

Express View on US sanctions on Indian companies: Delhi should tread cautiously

On Wednesday, the US **imposed** sanctions on about 400 entities and individuals across the world, including 19 Indian firms and two Indian nationals, for **allegedly** helping Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. **Most of** the Indian entities sanctioned **are** suppliers of electronic components, a few supply aircraft parts and machine tools and components, among other items. The US State Department says that the move aims to **address evasion** of sanctions and target entities in multiple countries, including China, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey and the UAE, apart from India, for selling "items and other important dual-use goods to Russia, including critical components that Russia **relies on** for its weapons systems to **wage** war against Ukraine". Dual-use goods can be utilised for both civil and military **applications**. Many such items are part of the Common High Priority List (CHPL) made jointly by the US, the EU, Japan, and the UK. The CHPL lists **numerous** items that Russia "**seeks to procure** for its weapons programmes".

In the aftermath, while there may be a **temptation** to **grandstand** against the US sanctions, it would help to understand their context, and to **assess** their consequences for India's domestic interests. There is a war **raging** in Europe and there is a growing sense that it is likely to **escalate**. As such, the West is tightening sanctions to prevent Russia's military capability from growing. The second critical **aspect** is that the sanctions have a broad **sweep**, across several countries. India or Indian firms have not been specifically targeted or **singled out**. The third key point is that while India has **differences** with the US on Russia, it is also true that India has a strong partnership with the US when it comes to China.

The Indian government should neither **take offence** at the sanctions, nor ignore them as the decision of an outgoing US President. It should, instead, treat them as a caution. In the past, when it came to crude oil sanctions, the US had provided India some relief but the current restrictions refer to goods the US views as directly boosting Russia's military capability. Delhi would do well to focus on the need to protect Indian businesses from getting **caught in the crossfire**. India had **set up** export control **mechanisms** as part of the nuclear **deal with** the US — it is time to update them. The government needs to educate industry about the export restrictions, and possibly even licence some of the critical items, to ensure that Indian businesses are not **adversely** affected by the ongoing conflict. **[Practice Ex]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sanction** (noun) – Penalty, embargo, restriction, ban, punitive measure प्रतिबंध
2. **Tread** (verb) – To take step कदम रखना
3. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, levy, apply, implement, place लगाना
4. **Allegedly** (adverb) – Supposedly, reportedly, purportedly, ostensibly, apparently कथित रूप से
5. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, handle, confront, attend to निपटना
6. **Evasion** (noun) – Avoidance, circumvention, dodging, bypassing, escape चोरी
7. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, count on, trust in, lean on, be dependent on निर्भर होना
8. **Wage** (verb) – Carry on, conduct, engage in, fight, pursue छेड़ना
9. **Application** (noun) – Use, usage, employment, purpose, function उपयोग
10. **Numerous** (adjective) – Many, countless, several, abundant, various अनेक
11. **Seek** (verb) – to try to find or get something पाने की कोशिश करना
12. **Procure** (verb) – Obtain, acquire, get, secure, buy प्राप्त करना
13. **In the aftermath** (phrase) – Following, as a result, subsequently, in the wake of, after-effects परिणामस्वरूप
14. **Temptation** (noun) – Urge, impulse, desire, lure, inclination प्रलोभन
15. **Grandstand** (verb) – Show off, posture, perform theatrically, seek attention, make a spectacle दिखावा करना
16. **Assess** (verb) – Evaluate, appraise, judge, estimate, consider आकलन करना
17. **Rage** (verb) – Continue violently, be rampant, storm, flare, burn fiercely भड़कना
18. **Escalate** (verb) – Intensify, increase, heighten, grow, expand बढ़ना
19. **Aspect** (noun) – Feature, facet, element, component, characteristic पहलू
20. **Sweep** (noun) – Range, scope, extent, breadth, span दायरा
21. **Single out** (phrasal verb) – Select, pick out, choose, identify, isolate अलग करना
22. **Difference** (noun) – Disagreement, dispute, divergence, conflict, variation मतभेद
23. **Take offence** (phrase) – Feel insulted, be offended, resent, take umbrage, be upset नाराज़ होना

24. **Catch in the crossfire** (phrase) – Become involved unintentionally, be trapped between opposing forces, suffer unintended consequences बीच में फंसना

25. **Set up** (phrasal verb) – Establish, create, initiate, start, institute स्थापित करना

26. **Mechanism** (noun) – System, process, method, procedure, structure तंत्र

27. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – Handle, manage, address, tackle, cope with सामना करना

28. **Adversely** (adverb) – Negatively, unfavorably, harmfully, detrimentally, badly प्रतिकूल रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

1. The US imposed sanctions on 400 entities globally, including 19 Indian firms, for allegedly aiding Russia's war efforts in Ukraine.
2. Indian entities involved supply electronic components, aircraft parts, machine tools, and dual-use goods.
3. Dual-use goods have applications in both civilian and military fields, which Russia uses for its weapons systems.
4. The sanctions aim to curb sanctions evasion across countries like India, China, Malaysia, Turkey, and the UAE.
5. The sanctioned items align with the Common High Priority List (CHPL) made by the US, EU, Japan, and the UK, which lists goods that Russia seeks for its military.
6. Instead of reacting negatively, India should understand the sanctions' broader context.
7. The Ukraine conflict is escalating, prompting the West to tighten sanctions to weaken Russia's military power.
8. India is not being targeted specifically; sanctions are part of a broad international approach.
9. While India disagrees with the US on Russia, it shares a strategic partnership with the US, especially on China-related issues.
10. India should view the sanctions as a caution rather than taking offense or dismissing them.
11. In the past, the US provided India with relief in crude oil sanctions, but the current sanctions are more directly related to military support.
12. The Indian government should prioritize protecting its businesses from the impact of the sanctions.
13. India has export control mechanisms from its nuclear deal with the US, which need updating now.
14. The government should educate Indian industries on these export restrictions to avoid unintended violations.
15. Introducing licensing for critical items may help Indian businesses navigate sanctions and mitigate risks from the ongoing conflict.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Alarmist and confrontational
 - B. Analytical and advisory
 - C. Indifferent and dismissive
 - D. Critical and accusatory
2. **Why has the US imposed sanctions on 19 Indian firms and two Indian nationals, according to the passage?**
 - A. To reduce economic dependency on Russia
 - B. To prevent Russia from obtaining essential components for its military systems
 - C. To specifically target Indian firms involved in international trade
 - D. To penalize India for its neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict
3. **What does the passage suggest India's response should be to the US sanctions?**
 - A. India should retaliate with sanctions on US firms
 - B. India should disregard the sanctions as they are insignificant
 - C. India should cautiously assess the sanctions without reacting impulsively
 - D. India should negotiate with the US to exempt Indian firms
4. **Which of the following statements about the US sanctions, as discussed in the passage, is incorrect?**
 - A. The sanctions specifically target Indian companies for trading with Russia.
 - B. The sanctions are part of a broader effort to curb Russia's military capability.
 - C. The Indian government has previously received relief from US sanctions regarding crude oil.
 - D. The sanctions reflect the West's response to the escalation of the war in Europe.
5. **Which statement best summarizes the author's position regarding India's approach to the US sanctions?**
 - A. India should firmly oppose the US sanctions to protect its businesses.
 - B. India should consider the sanctions as a temporary measure with no lasting impact.
 - C. India should view the sanctions cautiously and take steps to protect its businesses.
 - D. India should stop all trade with Russia to align with US interests.
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Radhika stood by Monica's side **through thick and thin**.
 - A. Under easy situations wherein she could ensure Monica's safety and security
 - B. In all the happy moments, personally spending most of her time
 - C. In the moments when Monica couldn't complete some simple tasks
 - D. Under all conditions, no matter how challenging or difficult
7. **In the following sentence, four words are underlined out of which one word is misspelt. Identify the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
I felt **absolutely** (A) fit at the summit. My mind was absolutely **clear**. (B) I didn't feel tired, I felt **exhalarated**. (C) It was a very clear **sensation**. (D)
 - A. C
 - B. A

- C. B
- D. D

8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**

Martha made pancakes yesterday.

- A. Pancakes had been made by Martha yesterday.
- B. Pancakes were made by Martha yesterday.
- C. Pancakes were being made by Martha yesterday.
- D. Pancakes was made by Martha yesterday.

9. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word in the brackets to fill in the blank.**

Akash went to _____ his school uniform. [sell]

- A. make
- B. rent
- C. loan
- D. Buy

10. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined word segment in the given sentence.**

Carnatic music is usually performed by a small troupe of actors, consisting of a principal performer, a melodic accompaniment, and a rhythm accompaniment

- A. ensemble of musicians
- B. panel of judges
- C. band of singers
- D. board of directors

11. **Choose the most appropriate ANTONYM for the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The war was followed by a long period of prosperity

- A. Affluence
- B. Security
- C. Secure
- D. Failure

12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

His approach was filled with such perseverance that it was difficult to overlook his merit

- A. Reluctance
- B. Ignorance
- C. Doggedness
- D. Monotonous

13. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence and forms a meaningful sentence.**

In November, Lakshman fell (P) / with fever (Q) / seriously ill (R) and pneumonia (S).

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

14. **The following sentence has been divided into five segments. The first segment has no error. Select the option that has the segment with the grammatical error.**
Due to the pandemic, / the prices of / medicines increased / every day since / last December.
- every day since
 - last December.
 - medicines increased
 - the prices of
15. **In the given question, a statement divided into different segments is given. Rearrange all the segments to form a coherent statement.**
O: also benefit from knowing
P: there are several reasons
Q: why even parents would
R: more about how and why
S: children do the things that they do
- RQOPS
 - OPQSR
 - PQORS
 - PQROS
16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Affirmative
- Accession
 - Sanction
 - Negative
 - Acquiescence
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
One who speaks less in a forum.
- Eccentric
 - Loquacious
 - Gabby
 - Reticent
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.**
An important person who represents his/her country in a foreign country
- Ambassador
 - Amateur
 - Anonymous
 - Altruist
19. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
I will be gifted a fancy doll by them the next day.
- They will gift me a fancy doll tomorrow.
 - They gift me a fancy doll the previous day.
 - They gifted me a fancy doll yesterday.

D. They are gifting me a fancy doll the next day.

20. **Parts of the given sentence have been underlined. Identify the part that has an error.**

Select 'No error' if there is no error.

Although the team had trained diligently for months, they had still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics.

- A. for months
- B. trained diligently
- C. had still overwhelmed
- D. No error

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.

(1) _____ a letter came to inform them that Raka's mother Tara had another breakdown and was in a nursing home in Geneva and that Raka's grandmother Asha, (2) _____ seen another grandchild safely into the world, was flying to Switzerland to be with her, Nanda Kaul (3) _____ her lips, (4) _____ the blue sheets of paper with that distasteful sprawl (5) _____ them, and hid them in her desk.

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

- A. Sooner
- B. When
- C. For
- D. Unless

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**

- A. have
- B. has
- C. having
- D. had

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**

- A. stuck
- B. dusted
- C. pursed
- D. dirt

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**

- A. tucked away
- B. cleared up
- C. folded up
- D. hid away

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**

- A. by
- B. in
- C. across
- D. at

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Analytical and advisory

B is correct because the passage analyzes the implications of the US sanctions on Indian firms and advises the Indian government on how to respond prudently. It adopts a measured tone, providing context and suggesting constructive steps.

A is incorrect because the passage is not alarmist or confrontational; it does not exaggerate threats or incite conflict but promotes understanding and caution.

C is incorrect because the passage is neither indifferent nor dismissive; it engages deeply with the issue and emphasizes its importance for India's interests.

D is incorrect because, while it discusses criticisms, the passage is not accusatory. It does not blame any party but rather focuses on strategic advice.

2. B) To prevent Russia from obtaining essential components for its military systems

B: The passage states that the sanctions are aimed at restricting Russia's access to critical components that are used in its weapons systems to support its war efforts. This is the primary reason for the US sanctions, as described in the text.

A: The passage does not mention that the sanctions are to reduce economic dependency on Russia; rather, they are aimed at curbing military support.

C: Indian firms are not the sole targets; the sanctions are broad and involve multiple countries, not specifically India.

D: The passage does not imply that the sanctions are a response to India's stance on the conflict but rather a measure to prevent military support to Russia

3. C) India should cautiously assess the sanctions without reacting impulsively

C: The passage advises India to "understand the context" of the sanctions and evaluate their potential impact on India's interests, suggesting a cautious approach.

A: There is no mention of India taking retaliatory measures; instead, the passage encourages careful assessment.

B: The passage does not advocate for disregarding the sanctions but rather suggests a thoughtful approach to understanding their context.

D: While negotiations could be an option, the passage does not suggest this as the advised response. It focuses more on the need for caution and understanding.

4. A) The sanctions specifically target Indian companies for trading with Russia.

A: This option is incorrect because, according to the passage, the sanctions have a broad scope and do not specifically target Indian companies; instead, they apply to multiple countries.

B: This is correct based on the passage, which states that the sanctions are aimed at preventing Russia's military growth.

C: The passage mentions that in the past, India received relief from sanctions on crude oil, making this statement accurate.

D: This is also correct as the passage indicates that the sanctions are a reaction to the escalating war in Europe.

5. **C) India should view the sanctions cautiously and take steps to protect its businesses.**

This option accurately captures the author's recommendation for India to treat the sanctions as a caution and focus on safeguarding Indian businesses without opposing the sanctions outright.

A: The author advises against a strong opposition or "grandstanding" approach to the sanctions, making this option incorrect.

B: The author does not suggest that the sanctions are temporary; instead, they imply a need for long-term measures to protect Indian interests.

D: The author does not suggest stopping trade with Russia entirely but advocates a cautious approach to avoid adverse effects.

6. **D) Through thick and thin** (idiom) – Under all conditions, no matter how challenging or difficult किसी भी स्थिति में, चाहे परिस्थिति कितनी भी कठिन या चुनौतीपूर्ण क्यों न हो डटे रहना है

7. **A) The incorrectly spelt word is 'exhelarated' which should be corrected to 'exhilarated',** meaning "feeling very happy and excited" (बेहद प्रसन्न और उत्साहित).

8. **B) Pancakes were made by Martha yesterday**

Active Voice को Passive Voice में बदलते समय, object वाक्य की शुरुआत में आता है और क्रिया (verb) को Passive Voice के रूप में बदल दिया जाता है। यहाँ "made" को Passive Voice में "were made" में बदल दिया जाता है। जैसे— To Be → wereV³ → made

Note: "Pancakes" को object के रूप में शुरुआत में रखा गया और "were made" का प्रयोग Passive Voice में किया गया। "by Martha" को अंत में जोड़ा गया और "yesterday" समयसूचक शब्द के रूप में वाक्य के अंत में रहा।

Explanation in English:

When converting Active Voice into Passive Voice, the object is placed at the beginning of the sentence, and the verb is changed into its Passive Voice form. In this case, "made" is changed to "were made." For example: → To Be → were → V³ → made

Note: "Pancakes" is placed as the object, and "were made" is used in Passive Voice. "by Martha" is added at the end, and "yesterday" remains as the time indicator.

9. **D) Sell** (verb) – To exchange something for money. बेचना

Antonym: Buy (verb) – To acquire something by paying for it; purchase. खरीदना

- **Make** (verb) – To create or produce something. बनाना

- **Rent** (verb) – To pay for the use of something for a period of time. किराए पर लेना
 - **Loan** (verb) – To lend something to someone for a temporary period. उधार देना
10. A) '**small troupe of actors**' के बदले '**ensemble of musicians**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Carnatic music' के संदर्भ में 'ensemble of musicians' सही है। 'troupe of actors' शब्द समूह 'acting' या 'theatre' के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है, जबकि 'Carnatic music' संगीत से संबंधित है। इसलिए 'ensemble' का अर्थ है 'group of musicians performing together,' जो यहाँ सही है।
ensemble of musicians' will be used instead of '**small troupe of actors**' because in the context of 'Carnatic music', the term 'ensemble of musicians' is more appropriate. The phrase 'troupe of actors' is used for 'acting' or 'theatre,' while 'Carnatic music' is related to musical performance. Thus, 'ensemble' means 'a group of musicians performing together,' which is correct here.
11. D) **Prosperity** (noun) – The state of being successful, thriving, or flourishing, especially in financial or material terms. समृद्धि
Antonym: **Failure** (noun) – Lack of success, collapse, or downfall. असफलता
- **Affluence** (noun) – Abundance of wealth or material goods. समृद्धि
 - **Security** (noun) – The state of being free from danger or threat. सुरक्षा
 - **Secure** (adjective) – Fixed or fastened so as not to give way; protected against threats. सुरक्षित
12. C) **Perseverance** (noun) – Persistence, determination, tenacity, steadfastness. दृढ़ता
Synonym: **Doggedness** (noun) – Determination, persistence, tenacity, obstinacy. हठ
- **Reluctance** (noun) – Unwillingness, hesitation, resistance. अनिच्छा
 - **Ignorance** (noun) – Lack of knowledge or awareness. अज्ञानता
 - **Monotonous** (adjective) – Dull, repetitive, boring, unvaried. निरस
13. B) **P, R, Q, S**
In November, Lakshman fell seriously ill with fever and pneumonia
14. C) 'increased' के बदले '**have been increasing**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग Present Perfect या Present Perfect Continuous Tense के साथ होता है, जब कोई कार्य पिछले समय से वर्तमान तक लगातार हो रहा हो। जैसे— The prices of medicines have been increasing every day since last December.
'have been increasing' will be used instead of 'medicines increased' because 'since' is used with Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous Tense when an action has been happening continuously from a point in the past up to the present. Like— The prices of medicines have been increasing every day since last December.
15. C) **PQORS**
P starts the sentence with "there are several reasons," which introduces the idea that multiple reasons exist.
Q follows P because it introduces the subject: "why even parents would." This connects to the idea of "several reasons" and starts explaining who the reasons are for — in this case, parents.

O comes after **Q** because it logically continues the idea with "also benefit from knowing." It explains what parents would benefit from, linking directly to **Q** and expanding on the importance of knowledge for parents.

R follows **O** because it specifies "more about how and why," explaining what parents would benefit from knowing.

S concludes the sentence with "children do the things that they do," which completes the thought by explaining what parents would gain insight into — their children's behavior. This directly ties back to the reasons mentioned in **P**.

16. C) **Affirmative** (adjective) – Agreeing or consenting, positive, approving, favorable. सकारात्मक
Antonym: **Negative** (adjective) – Opposing or refusing, not positive, disapproving, unfavorable.

नकारात्मक

- **Accession** (noun) – The act of attaining a position or right, induction, elevation. सिंहासन पर बैठना
- **Sanction** (noun) – A threatened penalty for disobeying a law or rule, approval, ratification. प्रतिबंध/अनुमोदन
- **Acquiescence** (noun) – The reluctant acceptance of something without protest, compliance, submission. स्वीकृति

17. D) **Reticent** (noun) – One who speaks less, reserved, or reluctant to express oneself. मितभाषी

- **Eccentric** (noun) – A person who is unconventional and slightly strange. असामान्य व्यक्ति
- **Loquacious** (noun) – A person who tends to talk a great deal; talkative. बहुत बोलने वाला
- **Gabby** (noun) – Excessively or annoyingly talkative. बातूनी

18. A) **Ambassador** (noun) – An important person who represents his/her country in a foreign country. राजदूत

- **Amateur** (noun) – A person who engages in a pursuit, especially a sport, on an unpaid rather than a professional basis. शौकीन व्यक्ति
- **Anonymous** (noun) – A person who is not identified by name; of unknown name. गुमनाम व्यक्ति
- **Altruist** (noun) – A person who shows a selfless concern for the well-being of others. परमार्थी

19. A) **They will gift me a fancy doll tomorrow**

Passive Voice को Active Voice में बदलते समय, subject वाक्य की शुरुआत में आता है और क्रिया (verb) को Active Voice के रूप में बदल दिया जाता है। Passive Voice में "will be gifted" को Active Voice में "will gift" में बदल दिया जाता है, और समयसूचक शब्द "the next day" को "tomorrow" में बदल दिया जाता है। जैसे— To Be → will gift Object → me

Note: "They" को subject के रूप में starting में रखा गया और "will gift" का प्रयोग Active Voice में किया गया। "me" को object के रूप में और "tomorrow" को समयसूचक शब्द के रूप में रखा गया।

Explanation in English:

When converting Passive Voice into Active Voice, the subject appears at the beginning of the sentence, and the verb is changed into its Active Voice form. In this case, "will be gifted" is changed to "will gift," and the time indicator "the next day" is changed to "tomorrow." For example: → To Be → will gift → Object → me

Note: "They" is placed as the subject, "will gift" is used as the verb, "me" is the object, and "tomorrow" is used as the time indicator.

20. C) 'had still overwhelmed' के बदले 'were still overwhelmed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'overwhelmed' एक ऐसा क्रिया विशेषण है जो Passive Voice में है, और इसके लिए 'were' का प्रयोग करना उचित है। Past Perfect Tense ('had') केवल तब प्रयोग होता है जब दोनों क्रियाएँ स्पष्ट रूप से Past में हों और एक क्रिया दूसरी से पहले पूरी हुई हो। इस वाक्य में यह स्थिति नहीं है, इसलिए 'were still overwhelmed' सही होगा। उदाहरण— Although the team had trained diligently for months, they were still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics. 'were still overwhelmed' will be used instead of 'had still overwhelmed' because 'overwhelmed' is in the Passive Voice, and it requires 'were' to be correct. The Past Perfect Tense ('had') is only used when two actions are clearly in the past, and one precedes the other. In this sentence, that is not the case, so 'were still overwhelmed' is appropriate. Example— Although the team had trained diligently for months, they were still overwhelmed by the opponent's unexpected tactics
21. 'B) **When**' का use होगा क्योंकि "when" का अर्थ होता है किसी घटना या समय के घटित होने पर। sentence में यह दर्शाता है कि पत्र के आने के समय कुछ विशेष घटनाएँ घटित हुईं, इसलिए 'when' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Sooner' का अर्थ है "जल्द ही", जो एक अपेक्षाकृत समय को दर्शाता है, लेकिन इस sentence में समय की तुलना नहीं की जा रही है। 'For' का अर्थ है "किसी उद्देश्य के लिए", जो किसी कारण या उद्देश्य को संदर्भित करता है, लेकिन यह यहाँ संदर्भित नहीं हो रहा है। 'Unless' का अर्थ है "जब तक कि नहीं", जो एक नकारात्मक स्थिति को दर्शाता है और यहाँ सही नहीं बैठता है।
- When**' will be used because it indicates the occurrence of a specific event or time. The sentence specifies that something happened at the time the letter arrived, making 'when' the correct option. Whereas, 'Sooner' means "soon", which is used for comparing times but doesn't fit here.
- 'For' means "for a purpose", which refers to a reason or purpose, but isn't applicable in this context. 'Unless' means "except if", indicating a negative condition, which doesn't fit in this context.

22. C) **Having** का use होगा क्योंकि यह present participle का रूप है, जो sentence में action के कारण को दर्शाता है। इसका अर्थ है "किसी कार्य को पूरा कर लेने के बाद," जो दर्शाता है कि Asha ने पहले ही अपने एक और पोते के जन्म को देखा और उसके बाद वह स्विट्जरलैंड जा रही है। जबकि 'Have' और 'Has' का प्रयोग present tense के लिए होता है, और 'Had' का प्रयोग past perfect tense के लिए होता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

'Having' will be used because it is the present participle form, which shows the reason or cause of the action in the sentence. It means "after completing an action," indicating that Asha had already seen another grandchild safely into the world and then decided to fly to Switzerland. Whereas, 'Have' and 'Has' are used for present tense, and 'Had' is used for past perfect tense, which are not suitable here.

23. C) **'Pursed'** का use होगा क्योंकि "pursed" का अर्थ होता है होठों को एक साथ दबाना या कसना, जो अक्सर चिंता, नापसंदगी, या असहमति को व्यक्त करता है। इस sentence में Nanda Kaul की प्रतिक्रिया को दर्शाया गया है जब उन्होंने पत्र पढ़ा, जिससे यह स्पष्ट होता है कि उन्होंने अपने होठों को कस लिया। जबकि 'Stuck' का अर्थ है चिपकाना या फंसना, 'Dusted' का अर्थ है धूल हटाना, और 'Dirt' का अर्थ है गंदगी, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं। इसलिए 'pursed' यहाँ सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

'Pursed' will be used because it means to press or pucker lips together, often to show concern, dislike, or disapproval. In the sentence, Nanda Kaul's reaction after reading the letter indicates that she pressed her lips together, showing her emotional response. Whereas, 'Stuck' means to attach or be caught, 'Dusted' means to remove dust, and 'Dirt' means filth, which do not fit in this context. Therefore, 'pursed' is the most appropriate choice here.

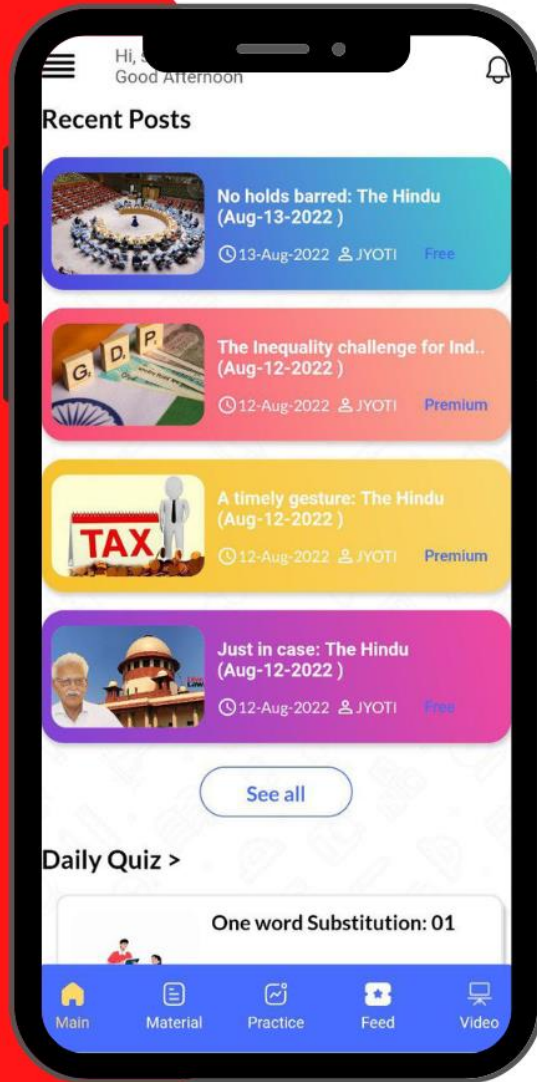
24. C) **Folded up** का use होगा क्योंकि "folded up" का अर्थ होता है किसी वस्तु को तह करना। sentence में mention है कि Nanda Kaul ने नीले कागजों को उस अनाकर्षक लिखावट के साथ तह कर दिया और उन्हें अपनी डेस्क में छिपा दिया, इसलिए 'folded up' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Tucked away' का अर्थ है किसी वस्तु को सावधानीपूर्वक रखना या छिपाना, 'Cleared up' का अर्थ है चीजों को साफ या स्पष्ट करना, और 'Hid away' का अर्थ है छिपाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

Folded up will be used because it means to fold something. The sentence mentions that Nanda Kaul folded the blue sheets of paper with the distasteful sprawl and hid them in her desk, making 'folded up' fitting here. Whereas, 'Tucked away' means to carefully put or hide something, 'Cleared up' means to make things clean or clear, and 'Hid away' means to hide, which don't fit in this context.

25. 'C) **Across** का use होगा क्योंकि "across" का अर्थ है एक सतह पर फैल जाना। इस sentence में mention है कि कागजों पर एक "distasteful sprawl" (अप्रिय फैलाव) था, जो कागज की पूरी सतह पर फैला हुआ था, इसलिए 'across' यहाँ सही option है। जबकि 'by' का अर्थ है पास में, 'in' का अर्थ है अंदर, और 'at' का अर्थ है किसी विशिष्ट स्थान या बिंदु पर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Across'** will be used because it means spreading over a surface. In this sentence, it mentions that there was a "distasteful sprawl" on the blue sheets of paper, indicating that it

spread across the entire surface of the paper. Therefore, 'across' is the correct option. Whereas, 'by' means near, 'in' means inside, and 'at' refers to a specific point or location, which don't fit in this context.



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