

The edge of war: On the West Asia situation

Iran should not give Israel an excuse to **widen** the war

The **killing** of Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah, **was** one of the most **consequential** acts by Israel since the war in West Asia **broke out** on October 7, 2023. **Hezbollah**, which, under Nasrallah's three-decade long leadership, **emerged** as a parallel state in Lebanon, **has** been seen by the Israelis as their most powerful non-state **enemy**. Viewed by the U.S. as a terror group, it is also a central **constituent** in Iran's "axis of **resistance**", through which Iran **projects** its influence across the region. By killing Nasrallah, Israel has **dealt** Hezbollah a **heavy blow** and **dented** Iran's influence, but its **cross-border** attacks have killed and **displaced** thousands and crossed the brightest of Iran's **red lines**. The region has never been this close to an open war between Israel and Iran. When Israel launched its **retaliatory** war on Gaza after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, Nasrallah opened a second **front** by firing rockets into northern Israel. He wanted to keep some military pressure on the Israeli Defense Forces when the war on Gaza was killing tens of thousands of Palestinians. Israel played along with limited exchange of fire in return for Hezbollah's rockets when its focus was on Gaza. But after destroying much of Gaza, Israel turned its attention towards Lebanon, and then dramatically **escalated** the conflict, targeting Hezbollah's ground **functionaries**, its commanders and then Nasrallah.

Israel's declared **objective** in the north **is** to enable the over 60,000 people who were displaced by Hezbollah's rockets to return to their homes. Its **strikes** have weakened Hezbollah but not destroyed its missile capabilities. This means Israel could launch a ground offensive into Lebanon, **seeking** to push Hezbollah to the north of the Litani river and **carve** a **buffer** on the border. A ground offensive would displace and kill tens of thousands of people in Lebanon, which is **reeling under** deep economic pains. Israel's **invasion** of Gaza is yet to **meet** its declared objectives of destroying Hamas and **securing** the release of **hostages**. There is no guarantee that Israel would quickly meet its objectives in Lebanon. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sees the crisis as an opportunity for Israel to **degrade** its non-state **rivals** even at the cost of **triggering** an **all-out war** with Iran. The U.S. publicly **calls for ceasefires** in Gaza and Lebanon, but these words do not **carry any weight** as the Biden administration continues to **arm** Israel. **Iran**, repeatedly **provoked** and **pushed to the corner**, **has so far exercised** relative **restraint** while Israel has gone on a **blood-thirsty rampage**. Iran might be **tempted** to respond to the Nasrallah killing with force. But Tehran should not give Mr. Netanyahu what he wants — an excuse to start a wider war in West Asia. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Edge** (noun) – Brink, verge, threshold, point, cusp कगार
2. **Widen** (verb) – Expand, broaden, enlarge, extend, increase बढ़ा करना
3. **Consequential** (adjective) – Significant, important, far-reaching, momentous, impactful महत्वपूर्ण
4. **Break out** (phrasal verb) – Start suddenly, erupt, begin, commence, burst out अचानक शुरू होना
5. **Emerge** (verb) – Arise, appear, surface, develop, come forth उभरना
6. **Enemy** (noun) – Opponent, adversary, foe, rival, antagonist दुश्मन
7. **Constituent** (noun) – Component, element, part, factor, ingredient घटक
8. **Axis** (noun) – Alliance, coalition, group, partnership, union गुट
9. **Resistance** (noun) – Opposition, defiance, struggle, fight, stand विरोध
10. **Project** (verb) – Extend, convey, show, display, portray प्रदर्शित करना
11. **Deal a heavy blow** (phrase) – Inflict a serious setback, cause major damage, harm greatly, devastate गंभीर क्षति पहुंचाना
12. **Dent** (verb) – Reduce, diminish, impair, lessen, weaken कम करना
13. **Cross-border** (adjective) – Transnational, international, beyond borders, inter-country सीमा-पार
14. **Displace** (verb) – Remove, relocate, uproot, evict, expel विस्थापित करना
15. **Red line** (noun) – a limit beyond which someone's behaviour is no longer acceptable
16. **Retaliatory** (adjective) – Revengeful, responsive, retributive, counteracting, avenging प्रतिशोधात्मक
17. **Front** (noun) – Battle line, forefront, field, area of conflict, zone मोर्चा
18. **Escalate** (verb) – Intensify, heighten, increase, amplify, enlarge बढ़ाना
19. **Functionary** (noun) – Official, representative, officer, operative, agent पदाधिकारी
20. **Strike** (noun) – Attack, assault, offensive, raid, hit हमला
21. **Seek** (verb) – Try, strive, aim, endeavor, attempt कोशिश करना
22. **Carve** (verb) – Cut, shape, create, form, establish बनाना
23. **Buffer** (noun) – Shield, safeguard, protection, cushion, barrier सुरक्षा कवच

24. **Reel under** (phrasal verb) – Suffer from, be overwhelmed by, be burdened with, struggle with से जूझना
25. **Invasion** (noun) – Attack, incursion, assault, intrusion, occupation आक्रमण
26. **Meet** (verb) – Fulfill, achieve, accomplish, attain, satisfy पूरा करना
27. **Secure** (verb) – Obtain, acquire, get, procure, capture, प्राप्त करना
28. **Hostage** (noun) – Captive, prisoner, detainee, abductee, pawn बंधक
29. **Degrade** (verb) – Deteriorate, diminish, weaken, reduce, erode कमजोर करना
30. **Rival** (noun) – Competitor, adversary, challenger, opponent, foe प्रतिद्वंद्वी
31. **Trigger** (verb) – Cause, prompt, initiate, spark, provoke उत्तेजित करना
32. **All-out war** (adjective) – Total conflict, full-scale war, unrestricted warfare, absolute war, comprehensive युद्ध की व्यापक स्थिति
33. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – Demand, request, ask for, appeal, advocate मांग करना
34. **Ceasefire** (noun) – Truce, armistice, peace, cessation of hostilities, suspension of fighting युद्धविराम
35. **Carry weight** (phrase) – Be influential, be effective, matter, have importance, hold significance प्रभावी होना
36. **Arm** (verb) – Equip, supply with weapons, fortify, prepare, furnish हथियार देना
37. **Provoke** (verb) – Incite, irritate, aggravate, trigger, rouse उकसाना
38. **Push to the corner** (phrase) – To force or be forced into a difficult or unpleasant situation that one cannot easily resolve or escape
39. **So far** (phrase) – Until now, up to this point, as of now, thus far, to date अब तक
40. **Exercise** (verb) – Employ, apply, use, utilize, exert प्रयोग करना
41. **Restraint** (noun) – Self-control, moderation, restriction, discipline, inhibition संयम
42. **Blood-thirsty** (adjective) – Savage, brutal, ruthless, violent, ferocious हिंसक
43. **Rampage** (noun) – Fury, violent behavior, spree of destruction, rage, havoc उपद्रव
44. **Tempt** (verb) – Entice, allure, seduce, persuade, attract प्रलोभित करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Escalation in West Asia:** The killing of Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's Secretary-General, by Israel has significantly escalated the conflict in West Asia.
2. **Hezbollah's Role in the Region:** Under Nasrallah's leadership, Hezbollah became a powerful non-state actor and part of Iran's "axis of resistance."
3. **Impact on Iran's Influence:** Israel's actions have weakened Hezbollah, denting Iran's regional influence and crossing Iran's red lines.
4. **Second Front in Northern Israel:** Nasrallah opened a second front by launching rockets into northern Israel after the conflict began in Gaza on October 7, 2023.
5. **Israel's Retaliation and Focus Shift:** Initially, Israel limited its response to Hezbollah, focusing on Gaza. After targeting Gaza, Israel escalated attacks on Hezbollah.
6. **Israel's Stated Objectives:** Israel aims to weaken Hezbollah and secure the return of 60,000 displaced people by pushing Hezbollah north of the Litani River.
7. **Possibility of a Ground Offensive:** A potential ground invasion into Lebanon would cause more displacement and destruction in a country already suffering economic difficulties.
8. **Challenges in Meeting Objectives:** Israel's invasion of Gaza has not yet achieved its goals of destroying Hamas and releasing hostages, raising doubts about success in Lebanon.
9. **Netanyahu's Strategic Goals:** Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu sees this crisis as a chance to weaken Israel's non-state rivals, despite risking a wider war with Iran.
10. **U.S. Role and Position:** The U.S. publicly calls for ceasefires but continues to arm Israel, highlighting a contradictory stance.
11. **Iran's Restraint:** Despite provocations, Iran has shown restraint, avoiding direct involvement in the escalating conflict.
12. **Risk of Wider War:** Iran's reaction to Nasrallah's killing could provide Israel with a pretext to initiate a broader conflict in the region.
13. **Israel's Provocations:** Israel's aggressive actions have been described as a "blood-thirsty rampage," further destabilizing the region.
14. **Avoiding a Larger Conflict:** Iran is urged not to escalate the situation and give Israel an excuse to initiate a full-scale war.
15. **Strategic Restraint Needed:** The editorial emphasizes that Iran should continue exercising restraint to prevent a wider war in West Asia

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage regarding the impact of Hassan Nasrallah's death on the region?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The killing of Hassan Nasrallah will lead to Hezbollah losing its primary stronghold in Lebanon.
 - B. Israel's actions against Hezbollah could potentially spark a full-scale war with Iran.
 - C. The U.S. and Israel will now collaborate more closely to tackle Hezbollah.
 - D. Nasrallah's death will cause Iran to completely withdraw its support for Hezbollah.
2. **The passage suggests that Hezbollah, under Nasrallah's leadership, is seen as _____.**
 - A. the least effective military group in the region
 - B. a central ally of Israel
 - C. the most powerful non-state enemy of Israel
 - D. a neutral organization with no regional influence
3. **Why did Nasrallah open a second front by firing rockets into northern Israel?**
 - A. To protect Gaza from Israeli attacks
 - B. To put military pressure on the Israeli Defense Forces
 - C. To retaliate against Iran's actions in the region
 - D. To target the U.S. forces in Lebanon
4. **Which of the following statements is incorrect based on the passage?**
 - A. Israel's invasion of Gaza has already met its declared objectives of destroying Hamas.
 - B. Israel's ground offensive could push Hezbollah to the north of the Litani river.
 - C. Iran has exercised restraint despite provocations.
 - D. The U.S. publicly calls for ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon but continues to arm Israel.
5. **Which of the following is the best synonym for the word 'restraint' as used in the passage?**
 - A. Aggression
 - B. Moderation
 - C. Provocation
 - D. Hostility
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.**
 - P. However, it also raises questions about its impact on the industrial sector, which has long benefited from lower electricity rates compared to neighbouring states.
 - Q. For a state grappling with fiscal challenges, this decision underscores a necessary shift towards fiscal discipline.
 - R. Himachal Pradesh has made a bold move by withdrawing power subsidies to large industries, aiming to save around Rs 700 crore annually.
 - S. The state government's decision is pragmatic.
 - A. PSQR
 - B. QPRS
 - C. QRPS
 - D. RQPS

7. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
- The Arunachal spots — including one in the Yangtse area north-east of Tawang, where the two sides had clashed in December 2022 — have been under Indian control for decades. Delhi knows very well that if you give Beijing an inch, it will end up taking a mile.
 - The unreasonable demand speaks volumes about China's dubious intentions.
 - The irony is not lost on anyone: Chinese negotiators have suggested to India that their troops be allowed to patrol in two sensitive areas along Arunachal Pradesh, even as Chinese soldiers have denied Indian troops access to four patrolling points in eastern Ladakh over the past four years.
 - No trade-off or quid pro quo of any sort should be acceptable to India.
- d, b, a, c
 - c, a, b, d
 - a, b, c, d
 - a, c, b, d

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number.

Hierarchy is key in ensuring normal functioning of our increasingly (1)_____ society. In the US, there is an enormous variety of industries, professional branches, specialisations, as well as a great (2)_____ of other domains of human activity or interests. So, competence here is valued and opinion influencers have an important role to play. In fact, leadership evolves as a necessity almost in any realm of human activity/ thinking, (3)_____ where more people are involved. Thus, it isn't hard (4)_____ why even in academic institutions throughout the US and worldwide, students are given leadership essay assignments. Most students will take on leadership roles with various degrees of responsibility and impact in their lives, hence, becoming (5)_____ with typical challenges, solutions, or skills required is essential

8. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.
- systematic
 - fine
 - complex
 - easy
9. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.
- diversity
 - worry
 - difficulty
 - uniformity
10. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.
- tactfully
 - easily
 - only
 - especially

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**
- A. focusing
 - B. accepting
 - C. rejecting
 - D. polishing
12. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**
- A. unusual
 - B. strange
 - C. unequal
 - D. familiar
13. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A. Unintended
 - B. Timorous
 - C. Amalgamate
 - D. Aproprate
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
It's very cheap to display wealth by donning gaudy dresses
- A. Scanty
 - B. Sober
 - C. Ornate
 - D. Cheap
15. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Are today / a working day / or a / holiday?
- A. holiday
 - B. or a
 - C. Are today
 - D. a working day
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word in the following sentence to fill in the blank.**
The setting sun turned the _____ (calm) ocean into a sea of gold
- A. placid
 - B. furtive
 - C. scattered
 - D. volatile
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Despondency
- A. Cheerfulness
 - B. Satisfaction
 - C. Dejection
 - D. Hopelessness
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

- He hasn't _____ any attention to my miserable state
- A. made
 - B. had
 - C. gave
 - D. paid
19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Sell like hot cakes
- A. Become very famous
 - B. Not bothering about money
 - C. Extremely hot and humid
 - D. Selling out quickly
20. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
His grandfather was quite grumpy.
- A. Amiable
 - B. Tenable
 - C. Possible
 - D. Edible
21. **Which of the following idioms means 'going to sleep'?**
- A. Keep an ear to the ground
 - B. Hit the sack
 - C. Break new grounds
 - D. Run around in circles
22. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
They appointed him as the manager, as he was due for an promotion.
- A. it's
 - B. a
 - C. next
 - D. No substitution required
23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
He is just jealous that he didn't get picked for the job.
- A. greedy
 - B. envious
 - C. spiteful
 - D. suspicious
24. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The humble pupil sat on the floor with respect.
- A. Corrupt
 - B. Capitalist
 - C. Sturdy
 - D. Proud

25. **Choose an appropriate word that can substitute the bracketed word and complete the sentence meaningfully.**

What is the time (in) your watch?

- A. on
- B. into
- C. by
- D. with

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) Israel's actions against Hezbollah could potentially spark a full-scale war with Iran.

B is correct because the passage mentions that the region has never been so close to an open war between Israel and Iran, and this tension was heightened after the killing of Nasrallah.

A is incorrect because there is no information in the passage about Hezbollah losing its primary stronghold in Lebanon due to Nasrallah's death.

C is incorrect because the passage does not mention any new collaboration between the U.S. and Israel following Nasrallah's death.

D is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Iran would withdraw its support for Hezbollah; rather, it suggests Iran might react strongly.

2. C) the most powerful non-state enemy of Israel

C is correct because the passage clearly states that Hezbollah has been seen by the Israelis as their "most powerful non-state enemy."

A is incorrect because the passage describes Hezbollah as a powerful entity, not an ineffective one.

B is incorrect because Hezbollah is not allied with Israel; it is in direct opposition.

D is incorrect because the passage highlights Hezbollah's significant regional influence and Iran's support.

3. B) To put military pressure on the Israeli Defense Forces

B is correct because the passage explicitly mentions that Nasrallah opened a second front to keep some military pressure on the Israeli Defense Forces.

A is incorrect because there is no mention of Nasrallah's actions being aimed at protecting Gaza.

C is incorrect as the passage does not suggest any retaliation against Iran's actions.

D is incorrect because there is no reference to targeting U.S. forces in Lebanon in the passage.

4. A) Israel's invasion of Gaza has already met its declared objectives of destroying Hamas.

B is correct as the passage mentions that Israel could launch a ground offensive into Lebanon to push Hezbollah north of the Litani river.

A is incorrect as per the passage since it states that Israel's invasion of Gaza is yet to meet its declared objectives of destroying Hamas and securing the release of hostages.

C is correct because the passage notes that Iran has exercised relative restraint despite being provoked repeatedly.

D is correct since the passage clearly mentions that the U.S. calls for ceasefires but continues to arm Israel.

5. B) Moderation

A (Aggression) is incorrect because 'restraint' implies holding back, which is the opposite of aggression.

B (Moderation) is correct as 'restraint' means self-control or holding back, which closely aligns with the meaning of moderation.

C (Provocation) is incorrect because provocation refers to an action that incites or aggravates a reaction, which is not related to restraint.

D (Hostility) is incorrect as hostility indicates antagonism or aggression, which is the opposite of restraint.

6. D) RQPS

R: The paragraph starts with R, which introduces the main topic: This sentence sets the context and provides the basis for the subsequent discussion.

Q: Q logically follows R because it further explains the significance of this decision for a state that is already dealing with fiscal challenges. It mentions that this move is a step towards fiscal discipline, thereby providing a reason for the decision mentioned in R.

P: P comes next as it highlights a critical aspect of the decision—its potential impact on the industrial sector, which has benefited from lower electricity rates for a long time. This adds depth to the paragraph by discussing the implications of the decision.

S: S concludes the paragraph by stating that the state government's decision is pragmatic. This serves as a final evaluation, wrapping up the discussion and providing a logical closure to the paragraph.

7. B) c, a, b, d

c: The paragraph begins with c, as it introduces the topic by highlighting the irony of the Chinese suggestion. It sets the context by mentioning how Chinese negotiators proposed that their troops be allowed to patrol in sensitive areas of Arunachal Pradesh, while simultaneously denying Indian troops access to four patrolling points in eastern Ladakh. This statement establishes the background and tone for the paragraph.

a: a follows c, providing additional details about the specific areas in Arunachal Pradesh where China wants access. It mentions the Yangtse area and references a clash that occurred there in December 2022, further illustrating the sensitivity of these areas.

b: b comes next as it logically comments on the unreasonable nature of China's demands and questions their intentions. This sentence adds a critical perspective to the discussion, connecting with the previous details in a.

d: d concludes the paragraph by asserting that no trade-off or quid pro quo should be acceptable to India. This strong concluding statement provides a clear stance on how India should respond to China's demands.

8. C) 'Complex' का use होगा क्योंकि "complex" का अर्थ होता है जटिल या विस्तृत होना। sentence में बताया गया है कि हमारा समाज तेजी से जटिल होता जा रहा है, इसलिए 'complex' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'systematic' का अर्थ है व्यवस्थित, 'fine' का अर्थ है अच्छा या बारीक, और 'easy' का अर्थ है आसान, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Complex' will be used because it means being intricate or detailed. The sentence mentions that our society is becoming increasingly intricate, making 'complex' fitting here. Whereas,

'systematic' means organized, 'fine' means good or delicate, and 'easy' means simple, which don't fit in this context.

9. A) **'Diversity'** का उपयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि "diversity" का अर्थ होता है विभिन्नता या विविधता। sentence में mention है कि अमेरिका में विभिन्न उद्योगों, पेशेवर शाखाओं, विशेषज्ञताओं के साथ-साथ मानव गतिविधियों या रुचियों के अन्य क्षेत्रों की एक महान विविधता है, इसलिए 'diversity' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Worry' का अर्थ है चिंता, 'Difficulty' का अर्थ है कठिनाई, और 'Uniformity' का अर्थ है समानता, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Diversity'** will be used because it means a variety or range of different things. The sentence mentions that in the US, there is an enormous variety of industries, professional branches, specializations, as well as a great diversity of other domains of human activity or interests, making 'diversity' fitting here. Whereas, 'Worry' means concern, 'Difficulty' means a state of being hard to do or deal with, and 'Uniformity' means being uniform or consistent, which don't fit in this context.
10. D) **'Especially'** का use होगा क्योंकि "especially" का अर्थ होता है विशेष रूप से। sentence में कहा गया है कि जब अधिक लोग शामिल होते हैं, तब नेतृत्व की आवश्यकता होती है, इसलिए 'especially' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'tactfully' का अर्थ होता है सावधानीपूर्वक, 'easily' का अर्थ होता है आसानी से, और 'only' का अर्थ होता है केवल, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- **'Especially'** will be used because it means particularly or notably. The sentence states that leadership becomes necessary in any realm of human activity, especially where more people are involved, making 'especially' fitting here. Whereas, 'tactfully' means carefully, 'easily' means without difficulty, and 'only' means solely, which don't fit in this context.
11. B) **'Accepting'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'accepting' का अर्थ है किसी तथ्य या स्थिति को स्वीकार करना। sentence में mention है कि यह कठिन नहीं है कि क्यों यहाँ तक कि शैक्षिक संस्थानों में भी नेतृत्व निबंध असाइनमेंट दिए जाते हैं। 'Accepting' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि इसे स्वीकार करना समझ में आता है कि नेतृत्व का महत्व है। जबकि 'Focusing' का अर्थ है ध्यान केंद्रित करना, 'Rejecting' का अर्थ है अस्वीकार करना, और 'Polishing' का अर्थ है सुधारना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
- **'Accepting'** will be used because it means to acknowledge or come to terms with a fact or situation. The sentence mentions that it is not hard to understand why even academic institutions assign leadership essays, making 'accepting' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Focusing' means to concentrate, 'Rejecting' means to refuse, and 'Polishing' means to refine, which don't fit in this context.
12. D) **'Familiar'** का use होगा क्योंकि "familiar" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के बारे में अच्छी तरह जानना या परिचित होना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि छात्रों को leadership roles निभाने होंगे, इसलिए उन typical challenges, solutions, या skills से परिचित होना आवश्यक है। जबकि 'unusual' का

अर्थ है असामान्य, 'strange' का अर्थ है अजीब, और 'unequal' का अर्थ है असमान, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Familiar'** will be used because it means to be well-acquainted or knowledgeable about something. The sentence mentions that students will have to take on leadership roles, so becoming familiar with typical challenges, solutions, or skills is essential. Whereas, 'unusual' means uncommon, 'strange' means odd, and 'unequal' means not equal, which don't fit in this context.
13. D) The correct spelling of '**Aproprate**' is '**Appropriate**' which means "**suitable or proper in the circumstances**" उचित.
14. B) **Gaudy** (adjective) – Bright, showy, flashy, ostentatious. चमकीला, दिखाऊ
Antonym: **Sober** (adjective) – Plain, simple, unadorned, modest. साधारण, मितव्ययी
- **Scanty** (adjective) – Insufficient, meager, sparse, inadequate. अल्प
 - **Ornate** (adjective) – Elaborate, decorated, embellished, adorned. सजीला
 - **Cheap** (adjective) – Low-priced, inexpensive, economical, budget. सस्ता
15. C) 'Are today' के बदले '**Is today**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में 'day' एक Singular Noun है और Verb 'Is' के साथ ही इस्तेमाल होता है; जैसे— Is today a working day or a holiday?
- '**Is today**' will be used instead of 'Are today' because in the sentence, 'day' is a Singular Noun and the Verb 'Is' is used with it; Like— Is today a working day or a holiday?
16. A) **Calm** (adjective) – Peaceful, tranquil, serene, undisturbed. शांत
Synonym: **Placid** (adjective) – Not easily upset or excited, calm, tranquil. शांत
- **Furtive** (adjective) – Attempting to avoid notice or attention, secretive, sneaky. चोरी-छिपे
 - **Scattered** (adjective) – Spread out or dispersed in various directions. बिखरा हुआ
 - **Volatile** (adjective) – Liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse, unstable. अस्थिर
17. A) **Despondency** (noun) – A state of low spirits caused by loss of hope or courage. निराशा
Antonym: **Cheerfulness** (noun) – The quality or state of being noticeably happy and optimistic. प्रसन्नता
- **Satisfaction** (noun) – Fulfillment of one's wishes, expectations, or needs, or the pleasure derived from this. संतोष
 - **Dejection** (noun) – A sad and depressed state; low spirits. उदासी
 - **Hopelessness** (noun) – A feeling or state of despair; lack of hope. निराशा

18. D) 'paid' का use सही है क्योंकि सही phrase है 'paid attention,' जिसका अर्थ है "ध्यान देना।" यह एक सामान्य collocation है, और इस संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त है।
- 'paid' is the correct choice because the proper phrase is 'paid attention,' which means "to give attention." This is a common collocation and is the most appropriate in this context.
19. D) **Sell like hot cakes (idiom)** – Selling out quickly तेज़ी से बिक जाना
20. A) **Grumpy** (adjective) – Irritable, bad-tempered, cranky, grouchy. चिड़चिड़ा
Antonym: **Amiable** (adjective) – Having or displaying a friendly and pleasant manner, kind, good-natured. मित्रतापूर्ण
- **Tenable** (adjective) – Capable of being held, maintained, or defended. टिकाऊ
 - **Possible** (adjective) – Capable of being done or achieved. संभव
 - **Edible** (adjective) – Fit to be eaten. खाद्य
21. B) **Hit the sack** (idiom) – going to sleep सो जाना
- **Keep an ear to the ground** (idiom) – To be aware of what is happening, especially to listen for any indication of something that might happen. सतर्क रहना या किसी घटना के संकेतों पर ध्यान देना।
 - **Break new grounds** (idiom) – To do something innovative or pioneering. कुछ नया या अनूठा करना।
 - **Run around in circles** (idiom) – To engage in a lot of activity but without making any progress. बहुत सक्रिय होना लेकिन कोई प्रगति न करना।
22. B) an' के बदले 'a' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'promotion' शब्द consonant से शुरू होता है; जैसे—
They appointed him as the manager, as he was due for a promotion.
- 'a' will be used instead of 'an' because the word 'promotion' starts with a consonant; Like— They appointed him as the manager, as he was due for a promotion.
23. B) **Jealous** (adjective) – feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages. ईर्ष्यालु
Synonym: Envious (adjective) – feeling or showing envy. ईर्ष्या से भरा हुआ
- **Greedy** (adjective) – having an intense desire for something, especially wealth or power. लालची
 - **Spiteful** (adjective) – showing or caused by malice. द्वेषपूर्ण
 - **Suspicious** (adjective) – having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something. संदेहास्पद
24. D) **Humble** (adjective) – Modest, unassuming, meek, respectful. विनम्र

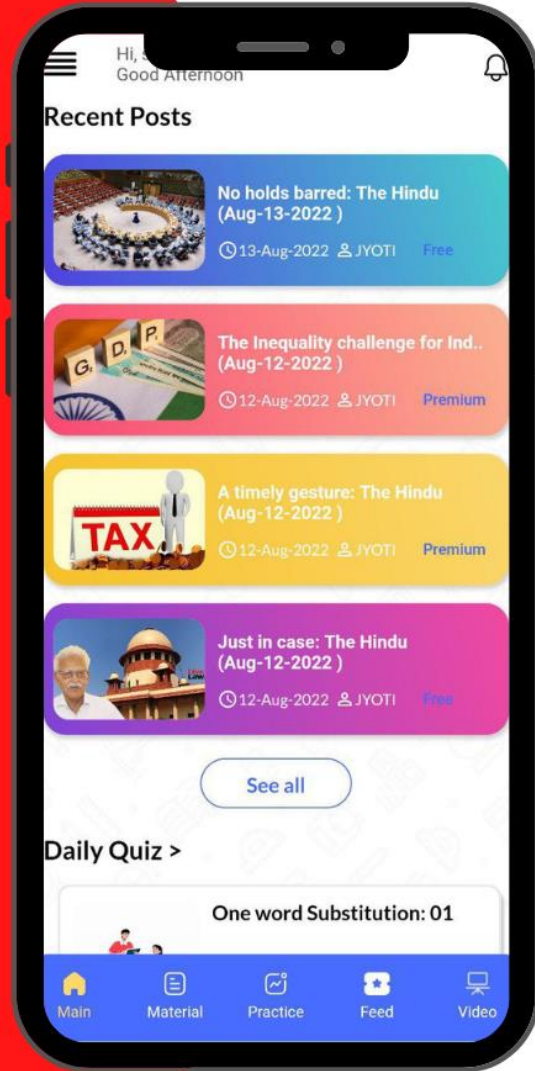
Antonym: **Proud** (adjective) – Having or showing a high or excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance, arrogant, haughty. घमंडी

- **Corrupt** (adjective) – Dishonest, unethical, immoral. भ्रष्ट
- **Capitalist** (noun/adjective) – Relating to capitalism, which is an economic system based on private ownership and the free market. पूंजीपति
- **Sturdy** (adjective) – Strong, robust, durable. मज़बूत

25. C) 'in' के बदले 'by' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'watch' के संदर्भ में समय पूछते समय 'by' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— What is the time by your watch?

By your watch (phrase) – According to your watch

- 'by' will be used instead of 'in' because when asking for the time with reference to a watch, 'by' is used; Like— What is the time by your watch?



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam