

The more fractured the world becomes, the stronger the case for India's strategic autonomy

In a couple of speeches this week on Delhi's **diplomatic** challenges, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar **elaborated** on several **essential** concepts that are being **debated amid** a sense of greater uncertainty in India's foreign policy, **thanks to** the new difficulties in **ties** with the US. Jaishankar **seeks** to define India's **much-vaunted** "strategic autonomy" not as an **abstract** ambition or as **an end in itself**. He sees it as a **pragmatic** methodology for India's engagement with the major powers at a time of significant change in the **inter-se** relations of the US, Europe, Russia, and China. He reminds us that Delhi did not **align with** any one power even when India was much weaker in the early **decades** after Independence. As India has become stronger, its **emphasis** on seeking freedom of choice **is** not a slogan but **intrinsic** to its great power relations. He **insists** that **the objective** of strategic autonomy **is** to use relations with all the major powers to **accelerate** India's rise and emerge as an important pole in the international system.

Jaishankar **underlines** that strategic autonomy is not automatic. It is linked deeply to India's **adaptability** and **resilience**. He argues that "handling change continuously... means you have to keep revising, keep refreshing, keep adjusting, keep recalculating... and you can't do that if you are tied to somebody else". Put simply, the **methodology** of strategic autonomy **depends** on active and dynamic **assessment** of the external environment. Jaishankar **cautions** against **conflating** strategic autonomy with **indecision**. In the recent past, India had **often paralysed** itself in **addressing** the new strategic opportunities. According to Jaishankar, the more fractured the world becomes, the stronger the case for strategic autonomy — India must avoid "**sitting on the fence**", but also **resist** being **coerced** into taking sides simply **for the sake of alignment**.

Jaishankar addressed the growing concern in foreign policy circles about the emerging "**re-hyphenation**" with Pakistan. Over the last two decades, India had successfully separated itself from the Pakistan factor. The **unanticipated warmth** between the Trump Administration and Pakistan in the last few weeks, and the US President's **claims** about brokering peace between India and Pakistan in the four-day conflict in May, **have** been at the source of this anxiety. Jaishankar underlines the importance of **crafting** foreign policy without being **boxed in** by **adversarial** neighbours or externally **imposed equivalences**. **Citing** historical comparisons made between India and Pakistan in the 1970s, he notes that such equivalences have **dissipated** primarily thanks to India's growth and international **salience**. As he put it, "**The best way** of de-hyphenation **is** to **outstrip** the other party in terms of power and capability." With India's economy now 10 times larger than Pakistan's, any talk of hyphenation is meaningless. Yet it is the Pakistan **obsession** of the **ruling** party — including the **politicisation** of cricket matches — that is producing Delhi's **self-induced** hyphenation with Islamabad. The **drumbeat** of anti-Pakistan **rhetoric** in Delhi **signals** a lack of political self-assurance, and worse still, it provides **political oxygen** at home and abroad to an army-led government that captured power through a **rigged** election

in Islamabad. **Separating** the Pakistan policy from the domestic political **calculus** of the ruling party **is** the best guarantor of preventing India's re-hyphenation with Pakistan. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Fractured** (adjective) – divided, fragmented, split, disunited, broken
विभाजित
2. **Strategic autonomy** (noun) – the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and make its own decisions, free from external coercion. सामरिक स्वायत्तता
3. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – relating to the management of international relations.
कूटनीतिक
4. **Elaborate** (verb) – explain, expand on, clarify, detail, expound विस्तार से बताना
5. **Essential** (adjective) – fundamental, crucial, vital, key, indispensable आवश्यक
6. **Debate** (verb) – discuss, argue, dispute, deliberate, contest बहस करना
7. **Amid** (preposition) – in the middle of, during, in the midst of, amongst के बीच
8. **Thanks to** (phrase) – because of, due to, owing to, as a result of की वजह से
9. **Ties** (noun) – relations, connections, links, bonds, associations संबंध
10. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim, strive, endeavour कोशिश करना
11. **Much-vaunted** (adjective) – highly praised, celebrated, acclaimed, touted, lauded
बहुप्रशंसित
12. **Abstract** (adjective) – theoretical, conceptual, ideological, notional, impractical सैद्धांतिक
13. **As an end in itself** (phrase) – something that is done for its own sake, not to achieve something else. स्वयं में लक्ष्य
14. **Pragmatic** (adjective) – practical, realistic, sensible, logical, down-to-earth व्यावहारिक
15. **Inter-se** (adjective) – among or between themselves. आपसी
16. **Align** (with) (verb) – side with, support, join, associate, ally गठबंधन करना
17. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
18. **Emphasis** (on) (noun) – stress, importance, priority, focus, attention जोर
19. **Intrinsic** (adjective) – inherent, innate, fundamental, essential, built-in अंतर्निहित
20. **Insist** (verb) – maintain, assert, declare, contend, stress जोर देना
21. **Accelerate** (verb) – speed up, hasten, expedite, quicken, stimulate तेज़ करना
22. **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate जोर देना
23. **Adaptability** (noun) – flexibility, adjustability, resilience, versatility, pliability
अनुकूलनशीलता

24. **Resilience** (noun) – toughness, hardiness, strength, flexibility, ability to recover लचीलापन
25. **Assessment** (noun) – evaluation, appraisal, judgment, analysis, estimation आकलन
26. **Caution** (verb) – warn, advise, alert, counsel, urge आगाह करना
27. **Conflate** (verb) – confuse, mix up, combine, blend, merge एक समान समझना
28. **Indecision** (noun) – hesitation, uncertainty, vacillation, doubt, irresolution अनिर्णय
29. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, repeatedly, regularly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
30. **Paralyse** (verb) – immobilize, cripple, disable, halt, freeze अशक्त करना
31. **Address** (verb) – deal with, handle, tackle, attend to, confront निपटना
32. **Sit on the fence** (phrase) – to avoid making a decision or choice. तटस्थ रहना
33. **Resist** (verb) – oppose, withstand, defy, fight, refuse विरोध करना
34. **Coerce** (verb) – force, pressure, compel, bully, intimidate मजबूर करना
35. **For the sake of** (phrase) – for the purpose of; in the interest of. की खातिर
36. **Alignment** (noun) – alliance, association, partnership, affiliation, coalition गठबंधन
37. **Re-hyphenation** (noun) – the renewed linking of two countries (India-Pakistan) in international discourse. पुनः संयोजन
38. **Unanticipated** (adjective) – unexpected, unforeseen, unpredicted, sudden, surprising अप्रत्याशित
39. **Warmth** (noun) – friendliness, cordiality, amiability, geniality, affection गर्मजोशी
40. **Craft** (verb) – formulate, devise, design, shape, create गढ़ना
41. **Box in** (phrasal verb) – trap, confine, restrict, corner, constrain फंसाना
42. **Adversarial** (adjective) – hostile, antagonistic, opposed, confrontational, unfriendly विरोधी
43. **Impose** (verb) – force, inflict, apply, levy, foist थोपना
44. **Equivalence** (noun) – equality, similarity, parity, correspondence, comparability समानता
45. **Cite** (verb) – quote, mention, refer to, allude to, point to हवाला देना
46. **Dissipate** (verb) – disappear, vanish, fade, evaporate, disperse गायब होना

47. **Salience** (noun) – importance, prominence, significance, noticeability, relevance महत्व
48. **Outstrip** (verb) – surpass, exceed, outdo, outperform, eclipse आगे निकल जाना
49. **Obsession** (noun) – fixation, preoccupation, mania, compulsion, addiction जुनून
50. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in power, controlling, incumbent शासक
51. **Politicisation** (noun) – the process of making something subject to political influence. राजनीतिकरण
52. **Self-induced** (adjective) – caused by oneself, self-inflicted, self-generated स्व-प्रेरित
53. **Drumbeat** (noun) – constant repetition, relentless campaign, steady rhythm, barrage लगातार प्रचार
54. **Rhetoric** (noun) – language, talk, oratory, bombast, grandiloquence बयानबाजी
55. **Signal** (verb) – indicate, show, demonstrate, signify, reveal संकेत करना
56. **Political oxygen** (noun) – public attention and legitimacy that sustains a person or entity. राजनीतिक स्वीकृति
57. **Rigged** (adjective) – fraudulent, manipulated, fixed, dishonest, unfair धांधली वाला
58. **Calculus** (noun) – calculation, reasoning, analysis, strategy, planning गणना

Summary of the Editorial

1. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently articulated India's evolving approach to strategic autonomy amid increasing global uncertainty.
2. He clarified that strategic autonomy is not an abstract principle, but a pragmatic method guiding India's engagement with global powers.
3. The concept is framed against the backdrop of shifting global dynamics among the US, Europe, Russia, and China.
4. Jaishankar recalled that even when India was economically and militarily weaker after Independence, it maintained an independent foreign policy stance.
5. As India has become stronger, its freedom of choice in diplomacy has turned into a core principle of its great power relations.
6. The goal of strategic autonomy is to leverage relationships with all major powers to accelerate India's rise and establish it as a major pole in global affairs.
7. Jaishankar emphasized that strategic autonomy requires adaptability and resilience, not rigidity.
8. He argued that diplomacy must involve constant recalibration — revising, refreshing, and adjusting to changing global conditions.
9. He warned that strategic autonomy should not be confused with indecision or policy paralysis.
10. India must avoid being coerced into alliances, but also not remain passive or neutral when opportunities arise.
11. Jaishankar addressed concerns about a possible "re-hyphenation" with Pakistan, following recent US gestures toward Islamabad.
12. He highlighted that India had successfully de-hyphenated itself from Pakistan over the past two decades by focusing on growth and global relevance.
13. The minister noted that with India's economy ten times larger than Pakistan's, any external comparison is now irrelevant and outdated.
14. However, domestic political rhetoric that repeatedly invokes Pakistan risks reviving unnecessary equivalences and undermines India's diplomatic confidence.
15. The editorial concludes that decoupling Pakistan from India's internal political discourse is crucial for sustaining strategic autonomy and projecting India as a confident global power.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **From Jaishankar's view of "strategic autonomy," which of the following can be most reasonably inferred?** [Editorial page]
 - i. India's foreign policy flexibility depends on its continuous evaluation of changing global dynamics.
 - ii. India's growing strength has reduced the need for alliances.
 - iii. Strategic autonomy is a passive concept aimed at non-alignment.

A. Only i
B. Only ii
C. Both i and ii
D. Both ii and iii
2. **What can be inferred about Jaishankar's attitude towards India's relationship with Pakistan in the context of foreign policy?**

A. He believes India should continue emphasizing its rivalry with Pakistan to assert regional dominance.
B. He believes India's overfocus on Pakistan weakens its broader global positioning.
C. He supports re-hyphenation as a means of maintaining balance in South Asia.
D. He argues that Pakistan's economy is stronger than India's, which makes the comparison valid.
3. **Which of the following underlying ideas about India's foreign policy is implied by Jaishankar's speech?**

A. India's power lies in maintaining equal distance from all countries without taking any stance.
B. Strategic autonomy means taking calculated decisions that serve India's growth, not neutrality.
C. India's alliances should be dictated by Western powers to ensure economic benefits.
D. Adhering rigidly to past non-alignment principles ensures India's long-term success.
4. **Why does Jaishankar caution against conflating strategic autonomy with indecision?**

A. Because confusing autonomy with inaction could paralyze India's response to global changes.
B. Because indecision prevents India from making quick alliances with powerful countries.
C. Because autonomy and indecision are identical concepts in India's foreign policy.
D. Because India must completely reject diplomacy to maintain independence.
5. **What does Jaishankar identify as the key to sustaining India's strategic autonomy in a changing world order?**

A. Maintaining rigid non-alignment with all major powers.
B. Relying on historic ties with Russia and Europe.
C. Continuously revising and recalculating India's approach to external developments.
D. Avoiding all international collaborations to preserve independence.
6. **Select the meaning of the given highlighted phrasal verb.**

The new rules will **kick in** from the next financial year.

A. Expire
B. Cease
C. Commence
D. Terminate

7. **Directions:** Each sentence has three underlined parts labelled (a), (b), and (c). Find out whether there is an error in any underlined part and indicate your answer accordingly. If you find no error, your answer should be (d).
- (a) The front page story was about a schoolgirl,/ (b) that had hurt herself,/ (c) while saving a child in an accident./ (d) No error.
- A. The front page story was about a schoolgirl,
B. that had hurt herself,
C. while saving a child in an accident.
D. No error.
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the highlighted group of words in the given sentence.**
- The practice of having two or more spouses at the same time was quite common in the olden days.
- A. Patricide
B. Patriarchy
C. Parochialism
D. Polygamy
9. **Select the meaning of the given highlighted phrasal verb.**
- She managed to **tap into** the right contacts to get her business started.
- A. Ignore
B. Access
C. Neglect
D. Avoid
10. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
- Many villagers live on **subsistence** farming.
- A. subsistense
B. subsistence
C. subcistence
D. subsistance
11. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
- Due to lack of exercise, he was suffering from **obesity**.
- A. Corpulence
B. Heaviness
C. Slimness
D. Fatness
12. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
- The internet connection in the remote area was quite **patchy**.
- A. Sporadic
B. Consistent
C. Uneven
D. Inconsistent
13. **Directions:** Each sentence has three underlined parts labelled (a), (b), and (c). Find out whether there is an error in any underlined part and indicate your answer accordingly. If you find no error, your answer should be (d).

(a) Molly speaks/(b) French well;/ (c) isn't it ?/ (d) No error.

A. Molly speaks

B. French well;

C. isn't it ?

D. No error.

14. Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.

Being stuck in a foreign country without money was a real **predicament** for him.

A. Difficulty

B. Advantage

C. Solution

D. Comfort

15. Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.

The area is under constant **surveillance**.

A. survillance

B. surveillance

C. surveillance

D. servillance

16. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active form.

The entire cake was eaten by Maria.

A. Maria ate the entire cake.

B. Maria is eating the entire cake.

C. Maria had eaten the entire cake.

D. Maria was eating the entire cake

17. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the highlighted group of words in the given sentence.

We had to study a poem of lamentation, especially for the dead, written by Thomas Gray.

A. an essay

B. an account

C. a report

D. an elegy

18. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.

Let the door be closed

A. Please let him close the door.

B. The door will be closed.

C. The door is closed.

D. Close the door

19. Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.

The **timid** child hesitated to speak in front of the large audience.

A. Nervous

B. Brave

C. Bold

D. Daring

20. 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) It belongs to a tiny squirrel whose gentle noise breaks the silence,
(Q) Each chirp feels like an untold story of survival, a shared struggle whispered across the space between us.
(R) There is a quiet voice that visits me every day — soft, fragile, and insistent.
(S) speaking a language without words but full of meaning.

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

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.

Saltwater crocodiles are also known as estuarine crocodiles, as they (1)_____ to live in mangrovelined rivers. They're the (2)_____ living reptile, reaching up to seven metres in length: far larger than Indonesia's famous Komodo dragon, which tops out at three metres. (3)_____, crocodiles lived throughout the Indonesian archipelago. We have (4)_____ of attacks on humans in Bali from the early 20th century and across much of Java until the 1950s. Even Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, had crocodile's (5)_____ in many rivers running through the city.

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

- A. prefer
B. refer
C. defer
D. differ

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

- A. broadest
B. poorest
C. largest
D. fattest

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

- A. Abysmally
B. Historically
C. Fanatically
D. Acrobatically

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

- A. recipes
B. records
C. regiments
D. residues

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

- A. resistance
B. residence
C. relevance
D. remembrance

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- 1. C) Both i and ii**

i is correct — The passage explicitly states that Jaishankar defines strategic autonomy as a “pragmatic methodology” requiring India to “keep revising, refreshing, adjusting, recalculating,” meaning it’s based on continuous reassessment.

ii is correct — Jaishankar mentions that India, being stronger now, maintains freedom of choice, meaning it no longer needs to align itself fully with any bloc.

iii is incorrect — He rejects the idea that strategic autonomy means indecision or passivity; rather, it’s “active and dynamic.”
- 2. B) He believes India’s overfocus on Pakistan weakens its broader global positioning.**

B is correct — The passage states that Delhi’s “self-induced hyphenation” and “anti-Pakistan rhetoric” show a lack of political self-assurance and give oxygen to Pakistan’s army-led regime. Thus, he disapproves of this obsession.

A is incorrect — He argues for separation from “adversarial neighbours” and warns against being “boxed in” by Pakistan.

C is incorrect — Jaishankar supports de-hyphenation, not re-hyphenation.

D is incorrect — The text clearly says India’s economy is ten times larger than Pakistan’s.
- 3. B) Strategic autonomy means taking calculated decisions that serve India’s growth, not neutrality.**

B is correct — Jaishankar clarifies that strategic autonomy is not “an abstract ambition” but a pragmatic way to “accelerate India’s rise” through flexible relations with all major powers.

A is incorrect — He rejects the idea of “sitting on the fence.”

C is incorrect — He warns against being “tied to somebody else.”

D is incorrect — The approach is dynamic, not rigidly based on old principles.
- 4. A) Because confusing autonomy with inaction could paralyze India’s response to global changes.**

A is correct — The passage states that India “had often paralysed itself in addressing new strategic opportunities” when it mistook autonomy for hesitation. Jaishankar warns that true autonomy is dynamic, not stagnant.

B is partly relevant but incomplete — it mentions alliances, but the emphasis is on flexibility and adaptability, not haste.

C is incorrect — He draws a distinction between the two; they are not identical.

D is incorrect — He supports active engagement with all major powers, not rejection of diplomacy.
- 5. C) Continuously revising and recalculating India’s approach to external developments.**

C is correct — He explicitly says strategic autonomy requires “handling change continuously... revising, refreshing, adjusting, recalculating.” Thus, adaptability is the foundation of autonomy.

A is incorrect — Jaishankar views non-alignment as static, while autonomy is active and evolving.

B is incorrect — He emphasizes multi-directional engagement, not dependence on old partners.

D is incorrect — India's autonomy means using relations with all powers, not isolating itself.

6. C) **Kick in** (phrasal verb) – to begin to take effect; to start operating प्रभावी होना

Synonym: **Commence** (verb) – to begin (प्रारंभ करना)

- **Expire** (verb) – to come to an end (समाप्त होना)
- **Cease** (verb) – to stop (रुकना)
- **Terminate** (verb) – to bring to an end (समाप्त करना)

7. B) 'that' के बदले **'who'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Clause में antecedent “a schoolgirl” व्यक्ति (human) है। व्यक्तियों के लिए Relative Pronoun 'who/whom/whose' का प्रयोग होता है, जबकि 'that' का प्रयोग वस्तुओं या जानवरों के लिए किया जाता है। जैसे— The boy who won the prize is my friend.

- **'who'** will be used instead of 'that' because the antecedent “a schoolgirl” is a person. For human antecedents, we use 'who/whom/whose' as the relative pronoun, whereas 'that' is used for things or animals. Like— The boy who won the prize is my friend.

8. D) **Polygamy** (noun) – The practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time. बहुपत्नी प्रथा

- **Patricide** (noun) – The act of killing one's father. पितृहत्याकांड
- **Patriarchy** (noun) – A social organization where males are heads of families. पितृसत्ता
- **Parochialism** (noun) – A narrow or limited outlook, focusing only on a small area or community. संकीर्णता

9. B) **Tap into** (phrasal verb) – access, draw upon, make use of, exploit, utilize (लाभ उठाना)

Synonym: **Access** (verb) – To gain entry or use (प्रवेश पाना / उपयोग करना)

- **Ignore** (verb) – To pay no attention (अनदेखा करना)
- **Neglect** (verb) – Fail to care for properly (उपेक्षा करना)
- **Avoid** (verb) – To keep away from (बचना)

10. B) The correct spelling of '**substance**' is '**subsistence**' which means “survival, existence, livelihood, sustenance” गुज़र-बसर।

11. C) **Obesity** (noun) – Overweight, fatness, corpulence, heaviness, adiposity. मोटापा

Antonym: **Slimness** (noun) – Thinness, leanness, slenderness, skinniness. दुबलेपन

- **Corpulence** (noun) – Fatness, bulkiness, stoutness. मोटापा
- **Heaviness** (noun) – Weightiness, massiveness. भारीपन
- **Fatness** (noun) – Obesity, plumpness, portliness. मोटापा

12. B) **Patchy** (adjective) – Inconsistent, irregular, uneven, variable, sporadic. असंगत

Antonym: **Consistent** (adjective) – Steady, constant, reliable, dependable, uniform. सुसंगत

- **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occasional, scattered, infrequent. अनियमित

- **Uneven** (adjective) – Not level, irregular, rough. असमान
 - **Inconsistent** (adjective) – Erratic, contradictory, unstable. अस्थिर
13. C) 'isn't it?' के बदले '**doesn't she?**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह Tag Question है। Tag Question में Auxiliary Verb + Subject Pronoun का प्रयोग होता है और वह Main Sentence के Tense और Subject के अनुसार बदलता है। Main Sentence: "Molly speaks French well." यहाँ Present Simple Tense है और Subject "Molly (she)" है, इसलिए सही Tag होगा "doesn't she?"
- '**doesn't she?**' will be used instead of 'isn't it?' because this is a Tag Question. In Tag Questions, we use Auxiliary Verb + Subject Pronoun according to the Tense and Subject of the main sentence. Main Sentence: "Molly speaks French well." This is Present Simple Tense and the Subject is "Molly (she)", so the correct Tag will be "doesn't she?".
14. A) **Predicament** (noun) – dilemma, difficulty, problem, mess, quandary (कठिन स्थिति)
 Synonym: **Difficulty** (noun) – Hardship, obstacle (कठिनाई)
- **Advantage** (noun) – Benefit, favorable condition (लाभ)
 - **Solution** (noun) – Way of solving a problem (समाधान)
 - **Comfort** (noun) – State of ease (सुविधा)
15. C) The correct spelling of '**surveillance**' is '**surveillance**' which means "observation, monitoring, watch, supervision" निगरानी।
16. A) **Maria ate the entire cake**
 Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य "The entire cake was eaten by Maria" में "The entire cake" Subject है, "was eaten" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by Maria" Agent है। Active वाक्य में इसे बदलने पर "Maria" Subject बन गया है, और Verb को "ate" (Past Simple Active) में बदला गया है। इसलिए सही उत्तर है: Maria ate the entire cake.
- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In the passive sentence "The entire cake was eaten by Maria," the subject is "The entire cake," the verb is "was eaten" (Past Simple Passive), and the agent is "by Maria." When transformed into the active voice, "Maria" becomes the subject, and the verb is changed to "ate" (Past Simple Active). Thus, the correct answer is: Maria ate the entire cake.
17. D) **Elegy** (noun) – A poem of lamentation, especially for the dead. शोक-गीत
- **Essay** (noun) – A short piece of writing on a particular subject. निबंध
 - **Account** (noun) – A report or description of an event or experience. विवरण
 - **Report** (noun) – A formal statement or account describing an event or situation. प्रतिवेदन
18. D) **Close the door**

Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य के Object को Active वाक्य में शामिल करना होता है और Verb को आदेश या निर्देश के रूप में व्यवस्थित किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य "Let the door be closed" में: "The door" (Object) Passive वाक्य का मुख्य भाग है। "be closed" (Verb in Passive form) को Active में बदलने पर "Close the door" (Verb in Imperative form) बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में आदेश का तात्पर्य Active में सीधे निर्देश देने से है। इसलिए, Active वाक्य "Close the door" (D) सही उत्तर है।

- To change from Passive to Active Voice, the object of the Passive sentence is retained, and the verb is restructured as a direct instruction or command. In the Passive sentence "Let the door be closed": "The door" (Object) is the main focus. "be closed" (Verb in Passive form) changes to "Close the door" (Verb in Imperative form) in the Active Voice. The implied command in the Passive is made explicit in the Active Voice as a direct instruction.

19. A) **Timid** (adjective) – shy, bashful, reserved, diffident (डरपोक)

Synonym: **Nervous** (adjective) – anxious, lacking confidence (घबराया हुआ)

- **Brave** (adjective) – courageous (साहसी)
- **Bold** (adjective) – fearless, daring (निर्भीक)
- **Daring** (adjective) – adventurous, audacious (साहसिक)

20. D) **R, P, S, Q.**

R starts the sentence with the subject "a quiet voice", introducing the main idea of the sentence—something that visits the speaker daily.

P follows R because it provides more details about the voice, specifying that it "belongs to a tiny squirrel" and describes its sound. This establishes a clear subject-description relationship.

S comes next as it continues the description of the squirrel's noise, explaining that it is "speaking a language without words but full of meaning." This logically follows P because it elaborates on how the sound communicates.

Q concludes the sentence by reflecting on the emotional impact of the chirps, describing them as "an untold story of survival." "Each chirp" refers back to the "gentle noise" from P and "speaking" from S, maintaining noun consistency.

In Hindi

- R sentence की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह subject "a quiet voice" को introduce करता है, जो बताता है कि कौन-सी चीज़ (आवाज़) speaker के पास रोज़ आती है।
- P, R के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह "It" (यह) का उपयोग करके R के subject ("a quiet voice") से जुड़ता है और बताता है कि यह आवाज़ "एक गिलहरी की है"। Pronoun "It" पिछले वाक्य के subject को refer करता है।
- S, P के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह गिलहरी की आवाज़ के बारे में और बताता है—यह "शब्दों के बिना लेकिन अर्थ से भरी भाषा बोलती है।" Participle phrase ("speaking a language..."), P में बताई गई "gentle noise" को modify करता है।

- Q end में आता है क्योंकि यह "Each chirp" (हर चहक) को refer करता है और भावनात्मक अर्थ जोड़ता है। "Each chirp", P और S में बताई गई आवाज़ से जुड़ा है।
21. A) **'Prefer'** का use होगा क्योंकि "prefer" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को अन्य विकल्पों की तुलना में प्राथमिकता देना। sentence में mention है कि saltwater crocodiles को mangrove-lined rivers में रहना पसंद है, इसलिए 'prefer' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। जबकि 'refer' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ की ओर संकेत करना, 'defer' का अर्थ है स्थगित करना, और 'differ' का अर्थ है अलग होना, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं है।
- 'Prefer'** will be used because it means to choose something as more desirable than other options. The sentence mentions that saltwater crocodiles like to live in mangrove-lined rivers, making 'prefer' the correct choice here. On the other hand, 'refer' means to indicate something, 'defer' means to postpone, and 'differ' means to be different, which are not suitable in this context.
22. C) **'Largest'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह बताता है कि saltwater crocodiles सबसे बड़े जीवित सरीसृप हैं। passage में कहा गया है कि वे सात मीटर की लंबाई तक पहुंच सकते हैं, जो Komodo dragon (तीन मीटर तक) से बहुत बड़ा है। जबकि 'broadest' (सबसे चौड़ा), 'poorest' (सबसे गरीब), और 'fattest' (सबसे मोटा) इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये शब्द सरीसृप के आकार या तुलना का सही वर्णन नहीं करते।
- 'Largest'** will be used because it indicates that saltwater crocodiles are the biggest living reptiles. The passage states that they can reach up to seven meters in length, far larger than the Komodo dragon, which tops out at three meters. On the other hand, 'broadest' refers to width, 'poorest' means lacking in quality or resources, and 'fattest' refers to excessive weight, none of which are suitable in this context.
23. B) **'Historically'** का अर्थ है "इतिहास से संबंधित" या "इतिहास में किसी समय पर।" यह यहाँ उपयुक्त है क्योंकि sentence यह बता रहा है कि कभी समय पर इंडोनेशिया के पूरे द्वीप समूह में मगरमच्छ पाए जाते थे। यह sentence एक ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ देता है, इसलिए 'Historically' सही विकल्प है।
- जबकि: 'Abysmally' का अर्थ है "बहुत बुरी तरह से," जो यहाँ context में फिट नहीं होता। 'Fanatically' का अर्थ है "उत्साहपूर्वक या जुनून से," जो sentence के historical nature से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Acrobatically' का अर्थ है "कुशलता या निपुणता से," जो context में उपयुक्त नहीं है।
- 'Historically'** will be used because it means "related to history" or "at some point in the past." The sentence discusses how crocodiles were once found throughout the Indonesian archipelago, making it a historical reference. Thus, 'Historically' fits well. Whereas: 'Abysmally' means "terribly," which does not suit the context. 'Fanatically' means "with enthusiasm or obsession," which does not align with the sentence's historical tone. 'Acrobatically' means "with skill or dexterity," which is irrelevant in this context.
24. B) **'Records'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'records' का अर्थ है दस्तावेज़ या प्रमाण, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट बैठता है। sentence में mention है कि हमारे पास मानवों पर हमलों के प्रमाण या

दस्तावेज़ हैं, जो सही हैं। जबकि 'recipes' का अर्थ है व्यंजन विधि, 'regiments' का अर्थ है सैन्य रेजिमेंट, और 'residues' का अर्थ है अवशेष, जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

- **'Records'** will be used because it means documents or evidence, which fits the context. The sentence mentions that we have evidence or documentation of attacks on humans, making it the correct option. Whereas, 'recipes' means instructions for cooking, 'regiments' refers to military units, and 'residues' means remains, none of which fit in this context.

25. B) **'Residence'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है वह स्थान जहाँ कोई व्यक्ति या वस्तु निवास करता है। sentence में mention है कि जकार्ता की कई नदियों में मगरमच्छ पाए गए, जो उनके निवास स्थान को इंगित करता है। 'Resistance' का अर्थ है विरोध या किसी चीज़ को सहन करने की क्षमता, जो संदर्भ से संबंधित नहीं है। 'Relevance' का अर्थ है समीचीनता या प्रासंगिकता, जो निवास स्थान के विचार से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Remembrance' का अर्थ है स्मरण, जो स्थान या आवास के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

- **'Residence'** will be used because it refers to the place where someone or something lives or is located. The sentence mentions that crocodiles were found in many rivers running through Jakarta, which indicates the rivers were their residence. 'Resistance' means opposition or the ability to withstand, which is irrelevant to the context. 'Relevance' means the state of being closely connected or appropriate, which doesn't match the idea of a location where crocodiles lived. 'Remembrance' means the act of remembering, which also doesn't align with the context of a location or habitat.