

Periodic reset: On India-ASEAN ties, 'Act East' policy

India needs to engage with ASEAN **consistently** on trade and security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's **visit** to Brunei and Singapore last week **was** part of a **deliberate** focus on India's "Act East" policy by the government in its third tenure. Not since 2018, when ASEAN leaders were in India for a summit and the Republic Day parade, has New Delhi **reached out** to the region in such a short time span. He is expected to travel to Laos for the ASEAN-India summit, the Philippines, and Indonesia, later this year. In addition, New Delhi has **laid out the red carpet** for the Prime Ministers of Vietnam and Malaysia. **The message** to reconnect with each of the countries in South East Asia, and even **forge** new ties, **is well considered** and **overdue**. Mr. Modi's visit was the first **bilateral** visit by any Indian Prime Minister. This neglect of ties with a country that has strategic ties with the U.S., trade ties with China, and is situated in the middle of ASEAN is **telling**. While India's trade with the ASEAN region has doubled in the past **decade**, it has actually declined with Brunei, with India **ramping up** its oil imports from Russia since 2022. The two sides do not have a strategic partnership, although the leaders discussed defence and geo-strategic issues, and Mr. Modi **took a veiled jab** at China. The two sides renewed their space cooperation, which **hinges on** Brunei hosting an ISRO station, and it remains to be seen whether other discussions on trade, investment and energy cooperation will **bear fruit**. In Singapore, the **spotlight** during Mr. Modi's visit **was** on semiconductors, **given** that Singapore is a major player in all parts of the electronics supply chain. As India seeks more technical expertise and investment in rare earths and chip making and Singapore **seeks to defray** some of the growing land and labour costs of its semiconductor industry, the two could make a perfect fit, also **de-risking** the process from U.S.-China-Taiwan tensions, American **protectionist** policies and Chinese **predatory** practices. This could also correct the drop in Singapore's FDI levels into India.

Hopes for more **intense exchanges** in technology, trade and investment **can** be realised only if the India-ASEAN engagement is more **consistent**. India's **exit** from the ASEAN-led **RCEP** in 2019 **was** a **blow**, and cuts India out of a large regional FTA. While New Delhi has refused to revise the decision despite ASEAN's **entreaties**, it must update the 2009 AITIGA and the 2005 CECA with Singapore. India's **commitment** to "ASEAN **centrality**" on all strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific **has** been **warmly** received, but it needs to coordinate more closely on **geopolitical** issues including Myanmar, the South China Sea and **Quad** engagement. While India's historical ties with the region date more than a millennium, modern ties need a periodic reset, as governments have **carried out** in the past with the "Look East" policy (1992) and the Modi government's Act East policy (2014). **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Consistently** (adverb) – Regularly, steadily, constantly, uniformly नियमित रूप से
2. **Deliberate** (adjective) – Intentional, planned, purposeful, calculated जानबूझकर
3. **Reach out** (phrasal verb) – Extend a hand, make contact, connect, approach संपर्क करना
4. **Lay out the red carpet** (phrase) – Welcome warmly, give a special reception, honor, treat with importance भव्य स्वागत करना
5. **Forge** (verb) – Create, form, build, establish बनाना
6. **Well-considered** (adjective) – Thoughtful, carefully planned, well-thought-out, calculated विचारपूर्ण
7. **Overdue** (adjective) – Late, delayed, behind schedule, past due देरी से
8. **Bilateral** (adjective) – Two-sided, mutual, reciprocal, joint द्विपक्षीय
9. **Telling** (adjective) – Significant, revealing, striking, important महत्वपूर्ण
10. **Decade** (noun) – period of ten years दशक
11. **Ramp up** (phrasal verb) – Increase, boost, intensify, expand बढ़ाना
12. **Take a jab** (phrase) – Make a critical comment, criticize indirectly, mock आलोचना करना
13. **Veiled** (adjective) – Hidden, indirect, disguised, subtle छिपा हुआ
14. **Hinge on** (phrasal verb) – Depend on, rely on, rest on, be contingent on निर्भर होना
15. **Bear fruit** (phrase) – Succeed, yield results, pay off, be productive सफल होना
16. **Spotlight** (noun) – Focus, attention, limelight, center of interest ध्यान का केंद्र
17. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, because of देखते हुए
18. **Seek** (verb) – Pursue, look for, aim for, strive for प्रयास करना
19. **Defray** (verb) – Offset, cover, pay, compensate for खर्च पूरा करना/ अदा करना
20. **De-risk** (verb) – Minimize risk, reduce danger, mitigate threat जोखिम कम करना
21. **Protectionist** (adjective) – Shielding, restricting, defensive, isolationist संरक्षणवादी
22. **Predatory** (adjective) – Exploitative, aggressive, opportunistic, rapacious शोषक
23. **Intense** (adjective) – Strong, vigorous, concentrated, heightened तीव्र
24. **Exchange** (noun) – Interaction, conversation, communication, dialogue बातचीत
25. **Consistent** (adjective) – Steady, regular, uniform, constant सतत

26. **RCEP** (noun) – Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a large regional trade agreement क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी
27. **Blow** (noun) – Setback, difficulty, misfortune, loss झटका
28. **Entreaty** (noun) – Plea, request, appeal, petition विनती
29. **Commitment** (noun) – Promise, dedication, obligation, pledge प्रतिबद्धता
30. **Centrality** (noun) – Importance, prominence, core position, focus केंद्रियता
31. **Warmly** (adverb) – Cordially, kindly, affectionately, with warmth सौहार्दपूर्वक
32. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – Relating to politics, especially international relations, influenced by geography भूराजनीतिक
33. **Quad** (noun) – A strategic dialogue between the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia क्वाड (चार देशों का समूह)
34. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – Implement, execute, perform, accomplish अमल करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Prime Minister Modi's ASEAN focus: Modi's recent visits to Brunei and Singapore reflect India's renewed emphasis on the "Act East" policy in the government's third term.
2. Historic outreach: The 2018 ASEAN summit in India was the last significant diplomatic engagement, making this current focus overdue.
3. Future ASEAN engagements: Modi is expected to visit Laos, the Philippines, and Indonesia later in the year, reinforcing India's commitment to Southeast Asia.
4. Strengthening bilateral ties: Modi's visit to Brunei was the first by an Indian PM, indicating India's intention to reconnect with Southeast Asian nations.
5. Neglected ties with Brunei: Despite Brunei's strategic importance, India's trade with the country has declined due to increased oil imports from Russia.
6. Space cooperation: India renewed its space partnership with Brunei, which hosts an ISRO station, though other trade and investment discussions need further progress.
7. Singapore's role in semiconductor industry: Modi's Singapore visit focused on semiconductor collaboration, with potential for mutual benefit in rare earths and chip production.
8. Balancing U.S.-China-Taiwan tensions: India and Singapore's semiconductor partnership could help de-risk their economies from global tensions and protectionist policies.
9. FDI concerns: Singapore's FDI into India has dropped, and improved bilateral engagement could address this.
10. Need for consistent engagement: India's success in technology, trade, and investment with ASEAN depends on sustained and regular engagement.
11. Impact of RCEP exit: India's withdrawal from the ASEAN-led RCEP in 2019 was a setback, excluding it from a major regional free trade agreement.
12. Updating older agreements: India must update the 2009 AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement) and the 2005 CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) with Singapore.
13. ASEAN centrality: India's commitment to ASEAN centrality in Indo-Pacific strategies has been welcomed but needs stronger coordination on issues like Myanmar, the South China Sea, and Quad engagement.
14. Historical ties: India's ties with Southeast Asia date back over a millennium, but they need to be modernized and reset periodically.
15. Evolution of the 'Act East' policy: India's foreign policy has evolved from the "Look East" (1992) to the "Act East" policy (2014), highlighting the need for continual updates.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - India's growing geopolitical power
 - The importance of India's technological advancements
 - India's efforts to strengthen ties with ASEAN countries
 - Challenges in India's foreign policy with Southeast Asia
- Which of the following best explains the reason for India's renewed focus on the ASEAN region?**
 - To counter China's growing influence in ASEAN.
 - To increase India's semiconductor exports to ASEAN nations.
 - To strengthen India's oil imports from Russia.
 - To develop strategic ties with ASEAN countries and enhance trade relations.
- Why is Singapore considered important for India's semiconductor strategy according to the passage?**
 - Singapore provides a low-cost environment for chip manufacturing.
 - Singapore plays a major role in the global electronics supply chain.
 - Singapore has a defense partnership with India.
 - Singapore is increasing oil exports to India.
- Based on the passage, why is India's engagement with ASEAN on trade and security considered critical?**
 - India needs to expand its influence in the Western hemisphere.
 - Consistent engagement can lead to improved exchanges in technology, trade, and investment.
 - ASEAN has a larger population than India, making trade essential.
 - The historical ties between India and ASEAN guarantee future cooperation.
- India's exit from the RCEP in 2019 was a blow because _____.**
 - it limits India's influence in regional security matters.
 - it excludes India from a large regional FTA led by ASEAN.
 - it prevents India from engaging in bilateral agreements with Singapore.
 - it reduces India's trade opportunities with the Western nations.

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.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was ____1____ last week for the first time in nearly nine months. With 11 new State Ministers on board and a ____2____ NDA government at the Centre, the Council began afresh with a loaded agenda of clarifications, tweaks, forbearances, and other procedural changes, based on industry feedback and vetted by officials, that awaited its ____3____. Acknowledging that it could not conclude ____4____ on all that had accumulated ____5____ its plate, the Council has resolved to meet again in August to take up the rest of the items.

- Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - Agreed

- B. Detained
C. Restrained
D. Convened
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. Allied
B. Affiliated
C. Negotiated
D. Recalibrated
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
A. Nod
B. Thought
C. Feature
D. Oversight
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
A. Diminish
B. Acknowledged
C. Acknowledges
D. Deliberations
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
A. In
B. On
C. By
D. Of
11. **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. It is a state in which the desired advantage enjoyed by another person causes one to feel a painful blend of inferiority, malevolence and indignation.
Q. According to Bertrand Russell, next to worry, probably one of the most potent causes of unhappiness is envy.
R. It is among the most universal and deep-seated of human passions.
S. Envy, thus, is a destructive emotion.
A. RSPQ
B. QSPR
C. QRPS
D. RQPS
12. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**
S1: In recent years, India's informal sector has faced significant challenges due to three major shocks: demonetisation in 2016, the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax regime in 2017 and the Covid-induced lockdown in 2020.
S4: Operating outside the formal regulatory framework, such firms are particularly vulnerable to policy changes and economic disruptions.

P: Formalization of the economy is a complex and long term process that often requires to combine interventions on laws and regulations with those aiming to foster productivity and the ability to generate wealth.

Q: These events have collectively led to the loss of 16.45 lakh jobs in seven years, according to the latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

R: The survey highlights the fragility of unincorporated enterprises.

S: The significant reduction of informality in some countries illustrates that achieving results is largely possible.

- A. Q and R
- B. P and R
- C. P and S
- D. Q and S

13. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

She faced a session of abuse after insisting that she was too beautiful to be liked

- A. recital of abuse
- B. tirade of abuse
- C. recitation of abuse
- D. declamation of abuse

14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**

Mr. Deshmukh will be met by them at the site office

- A. They have been meeting Mr. Deshmukh at the site office.
- B. They will meet Mr. Deshmukh at the site office.
- C. They have met Mr. Deshmukh at the site office.
- D. They will be meeting Mr. Deshmukh at the site office

15. **Select the option that correctly describes the use of the word 'walking' in the following sentence.**

Walking is good for health

- A. Walking is the base form of the verb.
- B. Walking is the past participle form of the verb.
- C. Walking is the present participle form of the verb functioning as a gerund.
- D. Walking is the present tense form of the verb.

16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A speech in a play that the character speaks to himself or herself or to the people watching rather than to the other characters

- A. Soliloquy
- B. Dogmatic
- C. Scream
- D. Eloquence

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

The Prime Minister and a President are visiting the town day to see the preparations of International Seminar

- A. a President are visiting
 - B. The Prime Minister and
 - C. the town day to see the
 - D. preparations of International Seminar
18. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**

The manager finally acceded to his request

- A. Applied
 - B. Succumbed
 - C. Agreed
 - D. Refused
19. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Generosity

- A. Activeness
 - B. Strength
 - C. Selfishness
 - D. Selflessness
20. **Select the option that can substitute the bracketed word segment correctly and complete the following sentence meaningfully.**

You all need to (get into) the books prescribed in your syllabus.

- A. go through
 - B. read about
 - C. go about
 - D. read abreast
21. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word**

Resign

- A. Stay
 - B. Achieve
 - C. Surrender
 - D. Insist
22. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.**

Everybody was surprised to see that he fell flat even after arduous efforts

- A. Fail to win applause
 - B. Win a difficult race
 - C. Fall from a height
 - D. Succeed without hassles
23. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**

His son thought, "If my father keeps grieving like this, the crops will die."

- A. His son thought that if his father kept grieving like this, the crops would have died.

- B. His son thought if his father kept grieving like this, the crops will die.
C. His son thought that if his father kept grieving like that, the crops would die.
D. His son thought that his father kept grieving like that, then crops will die.
24. **A word in the following sentence is INCORRECTLY spelt. Select that word from the given options.**
Life requires great sacrifices and an understanding of the duality of the universe; this makes us happier.
- A. sacrifices
B. understanding
C. universe
D. Duality
25. **Select the option that correctly rectifies the underlined spelling error.**
She was desperate to find her lost cat and searched the neverhood for hours.
- A. neighbourhood
B. neiverhood
C. neighborhood
D. Naighbourhood

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) India's efforts to strengthen ties with ASEAN countries

The main theme of the passage is India's focused effort to enhance its relations with ASEAN countries, particularly through trade, security, and geopolitical engagements under the "Act East" policy.

A. Incorrect as the passage doesn't emphasize India's overall rise in global power but rather focuses on its relationship with ASEAN.

B. Incorrect because, while technology is mentioned, it is not the central focus of the passage.

D. Incorrect as the passage mentions challenges briefly but focuses more on the positive steps India is taking rather than dwelling on obstacles.

2. D) To develop strategic ties with ASEAN countries and enhance trade relations.

D is correct because the passage emphasizes India's efforts to reconnect with ASEAN countries for trade and strategic ties, particularly in defense and geo-strategic issues.

A is incorrect because while there is mention of a "veiled jab at China," the main purpose of the focus on ASEAN is not purely to counter China's influence, but to strengthen India-ASEAN ties.

B is incorrect because the passage mentions semiconductors but does not suggest that India's focus is solely on semiconductor exports. The focus is on overall trade, including semiconductors.

C is incorrect because the passage states that India has reduced its trade with Brunei, not increased it, while ramping up oil imports from Russia, which is unrelated to ASEAN.

3. B) Singapore plays a major role in the global electronics supply chain.

B is correct because the passage clearly states that "Singapore is a major player in all parts of the electronics supply chain," which aligns with India's semiconductor strategy.

A is incorrect because the passage mentions Singapore's rising land and labor costs, which India could help defray, not that Singapore provides a low-cost environment.

C is incorrect because no mention of a defense partnership between Singapore and India is made in the context of the semiconductor strategy.

D is incorrect because the passage talks about India's oil imports from Russia, not from Singapore, and does not mention oil trade between India and Singapore.

4. B) Consistent engagement can lead to improved exchanges in technology, trade, and investment.

B is correct because the passage explicitly mentions that "Hopes for more intense exchanges in technology, trade and investment can be realised only if the India-ASEAN engagement is more consistent," showing that continuous efforts are crucial for success.

A is incorrect because the passage does not refer to expanding influence in the Western hemisphere; it discusses India's relationship with ASEAN, which is in the Indo-Pacific region.

C is incorrect because the passage does not mention population size as a reason for trade. The focus is on economic agreements and strategic coordination.

D is incorrect because while historical ties are noted, the passage stresses that modern relations require active engagement and resets, not that history alone guarantees cooperation.

5. **B) it excludes India from a large regional FTA led by ASEAN.**

B is correct because the passage clearly states, "India's exit from the ASEAN-led RCEP in 2019 was a blow, and cuts India out of a large regional FTA," directly linking the exit to its impact on trade agreements.

A is incorrect because while the passage discusses security, the blow specifically refers to trade, not security influence.

C is incorrect because the passage does mention agreements with Singapore, but India's exit from RCEP does not prevent bilateral agreements, only the larger FTA.

D is incorrect because the passage does not mention the Western nations; the focus is on India-ASEAN relations within the Indo-Pacific.

6. D) 'Convened' का use होगा क्योंकि "convened" का अर्थ होता है किसी बैठक को आयोजित करना। इस sentence में mention है कि GST Council की बैठक नौ महीनों बाद हुई, इसलिए 'Convened' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Agreed' का अर्थ है सहमत होना, 'Detained' का अर्थ है रोकना, और 'Restrained' का अर्थ है संयमित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Convened' will be used because it means to assemble or hold a meeting. The sentence mentions that the GST Council met after nine months, making 'convened' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Agreed' means to be in accord, 'Detained' means to hold back, and 'Restrained' means to limit or control, which don't fit in this context.

7. D) 'Recalibrated' का use होगा क्योंकि "recalibrated" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को नए सिरे से समायोजित या पुनः संतुलित करना। इस sentence में नई NDA सरकार के साथ GST Council का पुनः गठन किया गया है, इसलिए 'Recalibrated' सही option है। जबकि 'Allied' का अर्थ है सहयोगी, 'Affiliated' का अर्थ है संबद्ध, और 'Negotiated' का अर्थ है बातचीत करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Recalibrated' will be used because it means to readjust or realign something. The sentence talks about a fresh start with the NDA government, making 'recalibrated' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Allied' means allied or associated, 'Affiliated' means connected, and 'Negotiated' means to discuss or bargain, which don't fit in this context.

8. A) 'Nod' का use होगा क्योंकि "nod" का अर्थ होता है सहमति या स्वीकृति देना। इस sentence में mention है कि GST Council को industry feedback और officials द्वारा vet किए गए प्रस्तावों पर सहमति देनी थी, इसलिए 'Nod' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Thought' का अर्थ है विचार, 'Feature'

का अर्थ है विशेषता, और 'Oversight' का अर्थ है निगरानी या नियंत्रण, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'Nod' will be used because it means to give approval or agreement. The sentence implies that the GST Council needed to approve various proposals based on industry feedback and vetting by officials, making 'nod' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Thought' means thinking, 'Feature' means characteristic, and 'Oversight' means supervision or control, which don't fit in this context.

9. D) Deliberations का use होगा क्योंकि "deliberations" का अर्थ होता है विचार-विमर्श या चर्चा करना। इस वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि परिषद अपने सभी मुद्दों पर चर्चा पूरी नहीं कर पाई, इसलिए 'deliberations' सही है। जबकि Diminish का अर्थ है कम करना, Acknowledged का अर्थ है स्वीकार किया, और Acknowledges वर्तमान में स्वीकार करने के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

Deliberations will be used because it means thoughtful discussion or consideration before making a decision. The sentence states that the council couldn't complete all discussions, so 'deliberations' fits best here. Whereas Diminish means to reduce, Acknowledged means to accept (in the past), and Acknowledges means to accept in the present, which don't fit the context.

10. B) "On" का use होगा क्योंकि "on its plate" एक सामान्य idiom है, जिसका अर्थ है कि कोई काम या जिम्मेदारी जिसका निपटारा करना बाकी हो। इस sentence में, परिषद के पास उन चीजों का ढेर लगा हुआ था जिन पर विचार होना बाकी था, इसलिए 'on' सही है। जबकि "In" का अर्थ है अंदर, "By" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ द्वारा, और "Of" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ का होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

"On" will be used because "on its plate" is an idiom meaning something that is being dealt with or is part of someone's tasks or responsibilities. The sentence implies that the Council had issues waiting to be addressed, making "on" the most suitable choice. Whereas "In" means inside, "By" means by something, and "Of" indicates possession, which don't fit the context here.

11. C) QRPS

Q: This sentence introduces the main idea by mentioning envy and Bertrand Russell's view on its role in causing unhappiness.

R: After the introduction of envy in Q, R follows logically by elaborating that envy is a universal and deep-seated emotion. The use of "it" refers to envy, making this the next logical step in the flow of ideas.

P: This sentence defines envy in more detail, explaining what the emotion feels like. It follows naturally after the general description of envy in R.

S: Finally, S concludes by describing envy as a destructive emotion, which ties up the explanation given in P.

12. A) Q and R.

S1 introduces the challenges faced by India's informal sector due to three major events: demonetisation, GST, and the Covid-induced lockdown.

Q logically follows as S2 by giving specific data about the impact of these events, particularly the loss of jobs, which directly supports the point made in S1.

R fits as S3 because it explains the fragility of unincorporated enterprises, which aligns with the data mentioned in Q and leads naturally to S4, which discusses the vulnerability of these enterprises.

P talks about the formalization of the economy, which is a different topic from the challenges faced by the informal sector. It doesn't directly connect with the job losses or fragility discussed in the paragraph.

S discusses the reduction of informality in some countries, which is unrelated to the specific problems faced by India's informal sector due to the three shocks mentioned. It shifts the focus from India's challenges to other countries' success stories, which doesn't align with the flow of the paragraph.

13. B) 'session of abuse' के बदले 'tirade of abuse' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'tirade' का अर्थ है एक लंबा और क्रोधित भाषण या आलोचना, जो इस संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त है; जैसे— She faced a tirade of abuse after insisting that she was too beautiful to be liked.

- 'tirade of abuse' will be used instead of 'session of abuse' because 'tirade' means a long, angry speech or criticism, which is most appropriate in this context; Like— She faced a tirade of abuse after insisting that she was too beautiful to be liked.

14. B) They will meet Mr. Deshmukh at the site office.

15. C) 'Walking' का उपयोग यहां Present Participle के रूप में किया गया है, जो Gerund की तरह कार्य कर रहा है। Gerund एक ऐसा word होता है जो क्रिया रूप है जो लेकिन Noun के रूप में कार्य करता है। इस sentence में 'Walking' एक Noun की तरह काम कर रहा है और इसे क्रिया के रूप में नहीं बल्कि गतिविधि के रूप में दर्शाया गया है, जैसे— "Walking is good for health." 'Walking' is used here as the Present Participle functioning as a Gerund. A Gerund is a word that acts like a verb but functions as a noun. In this sentence, 'Walking' is acting like a noun, representing an activity, not an action, as in— "Walking is good for health."

16. A) **Soliloquy** (noun) – A speech in a play that the character speaks to himself or herself or to the people watching rather than to the other characters. आत्मभाषण

- **Dogmatic** (adjective) – inclined to lay down principles as incontrovertibly true. हठधर्मी
- **Scream** (noun) – a loud, high-pitched sound made by a person who is frightened, hurt, etc. चीख
- **Eloquence** (noun) – fluent or persuasive speaking or writing. वाक्पटुता

17. A) President' से पहले 'a' का use गलत है क्योंकि यह एक विशिष्ट व्यक्ति को संदर्भित करता है। इसके अलावा, 'are' का use तब किया जाता है जब sentence में plural Subject हो, लेकिन यहां 'The Prime Minister and the President' एक संयुक्त Subject है जिसे एक इकाई के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, इसलिए 'is' का उपयोग सही होगा; जैसे— "The Prime Minister and the President is visiting the town."

The error lies in 'a President are visiting.' The use of 'a' before 'President' is incorrect, as it refers to a specific person. Additionally, 'are' is used for plural subjects, but here 'The Prime Minister and the President' is considered a single entity, so 'is' should be used; like— "The Prime Minister and the President is visiting the town."

18. D) **Acceded** (verb) – Agreed to a demand or request, consented, accepted. मान लेना
Antonym: **Refused** (verb) – Indicated or showed that one is not willing to do something, rejected, declined. अस्वीकार करना

- **Applied** (verb) – Made a formal request or application, put to use. आवेदन करना
- **Succumbed** (verb) – Failed to resist pressure, temptation, or some other negative force. हार मान लेना
- **Agreed** (verb) – Had the same opinion about something, consented. सहमत होना

19. C) **Generosity** (noun) – The quality of being kind and generous, munificence, magnanimity, liberality. उदारता

Antonym: **Selfishness** (noun) – The quality or state of being selfish, self-interest, egocentrism, self-seeking. स्वार्थ

- **Activeness** (noun) – The state of being active, energetic, lively, or dynamic. सक्रियता
- **Strength** (noun) – The quality or state of being strong, power, robustness, vigor. शक्ति
- **Selflessness** (noun) – The quality of caring more about others than about oneself, altruism, self-sacrifice. निःस्वार्थ

20. A) 'get into' के बदले 'go through' का use होगा क्योंकि 'the books prescribed in your syllabus' से तात्पर्य यह है कि उन किताबों का गहन अध्ययन करना है। अतः यहाँ 'go through' का प्रयोग सही रहेगा; जैसे— You all need to go through the books prescribed in your syllabus.

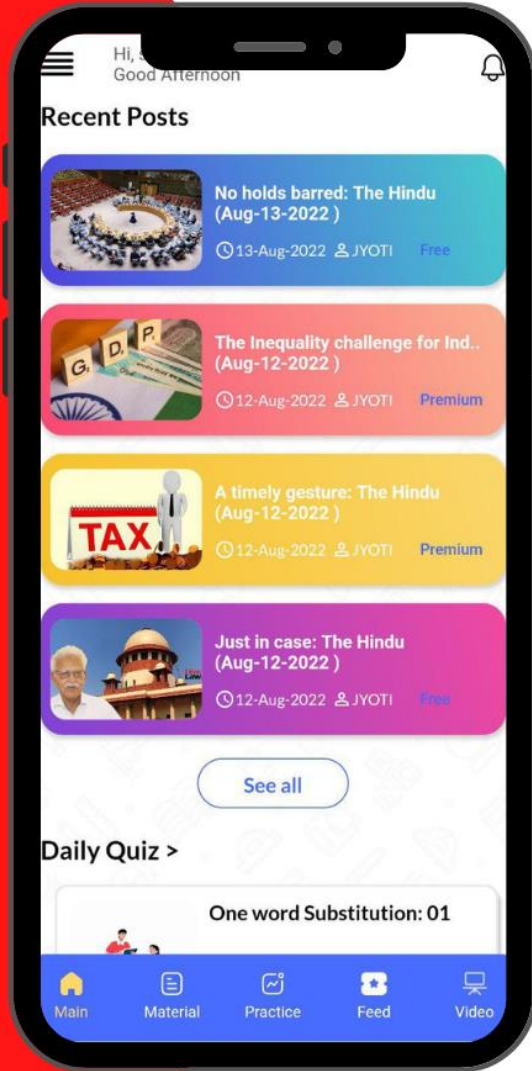
- 'go through' will be used instead of 'get into' because 'the books prescribed in your syllabus' implies that a thorough study of those books is required. Therefore, 'go through' is the appropriate choice; Like— You all need to go through the books prescribed in your syllabus.

21. C) **Resign** (verb) – To give up a position, job, or office, especially formally. त्यागपत्र देना

Synonym: **Surrender** (verb) – To give up, submit, yield. आत्मसमर्पण करना

- **Stay** (verb) – Remain in the same place or position. रहना
- **Achieve** (verb) – Successfully reach a desired objective or result by effort, skill, or courage. प्राप्त करना
- **Insist** (verb) – Demand something forcefully, not accepting refusal. जोर देना

22. A) **Fell flat** (idiom) – Fail to win applause सराहना प्राप्त करने में असफल
23. C) His son thought that if his father kept grieving like that, the crops would die.
24. D) The correct spelling of 'Duuality' is '**Duality**' which means "the quality or state of having two different or opposite parts or elements" दोहरापन, द्वैत.
25. A) The correct spelling of 'neverhood' is '**neighbourhood**' which means "the area or region around or near some place or thing" पड़ोस, अड़ोस-पड़ोस



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