

Pressure points: On Trump seeking Venezuela's oil without costs of occupation

Trump's **strategy** to keep pushing **Caracas** can only **lead to** a breaking point

What is **unfolding** in Venezuela is **naked imperialism**. Having ordered the **abduction** of a sitting head of state and **imposed** a naval blockade on a **sovereign** nation, U.S. President Donald Trump declared that Washington would now "run" Venezuela. That he **endorsed** Acting President Delcy Rodriguez rather than the opposition does not diminish the **criminality** of these actions; it **merely** reveals their purpose, which was not about democracy or narcotics but about control of Venezuela's oil. The Trump administration's approach might appear **contradictory**: help retain the Bolivarian **regime** while **strangling** its economic **sovereignty**. But the logic is **coherent**. Washington wants Venezuela's oil without the costs of occupation or the **chaos** of regime change. It learned from Iraq that **dismantling** state structures creates **insurgencies**. It believes that it is better to capture the existing **apparatus** and redirect its functions — a form of **neocolonialism** that maintains the forms of **statehood** while **exercising** actual control.

This arrangement places Ms. Rodriguez in a difficult position. The Bolivarian movement was built on **resisting precisely** this kind of American **domination** over Venezuela's resources. Yet her government, **battered** by a **decade** of sanctions, must now negotiate with the very power that kidnapped her **predecessor**. Her **statement** on Sunday, "Enough already of Washington's orders over politicians in Venezuela", **reveals** the **strain** that she is under. She has **complied** with American demands on oil trade and released political prisoners as a "peace **gesture**". But she cannot **surrender** Venezuelan sovereignty entirely without losing the Chavista base that **sustains** her government. The more pressure Washington applies on Caracas, the more it risks the very **instability** it claims to want to prevent. If the U.S. wanted a productive economic relationship with Venezuela, it should not have **embarked on** this **marauding** path. The **sanctions** that **devastated** Venezuela's economy **were** American policy. The migration **crisis** that Mr. Trump **cited** to justify intervention **was** a consequence of those sanctions. Now, Washington offers to ease the pressure it created, but only if Venezuela submits to exclusive American control over its resources. This is not **diplomacy**; it is **extortion**. The world cannot remain silent. When Russia violated Ukrainian sovereignty, the international community **condemned** it and **imposed** sanctions. Mr. Trump's 'Donroe Doctrine' threatens not just Venezuela, but the foundations of the international order. If it remains unchallenged internationally, no nation in **the Global South** can be safe.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Occupation** (noun) - seizure, conquest, possession, takeover, invasion कब्जा
2. **Caracas** (noun) - the capital city of Venezuela, representing its government वेनेजुएला की राजधानी
3. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in or cause something to happen का कारण बनना
4. **Unfold** (verb) - happen, occur, transpire, develop, evolve घटित होना
5. **Naked** (adjective) - overt, blatant, manifest, flagrant, undisguised स्पष्ट या खुल्लम-खुल्ला
6. **Imperialism** (noun) - colonialism, expansionism, domination, hegemony, neocolonialism साम्राज्यवाद
7. **Abduction** (noun) - kidnapping, seizure, capture, snatching, hijacking अपहरण
8. **Impose** (verb) - inflict, enforce, foist, levy, dictate थोपना
9. **Sovereign** (adjective) - autonomous, independent, self-governing, free, absolute संप्रभु
10. **Endorse** (verb) - support, approve, sanction, back, ratify समर्थन करना
11. **Criminality** (noun) - illegality, lawlessness, wrongdoing, delinquency, misconduct अपराध या अवैधता
12. **Merely** (adverb) - only, simply, purely, just, solely केवल
13. **Contradictory** (adjective) - inconsistent, incongruous, conflicting, paradoxical, clashing विरोधाभासी
14. **Regime** (noun) - government, administration, authority, system, rule शासन
15. **Strangle** (verb) - choke, stifle, suppress, smother, throttle गला घोटना या दबाना
16. **Sovereignty** (noun) - autonomy, independence, self-rule, dominion, supremacy संप्रभुता
17. **Coherent** (adjective) - logical, rational, consistent, lucid, organized सुसंगत
18. **Chaos** (noun) - disorder, turmoil, bedlam, pandemonium, anarchy अराजकता
19. **Dismantle** (verb) - deconstruct, disassemble, demolish, raze, wreck विघटित करना
20. **Insurgency** (noun) - rebellion, revolt, uprising, mutiny, sedition विद्रोह
21. **Apparatus** (noun) - structure, framework, organization, machinery, system तंत्र
22. **Neocolonialism** (noun) - indirect control of a country by powerful nations through economic, political, or cultural influence rather than direct rule नवउपनिवेशवाद

23. **Statehood** (noun) - nationhood, sovereignty, independence, autonomy, status राष्ट्रीयता

24. **Exercise** (verb) - exert, apply, wield, utilize, employ प्रयोग करना

25. **Resist** (verb) - oppose, withstand, defy, combat, confront विरोध करना

26. **Precisely** (adverb) - exactly, accurately, strictly, literally, specifically सटीक रूप से

27. **Domination** (noun) - control, mastery, ascendancy, supremacy, command प्रभुत्व

28. **Batter** (verb) - bash, pound, pummel, hammer, thrash चकनाचूर करना या पीटना

29. **Decade** (noun) - decennium, ten-year period, ten years, age, span दशक

30. **Predecessor** (noun) - precursor, antecedent, forerunner, ancestor, antecedent पूर्ववर्ती

31. **Strain** (noun) - pressure, stress, tension, burden, force तनाव

32. **Comply** (verb) - obey, adhere, conform, submit, yield पालन करना

33. **Gesture** (noun) - sign, signal, indication, token, motion इशारा या भाव

34. **Surrender** (verb) - yield, relinquish, cede, abandon, submit आत्मसमर्पण करना

35. **Sustain** (verb) - maintain, support, preserve, uphold, nurture बनाए रखना

36. **Instability** (noun) - volatility, insecurity, flux, fragility, precariousness अस्थिरता

37. **Embark on** (phrasal verb) - to start something new or important शुरू करना

38. **Marauding** (adjective) - predatory, pillaging, plundering, raiding, scavenging लूटपाट करने वाला

39. **Devastate** (verb) - destroy, wreck, ruin, ravage, demolish तबाह करना

40. **Cite** (verb) - quote, mention, refer, specify, name उद्धृत करना

41. **Diplomacy** (noun) - statesmanship, negotiation, tact, mediation, international relations कूटनीति

42. **Extortion** (noun) - blackmail, coercion, exaction, shakedown, compulsion जबरन वसूली

43. **Condemn** (verb) - denounce, criticize, censure, decry, reprehend निंदा करना

44. **Impose** (verb) - inflict, enforce, foist, levy, dictate थोपना

45. **The Global South** (noun) - refers to various countries that are sometimes described as newly industrialized or developing regions विकासशील देश

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that recent U.S. actions in **Venezuela** amount to open imperialism rather than legitimate diplomacy.
2. It criticises **Donald Trump** for ordering extreme measures such as a naval blockade and the abduction of a sitting Venezuelan leader.
3. Trump's declaration that Washington would "run" Venezuela exposes the real objective: control over Venezuelan oil resources.
4. Supporting the sitting government instead of the opposition does not reduce the illegality of U.S. actions; it simply clarifies their economic motive.
5. The U.S. strategy appears contradictory—maintaining the Bolivarian regime while weakening Venezuela's sovereignty—but follows a calculated logic.
6. Washington seeks access to oil without the financial and political costs of military occupation or regime change.
7. Drawing lessons from **Iraq**, the U.S. avoids dismantling state institutions that could lead to insurgency and chaos.
8. Instead, it aims to capture and redirect existing state structures, a form of modern neocolonial control.
9. This approach puts **Delcy Rodríguez** in a politically vulnerable position.
10. The Bolivarian movement was founded on resisting U.S. dominance, yet sanctions have left the government economically weakened.
11. Rodríguez has complied with certain U.S. demands, including oil concessions and releasing political prisoners, to ease pressure.
12. However, fully surrendering sovereignty would alienate the Chavista support base essential to her government's survival.
13. Continued U.S. pressure risks creating the instability it claims to prevent rather than fostering cooperation.
14. The editorial notes that U.S. sanctions caused Venezuela's economic collapse and migration crisis, later used to justify intervention.
15. By demanding exclusive control over resources in exchange for relief, the U.S. undermines international norms, threatening Global South nations and the global order—especially when contrasted with the condemnation of **Russia** for violating **Ukraine**'s sovereignty.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**

[Editorial Page]

 - A. Neutral and descriptive
 - B. Critical and condemning
 - C. Humorous and casual
 - D. Optimistic and celebratory
2. **Who is portrayed as facing a governance dilemma in the passage?**
 - A. Delcy Rodriguez leading a pressured government
 - B. Donald Trump controlling foreign energy policy
 - C. Opposition leaders seeking swift regime change
 - D. Russian diplomats protecting territorial integrity
3. **Why does Washington prefer controlling Venezuela without regime change?**
 - A. To encourage investment and legal transparency
 - B. To promote democracy and social stability
 - C. To avoid insurgencies and occupation expenses
 - D. To assist migration and humanitarian relief
4. **What can be most reasonably inferred about Washington's strategy toward Venezuela from the passage?**
 - A. Washington supports immediate regime collapse because chaos helps achieve political objectives
 - B. Washington insists removing Venezuelan leaders because direct invasions always guarantee stability
 - C. Washington prefers controlling Venezuelan oil through state manipulation rather than invading
 - D. Washington accepts dismantling institutions because weakened nations are easier to administer
5. **Direction: Read the statement below and identify whether it is True or False based on the passage.**
Statement: The passage indicates that the U.S. sanctions helped strengthen Venezuela's economy and improved regional migration conditions
 - A. The statement is completely true based on details given in the passage
 - B. The statement is entirely false because sanctions severely worsened Venezuela's economy
 - C. The statement is partially true because sanctions improved economy but worsened migration
 - D. The statement is partially false because sanctions created benefits while causing hardship
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Substantive."**
 - A. Trivial
 - B. Significant
 - C. Rapid
 - D. Geopolitical
7. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom: Cut the Gordian Knot**
 - A. To be at loose ends
 - B. To delay resolution
 - C. To create a new problem

D. To solve a complex problem decisively

8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word “Relentless.”**

- A. Sporadic
- B. Tactile
- C. Nebulous
- D. Arcane

9. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**
The benefits **outwaigh** the risks.

- A. outweigh
- B. outwaigh
- C. outwagh
- D. outweygh

10. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
The telephone was invented by Graham Bell in the second half of the 18th Century.

- A. Graham Bell has invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century.
- B. Graham Bell invents the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century.
- C. Graham Bell invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century.
- D. Graham Bell will have invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century.

11. **Select the correct option:**
The curator opted ___ displaying the artifact due to preservation concerns.

- A. against
- B. for
- C. on
- D. with

12. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Hostility between the /two groups have / increased in the /past few months.

- A. Hostility between the
- B. two groups have
- C. increased in the
- D. past few months.

13. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:**

1. This process ensures that the food we eat is safe and does not contain harmful bacteria or other contaminants.
2. Food processing is a series of methods used to transform raw ingredients into consumable products.
3. These methods can range from simple actions like cutting and grinding to more complex procedures such as pasteurization and fermentation.
4. Furthermore, it also helps to preserve food, extend its shelf life, and enhance its nutritional value.

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

14. A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.

He said, "I am reading a book."

- He said he is reading a book.
- He said that he was reading a book.
- He said that he had read a book.
- He said he read a book.

15. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error.

Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

Mammoths were a species of elephants /who lived millions of year ago /but are now extinct

- Mammoths were a species of elephants
- who lived millions of year ago
- but are now extinct
- No error

16. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The cleric wore a **pallium** for the festival.

- The theologian interpreted the pallium as a symbol of grace.
- The physician noted a pallium over the patient's brain.
- The vestment included the ancient pallium from Rome.
- The bishop draped the pallium ceremonially.

17. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Prudence."

- Vigilance
- Sagacity
- Recklessness
- Discretion

18. Select the correct option:

Had it not been for her timely intervention, the discussion might well have ___ into an acrimonious stalemate.

- evolved
- devolved
- emerged
- absorbed

19. A long period in which something does not increase or develop after rising earlier is called a:

- Surge
- Crest
- Plateau
- Upswing

20. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:

ASPERITY

- Kindness
- Harshness
- Softness
- Delight

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.

Upgrading the higher education sector especially in terms of patents filed and cutting-edge research output is (1)_____ in improving India's global ranking. Our sustainable (2)_____ development depends on human resources. A quality higher education base is essential to reap the full benefits of our demographic dividend. In higher education, the strategies of the 12th plan (3)_____ on technical education, distance learning, quality research, infrastructure, faculty, and curriculum content. (4)_____ efforts of the government departments and the private sector are needed to (5)_____ the plan's educational

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

- A. unrequired
- B. deserving
- C. fulfilling
- D. Essential

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

- A. social
- B. economic
- C. psychological
- D. Political

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

- A. understand
- B. attend
- C. divert
- D. Focus

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

- A. Sustained
- B. Compromised
- C. Coordinated
- D. Gathered

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

- A. remain
- B. realise
- C. conclude
- D. conduct

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Critical and condemning

The passage strongly criticizes U.S. actions in Venezuela, calling them imperialism, extortion, and a threat to global order. The language clearly expresses condemnation.

A. Neutral and descriptive — Incorrect because the passage is not neutral; it clearly takes a side and denounces U.S. policy.

C. Humorous and casual — Incorrect as there is no humor, irony, or casual attitude; it is serious and accusatory.

D. Optimistic and celebratory — Incorrect because the passage conveys alarm and criticism, not optimism or celebration.

2. A) Delcy Rodriguez leading a pressured government

The passage explicitly describes Delcy Rodriguez as being trapped between American pressure and the Chavista base, creating a political dilemma.

- B refers to Trump, but he is applying pressure, not facing it.
- C opposition forces are mentioned but not described as facing such a dilemma.
- D Russia is referenced only for comparison, not as part of the Venezuelan scenario.

3. C) To avoid insurgencies and occupation expenses

The passage states that the U.S. learned from Iraq that dismantling state structures causes insurgencies, so it prefers control without costly occupation or chaotic regime change.

- A investment or transparency is never presented as the goal.
- B democracy is explicitly dismissed as the motivation.
- D humanitarian motives are contradicted; sanctions worsened migration.

4. C) Washington prefers controlling Venezuelan oil through state manipulation rather than invading

C is correct because the passage states that the U.S. wants Venezuela's oil "without the costs of occupation or the chaos of regime change" and prefers "capturing the existing apparatus".

B is incorrect: Passage never says invasions guarantee stability; it says Iraq taught them the opposite.

A is incorrect: Passage says Washington wants to avoid chaos, not benefit from it.

D is incorrect: Passage says dismantling institutions creates insurgency, not easier administration.

5. B) The statement is entirely false because sanctions severely worsened Venezuela's economy

B is correct because the passage clearly states that "The sanctions that devastated Venezuela's economy were American policy" and they caused the migration crisis.

A is incorrect: Passage says sanctions devastated the economy, not strengthened it.

C is incorrect: No part of the passage suggests any improvement due to sanctions.

D is incorrect: The passage provides zero evidence of benefits created by sanctions.

6. B) Substantive (adjective) – Important, meaningful, real. महत्वपूर्ण

Synonym: **Significant** (adjective) – Worth attention; important. अर्थपूर्ण

- **Trivial** – Unimportant. तुच्छ
- **Rapid** – Fast. तेज
- **Geopolitical** – Political in geographic context. भू-राजनीतिक

7. D) **Cut the Gordian Knot** (idiom) – To solve a complex problem decisively
जटिल समस्या का साहसिक और निर्णायिक समाधान करना

8. A) **Relentless** (adjective) – Constant, unceasing, persistent, unremitting, incessant. निरंतर / लगातार

Antonym: **Sporadic** (adjective) – Occurring at irregular intervals; infrequent, occasional. छिटपृष्ठ / अनियमित

- **Tactile** (adjective) – Related to the sense of touch. स्पर्श-संबंधी
- **Nebulous** (adjective) – Vague, unclear, indistinct. अस्पष्ट
- **Arcane** (adjective) – Understood by few; mysterious, secret. गूढ़ / रहस्यमय

9. A) The correct spelling of 'outwaigh' is 'outweigh' which means "exceed, surpass, prevail over" (अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होना).

10. C) **Graham Bell invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The telephone" (Subject) है, "was invented" (Verb - Past Simple Passive) है, और "by Graham Bell" (Agent) है। Active वाक्य में "Graham Bell" (Subject) हो जाएगा, "invented" (Verb - Past Simple Active) हो जाएगा, और "the telephone" (Object) हो जाएगा। चूंकि Passive वाक्य Past Simple Tense में है, Active वाक्य भी Past Simple Tense में होना चाहिए। इसलिए सही उत्तर होगा: "Graham Bell invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century."

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence. In the passive sentence, "The telephone" (Subject), "was invented" (Verb - Past Simple Passive), and "by Graham Bell" (Agent) are given.

In the active sentence, "Graham Bell" becomes the subject, "invented" (Verb - Past Simple Active) is used, and "the telephone" becomes the object. Since the passive sentence is in Past Simple Tense, the active sentence should also be in Past Simple Tense. Hence, the correct answer is: "Graham Bell invented the telephone in the second half of the 18th Century."

11. A) 'against' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य यह दर्शा रहा है कि क्यूरेटर ने संरक्षण संबंधी चिंताओं के कारण वस्तु को प्रदर्शित न करने का निर्णय लिया। "Opted against" का अर्थ होता है – किसी कार्य को न करने का निर्णय लेना।

- 'against' should be used because the sentence implies that the curator decided not to display the artifact due to preservation concerns. The phrase "opted against" means to choose not to do something. Hence, "against" is the most suitable option

12. B) 'Have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि का Subject 'Hostility' Singular है और इसके लिए Singular Verb का प्रयोग होना चाहिए।

- The grammatical error is in the segment 'two groups have' because 'Hostility' is a singular noun, and the use of the verb 'have' is incorrect with it. The correct verb should be 'has'. Therefore, the correct sentence should be 'Hostility between the two groups has increased in the past few months.' Thus, the segment containing the grammatical error is B.

13. A) 2, 3, 1, 4

In English

2 starts the paragraph because it introduces the main topic—food processing—and defines it as a set of methods used to transform raw ingredients into consumable products.

3 follows 2 as it elaborates on these methods by giving examples, ranging from simple actions to more complex procedures.

1 comes next because it explains the primary benefit of this process, namely ensuring food safety by preventing harmful bacteria and contaminants.

4 concludes the paragraph by adding further advantages of food processing, such as preservation, extended shelf life, and improved nutritional value.

In Hindi

- 2 paragraph की शुरुआत करता है क्योंकि यह food processing को introduce करता है और इसे raw ingredients को consumable products में बदलने की methods के रूप में define करता है।
- 3, 2 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह इन methods के examples देता है—simple actions से लेकर complex procedures तक।
- 1 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह इस process का मुख्य लाभ बताता है, यानी food को harmful bacteria और contaminants से सुरक्षित रखना।
- 4 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह food processing के additional benefits बताता है, जैसे food preservation, shelf life बढ़ाना और nutritional value को enhance करना।

14. B) 'He said that he was reading a book' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Direct Speech "He said, 'I am reading a book.'" में Reporting Verb "said" Past Tense में है और Reported Speech में Verb "am reading" (Present Continuous) है। अतः Indirect Speech में "am reading" को उसके Past रूप "was reading" (Past Continuous) में बदला जाएगा। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा — He said that he was reading a book

In English

To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, when the Reporting Verb ("said") is in the Past Tense, the Verb in the Reported Speech is shifted one tense back.

In this case, "am reading" (Present Continuous) changes to "was reading" (Past Continuous). Hence, the correct sentence is "He said that he was reading a book."

15. B) 'Who' के बदले 'which' या 'that' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'who' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः 'human beings, God, angel, fairy' के लिए होता है और अन्य प्राणियों या निर्जीव पदर्थों के लिए 'which' या 'that' का।

The error is in the segment 'who lived millions of years ago' because the use of 'who' is incorrect for animals. The correct usage should have been 'that' or 'which'. 'Who' is used for

people, whereas 'that' or 'which' is appropriate for non-human objects or creatures. Therefore, the segment containing the error is B.

16. B) **The physician noted a pallium over the patient's brain.**

वाक्य में 'pallium' का अर्थ है — चर्च में पहना जाने वाला एक धार्मिक वस्त्र, विशेष रूप से बिशप/आर्चबिशप द्वारा पहना जाने वाला प्रतीकात्मक vestment।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'pallium' का समान उच्चारण और समान वर्तनी वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ में प्रयोग हुआ हो (homonym)।

विकल्प B में 'pallium' का अर्थ है — मस्तिष्क के ऊपर स्थित कॉर्टिकल आवरण (medical/anatomical term)।

यहाँ शब्द का प्रयोग धार्मिक वस्त्र के अर्थ में नहीं, बल्कि चिकित्सीय संरचना के अर्थ में हुआ है। दोनों का उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह भिन्न हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का सही उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, pallium refers to an ecclesiastical vestment worn by clerics.
- In option B, pallium denotes the cortical layer covering the brain in medical terminology.
- Same spelling and pronunciation, different meanings — hence option B is correct.

17. C) **Prudence** (noun) – Wisdom, caution, judiciousness. विवेक / सावधानी

Antonym: **Recklessness** (noun) – Lack of caution; rash behaviour. लापरवाही / उतावलापन

- **Vigilance** – Careful watch. चौकसी
- **Sagacity** – Keen mental discernment. प्रश्ना / बुद्धिमत्ता
- **Discretion** – Careful judgement. विवेक

18. B) 'Devolved' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में वाक्य यह बता रहा है कि उसकी समय पर दखलअंदाजी (timely intervention) के बिना चर्चा एक कड़वे गतिरोध (acrimonious stalemate) में बदल सकती थी। "Devolve into" का अर्थ होता है "to degenerate or deteriorate into something worse" अर्थात् किसी स्थिति का बिगड़ जाना। इसलिए "devolved" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

'Devolved' should be used because in the given context, the sentence implies that without her timely intervention, the discussion could have turned into a bitter deadlock. The phrase "devolve into" means "to degenerate or deteriorate into something worse." Hence, "devolved" is the most appropriate choice.

19. C) **Plateau**

Plateau (noun) – A stable or level stage where growth slows or stops; also a flat elevated landform. ठहराव / पठार

- **Surge** – Sudden increase. तेज़ वृद्धि
- **Crest** – Top of a wave or hill. शिखर
- **Upswing** – Improvement or rise. उछाल

20. B) **Asperity** (noun) – Harshness, severity, roughness, bitterness, acrimony कठोरता

Synonym: **Harshness** (noun) – Roughness, severity, bitterness, sharpness, sternness कठोरता

- **Kindness** (noun) – Compassion, generosity, goodwill, benevolence, warmth दयालुता
- **Softness** (noun) – Smoothness, gentleness, mildness, tenderness, delicacy नरमपन

- **Delight** (noun) – Pleasure, joy, happiness, enjoyment, satisfaction आनंद

21. D) 'Essential' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "essential" का अर्थ होता है आवश्यक या अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण। जबकि 'Unrequired' का अर्थ है अनावश्यक, 'Deserving' का अर्थ है योग्य, और 'Fulfilling' का अर्थ है पूरा करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Essential' should be used because it means necessary or extremely important. Whereas, 'Unrequired' means not needed, 'Deserving' means worthy, and 'Fulfilling' means satisfying or meeting the required conditions, which don't fit in this context.

22. A) 'Social' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "sustainable" शब्द से संकेत मिलता है कि विकास की चर्चा एक व्यापक दृष्टिकोण से हो रही है, जो समाज के सभी पहलुओं पर प्रभावित होता है। जबकि 'Economic' का अर्थ होता है आर्थिक, 'Psychological' का अर्थ होता है मानसिक और 'Political' का अर्थ होता है राजनीतिक, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हो सकता है।

- 'Social' should be used because the word "sustainable" suggests that the development being discussed impacts all aspects of society. Whereas, 'Economic' pertains to finances, 'Psychological' refers to the mind, and 'Political' relates to politics, which may not be the sole focus in this context.

23. D) 'Focus' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "focus" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय या मुद्दे पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना। जबकि 'Understand' का अर्थ है समझना, 'Attend' का अर्थ है भाग लेना या उपस्थित होना, और 'Divert' का अर्थ है ध्यान भटकाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

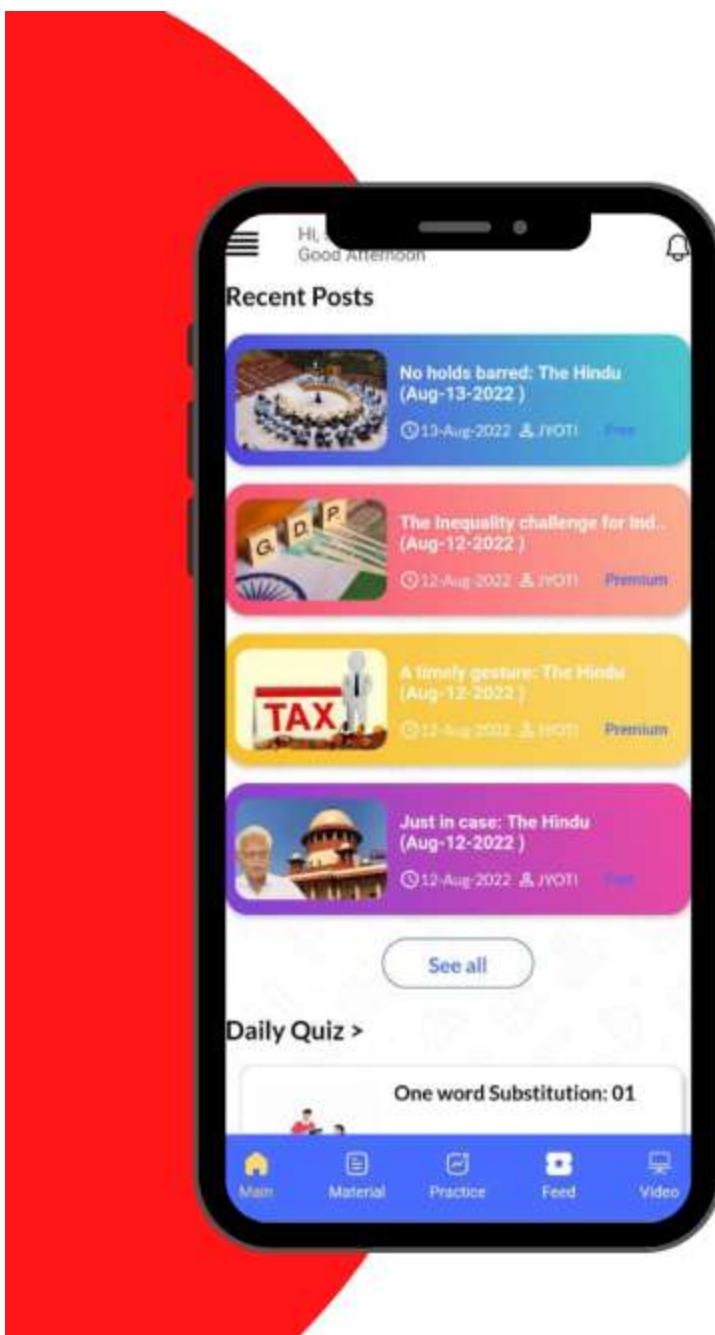
- 'Focus' should be used because it means to center attention on a subject or issue. Whereas, 'Understand' means to comprehend, 'Attend' implies to participate or be present, and 'Divert' means to divert attention, which don't fit in this context.

24. C) 'Coordinated' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "coordinated" का अर्थ होता है संचारित या समन्वित करना। जबकि 'Sustained' का अर्थ है निरंतर या स्थायी रूप से बनाए रखना, 'Compromised' का अर्थ है समझौता करना, और 'Gathered' का अर्थ है इकट्ठा करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Coordinated' should be used because it means to arrange or manage different parts to work together effectively. Whereas, 'Sustained' means to keep up continuously, 'Compromised' means to settle by making mutual concessions, and 'Gathered' implies to collect, which don't fit in this context.

25. B) 'Realise' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "realise" का अर्थ होता है किसी योजना, उद्देश्य या लक्ष्य को पूरा करना या अधिकृत करना। जबकि 'Remain' का अर्थ है बना रहना, 'Conclude' का अर्थ है समाप्त करना, और 'Conduct' का अर्थ है आयोजित करना या संचालित करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

- 'Realise' should be used because it means to achieve or fulfill a plan, objective, or goal. Whereas, 'Remain' means to stay in the same state, 'Conclude' means to end or finish, and 'Conduct' means to organize or direct, which don't fit in this context.



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