

## Another escalation: On the Manipur ground report

The drone **attacks** in Manipur **call for** an **overhaul** of the government's approach

In a significant **deterioration** of an already **fraught** situation in Manipur, two persons were killed and at least nine were injured in a bomb attack using drones in villages in the Meitei-majority Imphal West district. The **perpetrators** are believed to be Kuki-Zo **militants**. Kuki-Zo groups and **partisans** have **claimed** that the attacks were in **retaliation** to an attempt by Meitei **vigilante** and **insurgent** groups to “**ambush**” Kuki-zo people in the area. While this claim remains unproven, **the use** of drones — a **tactic employed** by pro-democracy insurgents in Myanmar against the **junta** — **points to** a dangerous escalation of the **ethnic** conflict in the State. Coming **in the wake of** Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's **assertion** that a peace **resolution** will be achieved in six months, the **dastardly** attacks could indicate that they are either a **deliberate ploy** to **heighten** tensions or just another **reminder** that ethnic **hostilities** remain **entrenched**. **That** insurgents could use **sophisticated** drones to attack civilians also **suggests** a **glaring** intelligence failure and the inability of the security forces to ensure that the militants are **contained**. The government has ordered police **combing** operations but this will not be enough. Unless there is a strong measure to **disarm** the various groups in the valley and the hills, the situation could **exacerbate** further.

For nearly 16 months, both the Union and State governments have been **content** with using security forces to maintain law and order through the creation of **buffer zones** between the hills and the valley and for the political **status quo** to remain **intact**. **Repeated violence and the inability** of both governments led by the **ruling** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to **work out** any **breakthrough** that will allow for even a **dialogue** between civil society representatives from these communities **suggest** that this policy is a failed one. There is little doubt left any more that the **hardening** of ethnic identities among the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities **is** a consequence of the failure of the policies **pursued** by the Union and State governments. Neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor Mr. Singh has changed **tack** since the **setback** faced by the BJP in the 2024 general election, when it lost both the Lok Sabha constituencies in the State. The Centre continues to ignore **critiques** of its **lackadaisical** approach, while Mr. Singh is **hell-bent on** remaining in power despite his **incompetence** and a distinct lack of confidence **evinced** by both communities. While the fresh attacks call for security forces to **calibrate** a strong response, a **concomitant change** in approach and leadership in the State **is** a **must** for a chance to be given to peace. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Escalation** (noun) – Increase, intensification, rise, amplification, upsurge  
वृद्धि
2. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, require, necessitate, ask for, request की आवश्यकता होना
3. **Overhaul** (noun) – Renovation, reorganization, restructuring, revamp, improvement सुधार
4. **Deterioration** (noun) – Decline, worsening, degradation, degeneration, weakening गिरावट
5. **Fraught** (adjective) – Tense, loaded, filled with, full of, anxious तनावपूर्ण
6. **Perpetrator** (noun) – Offender, criminal, culprit, wrongdoer, assailant अपराधी
7. **Militant** (noun) – Extremist, radical, insurgent, activist, revolutionary उग्रवादी
8. **Partisan** (noun) – Supporter, follower, advocate, loyalist, devotee समर्थक
9. **Claim** (verb) – Assert, declare, state, maintain, contend दावा करना
10. **Retaliation** (noun) – Revenge, reprisal, retribution, counterattack, payback प्रतिशोध
11. **Vigilante** (noun) – a member of a group of people who try to prevent crime or punish criminals in a community, especially because they believe the police are not doing this सतर्कता समिति का सदस्य (पुलिस की सक्रियता के अभाव में सामाजिक अपराधों पर नियंत्रण हेतु स्वैच्छिक रूप से बनी समिति का सदस्य)
12. **Insurgent** (adjective) – Rebellious, revolutionary, mutinous, insubordinate, dissenting विद्रोही
13. **Ambush** (noun) – Surprise attack, trap, ambushade, sneak attack, entrapment घात
14. **Tactic** (adjective) – Strategy, method, plan, maneuver, approach रणनीति
15. **Employ** (verb) – Use, utilize, apply, deploy, implement उपयोग करना
16. **Junta** (noun) – a group, especially of military officers, who rule a country by force बल प्रयोग से देश पर शासन करने वालों का समूह
17. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, show, hint at, imply संकेत करना
18. **Ethnic** (adjective) – Cultural, racial, national, tribal, indigenous जातीय
19. **In the wake of** (phrase) – Following, after, in the aftermath of, as a result of के बाद
20. **Assertion** (noun) – Declaration, statement, claim, proclamation, affirmation दावा

21. **Resolution** (noun) – Decision, determination, solution, settlement, conclusion समाधान
22. **Dastardly** (adjective) – Cowardly, wicked, malicious, villainous, despicable कायरता से/ डरपोक
23. **Deliberate** (adjective) – Intentional, planned, calculated, premeditated, purposeful जानबूझकर
24. **Ploy** (noun) – Strategy, tactic, maneuver, scheme, trick चाल
25. **Heighten** (verb) – Intensify, increase, amplify, raise, escalate बढ़ाना
26. **Reminder** (noun) – Notice, prompt, memo, signal, alert याद दिलाने वाला
27. **Hostility** (noun) – Antagonism, enmity, aggression, conflict, animosity शत्रुता
28. **Entrenched** (adjective) – Deep-rooted, established, ingrained, fixed, set गहराई से जड़ा हुआ
29. **Sophisticated** (adjective) – Advanced, complex, refined, high-tech, intricate जटिल
30. **Glaring** (adjective) – Obvious, blatant, conspicuous, evident, flagrant स्पष्ट
31. **Contain** (verb) – Control, restrain, limit, curb, confine नियंत्रित करना
32. **Combing** (noun) – Searching, sweeping, investigation, examination, scouring खोजबीन
33. **Disarm** (verb) – Disband, demilitarize, remove weapons, deactivate, neutralize निरस्त्र करना
34. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, heighten, escalate बढ़ाना
35. **Content** (with) (adjective) – Satisfied, pleased, happy, complacent, comfortable संतुष्ट
36. **Buffer zone** (noun) – an area of land that separates two other areas and that is designed to prevent fighting or harm coming to something
37. **Status quo** (noun) – Existing state, current situation, present state of affairs, status, conditions वर्तमान स्थिति
38. **Intact** (adjective) – Undamaged, unbroken, whole, complete, unscathed अखंड
39. **Ruling** (adjective) – Governing, controlling, leading, dominant, authoritative सत्तारूढ़
40. **Work out** (phrasal verb) – Resolve, solve, figure out, understand, determine हल करना
41. **Breakthrough** (noun) – Advance, discovery, achievement, development, leap सफलता

42. **Dialogue** (noun) – Discussion, conversation, negotiation, talks, communication संवाद
43. **Hardening** (noun) – Stiffening, strengthening, solidification, toughening, consolidation कठोरता
44. **Pursue** (verb) – Follow, chase, strive for, engage in, seek पीछा करना
45. **Tack** (noun) – Approach, method, course, strategy, plan तरीका
46. **Setback** (noun) – Reversal, defeat, failure, blow, disappointment झटका
47. **Critique** (noun) – Analysis, review, evaluation, assessment, criticism समीक्षा
48. **Lackadaisical** (adjective) – Lethargic, lazy, indifferent, uninterested, apathetic सुस्त
49. **Hell-bent** (on) (adjective) – Determined, intent, resolute, adamant, focused उत्तारु
50. **Incompetence** (noun) – Ineptitude, inability, incapability, inefficiency, lack of skill अक्षमता
51. **Evince** (verb) – Show, demonstrate, reveal, display, indicate प्रदर्शित करना
52. **Calibrate** (verb) – Adjust, fine-tune, measure, standardize, set समायोजित करना
53. **Concomitant** (adjective) – Accompanying, associated, concurrent, simultaneous, connected साथ में होने वाला
54. **Must** (noun) – Necessity, requirement, essential, imperative, obligation आवश्यकता

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Manipur has seen a significant escalation in violence with a drone attack that killed two people and injured at least nine in the Imphal West district.
2. The attack is believed to have been carried out by Kuki-Zo militants in retaliation for an alleged attempt by Meitei groups to ambush Kuki-Zo people.
3. The use of drones, a tactic seen in Myanmar, marks a dangerous escalation in the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur.
4. The attack occurred shortly after Chief Minister N. Biren Singh claimed that peace would be restored in six months, casting doubt on this timeline.
5. The drone attack highlights the entrenched ethnic hostilities and the failure of security forces to prevent such sophisticated assaults.
6. The government has initiated police combing operations, but these measures alone may not be sufficient to control the situation.
7. Disarming the various militant groups in both the valley and the hills is necessary to prevent further violence.
8. For over 16 months, the Union and State governments have relied on security forces to maintain law and order without addressing the underlying issues.
9. The creation of buffer zones between the hills and the valley has not been effective in reducing tensions.
10. Repeated violence and the lack of dialogue between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities point to the failure of the current policies.
11. The hardening of ethnic identities among these communities is a direct result of the failed policies of the Union and State governments.
12. Despite setbacks in the 2024 general election, where the BJP lost both Lok Sabha constituencies in Manipur, there has been no change in strategy from Prime Minister Modi or Chief Minister Singh.
13. The central government continues to ignore criticism of its ineffective approach to the conflict.
14. Chief Minister Singh remains focused on staying in power despite his apparent incompetence and the lack of confidence from both communities.
15. The recent attacks demand not only a strong security response but also a change in approach and leadership in the State to give peace a chance.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred from the passage about the use of drones in the Manipur conflict?**
  - A. The use of drones indicates that the conflict is nearing its end. [Editorial Page]
  - B. The use of drones suggests that external forces are directly involved in the conflict.
  - C. The use of drones indicates a significant escalation and sophistication in the tactics used by militants.
  - D. The use of drones suggests that the government has successfully contained the militants.
2. **Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?**
  - A. The drone attacks were carried out by Meitei vigilante groups.
  - B. The attacks were proven to be in retaliation to an ambush attempt by Meitei groups.
  - C. The government has already disarmed various groups in the valley and the hills.
  - D. The use of drones points to an intelligence failure by the security forces.
3. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**

**The government's current approach, as described in the passage, can be characterized as \_\_\_\_\_.**

  - A. proactive and effective.
  - B. passive and inadequate.
  - C. aggressive and successful.
  - D. strategic and well-coordinated.
4. **Which of the following statements is incorrect based on the passage?**
  - A. The Union and State governments have used security forces to create buffer zones between different communities in Manipur.
  - B. Both the Union and State governments have successfully initiated dialogue between civil society representatives of the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.
  - C. The recent violence in Manipur suggests a failure in the current policies pursued by the Union and State governments.
  - D. A change in leadership in the State is suggested as necessary for peace to be given a chance.
5. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements is correct?**
  - A. The Union government has received widespread praise for its handling of the Manipur situation.
  - B. The ruling party faced no setbacks in the 2024 general election in Manipur.
  - C. The drone attacks in Manipur call for both a strong response from security forces and a change in leadership.
  - D. The current approach by the government is seen as successful in maintaining peace in Manipur.
6. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

She will clear the test tomorrow

  - A. The test should be cleared by her the previous day.
  - B. The test would be cleared by her tomorrow.
  - C. The test must be cleared by her the coming day.

- D. The test will be cleared by her the next day.
7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Courageous  
A. Cowardly  
B. Gutsy  
C. Timid  
D. Fearful
8. **Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**  
\_\_\_\_\_, French was the most difficult language for Shruti.  
A. Be in the air  
B. Break into  
C. Bear out  
D. By far
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
The state or condition of not being in agreement, accordance, or in harmony  
A. Diplomacy  
B. Liquidity  
C. Congeniality  
D. Incongruence
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'Rue' from the given sentence.**  
Rubina was in distress and guilt due to the loss she incurred to her company, so she could not accept the bonus with relish at the end of the month  
A. Loss  
B. Distress  
C. Guilt  
D. Relish
11. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**  
He said, "I can speak three languages fluently."  
A. He said that he could speak three languages fluently.  
B. He said that he was able to speak three languages fluently.  
C. He said that he can speak three languages fluently.  
D. He said that he will be able to speak three languages fluently
12. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the options given below.**  
A. Pioneer  
B. Phenomenon  
C. Enthusiatik  
D. Liquidity
13. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.**  
On this auspicious Monday, chilled and shudering in spite of astrologer's assurances, he was glad to return to the shelter of canvas awnings on bamboo stakes  
A. stakes  
B. assurances

- C. shudering  
D. Auspicious
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
Pixar's feature-length releases, which consistently achieved \_\_\_\_\_ commercial success, were lauded not only for their visual innovations but for their intelligent and emotional story telling.  
A. aggregate  
B. worldwide  
C. planetary  
D. Worldly
15. **In the following question a sentence has been given with a blank. You are required to choose the correct idiom to fill in the blank.**  
I'm \_\_\_\_\_ until my family arrives from their holiday. I cannot wait to see them  
A. losing ground  
B. bearing the gift of the gab  
C. getting myself into a mess  
D. counting down the days
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Jargon  
A. Music  
B. Terminology  
C. Automobile  
D. Essay
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**  
Brave  
A. Coward  
B. Foolish  
C. Courageous  
D. Shallow
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
Someone who does not care about rules  
A. Vampire  
B. Nonconformist  
C. Illegitimate  
D. Tyrant
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Stunning  
A. Ugly  
B. Hideous  
C. Plain  
D. Gorgeous
20. **Select the MISSPELT word**  
A. Resemblance



- B. Retain
- C. Refrain
- D. Resturant

**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.**

One of the biggest pivots in this Budget speech \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ a shift in the stance on employment and the sharply higher frequency of mentions it received. 'Employment' was the central theme of the Budget, that placed the Prime Minister's package to facilitate jobs and skills on top of its list of soothing promises. The \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ ₹2 lakh crore package seeks to help 4.1 crore youth over five years with three employment linked-incentive schemes — two of which \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ hiring of fresh entrants in the job market for at least one year with subsidies, while a third attempts to incentivise companies to \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ hiring beyond their previous year's worker count. To \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ between skill sets and available job roles, a spruce-up of 1,000 industrial training institutes with courses designed in tandem with industry has been promised, along with an ambitious internship programme for a crore youth in 500 top companies.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
  - A. has
  - B. have been
  - C. has been
  - D. have
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
  - A. Passed
  - B. Disposed
  - C. Proposed
  - D. Professed
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
  - A. Occurrence
  - B. Encourage
  - C. Average
  - D. Envisage
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
  - A. scale up
  - B. dry up
  - C. end up
  - D. firm up
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
  - A. bridge the gap
  - B. no end in sight
  - C. In the dark
  - D. shed light on

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. **C) The use of drones indicates a significant escalation and sophistication in the tactics used by militants.**

C: The passage discusses how the use of drones in the conflict is a dangerous escalation, indicating a higher level of sophistication in the militants' tactics. This inference is supported by the mention of drones being used in similar conflicts in Myanmar.

A: The passage does not suggest that the conflict is nearing its end; rather, it implies that the situation may worsen.

B: While the passage mentions a tactic used by insurgents in Myanmar, it does not provide evidence that external forces are directly involved in Manipur.

D: The passage indicates that the militants are not successfully contained, as evidenced by the drone attacks and the suggestion of an intelligence failure.

2. **D) The use of drones points to an intelligence failure by the security forces.**

D: The passage clearly states that the ability of insurgents to use sophisticated drones suggests a glaring intelligence failure by the security forces.

A: The passage mentions that the perpetrators are believed to be Kuki-Zo militants, not Meitei vigilante groups.

B: The passage specifically notes that the claim of retaliation remains unproven.

C: The passage indicates that the government has not yet taken strong measures to disarm the groups, which is why the situation could exacerbate further.

3. **B) passive and inadequate.**

B: The passage criticizes the government's response, stating that the police combing operations will not be enough, and more significant measures are needed. This implies that the current approach is passive and inadequate.

A: The passage does not describe the government's actions as proactive or effective; instead, it implies the opposite.

C: The approach is not described as aggressive or successful; the passage suggests that the situation is deteriorating.

D: The government's approach is not portrayed as strategic or well-coordinated; rather, there is a suggestion of disorganization and failure.

4. **B) Both the Union and State governments have successfully initiated dialogue between civil society representatives of the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.**

A is correct: The passage explicitly states that security forces have been used to create buffer zones between the hills and the valley.

B is incorrect: The passage clearly mentions that the inability of both governments to initiate any dialogue between civil society representatives of the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities is a sign of policy failure. Therefore, this statement is incorrect.

C is correct: The passage suggests that the repeated violence and inability to foster dialogue indicate a failure of the policies pursued by the Union and State governments.

D is correct: The passage concludes by stating that a change in leadership in the State is necessary for peace.

5. C) **The drone attacks in Manipur call for both a strong response from security forces and a change in leadership.**

A is incorrect: The passage indicates that the Centre continues to ignore critiques of its approach, implying a lack of praise for its handling of the situation.

B is incorrect: The passage states that the BJP faced setbacks in the 2024 general election, losing both Lok Sabha constituencies in the State.

C is correct: The passage specifically mentions that the fresh attacks call for a strong response from security forces and a concomitant change in leadership in the State.

D is incorrect: The passage indicates that the current approach is failing, not successful, as evidenced by the repeated violence and the hardening of ethnic identities.

6. D) The test will be cleared by her the next day.

7. B) **Courageous** (adjective) – Not deterred by danger or pain; brave, fearless, bold, daring.  
साहसी

Synonym: **Gutsy** (adjective) – Showing courage, determination, spirited, brave. साहसी

- **Cowardly** (adjective) – Lacking courage, fearful, timid. कायर
- **Timid** (adjective) – Showing a lack of courage, easily frightened, shy, nervous. डरपोक
- **Fearful** (adjective) – Feeling afraid, frightened, scared. भयभीत

8. D) **'By far'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह पूरे संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त idiom है। यहाँ वाक्य में Shruti के लिए फ्रेंच भाषा की कठिनाई का उल्लेख हो रहा है और 'by far' idiom उस कठिनाई के स्तर को स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करता है। इसलिए, "By far" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **By far'** should be used because in the entire context, it is the most appropriate idiom. Here, the sentence is mentioning the difficulty level of the French language for Shruti, and the idiom 'by far' clearly expresses that level of difficulty. Thus, "by far" would be the most appropriate choice.

9. D) **Incongruence** (noun) – The state or condition of not being in agreement, accordance, or in harmony असंगति

- **Diplomacy** (noun) – The profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations, typically by a country's representatives abroad कूटनीति
- **Liquidity** (noun) – The availability of liquid assets to a market or company तरलता
- **Congeniality** (noun) – The quality of being friendly and pleasant सहमतिपूर्णता

10. D) **Rue** (verb) – To feel regret, remorse, or sorrow over something. पछताना

Antonym: **Relish** (verb) – To enjoy greatly, to take pleasure in, to savor. आनंद लेना

- **Loss** (noun) – The state of no longer having something, or the state of being deprived of something. नुकसान
- **Distress** (noun) – Extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain. कष्ट

- **Guilt** (noun) – The fact of having committed a specified or implied offense or crime, or a feeling of having done wrong. अपराध
11. A) He said that he could speak three languages fluently.
12. C) The correct spelling of 'Enthusiatik' is 'Enthusiastic' which means "having or showing intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval" उत्साही, उमंगित.
13. C) The correct spelling of 'shudering' is 'shuddering' which means "trembling or quivering with fear, dread, cold, etc." कांपना, थरथराना.
14. B) **Worldwide** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में, sentence Pixar की फिल्मों की व्यावसायिक सफलता और उनकी वैश्विक पहुंच की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "Pixar's feature-length releases, which consistently achieved \_\_\_\_\_ commercial success" के माध्यम से उस व्यापक सफलता को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें उनकी फिल्मों ने दुनिया भर में प्रशंसा और सफलता पाई है। इसलिए, "worldwide" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- **'Worldwide'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the commercial success and global reach of Pixar's films. Here, through "Pixar's feature-length releases, which consistently achieved \_\_\_\_\_ commercial success," it portrays that widespread success where their films gained admiration and success across the world. Thus, "worldwide" would be the most appropriate choice.
15. D) **Counting down the days** (idiom) – Awaiting eagerly with anticipation उत्सुकता के साथ प्रतीक्षा करना
- **Lose ground** (phrase) – lose one's advantage in a conflict or competition. नाश उठाना
  - **The gift of the gab** (phrase) – the ability to speak with eloquence and fluency. आसानी से और आत्मविश्वास से बोलने की क्षमता
  - **Get into mess** (phrase) – To get into a difficult situation किसी कठिन परिस्थिति में पड़ना
16. B) **Jargon** (noun) – Special words or expressions used by a profession or group that are difficult for others to understand. शब्दाडंबर
- Synonym: Terminology** (noun) – The body of terms used with a particular technical application in a subject of study, profession, etc. पारिभाषिक शब्दावली
- **Music** (noun) – Vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion. संगीत
  - **Automobile** (noun) – A road vehicle, typically with four wheels, powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor. वाहन
  - **Essay** (noun) – A short piece of writing on a particular subject. निबंध

17. A) **Brave** (adjective) – possessing or exhibiting courage or courageous endurance. साहसी  
Antonym: **Coward** (noun) – a person who lacks courage in facing danger, difficulty, opposition, pain, etc.; timid or easily scared. कायर
- **Foolish** (adjective) – lacking good sense or judgment; unwise. मूर्ख
  - **Courageous** (adjective) – possessing or characterized by courage; brave. साहसी
  - **Shallow** (adjective) – of little depth; not deep. उथला
18. B) **Nonconformist** (noun) – Someone who does not care about rules नियमों की परवाह न करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Vampire** (noun) – A mythical being who subsists by feeding on the vital essence of the living पिशाच
  - **Illegitimate** (adjective) – Not authorized by the law; not in accordance with accepted standards or rules अवैध
  - **Tyrant** (noun) – A cruel and oppressive ruler तानाशाह
19. D) **Stunning** (adjective) – Extremely impressive or attractive, breathtaking, beautiful, striking.  
**Synonym:** **Gorgeous** (adjective) – Beautiful, very attractive, stunning, dazzling. शानदार
- **Ugly** (adjective) – Unpleasant to look at, unattractive, hideous. बदसूरत
  - **Hideous** (adjective) – Extremely ugly or unpleasant, repulsive, ghastly. घिनौना
  - **Plain** (adjective) – Simple, unadorned, not beautiful or attractive, ordinary. साधारण
20. D) The correct spelling of 'Resturant' is 'Restaurant' which means "a place where meals are prepared and served to customers" भोजनालय
21. C) 'Has been' का use होगा क्योंकि 'pivot' एक singular noun है, और इसके लिए singular verb 'has' का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहां 'pivot' बजट भाषण के एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव को दर्शा रहा है, इसलिए 'has been' सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'have been' और 'have' plural subjects के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं और इस context में गलत होंगे। 'Has' अकेले प्रयोग नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि यह एक auxiliary verb है और इसे main verb की आवश्यकता होती है, इसलिए 'has been' सही है।
- 'Has been' will be used because 'pivot' is a singular noun, and a singular verb 'has' is used for it. Here, 'pivot' refers to a significant change in the Budget speech, making 'has been' the correct choice. While 'have been' and 'have' are used for plural subjects and would be incorrect in this context. 'Has' alone cannot be used as it is an auxiliary verb and requires a main verb, so 'has been' is correct.
22. C) 'Proposed' का use होगा क्योंकि 'proposed' का अर्थ होता है प्रस्तावित करना, जो कि इस संदर्भ में बजट के पैकेज को लेकर सही बैठता है। यहां यह बताया जा रहा है कि ₹2 लाख करोड़ का पैकेज

प्रस्तावित किया गया है, जो कि पांच साल में 4.1 करोड़ युवाओं को लाभान्वित करेगा। 'Passed' का अर्थ है पारित करना, जो कि यहां सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह एक विधायी क्रिया होती है। 'Disposed' का अर्थ है निपटाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Professed' का अर्थ होता है दावा करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Proposed' will be used because it means to suggest or put forward, which fits well in the context of the Budget package being discussed. Here, it is mentioned that a ₹2 lakh crore package has been proposed to benefit 4.1 crore youth over five years. 'Passed' means to be approved or enacted, which is not appropriate here as it refers to a legislative action. 'Disposed' means to get rid of, which doesn't fit in this context. 'Professed' means claimed or declared, which also doesn't fit here.

23. B) 'Encourage' का use होगा क्योंकि 'encourage' का अर्थ होता है प्रेरित करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। यहां यह बताया जा रहा है कि दो योजनाओं का उद्देश्य नए उम्मीदवारों को कम से कम एक साल के लिए नौकरी के बाजार में भर्ती करने के लिए कंपनियों को प्रेरित करना है। 'Occurrence' का अर्थ है घटना या घटित होना, जो कि इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Average' का अर्थ है औसत, जो कि यहां फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Envisage' का अर्थ है परिकल्पना करना या पूर्वानुमान लगाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

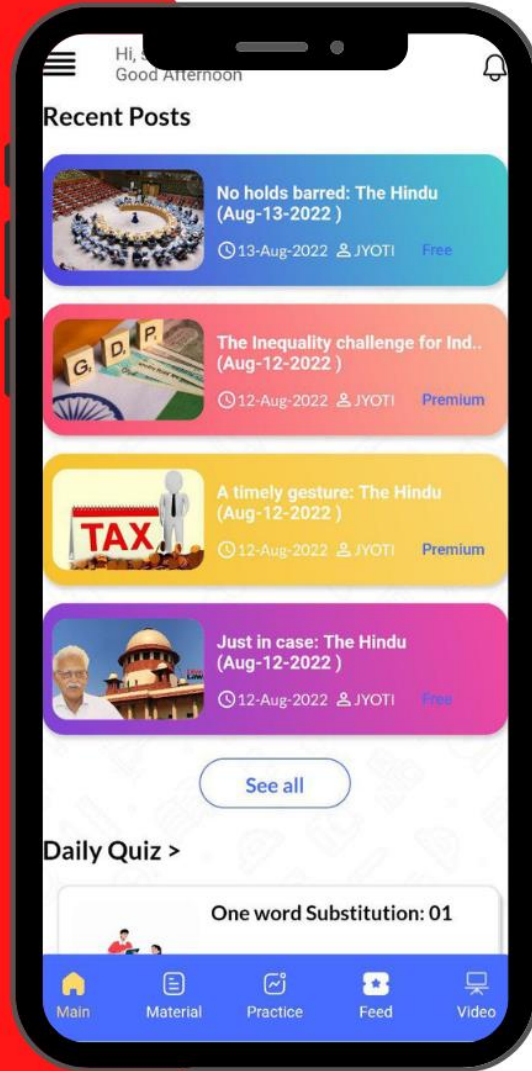
'Encourage' will be used because it means to motivate or inspire, which fits well in the context. Here, it is mentioned that two schemes aim to encourage companies to hire fresh entrants in the job market for at least one year. 'Occurrence' means an event or happening, which does not fit in this context. 'Average' refers to the mean value, which is irrelevant here. 'Envisage' means to envision or predict, which also does not fit the context.

24. A) 'Scale up' का use होगा क्योंकि 'scale up' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को बढ़ाना या विस्तार करना, जो कि इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। यहां यह बताया जा रहा है कि एक योजना कंपनियों को अपने पिछले वर्ष के कर्मचारियों की संख्या से अधिक भर्ती करने के लिए प्रेरित करती है, यानी उन्हें अपनी भर्ती प्रक्रिया को बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित करती है। 'Dry up' का अर्थ है सूख जाना या समाप्त हो जाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'End up' का अर्थ है किसी स्थिति में आना, जो कि यहां सही नहीं है। 'Firm up' का अर्थ है मजबूत करना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Scale up' will be used because it means to increase or expand something, which fits well in this context. Here, it is mentioned that a scheme attempts to incentivize companies to scale up their hiring beyond their previous year's worker count. 'Dry up' means to deplete or come to an end, which does not fit the context. 'End up' means to reach a situation, which is not appropriate here. 'Firm up' means to strengthen, which is not suitable in this context.

25. A) 'Bridge the gap' का use होगा क्योंकि 'bridge the gap' का अर्थ है अंतर को कम करना या भरना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही बैठता है। यहां यह बताया जा रहा है कि एक योजना कौशल सेट और उपलब्ध नौकरी भूमिकाओं के बीच के अंतर को कम करने के लिए है, इसलिए 'bridge the gap' सही option है। 'No end in sight' का अर्थ है कोई अंत नजर नहीं आना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'In the dark' का अर्थ है अज्ञानता में रहना, जो कि यहां फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Shed light on' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ पर प्रकाश डालना या समझाना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- 'Bridge the gap' will be used because it means to reduce or eliminate the difference between two things, which fits perfectly in this context. Here, it is mentioned that a plan aims to bridge the gap between skill sets and available job roles, making 'bridge the gap' the correct choice. 'No end in sight' means there is no foreseeable conclusion, which is not appropriate here. 'In the dark' means to be unaware or uninformed, which does not fit in this context. 'Shed light on' means to explain or clarify something, which is not suitable here



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