

Bridging the Gulf: On India, defence ties with Gulf nations

India must **tread cautiously** as it **negotiates** defence **ties** with Gulf nations

The nearly two-hour **visit** of UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MbZ) to Delhi on Monday, with only one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **ended** with a number of **far-reaching outcomes**. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner, its second biggest export destination, seventh biggest foreign investor, and **concluded** its first **bilateral** trade agreement with India in 2022. The **agreements** on Monday **focused** on the economic partnership — a **commitment** to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion, an LNG deal for \$3 billion and UAE investment in Gujarat. However, the major announcement was the **intention** to conclude a **framework** agreement for an India-UAE "Strategic Defence partnership", the first of its kind. Details are still to be revealed. However, it is clear that West Asia and South Asia will be watching closely **given** the complicated security environment in both regions. MbZ's sudden India visit came **amidst heightened** tensions between the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Both countries were once a part of the same military **coalition** against the Houthi **uprising** in 2014. Their power **tussle** has also **intensified** over forces in Sudan, and the lack of communication between MbZ and Saudi leader Mohammed Bin Salman (MbS) is now being called the Gulf region's new "**cold war**". **In addition**, **protests** in Iran and the U.S.'s **threats** to **intervene** as well as the **tenuous** Gaza **ceasefire** and U.S. President Donald Trump's plans for a Board of Peace **have led to** concerns about internal and external **instability**. Israel's **bombing** in Qatar in September 2025, that **led the Saudi government to** rush a "**mutual** defence **pact**" with Pakistan, and reported negotiations of including Türkiye in the pact, **portend** a more complex and **unstable** region, with **repercussions** for India.

The **announcement** of the UAE-India negotiations for a defence agreement **is** being read by some as a possible military **front to counter** other regional **alignments**. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri attempted to **downplay** concerns, holding that the **treaty** was not about India's involvement in "**a hypothetical** future **scenario** in the region". Even so, the government must **keep in mind** ties not only with the UAE but also other important Gulf region countries, where nearly 10 million Indians **reside**. The GCC-area is a major energy source, especially as U.S. and EU **sanctions** have **curtailed** all of India's other important sources. India's cross-regional connectivity **plans** through Iran's Chabahar port, the International North South Transport Corridor and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor **have been imperilled** due to all the tensions as their future depends on cooperation with all players there. With important relationships in the region, and so many **faultlines** within it, India has little option but to tread lightly.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Bridge the gap** (phrase) – to make two groups, people, ideas, etc. less separate or less different गहरी खाई या मतभेद
2. **Tread** (verb) – step, walk, advance, proceed, pace कदम रखना
3. **Cautiously** (adverb) – carefully, prudently, warily, vigilantly, discreetly सावधानीपूर्वक
4. **Negotiate** (verb) – bargain, arbitrate, mediate, settle, discuss बातचीत करना
5. **Tie** (noun) – bond, connection, link, relation, association संबंध
6. **Far-reaching** (adjective) – extensive, comprehensive, sweeping, broad, wide-ranging दूरगमी
7. **Outcome** (noun) – result, end result, consequence, upshot, effect, परिणाम
8. **Conclude** (verb) – finalize, settle, achieve, clinch, terminate निष्कर्ष निकालना
9. **Bilateral** (adjective) – mutual, reciprocal, joint, two-sided, bipartisan द्विपक्षीय
10. **Commitment** (noun) – pledge, promise, obligation, assurance, guarantee प्रतिबद्धता
11. **Intention** (noun) – aim, objective, purpose, intent, goal इरादा
12. **Framework** (noun) – structure, outline, blueprint, skeleton, foundation ढांचा या रूपरेखा
13. **Given** (preposition) – Considering, taking into account, bearing in mind, in light of, in view of देखते हुए
14. **Amidst** (preposition) – amid, among, between, during, amidst के बीच में
15. **Heightened** (adjective) – intensified, increased, aggravated, enhanced, amplified बढ़ा हुआ
16. **Coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, bloc, federation, league गठबंधन
17. **Uprising** (noun) – rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, insurgency विद्रोह
18. **Tussle** (noun) – struggle, scuffle, skirmish, fight, brawl संघर्ष
19. **Intensify** (verb) – escalate, sharpen, aggravate, exacerbate, deepen तेज करना
20. **Cold war** (noun) – a state of political hostility between countries characterized by threats and propaganda rather than open warfare शीत युद्ध
21. **In addition** (phrase) – as well as, furthermore, moreover, also, besides के अतिरिक्त

22. **Intervene** (verb) – interfere, intrude, meddle, arbitrate, intercede हस्तक्षेप करना

23. **Tenuous** (adjective) – fragile, weak, shaky, flimsy, precarious कमज़ोर या तुच्छ

24. **Ceasefire** (noun) – an agreement by opposing sides to stop fighting, usually temporarily युद्धविराम

25. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) – resulted in or caused a particular situation or event के कारण बनना

26. **Bombing** (noun) – bombardment, shelling, blitz, explosion, air strike बमबारी

27. **Mutual** (adjective) – reciprocal, common, joint, shared, bilateral आपसी

28. **Pact** (noun) – treaty, agreement, accord, protocol, compact समझौता

29. **Portend** (verb) – augur, presage, herald, foreshadow, bode संकेत देना

30. **Unstable** (adjective) – volatile, precarious, erratic, fickle, shaky अस्थिर

31. **Repercussion** (noun) – consequences, aftermath, fallout, results, effects दुष्परिणाम

32. **Front** (noun) – boundary, sector, vanguard, facade, exterior मोर्चा

33. **Counter** (verb) – oppose, resist, retaliate, negate, counteract विरोध करना

34. **Alignment** (noun) – alliance, affiliation, association, union, arrangement गुटबंदी

35. **Downplay** (verb) – underestimate, minimize, de-emphasize, disparage, belittle महत्व कम बताना

36. **Treaty** (noun) – accord, pact, agreement, settlement, convention संधि

37. **Hypothetical** (adjective) – theoretical, speculative, imaginary, assumed, supposed काल्पनिक

38. **Scenario** (noun) – situation, sequence, setting, prospect, context परिदृश्य

39. **Keep in mind** (phrase) – to remember or take into account a particular piece of information ध्यान में रखना

40. **Reside** (verb) – dwell, inhabit, live, occupy, stay निवास करना

41. **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, restriction, embargo, ban, boycott प्रतिबंध

42. **Curtail** (verb) – reduce, diminish, abridge, decrease, shorten कटौती करना

43. **Imperil** (verb) – endanger, jeopardize, risk, threaten, vulnerable संकट में डालना

44. **Faultline** (noun) – divisions, fractures, rifts, splits, weaknesses मतभेद की रेखा

Summary of the Editorial

1. The UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's brief visit to Delhi produced several important outcomes.
2. The UAE is among India's largest trade and investment partners and a key export destination.
3. New agreements aim to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion and include a \$3 billion LNG deal and investments in Gujarat.
4. The most significant announcement was the plan to establish an India-UAE strategic defence partnership.
5. This would be the first defence framework of its kind between India and a Gulf nation.
6. Details of the defence arrangement are still unclear, but the geopolitical implications are significant.
7. The defence move comes amid rising tensions between the UAE and Saudi Arabia, former military allies against the Houthis.
8. Rivalry between MbZ and Saudi Crown Prince MbS has intensified, with analysts calling it a new Gulf "cold war".
9. Regional instability is compounded by unrest in Iran, U.S. threats to intervene, and fragile ceasefires in Gaza.
10. Israel's bombing in Qatar in 2025 triggered Saudi efforts to form a mutual defence pact with Pakistan, potentially involving Türkiye.
11. Emerging alliances suggest a more fragmented and volatile Middle Eastern security landscape.
12. India must navigate these developments carefully to avoid being pulled into competing military blocs.
13. India's interests include nearly 10 million Indian nationals in Gulf countries and continued access to energy supplies.
14. India's connectivity projects like Chabahar, the INSTC and the IMEC corridor depend on cooperation across the region.
15. Given overlapping partnerships and regional faultlines, India has little choice but to move cautiously in defence diplomacy with Gulf states.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, the announcement of an India-UAE defense framework agreement is being interpreted by some analysts primarily as:**

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 - A. A routine upgrade of existing military cooperation.
 - B. A potential military front to counter other regional alignments.
 - C. An effort to reduce India's dependence on Gulf energy imports.
 - D. A symbolic gesture to strengthen cultural ties between the two nations.
2. **The passage suggests that India's major infrastructure projects in the region, such as the International North South Transport Corridor, are currently at risk mainly because:**
 - A. India lacks sufficient funding to complete them.
 - B. Their success depends on cooperation from multiple regional actors amid rising tensions.
 - C. The UAE has withdrawn its financial support for these projects.
 - D. They have been replaced by new connectivity agreements with the UAE.
3. **It can be inferred from the passage that India's approach to the Gulf region must be cautious primarily because:**
 - A. The region is fraught with internal and external tensions that impact India's multiple critical interests.
 - B. India has no historical ties with any Gulf country other than the UAE.
 - C. The UAE has asked India to avoid engagements with other Gulf nations.
 - D. India plans to reduce its reliance on the region for energy in the near future.
4. **Based on the passage, the "new 'cold war'" in the Gulf region primarily refers to:**
 - A. A military conflict between Iran and the UAE over regional dominance.
 - B. The historical rivalry between India and Pakistan extending into the Gulf.
 - C. The deteriorating relationship and lack of communication between the UAE's and Saudi Arabia's leadership.
 - D. A trade war between the GCC and the European Union.
5. **From the Foreign Secretary's statement attempting to downplay concerns about the defense agreement, it can be inferred that:**
 - A. The agreement is solely focused on maritime security in the Indian Ocean.
 - B. There are regional perceptions or fears that the pact could draw India into future regional conflicts.
 - C. India intends to use the agreement as a basis for deploying troops to the UAE.
 - D. The defense framework is not legally binding and is merely a statement of intent.
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word: ANACHRONISTIC**
 - A. Modern
 - B. Futuristic
 - C. Timely
 - D. Outdated
7. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word: Prosilic**
 - A. Imaginative
 - B. Bandi
 - C. Dorinary
 - D. Dull
8. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Go for a song**

- A. Sold at a high price
- B. Performed emotionally
- C. Sold very cheaply
- D. Sung badly

9. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Not in micro manner**

- A. To speak delicately
- B. To speak without hesitation or euphemism
- C. To avoid detail intentionally
- D. To revise opinions often

10. **Select the correct spelling of a word meaning 'full of energy and enthusiasm'.**

- A. Vibrant
- B. Vibirant
- C. Vybrant
- D. Vibrrant

11. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'An animal that feeds on plants and animals'**

- A. Herbivore
- B. Carnivore
- C. omnivore
- D. Scavenger

12. **Spot the correct spelling of Aristotelian well-being**

- A. Eudaimania
- B. Eudaimonia
- C. Eudaimannia
- D. Eudaemania

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'An expression of grief or sorrow'**

- A. Lament
- B. Dirge
- C. Elegy
- D. All are correct

14. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
She placed a **can** of soup on the shelf

- A. They opened a can of beans for lunch.
- B. He asked if she can lift 50 kg.
- C. The trash can was full.
- D. He ate pineapple from the can.

15. **Choose the correct tense:**
By next year, she _____ completed her research

- A. will be
- B. has
- C. will have
- D. had

16. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**
The _____ structure of proteins is essential for their function.

- A. tertiary

- B. tertiary
- C. tertiary
- D. tertiary

17. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

If the policy were to be implemented nationwide (1) / it would necessitate that every regional office (2) / conducts a comprehensive audit (3) / within a period of six months. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

18. Change the following from active to passive:

The tourists had taken many photographs.

- A. Many photographs have been taken by the tourists.
- B. Many photographs are taken by the tourists.
- C. Many photographs had been taken by the tourists.
- D. Many photographs were being taken by the tourists.

19. Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:

The investigation was believed to have been compromised by internal leaks.

- A. The investigation compromised internal leaks, as believed.
- B. It was believed that internal leaks had compromised the investigation.
- C. Someone believed the investigation was compromising leaks.
- D. Internal leaks are believed to compromise the investigation.

20. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:

She **conversed the matter with** me.

- A. discussed the matter with
- B. talked over the matter with
- C. told the matter to
- D. said the about the matter

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

Just a few months ago, India and the United States appeared poised to deepen what

_____ 1 _____ described as the defining partnership of the 21st century. Prime Minister Modi had met President Donald Trump early in his second term. External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar was present at the inauguration. There was bipartisan goodwill in Washington and strategic optimism in New Delhi. The relationship _____ 2 _____ to rest not

_____ 3 _____ convenience, but on a grander wager: shared democratic values, converging geopolitical interests, and a mutual _____ 4 _____ to shape the _____ 5 _____ world order.

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

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

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

- A. seem
- B. seemed
- C. seems
- D. keep

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

- A. on
- B. in
- C. by
- D. at

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

- A. subjugation
- B. obligation
- C. ambition
- D. apportion

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

- A. encouraging
- B. unchanging
- C. merging
- D. emerging

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- 1. B) A potential military front to counter other regional alignments.**
 The passage explicitly states that the defense agreement announcement "is being read by some as a possible military front to counter other regional alignments." This points to an inference that regional observers see it in the context of shifting security dynamics and emerging blocs in West Asia and South Asia.
- 2. B) Their success depends on cooperation from multiple regional actors amid rising tensions.**
 The passage notes that India's cross-regional connectivity plans "have been imperilled due to all the tensions as their future depends on cooperation with all players there." This implies that regional instability and competing interests threaten the necessary multilateral cooperation these projects require.
- 3. A) The region is fraught with internal and external tensions that impact India's multiple critical interests.**
 The passage highlights several "faultlines" in the region—UAE-Saudi tensions, Iran protests, Israel-Qatar tensions, defense pacts involving Pakistan and Turkey—and notes India's high stakes, including energy needs, diaspora welfare, and connectivity projects. Thus, India must "tread lightly" to navigate these complex rivalries without endangering its diverse interests.
- 4. C) The deteriorating relationship and lack of communication between the UAE's and Saudi Arabia's leadership.**
 The passage directly connects the term "Gulf region's new 'cold war'" to the context of the "power tussle" between the UAE and Saudi Arabia and specifically mentions "the lack of communication between MbZ and Saudi leader Mohammed Bin Salman (MbS)." This infers that the central dynamic of this 'cold war' is the strategic rivalry between these two leading Gulf powers, not a broader or unrelated conflict.
- 5. B) There are regional perceptions or fears that the pact could draw India into future regional conflicts.**
 The passage notes that the Foreign Secretary held that the treaty "was not about India's involvement in 'a hypothetical future scenario in the region.'" The need to make this clarification and "downplay concerns" strongly implies that such involvement was a prevalent concern or interpretation among other regional actors. His statement is a direct rebuttal to the inference that the pact is designed for joint military action in future regional contingencies.
- 6. D) Anachronistic (adjective) – Belonging to a period other than the one being portrayed; something that is out of its proper time, obsolete, old-fashioned, archaic. कालविसंगत / समय से बाहर का**
 Synonym: **Outdated** (adjective) – No longer in use or fashion; old-fashioned, obsolete, antiquated. पुराना / अप्रचलित
 - **Modern** (adjective) – Contemporary, up-to-date, present-day. आधुनिक
 - **Futuristic** (adjective) – Advanced, forward-looking, relating to the future. भविष्यवादी

- **Timely** (adjective) – Occurring at a suitable or appropriate time. समय पर / उपयुक्त समय का

7. A) **Prosllic** / Prosaic (adjective) – Imaginative-less, dull, ordinary, commonplace, unromantic नीरस, साधारण

Antonym: **Imaginative** (adjective) – Creative, inventive, original, fanciful कल्पनाशील

- **Bandi** – Not a standard English adjective in this context; no opposite relation.
- **Dorinary** – Incorrect / non-standard form (likely meant “ordinary”), which is similar in meaning, not opposite.
- **Dull** – Means boring or uninteresting; it is synonymous, not an antonym

8. C) **Go for a song** (idiom) – Sold very cheaply बहुत सस्ते दाम पर बिकना

9. B) **Not in micro manner** (idiom) – To speak without hesitation or euphemism सीधे-सीधे, बिना घुमाव-फिराव के बात करना

10. A) The correct spelling of ‘Vibirant / Vybrant / Vibrrant’ is ‘Vibrant’ which means “full of energy and enthusiasm” ऊर्जावान, जोश से भरपूर।

11. C) **Omnivore** (noun) – An animal that feeds on both plants and animals सर्वहारी

Herbivore (noun) – An animal that feeds only on plants शाकाहारी

Carnivore (noun) – An animal that feeds only on flesh मांसाहारी

Scavenger (noun) – An animal that feeds on dead and decaying matter मृतभक्षी

12. B) The correct spelling of Aristotelian well-being is Eudaimonia, which refers to human flourishing or living well according to virtue सद्गुणों के अनुसार उत्तम जीवन।

13. D) **All are correct**

- **Lament** (noun) – An expression of grief, sorrow, or regret; an act of mourning. शोक-प्रकाश / विलाप
- **Dirge** (noun) – A mournful song or hymn sung at a funeral, expressing grief or sorrow. शोकगीत
- **Elegy** (noun) – A poem or literary work expressing sorrow for someone who has died. शोक-काव्य

14. B) **He asked if she can lift 50 kg.**

वाक्य में ‘can’ का अर्थ है – डिब्बा / कंटेनर (a container used to store food)।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें ‘can’ का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प B में ‘can’ का अर्थ है – सकना / सक्षम होना (ability expressed by a modal verb)।

दोनों का उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह भिन्न हैं – इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

In the highlighted sentence, can refers to a container.

In option B, can is a modal verb expressing ability.

They have the same pronunciation and spelling but different meanings, making them homonyms.

15. C) ‘will have’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में “By next year” एक निश्चित भविष्य समय से पहले किसी कार्य के पूर्ण हो जाने को दर्शाता है। यह स्थिति Future Perfect Tense की होती है, जिसका प्रयोग भविष्य के किसी निश्चित समय तक कार्य के समाप्त हो जाने को व्यक्त करने के लिए किया जाता है। इसलिए, “will have completed” सबसे उपयुक्त रूप है।

- ‘Will have’ should be used because the phrase “By next year” indicates the completion of an action before a specific point in the future. This structure requires the Future Perfect Tense, which is used to show that an action will be finished by a certain future time. Hence, “will have completed” is the correct choice.

16. A) ‘**tertiary**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि प्रोटीन की कार्यक्षमता उसके त्रि-आयामी (three-dimensional) folding पर निर्भर करती है, जिसे tertiary structure कहा जाता है। यह structure ही protein की सही shape बनाता है, जो उसके biological function के लिए आवश्यक है। इसलिए ‘tertiary’ सही और शुद्ध वर्तनी वाला विकल्प है।

- ‘Tertiary’ should be used because a protein’s function depends on its three-dimensional folding, known as the tertiary structure. This structure gives the protein its specific shape, which is essential for its biological activity. Hence, ‘tertiary’ is the correct and correctly spelt option.

17. C) **conducts**’ के बदले ‘**conduct**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘necessitate that’ के बाद आने वाली that-clause में Subjunctive Mood का प्रयोग किया जाता है, जिसमें verb का base form आता है; जैसे— The law requires that every citizen obey the rules.

- ‘conduct’ will be used instead of ‘conducts’ because after ‘necessitate that’, the verb in the that-clause is used in the subjunctive mood (base form); Like— The rule demands that he follow the instructions.

18. C) **Many photographs had been taken by the tourists.**

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। Active वाक्य में “The tourists” Subject है, “had taken” Verb (Past Perfect) है और “many photographs” Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object “Many photographs” Subject बन गया है, Verb को “had been taken” (Past Perfect Passive) में बदला गया है और “by the tourists” के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है। Option C सही है क्योंकि Active sentence Past Perfect Tense में है, इसलिए Passive sentence भी Past Perfect Passive (had been taken) में होगा।

- 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 tourists” (Subject), “had taken” (Verb in Past Perfect), and “many photographs” (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into “Many photographs” (Subject), “had been taken” (Passive Verb in Past Perfect), and “by the tourists”.

19. B) **It was believed that internal leaks had compromised the investigation.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य में प्रयुक्त Agent (by + whom/what) को Active वाक्य का Subject बनाया जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense में Active form में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में “The investigation” Subject है, “was believed” Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और “by internal leaks” Agent है।

Active में बदलने पर “internal leaks” Subject बन गया है और “had compromised” (Past Perfect Active) का प्रयोग किया गया है, जबकि impersonal belief को “It was believed that ...” के रूप में संरक्षित रखा गया है।

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the verb is changed into its active form with correct tense.

Here, "The investigation" (Subject), "was believed to have been compromised" (Passive Verb), and "by internal leaks" (Agent) are converted into "internal leaks" (Subject) with "had compromised" (Active Verb in Past Perfect), keeping the reporting structure as "It was believed that ...".

20. A) **discussed the matter with** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'converse' एक intransitive verb है और इसके साथ direct object नहीं आता। सही प्रयोग होता है 'converse with someone', न कि converse the matter. इसलिए यहाँ 'discussed the matter with' सबसे उपयुक्त replacement है।

- 'discussed the matter with' will be used because 'converse' is an intransitive verb and cannot take a direct object like the matter. The correct structure is converse with someone. Hence, 'discussed the matter with' is the most suitable replacement.

21. D) **'had been'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह past perfect tense है जो past में पूर्ण हुई क्रिया को दर्शाता है। यहाँ partnership के बारे में बात हो रही है जो past में describe की गई थी, इसलिए 'had been' सही है। जबकि 'had' incomplete past action दर्शाता है, 'have' present perfect है, और 'has been' present perfect continuous है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'had been' will be used because it is in the past perfect tense, indicating an action completed in the past. Here, the partnership was described in the past, making 'had been' correct. Whereas, 'had' shows an incomplete past action, 'have' is present perfect, and 'has been' is present perfect continuous, which are incorrect here.

22. B) **'seemed'** का use होगा क्योंकि "seemed" past tense में है और यह passage में past events (जैसे Modi-Trump meeting, Jaishankar की inauguration में मौजूदगी) के context में सही बैठता है। sentence में बीते समय की बात हो रही है, इसलिए 'seemed' grammatically सही है। जबकि 'seem' present tense है, 'seems' singular present है, और 'keep' का अर्थ रखना है, जो यहाँ context के अनुसार सही नहीं है।

- 'seemed' will be used because it is in the past tense, fitting the context of past events (e.g., Modi-Trump meeting, Jaishankar's presence at the inauguration). The sentence describes past situations, making 'seemed' grammatically correct. Whereas, 'seem' is present tense, 'seems' is singular present, and 'keep' means to retain, which doesn't fit here contextually.

23. A) **'On'** का use होगा क्योंकि "rest on" एक phrasal verb है जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज पर आधारित होना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि रिश्ता सुविधा पर नहीं बल्कि बड़े दांव पर आधारित है, इसलिए 'on' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'in', 'by', और 'at' इस context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि 'rest' के साथ phrasal verb नहीं बनाते और अर्थ भी सही नहीं देते।

- 'On' will be used because "rest on" is a phrasal verb meaning to be based on something. The sentence mentions that the relationship is not based on convenience but on a grander wager, making 'on' correct here. Whereas, 'in', 'by', and 'at' are incorrect in this context as they don't form a phrasal verb with "rest" and also don't convey the intended meaning.

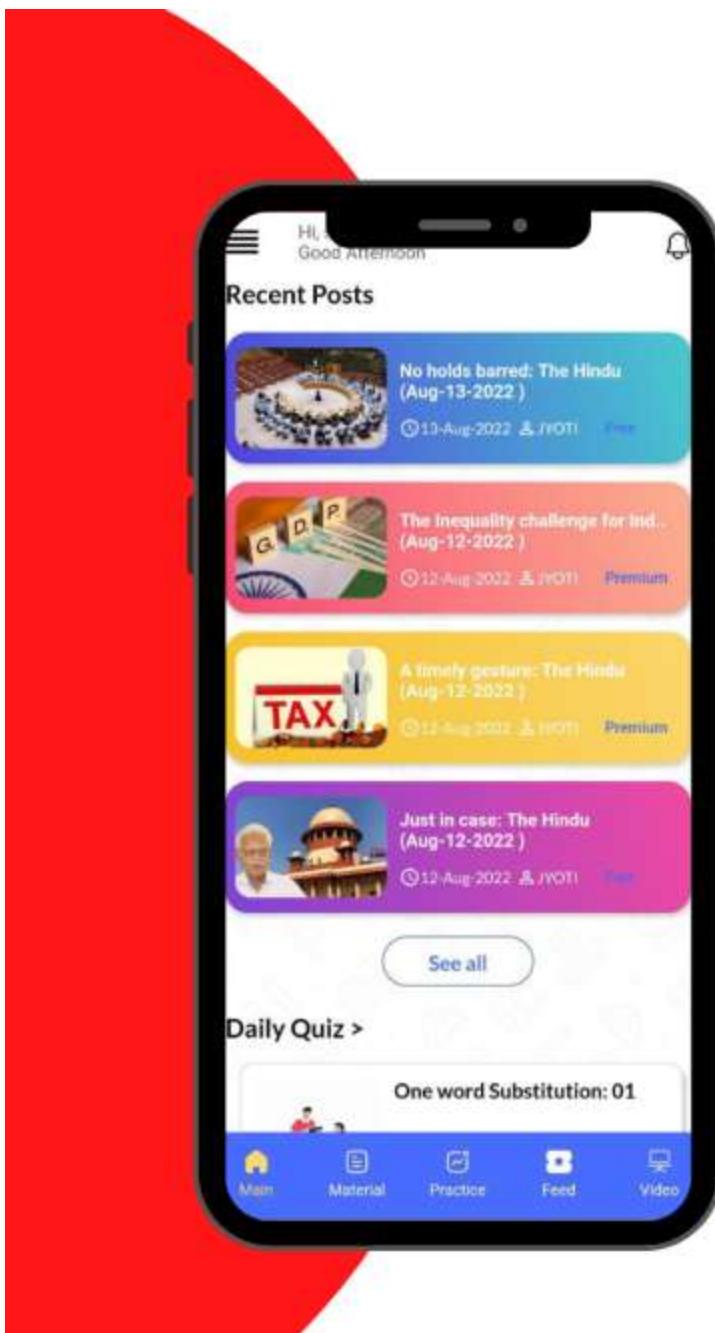
24. C) **'Ambition'** का use होगा क्योंकि "ambition" का अर्थ होता है एक महत्वाकांक्षा या लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने की इच्छा। passage में mention किया गया है कि भारत और अमेरिका के बीच संबंध साझा लोकतांत्रिक

मूल्यों, भूराजनीतिक हितों और एक mutual _____ (पारस्परिक _____) पर आधारित है, जो एक बड़े लक्ष्य (world order को shape करने) की ओर इशारा करता है। इसलिए 'ambition' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Subjugation' का अर्थ है दमन, 'Obligation' का अर्थ है कर्तव्य, और 'Apportion' का अर्थ है बाँटना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Ambition' will be used because it means a strong desire to achieve a goal. The passage mentions that the relationship between India and the US is based on shared democratic values, converging geopolitical interests, and a mutual _____ (mutual _____), pointing towards a larger goal (shaping the world order). Hence, 'ambition' fits here. Whereas, 'Subjugation' means suppression, 'Obligation' means duty, and 'Apportion' means to divide, which do not fit in this context

25. D) 'emerging' का use होगा क्योंकि "emerging" का अर्थ होता है उभरता हुआ या विकसित होता हुआ। passage में mention किया गया है कि दोनों देश एक नए विश्व व्यवस्था को आकार देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं, इसलिए 'emerging' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'encouraging' का अर्थ है प्रोत्साहित करना, 'unchanging' का अर्थ है अपरिवर्तित, और 'merging' का अर्थ है विलय होना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'emerging' will be used because it means developing or coming into existence. The passage mentions that both countries are committed to shaping a new world order, making 'emerging' fitting here. Whereas, 'encouraging' means motivating, 'unchanging' means remaining the same, and 'merging' means combining, which don't fit in this context.



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