependable, **consistent** even when Qatar was **boycotted** by its Gulf neighbours some years ago. Qatar supplies India with a third of its natural gas import needs, and the signing of a \$78 billion LNG deal last week may have been an early sign that the **deal** for the prisoners' release had been **sealed** by then. More than 8,00,000 Indians provide important services to Qatar and bring in critical **remittance** earnings for India. New Delhi's **decision** not to **seek** international intervention, as it did in the case of former naval commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, who has been **convicted** of espionage and terror charges in Pakistan, nor to **counter** Qatar's charges with the kind of **harsh** diplomatic **countermeasures** seen **in the aftermath of** the Nijjar **assassination** case in Canada, **eventually provided** an outcome satisfactory for all. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Leg** (noun) – a section or stage of a journey or process.
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

Vocabulary

1. **Homeward bound** (phrase) – Returning home, heading home, on the way home, homeward journey, homebound घर की ओर जाने वाला
2. **Diplomacy** (noun) – Negotiation, tact, statecraft, diplomacy, foreign policy कूटनीति
3. **Brinkmanship** (noun) – the activity, especially in politics, of trying to get what you want by saying that if you do not get it, you will do something dangerous
4. **Sailor** (noun) – Seaman, mariner, seafarer, naval personnel, crew member नाविक
5. **Sparse** (adjective) – Scarce, limited, meager, thin, infrequent सीमित
6. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Charge, indict, allege, blame, impeach आरोप लगाना
7. **Espionage** (noun) – Spying, intelligence gathering, surveillance, reconnaissance, undercover work जासूसी
8. **Invoke** (verb) – to use a law in order to achieve something नियम, कानून आदि प्रयोग करना
9. **Commute** (verb) – to change a punishment to one that is less severe बदलना
10. **Imprisonment** (noun) – Incarceration, confinement, detention, custody, captivity कारावास
11. **Uphold** (verb) – Maintain, support, affirm, sustain, endorse समर्थन करना
12. **Conviction** (noun) – Guilt, judgment, sentence, condemnation, verdict दोषसिद्धि
13. **It is to someone's credit** (phrase) – Deserving praise, commendable, creditable, praiseworthy, admirable प्रशंसा के योग्य
14. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) – Cause, effect, induce, produce, generate पैदा करना
15. **Attributable** (adjective) – Ascribable, assignable, imputable, creditable, referable किसी चीज के कारण होना
16. **Employ** (verb) – Use, utilize, apply, engage, deploy उपयोग करना
17. **Pursue** (verb) – Follow, chase, seek, strive for, persist in पीछा करना
18. **Escalatory** (adjective) – Increasing, intensifying, aggravating, escalating, heightening बढ़ाने वाला
19. **Rhetoric** (noun) – Eloquence, oratory, speechmaking, discourse, persuasion वाक्पटुता
20. **Sparring** (noun) – Fighting, boxing, combat, contention, skirmishing झड़प

21. **Thank** (verb) – Express gratitude, appreciate, acknowledge, recognize, commend धन्यवाद देना
22. **Diplomacy** (noun) – Negotiation, tact, statecraft, diplomacy, foreign policy कूटनीति
23. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors भू-राजनीतिक
24. **At stake** (phrase) – At risk, in jeopardy, in danger, on the line, in question दांव पर
25. **Heft** (noun) – Weight, significance, importance, influence, authority प्रभाव
26. **Interlocutor** (noun) – Conversationalist, dialogist, mediator, negotiator, spokesperson वार्ताकार
27. **Consistent** (adjective) – Steady, stable, constant, unchanging, uniform स्थिर
28. **Boycott** (verb) – Shun, avoid, ostracize, exclude, reject बहिष्कार करना
29. **Seal the deal** (phrase) – Finalize, conclude, confirm, secure, clinch सौदा पक्का करना
30. **Remittance** (noun) – Payment, transfer, sending of money, money sent home, funds प्रेषण
31. **Seek** (verb) – to search for or try to obtain something मांगना
32. **Convict** (verb) – Find guilty, sentence, condemn, imprison, incarcerate दोषी ठहराना
33. **Counter** (verb) – Oppose, resist, challenge, combat, confront सामना करना
34. **Harsh** (adjective) – Severe, strict, stern, tough, rigorous कठोर
35. **Countermeasure** (noun) – Response, reaction, retaliation, counteraction, counterstep प्रतिकार
36. **In the aftermath of** (phrase) – Following, as a consequence of, in the wake of, after, subsequent to के बाद
37. **Assassination** (noun) – Murder, killing, assassination, homicide, elimination हत्या
38. **Eventually** (adverb) – In the end, finally, ultimately, sooner or later, in due course अंततः

Summary of the Editorial

1. Eight former Indian naval personnel were released from Qatar, three months after being sentenced to death.
2. The personnel worked for Qatar-based Dahra Technologies and were arrested in 2022.
3. Their families denied espionage accusations, possibly for Israel, but the charges were serious enough for the death penalty.
4. An appeals court commuted the death sentence to imprisonment but upheld the conviction.
5. The Indian government successfully secured their release, with seven of them returning home.
6. India's strategy included respecting the Qatari legal system, providing legal support, avoiding escalatory rhetoric, and engaging at the highest levels.
7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the case with the Qatari Amir during a meeting in Dubai.
8. Modi's unscheduled visit to Doha signifies his personal involvement and gratitude towards the Qatari Amir.
9. The case highlights the importance of quiet diplomacy in resolving sensitive issues.
10. Qatar is an important West Asian power for India, with significant ties in energy and employment.
11. India's restraint in not seeking international intervention or retaliating harshly contributed to the satisfactory outcome.
12. The resolution of the case may have been influenced by the signing of a \$78 billion LNG deal between India and Qatar.
13. Over 800,000 Indians in Qatar provide essential services and contribute to remittances.
14. The case contrasts with India's approach in other international incidents, such as the Kulbhushan Jadhav case in Pakistan.
15. The successful resolution reaffirms the strength of India-Qatar relations and the efficacy of diplomatic engagement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What was the primary reason for the arrest of the eight former Indian naval personnel in Qatar?**
A. They were accused of theft and robbery. [Editorial Page]
B. They were accused of espionage, possibly for a third country.
C. They were involved in a violent protest against the Qatari government.
D. They were caught smuggling illegal substances into Qatar.
2. **How did the Indian government approach the situation to secure the release of the eight personnel?**
A. By threatening military action against Qatar if the personnel were not released.
B. By offering a large financial compensation to the Qatari government.
C. By pursuing the case in court, avoiding escalatory rhetoric, and engaging in high-level diplomatic discussions.
D. By launching a social media campaign to pressure the Qatari government.
3. **What was a key factor in the successful resolution of the case involving eight former Indian naval personnel in Qatar?**
A. India's decision to seek international intervention
B. Qatar's historic and dependable ties with India
C. The signing of a \$78 billion LNG deal between India and Qatar
D. Harsh diplomatic countermeasures by India in response to Qatar's charges
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
A. Critical and accusatory
B. Indifferent and neutral
C. Appreciative and optimistic
D. Pessimistic and skeptical
5. **Why is Qatar considered an important West Asian power for India?**
A. Because Qatar supplies a third of India's natural gas import needs
B. Because of Qatar's role as an interlocutor between the West and Hamas during the Israel-Gaza conflict
C. Because more than 800,000 Indians provide important services to Qatar
D. All of the above
6. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement required'.**
My father was always ordering about my sister
A. ordering on my sister
B. ordering my sister about
C. No improvement required
D. giving order for my sister
7. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
A. Correspondence
B. Miscellaneous
C. Exclamation
D. Disciplinarian
8. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
Something that is strong and lasts a long time without breaking or becoming weaker.
A. Durable

- B. Harsh
C. Pliable
D. Secure
9. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
You should / have respond / to my query / sooner.
A. to my query
B. You should
C. have respond
D. Sooner
10. **Select the option that gives the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.**
My friends succeeded because they left no stone unturned in their search for an answer to the problem
A. depended on many people
B. made every possible effort
C. looked in different places
D. proposed good plans
11. **Select the correct passive voice of the given sentence.**
She is making a beautiful beaded curtain
A. A beautiful beaded curtain was being made by her.
B. A beautiful beaded curtain was made by her.
C. A beautiful beaded curtain is being made by her.
D. A beautiful beaded curtain is made by her
12. **Select the correct active voice of the given sentence.**
Rohan was pushed into the pool by Karan
A. Karan was pushing Rohan into the pool.
B. Rohan had pushed Karan into the pool.
C. Karan pushed Rohan into the pool.
D. Rohan pushed Karan into the pool.
13. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Rectify
A. Corrupt
B. Select
C. Correct
D. Assist
14. **Select the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.**
The teacher said, "You must work hard for your exams."
A. The teacher was advising her students to do work hard for their exams.
B. The teacher told students for working hard for their exams.
C. The teacher was telling her students to work hard for their exams.
D. The teacher advised her students to work hard for their exams.
15. **Arrange the statements in the correct order to make a meaningful paragraph.**

- A. But, in developed societies, the childhood and adolescence is extended.
B. In rural communities, the customs are more uniform.
C. This provides more opportunities for education and character development.
D. The practices of child rearing vary from culture to culture.
- A. DABC
B. BADC
C. DBAC
D. BCDA
16. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Disrupt
A. Breach
B. Injure
C. Arrange
D. Organise
17. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
The crew / of sailors / were not perturbed / by the strong gale.
A. of sailors
B. by the strong gale
C. The crew
D. were not perturbed
18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
The manager said, "Could you please / confirm me whether you / have received all the items / that you had ordered?"
A. The manager said, "Could you please
B. that you had ordered
C. have received all the items
D. confirm me whether you
19. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
A. Contrary
B. Terribal
C. Longitude
D. Manners
20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Negligent
A. Faithful
B. Strange
C. Indifferent
D. Careful

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 greedy man rushed home to tell his wife and daughter about his wish, all the (1) _____ touching the objects in his path and watching (2) _____ convert into gold. Once he got home, his daughter (3) _____ to greet him. As soon as he bent (4) _____ to scoop her up in his arms, she turned into a golden statue. He was (5) _____ and started crying and trying to bring his daughter back to life

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. while
 - B. wayside
 - C. interval
 - D. bit
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. there
 - B. them
 - C. their
 - D. those
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. rushing
 - B. was rush
 - C. has rushed
 - D. rushed
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. along
 - B. up
 - C. through
 - D. down
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. demolished
 - B. devastated
 - C. determined
 - D. destroyed

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) They were accused of espionage, possibly for a third country.**

The passage mentions that the families of the eight men denied reports that they had been accused of espionage, possibly for a third country, namely Israel. This suggests that espionage was the primary accusation against them, even though the details of the case have been sparse.

2. **C) By pursuing the case in court, avoiding escalatory rhetoric, and engaging in high-level diplomatic discussions.**

The passage outlines the strategies employed by the Indian government, which included pursuing the case in court while respecting the Qatari legal system, providing full legal support and counsel to the accused, avoiding any escalatory rhetoric and public sparring, and taking the case to the highest levels with Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing it with the Qatari Amir. These actions demonstrate a diplomatic approach focused on legal and high-level discussions rather than confrontation or public pressure.

3. **B) Qatar's historic and dependable ties with India**

The passage highlights the importance of quiet diplomacy and the historic and dependable ties between India and Qatar as key factors in the successful resolution of the case. India's decision not to seek international intervention and not to counter Qatar's charges with harsh diplomatic measures also contributed to a satisfactory outcome for all parties involved.

4. **C) Appreciative and optimistic**

The tone of the passage is appreciative and optimistic. It praises the Indian government's efforts in securing the release of the naval personnel through quiet diplomacy and avoiding escalatory rhetoric. The passage also highlights the successful outcome of the case and the importance of maintaining diplomatic relations.

5. **D) All of the above**

The passage mentions several reasons why Qatar is considered an important West Asian power for India. These include Qatar's role as a significant supplier of natural gas to India, its role as an important interlocutor between the West and Hamas during the Israel-Gaza conflict, and the presence of a large Indian expatriate community in Qatar that provides important services and brings in critical remittance earnings for India.

6. B) 'ordering about my sister' के बदले 'ordering my sister about' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'order about' एक Phrasal Verb है जिसका मतलब होता है किसी को नियंत्रित करना या आदेश देना, और इसका सही प्रयोग 'ordering my sister about' होता है; जैसे— The manager was always ordering the employees about.

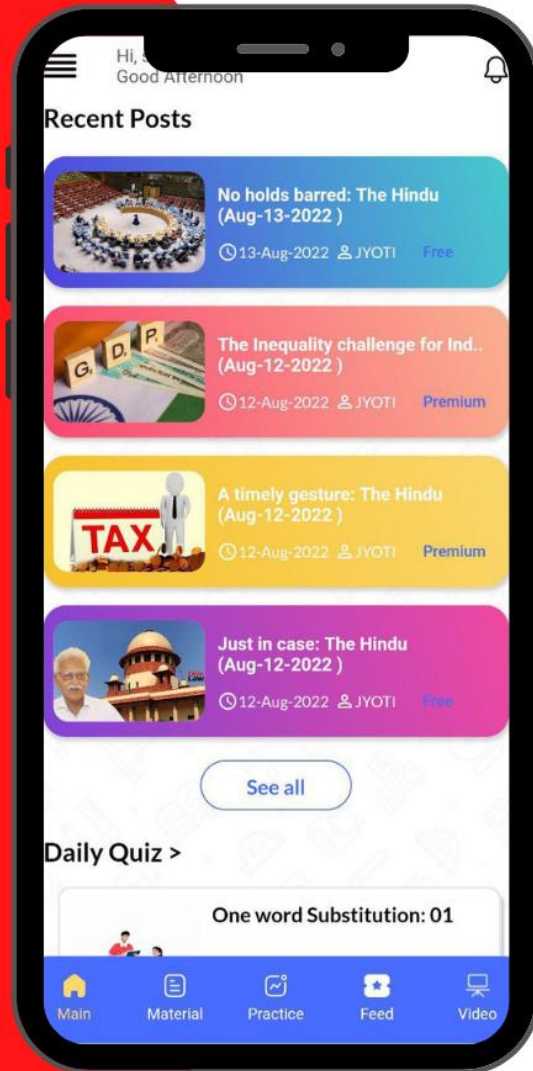
- 'ordering my sister about' will be used instead of 'ordering about my sister' because 'order about' is a phrasal verb that means to control or give orders to someone, and the correct usage is 'ordering my sister about'; Like— The manager was always ordering the employees about.

7. C) The incorrectly spelt word among the given options is 'Exclamation'. The correct spelling is 'Exclamation'. अचानक की हुई पुकार या टिप्पणी।

8. A) **Durable** (noun) – Able to withstand wear, pressure, or damage; hard-wearing or long-lasting. स्थिर
- **Harsh** (adjective) – Unpleasantly rough or jarring to the senses. कठोर
 - **Pliable** (adjective) – Easily bent; flexible or adaptable. लचीला
 - **Secure** (adjective) – Fixed or fastened so as not to give way, become loose, or be lost. सुरक्षित
9. C) 'have respond' के बदले 'have responded' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'have' के बाद 3rd form of verb (past participle) का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'have responded' will be used instead of 'have respond' because after 'have', the 3rd form of the verb (past participle) is used.
10. B) **Left no stone unturned** (idiom) – Made every possible effort प्रत्येक संभावित प्रयास किया
11. C) A beautiful beaded curtain is being made by her
12. C) Karan pushed Rohan into the pool
13. A) **Rectify** (verb) – To make right or correct, to amend, to adjust. सुधारना
- Antonym: **Corrupt** (verb) – To alter from the original or correct form or version, to degrade, to spoil. बिगाड़ना
- **Select** (verb) – To choose from a number of alternatives, to pick out. चुनना
 - **Correct** (verb) – To make or set right, to amend. सही करना
 - **Assist** (verb) – To give support or aid, to help. सहायता करना
14. D) The teacher advised her students to work hard for their exams.
15. C) **DBAC**
- The practices of child rearing vary from culture to culture In rural communities, the customs are more uniform. But, in developed societies, the childhood and adolescence is extended. This provides more opportunities for education and character development.
16. A) **Disrupt** (verb) – Cause disorder or turmoil, interrupt, break apart. व्यवधान डालना
- Synonym: **Breach** (verb) – Break or violate a rule, agreement, or boundary. उल्लंघन करना
- **Injure** (verb) – Cause harm or damage to someone or something, hurt. चोट पहुंचाना
 - **Arrange** (verb) – Put in a proper or systematic order, organize. व्यवस्थित करना
 - **Organise** (verb) – Coordinate the activities of a person or group, arrange systematically. संगठित करना
17. D) 'were' के बदले 'was' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि subject 'The crew' singular है, इसलिए verb भी singular होनी चाहिए; जैसे— The team is ready for the match.
- 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because the subject 'The crew' is singular, hence the verb should also be singular; Like— The team is ready for the match.

18. D) **confirm me**' के बदले 'confirm to me' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'confirm' verb को सीधा object के साथ use नहीं किया जाता। जैसे— The manager said, "Could you please confirm to me whether you have received all the items that you had ordered?"
- 'confirm to me' will be used instead of 'confirm me' because the verb 'confirm' is not used directly with an object. Like— The manager said, "Could you please confirm to me whether you have received all the items that you had ordered?"
19. B) The incorrectly spelt word among the given options is 'Terribal'. The correct spelling is '**Terrible**
- भयानक**
20. D) **Negligent** (adjective) – Failing to take proper care or showing lack of attention, careless, heedless, lax. **लापरवाह**
- Antonym: **Careful** (adjective) – Taking pain to avoid harm or damage, cautious, attentive, heedful.
- सतर्क**
- Faithful** (adjective) – Loyal, true, trustworthy, staunch. **वफादार**
 - Strange** (adjective) – Not previously visited, known, or encountered, unfamiliar, unknown, foreign. **अजीब**
 - Indifferent** (adjective) – Having no interest or sympathy, unconcerned, uninterested, apathetic. **उदासीन**
21. A) '**While**' का use होगा क्योंकि "while" का अर्थ होता है 'जबकि' या 'इस समय में'. यहाँ पर sentence के context में बताया गया है कि लालची आदमी घर जा रहा था और उसी समय उसने जो objects को छूआ वह सोना बन गया। इसलिए, 'while' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Wayside' का अर्थ है किसी मार्ग का किनारा, 'Interval' का अर्थ है अंतराल, और 'Bit' का अर्थ है थोड़ा सा, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- While** should be used because it means 'during the time that' or 'at the same time'. The context of the sentence explains how the greedy man was going home and during that time whatever objects he touched turned into gold, making 'while' fitting here. Whereas, 'Wayside' means the side of a road, 'Interval' means a gap, and 'Bit' implies a small amount, which don't fit in this context.
22. B) **Them** का use होगा क्योंकि "them" का अर्थ होता है objects या things को refer करना, जो पहले mention हो चुके हों। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वह अपने रास्ते में स्थित objects को touch करता है और वह सोने में बदल जाते हैं, इसलिए 'them' यहाँ सही है। 'There' का अर्थ है किसी स्थान में, 'Their' possessive form है, और 'Those' का अर्थ है specific objects या things को refer करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- Them** should be used because "them" refers to objects or things that have been previously mentioned. The sentence mentions that he touches objects in his path and watches them turn to gold, making 'them' fitting here. Whereas, 'There' means in or at that place, 'Their' is a possessive form, and 'Those' refers to specific objects or things, which doesn't fit in this context.

23. D) **'Rushed'** का use होगा क्योंकि "rushed" का अर्थ होता है जल्दी से मोड़ना या दौड़ना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि उसकी बेटी उसे मिलने आ रही थी, इसलिए वह जल्दी से उसके पास गई। इसलिए 'Rushed' यहाँ सही है। 'Rushing' जारी हो रहे क्रिया को दर्शाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Was rush' और 'has rushed' grammatically सही नहीं हैं।
- **'Rushed'** should be used because it indicates the action of moving or going quickly. The sentence mentions that his daughter came to greet him, implying she moved quickly towards him. Therefore, 'Rushed' is fitting here. 'Rushing' indicates an ongoing action, which doesn't fit in this context. 'Was rush' and 'has rushed' are not grammatically correct.
24. 'D) **Down'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह इंगित करता है कि कोई व्यक्ति नीचे झुक रहा है। Sentence में बताया गया है कि जब उस आदमी ने अपनी बेटी को गले लगाने के लिए झुका, तब वह सोने की प्रतिमा बन गई। इस context में, 'down' झुकने का सही action दर्शाता है। जबकि 'along', 'up', और 'through' इस context में सही नहीं होते।
- **Down'** should be used because it indicates the action of bending or leaning downward. The sentence describes that as the man bent down to embrace his daughter, she turned into a golden statue. In this context, 'down' correctly depicts the action of bending. On the other hand, 'along', 'up', and 'through' don't fit in this context.
25. B) **Devastated'** का use होगा क्योंकि "devastated" का अर्थ होता है बहुत ही दुखी या निराश होना। Sentence में जिक्र किया गया है कि जैसे ही उसने अपनी बेटी को गले लगाने की कोशिश की, वह एक सोने की मूर्ति में बदल गई। इसका मतलब है कि वह अपनी बेटी को खो बैठा, जिससे वह बहुत ही दुखी हो जाएगा। इसलिए 'devastated' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'डेमोलिशेड (Demolished)' का अर्थ है तोड़ देना, 'डिटरमिन्ड (Determined)' का अर्थ है ठान लेना, और 'डिस्ट्रॉयड (Destroyed)' का अर्थ है नष्ट कर देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- **Devastated'** should be used because it means to be extremely sad or shocked. The sentence describes how as soon as he tried to hug his daughter, she turned into a gold statue. This implies that he lost his daughter, which would naturally make him very upset. Hence, 'devastated' fits perfectly here. On the other hand, 'Demolished' means to tear down, 'Determined' means to firmly decide, and 'Destroyed' means to ruin completely, which don't fit in this context.



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