

A new trend: On militancy in Jammu and Kashmir

India needs more than **troops** to **combat militants** in Jammu

Five Indian Army personnel were killed on July 8 after terrorists **ambushed** an Army **convoy** in Badnota village, which is 124 km from Kathua town in Jammu. The attack also came on the death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen operative Burhan Wani, who was killed in an **encounter** on July 8, 2016, in south Kashmir. This is the fourth terror-incident in the State within 48 hours and the latest in a series of attacks in the last few months, especially in the Jammu region, **reinforcing** a new trend of **terrorism** in Jammu and Kashmir shifting towards the Rajouri-Poonch area. On June 9, terrorists attacked a bus in Reasi district killing nine **pilgrims** and leaving 33 injured, the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being **sworn** in for a third term in office. This attack on the pilgrims was a **new low**. This region has been quiet for over two **decades** now, after being a **hotbed** of **insurgency** in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This was brought under control by Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003 and **subsequent** support from the locals, especially the Gujjar-Bakerwal community.

Recurring incidents of security forces being ambushed **have** **resulted in casualties**, which is unacceptable for a highly trained and professional force like the Indian Army. This **calls for** stricter **adherence to standard operating procedures** and improved operations. While the **ceasefire** along the Line of Control (LoC) largely holds, the **uptick** in terror incidents **is** a matter of concern — more so, the shift in violence. There are many factors that may be **leading to** this trend. A major one is the **vacuum** on the ground with a large number of troops **redeployed** to the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh **in the aftermath of** the 2020 **standoff** with China. This has **resulted in** a gap in local intelligence. There is also the increased use of modern but easily available technology by terrorist groups looking to find new routes to keep the **insurgency** going. **Botched-up** security operations have also damaged the trust between the local population and the state. From foreign terrorists crossing the LoC and leading the attacks, there has been a trend now to push local militants to the **forefront** to give the insurgency a more **home-grown** face as international pressure has **mounted** on Pakistan. New terror groups have also come up claiming to be behind some of the attacks. These **aspects** present new challenges. Tackling the situation needs a multi-layered strategy beyond just **augmenting** troop levels. Quick and **decisive action** at the highest levels of the government, bringing in all **stakeholders, is** the **need of the hour**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Militancy** (noun) – Aggressiveness, belligerence, combativeness, extremism, insurgency उग्रवाद
2. **Troop** (noun) – Soldier, military unit, armed forces, service member, combatant सैनिक
3. **Combat** (verb) – Fight, battle, counter, engage, confront मुकाबला करना
4. **Militant** (noun) – Activist, extremist, insurgent, radical, combatant उग्रवादी
5. **Ambush** (verb) – Surprise attack, waylay, trap, attack by surprise, assault घात लगाकर हमला करना
6. **Convoy** (noun) – Escort, procession, caravan, group, fleet काफिला
7. **Encounter** (noun) – Clash, confrontation, skirmish, battle, fight मुठभेड़
8. **Reinforce** (verb) – Strengthen, support, bolster, fortify, enhance मजबूत करना
9. **Terrorism** (noun) – Violence, extremism, insurgency, militancy, intimidation आतंकवाद
10. **Pilgrim** (noun) – Traveler, worshiper, devotee, religious traveler, seeker तीर्थयात्री
11. **Swear** (verb) – Take an oath, vow, pledge, affirm, declare शपथ लेना
12. **A new low** (phrase) – the situation being the new lowest point गिरावट
13. **Subsequent** (adjective) – Following, ensuing, later, succeeding, coming after बाद का
14. **Recurring** (adjective) – Repeated, happening again, periodic, frequent, cyclical बारम्बार होनेवाला
15. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, create परिणामस्वरूप
16. **Casualty** (noun) – Victim, fatality, injured person, loss, wounded person हताहत
17. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, require, necessitate, ask for, need की मांग करना
18. **Adherence** (to) (noun) – Compliance, observance, conformity, obedience, devotion पालन
19. **Standard operating procedure** (SOP) (noun) – a set of step-by-step instructions for performing a routine activity.
20. **Ceasefire** (noun) – Truce, armistice, halt in fighting, peace, cessation of hostilities युद्धविराम
21. **Uptick** (noun) – Increase, rise, growth, improvement, upturn इजाफा
22. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Cause, result in, bring about, produce, create कारण बनना

23. **Vacuum** (noun) – Void, gap, emptiness, absence, lack खालीपन
24. **Redeploy** (verb) – Reassign, transfer, reposition, relocate, shift पुनः तैनात करना
25. **In the aftermath of** (phrase) – Following, after, as a result of, subsequent to, in the wake of के बाद में
26. **Standoff** (noun) – Deadlock, impasse, stalemate, confrontation, dispute गतिरोध
27. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, create परिणामस्वरूप
28. **Insurgency** (noun) – Rebellion, revolt, uprising, insurrection, militancy विद्रोह
29. **Botched-up** (adjective) – Bungled, mishandled, messed up, poorly done, failed असफल
30. **Forefront** (noun) – Vanguard, leading position, forefront, front line, cutting edge सबसे आगे
31. **Home-grown** (adjective) – Domestic, indigenous, local, native, internal स्वदेशी
32. **Mount** (verb) – Increase, escalate, rise, build up, intensify बढ़ना
33. **Aspect** (noun) – Feature, element, facet, component, part पहलू
34. **Augment** (verb) – Increase, enhance, boost, enlarge, expand बढ़ाना
35. **Decisive** (adjective) – Determining, conclusive, crucial, critical, definitive निर्णायक
36. **Stakeholder** (noun) – Interested party, participant, shareholder, investor, involved party हितधारक
37. **The need of the hour** (phrase) – Essential requirement, urgent necessity, critical need, pressing demand, immediate necessity समय की आवश्यकता

Summary of the Editorial

1. Five Indian Army personnel were killed on July 8 in an ambush in Badnota village, Jammu.
2. The attack coincided with the death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen operative Burhan Wani.
3. This is the fourth terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir within 48 hours.
4. Recent attacks, especially in Jammu, indicate a shift in terrorism towards the Rajouri-Poonch area.
5. On June 9, terrorists attacked a bus in Reasi district, killing nine pilgrims and injuring 33.
6. This region had been quiet for over two decades, following successful counter-insurgency operations.
7. Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003 and local community support helped control insurgency previously.
8. Recurring ambushes on security forces have resulted in unacceptable casualties.
9. There is a need for stricter adherence to standard operating procedures by the Indian Army.
10. Despite the ceasefire along the Line of Control, the increase in terror incidents is concerning.
11. A contributing factor is the redeployment of troops to Eastern Ladakh, creating a local intelligence gap.
12. Terrorist groups are using modern technology to find new routes for insurgency.
13. Botched security operations have damaged trust between locals and the state.
14. There is a shift from foreign terrorists to local militants to give the insurgency a home-grown face.
15. A multi-layered strategy involving quick and decisive government action and stakeholder involvement is needed to tackle the situation.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Alarmed
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Humorous
- 2. What significant change in the pattern of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is highlighted in the passage?**
 - A. Militancy has shifted from the Kashmir valley to the Rajouri-Poonch area.
 - B. Militancy has decreased significantly in the Jammu region.
 - C. Militants have stopped targeting security forces and started targeting civilians.
 - D. There has been a significant increase in militant activities in the urban areas of Jammu.
- 3. What was the impact of Operation Sarp Vinash as described in the passage?**
 - A. It eradicated militancy from the entire Jammu and Kashmir region.
 - B. It significantly reduced militancy in the Rajouri-Poonch area with the support of local communities.
 - C. It had no impact on the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - D. It shifted militancy from the Rajouri-Poonch area to the Kashmir valley.
- 4. Which of the following words is the closest synonym of "ambushed" as used in the passage?**
 - A. Surprised
 - B. Confronted
 - C. Attacked
 - D. Detained
- 5. What is the passage suggesting as a crucial step in tackling the increased terror incidents?**
 - A. Increasing the number of troops at the Line of Control (LoC).
 - B. Improving local intelligence by redeploying troops back from Eastern Ladakh.
 - C. Quick and decisive action at the highest levels of the government involving all stakeholders.
 - D. Introducing more advanced technology for surveillance.
- 6. 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. The movement began in reaction to the ugliness of the industrial age.
 - B. This idea was amplified by JW von Goethe, JL Tieck and others in Germany.
 - C. Aestheticism was a European arts movement which centred on the doctrine that art exists for the sake of its beauty alone.
 - D. Its philosophical foundations were laid in the 18th century by Immanuel Kant.
 - A. BADC
 - B. CADB
 - C. CBDA
 - D. ADBC
- 7. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Adequate
B. Precaution
C. Cowardise
D. Ridiculous
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Clear
A. Clean
B. Opaque
C. Mess
D. Untidy
9. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Myra installed the new software on her computer.
A. The new software had installed Myra on her computer.
B. The new software is installed by Myra on her computer.
C. The new software were install by Myra on her computer.
D. The new software was installed by Myra on her computer.
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
My energy waned to see my college team performing poorly in the match.
A. Declined
B. Dimmed
C. Abated
D. Grew

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.

Have you ever _____1_____ at the night sky and wondered if we were alone? Or maybe you've _____2_____ what it truly means to be "good" or "bad"? Or why do millions of birds fly in perfect unison across the sky? Philosophy isn't some _____3_____ subject locked away in a library. It's like gazing at a breathtaking sunset and questioning everything you thought you knew. Is that _____4_____ orange glow "real" or just a trick of light? Does the beauty of a sunset exist even when no one is around to witness it? These are the kinds of questions that philosophers love to ask. _____5_____ history, philosophers from all corners of the globe have wrestled with these big questions.

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
A. Teamed up
B. Shot up
C. Dried up
D. Stared up
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. Pondered
B. Scattered
C. Unimpeded

- D. Unrestrained
13. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Satisfy
 - B. Stuffy
 - C. Horrify
 - D. Gratify
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
- A. Teary
 - B. Pacify
 - C. Fiery
 - D. Amplify
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
- A. Throughout
 - B. Somewhat
 - C. Often
 - D. Meanwhile
16. **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. Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.
 - Q. During this period, there have been 21 rounds of military commander-level talks and 29 meetings of the Working
 - R. A resolution of the India-China border row remains elusive, even as the two countries have been locked in a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for the past four years.
 - S. The two sides have done well to complete the disengagement process at several friction points, but the deadlock over the Depsang plateau persists.
- A. RSPQ
 - B. QPRS
 - C. QRPS
 - D. RQPS
17. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
- A. Every year, these blazes not only devour precious green cover but also pose a grave threat to human settlements, wildlife and the fragile ecosystem.
 - B. Since November last year, Uttarakhand has recorded hundreds of forest fire incidents, resulting in the destruction of around 700 hectares of forest land.
 - C. The raging infernos engulfing Uttarakhand's forests have again turned the spotlight on the perennial problem of forest fires in India.
 - D. With 31 fire incidents being reported within a span of 24 hours last week, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's acknowledgment of the enormity of the challenge must be backed by decisive action.

- E. The recent surge, prompting the deployment of the Army, underscores the severity of the situation.
- DECAB
 - CBDEA
 - CABED
 - CBEDA
18. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
- Less than five months after a Nicaragua-bound chartered plane, carrying mostly Indians, landed in Mumbai after running into trouble with the French authorities,
 - The group was reportedly transiting through the Caribbean country, with some of its travellers destined for
 - a flight with 200-odd Indians on board was sent back to Dubai from Jamaica as immigration officials detected discrepancies in the passengers' documents
 - Nicaragua 'in the hope of participating in a major housing development project'
- d, b, a, c
 - c, a, b, d
 - a, b, c, d
 - a, c, b, d
19. Some sentences are given below. While the first and the last sentences (1 and 2) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
- Health insurance as the main modality of universal health coverage (UHC) now looks to be indisputably confirmed to be ingrained in Indian health policy thinking.
 - What can be called the Indian iteration of a managed care organisation (MCO)
 - Aided by the digital revolution, it is opening doors to potential reforms that are redolent of the United States,
 - Albeit with local adaptations that avoid its profligate spending on health
 - Recently, a notable health-care chain in South India announced its foray into comprehensive health insurance by combining insurance and health-care provision functions under one roof
 - It is timely to reflect on whether MCOs hold promise for the bigger Indian health-care landscape, particularly when it comes to extending universal health care.
- BADC
 - BACD
 - BCDA
 - CADB
20. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
- Deterioration
- Retrogression
 - Demonstration
 - Malfunction

- D. Ramification
21. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
- A. The fact that all members of the family were exposed
B. The waste of human resources and
C. To each other's capricious minds had a debasing effect
D. On the vitality of society as a whole
- A. A, C, D, B
B. B, A, D, C
C. D, A, C, B
D. B, A, C, D
22. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- Laisha should holding / a meeting in the / Prem Auditorium / tomorrow evening
- A. Laisha should holding
B. Prem Auditorium
C. a meeting in the
D. tomorrow evening
23. **Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
- The government is planning a new policy to help the immigrants coming from the neighbouring country.
- A. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another
B. Someone who goes to visit a new country for a short time
C. Someone who travels for work
D. Someone who travels to space
24. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
- On the flight, I was in the company of an extremely chivalrous man.
- A. Noble
B. Degraded
C. Virtuous
D. Courteous
25. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
- Objection
- A. Moan
B. Disapproval
C. Counter
D. Sanction

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **Alarmed**

B: The passage discusses recent terror incidents in Jammu and Kashmir with a sense of urgency and concern, particularly highlighting the increase in violence and the need for a strategic response.

A: This is incorrect as the passage does not express hope or positivity about the situation; instead, it focuses on the severity of the incidents and the challenges faced.

C: This is incorrect as the passage clearly shows concern about the rising violence and the loss of lives, indicating an engaged and concerned perspective.

D: This is incorrect as the subject matter is serious, dealing with terrorism and its impact, which is conveyed in a grave and serious tone without any humor.

2. A) **Militancy has shifted from the Kashmir valley to the Rajouri-Poonch area.**

B. This is incorrect because the passage highlights a series of recent attacks, indicating an increase rather than a decrease in militancy.

A. This is correct as the passage states that there is a new trend of terrorism shifting towards the Rajouri-Poonch area.

C. This is incorrect because the passage mentions attacks on both security forces and civilians.

D. This is incorrect as the passage does not specify a significant increase in urban areas but rather in the Rajouri-Poonch region.

3. B) **It significantly reduced militancy in the Rajouri-Poonch area with the support of local communities.**

A. This is incorrect because the passage does not claim that militancy was eradicated from the entire region.

B. This is correct as the passage mentions that the region was brought under control by Operation Sarp Vinash with subsequent support from the locals.

C. This is incorrect because the passage clearly states that the operation brought the region under control.

D. This is incorrect because the passage does not mention such a shift, but rather a control in the Rajouri-Poonch area.

4. C) **Attacked**

A: Incorrect, as "surprised" does not necessarily involve a violent encounter.

B: Incorrect, as "confronted" suggests a direct challenge rather than a hidden attack.

C: Correct, as "ambushed" implies being attacked suddenly and unexpectedly.

D: Incorrect, as "detained" means to hold or keep someone in custody, which is not related to an attack.

5. C) **Quick and decisive action at the highest levels of the government involving all stakeholders.**

A: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest merely increasing troop numbers at the LoC as a solution; it implies a need for a more comprehensive approach.

B: Incorrect. While improving local intelligence is essential, the passage emphasizes that the solution requires more than just troop redeployment.

C: Correct. The passage explicitly calls for quick and decisive action at the highest government levels and the involvement of all stakeholders to tackle the situation effectively.

D: Incorrect. Although the passage mentions the use of technology by terrorists, it does not suggest that introducing more advanced surveillance technology is the primary solution to the problem.

6. B) **CADB**

Aestheticism was a European arts movement which centred on the doctrine that art exists for the sake of its beauty alone. The movement began in reaction to the ugliness of the industrial age. Its philosophical foundations were laid in the 18th century by Immanuel Kant. This idea was amplified by JW von Goethe, JL Tieck and others in Germany.

7. C) The incorrectly spelt word among the options is '**Cowardise**'. The correct spelling is 'Cowardice'. It refers to the lack of bravery or the trait of being easily scared or timid. कायरता, भीतिपूर्ण.

8. B) **Clear** (adjective) – Transparent, easy to perceive, unambiguous, understandable. स्पष्ट

Antonym: Opaque (adjective) – Not able to be seen through; not transparent, obscure, non-transparent. अपारदर्शी

- **Clean** (adjective) – Free from dirt, marks, or stains, pure, unsoiled. साफ़
- **Mess** (noun) – A dirty or untidy state of things or of a place, disorder, clutter. अव्यवस्था
- **Untidy** (adjective) – Not arranged neatly and in order, messy, disorganized. अस्त-व्यस्त

9. D) The new software was installed by Myra on her computer.

10. D) **Waned** (verb) – To decrease in strength, intensity, or size, to diminish, reduce. घटना/ गिरावट होना

Antonym: Grew (verb) – To increase in size, amount, intensity, or quality. बढ़ना

- **Declined** (verb) – To become smaller, fewer, or less; decrease. घटना
- **Dimmed** (verb) – To become less bright, clear, or distinct; fade. मंद होना
- **Abated** (verb) – To become less intense or widespread; subside. कम होना

11. D) 'Stared up' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "stared up" का अर्थ होता है ऊपर की ओर घूरना या देखना। sentence में mention है कि रात के आकाश को देखने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए 'stared up' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Teamed up' का अर्थ है साथ मिलकर काम करना, 'Shooteed up' का अर्थ है ऊपर की ओर गोली मारना या तेजी से बढ़ना, और 'Dried up' का अर्थ है सूख जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Stared up' will be used because it means to look or gaze upward. The sentence mentions looking at the night sky, making 'stared up' fitting here. Whereas, 'Teamed up' means to work together, 'Shooped up' means to shoot upwards or increase rapidly, and 'Dried up' means to become dry, which don't fit in this context.

12. A) 'Pondered' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "pondered" का अर्थ होता है गहन विचार करना। sentence में mention है कि 'good' या 'bad' का अर्थ सोचने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए 'pondered' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Scattered' का अर्थ है बिखरना, 'Unimpeded' का अर्थ है बिना बाधा के, और 'Unrestrained' का अर्थ है बिना किसी रोक के, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Pondered' will be used because it means to think deeply. The sentence mentions considering what it truly means to be "good" or "bad," making 'pondered' fitting here. Whereas, 'Scattered' means to spread out, 'Unimpeded' means without hindrance, and 'Unrestrained' means without restriction, which don't fit in this context.

13. B) 'Stuffy' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "stuffy" का अर्थ होता है कुछ उबाऊ या बंद माहौल वाला। sentence में mention है कि दर्शनशास्त्र को एक बंद पुस्तकालय में बंद विषय के रूप में नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए, इसलिए 'stuffy' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Satisfy' का अर्थ है संतुष्ट करना, 'Horrify' का अर्थ है भयभीत करना, और 'Gratify' का अर्थ है खुश करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Stuffy' will be used because it means something boring or having a closed atmosphere. The sentence mentions that philosophy should not be seen as a subject locked away in a library, making 'stuffy' fitting here. Whereas, 'Satisfy' means to fulfill or meet a need, 'Horrify' means to frighten, and 'Gratify' means to please, which don't fit in this context.

14. C) 'Fiery' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "fiery" का अर्थ होता है आग जैसा या चमकीला। sentence में mention है कि सूर्यास्त के नारंगी चमक के बारे में प्रश्न उठाना है, इसलिए 'fiery' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Teary' का अर्थ है आंसू भरा, 'Pacify' का अर्थ है शांत करना, और 'Amplify' का अर्थ है बढ़ाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Fiery' will be used because it means something resembling fire or being bright. The sentence mentions questioning the orange glow of a sunset, making 'fiery' fitting here. Whereas, 'Teary' means full of tears, 'Pacify' means to calm, and 'Amplify' means to increase, which don't fit in this context.

15. A) 'Throughout' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "throughout" का अर्थ होता है पूरे समय या पूरे समय के दौरान। sentence में mention है कि इतिहास में, विभिन्न स्थानों के दार्शनिकों ने इन बड़े प्रश्नों से जूझा है, इसलिए 'throughout' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Somewhat' का अर्थ है कुछ हद तक, 'Often' का अर्थ है अक्सर, और 'Meanwhile' का अर्थ है इस दौरान, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Throughout' will be used because it means during the whole time or throughout the duration. The sentence mentions that philosophers from various places have wrestled with these big

questions throughout history, making 'throughout' fitting here. Whereas, 'Somewhat' means to some extent, 'Often' means frequently, and 'Meanwhile' means during this time, which don't fit in this context.

16. D) **RQPS**

R: A resolution of the India-China border row" (subject) and "remains elusive" (verb phrase) introduce the primary issue. "Even as the two countries" (subordinate clause) adds context.

Q: "During this period" (prepositional phrase) links to the "past four years" mentioned in R. "There have been" (verb phrase) introduces the actions taken.

P: Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination" (subject) provides a noun phrase that connects directly to the meetings mentioned in Q.

S: This sentence concludes by acknowledging the progress made while highlighting the remaining unresolved issue at the Depsang plateau, fitting logically after the discussion of talks and mechanisms.

17. C.) **CABED**

C: The raging infernos" (subject) and "have again turned" (verb) introduce the subject of the paragraph, linking directly to the problem of forest fires.

A: "These blazes" (subject) refers back to "infernos" in sentence C, creating continuity. The conjunction "not only... but also" adds complexity to the explanation.

B: "Since November last year" (prepositional phrase) provides a time frame, while "Uttarakhand has recorded" (subject and verb) connects to the specific details about the fires.

E: "The recent surge" (subject) refers to the increase in forest fire incidents mentioned in B. The phrase "prompting the deployment" (gerund phrase) adds cause and effect.

D: "With 31 fire incidents" (prepositional phrase) gives a specific detail that supports the need for action mentioned in E. "Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's acknowledgment" (subject) and "must be backed" (verb phrase) call for a response, concluding the argument logically.

18. D) **a, c, b, d**

a: This sentence introduces the context by mentioning a previous incident involving a chartered plane and sets the time frame for the current event.

c: This sentence follows logically by describing the current event, which is another flight facing issues, continuing the context from sentence a.

b: "The group" (subject) refers back to the passengers. "Was reportedly transiting" (verb phrase) explains their movement.

d: "Nicaragua" (subject) directly completes the phrase from b. This sentence completes the information started in sentence b by specifying the destination and purpose of some passengers.

19. C) **1BCDA2**

1: This sentence introduces the main topic, which is the role of health insurance in India's UHC policy.

B: This sentence logically follows by introducing the digital revolution's impact on health insurance reforms in India, drawing a comparison to the US.

C: This sentence qualifies the previous statement, indicating that while reforms may be similar to those in the US, they are adapted to avoid excessive spending.

D: This sentence provides a concrete example of the reforms mentioned in B and C, showing the implementation of health insurance combined with health-care provision.

A: This sentence describes the specific model being adopted, linking the example in D to the broader concept of managed care organisations.

2: This sentence concludes by suggesting a reflection on the broader implications of adopting MCOs in India's health-care system.

20. A) **Deterioration** (noun) – The process of becoming progressively worse, decline, degeneration, decay. अवनति / विकृति

Synonym: Retrogression (noun) – The process of returning to an earlier state, typically a worse one, regression, backsliding, relapse. प्रतिगमन

- **Demonstration** (noun) – The action or process of showing the existence or truth of something, evidence, display, exhibition. प्रदर्शन
- **Malfunction** (noun) – A failure to function in a normal or satisfactory manner, breakdown, fault, defect. खराब होना
- **Ramification** (noun) – A complex or unwelcome consequence of an action, outcome, result, repercussion. फैलाव

21. D) B, A, C, D

The waste of human resources and the fact that all members of the family were exposed to each other's capricious minds had a debasing effect on the vitality of society as a whole

22. A) 'Laisha should holding' में error है क्योंकि 'should' के बाद हमेशा Verb की V¹ (base form) का प्रयोग होता है। सही रूप में वाक्य होगा "Laisha should hold a meeting in the Prem Auditorium tomorrow evening."

- The error is in 'Laisha should holding' because after 'should' we always use the V¹ (base form) of the verb. The correct sentence will be "Laisha should hold a meeting in the Prem Auditorium tomorrow evening."

23. A) 'Immigrants' का अर्थ है वह व्यक्ति जो एक देश से दूसरे देश में स्थायी रूप से बसने के लिए जाता है।

- The meaning of 'immigrants' is someone who leaves one country to settle in another.

24. B) **Chivalrous** (adjective) – Showing courtesy, especially towards women, gallant, respectful, honorable. शूरवीर

Antonym: Degraded (adjective) – Reduced in quality or value, debased, dishonored, tainted.

अवमूल्यन किया हुआ

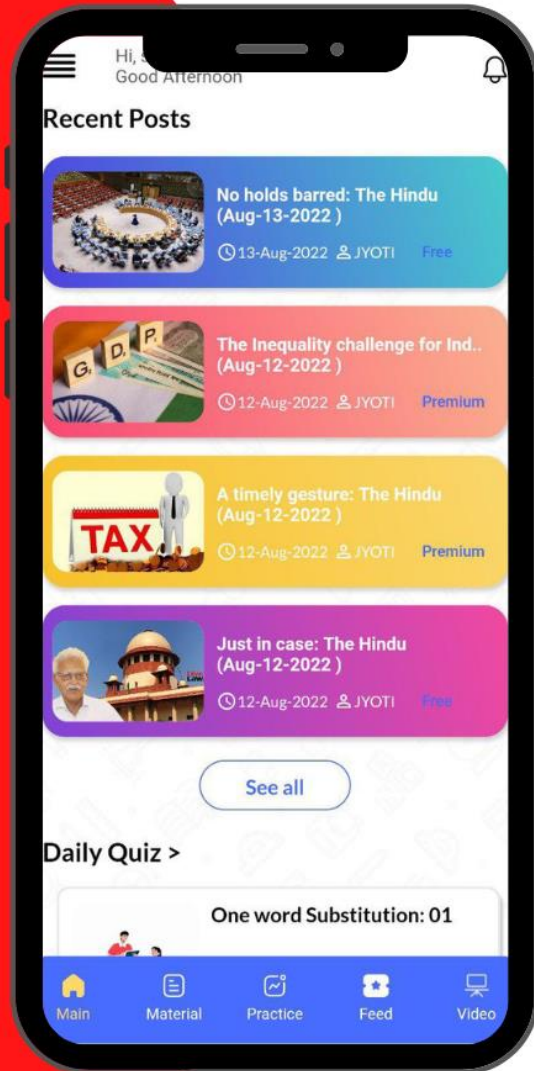
- **Noble** (adjective) – Having or showing fine personal qualities, honorable, virtuous, righteous. महान

- **Virtuous** (adjective) – Having or showing high moral standards, righteous, good, ethical. धर्मिक
- **Courteous** (adjective) – Polite, respectful, considerate, chivalrous. शिष्ट

25. B) **Objection** (noun) – An expression or feeling of disapproval or opposition; a reason for disagreeing. आपत्ति

Synonym: Disapproval (noun) – The action or state of disapproving or of expressing a contrary opinion. असम्मति

- **Moan** (noun) – A complaint or a long, low sound of suffering. शिकायत करना
- **Counter** (noun/adjective) – Contrary, opposite; or a flat surface on which money is counted, business is transacted, or food is prepared or served. विपरीत/ गिनती की मेज़
- **Sanction** (noun) – official permission or approval. मंजूरी



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