

Competition and conflict: On the U.S.-China relationship

U.S. and China must manage their **differences** responsibly

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's **marathon talks** with top officials in China, which includes President Xi Jinping, **have underscored** the desire of the two countries to **stabilise** their relationship and the **resultant** challenges. Mr. Blinken **stressed** that the U.S. would **make sure** that the **competition** between the world's two largest **economies** "**doesn't veer into** conflict". Mr. Xi said they should **seek** common **ground** "rather than engage in **vicious** competition". But the Blinken visit also **exposed** the **structural fault lines** in the **Sino-American** competition. He raised America's concerns about what he called China's "support for Russia's defence industry" and **threatened** actions if Beijing "doesn't **address** this problem". China **slammed** the "**hypocrisy** and irresponsibility" of the U.S., which just decided to send military **aid** worth \$61 billion to Ukraine and then made "**groundless accusations**" against normal economic and trade exchanges between China and Russia. China also attacked the U.S. policy towards Taiwan and the South China Sea and **urged** Washington to look at China's development "in a positive light".

Both the U.S. and China have **mutual** deep **misgivings**. U.S. National Defence Strategy documents name China as a "**revisionist** power" and a **pace** technological and military challenger. The U.S. has **imposed** export controls to **limit** China's growth in **strategic** sectors, particularly semiconductors, and imposed high **tariffs** on Chinese goods. It has also **doubled down on** its support for Taiwan and **bolstered** defence cooperation with the Philippines, which has disputes with China in the South China Sea. Beijing has blamed the U.S. for South China Sea tensions and called Washington's support for Taiwan as an **intervention** in its internal **affairs**. While it is practically impossible to reset **ties given** these structural challenges, there are areas of cooperation as well. In November 2023, when Presidents Xi and Biden met in California, both sides decided to resume bilateral military-to-military communication, cooperate in addressing the risks of **artificial intelligence** and launch efforts to control the production of **fentanyl**. Tackling climate change and global food security are also areas of cooperation. **A key lesson** from the **Cold War is** that if **competition** between superpowers **turns ugly**, it could affect the world through **proxy conflicts**, economic wars and **diplomatic** crises. As the two most powerful countries, they should stay away from repeating history. Even if they are not able to **resolve** their **ideological** and **geopolitical** differences, they should build the **guardrails** that could prevent the competition from turning ugly and stay focused on the areas of cooperation, addressing the common challenges of the world. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Differences** (noun) – Disparities, discrepancies, variances, deviations, diversities मतभेद
2. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, accentuate, stress जोर देना
3. **Stabilise** (verb) – Steady, secure, solidify, balance, fortify स्थिर करना
4. **Resultant** (adjective) – Consequent, ensuing, subsequent, derived, following परिणामी
5. **Stress** (verb) – Emphasize, accentuate, underline, highlight, insist पर जोर देना
6. **Make sure** (phrase) – Ensure, ascertain, verify, confirm, guarantee सुनिश्चित करना
7. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएं
8. **Veer into** (phrasal verb) – To change direction suddenly, especially towards something undesirable. अचानक दिशा बदलना
9. **Seek** (verb) – Pursue, search for, attempt to find, look for, aim at खोजना
10. **Ground** (noun) – Basis, foundation, reason, rationale, premise आधार
11. **Vicious** (adjective) – Malicious, spiteful, harmful, nasty, malevolent दुष्ट
12. **Expose** (verb) – Reveal, uncover, disclose, unveil, show प्रकट करना
13. **Structural** (adjective) – Constructural, architectural, configurational, organizational, systemic संरचनात्मक
14. **Fault line** (noun) – A division or split due to differences in opinion or approach. मतभेदों का कारण बनने वाली रेखा
15. **Sino-American** (adjective) – Pertaining to the relations between China and America. चीन और अमेरिका के संबंधों से संबंधित
16. **Threaten** (verb) – Intimidate, menace, warn, forewarn, alarm खतरा पैदा करना
17. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, attend to, tackle, handle, manage सुलझाना, निपटाना
18. **Slam** (verb) – Criticize harshly, attack, bash, denounce, condemn कठोरता से आलोचना करना
19. **Hypocrisy** (noun) – Insincerity, duplicity, falseness, pretense, sanctimony पाखंड
20. **Aid** (noun) – Assistance, help, support, relief, succor सहायता
21. **Groundless** (adjective) – Baseless, unfounded, unsubstantiated, unjustified, unwarranted निराधार
22. **Accusation** (noun) – Charge, allegation, claim, assertion, indictment आरोप

23. **Urge** (verb) – Encourage, prompt, persuade, push, compel प्रोत्साहित करना
24. **Mutual** (adjective) – Reciprocal, shared, joint, common, collective पारस्परिक
25. **Misgiving** (noun) – Doubt, apprehension, reservation, qualm, skepticism संदेह
26. **Revisionist** (adjective) – Advocating or practicing revision, especially of an orthodox view. संशोधनवादी
27. **Pacing** (adjective) – Leading or setting the pace in a race or competition. गति निर्धारित करने वाला
28. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, levy, exact, apply, implement लगाना
29. **Limit** (verb) – Restrict, cap, confine, curtail, constrain सीमित करना
30. **Strategic** (adjective) – Calculated, tactical, planned, deliberate, shrewd रणनीतिक
31. **Tariff** (noun) – Duty, tax, charge, toll, levy शुल्क
32. **Double down on** (phrase) – To continue firmly or even more determinedly. और अधिक दृढ़ता से जारी रखना
33. **Bolster** (verb) – Support, strengthen, reinforce, buttress, boost मजबूत करना
34. **Intervention** (noun) – Interference, involvement, intercession, mediation, intrusion हस्तक्षेप
35. **Affair** (noun) – Matter, business, event, concern, issue मामला
36. **Ties** (noun) – Bonds, links, connections, relationships, associations संबंध
37. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, assuming, in light of, with regard to देखते हुए
38. **Artificial intelligence** (noun) – The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.
39. **Fentanyl** (noun) – A powerful synthetic opioid used as a pain medication and anesthetic. फेंटेनिल
40. **Cold war** (noun) – A state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats, propaganda, and other measures short of open warfare. शीत युद्ध
41. **Turn ugly** (phrase) – To become very unpleasant or hostile. बहुत अप्रिय या शत्रुतापूर्ण बनना
42. **Proxy conflict** (noun) – A conflict between third parties fighting on behalf of more powerful patrons.
43. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Tactful, sensitive, considerate, discreet, suave कूटनीतिक

44. **Resolve** (verb) – Settle, solve, resolve, clarify, conclude सुलझाना
45. **Ideological** (adjective) – Doctrinal, philosophical, creedal, dogmatic, normative वैचारिक
46. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Geopolitical, political-geographic, strategic, international-political भू-राजनीतिक
47. **Guardrail** (noun) – Barrier, railing, fence, safeguard, protector सुरक्षा बाड़

Summary of the Editorial

1. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken engaged in marathon talks with top Chinese officials, including President Xi Jinping, highlighting efforts to stabilize the U.S.-China relationship.
2. Both nations expressed a desire to prevent their competition from escalating into conflict, with Blinken emphasizing the U.S.'s commitment to managing this competition responsibly.
3. President Xi advocated for finding common ground and avoiding "vicious competition."
4. The talks revealed deep structural challenges in the relationship, particularly regarding the U.S. and China's differing approaches to global issues.
5. Blinken raised concerns about China's alleged support for Russia's defense industry amidst the Ukraine conflict, threatening actions if China does not address this issue.
6. China criticized the U.S. for hypocrisy, pointing to the U.S.'s substantial military aid to Ukraine and accusing the U.S. of making groundless accusations against China's economic exchanges with Russia.
7. Issues related to Taiwan and the South China Sea were also points of contention, with China urging the U.S. to view its development positively.
8. Both countries harbor deep mutual misgivings, with U.S. documents labeling China as a "revisionist power" and a significant military and technological challenger.
9. The U.S. has implemented export controls to restrict China's growth in strategic sectors, especially semiconductors, and continues to impose high tariffs on Chinese goods.
10. The U.S. has increased support for Taiwan and enhanced defense cooperation with the Philippines, which has ongoing disputes with China in the South China Sea.
11. Beijing has accused the U.S. of escalating tensions in the South China Sea and interfering in China's internal affairs concerning Taiwan.
12. While a complete reset of U.S.-China ties appears impossible due to these structural challenges, both sides have identified potential areas for cooperation.
13. During a meeting in California in November 2023, Presidents Xi and Biden agreed to resume military-to-military communications, cooperate on AI risks, and address fentanyl production.
14. Both nations recognize the importance of cooperating on global challenges such as climate change and food security.
15. The editorial concludes that, despite ideological and geopolitical differences, the U.S. and China should establish mechanisms to prevent their competition from deteriorating and focus on collaborative efforts to address global issues.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the recent talks between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese officials, what was emphasized as a key objective for the U.S. and China in managing their bilateral relationship?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The U.S. stressed the need to end all forms of cooperation with China to prevent economic dependency and safeguard national security.
 - B. China highlighted the necessity of completely severing economic ties with the U.S. to focus on developing stronger relations with Russia and other allies.
 - C. Both countries expressed a desire to stabilize their relationship and ensure that their competition does not lead to conflict.
 - D. The discussions revolved around forming an exclusive trade agreement that would benefit only the U.S. and China, excluding other global economic players.
2. **What issue did U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken raise during his talks with Chinese officials, which reflects a point of contention between the U.S. and China?**
 - A. Blinken condemned China's increasing military presence in international waters, demanding an immediate withdrawal to avoid direct military confrontation.
 - B. He criticized China's support for Russia's defense industry, highlighting it as a problem that needs to be addressed to avoid further complications in U.S.-China relations.
 - C. The talks focused on disagreements over environmental policies, with Blinken urging China to adopt more stringent measures to combat climate change.
 - D. Blinken requested that China reduce its trade surplus with the U.S. by imposing higher tariffs on Chinese goods to balance the trade deficit.
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Critical
 - D. Conciliatory
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Military strategies and advancements
 - B. Economic policies and trade relations
 - C. Managing competition and conflict between the U.S. and China
 - D. Technological developments and control
5. **According to the passage, what has been a significant outcome of the meeting between Presidents Xi and Biden in November 2023?**
 - A. They agreed to fully reset U.S.-China ties, overcoming all structural challenges and resolving their ideological differences.
 - B. They decided to impose further economic sanctions on each other, ensuring a strategic advantage in ongoing global economic wars.
 - C. They opted to discontinue their military-to-military communications to focus more on unilateral military advancements.

- D. They agreed to resume bilateral military-to-military communication, collaborate on artificial intelligence risks, and address fentanyl production.
6. **What is a primary reason for the U.S. imposing export controls on China according to the passage?**
- A. To support Taiwan and improve its defence capabilities against potential threats from China, thereby maintaining regional stability in the Asia-Pacific.
- B. To limit China's growth in strategic sectors, particularly semiconductors, as part of maintaining a competitive edge in global technology and military advancements.
- C. To encourage China to take more active roles in global issues such as climate change and global food security by leveraging economic pressure.
- D. To penalize China for its role in escalating tensions in the South China Sea and its accusations against the U.S. regarding Taiwan.

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.

On March 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi used social media to announce India's entry into a small club of countries capable of delivering multiple nuclear warheads on a single missile. This was _____1_____ with the _____2_____ flight test of Agni-V, India's longest range ballistic missile with a range of over 5,000 kilometres, with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology under 'Mission Divyastra' by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Since _____3_____ first test in April 2012, Agni-V has _____4_____ several tests and developments including canisterisation to improve its ease of handling and operation. The MIRV system's indigenous avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages ensure that the re-entry vehicles reach the target points accurately. The DRDO said the mission accomplished the designed parameters. The test also comes five years after India's maiden anti-satellite (ASAT) test under Mission Shakti. On March 27, 2019, a live satellite in the low earth orbit of around 300 km _____5_____ shot down using a modified interceptor of the Ballistic Missile Defence system.

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. Established
- B. Diminished
- C. Accomplished
- D. Detached
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. Evident
- B. Prevent
- C. Portent
- D. Maiden
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Its
- B. It's
- C. Their

- D. There
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
- A. Undergone
 - B. Prone
 - C. Bygone
 - D. Milestone
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
- A. Were
 - B. Is
 - C. Was
 - D. Are
12. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- P. India summoned the Canadian deputy high commissioner on Monday and lodged a strong protest over the incident, which was described by the Ministry of External Affairs as 'disturbing'
 - Q. New Delhi has stated that such actions not only impact the India-Canada relations but also encourage a climate of violence and criminality in Canada.
 - R. The pro-Khalistan slogans raised at a public event, which was attended by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other leaders in
 - S. Toronto on Sunday, validate India's claim that Canada has been giving space to separatism and extremism.
- A. RSPQ
 - B. QPRS
 - C. QRPS
 - D. RQPS
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
- A. The review signals GDP will grow close to 7% in 2024-25, with scope to go 'well above' 7% by 2030. From about \$3.7 trillion this year, India's economy will expand to \$5 trillion in three years, making it the world's third largest, and could hit the \$7 trillion dollar mark by 2030, it reckons.
 - B. Splicing India's growth story into two phases — 1950-2014, and a 'decade of transformative growth' since 2014 — the review stresses that the state of the economy was 'far from encouraging' when Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'assumed power'.
 - C. Ahead of the Interim Budget for 2024-25 on Thursday, the Finance Ministry's 10-year review of the economy with some forward outlook, serves as a proxy to the annual Economic Survey.
 - D. Post-2014 reforms have restored the economy's ability to grow healthily with "longer and stronger" economic and financial cycles, and made India the fastest growing G-20 nation, it argues.

- E. Growth was hobbled by structural constraints such as tardy decision-making, ill-targeted subsidies and a large informal sector, while inflation was unpalatably high.
- A. DECAB
B. CBDEA
C. CABED
D. CBEDA
14. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
- a. "Wait, let me take off my slippers," protested Mridu.
b. Ravi and Meena rushed out, and Ravi pulled Mridu into the house.
c. She set them out neatly near a pair of large black ones.
d. A smiling Rukku Manni threw open the door.
- A. d, b, a, c
B. c, a, b, d
C. a, b, c, d
D. a, c, b, d
15. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.
- (A) further that further treatment
(B) useless
(C) the doctor concluded
(D) would be
- A. CADB
B. BDCA
C. CBAD
D. BCAD
16. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word in the given sentence.
We cannot achieve success until these antiquated policies are not amended.
- A. Outdated
B. Current
C. New
D. Updated
17. Select the correct spelling of the underlined word.
It would be proudent to wait for some more time before selling off the property.
- A. prudent
B. proudent
C. prodent
D. Proodant
18. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

- No sooner had I finished my final exam that my friends invited me to join them on a trip to Europe.
- A. then my friends invited
B. than my friends invited
C. that my friend invited
D. when my friends invited
19. **The following sentence has been divided into four parts. One of them contains an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options.**
The rich / should / help / poor.
- A. help
B. should
C. poor
D. The rich
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
The bell is rung by the peon.
- A. The peon ranged the bell.
B. The peon rings the bell.
C. The peon has rang the bell.
D. The peon rang the bell.
21. **Select the option with the correct spellings to replace the underlined words in the given sentence.**
There was an anouncement by the director of the company that grabed the attention of all the employees.
- A. announcement; grabbed
B. announcement; grabed
C. anouncement; grabbed
D. anounsement; grebbed
22. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined words in the given sentence.**
Ritika had a narrow escape as she was driving recklessly on the highway.
- A. come in handy
B. cut both ends
C. cock a snook
D. close shave
23. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Exceptionally clever or talented
- A. Indigenous
B. Studios
C. Assiduous
D. Ingenious
24. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

It is **nothing but** pride.

- A. nothing ever
- B. nothing else
- C. nothing seldom
- D. nothing so

25. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the underlined word in the given sentence.

The doctors say that majority of the people who attended the fest are ill due to eating of **adulterated** food.

- A. spicy
- B. lascivious
- C. contaminated
- D. Damp

Answers

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

[Practice exercise]

Explanations

- C) The correct answer is C because the passage specifically mentions that both the U.S. and China, during Secretary Blinken's talks with Chinese officials, expressed a desire to stabilize their relationship and prevent their competition from escalating into conflict. Antony Blinken emphasized that the U.S. would ensure that the competition "doesn't veer into conflict," and President Xi urged finding common ground over engaging in vicious competition. A is incorrect because there was no mention of ending all forms of cooperation; rather, the focus was on managing competition responsibly. B is incorrect as it contradicts the passage's theme, which does not suggest China wants to sever economic ties with the U.S. to align closer with Russia in this context. D is incorrect because the talks did not focus on forming an exclusive trade agreement but on managing broader relational and structural challenges.
- B) The correct answer is B because the passage indicates that during the talks, Antony Blinken raised concerns about China's support for Russia's defense industry. This issue was pointed out as a significant contention point, with Blinken threatening actions if Beijing does not address this problem. A is incorrect because the passage does not mention any issue related to military presence in international waters during these talks. C is incorrect as there is no mention of environmental policies or climate change issues being discussed in these meetings. D is incorrect because the talks did not focus on economic measures such as trade deficits or tariffs, but rather on geopolitical and security concerns.
- D) Conciliatory**

A. Incorrect because the passage does not reflect a hopeful or positive outlook, but rather focuses on managing differences and potential conflicts.

B. Incorrect as the tone is not indifferent; it actively promotes managing competition to avoid conflict.

C. Incorrect because the overall tone is not about criticizing but about handling differences in a way that prevents deterioration of relationships.

D. Correct because the tone emphasizes finding common ground and managing competition responsibly to avoid conflict, suggesting a willingness to reconcile differences.
- C) Managing competition and conflict between the U.S. and China**

A. Incorrect as the passage does mention military aspects, but these are not the central focus; they are part of the broader theme of competition management.

B. Incorrect because, although economic and trade issues are discussed, they serve as elements within the larger narrative of managing geopolitical competition.

- C. Correct because the entire passage discusses how both nations are handling their competitive dynamics and trying to stabilize their relationship despite various challenges.
- D. Incorrect as this is a specific detail mentioned in the passage but not the overarching theme, which is more focused on the bilateral relationship and its complexities.
5. D) The passage mentions that following the meeting between Presidents Xi and Biden, both sides agreed to several cooperative measures including resuming military-to-military communications, cooperating on artificial intelligence risks, and launching efforts to control fentanyl production.
- A: The passage explicitly states that it is practically impossible to reset ties completely given the structural challenges, hence ruling out a full reset of relations.
- B: There is no mention of increasing economic sanctions following the meeting; rather, the focus was on cooperation.
- C: The outcome of the meeting was the opposite of discontinuing military communications; they actually resumed it, indicating an intent to enhance dialogue and cooperation.
6. B) The passage explicitly states that the U.S. has imposed export controls to limit China's growth in strategic sectors, particularly semiconductors. This action is part of a broader strategy to manage the pacing technological and military challenge posed by China.
- A: While the U.S. has increased support for Taiwan, the passage does not connect this support directly to the reason for imposing export controls.
- C: There is no indication in the passage that the U.S. uses export controls as a means to push China towards greater involvement in global issues.
- D: Although tensions in the South China Sea are mentioned, the passage does not link them to the imposition of export controls; rather, these are part of broader geopolitical conflicts.
7. C) 'Accomplished' का use होगा क्योंकि "accomplished" का अर्थ होता है किसी काम को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारत ने एक मिसाइल के साथ कई न्यूक्लियर वारहेड्स दागने की क्षमता हासिल कर ली है, इसलिए 'accomplished' यहाँ सही है। 'Established' का अर्थ है स्थापित करना, 'Diminished' का अर्थ है कम करना या घटाना, और 'Detached' का अर्थ है अलग करना या विलग करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Accomplished' will be used because it means to successfully complete a task. The sentence discusses India's achievement in developing a missile capable of delivering multiple nuclear warheads, making 'accomplished' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Established' means to set up, 'Diminished' means to reduce, and 'Detached' means to disconnect or separate, which don't fit in this context.
8. D) 'Maiden' का use होगा क्योंकि 'maiden' का अर्थ होता है पहला या आरंभिक। passage में mention किया गया है कि Agni-V का maiden flight test हुआ, जो दिखाता है कि यह पहली बार था जब इस मिसाइल का किसी विशेष तकनीक या क्षमता के साथ परीक्षण किया गया था। जबकि 'Evident' का अर्थ है स्पष्ट या जो आसानी से देखा जा सकता है, 'Prevent' का अर्थ है

रोकना, और 'Portent' का अर्थ है किसी बड़ी घटना का संकेत देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Maiden' will be used because it means first or initial. The passage mentions the maiden flight test of Agni-V, indicating it was the first test of this missile with a specific technology or capability. Whereas, 'Evident' means clear or easily seen, 'Prevent' means to stop something, and 'Portent' indicates a sign of a significant event about to happen, which don't fit in this context.

9. A) 'Its' का use होगा क्योंकि 'its' एक possessive adjective है जो कि यहाँ Agni-V missile की पहली परीक्षण की बात करता है। 'Its' का प्रयोग तब होता है जब किसी वस्तु या समूह की संपत्ति या विशेषता को दर्शाना हो। यहाँ 'Its first test' का मतलब है Agni-V का पहला परीक्षण। 'It's' एक contraction है जिसका मतलब होता है 'it is' या 'it has', जो कि इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Their' का उपयोग तब होता है जब किसी समूह के बारे में बात की जाती है, और 'There' का इस्तेमाल स्थान को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Its' will be used because it is a possessive adjective referring to Agni-V missile's first test. 'Its' indicates possession or characteristic of a thing or group, here specifically meaning the missile's initial test. 'It's' is a contraction for 'it is' or 'it has', which does not fit this context. 'Their' would be used for a group, which isn't applicable here, and 'There' indicates location, making it incorrect for this use.

10. A) 'Undergone' का use होगा क्योंकि "undergone" का अर्थ होता है किसी प्रक्रिया या परीक्षण के माध्यम से गुजरना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Agni-V ने कई परीक्षण और विकास के दौर से गुजरे हैं। इसलिए 'undergone' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Prone' का अर्थ होता है झुकाव या प्रवृत्ति रखना, 'Bygone' का अर्थ होता है बीता हुआ, और 'Milestone' का अर्थ होता है महत्वपूर्ण घटना या चरण, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Undergone' will be used because it means to have gone through a process or test. The sentence describes that Agni-V has undergone several tests and developments. Therefore, 'undergone' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Prone' means having a tendency, 'Bygone' means past, and 'Milestone' signifies a significant event or stage, which do not fit in this context.

11. C) 'Was' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ past tense की जरूरत है। वाक्य बता रहा है कि घटना पहले हो चुकी है। 'Were' तब use होता जब subject plural होता, 'Is' present tense में होता, और 'Are' भी present tense में plural के लिए होता है। इसलिए 'Was' सही विकल्प है क्योंकि यह singular subject के साथ past tense में है।

'Was' will be used because past tense is required here. The sentence indicates that the event has already occurred. 'Were' would be used if the subject was plural, 'Is' is for the present tense, and 'Are' also refers to the present tense but for plural subjects. Therefore, 'Was' is the correct option as it is used for a singular subject in the past tense.

12. A) **RSPQ**

R: This sentence introduces the event that is central to the paragraph—the pro-Khalistan slogans raised at a public event attended by the Canadian Prime Minister.

S: Sentence S logically follows because it builds directly on the information provided in R. While R mentions the occurrence of pro-Khalistan slogans at an event, S elaborates on the implication of this event, stating that it supports India's position regarding Canada's handling of separatism and extremism.

P: After establishing the incident and its implications in sentences R and S, sentence P moves to the actions taken by India in response to the event. It describes the diplomatic reaction—India summoning the Canadian deputy high commissioner—which is a direct consequence of the events and interpretations described in the previous sentences.

Q: Finally, sentence Q expands on the broader implications of the incident on international relations. After detailing the specific diplomatic action in P, Q discusses the longer-term impact on India-Canada relations and the general climate in Canada, thus concluding the sequence by addressing broader ramifications.

13. C) **CABED**

C sets the context with an introductory clause about a significant upcoming event (the Interim Budget) and mentions the 10-year review, providing the necessary introductory information.

A uses a forward-looking statement from the review ("The review signals..."), which logically follows the introduction of the review in C. It details specific projections about economic growth, which is a continuation of the topic introduced in C.

B introduces a temporal element ("Splicing India's growth story into two phases") that builds on the growth figures mentioned in A by providing a historical comparison, thus necessitating its placement after A.

E describes past challenges ("Growth was hobbled by..."), which elaborates on the historical context introduced in B, explaining what the issues were during the earlier phase.

D concludes with the results of reforms ("Post-2014 reforms have restored..."), which is a direct outcome of overcoming the challenges mentioned in E and ties back to the growth and transformation discussed throughout the sequence.

14. A) **d, b, a, c**

d: This sentence is the logical starting point as it introduces the main action and a character, Rukku Manni, initiating interaction by opening the door.

b: Following the opening of the door, this sentence naturally progresses the narrative by showing what happens immediately after: Ravi and Meena's response to the door opening. The action of pulling Mridu into the house logically follows the opening of the door.

a: This sentence follows as a direct reaction to being pulled into the house by Ravi.

c: The final sentence logically concludes the sequence by detailing what Mridu does after voicing her intent to remove her slippers.

15. A) **CADB**

The doctor concluded further that further treatment would be useless

16. A) **Antiquated** (adjective) – Old-fashioned, out of date, obsolete, ancient. पुराना, अप्रचलित

Synonym: Outdated (adjective) – Not current, outmoded, old-fashioned, obsolete. पुरानी

- **Current** (adjective) – Happening or existing now, present, ongoing. मौजूदा
- **New** (adjective) – Not existing before, made or introduced recently, fresh. नया
- **Updated** (adjective) – Modernized, brought up to date. नवीनीकृत

17. A) The correct spelling of 'proodent' is 'prudent' which means "acting with or showing care and thought for the future" समझदार, बुद्धिमान.

18. B) 'that my friends invited' के बदले 'than my friends invited' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "No sooner ... than" एक सामान्य वाक्य प्रकृति है।

- 'than my friends invited' will be used instead of 'that my friends invited' because "No sooner ... than" is a common phrase structure.

19. C) 'poor' के बदले 'the poor' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'the poor' एक collective noun के रूप में प्रयुक्त होता है जो गरीब लोगों को दर्शाता है।

- 'the poor' will be used instead of 'poor' because here 'the poor' is used as a collective noun referring to the poor people.

20. B) The peon rings the bell.

21. A) sentence में शब्द 'anouncement' और 'grabed' की जगह 'announcement' और 'grabbed' सही spelling हैं।

- The correct spellings to replace the underlined words 'anouncement' and 'grabed' in the sentence are 'announcement' and 'grabbed'.

22. D) **Close shave** (idiom) - a situation in which someone has come very close to having a serious problem or danger but has managed to avoid it. बाल-बाल बचना

- **Come in handy** (idiom) - to be useful or convenient for a particular purpose.
- **Cut both ends** (idiom) - this idiom is not standard in English. However, "burn the candle at both ends" is an idiom which means to overwork oneself by doing things late into the night and starting again early in the morning. दोनों ओर से काम करना
- **Cock a snook** (idiom) - to openly show contempt or a lack of respect for someone or something. अवहेलना करना

23. D) **Ingenious** (adjective) – Exceptionally clever or talented प्रतिभाशाली/ चतुर

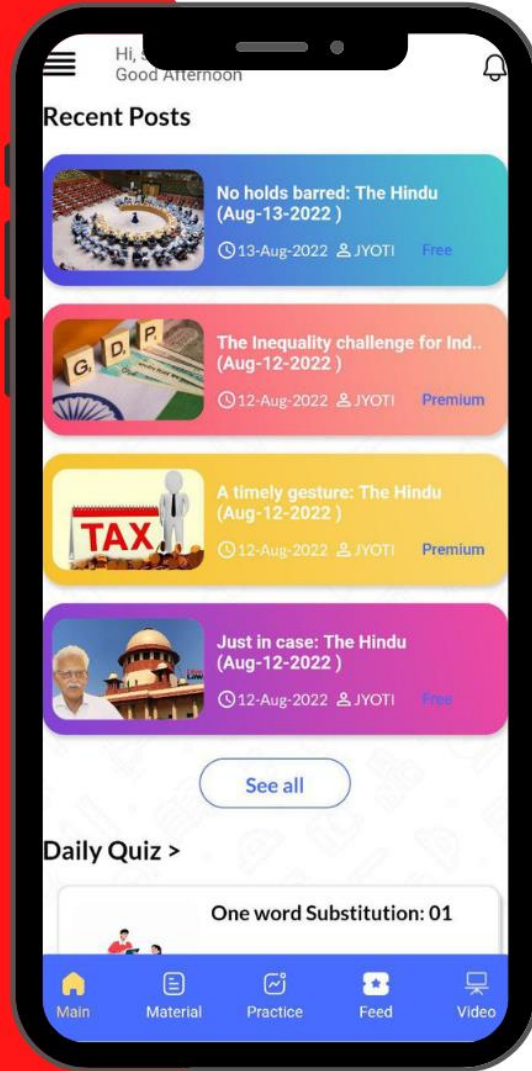
- **Studious** (adjective) – Spending a lot of time studying or reading. अध्ययनशील
- **Assiduous** (adjective) – Showing great care and perseverance. परिश्रमी/ मेहनती
- **Indigenous** (adjective) – Native, original, aboriginal, local grown, ethnic देशज

24. B) 'nothing but' के बदले 'nothing else' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां पर यह वाक्य बता रहा है कि यह सिर्फ और सिर्फ गर्व है, और इसका सही अर्थ 'nothing else' से आएगा।

- 'nothing else' will be used instead of 'nothing but' because the sentence conveys that it is only and exclusively pride, and this meaning is best conveyed with 'nothing else'.
25. C) **Adulterated** (adjective) – Corrupted, tainted, impure due to the addition of a foreign or inferior substance. मिलावटी

Synonym: Contaminated (adjective) – Polluted, defiled, tainted, dirtied. दूषित

- **Spicy** (adjective) – Having a strong, hot flavor, pungent, peppery. मसालेदार
- **Lascivious** (adjective) – Feeling or revealing an overt sexual interest or desire, lewd, lustful. अश्लील
- **Damp** (adjective) – Slightly wet, moist, not dry. गीला



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