

## Negotiating for peace: On the 'Summit on Peace', in Burgenstock

India's **decision** to attend but not vote at the Swiss conference **was** right

The two-day "**Summit on Peace**", that ended on Sunday in Burgenstock, **met** with mixed **outcomes**. Switzerland was able to bring together more than 90 countries, at least 56 were represented by leaders, and the final joint **communiqué** was signed by about 82 countries and organisations, with the exception of a few including India. The document made a strong **call for** an end to the "ongoing war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and a **pitch** for **sovereignty, territorial integrity** and **adherence** to international law. It **cited** three areas of broad understanding: nuclear safety, food security and the exchange of all prisoners of war, **displaced** and **detained** Ukrainians. The statement was not very **ambitious** in its scope, as the organisers were **keen** to bring as many countries, particularly from the '**Global South**' **on board** — which they **managed** to do **to some extent**. However, despite all these areas where Ukrainian President Zelenskyy **hailed** a "historic victory", there were **shortcomings**. Switzerland's **decision** not to invite Russia, and to build their **negotiations** on the basis of the Ukraine Peace Formula along with UN resolutions, **made** the event appear one-sided. The **failure** in convincing China, which **arguably holds** the most **sway** over Moscow, to even send a **delegation was** another **blow**. **That** no **BRICS** member, current and future, signed on to the statement **indicates** that it was a **non-starter** among the emerging **economies**.

Switzerland, Ukraine and other western countries had made a special attempt to win India's favour for the conference, including a **last minute** appeal by Mr. Zelenskyy when he met PM Modi at the G-7 **outreach summit** in Italy. As a close partner of Russia, a key Global South player, and a country that has kept a balance in the conflict, India's presence would have been a major win for the organisers. However, while New Delhi sent the NSA and Deputy NSA to two **preparatory** conferences in Jeddah and Davos, the Indian delegation here was led by the Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry. India has **consistently abstained** from every **resolution** at the UN, Security Council, IAEA, Human Rights Council and other **multilateral fora** that **seeks** to **criticise** Russia for its **invasion** of Ukraine. While India may share concerns over much of the text released at the conference, it could not have gone ahead with its **overtly** anti-Russian **slant**. In its presence, however, New Delhi showed that it is willing to be part of the process, especially if it **leads to** a more **inclusive** future conference, with Russia and Ukraine at the table. As a result, India's **decision** to attend the conference, but not **endorse** its outcome, **was** probably a **foregone conclusion**. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **Non-starter** (noun) – an idea, plan, or person with no chance of success सफलता प्राप्त न कर सकनेवाला
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Negotiate** (verb) – Discuss, bargain, confer, talk, mediate बातचीत करना
2. **Outcome** (noun) – Result, consequence, conclusion, effect, end result परिणाम
3. **Communiqué** (noun) – Official statement, announcement, bulletin, message, dispatch शासकीय सूचना/ विज्ञप्ति
4. **Call** (for) (noun) – Demand, request, appeal, plea, invitation माँग
5. **Pitch** (noun) – a speech or act that attempts to persuade someone प्रस्ताव
6. **Sovereignty** (noun) – Independence, autonomy, self-governance, self-rule, supremacy संप्रभुता
7. **Territorial** (adjective) – Related to territory, geographic, spatial क्षेत्रीय
8. **Integrity** (noun) – Unity, wholeness, soundness, cohesiveness, entirety अखंडता
9. **Adherence** (to) (noun) – Compliance, obedience, conformity, observance, sticking to पालन
10. **Cite** (verb) – Mention, refer to, quote, acknowledge, note हवाला देना
11. **Displaced** (adjective) – Uprooted, moved, relocated, evicted, removed विस्थापित
12. **Detained** (adjective) – Held, confined, arrested, imprisoned, restrained हिरासत में लिया गया
13. **Ambitious** (adjective) – Aspirational, striving, determined, driven, enterprising महत्त्वाकांक्षी
14. **Keen** (to) (adjective) – Eager, enthusiastic, interested, willing, ardent उत्सुक
15. **Global south** (noun) – A term used to refer to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, which are often seen as less developed than the Global North. वैश्विक दक्षिण
16. **On board** (phrase) – In agreement, included, participating, involved, supportive शामिल
17. **Manage** (to) (verb) – Succeed, achieve, accomplish, carry out, perform सफल होना
18. **To some extent** (phrase) – Partially, somewhat, moderately, to a certain degree, in part कुछ हद तक
19. **Hail** (verb) – Praise, acclaim, commend, applaud, celebrate प्रशंसा करना
20. **Shortcoming** (noun) – Deficiency, fault, weakness, drawback, limitation कमियों
21. **Negotiation** (noun) – Discussion, bargaining, mediation, talks, deliberation बातचीत

22. **Arguably** (adverb) – Possibly, conceivably, maybe, potentially, it can be said यकीनन
23. **Hold the sway** (phrase) – Have influence, dominate, control, rule, lead हावी होना
24. **Delegation** (noun) – Group of representatives, mission, deputation, envoy, team प्रतिनिधिमंडल
25. **Blow** (noun) – Setback, disappointment, defeat, misfortune, adversity झटका
26. **BRICS** (noun) – BRICS, originally named BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China), is an acronym for the regional economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China, which in 2010 had included the letter S for South Africa. The original acronym "BRIC" (or "the BRICs") was coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill, who created the term to describe fast-growing economies that would collectively dominate the global economy by 2050.
27. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ
28. **A last minute** (phrase) – Final moment, just before the deadline, at the eleventh hour, in the nick of time अंतिम क्षण में
29. **Outreach** (noun) – Engagement, contact, communication, connection, reachout पहुंच/ जनसम्पर्क
30. **Summit** (noun) – Conference, meeting, assembly, conclave, gathering शिखर सम्मेलन
31. **Preparatory** (adjective) – Introductory, foundation, preliminary, elementary, preparative प्रारंभिक
32. **Consistently** (adverb) – Regularly, constantly, uniformly, steadily, without fail लगातार
33. **Abstain** (from) (verb) – formally decline to vote either for or against a proposal or motion. परहेज़ करना (मतदान से)
34. **Resolution** (noun) – Decision, determination, agreement, conclusion, ruling प्रस्ताव
35. **Multilateral** (adjective) – Involving multiple parties, international, many-sided, collaborative, cooperative बहुपक्षीय
36. **Fora** (noun) – Forums, meetings, assemblies, gatherings, venues मंच
37. **Seek** (verb) – Pursue, aim for, strive for, search for, look for प्रयास करना
38. **Criticise** (verb) – Condemn, disapprove of, fault, censure, denounce आलोचना करना
39. **Invasion** (noun) – Attack, incursion, assault, raid, incursion आक्रमण
40. **Overtly** (adverb) – Openly, explicitly, clearly, plainly, obviously खुलकर
41. **Slant** (noun) – Bias, angle, viewpoint, perspective, inclination दृष्टिकोण-विशेष

42. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, produce, contribute to वजह बनना
43. **Inclusive** (adjective) – Comprehensive, all-encompassing, all-embracing, broad, wide-ranging समावेशी
44. **Endorse** (verb) – Support, approve, back, sanction, agree with समर्थन करना
45. **A foregone conclusion** (phrase) – a result that can be predicted with certainty. पहले से किया हुआ फैसला

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The "Summit on Peace" in Burgenstock concluded with mixed outcomes.
2. Switzerland successfully gathered over 90 countries, with 56 represented by leaders.
3. The final joint communiqué was signed by around 82 countries and organizations, excluding a few like India.
4. The document emphasized ending the war in Ukraine, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and adherence to international law.
5. Key areas of understanding included nuclear safety, food security, and the exchange of prisoners of war.
6. The statement aimed to be inclusive, particularly for countries from the Global South.
7. Despite Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's praise, the summit had notable shortcomings.
8. Switzerland's exclusion of Russia and reliance on the Ukraine Peace Formula made the event seem one-sided.
9. China's absence was a significant setback, given its influence over Moscow.
10. No BRICS member, current or future, signed the statement, indicating it wasn't supported by emerging economies.
11. Switzerland, Ukraine, and Western countries sought India's participation, with Zelenskyy appealing to PM Modi.
12. India, balancing its partnership with Russia and global south interests, attended but didn't endorse the communiqué.
13. India's delegation at the summit was led by the Secretary (West) in the External Affairs Ministry.
14. India has consistently abstained from UN resolutions criticizing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
15. India's decision to attend the conference but not support its anti-Russian stance was strategic, showing a willingness to participate in future inclusive peace efforts.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- At the "Summit on Peace" in Burgenstock, what can be inferred about India's role based on its decision to attend but not vote on the final joint communiqué?** [Editorial page]
  - India played a neutral role by attending but not endorsing the final document.
  - India was skeptical about the inclusivity of the summit's process.
  - India fully supported the summit's objectives and conclusions.
  - India opposed the summit's objectives and outcomes.
- Which of the following is a valid criticism of the outcomes of the "Summit on Peace" according to the passage?**
  - The summit failed to address nuclear safety, food security, and the release of prisoners effectively.
  - The non-participation of Russia and BRICS nations indicated a lack of global consensus.
  - The summit was overly ambitious in its scope and failed to achieve its goals.
  - The summit successfully resolved the issues it aimed to address.
- What was the main reason for India's participation in the Summit on Peace without endorsing its outcome?**
  - India wanted to demonstrate its support for Ukraine exclusively.
  - India's historical alliance with Russia influenced its decision to maintain neutrality.
  - India was primarily interested in economic benefits from the conference.
  - The summit was hosted by India, making participation mandatory.
- Why did India send a relatively lower-level delegation led by the Secretary (West) to the Summit on Peace?**
  - India intended to fully support the summit's resolutions.
  - The Prime Minister of India was unavailable due to other commitments.
  - Sending a lower-level delegation signaled India's cautious engagement without full endorsement.
  - India was not formally invited to the summit.
- What is the tone of the passage describing India's participation in the 'Summit on Peace'?**
  - Optimistic
  - Critical
  - Diplomatic
  - Indifferent

#### 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.**

As we entered his farm, we were surprised. There were dead leaves, wild plants, and grass everywhere! Some of the tree branches \_\_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_\_ so dry, as if eaten by insects. At places we saw some plants with colourful leaves. Why these? Bhaskarbhai said they were croton plants which gave him a signal when the soil became dry. We were surprised! How? He explained that the roots of the croton do not go deep in the ground. So when the top layer of the soil becomes dry, the croton leaves bend and become \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_\_. This signal tells

Bhaskarbhai which part of his farm needs to be watered. We found the soil soft and crumbly. We could see tall coconut trees, full of fresh coconuts. We thought he must be using some special fertilisers. Bhaskarbhai said he does not buy fertilisers made in factories. His soil is fertile because of all the dried leaves which slowly rot and mix with it. He \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_ the soil \_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_ and told us to look. We saw thousands of earthworms! "These are my soil's best friends", he said. The earthworms soften the soil as they keep digging \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_ to make tunnels. This way air and water can easily get into the soil. The earthworms also eat the dead leaves and plants, and their droppings fertilise the soil.

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
  - A. Contented
  - B. Refined
  - C. Considered
  - D. Seemed
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
  - A. Impede
  - B. Prompt
  - C. Impartial
  - D. Limp
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
  - A. Dug
  - B. Drugs
  - C. Dig
  - D. Digging
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
  - A. Little
  - B. Few
  - C. a little
  - D. some
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
  - A. Underneath
  - B. Upward
  - C. Exterior
  - D. Upper

**Direction: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Given below each sentence has four sequences, namely (A), (B), (C) and (D). You are required to re-arrange the Jumbled parts of the sentence and mark your response accordingly.**

11. aircraft by the National Aviation Corporation of India Limited,(P)/ giving the clean chit to former Union Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel, (Q)/ the CBI has filed a closure report in its probe into alleged irregularities in the leasing of(R)/ which was formed by the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines during the UPA's corruption-stained rule(S).
  - A. PQRS

- B. RQPS  
C. QPSR  
D. QRPS
12. **Select the correctly spelt word**  
A. Comemorate  
B. Commemorate  
C. Commemorate  
D. Comemmorate
13. **Select the most appropriate word that means the same as the group of words given.**  
Enclosed area where aircraft are kept and repaired  
A. Hose  
B. Harbinger  
C. Hanger  
D. Hangar
14. **Select the indirect narration of the given sentence.**  
He said to me, "What time do the banks open and close?"  
A. He said me what time did the banks open and close.  
B. He asked me what time the banks opened and closed.  
C. He wanted to know what time the banks open and close.  
D. He asked me what time do the banks open and close.
15. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains the grammatical error.**  
One of the greatest responsibilities of a scientist is that his discoveries and inventions are utilized to the overall development of the nation.  
A. is that his discoveries and inventions  
B. development of the nation  
C. are utilized to the overall  
D. One of the greatest responsibilities of a scientist
16. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**  
Sluggish  
A. Weak  
B. Dull  
C. Active  
D. Sedentary
17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**  
Hostile  
A. Unfavourable  
B. Adverse  
C. Amiable  
D. Violent
18. **Select the most appropriate word that means the same as the group of words given.**  
A short story with a moral, usually with animals as characters.  
A. Parody

- B. Ode  
C. Fable  
D. Hymn
19. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**  
A. It is called the atmosphere.  
B. All parts of the earth are surrounded by air.  
C. Living beings breathe in and breathe out the air all the time.  
D. This process is called respiration.  
A. CBAD  
B. DACB  
C. BACD  
D. ACDB
20. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.**  
Amit has the good command on English as he was born and brought up in England.  
A. a good command over  
B. No improvement  
C. a better command of  
D. the best command in
21. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given Idiom.**  
To add fuel to the fire  
A. Simplify the problem  
B. Exploit someone  
C. To make a bad situation worse  
D. Calm down the situation
22. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Deficiency  
A. Abundance  
B. Sufficiency  
C. Efficiency  
D. Inadequacy
23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Catastrophic  
A. Tough  
B. Mysterious  
C. Disastrous  
D. Delicate
24. **Select the correctly spelt word**  
A. Definate  
B. Definiet  
C. Definete

D. Definite

25. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given Idiom.**

Hobson's Choice

- A. To be in an aggressive mood when facing a challenge
- B. To challenge an unworthy opponent
- C. An apparently free choice where there is no real alternative
- D. To exercise the choice to surrender before the enemy

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

- A) India played a neutral role by attending but not endorsing the final document.**  
 C is incorrect because India's decision not to vote indicates a reservation or non-full endorsement of the summit's conclusions, not full support.  
 B is incorrect because the passage does not provide explicit information about India's skepticism regarding the inclusivity of the process, only its decision not to vote.  
 A is correct as India's presence without voting signifies neutrality, indicating participation without agreement or endorsement.  
 D is incorrect because merely not voting does not equate to opposition; it suggests a more cautious stance rather than direct opposition.
- B) The non-participation of Russia and BRICS nations indicated a lack of global consensus.**  
 A is incorrect because the summit did address nuclear safety, food security, and the exchange of all prisoners of war, even if other areas fell short.  
 B is correct as the passage highlights the non-invitation of Russia and the non-signing of the communiqué by any BRICS members, reflecting a significant gap in global consensus.  
 C is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the statement was not very ambitious in scope, which counters the notion of being overly ambitious.  
 D is incorrect because the passage clearly states there were shortcomings and mixed outcomes, implying that not all issues were resolved effectively.
- B) India's historical alliance with Russia influenced its decision to maintain neutrality.**  
 A is incorrect because the passage suggests that India maintained a balanced stance rather than supporting Ukraine exclusively.  
 B is correct as the passage indicates that India's long-standing relationship with Russia and its balanced approach in the conflict influenced its decision not to endorse the outcome of the summit.  
 C is incorrect because there is no mention in the passage of economic motivations being a primary interest for India's participation.  
 D is incorrect as the summit was not hosted by India but in Burgenstock, Switzerland.
- C) Sending a lower-level delegation signaled India's cautious engagement without full endorsement.**  
 A is incorrect because India's action of sending a lower-level delegation contradicts the notion of full support.  
 B is incorrect as the passage does not indicate the unavailability of the Prime Minister as a reason for the decision.  
 C is correct because the passage suggests that sending a lower-level delegation, instead of more senior figures, was a strategic choice reflecting India's balanced and cautious approach to the summit's outcomes.  
 D is incorrect as the passage clearly states that India was courted for its participation, indicating it was invited.
- C) Diplomatic**  
 A This choice is incorrect because the passage does not express a hopeful or positive outlook; instead, it presents a balanced view of India's strategic decisions.

B This option is incorrect as the passage does not offer criticism but rather neutrally details India's diplomatic maneuvers.

C This is the correct answer as the tone is reserved and neutral, focusing on describing India's careful and strategic approach without overt biases.

D Incorrect because the text clearly shows India's active yet balanced involvement, which contrasts with indifference.

6. D) 'Seemed' का use होगा क्योंकि "seemed" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ का प्रतीत होना या लगना। पैराग्राफ में वर्णन किया गया है कि कुछ पेड़ों की शाखाएँ बहुत सूखी प्रतीत होती हैं, जैसे कि कीड़ों ने खा लिया हो। इसलिए 'seemed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Contented' का अर्थ होता है संतुष्ट, 'Refined' का अर्थ होता है संशोधित या सुधारा हुआ, और 'Considered' का अर्थ होता है विचार किया हुआ या माना गया, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठते।

'Seemed' will be used because it means to appear or give an impression. The paragraph describes that some tree branches looked very dry, as if they were eaten by insects. Thus, 'seemed' is appropriate here. On the other hand, 'Contented' means satisfied, 'Refined' means improved or polished, and 'Considered' means thought of or deemed, which don't suit this context

7. D) 'Limp' का use होगा क्योंकि "limp" का अर्थ होता है लचीला या मुरझाया हुआ। paragraph में describe है कि जब जमीन की ऊपरी परत सूख जाती है, तो क्रोटन पौधों की पत्तियाँ झुक जाती हैं और मुरझा जाती हैं। इसलिए 'limp' इस संदर्भ में सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'Impede' का अर्थ होता है बाधा डालना, 'Prompt' का अर्थ होता है त्वरित करना या प्रेरित करना, और 'Impartial' का अर्थ होता है निष्पक्ष, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Limp' will be used because it refers to being flexible or wilted. The paragraph describes how the croton plant's leaves bend and wilt when the top layer of soil dries out. Thus, 'limp' correctly fits this context. Whereas, 'Impede' means to hinder, 'Prompt' means to encourage or initiate, and 'Impartial' means unbiased, which are not appropriate here

8. A) 'Dug' का use होगा क्योंकि "dug" simple past tense है जो कि past में पूर्ण हो चुकी गतिविधि को दर्शाता है। paragraph में भास्करभाई ने कहा कि उसने मिट्टी को खोदा और हमें दिखाया, जिससे पता चलता है कि खुदाई पहले ही हो चुकी थी। 'Dug' इस संदर्भ में बिल्कुल सही बैठता है। 'Drugs' का मतलब दवाएं होता है, जो यहाँ अप्रासंगिक है। 'Dig' और 'Digging' present or ongoing action को दर्शाते हैं, लेकिन यहाँ पूर्ण समय की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए ये दोनों विकल्प सही नहीं हैं।

'Dug' will be used because it is the simple past tense of "dig," indicating an activity that has already been completed in the past. The paragraph describes Bhaskarbhai as having already dug the soil and showing it to us, indicating that the action was completed before this point. Therefore, 'dug' is the correct choice. 'Drugs' means medications, which is irrelevant here. 'Dig' and 'Digging' indicate present or ongoing action, but a completed action is required in this context, making these options incorrect.

9. C) 'a little' का use होगा क्योंकि "a little" का अर्थ होता है थोड़ी मात्रा में, जो uncountable nouns के साथ प्रयोग होता है। paragraph में mention है कि भास्करभाई ने मिट्टी को थोड़ा खोदा और दिखाया। यहाँ 'a little' इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है क्योंकि यह थोड़ी मात्रा को दर्शाता है। 'Little' अक्सर नकारात्मक अर्थ लेकर आता है जैसे कि बहुत कम, 'Few' countable nouns के लिए प्रयोग होता है और 'soil' एक

uncountable nouns है, और 'Some' भी काम आ सकता है लेकिन वह विशिष्ट छोटी मात्रा का संकेत नहीं देता जैसे कि 'a little'।

'a little' will be used because it means a small amount, typically used with uncountable nouns. The paragraph mentions that Bhaskarbhai dug the soil a little and showed it, making 'a little' the correct choice as it indicates a small quantity. 'Little' often carries a slightly negative connotation, suggesting not much, 'Few' is used with countable nouns and wouldn't apply to 'soil', and 'Some' could work but does not specify the small amount as precisely as 'a little'.

10. A) 'Underneath' का use होगा क्योंकि "underneath" का अर्थ होता है के नीचे या के अधीन। paragraph में describe है कि कीचड़ में कृमि सुरंगें बनाते हैं, जिससे हवा और पानी मिट्टी में आसानी से प्रवेश कर सकते हैं। इसलिए 'underneath' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह सुरंगें जमीन के नीचे बनाई जाती हैं। जबकि 'Upward' का अर्थ होता है ऊपर की ओर, 'Exterior' का अर्थ होता है बाहरी, और 'Upper' का अर्थ होता है ऊपरी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Underneath' will be used because it means below or beneath. The paragraph describes earthworms digging tunnels, allowing air and water to easily enter the soil. Thus, 'underneath' is appropriate here as the tunnels are made below the surface of the ground. Whereas 'Upward' means towards the top, 'Exterior' means outside, and 'Upper' means upper part, which are not suitable for this context.

11. D) QRPS

Q introduces the subject, former Union Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel, and mentions the clean chit given to him.

R follows logically as it specifies the probe related to alleged irregularities in the leasing of aircraft by the National Aviation Corporation of India Limited.

P continues the sentence by providing additional context about the National Aviation Corporation of India Limited, which was formed by the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines during the UPA's corruption-stained rule.

S concludes the sentence by indicating the timeframe of the events mentioned.

12. C) The correct spelling among the options provided is 'Commemorate' (Option C). **"Commemorate स्मरणोत्सव"**

13. D) **Hangar** (noun) – A large building with extensive floor area, typically for housing aircraft. **विमानगार**

- **Hose** (noun) – A flexible tube for conveying liquids or gases. **नली**
- **Harbinger** (noun) – A person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another. **अग्रदूत**
- **Hanger** (noun) – A shaped piece of wood, plastic, or metal with a hook at the top, typically used for hanging clothes in a wardrobe. **कपड़े टांगने का हुक**

14. B) He asked me what time the banks opened and closed.

15. C) 'are utilized to the' के बदले 'are utilized for the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर उपयोग को दर्शाने के लिए 'for' की आवश्यकता है; जैसे— His inventions are utilized for the benefit of society.

- 'are utilized for the' will be used instead of 'are utilized to the' because 'for' is needed here to indicate usage; Like— His inventions are utilized for the benefit of society.

16. C) **Sluggish** (adjective) – Slow-moving, inactive, lethargic, listless. **धीमा**

Antonym: **Active** (adjective) – Engaged in action, energetic, lively, dynamic. सक्रिय

- **Weak** (adjective) – Lacking strength, feeble, frail, delicate. कमज़ोर
- **Dull** (adjective) – Not shiny, lacking brightness, lusterless; also can mean boring, uninteresting. सुना
- **Sedentary** (adjective) – Characterized by much sitting and little physical exercise, inactive, stationary. बैठा-बैठा

17. C) **Hostile** (adjective) – Unfriendly, antagonistic, aggressive, confrontational. शत्रुता

Antonym: **Amiable** (adjective) – Friendly, affable, congenial, cordial. मित्रपूर्ण

- **Unfavourable** (adjective) – Not supporting, disadvantageous, adverse, detrimental. प्रतिकूल
- **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavourable, harmful, detrimental, pernicious. विपरीत
- **Violent** (adjective) – Using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something. हिंसक

18. C) **Fable** (noun) – A short narrative, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral. नैतिक कथा

- **Parody** (noun) – A humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing. हंसी का अनुकरण
- **Ode** (noun) – A type of lyrical stanza, usually praising or glorifying an event or individual, describing nature intellectually as opposed to emotionally. स्तव
- **Hymn** (noun) – A religious song or poem of praise to God or a god. भजन

19. C) **BACD**

All parts of the earth are surrounded by air. It is called the atmosphere Living beings breathe in and breathe out the air all the time. This process is called respiration.

20. A) 'a good command over' will replace 'the good command on' because the phrase 'command over' is used to indicate proficiency in a language. The indefinite article 'a' suggests a general level of skill, suitable for the context of the sentence. The revised sentence correctly conveys that Amit has a significant level of proficiency in English due to his upbringing in England.

21. C) **To add fuel to the fire** (idiom) – To make a bad situation worse एक बुरी स्थिति को और भी खराब बनाना

22. D) **Deficiency** (noun) – A lack or shortage, insufficiency, inadequacy, scarcity. अभाव/ कमी

Synonym: **Inadequacy** (noun) – The state of being insufficient or not enough, lack, deficiency, shortage. अपर्याप्तता

- **Abundance** (noun) – A large quantity, plenty, a lot, affluence. प्रचुरता
- **Sufficiency** (noun) – An adequate amount, enough, plenty, adequacy. पर्याप्तता
- **Efficiency** (noun) – The state of achieving maximum productivity with minimum waste or effort, effectiveness, productivity, competence. कुशलता

23. C) **Catastrophic** (adjective) – Involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering, disastrous, calamitous, ruinous. विनाशकारी

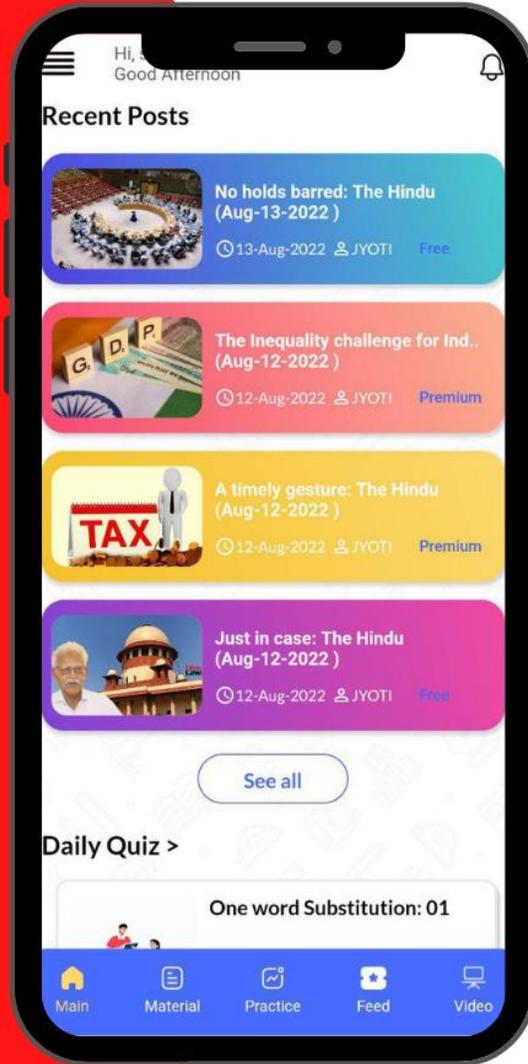
Synonym: **Disastrous** (adjective) – Causing great damage, devastating, catastrophic, ruinous.

**विपत्तिजनक**

- **Tough** (adjective) – Strong, sturdy, durable, robust. कठोर
- **Mysterious** (adjective) – Difficult or impossible to understand, explain, or identify, enigmatic, puzzling, strange. रहस्यमय
- **Delicate** (adjective) – Fine, subtle, exquisite, elegant. सूक्ष्म

24. D) The correct option is D. 'Definite' स्पष्ट, निर्धारित.

25. C) **Hobson's Choice** (idiom) – An apparently free choice where there is no real alternative वास्तविक विकल्प के बिना एक प्रतीत होता हुआ मुक्त विकल्प



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