

Amoral embrace: On the U.S. and the Syrian President

The U.S. appears to have **given a free pass** to Sharaa in Syria

For Ahmed al-Sharaa, the founder of al-Qaeda's Syria branch, and now the President of Syria, his recent **visit** to the White House **has marked** a **remarkable turnaround** in his career. From commanding an **outfit** responsible for suicide bombings and targeted killings, and carrying a \$10 million **bounty** on his head, **Mr. Sharaa**, who until recently was known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani, **is** now a very close partner of Washington. After their meeting, U.S. President Donald Trump said that he "gets along with him". In December, only weeks after Mr. Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) **toppled** the **secular** Ba'athist **regime** of President Bashar al-Assad and **seized** Damascus, the U.S. **lifted** the bounty on the former jihadist commander. Earlier this week, Mr. Trump **granted** Syria wide **exemptions** on **sanctions**, and **pressed Congress** to **repeal** a 2019 law that **imposed** harsh penalties on the country, while Syria promised to join the war against the Islamic State. Mr. Sharaa has also signalled his desire to improve **ties** with Israel, America's closest **ally** in West Asia, even as Israel **grabbed** more Syrian territories in the Golan region after Mr. Assad's fall. Reports suggest the U.S. is preparing its presence at an airbase in Damascus as it brokers a Syria-Israel security pact. The message is clear: **Syria**, under Mr. Sharaa, **seeks** entry into the U.S.-led regional order, and Washington is **reciprocating enthusiastically**.

While allowing a country of 25 million people **battered** by western sanctions, foreign **interventions** and **civil war**, to join the regional economic **mainstream** is welcome, what troubles many is Mr. Sharaa's **not-so-distant past**. He was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's choice to open al-Qaeda's Syria branch. He split with Baghdadi when the latter founded the Islamic State in the early 2010s, and remained loyal to Ayman al-Zawahiri's al-Qaeda. Mr. Sharaa began to **distance himself** from al-Qaeda only after his forces captured Idlib, which became the **hub** of anti-Assad factions. As the ruler of Idlib, he maintained close ties with Türkiye. In November 2024, his HTS launched a rapid offensive against the Syrian army, which was badly hurt by Israeli **bombings**, and captured Damascus. Soon after, he was **embraced** by regional and western governments **alike**. While Mr. Sharaa has promised to build an inclusive Syria, the country has **witnessed** at least two **massacres** against minorities — against Alawites and the Druze. **His attempts** to **centralise** power through **sham** elections **have deepened** **sectarian** divides. Transnational jihadists within the HTS continue to operate freely. But **the U.S.**, once **vocally concerned** about the human rights situation in Syria under Mr. Assad, **appears** to have given a free pass to Mr. Sharaa. If he is **rehabilitated** without **accountability** for his past and **scrutiny** of his present rule, Syria's **wounds** will remain **unhealed**, keeping it **on the brink** for years to come.

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Vocabulary

1. **Amoral** (adjective) – lacking moral principles, unconcerned with right or wrong.
नैतिकताहीन
2. **Embrace** (noun) – acceptance, welcome, adoption, support, espousal अपनाना
3. **Give free pass** (phrase) – to allow without consequences, excuse, overlook, ignore. बिना शर्त स्वीकार करना
4. **Mark** (verb) – signify, represent, indicate, symbolize, denote चिह्नित करना
5. **Remarkable** (adjective) – extraordinary, amazing, notable, impressive, phenomenal उल्लेखनीय
6. **Turnaround** (noun) – reversal, transformation, change, shift, U-turn पलटाव
7. **Outfit** (noun) – organization, group, faction, unit, team संगठन
8. **Bounty** (noun) – reward, prize, award, incentive, payment इनाम
9. **Topple** (verb) – overthrow, oust, overthrow, bring down, defeat गिराना
10. **Secular** (adjective) – non-religious, temporal, worldly, civil धर्मनिरपेक्ष
11. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration, rule, authority, leadership शासन
12. **Seize** (verb) – capture, take over, occupy, conquer, take control of कब्जा करना
13. **Lift** (verb) – remove, revoke, cancel, withdraw, rescind हटाना
14. **Grant** (verb) – give, award, allow, permit, provide प्रदान करना
15. **Exemption** (noun) – exception, exclusion, immunity, relief, freedom छूट
16. **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, punishment, restriction, embargo, ban प्रतिबंध
17. **Press** (verb) – urge, push, pressure, insist, compel दबाव डालना
18. **Congress** (noun) – a national legislative body, especially that of the US. The US Congress, which meets at the Capitol in Washington DC, was established by the Constitution of 1787 and is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
19. **Repeal** (verb) – revoke, cancel, annul, abolish, rescind निरस्त करना
20. **Impose** (verb) – enforce, apply, levy, set, charge लागू करना
21. **Ties** (noun) – relations, connections, links, bonds, associations संबंध
22. **Ally** (noun) – partner, associate, supporter, confederate, collaborator सहयोगी

23. **Grab** (verb) – seize, take, capture, snatch, occupy हड़पना
24. **Reciprocate** (verb) – return, respond, reply, match, require बदले में करना
25. **Enthusiastically** (adverb) – eagerly, keenly, ardently, zealously, vigorously उत्साहपूर्वक
26. **Batter** (verb) – damage, harm, hurt, weaken, pound क्षतिग्रस्त करना
27. **Intervention** (noun) – interference, involvement, intrusion, mediation हस्तक्षेप
28. **Civil war** (noun) – internal conflict, war between citizens, internal strife गृहयुद्ध
29. **Mainstream** (noun) – conventional, normal, accepted, dominant, established मुख्यधारा
30. **Not-so-distant past** (phrase) – recent history, not long ago, recent past. हाल का अतीत
31. **Distance oneself from** (phrase) – disassociate, separate, detach, disconnect खुद को अलग करना
32. **Hub** (noun) – center, focal point, nucleus, heart, base केंद्र
33. **Bombing** (noun) – air strike, bombardment, shelling, attack बमबारी
34. **Embrace** (verb) – accept, welcome, adopt, support, take up अपनाना
35. **Alike** (preposition) – similarly, in the same way, equally, uniformly समान रूप से
36. **Witness** (verb) – see, observe, experience, behold, watch देखना
37. **Massacre** (noun) – slaughter, mass murder, carnage, butchery, holocaust नरसंहार
38. **Centralise** (verb) – consolidate, concentrate, unify, bring under control केंद्रीकृत करना
39. **Sham** (adjective) – fake, false, pretended, artificial, bogus नकली
40. **Deepen** (verb) – intensify, increase, worsen, exacerbate, aggravate गहरा करना
41. **Sectarian** (adjective) – denominational, factional, partisan, communal सांप्रदायिक
42. **Vocally** (adverb) – loudly, outspokenly, stridently, vehemently, clamorously मुखर रूप से
43. **Concerned** (adjective) – worried, troubled, anxious, disturbed, apprehensive चिंतित
44. **Rehabilitate** (verb) – restore, reinstate, reestablish, redeem, normalize पुनर्वास करना
45. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, answerability, liability, obligation जवाबदेही
46. **Scrutiny** (noun) – examination, inspection, review, analysis, check जाँच
47. **Wound** (noun) – injury, trauma, hurt, damage, scar घाव

48. **Unhealed** (adjective) – not cured, not recovered, raw, open, untreated ठीक नहीं हुआ

49. **On the brink of** (phrase) – on the verge of, close to, near, about to की कगार पर

Summary of the Editorial

1. Ahmed al-Sharaa, formerly Abu Mohammed al-Golani, has transformed from al-Qaeda's Syria branch founder to Syria's new President.
2. His visit to the White House marks a dramatic shift in his global standing.
3. Sharaa earlier led groups responsible for suicide bombings and targeted killings and once had a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head.
4. After meeting him, U.S. President Donald Trump described him positively, saying he "gets along with him."
5. Weeks after Sharaa's HTS toppled Bashar al-Assad's Ba'athist regime and captured Damascus, the U.S. lifted the bounty.
6. The U.S. also granted Syria major sanctions exemptions and pushed Congress to repeal a 2019 sanctions law.
7. In return, Syria has pledged to join the U.S. fight against the Islamic State.
8. Sharaa has expressed willingness to improve ties with Israel, even as Israel expanded territory in the Golan region after Assad's fall.
9. Reports indicate the U.S. is preparing operations at a Damascus airbase and brokering a Syria-Israel security pact.
10. The overall message: Syria under Sharaa seeks to join the U.S.-led regional order, and Washington is embracing this shift.
11. However, concerns remain about Sharaa's extremist past and his long-standing ties to al-Qaeda.
12. He distanced himself from al-Qaeda only after capturing Idlib and strengthening his political control.
13. Despite promises of an inclusive Syria, massacres against minorities — including Alawites and Druze — have occurred under his rule.
14. His centralisation of power through sham elections has worsened sectarian divisions.
15. The U.S., once vocal on human rights abuses under Assad, appears to be overlooking Sharaa's past and present actions, risking long-term instability and unresolved wounds in Syria.

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

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory
 - B. Humorous
 - C. Neutral
 - D. Critical
2. **Why did many observers feel troubled by Ahmed al-Sharaa's sudden acceptance by the U.S.?**
 - A. Because Syria refused to join the war against the Islamic State
 - B. Because his past involved leading extremist groups with a record of violence
 - C. Because he rejected all diplomatic talks with Israel
 - D. Because he was overthrown by the Ba'athist regime earlier
3. **What major political shift occurred after HTS captured Damascus?**
 - A. The U.S. increased the bounty on Sharaa
 - B. The U.S. lifted sanctions on Israel
 - C. The U.S. removed the bounty on Sharaa and began cooperating with him
 - D. Sharaa dissolved HTS completely
4. **According to the passage, which law did President Trump push Congress to repeal?**
 - A. A 2021 law related to U.S.–Russia relations
 - B. A 2019 law imposing harsh penalties on Syria
 - C. A 2003 law related to Iraq's reconstruction
 - D. A 2015 law linked to Iran's nuclear program
5. **Which two minority communities experienced massacres under Sharaa's rule, as per the passage?**
 - A. Kurds and Armenians
 - B. Yazidis and Christians
 - C. Alawites and Druze
 - D. Shia and Sunni Arabs
6. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - P) At the best of times, policing is stressful, but it also comes with many rewards, both professional and non-professional.
 - Q) Over the years, roaming the wild has been my greatest non-professional reward as a police officer and also a great stress buster from professional trials and tribulations.
 - R) The professional rewards are the satisfaction of preventing or solving a heinous crime, impartially defusing a complex law-and-order problem, and helping people in distress.
 - S) The non-professional rewards include sojourns in interesting places, insights into different cultures and ready access to difficult locations.
 - A. QRSP
 - B. PRSQ
 - C. PSQR
 - D. PSRQ
7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

After having invested so much time and energy into the project, we are now **back to square one.**

- A. Not ready for the consequence
B. In the same city
C. Fighting with each other
D. Having to start all over again
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice**
The wedding planner is making all the reservations and arrangements in advance
A. All the reservations and arrangements are to be made by the wedding planner in advance.
B. All the reservations and arrangements are being made by the wedding planner in advance.
C. All the reservations and arrangements are being making by the wedding planner in advance.
D. All the reservations and arrangements are made by the wedding planner in advance
9. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
A) It was a meticulously crafted Duofold Classic Parker that we as children had grown up with.
B) I remember he gifted me his fountain pen when I was visiting him in the spring of 1989.
C) When I returned from England many years ago, my father was in the last years of his life.
D) And when he died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage, I felt sad clutching on to his pen that had been his companion for over half a century.
E) He had begun to hand out all that he had treasured, particularly his books, knowing his end was near.
A. DECAB
B. CBDEA
C. CABED
D. CBEDA
10. **Select the correct collocation from the options and complete the sentence**
He has the _____ touch of a maestro.
A. grating
B. strong
C. silken
D. heavy
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
Her act was considered as most lamentable.
A. appreciable
B. acceptable
C. permissible
D. deplorable
12. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
By this time tomorrow, / you will be playing / the violin / for 48 hours.
A. you will be playing
B. by this time tomorrow,
C. for 48 hours
D. the violin
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the bracketed word in the following sentence to fill in the blank.**

The athlete's injury was a _____ (defeat) for the team's chances of winning the championship.

- A. progression
- B. breakthrough
- C. stress
- D. setback

14. **Each of the following sentences in this section has a blank space and four words or group of words are given after the sentence.**

He _____ waiting for you since morning

- A. have been
- B. has been
- C. is
- D. had been

15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

If a Time Machine _____ you anywhere for one day, where would you go?

- A. may take
- B. could take
- C. will take
- D. shall take

16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

The action of formally accusing a public official of a serious offence

- A. Impeachment
- B. Condemnation
- C. Summon
- D. Allegation

17. **Select the most appropriate synonym for the word 'ENDURANCE' in the following sentence.**

The leader's endurance paid and he won the elections.

- A. patience
- B. success
- C. enigma
- D. captivity

18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

A creature which depends on others

- A. Microbes
- B. Virus
- C. Parasite
- D. Bacteria

19. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

Give me / a book / that is / on the table

- A. on the table
- B. give me
- C. a book
- D. that is

20. Select the most appropriate homonym to fill in the blank.

He found the soup tasteless and _____

- A. Bland
- B. Blend
- C. Blent
- D. Blunt

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.

The India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA), called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), has been lauded by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, as the 'gold standard' for all India's trade deals. Mr. Goyal has

_____1_____ that no compromise _____2_____ in any sensitive sector. Evidently, the Minister _____3_____ to be counting only agriculture and labour-intensive manufacturing as sensitive sectors — which they are. But remarkably, despite the wide coverage the FTA has received, the impact _____4_____ India's other, highly sensitive digital sector, which permeates every sphere of national activity and holds the key to our future, _____5_____ without official comment or media scrutiny.

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

- A. refuted
- B. contradicted
- C. rebutted
- D. asserted

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

- A. were made
- B. have made
- C. was made
- D. has made

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

- A. seemed
- B. vanished
- C. receded
- D. faded

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

- A. at
- B. on
- C. for
- D. to

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

- A. has gone
- B. have went
- C. was gone
- D. were gone

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. D) Critical
 The passage highlights serious concerns about the U.S. embracing a leader with a violent extremist past, mentions massacres, sham elections, sectarian divides, and the possibility that Syria's wounds will remain unhealed. The author criticizes the moral inconsistency of the U.S. and the unaccountable rise of Sharaa.
 A) Celebratory – Incorrect
 - The passage does not praise the developments; instead, it emphasizes dangers and moral compromises.
 B) Humorous – Incorrect
 - The tone is serious, analytical, and critical — never light, playful, or humorous.
 C) Neutral – Incorrect
 - The passage clearly takes a stance by condemning the lack of accountability and expressing concern over geopolitical decisions.
2. B) The passage clearly states that observers are troubled because Mr. Sharaa has a violent extremist past, including suicide bombings, targeted killings, and al-Qaeda links.
 - A is incorrect: Syria actually agreed to join the war against ISIS.
 - C is incorrect: He actually expressed a desire to improve ties with Israel, not reject diplomacy.
 - D is incorrect: He was not overthrown by the Ba'athists; he toppled Assad's Ba'athist regime.
3. C) C is correct: Passage states the U.S. lifted his bounty and began cooperating closely with him.
 - A is incorrect: The U.S. removed the bounty, not increased it.
 - B is incorrect: There is no mention of sanctions on Israel being lifted.
 - D is incorrect: HTS still exists, and transnational jihadists continue to operate.
4. B) The passage explicitly states that Trump pressed Congress to repeal the 2019 law imposing harsh penalties on Syria.
 - A is incorrect: No 2021 Russia-related law is mentioned.
 - C is incorrect: No mention of a 2003 Iraq reconstruction law.
 - D is incorrect: The text does not reference any Iran nuclear-related law.
5. C) The passage states that massacres occurred against Alawites and the Druze.
 - A is incorrect: Kurds/Armenians are not mentioned.
 - B is incorrect: No reference to Yazidis or Christians in the context of massacres.
 - D is incorrect: The passage does not mention massacres between Shia and Sunni Arabs.
6. B) PRSQ
 - P: P sets the general tone of the paragraph and introduces the idea that policing is stressful but rewarding both professionally and non-professionally. This sentence is broad and introductory, making it a suitable starting point.

- R: After introducing the concept of professional and non-professional rewards in P, R specifically details the professional rewards, making it logical to follow P.
 - S: Once the professional rewards have been discussed in R, S can then elucidate the non-professional rewards, maintaining the logical flow
 - Q: Q is a specific example of a non-professional reward, and it would follow naturally after S, which is a general statement about non-professional rewards. Q gives a personal touch to the paragraph by giving the author's personal experience
7. D) **Back to square one** (idiom) – Having to start all over again फिर से शुरुआत से शुरू करना।
8. B) All the reservations and arrangements are being made by the wedding planner in advance. Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "The wedding planner" (Subject), "is making" (Verb in Present Continuous), और "all the reservations and arrangements" (Object) है। Passive में बदलने पर Object ("All the reservations and arrangements") Subject बन गया है, Verb को "are being made" (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला गया है और "by the wedding planner" जोड़ा गया है।
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the Object of the active sentence becomes the Subject of the passive sentence. The Verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The wedding planner" (Subject), "is making" (Verb in Present Continuous), and "all the reservations and arrangements" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "All the reservations and arrangements" (Subject), "are being made" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by the wedding planner".
9. D) CBEDA
- C: This sentence sets the stage for the narrative, introducing a point of return from England and mentioning the father's advanced age
 - B: Sentence B is a continuation of C because it refers to a specific incident involving the author's father. This incident is in the past and gives us a time reference: "the spring of 1989," which follows the undated return from England mentioned in sentence C
 - E: Sentence E logically follows B because it refers to the father giving away his treasured possessions, which includes the fountain pen mentioned in B.
 - D: Sentence D follows E as it refers to the father's death and the narrator holding onto the pen mentioned in B. The use of "And" at the beginning of D serves to connect it with the previous sentence E, and it brings a conclusion to the father's life, mentioned in the prior sentences.
 - A: Lastly, sentence A seems to provide additional information about the pen mentioned in the previous sentences, specifically in sentences B and D.
10. C) 'silken' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'touch of a maestro' को व्यक्त करने के लिए 'silken' सबसे उपयुक्त शब्द है जो मुलायम और सूक्ष्म स्पर्श को दर्शाता है; जैसे— किसी प्रवीण के मुलायम स्पर्श की तरह।
- 'silken' will be used because for describing 'touch of a maestro', 'silken' is the most appropriate word that indicates a soft and subtle touch; Like— the gentle touch of a master.

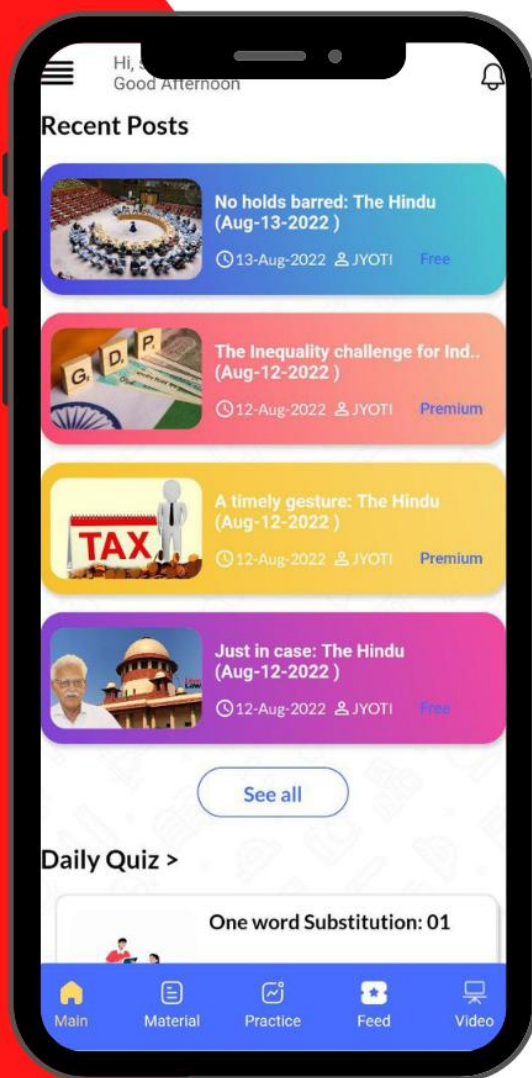
11. A) **Lamentable** (adjective) – Regrettable, deplorable, distressing, unfortunate. दुखद
Antonym: Appreciable (adjective) – Considerable, substantial, significant, noticeable. प्रशंसनीय
- **Acceptable** (adjective) – Adequate, satisfactory, allowable, permissible. स्वीकार्य
 - **Permissible** (adjective) – Allowable, acceptable, lawful, allowable. अनुमत
 - **Deplorable** (adjective) – Shockingly bad in quality, lamentable, disgraceful, regrettable. निंदनीय
12. A) 'you will be playing' के बदले 'you will have been playing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहां 'for 48 hours' के साथ 'future perfect continuous tense' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए; जैसे— By this time tomorrow, you will have been playing the violin for 48 hours.
- 'you will have been playing' will be used instead of 'you will be playing' because with 'for 48 hours', the correct tense to use is 'future perfect continuous tense'; Like— By this time tomorrow, you will have been playing the violin for 48 hours.
13. D) **Defeat** (noun) – Failure to win or succeed, a setback, loss, vanquishment. हार
Synonym: Setback (noun) – A reversal or check in progress, an obstacle, hindrance, a problem causing delay or interruption. बाधा
- **Progression** (noun) – A movement or development toward a destination or a more advanced state, advancement, progress. प्रगति
 - **Breakthrough** (noun) – A sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development, an advance, a step forward. सफलता
 - **Stress** (noun) – A state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or very demanding circumstances. तनाव
14. B) 'has been' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject 'He' सिंगुलर है और Sentence Present Perfect Continuous Tense में है। इस Tense में हम 'has been' का उपयोग सिंगुलर Subject के लिए करते हैं और यह Tense 'since' के साथ आता है, जो एक विशिष्ट समय बताता है जब कार्य आरम्भ हुआ था; जैसे— He has been reading the book since morning.
- 'has been' will be used because the Subject 'He' is singular, and the Sentence is in Present Perfect Continuous Tense. We use 'has been' in this Tense for a singular subject, and this Tense is used with 'since,' which indicates a specific point in time when the action started; Like— He has been reading the book since morning.
15. B) 'could take' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह Conditional Sentence Type 2 का उदाहरण है, जिसमें वर्तमान या भविष्य में किसी असंभावना को व्यक्त किया जाता है; जैसे— If I were a bird, I could fly.
- 'could take' will be used because this is an example of Conditional Sentence Type 2, which is used to express improbabilities in the present or future; Like— If I were a bird, I could fly.
16. A) **Impeachment** (noun) – The action of formally accusing a public official of a serious offence. महाभियोग
- **Condemnation** (noun) – the expression of very strong disapproval; censure. निन्दा

- **Summon** (noun) – an order to appear before a judge or magistrate. आदेश
 - **Allegation** (noun) – a claim or assertion that someone has done something illegal or wrong, typically one made without proof. आरोप
17. A) **Endurance** (noun) – The ability to endure an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way; tolerance, resilience, stamina. सहनशीलता
- Synonym: Patience** (noun) – The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious; forbearance, tolerance, resilience. धैर्य
- **Success** (noun) – The accomplishment of an aim or purpose; triumph, victory, achievement. सफलता
 - **Enigma** (noun) – A person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand; mystery, puzzle, conundrum. पहेली
 - **Captivity** (noun) – The condition of being imprisoned or confined; imprisonment, incarceration, detainment. कैद
18. C) **Parasite** (noun) – An organism that lives on or in a host organism and gets its food from or at the expense of its host. परजीवी
- **Microbes** (noun) – Microscopic organisms, especially bacteria, viruses, and fungi. सूक्ष्मजीव
 - **Virus** (noun) – A microscopic infectious agent that can only replicate within the cells of living hosts. वायरस
 - **Bacteria** (noun) – Single-celled microorganisms that can exist either as independent (free-living) organisms or as parasites. बैक्टीरिया
19. C) 'a book' के बदले 'the book' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पुस्तक को 'on the table' से स्पष्टीकरण किया गया है, जिससे यह पुस्तक विशेष बन जाती है।
- 'a book' will be replaced by 'the book' because the book is specified by the phrase 'on the table,' making it a specific book. Therefore, the definite article 'the' should be used.
20. A) 'Bland' को चुना जाएगा क्योंकि 'Bland' का अर्थ होता है स्वादहीन। Sentence में बताया गया है कि उसे सूप स्वादहीन लगा, इसलिए 'Bland' यहाँ सही है। 'Blend' का अर्थ है मिलाना, 'Blent' एक archaic शब्द है और 'Blunt' का अर्थ है कुंद, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Bland' should be used because it means lacking in flavor. The sentence states that he found the soup tasteless, making 'Bland' appropriate here. 'Blend' means to mix, 'Blent' is an archaic form, and 'Blunt' means not sharp, which are incorrect in this context.
21. D) 'Asserted' का use होगा क्योंकि "asserted" का अर्थ होता है दृढ़तापूर्वक कहना या दावा करना। sentence में कहा गया है कि मंत्री ने यह स्पष्ट किया कि किसी भी संवेदनशील क्षेत्र में कोई समझौता नहीं हुआ, इसलिए 'asserted' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Refuted' का अर्थ है खंडन करना, 'Contradicted' का अर्थ है विरोधाभास करना, और 'Rebutted' का अर्थ है तर्क देकर खारिज करना—ये सब यहाँ context में फिट नहीं होते।

- 'Asserted' will be used because it means to state firmly or declare with confidence. The sentence says that the Minister firmly stated that no compromise was made in any sensitive sector, so 'asserted' is correct here. Whereas 'Refuted' means disproved, 'Contradicted' means opposed, and 'Rebutted' means argued against, none of which fit this context.
22. C) 'Was made' का use होगा क्योंकि "compromise" singular है और sentence passive voice में है। sentence में कहा गया है कि किसी भी संवेदनशील क्षेत्र में कोई समझौता नहीं किया गया, इसलिए 'was made' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Were made' plural noun के साथ आता है, 'Have made' active voice है (जिसमें subject की आवश्यकता होती है), और 'Has made' भी active voice है और subject mismatch करता है—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Was made' will be used because "compromise" is singular and the sentence is in passive voice. The sentence says no compromise was made in any sensitive sector, so 'was made' fits correctly. Whereas 'Were made' is used for plural nouns, 'Have made' is active voice requiring a subject, and 'Has made' is also active voice with subject mismatch, none of which fit this context.
23. A) 'Seemed' का use होगा क्योंकि "seemed" का अर्थ होता है प्रतीत होना या ऐसा लगना। sentence में कहा गया है कि मंत्री केवल कृषि और श्रम-प्रधान निर्माण क्षेत्रों को ही संवेदनशील मान रहे हैं, इसलिए यह केवल ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि वे इन्हें संवेदनशील मानते हैं, इसलिए 'seemed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Vanished' का अर्थ है गायब हो जाना, 'Receded' का अर्थ है पीछे हटना, और 'Faded' का अर्थ है कमजोर या फीका पड़ना—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Seemed' will be used because it means appeared or gave the impression. The sentence says the Minister appeared to be counting only agriculture and labour-intensive manufacturing as sensitive sectors, so 'seemed' fits correctly. Whereas 'Vanished' means disappeared, 'Receded' means moved back, and 'Faded' means weakened, none of which fit in this context.
24. B) 'On' का use होगा क्योंकि "impact on" एक standard collocation है और इसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ पर प्रभाव डालना। sentence में कहा गया है कि FTA का प्रभाव भारत के अन्य संवेदनशील डिजिटल क्षेत्र पर पड़ा, इसलिए 'on' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'At' स्थान या समय के लिए प्रयोग होता है, 'For' लाभ या उद्देश्य के लिए और 'To' दिशा या लक्ष्य के लिए होता है—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'On' will be used because "impact on" is a standard collocation meaning to affect something. The sentence mentions that the FTA's impact is on India's other sensitive digital sector, so 'on' fits correctly. Whereas 'At' is used for place or time, 'For' indicates benefit or purpose, and 'To' indicates direction or target, none of which fit in this context.
25. A) 'Has gone' का use होगा क्योंकि subject singular/plural (impact) के साथ present perfect tense में है और sentence बताता है कि कोई official comment या media scrutiny अभी तक नहीं हुई। इसलिए 'has gone' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Have went' grammatically गलत है (should be 'have gone'), 'Was

gone' past tense में है और continuous/ongoing स्थिति नहीं दिखाता, और 'Were gone' plural के लिए past tense है—ये सब इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Has gone' will be used because the subject (impact) is singular/plural and the sentence is in present perfect tense, indicating that no official comment or media scrutiny has occurred so far. Whereas 'Have went' is grammatically incorrect (should be 'have gone'), 'Was gone' is past tense, and 'Were gone' is past tense for plural, none of which fit in this context.



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