

Claim, counterclaim: On India and foreign policy

India must **speak out** on world issues with moral clarity, not **tactical ambiguity**

President Donald Trump appears to have **set the cat among the pigeons** yet again **so far as** recent Indian foreign policy actions are **concerned**, this time **with regard to** an **alleged assurance** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India would **halt** its oil imports from Russia. Speaking at the White House, Mr. Trump said that Mr. Modi had assured him on Wednesday (October 15, 2025) that India “will not be buying oil from Russia... Now we’ve got to get China to do the same thing”. This **utterance** follows **in the wake of** a summer of **heightened** temperatures in the **bilateral** space, after multiple claims by Mr. Trump that he played a role in **bringing** Operation Sindoor **to** an **abrupt halt**, with a full and immediate **ceasefire** agreed only after “a long night of talks **mediated** by the United States”. India was quick to challenge the White House’s **narrative**, with a Ministry of Foreign Affairs **spokesperson** saying that he was unaware of a conversation between the leaders on the previous day, even if discussions were “ongoing” about **deepening** India’s energy cooperation with the U.S. **Nevertheless**, he did not **unequivocally** confirm or deny Mr. Trump’s **assertion** that India would be halting its purchases of Russian oil. A similar ‘soft **denial**’ approach seemed to be the chosen **tack in the aftermath of** Operation Sindoor.

The **quandary** faced by Indian foreign policy strategists **is** that India is in a sensitive phase of bilateral engagement with the U.S., specifically regarding its hopes for bilateral trade deal **in the nearer term** and shared regional goals in the context of the rise of China, over the longer **arc** of the evolving balance of power in Asia. Additionally, Mr. Trump’s **sheer chimerical nature**, which is either the **trait** of an **impulsive** but popular leader on American soil, or the standard “art of the deal” **playbook** trait of a President seeking to bring global **counterparts to the negotiating table**, **appears** to be routinely frustrating **South Block mandarins seeking predictability** in their engagements with U.S. **interlocutors**. India may have found an appropriate response in avoiding **knee-jerk public reactions** to the sometimes **outlandish** claims of Mr. Trump. However, the bigger **challenge** for New Delhi **is** to clarify its global posture on issues such as the purchase of Russian oil in the context of Russian aggression in Ukraine. It would do well to remember that it is not so much the **strident** voices of the North Atlantic that **matter** as much as India’s hopes to be a true global power one day, and speak with the moral clarity that **accompanies** such a title. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Speak out** (phrasal verb) – express one's opinions frankly and publicly. खुलकर बोलना
2. **Tactical** (adjective) – strategic, calculated, planned, shrewd, clever सामरिक
3. **Ambiguity** (noun) – uncertainty, vagueness, obscurity, equivocation, doubt अस्पष्टता
4. **Set the cat among the pigeons** (phrase) – to cause trouble and make people very angry or worried. तूफान खड़ा कर देना
5. **So far as** (phrase) – as far as, to the extent that, regarding, concerning जहां तक
6. **Concerned** (adjective) – involved, relevant, related, connected, pertaining संबंधित
7. **With regard to** (phrase) – regarding, concerning, about, with respect to, relating to के संबंध में
8. **Alleged** (adjective) – supposed, claimed, purported, reported, unproven कथित
9. **Assurance** (noun) – promise, guarantee, pledge, commitment, vow आश्वासन
10. **Halt** (verb) – stop, cease, discontinue, suspend, bring to an end रोकना
11. **Utterance** (noun) – statement, remark, comment, declaration, expression उक्ति
12. **In the wake of** (phrase) – following, after, subsequent to, as a result of के बाद
13. **Heightened** (adjective) – increased, intensified, elevated, amplified, enhanced बढ़ा हुआ
14. **Bilateral** (adjective) – involving two parties, two-sided, mutual, between two द्विपक्षीय
15. **Bring something to a halt** (phrase) – stop, cease, terminate, end, discontinue रोक देना
16. **Abrupt** (adjective) – sudden, unexpected, hurried, sharp, immediate अचानक
17. **Ceasefire** (noun) – truce, armistice, suspension of hostilities, peace युद्धविराम
18. **Mediate** (verb) – arbitrate, negotiate, intervene, facilitate, reconcile मध्यस्थता करना
19. **Narrative** (noun) – account, story, version, portrayal, description कथा
20. **Spokesperson** (noun) – representative, official speaker, mouthpiece, agent प्रवक्ता
21. **Deepen** (verb) – strengthen, intensify, enhance, consolidate, fortify गहरा करना
22. **Nevertheless** (adverb) – however, nonetheless, even so, still, yet फिर भी

23. **Unequivocally** (adverb) – unambiguously, clearly, definitely, categorically, unmistakably स्पष्ट रूप से
24. **Assertion** (noun) – declaration, statement, claim, affirmation, contention दावा
25. **Denial** (noun) – rejection, refutation, repudiation, contradiction, disclaimer इनकार
26. **Tack** (noun) – approach, tactic, strategy, method, policy रुख
27. **In the aftermath of** (phrase) – the period following a significant and usually unpleasant event. के परिणामस्वरूप
28. **Quandary** (noun) – dilemma, predicament, difficulty, plight, catch-22 दुविधा
29. **In the near term** (phrase) – in the immediate future, shortly, soon, before long निकट भविष्य में
30. **Arc** (noun) – trajectory, course, curve, span, progression क्रम
31. **Sheer** (adjective) – utter, complete, total, absolute, pure वास्तविक, असली
32. **Chimerical** (adjective) – fanciful, unrealistic, illusory, imaginary, impractical काल्पनिक
33. **Trait** (noun) – characteristic, quality, feature, attribute, property विशेषता
34. **Impulsive** (adjective) – spontaneous, impetuous, rash, hasty, unthinking आवेगशील
35. **Playbook** (noun) – strategy, plan, method, approach, tactics रणनीति
36. **Counterpart** (noun) – equivalent, opposite number, peer, parallel प्रतिरूप
37. **The negotiating table** (noun) – the context of diplomatic discussions.
38. **South Block** (noun) – the building housing India's Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of External Affairs.
39. **Mandarin** (noun) – official, bureaucrat, administrator, functionary उच्च अधिकारी
40. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim, strive, endeavour कोशिश करना
41. **Predictability** (noun) – certainty, reliability, consistency, stability, foreseeability पूर्वानुमेयता
42. **Interlocutor** (noun) – negotiator, mediator, discussant, conversational partner वार्ताकार
43. **Knee-jerk reaction** (phrase) – automatic response, reflex, impulsive reaction, instant response अचानक प्रतिक्रिया
44. **Outlandish** (adjective) – bizarre, eccentric, weird, strange, ridiculous विचित्र
45. **Strident** (adjective) – harsh, loud, forceful, vehement, shrill कठोर

46. **Matter** (verb) – be important, count, be significant, be of consequence महत्त्व रखना

47. **Accompany** (verb) – go with, be associated with, attend, complement साथ देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. U.S. President Donald Trump recently claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him India would stop importing oil from Russia.
2. Trump's statement was made publicly at the White House, implying India's alignment with U.S. sanctions on Russia.
3. This claim follows earlier remarks by Trump about his alleged role in ending Operation Sindoor, a ceasefire that India said was independently managed.
4. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) responded cautiously, neither confirming nor directly denying Trump's assertion.
5. The MEA stated that discussions with the U.S. on energy cooperation were "ongoing," reflecting a soft denial strategy.
6. This diplomatic ambiguity mirrors India's earlier response to Trump's claims about Operation Sindoor, suggesting a deliberate pattern.
7. India's policymakers face a diplomatic dilemma — balancing ties with the U.S. while maintaining strategic autonomy in foreign policy.
8. The U.S. remains crucial for India's goals, including a bilateral trade deal and regional stability amid China's growing influence.
9. Trump's unpredictable and impulsive behavior, described as "chimerical," complicates India's engagement with Washington.
10. New Delhi's measured silence and avoidance of "knee-jerk reactions" may be aimed at maintaining stability and avoiding escalation.
11. However, India's reluctance to clarify its stance could also project tactical ambiguity, which might weaken its moral credibility globally.
12. The editorial argues that India must move beyond defensive diplomacy and adopt a principled position on major global issues.
13. On matters like Russian oil imports and Ukraine conflict, India should define its position clearly, based on moral and strategic reasoning.
14. The piece cautions that India's global aspirations depend not only on power and pragmatism but also on moral clarity in its foreign policy.
15. Ultimately, the editorial urges India to act like a true global power — one that speaks out with conviction and consistency, not cautious silence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what was the immediate Indian response to President Trump's claim about India halting Russian oil imports?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. A firm and unequivocal denial of the conversation ever taking place.
 - B. An enthusiastic confirmation of the new energy cooperation policy.
 - C. A cautious "soft denial" by stating unawareness of the conversation, without explicitly confirming or denying the claim.
 - D. An official complaint about the misrepresentation of diplomatic discussions.
2. **The passage suggests that India's restrained response to Trump's claims is primarily due to:**
 - A. India's complete agreement with the United States on all foreign policy matters.
 - B. A lack of communication between the Indian and American governments.
 - C. India's sensitive and important ongoing engagements with the U.S., including trade and shared regional goals.
 - D. Fear of economic sanctions from the North Atlantic powers.
3. **Based on the author's concluding argument, what is the "bigger challenge" for India beyond managing its relationship with the U.S.?**
 - A. To immediately halt all oil imports from Russia to satisfy its Western allies.
 - B. To clarify its global posture on contentious issues with moral clarity befitting a future global power.
 - C. To publicly condemn President Trump's "chimerical nature" and unpredictable statements.
 - D. To focus its diplomatic efforts solely on economic partnerships and trade deals.
4. **How does the passage characterize the primary cause of frustration for Indian diplomats ("South Block mandarins") in their dealings with the U.S. under President Trump?**
 - A. A fundamental disagreement over regional goals, particularly regarding the rise of China.
 - B. The United States' refusal to engage in a bilateral trade deal with India.
 - C. The "chimerical nature" and unpredictability of President Trump's statements and claims.
 - D. America's continued insistence that India sever all defense ties with Russia.
5. **The author implies that India's "soft denial" approach is a calculated strategy because:**
 - A. It is a formal diplomatic protocol that must be followed in all such situations.
 - B. It allows India to publicly correct the record without jeopardizing sensitive ongoing negotiations.
 - C. It is a direct result of pressure from Russia to maintain their oil trade relationship.
 - D. It helps India align its public stance more closely with that of China on the issue.
6. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**

The old man manifested his greed at the sight of a huge amount of money.

 - A. displayed
 - B. concealed
 - C. suppressed
 - D. marked
7. **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. This decision underscores the importance of fostering an inclusive atmosphere while maintaining discipline and uniformity within institutions.

- B. The Supreme Court's decision to partially stay the Mumbai college circular banning the hijab, while upholding restrictions on the niqab and burqa, strikes a commendable balance between respecting religious sentiments and addressing the pragmatic needs of modern education.
- C. By allowing the hijab but restricting face-covering attire like the niqab and burqa, the SC has set a precedent that other institutions with similar issues would do well to follow.
- D. It is a nuanced attempt to reconcile cultural traditions with the demands of contemporary academic environment.
- A. BDAC
B. CABD
C. BCAD
D. ABCD
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Dwarfed varieties of trees and shrubs in pots
- A. Bonafide
B. Orchard
C. Botanical
D. Bonsai
9. **Choose the option most opposite in meaning to the underlined word(s).**
The fallen trees blocked our passage to freedom from the wood.
- A. facilitated
B. started
C. checked
D. promoted
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
The programme emphasizes / with mentoring people / to take risks and to act / in a more entrepreneurial way.
- A. to take risks and to act
B. with mentoring people
C. The programme emphasizes
D. in a more entrepreneurial way.
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom**
Organizing the international conference with such short notice was a Herculean task, but the team managed to pull it off successfully.
- A. A task that requires little effort
B. A task that is extremely difficult and requires great strength or effort
C. A task that is enjoyable and fun
D. A task that can be completed quickly and easily
12. **Which one of the following alternatives has the correct spelling?**
- A. Commisionor
B. Commisioner
C. Commissioner
D. Comissioner

13. 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. The genuine beliefs, though not unconsciously acquired by most children; and even if they depart from these beliefs in later life
- B. Something of them remains deeply implanted, ready to emerge in a time of stress of crisis
- C. The importance of education in forming character and opinion is very great and well recognised by all
- D. Education is, as a rule, the strongest force on the side of what exists and again fundamental change
- A. DABC
- B. CBAD
- C. DCAB
- D. CABD
14. Directions: Each item consists of a word or group of words in CAPITAL letters, followed by four options. Select the option most similar in meaning to the CAPITAL word(s).
- HOBNOB
- A. Nagging
- B. Friendly chat
- C. Quarrel
- D. Pestering manner
15. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.
- The patronage bestowed in consideration of family relationships and not of merit.
- A. Egotism
- B. Mannerism
- C. Neologism
- D. Nepotism
16. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
- No variety of mango / produced in our country / is as tasty / as this variety.
- A. produced in our country
- B. No variety of mango
- C. is as tasty
- D. as this variety
17. Select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank
- He decided to _____ and escalate the war
- A. Wave the red flag
- B. Tighten the purse strings
- C. Cry foul
- D. Double down
18. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.
- The early national movement succeeded to arouse among the people the feeling that they belonged to one common nation – the Indian nation.
- A. In arousing

- B. At arousing
- C. For arousing
- D. No substitution required

19. **Directions: Each item consists of a word or group of words in CAPITAL letters, followed by four options. Select the option most similar in meaning to the CAPITAL word(s).**

HUSH UP

- A. Blow up
- B. To keep quiet
- C. To remove
- D. Wind up

20. **In the given question, a statement divided into different segments is given. Rearrange all the segments to form a coherent statement.**

O: population is expected to triple in

P: the next 50 years

Q: among the world's poorest countries

R: population shrinkage in that period

S: whereas many rich countries will see

- A. SPORQ
- B. RSOPQ
- C. POSQR
- D. QOPSR

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.

Research on infections over the past few decades has focused on hospitals, day-care facilities and schools, but (1) _____ attention was paid to the home. Today, the increase of food borne illness and a (2) _____ need for home health care have focused interest on hygiene and cleanliness in the home. 'Hygiene' refers to conditions or practices by which people maintain or promote good health by keeping themselves and their surroundings (3) _____. Even in our contemporary society, good hygiene practices continue to be the primary disease-prevention strategy. Hygiene is one of the silent victories of public health. Personal hygiene and household cleanliness practices affect the risk (4) _____ spreading infectious disease. There are many disease-causing microbes whose transmission can be controlled by proper personal hygiene and household cleaning practices. A framework for developing practical home strategies to manage risk from infections is (5) _____.

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

- A. little
- B. a little
- C. no little
- D. the little

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

- A. rare
- B. growing

- C. decreasing
 - D. declining
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**
- A. clear
 - B. clean
 - C. close
 - D. cluttered
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**
- A. for
 - B. about
 - C. of
 - D. at
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**
- A. ineffective
 - B. required
 - C. impossible
 - D. risky

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **A cautious "soft denial" by stating unawareness of the conversation, without explicitly confirming or denying the claim.**

The passage states that a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said he was "unaware of a conversation between the leaders on the previous day" and that he "did not unequivocally confirm or deny Mr. Trump's assertion." This approach is described as a "soft denial," mirroring the strategy used after "Operation Sindoor." Options A and B are incorrect as they represent definitive positions that India did not take. Option D is not mentioned in the passage.

2. C) **India's sensitive and important ongoing engagements with the U.S., including trade and shared regional goals.**

The passage explicitly mentions that India is in a "sensitive phase of bilateral engagement with the U.S.," specifically regarding hopes for a trade deal and shared goals concerning China's rise. This strategic importance discourages a knee-jerk public reaction. Option A is contradicted by the entire tone of the passage. Option B is not supported, as discussions are noted as "ongoing." Option D is mentioned as less important ("it is not so much the strident voices of the North Atlantic that matter"), making it a secondary concern.

3. B) **To clarify its global posture on contentious issues with moral clarity befitting a future global power.**

The author concludes by stating that the bigger challenge is for New Delhi "to clarify its global posture on issues such as the purchase of Russian oil..." and that it should aspire to "speak with the moral clarity that accompanies" the title of a true global power. Option A is a specific policy action that the passage does not prescribe. Option C is the opposite of the restrained approach the passage describes India as taking. Option D is too narrow and ignores the broader geopolitical and moral dimension the author emphasizes.

4. C) **The "chimerical nature" and unpredictability of President Trump's statements and claims.**

The passage directly states that "Mr. Trump's sheer chimerical nature... appears to be routinely frustrating South Block mandarins seeking predictability in their engagements." This points to his unpredictable and impulsive behavior as the core of the frustration. While options A and D are mentioned as elements of the bilateral relationship, they are not cited as the primary cause of the frustration described here. Option B is contradicted by the passage, which states India hopes for a trade deal, not that the U.S. has refused one.

5. B) **It allows India to publicly correct the record without jeopardizing sensitive ongoing negotiations.**

The passage frames India's "soft denial" not as a weakness but as an "appropriate response" to avoid "knee-jerk public reactions." This approach allows India to manage the relationship without explicitly contradicting the U.S. President, which is crucial given the "sensitive phase of bilateral engagement" concerning trade and shared goals. There is no evidence in the passage

to support options A, C, or D. The strategy is portrayed as a pragmatic choice, not a protocol, a response to Russian pressure, or an alignment with China.

6. B) **Manifested** (verb) – showed, revealed, displayed, demonstrated, exhibited प्रकट करना / दिखाना

Antonym: Concealed (verb) – hid, covered, obscured, disguised, kept secret छिपाना

- **Displayed** (verb) – showed, presented, demonstrated, revealed. दिखाना
- **Suppressed** (verb) – restrained, stifled, subdued, controlled. दबाना
- **Marked** (verb) – indicated, signified, distinguished, observed. चिह्नित करना

7. A) **BDAC**

B: This sentence introduces the topic of the Supreme Court's judgment, which is essential for setting the tone of the paragraph.

D: "It" is a pronoun that refers back to the decision in Sentence B. The use of this pronoun links the two sentences, making D the natural continuation.

A: This decision" is a demonstrative pronoun that specifically points to the idea discussed in Sentence D, creating cohesion between D and A.

C: C concludes the paragraph as it talks about the precedent set by the Supreme Court's decision, which relates to how other institutions might follow this example.

8. D) **Bonsai** (noun) – Dwarfed varieties of trees and shrubs in pots बौने पौधे

- **Bonafide** (adjective) – genuine; real वास्तविक
- **Orchard** (noun) – a piece of enclosed land planted with fruit trees बगीचा
- **Botanical** (adjective) – relating to plants or plant life वनस्पति संबंधी

9. A) **Blocked** (verb) – Obstructed, hindered, barricaded, stopped, impeded अवरुद्ध/रोकना

Antonym: Facilitated (verb) – Made easy, assisted, helped, enabled, simplified सुगम बनाना/सहायता करना

- **Started** (verb) – To begin or initiate something. प्रारंभ करना
- **Promoted** (verb) – To advance, encourage, support, upgrade. बढ़ावा देना.
- **Checked** (verb) – To restrain, control, stop, halt. रोकना / नियंत्रित करना.

10. B) 'with' को हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'emphasize' एक Transitive Verb का काम करता है। अतः 'emphasize' के बाद 'with' या 'on' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है बल्कि सीधा object का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे

He emphasized the importance of education.

- The word 'with' has to be removed because 'emphasize' functions as a transitive verb. Therefore, after 'emphasize', the use of 'with' or 'on' is not correct; instead, a direct object is used; for example:

He emphasized the importance of education.

11. B) A task that is extremely difficult and requires great strength or effort – Herculean task (idiom) – एक ऐसा कार्य जो बहुत कठिन हो और बहुत शक्ति या प्रयास की आवश्यकता हो

12. C) The correct spelling is '**Commissioner**' which means "a senior official in charge of a department/commission" – आयुक्त.

13. D) **CABD**

- Why C comes first: This sentence introduces the general idea of the role of education in shaping character and beliefs
 - Why A follows C: A expands on the idea of education's role in forming beliefs, explaining that while children may not always unconsciously acquire these beliefs, they still form a part of their character.
 - Why B follows A: B connects logically by explaining that even if individuals depart from the beliefs formed in their childhood, these beliefs remain deeply implanted and can resurface in moments of crisis. It continues the thought introduced in A.
 - Why D concludes: D wraps up the paragraph by reinforcing the idea that education generally supports the status quo and resists significant change.
14. B) **HOBNOB** :- spending time in informal, friendly association with someone, often important or influential. मित्रतापूर्ण
Synonym: **Friendly** chat (noun) – Informal talk, light conversation, social interaction मित्रतापूर्ण बातचीत
- **Nagging** (verb) – Persistently annoying or finding fault. लगातार तंग करना
 - **Quarrel** (noun) – Heated argument or disagreement. झगड़ा, विवाद
 - **Pestering manner** (noun phrase) – An irritating or bothering way. परेशान करने का तरीका
15. D) **Nepotism** (noun) – The patronage bestowed in consideration of family relationships and not of merit भाई-भतीजावाद
- **Egotism** (noun) – the practice of talking and thinking about oneself excessively because of an undue sense of self-importance. आत्मप्रशंसा
 - **Mannerism** (noun) – a habitual gesture or way of speaking or behaving. चालचलन
 - **Neologism** (noun) – a newly coined word or expression. नवशब्द
16. B) 'No variety' के बदले 'No other variety' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब एक वर्ग के व्यक्ति या वस्तु की तुलना उसी वर्ग के सारे व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं से Positive Degree में करनी हो तो उसके लिए बनावट No other + Singular Noun... so/as + Positive Degree + as + होता है; जैसे No other leader in the R.J.D. is so/as powerful as Mr. Laloo Prasad.
- B) Instead of 'No variety', 'No other variety' will be used because when comparing a person or thing of one category with all other individuals or things in the same category in a positive degree, the pattern is 'No other + Singular Noun... so/as + Positive Degree + as'; for example:
No other leader in the R.J.D. is so/as powerful as Mr. Laloo Prasad.
17. D) **Double down** – To strengthen one's commitment to a strategy or course of action, especially one that is potentially risky. अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को और मजबूत करना (खासकर जोखिम भरे कार्य में)।
- **Wave the red flag** – To warn someone of danger or trouble. खतरे की चेतावनी देना
 - **Tighten the purse strings** – To reduce spending or control finances strictly. खर्च में कटौती करना
 - **Cry foul** – To complain that something wrong or unfair has happened. अन्याय की शिकायत करना

18. A) 'to arouse' के बदले 'in arousing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि succeed (= सफल होना) के बाद [in + V4] का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे

He succeeded in becoming an I.A.S.

- Instead of 'to arouse,' 'in arousing' will be used because after succeed (= to be successful), [in + V4 (gerund form)] is used; for instance

He succeeded in becoming an I.A.S.

19. B) **HUSH UP** (phrasal verb) – To conceal, suppress, or keep secret something छिपाना / चुप रखना

Synonym: **To keep quiet** – To remain silent or not reveal something. चुप रहना / बात छुपाना

- **Blow up** (phrasal verb) – To explode, destroy, or lose temper. फट जाना / गुस्सा करना
- **To remove** (verb) – To take away, eliminate. हटाना
- **Wind up** (phrasal verb) – To finish, bring something to an end. समाप्त करना

20. D) **QOPSR**

- Q: This sets the context by identifying the specific group of countries being discussed.
- O: After introducing the poorest countries in Q, O continues by explaining what is expected to happen in those countries — the population is expected to triple. This logically follows the identification of the subject in Q
- P: O mentions that the population will triple, and P provides a timeframe for this prediction. P answers when this population growth is expected to occur, giving specific details about the timeline.
- S: The word “whereas” introduces a comparison or contrast. After explaining what will happen in poor countries (population growth), S shifts the focus to rich countries, signaling a different trend (rich countries will experience something different from poor countries).
- R: R completes the thought introduced in S by specifying what will happen in rich countries — population shrinkage.

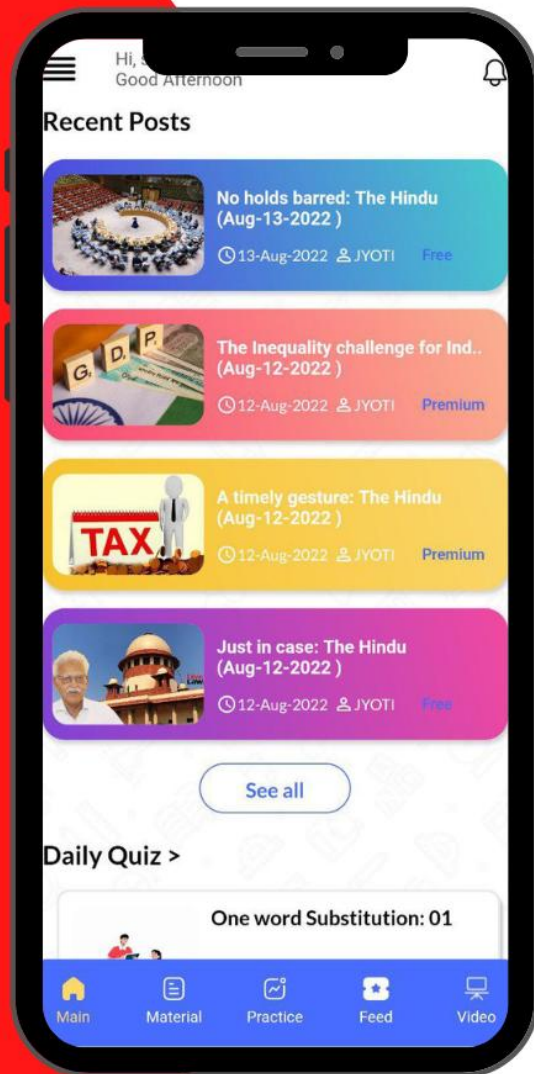
21. A) **Little** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'little' का अर्थ होता है बहुत कम या लगभग नगण्य। इस संदर्भ में, यह बताया गया है कि घर पर ध्यान देने की मात्रा बहुत कम थी। 'A little' का अर्थ होता है कुछ मात्रा में, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'No little' का अर्थ होता है पर्याप्त मात्रा में, और 'The little' का अर्थ होता है वह थोड़ा जो मौजूद है, जो इस वाक्य के भाव को व्यक्त नहीं करता है।

- **'Little'** will be used because it means very small or negligible. In this context, it conveys that very little attention was paid to the home. 'A little' means some, which does not fit here. 'No little' implies considerable amount, and 'The little' refers to the small amount that exists, both of which do not align with the context of the sentence.

22. B) **'Growing'** का उपयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह स्थिति में वृद्धि या विस्तार का संकेत देता है। Passage में यह उल्लेख है कि खाद्यजनित बीमारियों में वृद्धि और घरेलू स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की आवश्यकता पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है। इसलिए, 'growing' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। जबकि, 'Rare' का अर्थ है दुर्लभ, जो कि संदर्भ में गलत है क्योंकि यह किसी बढ़ती हुई स्थिति को नहीं दर्शाता।

'Decreasing' और 'Declining' का अर्थ है कमी या गिरावट, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता क्योंकि यहाँ आवश्यकता बढ़ रही है

- **Growing** will be used because it indicates an increase or expansion. The passage mentions an increase in foodborne illnesses and a rising need for home health care, making 'growing' the most appropriate option. Whereas: 'Rare' means uncommon, which does not align with the context since it does not indicate an increase. 'Decreasing' and 'Declining' mean reducing or falling, which are unsuitable as the passage implies an increasing need.
23. B) **Clean** का use होगा क्योंकि 'clean' का अर्थ है स्वच्छ या गंदगी रहित होना। इस sentence में hygiene के संदर्भ में surroundings को स्वच्छ रखने की बात की गई है, जो कि 'clean' से सही तरीके से व्यक्त होता है। जबकि, 'clear' का अर्थ है स्पष्ट, 'close' का अर्थ है बंद या पास, और 'cluttered' का अर्थ है अव्यवस्थित या गंदा, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Clean' will be used because it means free from dirt or impurities. In this sentence, the context of hygiene emphasizes maintaining the surroundings free from dirt, making 'clean' the appropriate choice. Whereas, 'clear' means transparent or free from obstruction, 'close' means shut or near, and 'cluttered' means messy or untidy, which do not fit in this context.
24. C) **of** का उपयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह 'risk' और 'spreading infectious disease' के बीच के संबंध को व्यक्त करता है। वाक्य में 'risk of spreading infectious disease' का अर्थ है "संक्रामक बीमारी फैलने का जोखिम।" यहाँ 'of' इस जोखिम के स्वामित्व या संबंध को व्यक्त करता है, जो वाक्य के अर्थ के लिए आवश्यक है। 'for' का अर्थ होता है "के लिए," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता। 'about' का अर्थ होता है "के बारे में," जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'at' का अर्थ होता है "पर," जो स्थान या समय को इंगित करता है और इस संदर्भ में गलत है।
- 'of' will be used because it shows the relationship between "risk" and "spreading infectious disease." The phrase "risk of spreading infectious disease" indicates "the likelihood or possibility of spreading infection." Here, 'of' is necessary to establish this possessive or relational meaning. 'for' means "intended for," which doesn't fit in this context. 'about' means "regarding," which is not suitable here 'at' indicates a specific place or time, which is incorrect in this context.
25. B) **required** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "required" का अर्थ है आवश्यकता होना। वाक्य में यह उल्लेख किया गया है कि घर में संक्रमण के जोखिम को प्रबंधित करने के लिए एक व्यावहारिक रणनीति विकसित करना आवश्यक है, इसलिए "required" सही उत्तर है। जबकि "ineffective" का अर्थ है अप्रभावी, "impossible" का अर्थ है असंभव, और "risky" का अर्थ है जोखिमभरा, ये सभी विकल्प संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
- "Required" will be used because it means "needed or necessary." The sentence emphasizes the necessity of developing a practical strategy to manage infection risks at home, making "required" the most fitting option here. Whereas, "ineffective" means not effective, "impossible" means not possible, and "risky" implies involving risk, none of which align with the context.



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