

Talking to Taliban: On India-Afghanistan ties

India must be **wary** of terror groups, even if they are in power

Marked by controversy, Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's **ongoing visit** to India **was** meant to signal a major **reset** in ties between New Delhi and the Taliban. The visit was his first since the Taliban **grabbed** power in 2021, as was his meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. It was made possible by the UN Security Council's **Sanctions** committee that **waived** the travel ban on Mr. Muttaqi, who is on the list of **sanctioned** terrorists since 2001. New Delhi has **strategic** reasons for the **warm** welcome and **enhanced** relationship. Close ties **neutralise** the **considerable** security risk and terror threat from India's western **flank**, and protect India's personnel and considerable investment in projects there. The **deterioration** in Afghan-Pakistan ties **indicates** that the **Taliban**, as an "enemy's enemy", **could** prove a valuable **ally**. **Given** that the Taliban now control nearly all of Afghanistan, it would seem **pragmatic** to engage with them at the level other regional powers including Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran and the Central Asian states do. India has announced that it would upgrade the Indian Embassy in Kabul, a "technical mission" **thus far**, and that both sides will exchange **diplomats**. This takes India a step closer to recognising the Taliban government, something only Russia has done. India also announced initiatives to build hospitals, provide **humanitarian** assistance and enhance trade levels. Significantly, both sides "**emphasized** respect for each other's **sovereignty** and **territorial integrity**" — indicating that neither side accepts Pakistan's territorial claims. Mr. Muttaqi also **affirmed** that the Afghan government will not allow its territory to be used against India, a considerable shift from 2001-21 when Taliban forces targeted India's missions and infrastructure projects.

While the **text** of the joint statement **was** **substantive**, the **headlines** of the visit have been **overshadowed** by several **missteps** and poorly structured **optics**. The press conference at the Afghan Embassy, and the attempt to raise the flag of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was one. It also emerged that no women journalists had been invited, **leading to outrage**. Two days later, Mr. Muttaqi held another, all-inclusive press conference. The **government**, which **distanced** itself from the event, **missed** an opportunity to express its **stand** on the wider question of the Taliban's ban on women's education and employment, lack of an inclusive political process, treatment of minorities and past attacks by the group. While engaging the Taliban is no doubt important, and **vital**, for regional security, India must clarify how far it plans to **go down the road** of **appeasing** the group, and risking its reputation, **towards that end**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Ties** (noun) – relations, connections, links, bonds, associations संबंध
2. (be) **Wary** (of) (adjective) – cautious, careful, suspicious, distrustful, apprehensive सावधान
3. **Mark** (verb) – characterize, distinguish, signify, indicate, denote चिह्नित करना
4. **Reset** (noun) – restart, renewal, reestablishment, fresh start, recalibration पुनर्निर्धारण
5. **Grab** (verb) – seize, take, capture, assume, take over हथियाना
6. **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, ban, restriction, embargo, punitive measure प्रतिबंध
7. **Waive** (verb) – set aside, suspend, lift, cancel, disregard माफ करना
8. **Sanctioned** (adjective) – penalized, banned, restricted, blacklisted, prohibited प्रतिबंधित
9. **Strategic** (adjective) – tactical, calculated, planned, deliberate, key रणनीतिक
10. **Warm** (adjective) – friendly, cordial, amicable, hospitable, genial गर्मजोशी भरा
11. **Enhanced** (adjective) – improved, strengthened, increased, upgraded, augmented बढ़ाया हुआ
12. **Neutralise** (verb) – counterbalance, offset, nullify, cancel out, mitigate बेअसर करना
13. **Considerable** (adjective) – significant, substantial, sizable, ample, appreciable काफी
14. **Flank** (noun) – side, border, edge, wing, periphery ओर, पक्ष
15. **Deterioration** (noun) – worsening, decline, decay, degradation, breakdown गिरावट
16. **Ally** (noun) – partner, associate, supporter, collaborator, confederate सहयोगी
17. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, in view of, owing to को देखते हुए
18. **Pragmatic** (adjective) – practical, realistic, sensible, logical, down-to-earth व्यावहारिक
19. **Thus far** (phrase) – until now, so far, up to this point, hitherto अब तक
20. **Diplomat** (noun) – official, envoy, ambassador, representative, emissary राजनयिक
21. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, charitable, altruistic, welfare, relief मानवीय
22. **Emphasize** (verb) – stress, highlight, underline, underscore, accentuate जोर देना

23. **Sovereignty** (noun) – independence, autonomy, self-rule, self-government, supremacy संप्रभुता
24. **Territorial** (adjective) – relating to land or territory, geographical, regional क्षेत्रीय
25. **Integrity** (noun) – unity, wholeness, cohesion, intactness, solidarity अखंडता
26. **Affirm** (verb) – declare, state, assert, confirm, profess पुष्टि करना
27. **Substantive** (adjective) – significant, meaningful, considerable, important, substantial ठोस
28. **Headline** (noun) – main news, leading story, focus, highlight मुख्य समाचार
29. **Overshadow** (verb) – dominate, eclipse, outshine, surpass, dwarf ग्रहण लगाना
30. **Misstep** (noun) – mistake, blunder, error, gaffe, faux pas गलत कदम
31. **Optics** (noun) – public perception, appearance, image, impression, presentation छवि
32. **Lead** (to) (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, give rise to, produce परिणाम होना
33. **Outrage** (noun) – anger, fury, indignation, wrath, shock आक्रोश
34. **Distance** (from) (verb) – disassociate, detach, separate, dissociate, disconnect दूरी बनाना
35. **Stand** (noun) – position, policy, viewpoint, stance, attitude रुख
36. **Vital** (adjective) – essential, crucial, critical, indispensable, key अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण
37. **Go down the road** (phrase) – proceed, move forward, take a path, advance, progress रास्ते पर चलना
38. **Appease** (verb) – pacify, placate, mollify, conciliate, satisfy तुष्ट करना
39. **Towards that end** (phrase) – for that purpose, to achieve that goal, with that aim उस लक्ष्य की ओर

Summary of the Editorial

1. Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to India marks a major reset in India-Taliban relations.
2. This was Muttaqi's first visit since the Taliban seized power in 2021.
3. He met with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval during the visit.
4. The trip was facilitated by a UN Security Council waiver lifting Muttaqi's travel ban, as he remains on a sanctions list since 2001.
5. India's engagement with the Taliban is driven by strategic and security considerations.
6. Strengthened ties help mitigate terror threats from India's western border and safeguard Indian assets and personnel in Afghanistan.
7. With relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan deteriorating, the Taliban could serve as a counterbalance — an "enemy's enemy."
8. Since the Taliban now control most of Afghanistan, engaging them pragmatically aligns India with other regional powers such as Russia, China, Iran, and the Central Asian states.
9. India has decided to upgrade its "technical mission" in Kabul to a full-fledged embassy and exchange diplomats with the Taliban government.
10. India also plans new initiatives — hospital construction, humanitarian aid, and enhanced trade cooperation.
11. Both nations emphasized mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, signaling a rejection of Pakistan's territorial claims.
12. The Taliban assured India that Afghan soil will not be used for anti-India terror activities — a significant change from earlier years (2001–2021).
13. However, the visit was marred by diplomatic missteps — including an Afghan Embassy press conference where the Taliban flag was raised.
14. The exclusion of women journalists from the event drew public outrage and forced a follow-up inclusive press conference.
15. While engagement with the Taliban is strategically necessary, India must clarify its limits — balancing pragmatic diplomacy with its moral stance on women's rights, minority safety, and democratic values.

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

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. India's unconditional support for the Taliban regime
 - B. The need for India to strengthen ties with Pakistan
 - C. India's pragmatic yet cautious engagement with the Taliban for strategic security reasons
 - D. The Taliban's internal political divisions
2. **From the passage, what can be inferred about India's approach towards the Taliban government?**
 - A. India seeks to completely isolate the Taliban from global diplomacy.
 - B. India is pragmatically engaging with the Taliban despite past conflicts.
 - C. India is offering unconditional recognition of the Taliban regime.
 - D. India intends to withdraw all its investments from Afghanistan.
3. **Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?**
 - A. India has already granted full diplomatic recognition to the Taliban regime.
 - B. The UN Security Council imposed new sanctions on Amir Khan Muttaqi during his visit.
 - C. India plans to upgrade its embassy in Kabul and exchange diplomats with the Taliban.
 - D. The Taliban refused to assure India about security concerns.
4. **What major shift did Mr. Muttaqi indicate regarding Afghanistan's stance towards India?**
 - A. Afghanistan will now allow Pakistani forces to operate freely within its borders.
 - B. Afghanistan will not allow its territory to be used against India.
 - C. Afghanistan plans to end diplomatic relations with India.
 - D. Afghanistan will prioritize relations with China over India.
5. **Why did India welcome Muttaqi's visit and engage with the Taliban despite controversies?**
 - A. To gain control over Afghanistan's natural resources.
 - B. To neutralize security risks and protect Indian investments.
 - C. To mediate between Pakistan and the Taliban.
 - D. To promote Taliban's domestic policies internationally.
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) Massive forest fires have ravaged parts of Greece and Canada. Two weeks ago, the river Yamuna breached the highest flood level, recorded 45 years ago, and inundated parts of Delhi.
 - B) The consequences of climate change are already on our doorstep.
 - C) Ten days ago, three continents were gripped by heat waves.
 - D) Disasters around the world are claiming more and more lives.
 - A. BCAD
 - B. DBCA
 - C. DBAC
 - D. ABCD
7. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**

Business success also needs a good amount of **nouss**.

 - A. nowse

- B. nous
C. nouss
D. nouse
8. **Select the best express Synonym of the given italicize word.**
The company posted a **whopping** profit of 200 million dollars in the last quarter alone.
A. Tiny
B. Massive
C. Meager
D. Minimal
9. **In the following question, out of the given four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.**
Get into hot water
A. To get a costly gift
B. To get into trouble
C. To reach nowhere
D. A private end to serve
10. **Select the correctly spelt word to fill in the blank.**
The _____ of the worksheets is not an easy job.
A. reconciliation
B. reconsiliation
C. reconsilation
D. reconciliation
11. **Select the best express Antonym of the given italicize word.**
The teacher's praise did much to **gratify** the students after their hard work.
A. Please
B. Delight
C. Dissatisfy
D. Satisfy
12. **Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.**
During the summer months, there is shortage of power in much parts of the country.
A. in much parts
B. No error
C. there is shortage
D. During the summer
13. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.**
In spite of my best efforts I could not concentrated on my studies
A. In spite of
B. my best efforts
C. could not concentrated
D. on my studies
14. **Select the best express Antonym of the given italicize word.**
Solving that puzzle was quite **tricky**, especially the part involving hidden clues.
A. Straightforward

- B. Complicated
C. Awkward
D. Intricate
15. **Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.**
This monument is the older building in this area.
A. in this area
B. This monument
C. is the older building
D. No error
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Let us go to the museum, _____?
A. do we
B. don't we
C. will we
D. shall we
17. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
That which lasts for a short time.
A. Regular
B. Transitory
C. Rotatory
D. Repository
18. **Select the best express Synonym of the given italicize word.**
Her attendance was so **erratic** that the teacher had trouble keeping her on track with assignments.
A. Regular
B. Unpredictable
C. Uniform
D. Stable
19. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
P) French President Emmanuel Macron says the agenda is to increase “financial solidarity with the [Global] South”
Q) India, the president of the G20 this year, is co-chairing the steering committee of the summit with France and can be counted on to be that voice of the Global South
R) As world leaders and finance moguls land in Paris for the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact,
S) it's time to take concrete steps for sustainable finance and not let this be another international summit without substance
A. RSPQ
B. QPRS
C. QRPS
D. RQPS
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**

He said that it would be fun if I could join.

A. He said, "It will have been fun if I could have joined."

B. He said, "It will be fun if you can join."

C. He said, "It will have been fun if you had joined."

D. He said, "It will have been fun if I had joined."

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number

I wished I (1) ___ teach this to dhri as well, but I feared it was too (2) _____. Already he had started thinking like the men (3) ___ him embracing the world of the court with open arms. And I? Each day I thought less and (4) ___ like the women around me. Each day I moved further from them (5) ___ a dusky solitude

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

A. could

B. would

C. can

D. may

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

A. early

B. last minute

C. late

D. later

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

A. revolving

B. surmounting

C. around

D. rotating

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

A. more

B. little

C. less

D. limited

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

A. on to

B. up to

C. Inner

D. into

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) India's pragmatic yet cautious engagement with the Taliban for strategic security reasons

The passage discusses India's evolving policy toward Afghanistan under the Taliban, emphasizing that engagement is driven by security, regional stability, and strategic interest, but must be balanced with ethical and diplomatic caution. The theme revolves around realpolitik—India's pragmatic move to deal with a power it cannot ignore, while maintaining moral boundaries.

- A: Incorrect; the passage explicitly warns against appeasement and reputational risks.
- B: Incorrect; the text shows deterioration in Afghan-Pakistan ties and India's benefit from that, not cooperation.
- D: Incorrect; no internal Taliban politics are discussed — focus is on India's foreign policy.

2. B) India is pragmatically engaging with the Taliban despite past conflicts.

The passage clearly shows that India is engaging with the Taliban to protect its security and investments — a "pragmatic" approach, not ideological alignment.

- A: Incorrect — India is engaging, not isolating, the Taliban.
- C: Incorrect — The passage says India is taking "a step closer," not full recognition.
- D: Incorrect — India is continuing and even enhancing projects, not withdrawing.

3. C) India plans to upgrade its embassy in Kabul and exchange diplomats with the Taliban.

The passage clearly mentions that India "announced that it would upgrade the Indian Embassy in Kabul... and that both sides will exchange diplomats."

- A: Incorrect — Only Russia has recognized the Taliban; India has not.
- B: Incorrect — The UN waived the travel ban, not imposed new sanctions.
- D: Incorrect — Taliban assured that Afghan territory won't be used against India.

4. B) Afghanistan will not allow its territory to be used against India.

This assurance marks a "considerable shift from 2001–21" when Taliban forces attacked Indian missions and projects.

- A: Incorrect — No mention of Pakistan operating freely.
- C: Incorrect — Relations are improving, not ending.
- D: Incorrect — Passage focuses on engagement with India, not preference for China.

5. B) To neutralize security risks and protect Indian investments.

The passage explicitly mentions India's strategic reasons: "neutralise the considerable security risk and terror threat... and protect India's personnel and investment."

- A: Incorrect — No reference to natural resources.
- C: Incorrect — India's goal is not mediation.
- D: Incorrect — India distanced itself from Taliban's internal policies.

6. B) DBCA

D: Sentence D introduces a broad and general statement about disasters around the world, making it a suitable starting point.

B: Sentence B follows D well because it explains what these "disasters" specifically refer to, namely the consequences of climate change

C: Statement C follows Statement B by providing a specific and recent example that reinforces the general assertion in B.

A: Both paragraphs A and C mention specific instances of disasters, but the time indications in A ("Two weeks ago") and C ("Ten days ago") help us understand the sequence. C is closer in time to the present, so it follows B, and A comes after that.

7. B) The correct spelling of '**nouss**' is '**nous**' which means "intelligence, acumen, practical sense" समझ-बूझ।
8. B) **Whopping** (adjective) – huge, massive, enormous, tremendous बहुत अधिक / भारी
Synonym: **Massive** (adjective) – very large or heavy (विशाल)
 - **Tiny** (adjective) – very small (बहुत छोटा)
 - **Meager** (adjective) – insufficient (अल्प)
 - **Minimal** (adjective) – the least possible (न्यूनतम)
9. B) **Get into hot water** (idiom) – To get into trouble मुश्किल में पड़ना
10. D) **Reconciliation** का use होगा क्योंकि "reconciliation" का अर्थ होता है दो विपरीत या अलग चीजों को सामंजस्य में लाना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि worksheets की arrangement या समाधान आसान नहीं है, जो 'reconciliation' के अर्थ से मेल खाता है। बाकी विकल्प 'reconciliation', 'reconsiliation', और 'reconsilation' गलत spelling हैं।
11. C) **Gratify** (verb) – Please, satisfy, delight, fulfill, content संतुष्ट करना – खुश करना, तुष्ट करना
Antonym: **Dissatisfy** (verb) – Fail to please, disappoint, displease असंतुष्ट करना – नाखुश करना, निराश करना
 - **Please** – Give pleasure or satisfaction. प्रसन्न करना
 - **Delight** – Bring joy or great pleasure. आनंदित करना
 - **Satisfy** – Meet expectations or needs. संतोष देना
12. A) 'in much parts' के बदले '**in many parts**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'parts' गिनती योग्य संज्ञा है, और 'much' का प्रयोग अगिनतीय संज्ञाओं के साथ होता है। इसके विपरीत, 'many' का प्रयोग गिनतीय संज्ञाओं के साथ किया जाता है; जैसे— In many parts of the country, there is a rich cultural heritage.
 - '**in much parts**' will be replaced by 'in many parts' because 'parts' is a countable noun, and 'much' is used with uncountable nouns. Conversely, 'many' is used with countable nouns; Like— In many parts of the country, there is a rich cultural heritage
13. C) 'concentrated' के बदले '**concentrate**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Modal Verb 'could not' के बाद Verb का Base Form आता है; जैसे— I could not concentrate on my studies.
 - '**concentrate**' will be used instead of 'concentrated' because after the modal verb 'could not', the base form of the verb is used; Like— I could not concentrate on my studies
14. A) **Tricky** (adjective) – Difficult, complicated, challenging, awkward, problematic कठिन – पेचीदा, उलझा हुआ

Antonym: **Straightforward** (adjective) – Simple, easy to understand, uncomplicated सरल – स्पष्ट, सहज, सीधा

- **Complicated** – Complex, tangled, difficult. जटिल
- **Awkward** – Clumsy, uncomfortable, hard to manage. अटपटा
- **Intricate** – Very detailed or complex. पेचीदा

15. C) 'is the older building' के बदले **'is the oldest building'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ तुलना तीन या उससे अधिक वस्तुओं की हो रही है, अतः Superlative Degree का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— This book is the oldest in my collection.

- 'is the oldest building' will be used instead of 'is the older building' because here the comparison is among three or more things, hence Superlative Degree will be used; Like— This book is the oldest in my collection

16. D) **shall we** का use होगा क्योंकि यह एक invitation या suggestion के लिए एक polite way है। इस sentence में वक्ता museum जाने का suggestion दे रहा है, इसलिए 'shall we' सही है। 'Do we' और 'Don't we' का use general agreement या habit के context में होता है, और 'Will we' future actions के certainty को express करता है, जो यहाँ पर नहीं बैठता।

- D. **shall we** should be used because it serves as a polite way to offer an invitation or suggestion. The sentence implies a proposal to visit the museum, making 'shall we' the appropriate choice. 'Do we' and 'Don't we' are used in contexts of general agreement or habitual actions, and 'Will we' expresses certainty about future actions, which are not suitable here

17. B) **Transitory** (adjective) – That which lasts for a short time; temporary. अस्थायी

- **Regular** (adjective) – Something occurring at fixed intervals or done routinely. नियमित
- **Rotatory** (adjective) – Involving or causing rotation or movement around an axis. घूर्णनशील
- **Repository** (noun) – A place or container where something is stored or deposited. भंडार

18. B) **Erratic** (adjective) – unpredictable, inconsistent, unstable, variable, irregular अनियमित / अस्थिर

Synonym: **Unpredictable** (adj) – Not consistent or reliable (अपूर्वानुमेय)

- **Regular** (adj) – Fixed pattern (नियमित)
- **Uniform** (adj) – Always the same (समान)
- **Stable** (adj) – Firm and steady (स्थिर)

19. A) **RSPQ**

S comes after R: The pronoun "it's" in sentence S ("it's time to take...") is referring back to the summit mentioned in sentence R. R sets the scene about a summit, and S elaborates on the expectations of that summit.

P comes after S: Sentence S talks about the necessity to take concrete steps for sustainable finance. Sentence P then provides specific detail about what one of those steps or agendas might be, i.e., increasing "financial solidarity with the [Global] South". P provides context to the generic statement made in S.

Q comes after P: Sentence P mentions an agenda concerning the Global South. Sentence Q immediately provides more specific information about who might represent the Global South's voice in this context, which is India. The phrase "the Global South" in Q acts as a linking hint to P.

20. B) **He said, "It will be fun if you can join."**

Direct Speech में वाक्य को Active Voice में लिखा जाता है और Indirect Speech से इसे वापस बदलते समय वाक्य का मूल संदर्भ, tense, और शब्दावली का ध्यान रखना पड़ता है। यहां "He said" reporting verb है, और "it would be fun if I could join" reported speech है। "said" का प्रयोग बिना किसी reporting verb change के direct speech में किया गया है। Indirect Speech में "would" का प्रयोग future possibility या conditional sentence के लिए होता है। Direct Speech में इसे "will" और "can" के रूप में परिवर्तित किया जाता है, क्योंकि यह संभावना (possibility) और वर्तमान समय के लिए उपयुक्त है। "I" को "you" में बदला जाता है, क्योंकि reporting का दृष्टिकोण बदल गया है।

- To convert a sentence from Indirect Speech to Direct Speech, the original context, tense, and pronouns must be adjusted appropriately. The reporting verb "said" remains unchanged as there is no need to modify it while converting to direct speech. In indirect speech, "would" indicates a future possibility or a conditional statement. In direct speech, "would" is reverted to "will" (present/future tense) and "could" to "can," as it represents a possibility in the present or near future. The pronoun "I" from the indirect speech changes to "you" in direct speech, reflecting the perspective of the person being addressed.

21. A) **'Could'** का use होगा क्योंकि "could" का अर्थ होता है किसी कार्य को कर पाने की क्षमता या संभावना को व्यक्त करना, खासकर भूतकाल में। Sentence में इच्छा व्यक्त की गई है कि वक्ता धृ को यह सिखा पाते, परंतु डरते हैं कि यह बहुत जटिल हो सकता है। 'Could' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह भूतकाल की क्षमता या संभावना को दर्शाता है। 'Would' एक स्थिति या परिणाम की संभावना को व्यक्त करता है, 'Can' वर्तमान में क्षमता को दर्शाता है, और 'May' अनुमति या संभावना को व्यक्त करता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं

- **'Could'** should be used because it signifies the ability or possibility to do something, especially in the past. The sentence expresses a wish to teach Dhri something, but there is fear that it might be too complex. 'Could' is fitting here as it indicates past capability or possibility. 'Would' indicates a conditional or future possibility, 'Can' expresses present ability, and 'May' indicates permission or possibility, which don't fit in this context

22. C) **'Late'** का use होगा क्योंकि "late" यहाँ का अर्थ होता है कि कुछ करने का सही समय पहले ही निकल चुका है। Sentence का संदर्भ यह है कि लेखक को लगता है कि Dhri को यह सिखाना अब बहुत देर हो चुकी है, क्योंकि Dhri पहले से ही उस सोच में ढल चुका है जो उसके आस-पास के लोगों की है। 'Early' का मतलब होता है जल्दी में, 'Last minute' का अर्थ होता है आखिरी समय पर, और 'Later' का अर्थ होता है बाद में, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं

- **'Late'** should be used because it signifies that the appropriate time to teach Dhri has already passed. The context suggests that the narrator feels it's too late to impart this

wisdom to Dhri, as he has already begun to adopt the mindset prevalent among the men around him. 'Early' implies too soon, 'Last minute' suggests a final opportunity before a deadline, and 'Later' indicates a time in the future, none of which accurately fit the context provided

23. C) **around**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर "around" का अर्थ होता है किसी के आस-पास या समीप। Sentence में बताया गया है कि ध्री ने उसके आस-पास के पुरुषों की तरह सोचना शुरू कर दिया है, जो राजदरबार की दुनिया को खुले हाथों से स्वीकार कर रहे हैं। इसलिए, 'around' इस context में सही है। 'Revolving' और 'Rotating' का अर्थ है घूमना या चक्कर लगाना, और 'Surmounting' का अर्थ है पार करना या विजयी होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं

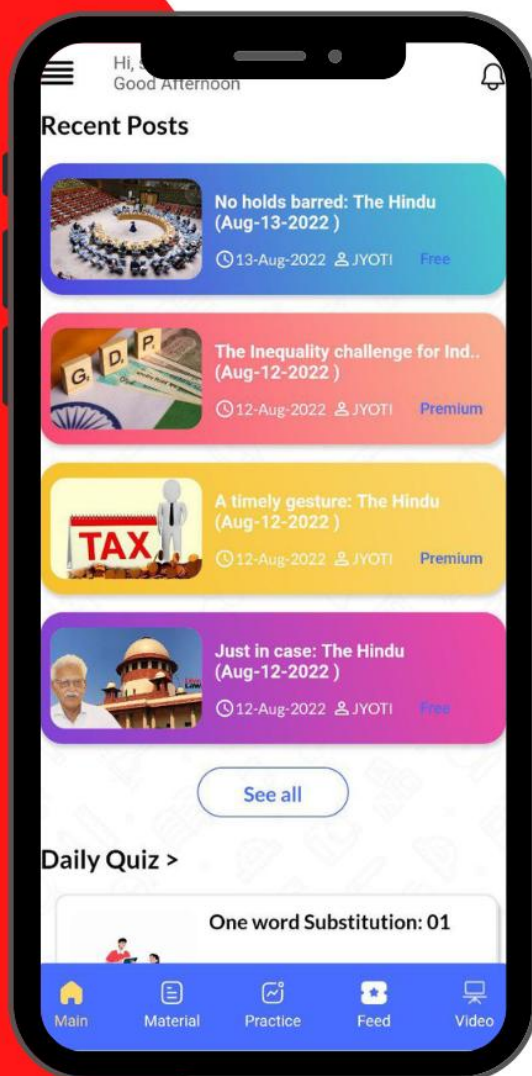
- **'around'** should be used because it indicates proximity or the surrounding area. The sentence implies that Dhri began to think like the men surrounding him, who wholeheartedly embrace the court's world. Thus, 'around' is appropriate here. 'Revolving' and 'Rotating' suggest movement in a circle or orbit, and 'Surmounting' implies overcoming, none of which fit this context correctly

24. C) **Less**' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात की जा रही है कि लेखक प्रतिदिन महिलाओं की तरह सोचने में कमी महसूस करता है। 'Less' यहाँ कमी दर्शाने के लिए सही शब्द है, क्योंकि यह संदर्भ लेखक के विचारों और महिलाओं के विचारों के बीच घटती समानता को बताता है। 'More' का अर्थ है अधिक, जो यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि बात कम होने की जा रही है। 'Little' और 'Limited' भी इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये शब्द यहाँ दिए गए अर्थ को सही तरीके से व्यक्त नहीं करते।

- **'Less'** should be used because it conveys a decrease in the extent to which the speaker thinks like the women around them. 'Less' accurately reflects the diminishing similarity between the thoughts of the speaker and those of the women, as the sentence discusses a reduction in similarity. 'More' implies an increase, which is not appropriate here since the context is about decreasing. 'Little' and 'Limited' are also not correct in this context as they do not accurately express the meaning intended in the passage

25. D) **Into**' का use होगा क्योंकि "into" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थिति या अवस्था में प्रवेश करना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि प्रत्येक दिन वह महिलाओं से दूर एक धुंधली एकांत में चली जाती है, इसलिए 'into' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह 'a dusky solitude' की स्थिति में प्रवेश करने का भाव देता है। 'On to' का अर्थ होता है किसी विशिष्ट स्थान पर चलना या स्थानांतरित होना, 'up to' का अर्थ है किसी स्तर तक पहुँचना, और 'Inner' सही विकल्प नहीं है क्योंकि यहाँ किसी आंतरिक गुण या अवस्था की बात नहीं है।

- **'Into'** should be used because it indicates entering a state or condition. The sentence describes moving further away from the women around into a state of "a dusky solitude," making 'into' the correct choice as it conveys the action of entering into this condition. 'On to' implies moving to a specific place or position, 'up to' indicates reaching up to a certain level, and 'Inner' is not the right choice as the context does not refer to an internal quality or state.



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