

Turning tides: On Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions

Pakistan cannot ensure internal security by **bombing** Afghanistan

When the Taliban recaptured Kabul in August 2021, after two **decades** of **insurgency**, Pakistan viewed it as a **tactical** victory. **Imran Khan**, then Prime Minister, famously **said** the Afghans had “broken the **shackles** of **slavery**”. But the Taliban’s return **emboldened** the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which is organisationally **distinct** from, yet **ideologically aligned** with, the Afghan Taliban. Over four years, **Pakistan**, particularly the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa **province** bordering Afghanistan, **has** seen a dramatic **surge** in militant attacks. This year alone, at least 2,414 people were killed in militancy-related violence in Pakistan, according to an Islamabad-based **think tank**. Pakistan blames the Afghan Taliban for **sheltering** the TTP, better known as the Pakistani Taliban, and tensions **escalated** into **full-scale** cross-border **clashes**. On October 9, 2025, while Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was visiting India, Pakistan **carried out** air strikes in Kabul, **apparently** targeting the TTP. These strikes **triggered** a week of **cross-border** attacks that left dozens dead, before a **fragile Qatar-brokered ceasefire** took effect.

When the Afghan Taliban were **waging** an insurgency, Pakistan offered them refuge and support. Pakistan’s military **establishment** expected the Taliban to remain loyal once in power. But when the Taliban took over the **reins** in Afghanistan, the old **patron-client** relationship was replaced by state-to-state ties, with deep structural **contradictions**. **The Pakistani Taliban**, which oppose the **merger** of Pakistan’s tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, **want** their version of a strict Islamic code to be **enforced** and demand the release of TTP prisoners, **drew** inspiration from the Afghan Taliban’s **triumph**. The Durand Line, the colonial-era border, re-emerged as another **flashpoint** as Kabul has never recognised it. Besides, Pakistan’s **decision** to **deport** thousands of Afghan refugees **strained** ties further. What **likely** provoked the Pakistani establishment even more was India’s diplomatic **outreach** to the Taliban. By carrying out air strikes on Kabul in response to militant attacks, Pakistan appears to be **setting a new precedent** — **holding** Kabul directly **accountable** for cross-border militant attacks — in a move **reminiscent of** India’s **doctrine** of responding to terrorism with **overwhelming** force against Pakistan. Yet, **the security crisis** in Pakistan now **engulfing** its tribal areas **is** largely **of its own making**. For decades, it has followed a contradictory policy — fighting terrorism while **harbouring** terrorist/militant groups that were fighting its neighbouring countries. It **backed** the Taliban for over two decades, hoping that a Taliban-controlled Kabul would offer it strategic depth. That strategy has now **backfired**. If Pakistan believes that it can **restore** internal security by bombing Afghanistan, it is mistaken. **Prolonged** conflict and **chaos** will only deepen **instability** and **strengthen** insurgency.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Turn tides** (phrase) – to reverse the course of events; to change the situation. रुख बदलना
2. **Bomb** (verb) – attack with explosives, strike, blast, shell, bombard बमबारी करना
3. **Decade** (noun) – Period of ten years दशक
4. **Insurgency** (noun) – rebellion, revolt, uprising, armed struggle, militancy विद्रोह
5. **Tactical** (adjective) – strategic, calculated, planned, shrewd, clever सामरिक
6. **Shackle** (noun) – chain, fetter, restraint, bond, manacle बेड़ी
7. **Slavery** (noun) – bondage, enslavement, servitude, subjugation गुलामी
8. **Embolden** (verb) – encourage, strengthen, hearten, inspire, fortify प्रोत्साहित करना
9. **Distinct** (adjective) – different, separate, individual, unique, specific अलग
10. **Ideologically** (adverb) – in terms of beliefs, based on doctrine, philosophically विचारधारात्मक रूप से
11. **Align** (with) (verb) – side with, support, join, associate, ally गठबंधन करना
12. **Province** (noun) – region, state, territory, area, district प्रांत
13. **Surge** (noun) – sudden increase, rise, upswing, escalation, growth बढ़ोतरी
14. **Think tank** (noun) – research institute, policy group, advisory body, brain trust विशेषज्ञ दल
15. **Shelter** (verb) – harbour, protect, give refuge to, shield, house शरण देना
16. **Escalate** (verb) – intensify, increase, heighten, worsen, amplify बढ़ना
17. **Full-scale** (adjective) – complete, total, all-out, comprehensive, major पूर्ण पैमाने पर
18. **Clash** (noun) – conflict, confrontation, fight, battle, skirmish टकराव
19. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – execute, perform, conduct, implement, undertake अंजाम देना
20. **Apparently** (adverb) – seemingly, evidently, ostensibly, clearly, obviously जाहिरा तौर पर
21. **Trigger** (verb) – cause, spark, set off, prompt, initiate कारण बनना
22. **Cross-border** (adjective) – across the border, transnational, international सीमा पार
23. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, vulnerable, weak, unstable, precarious नाजुक

24. **Qatar-brokered** (adjective) – mediated by Qatar, negotiated by Qatar कतर द्वारा मध्यस्थता
25. **Ceasefire** (noun) – truce, armistice, suspension of hostilities, peace युद्धविराम
26. **Take effect** (phrase) – become operative, come into force, be implemented प्रभावी होना
27. **Wage** (verb) – carry on, engage in, pursue, conduct, undertake छेड़ना
28. **Establishment** (noun) – authorities, system, regime, administration, powers प्रतिष्ठान
29. **Reins** (noun) – control, command, power, leadership, authority बागडोर
30. **Patron** (noun) – supporter, benefactor, sponsor, backer, protector संरक्षक
31. **Contradiction** (noun) – conflict, inconsistency, discrepancy, paradox, opposition विरोधाभास
32. **Merger** (noun) – union, amalgamation, combination, fusion, integration विलय
33. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, apply, impose, administer, execute लागू करना
34. **Draw** (verb) – derive, get, obtain, gain, take आकर्षित करना
35. **Triumph** (noun) – victory, success, achievement, conquest, win जीत
36. **Flashpoint** (noun) – trouble spot, hotspot, source of conflict, trigger point विस्फोटक स्थल
37. **Deport** (verb) – expel, banish, exile, evict, send away निर्वासित करना
38. **Strain** (verb) – stretch, tax, test, weaken, damage तनाव डालना
39. **Likely** (adjective) – probable, expected, anticipated, plausible, possible संभावित
40. **Outreach** (noun) – diplomatic efforts, engagement, communication, contact संपर्क
41. **Set a new precedent** (phrase) – establish a new example, create a new standard नई मिसाल कायम करना
42. **Hold someone accountable for something** (phrase) – make responsible, blame, assign responsibility जिम्मेदार ठहराना
43. **Reminiscent** (of) (adjective) – similar to, suggestive of, evocative of, recalling याद दिलाने वाला
44. **Doctrine** (noun) – policy, principle, creed, dogma, tenet सिद्धांत

45. **Overwhelming** (adjective) – very great, immense, enormous, massive, overpowering जबरदस्त
46. **Engulf** (verb) – overwhelm, swallow up, consume, envelop, immerse घेर लेना
47. **Of one's own making** (phrase) – self-created, self-inflicted, caused by oneself स्वनिर्मित
48. **Harbour** (verb) – shelter, protect, hide, conceal, give refuge to शरण देना
49. **Back** (verb) – support, finance, sponsor, fund, endorse समर्थन करना
50. **Backfire** (verb) – rebound, boomerang, fail, go wrong, miscarry उल्टा पड़ना
51. **Restore** (verb) – reestablish, reinstate, bring back, return, revive बहाल करना
52. **Prolonged** (adjective) – lengthy, extended, protracted, long-drawn, sustained लंबा
53. **Chaos** (noun) – disorder, confusion, turmoil, mayhem, pandemonium अराजकता
54. **Instability** (noun) – uncertainty, unpredictability, volatility, insecurity अस्थिरता
55. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, fortify, bolster, enhance, consolidate मजबूत करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. When the Taliban regained control of Kabul in August 2021, Pakistan initially celebrated it as a strategic victory after years of supporting the group.
2. Then Prime Minister Imran Khan hailed the Taliban's takeover as Afghans "breaking the shackles of slavery."
3. However, the Taliban's return empowered the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an ideologically aligned but separate militant organisation.
4. Since then, Pakistan, especially the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, has seen a sharp rise in militant attacks linked to the TTP.
5. In 2025 alone, over 2,400 people were killed in militancy-related violence across Pakistan, according to local research data.
6. Pakistan accuses the Afghan Taliban of sheltering the TTP, which has led to escalating cross-border tensions.
7. On October 9, 2025, while Afghanistan's Foreign Minister was in India, Pakistan launched air strikes in Kabul, allegedly targeting TTP hideouts.
8. These strikes triggered a week of deadly cross-border clashes, before a Qatar-mediated ceasefire brought temporary calm.
9. Pakistan's military once offered refuge and assistance to the Afghan Taliban, expecting continued loyalty after their victory.
10. Once the Taliban assumed power, the relationship shifted from patron-client to a strained state-to-state dynamic, exposing deep contradictions.
11. The Pakistani Taliban (TTP), inspired by the Afghan Taliban's success, demand the implementation of strict Islamic law and release of prisoners in Pakistan.
12. The Durand Line, an old colonial boundary never recognised by Kabul, remains a major flashpoint between the two countries.
13. Pakistan's decision to deport thousands of Afghan refugees has further worsened bilateral relations.
14. Pakistan's air strikes represent a dangerous new approach — directly holding Kabul responsible for cross-border terrorism, echoing India's past strategy against Pakistan.
15. The editorial concludes that Pakistan's current crisis is self-inflicted; its policy of nurturing militants for strategic depth has backfired, and bombing Afghanistan will only fuel more instability and insurgency.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **The sentence below has been divided into three parts. Select the part of the sentence that has an error. If the sentence has no error, select the option 'No Error'.**
I don't know the reason why he/ has said all this yet it/ puts him in a bad light.
A. has said all this yet it
B. No error
C. Puts him in a bad light.
D. I don't know the reason why he
2. **Arrange the given sentences (1-6) in the correct order to form a coherent paragraph.**
 1. They had escaped the dark world and were enveloped in a dazzling white light which almost blinded them.
 2. The fountain of immortality sprung before them from which they collected the elixir in a large conch shell.
 3. The next moment, the boys found themselves floating over misty clouds.
 4. They gave him some elixir from the shell and he immediately acquired an ethereal form.
 5. It was then that they saw the Formless One before them.
 6. There was bliss and tranquillity around them.A. 614523
B. 316254
C. 352146
D. 512346
3. **Which of the following statements correctly use the idiom 'pour oil on troubled waters' by substituting the underlined words?**
 - A. If you unnecessarily interfere in others' affairs, you will suffer yourselves.
 - B. Fed up with frequent strikes, the management decided to, deal with the situation decisively.
 - C. The government ordered a judicial enquiry into the communal riots in a bid to pacify the situation.
 - D. From his behaviour it is obvious that someone has prejudiced him against me.A. Only statement B correctly uses the idiom.
B. Only statement C correctly uses the idiom.
C. Both statements A and C correctly use the idiom.
D. Both statements B and D correctly use the idiom.
4. **Match the following groups of words with the correct one-word substitutions phrase**
 - A. An annual calendar that contains important dates and time
 - B. One who is a critical judge of any art
 - C. One who does not appreciate art, literature or music
 - D. An ideally perfect state**one-word substitution**
 1. Connoisseur
 2. Almanac
 3. Utopia
 4. philistine

- A. A-2,B-1,C-4,D-3
B. A-3,B-4,C-1,D-2
C. A-2,B-4,C-1,D-3
D. A-4,B-2,C-3,D-1
5. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given proverb from the options**
Better late than never
A. It's good to be clean. God is clean, and you should be too
B. It's better to finish something late than to never do it at all
C. People who are similar spend time together
D. Don't make someone angry or hurt someone who is helping you or paying for you
6. **Four sentences are given below. Find the odd sentence out.**
A. A new analysis has determined that the threat of global warming can still be greatly diminished if nations cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases by 70% this century.
B. With research showing that additional warming of about 1 degree C may be the threshold for dangerous climate change, the European Union has called for dramatic cuts in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
C. The most dangerous potential aspects of climate change include massive losses of Arctic sea ice and permafrost.
D. "This research indicates that we can no longer avoid significant warming during this century," said NCAR scientist Warren Washington, the study paper's lead author.
A. Sentence A
B. Sentence B
C. Sentence C
D. Sentence D
7. **Select the word that is opposite in meaning (ANTONYM) to the word given below.**
Corpulent
A. Aerial
B. Slim
C. Anecdotalist
D. Narrator
8. **The sentence below has been divided into three parts. Select the part of the sentence that has an error. If the sentence has no error, select the option 'No Error'.**
He has been read through/ the archives to research/ his article on the town's history.
A. No error
B. his article on the town's history.
C. the archives to research
D. He has been read through
9. **Match the following groups of words with the correct one-word substitutions**
Phrase
A. The act of looking into one's mind
B. Pleasure mixed with sadness at recalling happy moments in the past
C. A false perception of thing that do not really exist
D. A state of absent-minded daydreaming
one-word substitution

1. Hallucination
 2. Reverie
 3. Introspection
 4. Nostalgia
 - A. A-4,B-2,C-3,D-1
 - B. A-2,B-1,C-4,D-3
 - C. A-3,B-4,C-1,D-2
 - D. A-3,B-2,C-4,D-1
10. **Select the correct conclusion based on the meaning of the underlined word:**
Statement: The trade embargo has impacted export revenue.
Conclusion:
- (i) The new trade laws have exempted goods from duty.
 - (ii) Trading in certain goods has been temporarily stopped.
 - (iii) The government order has put restrictions on trade with some countries.
 - (iv) Exports have increased after signing of new trade treaties.
- A. options i and ii are correct
 - B. options i, ii and iv are correct
 - C. options ii and iii are correct
 - D. option i and iv are correct
11. **The sentence below has been divided into three parts. Select the part of the sentence that has an error. If the sentence has no error, select the option 'No Error'.**
As noon approached, sunlight filtered/ through an branches, casting dappled/ patterns on the cobblestone path.
- A. Patterns on the cobblestone path.
 - B. As noon approached, sunlight filtered
 - C. No error
 - D. Through an branches, casting dappled
12. **Select the correct conclusion based on the meaning of the underlined word:**
Statement: After his father's death, he became a prodigal of his fortune.
Conclusion:
- (i) He gained wisdom and spent money cautiously.
 - (ii) Being the only heir, he inherited all his father's wealth.
 - (iii) He squandered his wealth recklessly and lost all he had.
 - (iv) He assumed the responsibility of increasing his father's fortune.
- A. Both options ii and iii are correct
 - B. only option iv is correct
 - C. only option iii is correct
 - D. Both options ii and iv are correct
13. **Select the word that is closest in meaning (SYNONYM) to the word given below**
Equivocal
- A. Unanimous
 - B. Occlude
 - C. Obstruct
 - D. Ambiguous

14. Some parts of a sentence have been jumbled up, and labelled P, Q, R and S. Select the option that gives the correct sequence in which these parts can be rearranged to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph. Opening and Closing sentence indicate the start of the paragraph and end of the sentence paragraph.

Opening Sentence: Born on October 5, 1983, in Los Angeles, California, Emma Stone's journey in the entertainment industry began at a young age.

P) While attending local theatre classes, Stone discovered her passion for acting and soon started auditioning for various roles.

Q) Despite facing initial rejections, Stone's determination and talent eventually landed her a breakthrough role in the comedy "Superbad."

R) Stone's career skyrocketed as she garnered critical acclaim for her performances in movies like "The Help" and "La La Land," earning her an Academy Award for Best Actress.

S) Inspired by the likes of Meryl Streep, Stone continued honing her craft and exploring diverse roles, solidifying her status as one of Hollywood's leading actresses.

Closing Sentence: Today, Emma Stone stands as a respected figure in the film industry, celebrated for her versatility and contributions to the world of cinema.

- A. SRQP
B. SPQR
C. PQSR
D. RQPS
15. The sentence below has been divided into three parts. Select the part of the sentence that has an error. If the sentence has no error, select the option 'No Error'.
- We will have to spend a few/ hours journeying down in a bus,/which is bound to take its toll.
- A. hours journeying down in a bus,
B. which is bound to take its toll.
C. We will have to spend a few
D. No error

16. In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. Select the correct option to fill in the blanks.

What draws India closer to an obscure and indifferent picture are the 1. _____ tribes. They own their personal identity, far from the 2. _____ trend and economic development, as Adivasis having their own language, religion, festivals, cuisine, dance and music. With such an 3. _____ culture and hospitality they also significantly hold a contrasting patriarchal and matriarchal society. The lively 4. _____ of the tribal community in India stretches from the remote villages tucked in the Indian Himalayan region to southern-most tip of India and from the farthest corner of North East India to the dunes of Rajasthan.

- A. 1- indigenous, 2- contemporary, 3- enigmatic, 4- tableau
B. 1- original, 2- unique, 3- oppressive, 4- representation
C. 1- obsolete, 2- modern, 3- enchanting, 4- presence
D. 1- immigrant, 2- current, 3- alarming, 4- culture
17. Select the word that is closest in meaning (SYNONYM) to the word given below
- Aegis
- A. Aggravate
B. Spread

- C. Intensify
- D. Protection

18. **Select the correct conclusion based on the meaning of the underlined idiom:**

Statement: Splitting hairs is futile and will not resolve our problem.

Conclusion:

- (i) A superficial investigation will suffice for the problem at hand.
- (ii) Making peevish criticisms on trivial matters will not lead us anywhere.
- (iii) A difference of opinion is not tolerated in a dictatorship.

- A. Only conclusion (i) is correct
- B. Both conclusion (ii) and (iii) are correct
- C. Only conclusion (ii) is correct
- D. Both conclusion (i) and (iii) are correct

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

Go down like a lead balloon

- A. To be received badly by an audience
- B. To surrender
- C. To gamble everything you have
- D. Put yourself in a tough position in order to support someone/ something

20. **There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.**

Sentence: On the other hand, we find persons engaged in worst types of corrupt practices living in peace and prosperity.

We often come across situations and incidents, which appear quite contradictory to the known laws of Nature, creating doubts about the impartiality of divine justice. ____1____ For instance, honest, duty-conscious, morally elevated person is often seen caught in adversities in one form or the other, or is suddenly struck with a great misfortune in life as though he/she were being punished by God for a great sin. ____2____. An idler wins a jackpot or inherits a fortune from unexpected quarters, whereas a hard working intelligent person is found suffering endlessly for want of basic necessities. ____3____. One person achieves great success with little effort, whereas another does not succeed in spite of his best efforts. ____4____. Such phenomena are popularly ascribed to the role of fate.

- A. blank 4
- B. blank 1
- C. blank 2
- D. blank 3

Comprehension:

When the Taliban recaptured Kabul in August 2021, after two decades of insurgency, Pakistan viewed it as a tactical victory. Imran Khan, then Prime Minister, famously said the Afghans had "broken the shackles of slavery". But the Taliban's return emboldened the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which is organisationally distinct from, yet ideologically aligned with, the Afghan Taliban. Over four years, Pakistan, particularly the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, has seen a dramatic surge in militant attacks. This year alone, at least 2,414 people were killed in militancy-related violence in Pakistan, according to an Islamabad-based think tank. Pakistan blames the Afghan Taliban for sheltering the TTP, better known as

the Pakistani Taliban, and tensions escalated into full-scale cross-border clashes. On October 9, 2025, while Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was visiting India, Pakistan carried out air strikes in Kabul, apparently targeting the TTP. These strikes triggered a week of cross-border attacks that left dozens dead, before a fragile Qatar-brokered ceasefire took effect. When the Afghan Taliban were waging an insurgency, Pakistan offered them refuge and support. Pakistan's military establishment expected the Taliban to remain loyal once in power. But when the Taliban took over the reins in Afghanistan, the old patron-client relationship was replaced by state-to-state ties, with deep structural contradictions. The Pakistani Taliban, which oppose the merger of Pakistan's tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, want their version of a strict Islamic code to be enforced and demand the release of TTP prisoners, drew inspiration from the Afghan Taliban's triumph. The Durand Line, the colonial-era border, re-emerged as another flashpoint as Kabul has never recognised it. Besides, Pakistan's decision to deport thousands of Afghan refugees strained ties further. What likely provoked the Pakistani establishment even more was India's diplomatic outreach to the Taliban. By carrying out air strikes on Kabul in response to militant attacks, Pakistan appears to be setting a new precedent — holding Kabul directly accountable for cross-border militant attacks — in a move reminiscent of India's doctrine of responding to terrorism with overwhelming force against Pakistan. Yet, the security crisis in Pakistan now engulfing its tribal areas is largely of its own making. For decades, it has followed a contradictory policy — fighting terrorism while harbouring terrorist/militant groups that were fighting its neighbouring countries. It backed the Taliban for over two decades, hoping that a Taliban-controlled Kabul would offer it strategic depth. That strategy has now backfired. If Pakistan believes that it can restore internal security by bombing Afghanistan, it is mistaken. Prolonged conflict and chaos will only deepen instability and strengthen insurgency.

21. **Why did Pakistan's expectation of the Afghan Taliban's loyalty after 2021 fail, according to the passage?**
- A. Because the relationship shifted from a patron-client setup to state-to-state ties with deep structural contradictions.
 - B. Because India formed a military alliance with the Taliban, isolating Pakistan.
 - C. Because U.S.–NATO forces resumed operations in Afghanistan, changing power dynamics.
 - D. Because Kabul formally recognized the Durand Line, removing Pakistan's leverage.
22. **What precedent is Pakistan setting by carrying out air strikes on Kabul, as described in the passage**
- A. Holding Kabul directly accountable for cross-border militant attacks, akin to India's doctrine of responding with overwhelming force against Pakistan.
 - B. Accepting the Durand Line as a settled international boundary to prevent future disputes.
 - C. Using refugee deportations as the primary tool to coerce Kabul into concessions.
 - D. Re-establishing a patron-client arrangement with the Afghan Taliban to secure strategic depth.
23. **What type of pronoun is the word "it" in the sentence —**
"Pakistan viewed it as a tactical victory."
- A. Demonstrative Pronoun
 - B. Reflexive Pronoun
 - C. Personal Pronoun

D. Relative Pronoun

24. **Identify the sentence with correct subject-verb agreement from the passage.**

- A. Pakistan's military establishment expect the Taliban to remain loyal once in power.
- B. The Taliban have offered refuge and support to Pakistan.
- C. Pakistan's military establishment expects the Taliban to remain loyal once in power.
- D. The Taliban has replaced the patron-client relationship.

25. **Fill in the blank with the most suitable option based on the passage:**

"Pakistan's decision to deport thousands of Afghan refugees _____ ties further."

- A. had repaired
- B. has strained
- C. will strengthen
- D. was improving

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) 'has said all this yet it' में Error है। 'has said' के स्थान पर 'said' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए, क्योंकि sentence का initial part. 'I don't know the reason why he' past की घटना की ओर संकेत कर रहा है। इसलिए, main verb 'said' का उपयोग करके sentence के दोनों भागों के tense को समान रखा जाना चाहिए; जैसे— He didn't mention the reason why he left the party early.
 - 'said' will be used instead of 'has said' because the initial part of the sentence 'I don't know the reason why he' indicates an event in the past. Therefore, to maintain the tense consistency in both parts of the sentence, the main verb should be 'said'; Like— He didn't mention the reason why he left the party early.
2. B) This sequence (316254) forms a coherent narrative flow: the boys transition from floating in the clouds, to being surrounded by light, experiencing bliss and tranquillity, discovering the fountain, seeing a mystical entity, and then interacting with that entity using the elixir they found. This progression follows a logical sequence of setting the scene, introducing new elements (fountain, Formless One), and concluding with an action (giving the elixir).
3. B) The idiom "pour oil on troubled waters" means to pacify a situation or to calm down a tense or difficult scenario. बहस कर रहे लोगों के बीच शांति बनाने का प्रयास करना। Among the options, only statement C ("The government ordered a judicial enquiry into the communal riots in a bid to pacify the situation") correctly uses this idiom. This statement reflects the act of trying to calm down a tense and problematic situation (communal riots) by initiating a judicial enquiry, which aligns with the meaning of the idiom.
4. A) **A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3**
 - **Almanac** (noun) – An annual calendar containing important dates and times, as well as other useful information like weather forecasts and tide tables. वार्षिक पंचांग
 - **Connoisseur** (noun) – A person who is a critical judge of an art, typically one who understands its finer points. An expert judge in matters of taste. विशेषज्ञ, पारखी
 - **Philistine** (noun) – A person who is indifferent or hostile to art, culture, and the intellectual aspects of life. कला या साहित्य के प्रति उदासीन व्यक्ति
 - **Utopia** (noun) – An imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect. The word was first used in the book Utopia (1516) by Sir Thomas More. आदर्श राज्य
5. B) **Better late than never** – It's better to finish something late than to never do it at all. Better late than never (Proverb) – It is better to do something after it was supposed to have been done than not to do it at all. किसी काम को देर से करना, उसे बिल्कुल न करने से बेहतर है।
6. C) **The odd sentence out among the given options seems to be sentence C.** Sentences A, B, and D all discuss the potential for mitigating global warming and the implications of failing to do so. They focus on the need for reducing emissions and the consequences of significant warming.

However, sentence C focuses specifically on the potential effects of climate change, like the loss of Arctic sea ice and permafrost, without directly discussing the mitigation of global warming or emission reductions. Therefore, it stands out as being different in focus compared to the other sentences.

7. B) **Corpulent** (adjective) - Relating to or having a large, bulky body; overweight, fat, heavy. मोटा
Antonym: **Slim** (adjective) - Gracefully thin; slender, trim, slight. पतला
- **Aerial** (adjective) - Relating to the air or atmosphere; airy, lofty, sky-high. हवाई
 - **Anecdotalist** (noun) - A person who tells anecdotes or short, amusing stories. वह व्यक्ति जो उपाख्यान सुनाता हो
 - **Narrator** (noun) - A person who narrates something, especially a character who recounts the events of a novel or narrative poem. कथावाचक
8. D) 'He has been read through' के बदले 'He has been reading through' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां Present Perfect Continuous Tense की आवश्यकता है। 'He has been read through' में, 'read' का प्रयोग passive form में हुआ है, जो इस संदर्भ में अनुचित है। सही प्रयोग होगा 'He has been reading through', जो दर्शाता है कि वह निरंतर अभिलेखों का अध्ययन कर रहे हैं।
- 'He has been reading through' will be used instead of 'He has been read through' because Present Perfect Continuous Tense is needed here. In 'He has been read through', the use of 'read' is in passive form, which is inappropriate in this context. The correct form is 'He has been reading through', indicating that he has been continuously studying the archives.
9. C) **A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2**
- **Introspection** (noun) – The act of looking into one's own thoughts and feelings. आत्मनिरीक्षण
 - **Nostalgia** (noun) – A sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations. उदासीनता
 - **Hallucination** (noun) – A false perception of objects or events involving the senses, typically visual or auditory, that seem very real but are not. भ्रम
 - **Reverie** (noun) – A state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts; a daydream. दिवास्वप्न
10. C) **Embargo** (Noun) – a government order restricting or prohibiting commerce, especially trade in a given commodity or with a particular nation प्रतिबंध
- This conclusion does not align with the concept of an embargo, which is about restriction, not exemption.
 - This aligns with the concept of an embargo, which often involves stopping trade in certain goods.
 - This is a typical characteristic of a trade embargo, so this conclusion is accurate.
 - This conclusion is unrelated to the concept of a trade embargo, which is more about restrictions, not the facilitation of trade or increase in exports.
11. D) 'through an branches' के बदले 'through the branches' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'branches' एक Plural Noun है और इसके साथ Indefinite Article 'an' का प्रयोग गलत है। 'An' का प्रयोग केवल Singular Nouns के आगे होता है जबकि Plural Nouns के आगे 'the' का प्रयोग होता है। जैसे— The birds were sitting on the branches.

- 'through the branches' will be used instead of 'through an branches' because 'branches' is a Plural Noun and the use of the Indefinite Article 'an' with it is incorrect. 'An' is used only before Singular Nouns, whereas 'the' is used before Plural Nouns. Like— The birds were sitting on the branches.

12. C) **Only option iii is correct**

Prodigal (Adjective) – somebody who spends money, especially money from his or her parents, wastefully फिजूलखर्च

- This is incorrect as "prodigal" implies the opposite of spending cautiously.
- This might be inferred from the context, but it's not directly related to being prodigal.
- This aligns with the definition of "prodigal" and is likely correct.
- This is incorrect as "prodigal" indicates wasteful spending, not responsible management.

13. D) **Equivocal** (adjective) – Having more than one possible interpretation, unclear, ambiguous, uncertain. अस्पष्ट

Synonym: **Ambiguous** (adjective) – Open to more than one interpretation, not having one obvious meaning, unclear, equivocal. अस्पष्ट

- **Unanimous** (adjective) – Fully in agreement, united in opinion, concordant, consistent. सर्वसम्मत
- **Occlude** (verb) – To stop, close up, or obstruct an opening, passage, or path. अवरुद्ध करना
- **Obstruct** (verb) – To block or put obstacles in the way, hinder, impede. बाधा डालना

14. C) **PQSR**

P: It discusses Emma Stone's early interest in acting and starting auditions, a natural step after the introduction.

Q: It follows her initial acting experiences with her facing rejections and then achieving her breakthrough role.

S: After her breakthrough, it describes her continuous development and inspiration in acting, leading to her status as a leading actress.

R: Finally, it highlights the peak of her career with critical acclaim and an Academy Award, a culmination of her journey.

15. D) **No error**

16. A) **1- indigenous, 2- contemporary, 3- enigmatic, 4- tableau.**

'Indigenous' का use होगा क्योंकि 'indigenous' का मतलब होता है स्थानीय या मूल निवासी। passage में भारतीय जनजातियों की बात की गई है, जो स्थानीय और मूल निवासी होते हैं।

- 'Indigenous' should be used because it means native or original inhabitants. The passage refers to the tribes of India, who are indigenous.

'Contemporary' का use होगा क्योंकि 'contemporary' का अर्थ होता है वर्तमान समय का या आधुनिक। यहां पर जनजातियों की अपनी पहचान की बात की गई है जो वर्तमान ट्रेंड से अलग है।

- 'Contemporary' should be used as it means belonging to the present time or modern. It refers to the tribes' distinct identity, which is separate from the contemporary trend.

'Enigmatic' का use होगा क्योंकि 'enigmatic' का अर्थ होता है रहस्यमय या अज्ञात। यहां पर जनजातियों की संस्कृति को रहस्यमय और आकर्षक बताया गया है।

- 'Enigmatic' should be used as it means mysterious or puzzling. It describes the culture of the tribes as mysterious and intriguing.
- 'Tableau' का use होगा क्योंकि 'tableau' का अर्थ होता है एक जीवंत चित्र या दृश्य। पैसेज में जनजातीय समुदाय की जीवंतता की बात की गई है।
- 'Tableau' should be used because it means a vivid or graphic scene. It aptly describes the vibrancy of the tribal community.
17. D) **Aegis** (noun) - A protection, backing, or support of a particular person or organization, often associated with a powerful or influential figure. In mythology, it refers to a protective shield or cloak, especially that of Zeus or Athena. संरक्षण
- SYNONYM: **Protection** (noun) - The action of protecting, or the state of being protected. सुरक्षा
- **Aggravate** (verb) - To make a situation worse or more serious. बिगाड़ना
 - **Spread** (verb/noun) - To extend over a larger area; distribute. फैलाना
 - **Intensify** (verb) - To become or make more intense. तीव्र करना
18. C) **Only conclusion (ii) is correct**
- Splitting hairs (Phrase) – refers to making unnecessary distinctions between things when the differences between them are so small they are not important.
- "Splitting hairs" does not imply that a superficial investigation is sufficient; rather, it indicates an overly meticulous focus on trivialities.
 - It highlights the futility of focusing on minor or trivial issues, which is exactly what "splitting hairs" implies.
 - "Splitting hairs" does not address tolerance for differing opinions in a dictatorship or any other form of governance.
19. A) **Go down like a lead balloon** (idiom) – To be received badly by an audience दर्शकों द्वारा बुरी तरह से प्राप्त किया जाना
20. C) 'Blank 2' का use होगा क्योंकि दिया गया sentence "On the other hand, we find persons engaged in worst types of corrupt practices living in peace and prosperity" एक contrasting situation को describe करता है। पहले भाग में ईमानदार और कर्तव्यनिष्ठ व्यक्ति के दुःखों का उल्लेख है, और इस वाक्य से भ्रष्टाचारी लोगों के सुखमय जीवन की ओर संकेत किया जाता है, जो कि एक दूसरे के विपरीत हैं।
- 'Blank 2' should be used because the sentence "On the other hand, we find persons engaged in worst types of corrupt practices living in peace and prosperity" describes a contrasting situation. The first part mentions the sufferings of an honest and duty-conscious person, and this sentence contrasts it by referring to the prosperous life of corrupt individuals, presenting a direct opposition.
21. A) The passage states that once the Taliban took power, the "old patron-client relationship was replaced by state-to-state ties, with deep structural contradictions," undermining Pakistan's expectation of loyalty.
- B: The passage mentions India's diplomatic outreach, not a military alliance.
- C: No resumption of U.S.–NATO operations is indicated.
- D: The passage says Kabul has never recognized the Durand Line; recognition didn't happen.

22. A) The passage explicitly says Pakistan's strikes signal a new precedent—holding Kabul directly accountable for cross-border attacks—"in a move reminiscent of India's doctrine of responding to terrorism with overwhelming force against Pakistan."

B: The Durand Line remains a flashpoint; Kabul hasn't recognized it.

C: Deportations strained ties but are not presented as the precedent set by air strikes.

D: The passage says the patron-client model has been replaced by state-to-state ties, not restored.

23. C) **Personal Pronoun**

The word "it" refers to a thing previously mentioned or easily identified, here referring to the Taliban's recapture of Kabul. Hence, "it" is a third-person singular personal pronoun.

"it" उस घटना (तालिबान का काबुल पर कब्जा) को संदर्भित करता है, इसलिए यह एक personal pronoun (व्यक्तिवाचक सर्वनाम) है।

A) Demonstrative Pronoun – Words like this, that, these, those are demonstrative, not "it".

B) Reflexive Pronoun – Would be "itself", not "it".

D) Relative Pronoun – Connects clauses (who, which, that), not used here.

24. C) **Pakistan's military establishment expects the Taliban to remain loyal once in power.**

The subject "Pakistan's military establishment" is singular, so the verb must also be singular (expects).

"Establishment" singular है, इसलिए verb "expects" (एकवचन रूप) सही है।

A) Verb should be expects (not plural expect) as subject is singular.

B) The passage says the reverse — Pakistan offered refuge to the Taliban, not vice versa.

D) The Taliban is treated as plural in formal English, so it should be have, not has.

25. B) **has strained**

According to the passage: "Pakistan's decision to deport thousands of Afghan refugees strained ties further."

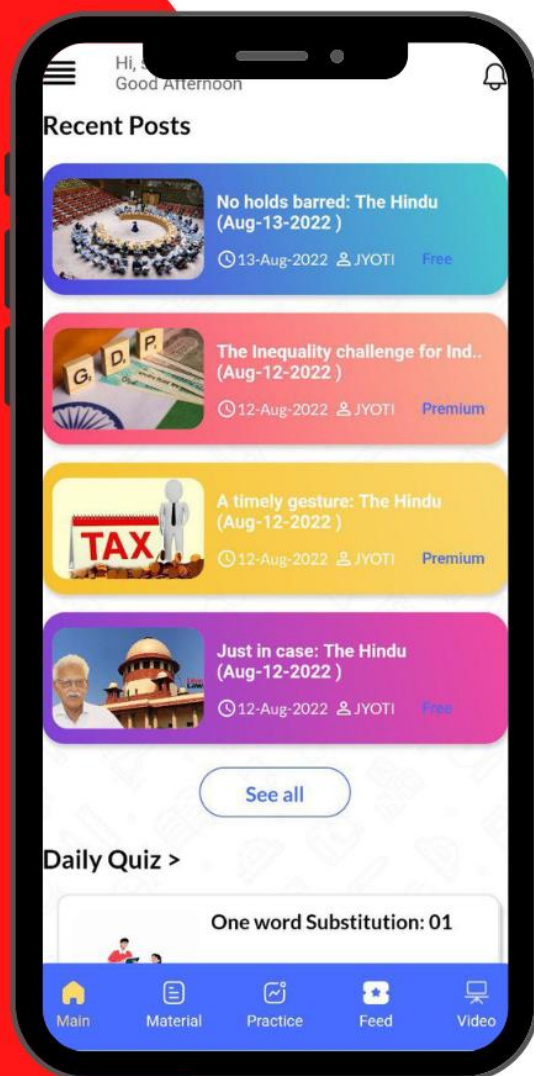
Thus, the correct completion is "has strained", showing recent action affecting present relations.

"Pakistan के शरणार्थियों को निर्वासित करने के निर्णय ने संबंधों को और बिगाड़ दिया।" अतः "has strained" सही option है।

A) had repaired – Opposite meaning; the ties worsened, not improved.

C) will strengthen – Future positive; passage indicates deterioration, not strengthening.

D) was improving – Contradicts the factual idea that ties got worse.



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam