

Israel should heed UNGA resolution on two-state solution. It cannot have security by force alone

The idea of a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue — a **sovereign** State of Palestine alongside Israel — **dates back to** 1937 (when the present-day State of Israel didn't exist). Since then, multiple efforts to implement the policy have failed, the most **notable** being the **Oslo Accords** of the early 1990s. Israel's **occupation** of Gaza and the West Bank after the 1967 war, and its **subsequent settlement expansion** in **the latter**, gradually **eroded** the possibility of such a solution. Today, Israel effectively controls all territory from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean. But Israel's **brutal war** in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack, **has** revived the global debate on the two-state framework. At its 80th session, **the UN General Assembly** on September 12 **overwhelmingly endorsed** a declaration — **stemming from** a July UN conference **hosted** by Saudi Arabia and France — **calling for** "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" towards a two-state solution. The **resolution**, which also demanded an end to the war and the **establishment** of a Palestinian Authority government in Gaza, **passed** with 142 votes in favour, 10 against, and 12 **abstentions**. Among the notable votes in support was that of India.

Significantly, India's vote in support comes after three abstentions at the UN: In October 2023 (calling for a **humanitarian truce**), September 2024 (demanding Israel end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territories), and June 2025 (calling for a ceasefire in Gaza). New Delhi's decision is welcome, especially at a time when Israel seems to be losing global support, including that of its traditional supporters, and there is growing opposition to the war within Israel as well.

General Assembly resolutions are not **binding**. But at a moment when, in the words of the UN, Israel is "systematically" and "permanently **extinguishing** the Palestinian presence" in parts of Gaza, such votes **keep the flame** of a two-state solution **alive**. The **creation** of a State of Palestine **will** be extraordinarily difficult, not least because the US, Israel's closest **ally**, refuses to support it. Washington opposed the September 12 resolution, dismissing it as "another **misguided** and **ill-timed** publicity stunt" and a "gift to Hamas". Yet, the resolution has also called for a Hamas-free Gaza. Israel cannot achieve security through force alone. **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, who has repeatedly and **unapologetically** rejected a two-state solution, **would** do well to heed the world's renewed call for a political **compromise**, end **the bloodshed** of Gazans and save the **hostages**, and work towards a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Heed** (verb) – observe, pay attention to, listen to, take note of, mind ध्यान देना
2. **Resolution** (noun) – decision, declaration, motion, determination, pronouncement प्रस्ताव
3. **Sovereign** (adjective) – independent, autonomous, self-governing, supreme, self-rule संप्रभु
4. **Date back to** (phrase) – to originate from a particular time in the past (के) समय से चला आना
5. **Notable** (adjective) – significant, remarkable, noteworthy, outstanding, conspicuous उल्लेखनीय
6. **Oslo Accord** (noun) – The 1993–95 Israel–PLO agreements establishing a peace framework and limited Palestinian self-rule ओस्लो समझौता (इज़राइल-पीएलओ शांति ढांचा)
7. **Occupation** (noun) – military control, takeover, annexation, domination, possession कब्ज़ा
8. **Subsequent** (adjective) – later, following, ensuing, afterward, succeeding बाद का
9. **Settlement** (noun) – colony, outpost, community, habitation, establishment बस्ती/आवास (यहाँ: यहूदी बस्तियाँ)
10. **Expansion** (noun) – enlargement, growth, extension, spread, proliferation विस्तार
11. **The latter** (noun) – Here it refers to 'the West Bank'.
12. **Erode** (verb) – wear away, undermine, diminish, whittle down, corrode कमज़ोर करना
13. **Brutal** (adjective) – ruthless, savage, cruel, merciless, barbaric क्रूर
14. **Overwhelmingly** (adverb) – by a large majority, decisively, massively, resoundingly, heavily भारी बहुमत से
15. **Endorse** (verb) – support, back, approve, ratify, affirm समर्थन करना
16. **Stem from** (phrasal verb) – to arise or originate from से उत्पन्न होना
17. **Host** (verb) – hold, convene, organize, stage, arrange आयोजन करना
18. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – to demand or request publicly; to require की माँग करना
19. **Tangible** (adjective) – concrete, real, measurable, palpable, substantive ठोस
20. **Timebound** (adjective) – time-limited, time-framed, deadline-driven, scheduled, bounded by time समयबद्ध
21. **Irreversible** (adjective) – irrevocable, final, unalterable, permanent, one-way अपरिवर्तनीय

22. **Establishment** (noun) – creation, formation, setting up, institution, founding स्थापना
23. **Abstention** (noun) – withholding of vote, non-voting, abstaining, neutrality, pass मतदान से परहेज़
24. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, relief-oriented, life-saving, benevolent, philanthropic मानवीय
25. **Truce** (noun) – ceasefire, armistice, pause in hostilities, cessation, stand-down युद्धविराम
26. **Binding** (adjective) – compulsory, obligatory, enforceable, mandatory, legally required बाध्यकारी
27. **Extinguish** (verb) – wipe out, snuff out, annihilate, eradicate, quash समाप्त/मिट देना
28. **Keep the flame alive** (phrase) – to maintain hope or momentum for an idea/cause आशा/विचार को जीवित रखना
29. **Ally** (noun) – partner, supporter, friend, confederate, backer सहयोगी
30. **Misguided** (adjective) – ill-advised, mistaken, misdirected, wrongheaded, erroneous भ्रामक
31. **Ill-timed** (adjective) – inopportune, badly timed, untimely, premature, awkwardly timed अनुचित समय पर
32. **Unapologetically** (adverb) – unrepentantly, without remorse, defiantly, unapologetically, unabashedly बिना खेद
33. **Compromise** (noun) – settlement, middle ground, accommodation, give-and-take, concord समझौता
34. **The bloodshed** (noun) – carnage, slaughter, killing, massacre, loss of life रक्तपात
35. **Hostage** (noun) – captive, abductee, detainee, prisoner, pawn बंधक

Summary of the Editorial

1. The two-state solution — creation of a sovereign Palestine alongside Israel — dates back to 1937.
2. Multiple attempts to realize it, including the Oslo Accords of the 1990s, have failed.
3. Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank after the 1967 war undermined the possibility.
4. Expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories further eroded trust and viability.
5. Currently, Israel effectively controls land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean.
6. The October 7 Hamas attack and Israel's brutal war in Gaza reignited global debate.
7. On September 12, 2025, the UNGA overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting a two-state solution.
8. The resolution urged "tangible, timebound, and irreversible steps" toward Palestinian statehood.
9. It also called for an immediate end to the war and establishment of a Palestinian Authority-led Gaza.
10. The resolution passed with 142 votes in favour, 10 against, and 12 abstentions.
11. India voted in favour — a shift after three earlier abstentions on Gaza-related UN resolutions.
12. This vote comes as Israel faces declining international support and rising domestic opposition.
13. Though UNGA resolutions are non-binding, they help sustain the idea of a two-state solution.
14. The U.S. opposed the resolution, calling it "misguided" and a "gift to Hamas," though it sought a Hamas-free Gaza.
15. The editorial stresses that Israel cannot secure peace through force alone; Netanyahu must heed global calls, stop the bloodshed, free hostages, and seek political compromise.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**1. Which statement best expresses the central thesis?****[Editorial page]**

- A. UNGA resolutions are symbolic and therefore irrelevant to the Israel–Palestine conflict.
- B. India’s yes-vote marks a permanent strategic realignment away from the U.S. and Israel.
- C. Durable Israeli security requires political compromise via a time-bound two-state process; Israel should heed the UNGA resolution.
- D. The September 12 UNGA vote primarily aimed to isolate Washington diplomatically.

2. Which inference best explains why the author calls India’s September 12 UNGA vote “significant”?

- A. It marks a shift from India’s earlier UN abstentions and aligns with broader global backing for a time-bound two-state pathway.
- B. It guarantees India will mediate the conflict under a binding UN mandate.
- C. It proves India now prioritizes ties with Saudi Arabia and France over the U.S.
- D. It reflects a domestic economic pivot unrelated to foreign policy.

3. In the following question, a sentence is given with one blank.

“General Assembly resolutions are _____; nevertheless, such votes help keep the two-state idea alive.”

- A. not binding
- B. judicially enforceable
- C. militarily decisive
- D. procedurally unconstitutional

4. In “the UNGA ... overwhelmingly endorsed a declaration,” the nearest synonym for endorsed is:

- A. Approved
- B. Condemned
- C. Postponed
- D. Vetoed

5. Why does the editorial argue that Israel should heed the September 12 UNGA resolution now?

- A. Because General Assembly resolutions are legally binding on all UN members
- B. Because Israel’s global support is eroding and opposition is rising at home, so a political path—not force alone—is necessary
- C. Because the U.S. has formally recognized a Palestinian state and demands compliance
- D. Because Oslo Accords automatically reactivate after any UN vote

6. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.

- a) In the Council for 18 out of the 24 months
 - b) India concluded its eighth stint in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the end of December 2022
 - c) And, by any yardstick, its two-year stint has been unprecedented
 - d) It has been my privilege to serve as India’s Ambassador/Permanent Representative
- A. d, b, a, c
 - B. d, a, b, c

- C. b, c, d, a
D. b, d, a, c
7. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
The manager **moote** a new plan during the meeting.
A. mout
B. mootee
C. muet
D. moot
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Eternal; lasting forever or indefinitely
A. permit
B. perplex
C. perpetual
D. perpetrate
9. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
The witness will **manifest** his knowledge of the incident in the court.
A. Conceal
B. Reveal
C. Camouflage
D. Obscure
10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
He must be written to by us.
A. I have been writing to him.
B. We are writing to him.
C. We must write to him.
D. We can write.
11. **Select the meaning of the given highlighted phrase**
The scandal **cast a shadow on** the government's credibility.
A. Highlight
B. Praise
C. Celebrate
D. Spoil
12. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**
The sudden earthquake **upturned** the furniture and caused panic.
A. Overturn
B. Fix
C. Arrange
D. Place
13. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
All stake holders of education / have the right to ask for accountability / in every aspects of its implementation. / No error
A. All stake holders of education

- B. have the right to ask for accountability
- C. in every aspects of its implementation
- D. No error

14. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

S1: Wiser by the experience of previous summits, India took a nuanced stand in Johannesburg last week on the expansion of the BRICS group.

P: The strategic partnership between France and India is built on a strong foundation of people-to-people ties and a genuine friendship between the French and Indian peoples.

Q: "India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS membership. And welcomes moving forward with consensus on this," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the organisation's 15th summit before the expansion was agreed on.

R: Never was this connection more evident than on July 14, when French crowds cheered the Indian armed forces' contingent marching on the Champs Elysées, and France celebrated India as the Guest of Honour of our National Day.

S: Enlargement was the biggest challenge at the Johannesburg summit.

S4: It can be a game-changer for the international order, which is seeing convulsions that were unimagined at the dawn of this decade.

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

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

A similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based.

- A. Analogy
- B. Amalgamation
- C. Apathy
- D. Ambiguity

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

The letter had been posted by me before I met him.

- A. I met him after posting the letter.
- B. I had posted the letter after meeting him.
- C. The letter has been posted by me before I had met him.
- D. I had posted the letter before I met him.

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

She finally spilled the beans about the surprise party

- A. Prepared a bean dish
- B. Caused a mess
- C. Dropped a container of beans
- D. Revealed a secret or disclosed information

18. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**

Spirituality teaches **detachment** from material things.

- A. detachment
- B. detatchment

- C. detechment
- D. detechmant

19. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**

- a) On May 1, 1886, Chicago in the United States became the major site of a demonstration by labour unions in support of an eight-hour workday.
- b) To condemn anti-worker actions, labour anarchists called for a meeting on May 4, 1886, at the Haymarket Square.
- c) Police brutality and the victimisation of protesting workers by employees did not subdue the spirit of the protesters.
- d) The peaceful meeting turned violent when a bomb exploded in the police ranks, and the police fired in response. The violent confrontation between the workers and the police became a symbol of the international struggle for workers' rights.

- A. c, a, d, b
- B. c, a, b, d
- C. a, c, b, d
- D. a, c, d, b

20. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**

One should not act / according to one's / whims and fancies on public places. / No error

- A. One should not act
- B. according to one's
- C. whims and fancies on public places
- 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.

An article, in Foreign Affairs, titled "India's Great Power Delusions – How New Delhi's Grand Strategy Thwarts Its Grand Ambitions" (July/August 2025), ____ (1) ____ creating a storm in the proverbial tea cup. The article's key point is that India had 'delusions' of grandeur, and about becoming a Great Power, and that this ____ (2) ____ substance. More to the point, the article talks ____ (3) ____ about India, stating that it stood nowhere in the race between China and the United States, as far as the Great Power sweepstakes are concerned. Not unexpectedly, this has ____ (4) ____, at a time when India had begun to believe that it was on the cusp of overcoming the 'middle income trap' and emerging into the category of a Big Power. This may be termed delusional by some, but India's belief in its future is not new and has strong foundations. What may be faulted is the writer's ____ (5) ____ that India and China are on the cusp of a conflict, and that India would need the United States' assistance to counter Chinese aggression.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

- A. were
- B. is
- C. was

D. are

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

A. profuse

B. agitated

C. placated

D. lacked

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

A. disparagingly

B. eulogistically

C. undeniably

D. comprehensively

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

A. straight and narrow

B. ruffled feathers

C. turned one's stomach

D. licked your wounds

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

A. verdict

B. upheaval

C. grudge

D. premise

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- C) Durable Israeli security requires political compromise via a time-bound two-state process; Israel should heed the UNGA resolution.
 The passage repeatedly argues that force alone won't deliver security, highlights the UNGA's call for "tangible, timebound, irreversible steps," notes India's supportive vote, and ends by urging Netanyahu to pursue a political compromise.

A. Symbolic ⇒ irrelevant: The passage says non-binding, but still vital to "keep the flame of a two-state solution alive"—not irrelevant.

B. Permanent realignment: It calls India's vote "welcome" after past abstentions, but never claims a permanent shift.

D. Isolate Washington: U.S. opposition is noted, yet the author's focus is on advancing a two-state pathway, not on sidelining the U.S.
- A) It marks a shift from India's earlier UN abstentions and aligns with broader global backing for a time-bound two-state pathway.
 The passage contrasts India's past abstentions (Oct 2023, Sept 2024, June 2025) with its new "vote in support," noting Israel's waning global backing—hence the shift's significance.

B) GA resolutions are not binding, so no mandate guaranteed.

C) The passage doesn't claim India is reprioritizing partners; that's speculation.

D) No evidence links the vote to domestic economics; it's a foreign-policy stance.
- A) **not binding**
 The passage explicitly states GA resolutions are "not binding."

B) The GA has no judicial enforceability over states.

C) Resolutions don't confer military force.

D) The passage never claims any procedural unconstitutionality.
- A) **(Approved)**
 A: "Endorsed" here = backed/approved/adopted by vote.
 B: "Condemned" is the opposite of endorsement.
 C: "Postponed" means delayed, not supported.
 D: "Vetoed" is a blocking action (and GA doesn't use vetoes).
- B) Because Israel's global support is eroding and opposition is rising at home, so a political path—not force alone—is necessary
 The passage says Israel is "losing global support... and there is growing opposition" internally; it also insists "Israel cannot achieve security through force alone," urging political compromise now.

A: The passage states GA resolutions are not binding.

C: The U.S. actually opposed the resolution and refuses to support statehood in this context.

D: No automatic reactivation of Oslo is mentioned or implied.
- C) **b, c, d, a**

b: The sentence 'b' introduces the topic and provides specific information about India's term at the UNSC.

c: The sentence 'c' starts with the word "And," which means it's continuing or adding to a previously mentioned idea. Considering that 'b' talks about India's stint, 'c' seems to elaborate on the nature of this stint. Hence, 'c' follows 'b'.

d: The sentence 'd' uses the pronoun "It." This pronoun must refer to a noun from a previous sentence. Here, "It" can refer to the privilege or honor of representing India in the UNSC, a point introduced in 'b' and built upon in 'c'. Hence, 'd' comes after 'c'.

a: Sentence 'a' mentions a specific duration ("18 out of the 24 months"), which provides further detail on the representation mentioned in 'd'. Thus, 'a' logically follows 'd' to provide this specific detail about the term's duration.

7. D) The correct spelling of 'moote' is 'moot' which means "to propose or suggest an idea" प्रस्ताव रखना, विचार करना।

8. C) **Perpetual** (adjective) – lasting forever or continuing indefinitely; unending or enduring. अनवरत

- **Permit** (verb) – to allow or authorize; to give permission for something. अनुमति देना
- **Perplex** (verb) – to confuse or puzzle someone. घबराना
- **Perpetrate** (verb) – to carry out or commit a harmful, illegal, or immoral action पाप करना

9. B) **Manifest** (verb) – show, display, demonstrate, reveal (प्रकट करना)

Synonym: Reveal (verb) – disclose, expose (प्रकट करना)

- **Conceal** (verb) – hide, cover (छिपाना)
- **Camouflage** (verb) – disguise, blend (छिपाना / भेस बदलना)
- **Obscure** (verb) – make unclear, blur (अस्पष्ट करना)

10. C) **We must write to him**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए: Passive वाक्य "He must be written to by us" में "He" Object है, "must be written to" Verb है (Modal + Be + Past Participle), और "by us" Subject है। Active में बदलने पर "We" Subject बन गया है, "must write to" (Modal + Base Verb) Verb का उपयोग किया गया है, और "him" Object बन गया है।

- To change Passive Voice to Active Voice: In the Passive sentence "He must be written to by us," "He" is the object, "must be written to" is the verb (Modal + Be + Past Participle), and "by us" is the subject. In Active Voice, "We" becomes the subject, "must write to" (Modal + Base Verb) is used as the verb, and "him" becomes the object.

11. D) **Cast a shadow on** (phrase) – to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant असर डालना

Synonym: Spoil (verb) – Ruin or tarnish (बर्बाद करना)

- **Highlight** (verb) – Emphasize, make prominent (उभारना)
- **Praise** (verb) – Commend, appreciate (प्रशंसा करना)

- **Celebrate** (verb) – Honor, rejoice (उल्लास मनाना)
12. A) **Upturn** (verb) – overturn, disrupt, upset, turn upside down उलट देना
Synonym: Overturn (verb) – turn over, capsize (उलट देना)
- **Fix** (verb) – fasten, repair (ठीक करना)
 - **Arrange** (verb) – put in order (व्यवस्थित करना)
 - **Place** (verb) – position, keep (रखना)
13. B) Part 3 — “in every aspects of its implementation.”
 Solution) 'every' के बाद singular count noun आता है; अतः 'aspects' के बदले 'aspect' होगा.
- “Every” takes a singular noun; use “aspect,” not “aspects.”
 Like— All stakeholders of education have the right to ask for accountability in every aspect of its implementation.
14. D) **Q and S**
 The correct order is S1, Q, S, and S4
 S2 should provide more specifics or insights about India's stance on the expansion. Q fits this perfectly as it specifies what the Indian Prime Minister stated about the BRICS expansion.
 S3 should delve deeper into the challenges or significance of the expansion, thereby bridging to S4's indication of its potential impact on the international order. S fits this context as it talks about the enlargement being a major challenge.
 Other options:
 P is about the strategic partnership between France and India. It doesn't specifically relate to the BRICS summit or its expansion.
 Q directly relates to India's stance on BRICS expansion and quotes Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 R talks about a moment in France where the Indian armed forces were honored, which is unrelated to the BRICS summit.
 S directly mentions that enlargement or expansion was a major challenge at the Johannesburg summit, which aligns with the context of S1.
15. A) **Analogy** (noun) – A similarity between like features of two things, on which a comparison may be based. सादृश्य
- **Amalgamation** (noun) – The action, process, or result of combining or uniting. समामेलन
 - **Apathy** (noun) – Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern. उदासीनता
 - **Ambiguity** (noun) – The quality of being open to more than one interpretation; inexactness. अस्पष्टता
16. D) **I had posted the letter before I met him.**
 Passive वाक्य में "The letter" Subject है, "had been posted" Verb (Past Perfect Passive) है, और "by me" Agent है। Active वाक्य में, Agent "I" Subject बन जाता है, Object "the letter" के रूप में प्रयोग होता है, और Verb को "had posted" (Past Perfect Active) में बदला जाता है। इसके बाद Clause "before I met him" को वैसा ही रखा जाता है।
- In the passive sentence, "The letter" is the subject, "had been posted" is the verb (Past Perfect Passive), and "by me" indicates the agent. In the active voice, the agent "I"

becomes the subject, the object remains "the letter," and the verb changes to "had posted" (Past Perfect Active). The clause "before I met him" remains unchanged.

17. D) **Spilled the beans** (idiom) – Revealed a secret or disclosed information राज़ खोल देना या जानकारी उजागर कर देना

18. A) The correct spelling of '**detachment**' is '**detachment**' which means "non-attachment, aloofness, equanimity" वैराग्य।

19. C) **a, c, b, d**

a: Starting with "a" makes sense as it introduces the context and setting for the other sentences: the demonstration on May 1, 1886. It provides a starting point for the events that unfold

c: Sentence "c" logically follows "a" since it elaborates on the atmosphere after the demonstration. The mention of "Police brutality" and "victimisation of protesting workers" builds upon the demonstration mentioned in "a".

b: Sentence "b" introduces a new event that's a response to the events discussed in "a" and "c". It provides a date of May 4, 1886, which is chronologically after May 1, 1886, thus adhering to the time sequence clue.

d: Sentence "d" describes the event of the meeting mentioned in "b", detailing how it turned violent. "The peaceful meeting" in "d" directly references the meeting from "b".

Option elimination: Sentence "d" describes the event of the meeting (meeting on May 4) mentioned in "b"; therefore, "d" should come after "b." Consequently, option "d" can be immediately eliminated

20. C) "on public places."

'on' के बदले preposition 'in' प्रयोग होगा: in public places.

- Use the preposition "in" with locations like public places (not "on").

Like— One should not act according to one's whims and fancies in public places.

21. B) '**is**' का use होगा क्योंकि subject 'An article' singular है और वाक्य वर्तमान समय में घट रही क्रिया बता रहा है, इसलिए Present Continuous रूप 'is creating' सही है। sentence में mention है कि लेख अभी "creating a storm" कर रहा है, इसलिए 'is' यहाँ उचित है। जबकि 'were' plural subject के साथ आता है, 'was' past time (past continuous) बताता है, और 'are' plural subject के लिए होता है—ये इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- '**is**' will be used because the subject 'An article' is singular and the action is ongoing now; thus the Present Continuous form 'is creating' is grammatically correct. Whereas, 'were' is used with plural subjects, 'was' places the action in the past (past continuous), and 'are' is for plural subjects in present continuous—none fit this singular, present context.

22. D) '**Lacked**' का use होगा क्योंकि "that this __ substance" में 'that this' के बाद एक साधारण क्रिया चाहिए जो अर्थ दे कि "इसमें सार की कमी थी"; 'lack + object' का स्थिर प्रयोग "lacked substance" (सारहीन होना) सही और मुहावरेदार है। जबकि 'Profuse' का अर्थ है प्रचुर (adjective) और यहाँ क्रिया की जगह नहीं ले सकता; 'Agitated' (व्याकुल/उत्तेजित) और 'Placated' (शांत किया गया) मुख्यतः participial adjectives हैं या अलग संरचना में क्रिया के रूप में आते हैं, इसलिए "that this agitated/placated substance" अर्थहीन/अनुपयुक्त होगा।

- **'Lacked'** will be used because after “that this” the sentence needs a finite verb showing deficiency, and “lacked substance” is the idiomatic, grammatically correct verb–object pairing. Whereas, 'Profuse' is an adjective (needs a noun, not a verb slot), and 'Agitated'/'Placated' function as participial adjectives or require different constructions, so they don't fit this context.

23. A) **'disparagingly'** का use होगा क्योंकि "disparagingly" का अर्थ होता है तिरस्कार/हीन दिखाने के ढंग से कहना। sentence में article India के बारे में "it stood nowhere..." जैसा अपमानजनक कथन करता है, इसलिए 'disparagingly' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'eulogistically' का अर्थ प्रशंसात्मक है (टोन उल्टा पड़ता है), 'undeniably' आमतौर पर पूरे वाक्य/तथ्य को modify करता है ("It is undeniable that...") इसलिए 'talks ____ about' में फिट नहीं होता, और 'comprehensively' का अर्थ विस्तार से/समग्र रूप से है जो यहाँ के नकारात्मक मूल्यांकनात्मक टोन से मेल नहीं खाता।

- **'disparagingly'** will be used because it means speaking in a belittling manner. The sentence delivers a negative judgment (“stood nowhere”), so “talks disparagingly about India” is the correct adverb-of-manner with “talks.” Whereas, ‘eulogistically’ means praising (semantic mismatch), ‘undeniably’ is a sentence adverb and doesn't fit well with “talks ____ about” (better as “It is undeniable that...”), and ‘comprehensively’ means thoroughly, which conflicts with the derogatory/evaluative focus rather than breadth.

24. B) **'ruffled feathers'** का use होगा क्योंकि "this has ruffled feathers" present perfect संरचना (has + past participle) में स्वाभाविक रूप से बैठता है और अर्थ देता है कि इस लेख ने लोगों/वर्गों को नाराज़ या असंतुष्ट कर दिया है—जो वाक्य के संदर्भ (भारत की उभरती शक्ति-छवि पर तीखा लेख) से मेल खाता है। जबकि 'straight and narrow' नैतिक रास्ते का मुहावरा है, 'turned one's stomach' घृणा/घिन का भाव देता है और 'one's' सर्वनाम यहाँ अनिश्चित/बेमेल है, तथा 'licked your wounds' चोट के बाद धीरे-धीरे सँभलने की क्रिया है—“this has ...” के साथ व्याकरण/अर्थ दोनों से नहीं जँचता।

- **'ruffled feathers'** will be used because “this has ruffled feathers” is a correct present perfect collocation (has + past participle) meaning the article has upset/irritated people, which fits the context. Whereas, 'straight and narrow' names a moral path (not something an article “has”), 'turned one's stomach' denotes disgust and uses an ill-fit generic pronoun “one's,” and 'licked your wounds' requires an agent recovering after harm (it can't be caused by “this has ...”), so they are grammatically and contextually unsuitable.

25. D) **'premise'** का use होगा क्योंकि "premise" का अर्थ होता है किसी तर्क/लेख का मूल आधार या मान्य धारणा। sentence में लेखक की यह मान्यता बताई गई है “that India and China are on the cusp of a conflict...”, इसलिए 'premise that...' का प्रयोग व्याकरणतः सही और संदर्भानुकूल है। जबकि 'verdict' का अर्थ न्यायिक/अंतिम फैसला है, जो यहाँ “assumption” नहीं बताता; 'upheaval' का अर्थ उथल-पुथल है और इसके बाद 'that'-clause नहीं आता; 'grudge' का अर्थ रंजिश/द्वेष है, जो 'that'-clause नहीं लेता और संदर्भ से मेल नहीं खाता।

- **'premise'** will be used because it means the foundational assumption of an argument, and the sentence faults the writer's assumption ("premise that..."), which is a standard collocation and grammatically correct. Whereas, 'verdict' is a formal/usually legal judgment (not an assumption), 'upheaval' means turmoil and doesn't take a 'that'-clause, and 'grudge' means resentment and also doesn't collocate with a 'that'-clause—so they don't fit this context.