A slow return: On border tensions and India-China ties

India and China must engage intensely at all levels to resolve border disputes

The government's **decision** to offer statements on China, **suo motu**, in both Houses of Parliament and to brief a parliamentary panel **is** positive but long **overdue** steps. Since 2020, **following** the Chinese **transgression** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the **deadly** Galwan **clashes**, it has avoided **divulging** details of the negotiations with China over the actions of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), only announcing agreements on **disengagement** at six points of **friction**, as they occurred in 2021, 2022 and 2024. In a democracy, the people must not be kept **in the dark** on matters of national interest. But the statements by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and the briefing by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri appear to have been **substantial**. Mr. Jaishankar focused on three **aspects** of the LAC negotiations. He said India has **made it clear** to China that "normal" **engagements** in other parts of the relationship **were** **contingent** on the LAC tensions being resolved. India has adopted a policy of "continuous engagement" and a step-by-step approach involving 17 meetings of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and **Coordination** on India-China Border Affairs, 21 meetings of the Senior Highest Military Commanders meeting **mechanism**, and several meetings between the Foreign and Defence Ministers and Special Representatives of both countries. Finally, he said that with disengagement "fully achieved", the next priorities would be **troop de-escalation** and **de-induction**, followed by a discussion on how to manage **ties** in the border areas, **given** the problems in the last few years. Mr. Jaishankar said that for Depsang and Demchok, "**patrolling arrangements**" had been agreed upon, but the **resumption** of patrols is still "**underway**". For the other areas of North and South Pangong Tso lake, Gogra and Hot Springs, disengagement had been achieved through "steps of a temporary and limited nature" — a **euphemism** for LAC "**buffer zones**".

But the government's nearly 2,500 word statement gave no indication of the **casus belli** for the Chinese actions nor any reference to when the **return** to '**status quo ante**', or to positions of 2020, **can** be expected. The statement **laid stress on** India's "national security" interests being **upheld**, without mentioning India's "territorial **integrity**" at any point. The government must now **expedite** efforts to build a common understanding of the LAC and to **demarcate** the boundary. It is important to tell the nation about the nearly 20 Modi-Xi meetings prior to 2020, **in spite of** which the PLA acted the way it did. The past few years should have **demonstrated** to the '**doves and hawks**' in India's **establishment** that such an **intensive** engagement is no guarantor of peace, nor can conflicts be resolved without the kind of **intense** and "continuous engagement" that New Delhi and Beijing have **sustained** in the past few years.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ties** (noun) – Connections, relationships, associations, links संबंध

2. **Suo motu** (noun) – On its own motion, voluntarily, self-initiated action स्वतः संज्ञान

3. **Overdue** (adjective) – Delayed, late, pending, belated देरी से

4. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing, next के बाद

5. **Transgression** (noun) – Violation, breach, infringement, defiance अतिक्रमण

6. **Deadly** (adverb) – Lethal, fatal, life-threatening, severe घातक

7. **Clash** (noun) – Conflict, confrontation, skirmish, fight टकराव

8. **Divulge** (verb) – Reveal, disclose, share, make known प्रकट करना

9. **Disengagement** (noun) – Withdrawal, separation, detachment, retreat पीछे हटना

10. **Friction** (noun) – Conflict, tension, disagreement, discord तनाव, विरोध

11. **In the dark** (phrase) – Uninformed, unaware, ignorant, clueless अनजान, अंधेरे में

12. **Substantial** (adjective) – Significant, considerable, major, meaningful महत्वपूर्ण

13. **Aspect** (noun) – Feature, facet, component, perspective पहलू

14. **Make clear** (phrase) – Clarify, explain, emphasize, assert स्पष्ट करना

15. **Engagement** (noun) – Interaction, involvement, commitment, participation सहभागिता

16. **Contingent** (on) (adjective) – depending, liable, dependent, conditional, शर्त पर निर्भर

17. **Coordination** (noun) – Organization, alignment, collaboration, cooperation समन्वय

18. **Mechanism** (noun) – System, structure, process, framework तंत्र

19. **Troop** (noun) – Soldiers, unit, squad, group सैनिक दल

20. **De-escalation** (noun) – Reduction, scaling down, defusing, easing तनाव कम करना

21. **De-induction** (noun) – Withdrawal, removal, detachment, separation हटाव

22. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, because of देखते हुए

23. **Patrolling** (noun) – Surveillance, monitoring, guard duty, watch गश्त करना

24. **Arrangement** (noun) – Plan, setup, agreement, preparation व्यवस्था

25. **Resumption** (noun) – Restart, continuation, renewal, recommencement पुनः आरंभ

26. **Underway** (adjective) – Ongoing, in progress, happening, in motion चल रहा है

27. **Euphemism** (noun) – Polite term, softened expression, indirect term शिष्ट वाक्य

28. **Buffer zone** (noun) – a neutral area serving to separate hostile forces or nations. सुरक्षा क्षेत्र

29. **Casus belli** (noun) – Cause of war, justification for conflict; an act or situation that provokes or justifies a war. युद्ध का कारण

30. **Status quo ante** (noun) – Original state, previous situation, former condition पहले की स्थिति

31. **Lay stress on** (phrase) – Emphasize, highlight, focus on, underscore जोर देना

32. **Uphold** (verb) – Support, defend, maintain, sustain बनाए रखना

33. **Integrity** (noun) – Honesty, unity, wholeness, soundness ईमानदारी

34. **Expedite** (verb) – Accelerate, hasten, speed up, facilitate तेज़ करना

35. **Demarcate** (verb) – Define, mark, set boundaries, outline सीमा निर्धारण करना

36. **In spite of** (phrase) – Despite, although, even though के बावजूद

37. **Demonstrate** (verb) – Show, display, prove, illustrate दिखाना

38. **Doves and hawks** (noun) – Peace advocates and war proponents, moderates and aggressors शांति समर्थक और युद्ध समर्थक

39. **Establishment** (noun) – Institution, organization, authority, regime शासन

40. **Intensive** (adjective) – Thorough, concentrated, rigorous, detailed गहन

41. **Intense** (adjective) – Extreme, strong, vigorous, severe तीव्र

42. **Sustain** (verb) – Maintain, support, continue, uphold बनाए रखना

Summary of the Editorial

- **Government's Recent Steps**: The Indian government has recently offered suo motu statements in Parliament and briefed a parliamentary panel on the India-China border tensions, which is a positive but delayed move.
- **LAC Disputes Since 2020**: The border tensions began in 2020 with Chinese transgressions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and escalated with the deadly Galwan clashes.
- **Opaque Negotiations**: The government has been reticent about sharing details of negotiations with China, only announcing agreements on disengagement at six friction points.
- **Importance of Transparency**: In a democracy, it is vital to keep citizens informed about matters of national interest, such as border issues.
- **Key Points of Jaishankar's Statement**:
  - Normal engagement with China depends on resolving LAC tensions.
  - India has pursued continuous engagement through various mechanisms, including 17 working-level meetings and 21 high-level military meetings.
  - Disengagement is followed by de-escalation and discussions on managing ties in border areas.
- **Status of Disengagement**:
  - For areas like North and South Pangong Tso, Gogra, and Hot Springs, disengagement is temporary and limited.
  - Patrolling arrangements for Depsang and Demchok are underway.
- **Absence of Clarity on Key Issues**: The government has not explained the reasons behind China's actions or provided a timeline for returning to the pre-2020 status quo.
- **Focus on National Security**: The statement emphasized India's national security but avoided direct mentions of territorial integrity.
- **Need for Boundary Demarcation**: India must expedite efforts to establish a common understanding of the LAC and demarcate the boundary with China.
- **Modi-Xi Meetings Pre-2020**: Nearly 20 meetings between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping before 2020 failed to prevent PLA aggression.
- **Lessons from the Past**: The intense bilateral engagement prior to 2020 highlights that such efforts do not guarantee peace.
- **Skepticism Towards Engagement**: The experience should challenge both optimistic (doves) and pessimistic (hawks) perspectives in India's strategic circles.
- **Intensive Engagement as a Necessity**: Despite its limitations, continuous and intense engagement remains essential for conflict resolution.
- **LAC Buffer Zones**: The current disengagement process relies on the creation of buffer zones, which are seen as temporary measures.
- **Future Priorities**: De-escalation, troop withdrawal, and long-term mechanisms for managing the border remain critical steps for stability in India-China relations.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What can be inferred from the article regarding the approach India and China have taken to resolve border tensions?**   [Editorial page]
    A. India and China have resolved all their disputes permanently.
    B. India and China have engaged in continuous and structured negotiations to address the disputes.
    C. India has decided to disengage from all talks with China.
    D. India has resolved the disputes unilaterally without China's cooperation.

2. **Which of the following statements is correct based on the passage?**
    A. India has achieved full troop de-escalation and de-induction along the LAC.
    B. Patrolling arrangements for Depsang and Demchok are fully operational.
    C. India's statements focus on continuous engagement and a step-by-step resolution process.
    D. The government has disclosed the exact reason for the Chinese transgressions in 2020.

3. **What is India's condition for "normal" engagement with China in other parts of the relationship?**
    A. Resolution of tensions in North and South Pangong Tso
    B. De-escalation of troops in border areas
    C. Disengagement at Depsang and Demchok
    D. Resolution of tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

4. **India's engagement with China involves a step-by-step approach, including _____ meetings of the Senior Highest Military Commanders meeting mechanism.**
    A. 15
    B. 21
    C. 17
    D. 19

5. What is the antonym of "**expedite**" as used in the sentence: "The government must now expedite efforts to build a common understanding of the LAC and to demarcate the boundary"?
    A. Accelerate
    B. Facilitate
    C. Hinder
    D. Enhance

6. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.**
    (P) an open mind
    (Q) seek it with
    (O) for personal growth and development
    (R) knowledge is a powerful tool
    A. QROP
    B. ORPQ
    C. PQRO
    D. ROQP

7. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word in brackets to fill in the blank.**

   The_____(crux) of his argument was that education should continue throughout life.
   A. essence
   B. etiquette
   C. proposal
   D. Draft

8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

   Success is not a destination, it's a journey.
   A. Failure
   B. Sensation
   C. Victory
   D. Opulence

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

   She believed she had been **blamed for the mistakes of others** for what happened
   A. Made a sceptic
   B. Made a savage
   C. Made a spinster
   D. Made a scapegoat

10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bold word in the following sentence.**

    His **eloquent** speech always persuades people to work for their betterment
    A. Articulate
    B. Vague
    C. Inarticulate
    D. Short

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

    Out of those group members, Rohan is the **one who opposes others**, no matter what they tell him.
    A. anatomist
    B. antagonist
    C. protagonist
    D. agonist

12. **Select the correctly spelt word to fill in the blank.**

    All the chefs in the world are famous because of their _____ skills
    A. colinary
    B. kolinary
    C. kulinary
    D. Culinary

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

Solutions to the country's interior problems are still a long way away

A. a long way away.

B. the country's interior

C. problems are still

D. Solutions to

14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Brittle

A. Crunchy

B. Resilient

C. Delicate

D. Aloof

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

The letter was being typed by the secretary when the phone rang

A. The secretary will type the letter when the phone rings.

B. The secretary is typing the letter when the phone rings.

C. The secretary was typing the letter when the phone rang.

D. The secretary types the letter when the phone rings

16. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**

When I **saw him**, I will ask him to return the book he borrowed.

A. see him

B. had seen him

C. shall see him

D. have seen him

17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Nobody's fool

A. Not easily deceived

B. The wisest person

C. A complete fool

D. All are fools

18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

A dime a dozen

A. Something common and not special

B. Very wealthy

C. Variety of amenities

D. A fair trade

19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Paramount

A. trivial

B. collateral

C. inferior

D. Supreme

20. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains an error.**

They secret / decided / to leave / the town

A. the town

B. to leave

C. decided

D. They secret

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.

Now, we have Mr. X as the President of India. It has come as a surprise (1)_____ Scheduled Tribes who are (2)_____ the most marginalised groups of the country. The Adivasis of India have been (3)_____ socially, economically and culturally. Despite various efforts taken by the Government of India, they are still under (4)_____ and suffering. Therefore, the (5)_____ a leader from a marginalised community or group does not indicate that now the entire community will be uplifted. However, this kind of move may bring certain changes in the status of the Adivasis

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no.1**

A. at

B. off

C. in

D. To

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no.2**

A. therefore

B. through

C. among

D. Onto

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no.3**

A. marginalised

B. censored

C. elevated

D. Uplifted

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no.4**

A. abundance

B. river

C. poverty

D. Forest

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no.5**

A. elevation of

B. rejection of

C. president of

D. exclusion of

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **B) India and China have engaged in continuous and structured negotiations to address the disputes.**
    A: Incorrect. The article mentions that disengagement has been achieved in some areas, but it does not imply that all disputes have been resolved permanently.
    B: Correct. The passage highlights that India and China have conducted several rounds of structured talks, including 17 Working Mechanism meetings, 21 military meetings, and meetings between Foreign and Defence Ministers.
    C: Incorrect. India has not disengaged from talks but has adopted a step-by-step approach to resolve the disputes.
    D: Incorrect. The article emphasizes bilateral engagement and does not suggest unilateral actions by India.

2. **C) India's statements focus on continuous engagement and a step-by-step resolution process.**
    A: Incorrect. The passage mentions that troop de-escalation and de-induction are priorities, but these have not yet been fully achieved.
    B: Incorrect. Patrolling arrangements for Depsang and Demchok are still "underway," as per the passage.
    C: Correct. The article clearly states that India has adopted a policy of continuous engagement and step-by-step negotiations to address the issues.
    D: Incorrect. The government's statement does not mention the exact reason (casus belli) for the Chinese actions in 2020.

3. **D) Resolution of tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**
    India has made it clear that "normal" engagement in other parts of the relationship with China is contingent on resolving tensions along the LAC, as stated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
    A: While tensions at North and South Pangong Tso are important, they are specific areas, not the broader condition set by India.
    B: De-escalation is a priority after disengagement but not the overall condition for "normal" engagement.
    C: Depsang and Demchok are specific areas with patrolling arrangements under discussion but do not represent the overall condition for engagement.

4. **B) 21**
    The passage clearly mentions 21 meetings of the Senior Highest Military Commanders meeting mechanism as part of India's step-by-step engagement approach.
    A: The number 15 is incorrect as it does not align with the factual data in the passage.

C: 17 refers to the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination meetings, not the Senior Highest Military Commanders meetings.

D: 19 is not mentioned in the passage

5. C) **Hinder**

The word "expedite" means to speed up or accelerate a process. Its antonym is "hinder," which means to slow down or obstruct.

6. D) **ROQP**

R: introduces the main subject of the sentence (knowledge) and its significance (a powerful tool). It establishes a complete independent clause.

O: It answers the question "why is knowledge powerful?" by stating its role in personal growth and development.

Q: Q follows O because "seek it with" introduces an action related to acquiring knowledge. The "it" refers back to knowledge, linking the two parts of the sentence together.

P: P concludes with "an open mind," explaining how knowledge should be sought — with an open mind. This completes the thought introduced in Q, giving the full action for seeking knowledge.

7. A) **Crux** (noun) – The main point, essential part, or core issue of a matter. मुख्य बिंदु

Synonym: **Essence** (noun) – The intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, the fundamental characteristic. सार/ मुख्य तत्व

- **Etiquette** (noun) – The customary code of polite behavior in society or among members of a particular profession or group. शिष्टाचार
- **Proposal** (noun) – A plan or suggestion put forward for consideration or discussion by others. प्रस्ताव
- **Draft** (noun) – A preliminary version of a piece of writing. मसौदा

8. A) **Success** (noun) – The accomplishment of an aim or purpose, achievement, triumph, victory, prosperity. सफलता

Antonym: **Failure** (noun) – Lack of success, defeat, non-fulfillment, collapse. असफलता

- **Sensation** (noun) – A physical feeling or perception resulting from something that happens to or comes into contact with the body, awareness, consciousness. संवेदना
- **Victory** (noun) – An act of defeating an opponent or enemy in a battle, game, or other contest, win, triumph, conquest. जीत
- **Opulence** (noun) – Great wealth or luxuriousness, richness, affluence, extravagance. धन-धान्य

9. D) 'blamed for the mistakes of others' के बदले **'made a scapegoat'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'scapegoat' का अर्थ है ऐसा व्यक्ति जिसे दूसरों के कामों के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है; जैसे—She believed she had been made a scapegoat for what happened.

'blamed for the mistakes of others' will be substituted with **'made a scapegoat'** because 'scapegoat' refers to a person who is unfairly blamed for the faults of others; like—She believed she had been made a scapegoat for what happened

Made a scapegoat (idiom) – To blame someone for the faults or mistakes of others बलि का बकरा बनाना

Made a sceptic (idiom) – To make someone doubt or question things संदेह करने वाला बनाना

Made a savage (idiom) – To make someone extremely aggressive or fierce क्रूर या आक्रामक बनाना

Made a spinster (idiom) – To make someone an unmarried woman, often implying an older woman कुंवारी या अविवाहित महिला

10. A) **Eloquent** (adjective) – Fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing, expressive, articulate. प्रभावशाली वक्ता, जो अपनी बात को स्पष्ट तरीके से व्यक्त कर सके
    Synonym: **Articulate** (adjective) – Having the ability to speak fluently and coherently, clear, effective, well-spoken. स्पष्ट बोलने वाला

    - **Vague** (adjective) – Not clearly expressed, unclear, ambiguous, uncertain. अस्पष्ट
    - **Inarticulate** (adjective) – Unable to express oneself clearly or effectively, incoherent, tongue-tied. अस्पष्ट
    - **Short** (adjective) – Having little length, duration, or extent, brief, concise. छोटा

11. B) **Antagonist** (noun) – A person who opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary. प्रतिकूल

    - **Anatomist** (noun) – A person who studies the structure of the body. शारीरिक रचना का अध्ययन करने वाला
    - **Protagonist** (noun) – The main character in a drama, movie, novel, or other narrative work. नायक
    - **Agonist** (noun) – A substance that activates a receptor to produce a biological response. सक्रिय पदार्थ

12. 'D) **Culinary'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है खाना बनाने से संबंधित। यहाँ बताया गया है कि सभी रसोइये अपने कौशल के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं, इसलिए 'culinary' सही option है। अन्य विकल्प जैसे 'colinary', 'kolinary', और 'kulinary' गलत हैं क्योंकि ये सही spelling नहीं है ।
    'Culinary' will be used because it means related to cooking. The sentence indicates that all chefs are famous for their skills, making 'culinary' the correct choice. Other options like 'colinary', 'kolinary', and 'kulinary' are incorrect as they are misspelled in English.

13. B) 'interior' के बदले 'internal' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'interior' का मतलब होता है किसी चीज़ का भीतरी भाग, जबकि यहां संदर्भ 'country's problems' के अंदरूनी (internal) मुद्दों का है। अत: सही शब्द 'internal' होगा; जैसे— The government is focusing on solving internal problems.

'internal' will be used instead of 'interior' because 'interior' refers to the inside part of something, whereas here the context is about the 'country's problems,' which are internal issues. Therefore, the correct word is 'internal'; like— The government is focusing on solving internal problems.

14. B) **Brittle** (adjective) – Fragile, easily broken, weak, flimsy. भंगुर

Antonym: **Resilient** (adjective) – Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions, flexible, tough, strong. लचीला

- **Crunchy** (adjective) – Making a loud noise when chewed or crushed, crisp, crackly. कुरकुरा
- **Delicate** (adjective) – Fragile, easily broken or damaged, tender, subtle. नाज़ुक
- **Aloof** (adjective) – Distant, detached, unfriendly, emotionally uninvolved. बिछड़ा

15. **C) The secretary was typing the letter when the phone rang.**

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 "was being typed" को Active Voice में "was typing" में बदल दिया जाता है। जैसे— To Be → was V³ → typed → typing (in Active Voice)

Note: "The secretary" को subject के रूप में शुरुआत में रखा गया और "was typing" क्रिया (verb) के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया।

Explanation in English:
While 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, "was being typed" is changed to "was typing." For example: → To Be → was → V³ → typed → typing (in Active Voice)

Note: "The secretary" is placed as the subject, and "was typing" is used as the verb.

16. A) 'saw him' के बदले 'see him' का use होगा है क्योंकि sentences Future Conditional पर आधारित है। जब sentences में एक भाग Future Tense में होता है, जैसे 'will ask', तो 'when' के बाद की क्रिया भी Present Simple में होती है, जो Future को दर्शाने के लिए होती है। यहां सही वाक्य होगा— "When I see him, I will ask him to return the book he borrowed."
Grammar Rule:

Future Conditional Sentences में 'when' (या 'if') के बाद Present Simple Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है, भले ही sentence का दूसरा हिस्सा Future Tense में हो। यहाँ 'will ask' Future Tense में है, इसलिए 'see him' (Present Simple) का use किया जाएगा।

'see him' will be used instead of 'saw him' because in Future Conditional sentences, when one part is in Future Tense ('will ask'), the clause following 'when' should be in Present Simple Tense to indicate a future event. Therefore, 'see him' (Present Simple) is the correct form to use instead of 'saw him' (Past Tense).

17. A) **Nobody's fool** (idiom) – **Not easily deceived** किसी के बहकावे में नहीं आने वाला

18. **A) A dime a dozen (idiom) – Something that is very common and not special बहुत सामान्य और विशिष्ट नहीं**

19. D) **Paramount** (adjective) – more important than anything else, supreme. सर्वोपरि, उच्चतम
    Synonym: Supreme (adjective) – highest in rank or authority, of the greatest importance. सर्वोच्च

    • **Trivial** (adjective) – of little value or importance. तुच्छ

    • **Collateral** (adjective) – additional but secondary or subordinate. गौण

    • **Inferior** (adjective) – lower in rank, status, or quality. निम्न स्तर का

20. D) 'They secret' के बदले **'secretly'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'secret' एक noun है और यहाँ adverb की आवश्यकता है, जो verb 'decided' को modify करे। सही शब्द 'secretly' होगा; जैसे— They secretly decided to leave the town.
    'secretly' will be used instead of 'secret' because 'secret' is a noun, and here an adverb is required to modify the verb 'decided.' The correct word is 'secretly'; like— They secretly decided to leave the town.

21. D) **To'** का use होगा क्योंकि "to" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया या भाव व्यक्त करना। यहाँ surprise की बात हो रही है और वह Scheduled Tribes के प्रति है, इसलिए 'to' सही option है। जबकि 'At' का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थान पर होना, 'Off' का मतलब होता है अलग या दूर होना, और 'In' का उपयोग किसी जगह या चीज़ के भीतर होने के लिए किया जाता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
    To' will be used because "to" expresses a reaction or emotion toward something. In this context, the surprise is directed towards the Scheduled Tribes, making 'to' the correct option. Whereas 'At' means being at a location, 'Off' means separation or distance, and 'In' indicates being inside something, which don't fit in this context.

22. C) **Among'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "के बीच में" और यहाँ यह बताया गया है कि अनुसूचित जनजातियाँ देश के सबसे हाशिये पर रहने वाले समूहों में से एक हैं, इसलिए 'among' यहाँ सही है।

जबकि 'Therefore' का अर्थ "इसलिए" होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Through' का अर्थ "के माध्यम से" होता है, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'Onto' का अर्थ "पर" होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। **'Among'** will be used because it means "in the midst of," and the sentence mentions that Scheduled Tribes are one of the most marginalized groups in the country, making 'among' the correct option. Whereas 'Therefore' means "for that reason," which is not appropriate here. 'Through' means "via," which doesn't fit. 'Onto' means "on," and it does not fit the context grammatically.

23. A) **Marginalised'** का use होगा क्योंकि "marginalised" का अर्थ होता है किसी समूह को समाज में मुख्यधारा से अलग रखना और उन्हें कमज़ोर स्थिति में रखना। यहां Adivasis की सामाजिक, आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक रूप से उपेक्षा की बात हो रही है, इसलिए 'marginalised' सही विकल्प है। 'Censored' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को रोकना या उस पर नियंत्रण लगाना, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Elevated' और 'Uplifted' का अर्थ होता है ऊपर उठाना या सुधार करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ उनकी स्थिति में सुधार की बजाय उनकी उपेक्षा का ज़िक्र है।
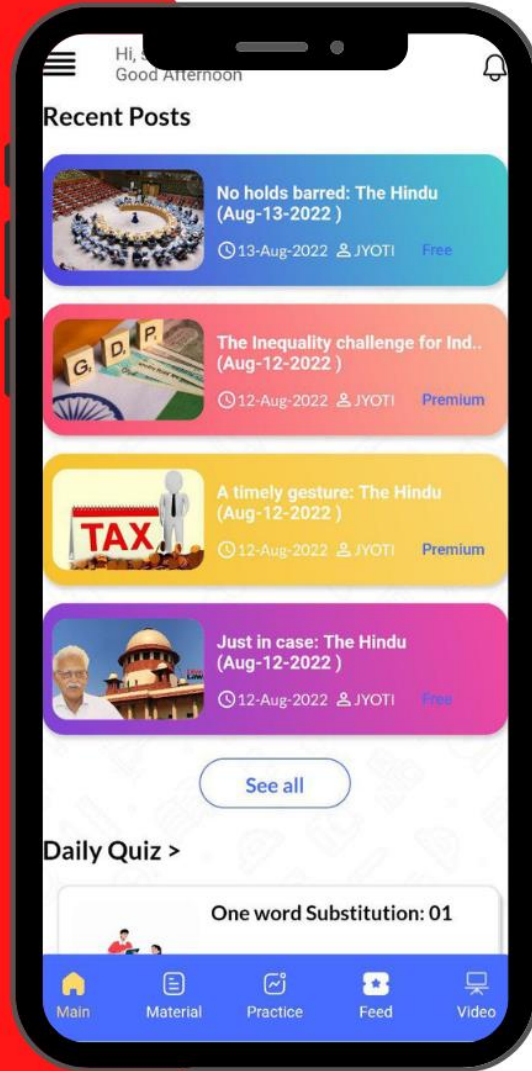
Marginalised' will be used because it means to be excluded or pushed to the margins of society. In this context, the sentence talks about the Adivasis being socially, economically, and culturally neglected, so 'marginalised' fits correctly.'Censored' means to restrict or suppress, which doesn't fit the context. 'Elevated' and 'Uplifted' mean to raise or improve, which don't apply here as the sentence refers to their marginalization, not improvement.

24. C) **'Poverty'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द उस स्थिति को दर्शाता है जिसमें लोग बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं की कमी से पीड़ित होते हैं। यहाँ 'Adivasis' के संदर्भ में कहा गया है कि वे अभी भी संघर्ष कर रहे हैं और उनके पास संसाधनों की कमी है, इसलिए 'poverty' उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'abundance' का अर्थ विपरीत है, यानी प्रचुरता, 'river' का इस संदर्भ से कोई संबंध नहीं है, और 'forest' प्राकृतिक संरचना को दर्शाता है, जो इस sentence में सही नहीं है।

'Poverty' will be used because it refers to the condition where people suffer from a lack of basic necessities. The passage mentions that the Adivasis are still under struggle and lack resources, making 'poverty' appropriate. Whereas, 'abundance' means plenty, which is the opposite, 'river' is unrelated to the context, and 'forest' refers to a natural structure, which does not fit the sentence.

25. A) **'Elevation** of' का use होगा क्योंकि 'elevation' का अर्थ है उठाना या प्रगति करना, और यहाँ leader के चुनाव को एक marginalized community से संबंधित बताया जा रहा है। यह इशारा करता है कि इस तरह का नेता चुनने से समुदाय की स्थिति में कुछ सुधार हो सकता है। जबकि 'rejection of' (अस्वीकृति) का मतलब होता है नकारना, 'president of' केवल एक पद का उल्लेख करता है, और 'exclusion of' (बहिष्कार) का अर्थ है बाहर करना। ये सभी विकल्प इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

Elevation of' will be used because 'elevation' means raising or promoting, and the sentence talks about electing a leader from a marginalized community, which suggests that it could bring improvement to the status of the community. Whereas, 'rejection of' means to dismiss, 'president of' just refers to a title, and 'exclusion of' means to exclude, which are not suitable in this context.