

## Missed opportunity: On India, the terror fight and the SCO

India should **convince** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to take a strong **stance** against terrorism

The Qingdao **meeting** of Defence Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), that ended without a joint **communiqué**, **indicates** trouble within the 10-nation grouping. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was forced to withdraw from the joint declaration as it contained no reference to terrorism **at the behest of** “one nation” — a reference to Pakistan. This is understandable, **given** that the meeting comes just weeks after the Pahalgam attack, and Operation Sindoor, after which India’s **resolve** to fight terrorism has redoubled. What **sounds** more surprising is that not only did the draft **resolution** fail to mention terrorism but member-states including host China and Russia had even **reportedly** considered referring to “**disturbances** in Balochistan”, **at the instance of** Pakistan, while leaving out mentions of the Pahalgam attack and **cross-border** terrorism, that India asked for. This is **stark** given that the SCO’s **founding Charter** in 2002 focused on the need to build “mutual **intraregional** efforts to **curb** terrorism, **separatism** and **extremism**”, and the **Director** of SCO’s signature Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure **was** present. **Statements** by the SCO Secretariat and the Chinese Foreign Ministry **stuck to** **anodyne** statements such as “...cooperation ...on modern security challenges and threats”. All eyes will now be on the SCO Foreign Ministers’ July meet and the SCO **Summit** in August-September to see if India’s concerns are more appropriately **addressed**.

New Delhi must study whether there are **shortcomings** in delivering its message on the **three-pronged** “**new normal**” Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced after Operation Sindoor. **In particular**, China’s unhelpful **role** as Chair on the issue **is** **disquieting**, given its recent **thaw** with India. **Unlike** the SAARC grouping, where India **held sway**, the SCO is more focused on the original founders China, Russia and Central Asian States. Mr. Singh’s participation followed closely **on the heels of** India **disassociating** itself from a statement on Israel’s June 13 attack on SCO member Iran as it was **critical of** Israel. Post-Operation Sindoor, the government sent parliamentary **delegations** to 32 countries, but not to any SCO member-country. It is possible that the government lost a chance to give the grouping any **prominence** by doing so, although External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar **chaired** a meeting of the India-Central Asia forum in June. India’s **decision** to skip hosting an **in-person** Summit of the SCO during its turn in 2023 **could** also still **rankle**. **Breaking** with the grouping, which is an important regional **forum**, **will** simply leave an open platform for Pakistan. Instead of **crying foul**, the government must convince members that their interests lie in **strengthening** cross-regional support against terrorism.

**[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.
- **Critical** (of) (adjective) – Disapproving of, opposed to, against आलोचना करनेवाला

## Vocabulary

1. **Convince** (verb) – Persuade, assure, sway, influence, win over मनाना
2. **Stance** (noun) – Position, viewpoint, attitude, perspective, stand रुख
3. **Communiqué** (noun) – Statement, announcement, bulletin, declaration, report आधिकारिक घोषणा
4. **At the behest of** (phrase) – At the request of, on the orders of, under instructions from, as directed by, prompted by के कहने पर
5. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind, in view of, seeing that को देखते हुए
6. **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, firmness, willpower, resolve, tenacity संकल्प
7. **Sound** (verb) – Appear, seem, come across, give the impression, look प्रतीत होना
8. **Resolution** (noun) – Decision, determination, decree, motion, agreement प्रस्ताव / संकल्प
9. **Reportedly** (adverb) – Allegedly, supposedly, apparently, by report, as stated अफवाहों के अनुसार
10. **Disturbance** (noun) – Unrest, turmoil, disorder, commotion, agitation अशांति
11. **At the instance of** (phrase) – At the urging of, on the initiative of, at the request of, prompted by, under the influence of के कहने पर
12. **Cross-border** (adjective) – Transnational, international, inter-country, beyond borders, inter-state सीमा पार
13. **Stark** (adjective) – Blunt, clear, harsh, evident, severe स्पष्ट
14. **Founding** (adjective) – Establishing, initiating, originating, creating, setting up संस्थापक
15. **Charter** (noun) – Constitution, statute, agreement, declaration, code संविधान / चार्टर
16. **Intraregional** (adjective) – Within the region, regional, inside the area, intra-area, localized क्षेत्र के भीतर
17. **Curb** (verb) – Control, restrain, check, limit, suppress रोकना
18. **Separatism** (noun) – Secessionism, independence movement, dissension, divisionism, factionalism अलगाववाद
19. **Extremism** (noun) – Radicalism, fanaticism, militancy, zealotry, fundamentalism उग्रवाद
20. **Stick** (to) (verb) – Adhere, keep to, remain with, follow, stay committed चिपके रहना

21. **Anodyne** (adjective) – Bland, harmless, inoffensive, soothing, uncontroversial  
सामान्य / नीरस
22. **Summit** (noun) – Conference, meeting, assembly, gathering, conclave शिखर सम्मेलन
23. **Address** (verb) – Deal with, tackle, handle, attend to, resolve समाधान करना
24. **Shortcoming** (noun) – Deficiency, flaw, weakness, limitation, failing कमी
25. **Three-pronged** (adjective) – Triple-faceted, with three parts, tri-fold, multi-dimensional, threefold तीन-तरफा
26. **New normal** (noun) – Changed reality, new standard, altered situation, new state, redefined norm नया सामान्य
27. **In particular** (phrase) – Especially, specifically, notably, particularly, above all विशेष रूप से
28. **Disquieting** (adjective) – Troubling, disturbing, unsettling, worrying, alarming चिंताजनक
29. **Thaw** (noun) – Warming, easing, improvement, relaxation, softening तनाव में कमी
30. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, in contrast to, dissimilar to, contrary to, as opposed to के विपरीत
31. **Hold sway** (phrase) – Dominate, control, influence, prevail, have authority हावी रहना
32. **On the heels of** (phrase) – Following closely, right after, immediately after, soon after, subsequent to के तुरंत बाद
33. **Disassociate** (verb) – Separate, distance, detach, sever ties, disconnect अलग करना
34. **Delegation** (noun) – Mission, envoy group, deputation, representatives, team प्रतिनिधिमंडल
35. **Prominence** (noun) – Importance, significance, distinction, eminence, visibility प्रमुखता
36. **Chair** (verb) – Preside, head, lead, oversee, direct अध्यक्षता करना
37. **In-person** (adjective) – Physical, face-to-face, direct, on-site, present व्यक्तिगत
38. **Rankle** (verb) – Annoy, irritate, upset, embitter, fester खलना
39. **Forum** (noun) – Platform, assembly, meeting place, venue, gathering मंच
40. **Cry foul** (phrase) – Protest, complain, object, raise an outcry, accuse धोखाधड़ी का आरोप लगाना
41. **Strengthen** (verb) – Reinforce, bolster, support, fortify, enhance मजबूत करना

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The recent Qingdao meeting of SCO Defence Ministers ended without a joint communiqué, reflecting internal discord in the 10-member group.
2. India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh withdrew from the joint declaration as it did not reference terrorism — reportedly due to Pakistan's objections.
3. The timing was sensitive, coming weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack and India's Operation Sindoor, which reinforced India's anti-terror resolve.
4. Shockingly, the draft resolution ignored terrorism entirely and instead entertained references to "disturbances in Balochistan" suggested by Pakistan.
5. This omission is glaring given the SCO's 2002 Charter prioritizes collective action against terrorism, separatism, and extremism.
6. The SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure director attended the meeting, but discussions produced only vague, non-committal statements on security.
7. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and SCO Secretariat issued generic statements about security cooperation without addressing India's concerns.
8. Attention will now turn to the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in July and the Summit in August-September to see if terrorism will be adequately addressed.
9. India must assess if it failed to effectively communicate the "new normal" strategy PM Modi announced post-Operation Sindoor.
10. China's unhelpful role as SCO Chair is worrying, especially considering recent signs of a thaw in India-China ties.
11. The SCO is dominated by original founders China, Russia, and Central Asian states, making India's influence more limited than in SAARC.
12. India recently distanced itself from an SCO statement critical of Israel's June 13 attack on Iran, highlighting differences within the group.
13. After Operation Sindoor, India sent parliamentary delegations to 32 countries — but none were SCO member states, missing an outreach opportunity.
14. India's choice not to host an in-person SCO Summit during its 2023 presidency could have further diminished its standing in the group.
15. Rather than disengaging, India should engage more actively to persuade SCO members that cooperation against terrorism is in everyone's interest — or risk ceding ground to Pakistan's narrative.

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

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Critical and concerned
  - B. Optimistic and celebratory
  - C. Humorous and satirical
  - D. Neutral and indifferent
2. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. India's economic prospects in Central Asia
  - B. The shortcomings of SCO in addressing terrorism and India's diplomatic challenges
  - C. The cultural ties between India and SCO nations
  - D. The benefits of China-India cooperation in the SCO
3. **Why did Defence Minister Rajnath Singh withdraw from the joint declaration at the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting?**
  - A. Because the declaration praised India's military actions
  - B. Because the declaration contained no reference to terrorism
  - C. Because the declaration criticized Pakistan
  - D. Because the declaration announced sanctions on Iran
4. **What did some SCO member-states, reportedly at Pakistan's request, consider including in the resolution draft?**
  - A. References to disturbances in Balochistan
  - B. Support for India's Operation Sindoor
  - C. Condemnation of the Pahalgam attack
  - D. A new SCO anti-terror fund
5. **What can be inferred about India's diplomatic outreach to SCO countries after Operation Sindoor?**
  - A. India's outreach to SCO member-countries was robust and well-received
  - B. India's outreach successfully convinced SCO members to condemn terrorism
  - C. India focused its diplomatic efforts outside the SCO member-countries
  - D. India held several bilateral meetings with Pakistan under SCO framework
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Entangle

  - A. Enlarge
  - B. Intrude
  - C. Engross
  - D. Trap
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

I am thinking about colouring my \_\_\_\_\_.

  - A. heir
  - B. air

- C. hair  
D. hare
8. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
After school, we / went home and / told our respective parents / off the incident.  
A. off the incident  
B. after school, we  
C. went home and  
D. told our respective parents
9. **Select the meaningful and correctly spelt word from the given options to fill in the blank.**  
Regular physical exercise improves cardiovascular health, reducing the risk of heart disease and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. strike  
B. stock  
C. struck  
D. stroke
10. **Select the most appropriate expression that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**  
The watchman tried every possible way to catch the thief of the hostel.  
A. cut the cackle  
B. explored every avenue  
C. arrived at the eleventh hour  
D. called it a day
11. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the highlighted word(s) in the given sentence.**  
**One must not be proud of his achievements**  
A. off his achievements  
B. by his achievements  
C. of one's achievements  
D. for one's achievements
12. **Select the most appropriate idiom that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
After the long and tedious project, Sarah felt like she was at the limit of her patience  
A. finishing line  
B. tip of the iceberg  
C. end of her rope  
D. crossroads
13. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
She speaks / so soft that / hardly anyone / can hear her.  
A. can hear her

- B. so soft that  
C. she speaks  
D. hardly anyone
14. In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.  
We never expected most from her.  
A. little  
B. more  
C. many  
D. much
15. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.  
Spontaneous  
A. separate  
B. dirty  
C. scarce  
D. deliberate
16. 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'.  
My manager thanked the staff for there continued dedication and support.  
A. for there continuous  
B. for they're continued  
C. for their continued  
D. no substitution required
17. Select the grammatically correct sentence from the given options.  
A. Since yesterday, the policeman had been waiting for the woman to take a details of a case.  
B. Since yesterday, a policeman had been waiting for a woman to take the details of the case.  
C. Since yesterday, the policeman had been waiting for a woman to take a details of the case.  
D. Since yesterday, the policeman had been waiting for the woman to take the details of the case.
18. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.  
Ritu was still standing in the queue when the film was starting  
A. film begins  
B. film started  
C. film starts  
D. film had began
19. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.  
I concur with the decision of our principal, when he says that students who display indiscipline should be dismissed from the institute irrespective of their academic achievements.  
A. credit  
B. coincide  
C. promote

D. differ

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

To look black

A. To give an approving expression

B. To cry bitterly

C. To seem unfavourable

D. To roll on ice

**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.**

Westminster Abbey's 1.\_\_\_\_\_ was one of Edward the Confessor's greatest accomplishments as king of England from 1042 to 1066. Edward was King Ethelred's son and he had a lot of pressure as his father was known to be an incompetent ruler. The Danes drove Edward from England, and he lived in exile in Normandy. According to legend, Edward promised that if he could make it back to his realm in safety, he would travel to St. Peter's in Rome. Upon his return and 2.\_\_\_\_\_ in Winchester in 1042, he discovered that he could not abandon his subjects. He was freed from his pledge by the Pope, but only if he established or 3.\_\_\_\_\_ a monastery dedicated to St. Peter. As a result, Westminster Abbey was constructed in the Norman 4.\_\_\_\_\_. He believed that London was not the 5.\_\_\_\_\_ place to built the Minster. Hence, a location known as 'Westminster' was discovered to be to the west of the metropolis.

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

A. geometry

B. construction

C. configuration

D. arrangement

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

A. inauguration

B. dethronement

C. coronation

D. personification

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

A. fix

B. renovation

C. update

D. decorate

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

A. designate

B. dub

C. label



D. style

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

A. appropriate

B. annex

C. seize

D. allot

## Answers

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

**[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

### 1. A) Critical and concerned

The passage expresses concern over India's missed opportunities and the SCO's failure to address terrorism adequately.

It criticizes China's role as Chair and Pakistan's influence in omitting references to cross-border terrorism.

B) Optimistic and celebratory – The passage does not celebrate any achievements; instead, it highlights shortcomings.

C) Humorous and satirical – There is no humor or sarcasm; the tone is serious.

D) Neutral and indifferent – The author takes a clear stance, expressing dissatisfaction, so the tone is not neutral.

### 2. B) The shortcomings of SCO in addressing terrorism and India's diplomatic challenges

The main theme revolves around the failure of the SCO to address terrorism effectively, India's inability to ensure its concerns are included in SCO resolutions, and the challenges posed by China and Pakistan in the group.

A is incorrect because the passage doesn't discuss economic opportunities or trade; it focuses on terrorism and diplomatic engagement.

C is incorrect as there is no mention of cultural aspects or exchanges.

D is incorrect because the passage actually criticizes China's unhelpful stance, indicating tensions rather than benefits.

### 3. B) Because the declaration contained no reference to terrorism

The passage clearly states that Rajnath Singh withdrew since the declaration did not mention terrorism at Pakistan's insistence.

A is incorrect: There is no mention of praise for India's military.

C is incorrect: The declaration did not criticize Pakistan.

D is incorrect: Sanctions on Iran were not part of this declaration.

### 4. A) References to disturbances in Balochistan

The passage states that China, Russia, and others considered references to "disturbances in Balochistan" at Pakistan's instance, but not India's concerns.

A is incorrect: No support for Operation Sindoor was considered.

C is incorrect: The draft left out mentions of the Pahalgam attack.

D is incorrect: There's no mention of an anti-terror fund proposal

### 5. C) India focused its diplomatic efforts outside the SCO member-countries

The passage says India sent delegations to 32 countries but not to any SCO member-country, indicating a lack of focus on SCO outreach.

A is incorrect: The outreach within SCO was lacking, not robust.

B is incorrect: The outreach did not succeed in adding terrorism references.

D is incorrect: There's no mention of bilateral meetings with Pakistan.

6. D) **Entangle** (verb) – To cause something to become twisted or caught in something; to involve someone in difficulties. उलझाना

**Synonym: Trap** (verb) – To catch or involve someone in a difficult or awkward situation. फँसाना

- **Enlarge** (verb) – To make something bigger; expand, magnify. बढ़ाना
- **Intrude** (verb) – To enter or interfere without permission; encroach, meddle. दखल देना
- **Engross** (verb) – To absorb all the attention of someone; captivate, fascinate. मग्न करना

7. C) **Hair** का use होगा क्योंकि "hair" का अर्थ है "बाल।" sentence का context यह है कि कोई व्यक्ति अपने बालों को रंगने के बारे में सोच रहा है, इसलिए 'hair' यहाँ सही है। 'Heir' का अर्थ है उत्तराधिकारी, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Air' का अर्थ है हवा, जो sentence के संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Hare' का अर्थ है खरगोश, जो इस वाक्य में पूरी तरह irrelevant है।

**Hair** is the correct option because it refers to "the strands growing from the scalp," which fits the context of someone thinking about coloring their hair. 'Heir' means a successor, which does not fit this context. 'Air' refers to the atmosphere or gas we breathe, which is unrelated here. 'Hare' means a rabbit, making it entirely irrelevant to the sentence.

8. A) 'off the incident' के बदले 'about the incident' का USE होगा क्योंकि 'tell' verb जब किसी बात या घटना की सूचना देने के अर्थ में आता है, तो उसके बाद preposition 'about' का USE होता है, न कि 'off' का; जैसे— She told her mother **about** the accident.

**'about the incident'** will be used instead of **'off the incident'** because the verb **'told'** (past tense of *tell*) when used in the sense of informing or narrating something, takes the preposition **'about'** and not **'off'**; Like— She told her mother **about** the accident.

9. D) 'Stroke' का use होगा क्योंकि "stroke" का अर्थ होता है एक गंभीर मेडिकल कंडीशन जहाँ दिमाग में रक्त प्रवाह बाधित होता है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि नियमित व्यायाम हृदय रोग और एक अन्य स्वास्थ्य समस्या के जोखिम को कम करता है, इसलिए 'stroke' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Strike' गलत स्पेलिंग है, 'Stock' का अर्थ है स्टॉक या भंडार, और 'Struck' का अर्थ है प्रहार किया हुआ, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Stroke' will be used because it refers to a serious medical condition where blood flow to the brain is disrupted. The sentence mentions that regular exercise reduces the risk of heart disease and another health issue, making 'stroke' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Strike' is a misspelling, 'Stock' means inventory, and 'Struck' means hit, which do not fit in this context.

10. B) **Explored every avenue** (idiom) – tried every possible method or way to achieve something सभी विकल्पों को आजमाना

- **Cut the cackle** (idiom) – to stop talking and focus on the important matter at hand. बातचीत बंद करना और मुख्य मुद्दे पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना।
- **Arrived at the eleventh hour** (idiom) – to arrive or act just in time or at the last possible moment. आखिरी समय में पहुंचना।
- **Called it a day** (idiom) – to stop working or to end an activity for the day. काम या गतिविधि को समाप्त करना।

11. C) "his achievements" के स्थान पर "**one's achievements**" का use होगा "One" एक indefinite pronoun है, जो सभी व्यक्तियों को संदर्भित करता है। इसके साथ "his" का use grammatical रूप से त्रुटिपूर्ण है। "One" के साथ स्वामित्व (possessive) के लिए "one's" का use किया जाता है। अतः सही उत्तर "of one's achievements" होगा।

"his achievements" should be replaced with "one's achievements."

The subject "One" is an indefinite pronoun referring to people in general. It requires the possessive pronoun "one's" for grammatical consistency. Therefore, the correct substitution is "of one's achievements."

12. **C) end of her rope** (idiom) – limit of her patience धैर्य की सीमा
13. B) 'so soft that' के बदले 'so softly that' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Verb 'speaks' के ढंग (manner) को दर्शाने के लिए Adverb 'softly' की आवश्यकता है, Adjective 'soft' नहीं। Adverb का use Verb को modify करने के लिए होता है; जैसे— She sings beautifully.

'so softly that' will be used instead of 'so soft that' because here, to show the manner of the verb 'speaks', the adverb 'softly' is required, not the adjective 'soft'. Adverb is used to modify the verb; Like— She sings beautifully.

14. D) 'most' के बदले 'much' का USE होगा क्योंकि 'expected' (Past Tense) के साथ 'much' (अधिक) का USE होता है, जो uncountable quantity (अगणनीय मात्रा) को दर्शाता है। वाक्य में 'expected' (जिसका अर्थ है "उम्मीद करना") एक अनगिनत संज्ञा (uncountable noun) के संदर्भ में इस्तेमाल किया गया है। 'Most' का use तब होता है जब तुलना हो रही हो, लेकिन यहाँ ऐसा कोई संदर्भ नहीं है। इसलिए, सही विकल्प 'much' होगा, जो अनिश्चित मात्रा को दर्शाने के लिए सही है। सही वाक्य: We never expected much from her.

The word 'most' needs to be replaced by '**much**' because the verb 'expected' refers to an uncountable noun in this context. 'Most' is used for comparisons, but no such comparison is implied in the sentence. Hence, 'much,' which indicates an indefinite quantity, is the correct choice. We never expected much from her

15. D) **Spontaneous** (adjective): Occurring as a result of a sudden impulse or without premeditation; unplanned, impulsive, natural. स्वतःस्फूर्त, बिना पूर्व योजना के।

**Antonym: Deliberate** (adjective): Done consciously and intentionally; planned, purposeful, premeditated.: जानबूझकर, सोच-समझकर किया गया।

- **Separate** (adjective): To divide or cause to divide into distinct parts; disconnected, individual. अलग, विभाजित।
- **Dirty** (adjective): Not clean; unclean, soiled, filthy. गंदा।
- **Scarce** (adjective): Insufficient for the demand; rare, in short supply. दुर्लभ।

16. C) 'for there continued' के बदले '**for their continued**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'their' एक Possessive Adjective है जो 'dedication and support' को qualify करता है। 'There' का use स्थान बताने के लिए होता है, और 'they're' का use 'they are' का संक्षिप्त रूप है, जो यहां संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'for their continued' will replace 'for there continued' because 'their' is a Possessive Adjective that qualifies 'dedication and support.' 'There' is used to denote a place, and 'they're' is a contraction of 'they are,' which is not appropriate in this context. Hence, the correct answer is 'for their continued'.

17. D) "The policeman" विशेष पुलिसकर्मी का उल्लेख करता है, इसलिए "the" उपयुक्त है। "The woman" विशेष महिला का उल्लेख करता है, इसलिए यहाँ "the" सही है। "Details" बहुवचन है और इसके पहले "the" का use विशिष्टता दिखाने के लिए सही है।

The correct sentence is: "Since yesterday, the policeman had been waiting for the woman to take the details of the case." "The policeman" indicates a specific policeman, so "the" article is appropriate. "The woman" indicates a specific woman, which also requires the definite article "the." "Details" is a plural noun and correctly preceded by "the" to indicate specific details.

18. B) 'was starting' के बदले 'started' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Past Continuous Tense (was standing) के साथ Past Simple Tense (started) का प्रयोग होता है जब दो क्रमिक घटनाओं का वर्णन हो। यहाँ Ritu का खड़े रहना और फिल्म का शुरू होना दोनों Past की घटनाएँ हैं।

'started' will be used instead of 'was starting' because Past Simple Tense is used with Past Continuous Tense to describe two sequential actions in the past. Here, both Ritu standing in the queue and the film beginning are past events. "was standing" (Past Continuous) shows an ongoing action in the past.

"started" (Past Simple) indicates a completed action that happened during the ongoing action.

19. D) **Concur** (verb) – To agree or be of the same opinion; accord, harmonize. सहमत होना, एकमत होना

**Antonym: Differ** (verb) – To disagree or have a contrasting opinion; dissent, oppose. असहमत होना, भिन्न मत रखना

Credit (noun/verb) – Recognition or approval for an achievement; unrelated to "concur." श्रेय, सराहना

Coincide (verb) – To occur at the same time or correspond in nature; not a direct antonym. मेल खाना, एक साथ होना

Promote (verb) – To support or encourage; unrelated to agreement or disagreement. बढ़ावा देना, प्रोत्साहित करना

20. C) **To seem unfavourable** (idiom) – To look black प्रतिकूल लगना

21. B) **Construction** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "निर्माण" और यह वाक्य में Westminster Abbey के निर्माण के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है। वाक्य का मतलब है कि Westminster Abbey का निर्माण Edward the Confessor की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धियों में से एक था। Geometry का अर्थ "आकृति विज्ञान" है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। Configuration का अर्थ "रचना" या "संरचना" है, लेकिन इसे सामान्यतः सिस्टम या योजना के लिए use किया जाता है, जो इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। Arrangement का अर्थ "व्यवस्था" या "समायोजन" है, जो निर्माण कार्य का सटीक वर्णन नहीं करता है।

**Construction** will be used because it means "the building or creation of something." In the context of the sentence, it aligns with Westminster Abbey being one of Edward the Confessor's greatest accomplishments. "Geometry" refers to the study of shapes and their properties, which does not fit the context. "Configuration" refers to the arrangement of parts or elements, typically in a system, and is not suitable to describe the building of Westminster Abbey.

"Arrangement" implies a planned or organized setup but does not convey the idea of building or accomplishment as effectively as "construction."

22. C) **'Coronation'** का use होगा क्योंकि "coronation" का अर्थ है एक राजा या रानी को औपचारिक रूप से सिंहासन पर बैठाना। sentence में mention है कि एडवर्ड, इंग्लैंड लौटने के बाद विनचेस्टर में अपनी औपचारिक ताजपोशी के बारे में बता रहे हैं। इसलिए 'coronation' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। 'Inauguration' का अर्थ है किसी योजना, इमारत या कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत, 'Dethronement' का अर्थ है किसी राजा को सिंहासन से हटाना, और 'Personification' का अर्थ है किसी अमूर्त चीज को मानव गुण देना।

**Coronation** will be used because it refers to the formal ceremony of crowning a king or queen. The sentence describes Edward's return to Winchester and the formal act of being crowned as king, making 'coronation' the correct choice. 'Inauguration' means the beginning of a plan, building, or event. 'Dethronement' refers to removing a king or queen from the throne.

'Personification' refers to attributing human qualities to abstract things.

23. D) '**Decorate**' का use होगा क्योंकि "decorate" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को सुंदरता के लिए सजाना। इस संदर्भ में, राजा को सेंट पीटर के नाम पर एक मठ स्थापित या सजाना था, इसलिए 'decorate' सही विकल्प है। 'Fix' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को मरम्मत करना या सुधारना, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Renovation' का अर्थ है पुनर्निर्माण करना, लेकिन वाक्य में 'decorate' के संदर्भ में मठ की सुंदरता बढ़ाने का जिक्र है। 'Update' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को नवीनतम बनाना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है।

**Decorate:** It is a verb that appropriately completes the idea of beautifying or embellishing the monastery as described in the passage. Renovation is a noun and does not grammatically fit in the blank, which requires a verb. Fix and Update do not align with the thematic focus of embellishment mentioned.

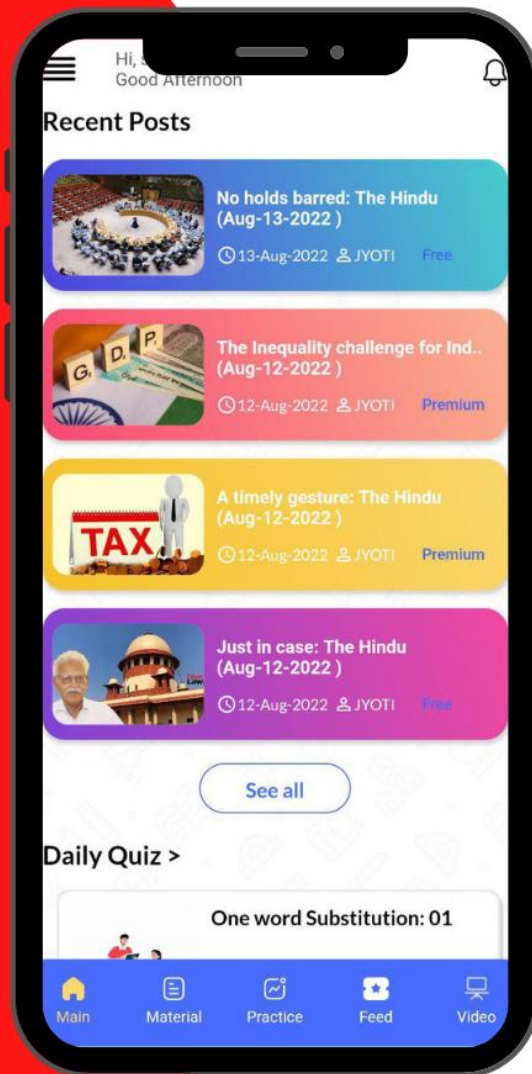
24. D) '**Style**' का use होगा क्योंकि "style" का अर्थ है किसी वास्तुकला, कला या कार्य के विशेष प्रकार या डिज़ाइन को संदर्भित करना। इस sentence में mention है कि वेस्टमिंस्टर एब्बे को "Norman style" में निर्मित किया गया था, जिससे 'style' इस संदर्भ में सबसे उपयुक्त है। 'Designate' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को नामित करना या निर्दिष्ट करना, जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'Dub' का अर्थ है उपनाम देना या नामकरण करना, लेकिन यह वाक्य में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Label' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को टैग या पहचान देना, लेकिन यह उपयुक्त नहीं है।

**Style'** will be used because "style" refers to a specific type or design in architecture, art, or work. The sentence mentions that Westminster Abbey was constructed in the "Norman style," making 'style' the most appropriate choice in this context. 'Designate' means to appoint or specify something, which is not fitting here. 'Dub' means to give a nickname or title, but it doesn't fit the sentence. 'Label' means to tag or identify something, but it is not contextually correct in this case.

25. A) '**Appropriate**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "सटीक" या "उचित।" Sentence में बताया गया है कि Edward ने यह माना कि London वह स्थान नहीं था जहाँ Minster का निर्माण उचित होता। इसलिए 'appropriate' यहाँ सही है। 'Annex' का अर्थ है "किसी क्षेत्र को जबरन जोड़ना," 'Seize' का अर्थ है "कब्जा करना," और 'Allot' का अर्थ है "आवंटित करना," जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

**'Appropriate'** will be used because it means "suitable" or "fitting." The sentence conveys that Edward believed London was not the suitable place for the Minster's construction, making 'appropriate' the correct choice here. 'Annex' means "to forcibly add a territory," 'Seize' means "to take control or possession," and 'Allot' means "to allocate or assign," which do not fit in this context.





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