

War of attrition: On the fight against Maoist insurgency

Despite military gains, a **solution** to **Maoist insurgency** **cannot** be based on **just** violence

For a **long-standing** insurgency that **peaked** in the early to mid-2000s, the war against the Maoists has **settled into** some sort of pattern. Recently, the **insurgents** suffered a series of **blows** from paramilitary and police forces, which include the killing of at least 29 Maoists in the Bastar region in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. **Limited** to the jungles of central India and in places of **sparse** tribal presence with a weaker presence of the developmental and welfare state relative to the rest of the country, the Maoists have been significantly **diminished** as a political-ideological force with few **takers** for their party's — the Communist Party of India (Maoist) — ideology or visions of an alternative state. **What** they have retained, however, **is** an ability to target security forces — **evident** in the killing of 22 paramilitary personnel in April 2021 and 10 jawans in April 2023. This has **necessitated** security forces to use **unconventional** military **tactics** and new **combing routes** to target the **armed** Maoist **cadres**. While these attacks weaken the military strength of the Maoists, they cannot **cumulatively wipe out** the threat of the **insurgents** as claimed by the Union government. This is because the Maoists are in difficult hilly **terrain** and have shown the ability to **win over** some **discontented** sections of the tribals, who are affected by the **civil war**.

After two **decades** of fighting the Maoists, whose strength **peaked** after two **prominent Naxalite** parties **merged** into the CPI (Maoist), the Indian **state** has long realised that the only **way out** is to **take** them **on** militarily while winning over tribals through welfare measures. In the late 2000s, the **use** of **ploy**s such as arming tribals to take on the Maoists through **flawed** campaigns such as the Salwa Judum **backfired**. Later, in a **change of tack**, the **reach** of the welfare state and the **bureaucracy** gradually **expanded** into **hitherto inaccessible** areas in central India and helped **negate** Maoist **propaganda** about the Indian state being **exploitative**. Several tribal people, tired of the warfare and violence, refused to support the Maoists, **leading to desertion** in their ranks in other States as well. In Chhattisgarh, however, the constant warfare has helped the Maoists **tap into** some **discontent**. Civil society and peace **activists** have tried to initiate **ceasefire** talks between the Maoists and the security forces besides asking the insurgents to use democratic **means** to take up tribal **causes**. But the **Maoists**, despite **setbacks**, **have** refused to give up on their **anachronistic ideology**. Their **unwillingness** to accept that the poor tribals, whom they claim to represent, only want better engagement and **outcomes** from the welfare and electoral system, and not a violent **overthrow** that **jeopardises** their lives, **has ensured** that the war of attrition continues. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **What** (pronoun) – The thing or things that

Vocabulary

1. **War of attrition** (phrase) – a war that is fought over a long period and only ends when one side has neither the soldiers and equipment nor the determination left to continue fighting
2. **Maoist** (noun) – Member of a leftist movement, Communist insurgent, radical leftist माओवादी
3. **Insurgency** (noun) – Rebellion, uprising, revolt, insurrection, resistance विद्रोह
4. **Just** (adjective) – Only, merely, simply, barely, solely केवल
5. **Long-standing** (adjective) – Established, enduring, longstanding, chronic, persistent दीर्घकालिक
6. **Peak** (verb) – Reach the highest point, climax, top out, max out चरम पर पहुंचना
7. **Settle into** (phrasal verb) – Become established in, adapt to, get used to, accustom oneself to आदी होना
8. **Sort of** (phrase) – Type or kind of something किसी प्रकार का
9. **Insurgent** (noun) – Rebel, revolutionary, mutineer, agitator, guerilla विद्रोही
10. **Blow** (noun) – Setback, defeat, strike, hit, shock झटका
11. **Limit** (to) (verb) – Restrict, confine, bound, cap, circumscribe सीमित करना
12. **Sparse** (adjective) – Scant, meager, thin, few and far between, scanty कम घना
13. **Diminish** (verb) – Reduce, decrease, lessen, dwindle, weaken कम करना
14. **Taker** (noun) – Recipient, acceptor, receiver प्राप्तकर्ता
15. **Evident** (adjective) – Obvious, clear, apparent, manifest, noticeable स्पष्ट
16. **Necessitate** (verb) – Require, demand, call for, entail, make necessary आवश्यकता होना
17. **Unconventional** (adjective) – Unusual, nontraditional, unorthodox, novel, uncommon अपरंपरागत
18. **Tactics** (noun) – Strategies, methods, techniques, plans, maneuvers रणनीति
19. **Combing route** (noun) – Search path, patrolling track, exploration trail, scanning course खोजी मार्ग
20. **Armed** (adjective) – Equipped, weaponized, fortified, supplied with weapons सशस्त्र
21. **Cadre** (noun) – Core group, key group, staff, framework, nucleus केंद्र
22. **Cumulatively** (adverb) – Collectively, altogether, in total, as a whole संचित रूप से

23. **Wipe out** (phrasal verb) – Eradicate, eliminate, destroy, annihilate, exterminate
नष्ट करना
24. **Terrain** (noun) – Land, ground, topography, landscape, territory इलाका
25. **Win over** (phrasal verb) – Persuade, convince, gain the support of, sway, influence मनाना
26. **Discontented** (adjective) – Dissatisfied, disgruntled, unhappy, displeased, dissatisfied असंतुष्ट
27. **Civil war** (noun) – Internal conflict, domestic war, intrastate war, strife गृह युद्ध
28. **Decade** (noun) – Period of Ten years दशक
29. **Peak** (verb) – Reach the highest point, climax, top out, max out चरम पर पहुंचना
30. **Prominent** (adjective) – Leading, important, notable, distinguished, eminent प्रमुख
31. **Naxalite** (noun) – Member of a Maoist communist group in India, particularly a militant one नक्सली
32. **Merge** (verb) – Combine, unite, amalgamate, integrate, fuse विलीन होना
33. **State** (noun) – government, सरकार
34. **Way out** (phrasal verb) – a way of escaping from a difficult situation समाधान
35. **Take someone on** (phrasal verb) – Confront, challenge, oppose, compete against, contend with मुकाबला करना
36. **Ploy** (noun) – Strategy, tactic, maneuver, scheme, trick चाल
37. **Flawed** (adjective) – Defective, imperfect, faulty, blemished, problematic दोषपूर्ण
38. **Backfire** (verb) – Fail, rebound, boomerang, misfire, go wrong उलटा पड़ना
39. **Change of tack** (noun) – Change of approach, shift in strategy, alteration in method, new direction रणनीति में बदलाव
40. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – Administration, government, officialdom, the system, civil service नौकरशाही
41. **Hitherto** (adverb) – Previously, before, until now, up to this point अब तक
42. **Inaccessible** (adjective) – Unreachable, unapproachable, unobtainable, remote, isolated दुर्गम
43. **Negate** (verb) – Invalidate, nullify, void, cancel, annul नकारना
44. **Propaganda** (noun) – Disinformation, promotion, publicity, spin, advertising प्रचार
45. **Exploitative** (adjective) – Abusive, unfair, manipulative, using, taking advantage शोषणकारी

46. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, produce, give rise to वजह बनना
47. **Desertion** (noun) – Abandonment, leaving, forsaking, quitting, defection पलायन
48. **Tap into** (phrasal verb) – Utilize, draw on, exploit, access, make use of संसाधनों का उपयोग करना
49. **Discontent** (noun) – Dissatisfaction, discontentment, unrest, displeasure, unhappiness असंतोष
50. **Activist** (noun) – Campaigner, advocate, protester, agitator, reformer कार्यकर्ता
51. **Ceasefire** (noun) – Truce, armistice, suspension of fighting, peace agreement युद्धविराम
52. **Mean** (noun) – Method, way, mode, manner, technique साधन
53. **Cause** (noun) – Movement, motive, reason, purpose, basis कारण/ इरादा
54. **Setback** (noun) – Problem, difficulty, issue, obstacle, hindrance नाकामयाबी
55. **Anachronistic** (adjective) – Outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, archaic, antiquated पुराना
56. **Ideology** (noun) – Beliefs, principles, doctrine, philosophy, creed विचारधारा
57. **Unwillingness** (noun) – Reluctance, refusal, hesitance, disinclination, resistance अनिच्छा
58. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, effect, end result, aftermath परिणाम
59. **Overthrow** (noun) – Removal, toppling, downfall, defeat, dethronement पलटवार
60. **Jeopardise** (verb) – Endanger, threaten, risk, imperil, compromise जोखिम में डालना
61. **Ensure** (verb) – Guarantee, secure, make certain, assure, confirm सुनिश्चित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Recent Military Engagements:** Recently, security forces have achieved significant victories against Maoists, including killing 29 insurgents in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region.
2. **Reduced Influence:** The Maoists, once a significant force, are now limited to central India's jungles, with diminishing support for their ideology and alternative state vision.
3. **Persistent Threat:** Despite military successes, Maoists continue to pose a threat through targeted attacks on security forces, including recent killings in 2021 and 2023.
4. **Adaptive Tactics:** Security forces have adapted unconventional military tactics and new strategies to combat the resilient Maoist fighters in challenging terrains.
5. **Inability to Eradicate Threat:** The Indian government's claims of eradicating the Maoist threat are contradicted by the ongoing ability of Maoists to regroup and gain support from discontented tribals.
6. **Historical Context:** The Maoist strength surged following the merger of two Naxalite parties into the CPI (Maoist), which led to a prolonged conflict.
7. **Dual Strategy:** The state has recognized the need for a dual approach—military action coupled with welfare measures—to counter the insurgency effectively.
8. **Backfired Strategies:** Earlier strategies like arming tribals to fight Maoists, such as in the Salwa Judum campaign, proved counterproductive.
9. **Expanded Welfare and Bureaucracy:** Efforts to expand the reach of the welfare state into Maoist-affected areas have helped counteract Maoist propaganda against the Indian state.
10. **Tribal Disillusionment:** Ongoing conflict has led to disillusionment among tribals, resulting in desertions from the Maoist ranks, although some areas still see support for the insurgency.
11. **Ceasefire Efforts:** Civil society and peace activists have attempted to initiate ceasefire talks between Maoists and security forces, with mixed success.
12. **Democratic Solutions Advocated:** There have been calls for Maoists to pursue their goals through democratic means rather than through violent insurgency.
13. **Maoist Intransigence:** Despite setbacks, Maoists continue to cling to their outdated ideology, refusing to acknowledge the desires of the tribals for engagement through peaceful and democratic means.
14. **Continued Conflict:** The unwillingness of Maoists to adapt has perpetuated a cycle of violence and a protracted war of attrition.
15. **Challenges in Resolution:** Solving the Maoist insurgency remains complex, requiring both military and socio-political strategies to address the root causes of discontent and to integrate affected communities into the mainstream.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage discussing the fight against Maoist insurgency?** [\[Edit. Page\]](#)
 - A. Critical
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Celebratory
2. **What is the main theme of the passage regarding the fight against Maoist insurgency?**
 - A. The futility of violent conflicts and the need for comprehensive welfare strategies
 - B. The importance of military dominance in insurgency conflicts
 - C. The resilience of the Maoist insurgents despite governmental efforts
 - D. The success of the Indian government in suppressing insurgent movements
3. **Which of the following best explains why military tactics alone cannot resolve the Maoist insurgency?**
 - A. The Maoists have been significantly diminished, suggesting that they could be completely eliminated with a continued military focus.
 - B. The difficult terrain and the Maoists' ability to garner support from some tribal sections make military solutions alone ineffective.
 - C. Recent successful attacks by security forces indicate that continuing these tactics will eventually eradicate the insurgency.
 - D. The decrease in violent incidents over the years indicates that the Maoist ideology is no longer appealing, making further military actions redundant.
4. **Based on the passage, which factor significantly contributes to the ongoing challenge posed by the Maoist insurgency despite recent military gains?**
 - A. The ideological appeal of the Maoists has increased, drawing more recruits from across the country.
 - B. The Maoists have adapted their tactics, often engaging in open conflicts with larger groups of security forces.
 - C. The lack of development and welfare in regions where Maoists are active continues to provide them with a base of support.
 - D. The government has already implemented a comprehensive plan that includes developmental aid, reducing the Maoist influence significantly.
5. **Which one of the following statements best summarizes the author's position on the effectiveness of military strategies against the Maoist insurgency?**
 - A. The author believes that military strategies, combined with welfare measures, have completely eradicated the Maoist threat in central India.
 - B. The author suggests that while military strategies have been somewhat effective, a solution to Maoist insurgency requires more than just violence, including significant welfare and outreach efforts.
 - C. The author asserts that military interventions have been counterproductive and have only served to increase the strength of the Maoist insurgency.
 - D. The author argues that initiatives like ceasefire talks and democratic engagements have been the most effective methods in countering the Maoist insurgency.

6. **According to the passage, all of the following are true about the strategies used against Maoists EXCEPT that:**
- A. The merging of two prominent Naxalite parties into the CPI (Maoist) marked a peak in the strength of the Maoists.
 - B. Initiatives like the Salwa Judum, which involved arming tribals, have effectively countered Maoist propaganda and gained widespread support.
 - C. Expansion of welfare and bureaucratic reach into previously inaccessible areas has helped counteract Maoist influence among tribals.
 - D. Some tribal people have grown weary of constant warfare, leading to their refusal to support Maoists and subsequent desertions.
7. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. European football has just witnessed the rise and fall of a multi-billion sporting empire — in less than three days.
 - Q. The plans to form a league of elite, super-rich clubs who were to be given membership in perpetuity, with no need of qualification or fear of relegation, struck at the principle of sporting meritocracy. It was an attempt at a great heist, and it met with very hostile public opinion.
 - R. ESL's base was, it was clear, the greed of the biggest clubs of Europe, except the ones from Germany and France, who didn't join.
 - S. The plans to form the breakaway 20-team European Super League (ESL) are in disarray as English and Italian clubs have pulled out of the proposed league. Football leagues in Europe have a rich and cherished history, with fan loyalties going back four or even more generations.
- A. QRSP B.PSRQ C.QSRP D.PQSR
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. Trouble is brewing for tea growers, orchardists and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh as agriculture is largely rain-fed. With over 70 per cent deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow witnessed since January, the farmers are suffering severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.
 - Q. In the Kullu valley, the apple producers are worried that owing to the inadequate amount of chilling time, their fruit of labour would be hit. Pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.
 - R. Farmers in Bilaspur district have also been affected by the drought-like conditions as a 30-40 per cent reduction in wheat yield is feared because the crop is stunted. Cattle are being fed wheat as there is shortage of fodder in some areas. Earlier, the vegetable farmers of Solan faced tough times as their yield was reduced to half.
 - S. The dry weather has wilted the famous tea leaves in the Kangra valley, impacting the production by a whopping 75 per cent.
- A. QRSP B.QSRP C.PSQR D.PRQS
9. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.**
Children below the age of 14 were not allowed to partisipate in the cooking competition
- A. Competition

- B. Partisipate
C. Children
D. Allowed
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
After I complete my training program / I will have been joining a team of astronauts / and preparing to / embark on a mission to Mars.
A. I will have been joining a team of astronauts
B. embark on a mission to Mars
C. and preparing to
D. After I complete my training program
11. **The given sentence contains an error. Select the option that correctly rectifies the error.**
Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the bad.
A. Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the worst.
B. Earlier, he was feeling good, but things took a turn for the bad.
C. Earlier, he was feeling well, but things took a turn for the ill.
D. Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the ill.
12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Blessing in disguise
A. Something that seems good but is harmful for you
B. Something that seems bad but provides some benefit
C. Something that cannot be hidden from anyone
D. Something that remains hidden from everyone
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Break
A. Divide
B. Mend
C. Split
D. Breach
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A place of burial
A. Building
B. Laboratory
C. Cemetery
D. Observatory
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Forthcoming
A. Large
B. Extensive
C. Adventurous
D. Past

16. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

I will celebrating New Year at my old residence as usual.

- A. I
B. will celebrating
C. New Year
D. at my old residence as usual
17. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

Why don't / you throw this / paper on the dust bin?

- A. paper on the dust bin
B. No error
C. you throw this
D. Why don't
18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Beat around the bush

- A. To be persistent in pursuing a goal
B. To be impatient and short-tempered
C. To be direct and formal
D. To avoid addressing a topic correctly
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Her stories paid _____ to her mother, whom she regarded as the goddess of bravery

- A. frustration
B. sainthood
C. absoluteness
D. Homage
20. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Amicable

- A. Friendly
B. Proud
C. Generous
D. Harsh

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.

Once, there was a boy who became bored when he watched over the village sheep _____1_____ on the hillside. To entertain himself, he sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" When the villagers heard the cry, they came _____2_____ the hill to drive the wolf away. But, when they arrived, they saw no wolf. The boy was amused when seeing their angry faces. "Don't scream wolf, boy," warned the villagers, "when there is no wolf!" They angrily went back down the hill. Later, the shepherd boy cried out once again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf

is chasing the sheep!” When the villagers came, they saw there was no wolf, they said strictly, “Save your ____3____ cry for when there is really a wolf! Don’t cry ‘wolf’ when there is no wolf!” Later, the boy saw a real wolf sneaking around his flock. Alarmed, he jumped on his feet and cried out as loud as he could, “Wolf! Wolf!” But the villagers thought he was ____4____ them again, and so they didn’t come to help. At sunset, the villagers went looking for the boy who hadn’t returned with their sheep. When they went up the hill, they found him ____5____ as all the sheep were dead.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. laughing
 - B. receiving
 - C. assisting
 - D. Grazing
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. driving
 - B. walking down
 - C. running down
 - D. running up
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. frightened
 - B. laughable
 - C. funny
 - D. Muffled
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. fooling
 - B. questioning
 - C. fighting
 - D. Seeing
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. singing
 - B. happy
 - C. dancing
 - D. weeping

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Critical

The tone of the passage is critical, particularly towards the effectiveness of solely military strategies against the Maoist insurgency. It emphasizes the limitations of violence and the necessity for a more comprehensive approach involving welfare measures. This critical tone is underscored by the acknowledgment of ongoing challenges despite military actions, and the critique of past strategies like the Salwa Judum.

Optimistic: The passage does not convey an overall sense of optimism; rather, it highlights the persistent difficulties and complexities of the situation.

Neutral: While factual information is provided, the author's critical perspective on the government's approach and past failures gives the passage a distinct tone that is not neutral.

Celebratory: There is no sense of celebration in the passage; the ongoing conflict and its repercussions are portrayed as grave and unresolved.

2. A) The futility of violent conflicts and the need for comprehensive welfare strategies

The main theme of the passage is the limited effectiveness of violent measures alone in resolving the Maoist insurgency and the essential role of welfare strategies in addressing the root causes of the conflict. This theme is explored through discussions on the inefficacy of past violent campaigns and the importance of integrating welfare measures to win the support of tribals.

B) The passage critiques the reliance on military solutions, suggesting that they are not sufficient on their own.

C) While the resilience of the Maoists is mentioned, it is not the central theme; the focus is more on the response strategies of the government.

D) The passage does not depict the government's efforts as wholly successful; instead, it points out the ongoing challenges and inadequacies in the current approaches.

3. B) The difficult terrain and the Maoists' ability to garner support from some tribal sections make military solutions alone ineffective.

Option B is correct because it identifies the strategic challenges posed by the difficult terrain and the socio-political dynamics, such as the support the Maoists receive from certain tribal sections, which are not addressed by military tactics alone.

Option A is incorrect as it overlooks the complexity of the insurgency which extends beyond mere numbers.

Option C is incorrect because it mistakenly assumes that past successes of military actions can predict the total eradication of the insurgency.

Option D is incorrect as it confuses the decrease in incidents with a decline in ideological support, which does not necessarily imply that the threat is gone or that military action alone is sufficient.

4. **C) The lack of development and welfare in regions where Maoists are active continues to provide them with a base of support.**

Option C is correct as it highlights the role of underdevelopment and insufficient welfare in the regions where the Maoists are active, which fosters discontent and supports the insurgency, as mentioned in the passage.

Option A is incorrect because the passage does not suggest an increase in the ideological appeal of the Maoists.

Option B is incorrect as the passage indicates the use of unconventional tactics by the Maoists rather than open conflicts.

Option D is incorrect because the passage implies that adequate developmental interventions are not yet in place, hence the continued support for the Maoists in those areas.

5. **B) The author suggests that while military strategies have been somewhat effective, a solution to Maoist insurgency requires more than just violence, including significant welfare and outreach efforts.**

The author suggests that while military gains have been made, they are not sufficient on their own to resolve the Maoist insurgency. The need for expanding welfare measures and winning over the tribals is emphasized as essential to complement the military efforts. Option A is incorrect as it overstates the success of military strategies. Option C contradicts the passage, which acknowledges some effectiveness of military actions. Option D is incorrect as it shifts focus exclusively to peace talks and democratic means, which the passage mentions but does not highlight as the most effective methods alone.

6. **B) Initiatives like the Salwa Judum, which involved arming tribals, have effectively countered Maoist propaganda and gained widespread support.**

The passage clearly states that initiatives like the Salwa Judum backfired and were flawed, rather than being effective. This makes Option B the correct answer as it does not align with the passage's information. Option A is true as it is stated at the beginning of the passage.

Option C is correct as the passage notes the benefits of expanding welfare and bureaucracy in negating Maoist influence. Option D is supported by the text describing tribal fatigue due to constant warfare and their refusal to support the Maoists, leading to desertions.

7. **B) PSRQ**

P: The paragraph begins with sentence P, which introduces the topic of a multi-billion sporting empire rising and falling in European football.

S: Sentence S provides the context of the breakaway European Super League (ESL) and the disarray caused by English and Italian clubs pulling out.

R: Sentence R explains that the greed of the biggest clubs, except those from Germany and France, formed the base of the ESL.

Q: Finally, sentence Q elaborates on the plans of the ESL and how they clashed with the principle of sporting meritocracy, leading to hostile public opinion.

8. C) **PSQR**

P: The first sentence (P) introduces the main problem of trouble brewing for tea growers, orchardists, and other farmers in rain-deficient Himachal Pradesh due to the agriculture being largely rain-fed. It mentions the deficiency in rainfall and scanty snow, which has led to severe crop failure in terms of both quality and quantity.

S: The second sentence (S) provides specific information about the impact of the dry weather on tea production in the Kangra valley. It states that the production has been impacted by a whopping 75 percent due to the wilted tea leaves caused by the dry weather

Q: The third sentence (Q) shifts the focus to the apple producers in the Kullu valley. It explains their concerns about the inadequate amount of chilling time, which could potentially harm their fruit production. It also mentions that pear and cherry produce is similarly dependent upon chilling hours.

R: The final sentence (R) talks about the drought-like conditions affecting farmers in Bilaspur district. It mentions a 30-40 percent reduction in wheat yield due to the stunted crop. It also highlights the shortage of fodder in some areas, which has led to feeding wheat to cattle. It briefly refers to the vegetable farmers of Solan who faced tough times with a reduced yield

9. B) The incorrect spelling in the given sentence is '**Partisipate**'. The correct spelling is 'Participate'. **हिस्सा लेना**

10. A) **I will have been joining** के बदले 'I will join' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां पर future tense का सही रूप है "will + base form of the verb." "I will have been joining" गलत है क्योंकि यह continuous future perfect tense में है, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं है; जैसे— After I complete my training program, I will join a team of astronauts

- 'I will join' will be used instead of 'I will have been joining' because the correct form of future tense is "will + base form of the verb." "I will have been joining" is incorrect because it is in the continuous future perfect tense, which is not appropriate in this context; Like— After I complete my training program, I will join a team of astronauts.

11. A) Earlier, he was feeling better, but things took a turn for the worst.

12. B) **Blessing in disguise** (idiom) – Something that seems bad but provides some benefit **दुःख के भेस में सुख**

13. B) **Break** (verb) – To separate into parts, often violently, cause to disintegrate, snap. **तोड़ना**

Antonym: **Mend** (verb) – To repair, fix, put right, restore. **मरम्मत करना**

- **Divide** (verb) – To separate or be separated into parts. **विभाजित करना**
- **Split** (verb) – To break or cause to break forcibly into parts. **विभाजन करना**

- **reach** (noun/verb) – An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct. **उल्लंघन/तोड़ना**
14. C) **Cemetery** (noun) – A place set aside for graves, tombs, or funeral urns, especially one that is not a churchyard; place of burial. **कब्रिस्तान**
- **Building** (noun) – A structure with a roof and walls, such as a house, school, store, or factory. **इमारत**
 - **Laboratory** (noun) – A room or building equipped for scientific experiments, research, or teaching, or for the manufacture of drugs or chemicals. **प्रयोगशाला**
 - **Observatory** (noun) – A building or structure providing an elevated place for observing astronomical events, weather, or the natural environment. **वेधशाला**
15. D) **Forthcoming** (adjective) – About to happen, upcoming, imminent, soon to be. **आगामी**
Antonym: **Past** (adjective) – Having happened or existed before the present time, earlier, bygone. **भूतकाल**
- **Large** (adjective) – Of considerable size, big, substantial, significant. **बड़ा**
 - **Extensive** (adjective) – Covering a large area; broad, widespread, wide-ranging. **व्यापक**
 - **Adventurous** (adjective) – Willing to take risks or to try out new methods, ideas, or experiences, bold, daring. **साहसिक**
16. B) 'will celebrating' के बदले 'will be celebrating' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'will' के बाद हमेशा verb की first form (base form) आती है या 'be + verb-ing' form आता है; जैसे— I will celebrate, or I will be celebrating.
- 'will be celebrating' will be used instead of 'will celebrating' because after 'will,' we always use the first form (base form) of the verb or the 'be + verb-ing' form; Like— I will celebrate, or I will be celebrating.
17. A) **paper on the dust bin** में त्रुटि है। 'on' के स्थान पर 'in' होना चाहिए जैसे की हम कहते हैं "dustbin में"। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा "Why don't you throw this paper in the dust bin?"
- The error is in 'paper on the dust bin'. The correct preposition to use here is 'in' rather than 'on'. So, the correct sentence should be "Why don't you throw this paper in the dust bin?"
18. D) **Beat around the bush** (idiom) – To avoid addressing a topic correctly **घुमा-फिराकर बात करना**
19. D) **'Homage'** क्योंकि "homage" का अर्थ होता है किसी की सम्मान या आदर में दी जाने वाली श्रद्धांजलि। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि उसकी कहानियाँ उसकी माँ को सम्मान देती थीं, जिसे वह साहस की देवी मानती थी, इसलिए 'Homage' यहाँ पर सही है। जबकि 'Frustration' का अर्थ

है आसंतोष या निराशा, 'Sainthood' का अर्थ है संतता और 'Absoluteness' का अर्थ है पूर्णता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Homage** should be chosen because it means a special honor or respect shown publicly. The sentence indicates that her stories paid respect to her mother, whom she saw as a goddess of bravery, making 'Homage' appropriate here. On the other hand, 'Frustration' means dissatisfaction or upset, 'Sainthood' refers to the state of being a saint, and 'Absoluteness' means completeness, which don't fit in this context.

20. A) **Amicable** (adjective) – Characterized by friendliness and absence of discord, cordial, warm, harmonious. **मैत्रीपूर्ण**

Synonym: Friendly (adjective) – Kind, warm-hearted, affable, amiable. **मित्रवत**

- **Proud** (adjective) – Having a high opinion of oneself, arrogant, haughty. **अभिमानि**
- **Generous** (adjective) – Showing kindness towards others, magnanimous, liberal, charitable. **उदार**
- **Harsh** (adjective) – Unpleasantly rough or jarring, severe, stern. **कठोर**

21. D) **Grazing** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "grazing" का अर्थ होता है घास चरना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि लड़का गाँव की भेड़ों की देखभाल करता था जो पहाड़ी पर थीं। भेड़ें घास चरती हैं, इसलिए 'Grazing' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Laughing' का अर्थ होता है हंसना, 'Receiving' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना, और 'Assisting' का अर्थ है सहायता करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Grazing** should be used because it means to feed on growing grass. The sentence mentions that the boy watched over the village sheep which were on the hillside. Sheep eat grass, making 'grazing' the correct term here. Whereas, 'Laughing' means to express mirth, 'Receiving' means to get or take, and 'Assisting' means to give support, which don't fit in this context.

22. D) **running up** का use होगा क्योंकि जब लड़का ने "Wolf! Wolf!" चिल्लाया, तो गांववाले तेजी से पहाड़ी की ओर दौड़े ताकि वे भेड़ों को बचा सकें। इसलिए 'running up' सबसे सही विकल्प है जो वे तेजी से पहाड़ी की ओर दौड़ते हुए आए थे। 'driving' का अर्थ होता है गाड़ी चलाना, 'walking down' का अर्थ होता है धीरे-धीरे नीचे जाना, और 'running down' का अर्थ है तेजी से नीचे जाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **running up** should be used because when the boy cried out "Wolf! Wolf!", the villagers would have quickly rushed towards the hill to save the sheep. Thus, 'running up' is the most appropriate option suggesting they came hurrying up the hill. 'driving' implies operating a vehicle, 'walking down' suggests a slow descent, and 'running down' indicates moving rapidly downwards, which don't fit in this context.

23. A) **Frightened** का use होगा क्योंकि "frightened" का अर्थ होता है डरा हुआ। पूरे context में बार-बार लोमड़ी के आने की चिल्लाने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए boy की चिल्लाने वाली आवाज 'frightened' हो सकती है। इसलिए 'Frightened' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Muffled' का अर्थ है धीमा या आवाज को कम कर देना, 'laughable' और 'funny' का अर्थ है हंसी आने वाला, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

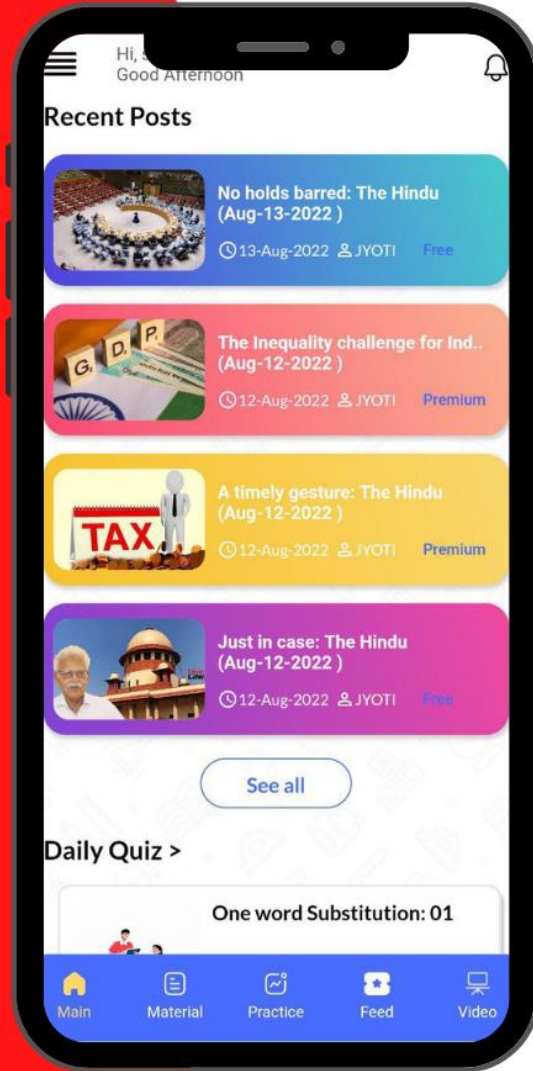
- **Frightened** should be used because it means scared or fearful. Given the context where the boy keeps crying out about the wolf, his shout can be described as 'frightened'. Thus, 'Frightened' is the correct choice here. Whereas 'Muffled' implies a sound that is muted or softened, 'laughable' and 'funny' mean something that can cause laughter, which aren't fitting in this context.

24. A) **Fooling** का use होगा क्योंकि लड़के ने पहले गांव वालों को धोखा दिया था जब वह झूठा चिल्ला रहा था कि भेड़िया आ रहा है। इसलिए, जब लड़का फिर से चिल्ला रहा था, गांव वाले सोच रहे थे कि वह उन्हें फिर से धोखा दे रहा है। इस context में 'fooling' अर्थात् धोखा देना सही है। 'Questioning' का अर्थ है प्रश्न करना, 'Fighting' का अर्थ है लड़ाई करना, और 'Seeing' का अर्थ है देखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Fooling** should be used because the boy had deceived the villagers earlier by falsely crying out about the presence of a wolf. Therefore, when the boy cried out again, the villagers believed he was trying to deceive or 'fool' them once more. In this context, 'fooling' meaning deceiving is appropriate. Whereas, 'Questioning' means to ask, 'Fighting' means to combat, and 'Seeing' means to observe, which don't fit in this context.

25. D) **Weeping** का use होगा क्योंकि 'weeping' का अर्थ होता है रोना। जब बाकी सभी भेड़ मर गई थीं, तो लड़का उदास हो सकता है और उसे दुःख हो सकता है। इसलिए, यहां 'weeping' सही है। 'Singing' का अर्थ है गाना गाना, 'Happy' का अर्थ है खुश होना और 'Dancing' का अर्थ है नाचना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Weeping** should be used because it means crying. Given all the sheep were dead, the boy might be sad and distressed. Therefore, 'weeping' is the correct choice here. 'Singing' means to sing, 'Happy' means being joyful, and 'Dancing' means to dance, which don't fit in this context.



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