

Missed opportunity: On India and ASEAN summit in Malaysia

India could have made better use of the ASEAN Summit

Since 1995, when India became a dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and 2002, when it was upgraded to Summit level, the annual ASEAN summit has been an opportunity for India to reconnect with a region with historical **linkages**, and now increasing **geopolitical** importance. **In addition to** the ASEAN and ASEAN-India summits, the annual East Asia **Summit** (including the U.S., China, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, India and the ASEAN countries) **is** a chance for the Indian leadership to interact with the most powerful countries on Indo-Pacific issues. The **rebirth** of the Australia-India-Japan-U.S. 'Quad', for example, **took place** in 2017, after a decade-long **hiatus**, **on the sidelines of** the ASEAN summit. **Underlining** this importance in his **virtual** speech at the ASEAN-India summit in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday (October 26, 2025) Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the 21st century "the century of India and ASEAN", and **committed** to India's support to "ASEAN Unity, ASEAN Centrality, and the ASEAN **Outlook** on the Indo-Pacific". He also announced that 2026 would be the year of ASEAN-India **maritime** cooperation, with a focus on **humanitarian** assistance and disaster response, maritime security and the region's **blue economy**. The **summit** — External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India — **came** at a time of increased **geopolitical turbulence**, including the economic **turmoil unleashed** by the U.S.'s tariff policy, China's **constraints** on crucial exports, and maritime tensions. At the East Asia Summit, Mr. Jaishankar called the times "**complicated**", taking aim at the U.S. for constraining energy trade with Russia and applying its principles "selectively", and China for supply chain reliability and market access issues. India and ASEAN also committed to **finalising** the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) soon.

The strong statements and **commitment** to cooperation did not, however, sufficiently cover for Mr. Modi's absence from the Summit — he was absent in 2022 also. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Mr. Modi had expressed his inability to attend due to festivities in India, but the explanation was **unconvincing** as the ASEAN engagement had been planned months in advance. While some **pointed to** Mr. Modi's campaign schedule for the Bihar Assembly polls, others **cited** U.S. President Donald Trump's presence and India-U.S. trade deal tensions as a possible reason for his staying away. A few even suggested a **lingering strain** in the India-Malaysia relationship over Malaysia's diplomatic support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and a visit by the Pakistani Prime Minister to Kuala Lumpur earlier this month. Mr. Modi may have had international, domestic or **bilateral** reasons, but the no-show was a missed opportunity, especially when other global players including the U.S. and China **demonstrated** their commitment to regional **stability**, by simply being there.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Missed opportunity** (phrase) – a chance that was not taken advantage of; a lost prospect. गँवाया हुआ मौका
2. **Summit** (noun) – meeting, conference, talks, high-level meeting, conclave शिखर सम्मेलन
3. **Linkage** (noun) – connection, bond, tie, association, relationship संबंध
4. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors. भू-राजनीतिक
5. **In addition to** (phrase) – besides, as well as, along with, furthermore, also के अलावा
6. **Take place** (phrase) – happen, occur, be held, transpire, come about होना
7. **Hiatus** (noun) – break, pause, gap, interruption, interval अंतराल
8. **On the sidelines of** (phrase) – on the periphery of; occurring alongside a main event. के साथ-साथ
9. **Underline** (verb) – emphasize, highlight, stress, underscore, accentuate जोर देना
10. **Virtual** (adjective) – online, remote, digital, computer-based, cyberspace आभासी
11. **Committed** (to) (adjective) – dedicated, devoted, steadfast, unwavering, resolute प्रतिबद्ध
12. **Outlook** (noun) – perspective, viewpoint, stance, approach, position दृष्टिकोण
13. **Maritime** (adjective) – relating to the sea, naval, marine, oceanic, seafaring समुद्री
14. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, charitable, welfare, altruistic, philanthropic मानवीय
15. **Blue economy** (noun) – the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth.
16. **Geopolitical** (adjective) – relating to the influence of geography on international politics. भू-राजनीतिक
17. **Turbulence** (noun) – instability, turmoil, unrest, disorder, upheaval उथल-पुथल
18. **Turmoil** (noun) – confusion, upheaval, turbulence, disorder, chaos अशांति
19. **Unleash** (verb) – release, trigger, set off, let loose, provoke शुरू करना
20. **Constraint** (noun) – restriction, limitation, curb, check, restraint बाधा
21. **Complicated** (adjective) – complex, difficult, intricate, involved, tricky जटिल
22. **Finalise** (verb) – complete, conclude, settle, seal, wrap up अंतिम रूप देना

23. **Commitment** (noun) – dedication, devotion, allegiance, pledge, promise
प्रतिबद्धता
24. **Unconvincing** (adjective) – implausible, unbelievable, weak, unsatisfactory, dubious
अविश्वसनीय
25. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – indicate, suggest, cite as evidence, mention, refer to
इशारा करना
26. **Cite** (verb) – mention, refer to, quote, name, instance
हवाला देना
27. **Lingering** (adjective) – persisting, remaining, enduring, lasting, residual
बना रहने वाला
28. **Strain** (noun) – tension, pressure, stress, friction, difficulty
तनाव
29. **Bilateral** (adjective) – involving two parties, two-way, mutual, between two countries
द्विपक्षीय
30. **Demonstrate** (verb) – show, display, exhibit, indicate, manifest
प्रदर्शित करना
31. **Stability** (noun) – steadiness, firmness, solidity, balance, durability
स्थिरता

Summary of the Editorial

1. India missed a key opportunity by the Prime Minister's absence from the ASEAN Summit in Malaysia.
2. The ASEAN Summit is a crucial platform for India to engage with a region of historical and growing geopolitical importance.
3. Since 1995, these summits have been a primary channel for India to reconnect with Southeast Asia.
4. The event also includes the East Asia Summit, allowing interaction with major global powers on Indo-Pacific issues.
5. The summit's importance is highlighted by the 2017 rebirth of the Quad on its sidelines.
6. Prime Minister Modi, in a virtual speech, called the 21st century the "century of India and ASEAN."
7. He reaffirmed India's commitment to "ASEAN Centrality" and the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific."
8. India announced 2026 as the year of ASEAN-India maritime cooperation, focusing on disaster response and security.
9. The summit occurred amid significant geopolitical turbulence, including U.S. tariffs and Chinese trade constraints.
10. India's External Affairs Minister criticized the U.S. for "selective" principles and China for supply chain issues.
11. A commitment was made to finalize the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).
12. Despite these strong statements, they could not compensate for the leadership's physical absence.
13. The given reason for absence (domestic festivities) was unconvincing as the summit was planned months in advance.
14. Speculated reasons include domestic politics, India-U.S. trade tensions, and strained India-Malaysia relations.
15. The absence was a strategic misstep, especially as other major powers like the U.S. and China demonstrated commitment by their presence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What paired critique did S. Jaishankar make of the U.S. and China at the East Asia Summit?**
A. U.S.: retreat from the Indo-Pacific; China: refusal to join the Quad [Editorial Page]
B. U.S.: blocking ASEAN centrality; China: rejecting maritime cooperation in 2026
C. U.S.: constraining energy trade with Russia and applying principles selectively; China: supply-chain reliability and market-access issues
D. U.S.: imposing tariffs on ASEAN exports; China: currency manipulation
2. **Which single factor most directly challenges the official reason (festivities in India) given for the Prime Minister's absence from the Malaysia summit?**
A. The summit engagement had been planned months in advance
B. The Bihar Assembly campaign schedule
C. The presence of U.S. President Donald Trump
D. A lingering India–Malaysia strain over Kuala Lumpur's support to Pakistan
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
A. Appreciative
B. Critical
C. Humorous
D. Indifferent
4. **The editorial implies that the explanation for the Prime Minister's absence was _____, given that the ASEAN engagement had been planned months in advance.**
A. tenable
B. conciliatory
C. exhaustive
D. unconvincing
5. **Read the statement carefully and decide whether it is True or False according to the ideas expressed in the passage.**
Statement: At the East Asia Summit, India's critique targeted only China's supply-chain practices, deliberately avoiding criticism of U.S. policy.
A. True; because India avoided antagonizing the U.S. amid trade tensions.
B. True; because the remarks focused solely on China's export constraints.
C. False; because India criticized both U.S. constraints on energy trade with Russia and China's supply-chain/market-access issues.
D. False; because India praised U.S. tariff policy while criticizing China.
6. **Select the best express synonym of the given underlined word.**
The government's mandate required all public buildings to improve their accessibility for people with disabilities by the next year.
A. Peace
B. Plan
C. Directive
D. Pacification
7. **Choose the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Ace in the hole
A. A second chance to do something
B. On the point of

- C. A hidden advantage
D. A lot to do
8. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
It is **imperrative** to complete the work on time.
A. imparative
B. imperative
C. imperrative
D. imparetive
9. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
He was punished because he dared to **violate** the sacred rule.
A. Obey
B. Breach
C. Transgress
D. Contravene
10. **Select the most appropriate word for the given group of words.**
The study of the origin and history of words
A. Linguistics
B. Etymology
C. Verbose
D. Anthology
11. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Most of the committee / are here to / decide the fate of / this ancient building.
A. are here to
B. Most of the committee
C. decide the fate of
D. this ancient building
12. **Find out which pair of words can be filled up in the blanks in the sentence in the same sequence to make the sentence meaningfully complete:**
The scientist's groundbreaking discovery was initially met with, but soon it received widespread from the global research community.
A. skepticism, acclaim
B. curiosity, rejection
C. criticism, oblivion
D. doubt, negligence
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
Koushik said to Tarun, "You are a good cricketer."
A. Koushik told Tarun that he was a good cricketer.
B. Koushik tells Tarun that he is a good cricketer.
C. Koushik told that Tarun is a good cricketer.
D. Koushik told Tarun that he had been a good cricketer
14. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**
There is a severe water **depletion** in the desert area.
A. Attrition

- B. Reduction
C. Thinning
D. Augmentation
15. **Select the word segment that substitute (replaces) the bracketed word segment correctly and completes the sentence meaningfully. Select the option 'no correction required' if the sentence is correct as given.**
He lost his temper (by a driver) flashed ber headlights as he ovenook
A. afterwards a driver
B. No correction required
C. considering a driver
D. after a driver
16. **Select the best express synonym of the given underlined word.**
Miscommunication only served to exacerbate the conflict between the two departments, leading to further delays in the project.
A. Aggravate
B. Fatigue
C. Obese
D. Vigour
17. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**
The office superintendent asked me to leave my job application _____ him
A. behind
B. to
C. between
D. with
18. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required.'**
The government has ordered that all illegal structures around heritage buildings must be brought down.
A. without
B. towards
C. into
D. No substitution required
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. I knew they were heading towards the finishing line of life's race,
Q. but I did not foresee the race ending so soon
R. Two deaths in two weeks — first, my father and second, a close colleague — made me ponder the last rites of passage of humans
S. My father was 85, and the colleague was in his late 50s
A. RSPQ
B. SPRQ
C. SRPQ
D. RQPS

20. Select the option that correctly describes the use of the word 'walking' in the following sentence.

Walking is good for health

- A. Walking is the base form of the verb.
- B. Walking is the past participle form of the verb.
- C. Walking is the present participle form of the verb functioning as a gerund.
- D. Walking is the present tense form of the verb.

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.

India's Northeastern region ____1____ for long experienced insurgency, internal conflict and unrest and the challenges have ____2____ been ____3____ by its complex history, geographical isolation and perceived neglect by the Central Government. One of the ____4____ prominent ____5____ of the restive Northeast is the internecine wars within its borders, fuelled by a variety of factors ranging from ethnic tensions to resource disputes, leading to cycles of violence and displacement.

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

- A. Has
- B. Have
- C. Is
- D. Has been

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

- A. Early
- B. Often
- C. Still
- D. Yet

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

- A. Eased
- B. Concentrated
- C. Separated
- D. Exacerbated

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

- A. Most
- B. More
- C. Mostest
- D. Biggest

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

- A. Observes
- B. Derives
- C. Facets
- D. Facts

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) **The passage says he criticized the U.S. for constraining energy trade with Russia and for applying its principles “selectively,” and China for problems with supply-chain reliability and market access.**
 - A: No mention of a U.S. “retreat” or China “refusing to join the Quad.”
 - B: He did not accuse the U.S. of blocking ASEAN centrality, nor China of rejecting 2026 maritime cooperation.
 - D: Tariffs are mentioned in relation to U.S. policy generally, but not as his specific critique of “tariffs on ASEAN exports,” and China’s “currency manipulation” is not in the passage.
2. A) **The summit engagement had been planned months in advance**
 If the dates were set months earlier, the “festivities” excuse appears unconvincing because the conflict could have been anticipated and managed.
 - B: Cited as speculation, not a direct logical challenge to the official reason.
 - C: Also speculative; presence of another leader doesn’t contradict the festivities explanation.
 - D: A possible bilateral irritant, but it doesn’t logically refute the scheduling rationale.
3. B) **Critical**
 The tone of the passage is critical because the author highlights India’s “missed opportunity” due to Prime Minister Modi’s absence from the ASEAN Summit, despite the summit’s high geopolitical importance. The passage points out that other world leaders attended and that Modi’s absence weakened India’s diplomatic engagement.
 - Appreciative: Incorrect because the passage does not praise India’s actions; rather, it criticizes the missed diplomatic opportunity.
 - Humorous: Incorrect because the tone is serious and analytical, discussing foreign policy issues, not light-hearted or comic.
 - Indifferent: Incorrect because the writer shows clear concern and disappointment, not neutrality or lack of interest.
4. D) **unconvincing**
 The passage states the explanation “was unconvincing as the ASEAN engagement had been planned months in advance,” signaling skepticism.
 - tenable: Suggests defensibility; contradicts the passage explicit doubt.
 - exhaustive: Means thoroughly detailed; the issue isn’t completeness but credibility.
 - conciliatory: Means aiming to placate; tone here is evaluative, not about appeasement.
5. C) **False**
 The passage notes Mr. Jaishankar “took aim at the U.S. for constraining energy trade with Russia and applying its principles ‘selectively’, and China for supply chain reliability and market access issues.” Hence, criticism was directed at both.
 - True... Incorrect: passage explicitly mentions criticism of the U.S.

- True... Incorrect: ignores the U.S.-related criticism stated.
 - False... Incorrect reason: the passage does not say India praised U.S. tariff policy.
6. C) **Mandate** (noun) – Directive, order, requirement, instruction, authorization आदेश/निर्देश
 Synonym: **Directive** (noun) – An official or authoritative instruction. निर्देश
- **Peace** (noun) – Freedom from disturbance; tranquility, calmness, serenity. शांति
 - **Plan** (noun) – A detailed proposal for doing or achieving something, strategy, scheme, program. योजना
 - **Pacification** (noun) – The act of bringing peace to a place or situation, appeasement, conciliation. शांत करना
7. C) **Ace in the hole** (idiom) – A hidden advantage छुपा हुआ फायदा
8. B) The correct spelling of 'imperrative' is '**imperative**', which means "absolutely necessary or required" – अत्यावश्यक / आवश्यकता.
9. A) **Violate** (verb) – Breach, transgress, infringe, break उल्लंघन करना
 Antonym: **Obey** (verb) – To comply with, follow, adhere, submit. पालन करना
- **Breach** (noun/verb) – Infraction, rupture, infringement. उल्लंघन
 - **Transgress** (verb) – Overstep, offend, misbehave. सीमा पार करना
 - **Contravene** (verb) – Disobey, flout, oppose. विरोध करना
10. B) **Etymology** (noun) – The study of the origin and history of words शब्दों की उत्पत्ति और इतिहास का अध्ययन
- **Linguistics** (noun) – The scientific study of language and its structure. भाषा और इसकी संरचना का वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन
 - **Verbose** (adjective) – Using or expressed in more words than are needed. अधिक शब्दों का उपयोग करने वाला या अभिव्यक्त
 - **Anthology** (noun) – A published collection of poems or other pieces of writing. कविताओं या अन्य लेखन का प्रकाशित संग्रह
11. A) Are' के बदले 'is' का use होगा क्योंकि 'committee' एक collective noun है और यह singular होता है; अतः singular verb 'is' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— The committee is deciding the fate of this ancient building.
- 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because 'committee' is a collective noun and it is singular; therefore, the singular verb 'is' will be used; Like— The committee is deciding the fate of this ancient building
12. A) The scientist's groundbreaking discovery was initially met with skepticism, but soon it received widespread acclaim from the global research community.
 Word Meanings:
- **Skepticism** (noun) – Doubt or disbelief. संदेह / अविश्वास

- **Acclaim** (noun) – Praise and approval. प्रशंसा / सराहना

Other Options Explanation:

- **Curiosity, rejection** ? – Curiosity would not logically lead to rejection.
- **Criticism, oblivion** ? – Oblivion (भूल जाना) does not match the sentence's sense of recognition.
- **Doubt, negligence** ? – Negligence (लापरवाही) is illogical in the context of recognition by the global community.

13. A) Koushik told Tarun that he was a good cricketer

Reported Speech में बदलने के लिए प्रक्रिया समझाते हुए: जब Direct Speech को Indirect Speech (Reported Speech) में बदलते हैं, तो Reporting Verb और Reported Speech दोनों में परिवर्तन होता है। Reporting Verb के Tense के आधार पर Reported Speech का Tense बदला जाता है। इस वाक्य में "Koushik said to Tarun" Reporting Clause है और "You are a good cricketer" Reported Speech है। Reporting Verb "said to" को Indirect Speech में "told" में बदल दिया गया। "You" (Second Person Pronoun) को Reporting Verb के Object "Tarun" के अनुसार "he" में बदल दिया गया। Present Tense "are" को Past Tense "was" में बदल दिया गया क्योंकि Reporting Verb Past Tense में है। Reported Speech को "that" का use करके Indirect Speech में बदला गया।

- When converting Direct Speech into Indirect Speech (Reported Speech), both the Reporting Verb and the Reported Speech undergo modifications. The tense of the Reported Speech changes based on the tense of the Reporting Verb. In this case, "Koushik said to Tarun" is the Reporting Clause, and "You are a good cricketer" is the Reported Speech. The Reporting Verb "said to" is changed to "told" in Indirect Speech. "You" (Second Person Pronoun) is replaced with "he" according to the Object of the Reporting Verb, "Tarun." The Present Tense "are" is changed to Past Tense "was" because the Reporting Verb is in the Past Tense.

The Reported Speech is connected with the help of "that" in Indirect Speech.

14. D) Depletion (noun) – Reduction, exhaustion, thinning, diminution, attrition. कमी

Antonym: **Augmentation** (noun) – Increase, expansion, enhancement, magnification. वृद्धि

- **Attrition** (noun) – Gradual reduction or weakening. क्षय
- **Reduction** (noun) – Decrease, lessening, cutback, drop. कमी
- **Thinning** (noun) – Becoming less dense or sparse. पतला होना

15. D) after a driver' के बदले 'by a driver' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि प्रसंग से स्पष्ट है कि 'चालक द्वारा हेडलाइट्स चमकाए जाने के बाद' वह अपना आपा खो बैठा। यहाँ 'by' का प्रयोग गलत है क्योंकि 'by' किसी क्रिया के कारण होने वाले परिणाम को नहीं दर्शाता है। 'After' का प्रयोग समय के संदर्भ में होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में उचित है; जैसे— He lost his temper after a driver flashed her headlights as he overtook

- 'after a driver' will be used instead of 'by a driver' because the context makes it clear that he lost his temper 'after a driver flashed her headlights as he overtook'. The use of 'by' is incorrect here as 'by' does not indicate the consequence of an action caused by

someone. 'After' is used in reference to time, which is appropriate in this context;
Like— He lost his temper after a driver flashed her headlights as he overtook

16. A) **Exacerbate** (verb) – worsen, intensify, aggravate, compound, inflame और अधिक बिगाड़ना

Synonym: Aggravate (verb) – make (a problem, injury, or offense) worse or more serious, exacerbate. और बिगाड़ना

- **Fatigue** (noun) – Extreme tiredness resulting from physical or mental exertion, exhaustion, weariness. थकावट
- **Obese** (adjective) – Very overweight, excessively fat. मोटा
- **Vigour** (noun) – Physical strength and good health, energy, vitality. ताज़गी, बल

17. D) **'With'** का use होगा क्योंकि "with" का अर्थ होता है किसी के पास या साथ में। Sentence में कहा गया है कि office superintendent ने नौकरी के आवेदन पत्र को उनके पास या साथ में छोड़ने के लिए कहा, इसलिए 'with' यहाँ सही है। 'Behind' का अर्थ होता है पीछे, 'To' का उपयोग प्रेषण के संदर्भ में होता है, और 'Between' का अर्थ होता है दो चीजों के मध्य, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं

- 'With' should be used because it means in the possession or care of someone. The sentence states that the office superintendent asked to leave the job application with him, making 'with' the correct choice here. 'Behind' implies a position at the back, 'To' is used in the context of direction towards someone, and 'Between' implies being in the middle of two things, which are not appropriate in this context

18. D) **No substitution required'**

19. A) **RSPQ**

R: Paragraph की शुरुआत R से होती है, क्योंकि यह मुख्य संदर्भ (context) को प्रस्तुत करता है— speaker दो मौतों के बारे में सोचता है, जो दो सप्ताह में हुई—पहले उनके पिता और फिर एक करीबी सहयोगी। यह sentence पूरे paragraph का भावनात्मक (emotional) और चिंतनशील (reflective) स्वर सेट करता है।

S: इसके बाद S आता है, जो दोनों व्यक्तियों की उम्र के बारे में बताता है। लेखक का पिता 85 साल का था और सहयोगी की उम्र 50 के दशक के अंत में थी। यह sentence R में दी गई information को expend करता है

P: इसके बाद P आता है, जो बताता है कि speaker को पता था कि दोनों ही व्यक्ति जीवन की दौड़ (life's race) के अंतिम चरण में थे। यह सीधे S में बताई गई उम्र की जानकारी से जुड़ता है।

Q: End में Q आता है, जो speaker की भावनात्मक प्रतिक्रिया (emotional reaction) को व्यक्त करता है कि उन्होंने इतनी जल्दी इस दौड़ के खत्म होने की उम्मीद नहीं की थी।

Explanation in English:

- R: The paragraph starts with R as it introduces the main context: the speaker reflects on two deaths in two weeks—first, the speaker's father and then a close colleague.
- S: S follows R, providing additional details about the ages of the deceased individuals. The father was 85 years old, and the colleague was in his late 50s. This sentence builds

upon the context established in R by giving more information about the two individuals.

- P: P logically comes after S, as it expresses the speaker's awareness that both individuals were approaching the finishing line of life's race due to their advanced age. This thought links directly to the details about their ages in S.
- Q: Q concludes the paragraph, adding that the speaker did not foresee the race of life ending so soon. This statement reflects the speaker's emotional reaction to the unexpected nature of these deaths and serves as a reflective conclusion to the paragraph.

20. C) '**Walking**' का उपयोग यहां Present Participle के रूप में किया गया है, जो Gerund की तरह कार्य कर रहा है। Gerund एक ऐसा word होता है जो क्रिया रूप है जो लेकिन Noun के रूप में कार्य करता है। इस sentence में '**Walking**' एक Noun की तरह काम कर रहा है और इसे क्रिया के रूप में नहीं बल्कि गतिविधि के रूप में दर्शाया गया है, जैसे— "Walking is good for health."

- '**Walking**' is used here as the Present Participle functioning as a Gerund. A Gerund is a word that acts like a verb but functions as a noun. In this sentence, '**Walking**' is acting like a noun, representing an activity, not an action, as in— "Walking is good for health."

21. A) '**Has**' का use होगा क्योंकि "has" का अर्थ होता है कि कोई क्रिया पूर्व में आरम्भ होकर वर्तमान तक जारी है, जो कि "India's Northeastern region" के साथ singular subject के रूप में मेल खाता है। Sentence में कहा गया है कि इस क्षेत्र में लंबे समय से विद्रोह और संघर्ष जारी है, जिससे 'has' यहाँ सही फिट बैठता है। 'Have' plural subjects के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है, 'Is' present continuous के लिए होता है जो यहाँ नहीं बैठता, और 'Being' भी continuous tense के लिए होता है जो कि इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Has**' will be used because it indicates an action that started in the past and continues to the present, aligning with the singular subject "India's Northeastern region". The sentence mentions that this region has long experienced insurgency, making 'has' appropriate here. On the other hand, 'Have' is used for plural subjects, 'Is' indicates present continuous which is not fitting here, and 'Being' also denotes a continuous state, which isn't correct in this context.

22. B) '**Often**' का use होगा क्योंकि "often" का अर्थ होता है बार-बार या आमतौर पर। sentence में बताया गया है कि भारत का पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र लंबे समय से विद्रोह और आंतरिक संघर्ष से गुजर रहा है और यह समस्या अक्सर बढ़ी है। इसलिए 'often' यहां सटीक है। जबकि 'Early' का अर्थ है जल्दी में, 'Still' का अर्थ है अभी भी, और 'Yet' का अर्थ है अभी तक, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- '**Often**' will be used because it means repeatedly or generally. The sentence describes that India's Northeastern region has long been experiencing insurgency and internal conflicts, and these challenges have often been exacerbated. Thus, 'often' is appropriate here. Whereas, 'Early' implies premature, 'Still' means continuing until now, and 'Yet' suggests up to now, which don't align well with this context.

23. D) '**Exacerbated**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'exacerbated' का अर्थ होता है स्थिति को और खराब करना या बिगाड़ना। Passage में बताया गया है कि चुनौतियां इस क्षेत्र की जटिलताओं से बढ़ी हैं, इसलिए 'exacerbated' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Eased' का अर्थ होता है आसान बनाना या कम करना, 'Concentrated' का अर्थ है केंद्रित करना, और 'Separated' का अर्थ है अलग करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

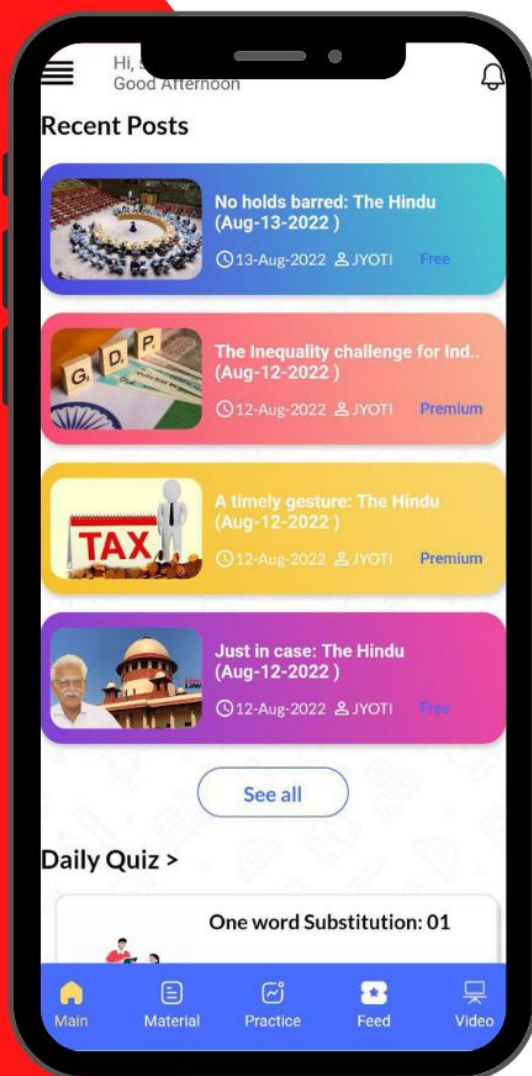
- '**Exacerbated**' will be used because it means to make a situation worse or aggravate it. The passage mentions that the challenges have been amplified due to the region's complexities, making 'exacerbated' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Eased' means to alleviate or reduce, 'Concentrated' means to focus, and 'Separated' means to divide, which do not fit in this context.

24. A) '**Most**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'most' यहां एक superlative adjective के रूप में काम कर रहा है, जो यह बताने के लिए सही है कि कौन सा पहलू सबसे अधिक प्रमुख है। Passage में 'prominent' के साथ 'most' का use सबसे उपयुक्त है। 'More' एक comparative adjective होता है जो इस context में सही नहीं बैठता, 'Mostest' incorrect है, और 'Biggest' भौतिक आकार या मात्रा को दर्शाने के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है, न कि प्रमुखता को।

- '**Most**' will be used because it functions as a superlative adjective here, which is helpful to indicate which aspect is the most significant. The use of 'most' with 'prominent' in the passage is the most suitable. 'More' is a comparative adjective which doesn't fit in this context, 'Mostest' is incorrect English, and 'Biggest' refers to physical size or volume, not prominence.

25. C) '**Facets**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'facets' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के विभिन्न पहलू या आयाम। Passage में 'prominent facets' का use उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र की विभिन्न जटिलताओं को दर्शाने के लिए सबसे उपयुक्त है। 'Observes' देखने या निरीक्षण करने का कार्य होता है, 'Derives' का अर्थ होता है किसी से प्राप्त करना या निकालना, और 'Facts' का अर्थ होता है तथ्य, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- '**Facets**' will be used because 'facets' means different aspects or dimensions of something. The use of 'prominent facets' in the passage is most suitable to describe the various complexities of the Northeastern region. 'Observes' pertains to watching or inspecting, 'Derives' means to obtain or extract from, and 'Facts' means truths or realities, which do not fit in this context.



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