

## Truce in tatters: On the Cambodia-Thailand conflict

ASEAN should do more to end dispute between Cambodia and Thailand

The **resumption** of **hostilities** between Thailand and Cambodia this week **marks** a dangerous **unravelling** of the **fragile** truce that U.S. President Donald Trump helped broker just two months ago, and a **slide** toward a conflict that threatens regional **stability**. The latest **escalation** began in May, when a Cambodian soldier was killed in **skirmishes** near the ancient Preah Vihear temple in the **contested** border region. Cambodia responded by banning Thai goods and closing key border crossings, **driving bilateral** ties **to a new low**. In July, five Thai soldiers were injured in a landmine explosion in the same area. Bangkok **accused** Cambodia **of** laying mines, and downgraded **diplomatic** ties. This was followed by **cross-border** fighting that killed at least 48 people and **displaced** over 3,00,000 **civilians** in five days. In late July, a diplomatic **push** by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, **backed** by Mr. Trump, **produced** a **ceasefire**. But tensions **lingered**. In November, Thailand announced that it would suspend implementation of the ceasefire after a landmine blast injured several soldiers. That decision **set the stage for** the fighting on December 7, with Cambodia accusing Thailand of launching air strikes.

The Thai-Cambodian crisis has **colonial** roots in the Franco-Siamese (Thai) treaties of 1904 and 1907, which defined the boundary between Siam and French Indochina. While these **treaties sketched** borders along the forested Dângrêk ranges, the line remained largely **undemarcated** on the ground. The **flashpoint** has been Preah Vihear, the 11th century Khmer Hindu temple and UNESCO World Heritage Site. In 1962, the International Court of Justice awarded Cambodia **sovereignty** over the temple, but the dispute has **endured** in the absence of a **mutually** accepted border **demarcation**. The latest **flare-up reflects** an erosion of trust and **hostility** between the two nations. Foreign investors and tourists watch **nervously** as the two ASEAN members exchange fire across the border. ASEAN is already **grappling with** a far larger challenge in Myanmar where a **brutal** military **regime** seems **determined to cling to power** even **at the cost of** its own people. If the Thai-Cambodia border crisis **metastasises** into something worse, South-East Asia's hard-won **reputation** for stability and economic cooperation **could** further be **undermined**. **Regional powers** such as Malaysia and Indonesia **have** both the interests and the influence to **facilitate** renewed dialogue and must press both sides to return to talks without delay. Once the ceasefire is restored, ASEAN should promote confidence-building measures to **address** the **deep** mistrust between the two countries and ensure that another round of fighting does not **erupt**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Truce** (noun) – ceasefire, armistice, peace agreement, cessation of hostilities, suspension of fighting युद्धविराम
2. **In tatters** (phrase) – completely destroyed, ruined, torn apart, shattered, in ruins चिथड़े-चिथड़े हो जाना
3. **Resumption** (noun) – restart, recommencement, renewal, reopening, continuation पुनरारंभ
4. **Hostility** (noun) – enmity, antagonism, aggression, conflict, animosity शत्रुता
5. **Mark** (verb) – indicate, signify, represent, denote, signal चिह्नित करना
6. **Unravelling** (noun) – collapse, disintegration, breakdown, coming apart, dissolution बिखराव
7. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, weak, unstable, vulnerable, precarious नाज़ुक
8. **Slide** (noun) – decline, deterioration, drop, descent, downturn फिसलन
9. **Stability** (noun) – steadiness, firmness, balance, solidity, security स्थिरता
10. **Escalation** (noun) – intensification, increase, rise, aggravation, heightening तीव्रता में वृद्धि
11. **Skirmish** (noun) – minor fight, clash, scuffle, brief battle, encounter झड़प
12. **Contested** (adjective) – disputed, debated, challenged, controversial, argued over विवादित
13. **Drive** (verb) – push, force, propel, send, reduce धकेलना
14. **Bilateral** (adjective) – two-party, mutual, joint, reciprocal, between two द्विपक्षीय
15. **New low** (noun) – lowest point, nadir, worst level, rock bottom नई निचली स्थिति
16. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – charge, blame, indict, allege, hold responsible आरोप लगाना
17. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – political, ambassadorial, foreign-policy, tactful, statesmanlike राजनयिक
18. **Cross-border** (adjective) – transnational, international, inter-border, across the frontier सीमापार
19. **Displace** (verb) – uproot, force out, evacuate, expel, dislocate विस्थापित करना
20. **Civilian** (noun) – non-combatant, ordinary citizen, populace, commoner, private individual असैनिक नागरिक
21. **Push** (noun) – effort, initiative, drive, campaign, endeavor प्रयास
22. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sponsor, finance, advocate समर्थन करना

23. **Ceasefire** (noun) – truce, armistice, cessation of hostilities, peace, suspension of fighting युद्धविराम
24. **Linger** (verb) – persist, remain, hang around, stay, endure बने रहना
25. **Set the stage for** (phrase) – to create the conditions for something to happen. आधार तैयार करना
26. **Colonial** (adjective) – imperial, ruling, dominating, settler औपनिवेशिक
27. **Treaty** (noun) – agreement, pact, accord, convention, settlement संधि
28. **Sketch** (verb) – outline, draft, delineate, describe roughly, map out रूपरेखा बनाना
29. **Undemarcated** (adjective) – unmarked, undefined, un-delimited, unspecified, vague असीमांकित
30. **Flashpoint** (noun) – crisis point, trouble spot, hot spot, source of conflict, tinderbox संघर्ष का केंद्र
31. **Sovereignty** (noun) – supreme authority, independence, autonomy, self-rule, jurisdiction संप्रभुता
32. **Endure** (verb) – persist, continue, last, remain, survive कायम रहना
33. **Mutually** (adverb) – jointly, reciprocally, commonly, together, collectively परस्पर
34. **Demarcation** (noun) – delimitation, marking, definition, outlining, setting of boundaries सीमांकन
35. **Flare-up** (noun) – outbreak, eruption, sudden increase, explosion, upsurge अचानक भड़क उठना
36. **Reflect** (verb) – show, indicate, demonstrate, reveal, manifest प्रतिबिंबित करना
37. **Hostility** (noun) – antagonism, enmity, animosity, aggression, ill will शत्रुता
38. **Nervously** (adverb) – anxiously, apprehensively, uneasily, worriedly, edgily घबराहट से
39. **Grapple** (with) (verb) – struggle, contend, wrestle, deal with, tackle जूझना
40. **Brutal** (adjective) – savage, cruel, vicious, ruthless, harsh क्रूर
41. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration, rule, authority, leadership शासन
42. **Determined** (adjective) – resolute, firm, steadfast, intent, unwavering दृढ़ संकल्पित
43. **Cling to power** (phrase) – to desperately hold on to authority or control. सत्ता से चिपके रहना
44. **At the cost of** (phrase) – by sacrificing or to the detriment of something. की कीमत पर

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| 45. <b>Metastasise</b> (verb) – spread (like cancer), proliferate, escalate, worsen, grow फैलना (रोग की तरह) | 48. <b>Address</b> (verb) – tackle, deal with, handle, confront, attend to निपटना    |
| 46. <b>Undermine</b> (Verb) – weaken, sabotage, subvert, erode, compromise कमज़ोर करना                       | 49. <b>Deep</b> (adjective) – profound, intense, strong, ingrained, fundamental गहरा |
| 47. <b>Facilitate</b> (verb) – enable, assist, ease, promote, smooth सुविधाजनक बनाना                         | 50. <b>Erupt</b> (verb) – break out, flare up, explode, burst, commence भड़क उठना    |

### Summary of the Editorial

1. Hostilities between Thailand and Cambodia have resumed, breaking the fragile truce negotiated two months earlier.
2. The renewed conflict poses a serious threat to regional stability in South-East Asia.
3. Tensions escalated in May when a Cambodian soldier was killed near the disputed Preah Vihear temple.
4. Cambodia retaliated by banning Thai goods and shutting key border crossings.
5. In July, five Thai soldiers were injured in a landmine explosion in the same region.
6. Thailand accused Cambodia of planting landmines and downgraded diplomatic ties.
7. Subsequent cross-border clashes killed at least 48 people and displaced over 300,000 civilians in just five days.
8. A ceasefire was arranged in late July through diplomatic efforts led by Malaysia and backed by the U.S. President.
9. Trust remained weak, and Thailand suspended the ceasefire in November after another landmine incident.
10. The December 7 fighting began after Cambodia alleged that Thailand launched air strikes.
11. The conflict has roots in colonial-era Franco-Siamese treaties of 1904 and 1907, which left border lines vague and undemarcated.
12. The main flashpoint remains the 11th-century Preah Vihear temple, awarded to Cambodia by the ICJ in 1962.
13. The unresolved border issue has fostered long-standing mistrust and hostility between the two nations.
14. Rising violence alarms investors and tourists and adds pressure on ASEAN, already struggling with the Myanmar crisis.
15. ASEAN — especially countries like Malaysia and Indonesia — must push both sides back to dialogue and promote confidence-building measures to prevent further escalation.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What main development initially triggered the latest escalation of hostilities in May as described in the passage?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. Diplomatic ties were formally suspended by Thailand.
  - B. A Cambodian soldier was killed in border skirmishes.
  - C. Thailand launched air strikes on Cambodian positions.
  - D. ASEAN intervened to mediate the bilateral dispute.
2. **According to the passage, what deeper historical factor underlies the Thai-Cambodian border conflict?**
  - A. Colonial-era treaties left boundaries undemarcated clearly.
  - B. Cambodia's recent ban on imported goods from Thailand.
  - C. ASEAN's inability to manage regional disputes effectively.
  - D. The UN's decision to grant temple sovereignty to Thailand.
3. **What broader risk does the ongoing Thai-Cambodia conflict pose to the region as highlighted in the text?**
  - A. It could permanently damage the tourism sectors in both nations.
  - B. It may undermine Southeast Asia's reputation for stability.
  - C. It will likely cause ASEAN to suspend both members immediately.
  - D. It could shift global attention away from the crisis in Myanmar.
4. **What can be inferred about the role of external diplomatic efforts in the conflict from the passage?**
  - A. They have permanently resolved the underlying border dispute.
  - B. They are fragile and can break down if underlying mistrust remains.
  - C. They have been led primarily by European powers and the United Nations.
  - D. They are no longer necessary since both sides prefer military solutions.
5. **Based on the passage, what can be reasonably inferred about ASEAN's current regional challenge?**
  - A. It is dealing with multiple simultaneous crises that strain its stability.
  - B. It has successfully mediated conflicts in Myanmar and Thailand.
  - C. Its main priority is economic cooperation, not political disputes.
  - D. It lacks any member states with the influence to facilitate dialogue.
6. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Lay cards on table
  - A. Judge others with bias
  - B. Forget problems with time
  - C. Reveal truth without hiding
  - D. React harshly under stress
7. **Find the incorrect part of the sentence:**  
She gave me a good advice.
  - A. No error
  - B. me
  - C. She gave
  - D. a good advice.
8. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A building where grain is stored.'**

- A. Bakery
  - B. Granary
  - C. Winery
  - D. Foundry
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Sail close to wind
- A. Act dangerously near limits
  - B. Work confidently without help
  - C. Think calmly under pressure
  - D. Follow rules without exception
10. **Spot the correct spelling of a drug-effect psychology field.**
- A. Psychopharmacology
  - B. Psychopharmeocology
  - C. Psychopharmacology
  - D. Psychopharmacology
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Vulnerability."**
- A. Resilience
  - B. Aperture
  - C. Chronicle
  - D. Doctrine
12. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word "Shoddy."**
- A. Rustic
  - B. Excellent
  - C. Volatile
  - D. Lethargic
13. **Identify the part containing a grammatical or structural error:**  
The news are too good to be true.
- A. are too
  - B. good to be true.
  - C. The news
  - D. No error
14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Eclectic."**
- A. Narrow
  - B. Varied
  - C. Incipient
  - D. Dogmatic
15. **Spot the correct spelling of a CSF-shunt procedure.**
- A. Ventriculoperitoneal
  - B. Ventriculoperitonal
  - C. Ventriculaperitoneal
  - D. Ventriculoperetoneal
16. **Select the correct option:**  
The director demanded the screenplay be revised to eliminate \_\_\_\_ dialogue.
- A. superfluous

- B. superfluity  
C. superfluously  
D. superfluosness
17. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who is very careful and pays great attention to details.'**  
A. Furious  
B. Curious  
C. Nervous  
D. Meticulous
18. **Select the correct homonym from the given options to fill in the blank**  
The actor's work for charity has recently been \_\_\_\_\_ in the press as an attempt to get publicity  
A. dispatched  
B. disparaged  
C. detached  
D. distracted
19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Earnest."**  
A. Frivolous  
B. Genuine  
C. Perilous  
D. Nomadic
20. **Identify the error in the sentence.**  
She adopted a honest approach to resolving the issue.  
A. She adopted  
B. a honest approach  
C. to resolving the issue.  
D. No error

**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.**

Hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the curtain on the three-decade-old struggle for internal reservation, the Karnataka government on Tuesday agreed on a matrix for \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the overall 17% reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State. The Madiga community (Dalit left), \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ led the struggle from the front, will now get a 6% share in the overall matrix. The \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_ better-off Dalit right (Holey) group will receive 6%, while the "less backward" communities of Lambanis, Bhovis, Korama, and Koracha — along with 59 microscopic communities — have been \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 5%.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**  
A. bring about  
B. bring out  
C. bring down  
D. bring off
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**  
A. call off



- B. slicing up
- C. carry on
- D. turn down

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

- A. whom
- B. who
- C. whose
- D. whosoever

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

- A. relatively
- B. swiftly
- C. certainly
- D. inadequately

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

- A. allocate
- B. allocates
- C. allocating
- D. allocated

## Answers

### Explanations

1. B) **A Cambodian soldier was killed in border skirmishes.**

The passage states, "The latest escalation began in May, when a Cambodian soldier was killed in skirmishes near the ancient Preah Vihear temple." This event directly triggered Cambodia's retaliatory measures and the subsequent downward spiral in relations.

2. A) **Colonial-era treaties left boundaries undemarcated clearly.**

The passage explains that the crisis has colonial roots in the 1904 and 1907 Franco-Siamese treaties, which defined a boundary that was "largely undemarcated on the ground," leading to enduring disputes despite the 1962 ICJ ruling on Preah Vihear.

3. B) **It may undermine Southeast Asia's reputation for stability**

The passage warns that if the border crisis worsens, "South-East Asia's hard-won reputation for stability and economic cooperation could further be undermined," linking it to regional stability concerns beyond just the bilateral dispute.

4. B) **They are fragile and can break down if underlying mistrust remains.**

The passage details how a ceasefire brokered in July (with U.S. and Malaysian backing) broke down by November when Thailand suspended its implementation after another incident. This sequence implies that without addressing the root causes—like deep mistrust and undemarcated borders—diplomatic truces are temporary. The text explicitly states that "tensions lingered" and fighting resumed, supporting this inference.

5. A) **It is dealing with multiple simultaneous crises that strain its stability.**

The passage directly connects the Thai-Cambodia conflict to the "far larger challenge in Myanmar," stating that ASEAN is "already grappling" with it. This juxtaposition, along with the warning about risks to regional stability, allows us to infer that ASEAN is facing multiple, overlapping crises that collectively threaten the region's hard-earned stability and cohesion.

6. C) **Lay cards on table** (idiom) – Reveal truth without hiding बिना छुपाए सच्चाई स्पष्ट बताना

7. D) **'advice'** अगणनीय (uncountable) noun है, इसलिए इसके पहले a / an का प्रयोग नहीं होता। सही वाक्य होगा – She gave me good advice.

- 'advice' is an uncountable noun, so it cannot take the article a; hence "a good advice" is incorrect. The correct expression is She gave me good advice.

8. B) **Granary** – A storehouse for grains अन्नागार

- **Bakery** – A place where bread and cakes are made बेकरी
- **Winery** – A place where wine is produced मदिरालय
- **Foundry** – A place where metal is cast धातु ढलाई कारखाना

9. A) **Sail close to wind** (idiom) – Act dangerously near limits जोखिम की सीमा पर काम करना

10. D) The correct spelling is **'Psychopharmacology'**, which means "the scientific study of the effects of drugs on the mind and behavior" – औषधियों के मानसिक प्रभावों का विज्ञान, मनोऔषधि विज्ञान।

11. A): **Resilience** (noun) – toughness, strength, ability to recover. मजबूती

- **Aperture** (noun) – opening. छेद
- **Chronicle** (noun) – historical record. वृत्तान्त
- **Doctrine** (noun) – principle. सिद्धांत

12. B) **Shoddy** (adjective) – Poor in quality; inferior; substandard. घटिया

Antonym: **Excellent** (adjective) – Of extremely high quality; superior. उत्कृष्ट

- **Rustic** (adjective) – Rural or simple. देहाती
- **Volatile** (adjective) – Unstable; unpredictable. अस्थिर
- **Lethargic** (adjective) – Sluggish; inactive. सुस्त

13. A) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि news एक singular uncountable noun है और singular verb लेता है; जैसे— The news is shocking.

- 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because news is an uncountable noun that always takes a singular verb; Like— The news is shocking.
14. B) **Eclectic** (adjective) – Taking ideas from a wide range of sources; diverse, varied, wide-ranging. विविध / बहुविध  
 Synonym: **Varied** (adjective) – Consisting of different types; diverse. विविध / अनेक प्रकार का
- **Narrow** – Limited in range. संकीर्ण
  - **Incipient** – In early stages. प्रारम्भिक
  - **Dogmatic** – Doctrinal, rigid in beliefs. कट्टर
15. A) The correct spelling is '**Ventriculoperitoneal**', which refers to a surgical shunt placed between a brain ventricle and the peritoneal cavity to drain cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) — मस्तिष्क की नलिकाओं से पेट की गुहा तक द्रव निकालने की शल्य-प्रक्रिया।
16. A) '**Superfluous**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ खाली स्थान में एक adjective (विशेषण) की आवश्यकता है जो "dialogue" (संज्ञा) को विशेषित कर रहा है। वाक्य का अर्थ है कि निर्देशक ने पटकथा में से अनावश्यक या फालतू संवादों को हटाने को कहा। इसलिए "superfluous" (अर्थात् unnecessary or excessive) सही विकल्प है।  
 'Superfluous' should be used because the blank requires an adjective describing the noun "dialogue." The sentence means that the director wanted to remove unnecessary or redundant dialogues from the screenplay. Hence, "superfluous" (meaning unnecessary or excessive) is the most appropriate choice.
17. D) **Meticulous** – A person who is extremely careful and precise सूक्ष्म रूप से सावधान
- **Furious** – Very angry क्रोधित
  - **Curious** – Eager to know जिज्ञासु
  - **Nervous** – Anxious or worried घबराया हुआ
18. B) **disparaged** का use होगा क्योंकि 'disparage' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ या व्यक्ति की आलोचना करना या उसे हेय समझना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि अभिनेता के चैरिटी के काम को प्रेस में ध्यान आकर्षित करने के प्रयास के रूप में देखा गया है, इसलिए 'disparaged' यहाँ सही है। जबकि, 'Dispatched' का अर्थ है भेजना या रवाना करना, 'Detached' का अर्थ है अलग होना या निष्क्रिय रहना, और 'Distracted' का अर्थ है ध्यान भटकाना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।  
**disparaged** should be used because it means to criticize or belittle something or someone. The sentence mentions that the actor's work for charity has been portrayed in the press as an attempt to seek publicity, making 'disparaged' the correct choice here. Whereas, 'Dispatched' means to send off, 'Detached' means to be separated or disinterested, and 'Distracted' means to divert attention, which don't fit in this context.
19. B) **Earnest** (adjective) – Showing sincere and intense conviction; serious, heartfelt, determined. ईमानदार / गंभीर  
 Synonym: **Genuine** (adjective) – Sincere, real, honest, not fake. वास्तविक / सच्चा
- **Frivolous** – Not serious or sensible. हल्का-फुल्का
  - **Perilous** – Dangerous. जोखिमपूर्ण
  - **Nomadic** – Wandering, without permanent home. घुमंतू
20. B) 'a honest' के बदले '**an honest**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि honest का उच्चारण vowel sound (ऑनिस्ट) से शुरू होता है, इसलिए इसके पहले an लगता है; जैसे— an honest man.
- 'an honest' will be used instead of 'a honest' because honest begins with a vowel sound, so it takes an; Like— an honest man.
21. C) '**Bring down**' का use होगा क्योंकि "bring down the curtain" एक idiomatic phrase है जिसका अर्थ है किसी घटना या संघर्ष का अंत करना। sentence में बताया गया है कि कर्नाटक सरकार तीन दशक पुराने आंतरिक आरक्षण संघर्ष को समाप्त करने की कोशिश कर रही है, इसलिए 'bring down' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Bring about' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को घटित करना, 'Bring out' का अर्थ है प्रकाशित करना या उजागर करना, और 'Bring off' का अर्थ है कठिन कार्य को सफलतापूर्वक करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।  
 'Bring down' will be used because "bring down the curtain" is an idiomatic phrase meaning to end something or bring it to a close. The sentence states that the Karnataka government is attempting to end the three-decade-old internal reservation struggle, so 'bring down' is correct here. Whereas, 'Bring about'

means to cause something to happen, 'Bring out' means to publish or reveal, and 'Bring off' means to succeed in a difficult task — none of which fit this context.

22. B) **'Slicing up'** का use होगा क्योंकि "slicing up" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को हिस्सों में बाँटना। sentence में बताया गया है कि कर्नाटक सरकार ने SCs के लिए 17% आरक्षण को अलग-अलग हिस्सों में बाँटने का निर्णय लिया, इसलिए 'slicing up' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Call off' का अर्थ है रद्द करना, 'Carry on' का अर्थ है जारी रखना, और 'Turn down' का अर्थ है अस्वीकार करना, जो context में सही नहीं है।

'Slicing up' will be used because it means dividing something into portions. The sentence mentions that the Karnataka government agreed on a matrix for dividing the overall 17% reservation among different SC communities, so 'slicing up' fits correctly. Whereas, 'Call off' means to cancel, 'Carry on' means to continue, and 'Turn down' means to reject — none of which fit in this context.

23. B) **'Who'** का use होगा क्योंकि "who" subject pronoun है और यहाँ "who led the struggle from the front" एक relative clause बना रहा है जो 'The Madiga community' को describe कर रहा है। sentence का अर्थ है कि Madiga community ही वह थी जिसने संघर्ष का नेतृत्व किया, इसलिए subject pronoun 'who' सही है। जबकि 'Whom' object pronoun होता है, 'Whose' possessive दिखाता है, और 'Whosoever' का अर्थ है 'कोई भी व्यक्ति', जो इस context में व्याकरणिक रूप से फिट नहीं होते।

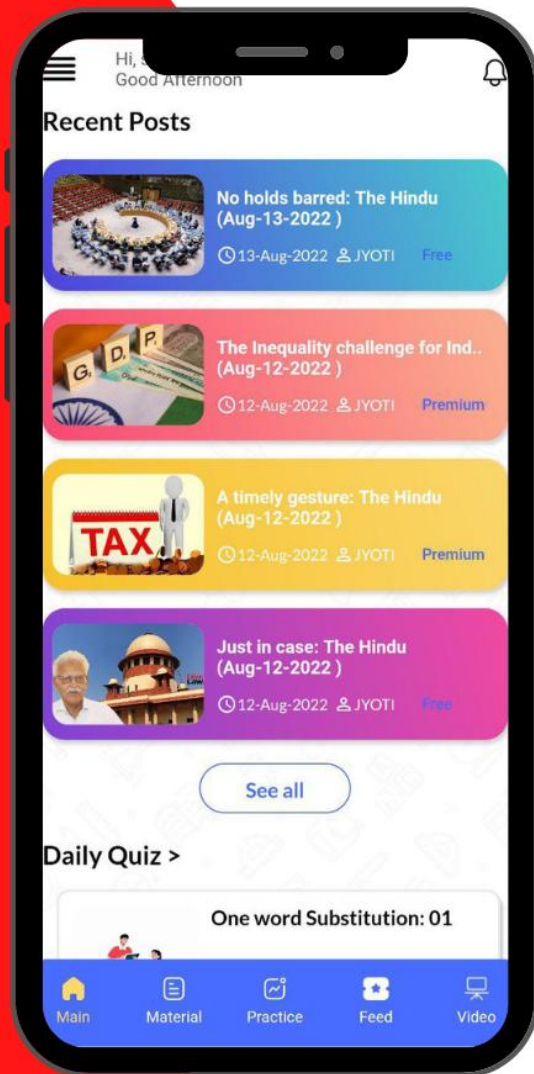
'Who' will be used because it is a subject pronoun and introduces a relative clause "who led the struggle from the front," referring back to "The Madiga community." The sentence means the Madiga community itself led the struggle, so 'who' is grammatically correct. Whereas, 'Whom' is an object pronoun, 'Whose' shows possession, and 'Whosoever' means 'anyone,' none of which fit this context.

24. A) **'Relatively'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह comparative degree दिखाने के लिए adverb है। sentence में कहा गया है कि Holey group "better-off" है, यानी अन्य दलित समूहों की तुलना में अपेक्षाकृत (relatively) बेहतर स्थिति में है। इसलिए 'relatively better-off' grammatically और contextually सही है। जबकि 'Swiftly' का अर्थ है तेजी से, 'Certainly' का अर्थ है निश्चित रूप से, और 'Inadequately' का अर्थ है अपर्याप्त रूप से, जो "better-off" को सही तरह से modify नहीं करते।

'Relatively' will be used because it functions as an adverb of comparison, indicating "better-off in comparison to others." The sentence mentions that the Holey group is relatively better-off than other Dalit groups, so 'relatively' is correct. Whereas, 'Swiftly' means quickly, 'Certainly' means surely, and 'Inadequately' means insufficiently, none of which fit the context of describing "better-off."

25. D) **'Allocated'** का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ passive voice की आवश्यकता है। sentence है — "communities ... have been \_\_\_\_\_ 5%." Passive construction में past participle form चाहिए, इसलिए 'allocated' सही है। जबकि 'Allocate' base form है जो यहाँ grammatically गलत है, 'Allocates' singular subject के साथ present tense में आता है, और 'Allocating' continuous form है, जो 'have been' के साथ sense नहीं बनाता।

'Allocated' will be used because the sentence is in passive voice: "have been allocated 5%." After 'have been,' we need a past participle, so 'allocated' is grammatically correct. Whereas, 'Allocate' is the base form (incorrect here), 'Allocates' is simple present singular, and 'Allocating' is present participle, none of which fit with 'have been.'



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