

Close ties with Russia

India **steadfast** in its support **amid** Ukraine war

DURING his recent visit to Germany, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar again justified India's close ties with Russia. Much to the **consternation** of **the West**, New Delhi has refused to **scale down** its **engagement** with Moscow. Jaishankar observed that in the history of **post-Independence** India, Russia/USSR had never hurt its interests. **The ties** among various powers **have** seen **ups and downs** over the **decades**, but India's relationship with Russia has remained stable and friendly.

Two factors — military hardware and energy supplies — **are cited** to explain India's **reluctance** to criticise Russia for its **invasion** of Ukraine. These certainly have **had a critical bearing on** the country's **perspective**, even as **the track record** of **enduring bilateral ties** **is often disregarded**. For 67 years, Russia/USSR has **backed** India with its **veto** in the UN Security Council to prevent a discussion on the 'India-Pakistan question' regarding Kashmir. The **dismemberment** of Pakistan in 1971 happened partly due to India's Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation with the Soviet Union and Moscow's threat to attack China if it tried to **intervene**.



Two years of the Ukraine war have seen India **lending** Russia **diplomatic** support. **The New Delhi Declaration**, framed during the India-hosted G20 Summit, **was** one such example. The West was satisfied that its stand was **incorporated**, while Russia was

happy at not being named in the text. This **ability** to balance the **aspirations** of both sides **makes** India an ideal candidate to **mediate** in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. But as Jaishankar said, India will not take the initiative **in this regard**. For now, India will be **content** to expand its unique relationship with Russia into newer **domains**, while being confident that there would be no **rancour** or **backstabbing**.

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Vocabulary

1. **Steadfast** (adjective) – Firm, unwavering, loyal, dedicated, committed दृढ़
2. **Amid** (preposition) – Among, during, in the midst of, surrounded by, between के बीच में
3. **Consternation** (noun) – Dismay, alarm, shock, panic, fright घबराहट
4. **The West** (noun) – Western countries, particularly those in Europe and North America पश्चिमी देश
5. **Scale down** (phrasal verb) – Reduce, decrease, cut back, downsize, diminish घटाना
6. **Engagement** (noun) – Involvement, participation, commitment, interaction संलग्नता
7. **Post-** (prefix) – After, following, subsequent, later पश्चात्
8. **Ups and downs** (phrase) – Highs and lows, fluctuations, vicissitudes, changes उतार-चढ़ाव
9. **Decade** (noun) – a period of ten years दशक
10. **Cite** (verb) – Mention, refer to, quote, allude to, point out हवाला देना
11. **Reluctance** (noun) – Hesitation, unwillingness, disinclination, resistance अनिच्छा
12. **Invasion** (noun) – Attack, incursion, assault, intrusion, aggression आक्रमण
13. **Have a bearing on** (phrase) – Influence, affect, impact, relate to, have an effect on प्रभाव डालना
14. **Perspective** (noun) – Viewpoint, standpoint, outlook, angle, approach दृष्टिकोण
15. **Enduring** (adjective) – Lasting, long-lasting, long-term, persistent, abiding स्थायी
16. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, joint, dual द्विपक्षीय
17. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, commonly, repeatedly, habitually अक्सर
18. **Disregard** (verb) – Ignore, overlook, neglect, dismiss, pay no attention to उपेक्षा करना
19. **Back** (verb) – Support, endorse, uphold, stand by, advocate समर्थन करना
20. **Veto** (noun) – a constitutional right to reject a decision or proposal made by a lawmaking body. निषेधाधिकार
21. **Dismemberment** (noun) – the action of partitioning or dividing up a territory or organization. बहिष्कार
22. **Intervene** (verb) – Interfere, meddle, intrude, intercede, step in हस्तक्षेप करना

23. **Lend** (verb) – Provide, give, supply, offer, extend देना
24. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Political, tactful, strategic, diplomatical, negotiating कूटनीतिक
25. **Incorporate** (verb) – Include, integrate, combine, merge, blend सम्मिलित करना
26. **Aspiration** (noun) – Ambition, goal, aim, objective, desire आकांक्षा
27. **Mediate** (verb) – Arbitrate, negotiate, conciliate, intervene, intercede मध्यस्थता करना
28. **In this regard** (phrase) – In this context, concerning this, regarding this, in relation to this इस संदर्भ में
29. **Content** (adjective) – Satisfied, happy, pleased, contented, fulfilled संतुष्ट
30. **Domain** (noun) – Area, field, realm, sphere, territory क्षेत्र
31. **Rancour** (noun) – Bitterness, resentment, animosity, hostility, ill will द्वेष
32. **Backstabbing** (noun) – Betrayal, treachery, disloyalty, deceit, duplicity धोखा/ पीठ में छुरा घोंपना

Summary of the Editorial

1. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar defended India's close ties with Russia during his visit to Germany.
2. India has refused to reduce its engagement with Moscow, despite Western pressure.
3. Jaishankar highlighted that Russia/USSR has never harmed India's interests since independence.
4. India's relationship with Russia has remained stable and friendly, despite global power dynamics.
5. Military hardware and energy supplies are key factors in India's reluctance to criticize Russia's actions in Ukraine.
6. Russia/USSR has supported India in the UN Security Council, particularly on the Kashmir issue, for 67 years.
7. The 1971 India-Pakistan war and the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation with the Soviet Union demonstrated the depth of India-Russia ties.
8. India has provided diplomatic support to Russia during the two years of the Ukraine war.
9. The New Delhi Declaration at the G20 Summit showcased India's ability to balance Western and Russian interests.
10. India is seen as an ideal mediator in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but Jaishankar stated that India will not take the initiative.
11. India aims to expand its unique relationship with Russia into new areas.
12. There is confidence that the India-Russia relationship will not be marred by rancor or betrayal.
13. The editorial emphasizes the historical and strategic importance of India-Russia ties.
14. India's stance is portrayed as pragmatic, given its national interests.
15. The editorial suggests that India's diplomatic balancing act is crucial in the context of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Critical
 - B. Pessimistic
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Optimistic
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. India's diplomatic challenges
 - B. The history of the India-Pakistan conflict
 - C. India's steadfast support for Russia amid the Ukraine war
 - D. The global impact of the Ukraine war
3. **According to the passage, which of the following best describes the nature of India's relationship with Russia/USSR since its independence?**
 - A. A relationship marked by frequent conflicts and disagreements.
 - B. A stable and friendly relationship, unaffected by global political changes.
 - C. A relationship primarily based on economic transactions, with little political significance.
 - D. A relationship that has deteriorated over the years due to Russia's aggressive foreign policies.
4. **What are the two main factors mentioned in the passage that explain India's reluctance to criticize Russia for its invasion of Ukraine?**
 - A. Historical alliances and cultural exchanges.
 - B. Military hardware and energy supplies.
 - C. Trade agreements and diplomatic support.
 - D. Geopolitical strategies and economic sanctions.
5. **What can be inferred about India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict from the passage?**
 - (i) India has provided military support to Russia during the conflict.
 - (ii) India has maintained a neutral stance, offering diplomatic support to Russia without openly criticizing it.
 - (iii) India is actively seeking to mediate in the conflict.
 - A. i only
 - B. ii only
 - C. iii only
 - D. i and ii
 - E. ii and iii
6. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
An animal with a spinal cord
 - A. Amphibian
 - B. Mammal
 - C. Invertebrate
 - D. Vertebrate
7. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Feeble

- A. Wild
B. Fast
C. Strong
D. Fickle
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**
The guard told the children to stay away from the flower beds.
A. The guard says to the children, " Stay away from the flower beds."
B. The guard told to the children, " Stay away from the flower beds."
C. The guard said, "Children, should you stay away from the flower beds."
D. The guard said, "Children, stay away from the flower beds."
9. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Famished
A. Hesitant
B. Volatile
C. Starved
D. Satiated
10. **The following sentence has been split into segments. One of them may contain an error. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
A shop nearby / sell all the goods / of daily use.
A. No error
B. A shop nearby
C. sell all the goods
D. of daily use
11. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
I can't make out my mind about taking a vacation in winter.
A. make up
B. made out
C. No substitution required
D. make on
12. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.
Blow your own trumpet
A. Boast about one's own qualities
B. Keep away the dust from your instruments
C. Practise playing music
D. Play on your instrument
13. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
Able to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened
A. Reluctant
B. Remnant
C. Resilient

- D. Resistant
14. **The following sentence has been split into segments. One of them may contain an error. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
He was formerly / a doctor of / the corporate hospital
- A. No error
B. He was formerly
C. the corporate hospital
D. a doctor of
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
A snake in the grass
- A. A sudden death
B. A good fortune
C. A hidden enemy
D. An unfortunate accident
16. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains the grammatical error.**
Our team have won the match.
- A. the match
B. won
C. Our team
D. Have
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
They called Mohan a _____ because he did not want to go into the dark lane.
- A. coward
B. hero
C. brave
D. Valiant
18. **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. They always shared machinery and goods as needed without a hitch.
B. Then they had the first serious quarrel in 40 years of farming side by side.
C. And unfortunately, the long collaboration fell apart.
D. Two brothers lived on adjoining farms in a small village
- A. DBCA
B. DABC
C. CADB
D. BCAD
19. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
Hardly had we get in but the train started
- A. we get in than
B. No substitution required

- C. we got in before
- D. we got in when

20. **Select the correct active voice of the given sentence.**

The watchman has been bitten by a stray dog

- A. A watchman has bitten the stray dog.
- B. A stray dog has bitten the watchman.
- C. A stray dog bit the watchman.
- D. A stray dog is biting the watchman.

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.

A banker taped a picture, drawn by one of his small children, to his office wall. When he 1. _____ at work the next morning, he found the 2. _____ was covered by a 3. _____ notice, saying he was in 4. _____ of company policy which required personal items to be put away at night. 5. _____ a reaction was not just petty, it risked demotivating the banker completely. In short, it defied common sense

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

- A. turned
- B. achieved
- C. reached
- D. Arrived

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

- A. tape
- B. office
- C. child
- D. Picture

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

- A. substantial
- B. large
- C. generous
- D. Considerable

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

- A. violation
- B. damage
- C. interruption
- D. Disruption

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

- A. That
- B. Such
- C. This
- D. Which

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Neutral

The tone of the passage is neutral. It presents facts and observations about India's relationship with Russia without expressing strong emotions or judgments. The author describes India's stance and actions in a straightforward manner, without indicating approval or disapproval.

2. C) India's steadfast support for Russia amid the Ukraine war

The main theme of the passage is India's steadfast support for Russia amid the Ukraine war. The passage discusses how India has maintained its close ties with Russia despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the pressures from the West. It highlights the reasons behind India's support, such as historical ties, military hardware, energy supplies, and diplomatic strategy.

3. B) A stable and friendly relationship, unaffected by global political changes.

The passage states that "in the history of post-Independence India, Russia/USSR had never hurt its interests" and that "India's relationship with Russia has remained stable and friendly." This indicates that the relationship has been consistently positive and unaffected by the ups and downs experienced by other global powers.

4. B) Military hardware and energy supplies.

The passage explicitly mentions that "Two factors — military hardware and energy supplies — are cited to explain India's reluctance to criticize Russia for its invasion of Ukraine." These factors are critical to India's national interests and have a significant bearing on its foreign policy decisions.

5. B) ii only

The passage indicates that India has lent Russia diplomatic support during the Ukraine war but has not taken an active role in mediating the conflict. There is no mention of India providing military support to Russia in the context of the Ukraine war. Therefore, option ii is correct, while options i and iii are not supported by the passage.

6. D) Vertebrate (noun) – An animal with a spinal cord सजीव

- **Amphibian** (noun) – a type of cold-blooded vertebrate animal that is born in water and breathes with gills, and lives on land in adult form, breathing air with lungs. उभयचर
- **Mammal** (noun) – a warm-blooded vertebrate animal that has hair or fur, the females of which secrete milk for the nourishment of the young. स्तनपायी
- **Invertebrate** (noun) – an animal lacking a spinal column. अकशेरुकी

7. C) **Feeble** (adjective) – Lacking physical strength, especially as a result of age or illness, weak, frail, delicate. **कमज़ोर**
Antonym: **Strong** (adjective) – Having the power to move heavy weights or perform other physically demanding tasks, powerful, robust, sturdy. **मजबूत**
- **Wild** (adjective) – (of an animal or plant) living or growing in the natural environment; not domesticated or cultivated, untamed, uncontrolled. **जंगली**
 - **Fast** (adjective) – Moving or capable of moving at high speed, quick, rapid. **तेज़**
 - **Fickle** (adjective) – Changing frequently, especially as regards one's loyalties or affections, capricious, changeable. **चंचल**
8. D) The guard said, "Children, stay away from the flower beds."
9. D) **Famished** (adjective) – This word describes an extreme state of hunger or the need for food. It conveys a sense of urgency and an intense craving to eat. **बहुत भूखा**
Antonym: **Satiated** (adjective) – Satisfied to the full, having appetite or desire fully gratified, no longer feeling hunger. **तृप्त**
- **Hesitant** (adjective) – Tentative, unsure, or slow in acting or speaking. **संकोची**
 - **Volatile** (adjective) – Liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse. **अस्थिर**
 - **Starved** (adjective) – Suffering or dying from hunger, extremely hungry. **भूखा**
10. C) **sell** के बदले 'sells' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'A shop nearby' का मतलब है कि यहाँ Singular noun की बात हो रही है, और Singular Subject के साथ verb का Singular Form 'sells' आता है; जैसे— A shop nearby sells all the goods of daily use.
- 'sells' will be used instead of 'sell' because 'A shop nearby' indicates that the subject is singular, and with a Singular Subject, the verb should be in the Singular Form 'sells';
Like— A shop nearby sells all the goods of daily use.
11. A) **'make out'** के बदले 'make up' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर 'make up my mind' का अर्थ होता है निर्णय लेना। अंग्रेजी में, जब हम किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचने की बात करते हैं, तो हम 'make up my mind' वाक्यांश का उपयोग करते हैं। 'Make out' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को समझना या पहचानना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है; जैसे— I finally made up my mind about where to go on holiday.
- 'make up' will be used instead of 'make out' because 'make up my mind' means to decide. In English, when we talk about reaching a decision, we use the phrase 'make up my mind'. 'Make out' means to discern or understand something, which is not

appropriate in this context; Like— I finally made up my mind about where to go on holiday.

12. A) **Blow your own trumpet** (idiom) – Boast about one's own qualities **अपनी खुद की प्रशंसा करना**
13. C) **Resilient** (adjective) – Able to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened **संघर्ष के बाद फिर से सफल या प्रसन्न हो सकने की क्षमता**
- **Reluctant** (adjective) – Unwilling and hesitant; disinclined. **अनिच्छुक**
 - **Remnant** (noun) – A small remaining quantity of something. **अवशेष**
 - **Resistant** (adjective) – Not affected by something; capable of withstanding. **प्रतिरोधी**
14. D) **a doctor of** के बदले 'a doctor at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम किसी संस्था या संगठन में किसी व्यक्ति के पेशेवर पद की बात करते हैं, तो 'at' का प्रयोग करते हैं; जैसे— He was a teacher at the university.
- 'a doctor at' will be used instead of 'a doctor of' because when referring to someone's professional position within an organization or establishment, 'at' is used; Like— He was a teacher at the university.
15. C) **A snake in the grass** (idiom) – A hidden enemy **छिपा हुआ दुश्मन**
16. D) **have** के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Our team' Subject Singular रूप में है, अतः Verb भी Singular में होनी चाहिए; जैसे— The team has won the match.
- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject 'Our team' is in Singular form, so the verb must also be in Singular form; Like— The team has won the match.
17. A) **'coward'** का use होगा क्योंकि "coward" का अर्थ होता है डरपोक या भीरु। sentence में mention किया गया है कि Mohan अंधेरी गली में जाने से डरता है, इसलिए 'coward' यहाँ सही फिट बैठता है। 'Hero', 'Brave', और 'Valiant' का अर्थ क्रमशः नायक, साहसी, और वीर होता है, जो कि Mohan की स्थिति का वर्णन करने में सही नहीं होते।
- **Coward** should be used because it refers to someone who is afraid or lacks courage. The sentence indicates that Mohan is afraid to go into the dark lane, making 'coward' the appropriate word. 'Hero', 'Brave', and 'Valiant' all suggest qualities of courage and fearlessness, which do not describe Mohan's behavior in the context provided.
18. B) **DABC**
- Two brothers lived on adjoining farms in a small village They always shared machinery and goods as needed without a hitch. Then they had the first serious quarrel in 40 years of farming side by side. And unfortunately, the long collaboration fell apart.

19. D) **we got in when** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Hardly had' के साथ 'but' का प्रयोग सही नहीं है; 'Hardly had' के बाद 'when' का प्रयोग होता है और वाक्य में Past Perfect Tense होने के कारण 'get' के स्थान पर 'got' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— Hardly had I reached the station when the train arrived.
- 'we got in before' will be used because 'but' is not the correct conjunction to use with 'Hardly had'; after 'Hardly had', we use 'when' and 'got' will replace 'get' due to the Past Perfect Tense in the sentence; Like— Hardly had I reached the station when the train arrived.
20. B) A stray dog has bitten the watchman.
21. D) **Arrived** का use होगा क्योंकि "arrived" का अर्थ होता है किसी जगह पर पहुँचना या आना। sentence में यह कहा गया है कि बैंकर अपने office में अगली सुबह पहुँचा और उसने देखा कि उसके बच्चे का बनाया हुआ चित्र किसी चीज़ से covered था, इसलिए 'arrived' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'turned' का अर्थ होता है मुड़ना या बदलना, 'achieved' का अर्थ है हासिल करना, और 'reached' भी पहुँचने का भाव देता है, परन्तु office setting में आमतौर पर 'arrived' का प्रयोग होता है।
- **Arrived** should be used because it refers to coming to a place. The sentence describes the banker coming to his office the next morning and noticing that the drawing was covered, thus 'arrived' is correct. While 'turned' can mean to rotate or change, 'achieved' means to successfully bring about or reach (a desired objective or result), and 'reached' also implies arriving, but 'arrived' is more commonly used in the context of reaching a workplace.
22. D) **Picture** का use होगा क्योंकि पहले वाक्य में बताया गया है कि बैंकर ने अपने छोटे बच्चे द्वारा बनाई गई एक तस्वीर को अपने कार्यालय की दीवार पर चिपकाया था। इसलिए दूसरे खाली स्थान के लिए 'Picture' सही विकल्प है। 'Tape' यहाँ असंगत है क्योंकि यह एक क्रिया है या संदर्भित वस्तु नहीं है, 'Office' का संदर्भ पहले ही दिया जा चुका है, और 'Child' वस्तु के बजाय एक प्राणी को दर्शाता है।
- **Picture** should be used because in the first sentence, it is mentioned that the banker taped a drawing made by his child to his office wall. Hence, for the second blank, 'Picture' is the correct option. 'Tape' is not applicable here as it is an action or does not refer to the object in question, 'Office' is already referenced earlier, and 'Child' represents a being rather than the object.
23. B) **Large** का use होगा क्योंकि "large" का मतलब होता है बड़ा या विस्तृत। इस context में, notice के आकार की बात की जा रही है जिसे बच्चे के ड्राइंग को cover करने के लिए लगाया

गया था, इसलिए 'large' यहां उपयुक्त है। 'Substantial' और 'Considerable' भी बड़े आकार की बात करते हैं, लेकिन ये शब्द अक्सर महत्व या मात्रा के संदर्भ में इस्तेमाल होते हैं, न कि सिर्फ आकार के लिए। 'Generous' का अर्थ आम तौर पर उदार होता है, जो कि इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता।

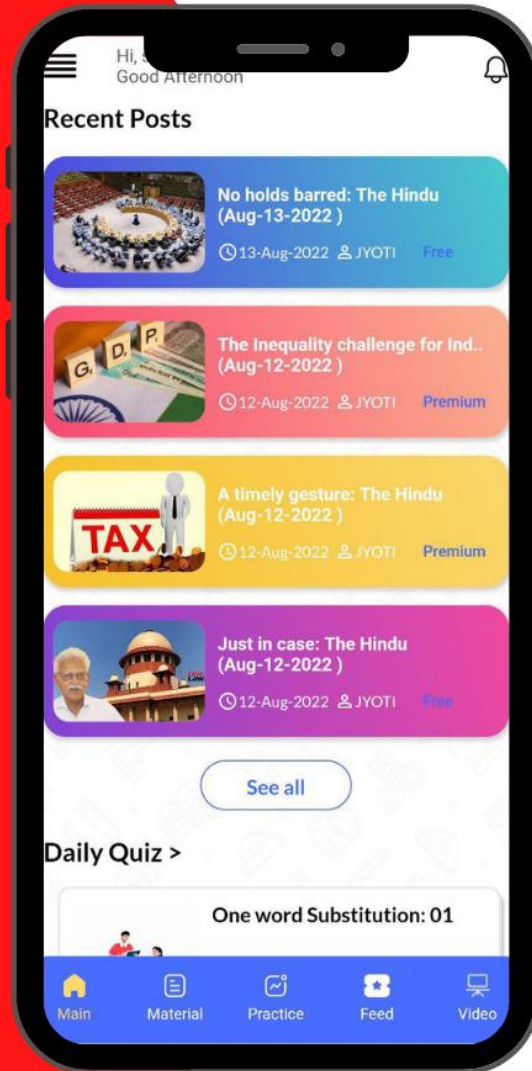
- **'Large'** should be used because it refers to the size of something. In this context, it is discussing the size of the notice that was big enough to cover the child's drawing, making 'large' the appropriate choice. While 'Substantial' and 'Considerable' also denote something significant in size or amount, they are often used to imply significance or quantity, not just size alone. 'Generous' typically means liberal in giving, which doesn't fit the context.

24. A) **'Violation'** का इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात की जा रही है company policy के खिलाफ जाने की। Sentence के according, notice में कहा गया है कि personal items को रात को हटा देना चाहिए, जिसे ना करना policy का 'violation' होता है। 'Damage', 'Interruption', और 'Disruption' यहाँ मौजूद context में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- **'Violation'** should be used because the passage is referring to contravention of the company policy. The notice states that personal items should be put away at night, not doing so would constitute a 'violation' of that policy. 'Damage', 'Interruption', and 'Disruption' do not fit the context provided.

25. B) **'Such'** का use होगा क्योंकि "such" का प्रयोग उस reaction की तीव्रता या प्रकृति को दर्शाने के लिए होता है जो कुछ अनुचित या अप्रत्याशित हो। Sentence में दिया गया है कि यह क्रिया न केवल तुच्छ थी, बल्कि इससे बैंकर की पूर्ण निरुत्साहन का भी जोखिम था। इसलिए 'Such' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। 'That' और 'This' का प्रयोग विशेष संदर्भ के लिए होता है और 'Which' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः विकल्पों या चयन के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठते।

- **'Such'** should be used because it is used to indicate the intensity or nature of the reaction that is inappropriate or unexpected. The sentence implies that the reaction was not only petty but also risked completely demotivating the banker, which is why 'Such' fits here. 'That' and 'This' are used for specific references, and 'Which' is generally used for options or choices, none of which are correct in this context.



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